

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8391

Thursday 25 January, 2018

www.obantimes.co.uk

90 pence

**FREE** self build  
**INSIDE** renovation



**WIN WIN WIN**  
EXCLUSIVE GOLD MEMBERSHIP  
TO THE NORTH COAST  
500'S 'VIP CLUB 500'



# Oban cinema plans kitchen, showers and 'genderless' loos

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN Phoenix Cinema should be 'more like a community centre', according to plans unveiled at its AGM on Monday.

'We are looking to take the cinema in a new direction,' its new development officer Louise Glen told members, some of whom paid £1 to join and enter the AGM.

Ms Glen said the cinema hopes to increase the number of film-goers and the building's uses. 'A cinema should be much more like a community centre,' she said. 'It should be like a church.'

The plans, which had been 'five years in development', would progress in stages, and include moving the second, smaller screen to make way for a bank of genderless toilets, showers to capitalise on the new pontoons nearby, and a hut for micro-businesses outside. The first phase would be replacing screen two with the toilets, she said. 'We are close to the pontoons, so it might be good to offer shower areas in the cinema as well.'

'The whole front area will be opened up, and we will finally have our disabled entrance.'

A second phase would install a pull-down screen for screen two, with room for 54 or more seats. 'You will feel like you are in the film, you will sit so close to the screen,' she said, adding there would also be a kitchen and 'community space'.

A subsequent phase alters screen one, installing all tiered seating for 200 to 250 people. Currently there was 'too much leg room' between the rows, Ms Glen said, adding: 'If you have been

to other cinemas you will realise seats are very close together so people feel they can jump into the screen.'

Some seats at the front would be on rollers to make way for a dance-floor area. 'The stage will be maintained, and that will give us the option of Oban Phoenix Nights,' she said.

A later phase addresses the building's front, which would include a shop window. 'We want it to say, "This is an amazing place, the result of a lot of hard work",' she said.

In the disused area at the side of the cinema, it is hoped to build 'a beach hut area' as a hub for micro-businesses, with wifi and an eco-heating system.

'We also need to increase the number of people who come at ambient times during the day and late at night.' Tuesday and Thursday afternoons have been designated as 'no shoosh sessions', when film-goers can bring their babies.

'I have been in post for 12 weeks and in that time we have already reduced our waste by encouraging people to bring their own cups, and getting rid of single-use plastic,' she said. 'We have moved onto paper bags for popcorn and glassware for drinks.'

'The cinema does not get any funding from any external body,' she said, but added it does have a number of interested backers.

'Every cinema in the UK suffered last year due to a lack of good blockbuster films to show people.'

Cinema manager Jennie Larney said: 'It looks a bit shabby. We have got a lot to do but we are ready to do it.'

Ms Glen added: 'We can only

## Competition winner Liz is on her trolley!



Tesco's Karen Kelso alongside Liz and Alfie MacKenzie with their trolley full of goods. 15\_104\_trolleydash01

THE winner of *The Oban Times's* trolley dash competition donated some of her shopping to an Oban food bank.

Liz MacKenzie won the opportunity to fill her trolley with £200 of goods, courtesy of Oban's Tesco supermarket.

And she did just that on Monday this

week, January 22, while also filling a bag for Oban's Hope Kitchen. Hope provides hot meals for those in need and also runs a number of support services.

On top of that, the charity operates as a food bank, supplying food parcels to the most vulnerable people in the community.

To be in with a chance of taking part in the trolley dash, *Oban Times* readers had to collect a total of four coupons, which were published in the newspaper.

She said: 'I went to the butcher and then cleaning stuff and I doubled up on some things, with one or two goodies.'

do that if people support the cinema. It is something to be really, really proud of, but it could be something that dips if not taken care of.

'Come in and chat about how you want to see the cinema taken forward.'

Earlier the AGM heard chairman Grant Nicholson was unwell

so there was no chairman's report. There were also no treasurer's or secretary's reports this year because the positions were vacant.

Any questions from members or the public had to be submitted to the secretary in writing two weeks before the AGM, according to the agenda.

**BALLET WEST SCOTLAND**

**GISELLE**  
OU  
LES WILIS

Corran Halls  
Thursday 8th February 7.30pm  
Tickets £15/£13 (reserved seating)  
01631 567 333

www.balletwest.co.uk

Ballet West, Ichtrachan House, Taynuilt, Argyll, PA35 1HP, Scotland  
T: +44 (0) 1866 822641 | E: company@balletwest.co.uk

## £104,000 raised for lost fishermen

FISHERMEN are rallying round the families of the lost Tarbert men whose boat sank in Loch Fyne – as a public campaign to bring the boys home raised almost £90,000, writes Colin Campbell.

Three days after the 40-foot Tarbert fishing boat Nancy Glen sank just off her home port in the sea loch, the Clyde Fishermen's Trust set up a fundraising campaign to raise the vessel from the depths.

The boat hit trouble on the early evening of January 18 and, despite the efforts of many different crews who came to her aid, the boat was lost.

Skipper Duncan MacDougall and crewman Przemek Kraw-

czyk have not yet been found. Another crewman was rescued by a fish farm vessel before the Nancy Glen went down.

Experts believe the two men lost were on the vessel, which now lies on the seabed.

Despite an extensive search involving six Coastguard rescue teams, the HM Coastguard search and rescue helicopter based at Prestwick, four RNLI lifeboats, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland and several local commercial vessels, the two missing fishermen have not been found.

The families now want the boat recovered – which will cost a substantial amount of money. Elaine Whyte, of the Clyde

Fishermen's Trust, said: 'Clyde fishermen want to do all they can to assist these families at this time and in the future. We ask for support in this task.'

'Please give generously so that these families may lay their men to rest and that their children are supported through the tough times ahead.'

Tarbert fisherman Kenny MacNab, who chairs the Clyde Fishermen's Association, said: 'The community spirit in Tarbert, as usual, is beyond exceptional but I feel I must concentrate my efforts on trying to raise the Nancy Glen and try to get closure for the families.'

'Let's hope we achieve the best outcome for the families. If we

stick together as a community, I have no doubt we will.'

Julie-Anne Wood, head of maritime operations for HM Coastguard, said: 'Following an intensive search, sadly we have been unable to locate the two missing fishermen. Our thoughts are with all those involved.'

Paul Daly, RNLI area lifesaving manager, said: 'Our voluntary crews from Tighnabruaich, Campbeltown and Arran stations carried out an exemplary job in the sea search. The thoughts of our crews and of the whole RNLI are with the families.'

To donate, visit [www.clydefishermenstrust.com/the-nancy-glen-campaign](http://www.clydefishermenstrust.com/the-nancy-glen-campaign)

**Manor House**  
Hotel & Restaurant

Join us for a very special  
**7 Course Wine Tasting Dinner**  
Thursday 8th February £95

Overlooking the Harbour  
Gallanach Road • Oban • 01631 562087  
[www.manorhouseoban.com](http://www.manorhouseoban.com)

**TIME FOR CHANGE**

**SALE NOW ON**

**MATHESONS**  
Furnishings

**Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.**  
Tel: 01631 565195

# Mull CC against Ulva buy-out

SANDY NEIL  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

MULL Community Council have refused to support a community buy-out of the Isle of Ulva because a recent local poll backing the bid had excluded most residents from Mull and Iona.

Community councillors voted seven to one against supporting the bid by the North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWC).

The Scottish Government granted NWMWC the right to buy the privately-owned island in October, giving it an eight-month period to develop a business plan and raise money towards the £4.25 million price.

Earlier this month a postal ballot of the residents of Ulva and north-west Mull backed the plan by 63.6 per cent, giving NWMWC a green light to put together a funding package to complete the purchase in June.

But following their meeting this month, Mull Community Council chairman Billy McClymont told *The Oban Times*: 'The members thought the poll should have been island-wide, not just folk close at hand.'

'They do not see a good enough business case. We do not want to see it go from one land owner with no money to another.'

*Oban Times* columnist Iain Thornber argued the Scottish Government's 'unprecedented' support for a 'small, unelected

group' in north Mull to buy Ulva and 'back it financially thereafter is set to create deep divisions which will not be easily healed.'

'If this is what the Scottish Government desires, and I don't believe it is, it runs contrary to a ballot recently taken by Mull's democratically-elected community council who voted 7-1 against the proposal. Argyll's MSP and MP should recognise the island's local voice and relay this information to the Cabinet Secretary [for Land Reform].'

'Anyone on Mull with livestock knows there is no money to be made in farming these days, even with the EU subsidy. Sheep and cattle are about to disappear from the hills, and forestry and all other grants must soon end.

What then of the NWMWC's business plan?

'With the aid of the Scottish Land Fund, they may find some of the £4.2 million to bid for the island, but where is the annual running cost, estimated to be in the region of £100,000, to come from? The answer is Joe Public.'

However, Colin Woodland of NWMWC said: 'The viability of our proposals has been confirmed by independent experts who have helped us draft a practical and achievable business plan.'

'A great deal of work has been done getting to the present stage and we know that there will be a lot more hard work to come involving many people as we put our plans into action.'

'At this stage, we believe it is important to acknowledge the very wide support we have received from the community and from a range of organisations and individuals who share our wish to see Ulva thrive again, this time with the people living on Ulva and Mull in the driving seat.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell added his support for the buy-out, saying: 'Community purchase gives a new opportunity for Ulva. It is simply a fact that the current owners do not have the resources to invest in it and can only preside over decline. I have no doubt their intentions are good but they recognise the time for change has come.'

'The question is whether that change should be driven by those who live locally to serve the needs of the community or whether it should be dictated by an as-yet-unknown third party from outside the island whose sole qualification to do so will be the possession of a great deal of money and whose motivation will be about enjoying and protecting their financial investment.'

'This is about the age old question: is it better to do things for ourselves, or have them done to us? There is huge amount of goodwill on Mull, in Argyll, across Scotland and more widely towards the community buy-out.'

■ Letters – page eight.

## TIMESLINE

### £750,000 windfall for Lewis village

AN AWARD of £750,000 has been made from the Big Lottery Fund's Community Assets fund to Urras Coimhearsnachd Bhradhagair agus Arnoil (Bragar and Arnoil Community Trust) on Lewis.

The group plans to refurbish the former primary school in Bragar that closed in 2012 and was taken into community ownership in 2014.

The refurbished centre will include a café, kitchen, community space, exhibition space and a 10-bed hostel.

It will help to improve the sustainability of the local economy, tackle social isolation and loneliness particularly among older people, create employment opportunities, and encourage young people to stay in the area.

### Contractors asked to bid for work

CONTRACTORS are being sought for the first phase of the Lews Castle Grounds Regeneration Project.

Tender invitations for the works have been published on the Public Contracts Scotland portal with a return date of February 12.

The initial phase of capital works has a total value of almost £2 million and work is planned to start this spring.

### MSP wants firm based in the north

GREEN MSP John Finnie has called on the Scottish Government to base its new, publicly-owned energy company in the Highlands and Islands.

The First Minister outlined plans for a public-owned energy company in October last year and Mr Finnie says the company should be based in the region, which he states will become the engine room of Scotland's green economy.

## New Iona hall gets £900,000 Lottery boost

ISLANDERS are jumping for joy after Iona Village Hall Community Trust received £903,888 from the Big Lottery Fund towards their new village hall project.

The project focuses on replacing the 90-year-old village hall with a fit-for-purpose, multi-use building to meet the wider needs of the island community, as the island bucks the trend with a growing population. It will cost just under £2.2m and hopes are for completion by summer 2020.

The trustees, with the support of WT Architecture and Community Enterprise, have worked with locals to develop a business plan and careful designs for the new community building.

Community buyout of neighbouring land from the National Trust for Scotland should be completed in the coming weeks and is critical to the project.

As the community looks towards launching its fundraising campaign for the remaining funds, chairwoman Anja Jardine said: 'We cannot overstate the importance of having a fit-for-purpose village hall on the island. Iona Village Hall is the place where our children grow up, have



Schoolchildren at Iona Village Hall celebrate the award.

birthday parties, perform their school plays, celebrate their sporting achievements, dance and get married. It forms the backdrop to the collective memory of our community and many of our visitors.'

'It is our debating chamber, our cinema, our stadium, our playground and our gathering place. We need to be more than just a village hall – we have a vision of a hall which not

only belongs to the community of Iona, but is somewhere where people can feel they belong, whether they are islanders, seasonal workers or visitors.'

Big Lottery Fund Scotland chairwoman Maureen McGinn said: 'I am delighted that Iona Village Hall Community Trust has been successful in securing a Big Lottery Fund grant. The funding will make a big difference where it

is needed most and I wish the trust every success as it goes on to develop and expand its project for the benefit of the local community.'

The island needs to raise the remaining £1.2m by December 2018. The trust's social media pages are @IonaVillageHall and Facebook.com/IonaVillageHall and it will be using the hashtags #IonaVillageHall #belongtoiona and #biglottery.

## FREE child ticket

### READER OFFER

Start off 2018 with an inspiring trip for the family to Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban, with this amazing reader offer.

SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY

**FREE CHILD TICKET**

WITH ONE FULL-PAYING ADULT

Terms and conditions apply. Please present this voucher at the front desk on arrival. Admits one child for free with one full-paying adult to Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban. Vouchers are not accepted online at the Sea Life Sanctuary website. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Voucher valid until January 31, 2018. For children aged 3-15. Under 3s go free. If you are a digital subscriber – we don't want you to miss out! Give us a call on 01631 568000 and we will give you details on how you can claim the offer.



With *The Oban Times*' and *The Lochaber Times*' FREE child ticket offer, your little one can get up close and personal with sea life creatures, learn about marine conservation, embrace wildlife and the outdoors at the centre's stunning nature trail, play in the forest playpark and much more – **and you don't need to pay for them!**

Visit [www.visitsealife.com/oban](http://www.visitsealife.com/oban)



## MP demands action on air traffic control plan

WESTERN Isles SNP MP Angus Brendan MacNeil has demanded Scottish Government intervention over Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd's (HIAL) proposal to centralise air traffic control.

Mr MacNeil made his call after meeting air traffic controllers in Stornoway and Benbecula this week.

The MP's reaction came as HIAL announced a substantial growth in the number of passengers using its airports.

And Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant added her voice to the protest, saying she was 'deeply concerned'.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I found out a number of things from the air traffic controllers which weren't clear from my meeting with HIAL directors and board members at Westminster.

'I think the level of this decision is far too big to be made at board level. There is a huge social implication in keeping these jobs in the islands and the Scottish Government has to keep a very close eye on this and consider implications more widely than HIAL can.'

'I feel that the best situation - socially, technically and to ensure a service at the airports - is to maintain the service we have at the moment but especially with a focus on local recruitment.'

'Air traffic controllers who are recruited locally from the islands tend not to leave, as evidenced by Benbecula especially with zero turnover, and Stornoway, where the locally-recruited air traffic controllers stay for many years, if not decades.'

Ms Grant said: 'Last April I was given the assurance that no decisions had been made. It is

therefore difficult to understand this latest announcement from HIAL, which now seems intent on removing highly skilled jobs from local airports many of which are in areas suffering from extremely fragile economic pressures. I have been inundated with concerns as to what this will mean for the individuals and their families. HIAL is wholly owned by the Scottish Government which is proposing "island proofing" of all decisions and this appears to fly in the face of that.'

'The loss of highly skilled jobs will be devastating in areas of our country that can ill afford them.'

'Reliance on poor and non-existent broadband for the air traffic control function, which is critical to air passenger safety, is also a concern. I would have thought that investment in the dedicated staff who have facilitated a 15.4

per cent growth in passenger numbers last year would be better value for money.'

HIAL this week said it had seen exponential growth in 2017 and that 1,722,913 passengers used its facilities. The 2017 figures show numbers were up 102,577 on 2016's total of 1,620,336, an increase of 6.3 per cent.

Highlights include an 18.9 per cent jump in passenger numbers at Barra Airport, which had 14,264 passengers in 2017.

HIAL managing director Inglis Lyon felt encouraged by the performance of these airports and feels they are satisfying the increasing demand for more regional airport services. Mr Lyon said: 'These figures indicate a positive economic outlook for the regions. This illustrates the continuing need for strategic investment across the HIAL area.'

## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Remembering former ministers

CHURCH of Scotland congregations on the island were saddened to learn of the death on December 19 last year of former local minister, the Rev Dr Frank S Gibson. He was 89 years of age and died in Edinburgh's Western General Hospital.

A native of Motherwell, he studied accountancy and law at Glasgow University and served on the mission field before entering the Church of Scotland ministry. He was inducted in 1963 into his first charge at Kildalton and Oa which went on to be eventually linked with Kilmeny parish.

As well as ministering to the Port Ellen St John's and Kilmeny churches, he also covered the Lagavulin Church before it was closed as a result of declining membership.

He left Islay in 1968 following a call to be the minister of Fernhill and Cathkin parish church in Rutherglen and was only the second minister to serve at the Glasgow charge.

Four years later, he joined the kirk's Board of Social Responsibility, now known as Crossreach and Scotland's largest social care agency. He rose to become the board's



Dr Frank S Gibson.

director and carried out his responsibilities with enthusiasm, integrity and admirable good judgement.

With his accountancy and legal skills, along with his strong Christian convictions, he was a force to be reckoned with. He was candid and forthright with a sense of fair play and all who came into contact with him knew where they stood, and were aware that they would be treated with understanding and respect.

Frank retired from his board responsibilities in 1990 and returned to parish ministry after becoming the sole nominee for the vacancy at Kilarrow parish and the Round Church at Bowmore, then linked with neighbouring Kilmeny.

Frank decided to call it a day in 1995 and he and his

wife Margaret set up home in the Edinburgh area. They never lost their regard for Islay, were frequent visitors to these shores, and Frank was happy to offer locum services during the continuing vacancy at Kildalton and Oa, Kilarrow and Jura.

Frank is survived by Margaret, sons David and Stephen, daughter-in-law Ashley and five much-adored grandchildren.

A memorial service for the former minister will be held in the Round Church on Saturday February 10 at 11.30am. This will be followed by the interment of ashes in the Bowmore cemetery.

Local worshippers were also sorry to learn of the passing of another former minister of Kilarrow and Kilmeny on December 17. He was the Rev James Trevorror, who served the island charges from 1982 to 1987, and died after a long illness at Corby, Northants, aged 81.

A service of thanksgiving for the late clergyman was held on January 4 in St Andrew's Church of Scotland in Corby, the scene of his last ministry, and a town which still retains a large number of Scots who were attracted to its once thriving steel industry.

While serving on the island, the minister penned a number

of booklets which he named *The Kilarrow Series* and covered historical aspects of the island parishes. James Trevorror leaves a wife Isabel, daughters Anne and Fiona, son Paul and five doting grandchildren.

### Winning poet picks up prize

CONGRATULATIONS are due to Islay-born poet Duncan Stewart Muir who is among this year's recipients of the Scottish Book Trust's new writing awards.

Duncan graduated with distinction in creative writing from Glasgow University in 2010, and his poetry has been published in a number of prestigious outlets. He is a former pupil of the local high school and is currently employed as a teacher of English in his adopted city.

He has also been heavily involved in poetry-related events in both Glasgow and Liverpool and has participated in the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Well done Duncan and write on!

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

# Tourism chief predicts bumper year for Argyll

THE head of tourism for Argyll and the Isles is predicting another bumper year ahead.

David Adams McGilp, regional director for VisitScotland, says he is looking forward to what 2018 has to offer following a 'great' year in 2017 for tourism in Argyll and the Isles.

Mr McGilp said: 'As we begin a new year, I am filled with optimism and excitement following a great year for tourism in Argyll and the Isles. From highly successful marketing campaigns to hosting top events, 2017 built well on the successes of 2016.

'Our reputation as a quality destination relies on continued investment and innovation to ensure that current provision meets future demand.

'New research revealed that

Argyll and the Isles is the fourth most visited region in Scotland with an average of 891,000 overnight trips taken here each year. The importance of these trips was also highlighted with 17 per cent of the population employed in the tourism sector, almost double the national average.

'Tourism is more than a holiday experience – it is integral to sustaining communities across Scotland by generating income, creating jobs and stimulating social change. More and more people are realising just how important the sector is to the economy and these figures illustrate this vital impact that is growing year on year.

'2017 was the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. From the carved footprint at Dunadd

Hill Fort in Kilmartin Glen to Inveraray Castle, it shone a light on the region's rich heritage and fascinating history, showcasing some of our best assets and uncovering hidden gems.

'As part of this themed year, Argyll and the Isles featured in our trad music marketing campaign. Launched in January, it utilised Facebook, Unruly and Spotify to connect young Scots with the spirit of trad music, events and festivals. Key events from the campaign included Best of the West and Oban Live.

'This year marks the Year of Young People, which will inspire Scotland through its young people aged eight to 26, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contributions to communities and creating new opportunities

for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.

'Central to the year will be a celebratory events programme which will include the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon and Tìree Music Festival. These world-class events will allow the region to continue to showcase itself, and Scotland, as the perfect stage.

'A major highlight of 2017 was the phenomenal success of the Wild About Argyll campaign.

'Launched by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) in January, the campaign aimed to raise awareness about the region, targeting a young, active market and positioning Argyll and the Isles as Scotland's Adventure Coast. Supported by the VisitScotland Growth Fund, the online campaign has reached

almost two million people and has driven more than half a million engagements.

'The campaign has fostered collaboration throughout the region and we have enjoyed strengthened partnerships with AITC, Argyll and Bute Council and other public sector industry partners.

'This year Argyll and the Isles will see a significant increase in the number of channels providing content on places to visit and stay, with a mix of industry partners, Coo Vans and digital products sitting alongside the iCentres in Bowmore, Craignure, Oban and Rothesay.

'I look forward to another great year for tourism in Argyll and the Isles and all the benefits that come with it.'

## Oban hospital beats waiting time targets

THE Accident and Emergency department at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban has exceeded the Scottish Government's waiting time targets, according to the latest figures.

These figures, which have been collated by the NHS National Services Scotland, highlight that for week ending January 7, 96.2 per cent of patients were seen, treated, discharged or admitted within four hours.

Caroline Henderson, local area manager for the hospital, said: 'I am really pleased that the Accident and Emergency department at Lorn and Islands Hospital has achieved 96.2 per cent and that we are continuing to exceed the Scottish Govern-

ment target of 95 per cent.

'To more than meet the target is really good news and I would like to thank all of our staff, both in the hospital and the community.

'We all take great pride in the hospital and the fact we provide a wide range of services, including a 24-hour Accident and Emergency department, for the local communities across Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

'Finally, I would also like to remind people who are thinking of visiting friends or family in the hospital that if they have flu symptoms or are in contact with someone with the flu, then our advice is to stay away from the hospital.'

## MSP praises baby box scheme for Isles

WESTERN Isles MSP Alasdair Allan has commended the success of the Scottish Government's baby box scheme in the opening six months since its launch. Figures from the Scottish Government have revealed that the baby box policy has already benefited 84 newborns across NHS Western Isles since it was introduced last year. Dr Allan said: 'It is excellent to see so many families in the islands benefiting from the baby box.'

## Disruption alert on A828 at Creagan

MOTORISTS are being warned to expect disruption for up to 10 weeks caused by roadworks on the A828 near Creagan.

A £300,000 project to widen a section of the A828 trunk road next to Loch Creran began on Monday of this week, January 22.

The project will involve building up a section of the sea wall at the bends south of Creagan by installing more than 1,800 tonnes of rock armour along the shore line, before extending the road verge on top of the new wall.

This will also allow the car-

riageway to be widened by an extra half-metre. The 300m stretch of road will then be resurfaced and a new road safety barrier installed.

The project is expected to take up to 10 weeks to complete.

The A828 will remain open during the project, but to keep workers and motorists safe temporary traffic lights will be in place throughout the road works.

Real time journey information is available from Traffic Scotland on [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org), twitter @trafficscotland or the new mobile site [my.trafficscotland.org](http://my.trafficscotland.org).

## Marni the Jack Russell is our Pet Idol winner!

MARNI, the Jack Russell terrier from Caol, has been crowned as our Pet Idol winner for 2017-18.

Owner Leanne Kennedy, a self-employed hairdresser, says she is over the moon that her pet has won and intends using the first prize of £500 of vouchers to buy items for a dog rescue charity in Glasgow.

Over the five rounds of the competition, which was launched in the autumn, hundreds of our readers from *The Oban Times*, together with those of our sister papers, the *Lochaber Times*, *Campbeltown Courier* and *Argyllshire Advertiser*, voted for their favourites.

These were slowly whittled down until just the 10 most popular pets remained, with 18-month-old Marni declared the eventual winner this week.

Dogs made up the majority of the entrants, along with a number of other pets including cats, a tortoise, a cockerel, a rat, a goldfish, and even a lamb.

Delighted Leanne, who is married to Liam, told us: 'She's a great wee dog, always full of mischief. We've had her since she was just eight weeks old and this is the first time I've had a dog of my own.'

'Marni loves toys, especially anything that squeaks.'



Leanne and Liam Kennedy with their champion dog Marni. Picture: A Brightside Photography

## Scots film star sends vegan caviar to council as part of farm protest

SCOTTISH film star Alan Cumming has sent a letter to Argyll and Bute Council urging it to reject plans for Scotland's first caviar farm ... along with a jar of vegan caviar.

Planning officers are considering The Fynest Caviar Co's plan to build 'a closed containment aquaculture facility for the production of sturgeon' by Loch Fyne at Ardkinglas Sawmill, Cairndow.

The £4 million project aims to turnover £3.64 million over six years, displacing some of the £22 million of caviar and caviar substitutes imported into the UK annually, and to hire seven full-time employees. The Edinburgh-based company hopes to have Scottish caviar on the market by Christmas 2020.

Mr Cumming, a stage and screen actor who comes from Aberfeldy, hit the big time in the James Bond film *GoldenEye*.

Mr Cumming, who now lives in New York, wrote in the letter published on the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) website: 'With an abundance of delicious, cruelty-free alternatives to caviar available, building a farm in order to breed and kill animals for a fleeting moment of taste is unjustifiable and inhumane.'

'Many discerning gourmets, including the head chef of the BAFTA Awards dinner, have opted for vegan caviar – which tastes fantastic and doesn't harm animals. I've enclosed some for you to try. I hope you'll enjoy it and that you'll agree that farming

fish for caviar has no place in Scotland's future.'

Mr Cumming, a vegan, was awarded a Humanitarian Award last year by PETA, which submitted a petition against the caviar farm signed by more than 5,000 supporters earlier this year.

In response, one of the Fynest Caviar Co's three directors, Fraser Niven, said the company was committed to providing 'the best care and attention to the fish stock'.

He added: 'The fish represent the key asset of the business and will only provide the premium product if this care is maintained. We are employing a highly experienced team of professionals who have established well-respected and highly-regarded facilities across the world.'

## Council looks to solve bins issue

ARGYLL and Bute Council is looking to remedy a recycling inequality in Soroba, with some parts having more facilities than others.

The council is working with Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to provide more recycling bins in the area.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Recycling is increasing across Argyll and Bute, which reduces the amount of gen-

eral waste for collection and saves money for council services.

'Part of the Soroba area does not yet have the same level of recycling facilities as other areas and we are working with ACHA to provide provision for additional recycling in that area of Soroba.

'We've therefore been making additional general waste collections while we find ways in which to increase recycling options for

some Soroba residents. We would like to thank all residents for the efforts they are making to recycle and for their co-operation while we deal with Christmas waste.'

This comes after bins across Oban were left overflowing over the festive period following a number of lorry breakdowns.

This resulted in recycling bins not being collected until the following scheduled uplift.

## POLICE FILES with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

AT ABOUT 4pm on Monday January 15, in the The Original Factory Shop in Oban, a man aged 36 allegedly attempted to steal some items. Police attended and the man was detained. He was later arrested and charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

BETWEEN 1pm on Monday January 15 and 2.50pm on Friday January 19, within a car park at the Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Road, Oban, a black Volkswagen Passat motor car was damaged by having the bodywork dented and scratched by another vehicle. The driver failed to report the incident. Police are investigating and are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them.

AT ABOUT 12.40am on Saturday January 20, in Airds Place, Oban, a woman aged 37 behaved in a

disorderly manner in a licensed premises and assaulted a member of bar staff. Police attended and the woman assaulted two officers and resisted arrest. The woman was arrested and charged with the offences and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

AT ABOUT 2.20am on Sunday January 21, in Stevenson Street, Oban, a 36-year-old man urinated in a public place. The man was issued with a recorded police warning.

AT ABOUT 12.55am on Sunday January 21, in licensed premises in George Street, Oban, two men were allegedly assaulted by another two men. Police are investigating and are appealing for anyone with information to contact them.

BETWEEN 11pm on Friday January 19 and 7.10am on Saturday

January 20, within a car park at the Oban Bay Hotel, Corran Esplanade, an attempt was made to break in to a red Fiat 500 car. Police are investigating and are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them.

AT ABOUT 9pm on Sunday January 21, following a report of a man behaving in an abusive manner towards a woman on the Isle of Seil, a 36-year-old man was detained. The man was later arrested and charged with abusive behaviour. He was held over for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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

**COMING SOON**  
**FULLY LICENSED BUFFET & A LA CARTE RESTAURANT**

**Kebabish**

**Open 7.30am**

**Enjoy Life, enjoy Kebabish**

Cafe, Mocktail Bar, Dzrts, Restaurant & Takeaway

**All under one roof**

Scottish  
**Curry Awards**  
Winner 2016

Healthy Curry  
Provider for Scotland

**Kebabish Curry  
House (Oban)**

**Our food is always made with your health in mind**



**95-99 GEORGE STREET, OBAN**  
**TEL: 01631 563900 or 01631 566885**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT [www.kebabishcurryhouse.com](http://www.kebabishcurryhouse.com)**



# New fire service water rescue unit is launched

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A TEAM of specialist firefighters in Oban are the latest to have been trained and equipped to stand on the front line during severe weather-related flooding.

The highly-skilled water rescue unit will also work to protect the community and assist emergency service partners at the various rivers, lochs and stretches of open water across Argyll and Bute.

As a result, Oban Community Fire Station is now officially home to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's latest water rescue unit – following 18 months of intensive planning and training undertaken locally and nationally as part of the Review of Specialist Equipment.

Assistant chief officer Lewis Ramsay, the SFRS director of



The water rescue unit training near Connel.

response and resilience, said: 'I am delighted to officially announce the introduction of the water rescue unit to Oban, which represents the culmination of some serious planning, hard work and effort.'

'We have trained and equipped these firefighters to the same standard as crews across the country to ensure that they can respond to some of the most dynamic and challenging emergencies.'

'We absolutely have to prepare for increasing instances of extreme weather-related flooding in order to respond quickly to protect Scotland's communities.'

'The crew here at Oban are now part of an outstanding national water rescue capability which we can call upon to do just that.'

The water rescue unit is capable of conducting rescues in shallow, deep, moving and standing bodies of water.

Among their arsenal of specialist equipment are motorised boats, inflatable sleds for casualty recovery and specialist training which gives them an unparalleled ability to conduct rescues in potentially dangerous and difficult environments.

Jim McNeil, the Scottish Fire and Rescue's senior officer for Argyll and Bute and East and West Dunbartonshire, added:

'This launch of our water rescue capability is excellent news for the communities of Argyll and Bute.'

'Our capability to respond to water rescue and flooding incidents across the region has undoubtedly been enhanced.'

'Oban and the wider Argyll and Bute area has seen its fair share of extreme weather and flooding in recent years.'

'This new asset will allow us to combat such extreme weather with renewed confidence and to serve communities to the very best of our abilities.'

'Despite our best preventative work, people can and do get into difficulty in water, and we must stand ready to assist them.'

Anyone who is looking for information on how to stay safe around Scotland's waterways, please visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/water-safety](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/water-safety).



Artair Donald, left, and others act out scenes from Skyfall.

## Gaels make dramatic impact at Furan Centre

FURAN Gaelic Centre held its first Gaelic drama workshop of 2018 last Thursday, January 18. Well-known actor Artair Donald led the workshop, which included acting out scenes from the James Bond blockbuster movie Skyfall.

Further workshops will take place in February. Dates will be announced shortly.

If anyone is interested in being involved in developing Gaelic community drama group in the area, please go along to these workshops.

## Mum Fiona asks for help to build a big Oban Lego club



Oban mum Fiona Shaw, pictured with her children Faye and Aiden, needs your help to start a Lego club.

A NEW Lego club in Oban has attracted interest from hundreds of little and big kids, but it needs many, many more Lego and Duplo bricks for them to build with.

The Master Builders – Lego & Creative Construction Club Facebook group already has 250 members, and is appealing for any unused Lego lying in local cupboards or attics.

Dunbeg Primary School loaned two boxes of Lego to start the club off, and organiser Fiona Shaw is seeking donations via a GoFundMe page, and funding via the public vote in Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund, to buy 'piles and piles' more.

Mum of two Fiona, whose three-year-old son Aiden is 'Lego crazy', said: 'My children – and I – love Lego and we are

pretty sure there are many more like us in Oban and the surrounding areas. We want to start a Lego and construction club so children can meet on a regular basis, make friends, build, and create together.'

'Lego and building toys have countless positive impacts on children. They promote creativity, imagination and develop fine motor skills. The club will be a fun

and sociable experience where everyone is welcome. In order to set the club up, there will be costs and, while we are applying for all available funding, most of the grants are now not open until next summer.'

'Lego means "play well" and I think we all agree it is more fun when you have friends to play with. I need help to get this club going for the kids and big kids alike.'



The speakers were, left to right, Robert Clarke, Christine Cameron, Willie Cameron, Jeff McCormick, Aileen Binner, Peter Bain, Kevin Champion and Fiona McCormick. Missing is Alice Needham, who addressed the haggis.

## Home-Start Lorn holds sell-out Burns supper

HOME-START LORN held another sell-out Burns supper on Sunday night at the Waterfront Fishhouse in Oban.

A delicious meal, always a slight twist on the usual Burns fare, was enjoyed and was followed by the usual entertainment.

The event will have raised £1,000, and it is Home-Start Lorn's main fundraiser of the year.

Home-Start Lorn has been supporting families in the area since 1988. Its home-visiting volunteers, who are all parents themselves, offer friendly, practical support to families with at least one child under five years of age.

The charity supports families in an area stretching from Appin to the north, Ardfern to the south and Bridge of Orchy to the east.

## M&Co backs Unity Bands

FOR the fourth year running, M&Co is supporting Cancer Research UK on World Cancer Day, February 4, when it asks people to wear a Unity Band. Every Unity Band funds more

research, more treatments and more cures. More bands mean more lives saved.

The bands are available in the Oban M&Co store for a suggested donation of £2.

## Oban store provides 13,000 free meals

MORE than 13,000 meals have been provided to charities and community groups in Oban thanks to Tesco's surplus food redistribution scheme, Community Food Connection. The total has been released to mark the roll-out of the scheme across all of Tesco's stores across the UK.

Stores are able to provide surplus food every night. In Scotland, Tesco's initiative has seen two million meals donated to local groups, including homeless shelters, community centres, breakfast clubs and vulnerable older people. The Community Food Connection programme is run in

conjunction with FareShare and FoodCloud. Good causes are able to link up with Tesco stores via an innovative app that allows store teams to alert them to surplus unsold food items available at the end of each day.

Tesco and FareShare are calling on charities and groups across Scotland to register for the scheme, which sees food, including fresh produce, donated free.

Charities or community groups that could benefit from the scheme can visit <http://fareshare.org.uk/getting-food/fareshare-go-support/> to register.

## Oban Disability Forum roadshow at Corran Halls

OBAN Disability Forum is hosting a 'two-events-in-one' roadshow at the Corran Halls on Wednesday January 31.

The forum, which is working hard to create a disabled-friendly Oban and North Argyll and the Islands, has arranged for a morning discussion on disabled people's use and ease of access to public transport, and an early afternoon session on the structure of Scotland's access panels.

Emma Scott, from Disability Equality Scotland (DES), will chair the morning meeting, with Ian Buchanan, access engagement officer with DES, running the afternoon session.

Attendance is free and a snack lunch will be served at 1.30pm.

Oban Disability Forum chairman Jim Tolmie said: 'DES is the Scottish Government's principal adviser on disabled access and this is the perfect opportunity for people to influence the shape and form of public transport and the work of the access panels.'

'It starts at 11.30am, there is plenty of parking, including blue badge spaces, and I would encourage anyone who has a disability or an interest in disabled issues to register by emailing [obandisabilityforum@aol.co.uk](mailto:obandisabilityforum@aol.co.uk) on or before Friday January 26.'

## New award for best customer service in Oban

AS FRIENDS and family will know from listening to me moan, customer service is one of my bugbears, writes Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald.

I'm not a grumpy person by nature but it's one of the few things that can make steam come out of my ears.

In saying that, it doesn't happen often and I can honestly say that customer service in Oban is good, and visitors often comment on what a friendly place this is.

One of the reasons I think it's so important is the effect it can have on the rest of your day. A wee smile and a pleasant com-

ment and your mood is lifted. You might even pass it on to the next person you meet with a smile and a greeting.

It's the wee things that can make a difference, especially at this time of year.

Oban is a friendly place and it's to be encouraged. I would love it if that became one of the reasons people came here – not just for the seafood and scenery.

The Bid4Oban Customer Service Award is one of the ways that we can reward and recognise the people in our community who cheer us all up and make our lives that bit nicer and easier.

It's not just about pleasing visitors, it affects us all. If you know someone who deserves this award, then don't keep it to yourself.

Let us know and we can give them the recognition they deserve.

It couldn't be easier to contact us, by phone on 01631 569915, email [kay@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:kay@bid4oban.co.uk), call at our office at 43 Stevenson Street or you can message or comment on the LoveOban Facebook page.

The photo last week is in the lovely garden at the foot of Star Brae and this week's photo isn't that far from the town centre either.

## WHERE IS THIS?



**Design Your Own Composite Door**  
**BE WARM AND SAFE INSIDE**  
**WHEN IT'S FRRRRRRREZING**  
**GOLD OUTSIDE**

Choosing a new door is not an easy decision but our design tool will show you the different styles, glass and hardware that you can have to make that decision that bit easier.

Call us today **for your free home visit.**

**Cairngorm Group**  
1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238 000  
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315  
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956  
info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

*tougher, warmer, smarter*

# 303 publicly oppose demolition

DAVID MCPHEE  
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

THE owners who have submitted plans to demolish a house in Taynuilt have spoken out after their application received hundreds of objections.

Directors of The Josephine Marshall Trust wrote a document, which has since been temporarily removed from Argyll and Bute Council's website, reminding the planning department to only take relevant matters into consideration.

The house, Barr Bheag, is occupied by Nick Charlton, who is a brother-in-law of one of the directors of the trust.

Mr Charlton has been a tenant for 13 years, and lives with his partner Claire De Mortimer.

The couple say that if this action goes ahead, they will lose their home and business, as Nick runs The Rusty Cycle Shed - a bike hire and repair shop - from an adjacent tin hut.

There have now been 303 public objections. The majority of people have said: 'I object to the application on the following grounds: Barr Bheag does not need to be demolished. The demolition has been proposed by the applicant to avoid compliance with the Court Repairing Order and to evict tenants from their home and business. The council

should not give sanction to a demolition which flouts the court order. Any decision must protect the tenant's human right to his home.'

However, in the directors' letter to the council, they wrote: 'Mr Charlton's strongest objection is to the loss of his tenancy.'

'The matter is explicitly provided for under separate legislation and therefore should not in any way enter into the planning authority's consideration of our application.'

'The demolition of a building is in most cases a permitted development right (subject to prior notification process) and does not even need planning permission.'

'The submission by us of a planning application here has allowed the tenant to have a voice in the process. However, he has identified no legitimate planning matter which would merit a refusal.'

'Despite the number of objections his campaign can muster, and however politically sensitive that may make the application, it does not change the fact that the application accords with relevant development plan policy and there are no material considerations that justify refusal of the application.'

'The assertions made by Mr Charlton, and those who have adopted his formula, invite the

council to depart from planning considerations, and go into matters which are before the courts.'

'The council should not of course do that, but should confine itself to considerations which are relevant to planning.'

'Mr Charlton's own objection, and the objections of all those who have copied over the form of objection he provided, do not refer to or rely on the matters identified by the council in its neighbour notification as matters relevant to planning.'

The response has been temporarily taken down from the planning website because it contained personal information.

Ms De Mortimer said: 'The

council can still see it, but they don't need to publish it. They will retract the bits that aren't relevant to planning.'

She added: 'I am really grateful for people outside of and in Taynuilt who are supporting us. People have been lovely.'

Ms De Mortimer expects to find out the planning department's decision 'sometime in February'. She said: 'The options are it will go to a committee and then a hearing.'

Ms De Mortimer said the hearing would take place in public in Taynuilt, where both parties will make their case. The deadline to comment on the application ended on Tuesday January 23.

## TIMESLINE

### Website offers range of services

ARGYLL and Bute Council's website contains lots of useful information for residents, businesses and visitors but also offers a wide range of online services that make contacting the council quick and convenient.

On the website payments can be made for council tax, school meals, parking tickets, non-domestic rates and planning applications.

The website also has many 'request it' and 'report it' services such as for lighting and road faults; moving house; applying for a skip or scaffolding; domestic pest problems; planning applications; and bin collection dates.

To see all the services, visit [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

### Meet author Terry in Oban library

TERRY H WATSON, author of the *Lucy Trilogy*, a mystery thriller series, will be talking about her books in Oban library on Wednesday January 31 at 2pm. Go along for a cup of tea and an informal chat.

### Reminder to

### Argyll employers

EMPLOYERS across Argyll and Bute are being reminded that work permits are required for all young people aged between 14 and 16 years who work part-time while at school.

Argyll and Bute Council has a number of byelaws which state the rules and regulations governing the employment of children - one of which is a work permit.

The permit is free and must be signed by the head teacher from the young person's school, as well as a parental guardian and employer.

Go to <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/protection-children-work-employment-form-1>

## Café Canna goes on the market

THE only café or bar on the Isle of Canna has been placed on the market, with the community also hoping to attract new inhabitants.

Found on the shores of the island's harbour, Café Canna was established in 2014 by owner Chris Deplano, who leased vacant premises from island landlord the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) following a community appeal to repopulate the island after numbers fell to just nine residents.

Since then, the café has grown in popularity, attracting around 10,000 visitors during the tourist season, with many coming by sailing boat to use the island's natural anchorage between the Scottish mainland, the Isle of Skye and the Outer Hebrides.

The café leasehold is on the market for £20,000. Skye-born owner Chris, who did not come from a catering background, said: 'It's been a dream come true to have had the experience of establishing and running Café Canna, but it's probably now time to hand the apron on to someone else.'

'It's been an amazing four years. We've had a great team here on the island and we can't give enough thanks to the people who have supported us, from local and sailing communities, to seasonal visitors and our landlord, the NTS.'

For more, go to [cafecanna.co.uk/sale](http://cafecanna.co.uk/sale).



The leasehold for the licensed Café Canna is available for £20,000.



## TIMESLINE

### £5,000 raised in memory of Paul

#### Getting married in Argyll and Bute

MORE than 600 marriages are conducted by Argyll and Bute Council's registrars each year.

In 2002, the law changed in Scotland, allowing people to get married anywhere. Since then, the registrars in Argyll and Bute have seen people tying the knot in a variety of locations, including on Ben More on Mull - the island's highest mountain.

Councillor Rory Colville said: 'Being a registrar isn't a nine-to-five job and they will do whatever it takes to make a couple's wedding a special day.'

To find out more about getting married in Argyll and Bute go to <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/marriage/>

#### School is set for children's ceilidh

COMUNN Gaidhealach an Obain is presenting its children's ceilidh at the Masonic Lodge in Oban on Saturday February 3 at 7.30pm.

There will be performances from Oban High School's traditional group and Rockfield, Dunbeg and St Columba's primary schools.

Admission is £5 with under-fives free.

#### Gaelic lessons for beginners on offer

FURAN Gaelic Centre in Oban is running another block of Gaelic for beginners classes using episodes one to six of Speaking our Language. The six-week block will start on Thursday February 1 and run until Thursday March 8 from 7pm-8.30pm.

For further information and to reserve a place, contact duncan.MacNeil@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

#### Top honour for former police chief

A FORMER police commander for Argyll and Bute is to receive the highest award the force bestows.

Barry McEwan was a divisional commander for Argyll and Bute from 2011 to 2014.

The now-retired officer is on the New Year's Honours list for the Queen's Police Medal following a distinguished 30-year career.

ALMOST £5,000 has now been raised in memory of Paul Thomson, the Lerags businessman who died in a quad bike accident on New Year's Day.

The father-of-two's family and friends set up a crowd-funding page to pay for a memorial bench to be placed near Kilbride Kirk.

On the campaign page, The Lerags Glen Community wrote: 'A hand-crafted stone bench carved with Paul's name will be set at the high point of the churchyard, looking over the glen he so loved.'

'A place where neighbours in the glen and his friends from Oban, London, and elsewhere can come and remember him. And those who visit Kilbride from all over the world will be able to read about him - an important part of its 800-year



Paul died in a tragic accident on New Year's Day.

story.' The total amount raised at the time of going to print was £4,943.

The cost of the bench is

£2,000 and the surplus money will be donated to Friends of Kilbride, of which Paul was a trustee.

## Care home denies downgrading

A BENDERLOCH care home has quashed rumours that it is downgrading after operating at a lower capacity for a number of months.

Lynn of Lorne Care Home was issued with an improvement notice in September last year, but recently met all requirements and had the enforcement notice lifted.

The home's recently appointed director of care, Jackie Weston, said: 'We were pleased that both the Care Inspectorate and HSCP [Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership] recognised that significant improvements have been made at Lynn of Lorne.'

'We have operated at a lower capacity during recent months

and will continue to do so in order to focus on improving the experience for our current residents and staff team.'

However, Mrs Weston confirmed that the service was not downgrading and no rooms would be lost.

She added: 'Indeed, we are accepting applications for new residents.'

## Clachan Seil hut decision due

A CONTROVERSIAL building plan faced councillors at Kilmory yesterday (Wednesday January 24).

Deputy Lord Lieutenant Graham MacQueen was hoping councillors would not order the demolition of a recreational hut he built without permission for his disabled wife,

near the famous Bridge over the Atlantic. The plan attracted 114 letters of support and 15 of objection. Planning officers have maintained their recommendation to reject the proposal, despite errors in an earlier report and claims from Mrs MacQueen that she was being discriminated against.

## Weather caused internet blackout

MORE than 175 homes in the Morvern Peninsula were left without broadband for several days last week due to a damaged mast on Mull.

BT engineers tried to fix the radio mast at Torosay on Friday by helicopter, but were grounded by bad weather, and tried again on Saturday. The mast was first damaged last Tuesday.

A BT spokesman said: 'Broadband service to Morvern has been down since Tuesday

morning, due to suspected lightning damage to the radio mast at Torosay on Mull.'

'Engineers visited Morvern exchange as soon as access to the area was available but the fault was traced to the radio mast site on Mull which has been inaccessible due to the weather.'

'We tried to helicopter in riggers today to carry out repair work but the aircraft was grounded by the adverse weather.'

'We're currently attempting to get an all-weather vehicle to Torosay to clear any ground-based faults. If that fails, we plan to helicopter in our rigging team tomorrow, weather permitting, although weather warnings remain in place until Saturday morning. Our riggers can only climb the mast when it is safe to do so.'

'The fault is affecting 177 broadband customers and we're sorry for any inconvenience.'

# Scottish Field

COUNTRY NEWS INTERIORS GARDENS FOOD & DRINK PROPERTY ARTICLES FASHION TRAVEL FEBRUARY 2018 £4.25

CAPITAL FELLOW

Fashion designer Patrick Grant on his love of Edinburgh

THE TIMELESS MURIEL SPARK

Plus

- A SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA
- MINI MAYHEM IN THE HIGHLANDS
- THE GAELIC CONUNDRUM
- SHETLAND ACTOR MARK BONNIAR

20

Scotland's top independent schools

PAGES OF

THE LOVE MACHINE - How the tiny village of Gretna Green became the nation's wedding capital

FEBRUARY ISSUE OUT NOW

PATRICK GRANT ON HIS LOVE OF EDINBURGH

THE TIMELESS MURIEL SPARK

A SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA  
MINI MAYHEM IN THE HIGHLANDS  
THE GAELIC CONUNDRUM

20 Pages of Scotland's Top Independent Schools

THE LOVE MACHINE

How the tiny village of Gretna Green became the nation's wedding capital

www.scottishfield.co.uk

f t

OT

**Tyndrum and Killin**

RESIDENTS of Tyndrum, Crianlarich and Killin are reminded a new bus service to Stirling was introduced in December.

Service S60 departs at 10am from Tyndrum to Stirling (Springkerse) and 4pm from Stirling (Springkerse) to Tyndrum on the first and third Saturday of each month, enabling residents of Tyndrum, Crianlarich, Killin, Lochearnhead and Strathrye to make shopping trips to Stirling city centre and Springkerse Retail Park.

The contract was initially for operation until March 31 but the buses will now run until Saturday August 18.

**Achnamara**

ACHNAMARA residents are being encouraged to get involved in building a community skiff.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend a meeting on Wednesday January 31 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

**Skye**

THE COMMUNITY Learning and Development Review Group for Gaelic is running its 15th annual family learning event at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, during the week beginning Monday July 2.

This event is open to families with children being educated through the medium of Gaelic and offers the opportunity for parents to attend one of the college's language courses while their children take part in sports, arts and other activities including archery and kayaking through the medium of Gaelic.

Last year 33 families – 44 adults and 54 children – from across the Highlands, islands and the central belt took part, with everyone enthusiastic about the experience.

For more information and an application form, email flw.clad@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07805 918509.

Application forms must be returned to the project co-ordinator by Wednesday March 14. Places are limited, so families are advised to apply early. Families will be told in April whether their applications have been successful.

**Taynuilt**



A GIFTED ballerina from Taynuilt is set to receive tuition from some of the world's most well-respected dancers after gaining a place at an exclusive dance masterclass in Edinburgh.

Uyu Hiromoto, who is currently training for a BA (Hons) degree in dance at Ballet West in Taynuilt, will spend a weekend undertaking intensive dance training at Edinburgh Festival Ballet School, a new initiative run by the world-famous ballet dancer, choreographer and director Peter Schaufuss, the founder of the English National Ballet School.

The course on March 17 and 18 will act as a precursor to a permanent full-time ballet school in Edinburgh set to open in September 2019.

Twenty-year-old Uyu, originally from Japan, said: 'I've always loved expressing myself through dance but it wasn't until I was a teenager that I decided to pursue a career as a professional ballet dancer. In 2015, I moved from my home in Japan to Taynuilt after being granted a place to train at Ballet West.'

Later this month, she is set to share the role of Giselle with fellow Ballet West principal dancer Natasha Watson during the company's Scottish tour of the ballet. The tour opens at the MacRobert Arts Centre in Stirling on January 26 and comes to the Corran Halls in Oban on Thursday February 8 at 7.30pm.

Uyu continued: 'I think it's really important for dancers to learn tips and techniques from as many different people as possible. I think it's exciting that such a high-profile dance masterclass is being held in Scotland.'



Previous Artroots-funded projects include recycled seating, chainsaw-carved sculptures, landscaping with a wooden train full of plants and a Highland cow on a hillock.

**Cycle route art cash up for grabs**

COMMUNITY groups can apply for up to £2,000 towards artistic and visual improvements to their local National Cycle Network (NCN) routes.

The ArtRoots fund, funded by Transport Scotland and run by Sustrans Scotland, seeks to create visually attractive and memorable routes which encourage people to explore on foot and bike.

Previous Artroots-funded projects include recycled seating, chainsaw-carved sculptures, landscaping

with a wooden train full of plants and a Highland cow on a hillock.

Sustrans Scotland national director John Lauder said: 'Since the National Cycle Network was founded in 1995, we have worked with numerous artists and sculptors to add artworks and visual improvements to enhance the routes.'

'Artworks send out a message that cyclists and walkers are valued and we are delighted to welcome applications for the second round of ArtRoots

funding. Constituted community groups based in Scotland which would like to make improvements to the artworks along their local NCN route are being asked to fill in an online expression of interest form.

'The closing date is Monday January 29 at 5pm.'

For more information visit www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/national-cycle-network/artroots-fund. If anyone has any questions about the fund, email cosmo.blake@sustrans.org.uk.



Top, middle and above: 'Autumn' works submitted by Kilchrenan Art Group painters from Dalavich, Kilchrenan and Taynuilt for the Hilary Cup for Art.

**Competition spotlight on autumn artwork**

**Kilchrenan**

PAINTERS from Dalavich Kilchrenan and Taynuilt, all members of Kilchrenan Art Group, each submitted a piece of work portraying autumn in the first four-monthly competition for the Hilary Cup for Art.

The trophy has been provided by June Raven, in memory of her friend and painting buddy Hilary Sargusson, from Lismore, who died in 2016.

David and Vivienne Price, members of the Three Wee Crows drama group, were invited to judge the art work, the criteria for the winner being 'the one they liked best'. After careful consideration of the outstanding paintings, they chose the work of Adrienne Watson, who received the trophy and a voucher.

The art group meets weekly in Kilchrenan Village Hall for two hours to explore a wide range of techniques,

media and topics, devised by June Raven in response to their requests.

They have worked with visiting artists George Stewart, Arthur Ker, Val MacFarlane and Ann Sawley, with the help of grant money from the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Trust.

In August, an exhibition of the group's work was displayed in the Robin's Nest Tea Room, Taynuilt, by kind permission of Mairead and Murray Sim, as part of the Argyll Art Map event.

The subject for the next competition, to be judged in March, is Living Creatures. A weekend course is planned for September, with a visiting artist. This will depend upon a successful application for funding.

The event culminated in tea, cake and lively chat.

**Inveraray**

AT ITS January meeting, Inveraray History Society was transported back more than 5,000 years.

Dr Tertia Barnett took members to the Neolithic and early Bronze Age as they enjoyed her talk on Scotland's Rock Art project.

With the help of fascinating pictures of different types of rock art from all over the world, Dr Barnett focused most of her talk on Scotland's abstract style.

In the form of cup and ring markings, this art can be found in abundance in many areas of the country and Dr Barnett's project aims to improve understanding of Scotland's rock art.

Researchers are working with community groups to create a comprehensive record of the carvings and to raise public awareness.

Together with trained community teams, they aim to locate 2,000 of the prehistoric carvings known in Scotland and look for undiscovered rock art.

Inveraray History Society members hope to join Dr Barnett for a day in Kilmartin Glen during the summer to see how to record any future findings.

Any interested non-member should contact the secretary on 01499 302295.

The society looks forward to welcoming Ian Arnold to the February meeting. He will talk about forestry in Argyll. Non-members are also welcome to attend at 7.30pm on Tuesday February 6 in the Nicoll Hall, Inveraray.

TWO SNP MPs joined more than 150 party members in Inveraray to discuss building on recent political success.

Brendan O'Hara, MP for Argyll and Bute, and Mhairi Black, MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South, attended the meeting on Sunday January 14.

Ms Black, 23, the youngest member of parliament in 350 years, gave a speech to the Argyll and Bute members, having spent the day becoming acquainted with the discussion groups.

Mr O'Hara said: 'It was great to hear Mhairi tell the meeting that the enthusiasm and energy at today's meeting reminded her of the very best days of the 2014 referendum campaign. She also told them they were the key to securing independence and that we had to get back to the days of grassroots activism and local people leading and organising themselves. Her message was very well received and many people left Inveraray this evening with a spring in their step.'



Mhairi Black and Brendan O'Hara at Inveraray.

**Oban**

OBAN Salvation Army had a hugely successful Christmas appeal, thanks to the generosity and support of the local community.

Toys, gifts and cash donations came in from a variety of sources; Santa's Grotto at the Rockfield Centre, constructed with help from the Men's Shed and manned by elves from Mary's Meals; a collection point under the tree in Nationwide Building Society in George Street; staff at the hospital did a Secret Santa and donated everything they collected; a number of individuals brought in bags of loose change they had collected; others dropped by with cash or sent cheques; Scottish Sea Farms donated £500. 'We were blown away by people's generosity,' said Cath Sheldrick, Salvation Army community development worker who co-ordinated the appeal.

'It enabled us to provide toys, gifts, blankets, utilities, clothes and food hampers to some of our most vulnerable and isolated residents. None of that would have been possible without the donations, but similarly it wouldn't have happened without the volunteers who helped to wrap, sort, label and deliver the items, nor without the other agencies who helped us to identify those most likely to be alone or in need over the Christmas period.'

'It's amazing what can happen when a community pools its resources and works together; we really can help to change lives.'

Got a district news story? Call The Oban Times newsdesk on 01631 568000

**At Random**

**Outraged by RBS**

I WATCHED on the TV news last week with dismay, initially, and genuine anger, latterly, as senior executives from RBS appeared before the Scottish Affairs Committee at the House of Commons to be grilled over their planned swingeing branch closures.

I am absolutely outraged at what these jumped-up public servants – that is the bankers I'm talking about – are doing, especially to our rural and island communities.

Let's be clear on this: we, the public, own RBS so these money-grabbing individuals are, in effect, workers in the public sector.

Les Matheson, chief executive of personal and business banking for RBS, simply refused to countenance any rethink on the closures, which include Inveraray and Castlebay on Barra, when he appeared before the committee last Wednesday.

Matheson told the committee that the closures would save the bank £9.5 million annually but he insisted the decision had not been taken to save money.

Aye, right. Everything these people do is about money.

Matheson clearly knows nothing about the reality of life in Argyll and the islands. He told the committee: 'We are personally committed, as are all of our colleagues, to helping every individual customer.'

I do not believe a word of that statement.



Sir Andy Flurry is a great name ... but could you do better?

As Western Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil said last week: 'An eye-watering £16 million was paid in bonuses to RBS senior executives, which would pay the wages of the staff at the Castlebay branch for about 266 years. That is the level of greed we are seeing here and not just greed but cowardice and irresponsibility.'

I could not agree more. RBS is publicly-owned and is vital to already fragile rural and island communities. We need a widespread campaign to force these executives to do what we, their owners, demand.

**Only an excuse**

THE time of year is looming when all honest men and women

must have their annual tax returns completed.

So it is that HMRC sent me an email detailing some of the excuses received from people trying to avoid penalties for filing their tax returns late.

I was going to say, you couldn't make them up ... but clearly people did.

Among my favourites were: 'I couldn't file my return on time as my wife has been seeing aliens and won't let me enter the house' and 'My ex-wife left my tax return upstairs, but I suffer from vertigo and can't go upstairs to retrieve it'.

As well as the excuses, HMRC also received some questionable items which taxpayers have tried to use as justifiable expenses to offset their tax liabilities.

MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Again, among the best were: 'A three-piece suite for my partner to sit on when I'm doing my accounts', 'Birthday drinks at a Glasgow nightclub', 'Vet fees for a rabbit', 'Hotel room service – for candles and prosecco' and '£4.50 for sausage and chips meal expenses for 250 days'.

I'm delighted to report that HMRC assures us the excuses and expenses listed above were all rejected.

**Spread the word**

THERE has been much delight across social media over the past few days at the names given to Scotland's gritting vehicles.

You'd have had to be snowed in with all communications down to have missed it during the recent cold snap but there are some crackers.

Among them are Sir Andy Flurry, Luke Snowalker, Gritty Gritty Bang Bang and Sir Salter Scott.

These are great ... but I'm sure you good readers could do better!

With no prizes at stake, let me know your suggestions. I'll even get the ball rolling by offering a couple of my own. How about Flake's 7 or Right Said Spread?

The address is on the end so send your ideas to me by email or letter.

**What do you think?**

WRITE to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB.

**3 FREE**

**Large Scottish Field Calendars with every new 1 Year online subscription**



The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

- Save £39 on a subscription
- Behind the paywall access to the obantimes.co.uk\*
- Delivery of weekly "page flipper" copy of The Oban Times\*
- Delivered first thing Thursday - no waiting

Limited numbers, whilst stocks last. Calendars sent to one UK address.

Subscribe at [www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions) and use code **SUBOFFERSF**

# A turbulent and bloody part of the land

**MORVERN LINES**  
**IAIN THORNER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

WEST of the Great Glen, and lying between Achnacarry and Glendessary, is Loch Arkaig.

A track, almost too narrow and tortuous to be described as a public highway, follows its northern shores and introduces the visitor to a remote and magnificent landscape of great natural beauty which the hand of man has not yet defaced.

This freshwater loch runs for 12 miles, first among oak, pine, birch and alder and later under bare hillsides. Here the eye is held by the high mountains on either side as they rise sharply from gleaming water, and loveliness is met at every turn.

This is Cameron of Lochiel country and the scene of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's wanderings after Culloden. In the days of clans and feuds, Loch Arkaig-side was as turbulent and bloody as any Highland district. Many murders were committed in the area, earning it a fearsome reputation among travellers making their way through the high passes to the ocean and the isles.

Some of these events were written down leaving others to be preserved in local folk memory.

About six miles from the foot of the loch, a double murder occurred on August 31, 1746 – an account of which has found its way into British military history. The man responsible was a Captain Grant, commanding a detachment of the Earl of Loudon's Regiment of Foot, who summarily killed a young man close to the old bridle path at a place which became known as Culcairn's Brae.

His name was Alexander Cameron and he was on his way to the nearest military camp to surrender a firearm. Grant said he didn't believe him and had him tied to a tree and



Alex MacDonald, of Achnacarry, stands beside the Rock of the Heads, where the MacMillans decapitated their victims. Photograph: Iain Thorne

shot – not for carrying a weapon but more likely in revenge for an incident that happened at the battle of Falkirk earlier that year.

Alexander's father either saw or heard of his son's death and vowed he would kill Grant.

Grant, who held a commission in the Hanoverian army and had been responsible for burning and laying waste to old Achnacarry House, proceeded up the loch-side where he met a company of soldiers commanded by his colleague, Captain George Munro of Culcairn, a Ross-shire bonnet laird, who had been harassing the inhabitants of Glendessary.

Joining forces, he and Munro travelled back towards Achnacarry exchanging mounts for some reason

or another on the way, which meant Munro was now riding a white horse.

When Alexander Cameron's father saw the soldiers returning, he got hold of a musket and waited for them behind a tree close to where his son had been killed. He knew that Grant usually rode a white horse so, when the two officers came abreast of him, he fired at the man in the saddle of the beast of that colour and, of course, hit Munro, thinking he was Grant. Munro died instantly and Cameron disappeared into the woods unrecognised.

Four miles west of Culcairn's Brae and not far from Kinlocharkaig, there is an old settlement called Caillich nestling in a hollow on the hillside between Caonich and Mur-

laggan. There is not much of Caillich to be seen nowadays but it was once the home of a family of MacMillans, who would have made Jack the Ripper blush with the plurality of the murders they committed and how they disposed of the bodies.

Donald MacMillan and his sons' strategy was to offer a night's lodgings to any strangers they saw on the road, especially packmen and drovers, knowing that they were likely to be carrying money. After giving them a hearty meal and doubtless some whisky, they showed them into an outhouse for the night.

In the early hours of the morning, Duncan, or one of his sons, would enter and kill them with a hammer-blow to the head. After stealing whatever

possessions their victims had on them, they dragged their naked corpses under cover of darkness, down to a nearby promontory on Loch Arkaig-called Rudha Giubhais. There they slipped them into the deep, icy waters, but not before hacking their heads off with an axe on a nearby boulder which became known as the Rock of the Heads, to prevent them from being recognised should they ever come to the surface.

For years, the MacMillans continued to profit by their gruesome work and, despite rumours, they were never caught but, like many criminals the world over, they became bolder and complacent with the passage of time and began to make mistakes.

On one occasion, they murdered a

couple of MacGregor brothers who were on their way to Skye to buy cattle. They were carrying large sums of gold and a considerable quantity of banknotes which were not in general use in Lochaber at the time.

The MacMillan sons, being unable to read and not realising their value, hid a bundle of them amounting to several hundred pounds under a stone, keeping only a few out of curiosity.

Sometime later, after a funeral, the son of Duncan Cameron, the tenant of Murlaggan, noticed that young MacMillan was lighting his pipe with a bank note and asked: 'Where did you get these pretty pieces of paper from? I should like fine to buy some.'

'I can show you where to get plenty of them,' replied the other.

An arrangement was made and the bundle of notes were acquired for a pittance but word went round and fingers began to jab in the direction of the occupants of Caillich.

Donald eventually met his Waterloo, not by the hand of the law, but in killing one of his own sons. The boy, Ewen, who had been in service with a Cameron family in London for some years, turned up unexpectedly at Caillich late one night dressed in his footman's livery.

He went into his old room but his father, arriving home in the darkness, mistook him for a wealthy traveller and bludgeoned him to death while he slept. On discovering his awful mistake, the frenzied and guilt-ridden Donald swore to give up his evil ways for ever and from that day on the murders on Loch Arkaigside ceased.

Donald died in 1807 aged 58, not at the end of a rope but from natural causes, and, surprisingly, was allowed to rest in hallowed ground among his forebears in Kilmallie old graveyard, Corpach, where his headstone can still be seen.

Iain Thorne

ian.thorne@btinternet.com



The ruins of Caillich house, scene of many murders, with Loch Arkaig and the promontory of Rudha Giubhais beyond, left, and Loch Arkaig looking west towards Caillich and the head of the loch. Photographs: Iain Thorne



## Book chronicles tourism in Highlands

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW book titled Hail Caledonia tells the story of tourism in the Highlands and Islands.

Author Eric Simpson, an Edinburgh University lecturer from Fife, who has also climbed all of Scotland's 282 Munros, draws stories from the moment Bonnie Prince Charlie dropped anchor in Loch nan Uamh in 1745 to Tom Weir.

'The Highlands and Islands today are a magnet for tourists from all over the world, but go back a few hundred years and it was a very different picture,' he writes.

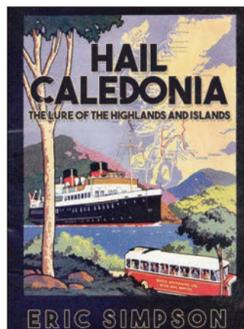
'Then, the Highlands were remote and inaccessible. The locals were seen as primitive, warlike and barbarous.

'By the 1800s, views had changed and the Highlands were becoming fashionable. Sir Walter Scott and Queen Victoria made the Highlands popular. For sportsmen, the Highlands offered shooting and fishing, and for the climber, Britain's tallest mountains.

'The railways, and then the motor coach, opened up the Highlands and even the islands to tourists, and soon all could afford to visit.

'Even today, from those who travel to the north and west of Scotland, the options are huge – from skiing to rock climbing, bird watching to island hopping. Some just go to view the scenery.'

The steamships were one of the biggest influences opening up the Hebrides. Simpson quotes the romantic artist J M W Turner, who was touring the West Coast to illustrate Sir Walter Scott's Collected



From the top are tourists on the seafront in Oban (picture courtesy of Alan Brothchie); a drawing of a trip captioned 'Over the Sea to Skye'; and Kilchurn Castle on Loch Awe.

Poems: 'The steamboat is now established to the Western Isles, so I have heard lately, and therefore much of the difficulty becomes removed.'

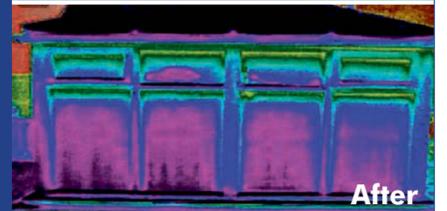
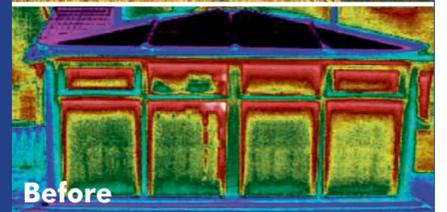
A steamboat service to Iona and Staffa had been in existence since at least 1822, when parties of tourists sailed from Glasgow once a fortnight by the steamboat Highlander to Fingal's Cave on Staffa – an island which until then had been rarely visited. Now that Staffa could be reached by steamboat, Turner accepted the commission, but his Hebridean voyage in 1830 was marred by bad weather, and only one painting emerged, his dramatic depiction of Staffa entitled Fingal's Cave.

The year before Turner's visit, the German musician Felix Mendelssohn had sailed to Iona and Staffa in the Maid of Morvern.

**REDUCE**  
THE HEAT LOSS IN  
YOUR HOME BY  
**UP TO 98%**

That's what you get from our windows and doors. Scientifically proven to reduce heat loss in your home by up to 98% is there really any other option you should consider

Pilkington Energcare Low-emissivity glass (or low-e glass as it is commonly referred to) is a type of energy-efficient glass designed to prevent heat escaping through your windows and doors to the cold outdoors.



Above the thermal imaging difference between conventional double glazing and Cairngorms double glazing. Independent study by

**ECOSURVEYS**  
ADVANCED THERMAL IMAGING

**Cairngorm Group**  
tougher, warmer, smarter

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

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU  
Tel: 01463 238 000  
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY  
Tel: 01343 545315  
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG  
Tel: 01847 894956

OT

## Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

People living in the Oban and Argyll area need no reminding of how lucky they are to have a well-used and popular cinema in the town.

At the Oban Phoenix Cinema annual general meeting this week, held on Monday night, proposals were revealed for the development of the facility.

The plans include the removal of the small screen to allow for the creation of 'genderless' toilets, a kitchen and showers.

Furthermore, there are plans to remove much of the seating and to replace it with smaller seats with less

leg-room in order to increase the potential capacity at the cinema. And on top of that, the cinema has recently installed an expensive printer to allow it to undertake printing services, and plans to make more use of its outdoor space for small businesses.

While some of these ideas are worthy of consideration, others beg the question of what benefit they will bring given the substantial costs involved and what activities are appropriate for the cinema.

The board which oversees the running of the cinema has some difficult decisions ahead.



## Days gone by – 1997

We turn the clock back to 1997 this week and the primary one class at Ballachulish Primary School. Teacher Janice Cameron was pictured with her new charges.

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



ROBERT Burns has become arguably the most significant cultural icon Scotland has ever produced and today – January 25 – many are preparing for the annual celebration of his life by way of countless Burns suppers held throughout the world.

His outlook on humanity, the world and the ways of life, coupled with lyrical genius to deliver his message, are undoubtedly the main ingredients that have led to his immense, widespread, enduring and ever-growing popularity. Some of his lines are the most frequently quoted to have come from the pen of any writer.

However, I believe there is more to the man's powerful legacy than only his philosophy and linguistic brilliance.

Burns was undoubtedly a character, a man of energy, and he lived life with vigour and passion. He was a man of extremes and complexities that are representative of the unfathomable mysteries and contradictions of life that he himself wrote of with such incredible clarity.

### Social media

A post from reader Karen Anderson about the state of the roads and their maintenance by Argyll and Bute Council this winter prompted a spirited response.

Peter Yates: 'Sadly Oban not alone with these issues. Gone are the days where the council are there to support the local community. They are out there to feather their own nests. Ask to see their expenses, more than honest people earn in a year.'

Gregor McKenzie: 'Interestingly I wrote to all the Oban Councillors regarding the current bin fiasco. I did not receive a response from any of them. I used FOI to ascertain what their thinking was behind the three week (supposed to be) collection and only

Even during his life, far less by today's very different context, his behaviour attracted much criticism and surrounded him with much controversy.

As with so many historical and contemporary examples of artists, musicians and creators of genius, the flaws and virtues contained in his character were inextricable from the whole and combined, for good and ill, they created the living entity so many will celebrate on the anniversary of his birthday.

Along with the misconduct and controversy grew part of Burns's legend and the 'bad boy' image in some ways has fuelled his fame. However, it is certainly for his ability as a poet that he should be celebrated.

An interesting aspect of the poet's life that is not widely known, but by association added greatly to his stature, was his work as a collector.

As well as his talent for composing, Burns did a huge amount of collecting and compiling old poems and songs and kept alive many that otherwise may have been lost to the oblivion of faded oral tradition.

Among many of the most famous pieces widely credited to Burns, were

lyrics that existed already that he had collected and often added to and finetuned.

It may surprise many readers that it is recognised that *Auld Lang Syne*, *My Love is like a Red, Red Rose*, and even the *Selkirk Grace* were not actually composed by Burns. Rather, they were existing poems that he adapted and added to.

It is important to note that he himself did not claim composition for these older works but, through the years, because of his part in bringing them to the fore, people began to assume he had written them. Involuntarily and posthumously taking the credit for these songs, while not his intention, greatly added to his profile.

This in no way should detract from his reputation as a poet, as the wealth of material he did actually compose makes him more than worthy of his place in history and the stature of his literary legacy.

We must accept that some aspects of Burns and much of his behaviour are not that which should be celebrated, but his genius as a poet is unquestionable and that is what we should be toasting this weekend.



Munro near Glencoe, after her back legs went. The Border collie was subsequently found dead.

Fi McCormick: 'This is so sad – I'm sure people have their reasons for this, but I could never, ever leave my dog.'

Jane Ashall: 'Absolutely disgusting. Something about the whole story's just not right. Hope owner gets what he deserves!! RIP Meg.'

Pat Masterman: 'God help the poor thing, hate to think what it was thinking when they walked away and left it. Heartbreaking.'

Sybil Munro: 'Been found, already passed over the rainbow bridge.'

Deirdre Stuart: 'I hope her owner rots. What a moron to take an elderly girl on such a long hike.'

### Private funds needed to support Ulva

Sir,  
There is something very sad about watching any rural community fall out, but none more so than a close-knit island one. I am, of course, referring to Mull, which has moved with the times without losing its traditional values and, more importantly, been at peace with itself for generations.

The recent announcement that Cabinet Secretary for Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham may take the unprecedented step of supporting a small, unelected group in north Mull to launch a bid to buy the Island of Ulva and back it financially thereafter, is set to create deep divisions which will not be easily healed.

If this is what the Scottish Government desires, and I don't believe it is, it runs contrary to a ballot recently taken by Mull's democratically elected community council, which voted 7:1 against the proposal.

Argyll's MSP and MP should recognise the island's local voice and relay this information to the cabinet secretary.

There are good and bad bosses, as there are in any business. Holyrood, in setting a target of one million acres of land into community ownership by 2020, has already made its point but Ulva is not Eigg and popular resident owner Jamie Howard is no Marlin Eckhard-Maruma.

Anyone on Mull with livestock knows there is no money to be made in farming these days, even with the EU subsidy. Sheep and cattle are about to disappear from the hills and forestry and all other grants must soon end.

What, then, of the North West Mull Community Woodland Company's business plan, which reads more like a Christmas wish list?

With the aid of the Scottish Land Fund, it may find some of the £4.2 million to bid for the island but where is the annual running cost, estimated to be in the region of £100,000, to come from? The answer is Joe Public who would be paying for this foolhardy experiment for generations through a tax hike.

There is only one hope for the future of Ulva, and that is for the NWMCCW to withdraw and allow private money to be poured into the island, thus enhancing its environment and creating far greater employment opportunities than Argyll and Bute Council or the Scottish Government ever could.

Public funding simply does not produce the goods, as the directors of another community-led buyout group have evidently discovered by asking the previous landowner to take back their estate.

Iain Thornber,  
Knock House, Morvern.

### Phrase from already published source

Sir,  
In the interests of veracity, I feel I should respond to Cyril Bonnett's comments (Letters, Thursday January 18).

In my poem, I was quoting from

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



THA SEANFHACAL ANN a tha ag ràdh gum bheil fiosrachadh na bhunait air gliocas, agus fear eile a tha ag ràdh gum bheil fiosrachadh cuideachd na bhunait air cumhachd.

Ceart na ceàrr sin cha robh mòran againn a bha nar suidhe aig port-adhair Steòrnabhaigh feasgar Dihaoine seo chaidh a' faireachadh glic neo cumhachdach, oir fad uairean a thide cha deach facal fiosrachaidh a thoirt dhuinn air carson nach robh am plean air an robh sinn ri bhith a' siubhal aig coig uairean air nochdadh neo falbh.

A dh'aindeoin foighidinn, mun àm a thàinig leth-uir an dèidh sia bha a h-uile duine air fàs gu math frionasach, agus dha cuid le staid slàinte a bha a' ciallachadh gun robh feum aca air ithe tric cha robh iad cinnteach dè bu chòir dhaibh a dhèanamh.

Bha e faisg air ochd uairean mun deach againn air fios a shlaodadh a luchd-obrach na seirbheis itealain aig a' phort-adhair gun robh am plean ann an Inbhir Nis agus an impis tilleadh gu ruige Steòrnabhagh gus ar togail, ach bha cunnart ann gum faodadh droch shìde agus sneachda

Mary of Unnimore's evidence to the Napier Commission as related in Philip Gaskell's *Morvern Transformed* (page 34). Mary, understandably, gave her evidence in Gaelic: I was quoting from Norman MacLeod's rendering into English. He arguably used an anachronism; I was using an already published statement.

Incidentally, Iain Thornber in his article in *The Oban Times* of Thursday December 7, quoted the same phrase 'Saxon shepherd' from the same source.

Michael G Kidd,  
Ceann Pairc, Taynuilt.

### Disappointed during recent visit to Oban

Sir,  
I write following a poor experience having visited Oban recently in the new year.

While visiting friends, my partner and I had booked a room at the Columba Hotel. Upon arrival, we were disgusted to find black mould growing in almost every corner of the room we were given. To the credit of management, we were given an alternative room without question. However, surely this room should never have been offered to guests.

Once settled into a clean room, we were disturbed in the small hours of the morning by a drunk couple entering our room. They had obviously been allocated the same room by mistake. Surely a better system would have avoided this.

In addition to this, the couple were given an alternative room elsewhere on the same floor and proceeded to embark on a Jeremy Kyle-sized argument for all to hear. I was aware that myself and other guests in the hotel reported this to management, but the problem continued for many hours and no sleep was had.

I raised my overall complaint with management the next day who said they would look into compensation, considering how bad things were at the Columba Hotel that evening. I have chased this a number of times but have heard nothing from the management since, which is very disappointing.

Oban is a great place to visit, but nobody would choose to stay in a hotel with sub-standard rooms, guests at war with each other and random drunk people being given the key to your room.

Lee Robb,  
Stirling.

### Shocked by plan to cut road safety unit

Sir,  
I was shocked to learn that Argyll and Bute Council is to consider disbanding its road safety unit as part of budget savings for 2018-2019.

The unit formerly employed three officers but, as part of a saving exercise some years ago, has already been reduced to one full-time and one term-time officer.

The proposal is to remove this service completely and the council justifies this by stating: 'Road safety information will be available through other organi-

sations. This suggests to me that it does not understand the complexity of how education and training is delivered.

The proposal also does not say which other organisation has the ability and skills to adequately replace the council's current input. Having read Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue local plans, I can find no hint that they are ready to accept responsibility.

I believe the current unit plays an extremely active role in promoting road safety education for all road users across Argyll and Bute, and in particular our schools: today's children are tomorrow's drivers.

Although one death on our roads is one too many, casualty numbers have been steadily declining since the 1970s. Indeed, recent reports show that fatal casualties have been reduced to fewer than one third of their peak in 1969.

This shows that current methods are working, and I cannot believe Argyll and Bute Council is willing to put this good news trend at risk. The council also has a responsibility to play a major role in road casualty reduction as contained in numerous publications, including Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020, RoSPA National Road Safety Committee, Making Road Safety Count and the Road Traffic Act 1988 (Section 39).

While I appreciate councillors will have a difficult time deciding on where savings are to be made, I suggest that the small road safety unit should be retained, and the option be removed from the proposed cuts.

Carl Olivarius,  
Road safety officer 1982-2009.

### Public pay price for forestry operations

Sir,  
Why have conditions on the A85 and A828 deteriorated so rapidly this winter ('Public slam 'shambolic' and 'disgraceful' roads', *The Oban Times*, January 11)?

The weather has not been particularly inclement, but anyone travelling between Oban and Ballachulish will be only too aware of increased HGV traffic associated with clear-felling forest operations. Not only are deep and dangerous ruts produced at the edges of the carriageway as lorries and buses travelling in opposing directions avoid each other, the carriageway is stressed and breaking up.

Connell is by far the worst, but look also at George Street in Oban - newly resurfaced only a few years back - and elsewhere en route to Corpach and Ardrishaig.

Although difficult, it would be sensible to use a cost-benefit analysis of forest products that also includes the costs of (a) road repair, (b) delay associated with road repair and (c) vehicle damage. These are borne in large part by the public.

Were they accounted for by the industry, either the price of a HGV road fund licence would increase dramatically to pay for road damage or the trees would be left on the hillside.

Professor Emeritus Ian Reid,  
Ardconnel Road, Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul

### 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 timeous, 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.



For press freedom with responsibility

### 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

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

# Baxter vows to prevent cuts to front line staff in schools

**MARK ENTWISTLE**  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

THE SENIOR Lochaber councillor appointed as new chairman of the Highland Council committee responsible for education says he is determined that front line additional support needs staff numbers will not be cut.

Andrew Baxter, Independent councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, made the pledge in the wake of the uproar ignited this week after a leaked document revealed the council was looking at possibly axing up to 40 secondary school teachers, 30 additional support needs staff and dozens of classroom assistants.

It was also reported that the local authority, which is facing a £26 million shortfall in the next financial year, is considering closing 185 play areas in a bid to save money.

But this week Mr Baxter stressed his determination to prevent these proposals becoming a reality.

'As the new chairman of the People Committee with responsibility for education, and as a parent, I am determined to find a way of not implementing cuts to the front line provision of additional support needs in our schools,' he said.

'Whatever the reasons we are contemplating those cuts, and the political arguments as to whose fault it is - Westminster, Holyrood or Highland - it is imperative we put the needs of children first.

'Thank you to the parents, PSAs [pupil support assistants] and teachers from across the

Highlands who have contacted me since the leaked initial proposals appeared in the press for their comments and suggestions as to how things can be done differently.

'Discussions have been productive and I am optimistic we can find a way forward where a review of management costs and layers, in both additional support needs and the education service, can lead to savings, rather than the loss of a key service.

'I know my fellow councillors, council leader Margaret Davidson and budget chief Councillor Alistair Mackinnon, are as determined as I am to prevent these proposals becoming reality.'

But Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said when it comes to Highland Council's new budget, the last thing it should be looking to cut is education.

Ms Forbes said she was alarmed by the reports of Highland Council's potential cuts to teachers, additional support needs staff and play parks.

'When it comes to determining next year's budget, the last thing Highland Council should be doing is cutting education and children's services,' she said.

'If we don't get it right for our children, then we'll be reaping the consequences for decades to come.

'I sincerely hope that Highland Council rethinks its proposals and ensures that education and children's services are protected.

'The administration's own figures have suggested it would save a measly £200,000 from closing play parks, which is

## Coastguard rescues Glencoe skiers



After members of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team were beaten back by blizzard conditions on Saturday, an HM Coastguard search and rescue helicopter, based at Inverness, was called in to carry out a dramatic rescue of two stranded ski tourers. The pair had spent the night without shelter at 3,000ft after bad weather hampered rescue attempts. The skiers called Police Scotland late on Friday, January 19, reporting they were stuck at Bidean Nam Bain, Glencoe. The stranded pair were located by the helicopter just after 8.30am on Saturday. They were found in a precarious position, close to a steep drop, before being winched aboard the helicopter. Both casualties were taken to Fort William, before being passed into the care of the Scottish Ambulance Service.

pennies in the wider context of Highland Council's budget but invaluable for children.'

Ms Forbes said she recognised

Highland Council was facing challenges but these needed to be put in context, adding: 'A fair budget settlement from

the Scottish Government, extra revenue from raising council tax and a whopping sum of money from the City Deal which was

meant to free up Highland Council revenue.

'There is no excuse for going after kids.'

## Avalanche risk hampers Ben Nevis search

A MALE hillwalker is still unaccounted for, four days after going missing close to the summit of Ben Nevis.

Two men were rescued by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team close to the top of the mountain at about 6pm on Sunday, having reported themselves in difficulty earlier in the afternoon.

But, after the rescue, police confirmed a third member of the party was unaccounted for.

Rescue services were unable to make further searches of the mountain on Sunday because of challenging blizzard conditions, restricted visibility and the risk of avalanche.

Inspector Isla Campbell appealed for information, saying: 'We would urge any climbers or walkers who were on Ben Nevis on Sunday to report anything they believe may be of assistance to us as soon as possible.

'Any information, no matter how minor it may seem, can be useful and it can be passed to us in Fort William by calling 101, using reference NP662/18.'

And yesterday (Wednesday), a Police Scotland spokesperson said the hillwalker had still not been found, with prolonged bad weather hampering search efforts. He said: 'He remains missing. There was no further search activity on Tuesday due to the weather conditions and avalanche risk. We will have people out on the hill when conditions allow.'

Find us on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

## Gritters eat through Lochaber salt stocks for whole winter

BY THE middle of last week, it was estimated that the same amount of salt had been used to keep roads across Lochaber clear of snow and ice as had been used in the whole of the previous winter, writes Mark Entwistle.

But Highland Council roads operations manager Richard Porteous assured last week's meeting of the Lochaber Area Committee that salt stocks would not run out, with a boat-load of grit arriving at Strontian last week.

'Sustained snow conditions have seen us use as much salt from our Strontian depot already as we did in the whole of the last winter and we are only half way through this winter - but we won't run out of salt,' he said.

Highland Council operates four vehicles from its Stron-

tian depot, with another four based at Fort William and it is estimated that similar amounts of salt will also have been used by the Fort-based vehicles.

'It has been challenging. However, I think we have compared favourably to the rest of the Highlands on how we have faced the challenges [in Lochaber].'

Mr Porteous praised roads crews and other staff for their resilience and commitment over the winter, saying there had been a very low rate of absence due to sickness, with gritter drivers and others working flat out to keep the region moving during recent heavy snowfalls.

Efforts have been hampered by various factors, however, including vehicle and plant breakdowns, the lack of spare

capacity in the council roads fleet and regulations covering driver hours.

Mr Porteous continued: 'It just highlights how arduous the winter has been.'

Mr Porteous said he hopes the new council budget, which includes monies for winter maintenance and other roads work - due to be finalised next month - will be similar to last financial year, but admitted there was the possibility it could be reduced.

But Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson said there had never been enough money for all that needed done to the region's roads. He said: 'There's never been enough money, ever since I started as a councillor. The situation is now at breaking point and we are just trying to hold things together.'

## Argyll and Bute celebrates the Year of Young People

**HARRY MCARTHUR**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL and Bute Council's youth services team has created a calendar full of activities and events to celebrate some of the reasons young people love living and growing up in Argyll and Bute.

This coincides with 2018 being the Scottish Government's Year of Young People.

A consultation was carried out with 1,055 young people across the area, where they were given the opportunity to choose the top 10 reasons they like Argyll and Bute.

The results were: 1 Safety; 2 Outdoors; 3 Easy to stay in touch; 4 Nature; 5 Quiet and peaceful; 6 Beautiful; 7 Freedom; 8 Sport/recreation; 9 Opportunities; 10 Easy to get involved.

A programme of events was developed with these in mind



Yvonne McNeilly.

and includes a dance show, a photography project, a comedy and confidence workshop, a film festival, and lots more.

The events also coincide with the six key themes of the Year of Young People, which are: culture; health and wellbeing; equality and discrimination; enterprise and regeneration; participation; and education.

The council's policy lead for education, Councillor

Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'The Year of Young People aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing the contribution they make to their communities, and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.'

'Here in Argyll and Bute we have young people to be proud of - young people who are great ambassadors for the area, and who work hard to make Argyll and Bute the wonderful place it is.

'It is fantastic that we will be hosting a whole range of events to celebrate them, their achievements, and why Argyll and Bute is great place to live, work and learn.'

The Year of Young People Plan for Argyll and Bute will be officially launched at the Argyll and Bute Awards in Helensburgh on January 31.

**SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2018**

**CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S COUNTRYSIDE AT THE 2018 SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS CEREMONY & GALA DINNER**

**THURSDAY 22nd MARCH 2018 AT DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH**

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT: WWW.SCOTTISHRURALAWARDS.ORG**

PROUDLY PARTNERED BY

ScottishField

Scottish Countryside Alliance

OUR SPONSORS

hwenergy

cpd CLARENDON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Chiene+Tait CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

ROYAL HIGHLAND & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

SRUC

DAVIDSON & ROBERTSON

GILLESPIE MACANDREW



like us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

@ruralawards

Scottish Rural Awards

www.scottishruralawards.org

# Arena

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

## WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary  
bid4oban.co.uk



**Friday**  
26th January  
**Burns Supper - Annual Supper**  
Regent Hotel

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**  
The Legendary Lorne Bar DJ  
10pm-11.30pm

**Let's Make A Scene**  
Rockfield Centre  
8pm-10.30pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Karaoke & Disco with David  
Music Starts at 9.30pm  
Open till 1am

**Saturday**  
27th January  
**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**  
The Legendary Lorne Bar DJ  
10pm-11.30pm

**Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)**  
Furan Gaelic Centre,  
12pm-1.30pm

**Saturday**  
27th January  
**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
Jono  
Music Starts at 10pm  
Open till 2am

**Sunday**  
28th January  
**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans**  
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm  
£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher  
Watch out for the £100 cash prize accumulator

**Tuesday**  
30th January  
**Irish Dancing Classes**  
St Columba's Cathedral Hall  
4.15pm-5.45pm

**Wednesday**  
31st January  
**Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban**  
First Lorne Pub Quiz of the year  
Starting at 9pm  
£25 bar voucher prize and free pizza at half time

Events may charge. Please visit  
[www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

### The Oban Times supports local charities and not-for-profit event organisers.

Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary.

We have reduced our community noticeboard box adverts to just £10 plus VAT (where VAT is applicable)

Put your event in front of 25,000 readers and also see what we can offer you by promoting your event online - we have over 11,000 followers on Facebook and 36'000 monthly visitors to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

It pay to advertise with The Oban Times - first for community news, business news and events throughout Oban, Lochaber and the West Highlands.

Contact Nadine or Rhona on 01631 568000



### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000

### Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club

Thursday 1st February  
2018, 7.30pm  
Royal Hotel  
Guest Artist:  
Sileas Sinclair's Band  
Admission £4  
All Welcome!

# Oban High dancers turn on the style

Oban High School hosted a fantastic dance show last week with three performances of their show themed Old v New.

More than 200 pupils performed in the event, which showcased a wonderful variety of dance styles.

Many of the dances were choreographed by senior dance leaders, 28 in total, who worked in groups to lead pupils in dance and gymnastics every week since August.

Many of this year's dance leaders were S4 pupils who at such a young age themselves demonstrated great enthusiasm and leadership. A young group of dance leaders also took charge of a weekly P6/7 class. The relationships built will stand the primary pupils in great stead as some progress to the high school in the summer.

OHS and Ballet West are now in the fifth year of their partnership and the positive influence this has had on the quality of dance in the show was clear.

OHS School of Dance S1, S2 and S3 classes all performed, as well as Amanda Sloss's Outreach and three stunning solos performed by Ballet West full-time students also featured.

Parent and dancer Helen Sloan also worked with senior students Illona Vermont and

Molly MacPherson on a moving piece titled A Tribute.

Traditional Highland dancing and more modern Highland choreography in groups and duets were, as always, to a very high standard, with full credit going to senior students whose creativity and original ideas are always a firm favourite with the audience.

The huge OHS gymnastics squad, with some edge-of-the-seat balances and backflips, added something unique, as did the Party Rockin' grannies brought to the audience by the sports coaches.

The staff Bollywood-themed dance also brought some colour and hilarity before the interval.

Local primaries offered great support to the show with 67 pupils from Rockfield Primary attending on Wednesday evening and nearly 400 pupils from S t

Columba's, Park, Lochnell, Easdale and Luing primaries attending the Thursday m a t i n e e.

**P E**  
teacher Denise Gemmell said: 'Our pupils absolutely loved performing in the show. Their dedication and hard work paid off with three brilliant shows. It was great to see the dancers grow in confidence throughout the week. So many pupils flourish in a way they might not in a classroom setting and to us that is a really valuable part of their education.'

'A big thank you to parents and the community for their fantastic support once again.'



Staff getting into the spirit included Greig Fairbairn, Joan Reynolds and Dave Duncan.



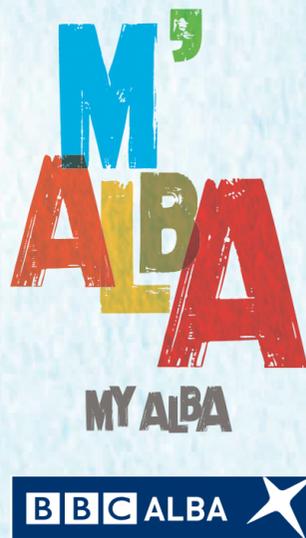
This young lady put her heart and soul into her performance.



Senior boys rock it as pensioners.



These girls were looking cool in their shades.



**DIARDAOIN 25 FOILTEACH**  
**THURSDAY 25 JANUARY**  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
19.00 **Eileanan Fraoich** - Gigha (rpt)  
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **Balaich a' Bhìobail** - students training for the Free Church ministry (rpt)  
21.00 **DIY le Donnie** (rpt)  
21.45 **Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Aimsir** (rpt)  
22.00 **Gaol @ Gael** (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW: Fleasgaich an lasgaich** - competitive fishing around the world  
23.15 **Binneas - Na Trads** (rpt)  
23.25 **Air an Rathad** (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 26 FOILTEACH**  
**FRIDAY 26 JANUARY**  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)

19.00 **An Là** - News  
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)  
19.30 **Aibisidh** (rpt)  
20.00 **Òran na Mnà** (rpt)  
20.30 **Kerry is Kirsty: Còigeach** (rpt)  
21.00 **Jolomo** - Dealbhadair nan Daoine (rpt)  
22.00 **Ceòl Country** (rpt)  
23.00 **Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** - Mandela v De Klerk (rpt)  
23.50 **Dhan Uisge** - Spar Cave

**DISATHAIRNE 27 FOILTEACH**  
**SATURDAY 27 JANUARY**  
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
17.30 **Machair** (rpt)  
18.00 **UR | NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Aberdeen v Kilmarnock  
20.00 **Aibisidh** - Quiz Show (rpt)  
20.30 **Turas a' Bhradain** (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW: Third Lanark**  
22.00 **Fleasgaich an lasgaich** - competitive fishing around the

world (rpt)  
22.45 **Binneas - Na Trads** (rpt)  
22.55 **Scottish Premiership** - Aberdeen v Kilmarnock (rpt)

**DIDÒMHNAICH 28 FOILTEACH**  
**SUNDAY 28 JANUARY**  
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
18.30 **Seachd Là**  
19.30 **Alleluia** (rpt)  
20.00 **Balaich a' Bhìobail** - students training for the Free Church ministry (rpt)  
20:30 **Leugh Mi** (rpt)  
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach** (rpt)  
22.00 **Third Lanark** (rpt)  
23.00 **Aghaidh ri Aghaidh: Pepsi v Coca-cola** (rpt)  
23.50 **Dhan Uisge - Spar Cave** (rpt)

**DILUAIN 29 FOILTEACH**  
**MONDAY 29 JANUARY**  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming

19.05 **An Lot** (rpt)  
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Kerry is Kirsty: Caol Reithe gu Drochad Sheile**  
21.00 **Trusadh** - An Cràdh (rpt)  
22.00 **Port** (rpt)  
22.30 **Air a' Chanàl** - Calum and Niall Iain explore Scotland's canals (rpt)  
23.30 **Gaol @ Gael** (rpt)  
**DIMÀIRT 30 FOILTEACH**  
**TUESDAY 30 JANUARY**  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
19.00 **Eileanan Fraoich** - Gigha (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Leugh Mi**  
21.00 **UR | NEW: Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach**  
22.00 **Trusadh - An Cràdh** (rpt)  
23.00 **Òran na Mnà** (rpt)  
23.30 **Alleluia** (rpt)

**DICIADAIN 31 FOILTEACH**  
**WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY**  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
19.05 **An Lot** (rpt)  
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Turas a' Bhradain**  
21.00 **Air a' Chanàl** - Calum and Niall Iain explore Scotland's canals (rpt)  
21.55 **UR | NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Hibernian v Motherwell

**DIARDAOIN 01 FOILTEACH**  
**THURSDAY 01 JANUARY**  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
19.00 **Eileanan Fraoich - Eigg** (rpt)  
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **UR | NEW: Balaich a' Bhìobail**  
21.15 **DIY le Donnie** (rpt)  
21.45 **Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Aimsir** (rpt)  
22.00 **Gaol @ Gael** (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW: Fleasgaich an lasgaich** - competitive fishing around the world  
23.20 **Binneas - Na Trads** (rpt)  
23.25 **Air an Rathad** (rpt)



Teacher Denise Gemmell leads the staff as many hands makes light work of a highlight of the night.



This dancer shows her skills with a hula hoop.



Having a fling with a modern take on a classic.



Highland dancers kick off the dance show.

# The Red Hot Chilli Pipers play the Corran Halls

The Chillis have never been more in demand for their infectious style of feel-good music which appeals to all ages and people all over the world. This pool of the very best musicians from Scotland and across the global, many holding world champion titles and all serious players with impressive credentials.

The most successful 'Bagrock' act in history, The Red Hot Chilli Pipers have sold out world tours, been crowned 'Best Live Act in Scotland', had over 3.5 million views on YouTube and have fans include Sir Alex Ferguson, Ewan McGregor, Samuel Jackson and many more...

Following their highly successful Scottish tour, they're kicking off 2018 in Oban. It's been a while since the band have played the Corran Halls and with less than 200 tickets it's certain to be a sell-out. Get yours now from Ticketmaster.co.uk or The Corran Halls box office on tel: 01631 567333



**SAT 17TH FEB 2018**

# RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS

**THE CORRAN HALLS, OBAN**

LESS THAN  
**200**  
 TICKETS LEFT

**THE CORRAN HALLS, 54 THE ESPLANADE, OBAN PA34 5AB**  
**DOORS OPEN 7.00PM TILL LATE // FULLY LICENSED BAR**

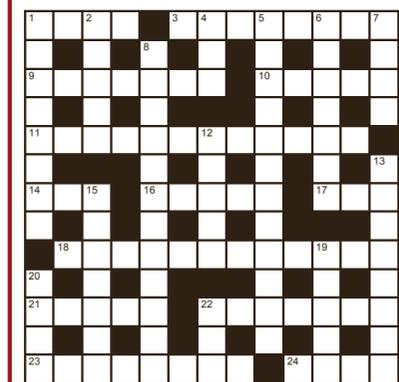
### Your local radio listings

**OBAN FM** Community Radio - your local radio station  
 Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at [www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com)

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

**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 15.00 The Wednesday Jukebox with Michelle 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre  
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight  
**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie  
**SATURDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight  
**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Producer of food (4)
  - 3 Spoiled (8)
  - 9 Extreme (7)
  - 10 Have a cow (5)
  - 11 Baby container... (12)
  - 14 ...soup container (3)
  - 16 Numbers game (5)
  - 17 Thither (3)
  - 18 Milk frother (7,5)
  - 21 Overweight (5)
  - 22 Liquid used in making dyes (7)
  - 23 Rough voice (8)
  - 24 Skin problem (4)

- Down**
- 1 Hard shell (8)
  - 2 Senior (5)
  - 4 ...by mouth above a bed (3)
  - 5 Country governed by a ruler with total power (12)
  - 6 Veranda (7)
  - 7 Unceasingly (4)
  - 8 Most sentimental (12)
  - 12 Up to (5)
  - 13 Most cunning (8)
  - 15 Hogmanay (3,4)
  - 19 Coldly (5)
  - 20 Tricks (4)
  - 22 Volcano output (3)



# Arena

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

## Singers lead Gaelic song weekend

Fèis nan Òran, the weekend residential event organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal for young people with an interest in Gaelic singing, will be held next month, writes

*Euan Carr.* Singers Kathleen Macinnes and James Graham will lead the workshops for young people aged 16-25 years. Kathleen's singing voice has seen her travel

the world over, from the US to Canada to Jordan. Her debut solo album, *Òg Mhadainn Shamhraidh*, was released in 2006 and

Cille Bhrìde appeared in 2012. James Graham, the first Gaelic singer to win the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year

accolade, has also seen many stages the world over. James has also recorded solo, with the group Cruinn and in the Drìne collective. With support from

Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the third Fèis nan Òran will take place from February 23 to 25 2018 at Fairburn Activity Centre, Inverness.

The cost is £45 and this includes all accommodation, food and the workshops. 2018 is the Year of Young People, a national initiative that will

create opportunities for young people across the country and which will recognise their achievements at local, national and international level. Fèis nan Òran will

add to the mix of events taking place as part of this special year. All those who wish to take part should fill in the registration form by February 9 2018.



Workshop leader Kathleen Macinnes.



Gaelic singer James Graham.

## Glasgow Letter

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



### Two great concerts at Celtic Connections

I wasted no time in taking in some of Celtic Connections this year and managed to head along to two gigs in the first weekend.

On Friday night, I was at St Andrew's in the Square for Iain MacFarlane's tremendous concert with Kim Carnie and, on Saturday night, I made it to the CCA to hear An Lochran's gig as part of Ceòl 's Craic.

Iain Macfarlane was in his usual brilliant form on Friday night. The venue was so busy that a number of people had to sit up in the balcony as there were no remaining seats in the body of the kirk. Iain, who was joined by Dermot Byrne and Ewan Robertson, made the Celtic Connections audience very happy indeed with his blend of great tunes and customary humour.

Kim Carnie, from Oban, put in an excellent performance on both nights. On Saturday night, she was standing in for Mischa Macpherson who unfortunately had a sore throat - the

two words that send a shiver down any singer's spine during Celtic Connections. I wish Mischa a speedy recovery but what an able replacement Kim was - it was a joy to hear her both nights.

TRIP are a band you simply must hear. On the evidence of Saturday night, they are one of the very top young folk bands on the scene at the moment. This team of musicians from Scotland, Ireland, England and the Isle of Man (who all met at the RCS and who play a mix of incredibly energetic tune sets and songs from the wonderful voice of Mairi MacLennan from

Lewis) are really going to be huge.

Unfortunately, I had to miss the second half of Saturday evening so I did not get a chance to hear IMLÈ, who were described to me as an Irish Gaelic hip-hop band. One member of the audience heard a rumour that Jay-Z had actually been invited to perform as well but the invitation was rescinded on account of there being no 'J' or 'Z' in the Gaelic alphabet!

All in all, an excellent weekend of music to kick off Celtic Connections 2018 - and a few good ones yet to come.

### What's on at Celtic Connections

Thursday January 25: Binneas nam Bàn in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall at 8pm.

Friday January 26: Òrain nan Gàidheal: Songs of the Gael featuring the BBC SSO and special guests in the main auditorium of the Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm.

Friday January 26: Peatbog Faeries with special guests in the Old Fruitmarket at 8pm.

Wednesday January 31: Mary Ann Kennedy and

Luar na Lubre in the Old Fruitmarket at 8pm. Friday February 2: Skipinnish and Cruinn in the Pavilion Theatre at 7.30pm.

Friday February 2: Elephant Sessions and Notify in the Old Fruitmarket at 9.30pm.

Saturday February 3: Fergie MacDonald: The Ceilidh King in the Pavilion Theatre at 7.30pm.

Saturday February 3: Tide Lines with Cassie and Maggie in St Luke's at 7.30pm.

Sunday February 4: Celtic Connections closing party with Mánran and The Young Folk.



Left to right: Ewan Robertson, Iain MacFarlane and Dermot Byrne, who went down a storm in St Andrew's in the Square on Friday night.

## malt of the month

SPONSORED BY  
**Ben Nevis Distillery**  
(Fort William) Ltd.

It's Burns Night tonight (Thursday), when millions of Scots at home and abroad will toast Scotland's national bard on his birthday, January 25, with a nip of whisky and wee splash of water, from any of the many Burns branded malts and blends flooding the market.

The Burns supper brings people together across the world, but few may realise a bigger unity in the words they speak. When dining in

Europe and even beyond, have you noticed some words sound similar in different languages? Take the liquid in your glass, called in English water.

You would be easily understood if you asked for a refill of water in northern Europe, where the word is very similar in other Germanic languages. Diners also ask for water in Holland, in Germany wasser, Sweden vatten, Norway vann,

Denmark vand, Iceland and the Feroes vatn, and the diaspora of Ashkenazi Jews vaser in Yiddish.

If you asked for water in eastern Europe, it would again be passed to you quickly, because the word sounds similar in Slavic languages too. The Polish say woda, as do Czechs, Slovaks, Slovenians, Croatians and Bosnians using the Latin alphabet (voda), and Serbians, Macedonians, Bulgarians

and Ukrainians using the Cyrillic вода ('voda'). Belarusians say вада ('vada'), and the Russians воды ('vody') - giving us the word 'vodka'.

You also wouldn't wait too long if you requested water from a Celtic language speaker on Europe's Atlantic fringe. In one branch, the Brythonic, the Welsh word is dŵr ('doo-er'), the Cornish dour ('dower'), and Breton dour ('doo-er'). In the other, the Goidelic, the Irish Gaelic

say uisce ('ish-keh'), the Manx ushtey on the Isle of Man, and in Scottish Gaelic uisge, giving us the English word whisky, a shortening of uisge beatha: 'water of life'.

Down in southern Europe, Albanians say ujë (pron. 'oo-ye') and the Greeks ύδωρ (ýdor).

Why so much similarity? Amazingly 445 living languages spoken by 3.4 billion people in the world today all share the same ancient root:

a single language spoken by a Neolithic people living 6,500-4,500 years ago in the Ukrainian steppe, who then spread into most of Europe and down into India.

This Indo-European language family includes all those spoken in the British Isles, plus German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Russian, Polish, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi,

Urdu, Nepali, Kurdish, and Farsi.

Also in this global spirit, the second International Scotch Day takes place on February 8, when Diageo distillery visitor centres including Oban, Caol Ila and Lagavulin will open their doors on February 8, 10, 11 to welcome visitors from home and abroad free to explore behind the scenes of some of the world's favourite whiskies.



## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 28 February 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

### WIN

**EXCLUSIVE GOLD MEMBERSHIP TO THE NORTH COAST 500'S 'VIP CLUB 500'**



Experience 'the best road trip in the world' (Conde Nast Traveler, April 2017) in ultimate luxury! Taking in 516 miles of stunning coastal scenery, the North Coast 500 route naturally follows the main roads along the edges of the North Highlands. The exclusive VIP Club 500 is

the perfect tool to begin planning your road trip of a lifetime. Start your journey as part of an exclusive club that only 500 individuals will be lucky enough to experience. Your Gold Membership will include two NC500 Explorer Memberships, which are valid for 10 years and are worth £900, as well

as exclusive VIP experiences, discounts on luxury accommodation on the NC500, personalised itinerary planning, and exclusive guide books and other merchandise, including a limited-edition NC500 bottle of multi-award-winning Rock Rose Gin and a Johnstons of Elgin fine merino scarf.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
**How many miles long is the North Coast 500 route?**

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

**Superbowl**  
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

**SPECTRUM**

**Spectrum soft play area**  
Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

**The Nevis Centre** An Aird, Fort William  
Tel: 01397 700707 [www.neviscentre.co.uk](http://www.neviscentre.co.uk)

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Source: Comment Choice V, The Newspaper Society

**Regional Press**  
closer to home

**SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2018**

**CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S COUNTRYSIDE AT THE 2018 SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS CEREMONY & GALA DINNER**

**THURSDAY 22nd MARCH 2018**  
AT DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT: [WWW.SCOTTISHRURALAWARDS.ORG](http://WWW.SCOTTISHRURALAWARDS.ORG)**

PROUDLY PARTNERED BY **Scottish Field** **Scottish Countryside Alliance**

OUR SPONSORS **hwenergy** **cpd** **Chiene-Tait**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **ROYAL HIGHLAND & AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND** **SRUC** **DAVIDSON & ROBERTSON** **GILLESPIE MACANDREW**

@ruralawards **Scottish Rural Awards** [www.scottishruralawards.org](http://www.scottishruralawards.org)

# Fire breathing Fiat to light up Scotland



The Beast of Turin will be the star attraction at the first ever Argyll Festival of Performance.

The Argyll Festival of Performance on June 2-3 at Inveraray Castle has announced this year's star attraction: the fire breathing Fiat, the 'Beast of Turin'.

The Beast was built by the Italian motor company, Fiat, before WWI to challenge the land speed record. Its massive 28.5-litre four-cylinder engine, the largest ever purpose-built car engine, was capable of producing an impressive 300 hp and reaching speeds of 116 mph.

It was over a century before the Beast was run again, following intensive and meticulous restoration by owner Duncan Pittaway.

The current Beast is made up of the chassis of one of the two Fiat S76s and the engine of the other.

Event director Bill Telford added: 'We are incredibly privileged that Duncan will bring the legendary Beast to Scotland for the first time for the Argyll Festival of Performance.'

'Not only will visitors

to the festival be able to see this unique car up close, but they will also hear the Beast roar as she will be one of the star cars being demonstrated at the event.'

'We have ambitious plans for the festival and bringing unique and interesting cars to Scotland for the first time is a key factor in our plans.'

'The Beast is a fantastic example of the cars that will be on show and we can't wait to welcome her to Scotland.'



find us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes



follow us on twitter  
@obantimes

## Kintyre Songwriters' Festival

The 11th annual Kintyre Songwriters' Festival will be held in Campbeltown on May 4 to 6, writes Euan Carr and organisers are calling on songwriters and bands to take part.

The festival was set

up to let locals hear the music of songwriters and support the performing arts in Kintyre and aims to accommodate as many local performers as possible.

The event has also

attracted performers from as far afield as Barcelona and Berlin, with previous guests including top Scottish acts like Mull Historical Society, Frightened Rabbit, Pronto Mama, Rachel Sermanni and

Admiral Fallow.

Following on from the success of the new venue at Campbeltown Town Hall, space for performers at the festival is limited so to ensure that local talent can be given

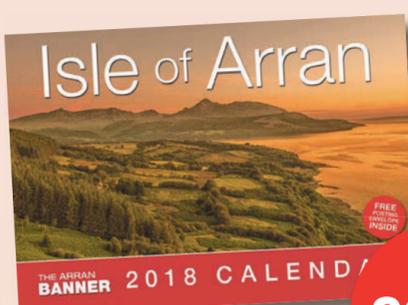
priority, organisers are urging local musicians, singer-songwriters and groups of any genre who are interested in getting involved to contact info@kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk before the closing date

of Sunday February 11 to register their interest. Non-performing local songwriters, who are interested in having their material performed at the festival, should also get in touch.

# Scottish Calendars 2018 **HALF PRICE SALE**



FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P



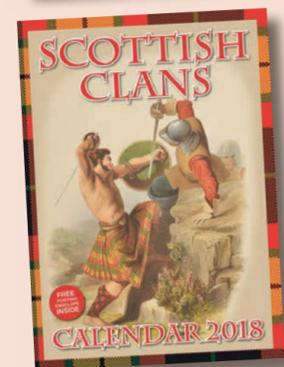
FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P



FROM **£4.95** including UK P&P



FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P



FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P

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

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. Featuring the breathtaking landscapes and diverse architecture from around Scotland. We also have a Scottish Clans Calendar, featuring illustrations by R.R. McIan. Our Scottish Calendars make the ideal gift. To see all the images from our 2018 range visit: [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

### order form

#### I would like to order 2018 Calendars:

Calendar		U.K. inc P&P	R.O.W. inc P&P	Amount
<b>Scottish Field Large</b>	Price	£4.95	£6.50	£
	Quantity			
<b>Scottish Field Small</b>	Price	£3.95	£4.25	£
	Quantity			
<b>Oban Times West Highland</b>	Price	£3.95	£4.25	£
	Quantity			
<b>Oban Times West Highland</b>	Price	£3.95	£4.25	£
	Quantity			
<b>Scottish Clans</b>	Price	£3.95	£4.25	£
	Quantity			

Total £

#### YOUR DETAILS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk) or call us on 01371 851 868 OR POST ALL ORDERS TO:**  
 Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB Trinity House, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

# OUTDOORS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

## Hunt for missing Meg ends in tears after collie found on hill

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A TEAM of 'hero' volunteers braved snow and freezing fog on an Argyll Munro searching for a missing dog all this week, until her body was found on Friday.

Meg, a 12-year-old female Border collie, was with her owner on Beinn Sgualaid between Glen Creran and Glen Etive on Sunday January 14 when she lost the use of her back legs and he said he was forced to leave her on the hill.

A relative of the owner explained on Lost Dogs Glasgow on Monday: 'My family member was up Beinn Sgualaid mountain yesterday with his dog. His dog's back legs gave way and he tried everything to get her off safe but it was too dangerous with the weather and it was getting dark, so he had no other option but to leave her.

'He came off the mountain and slept in his car till first light and tried to go up and find her, but can't find her, as it was too dark last night they can't remember where she is.'

Another relative said their navigation systems 'froze' at the



top of the hill, before he and a friend eventually found a road: 'It was pitch black when they left her and was becoming a life/death situation. They were completely soaked wet through. Conditions were treacherous.'

Hiker and dog-lover Scott Finnie abandoned a wild camping holiday on Arran to scour the farmhouses, woods, streams and ditches with the aid of a drone.

'This dog is hurt, lost and needs help,' he updated on the

Lost Dogs Glasgow page, where the search was co-ordinated. 'I can only hope Meg made it to shelter otherwise, with plummeting temperatures and heavy snowfall, I fear the worst, but trying to stay positive. If needed, Meg will be carried off the hill or to the tent. If Meg's still around, I'll find her.'

Scott camped overnight in the snow, hoping the orange lights, bonfire and smell of doggy treats and sizzling duck would attract Meg to join him - all to



no avail, and he had to leave the next day due to an infected foot.

Argyll-based drone pilot Mikey Doc McManus also took to the mountainside and Facebook to join the search, saying: 'The weather at 400m is outrageous and just far too dangerous in zero visibility. The wind is chronic and the snow is driving. It's all very emotional and physically tiring.'

Another searcher, North Lorn mum Beth Davies, spent two days with her baby driving and

tracking melting paw prints in the ice and sleet. Two couples also searched with their dogs, alongside another woman who had to be guided off the mountain after getting lost.

However, frustration grew when it emerged the first map of Meg's location was incorrect, meaning people had been 'risking their lives on the wrong part of the mountain'.

Meg's owner joined the search with two others on Friday. A relative wrote: 'We are so grateful

Meg had been missing for more than a week despite searches in the area.

for all the help and support we are receiving.'

Maggie Barclay set up a Just Giving page to fundraise £500 for fuel, food and hot drinks for the volunteers, raising £740 by Thursday. Mikey had wished 'to hit it hard one last time' with a ground search on Saturday, but the news they feared came on Friday.

Mikey posted: 'The owner and his friend appeared on the hill at 2pm and set out on foot to their last known location from that fateful night and I received a simple message from them stating they had found Meg and it wasn't good news. There has been a huge donation of funds that we will have to put to good use. Thanks on behalf of the awesome people who teamed to look for Meg.'

Ashley Doherty of Lost Dogs Glasgow added: 'Our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you. Those who shared, donated and especially those who spent days up that mountain. You are all heroes.'

## Teamwork will help deliver Flow idea

DETAILED plans for the last in a series of roadside viewing sites overlooking Caithness and Sutherland's unique 'Flow Country' have been submitted to Highland Council.

The proposal, developed by the Peatlands Partnership as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Flows to the Future project, aims to develop a small roadside car park and viewpoint on the eastern flank of Cnoc Craggie, overlooking Loch Craggie, the site is part of the Ben Loyal Estate, owned by Wildland Limited.

The Cnoc Craggie viewing platform will complete the project, creating a total of six roadside locations in Caithness and Sutherland where the public can experience and learn about the peatlands.

Once complete, each site - four of which will feature new viewing platforms - will provide interpretation and seating points designed to encourage visitors and locals to stop and enjoy the views of the landscapes, while providing information on the peatlands and their importance to Scotland's natural heritage.

Caroline Eccles, Flows to the Future project manager, said: 'We're delighted the Peatlands Partnership's Flows to the Future project has been able to team up with Wildland Limited to develop the Cnoc Craggie viewpoint. Our shared aim is to create a greater appreciation for one of Britain's most important natural assets, including an awareness of carbon capture, conservation and habitat.'

Thomas MacDonell, director of conservation and forestry at Wildland Limited, added: 'Wildland Limited is absolutely committed to ecological rehabilitation, excellence in habitat restoration and wildlife conservation on its estates and that's why we're actively supporting the use of Cnoc Craggie as the location of the final Flows to the Future viewing platform.'

## Research will provide insight into Scottish wildcats

**EUAN CARR**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

DNA collection and genetic analysis of Scottish wildcats is taking place this winter to help guide current and future conservation efforts for the endangered Scottish species.

Scottish Wildcat Action (SWA) and the Royal Zoological Society for Scotland (RZSS) are taking part in a short period of wildcat trapping over two months in three of the project's five priority areas.

The focus of this work is on targeted trapping of wildcats for DNA sampling.

All cats trapped and sampled will

have full disease screening, coat scoring and genetic testing.

In addition to the sampling, a number of cats will be fitted with GPS radio tracking collars that will allow researchers to gain a better understanding of how wildcats and feral cats coexist and how this relates to hybridisation.

Roo Campbell, the SWA project manager, said: 'We are at the stage of the project at which we need firm genetic information on all wildcats left to inform current and future conservation decisions. This information will also give us a clearer view on where population recovery techniques, such as reintroduction, could take place. Trap-

ping will allow us to collect samples for DNA and disease screening. The cats will be released immediately.'

Dr Kerry Kilshaw, from Oxford University, is running further research into wildcats and their behaviour by putting temporary GPS radio tracking collars on the animals and their hybrids to track their movements.

Dr Kilshaw said: 'This information will help us hugely in enabling us to protect them in the future by better understanding their home ranges, den sites and how they use the landscape. It will also allow us to monitor the individuals, using live data of where each wildcat is.'



Wildcats are rarely seen but the research programme will reveal much about them.

Pictures: Pete Cairns

## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

### Thursday January 25 Mullach nan Coirean and Stob Ban Glen Nevis

A spectacular excursion ideal for the shorter winter days. Splendid views of Glen Nevis, fine ridges and a descent into a magnificent corrie.

Start from Achriabhach at the Lower Falls CP, NN145683. Head W along the road for about 300m and turn left on to the forest road. Almost immediately fork left on to a footpath rising beside the Allt a'Choire Dheirg and rejoin the forest road at the hairpin bend at NN140680. Turn right, follow the road up to a WP at NN1349568453 and turn left on to a footpath that climbs S up through an area of clear-felled forest. The path continues over a stile on to the open hillside. Head up SE to reach the foot of the NE ridge of Mullach nan Coirean and follow it to the summit, 939m. Follow the main Mamore Ridge SE to the Top, 917m, and continue E to a prominent col, 846m. Climb up the ridge ahead,

which curves S and rises steeply to the summit of Stob Bàn, 999m. Leave the summit heading SW but almost immediately locate a gap in some rocks and find the path heading E. Follow the path down to the col at the head of Coire a'Mhusgain. At NN156653, locate the path leading N into the corrie, and follow it down to Achriabhach.

Grade: S; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 1150m; Map(s): LR41, EX384. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.30am. Start of walk at 8.50am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

### Sunday January 28 Beinn Churalain, Loch Creran

A pleasant walk with lovely views across Loch Creran and beyond.

There are several historical sites in the vicinity: St Cairell's Well at NM980449. Cladh Churalain (burial ground) at NM983452. Abandoned farmstead at NM983451. Kiln at NM983449. Buildings and enclosures at NM982450. Graffiti carved on rock at NM989450. (Source: Appin Historical Society).

Park at the Creagan Inn, NM973445 and take the cycle track E. Before the roundabout follow a track through a gate on the left.

A short steep ascent through the trees leads to the line of the old railway and the hillside above. Further up, a gate in a stone wall gives access to the more open hillside. Follow the broad ridge NE, ignoring the

trig point at about 490m, to the summit of Beinn Churalain, 549m. Head NW down to a col, across a fence, then up to a small summit at 430m. Follow a ridge SW down to about 200m alt, then head W to reach the track at about NM968456. Follow the track down to the A828 and head E on the cycle track back to the Creagan Inn.

Grade: M; Distance: 9km; Height to climb: 589m; Map(s): LR49, EX376. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 9.30am or North Ballachulish school at 9.25am. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club). If

anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club).

### Saturday January 27 Creag Gruanach, Corroun.

Catch the 7.44am train from Fort William to Corroun, arriving around 8.32am. (The train from the S arrives at 8.59am). From Corroun head NW along path on W side of railway track until you cross the river by a bridge at NN341681. Now follow the track to Loch Treig and to the Creaguineach Lodge at NN309689. There are at least three choices of route up Creag Gruanach.

Firstly, the ENE ridge from the sheepfold at NN307692 looks in-

teresting. Secondly, it is possible to ascend an obvious rake up the SE face of the mountain from the bend in the river starting at NN303686. The rake is steep but does go.

Thirdly, try a N ridge starting at NN302694 (see 1:25000 map for more detail).

Descend from the summit WSW to the stepping stones at Staoineag bothy at NN295678. Now follow the rough river path back to Loch Treig before returning to Corroun. The ambitious might like to add a second summit, if there is time before the 3:24pm return train.

Distance: 18km; Height to climb: 550m. Suggested by Fiona Wild; coordinated by Suzanne Theobald.

**FLOORSHOP**  
BEST PRICES AND CUSTOMER CARE IN TOWN  
**GREAT JANUARY SALE STILL ON**  
BETTER PRICES THAN ANYWHERE IN ARGYLL  
HURRY ON IN FOR GREAT NEW STOCK  
**BEDS ALL REDUCED**  
PROFESSIONAL FITTING SERVICE  
CALL IN TODAY TO MEET OUR FRIENDLY EFFICIENT TEAM  
Telephone: 01546 602088 • Highbank Park Ind. Est, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NN  
Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

**HIRE and SUPPLIES**  
More than JUST TOOL AND PLANT HIRE  
QUALITY MANUFACTURED GLASS FROM PINEFIELD glass  
TO DISCUSS YOUR DOUBLE GLAZING NEEDS CONTACT DONNIE ON 01631 566306  
Mill Lane, Oban PA34 4HA Tel: 01631 566306  
online @ [www.hireandsupplies.com](http://www.hireandsupplies.com)

**FROM 56p PER WEEK**  
INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper  
**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**  
Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK online  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

# FARMING NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

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



E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.



A packed Tarbert Bowling Club listened to the report from branch chairman John Dickson, inset.

## Weather and women: chairman reports

COLIN CAMERON  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Ronnie Campbell.

NOT surprisingly, the weather featured prominently in the chairman's address at a recent National Farmers' Union Scotland (NFUS) meeting.

A good turnout of members gathered at Tarbert Bowling Club for the Argyll and the Islands regional AGM, with farmers travelling from all corners of the dispersed territory on Friday January 12.

In his report to members, chairman John Dickson - re-elected to the post at the meeting - looked back over a year of weather which affected both the business of farming and the union's smooth running in the area.

Until the end of lambing time, 2017 had seen a good spell of weather, he said.

Firm prices for sheep and for milk had contributed to a sense of optimism among farmers.

He added: 'But, as always, we can't control the weather, unfortunately, and what followed was the most difficult summer and autumn in living memory.'

'As a result, fodder stocks are at an all-time low in the region. The demand for hay and straw has led to prices that are

eye-watering for anyone looking for alternative fodder sources.'

Mr Dickson, who farms on the Isle of Bute, went on: 'We are reassured by [Rural Economy Secretary] Fergus Ewing's decision to set up a weather committee.'

'The committee, or panel, will act as a taskforce for quickly sharing information and encouraging co-operation to help farmers and crofters respond effectively to challenging weather conditions.'

'Argyll and the Islands regional board meetings, too, had been disrupted by poor weather, with the July meeting cancelled for this reason.'

Mr Dickson echoed the

thoughts of everyone present when he remarked: 'All we can hope for now is an early spring.'

A joint meeting with the Forth and Clyde NFUS regional board had been successful, said Mr Dickson, which incorporated a trip to the research farm at Auchtertyre.

In October the union hosted a very popular 'women in agriculture' event in Lochgilphead, at which more than 50 people attended. 'This is something that we would hope to repeat,' Mr Dickson said.

He concluded on a more sombre note, recounting the recent sad passing of union member Bruce Dixon from Kilmartin.

Mr Dickson said: 'Bruce did a lot for his branch and region, and his death shook us all.'

Mull crofter Ronnie Campbell is this year's recipient of the Stalwart Award, presented annually by NFU Scotland's Argyll and the Islands region at its AGM.

The AGM saw NFUS president Andrew McCornick present the award to Mull's regional board member Jim Corbett, who received it on behalf of Mr Campbell. The trophy will be presented formally to Mr Campbell at the next union branch meeting on Mull.

The award was created in 2016 in recognition and memory of the dedication shown by Mull's Bert Leitch and Lachlan MacLean. Both Bert and Lachlan, who represented NFUS's farmers and crofters both regionally and nationally, died in 2015.

The award is presented annually to either a NFUS member who has followed in their footsteps and given their time and effort to the work of the union in Argyll and the Islands region or someone who has made a significant contribution to agriculture in the area.

The inaugural winner in 2017 was well known Argyllshire hill farmer Sybil MacPherson.

Mr Campbell, who runs a croft at Uisken with his wife Sheila, is a hugely popular winner for 2018.

For more than 25 years, he continuously represented Mull and crofters on the union's Crofting Highlands and Islands committee and is a past vice-chairman of the group.

He also represented NFU Scotland on the industry's liaison group with Caledonian MacBrayne ferries as well as being a Crofting Commission assessor, a special constable and a Forestry Commission ranger and stalker.

## Around the markets

**STIRLING** - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday January 18 sold 187 cattle, comprising 101 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 72 cast cows and bulls and 14 young calves.

All classes upheld recent late rates and many more could have been sold. Bullocks averaged 223p. Heifers averaged 225p. Young bulls averaged 191p. Beef cows averaged 126p. Dairy cows averaged 103p.

Bullocks sold to 245p for a Limousin from Learielaw, Broxburn purchased by T Johnston, Butchers, Falkirk. Heifers sold to 245p (three times) for Limousins from Easter Ochtermuthill, Muthill; Brockwoodlees, Canonbie, and Learielaw to Hugh A Black & Sons and Charles Kirkpatrick.

Leading prices: Bullocks p/kg: 242p Learielaw 240p East Camps, Easter Ochtermuthill & Brockwoodlees 238p Meadowend, Learielaw & Bankhead (Kerr) 235p Shields 232p Faskine, East Camps & Moorfield 230p & 228p (twice) Moorfield 225p (twice) Spittal, Meikle Seggie, Bankhead & East Camps. Heifers p/kg: 244p Todhall 242p Brockwoodlees 240p Meadowend, Shields & Learielaw 238p Moorfield, Over Inzevar & Easter Ochtermuthill 235p Todhall, Shields, Meadowend, Easter Ochtermuthill & Brockwoodlees 230p Bankhead & Shields. Also forward were 72 cast cows and bulls.

With fewer beef cows about, the overall average was back on the week. All classes of dairy cows dearer on the week. Many more could have been sold.

Beef cows sold to £1,500 for an AA from Ferguson Bros, Gillandersland and to 159p for a BBx from M I Wainwright, Todhall. Cast bulls sold to £1,200 and 106.5p from Kirk & Calvert, Oatfield, Campbelltown.

Dairy cows sold to £990 from W A Hume, Easter Clune, Dunfermline and to 136p from W Waugh, North Bankhead, Avonbridge.

Other leading prices: Beef cows per head: £1,460 Mains of Throsk, £1,440 Todhall, £1,200 Parkdyke, £1,130 and £1,100 Harviestown. Beef cows per kilo: 158.5p Mains of Throsk 157.5p Gillandersland 137p Parkdyke 129.5p Harviestown 127.5p Oatfield.

Dairy cows per head: £900 Walton £850 Drumglass £840 Balegreggan £820 Gartclush £790 Easter Clune. Dairy cows per kilo: 118.5p Easter Clune 115p Gartclush 113p Balegreggan 111p North Bankhead. Also forward were 14 calves both beef & dairy. More could have been sold to meet the current demand.

Top price of the day was £220 for a Black & White Stirk from D Nelson, Culltullie, Crossgates. Other leading prices: Dexters Hfrs - £200 (three times) Hilton Cottage. Bulls - £200 & £140 (twice) Hilton Cottage. Black & Whites £70 Glenrigg £48 Plean £45 & £42 Barbeth.

season lambs selling to an average of 180.3ppkg and 764 ewes and rams. Old season lambs (2748) Longfauld (BTex) £110.00; Cherryfield (Tex) £98; Park of Aldie (Suff) £90.50; Kettleshill (X) £90; Loanhead of Duchally (Chev) £88.50; Merkins (BF) £84.50; Hillhead (Mule) £78. Old season lambs (2,748) Longfauld (BTex) 238p; Forest (Suff) 224p; Loanhead of Duchally (Tex) 223p; Loanhead of Duchally (Chev) 217p; Inverdoat (X) 186p; Drumessie (Mule) 177p; Glendamp (BF) 174p. Ewes (764) Kinclaven (Tex) £130; North Balloch (Suff) £100; Inverdoat (Mule) £76; Monzie (Chev) £72; Glenhead (BF) £60. Rams - Bowleys (Tex) £108; Fleurs (Suff) £95; Backhills (BFL) £88; Hillhead (BF) £70.

**STIRLING** - United Auctions on Wednesday January 17 sold 686 store cattle and 175 cast cows and forward cattle, also sold 868 store and feeding sheep.

Bullocks (390) averaged 228.62p to 276.40ppk for a 275kg CHX from Dyke Farms and £1,275 for a 622kg BAX from Kinnaird. B&W Bullocks (38) averaged 145.72p to 179.30ppk for a 552kg HFX from South Brackenridge and £990 for a 552kg HFX from South Brackenridge. Heifers (232) averaged 210.55p to 261.60ppk for a 281kg CHX from Dyke Farms and £1,270 for a 604kg SimX from Lathrisk.

Young bulls (26) averaged 222.93p to 231.70ppk for a MOX from Challochmun and £840 for a LimX from Challochmun.

Cast cows (155) - averaged 133.68p to 179.60ppk for a CHX from Teasses and £1,570 for a SimX from Innerwick. Dairy Cows (17) - averaged 93.84p to 117.60ppk for a HFX from Woodend and £915 for a HFX from Woodend. Forward cattle (3) - averaged 150.11p to 199.70ppk for a LimX from Mountquhanie and £1,330 for a SimX from Woodhall.

Bullocks: Up to 205kgs - Bankhead £595, 259.8p; 250-300kgs - Dyke £760, 276.4p; 301-350kgs - Spittal £890, 261.80p; 351-400kgs - Ochiltree Place £980, 246.10p; 401-450kgs - Deuchar £1045, 240.20p; 451-500kgs - Downan £1170, Challochmun 242.00p; 501-550kgs - Garvald Mains £1,230, 233.0p; 551-600kgs - Logan Mains £1,195, Hill 208.0p; 601-650kgs - Kinnaird £1,275, 205.0p.

Heifers: 251-300kgs - Dyke £735, 261.60p; 301-350kgs - Spittal £785, Dyke 248.4p; 351-400kgs - Ochiltree Place £880, 226.80p; 401-450kgs - The Ranch £980, 234.4p; 451-500kgs - Garvald Mains £1,150, 231.90p; 501-550kgs - Ochiltree Place £1,155, 226.50p; 551-600kg - Lathrisk £1,165; 209.50p; 600-650kgs - Lathrisk £1,270, 210.30p.

OTM cows: £ per head - Innerwick (Sim) £1,570; Whitrigill (Lim) £1,500; Chapel (BA) £1,490; Whitrigill (CH) £1,350; Teasses (AA) £1,250; Whitrigill (BRB) £1,190; Meikle Camoquhill (MO) £1,010; Kincraigie (SH) £1,010. PPK - Teasses (CH) 179.60p; Carslaw (Lim) 178.70p; Innerwick (Sim) 175.20p; Meikle Camoquhill (MO) 168.30p; Chapel (BA) 159.00p; Whitrigill (BRB) 158.70p; Teasses (AA) 150.00p; Kincraigie (SH) 130.50p.

OTM bulls: £ per head - Teasses (Sim) £1,330. PPK - Teasses (Sim) 107.30p.

United Auctions also sold 868 store & feeding sheep. Averages: Suffolk £63.36 Texel £56.96 Chev £65.39 Mule £47.22 BF £47.26. Leading prices: Little Kenny (Tex) £76.00; Glencain (Chev) £70; Little Kenny (BF) £64; Drumbarrow (Suff) £64; Craigenaech (Mule) £51.

**DINGWALL** - Dingwall and Highland Marts on January 17 sold 654 store cattle, three adult head of breeding cattle 80 OTM cattle. Bullocks (399) averaged 235.8p and sold to 297.5p per kilo for a pen of 242kg Limousin cross from Bogburn, Duncaiston, and £1,430 gross for a 700kg Limousin cross from Newton of Ferintosh, Conon Bridge. Heifers (249) averaged 219.6p and sold to 305.1p per kilo for a 295kg Limousin cross from Strone Cottage, Newtonmore, and £1,310 gross for a pair of 600kg Limousin cross from Dunain Mains, Inverness.

Young bulls (6) sold to 253.1p per kilo for a 320kg Limousin cross and £890 gross for a pair of 385kg Limousin crosses all from Strone Farm, Banavie. In calf cows (2) sold to £1,050 gross for a Limousin cross from 1 and 8 Drynoch, Carbost. Bulls (one) sold to £1,220 gross for an Aberdeen Angus from Drumbuie, Drumadrochit.

OTM prime & feeding cows (73) averaged 126.8p and sold to 169.1p per kilo and £1,370 gross for an 810kg Charolais cross from Forsie, Thurso. OTM bulls (7) averaged 113.1p and sold to £990 gross for a 695kg British Shorthorn from Todholls, Weydale. Other leading prices per head and per kg:

Bullocks up to 350kg - Corriebeg, Banavie, £920, 285.7p; 351-400kg - Strone Cottage, £1,000, 261.3p; 401-450kg - Dunain Mains, £1,150, Wester Craighlands, Fortrose, £264.4p; 451-500kg - Kinchyle Farm, Scaniport, £1,180, 247.4p; 501-550kg - The Cloy, Fortrose, £1,340, 245.9p; 551-600kg - Ardjachie, Tain, £1,220, 217.5p; 601-650kg - Newton of Ferintosh, £1,270, South Balkeith, Tain, 203.2p; 651kg upwards - Newton of Ferintosh, £1,420, 204.3p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Bogburn, £570, 234.6p; 251-300kg - Strone Cottage, £900, 14 Port Henderson, Gairloch, 260.4p; 301-350kg - Clury Farm, £870, 252.2p; 351-400kg - Strone Cottage, £910, Clury Farm, 250.7p; 401-450kg - Dunain Mains, £990, Ardnagrass, Muir of Ord, 233.3p; 451-500kg - Torgormack, Beauly, £1,190, 250.5p; 501-550kg - The Cloy, £1,100, 209.9p; 551-600kg - South Balkeith, £1,170, Dunain Mains, 218.3p.

Other leading prices per head OTM prime and feeding cows: Invereen, Tomatin, (SimX), 164.8p; Forsie, (CharX), 160.2p; Culbokie East, Dingwall, (LimX), 159.2p; Balmacalan Farm, Drumadrochit, (BShoX), 158.9p; Forsie, (BBX), 157.4p; Achlye Farm, Dornoch, (Sho), 146.6p; Balintraid, Delyn, (AAX), 134.7p.

Other leading prices per kg OTM prime and feeding cows: Forsie, (CharX), £1,330; Culbokie East, (LimX), £1,210; Alterwall, Lyth, (SimX), £1,150; Achlye Farm, (Sho), £1,070; Glenaldie, Tain, (AAX), £1,030; Forsie, (BBX), £950; Balmacalan Farm, Drumadrochit, (BShoX), £890; Glenside, Glenurquhart, (AA), £830.

## Bull sales will feature Lincoln Reds

UNITED Auctions is set to welcome a record number of sales, the first official sale of Lincoln Reds and a new sole sponsor at the Stirling bull sale next month.

The livestock auctioneers will host 962 pedigree bulls and females at the show and sale. The two-week event takes place at Stirling Agricultural Centre from Sunday February 4 to Monday February 5 and continues from Sunday February 18 to Tuesday February 20.

Importantly, next month marks the start of sole, all-year sponsorship by Galbraith of all the Stirling bull sales, which take place in February, May and October annually.

The leading independent property consultancy has a long, strategic partnership with United Auctions, which continues to go from strength to strength. The national sales centre of Galbraith is based at Stirling Agricultural Centre.

George Purves, managing director of United Auctions, said: 'The Stirling bull sales are well

recognised as one of the most important dates in the farming calendar.'

'Three times a year the city enjoys an out-of-season influx of visitors with demand in hotels, bars, restaurants and conference facilities providing a welcome local economic boost.'

'Gaining year-long support from Galbraith represents a significant investment in and long-term commitment to Stirling, Scottish agriculture and beyond. We're delighted to welcome it as sole sponsor.'

Popular Sunday judging continues at the Stirling bull sales with the main sales held on the Monday of week one and the Monday and Tuesday of week two.

This year, the bull sales host a total of 10 breeds, including the first official sale of pedigree Lincoln Red bulls taking place on the afternoon of Monday February 5.

A highlight of week one will be the chance for breeders and commercial buyers to source great genetics from the part

dispersal of the Perthshire-based Coldrochie Beef Shorthorn herd from Douglas McMillan, who is retiring. Coldrochie stock has achieved considerable success at both national and local shows.

The autumn calving portion together with a crop of young bulls, comprising 27 lots, will be sold on Monday February 5, while the spring calving portion will be dispersed in May.

An all-time record of pedigree sales bulls (44) and females (25) forward in week two can be seen at the pre-sale show on Sunday February 18 and the sale the following day.

Meanwhile, a major reduction of the Woodhall herd, comprising 55 lots, from the late Hector Macaskill, will be held on the morning of Monday February 19. Established in 1976, this herd of Simmentals has tremendous breeding with a consistent source of top class pedigree and commercial stud bulls.

Full catalogue details for the sales will be also available on United Auctions' website.

## North Argyll Young Farmers host stock judging evening

NORTH Argyll Young Farmers' Club is hosting its annual stock judging tomorrow (January 26) at 7pm at Oban Livestock Centre.

There will be the classes, guess-

the-weight-of-the-calf, a raffle and refreshments, and everyone is welcome.

There is a £5 entry fee to compete and the club is keen for more

people to get involved in the club so is hoping for a big turn-out.

For more information visit the North Argyll Young Farmers' Facebook page.

Like us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

**FORD 6640 tractor and FRASER 6 ton tipping trailer 1994**

4WD, 40kph box, V5 present.  
**£8,000.**

Telephone 07912760294.

**S&S SERVICES**

ALL ROADS LEAD TO S&S

**ISUZU THE PICK-UP PROFESSIONALS**

S&S Services, Heathfield, Ayr.  
Tel: 01292 880080 / 07831 808702

**FROM 56p PER WEEK**

INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK online  
[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

**For Sale - A well bred Simmental breeding bull. He is 2 years old and ready for work.**

Please contact Donald Currie, Isle of Arran - M: 07740 986803 T: 01770 860251

**Registered Whitebred Shorthorn Bulls**

**Dob 01/07/16 & 25/04/16**

for sale in North Argyll for details call Mob: 07768855022 Evenings: 01967431422 Email: peterresipole@gmail.com



# Energy Saving Week

## 860,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN SCOTLAND MAY HAVE MISSED OUT ON £1,500 BY NOT SWITCHING ENERGY SUPPLIER



**Ofgem figures show those who haven't switched supplier in six years cost themselves £1,500**



**Despite possible savings, 37% of households in Scotland don't see the point in switching because 'all suppliers are the same'**



**More than nine million UK households haven't switched in six years**



**Big Energy Saving Week reveals lost savings equivalent to 27 average weekly food shopping trips**

**Big Energy Saving Week today reveals that failing to switch energy supplier may have cost 860,000 of households in Scotland more than £1,500 each over the past six years – the equivalent of more than half a year of the UK's average weekly shopping trips (1).**

Figures from Ofgem (2) have revealed that nine million households across the UK – more than a third (35%) of all households – failed to change gas or electricity provider between 2012 and 2017, with only 16.7% (5) of people in Scotland switching in the last year alone and missing out savings of hundreds of pounds a year.

And while a YouGov survey carried out for Big Energy Saving Week reveals 36% (3) of people across Scotland will visit multiple supermarkets to ensure we get the best deal on our weekly shop, we are not being as savvy with our energy suppliers, with millions of households remaining on the more expensive Standard Variable Tariff (SVT) (4), despite better deals being available.

Starting today, Big Energy Saving Week is a nationwide campaign from the Energy Saving Trust, Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which helps households lower their annual spend on energy.

Mike Thornton, director of Energy Saving Trust Scotland said:

*'The difference between the average Standard Variable Tariff and the cheapest deal on the market is significant, but millions of households still aren't accessing these savings. To put that into context, switching this year could save you up to £300 – equivalent to more than a month's worth of food shopping.'*

*'In other words, if you haven't switched for six years, you've missed out on more than six months of food shopping.'*

*'With January being a tight month for household budgets, now is the time to look at switching your energy tariff to make sure you're on the best possible deal.'*

Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark said: 'We're helping people take control of their fuel bills to reduce how much they pay for their gas and electricity.'

*'Big Energy Saving Week highlights how much money people can save simply by changing their energy supplier and taking action such as installing a smart meter.'*

A YouGov survey carried out as part of the campaign also revealed that:

- 64% of people in Scotland would read reviews when planning to spend £1,000, but only 16% read any reviews about their new energy supplier or tariff when they last switched, with the average dual fuel bill £1,1235

- 22% of Scottish households are unaware or don't know there are ways to switch supplier other than online

- 37% of Scottish households believe there's no point in switching because 'all suppliers are the same'

As part of the Big Energy Saving Week campaign, Citizens Advice will host events across Great Britain with its volunteers and staff offering face-to-face advice to people with concerns about their energy bills, helping to share information about switching and about how the energy switch guarantee makes the process simple and easy.

An online price comparison tool from Citizens Advice can help bill payers find a cheaper supplier. The comparison tool is completely impartial and includes quotes from all energy suppliers, offering a quick and easy way to find the best deals.

Derek Mitchell, CEO Citizens Advice Scotland, said: 'With many Scots experiencing a particularly cold winter this year, we are concerned that many consumers are paying over the odds to heat their homes.'

'Our data tells us that the people who would benefit most from lowering their fuel bills are often the least likely to seek help. The savings from switching can significantly lower the high costs of bills, and in some cases further support may be available.'

*'We urge people to take part in Big Energy Saving Week and speak to their local CAB or to check our price comparison tool for support with switching.'*

For free advice and support to cut your fuel bills call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

1. Based on average weekly shop of £56.80. Figures from Office for National Statistics Family spending in the UK report, published February 2017.

2. Ofgem 'State of the Market 2017' report, published October, 2017. 35% of people have never switched supplier.

3. Excluding respondents who said don't know or not applicable

4. Ofgem 'State of the Market 2017' report, published October, 2017.

5. Ofgem 'State of the Market 2017' report, published October, 2017.

## Ferguson Energy Ltd.

### RENEWABLE HEATING

T: 01631 566 127 M: 07799358396

- BIOMASS
- HEAT PUMPS
- SOLAR THERMAL
- SOLAR PV
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS



#### WOOD PELLET BOILER

Benderloch, Argyll  
4 Bedroom Croft House  
Previously Used Oil Boiler



#### AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Ardintinny, Argyll  
2 Bedroom Semi-detached House  
Previously Used Storage Heaters



#### SOLAR THERMAL & SOLAR PV

Isle of Mull, Argyll  
1 Bedroom Sef Catering Cottage



#### GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Connel, Argyll  
4 Bedroom New Build House

### RENEWABLE HEATING

+  
SCOTTISH  
GOVERNMENT  
INTEREST FREE LOAN  
+  
DOMESTIC  
RENEWABLE HEAT  
INCENTIVE FOR  
7 YEARS  
=  
FREE HEATING

we are  
rated

Check out our company profile and customer reviews on the Energy Saving Trust website. Simply search for our company name.

energy  
saving  
trust

natural  
scotland  
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



**ADRIAN LAYCOCK Ltd**  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS



[www.adrianlaycock.com](http://www.adrianlaycock.com)

Hydropower Projects  
Planning, Design and Construction  
Dams, Lakes, Rivers, Flood Control

2 Malin House, European Science Park,  
Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll  
tel 01631 705088 / 07787523755  
email [enquiries@adrianlaycock.com](mailto:enquiries@adrianlaycock.com)

**KENNETH FERGUSON**  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LTD

**YOUR LOCAL SOLAR PV INSTALLER**



**INTRODUCING THE QUANTUM HEATING SYSTEM.**

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



Morar House, Connel, Argyll PA37 1PA  
Tel: 01631 710862 Mobile: 07917 167477  
Web: [fergusonelectrical.co.uk](http://fergusonelectrical.co.uk)

**Winter Is Here - Prepare Now!**

**Heating costs are on the up again**

Replace your old storage heaters. Our electric heating solutions could save you money

Low power usage, no servicing, very controllable, AND a cosy warmth

**German Chamotte Clay Core Electric Heaters:-**  
Very popular just now. A remarkably cosy heat with some of the best running costs of any heating system currently available. Due to the flexibility of the system we have many customers who started with one and have come back for more. Using mainly radiant heat, these slim adaptable heaters can be on feet, on castors or can be wall mounted and supplied in any colour. Storage heater problems? .. An ideal replacement! Simple control, wireless control or Internet control systems available. **Don't be put off by very high prices quoted elsewhere for similar products, give us a try.**



Our quality heaters come from the ORIGINAL German manufacturer established 1949

**Far Infrared Heaters:-** These modern powerful heating units don't take up ANY floor space, they can look like a mirror or a picture on the wall. Incredibly efficient and economical, when these far infrared rays touch a surface, energy is released in the form of heat. Perfectly safe, these heaters act in the same way as when we feel warmth from the heat of the sun.



We are a Scottish family company. Six years of innovative heating supplied at realistic prices. You could save up to 40% on your heating bills (see website for more details). Hundreds of happy customers across all of Scotland & Islands.

**Elsco Heating Ltd** Supplying across Scotland from Glasgow & Elgin  
For more details and a FREE info pack on all our innovative heating products [www.elsco.co.uk](http://www.elsco.co.uk) or phone John on 01343 819676

**Radiant heat .... or a lot of hot air!**

MANY traditional heaters rely on hot air as a means of heating, even a storage heater is producing warm air out of a grill at the top. All of the hot air from an open fire or stove goes straight up the chimney, it is the radiant heat that gives you that nice cosy warm feeling.



The more a heat source works using radiant heat, the less power is required to heat a room.

German Chamotte fire clay heaters have proved to be popular in Britain over the last few years due to the quality of heat and efficiency and they look more like traditional radiators.

Far Infrared (FIR) heaters are very thin and lightweight, supplied as a panel for fixing to the ceiling or wall with options on looking like mirrors or pictures.

Heaters using radiant heat can save on space and reduce heating bills. Individual thermostats for each heater give unprecedented control and further savings.

Remember you buy heating once, you pay to run it forever, so get it right.

Elsco Heating supplies energy efficient heaters and Far Infrared saunas across Scotland from Elgin and Glasgow.

More info [www.elsco.co.uk](http://www.elsco.co.uk)  
Phone 01343 819676

**CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES**  
part of the Travis Perkins Group

- SOLAR THERMAL SOLAR PV
- GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS
- AIR TO WATER HEAT PUMPS
- AIR TO AIR HEAT PUMPS
- BIOMASS MVHR

7e Glengallan Road  
Oban | PA34 4HG  
Tel: 01631 567640  
Fax: 01631 569808

facebook.com/cityplumbingsupplies  
twitter.com/cityplumbingsupplies



**LOCHABER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

"Save Money, Energy and the Environment in Your Home"

**FEBRUARY 8TH 6:30 PM**

Talk given by Renate Powell in  
Duncansburgh Church, New Hall

Renate Powell, CEng BEng, has been an energy efficiency consultant for almost 20 years, and has worked with the Carbon Trust in Scotland. Renate has developed the support offered by the Carbon Trust for new builds and refurbishments, assisting with the process from specification, through design, to operation. For Renate, energy efficiency is a passion in both her personal and professional life.

The talk will focus on ways we can all save money by being more energy efficient in our homes and why these changes are important in protecting our environment.

[www.lochaberenviron.org.uk](http://www.lochaberenviron.org.uk)

**BIG ENERGY SAVING WEEK...**

Big Energy Saving Week runs from 22 to 28 January 2018. It is a national campaign to help people cut their fuel bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to.

The week focuses on raising public awareness of how to switch energy supplier or tariff to get the best deal, access discounts and make homes energy efficient. This is the 7th Big Energy Saving Week and is a partnership between Citizens Advice, the Energy Saving Trust and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with the support of numerous organisations, charities and companies.

People can use the Citizens Advice price comparison tool to compare prices from different energy suppliers. Visit and save today!

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-a-better-energy-deal/compare-gas-and-electricity-prices>

- ✓ CHECK
- ✓ SWITCH
- ✓ SAVE

GET HEATING ADVICE AND FINANCE TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME



**0% INTEREST**

LOOKING TO MAKE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS?  
ASK ABOUT OUR INTEREST-FREE LOAN WITH CASHBACK (FOR A LIMITED TIME) FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT\*. INTEREST-FREE LOANS FOR RENEWABLES SYSTEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG  
0808 808 2282  
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



\* Loans are administered by the Energy Saving Trust. Successful loans are subject to administrative fee. Certain measures require a certified installer.

Advertorial

**Loans from the Scottish Government help homes stay warm and cut bills**

THE Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland interest-free loan is helping homeowners make energy and money-saving improvements to their homes.

Up to £32,500 per property is currently available to owner-occupiers and some registered private sector landlords in Scotland.

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25 per cent also available for a limited time.

Home renewables systems such as biomass and solar photovoltaic are covered as well as connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

Loans must be used to improve existing residential buildings. New buildings under construction, where the property is already owned by the intended owner occupier, are also eligible for support for renewables systems or district heating connections but not energy efficiency improvements.

Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to availability.

Cashback grants are not available for renewable technologies like solar PV or for district heating connections.

Only Home Energy Scotland can arrange to have an application form sent out; third parties like installers or letting agents cannot apply on a householder's behalf.

Work must not commence on any installation until a loan offer in writing is received.

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks.

Successful applicants who claim funding will need to pay an administrative fee of 1.5 per cent of the total loan value up to a maximum of £150 per application.

The complete loan terms and conditions are stated in the application form.

Get in touch now.

If anyone is interested in applying or would like more information, please call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 (free from landlines and most mobiles).

# RECRUITMENT

Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net) IN ASSOCIATION WITH **HIJOBS**

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB. Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: [adverts@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:adverts@obantimes.co.uk)  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

## KICK START YOUR NEW CAREER IN 2018 ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

**Flexible working location**  
**£ Excellent basic + Bonus + BUPA + Benefits**  
**We are looking for sales staff to join our busy and successful team at Wyvex Media, the parent company of Scottish Field magazine and the Oban Times.**

We also publish a plethora of lifestyle magazines, tourist maps, holiday publications and business directories covering all corners of Scotland.

We are looking for our next advertising sales star and will offer flexible working patterns and working location for the right person.

Experience in advertising sales is not necessary, as full training will be given.

We offer excellent pay, benefits, training and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

**Please submit CV and covering letter to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)**

**WYVEX MEDIA**



### FULL TIME HOUSING SERVICES OFFICER

£31,282 - £34,350

Lochaber Housing Association is a registered charitable housing association, with a stock of over 700 properties across Lochaber with a significant new build development programme. Our aim is to help sustain and develop thriving communities through the provision of good quality, affordable housing opportunities and services across Lochaber.

Due to the retirement of the current post-holder, we now have a vacancy for a Housing Officer. As part of a small team you will be responsible for delivering high quality housing management services. Key duties will include delivering tenancy and estate management services, rent arrears management, and housing allocations, as well as working with our tenants to improve our services and sustain tenancies.

You should be enthusiastic, confident, flexible and highly motivated. A working knowledge of current housing legislation and regulation is essential.

For an informal discussion of the post's requirements, please contact Margaret Moynihan, Head of Housing & Corporate Services on 01397 702530.

To request an application pack please contact Nicola Gilbert, Corporate Services Administrator, Lochaber Housing Association, 101 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6DG, telephone: 01397 709240.

Or alternatively, email [recruitment@lochaberhousing.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@lochaberhousing.org.uk)

Please note CV'S will not be accepted.

In line with its Equal Opportunities policy, Lochaber Housing Association welcomes applicants from all sections of the community.

**Closing date for applications is noon Friday 02nd February 2018.**

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 14th February 2018.



### North Argyll Carers Centre seeks to recruit a Manager

North Argyll Carers Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction, on an unpaid basis. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support.

We are recruiting a Manager to build on our success and to sustain and grow our organisation. This is a highly demanding role and the successful applicant will have significant leadership experience, demonstrate strategic awareness, a sound understanding of working with carers and be an effective and visible ambassador for carers.

The successful candidate will work closely with the Board of Trustees to deliver our organisation's strategy. This will involve developing and implementing our business plan, maintaining and seeking partnerships, increasing income and continuing to raise the profile of North Argyll Carers Centre.

**37 hours per week - £28,000-36,500 depending on experience**

**Closing date: Monday 5th February 2018**

North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process

**For a recruitment pack or further information please contact**

**Morag MacLean on telephone 01631 564422/**

**07771647290 or email: [morag@northargyllcarers.org.uk](mailto:morag@northargyllcarers.org.uk)**

Registered Charity No: SC040902



Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland and Ireland. We are looking to recruit for the following positions at Loch Etive, Taynuilt:

#### Net washing Technician

This is a full time position is based on our net washing team, working a 40 hour week, Monday to Friday including weekend cover on a rota basis.

#### Fish Farm Technician

This is a full time position is based on our harvest team, working a 40 hour week, Monday to Friday including weekend cover on a rota basis.

Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including fish health, feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

You would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business. We offer attractive salaries dependent on experience along with pension scheme.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:

HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Closing date for applications is: **9 February 2018**



**Fusion Marine Ltd is well established as one of the leading manufacturers of high quality equipment for marine and freshwater environments all over the world, particularly in the fish farming industries. The company is expanding sales in current and new markets and we have the following vacancies**

#### Internal Sales Administrator

This full time position is within our Sales Department. We are looking for a forward thinking, enthusiastic person who is quick to learn. This is an important role and the successful applicant will be responsible for the administration of all sales and be of vital support to our Sales team.

Applications are invited from candidates who have experience in a busy sales and purchasing office and have the ability to support the technical sales team. A working knowledge of SAGE accounting system would be advantageous. Full training will be given. A full driving licence is essential for this position.

This position is predominantly based within our new Administration offices at Malin House, Dunbeg

#### Office Assistant

Based at our Administrative Offices, this is a full time position. Applicants should have a at least 1 Scottish Higher at grade C or above or a HNC in Administration, Business or Finance, be highly motivated and able to work within a small team.

No previous experience is required as full training will be given. **There is the possibility that, in time, the successful candidate may be offered the opportunity of an AAT apprenticeship.**

A list of duties for each position will be supplied on application. Salaries for both positions are dependent on experience and will be discussed at the interview stage.

Hours of work: Mon – Fri 8.30am to 5.00pm  
Please apply by sending a covering letter and enclose a current C.V.  
**Closing date for applications is Monday 5th February 2018.**

All applications to  
Mrs E Divers

Fusion Marine Ltd, European Marine Science Park, Malin House -Suite 5, Dunbeg, PA37 1SZ email:[edivers@fusionmarine.com](mailto:edivers@fusionmarine.com)

### FANTASTIC SELF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are selling our garden and maintenance business. We currently have 40 clients with a substantial turnover. Includes a 56 plate van, 1 years MOT, ride-on lawn mower with trailer, strimmers, push lawn mowers and lots more and everything you need to run a successful business.

**Contact for more details on 07768 015316**



S&K MacDonald Homes Ltd  
Are seeking to immediately recruit experienced staff to join our Company.

We work throughout west Lochaber on new house builds, commercial buildings and renovations.

We offer excellent rates of pay for self-motivated & diligent operatives looking for full-time employment that can deliver an excellent standard and quality of work.

All staff must have & maintain a valid driving license. Site hours are 41.5/week, starting on site 7.45am, paid fortnightly.

**Charge hand Joiners**  
**Joiner**  
(3 years minimum since completing apprenticeship)  
**Excavator Operator**  
**Groundworkers**

**Contact Susan MacDonald to discuss /apply at; [info@macdonaldhomes.co.uk](mailto:info@macdonaldhomes.co.uk) or 01967431456**



**REQUIRE ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR FOR OUR UPVC MANUFACTURING UNIT**

Previous UPVC or joinery experience preferred

**PLEASE CONTACT- STEVIE MCCORMICK 07919 214993**

**or e-mail [ll@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:ll@mkmacleod.co.uk) www.macleodconstruction.co.uk**

## RECRUITMENT HIJOBS RECRUITMENT HIJOBS



**JOINER WANTED**  
wage dependant on experience, from £25,000.00 to £30,000.00

Contact Paul on 07884394556

### INVERARAY CASTLE SEASONAL STAFF REQUIRED

Full/Part-Time

**TEAROOM/GIFT SHOP**

Please send your current CV to:-  
**Mrs J Young, Castle Manager**  
Inveraray Castle, INVERARAY PA32 8XF  
E-Mail - [manager@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:manager@inveraray-castle.com)

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

## RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT HIJOBS HIJOBS HIJOBS

### Institute of Aquaculture

## Manager of Marine Environment Research Laboratory

Faculty of Natural Sciences, Institute of Aquaculture  
Machrihanish  
£39,992 – £47,722

Within the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, an excellent opportunity has arisen at our Marine Environment Research Laboratory (MERL) and field station based in Machrihanish. This key role is responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan and overall management of MERL, delivering technical and scientific support, fish care and welfare in compliance with all relevant legislation. With a clear focus on proactive attraction of new business and support of commercial and research activities.

Key components within the facility include both generation and delivery of commercial contract research, planning and support for academic research and the maintenance of fish and sea lice delivering the highest standards of animal care, study support and stock and breeding colony management.

Educated to degree level or equivalent in aquatic animal husbandry, you will have significant experience of leading within a marine research facility preferably with salmonids.

For further information, including essential criteria and details on how to apply, please see [str.ac.uk/about/jobs/list](http://str.ac.uk/about/jobs/list)

**BE THE DIFFERENCE**



## RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT HIJOBS HIJOBS RECRUITMENT HIJOBS HIJOBS

The West Highland Community Rail Partnership is seeking the services of a development consultant to manage the partnership's projects & promote and develop rail services on the line through a community based approach.

Initially for a 12-month period, the work input will be approx. 8 hours per week, capped at £6,000 p.a.

Job Description, please contact Hege Hernæs, West Highland Community Rail Partnership – [glenfinnanstn@btconnect.com](mailto:glenfinnanstn@btconnect.com).

Closing date: **12 February 2018.**

### Cleaning staff required

Fri - Sat - Mon 9am - 4pm  
Transport provided.

Overtime available.

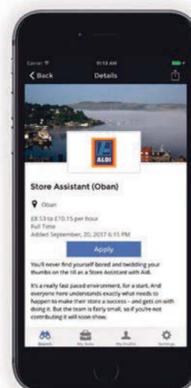
Tralee Bay Holidays

Immediate start. £11 per hour

**Contact 01631720255**

We've made it even easier to find your next job in the perfect location.

Download our app for free at [hijobs.co.uk/app](http://hijobs.co.uk/app)



# HIJOBS



# PUBLIC NOTICES

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

### Argyll and Bute Council

#### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA33 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
18/00013/LIB	Re-slate roof of the main building and east wing	Manor House Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LS	Oban Area Office
17/03267/PP	Installation of DSLAM telecommunications cabinet (1430mm x 450mm x 1300mm)	Land North East Of The Lodge Ardrin Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
17/02909/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of access and installation of septic tank and soakaway	Land Approx 82M South East Of 13 Kilmaluig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
17/03292/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Tigh-Na-Greine (Plot 2) Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
18/00047/PP	Alteration and extension of toilet block and installation of chemical disposal point	Shieling Holidays Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure
17/03293/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Tigh-Na-Greine (Plot 3) Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
18/00051/LIB	Roofing repairs and improvements including the replacement of all existing slates with new and replacement of all existing gutters and downpipes with new	Old Parish Church Glenclruitten Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4DN	Oban Area Office
17/03184/PP	Demolition of ruinous dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Land North Of Cliff House Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RT	Sub Post Office Connel
18/00025/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02738/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Plot 1 Land North West Of Ichrachan House Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HP	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
18/00024/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02737/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Plot 2 Land North West Of Ichrachan House Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HP	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/03291/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Tigh-Na-Greine (Plot 1) Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
18/00002/LIB	Display of fascia sign (3400mm x 2580mm - internally illuminated)	Queens Hotel Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AG	Oban Area Office
17/03185/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with associated decking, car parking and siting of portable building for use as a domestic store	Plot 1 Fountainhead Bunnassan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
17/03298/PP	Change of use of 2 no. former modular classroom huts to offices and installation of accessible toilets and entrance ramps (amended design relative to planning permission reference 15/01142/PP to incorporate updated ramp position and the addition of a community shop to hut 1)	Former Rockfield Primary School Hill Street Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/03198/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank for existing outbuilding	Land South Of Creagh-Na-Hullach Ardrun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
17/03301/PP	Replacement of canvas hall with new recreational hall	Craig Lodge Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AR	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/03258/LIB	Internal alterations/repairs and 4 window openings reformed	Glenure Lodge Fasnacloich Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BJ	Sub Post Office Port Appin
18/00050/PP	Roofing repairs and improvements including the replacement of all existing slates with new and replacement of all existing gutters and downpipes with new	Old Parish Church Glenclruitten Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4DN	Oban Area Office
17/03310/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse	13B Easdale Island Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4TB	Sub Post Office Balvicar

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid




### CLÀRACHADH AIR-LOIDHNE AIRSON 2018 AIRSON ÀITEACHAN CLAS 1 & TRÀTH-IONNSACHAIDH AGUS CÙRAIM-CHLOINNE ANN AN SGOIL

Ma bhios ur pàiste còig bliadhna a dh'aois air no ro 28 Gearran 2019, faodar an clàrachadh airson **Clas 1**.

Tha làn-chòir aig clann a rugadh eadar 1 Màrt 2014 agus 29 Gearran 2016 air àite maoinichte Tràth-ionnsachaidh agus Cùraim-chloinne.

Tha an seisean ùr a' tòiseachadh air 21 Lùnastal 2018.

'S e an t-seachdain chlàrachaidh airson **Clas 1** airson sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd

Diluain 29 Faoilleach gu Dihaoine 2 Gearran 2018.

Agus airson àiteachan Tràth-ionnsachaidh agus Cùraim-chloinne Diluain 12 Gearran gu Dihaoine 16 Gearran 2018.

Chaidh am pròiseas clàrachaidh air-loidhne a leasachadh gus an urrainn do phàrantan is luchd-cùraim clann a chlàrachadh air-loidhne airson àiteachan-sgoile.

Mura h-eil cothrom agaibh faighinn air-loidhne, faodar fhathast lethbhreac chàipeir den fhòirm a lìonadh aig oifis na sgoile ionadail tron t-seachdain chlàrachaidh. Thoiribh an aire gum feum sibh teisteanas-breith ur pàiste agus dearbhadh den t-seòladh agaibh a thoirt leibh ma tha sibh a' clàrachadh aig an sgoil.

Bu chòir dhuibh ur pàiste a chlàrachadh ann an sgoil na sgìre-sgoile agaibh. Ma tha sibh airson 's gum tèid ur pàiste gu sgoil eile, feumaidh sibh iarrtas àite-sgoile a dhèanamh. Bu chòir iarrtas àite-sgoile a chur gu Oifis Cùraim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre ro 15 Màrt 2018. Gheibhear tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air-loidhne aig [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment) no bho Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, Rathad Ghlinn Urchadain, Inbhir Nis, IV3 5NX. Fòn. (01349) 886606.

Gheibhear tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu bhith a' lìonadh an fhòirm air-loidhne, am pròiseas chlàrachaidh, sgìrean sgoile, Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, còmhdaidh sgoile agus iarrtasan àiteachan-sgoile, air-loidhne aig [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment) no tadhalibh air a' bhun-sgoil ionadail tron t-seachdain chlàrachaidh.



### ENROLMENT FOR 2018 PRIMARY 1 & EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PLACES IN A SCHOOL

If your child will be five years of age on or before 28th February 2019, they are eligible to enrol for **Primary 1**.

Children born between 1 March 2014 and 29 February 2016 are entitled to a funded **Early Learning and Childcare** place.

The new session starts on 21st August 2018.

The **P1 enrolment** week for Highland schools is Monday 29th January to Friday 2nd February 2018.

For **Early Learning and Childcare** places it will be Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018.

The online enrolment process has been developed to enable parents and carers to register children for school places online.

If you do not have access to the online enrolment process, a paper copy of the form may still be completed at your local school office during enrolment week. Please note that if you are enrolling in person at a school, you are required to take your child's birth certificate and proof of your address with you.

You should enrol your child in your catchment school. If you wish your child to attend a different school you are required to make a placing request. A placing request application should be made to your Area Care & Learning Office by 15 March 2018. Further information is available online at [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment) or from Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. Tel. (01349) 886606.

Further information on completing the online form, the enrolment process, catchment areas, Gaelic Medium education, school transport and placing requests can be found online at [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment) or alternatively you may visit your local primary school during enrolment week.



### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/05701/FUL	Land 70M East of Stronlissit Hotel, Roy Bridge	Installation of 20m lattice tower with an antenna, transmission dishes, cabinets and generator, satellite dish on 2.7m pole.
17/05814/PIP	Plot East of Cuil Cottage, Duror	Erection of house (renewal of 14/04405/PIP)
17/05838/LBC	Railway Station, Spean Bridge	Installation of two customer information screens (CIS) on columns
17/05923/FUL	Land 80M SW of Lyon Cottage, Isle of Rum	Proposed Residential Housing (8 units)
18/00035/PIP	Plot 1 Garden Ground 90M West of Ardleven, 26B Glencoe	Erection of house
18/00036/PIP	Plot 2 Garden Ground 45M West of Ardleven, 26B Glencoe	Erection of house
18/00041/FUL	Garramore, Morar, Mallaig	Erection of garage/self-contained residential unit
18/00071/FUL	Cuilcheanna House, Onich Fort William	Change of use from bed and breakfast to self catering holiday accommodation
18/00112/FUL	Land 460M SW of Achnasual Achnasary, Spean Bridge	Erection of shorebase building
18/00113/FUL	Plot 1, Low Bridge, Glen Gloy Spean Bridge	Erection of house, formation of access, installation of septic tank and soakaway
18/00142/FUL	Land 515M SE of Sonachan Hotel Kilchoan	Installation of 3 antennas and 2 dishes on 15m high mast (total height 16.3 m), satellite dish on 2.6m high pole, equipment cabinets and generator within fenced compound and formation of access track
18/00164/LBC	Achara House, Duror, Appin	Change of use from house to hotel, erection of 2 no extensions, convert outbuildings to bedrooms, alterations to modify 3 no window openings
18/00167/PIP	Site 35M North West of Dalbreagha, Onich	Erection of house (renewal of 14/04586/PIP)

**Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/05838/LBC & 18/00164/LBC are 21 days**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

### THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LOCHABER) (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2011 AMENDMENT ORDER 2017 NO.2

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Highland Council on 19 January 2018 made, in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the above Order which will come into operation on Monday 19 February 2018

The Order was previously advertised by Notice in the Lochaber Times on 30th November 2017 and the effect of the Order is as described in that Notice (with the exception of the disabled parking place at Wallace Place, Fort William).

Copies of the made Order, together with a copy of the relevant maps can be inspected at the Highland Council Service Point at Lochaber House, High Street Fort William PH33 6EL on weekdays during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or that a requirement of that Act or of any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application for the purpose to the Court of Session.

19/01/2018: Mrs Lesley Howie, Legal Manager, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITÈARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

M Logie Tigh-Na-Croit, North Knapdale 85448 0.07 ha Reason - Existing croft house site & garden ground Condition - Fencing Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES



### krisp print

For a hassle free service throughout Argyll call Krisp Print on 01631 568015

PO Box 1 Lochavullin Industrial Estate Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: [sales@krispprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@krispprint.co.uk)  
[www.krispprint.co.uk](http://www.krispprint.co.uk)

Design  
Copy  
Print

## Scottish Calendars 2018 HALF PRICE SALE



FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P

FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P

FROM **£4.95** including UK P&P

FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P

FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P

FROM **£3.95** including UK P&P

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. Featuring the breathtaking landscapes and diverse architecture from around Scotland. We also have a Scottish Clans Calendar, featuring illustrations by R.R. McIan. Our Scottish Calendars make the ideal gift. To see all the images from our 2018 range visit: [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

### order form

I would like to order 2018 Calendars:

Calendar	U.K. inc P&P	R.O.W. inc P&P	Amount
Scottish Field Large	Price £4.95	£6.50	£
Scottish Field Small	Price £3.95	£4.25	£
Oban Times West Highland	Price £3.95	£4.25	£
Oban Times West Highland	Price £3.95	£4.25	£
Scottish Clans	Price £3.95	£4.25	£

Total £

**YOUR DETAILS:**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk) or call us on 01371 851 868  
OR POST ALL ORDERS TO:  
Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB Trinity House, Sculptors Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

# West Coast **MOTORING TIMES** DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

**MASSEY FERGUSON 135**  
  
 Good tyres, Tin work, Generally good working order.  
**£3,200**  
 No VAT  
**07598 712565 or 01397 712565**

**RENAULT MASTER 2.2 DIESEL**  
  
 Very good dropside body, very clean all round, mot till may.  
**£1,800**  
 ONO  
**07759931446**

**CHEVERTON 620 FISHING BOAT**  
  
 With pod for outboard motor, can be removed and inboard fitted. Brand new in fit out.  
**£12,995**  
**07736 619263**

**WANTED MOTOR HOMES**  
 Caravettes and camper vans, all makes and models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.  
**Contact William 07730 130284 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com**

**WANTED**  
 All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.  
**Tel 0770 3490572 ask for Robert**

**FIAT PUNTO DYNAMIC 1.2**  
  
 2008 (58 plate), 5 doors, Petrol MOT to 7th August 2018, 124933 miles Good runner, Ideal first car. Can be seen in Oban  
**£795**  
**Call 07776092903**

**CARS WANTED**  
 Preferably low mileage, quick decision, high mileage also considered, up to £10,000. Mercedes, BMW and Audi, other models also considered.  
**Telephone 07759054754**

**WANTED**  
 All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.  
**Telephone 07546 788945**

**WANTED**  
 All types of motor homes and caravettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.  
**T: 07885 203020 or E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk**

**WANTED 4X4s FOR CASH**  
**Call today on 0778 985 5381**  
 All 4x4 Vehicles, all makes and models wanted. Guaranteed best price, no hassle, free collection anywhere. Land Rover Defender, Discovery, Freelander Range Rover, Vauxhall Brava, Toyota Hilux, Land Cruiser, Mitsubishi, Shogun, L200, Pajero, Nissan Navara, Terrano, Patrol, X Trail, Isuzu Trooper, Rodeo. + All other 4x4 Vehicles, 4X4 Pickups, etc. Single Vehicles or fleet purchases. Any age nearly new or old, any conditions from perfect to written off, non runners, rotten, no MOT, high mileage, blown engine, overheating etc. Cash in hand, no hassle, best cash price guaranteed.

## YOUNG DRIVER CELEBRATES A RECORD YEAR AS INCREASING NUMBERS OF UNDER 17S START THEIR LEARNING-TO-DRIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2017 saw UK's largest pre-17 driving scheme increase lesson sales by more than 30 per cent
- 150,000 Young Driver lessons sold last year, with 14 new sites opened to cope with demand

THE COUNTRY'S largest pre-17 driving school is celebrating an increase in sales of more than 30 per cent over the last year.

Almost 150,000 Young Driver lessons were sold in 2017, as a growing number of parents signed children as young as 10 up to start learning to drive. More than 550,000 lessons have been sold since the scheme launched in 2009.

To cope with the increase in demand, Young Driver opened 14 new sites last year, including its first in Northern Ireland. Other sites launched in 2017 included Rotherham, Cambridge, Leicester and Croydon. The scheme now employs the equivalent of 54 full time staff, when the number of driving instructor hours involved are calculated.

Vauxhall became a sponsor of Young Driver in July 2017, and with the introduction of new Corsas for the youngsters to drive, the fleet size increased by 20 per cent. A fleet of 165 dedicated cars are now used to carry out events across the country.

Young Driver offers those aged between 10 and 17 years the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a dual control Vauxhall Corsa, with a fully qualified driving instructor, at more than 50 venues. Realistic road systems are created, with everything from roundabouts to junctions, allowing young people to start learning the skills required behind the wheel, giving them the opportunity to gain much of the

necessary experience without the additional pressures of being on a real road. Specific areas to enable them to practise manoeuvres and control are also created, including steering, reversing and parking.

The scheme plans to continue its growth in 2018, with the launch of 13 Super-Sites. New and existing sites will be grown to offer additional facilities for youngsters, including



the introduction of traffic lights, as well as the chance to reach higher speeds, and practise moving up into the top gears.

Research shows that learning to drive at a younger age can halve the accident risk of a newly qualified driver. One in five typically has an accident in the first six months after passing their test and every year 400 people are killed in the UK in accidents involving young drivers.

Laura White, head of marketing at Young Driver, said: 'Parents seem to be recognising that getting their children that extra experience can really make a difference when it comes to keeping them safe. It's reported that the number of 17-24 year olds learning to drive has dropped by 20 per cent in just a decade, and less than half of that age group have a full driving licence - which could have huge consequences for the car industry. By getting youngsters enthused about driving, hopefully we'll be creating a new generation of motoring fans - however, with the added benefit of having that extra experience before they take to the road, making them a safer and more responsible driver.'

Quentin Willson, motoring journalist and transport campaigner, added: 'Young Driver's 30 per cent increase in lessons shows that the decline in kids wanting to learn to drive and own cars isn't as widespread as some say. Early pre-teen training gives confidence for on-road lessons and takes some of the fear out of battling to pass a test. Having a licence helps with college, university and jobs and early driving training will help give the next generation of drivers vital safety skills and future job opportunities.'

As well as offering lessons for 10-17s in the Vauxhall Corsas, Young Driver also provides lessons for five-to-10-year-olds in the specially created Firefly electric car. Lessons take place at selected venues. Driving lessons can also be offered to people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities.

For more information or to book lessons go to [www.youngdriver.com](http://www.youngdriver.com) or call 0844 371 9010

**FORT WILLIAM TYRE SERVICE**  
 Contact: Alec  
 Mobile: 07702 433495 Tel: 01397 700277  
 Email: fort-tyres@hotmail.co.uk  
**TYRES FITTED BY OUR MOBILE VAN**  
 at your work, your home or where's easiest.  
 CARS, VANS, LORRIES, TRACTORS  
 24hrs Commercial Tyre Breakdown Service

**MUNRO'S**  
 MOTs • Servicing • Repairs  
 All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.  
 Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL  
 Tel: 01631 564463  
 Email: munrosofoban@aol.com  
 Web: www.munrosofoban.co.uk

**54%**  
 of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car  
 Regional Press

**W.D. SEMPLE RENAULT/DACIA**  
 VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER  
 Any of our pre registered or used stock can now be viewed in or around Campbeltown  
 Call for an appointment to view.  
 Approved Renault Dealer  
[www.wdsemble.com](http://www.wdsemble.com)  
 Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150 Fax: 01499 302281  
 Lochgilphead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767 Fax: 01546 606272  
 Car & Van Hire from both branches.

**New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery**

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS	Price	
17 Dacia Duster Prestige 4x4 TCE, blue, 80 miles	£15,200	
17 Renault Captur DYN DCI, oyster grey/black, 25,000 miles	£13,850	
66 Renault Clio DYN Nav TCE, titanium, 7,000 miles	£10,550	
66 Dacia Sandero Leu Dci silver, 3,000 miles	£8,950	
66 Renault Clio S Nav DCI-90, Mars red, 6,000 miles	£12,950	
66 Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav, white, 14,000 miles	£9,750	
16 Dacia Sandero 1.2 Amb white, 6,000 miles	£5,500	
15 Renault Scenic X mode DCI, white, 26,000 miles	£11,450	
Renault Megane Estate car, 6T-Line, gray, 15,000 miles	£11,250	
15 Renault Clio Dyn Nav 1.2, 18,000 miles	£7,950	
64 Nissan Qashqai DCI Tekna brown, lthr upholstery, 21,000 miles	£14,850	
14 Nissan Note Nectar 1.2 5dr, blue, 9,000 miles	£8,500	
14 Dacia Duster AMB, 1.5 DCI, blue, 4x4, 6,800 miles	£6,750	
14 Dacia Duster AMB 1.5 DCI, grey, 4x4, 29,000 miles	£6,750	
14 Dacia Stepway, Leu, DCI, white, 4,100 miles	£6,650	
13 Renault Clio DYN DCI, blue, 56,000 miles	£6,500	
61 Volvo C30 Design Coupe, red, 24,000	£8,250	
VANS	Price	
66 Renault LWB Kangoo DCI, black, 2000 miles	£9500 + VAT	
66 Renault LWB Kangoo DCI, white 11,000 miles	£8,650 + VAT	
66 Renault SWD Traffic, DCI, white, 900 miles	£13,500 + VAT	
63 Renault Traffic LUB DCI, white, 58,000	£7,500 + VAT	
LOWER PRICE VEHICLES	Price	
11 Peugeot 1.4 207 110	07 Vauxhall Astra 1.4	07 Toyota Yaris 1.8
Fiat Panda	Ford Fiesta	

Low deposit and finance options available

**NEW CAR INDEX**

**Great Wall**  
 W.D. Semple  
[www.wdsemble.com](http://www.wdsemble.com)  
 Inveraray Shore Street  
 Tel: 01499 302150  
 Lochgilphead Highbank Park  
 Tel: 01546 606767  
 01546 606272

**SUZUKI**  
 Gordon Motors  
 UK Dealer Of The Year 2014  
 Cornie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire  
 PH17 4BC  
 Tel: 01764 652125  
 Delivery throughout the West  
[www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors](http://www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors)

**ISUZU**  
 S & S Services  
 Old Bridge Road,  
 Heathfield, Ayr  
 Tel: 01292 880080  
 01292 880440

**RENAULT**  
 W.D. Semple  
[www.wdsemble.com](http://www.wdsemble.com)  
 Inveraray Shore Street  
 Tel: 01499 302150  
 Lochgilphead Highbank Park  
 Tel: 01546 606767  
 01546 606272

**SUBARU**  
 S & S Services  
 Old Bridge Road,  
 Heathfield, Ayr  
 Tel: 01292 880080  
 01292 880440

**TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000**

# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

- ✔ LETTINGS
- ✔ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
- ✔ SALE
- ✔ PROPERTY REVIEWS
- ✔ PROPERTY NEWS
- ✔ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Your Move/Acadata

JANUARY 2018

## House Price Index Scotland

NOV 2017 | Average House Price in Scotland

**£175,882**

AVERAGE MONTHLY CHANGE: **0.3%**

AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE: **3.5%**

### Scottish property market powers ahead of the rest of the UK

- Transactions in Scotland at their highest since 2008
- Average home up £6,000 on last year as prices increase by 3.5%
- Glasgow drives annual growth
- Just five local authority areas see prices fall over the year

#### Headline findings

After a slight dip in the previous month, prices returned to growth in November in Scotland, rising 0.3% and raising average annual growth in the country to 3.5%, from the 3.3% recorded in October. That compares with just 0.9% in the same month for England and Wales. Only the South West of England at 5.3%, the North West at 3.9% and Wales at 3.6%, are growing more strongly.

The increase means the average home in Scotland at the end of November was worth £175,882, up £6,016 on a year before. Transaction levels are also strong. Sales in the eight months to the end of August were up 5.4% on the same period in 2016 at 66,786 – the highest number in close to a decade.

#### Quick Quotes

Christine Campbell, Your Move managing director in Scotland, said: "The market in Scotland looks strong compared to almost anywhere else in the UK. A lot of that is down to the resilience of the market in Glasgow, but the performance has been good across the board. 2017 proved to be a positive year for the market."

Alan Penman, business development manager for Walker Fraser Steele, one of Scotland's oldest firms of chartered surveyors and part of the LSL group of companies, said: "The level of transactions in Scotland is even more notable than the consistently rising prices. If this is maintained, we can look to 2018 with considerable confidence."

#### Key Insights

Glasgow is the big success story in Scotland. Average prices reached a new peak in November of £157,353 and are up 9.9% annually.

Combine that with solid transaction levels, and the city now accounts for more than a quarter (27%) of the increase in values in Scotland over the last year, on a weight-adjusted basis. Add in Fife, where prices are up 4.8%, Perth and Kinross (7.7%), Renfrewshire (7.9%) and West Lothian (7.5%), and these top five authorities account for more than half (54%) of the increase. Edinburgh, which has seen more modest growth over the last 12 months – just 1% – accounts for another 5% of the weighted average increase.

That's not to say there's not impressive growth elsewhere in Scotland, though. Areas with lower transaction volumes have seen some rises over 12 months. Prices in Stirling are up 9%, the biggest increase on the mainland after Glasgow. Offshore, where low sales volumes make pricing volatile, the Shetland Islands has seen growth of 10.1% and average prices in the Orkneys are up 13.3%.

The latter also set a new peak average price in the month (£157,311), as did East Renfrewshire, where they edged up 0.8% over the month to £264,510. The cost of an average house there is now 5.1% higher than a year ago and it remains the most expensive area in Scotland. At the other end of the market, Na h-Eileanan Siar has also seen solid growth, up 3.7% over the year to bring average prices to £107,756.

Only five of Scotland's 32 local authority areas have seen average house prices fall over the last twelve months: Clackmannanshire (down 8.3%), Argyll and Bute (3.8%), Aberdeenshire (2.4%), Angus (1.1%) and Dundee City (0.4%).

## New guidance to help social landlords meet their obligations on allocations and suspensions

Revised practice guidance is under development to help social landlords prepare for the implementation of new provisions on allocations and suspensions under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 over the next 12 to 18 months.

Specialist housing research consultants Craigforth and the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland have been jointly appointed by the Scottish Government to prepare the guidance, which is due for publication in autumn 2018.

The 2014 Act replaces current 'reasonable preference' categories set out in the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987. These categories specify the groups of people that social landlords must give reasonable preference to when allocating their homes. For the first time, social landlords will have the option to take property ownership into account when making such decisions.

The changes in policy on allocations and suspensions mean that social landlords operating across Scotland will need to review their own policies to reflect the new legislative framework. The deadline for doing so is not yet confirmed but is likely to be in the spring of 2019.

The new practice guide now under development will be designed to supplement statutory guidance previously published by the Scottish Government to support the coming into force of social housing provisions under the 2014 Act. It will supersede and replace previous practice guidance on allocations published in 2011 and suspensions guidance published in 2009. It will be developed in close consultation with housing practitioners, ensuring that practical experience from the frontline of the sector is reflected in the publication.

Anne Cook, head of the social housing services team at the Scottish Government, said:

"We are delighted to have commissioned Craigforth and CIH Scotland to develop new practitioner



guidance on allocations and suspensions. It will support local authority and RSL landlords in reviewing their allocations policy and managing the allocation of their housing stock. It will also provide practice examples to help landlords ensure their allocations, policies and practices provide a clear and coherent approach to allocations that meet local needs.'

Lucy Robertson, managing director of Craigforth, said: 'We're aware that many local authorities and registered social landlords will be reviewing their current allocations-related policy and associated practice during 2018. Landlords may then need or choose to alter their policies. Beyond the changes brought in by the 2014 Act, the strategic and policy context within which landlords are letting their properties has also changed significantly since the Scottish Government's 2011 practice guide was published. The commitment of the Scottish Government to produce updated practice guidance is therefore very timely. We look forward to working with housing colleagues and partners on the production of this important resource.'

Ashley Campbell, policy and practice manager at CIH Scotland, said: 'We are really pleased to be involved in developing materials to support the implementation of this legislation. We want to ensure that the practice guide reflects the experience of housing practitioners on the ground and will be inviting our members and key stakeholders to come forward and share with us their expertise and real world practice examples over the next few weeks.'

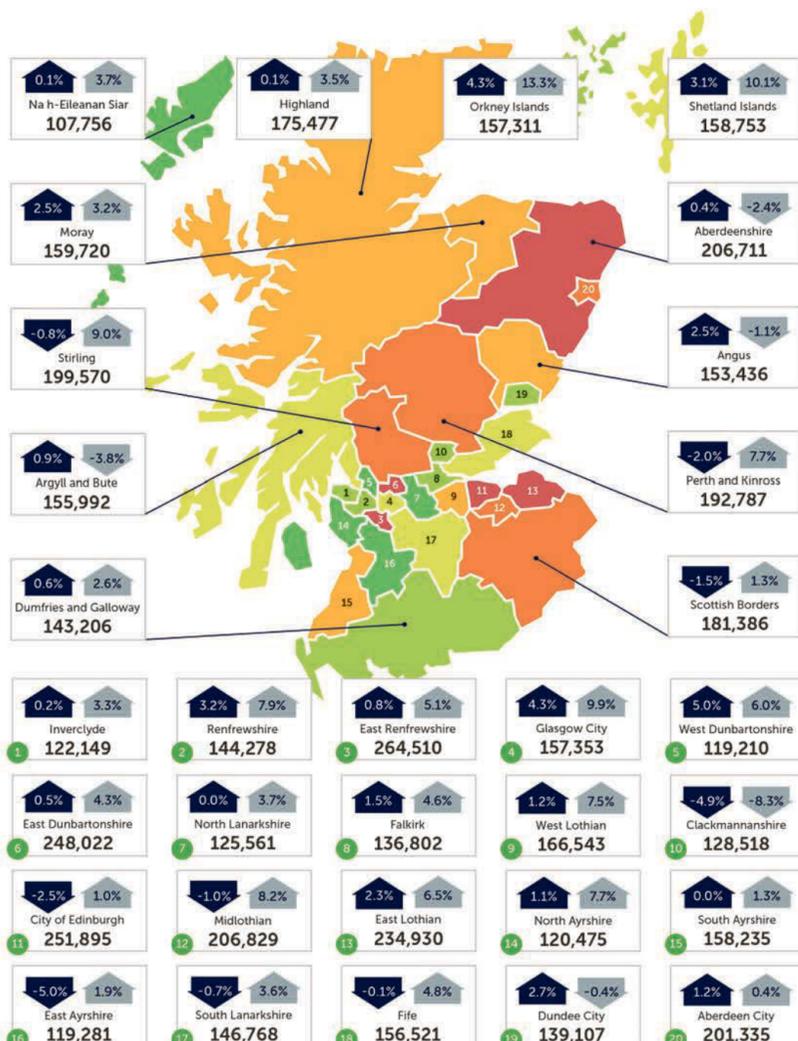
#### TO LET

Glenfern, Fassfern  
3 bedroom semi-detached house & garden  
Fully decorated and carpeted. Unfurnished.  
EPC Rating F32  
Landlord Reg No. 568477  
£570 p.c.m.  
Apply in writing to: Fassfern Estate,  
9 Glenfern, Fassfern, Fort William.  
Tel 01397 772288

### Regional update

Average House Prices in Scotland, by local authority area, comparing November 2016 and October 2017 with November 2017.

▲ AVERAGE MONTHLY CHANGE ▲ AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE



## Villa One, Tower Ridge Courtyard, Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SW

Price Guide £320,000

Located within an exclusive private development and enjoying stunning views to the surrounding countryside, the sale of this striking end-terrace property offers an excellent opportunity to purchase a newly built 4 bedroom (2 en-suite) villa with private parking. Completed to a very high specification the property boasts an air source heating system (under floor to ground level), solid oak internal joinery, LED lighting and high-quality bathrooms and kitchen, and interior design internally - with ALL the furniture and fittings included in the sale of Villa One. The main open-plan lounge, kitchen and dining area, plus the master bedroom with vaulted ceiling and upper balcony are most attractive features. The property would make a fantastic family home, or due to its location and the high demand, a superb rental or holiday letting opportunity. EPC Rating: B 83.

Situated in the desirable area of Torlundy, the property enjoys the feeling of a rural location but is situated just 3.4 miles from the popular town of Fort William. This unique and idyllic setting, within the heart of spectacular Highland scenery, means that it is well placed to take advantage of the amenities and numerous leisure and pleasure activities which the area has to offer.

Now only one property remains within the development – Villa One (Price Guide £320,000)



### MacPhee & Partners SOLICITORS AND ESTATE AGENTS

FORT WILLIAM | OBAN | TIREE  
01397 70 2200

estateagency@macphee.co.uk www.macphee.co.uk



# West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

BUY LOCAL    SELL LOCAL  
 TRADE LOCAL    SWAP LOCAL

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

LOCAL SERVICES

CHIMNEY SERVICES

**ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES**  
**07834 640989**  
**SWEeping THROUGH ARGYLL!**  
[www.argyllchimneyservices.co.uk](http://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
- BIOMASS FLUES
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

CHIMNEY SWEEPING THROUGHOUT ARGYLL, LORN AND THE ISLES

MOBILITY

**TOWER MOBILITY**

LOTS OF LIFT & RISE RECLINERS ON DISPLAY

SEE OUR RANGE OF SCOOTERS - WHEEL CHAIRS AND MOBILITY AIDS IN STORE

**MATHESONS FURNISHINGS**  
 Soroba Road Oban PA344HQ  
 01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk

BLINDS

See our website for SUPERB offer details!

**ApolloBlinds**  
**01631 295 010**  
[www.apollo-blinds.co.uk/argyllandlochaber](http://www.apollo-blinds.co.uk/argyllandlochaber)  
 Free measuring and fitting & full guarantee

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](http://www.macqueenbros.com)

VEHICLE HIRE AND SALES

**KINTYRE HIRE**  
 Vehicle Hire and Sales

Burnbank Street, Campbeltown Argyll, PA28 6JD  
 Tel: (01586) 554480 Fax: 01586 551414  
 Email: enquiries@kintyrehire.com  
[www.kintyrehire.com](http://www.kintyrehire.com)

Car, Van, Minibus, 4 X 4 and Trailer  
 Hire throughout Kintyre and Mid-Argyll

MOT TESTING

Finance is available on New and Used Cars

**LOOK!**  
 your customers do

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

promote your business with

**The Oban Times**  
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

call our sales team today  
 01631 568000

**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](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk) to place your ad.

BUY LOCAL   SELL LOCAL   TRADE LOCAL   SWAP LOCAL

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED   Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED   Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED   Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

## 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](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk)

**ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES**  
 WARDROBES two very large antique wardrobes/drawers. Please enquire in writing to PO Box 30, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban PA34 4HB.

**BICYCLES**  
 BMX BIKE for kids 10yrs+, very good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 720159.

**BUILDING / DIY**  
 REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578.

**CAR ACCESSORIES**  
 LOCKABLE ROOF BARS - BRAND NEW For cars with roof rails. Compatible with many cars - Toyota, VW, BMW, Ford etc. Please call to check compatibility, £10 Telephone 01852 300276.

**CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250**  
 WINTER TYRES 205/55/R16, to suit Volkswagen Touran or similar. Set of four in near new condition. Lochgilphead area, £99 Telephone 01546 605274 or 07717 183164.

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

**DOMESTIC APPLIANCES**  
 BEKO LPG OVEN with eye level grill, four months old, new condition, with additional plate warming rack, £275 Telephone 01631 730384.

**DOMESTIC PETS**  
 COLLIE SPANIEL CROSS PUPPIES 10 weeks old, black, tan and white, brought up in family home with children and other dogs, very happy playful puppies. Duror, Argyll Telephone 01631 740331.

SCOTTISH TERRIER STUD WANTED Stud wanted for a friendly Scotty, family pet. KC reg preferred. Cash or a pup in return for service, Telephone 07827 803549.

**FURNITURE**  
 ARGOS LIGHT WOOD round dining table and four chairs. Very good condition, £35 Telephone 01546 606315.

COFFEE TABLE pine, £25 Telephone 07833 551164.

FABRIC SUITE three seater plus 2 seaters and two chairs, grey, all electric recliners. Can deliver 30 mile radius of Oban, £2200 or nearest offer Telephone 01631 770647 evenings.

KITCHEN/DINING CHAIRS Six moulded white/chrome chairs in ex. con. Ikea design. Stackable.

Could deliver, £45 Telephone 01631 730280.

TV UNIT £25 Telephone 07833 551164.

**GARDEN**  
 VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30 Telephone 01631 564578.

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40 Telephone 01631 564578.

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90 Telephone 01631 564578.

**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 on 01586 554975.

**HOME ENTERTAINMENT**  
 SAMSUNG TV 32" black TV, excellent condition, can email pic, £90 Telephone 01631 720369.

**HOME FURNISHINGS**  
 ANTIQUE STYLE HEADBOARD attractive metal headboard. Traditional style. King

size in good condition. Too big for new bed hence sale, £10 Telephone 01546 510261.

CHEVAL MIRROR pine, £20 Telephone 07833 551164.

KING SIZE BED Hypnos, 10 months old solid base, firm mattress, one owner from new, further details, Telephone 01631 563957.

KINGSIZE HEADBOARD Designer new kingsize headboard, Cream shabby chic, ornate wood with apricot and beige and cream patterned padded material, £90 Telephone 01631 720369.

**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, Rùm and Eigg, Shetland, Glentroof and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk) or telephone 01371 851868.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALNDAR, 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](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk) or telephone 01371 851868.

**PRINTING AND STATIONERY**  
 PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL, market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print. Contact on 01586 554975.

THANK YOU CARDS new baby or wedding, with a photo of your new arrival or big day. Truly individual, a treasured keepsake. Call Krisp Print on 01586 554975.

**WANTED**  
 OLDER COLLIE DOG 8-10 years, Preferably dog, for light hill work of 70 sheep, Telephone 01700 503192 after 6pm.

RAYBURN Reconditioned Rayburn Royal Solid Fuel Stove. Must be in good working order. Please contact Sophie Handley at Bell Ingram 01631 567795 or sophie.handley@bellingham.co.uk

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

**UNDER £100 NOW FREE**

BUY LOCAL   SELL LOCAL   TRADE LOCAL   SWAP LOCAL

**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](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk) to place your ad.

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

**Krisp Cards**  
[www.krispcards.co.uk](http://www.krispcards.co.uk)

The Oban Times West Highland Calendar 2018

2018 west highland calendar

Add to Cart

**Oban Tourist Map Tea Towel**

Oban

**Cards Calendars & Gifts**  
 Shop online at [www.krispcards.co.uk](http://www.krispcards.co.uk)

Main and Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AE Tel: 01586 554646

**3 FREE**

**Large Scottish Field Calendars**  
 with every new 1 Year online subscription

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

**The Oban Times**  
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

- Save £39 on a subscription
- Behind the paywall access to the [obantimes.co.uk](http://obantimes.co.uk)
- Delivery of weekly "page flipper" copy of The Oban Times\*
- Delivered first thing Thursday - no waiting

Limited numbers, whilst stocks last. Calendars sent to one UK address.

Subscribe at [www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions) and use code **SUBOFFERSF**

DEATH

**CAMPBELL** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on January 23, 2018. Morag MacMillan, beloved wife of the late George Campbell and devoted mother to Eric and Stuart. Funeral service will take place at the Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Tuesday January 30, 2018 at 1pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at Mosspark Care Home, Fort William on January 19, 2018, Susie (née MacKin) aged 88 years, beloved wife of the late Jimmy, dear father of Marion, Alex, Jimmy Joe and Margaret, and much loved mother in law, granny and great granny. Sorely missed.

**MACKENZIE** - Peacefully in the tender care of the wonderful staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish, Jean, on the morning of her 95th birthday. Beloved daughter of the late John and Margaret MacKenzie, Riverside Road, Kinlochleven. Loving twin sister of Anne (New Zealand). Aunt, and Great Aunt to her extended family in many parts of the world. Funeral service will take place in the Parish Church, Kinlochleven Wednesday January 31 at 1pm. Thereafter to Duror Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Abbeyfield, Ballachulish.

**MACLACHLAN** - On January 18, 2018 at Belford Hospital, Billy MacLachlan. Dearly loved husband of Sheila, devoted dad to Aileen and Mhairi, loving grandad to Hector and Margot. Funeral service will be held on Saturday January 27, 2018 at 2pm in Kilmoinvaig Parish Church, Spean Bridge; thereafter to Blaruar Cemetery. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Tel. 01397 702128.

**McLUCKIE** - Peacefully at The Birches Care Home, Crieff on January 14, 2018, Janet Livingston McLuckie, aged 95, widow of James McLuckie and mother of Ian. Funeral to be held at St John's Episcopal Church, Ballachulish on Friday January 26, 2018 at 12pm. Family flowers only please.

**SINGER** - Isabel Mary (née Brown), died peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Wednesday January 3, 2018, aged 91. Graduated in 1947 from Aberdeen University with Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Much loved wife of Dennis, mother of Donald and Steven, mother-in-law of Fiona and Julie, brother of Ron and Jim, grandmother of Emma, Ramsay, Eleanor, James, David, Jack and Michael, and great grandmother of Freja and Angus. A celebration of her life will be held at 2.30pm, on Friday February 2, at the East Chapel, Aberdeen Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations to British Skin Foundation or Royal Horticultural Society c/o McKay and Innes, Peterculter AB14 0UD: mckayandinnes@outlook.com or 01224 730233.

**SMITH** - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on January 21, 2018, Kenneth McCombie Smith, aged 89. Beloved husband of the late Jessie MacCallum and a much loved and respected father to Lorna, Kenneth and Iona. Dear father-in-law to Donald, friend to Paul and Alexander and special seannair to Catriona. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 10.00pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CORSON** - The family of the late Jessie Corson MBE would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the Mackintosh Centre and the local community for the loving care given to Jessie and also to Bobby. Grateful thanks to Rev Sandy Stoddart and Rev Alan Lamb for their warm and uplifting service, thanks also to The Chlachain Inn for the refreshments. Grateful thanks to Scott Greenlees at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their professional service. Finally, thanks to all those who paid their last respects at the service and graveside and to those who kindly donated towards The Mackintosh Centre, River Fund and Belford Hospital, raising over £700.

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

MEMORIALS

**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

**GILLIES** - The family of the late Ronnie Gillies would like to extend their sincere thanks to friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown since Ronnie's passing. Special thanks to Rev Richard Baxter for his comforting service. Special thanks to Scott Greenlees and colleagues at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their support and guidance with the funeral arrangements.

**MACKENZIE** - Donald would like to extend his sincerest thanks to friends, relatives and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy shown to him following the sad loss of Donnie. Grateful thanks to all doctors, nurses and staff of Belford Hospital for their care. Special thanks to Rev Morag Muirhead for her personal and uplifting service, to Scott and colleagues of John McLellans for their care and sensitivity with the funeral arrangements, to The Bridge Café for the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who joined the family to pay their last respects to Donnie - your warmth and support is greatly appreciated!

**MACLEAN** - Allan and Katy would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and colleagues for their expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad loss of Margaret. Grateful thanks to Dr Calder and Dr Wilmington and the staff of Ballachulish Medical Practice for their care. Special thanks to Rev Amanda Fairclough for her comforting service and to Scott Greenlees and all at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their care and compassion with the funeral arrangements. Thank you to Gwen McTaggart for her flower arrangements in the Church and to The Laroch for providing the funeral tea. Finally, thank you to those who attended the funeral service and donated so generously the amount of £455.65 to Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland.

**MACPHAIL** - The family of the late Neil MacPhail would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following their sad loss. Grateful thanks to the ambulance crew and the staff at the Lorn and Islands hospital for their care and kindness. Thanks also to the Rev. Cliff Acklam for his personal and comforting service, to Ian at D&A Munns for his caring and efficient service, and finally to the Galley of Lorne staff for their friendly service and excellent catering. The sum of £250.85 was collected for SSPCA.

**McVICAR** - Judith, John and Kirsty would like to thank, most sincerely, their family and friends for the flowers, cards and messages of condolence they received following the sad loss of John, a much loved and loving husband and dad. They are so grateful for the wonderful support from the doctors and staff at Alyth health centre, Cornhill Macmillan Centre in Perth and the district nurses from Alyth, Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie and Perth for making it possible for John to remain at home. To the many, many people who attended the funeral to pay their respects to John despite the dreadful weather, the Rev Carleen Robertson for her comforting words and Liz McLaren for playing, so beautifully, John's favourite music, to Kevin and his team at McNaughton's Funeral Directors for their professional and caring service, Something Special Florist for the beautiful

flowers and Jim Duncan and his staff at the Ardler Tavern for the wonderful catering in Meigle village hall, thank you all. The collection at the service raised the amazing sum of £1983.48 which will be divided between Cornhill Macmillan Centre and the RSABI, supporting people in agriculture. A fine tribute to a fine man.

**THORNE** - Wendy and Marie would like to thank friends and extended family members for the kind messages and condolences they received by way of cards and flowers after the loss of their beloved mum Mary. Grateful thanks to Justin (Faith Mission), Kathleen, Ewen, Angus, Callum, Ewen and Sean for their support. Special thanks are extended to all the staff at Ballachulish Medical Practice and to John McLellan Funeral Directors for their very caring and professional services.

**WALLACE** - Margaret, Blair and all the family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the support and sympathy they received following the sudden passing of "JB", thank you to Rev Richard Baxter for his comforting service. Grateful thanks to Billy at John McLellan Funeral Directors for his endless support and guidance with the funeral arrangements. Lastly, thank you to all who attended the Church and to all who gave so generously in aid of NSPCC.

MEMORIAL MASS

**MCFARLANE** - The family of the late Donald Peter MacFarlane would like to invite you to a Memorial Mass to celebrate his life. The service will be held at St Margaret's in Roy Bridge on Saturday January 27, 2018 at 11am followed by interment of his ashes at Cille Choirill.

MEMORIALS

**CAMPBELL** - In memory of Mairi EKB Campbell who passed away January 28, 2017, aged 85 years. A much loved mother and nana. Daonnán Nar Smaointean. - George, Morag, Janice and Gayle, Tiree.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of our friend Mairi, "Corrairigh". Missed and remembered with great fondness. - Catherine and Anne.

**EDWARDS** - In loving memory of our mum and granny Mary Bell, died January 26, 1995, also remembering our dad and grandpa Donald, died September 19, 1986. Loved and remembered always. - Donnie, Anne and family.

**EVANS** - In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother who passed away on January 10, 2008. Always remembered - Nigel, Hazel, David, Gareth and Kaitlyn.

**MACBETH** - Lizzie. Unforgettable mother, granny and great granny, died January 24, 2010. The roses will bloom again. - Mima and family, Fort William, Arbroath and Darlington.

**MACCONNACHER** - Precious memories of May, a devoted wife, mum, gran and nana, died January 27, 2015. A beautiful memory dearer than gold. Of a mother whose worth can never be told. There's a place in our hearts no-one can fill. We miss you Mum and always will - Alexander, Jill and William, Sander and Laura, Darren, Cameron, Craig and Jamie.xxxx

**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.

**MACNEIL** - Remembering with love Patricia Buchanan, died January 21, 2014. A dear wife, mother, sister and friend. Remembered always. - Auckland, Glasgow and Oban.

**MACPHAIL** - 30th anniversary. In loving memory of my dear husband Norman, who died January 25, 1988, loving father of Alan and Denise, dotting grandfather to Ryan and father-in-law to Amanda. You would have so loved our other grandchildren, Jenna, Jason, Michael and Iain, who have given me great joy. Although we cannot see you You are never far away You are always in our hearts With every passing day As time goes by without you And days turn into years They hold a million memories Of one we loved so dear. - Penny MacPhail and family.

**McCOMBIE** - In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, granddad and great-granddad Bert, who died January 31, 2015. Always in our thoughts - John, Teenie and Peter. A pleasant smile, a heart of gold No better person this world could hold Sadly missed - Fraser, Fiona and Kevin Gentle Jesus up above Give Granddad Berie all our love xx - Kyle and Summer.

**McLUCKIE** - Treasured memories of Peter, much loved husband, dad and seannair, who passed away on January 23, 2017. Always in our hearts you'll stay Loved and remembered every day. - Caroline, Gregor, Kristopher, Jennifer, Lewis, Summer, Emma, Rowan, Katy, Jonathan and Isla x.

**PEARSON** - Treasured memories of our precious son Jamie, tragically taken from us on January 24, 1996, aged 27. Deep in our hearts lies a picture More precious than silver or gold It's a picture of our Jamie Whose memory will never grow old. Loved always - Mum and Dad xx In memory of Jamie, a loving brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Remembered and missed every day. - Audrey and Gregor xx Love and miss you loads. - Gemma xx Ashleigh xx Rian xx Also our wee angel Poppy safe in your arms Jamie xx

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of the late Mary Robertson (née Simpson), wife of the late Iain MacKinnon Robertson of 5 Rockfield Road, Tobermory, who passed away on January 9, 2015. She is sadly missed and dearly loved by her daughter Marion and son Niall, sisters Annie (Capewell) and Katie (Weatherall) and all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**SMITH** - Precious memories of Angus, a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and adoring grandpa and great-grandpa, who sadly passed away on January 23, 2013. Forever in our hearts. Always in our thoughts. - Myrtle, Angus, Isobel, Calum and families.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**FAS**  
**D & A MUNN LTD.**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est. 1880  
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ  
24 hour family run business  
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and Son.  
Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans  
D & A Munn have been responding to the needs of the bereaved in Oban and the surrounding areas since 1880, a tradition we are very proud of.  
Telephone: 01631 562562 Fax: 01631 562203  
Email: ian@munns-oban.co.uk Website: www.munns-oban.co.uk

Obituary – Murdo MacLeod

ARGYLL lost one of the region's true characters with the sudden death of Murdo MacLeod.

Murdo was a man full of enthusiasm and passion who lived life at 100 miles per hour - on land and at sea.

He is best known for being a founder, with his identical twin brother Kenny, of M&K MacLeod in Lochgilphead more than 40 years ago, and the family has strong Mid Argyll roots.

Murdo and Kenny were born in Glasgow in August 1947 at a time when the family was living at Tiroran on the Isle of Mull.

The family moved from Mull to Lochgilphead where the boys attended school. On leaving school they trained as joiners with D & J Carmichael Ltd of Lochgilphead and were often sent on jobs to islands, for example Mull and Tiree.

The bright lights of London, however, beckoned and the brothers started working for Laing Construction in the late 1960s. London was to be their home for the next five years, but a national construction industry strike in 1972 meant that work in London became scarce and the boys headed home to Lochgilphead, where they soon negotiated their first contract, building Lochgair Parish Church Hall.

The construction partnership of M&K MacLeod was incorporated in 1975. Murdo and Kenny had experienced the use of timber frame construction while working down south and were certain that use of that method was ideal for the construction of houses in the west coast of Scotland.

Timber frame construction remains one of the company's specialities to this day. The original company has, of course, grown and has its subsidiary companies MacLeod Construction Ltd and MacLeod (Riverside) Ltd.

The history of MacLeods' use of timber frame construction does go back to 1976 when they built their first bungalow using this method at Tullochgorm, near Minard.

At around the same time, young Murdo was becoming close to Jane MacNeill, whom he had first met when she was working behind a Lochgilphead bar as a student. They married in 1976 and the Tullochgorm house would be their first as a married couple.

In 1982, Murdo and Kenny negotiated the purchase of Achnaba and Castleton estates from their father's former employer, Sir John Thomson. Murdo and Jane moved there with daughter Mairi in December 1982.

The company has been based at Kilmory Industrial Estate for 39 years and is now the largest private employer in the region. Over the years the company grew, taking on projects across Argyll and the islands and building housing developments, schools, hospitals, ferry terminals, factories and retail premises.



Murdo MacLeod.

Murdo was very proud to have been appointed one of the youngest presidents of the Mid Argyll Rotary Club in 1989. He enjoyed the friendship and ethos of Rotary.

One of Murdo's passions was encouraging young people throughout Argyll and the islands, and he became chair of the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust for Argyll and the Islands.

He was immensely proud at being awarded, in 2010, the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion for playing an outstanding role in promoting enterprise skills and attitudes.

His visit to Buckingham Palace to be presented to HM The Queen as a result of the award was a highlight of his career.

Above all, however, Murdo was a family man. Daughters Mairi, Jennifer, Susan and Alison were always a source of great pride for Murdo and Jane, and he was a dad who encouraged - and was never shy of telling others how well the girls were doing in their lives and careers.

He simply adored his three grandchildren, Ailis, Donald and James. It is a great regret that he did not live to meet his second granddaughter Ceit Mairi, born on January 5, 2018.

Ask Murdo's family, however, what the love of his life was and the reply would come back quickly - the sea, fishing and boats, particularly fast boats.

Murdo loved life on the sea and over the years regular visits were made by boat to Northern Ireland, Islay, Iona, Coll, Tiree, Barra, Harris, the Small Isles and the Treshnish Isles. Particular favourites were visits to Iona Abbey and the puffins on Lunga.

Murdo had many great friends and particularly enjoyed taking them on trips on his boats. He loved his Redbay RIBs, built in Northern Ireland by his good friend Tom McLaughlin. A

highlight on the sea for Murdo was spotting killer whales at the entrance to Arinagour in Coll. A photograph he took of the whales took pride of place in his office.

Another highlight for visitors to Mid Argyll was when Murdo took them out on the RIB to see a dolphin which was living close to a marker buoy off Achnaba.

From his experience of working on the Isle of Tiree as an apprentice joiner Murdo had a yearn to return to the island. He and Jane visited in 2000 and decided to build a home there. Murdo became a familiar sight, cycling around Tiree in his hi-vis jacket. He and Jane made many firm friends on Tiree and became very much part of the island community.

Murdo's love of islands led him to build another house for the family at Kilnaughton on Islay and, again, he enjoyed regular visits to that island. Murdo loved music and was a great supporter of young musicians and bands. He attended the first and each subsequent Tiree Music Festival making friends, enjoying music and supporting the event organisers.

Best of the West in Inveraray is another event he enjoyed immensely and was proud to be associated with.

The final word goes to Murdo's friend and Tiree man Angus MacPhail of the band Skipinnish. Angus dedicated a poem to Murdo - Run The Race - the final stanza of which captures the essence of that force of nature that was Murdo MacLeod:

*So follow dreams and see the world, and grab life by the throat*

*Don't live by dull convention or your life will miss the boat.*

*Live for love and friendships' glow and chase ambition's taste*

*We only get one shot at this - don't let it go to waste.*

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

Editor  
Susan Windram  
swindram@obantimes.co.uk

Deputy editor  
Martin Laing  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

Senior reporter  
Sandy Neil  
snel@obantimes.co.uk

Senior reporter  
Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter  
David McPhee  
dmcpcphee@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter  
Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk  
Oban 01631 568060  
Fort William 01397 703003  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Director of Advertising  
Nicky Murphy  
nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising supervisor  
Nadine Ross  
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive  
Stephanie Dunstaffnage  
sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive  
Julie Baird  
jbaird@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  
follow us on twitter  
@obantimes

**JOHN McLELLAN**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
DUDLEY ROAD • FORT WILLIAM • PH33 6JB  
Tel. 01397 702128 www.johnmclellanfunerals.co.uk

Funeral Service  
We pride ourselves on our professional and caring approach to every funeral.

Pre-paid Funeral Plans  
We offer Golden Charter Funeral Plans to suit your requirements.

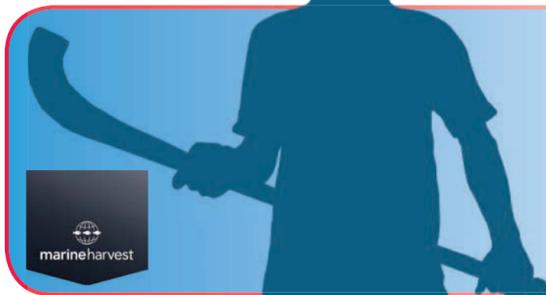
Memorial Stones  
We offer a range of elegant and distinctive memorials.

**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**  
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited (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. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.  
2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.  
3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.  
4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' 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 (howsoever 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 otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.  
12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**  
Oban & Lorn  
Fundraising Branch  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
Marie Curie Care  
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House  
Station Road, Oban  
01631 571009

**Oban Hospice**  
CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
Jack Tolan  
Birch Hill  
Achnacrebeag  
North Connel, PA37 1RE

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**  
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer  
Fundraising Office  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ  
Tel 0300 100 0200  
In memory of Dawn Joyce



# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

## Celtic will field two teams this season

OBAN Celtic have made the ambitious decision to field two teams during the 2018 shinty season.

Former Oban Celtic player Alan Duffy and Les Kinivig will manage the newly formed Oban Celtic colts in what is a hugely positive move by the club.

It has been a number of years since Oban Celtic has been able to field a second team in the league – the previous time is believed to have been during the 1999/2000 season – and club chairman David Hamilton acknowledged that it was a big commitment for the club. 'Yes, it's a big step,' he said. 'It's a lot to organise and it's a big commitment financially but we will take one step at a time to get the side established.'

'The team will compete in Marine Harvest South Division 2 next season but not in the cup competitions. We are not looking to win anything but just to get the boys playing regularly.'

Oban Lorn won't be fielding a side this coming season and several of their players will line-up in the new side. Hamilton added: 'A few of the Oban Lorn boys will transfer across but the new side will also give the younger players a chance and that's important.'

'Training is indoors at the moment but the hall isn't big enough to take both teams so we'll do it over two nights until we can get the whole squad together outdoors. We haven't yet arranged any pre-season matches for the new team as things have only really developed over the last couple of weeks.'

Facilities are important and whilst the new team will play out of Ganavan in the main, Oban shinty boasts four sides as well as youth and ladies' teams. Hamilton said: 'A new pitch is a possibility as some work has taken place to extend a field in Connel. With so many teams playing shinty in Oban, it is something that is needed but, realistically, it will probably be next season at least before it comes to anything.'

Oban Celtic first team manager Kenny Witherspoon was also enthusiastic about the development. 'It's definitely a good thing for the club,' he said. 'Last season, we were the only club in both Marine Harvest National Leagues that couldn't call upon a second team for players.'

'The new second team will allow our fringe first team players to play and will also give younger players an incentive to perform well for Oban Celtic week-in-week-out.'

'The prize for them is to earn a call up to the first team so a pathway is now there.'

'I will have nothing to do with the running of the second team; I'll leave that to the boys who are taking the reins and I'm sure they will do a good job.'

Oban Celtic are scheduled to play their first pre-season



Oban Celtic's Old Crocks and Young Guns pictured before their annual Boxing Day match at Mossfield. However, this season the Oban club will field two teams in competitive games with the first team playing in the National Division and the second team taking part in South Division Two.

friendly at Mossfield this Saturday. Kilmory are the visitors and throw up is at 1pm.

### Oban Camanachd captains

Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers have announced their captains for the 2018 shinty season.

Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay has confirmed that Daniel Cameron will be the club's first team captain for the new term.

Scottish international Daniel Cameron will be a popular choice and the versatile player is sure to be Oban Camanachd's chances of success this season.

He takes over the captain duties from Garry Lord.

Craig Easton is Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans' choice as skipper for the new term. Easton has just moved out of the Oban Camanachd U17 squad and he was a regular in the Lochside side which won the Marine Harvest South Division 1 and Aberdeen Consideration Cup double last season.

Fellow youngsters Lewis Buchanan and Cameron Sutherland will be the Lochside Rovers vice-captains and all three youngsters could feature for the Oban Camanachd senior side during the coming season.

### Changes afoot at Kilmallie

Kilmallie's pre-season training programme is underway as Mark MacPherson's squad look to make a swift return to the Marine Harvest Premiership.

'We're back in training and the boys are in good form,' said manager MacPherson who stays on for another season in the Kilmallie hot-seat.

MacPherson's first job will be to put together a new defensive unit in front of talented keeper Shane Gillies. 'Our full back Allan MacDonald and buckshee back Peter Carmichael won't be available next season

and that gives us some immediate defensive issues. Allan can't commit and Peter is emigrating. In fact Peter is playing some rugby at the moment so I'm sure he'll have some stories to tell from that.'

'However, Stephen McAlister can play at full back and we are very lucky to have Steven Stewart who has been fantastic since he came into the side last season. Robbie MacFadyen has returned and he is another who can play at the back and we'll have young Cam Clark too so we'll see where we are when the season starts.'

'We might have lost that bit of experience in certain areas but we are still confident that we will challenge at the top of the table next season. Our aim is to get back to the Premiership.'

Among the experienced departures is former Scotland forward John Stewart, who came out of retirement temporarily to help out the side last season.

MacPherson has reasons to be cheerful though as he pointed out. 'We have Liam MacDonald and Liam Cameron back and they are two terrific additions. Martin Graham, who was assistant manager last season, has also intimated that he wishes to play.'

'Last season was a sad time and I was glad to see the back of 2017 for many reasons but we have to show better commitment this time around. The commitment wasn't good enough last season and that impacted on our second team who were left short of players at times.'

'You just have to look at what Kinlochshiel achieved last season. We showed on our day that we could beat them when we knocked them out of the MacTavish. It was our best performance of the season and if we had gone into every game as we did at Kirkton that day, we would still be in the Premiership so I'll be looking for that type of performance on a more consistent basis this year. We need to put the effort in if we want to achieve anything.'

MacPherson has not yet named a replacement for assistant manager Martin Graham. 'I've been thinking about it but I've still to name a captain and it may be that the captain has a bigger role to play within the club. There are others who help though. Peter Jackson is never far away. He is at every game and he gives advice and support when I need it.'

With 18-year-old Calum MacDougall and Cam Clark now part of the senior set up, MacPherson says there will be the chance for other young guns to follow in their footsteps. 'Dean Williamson was the second team player of the season last year and there is also Cam Ross and Frankie Innes. They will need to show commitment to break into the side though.'

'I would also like to include Andrew McAlister. He is looking after the second team

so we need to get someone else to take that role as Andrew did well when he played for the firsts at the end of last season.'

Kilmallie's first pre-season match is against Glenurquhart at Blairbeg on Saturday February 17 whilst Oban Camanachd visit the Canal Parks a week later.

MacPherson added: 'These games will give us the chance to try a few things out before the league starts. We are all keen to get started and see what our first fixture is. It's going to be a really competitive league though with the derby against Fort William, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Inveraray and Beaulieu all challenging. I was also impressed with Oban Celtic last season whilst Strathglass and Inverness are always well organised.'

'There will be a bit of pressure on us; a bit of expectation if you like but we are looking forward to the season and we can't wait to get started.'

### Balla' beaten by the elements

There was disappointment for Ballachulish when an unplayable pitch led to the postponement of their inter-club match which had been scheduled for The Jubilee Park on Saturday January 20.

Ballachulish have confirmed their pre-season programme as follows:

The Marine Harvest South Division 1 side will travel to An Aird on Saturday February 3 to face Fort William reserves from Marine Harvest North Division 1.

Balla' then host Strathspey Camanachd at the Jubilee a week later in a contest which will also include a meeting between the clubs' under-14 sides.

A home match against Kilmallie follows on Saturday February 17 followed by a trip to Oban to play Oban Celtic on Saturday February 24; a week before the competitive shinty season starts.

### Bute prepare for new season

Bute Shinty Club held their annual general meeting earlier this month.

John MacCallum and Iain McDonald take over as first team managers in what could be a big year for the club.

Bute started the 2017 shinty season with a points deduction after opting to drop down from the National.

However, there will be no handicap this year and the islanders, who eventually finished fourth last year, will start the new season as one of the title favourites.

Chrissy Lawrence will captain the first team whilst Ryan James Craig will be vice-captain.

The Bute second team will again compete in Marine Harvest South Division 2 where

they also finished fourth last term.

James Craig will manage the side and look to continue to develop the club's batch of promising younger players.

Neil McKirdy will be second team captain and the vice-captain is still to be confirmed.

The fitness and training coach will be David McVey.

There is a strong back-room team with Barry Martin continuing as chairman. Jimmy Duncan is vice-chairman, Alan Liddell is secretary and David Herriot is treasurer.

Other duties include child protection officer Julie Robertson, youth convenor Iain McDonald and clubhouse convenor James Craig.

They will be supported by committee members Gordon Harvey, Hector Whitelaw, Duncan Cowan, John Whitelaw, Tam McKirdy, Tom McMillan and John McIntyre.

### Fort William second team friendlies

The Fort William second team has confirmed their pre-season fixtures.

Neil Robertson's side host Ballachulish on Saturday February 3.

The Fort William colts head for Spean Bridge on Saturday February 17 to face the Lochaber colts.

There is another derby encounter on Saturday February 24 as the Fort William reserves and the Kilmallie reserves meet. The venue for this encounter is to be confirmed.

### Dunoon opt out

After a meeting of the club's committee, it has been decided that Dunoon Camanachd will not enter a senior team for the 2018 shinty season.

Dunoon Camanachd entered Marine Harvest South Division 2 and the Bullough Cup last season but this decision was taken due to a lack of available first team players.

However, with youth shinty in the town going from strength to strength, the club hopes to be in a position to rejoin the senior ranks in the very near future.

Anyone interested in lending their time and experience to the youth system within the club should make contact with any Dunoon member.

### Skye Camanachd AGM

The Skye Camanachd annual general meeting took place at the Skye Camanachd Clubhouse on Saturday January 20.

There was a minute's silence at the start of the meeting to remember Skye Camanachd vice-president and former chieftain Flora MacLean, who passed away the previous day.

With the club's team managers already appointed, there

were few changes at committee level. Douglas MacDougall, Chrisanne MacDonald and Alasdair Bruce continue in their respective roles as chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Former player and committee member Ian MacDougall takes over as chieftain as Kenny MacKay's three-year tenure had come to an end.

The Skye Camanachd Social Club AGM took place afterwards where there was news of another successful year.

The island club had hoped to host the annual Ewen Morrison Memorial Cup match between North Skye and South Skye at Paic nan Laoch, Portree earlier in the day but the snow left the field, and the Portree High School astro pitch, unplayable.

Skye Camanachd have also confirmed their first and second teams pre-season programmes.

With the Ewen Morrison Memorial Cup match likely to be rescheduled for Saturday February 3, John MacLeod's Skye first team open with a match against Strathglass at Cannich on Saturday February 10. Fort William travel to Paic nan Laoch, Portree a week later whilst Skye face Beaulieu, with the venue subject to pitch inspections, on Saturday February 24.

Skye Camanachd second team manager Kenny MacLeod has also arranged a couple of warm-up games as Lewis Camanachd visit Paic nan Laoch, Portree to contest the John 'Kaid' MacLean Cup on Saturday February 10 whilst the Skye seconds travel to Craigard to play Glengarry on Saturday February 24, just seven days ahead of the start of the new shinty season.

### Kyles Athletic to start away

Kyles Athletic have asked that their opening Marine Harvest Premiership fixtures are scheduled away from home.

Kyles have invested a significant sum of money in improving the drainage at their Tighnabraich pitch and the delay will give the improved field the best chance to bed in.

### Full house at Garry tournament

There will be a full house at Glengarry's annual indoor tournament as 12 teams contest the Johnstone Rose Bowl at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Saturday January 27.

Hosts Glengarry, Ardnarmurchan, Fort William and Skye Camanachd will all field two teams whilst Lochaber, Lovat, Badenoch & Strathspey and Glenurquhart also enter sides.

The Johnstone Rose Bowl was donated to the Glengarry Girls Shinty Club in 1998 (a year after the team was formed) by Ailsa Johnstone of DA Johnstone &

Son Contractors, Invergarry who have been loyal sponsors ever since.

### Billy MacLachlan, Lochaber

Shinty lost one of its great characters and gentlemen when Billy MacLachlan passed away peacefully on the morning of January 18.

As well as being a former Lochaber Camanachd player; Billy was also a committee member, referee and match assessor.

Billy's shinty playing days stretched back to the days of Brae Lochaber and he will be remembered as part of the dominant Lochaber side of 1965 which swept the boards.

Lochaber played 21 games that season, winning 19 whilst only drawing once and losing once.

Their haul included the Scottish Junior Championship, the Sir William Sutherland Cup, the Strathdearn Cup and the MacGillivray Junior Cup.

Recalling that season some years later, Billy said: 'Our main challengers that season were Boleskine and Kinlochshiel who ran us fairly close for most of the season.'

'It was in our final game, the



Billy MacLachlan. Photo: Neil Paterson

Strathdearn Cup Final, that Boleskine gave us our biggest fright. We played them on a Saturday evening in July on the old King George V Town Park in Fort William in front of hundreds of spectators but, unfortunately, millions of midgets.

'We were completely out played during the first 45 minutes and we went in at half-time 3-1 down. It was the only time we ever got a "rocket" from our captain Ronnie Campbell. It had the desired effect and we pulled off an amazing escape by running out winners 4-3 at the final whistle.'

Billy also previously played for Glenorchy and Tayforth during a time in the central belt.

Billy was also a much-respected referee and, after just three years officiating at the top grade, he was given the honour of refereeing the 1985 Camanachd Cup Final between great rivals Kingussie and Newtonmore at The Dell.

It was the 78th Scottish Cup Final and Newtonmore eventually won 4-2.

He was also a member of the Camanachd Association Referees Association and, latterly, Billy shared his refereeing experience with the younger generation of officials as he assumed the role of match assessor.

Billy was a current Highland councillor, representing the Caol and Mallaig ward.

He was elected as a member of the Scottish National Party and sat on the Lochaber Committee. He had also previously served as a councillor until 2003.

Billy had not been in good health in recent months and the sympathies of the shinty community go out to Billy's wife Sheila and their daughters Mhairi and Aileen and their respective families.



Oban Camanachd's new captain Daniel Cameron in action.

# Weather wins as cup tie is snowed off

**East Kilbride Rolls Royce**  
**Oban Saints**  
**Scottish Cup - 5th Round**

LAST Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup 5th round tie between East Kilbride Rolls Royce and Oban Saints due to be played at the Toryglen Football Centre in Glasgow was called off, along with hundreds of other amateur games, when the 3G playing surface was declared unplayable due to a covering of several inches of snow and ice.

The game has been re-scheduled for this Saturday, January 27, with the East Kilbride outfit booking a 3G pitch at the Keir Hardie Sports Centre in Holytown, near Motherwell. The kick-off is at 1pm with referee Andy McLean in charge.

The winners of this match have been given a tough away tie against Ayrshire Premier Division side Kilbride Thistle in the 6th round which is due to be played on February 3.

Saints and East Kilbride will draw swords twice more this season when

they face each other in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division.

Saints' last visit to East Kilbride to face the 'Rolly' in May 2016 ended in a 3-1 Saints victory which consigned the home side to a second relegation in four seasons. First half goals from Craig Campbell and Scott Maitland were added to by Dean Smith, effectively killing off the match after 12 second half minutes.

The 'Rolly', however, battled on and earned a deserved consolation 14 minutes from full-time through substitute Andrew Woods.

### Runners-up

The 'Rolly's' latest spell in Premier Division One lasted just one season as a successful league campaign secured an immediate return to the top flight when they finished runners-up to champions Alba Thistle.

Back in the Premier Division for the 2017-18 season, the 'Rolly' endured a difficult start with back-to-back defeats against two of this season's title contenders Goldenhill and Motherwell Thistle.



Scott Maitland was unlucky to see this effort hit the bar during Saints 2-0 win over Greenock HSFP in the last round of the Scottish Cup. Report and photos: Derek Black

However, a local derby share of the points with 2015-16 champions East Kilbride FC Amateurs kick started their campaign. They took maximum points from the next two fixtures away at Hillington and Inverclyde which sees them currently in seventh place in the league table with seven points, one point better off than eighth-placed Saints and with one game less played.

The 'Rolly's' slow start to the season cost them any chance of progression in the Scottish Amateur Football League Centenary Cup, finishing in third place in Group Section South 3 behind Premier Division One Champions Alba Thistle and local rivals Claremont.

### Comfortable

The early stages of the major cup competitions coincided with the 'Rolly's' return to form which now sees them paired with Saints in the Scottish Amateur Cup fifth round. After receiving a first round bye, the 'Rolly' put 12 past newly formed Newmains Hammers of Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League

Division 1B, before a comfortable away win at Stirling and District Amateur Football Association Division 1A leaders Braehead.

In the fourth round, it was an all-Scottish Amateur Football League clash against reigning Premier Division Champions St Joseph's, with the 'Rolly' raising a few eyebrows with an impressive 2-1 away win after a 2-2 home draw in East Kilbride.

Saints started their Scottish Cup campaign with a 4-0 home win over Mauchline United in the first round thanks to goals from Craig MacEwan (3) and Shaun MacIver.

This was followed by a convincing 6-0 home win against Plains in round two. Donald Campbell (3), Fraser MacFarlane, Scott Maitland and Paul Carmichael were on target for the Oban side.

It took Saints two hard games to get past an impressive Falkirk side in round three, the first game ending in a 3-3 draw at Alva Academy. Donald Campbell (2) and Craig MacEwan were Saints' scorers. The replay in Oban a week later saw Saints edge

through 3-2 thanks to goals from Craig MacEwan, Willie Gemmill and Myles McAuley.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side then took on old rivals Greenock High School in the fourth round and came away with a creditable 2-2 draw from Battery Park with a depleted squad.

### Replay

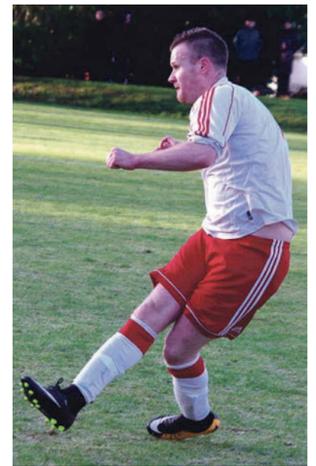
Bad weather and the festive break meant the replay didn't take place until Saturday January 6 when manager Alex Craik had a full squad of players to choose from.

The Oban side turned in a top class performance to win 2-0 thanks to goals from Ally McKerracher and Donald Campbell.

Unlike almost every other cup competition in amateur football the Scottish Amateur Cup includes replays, therefore a re-match will follow at Glencruitten in seven days if East Kilbride and Saints cannot be separated after 90 minutes.

Manager Alex Craik hopes to have a full squad to choose from for Saturday's cup tie against East Kilbride.

### Football



Paul Carmichael impressed in his new defensive role for Saints against Greenock.



Craig MacEwan takes on Greenock defender Robbie Davis



Back row, left to right: Ruthven Hamilton, Fergus Fraser and Stuart MacArthur. Middle row: Joshua Seymour, Ruby Robson, Erin MacLean and Finlay Fraser. Kneeling: Sofi Seymour and Josh Whyte.

## Awards night at Glengarry Shinty

A NIGHT of celebration was high on the agenda with the Glengarry Shinty Club delighted that Jean MacDonald, widow of the late chairman Johnnie MacDonald, presented the senior awards to the Players Player of the Year Nick Dalgety and the Most Improved Player of the Year to Ruairidh MacDonald.

The junior section had reason to celebrate too with Stuart MacArthur being presented U17s Player of the Year with Fergus Fraser picking up The Most Improved Player; U14s Player of the Year was Finlay Fraser with The Most Improved going to Ruthven Goudie Hamilton; P7s Player of the Year went to Joshua Seymour with Most Improved Player being Murray Donald; P5s Player of the Year went to Ruby Robson and Most Improved Player to Erin MacLean; P3s Player of the Year went to Josh Whyte and Most Improved Player to Sofi Seymour much to all their delight.

The Garry Girls awards were presented by their sponsor for many years Alasdair Fraser and they were: Player of the Year - Aoife Tangey; Most Improved Player of the Year to Shaina Archibald and supporters Player of the Year to Elaine Cameron.

A huge thank you went to everyone who sponsored, supported, volunteered and played for the club. A special thank you went to Sarah, Bob and Evie from Well of the Seven Heads for catering and DJ Dan, celebrity entertainer from MFR.



Back row, left to right: Shaina Archibald and Elaine Cameron. Front: Holly Fraser and Sofi Seymour, who collect Player of the Year on behalf of Aoife Tangey as she was unable to attend.

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3400

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

C Smith  
Lunga Road  
Oban

A Cameron  
Spean Bridge  
Inverness-shire

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



Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Tel No. ....

## Late call-offs KO rugby fixtures

**BT West Division One Irvine P**  
**Oban Lorne P**  
Oban Lorne's trip away to fellow West Division 1 strugglers Irvine RFC was cancelled at short notice on Saturday morning due to pitch conditions at Irvine RFC's Marress Road ground.

The late call-off was hugely disappointing to Oban Lorne who boasted their strongest travelling squad of the season for the crucial fixture. Due to the severity of the weather only two games from 17 West Regional fixtures were played on Saturday again prolonging an already stuttering season.

The Green Machine are back in action this Saturday away to mid-table East Kilbride. EK managed to grind out a close 10-8 win at Glencruitten early in the season.

Oban will be hoping for a much-needed win to lift themselves away from Helensburgh and Irvine who play each other this weekend.

Oban Lorne's training programme has received a welcome boost with the club booking Isle of Eriska Hotel's fantastic indoor sports hall.

The next home game for Oban Lorne is on Saturday February 10 as the club welcome Cambuslang RFC to Glencruitten. Kick off 3pm.



The Oban Lorne Ladies' squad enjoyed a team dinner recently where they managed to get a photograph with the 'Queen of the 10s' tournament trophy which was won convincingly at the start of the season.

**BT National Women's League 2 Grangemouth Stagettes P**  
**Oban Lorne Ladies P**  
Oban Lorne Ladies' fixture away to Grangemouth was also caught out with the weekend weather with Sunday's fixture being postponed.

As with the 1st XV this was also a blow for the Oban Ladies who had a strong team hoping to travel for their ninth

consecutive league win. The Green Army have impressed this season with a number of big wins racking up 547 points scored so far.

Sunday's fixture will be rearranged for later in the season.

The ladies are back in action this Sunday as they travel to Edinburgh to take on Lismore

RFC. Oban won the reverse game 74-0 back in October.

The team have also received news of their semi-final opponents in the National Women's Bowl. Oban will take on League 1 Howe of Fife Women at Glencruitten on Sunday April 8. The winner will face either Garioch RFC or Orkney RFC in the

final at BT Murrayfield's back pitches on Saturday April 28.

**Under 18 West League Cup Oban Lorne P**  
**Glasgow Hawks P**  
Saturday's League Cup meeting between Oban U18s and Glasgow Hawks was postponed on Saturday due to waterlogged

pitches at Glencruitten. This game has been arranged for this Saturday kick-off 2pm

**Under 16 West League Cup Kilmarnock P**  
**Oban Lorne P**  
Sunday's League Cup meeting between Oban U18s and Kilmarnock was postponed on

### Rugby

Saturday due to waterlogged pitches in Kilmarnock and also due to unsafe travel conditions. This game has been arranged for this Sunday, kick-off 2pm.

### Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

**Football**  
LAST Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup 5th round - East Kilbride Rolls Royce v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Port Glasgow v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Castlemilk v Lochgilphead Red Star and Tarbert v Duncannrig were all postponed due to the weather.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup 5th round - East Kilbride Rolls Royce v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Ferguslie Star; Rosehill Star v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Duntocher.

### Saints' youth team results and fixtures

**Youth football**  
LAST weekend's fixtures: Scottish Cup - Lasswade v Under 13s; League - Under 14s v Dumfries Riverside; Under 15s v no game; Regional Cup - Under 16s v North Kelvin; Regional Cup - Under 17s v Syngenta were also postponed due to the weather.

This weekend's fixtures: Lasswade v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Westercommon Star v Under 15s; Under 16s v North Kelvin; Under 17s v Syngenta.

### 'The Bear' to speak at Mull RFC dinner

**Rugby**  
ISLE of Mull rugby club are holding their annual dinner dance with guest speaker Iain 'The Bear' Milne, former Heriot's, Harlequins, Scotland and British and Irish Lions player, on Saturday March 31.

For information regarding tickets phone 07702 472726.



Oban Lorne mini section returned to training after the festive break with more than 40 players in attendance. The minis train at Atlantis Leisure on a Wednesday evening from 6-7pm. All players from P1-7 are welcome to go along.

## Indoor athletic competitions in Argyll

THE MID Argyll competition in the Argyll series of Sports Hall Athletics was held last Sunday, January 21, in Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

This competition was the first of four local area competitions to be held in Argyll between January and March.

After the Mid Argyll competition is the Mull event on Saturday February 3 at Salen Primary School followed by the Oban

area competition at Atlantis on the late afternoon and evening of Wednesday February 28.

The Kintyre area competition is planned for Sunday March 4 and will be held in the Victoria Hall in Campbeltown.

The best of the young athletes from the four local events will then progress to take part in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday, March 25.

Mid Argyll Athletic Club have been promoting this form of indoor athletics every winter since 1994 using specialist equipment for various running, jumping and throwing events.

Each local area contest provides competition for six age groups starting from under 7 up to under 17 with seven different running, jumping and throwing events.

Everyone taking part in the

### Athletics

local events will receive a medal and trophies will be awarded to the overall winners in each age category.

An entry fee of £2 per competitor will be levied and £5 for families of three or more.

This is an ideal opportunity to come and try athletics for the first time taking part indoors in a warm and dry environment.

## Tributes to Duncan MacDougall from the Argyll football family



**Lochgilphead Red Star:** manager Dougie Moore said: "Today we stand side by side and arm in arm with our Argyll neighbours at Tarbert AFC. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with the families, friends, Tarbert and the Argyll Community after the tragic events of last Thursday night. Words are sometimes used loosely but only one word sums up Duncan MacDougall 'TT' - 'A LEGEND' One of Tarbert's finest ever players who gave everything to the club he adored."

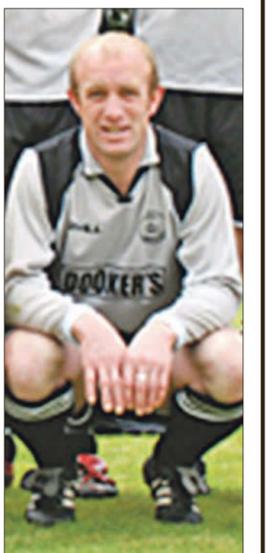
"We battled in Argyll derbies but came together as one to proudly represent the Argyll Select team. A thorn in our side on many occasions after another bruising encounter, but when those 90 minutes came and went, a true gentleman shone to the fore. Our thoughts are with everyone involved. He played for the team he loved - Tarbert AFC."



**Oban Saints:** club secretary David Buchanan said: "Dougie Moore's summing up of Duncan MacDougall is spot on. He was a tough opponent, who battled hard for the full 90 minutes for his beloved Tarbert but after the game he was a thorough gentleman and a true amateur football man through and through. He will be sadly missed. The thoughts of everyone at Oban Saints go to all involved in this tragic accident."



**Campbeltown Pupils:** "When you speak of legends there aren't many in Scotland who have played amateur football for 30 years. 'TT' - Duncan MacDougall was one of the best. Our thoughts are with everyone involved."



Tarbert fishing skipper Duncan MacDougall, who has been missing since his boat Nancy Glen capsized and sank in Loch Fyne.

**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  
Email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

**Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban**

---

**WEATHER**

Thursday Light rain  
Winds light West South Westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

Friday Dry with light rain later  
Winds light Westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

Weekend Heavy rain on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds moderate South South Westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**FRIDAY**

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday January 25, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	04.52	1.6	11.09	3.3	17.47	1.7	23.24	3.1	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	06.08	1.7	12.40	3.2	19.03	1.7	***	1.7	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	00.58	3.1	07.32	1.6	14.26	3.3	20.16	1.5	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	02.37	3.2	08.55	1.4	15.34	3.5	21.22	1.3	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	03.43	3.5	10.07	1.2	16.27	3.7	22.19	1.0	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	04.35	3.8	11.05	0.9	17.12	3.9	23.11	0.7	<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>			
Wed	05.21	4.0	11.55	0.7	17.54	4.0	23.58	0.5	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)

# LOCHABER TIMES

## & Oban Times

Established 1861 No 8391

Thursday 25 January, 2018

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

90 pence

**FREE** self build  
**INSIDE** renovation



**WIN WIN WIN**  
**EXCLUSIVE GOLD MEMBERSHIP**  
**TO THE NORTH COAST**  
**500'S 'VIP CLUB 500'**



# Baxter vows to prevent cuts to front line staff in schools

**MARK ENTWISTLE**  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

THE SENIOR Lochaber councillor appointed as new chairman of the Highland Council committee responsible for education says he is determined that front line additional support needs staff numbers will not be cut.

Andrew Baxter, Independent councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan, made the pledge in the wake of the uproar ignited this week after a leaked document revealed the council was looking at possibly axing up to 40 secondary school teachers, 30 additional support needs staff and dozens of classroom assistants.

It was also reported that the local authority, which is facing a £26 million shortfall in the next financial year, is considering closing 185 play areas in a bid to save money.

But this week Mr Baxter stressed his determination to prevent these proposals becoming a reality.

'As the new chairman of the People Committee with responsibility for education, and as a parent, I am determined to find a way of not implementing cuts to the front line provision of additional support needs in our schools,' he said.

'Whatever the reasons we are contemplating those cuts, and the political arguments as to whose fault it is - Westminster, Holyrood or Highland - it is imperative we put the needs of children first.

'Thank you to the parents, PSAs [pupil support assistants] and teachers from across the

Highlands who have contacted me since the leaked initial proposals appeared in the press for their comments and suggestions as to how things can be done differently.

'Discussions have been productive and I am optimistic we can find a way forward where a review of management costs and layers, in both additional support needs and the education service, can lead to savings, rather than the loss of a key service.

'I know my fellow councillors, council leader Margaret Davidson and budget chief Councillor Alistair Mackinnon, are as determined as I am to prevent these proposals becoming reality.'

But Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said when it comes to Highland Council's new budget, the last thing it should be looking to cut is education.

Ms Forbes said she was alarmed by the reports of Highland Council's potential cuts to teachers, additional support needs staff and play parks.

'When it comes to determining next year's budget, the last thing Highland Council should be doing is cutting education and children's services,' she said.

'If we don't get it right for our children, then we'll be reaping the consequences for decades to come.

'I sincerely hope that Highland Council rethinks its proposals and ensures that education and children's services are protected.

'The administration's own figures have suggested it would save a measly £200,000 from closing play parks, which is

## Caol Marni is our Pet Idol winner



Marni the Jack Russell terrier from Caol has been crowned our Pet Idol winner for 2017-18. Owner Leanne Kennedy, a self-employed hairdresser, pictured with her husband Liam, says she is over the moon and intends using the first prize of £500 of vouchers to buy items for a dog rescue charity in Glasgow. Turn to page three for the full story. Photograph: ABrightside Photography.

pennies in the wider context of Highland Council's budget but invaluable for children.'

Ms Forbes said she recognised

Highland Council was facing challenges but these needed to be put in context, adding:

'A fair budget settlement from

the Scottish Government, extra revenue from raising council tax and a whopping sum of money from the City Deal which was

meant to free up Highland Council revenue.

'There is no excuse for going after kids.'

## Avalanche risk hampers Ben Nevis search

A MALE hillwalker is still unaccounted for, four days after going missing close to the summit of Ben Nevis.

Two men were rescued by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team close to the top of the mountain at about 6pm on Sunday, having reported themselves in difficulty earlier in the afternoon.

But, after the rescue, police confirmed a third member of the party was unaccounted for.

Rescue services were unable to make further searches of the mountain on Sunday because of challenging blizzard conditions, restricted visibility and the risk of avalanche.

Inspector Isla Campbell appealed for information, saying: 'We would urge any climbers or walkers who were on Ben Nevis on Sunday to report anything they believe may be of assistance to us as soon as possible.

'Any information, no matter how minor it may seem, can be useful and it can be passed to us in Fort William by calling 101, using reference NP662/18.'

And yesterday (Wednesday), a Police Scotland spokesperson said the hillwalker had still not been found, with prolonged bad weather hampering search efforts. He said: 'He remains missing. There was no further search activity on Tuesday due to the weather conditions and avalanche risk. We will have people out on the hill when conditions allow.'



**BALLET WEST SCOTLAND**

**GISELLE**  
OU  
LES WILIS

Corran Halls  
Thursday 8th February 7.30pm  
Tickets £15/£13 (reserved seating)  
01631 567 333

www.balletwest.co.uk

Ballet West, Ichrahan House, Taynall, Argyll, PA35 1HP, Scotland  
T: +44 (0) 1866 822641 | E: company@balletwest.co.uk

## Gritters eat through Lochaber salt stocks

BY THE middle of last week, it was estimated that the same amount of salt had been used to keep roads across Lochaber clear of snow and ice as had been used in the whole of the previous winter, writes Mark Entwistle.

But Highland Council roads operations manager Richard Porteous assured last week's meeting of the Lochaber Area Committee that salt stocks would not run out, with a boat-load of grit arriving at Strontian last week.

'Sustained snow conditions have seen us use as much salt from our Strontian depot already as we did in the whole of the last winter and we are only half way through this winter - but we won't run out of salt,' he said.

Highland Council operates four

vehicles from its Strontian depot, with another four based at Fort William and it is estimated that similar amounts of salt will also have been used by the Fort-based vehicles.

'It has been challenging. However, I think we have compared favourably to the rest of the Highlands on how we have faced the challenges [in Lochaber].'

Mr Porteous praised roads crews and other staff for their resilience and commitment over the winter, saying there had been a very low rate of absence due to sickness, with gritter drivers and others working flat out to keep the region moving during recent heavy snowfalls.

Efforts have been hampered by various factors, however, including vehicle and plant breakdowns, the lack of spare

capacity in the council roads fleet and regulations covering driver hours.

Mr Porteous continued: 'It just highlights how arduous the winter has been.'

Mr Porteous said he hopes the new council budget, which includes monies for winter maintenance and other roads work - due to be finalised next month - will be similar to last financial year, but admitted there was the possibility it could be reduced.

But Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson said there had never been enough money for all that needed done to the region's roads. He said: 'There's never been enough money, ever since I started as a councillor. The situation is now at breaking point and we are just trying to hold things together.'

**THE CORRAN**  
CAFÉ • RESTAURANT • ROOMS

**WINTER SPECIALS**

Open Fri - Sun  
12pm - 10pm

**SUNDAY ROASTS**  
2 Courses - £14.95pp  
3 Courses - £17.95pp

**FISH TEAS**  
Every Friday  
£10.95pp

Children under 12 yrs  
2 courses - £9.95  
3 courses - £12.95

Includes bread & butter  
and your choice of tea,  
coffee or a draught soft  
drink.

Delicious lunches  
& dinners, all  
served with a  
gorgeous view of  
Corran Narrows.

01855 821 383 | Corran Ferry | www.thecorran.net | info@thecorran.net

**Interface**  
The knowledge connection for business

Want to create  
and develop new  
products, services  
and processes?

We can help with your  
business challenge  
wherever you are.

ACADEMIC EXPERTISE  
CAN SAVE YOUR BUSINESS  
TIME AND MONEY

Contact us to find out more:  
Lorraine.thomson@interface-online.org.uk  
tel: 01463 245263  
(for businesses in Argyll and the Isles)  
or Carol-Ann.Adams@interface-online.org.uk  
tel: 01463 245 262  
(for businesses in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross).  
www.interface-online.org.uk



Archie's name, along with that of his regiment, is engraved on Kilmallie war memorial.

# Hunt on for memories of Kilmallie brothers killed in First World War

**MARK ENTWISTLE**  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

AS THE final anniversaries approach to mark the passing of a century since the last year of The Great War, the poignant tale of two Kilmallie brothers killed just months apart has come to light.

And Glencoe Folk Museum is now appealing for information to help it tell the story of Archie and Angus Cameron, who lost their lives during the conflict.

Archie and Angus were born in Kilmallie on the outskirts of Fort William, in 1887 and 1890, respectively. Their father, John, was a shepherd, and the family lived in Strone Shepherd's House.

By 1911, the brothers had moved away from home. They had two older brothers, Donald and Samuel, both local shepherds, so it is the younger Cameron brothers who had to move away to find work.

When the Great War broke out, Angus enlisted in the infantry regiment, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

He was just 28 when he was killed in action on July 19, 1918, most likely during the Capture of Meteren – part of the German spring offensive – which took place on that day and involved Angus's battalion.

Archie joined the Machine Gun Corps, and became part of the rather elite 1st Armoured Motor Battery – a unit very selective about who it accepted as a member.

As well as having an interest in and ability to ride motorcycles, Archie would have had to demonstrate knowledge of motorcycle mechanics, be able

to carry out running repairs and also pass an interview. His unit arrived in East Africa in March 1916, and Archie died from blackwater fever – a complication of malaria – on May 8, 1917. He was 29 years old.

The families of soldiers killed in the First World War received memorial plaques, or 'death pennies', as they were grimly nicknamed.

As Archie and Angus were both unmarried, and their parents had passed away by the time of the war, their memorial plaques would have been sent to their surviving siblings.

By the 1950s, older brothers Donald and Samuel were living with their sister, Catherine, in Tigh Phuirt, at Glencoe.

Samuel and Donald died in 1952 and 1954, respectively. Catherine, twin sister to Angus and last remaining member of the family, remained in Glencoe until her death in 1959.

At this point the plaques like-

ly passed into the possession of her friend Donald Aitchison, who was named as informant on her death certificate.

And there the plaques remained for more than half a century, until they were discovered by the new owner of the house, in its loft, some years after Donald's death.

The new owner presented the plaques to Glencoe Museum in 2015, but it is only recently that their tragic history has been more fully uncovered.

Catriona Davidson, curator at Glencoe Folk Museum, said: 'We are proud to have been able to reunite these objects with their history, but there is so much more we can still learn about these two soldiers.'

'We are looking for anyone who might remember the Cameron family, and we would be interested to know what happened to the rest of Catherine's possessions, particularly her brothers' campaign medals

and any photographs of the family.

'We have an obligation to those who served to ensure that their names are remembered, and we hope that in telling the story of Angus and Archie we are finally giving them the recognition they deserve.'

If anyone has any information that might help, please get in touch with the museum on 01855 811510 or at curator@glencoeuseum.com. Glencoe Folk Museum was founded in 1967 and is a registered charity.

Set within traditional 18th-century thatched cottages, it holds an eclectic array of objects celebrating local heritage and providing an insight into the history of the area and its people.

The Cameron brothers' memorial plaques can be viewed, along with an expanded First World War exhibition, when the museum re-opens in the spring.



Angus's memorial plaque – also known grimly as a 'death penny'.

## FREE child ticket



READER OFFER

Start off 2018 with an inspiring trip for the family to Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban, with this amazing reader offer.



**SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY**

**FREE CHILD TICKET**

WITH ONE FULL-PAYING ADULT

Terms and conditions apply. Please present this voucher at the front desk on arrival. Admits one child for free with one full-paying adult to Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban. Vouchers are not accepted online at the Sea Life Sanctuary website. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Voucher valid until January 31, 2018. For children aged 3-15. Under 3s go free. If you are a digital subscriber – we don't want you to miss out! Give us a call on 01631 568000 and we will give you details on how you can claim the offer.

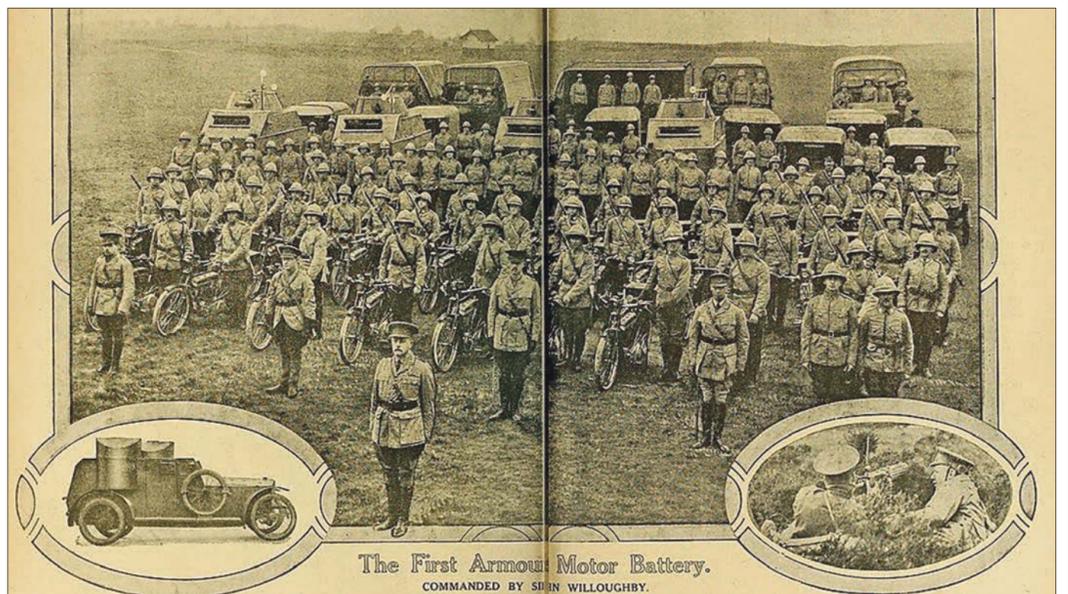


With The Oban Times' and The Lochaber Times' FREE child ticket offer, your little one can get up close and personal with sea life creatures, learn about marine conservation, embrace wildlife and the outdoors at the centre's stunning nature trail, play in the forest playpark and much more – **and you don't need to pay for them!**

Visit [www.visitsealife.com/oban](http://www.visitsealife.com/oban)



**SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY**



Archie Cameron is pictured in his unit. The photograph is from *The Motorcycle* magazine of 1916. Courtesy of Boston Public Library.



Kilmallie war memorial.

## Snow brings weekend roads chaos to Glencoe

ROAD conditions caused chaos in Glencoe at the weekend, when the A82 had to be closed due to an accident near to the Glencoe Mountain Resort.

The snow gates on the route were closed on Sunday afternoon, with officers on the scene along with BEAR Scotland and The Highland Council.

Five people were injured in the two-vehicle accident but there were no reports of any serious injuries.

Ski enthusiasts were also asked not to travel to Glencoe Mountain Resort and Nevis Range after the car parks at both centres quickly became full and surrounding roads experienced serious traffic problems. As well as lengthy tailbacks, abandoned cars were blocking the path of gritters.

Inspector Jen Valentine said on Saturday: 'We understand that there is currently a six-mile tailback of traffic heading towards Glencoe.'

'Unfortunately, drivers have decided to abandon their cars on the approach road as the car park is full, which is obstructing gritter vehicles trying to get through.'

'Similarly at Nevis Range, cars are also being abandoned on the access road and there is a risk that tailbacks may affect the A82.'

'These abandoned cars at both centres are posing a risk so I am urging anyone who has left their car to return and move it. Any cars not moved will be seized.'

'It is great that so many people are wanting to take advantage of the good weather and skiing available in our area, however, public safety on the roads is crucial and has to be our priority.'



The Sprinter train trapped in the mud of the landslide just beyond Glenfinnan, on the world famous West Highland Line. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Delays getting trains back on track after landslide

THE LANDSLIP that saw a river of mud and rock roar down a Highland hillside and resulted in an early morning train being derailed at Loch Eilt near Glenfinnan on Monday, has meant the route has remained closed for much of this week, writes Mark Entwistle.

Tonnes of stone and mud were deposited on the track after the mountainside above the railway gave way overnight on Sunday.

Five passengers were on board the 6.03am service when it came off the track, but no injuries were reported.

ScotRail Alliance had hoped services could resume today (Thursday), but the damage to the track is thought to be worse than first realised.

It has meant that trains between Glasgow Queen Street and Mallaig are terminating at, and starting back from, Fort William this week, and a replacement bus service is keeping passengers on the move between Fort William and Mallaig.

ScotRail Alliance says work to



clear the landslide from the line will only begin once engineers have completed checks, including aerial inspections, to ensure the slope above the railway is stable.

Recovery works were expected to start on Tuesday (January 23) and may take several days to complete.

David Dickson, ScotRail Alliance infrastructure director, said: 'Our engineers are on site assessing the damage and working to put plans in place to repair the line.'

'We will re-open the railway as

soon as possible, but significant work is required to clear the line and stabilise the slope above.'

'We are grateful to customers for their patience during the disruption and buses are running between Fort William and Mallaig to help keep people on the move.'

Customers delayed by 30 minutes or more can claim a refund under ScotRail's Delay Repay compensation scheme. Anyone wishing to claim should keep hold of their ticket and visit the ScotRail website.

## Two honorary sheriffs in town for Fort court

TWO NEW honorary sheriffs have been sworn in to serve on the bench at Fort William Sheriff Court, writes Mark Entwistle.

Last Thursday, in the presence of Iain Thornber, Deputy Lieutenant of Inverness, and invited family and guests, David Dewar and Helen Gallon both took the oaths that will allow them to dispense justice at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald carried out the ceremony in the absence of the Sheriff Principal.

Sheriff MacDonald highlighted the importance of honorary sheriffs and their role in the Highlands, telling the assembled guests: 'Honorary sheriffs are a very important part of our justice system. In Highland courts they have always been ready to step into the breach if problems arise.'

Sheriff MacDonald said until the planned abolition of the office of honorary sheriff in Scotland came into force and technology took over, honorary sheriffs would continue to play a vital role in rural courts such as Fort William. She then gave details as to the backgrounds of both new honorary sheriffs.

Ms Gallon first came to Fort William aged seven. She attended Aberdeen University where she studied law and returned to Fort William to take up a position with local legal firm Macarthur Stewart in 1993.

She eventually joined another local legal practice, McIntyre & Co, before leaving in 2003 to go to Spain where she spent some time working in the estate agency field.

She returned to Scotland in 2008 to join IA Seminars, a global financial training company where she is now chief customer officer.

A keen yoga practitioner, Ms Gallon is also a director of Lochaber Women's Aid and enjoys fundraising for local charities.

Sheriff MacDonald then out-



From left, Iain Thornber, Deputy Lieutenant of Inverness, David Dewar, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald and Helen Gallon at the swearing-in ceremony at Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday.

JP F04 new honorary sheriffs 01

lined Mr Dewar's background, saying he had enjoyed a 40-year legal career after graduating from Edinburgh University.

'Brought up in Inverness, he has had a long association with this sheriffdom. In fact, I think I am right in saying he has appeared in every sheriff court in the sheriffdom, from Lerwick to Lochmaddy,' said Sheriff MacDonald.

Mr Dewar has spent 30 years as a solicitor in Fort William and is a keen cyclist.

Fort William solicitor Stephen Kennedy welcomed them to their new roles on behalf of both the local branch of the Faculty of Solicitors and on behalf of sheriff court staff.

'Honorary sheriffs make very regular appearances at this court. There is a significant volume of work involved, particularly with custodies,' he said.

'The court only operates effectively and successfully with the help of honorary sheriffs.'

Mr Kennedy said honorary sheriffs helped ensure the rights of local prisoners to appear in court on the first available date could happen in Fort William.

'But on a number of occasions

it has been the case that someone has been taken into custody in Fort William and then has to be driven to Inverness before being driven back to Fort William because no honorary sheriff was available,' he said.

'It is one of the reasons I am very pleased that both of you have been appointed - hopefully it means things like the situation I just described will be rare occurrences from now on.'

Mr Kennedy said the staff of both the sheriff clerk and procurator fiscal at Fort William Sheriff Court was the most efficient he had ever come across.

'They do a sterling job in this court,' he added. 'In summary I look forward to working with both of you and hopefully you will both frequent the bench for many years to come.'

Sheriff MacDonald then closed the proceedings, stating: 'I am delighted to have you and would also like to thank everyone for coming today.'

'This is the first time I have done this and hopefully I will not need to do it for some time because you will both be around for a long while.'



Marni was unphased by the news that she is our Pet Idol winner! Photograph: ABrightside Photography

## Caol Jack Russell Marni is our Pet Idol winner!

MARNI the Jack Russell terrier from Caol has been crowned as our Pet Idol winner for 2017-18.

Owner Leanne Kennedy, a self-employed hairdresser from Caol's Torcastle Crescent, says she is over the moon that her pet has won and intends using the first prize of £500 of vouchers to buy items for a dog rescue charity in Glasgow.

Over the five rounds of the competition, which was launched in the autumn, hundreds of Lochaber Times' readers, together with those of our sister papers, The Oban Times, Campbelltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser, voted for their favourites.

These were slowly whittled down until just the 10 most popular pets remained, with 18-month-old Marni declared the eventual winner this week.

Dogs made up the majority of the entrants, along with a number of other pets including cats, a tortoise, a cockerel, a rat,

a goldfish, and even a lamb.

Oban Times group editor Susan Windram said she was delighted with the response of readers to the company's Pet Idol competition.

'It was a fantastic response from readers right across all of our circulation areas and we've all enjoyed seeing so many great pictures of people's pets,' Mrs Windram commented.

'In the end Marni was a worthy winner and it's wonderful news that her owner, Leanne, wants to use the vouchers to help dogs who do not have the same kind of loving home that Marni obviously has.'

And a delighted Leanne, who is married to Liam, told us: 'She's a great wee dog, always full of mischief.'

'We've had her since she was just eight weeks old and this is the first time I've had a dog of my own,' Leanne said.

'Marni loves toys, especially anything that squeaks. None of

them last very long mind you. She's very special and we love her loads.'

In the beginning, Leanne did not think her pet had a chance of winning. She said: 'I didn't think it was a great photo as it had just been randomly snapped on a mobile phone - just one of hundreds of photos we have of Marni.'

'But people obviously saw something in the picture they really liked and opted to vote for her.'

Leanne explained that in the run-up to Christmas she had been collecting blankets to help dogs being looked after by a charity in Glasgow and intends spending the vouchers on more of the same.

'Marni will get a few extra treats for winning the competition, but she's already pretty well spoiled and doesn't really need anything else, so what better way to use the vouchers than to help less fortunate dogs.'

**COMING SOON**  
**FULLY LICENSED BUFFET & A LA CARTE RESTAURANT**

*Kebabish*

Open 7.30am

Enjoy Life, enjoy Kebabish

Cafe, Mocktail Bar, Dzrts, Restaurant & Takeaway

All under one roof

Scottish Curry Awards Winner 2016

Healthy Curry Provider for Scotland

Kebabish Curry House (Oban)

Our food is always made with your health in mind



Awarded April 2012



Awarded June 2012, 2013 & 2014



Awarded December 2013



95-99 GEORGE STREET, OBAN  
TEL: 01631 563900 or 01631 566885



Like us on Facebook

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT [www.kebabishcurryhouse.com](http://www.kebabishcurryhouse.com)

## Comhairle plastic straw pledge

THE COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has become the first local authority in Scotland to pledge to go plastic straw-free in the battle against plastic pollution.

Last week Kate Forbes MSP, who is spearheading the Final Straw campaign, wrote to all of Scotland's 32 councils urging them to ditch plastic straws to help save the environment.

In Scotland, consumers throw away an estimated three billion plastic straws each year.

The comhairle confirmed last week that it is phasing out plastic straws for civic catering as well as in all of its schools.

Councillor Angus McCormack, chairman of education, sport and children's services at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'The comhairle is pleased to be the first local authority in Scotland to commit to being plastic straw-free.'

'As an authority with a significant length of coastline, the comhairle is well aware of the amount of waste deposited on our beaches and coast, and the environmental damage caused, in addition to the cost of removal.'

'Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has sourced paper straws for use in all our schools and civic catering establishments, and, where these are not already in use, paper straws will be introduced as soon as the few remaining stocks of plastic straws are used.'

Ms Forbes welcomed the news, saying: 'I am full of admiration for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, which is leading the way in cracking down on plastic straws.'

'It is to the credit of all staff at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar that they are willing to make this move to being plastic straw-free across their sites.'

'Of all councils, perhaps Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has the most stark reminder of the importance in protecting our seas, coastline and wildlife.'

'The Western Isles face the same challenges as all councils in cracking down on plastic straws, but it is usually rural areas that really bear the brunt of marine litter and rural volunteers who spend time cleaning our beaches.'

'I hope that the actions of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar prompt other councils to follow suit and ban plastic straws across their sites too, from school buildings to council canteens.'

# Sir Lewis to lead review of Skye out-of-hours care

MARK ENTWISTLE  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

THE TERMS of reference for an independent review of out-of-hours urgent care and minor injury clinical services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross have been announced.

A small team will be led by Sir Lewis Ritchie OBE FRSE, who chaired the National Review of Primary Care Out-of-Hours Services in 2015 for the Scottish Government and is the James Mackenzie Professor of General Practice at the University of Aberdeen.

The move followed meetings with community representatives, local councillors, the MSP and MP, who continue to express some significant concerns about the service.

NHS Highland's chairman David Alston, who commissioned the work, said Sir Lewis' team would look at the current arrangements for urgent care provision in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross in general.

'I have also asked him to advise, in particular, if the



urgent care service is designed and staffed in such a way as to meet the needs of the people of North Skye,' added Mr Alston.

Sir Lewis' team will include an out-of-hours urgent care clinical lead; a senior doctor; a senior nurse; and a service manager.

All team members will be drawn from other NHS boards in Scotland that have remote and rural challenges, and will also include representatives from the Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS 24.

A report on the findings,

together with any recommendations, is expected to be produced by the end of April.

NHS Highland says it will then consider the report and take any appropriate action including reporting through the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership.

However, the team will not be considering the wider redesign of health and social care services for communities of Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross that is currently under way.

That redesign work already

The review will not take into account plans for a new hospital at Broadford, at the site pictured, as this is part of a business case being considered separately.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

has Scottish Government ministerial approval and is currently going through approval process for the outline business case which incorporates a new-build hospital 'hub' facility in Broadford and 'spoke' in Portree as part of wider redesign of service which NHS Highland says will see investment in staff, services and infrastructure to help more people to be independent at home or as close to home as possible.

Skye MSP Kate Forbes welcomed the news of Sir Lewis' appointment to lead the review.

Scores of Ms Forbes' constituents have raised concerns regarding out-of-hours care at Portree Hospital, which have

been exacerbated by the recent suspension of services during the Christmas and New Year period.

A public petition at the Scottish Parliament, which calls for an independent review of the entire redesign process, remains live before a cross-party committee.

Ms Forbes said: 'I am pleased that Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie will be supported by a small team of clinical experts, drawn from other NHS boards who understand rural issues but can take a step back and won't be aligned to NHS Highland.'

And Skye MP Ian Blackford added: 'I welcome this review, which will highlight what I, my colleagues and the residents of Skye have been saying for some time - that the north of the island must have sufficient and appropriate health care services in place after the opening of the new Broadford Hospital.'

'The results can only show one thing, that these services are vital to the wellbeing of people in the north of the island and should be secured.'

## Contractors sought for Lews Castle grounds project

CONTRACTORS are being sought for the first phase of the Lews Castle Grounds Regeneration Project.

Tender invitations for the works have been published on the Public Contracts Scotland portal with a return date of February 12.

The initial phase of capital works has a total value of almost £2 million and work is planned to start in the spring.

The works are being tendered as two contracts with the larger contract for buildings and structures comprising two lots in order to provide flexibility for interested contractors.

The buildings lot will focus on the repair and restoration of the Porters Lodge and the Boatman's Tower - two important historic buildings needing comprehensive repair to give them a new lease of life.

The structures lot includes work to the castle terrace, steps and bastion wall, the former private gardens, the castellated seawall and historic bridges.



The first phase of the Lews Castle grounds regeneration contract is now out to tender.

The civils contract includes drainage works in the former private gardens and on the castle green and work to paths.

On completion of the first phase of the project, further

phases of work will follow including the restoration of the soft landscaping and planting in the vicinity of Lews Castle.

Funding for the project is coming from the Heritage

Lottery Fund, Stornoway Trust, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Historic Environment Scotland.

The project will complement the recently restored Lews Castle which also received

significant lottery funding.

The Lews Castle Grounds Regeneration Project is a partnership initiative by the Stornoway Trust and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The 600 acres of castle grounds were originally laid out in the second half of the 19th century by Sir James Matheson, who built Lews Castle on a prominent, but largely treeless, site overlooking Stornoway Harbour.

The Stornoway Trust is a community-owned estate covering 28,000 hectares on Lewis.

The trust was set up in 1923 when Lord Leverhulme, who had ambitious plans for developing the island, gifted the land to the community, including Lews Castle and its grounds.

Following a five-year restoration project, Lews Castle is now a major attraction for visitors as well as residents with a new museum and archive complemented by hospitality, function suites and visitor accommodation.

## Lottery cash for Bragar community centre

AN AWARD of £750,000 from the Big Lottery Fund's Community Assets fund to Urras Coimhearsnachd Bhradhagair agus Arnoil (Bragar and Arnoil Community Trust) has been welcomed by Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan.

The group plans to refurbish the former primary school in Bragar that closed in 2012 and was taken into community ownership in 2014.

The refurbished centre will include a café, kitchen, community space, exhibition space and a 10-bed hostel. It will help to improve the sustainability of the local economy, tackle social isolation and loneliness - particularly among older people - create employment opportunities, and help encourage young people to stay in the area and reverse the trend of falling population. The Isles MSP has previously written in support of the project and met with the trust.

Mr Allan said: 'I am very supportive of the bid by the community in Bragar and Arnoil to transform the old school and I am delighted to hear about the announcement from the Big Lottery Fund.'

'I know the benefit such an ambitious project will bring to the local community, and I know that there is a strong desire amongst the residents to ensure that the building, where many generations of the community were educated, should continue to be used as a community asset.'

'This is a really positive step forward for the project and I congratulate the group on getting this successful award.'

## Lottery awards £142,060 to Skye

BROADFORD and Strath Community Company on Skye is to benefit from £142,060 from the National Lottery it has been announced, as part of a hand-out of more than £6.2million.

The Skye initiative will teach people to grow their own food and will introduce a men's shed for people to learn and share practical skills.

The cash from the Big Lottery Fund goes to 24 community groups in total across Scotland to deliver a range of stimulating activities that will boost people's creativity, confidence and self-esteem.

## Harris Tweed centre plea

STORNOWAY North SNP councillor Gordon Murray has asked the Harris Tweed Authority to look at reintroducing a distribution centre for the industry.

Councillor Murray commented: 'The distribution centre was an excellent initiative that worked a number of years ago and I think that it would be the way forward for the industry if it was reintroduced.'

'It makes sure that all work is equally shared out amongst the weavers. This would help new entrants who aspire to take up the traditional industry and also work at home.'

'I am delighted that the Harris Tweed Authority has agreed to discuss the matter and has added it to the agenda of its next meeting.'

## Acair reprints its first Gaelic children's book

GAELIC publisher Acair is re-publishing *Rónan agus Brianuilt* by Finlay MacLeod, with illustrations by Andrew McMorris.

This was the first Gaelic children's book from Acair, published in 1977, the same year Acair was founded by Finlay MacLeod, among others.

*Rónan agus Brianuilt* was loved by many children over the years, and was a favourite both in the classroom and at home. The opportunity to reissue this book allows for an entirely new generation of children, and adults alike, to enjoy this charming story.

Rónan and Brianuilt are two goats who begin their journey in the far north of the Isle of Lewis. They travel all the way to Barra, and on the way they encounter many points of significant interest throughout the isles.

The text has been updated following current GOC guidelines.

## Scottish Labour leader highlights fragile islands economy at conference

SCOTTISH Labour leader Richard Leonard has been praised by the party's Highlands and Islands MSPs for what they say is his grasp and understanding of the issues facing these fragile rural areas.

Mr Leonard was speaking at Scottish Labour's Highlands and Islands conference in Inverness on Saturday.

He demanded that regional funding which supports the fragile economy of the Highlands and Islands is maintained by the UK government after Brexit and said it was vital the support currently received from the European Union was not forgotten during the Brexit negotiations.

'Only a Labour government would ensure that jobs and the economy are protected and that key areas like environmental protection, agriculture, fisheries, public procurement and state aid are put in the hands of the Scottish Parliament,' he told the conference.

'The Highlands and Islands economy has benefited for years from EU funds, and it is vital the UK government continues to invest at the same level to protect and grow what is still a fragile economy.'

Mr Leonard continued: 'It is only Labour which has an



Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard

industrial strategy which seeks full employment and which promotes co-operative ownership and community-led economics which would regenerate the Highlands and Islands, creating jobs, building homes and making communities viable again.'

He also stressed the importance of the area retaining an independent Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE) body, free of central belt control.

'Through its centralisation agenda, the SNP has decimated police and fire control rooms throughout the region and tried to end local accountability for Highlands and Islands Enterprise,' he added.

'Labour fought hard against

the plan and it was amended but it is vital that the new strategic board which will oversee HIE is not used to dilute local autonomy. We remain vigilant.'

'Labour is the party of devolution and that doesn't just mean Holyrood. Land reform has put economic levers into the hands of communities but we also need to re-empower local government, giving councils the tools, including the finances to tackle the problems their communities face.'

Speaking after Saturday's conference, Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant said: 'It was excellent that Richard Leonard attended our conference. He has a good grasp of the needs of our region, which was clear from his speech. He understands the need for targeted support and the need to prioritise fragile communities. He campaigned beside us when HIE was under threat and it is good to know the region has his continued support going forward.'

And MSP David Stewart commented: 'Our conference was a tremendous success with a record turnout. I was pleased to see so many young people attending. The party is in good heart and firmly on an election footing.'

Subscribe for  
as little as  
56p a week  
www.lochabertimes.  
co.uk/subscriptions

Design Your Own Composite Door

BE WARM AND SAFE INSIDE  
WHEN IT'S FRRRRRRREZING  
GOLD OUTSIDE



Choosing a new door is not an easy decision but our design tool will show you the different styles, glass and hardware that you can have to make that decision that bit easier.

Call us today for your free home visit.



Cairngorm  
Group

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238 000

Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315

Tougher, warmer, smarter

6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

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

# Tributes paid to councillor and shinty stalwart

MARK ENTWISTLE

mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

TRIBUTES have been pouring in all week for Billy MacLachlan, of Spean Bridge, the current Highland councillor and former Lochaber stalwart, who died last Thursday.

His own club, Lochaber Camanachd Club, said the passing of Mr MacLachlan, a former player, committee member, referee and match assessor who had also played shinty for Glenorchy and Tayforth, was a 'massive loss to the club, Spean and the shinty community'.

And the World of Shinty Facebook page also carried a tribute, saying there would be a great many people with fond memories of Mr MacLachlan – who it described as 'one of shinty's genuine characters in the modern era'.

A councillor for Caol and Mallaig ward, Mr MacLachlan had not been in good health in recent months.

Mr MacLachlan was last elected onto The Highland Council during the council elections last May as one of three councillors representing the Caol and Mallaig ward.

He was elected as a member of the Scottish National Party and sat on the Lochaber Committee. He had previously served as a councillor until 2003.

The convenor of the council, Councillor Bill Lobban, said: 'Councillor MacLachlan will be



Billy MacLachlan in action as a Camanachd Association match assessor at Newtonmore v Inveraray in the Marine Harvest Premiership, played at The Eilan, Newtonmore.

sorely missed by his colleagues in Highland Council but most especially by his family and friends. He devoted a considerable part of his life to the people of his community and they will, no doubt, remember him fondly for his hard work and the way he supported them over the years.'

The leader of the council's SNP group, Councillor Maxine Smith, said: 'Billy was one of the loveliest, most respectful men I have ever known. He was hard working, polite, cared deeply about his constituents and independence, having been a member of the SNP for decades.'

'He was also a gentleman. I was very fond of him as a friend and colleague, and the SNP Group in Highland Council will miss him greatly.'

Chairman of the Lochaber

Committee Councillor Andrew Baxter added his condolences: 'Billy was a popular, hard-working and conscientious councillor, who was very close to the community he served. He always provided a different perspective during our discussions, both locally and in Inverness, speaking with great common sense.'

'Above all, despite his recent illness, he remained determined to represent the interests of his constituents even though his poor health made that extremely difficult for him at times.'

'He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and on behalf of my fellow councillors and all the staff of the council, I would like to pass on our sincere sympathies and special thoughts to his family at this sad time.'

## Coastguard chopper rescues Glencoe skiers



Members of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team were beaten back by the weather on Saturday as they tried to rescue two stranded skiers. Photograph: Ed Daynes

AFTER members of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team were beaten back by ferocious blizzard conditions on Saturday, an HM Coastguard search and rescue helicopter, based at Inverness, was called in to carry out a dramatic rescue of two stranded ski tourists.

The pair had spent the night without shelter at 3,000ft after bad weather hampered rescue attempts.

The skiers called Police Scotland late on Friday, January 19, reporting that they were stuck at Bidean Nam Bain, Glencoe.

The stranded pair were located by the helicopter just after 8.30am on Saturday.

They were found in a precarious position, close to a steep drop, before being winched aboard the helicopter.

Both casualties were taken

to Torlundy, Fort William, before being passed into the care of the Scottish Ambulance Service.

In a statement, Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team said: 'Serious conditions on the hill leading to some hard decisions on a call-out lasting through the night.'

'All ended well come the daylight hours, clear skies and the rescue heli.'

## Road works scheduled for A82

ESSENTIAL resurfacing work on the A82 between the Nevis Bank Roundabout and Torlundy is scheduled to take place next month.

The work has been brought forward by BEAR Scotland's inspection team due to the rapid deterioration of the road.

The work is due to take place from Monday February 26 to Friday March 9. Due to the broad extents of the site, a phased approach, using different types of traffic management, will be required in order to complete the work safely.

The breakdown of each phase is detailed below:

■ Phase 1 – Lochy Bridge roundabout to Torlundy – Monday February 26 to Friday March 3, 7am to 7pm – convoy working.

■ Phase 2 – Nevis Bridge roundabout to Inverloch roundabout – Sunday March 4 to Monday March 5, 9pm to 6am – full road closure.

Vehicles will be stopped and escorted through the works at approximately one hourly intervals, however, this is subject to on-site operations. Motorists should expect delays.

Due to the location of the site there is no practical diversion route and therefore timings on the night of the closure have been adjusted to minimise disruption as far as possible.

■ Phase 3 – Morbaine roundabout to Lochy Bridge roundabout – Monday March 5 to Friday March 9, 7pm to 7am – convoy working.

Access for emergency services will be maintained throughout the works at all times.

BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland wish to thank the local community for their patience. For more information contact Julie Lee by email: NWConsultation@bearsScotland.co.uk

## Police appeal after thieves steal copper piping from Glen Nevis youth hostel

POLICE in Fort William are appealing for information after a quantity of copper piping and fittings were stolen from Glen Nevis Youth Hostel.

The thieves forced their way into the building, which sits off the C1162 road through Glen Nevis, sometime between 7.30pm on Thursday January 18, and 7.20am on Friday

January 19. The pipes, which are in a range of sizes, were stored in the building in bundles. These have been removed along with boxes of industrial fixings.

Constable Ishbel Eunson said: 'We are asking anybody who was in Glen Nevis around this time and saw anything suspicious, whether people or a

vehicle, to pass this information on. I would also urge anybody who is offered copper for sale to be aware of this theft and to let us know.'

'Anyone with any information regarding this incident is asked to contact police in Fort William on 101, using reference NP569/18, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'

## Reading groups

FORT WILLIAM Library runs two free reading groups which are open to everyone.

The afternoon group meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 2.30-3.30pm, while the evening group meet on the third Monday of the month at 7-8pm.

New members are always welcome.



Kyle lifeboat crew in action.

# Kyle RNLI and Fred. Olsen celebrate 50-year partnership

THE VOLUNTEERS of Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI recently celebrated the maritime rescue charity's long-standing partnership with cruise line company Fred. Olsen after representatives from the firm hosted a special crew night for the volunteers.

Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI is home to the 'Spirit of Fred. Olsen', an Atlantic 85-class lifeboat, which is the most recent of the four inshore lifeboats that Fred. Olsen's generous guests have funded during the RNLI's 50-year partnership with the cruise company.

During last week's evening celebration, volunteers at Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI, along

with the representatives from Fred. Olsen, watched the joint promotional video that the RNLI and Fred. Olsen recently produced to celebrate the partnership, with Fred. Olsen supplying refreshments for the evening.

In recent years, Fred. Olsen has supported the provision of crew training and has funded kit for the lifeboat station, as well as other RNLI lifeboat stations near the regional ports Fred. Olsen's ships sail from, including Largs, Harwich, Gravesend, Bangor, New Brighton, Queensferry, and Tynemouth.

Andrew MacDonald, volunteer lifeboat crew member, said: 'Fred. Olsen has always

had strong ties with the RNLI and this evening was a great way for us to thank them and their guests for their generosity and support, not just of our station, but of the RNLI as a whole.'

Rachael Jackson, public relations manager for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said: 'We would like to thank the crew at Kyle of Lochalsh for their kind hospitality and for making us so welcome during our recent visit.'

'We never fail to be impressed by the tireless dedication and professionalism of this close-knit team, and the long-standing association between Fred. Olsen and the RNLI is one of which we are

immensely proud.

'Our new joint promotional video shows the enthusiasm of our guests and the passion of our onboard staff in their fundraising activities for the RNLI across our fleet, and we are delighted to have made such an important difference to this seafaring charity over the years.'

During the course of the partnership, Fred. Olsen's guests have also funded three mobile training units, three seminar rooms at the Lifeboat College in Poole in Dorset, and the development and funding of three DODO (drive-on, drive-off) lifeboat launching trolleys for other stations around the UK.

## Scottish Field

COUNTRY NEWS INTERIORS GARDENS FOOD & DRINK PROPERTY ARTICLES FASHION TRAVEL FEBRUARY 2018 £4.25

**CAPITAL FELLOW**  
Fashion designer Patrick Grant on his love of Edinburgh

**THE TIMELESS MURIEL SPARK**

Plus  
A SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA  
MINI MAYHEM IN THE HIGHLANDS  
THE GAELIC CONUNDRUM  
SHETLAND ACTOR MARK BONNAR

**20** Scotland's top independent schools

**PAGES OF**

**THE LOVE MACHINE** – How the tiny village of Gretna Green became the nation's wedding capital

FEBRUARY ISSUE OUT NOW

PATRICK GRANT ON HIS LOVE OF EDINBURGH

THE TIMELESS MURIEL SPARK

A SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA  
MINI MAYHEM IN THE HIGHLANDS  
THE GAELIC CONUNDRUM

20 Pages of Scotland's Top Independent Schools

THE LOVE MACHINE

How the tiny village of Gretna Green became the nation's wedding capital

www.scottishfield.co.uk

f t

FW

**Plockton**

THE 85TH Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Play Festival is coming to Plockton High School on February 23-24.

Seven teams from Plockton Amateur Dramatic Society, Lochcarron Amateur Dramatic Society and Stornoway Theatians will compete in the district round to win a place in the divisional final in Nairn on March 23-24.

The audience will be treated to a comedy set on a coach mystery tour; a farce about the right to protest; rescue set in a hairdresser's and a short stay in a convalescent home; a comedy involving a park bench and a box; plays about two women in a life-threatening situation and a woman trapped in a recurring dream about seagulls.

Plockton High School will also be the venue for the Highland Youth Festival on March 5-6 when five teams from Auchtertyre Primary School, Plockton High School, Kyleakin primary and Plockton ADS Youth will compete to win a place in the Scottish Youth Final on June 16, which is also being held at the high school.

**Knoydart**

MAINLAND Britain's most remote pub, based in the Highlands, has been shortlisted as 'pub of the year' in the BBC *Countryfile* Magazine Awards 2018.

VisitScotland is now encouraging people to vote for The Old Forge, at Knoydart, which is up against The Fox House in Longshaw, South Yorkshire; The Ruggstone Inn at Widecombe in the Moor, Devon; The Lock Keeper in Keynsham, Somerset; and Square and Compass at Worth Matravers, Dorset, for the coveted awards in a public vote which began on January 19 and runs until March 5.

The Old Forge is described in the awards as: 'Only accessible by ferry or foot, the most remote pub in Britain was once an old smiddy's forge but today offers bonny food, drink, music and accommodation.'

*Countryfile* magazine readers were asked to suggest 'the greatest sites in the countryside' and a panel of experts, including BBC *Countryfile* presenter John Craven and author and rural affairs journalist Mark Rowe, whittled down the nominees to a shortlist of five per category.

**Fort William**

THE ACCIDENT and emergency department at the Belford Hospital in Fort William has once again exceeded the Scottish Government's waiting time targets.

In the first week of the New Year, figures collated by the information services division of NHS National Services Scotland, show the hospital was again one of the top 10 in the country with 95.3 per cent of patients seen, treated, discharged or admitted within four hours.

Anne Boyd-Mackay, the hospital's rural general manager, said: 'It's great to see the team has continued to perform so well. It's been an incredibly busy time for them. The high number of people we are seeing coming to A&E at the moment is similar to figures we normally see in the summer when the local population swells to around to 50,000 because of holiday makers and tourists. So they are doing a great job in challenging circumstances.'

The government's health improvement, efficiency, access to treatment, and treatment standard is for 95 per cent of patients to wait less than four hours from arrival to admission, discharge or transfer for accident and emergency treatment.

The Belford – at 95.3 per cent – had 170 attendances with eight people having to wait more than the four-hour target.

HOME Bargains says it has invested more than £750,000 in its new store in Fort William, which was officially opened on Saturday.

The company, one of the UK's largest family-run retailers, is creating up to 50 new jobs with the store at the town's North Road Retail Park.

Joe Morris, operations director at Home Bargains, said: 'We're thrilled to be launching our first store in Fort William and look forward to welcoming customers.'

The 15,000-square-foot store offers shoppers homewares, health and beauty essentials, sweets, snacks, drinks and fresh and frozen food.



Rosie Curtis, front right, Chris Findlay, back row second from left, and Pat McElhinney, back row second from right, join David Ferguson, back row far right; Martin Ellis, back row far left and Nan Maclachlan, front left, at the retirement event.

## Long-serving firefighters from Kilchoan call it a day

WITH more than six decades of combined service between them, Kilchoan Fire Station and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said goodbye and good luck on Friday to three of its long-serving stalwarts.

Nan Maclachlan, who served for 27 years; David Ferguson who served for 20 years and Martin Ellis who put in 15 years service were the trio departing.

And the community of Kilchoan turned out in force to say 'thank you' and to recognise the commitment they had given to their community and fire service.

Between the three crew members, they have 63 years' experience and, paying tribute to the departing staff, group manager for Highland West Lochaber Pat McElhinney said: 'I want to commend and pay respect to Nan, Davie and Martin for the dedication and commitment they have all given to their community and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service over their combined 63 years.'

'I was very proud to be involved in the presentation and event.'

'Our rural community fire services would not exist without people like

Nan, Martin and David. They rightfully have the respect of the Lochaber fire crews, community of Kilchoan and that of the wider community at large, for their efforts and professionalism throughout the years of service given.'

Fort William watch manager and district support officer Christopher Findlay also attended and added: 'Kilchoan crew is a vital unit in Lochaber and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Nan, Davie and Martin all the very best in the future. They were not just colleagues, but good friends.'

And it was Rosie Curtis, watch manager of Kilchoan Fire Station, who led the presentations and made an excellent speech stating the unit needed more recruits to step forward to replace the three excellent crew members who were retiring from the service.

She also commended Nan, David and Martin for all the hard work and commitment they had given over the years.

The community members who attended the event were also all appreciative of the hard work and commitment from all three retirees.

## MSP praises Mallaig and Morar

MSP Kate Forbes has praised communities in western Lochaber which are driving forward plans to resolve pressures on infrastructure caused by an increase in tourism.

Litter, parking capacity and wild camping has been problematic for locals in Mallaig and the surrounding areas and a group led by Morar Community Council has identified potential solutions to each of these areas such as better signs and advice for visitors and additional recycling points.

As well as the outstanding beauty of the coast, including the idyllic Morar Sands, it is also thought the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares on the Mallaig ferry crossings to Skye, the Small Isles and Uist has contributed to attracting more visitors.

Ms Forbes met with the group's representatives and local councillor this month in Mallaig.

After the meeting, she said: 'The west Highland coastline is stunningly beautiful and it is no won-

der more and more visitors are choosing to spend time there.'

'Added to the natural beauty of the region, the Scottish Government's introduction of cheaper RET ferry fares is attracting more visitors too. Some of these communities have waited decades for RET to be introduced.'

'Whilst many of the infrastructure challenges were highlighted last summer, I'm really impressed with the communities in Mallaig, Arisaig, Morar, Moidart

and others who have drawn together a plan of action.'

'They have really taken the initiative, with ideas ranging from short-term measures to longer-term plans.'

'I met with representatives of the community councils and local, hardworking councillor Allan Henderson, to discuss these ideas and how they can be progressed. There is now a list of actions to take forward before we meet again in April to review progress and look ahead to the summer.'



The park hugs the shoreline of Loch Sunart.

## Holiday park owners praised by David Bellamy for countryside care

AS A LOCHABER holiday park prepares to mark its golden anniversary in 2018, the family owners have been praised for their countryside care.

Resipole Farm Holiday Park, near Strontian, overlooks Loch Sunart and will be celebrating its 50-year milestone with a gold level David Bellamy Conservation Award.

The world-famous botanist said the Sinclair family had shown themselves to be true friends of wildlife and the natural world with their green initiatives.

Managed today by Rory Sinclair and his partner Karin, it was Rory's grandfather Archie who first started welcoming camping guests on his farm in the early 1950s.

Resipole's picture-post-

card setting quickly gained in popularity among those seeking an idyllic location for their Scottish holiday.

It was officially designated as a holiday park in 1968 and since then the family has invested much time and energy into caring for the grounds and creating new facilities.

Rory, who with Karin runs the park with help from his parents Peter and Joke and his aunt Fiona, said the family had always tried to ensure Resipole remained a haven for wildlife.

The Sinclairs have planted hundreds of native trees and shrubs which provide valuable nesting and breeding habitats as well as food for wildlife.

Professor Bellamy highlighted the abundance of high nectar-bearing wild

flowers on the park which attract many different types of butterfly as well as honey bees and other pollinators.

Professor Bellamy also praised the absence of harmful chemical fertilisers on the park; the use of water from its own bore-hole shared with neighbours and the park's shielded illumination to minimise light pollution and provide the best view of the night sky.

Rory added: 'Even though our family has been here for many decades, we still feel privileged to be able to live and work in this beautiful part of the West Highlands.'

'Perhaps because of our farming background, we've always been concerned to manage Resipole in a sustainable way and it's great to be doing so with the support of David Bellamy.'

## RETRO Roamer

### More Roamerisms from 30 years ago

■ The council's environmental health committee debated the rights and wrongs of 'performing animals' being allowed on An Aird. This came about because of a round robin (!) asking for the local authority's view as to whether the laws on circuses need to be changed. Eventually, after discussion about poodles walking on two legs – and riding bicycles – and the perennial antics of Mallaig sheep, it was agreed circus certifications and the well being of the animals when they are 'in town' should be checked. Specific circus animals like lions, tigers and elephants didn't rate a mention.

■ Remember the TV catch phrase 'Where's me shirt?' Well, you won't be hearing that plaintive cry in and around the Fort for a while. Because, not only has Frances Connochie received her 'Wee Stinker' tee-shirt from the Glasgow Herald, so also have Gordon Gallon and Donnie Nicholson. You'll remember that, well before Christmas, Mrs Connochie was a winner of the Herald's fiendishly difficult 'Wee Stinker' crossword. Unfortunately her tee-shirt prize failed to materialise. However, by letter and phone call, and with a great deal of humour, she prevailed upon the paper to carry out a re-scrutiny. And on Monday, at last, not one tee-shirt but two, arrived, accompanied by a nice letter. Indeed, also enclosed in the package was a copy of *The Herald Book of Glasgow*.

So our indefatigable crossword solver phoned to say a big 'thank you'. And, during the conversation, Mrs Connochie advised the additional Wee Stinker shirt was to be shared by two of her wordsmith colleagues – Gordon and Donnie – on a six months on, six months off basis. Now the Herald has gone one better – literally – and sent yet another tee-shirt. So all three are suited, or shirted. Then, I assume, the trio will join with Catherine MacLean for a souvenir photo of the Fort William 'Wee Stinker' Intelligence Corps.

But wait, the Wee Stinker quartet has now become a quintet after Lochaber High School tech teacher Neil MacDonald became another local winner.

■ Is it pure coincidence that, with Prince Charles being such a champion of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, the leader Donald Watt, is now sporting an HMS registration plate on his new car?

■ Phone rings while John Steel's Hyperhut is mighty busy. John picks up the receiver and sings out his number. 'Hello, can I speak to Bruce Simpson?', the caller requests. 'I'm afraid you'll have to get onto the tourist office for Bruce,' says John, still surrounded by customers.

The visiting voice is determined. 'But I'm ringing the tourist office!' John gives back: 'No sir, you're on to the Hyperhut.' Caller persists: 'But this is the number I've got in my diary.' A pause, then the man trying to contact Bruce Simpson ventures: 'Is that you, John?' What are you doing in the tourist office?

Aye, the caller had recognised John's stentorian tones. Who was he? None other than Alan Kirk, chairman of Fort William and Lochaber Tourist Board. It transpired John had 'inherited' the former number of the tourist board when it moved from the transport centre to Cameron Square. But some local brochures and holiday guides still carry the original number, resulting in the Hyperhut getting an average of 25 tourist calls every week. John is doing a pretty good job as 'alternative telephonic tourist officer'.

■ Meanwhile, a letter addressed to the Honourable Lord Mayor of Mallaig, Town Hall, Mallaig, Scotland, from Genoa's chief tourism officer Carlo Bironi took quite a trick in Seagull City. You'll all know Genoa is where the Scotland team will be billeted for the 1990 World Cup. Carlo exhorted the Lord Mayor of Mallaig to convince his citizens they should go out to Genoa, not just for the fitba', but for the Christopher Columbus celebrations, which would appeal to Mallaig's sailors. Columbus, as all you aficionados will know, was born in Genoa. And Carlo hopes a World Cup visit will be a starting point for future, deeper cultural contacts between Italy and Scotland. But who is going to reply to the letter, with Mallaig not having a Lord Provost, far less a Lord Mayor? No problem. It has been delivered to the Mallaig 'king', Councillor Charlie King, who knows a wee bit about football, being a St Johnstone supporter.

■ Has anyone seen the missing Corpach quartet? Someone has nicked the following items from a Drumfada garden: two garden gnomes, one stork and one mermaid. The theft has been reported to Fort William police. So if anyone out there has noticed a couple of gnomes in a new gnome environment, or that a stork has mysteriously appeared in a garden along the road, or there's a mermaid in a neighbouring pond, will you please tip off the police. Late news: Because of the current 'rain without end' there's a theory going round Corpach that it might have totally dissolved gnomes, stork and mermaid.

■ Six feet of rain in three months. Seventy two inches in 90 days. The continuing deluge has resulted in the appearance of a Noah's Ark in the village. And that brings to mind the story of HM Inspector of Schools – Jolly by name and Jolly by nature – who used to tell every P7 class in every primary school in Lochaber every year that he visited about the West Highlander who, in the pouring rain, fell out of his boat and into the loch. 'Help, help, I'm sinking!' he yelled. Mr Jolly averred, of course, that everyone who heard the calls shouted back: 'And what are you sinking about?' The rain, of course.

■ What exotic first names they have in Spean. I was listening to Radio Highland and a request from Epheisia was played for Petunia and Delilah. On checking this out, it transpired all three are staff at Spean Hotel! In truth, their real names of Abigail, Sheena and Donna are almost as ear catching.

■ By all accounts, the 'beach party' at Nevis Range on Saturday night was a great success. Top of the fancy dress prize list was the person dressed as the Witch of Lianachan – none other than Ian Sykes, the Wizard of Aonach Mor himself.

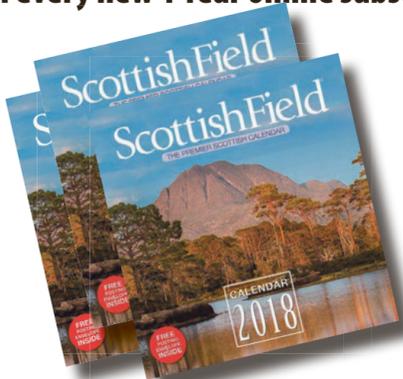


Down memory line... do our readers know these gentlemen and what the year was?

Subscribe for as little as  
**56p a week**  
www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions

# 3 FREE

Large Scottish Field Calendars  
with every new 1 Year online subscription



The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

- Save £39 on a subscription
- Behind the paywall access to the obantimes.co.uk
- Delivery of weekly "page flipper" copy of The Oban Times\*
- Delivered first thing Thursday - no waiting

Limited numbers, whilst stocks last. Calendars sent to one UK address.

Subscribe at [www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/subscriptions)  
and use code **SUBOFFERSF**

FW

## Viewpoint



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

## LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

Following the furore sparked by a leaked document revealing the council was looking at axing up to 40 secondary school teachers, 30 additional support needs staff and dozens of classroom assistants, this week Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter, who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Highland Council committee responsible for education, said he was determined that front line additional support needs staff numbers will not be cut.

Given that the local authority is facing a £26 million shortfall in the next financial year, that will be a very

difficult task indeed, although we wholeheartedly agree it is imperative Highland Council puts the needs of Lochaber's children first.

Our children are the future – the people who are going to staff our hospitals, create business and employment in Lochaber and elsewhere in Scotland, support our communities, and teach the children of the future – so don't let Highland Council's legacy be that, because of a decision taken today, however difficult it is, that decision left them more disadvantaged, with fewer choices and unfulfilled potential.



## Days gone by – 1997

We turn the clock back to 1997 this week and the primary one class at Ballachulish Primary School. Teacher Janice Cameron was pictured with her new charges.

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



ROBERT Burns has become arguably the most significant cultural icon Scotland has ever produced and today – January 25 – many are preparing for the annual celebration of his life by way of countless Burns suppers held throughout the world.

His outlook on humanity, the world and the ways of life, coupled with lyrical genius to deliver his message, are undoubtedly the main ingredients that have led to his immense, widespread, enduring and ever-growing popularity. Some of his lines are the most frequently quoted to have come from the pen of any writer.

However, I believe there is more to the man's powerful legacy than only his philosophy and linguistic brilliance.

Burns was undoubtedly a character, a man of energy, and he lived life with vigour and passion. He was a man of extremes and complexities that are representative of the unfathomable mysteries and contradictions of life that he himself wrote of with such incredible clarity.

### Social media

A post from reader Karen Anderson about the state of the roads and their maintenance by Argyll and Bute Council this winter prompted a spirited response.

**Peter Yates:** 'Sadly Oban not alone with these issues. Gone are the days where the council are there to support the local community. They are out there to feather their own nests. Ask to see their expenses, more than honest people earn in a year.'

**Gregor McKenzie:** 'Interestingly I wrote to all the Oban Councillors regarding the current bin fiasco. I did not receive a response from any of them. I used FOI to ascertain what their thinking was behind the three week (supposed to be) collection and only

Even during his life, far less by today's very different context, his behaviour attracted much criticism and surrounded him with much controversy.

As with so many historical and contemporary examples of artists, musicians and creators of genius, the flaws and virtues contained in his character were inextricable from the whole and combined, for good and ill, they created the living entity so many will celebrate on the anniversary of his birthday.

Along with the misconduct and controversy grew part of Burns's legend and the 'bad boy' image in some ways has fuelled his fame. However, it is certainly for his ability as a poet that he should be celebrated.

An interesting aspect of the poet's life that is not widely known, but by association added greatly to his stature, was his work as a collector.

As well as his talent for composing, Burns did a huge amount of collecting and compiling old poems and songs and kept alive many that otherwise may have been lost to the oblivion of faded oral tradition.

Among many of the most famous pieces widely credited to Burns, were

lyrics that existed already that he had collected and often added to and finetuned.

It may surprise many readers that it is recognised that *Auld Lang Syne*, *My Love is like a Red, Red Rose*, and even the *Selkirk Grace* were not actually composed by Burns. Rather, they were existing poems that he adapted and added to.

It is important to note that he himself did not claim composition for these older works but, through the years, because of his part in bringing them to the fore, people began to assume he had written them. Involuntarily and posthumously taking the credit for these songs, while not his intention, greatly added to his profile.

This in no way should detract from his reputation as a poet, as the wealth of material he did actually compose makes him more than worthy of his place in history and the stature of his literary legacy.

We must accept that some aspects of Burns and much of his behaviour are not that which should be celebrated, but his genius as a poet is unquestionable and that is what we should be toasting this weekend.



**Munro near Glencoe, after her back legs went. The Border collie was subsequently found dead.**

**Fi McCormick:** 'This is so sad – I'm sure people have their reasons for this, but I could never, ever leave my dog.'

**Jane Ashall:** 'Absolutely disgusting. Something about the whole story's just not right. Hope owner gets what he deserves!! RIP Meg.'

**Pat Masterman:** 'God help the poor thing, hate to think what it was thinking when they walked away and left it. Heartbreaking.'

**Sybil Munro:** 'Been found, already passed over the rainbow bridge.'

**Deirdre Stuart:** 'I hope her owner rots. What a moron to take an elderly girl on such a long hike.'

### Private funds needed to support Ulva

Sir,  
There is something very sad about watching any rural community fall out, but none more so than a close-knit island one. I am, of course, referring to Mull, which has moved with the times without losing its traditional values and, more importantly, been at peace with itself for generations.

The recent announcement that Cabinet Secretary for Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham may take the unprecedented step of supporting a small, unelected group in north Mull to launch a bid to buy the Island of Ulva and back it financially thereafter, is set to create deep divisions which will not be easily healed.

If this is what the Scottish Government desires, and I don't believe it is, it runs contrary to a ballot recently taken by Mull's democratically elected community council, which voted 7:1 against the proposal.

Argyll's MSP and MP should recognise the island's local voice and relay this information to the cabinet secretary.

There are good and bad bosses, as there are in any business. Holyrood, in setting a target of one million acres of land into community ownership by 2020, has already made its point but Ulva is not Eigg and popular resident owner Jamie Howard is no Marlin Eckhard-Maruma.

Anyone on Mull with livestock knows there is no money to be made in farming these days, even with the EU subsidy. Sheep and cattle are about to disappear from the hills and forestry and all other grants must soon end.

What, then, of the North West Mull Community Woodland Company's business plan, which reads more like a Christmas wish list?

With the aid of the Scottish Land Fund, it may find some of the £4.2 million to bid for the island but where is the annual running cost, estimated to be in the region of £100,000, to come from? The answer is Joe Public who would be paying for this foolhardy experiment for generations through a tax hike.

There is only one hope for the future of Ulva, and that is for the NWMWC to withdraw and allow private money to be poured into the island, thus enhancing its environment and creating far greater employment opportunities than Argyll and Bute Council or the Scottish Government ever could.

Public funding simply does not produce the goods, as the directors of another community-led buyout group have evidently discovered by asking the previous landowner to take back their estate.

**Iain Thornber,  
Knock House, Morvern.**

### Phrase from already published source

Sir,  
In the interests of veracity, I feel I should respond to Cyril Bonnett's comments (Letters, Thursday January 18).

In my poem, I was quoting from

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



THA SEANFHACAL ANN a tha ag ràdh gum bheil fiosrachadh bhunait air gliocas, agus fear eile a tha ag ràdh gum bheil fiosrachadh cuideachd na bhunait air cumhachd.

Ceart na ceàrr sin cha robh mòran againn a bha nar suidhe aig port-adhair Steòrnabhagh feasgar Dihaoine seo chaidh a' faireachadh glic neo cumhachdach, oir fad uairean a thide cha deach facal fiosrachaidh a thoirt dhuinn air carson nach robh am plean air an robh sinn ri bhith a' siubhal aig coig uairean air nochdadh neo falbh.

A dh'aindeoin foighidinn, mun àm a thàinig leth-uir air an dèidh sia bha a h-uile duine air fàs gu math frionasach, agus dha cuid le staid slàinte a bha a' ciallachadh gun robh feum aca air ithe tric cha robh iad cinnteach dè bu chòir dhaibh a dhèanamh.

Bha e faisg air ochn uairean mun deach againn air fios a shlaodadh a luchd-obrach na seirbheis itealain aig a' phort-adhair gun robh am plean ann an Inbhir Nis agus an impis tilleadh gu ruige Steòrnabhagh gus ar togail, ach bha cunnart ann gum faodadh droch shide agus sneachda

Mary of Unnimore's evidence to the Napier Commission as related in Philip Gaskell's *Morvern Transformed* (page 34). Mary, understandably, gave her evidence in Gaelic: I was quoting from Norman MacLeod's rendering into English. He arguably used an anachronism; I was using an already published statement.

Incidentally, Iain Thornber in his article in *The Oban Times* of Thursday December 7, quoted the same phrase 'Saxon shepherd' from the same source.

**Michael G Kidd,  
Ceann Pairc, Taynuilt.**

### Disappointed during recent visit to Oban

Sir,  
I write following a poor experience having visited Oban recently in the new year.

While visiting friends, my partner and I had booked a room at the Columba Hotel. Upon arrival, we were disgusted to find black mould growing in almost every corner of the room we were given. To the credit of management, we were given an alternative room without question. However, surely this room should never have been offered to guests.

Once settled into a clean room, we were disturbed in the small hours of the morning by a drunk couple entering our room. They had obviously been allocated the same room by mistake. Surely a better system would have avoided this.

In addition to this, the couple were given an alternative room elsewhere on the same floor and proceeded to embark on a Jeremy Kyle-sized argument for all to hear. I was aware that myself and other guests in the hotel reported this to management, but the problem continued for many hours and no sleep was had.

I raised my overall complaint with management the next day who said they would look into compensation, considering how bad things were at the Columba Hotel that evening. I have chased this a number of times but have heard nothing from the management since, which is very disappointing.

Oban is a great place to visit, but nobody would choose to stay in a hotel with sub-standard rooms, guests at war with each other and random drunk people being given the key to your room.

**Lee Robb,  
Stirling.**

### Shocked by plan to cut road safety unit

Sir,  
I was shocked to learn that Argyll and Bute Council is to consider disbanding its road safety unit as part of budget savings for 2018-2019.

The unit formerly employed three officers but, as part of a saving exercise some years ago, has already been reduced to one full-time and one term-time officer.

The proposal is to remove this service completely and the council justifies this by stating: 'Road safety information will be available through other organi-

sations. This suggests to me that it does not understand the complexity of how education and training is delivered.

The proposal also does not say which other organisation has the ability and skills to adequately replace the council's current input. Having read Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue local plans, I can find no hint that they are ready to accept responsibility.

I believe the current unit plays an extremely active role in promoting road safety education for all road users across Argyll and Bute, and in particular our schools: today's children are tomorrow's drivers.

Although one death on our roads is one too many, casualty numbers have been steadily declining since the 1970s. Indeed, recent reports show that fatal casualties have been reduced to fewer than one third of their peak in 1969.

This shows that current methods are working, and I cannot believe Argyll and Bute Council is willing to put this good news trend at risk. The council also has a responsibility to play a major role in road casualty reduction as contained in numerous publications, including Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020, RoSPA National Road Safety Committee, Making Road Safety Count and the Road Traffic Act 1988 (Section 39).

While I appreciate councillors will have a difficult time deciding on where savings are to be made, I suggest that the small road safety unit should be retained, and the option be removed from the proposed cuts.

**Carl Olivarius,  
Road safety officer 1982-2009.**

### Public pay price for forestry operations

Sir,  
Why have conditions on the A85 and A828 deteriorated so rapidly this winter ('Public slam 'shambolic' and 'disgraceful' roads', *The Oban Times*, January 11)?

The weather has not been particularly inclement, but anyone travelling between Oban and Ballachulish will be only too aware of increased HGV traffic associated with clear-felling forest operations. Not only are deep and dangerous ruts produced at the edges of the carriageway as lorries and buses travelling in opposing directions avoid each other, the carriageway is stressed and breaking up.

Connell is by far the worst, but look also at George Street in Oban - newly resurfaced only a few years back - and elsewhere en route to Corpach and Ardrishaig.

Although difficult, it would be sensible to use a cost-benefit analysis of forest products that also includes the costs of (a) road repair, (b) delay associated with road repair and (c) vehicle damage. These are borne in large part by the public.

Were they accounted for by the industry, either the price of a HGV road fund licence would increase dramatically to pay for road damage or the trees would be left on the hillside.

**Professor Emeritus Ian Reid,  
Ardconnel Road, Oban.**

Ailean Caimbeul

### 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.



For press freedom with responsibility

### 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

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

# Oban cinema plans kitchen, showers and 'genderless' loos

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN Phoenix Cinema should be 'more like a community centre', according to plans unveiled at its AGM on Monday.

'We are looking to take the cinema in a new direction,' its new development officer Louise Glen told members, some of whom paid £1 to join and enter the AGM.

Ms Glen said the cinema hopes to increase the number of film-goers and the building's uses. 'A cinema should be much more like a community centre,' she said. 'It should be like a church.'

The plans, which had been 'five years in development', would progress in stages, and include moving the second, smaller screen to make way for a bank of genderless toilets, showers to capitalise on the new pontoons nearby, and a hut for micro-businesses outside.

The first phase would be replacing screen two with the toilets, she said. 'We are close to the pontoons, so it might be good to offer shower areas in the cinema as well.'

'The whole front area will be opened up, and we will finally have our disabled entrance.'

A second phase would install a pull-down screen for screen two, with room for 54 or more seats. 'You will feel like you are in the film, you will sit so close to the screen,' she said, adding there would also be a kitchen and 'community space'.

A subsequent phase alters screen one, installing all tiered seating for 200 to 250 people. Currently there was 'too much leg room' between the rows, Ms Glen said, adding: 'If you have been

to other cinemas you will realise seats are very close together so people feel they can jump into the screen.'

Some seats at the front would be on rollers to make way for a dance-floor area. 'The stage will be maintained, and that will give us the option of Oban Phoenix Nights,' she said.

A later phase addresses the building's front, which would include a shop window. 'We want it to say, "This is an amazing place, the result of a lot of hard work",' she said.

In the disused area at the side of the cinema, it is hoped to build 'a beach hut area' as a hub for micro-businesses, with wifi and an eco-heating system.

'We also need to increase the number of people who come at ambient times during the day and late at night.' Tuesday and Thursday afternoons have been designated as 'no shoosh sessions', when film-goers can bring their babies.

'I have been in post for 12 weeks and in that time we have already reduced our waste by encouraging people to bring their own cups, and getting rid of single-use plastic,' she said. 'We have moved onto paper bags for popcorn and glassware for drinks.'

'The cinema does not get any funding from any external body,' she said, but added it does have a number of interested backers.

'Every cinema in the UK suffered last year due to a lack of good blockbuster films to show people.'

Cinema manager Jennie Larney said: 'It looks a bit shabby. We have got a lot to do but we are ready to do it.'

Ms Glen added: 'We can only

## Competition winner Liz is on her trolley!



Tesco's Karen Kelso alongside Liz and Alfie MacKenzie with their trolley full of goods. 15\_104\_trolleydash01

THE winner of *The Oban Times's* trolley dash competition donated some of her shopping to an Oban food bank.

Liz MacKenzie won the opportunity to fill her trolley with £200 of goods, courtesy of Oban's Tesco supermarket.

And she did just that on Monday this

week, January 22, while also filling a bag for Oban's Hope Kitchen. Hope provides hot meals for those in need and also runs a number of support services.

On top of that, the charity operates as a food bank, supplying food parcels to the most vulnerable people in the community.

To be in with a chance of taking part in the trolley dash, *Oban Times* readers had to collect a total of four coupons, which were published in the newspaper.

She said: 'I went to the butcher and then cleaning stuff and I doubled up on some things, with one or two goodies.'

do that if people support the cinema. It is something to be really, really proud of, but it could be something that dips if not taken care of.

'Come in and chat about how you want to see the cinema taken forward.'

Earlier the AGM heard chairman Grant Nicholson was unwell

so there was no chairman's report. There were also no treasurer's or secretary's reports this year because the positions were vacant.

Any questions from members or the public had to be submitted to the secretary in writing two weeks before the AGM, according to the agenda.

## £104,000 raised by appeal for lost Tarbert fishermen

FISHERMEN are rallying round the families of the lost Tarbert men whose boat sank in Loch Fyne – as a public campaign to bring the boys home raised almost £90,000, writes Colin Campbell.

Three days after the 40-foot Tarbert fishing boat Nancy Glen sank just off her home port in the sea loch, the Clyde Fishermen's Trust set up a fundraising campaign to raise the vessel from the depths.

The boat hit trouble on the early evening of January 18 and, despite the efforts of many different crews who came to her aid, the boat was lost.

Skipper Duncan MacDougall and crewman Przemek Krawczyk have not yet been found. Another crewman was rescued by a fish farm vessel before the Nancy Glen went down.

Experts believe the two men lost were on the vessel, which now lies on the seabed.

Despite an extensive search involving six Coastguard rescue teams, the HM Coastguard

search and rescue helicopter based at Prestwick, four RNLI lifeboats, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland and several local commercial vessels, the two missing fishermen have not been found.

The families now want the boat recovered – which will cost a substantial amount of money.

Elaine Whyte, of the Clyde Fishermen's Trust, said: 'Clyde fishermen want to do all they can to assist these families at this time and in the future. We ask for support in this task.'

'Please give generously so that these families may lay their men to rest and that their children are supported through the tough times ahead.'

Tarbert fisherman Kenny MacNab, who chairs the Clyde Fishermen's Association, said: 'The community spirit in Tarbert, as usual, is beyond exceptional but I feel I must concentrate my efforts on trying to raise the Nancy Glen and try to get closure for the families.'

'Let's hope we achieve the best

outcome for the families. If we stick together as a community, I have no doubt we will.'

Julie-Anne Wood, head of maritime operations for HM Coastguard, said: 'Following an intensive search, sadly we have been unable to locate the two missing fishermen. Our thoughts are with all those involved.'

Police Inspector Julie McLeish added: 'Police Scotland is supporting the search operation. We are in regular contact with the missing men's families. It is a very distressing time for them and the local community as a whole.'

Paul Daly, RNLI area lifesaving manager, said: 'Our voluntary crews from Tighnabruich, Campbeltown and Arran stations carried out an exemplary job in the sea search. The thoughts of our crews and of the whole RNLI are with the families.'

To donate, visit [www.clydefishermenstrust.com/the-nancy-glen-campaign](http://www.clydefishermenstrust.com/the-nancy-glen-campaign)

## Argyll and Bute celebrates the Year of Young People

**HARRY MCARTHUR**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

ARGYLL and Bute Council's youth services team has created a calendar full of activities and events to celebrate some of the reasons young people love living and growing up in Argyll and Bute.

This coincides with 2018 being the Scottish Government's Year of Young People.

A consultation was carried out with 1,055 young people across the area, where they were given the opportunity to choose the top 10 reasons they like Argyll and Bute.

The results were: 1 Safety; 2 Outdoors; 3 Easy to stay in touch; 4 Nature; 5 Quiet and peaceful; 6 Beautiful; 7 Freedom; 8 Sport/recreation; 9 Opportunities; 10 Easy to get involved.

A programme of events was developed with these in mind



Yvonne McNeilly.

and includes a dance show, a photography project, a comedy and confidence workshop, a film festival, and lots more.

The events also coincide with the six key themes of the Year of Young People, which are: culture; health and wellbeing; equality and discrimination; enterprise and regeneration; participation; and education.

The council's policy lead for education, Councillor

Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'The Year of Young People aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing the contribution they make to their communities, and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally.'

'Here in Argyll and Bute we have young people to be proud of – young people who are great ambassadors for the area, and who work hard to make Argyll and Bute the wonderful place it is.'

'It is fantastic that we will be hosting a whole range of events to celebrate them, their achievements, and why Argyll and Bute is great place to live, work and learn.'

The Year of Young People Plan for Argyll and Bute will be officially launched at the Argyll and Bute Awards in Helensburgh on January 31.

**SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2018**

**CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S COUNTRYSIDE AT THE 2018 SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS CEREMONY & GALA DINNER**

**THURSDAY 22nd MARCH 2018 AT DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH**

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT: WWW.SCOTTISHRURALAWARDS.ORG**

PROUDLY PARTNERED BY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

OUR SPONSORS

GILLESPIE MACANDREW

@ruralawards Scottish Rural Awards [www.scottishruralawards.org](http://www.scottishruralawards.org)

## Claggan Park pies score gold at world championships

WHILE the football fare served up on the pitch at Fort William's Claggan Park might have left home fans somewhat frustrated this season, the same can't be said of what is on offer food-wise.

As any Scottish football supporter will say, an integral part of attending a game is the half-time pie.

And at Claggan Park, fans have award-winning Nevis Bakery's mouth-watering beef and onion pies to keep them going when cheering on the Fort this season.

Last week the *Lochaber Times* highlighted Nevis Bakery's success at this year's World Championship Scotch Pie Awards 2018, when the family firm was crowned world bridie champions.

Added to that, however, is also the bakery's gold award in the special 'Football Pie' category for savouries served at football grounds.

Nevis Bakery boss Archie Paterson says his family firm's beef and onion pie is a definite favourite with the Claggan Park faithful.

'It seems to be very popular and we're obviously delighted to have won an award at the world championships with it,' Archie said this week.

'We've been supplying our pies for the tea bar at Claggan Park for quite a few years now and have a special recipe just for

### Football

those - they are flavoured up a bit with onion.'

Archie is a football supporter, although admits to splitting his loyalties between Aberdeen and Fort William.

But regardless of the silky footballing skills on show at Pittodrie, Archie says the clear winner when it comes to the half-time pie has to be Nevis Bakery's Claggan Park special: 'I'd certainly say ours were the best,' he said.

This Saturday Fort takes on Buckie Thistle at Claggan Park in league game 29.

Last Saturday's away clash with Deveronvale was postponed due to the Banff club's frozen pitch.

Fort still remains anchored to the foot of the Highland League table and are still seeking that elusive first win after playing 20 matches. Sixth-placed Buckie Thistle will be tough opposition having found the back of the net 60 times in 23 games, for just seven defeats.

One long distance fan, posting on the Fort club's Facebook page, summed things up, saying: 'Doesn't seem so long ago we were celebrating four wins in a row but even compared to last season things seem to have gone rapidly downhill - it must be hugely dispiriting for players and fans alike to be beaten so comprehensively every week.'



Sandy Anderson, left, who runs the tea bar at Claggan Park with Nevis Bakery's Leszek Kotowicz and the award-winning football pies. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

### Alleycats claw their way to a clean sweep of results

#### Ten-pin bowling

AFTER week eight of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, both the scratch and handicap divisions are close at the top.

This week saw the clash of the top two teams (The Empire and Alleycats) in both the scratch and handicap divisions, with Alleycats running out 5-0 winners for both scratch and handicap points.

This has resulted in Alleycats taking the top position in the scratch division with 34 points followed by Council on 31 points, while The Empire drops to third place on 30 points. Alleycats and Council are now top of the handicap division, both on 30 points, followed by The Empire on 26 points.

Individually the best scratch game of the week came from Tommy McKnight (Alleycats) with the season high of 216.

Other good games came from Ben Weller (The Empire) with 198, Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 177, John Weller (Alleycats) with 173 and Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) with 172. Tommy McKnight also swept the board with the week's top handicap game of 272 - the season high - the top two game scratch series of 370, and the top two game handicap series of 482, also the season high.

The best team scores of the week all came from Alleycats with the top scratch game of 724 (season high), top handicap game of 919, top two game scratch series of 1,385 and the top two game handicap series of 1,775 - both season highs.

Ben Weller holds the top scratch average with 163 followed by Pam Weller on 158 and Tony Whitelocke on 152.

### Lochaber club lotteries

#### Lottery numbers

THIS week's Ballachulish shinty lottery numbers were 5, 6 and 15. Margaret MacPherson of Kinlochleven won the £200. There will be another £200 up for grabs next week.

Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for January 21 were 3, 5, 12. There were no winners, so the jackpot next week is £600.

Caol Regeneration Lotto numbers 3, 5, 15 were drawn on January 18. The winner was Daisy Stewart who won the £1,300 jackpot. The next draw will be for a £100 jackpot.

Fort William Golf Club lotto, on January 18, drew numbers 4, 7 and 14. Peter Jackson, Caol, won the £900 jackpot. The jackpot will return to £100.

### Swim team AGM

LOCHABER Swim Team will hold its AGM on Wednesday February 28 at 6.30pm, at the hydrotherapy pool in Fort William.



## Deep snow ensures Fassfern Faff 2018 is a tough event

### Athletics

A 41-STRONG field of hardy runners turned up for the first Fassfern Faff at the weekend, with deep snow making for an interesting race over a long and varied course.

A long 10.5-mile course of forest roads, trail and off-trail sections over some steep ground was made extra challenging due to the winter conditions. The start and finish was at the Greengates (Drumfada Chase start location).

John Yells (LAC) was first home in a time of 1:26:45, pushed hard by Gregor Davidson (LAC) in a time of 1:26:55. Jon Gay (LAC) came in a close third (1:27:45).

First woman home was Caroline Marwick (Inverness harriers) who finished strong in sixth place overall in a time of 1:34:57. Lisette Walters (LAC) was a close second in 1:36:15 with Amanda Blackhall third (1:42:23).

Challenging conditions for the 41-strong field. Photos: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



## Fort's Falcons ready to fly high



Fort William Falcons are currently training hard in preparation for their first netball match of the season, against Inverness, next month. Photo: Abrightside Photography

**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**

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday January 25, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	04.52	1.6	11.09	3.3	17.47	1.7
Fri	06.08	1.7	12.40	3.2	19.03	1.7
Sat	00.58	3.1	07.32	1.6	14.26	3.3
Sun	02.37	3.2	08.55	1.4	15.34	3.5
Mon	03.43	3.5	10.07	1.2	16.27	3.7
Tues	04.35	3.8	11.05	0.9	17.12	3.9
Wed	05.21	4.0	11.55	0.7	17.54	4.0

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

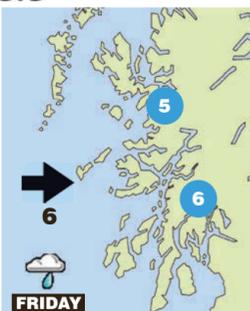
Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**WEATHER**

Thursday	Light rain Winds light West South Westerly Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.
Friday	Dry with light rain later Winds light Westerly Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.
Weekend	Heavy rain on Saturday
Outlook	Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate South South Westerly Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.



**WEATHER**

Thursday	Light rain Winds light West South Westerly Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.
Friday	Dry with light rain later Winds light Westerly Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.
Weekend	Heavy rain on Saturday
Outlook	Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate South South Westerly Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.