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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8219

Thursday 2 October, 2014

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

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OBAN CENTRE'S FUNDING SLASHED

Mums in plea to save vital youth addiction service

LOUISE LEE
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THE NUMBERS of children, some as young as 11, who attend drug and alcohol addiction counselling in Oban has risen by 50 per cent in the last four weeks.

But the body providing the lifeline service is now facing a funding crisis.

Last week Oban Addiction Support and Information Service (OASIS) was told that its budget was to be slashed by £40,000, putting at risk the youth counselling service provided by the centre.

Now parents of young drug users and under-age drinkers have come forward in a desperate bid to save the service.

Parents said their lives would be completely different without the youth addiction service provided by OASIS. One mother, who has an older teen-

ager, said: 'Being the parent of a drug user is one of the loneliest things in the world. There is no-one to talk to. I feel completely powerless to do anything and the only support that I have had was not from my doctor - it was from OASIS.'

'We are a close family, and we brought our children up well. Every single day I think about where I went wrong as a parent, and the guilt eats me up. The only release I have, the only place I feel it is acceptable to talk about my worries is in OASIS. I am frightened that the service will cease to exist - what are we meant to do then?'

Another mum said she would be 'dead' without the service: 'I have given up work, I have to drag my child out of houses. I don't know what to do most of the time and the only support I have had is from OASIS.'

Another parent added: 'My child, who is 11, is not on the road to recovery. It is really difficult for them to admit they even have a problem - but when they do I want to know that there is a service for them to go to.'

OASIS project manager Nichola MacGillivray said: 'We had put in a bid for youth money from the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.'

'It has allocated the money to a different organisation, so this means money that would have allowed us to develop services for young people who are either not in formal education - or slipping through the net in another way - will not be able to be provided.'

'Until now we have had up to £40,000 for this type of service. But this will no longer be available to us.'

Nichola explained that the youth services provided by OASIS also offered support for parents. In the last week, one mum who heard about the service through the pages of *The Oban Times*, said she already felt like there was some sort of support network for her.

'The service in Oban is unique. It reaches out to young people and their parents - and offers an alternative to addiction to drugs and alcohol.'

One former drug user said the stigma of being an addict made it difficult for anyone to move on. She said: 'It is years since I have used drugs but I am still targeted as a drug user. It has been hell for my own children.'

'I know my son is taking ecstasy and I have gone straight to the dealers because I know who they are and I have told them to stop.'

A spokeswoman for Police Scotland said: 'It is really important that we work together to tackle this.'

'Anyone who has information on drug dealing, should contact us on 101 or through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 where they can give information anonymously.'



CRISIS COUNSELLING: OASIS manager Nichola MacGillivray offers advice

Isabella's royal debut



A BALLET student from North Connel is making a name for herself on the national stage after claiming a bronze medal at the Genée International Ballet Competition.

Isabella Sweetlicki studies with the English National Ballet School but until last year had been trained at Ballet West in Taynuilt. A flagship competition for student solo dancers, the Genée is a week-long event held in different countries every year. This year's prestigious competition took place in Antwerp, Belgium in front

of royalty - Queen Mathilde of Belgium. Isabella, 17, who has ambitions to become a professional ballerina, was one of only three dancers to be awarded a bronze medal. She said: 'It is such an amazing feeling to win this medal.'

Don't waste money on 'daft course', asserts Islay candidate

A PLAN to train Argyll and Bute council employees on how to be assertive has been blasted as a waste of money.

The contract, worth thousands of pounds, will see staff briefed in being 'more assertive' - described in the Oxford English Dictionary as 'having or showing a confident and forceful personality'.

But Argyll and Bute Conservative parliamentary candidate Alastair Redman, from Islay, said: 'Having spoken to countless people on the door step while out campaigning in Argyll and Bute I have heard people rightly complaining about grass not being cut, roads and street lights not being repaired and why there is not enough affordable housing available for young people.'

'However, I have never heard them asking for council staff to be more assertive.'

He added: 'Our council continues to tell us all that it has no money for these vital services yet it seems to have ample money to take our over-stretched front-line council workers away from their ever-increasing workloads and put them through a daft course on how to be more assertive.'

'I would strongly advise our council not to bother creating this non-job and instead spend the money on the things the people of Argyll and Bute expect their money to be spent on.'

The local authority hopes the training will help staff to 'recognise your own behaviour and identify the situations in which you would like to have been more assertive.'

The tender document says: 'This course will show you how to overcome your natural behaviour in these situations and help you achieve a more successful outcome.'

The training will be a one-day course delivered to managers and employees on an annual basis, starting in December.



Injury to ref sparks a whole new ball game at Camanachd decider

THE LIFE of a shinty referee can be a pain at times - but nothing like the agony suffered by Robert Baxter in Oban on Saturday, writes Euan Paterson.

The 43-year-old whistler from Dunoon took a hit to a delicate area of the groin early in the second half of a crucial league decider between Oban Camanachd and Fort William.

As the referee lay motionless on the Mossfield turf mirth turned to genuine concern for his welfare.

Mr Baxter, who works for AJG Parcels and is originally from Tighnabruich, said the pain

was 'unbearable'. He added: 'In all my days as a player I wore a cup and never got hit there but I stopped wearing it when I started refereeing. I will be re-investing in one.'

The delivery driver, who admitted he was 'walking like John Wayne' and had been taking a fair bit of stick from work colleagues, was treated at Dunoon hospital for his unusual injury.

But he was declared fit enough to go on his holiday with wife Sarah and four daughters to Spain.

His exit last Saturday sparked fierce debate between both clubs

and representatives of the Camanachd Association, the sport's governing body, as hundreds of spectators looked on bemused.

The match was subsequently abandoned, despite spectator and registered referee, Oban's Billy Witherspoon, indicating he was willing to take over.

The abandonment prompted angry exchanges with Oban Camanachd players, who were leading the match 1-0 and on course to win the National Division title, particularly frustrated by the outcome.

But while there was plenty

disagreement over the outcome, those involved came together in wishing the official a speedy recovery.

Mr Baxter said: 'I have had lots of well-wishers and lots of jokes at my expense.'

Determined to get back refereeing as soon as possible, he added: 'I hope to referee the re-play because it is unfinished. It was a good game because it was no-holds-barred, but not dirty.'

The match is to be rescheduled with a provisional date set for November 1. See page 31 for a full report from the match.

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Dixie proves dialysis is not the end of the world for kidney patients

Wilma's wish
argyll4dialysis

The Oban Times campaign

Former dialysis patient Dixie Porter sounds a note of caution against an Oban service that does not cover emergency situations

DIXIE PORTER is one of the healthiest women in Oban.

This year she has completed a walking marathon in New York for Cancer Research and the Glasgow Bridge walk for Kidney Research UK.

Of an evening she may walk up Ben Lora in Benderloch with her friends or along the cycle path at Ganavan to Dunbeg.

But 11 years ago Dixie's story was different because she was suffering from kidney failure. She had to undergo dialysis for 10 hours every night at home.

The method she used is known as Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) and means she was plugged into a machine every night.

But Dixie's indomitable spirit meant it was something that never stopped her.

'You have just got to get on with it. For me that meant taking my machine, in a suitcase, to all the things I wanted to do.

'I had stayed off dialysis for as long as I could with a good diet and plenty of exercise but eventu-

ally had to get a machine for home dialysis.'

It came in a suitcase - so the airport worker decided she could just get on with her life.

'I even took it to the Royal National Mods so I could compete with my choir. It was a mission, but I was determined.'

Five years ago, Dixie, who had remained relatively healthy - not missing any work because of her condition - was offered a kidney transplant. Dixie said: 'There is not a day that goes by where I don't thank the person who gave me their kidney.'

The kidney transplant brought some unusual changes in her body, she said, her hair was, for the first time in her life, curly and the things she liked to eat changed.

Dixie, who supports *The Oban Times* campaign for a dialysis machine in Oban - wants people to be careful about signing up to a second class service.

She said: 'A machine would need to come with all the staff required to run the service and I would even be suggesting that two machines



DETERMINED: From left, Dixie Porter, with renal nurse Jacqueline Carrol, Christine Smith and Tracey DiCaccia

would ensure that there was a continuity of service for anyone on a machine which might fail.

'What we don't want is people to be transferred as an emergency patient to Glasgow because there is no-one in Oban to treat anyone who has a complication.

'It has to be thoroughly thought out. Every scenario has to be considered. In the past I have heard the intensity of treatment of a kidney

patient described in some ways similar to chemo [therapy] because of the treatment that is required.

'The day after dialysis, patients are sometimes exhausted. It has to be remembered that dialysis is about filtering the blood in the body. That means all a person's blood is flushed out and back in.

'It is an intensive procedure and it really takes it out of people. I was young and fit and used the gentler

dialysis, CAPD, which meant I could keep going. Not everyone is so lucky. For older people this is a really difficult disease.'

Dixie is a prolific fundraiser; after her operation she walked the West Highland Way for the Renal Unit she was connected to in Glasgow.

She is still looking for sponsors for the seven-mile Glasgow bridge walk she recently completed.

A spectacular fashion night boosts funds for play park

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THE AUDIENCE at Oban's Phoenix cinema couldn't believe their eyes recently as town store Specsavers hosted a dazzling charity fashion show in aid of a children's play park.

The charity catwalk event raised £481.50 for Oban Community Play Park which Specsavers directors Kenneth and Emily Macdonald generously doubled, rounding up the total to £1,000.

As well as the fashion show, there



CHARITY CATWALK: organisers, models and musical guests take a curtain call as they receive the applause of the fashion show audience

was entertainment from Spotlight theatre group and Benderloch singer Lora MacLeod.

Karen MacDonald, who works at Specsavers and helped to organise

and host the event on Saturday, September 21, said: 'A big thank you to everyone who helped with the fashion show, including the models, the singers, the businesses

who donated the clothes, the people who did the hair and make-up and the Phoenix cinema.'

The clothes and accessories on show were provided by Chalmers,

M&Co, Penelope Pitstop, Precious Things, Gem Box, and Beknix Jewellery, and were modelled by 30 male and female models of all ages.

Tralee carbon capture project success

AN INTERNATIONALLY funded project at Ardmucknish Bay has proved that safe carbon capture and storage is possible underneath the seabed.

The ground-breaking results will help scientists design ways to deal with carbon dioxide waste.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) co-ordinated the Quantifying and Monitoring Potential Ecosystem Impacts of Geological Carbon Storage (QICS) project, funded by the Research Council UK, the Natural

Environment Research Council and the Scottish and Japanese governments.

A number of UK and Japanese institutes collaborated in the controlled release of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the bay, off Tralee beach, in 2012. Scientists monitored how the CO2 moved through the sediment in the seabed and the 12 metres of water above.

A combination of chemical sensors and bubble acoustic techniques monitored how well the process was working and detect

any possible leakages.

Project leader Jerry Blackford, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, said: 'These findings are contributing to the growing knowledge base necessary for optimal deployment of carbon capture storage as a method to mitigate climate change; in particular for the regulatory requirement for monitoring.'

'The results show that small-scale leakage will not be catastrophic, although we do caution that impacts are likely to increase if a larger amount of CO2 is released.'

Tyndrum-Oban footpath steps forward

A PROPOSED footpath from Tyndrum to Oban has taken a step forward.

Landowners along the route have now been contacted for their views.

The path would run through Dalmally, Lochawe, Taynuilt and Connel, and be between 43 and 47 miles long, depending on the route taken through Dalmally.

The majority of landowners along

route have been sent a letter by Pick Everard, the environmental consultant overseeing the project, asking them to get in touch to discuss the route options.

Members of the Oban to Tyndrum footpath steering committee are continuing efforts to identify the remaining few landowners, by contacting neighbours of the land in question.

As reported at the Strathfillan community council meeting on September 8, Pick Everard said the responses received so far had been fairly positive, with the continuing negotiations expected to take a couple of months to conclude.

Argyll and Bute council first proposed the path in 2012, with the consultation process funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Independent councillor joins SNP group

OBAN, North and Lorn councillor Iain Angus MacDonald has joined the Scottish National Party (SNP).

Formerly standing as an independent councillor, the Bonawe architect made the move shortly after the 'No' result in the referendum campaign. He said: 'I was elected on the

back of a mandate for change as an independent councillor, and like many other like-minded people over the last few days consider that the best chance of achieving this is by joining a party that is welcoming many others...who believe the only way to effect change is by establishing an independent Scotland.'

Batty visit aired

WEATHERMAN Sean Batty's visit to Oban and Lorn as part of his Highland Fling fundraising challenge will be aired on STV next Thursday (October 9).

He visited Oban bowling club, Lorne Highland Games at Mossfield and Benderloch's Lochneil primary school.

MULL lines



ORDAINED: Ishbel MacKinnon, Iain Campbell, Mary-Jean Devon and the Reverend John Paton

Church appoints elders

A SIGNIFICANT Church of Scotland service has been held on the island of Mull. The Reverend John Paton ordained and admitted the first new elders in Tobermory Parish Church since he became minister of the North Mull parishes.

Mary-Jean Devon was admitted and Iain Campbell was ordained as an elder. At the same service, a presentation was made to Douglas MacNeillage, MBE, who had recently retired from the position of session clerk.

Mr Paton thanked Mr MacNeillage for his sterling service given to the church over many years and invaluable support given to the minister since he had taken over the island parishes.



SILVER LINING: Eva and Michael Renner with Matthias Maiwald

A happy return to island

A COUPLE who were married in Tobermory in 1989, returned 25 years later to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary.

Eva and Michael Renner were married at the registry office in Tobermory and to celebrate their anniversary returned with their best man Matthias Maiwald last month. The late Marjorie Gerstenberg, from Tobermory, was the couple's bridesmaid.

Cutting verging on 'poor'

THE island's grass verges have finally been reclaimed from the wilderness after cutting work was completed last month.

However, Mull community council is concerned about the standard of the work, organised by Argyll and Bute council. Members were told at a recent meeting the verge cutting took place in August, but to a 'poor standard'. The community council has suggested that the work should be sub-contracted to a Mull business.

Call for 'missing' police

POLICE officers on the island have been ticked off for not answering the call of Mull community council.

Mull community councillors had hoped to discuss the results of the recent introduction of a speed camera, the new arrangements for tax discs and the forthcoming Mull rally with police at their September meeting. But because of the non attendance of the community police the matter has been deferred to the next meeting.

Concerns over bin fires

A NUMBER of bin fires in the village of Salen have been reported to the police and Argyll and Bute council.

Mull community council agreed to raise their concerns with the head of the council's Streetscene department, Tom Murphy, for him to consider what can be done.



END OF AN ERA: Deborah, Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, who spent her formative years on the isle of Inch Kenneth

Mitford link is ended

THE DEATH of the last Mitford sister, Deborah, Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, on September 23 ended a link between the small island of Inch Kenneth, on the west coast of Mull and the celebrated sisters of the 1930s and 1940s.

Debo, as she was known by her family, lived with them on the island from 1939 to help look after her younger sister Unity.

Unity was 'enraptured' by Hitler and shot herself in the head on the outbreak of the war. She was then taken with her sister and mother to the island. Unity suffered brain damage which eventually led to her early death in 1948 in hospital in Oban.

Deborah wrote about the island and life during the war in her memoirs. After marrying Andrew Cavendish in 1941, she became the Duchess of Devonshire. She played a crucial role in helping him turn his ancestral home, Chatsworth House, into one of Britain's most successful stately homes.

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Oban residents advised to take their recycling rubbish to local supermarkets

Jumbo bins are coming to town



RUBBISH: Oban town centre will have no recycling

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OVERFLOWING bins in Oban's town centre are soon to be a thing of the past - as long as residents are prepared to trek to Tesco's car park with rubbish to be recycled.

The news on the future of bin collection was given to Oban community council by Stuart MacCracken, Argyll and Bute council's Streetscene officer in the area.

He told community councillors that the change from 'normal' bin collections to 'co-mingled waste' was likely to be an easy transition with only a few residents finding it more difficult.

Mr MacCracken said he was happy to provide anyone with a second

recycling bin - but would not be happy to give anyone another general waste bin.

"These times have passed," he said, "we all need to be much more serious about recycling. The council's landfill taxes are on the increase and this is the only way to reduce them."

Mr MacCracken confirmed that residents in the centre of town would not be getting recycling bins - and it was likely they would get 'jumbo' bins in the future for people to share.

He continued: "We are asking people to take their recycling to Tesco, or the Co-op while they are there."

David Gallant, a community councillor, asked why there would

be a 23-day delay in having some general waste bins collected in the town.

Mr MacCracken said he didn't believe this was the case, but he would look into the matter.

He told the community council that Soroba, as the most densely populated area in Argyll with one zone dealing with 58 wheelee bins, was proving to be a concern for the local authority.

The community council talked about the merits of providing so many wheelee bins to such a densely-packed community.

Mr MacCracken said: "In all our discussions about bins, the issue about Soroba collections has been a constant concern."

Community councillor George

Berry said: "Overflowing bins in the town centre are already a disgrace - I hope this doesn't make matters worse - if we are only taking general waste."

"I am often called upon to move mattresses that have been dumped in Soroba. If I can do it as a man with a van, I don't know why the council bin men seem to want to drive right past."

Kate Winton, who is a wheelchair user, said: "When the bins are on the road - I find it impossible to get to the hospital. Because of appointments and other things I can be up there four or five times a day. Some days I have to come all the way back down the road to cross the road and go back up to the hospital."

Ex-boyfriend set fire to shed and partner's clothes in a fit of rage

A WOMAN returned from her brother's funeral to find her home smashed up, partly gutted by fire and her possessions set alight.

Her former boyfriend was jailed for 46 months at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday with a five-year order never to approach her.

A tenant and her seven-year-old son were in their flat at Glencruitten Road, Oban, when Steven Livingston, aged 52, set fire to a wheelbarrow full of clothing in a nearby shed on June 10; a can of petrol nearby exploded.

Livingston, a prisoner at HMP Greenock, admitted setting fire to the shed. After firefighters had put out the blaze in the shed, police noted that Livingston was in the flat, sober, and the house contents undamaged.

Family members went round later and found that Livingston, who was still inside the flat, had set fire to a wardrobe and rampaged through the flat, damaging several items belonging to his former partner.

The procurator fiscal told the court: "Most of the household items were broken. The woman was very houseproud and the damage included designer items such as Louis Vuitton."

Gary Miller, defending, said: "My client lost sight of the fact she was at her brother's funeral and embarked on a drinking spree, drinking two litres of spirits."

The defence lawyer continued: "He had smashed items he believed belonged to, or had been paid for, by him."

"He is horrified at the extent of the damage and issues a public apology to her by way of this court."

Livingston had been in custody since the incident and sent letters to his former partner "of a nature she had to pass them on to the police," said the fiscal as he applied for the non-harassment order.

Sheriff Small backdated the sentence to when Livingston was taken into custody.

New research to improve home care

THE NUMBER OF people on the west coast over the age of 75 is due to double in the next 20 years.

The so-called 'demographic time bomb' has galvanised Argyll and Bute council into commissioning research into how the local authority can meet the demands on home care services for the elderly.

The research work will be carried out free of charge by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Care (IRISC).

The council says the research will bring 'key service' providers

together in an informal partnership to organise the planning and delivery of home care in Argyll.

The council confirmed that in the last three years the number of people receiving care at home has increased 27 per cent from 898 people to 1,144.

Every fifth person in Argyll and Bute will be living into their eight, ninth or tenth decade in 23 years' time and the number of carers will need to increase in order to meet the demand.

Deputy provost Dougie Philand

said: "The council's priority is to ensure the very best home care is provided to our communities."

"The number of people relying on care will continue to grow as we all live longer. Demand on services therefore will continue to increase."

"There is potential for a great wealth of shared experiences, knowledge and ideas to be tapped by bringing people together."

"This type of informal meeting can produce the most innovative ideas and that is what will build a secure, caring future for the older

members of our community."

A council spokeswoman added: "Last month, the partnership looked at jointly managing the challenges of recruitment and training and delivering services across Argyll and Bute's widespread communities."

"A further meeting is planned for December 2014."

Rhiann McLean from IRISC said: "We were very excited to work in Argyll and Bute as part of the joint IRISC and Scottish CareFit for the Future project."

Kilbowie bid of £37,000 rejected while building was valued at £1

KILBOWIE House in Oban was valued at £1 some years ago - yet Argyll and Bute council refused to sell the empty building to a publishing company which was willing to pay £37,000 for the split site.

Bombadil, an international children's book publishers, said it would have created jobs at the Kilbowie House site and had budgeted for a turnover of millions in their first year.

At the time of the bid, councillors were under the impression that the site was worth £450,000.

And members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee were asked to make judgements on the sale of the Grade B-listed property without knowing the building's worth to the council.

Dating from 1888, the Scottish baronial-style property had been valued by marketing agents at £450,000.

But officers had already placed a nominal value of £1 on the council's asset register valuation for Kilbowie House.

Councillor Gordon Blair, a member of the council's audit committee, said that valuing the property at the low amount was indicative of the cost to the council of keeping the building open.

When asked if he was surprised that Oban and Lorn councillors did not know the real cost of the asset, he said: "Nothing surprises me anymore."

He added: "Councillors should have been told of the book asset value to the council. Instead councillors believed it was worth £450,000."

Councillor Michael Breslin, also a member of the audit committee, said: "I asked what the asset register valuation was of Kilbowie House. Audit Scotland told me it is £1."

The Oban Times has since had this information verified by Audit Scotland. It understood that the imposing seafront mansion was included on an asset management plan for £1 and this information should, as a matter of course, be in the public domain and given to councillors.

Councillor Breslin continued: "As far as I know, this has never at any time been information given to elected members and if that is correct, councillors have been hoodwinked over this."

"The public need to know about this because they won't know either."

Spread over a basement, ground and two upper floors, Kilbowie's layout includes a range of rooms and spaces that can be adapted and converted for different uses.

Externally, the distinctive features of Kilbowie House include crow step gables, stepping

string courses, cable mouldings, conical roofs, crenellated parapet and a mock cannon.

In plans drawn up by Bombadil, both jobs and investment with a value of millions would have come to the town.

But Marianne Rugard, one of the owners of the company, was told some months ago that her bid for the building was not high enough.

Ms Rugard has now moved her planned investment from Oban to Dornie, by Kyle of Lochalsh.

She said: "Highland council have made it very easy to take our multi-million pound company to the north."

"We will be employing 14 people and will turn over at least £4million in our first year."

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: "The council will take the Audit Commission's recommendation on board."

Bypass completion stalled

TRANSPORT Scotland has again rescheduled its completion date for the Crianlarich bypass, citing the previous winter weather as the reason for the missed deadline.

The transport authority recently stated the work would be done by late summer this year.

However, when asked this week for an update on the work, Transport Scotland told The Oban Times it would now be autumn this year before it was finished.

A spokeswoman explained:

"Despite one of the wettest winters in recent memory, which resulted in difficult ground conditions, RJ McLeod is continuing to make progress on the A82 Crianlarich Bypass with surfacing works now well under way."

The road is expected to open during autumn 2014.

Meanwhile, Transport Scotland insists its work on the A82 at Pulpit Rock, through contractor McLaughlin & Harvey, is expected to be completed this winter.

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Oban hotel owner accuses disgruntled staff of fabricating sex assault charges

FORMER employees out for 'revenge' falsely accused a leading Oban hotelier, the town's sheriff court was told this week.

Raymond Hyams, who co-owns the Queens Hotel with his wife, denied charges of sexual assault on two female members of staff.

Hyams, aged 58, of Cuanra, North Connel, said the two women's claims of sexual assault were 'complete fabrication' following the sacking of a friend caught stealing, reprimands over dress code, conduct and a mistake that nearly cost the hotel £2,500 in commission fees.

Sandhurst-educated Hyams, a former army captain, pleaded not guilty to charges alleged to have taken place at the hotel on Corran Esplanade between 2010 and 2012.

He denied uttering sexual remarks to the two women and taking hold of one woman's hair, pressing his body against her, touching her thighs, hips and waist and slapping her bottom. In the other woman's case of sexual assault, he denied he touched her hair, body and bottom on various dates.

The crown dropped a third charge of sexual assault.

The women accused Hyams of touching, getting too close during a training session on how to use a till and making suggestive remarks.

"I believe it is revenge, resentment, anger, jealousy; they want to destroy me, they want to destroy my wife and our business," he said.

Hyams and his wife turned the hotel around to win four-stars from both VisitScotland and the AA. They joined the Best Western marketing group, but some reviews on the website TripAdvisor complained at the time of grumpy service. Staff parties were common. "Everyone was turning up the following morning worse for wear and not particularly looking after the guests," he said.

He added: "If they were reprimanded they behaved in a very sullen manner and took it out on guests."

Hyams said he tried a different light-hearted jovial approach. He said: "They thought it was funny. I said, 'If you do that again, I will tickle you.' It was a tease, not a threat and never actually happened."

"Is that a management technique you learned at Sandhurst?" said procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty. The trail continues.

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Open doors look at green homes

ARGYLL homeowners are opening their doors to the public this weekend, offering a unique chance to have a behind-the-scenes look at how renewable technology helps to cut energy bills.

From biomass boilers to energy efficient windows, a selection of the latest green heat and energy solutions will be showcased by homeowners as part of the Energy Saving Trust's Green Network open days.

Held on Friday and Saturday, properties in Kilchrenan and Tarbert are taking part, giving people a chance to see for themselves how the various systems and energy efficiency improvements they have installed work for them.

For more information on the open days or to book a visit, log onto greennetworkopen days.org.uk, or contact greenhomes@est.org.uk

Broadband tops slowest in the UK

LATE night surfers are likely to fair better than early risers - but no matter what the time of day or night west coast broadband is amongst the slowest in the UK.

A survey conducted by uswitch.com, a price comparison site, showed that users in rural areas are putting up with significantly slower speeds than the rest of the country.

Across the UK, broadband download speeds are at their fastest at 5am, averaging 18.1 mega bites per second (Mbps), but drop by over a fifth by 9pm - when most people want to go online - to 14.3 Mbps.

In Argyll the fastest speeds are 11.1 Mbps at 5am and at 9pm are the slowest in the country at 6.9 mbps.

Lifeboat returns after alert raised

REPORTS of an overturned boat in Ardmucknish Bay, north of Connel, on Saturday afternoon saw Oban lifeboat launch a rescue operation.

While on its way, the lifeboat was stood down because the person from the boat was found safely on shore.

Piper Angus aims to blow away his father's record after medal triumph

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THE SON of world champion piper Angus MacColl has the bragging rights in their household after claiming a solo silver medal at 19 - a year younger than his father when he won the same prize.

Benderloch's Angus John (AJ) MacColl repeated his father's silver medal success earlier this month when he won the piobaireachd competition at the Northern Meeting piping competition in Inverness, one of the two traditional solo piping majors alongside Oban's Argyllshire Gathering.

His winning tune, Corrienessan's Salute, was also the piece his father played when he won his silver medal at the Argyllshire Gathering 27 years ago.

Young AJ has now set his sights on joining the gold sections next season and many piping observers believe he is on course to be one of the world's best.

The Inverness win this month followed on from a runner-up place in the silver medal competition at the Argyllshire Gathering at the end of August.

AJ, who is tutored by his father, said: 'It is my second year at the silver medal but I was fairly confident of doing well. I am looking forward to competing in the gold medal next year. My dad was 20 when he won his silver medal, so I haven't let him forget that I am a year younger than that.'

Belonging to a successful family line of pipers comes with its own pressures, the teenager admitted; AJ can trace his family line back to the celebrated John MacColl of Kentallen, a prolific writer of pipe tunes and one of the finest pipers of The Great War era.

His father, Angus, is a regular prizewinner at meetings of the best players in the world and was runner-up at the recent Springbank Invitational piping championship.

AJ said: 'I suppose I feel there is more pressure on me to do well because of who my dad is but it is great to have him to help me. We put in a lot of effort into getting the tunes right.'

Torquhil Telfer, piping secretary at the Argyllshire Gathering, said



MEDAL POSITION: young piper Angus John MacColl proudly displays his silver medal at his home in Benderloch

AJ was on track to become one of the world's best.

'To win at Inverness and finish second in Oban is a wonderful result. The silver medal is a busy competition because you have so many people striving to get into that gold medal competition.'

'There is no doubt about it, Angus is well on his way to being one of the world's best pipers. The consistency of his results over the past few years shows he is no flash in the pan. He is certainly being noticed by the other pipers.'

AJ won the Argyllshire Gathering's MacGregor Memorial Medal, for pipers under the age of 23, when he was 17 and won Piping Idol, part of Piping Live, last year.

As well as competing in solo competitions, he is pipe major of Oban High School's novice juvenile pipe band and helps to tutor the pipers.

Ferry frustration over weight charges

FRUSTRATION is setting in six weeks after a letter was sent to Transport Minister Keith Brown, by a group set up to address commercial transport issues on ferries.

The short-term group, with representatives from Argyll Ferry Users group and the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS), hopes for a resolution to weight restrictions being enforced by CalMac on light goods vehicles since July 1.

Following a meeting in August the group asked, as a matter of urgency, for a short-term method for introducing a lower tariff for small vans over the 3.5-tonne limit,

but within the six-metre vehicle length.

It also requested a rethink of how freight is charged to a per-tonne basis.

In a letter last week Mr Brown said the matter was still being considered while a report is made by Transport Scotland.

The response has frustrated ferry campaigner and Barra councillor Donald Manford.

One of two Western Isles representatives on the Argyll Ferry Users group, Mr Manford said: 'I don't think it is generally well understood how serious an issue this is, and I have been raising it

for years. Something has to happen very soon. I'm concerned that three months has passed since the enforcement of weighing has been in effect.'

'At the moment you have an issue where if vehicles go a small amount over their weight restriction then the cost has to double.'

'That type of vehicle is penalised to the point that it can't be used to service island communities. Like every single route that exists, it's a lifeline and needed for a community.'

CalMac has said fare structures and pricing are the responsibility of Transport Scotland.

Community seeks new councillors

ARDCHATTAN Community Council, covering North Connel, Bonawe, Barcaldine and Benderloch, is looking for new members.

The organisation has 10 members at present but has space for another six and is hoping the community council by-election in November will see more people stepping forward to fill the posts.

The community council has one of the biggest areas in north Argyll and needs more members to help cover the area's issues effectively.

These include public transport, services, core paths, recycling, police, health, planning and more.

Nominations for candidates open on October 9, close on October 27 and the elections take place on November 27.

For anyone interested in attending a meeting, the next one is on October 7, 7.30pm, at Barcaldine primary school.

Oban publican takes on Soroba

A WELL-KNOWN Oban publican is set to re-open a popular pub in the south end of the town.

Forbes McHardy, who currently runs the Tartan Tavern in the centre of Oban, has renovated the Soroba House building, with plans to reopen in the next week under the name of 'The Glen'.

Forbes said: 'I want to give a traditional feel to the place, from the décor to the food and the entertainment.'

Forbes has managed to put together a collection of 365 pictures of Oban from throughout the years, decorating the walls in the restaurant bar.

The re-opening will also mean between six and eight jobs in the town, mainly staff Forbes is taking with him.

Cyclists power on for cancer charity

CRUACHAN power station staff and friends recently completed a cycle from Glencoe to Oban and raised a total of £1,875.00 for Cancer Research. The group thanked everyone who sponsored the cyclists.

New police chief urges Argyll people to join force and serve their community

EUAN PATERSON
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THE NEW head of policing in Argyll says she wants more local recruits to help fill vacancies.

Chief Superintendent Helen Swann has been appointed commander of L Division (Argyll and West Dunbartonshire) and succeeds Chief Superintendent Barry MacEwan.

She has 29 years of service, all of which has been on the west coast, and has had roles in CID and uniform, as well as recruitment and human resources.

With Police Scotland regularly having difficulty filling some of Argyll's more rural posts, Ch. Supt. Swann said there was untapped talent within the communities that could fill the void.

She said: 'I am very interested in recruitment because of my background and I would encourage local people who may be interested in joining the service to apply for



Ch. Supt. Helen Swann

either the regular constabulary or the special constabulary.

'You can join the police and stay in the local community, or a neighbouring community. You don't have to move away from Argyll if you are born and raised here.'

'The communities of Argyll have a strong sense of ownership and a personal interest and investment in

their community. I have worked in areas where you don't have that.'

Ch. Supt. Swann, who is from Glasgow, said she had spoken to her predecessor and the area's chief inspectors before taking up her new post and would continue to focus on driver behaviour and drugs.

On the subject of drugs, she added: 'I would urge communities to continue to support us and continue to provide information we can act on.'

Asked if she would be making any changes in her new role, Ch. Supt. Swann remained tight-lipped, saying: 'This is quite a turbulent time, a challenging time for the country in a number of different ways and things never stay the same but what is important is that local communities are entitled to expect a good service from the local police.'

Serving a population of nearly 200,000 and covering a geographical area of 2,950 sq miles, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire is one of largest divisions in the country.

MSP urges shops not to sell energy drinks to children

A HIGHLANDS and Islands politician has called for a ban on selling energy drinks to children.

Rhoda Grant MSP, shadow Holyrood minister for wellbeing, has raised concerns over the health impact of high caffeine and sugar drinks on young people and has backed a campaign to restrict their sale in shops near schools.

Stores backing the Responsible Retailing of Energy Drinks (RRED) scheme can ask for proof of age and refuse to sell the drinks to youngsters under 16, as well as storing the juice on high shelves and displaying health advisory notices.

Ms Grant said: 'Sales of energy drinks continue to rise and there is a real concern that these drinks are not only damaging to young people's health but also their educational achievement.'

'I hope that retailers, in particular those located near schools, will choose to become involved in the campaign.'

'I would like to see retailers from across the region sign up to become RRED members.'

New hydro scheme will renew faith in green technology

SUNART has become the first community in Lochaber to offer a new way of investing in renewable energy.

Tomorrow evening (Friday) a new share offer will be launched through Sunart Community Renewables giving people the opportunity to invest in a hydro scheme for a previously untapped power source in Strontian.

Shares are now available to investors aged 16 and over.

Electricity generated from the scheme will be sold to the national grid with profits donated to a local community benefit fund.

Jamie McIntyre, founding member of Sunart Community Renewables, said: 'Investing in the Sunart Community Hydro scheme is a great opportunity to support the development of renewable energy, and the creation of an income stream for local community development - and it's green and ethical.'

Planning permission for the scheme has been granted and construction is due to start early next year.

Man dies after he was knocked down

A SOUTH UIST man who died after he was hit by a car in Benbecula has been named.

John MacLachlan, 54, was walking on the road on the evening of September 18 when he was struck by a car on the A865 at Creagorry.

A police spokesman said: 'At about 8.40pm on Thursday, September 18, we received a report of a serious one-vehicle road traffic collision on the A865 at Creagorry in Benbecula, involving a car and a pedestrian. Sadly, as a result of his injuries, the pedestrian died.'

Community group granted £140,000

A GROUP on a Hebridean island has been awarded almost £140,000 to buy an old church.

The £139,460 grant from Scottish Land Fund was given to the Grimsay Community Association to bring the former Grimsay Free Church building and grounds into community ownership.

Alasdair Allan, Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP, said: 'I hope that this building can be secured for the community's use. It's good to see plans for so many new facilities on the island of Grimsay.'



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TRUST DIRECTOR BLASTS CRITICS AS COMMUNITY PLAN TAKES SHAPE

Rockfield group gains support

EUAN PATERSON
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A RALLYING call has been issued to supporters of the campaign to transform the old Rockfield primary as Oban's cultural hub, as the trust behind the plan strengthened its numbers.

Oban Communities Trust increased its number of directors from three to six with new appointments at a public meeting in Oban's Royal Hotel last Saturday.

Existing directors Graham MacQueen and Gordon and Alison

McNab have now been joined by architect and Rotary Club of Oban president Ronnie Neil, musician and teacher Joanie Garvin and accountant Jamie Smith.

The group has been named as preferred bidder for the site but has until December to come up with a fully costed business plan, which will be considered by councillors at February's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting.

Founding trust member Mr McNab used the meeting - attended by around 80 people - to gather new support and ideas, as well as

criticise those who said their cause was a lost one.

Praising those who had helped get the project off the ground, he told the meeting: 'We have come a very long way in a short space of time.'

He admitted the group's plans had been 'divisive', as it opposed a plan by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to demolish the old Rockfield school to make way for social housing.

Mr McNab added: 'The council is split, ACHA is annoyed and many inhabitants of Oban expressed a

wish that this does not succeed. But this town needs a hub. If Rockfield is demolished there is nowhere else for it.'

'This is social empowerment - Oban has had enough of not being involved in major decision making. We are no longer willing to have our future dictated by a few representatives.'

'We want the town to flourish and if the council doesn't do it, we will.'

'The question today is: what do you see this Rockfield project being? A centre of excellence for what? We need a wow factor for

this project, so please help us find what that could be. This project will succeed.'

Those at the meeting were encouraged to write down ideas to be considered by the trust, which has immediate plans for generating income for the project. These include restoring a toilet block and running a car park.

In the meantime, the trust is seeking charitable status and has applied for various grants.

Oban community council and councillors, including Roddy McCuish, were highlighted as having

opposed the community plan.

Community council secretary Duncan Martin explained the community council did not fully understand how the plan would be funded, while councillor McCuish said he had not been party to any decision on Rockfield as he was secretary to the board of ACHA directors.

He added: 'I wish the community group well but they need to stop blaming people and get on with the job in hand. People have to respect I have a difference of opinion, just as I respect their opinion.'

Call to stop the rot as school bid is pulled

LOUISE LEE
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DRY ROT is coursing through the fabric of the former Rockfield primary school - which has forced a potential bidder to pull his interest in the property.

Neil MacIntyre put in an offer for the former Rockfield primary school but says in spite of spending time and energy in putting forward a 'rock solid' business plan he will have to withdraw his interest because of the state of the former school.

The businessman, who runs a number of ventures in the town, says he is greatly concerned about the deteriorating state of the building.

Mr MacIntyre, who runs the car park at Shore Street, the Balmoral Hotel, Greenwood Estate and the Kilecragan Inn, plus has a number of business interests in Glasgow,

TIME FOR ACTION:
businessman Neil MacIntyre says dry rot has taken hold of Rockfield

said he had put an offer that would have seen secure parking in the town centre alongside toilets and facilities for visitors to the town, as well as retaining the former-Rockfield building for office or community space.

Mr MacIntyre said he had not heard any news about his offer from the council, and in fact heard about the outcome of his bid from



Facebook. The former Rockfield pupil is raging that the building is being allowed to deteriorate.

He said: 'It makes me really angry. I was brought up in the town and it is shocking that nothing has been done about the dry rot.'

'This building is now being neglected for at least another winter - if not longer.'

'Every month that passes there will be higher costs for whoever takes the building over. Surely it is the owner's responsibility to ensure the property doesn't fall down.'

The building is owned by Argyll and Bute council.

Mr MacIntyre's concerns were shared by a meeting of Oban Communities Trust (OCT) held last Saturday.

OCT chairman, Gordon McNab said: 'At the moment the biggest problem is dry rot in the main gym hall.'

'That has to be fixed as a matter of urgency. Dry rot spreads quickly and there will be a lot more damage. We therefore have to ask the council to do some stabilisation work.'

Colin Campbell, a former pupil who attended the meeting, said: 'Argyll and Bute Council should have attended to the dry rot years ago. They should be attending to it now.' His daughter, Fiona Campbell-Smith, added: 'It's like having cancer and refusing to treat it because you want to kill yourself.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The former Rockfield primary school is not an operational council building.'

'It is kept safe and secure, as well as wind and watertight as far as possible.'

'This issue has been drawn to our attention by the Oban Community Trust and we are currently in discussions with them.'



CONCERNED: John Grieve says talks of gangs is 'ludicrous'

Anger over 'ludicrous' claims that clams are more lucrative than drugs

MARIAN MILLER
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RAZOR clam exporters have hit back at claims that their industry is being taken over by organised gangs raking in £65,000 a day from Argyll waters.

Police Scotland had previously estimated that tens of thousands of pounds worth of live razor clams were being illegally fished from Argyll and exported through Glasgow Airport each day, making it more lucrative than hard drugs.

However, local razor clam fishermen and exporters have dismissed the figures and talk of gangs as 'ludicrous'.

Following a report which first broke in *The Oban Times* about an operation led by Marine Scotland to clamp down on illegal electro-fishing for razor clams in Argyll, the industry has become increasingly concerned about how it has been portrayed by the authorities.

Director of the Razor Clam Fishermen's Forum John Grieve, of Lochleven Shellfish in Onich and Kinlochleven, said: 'The figures are ludicrous. The whole report is ludicrous.'

'If the figure was £65,000 a day that would work out at around £150 a kilo.'

'We wholesale razor clams in Hong Kong for around £7 a kilo.'

Alan Inglis of Trawlpac International, who has been exporting live razor clams from Argyll for six years until recently when he says the fisheries dried up, said: 'Possibly in one day, on a fantastic day when the market is flooded, you might get £65,000 from all of the boats.'

'On a very good day we might get £8,000-£10,000.'

One Argyll fisherman, who did not wish to be named, said: 'It is a lie to say they earn £65,000 a day; perhaps a week, but not a day.'

'There's no organised crime, they are all fishermen - the ones I can think of up and down the west coast - who are just trying to pay their mortgages and feed their families. There are no criminal gangs. They are just fishermen.'

'They are demonising it and trying to make it look really bad.'

'Dredging is a legal means but you would lose between 40-60 per cent of the catch through broken clams, undersized clams and under-sized species.'

He said in his opinion electro-fishing was safe and the most ethical, sustainable and economically viable method.

But there has been a blanket ban on any kind of electro-fishing

among European Union member states since 1998, although there has been a relaxation of the ban - derogation - for around 80 Dutch boats beam trawling for flat fish by killing them with electrical pulses.

Electro-fishing for clams involves two copper rods being dragged along the seabed, leaving a trail that disappears with the tide, emitting a mild electrical current which stuns the clams. Divers follow behind in up to 20 metres of water lifting the stunned shellfish.

A study into the effects of electro-fishing for razor clams at Carmarthen Bay in Wales, published in 2011, found there were no short or long-term effects on the surrounding environment and marine life.

'There are no by-catches and no discards,' said the fisherman. He claimed that he had heard of divers who had been touched by a rod likening it to being nipped.

All three said they had never heard of any divers dying from electro-fishing but did know of two divers on the east coast who died in different circumstances.

Mr Grieve, who has been in the live shellfish industry for 30 years, has been involved with a recently-completed study, due to be published any day now, on electro-fishing for razor clams.

Commissioned by Marine Scotland, it involves an independent scientist and funding from the Fishing Industry Alliance.

Although unable to discuss the study, he was personally in 'no doubt' that it was the safest and most sustainable way to fish for razor clams and said it was a 'dream' way of fishing which should be receiving awards instead of being outlawed.

'The whole object of the exercise is to go for derogation of the regulations,' he said.

'Six years ago, EU fisheries minister Joe Borg asked member states to put forward their cases for electro-fishing to replace the more damaging gear fishing - but it has taken this long.'

They all said it was not possible to export live razor clams without a paper trail showing the clams had been tested fit for human consumption by environmental health officers.

'They are nearly all exported from Scotland, so it is good for the Scottish economy; it also takes boats off more pressured stocks and the amount of diesel used is minimal,' said Mr Grieve.

He did have concerns about potential overfishing but felt licensing could regulate this and the size of clams caught.

Bypass delayed further

TRANSPORT Scotland has again rescheduled its completion date for the Crianlarich bypass, citing the previous winter weather as the reason.

The transport authority recently stated the work would be done by late summer this year.

But when asked this week for

an update on the work, Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times* it would now be autumn this year before it was finished. A spokeswoman said: 'Despite one of the wettest winters in recent memory, which resulted in difficult ground conditions, RJ McLeod is continuing to make progress.'

No Christmas gift for family group from community

AN APPLICATION by a preschool charity was turned down by Oban community council at its meeting last week.

Soroba Young Families asked for £500 from the community council for a Christmas party for children.

Explaining in a letter to the community council that the charity works with many underprivileged children from their premises in Oban they asked for a donation to its annual party being held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in December.

Community councillors discussed the matter at length and decided that it was not a grant making organisation.

Councillor Roddy McCuish asked the community council to make that clear as the previous month it had made a £300 donation to a World War One concert in the Corran Halls.

Mr McCuish was shouted down by members of the group arguing the event only happened once every 100 years.

The community council agreed to write to Soroba Young Families and direct them to Oban Common Good Fund who may be able to help the group.

Warden admits she doesn't have a clue

LOUISE LEE
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A TRAFFIC warden is 'sick of asking' for advice from council officers on a single white line kerbside marking on the road outside the TSB Bank, Oban community council has heard.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy is now pleading with Argyll and Bute council to put the amenity warden out of her misery and tell her what the lines mean.

The veteran member of the group also wants the council to put up a sign to make it clear to motorists what they can and can't do in that area.

Mrs Malloy said: 'The amenity warden has been asking repeatedly as she doesn't know what the lines mean. She says it is very frustrating for her - because no one can give her an answer.'

'I remember when the former chief inspector had them painted on the road and I was told at the time that it means we can stay for ten minutes without getting a ticket. But the warden has not been told that.'

'When I met her last week, I was running into the bank and told her

not to give me a ticket because that is what I understood to be the case.'

The community councillors had heard that cars parking in that area had been given tickets.

Councillor Ian Angus MacDonald said: 'I have been asking why people are getting tickets when they park on the former ambulance bay on Tweedale Street.'

'I am told that while it has not been an ambulance bay for some 10 or so years, it is still an offence to park there - because it is marked as an ambulance bay.'

A police spokesman told *The Oban Times*, that double yellow lines means no parking but the single white lines on the kerbside mean you can stop for 10 minutes.

An Argyll and Bute council spokesman said: 'There are double yellow lines outside the TSB bank in Oban, meaning no waiting at any time; our amenity wardens are entirely justified in issuing parking contravention notices (PCN) to motorists.'

'Our staff act in a professional and responsible manner at all times, following parking legislation to the letter. The white line has no meaning.'



FINE LINES: white lines on kerb are 'meaningless'

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Tiree

TREE high school's gala day 2014 will be held this Saturday, October 4, with plans to make the event the biggest yet. The day will be held at Tiree high school from 12pm onwards and will feature a variety of activities including fun stalls, soak the teacher, lucky dip and a fun photo booth, as well as a musical tribute act performed by teachers. Photographs taken in the fun photo booth can be transferred onto ceramic mugs for those wanting a souvenir of the day, or perhaps for a gift, with Christmas, birthday and other seasonal designs available. The booth can host individual, family and group photographs, with costumes and props available to add some fun to the photos. Gala organisers are urging those attending to contribute to the cake stall and refreshments with tablet, fruit pies, scones, shortbread, macarons and scones examples of goods made for the event in past years, along with sandwiches for the parent council and parent teacher association teas.

Lismore

LISMORE hopes to attract bookworms from around the area to its book week in the heritage centre from October 20 to 24. Lismore Book Week offers events for all ages and will see presentations from a host of speakers including Professor Jim Hunter and Alan Riach, professor of Scottish Literature at Glasgow University, who will give an illustrated, informal talk based on the book Arts of Independence: The Cultural Argument and Why it Matters. Transport will be provided from the noon Port Appin ferry, Tuesday to Friday.

A LISMORE representative was part of the Strath of Appin primary team that won the junior section of the Ian 'Parrot' MacMillan memorial sixes on September 21. Held at Mossfield Park, Oban, the tournament attracted 14 teams divided into junior and senior sections. Appin beat Rockfield 3-0 in the final with Lewis Walker from Lismore playing in defence. Lewis is a regular at shinty practice in Appin and travels weekly from the island.

ISLANDERS and family joined with Donnie and Anne MacCormick on September 20 to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. There was a great party in the local hall with wonderful food, great music and even better craic. Many congratulations to the happy couple. Everyone is now looking forward to the diamond wedding party!



JOY OF DISCOVERY: Zoë Stanton and Kay Neville were intrigued with the blue sand that never gets wet, put on display by SAMS 06_a40science01

Ardfern

AN INFLATABLE planetarium, handmade rockets and aliens caught the imagination of youngsters at the first Ardfern science festival. Hosted by science experts, the festival saw young and old learn more about astronomy, the Milky Way, chemistry and 'aliens' found beneath the sea. Scientists held workshops at Craignish primary school on Friday, before adults were encouraged to explore the dark side of the universe with astrophysicist Martin Hendry. The professor at Glasgow University drew a crowd from across Argyll for his lecture which was attended by 60 people. Saturday was about fun as a family open day was hosted in the village hall, where people got to grips with sand that never gets wet, gazed at stars in a pop-up planetarium and became scientists themselves by building complex molecules. 'It's good we can do this in more far flung places,' said Martin. 'People have come along for the fun day, which is letting children see science can be fun. We tell them what all this science can do for our society, as well as talking about the great mysteries of the universe.' Ardfern science festival was organised by Craignish Community Company (C3) in partnership with the University of Glasgow, the British Science Association, the Scottish Association for Marine Science and Science@Cwaben.



Banavie pupils enjoy travelling art gallery visit

IN THE PICTURE: Banavie primary school pupils enjoyed a day learning about contemporary art when a travelling gallery visited. The children explored the mobile exhibition and looked at sculptures, drawings and wall hangings 20_140banavie01

Duror

A NEW path for cyclists and walkers has been opened between Lagnaha, near Duror, and Kentallen. The 2.2km stretch, constructed by Breedon Aggregates Scotland, was officially opened last Wednesday by Highland councillors Andrew Baxter and Thomas MacLennan, who were joined by children from Duror primary school and members of the community. The £350,000 path is located east of the A828 and forms part of National Cycle Network route 78, a longer route from Inverness to Campbeltown. National sustainable transport charity Sustrans has been working on the Oban to Fort William section of the route since 2007. Fiona Doonan, engineering manager for Sustrans Scotland, said: 'Sustrans aims to give people opportunities to travel on foot and by bike for more of their everyday journeys.'

Tyndrum

THE TYNDRUM Cafe Sci starts its winter programme of talks on Wednesday October 29 with a presentation by Alan Smiles on the 'natural history of a Perthshire hill farm'. He will be talking about the diversity of plant and animal species that can be found at the Scottish Rural College's Kirton and Auchtertyre farms in Strathfillan, and discussing some of the reasons why there is this wealth of species including nationally rare plants and animals. The meeting will take place in Tyndrum hall. Other meeting dates for the sci cafe are November 19, February 18 2015 and March 18, with another two dates to be confirmed. The speakers cover all aspects of science of including maths, physics, chemistry, biology, agriculture and food, medicine, engineering, geology, geography, environmental science, astronomy, meteorology and more.

While they are free evenings, a small donation is appreciated on the night and there are drinks and nibbles on offer. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Tyndrum Hall on 01838 400545 - office hours most days - or email the trust office on strathfillan.cdt@btconnect.com

Strathfillan

THERE has been a higher than usual number of reports of people suspected of drinking and driving, because of erratic driving, in Crianlarich and Tyndrum over the summer. Scotland Police PC Craig Murray told last month's meeting of Strathfillan community council that of the 36 calls in the area over the previous month, 20 had been vehicle-related. The community council heard that the drivers often turned out to be newly-arrived foreign visitors, who had just picked up a hire car on arrival at an airport that day. There were two mountain rescues, three 'high risk' missing people - one of who had been found in the area - and three 'general concern' calls, reported PC Murray. The community council also discussed the removal of the speed-activated warning signs from Crianlarich, which have been taken away as part of the A82 by-pass works. The community council heard there was currently no budget for further signs of this type.



Village war memorial visit

OUT AND ABOUT: Ballachulish primary school pupils visited a war memorial in Lochaber as part of their First World War class topic. The primary six and seven pupils paid their respects at the statue just outside Ballachulish and took rubbings of the memorial's inscriptions

Acharacle

AN ARDNAMURCHAN stronghold has been named one of the top places to stay in Britain. Glenborrodale Castle, Acharacle, was awarded third place in Countryfile's top 10 castles for an overnight stay, the only one in Scotland to make the list. The accommodation, run by Ardnamurchan Estate, pipped Yorkshire gem Swinton Park and Ireland's Ashfor Castle to the top three, only losing out to Bovey Castle, Dartmoor, and Ruthin Castle in Wales.

Corpach

A FUNDRAISING race night will be held in Corpach this month for the Kilmallie Christmas lights. Tradewinds pub will host the event on October 25 and proceeds will go to the festive display, scheduled to be lit up on December 5.

MORVERN lines

AS A HISTORIAN I am often asked what our ancestors looked like. My reply is probably not a great deal different to those of us today except that in ancient times we were generally smaller and healthier because we ate and drank less and had to walk more.

We can, of course, get an indication of the appearance of some individuals from their portraits. But as artists were, and still are, employed on a commission basis they would have been less than flattering supposing the subject had the profile and features of a Highland cow, so we have to look deeper. Until about 20 years ago the skull of a 17th century adult male, recorded in history as a Maclean from Lochbuie, was so perfectly preserved above ground on Jura that it was possible to form an idea of how he must have looked in real life.

The story of Maclean's skull is an interesting one. When the Campbells acquired Jura in the 17th century they allowed the Macleans to continue living as their tenants at Glengarrisdale - a prosperous settlement with a small castle called 'An Aros' near the north end of the island. Soon though, they began quarrelling with their neighbours, the Campbells of Craignish. Sometime during the summer of 1647, in revenge for a Maclean raid, a party of Craignish Campbells sailed across to Jura and under cover of darkness made their way to Glengarrisdale.

The following morning, apparently, was calm and sunny and the Macleans, with no thought of an attack, placed their swords and dirks against a large boulder, known for ever after as Clach nan Arm (Gaelic, 'the stone of the weapons') while they enjoyed putting the shott and playing shinty on a nearby meadow.

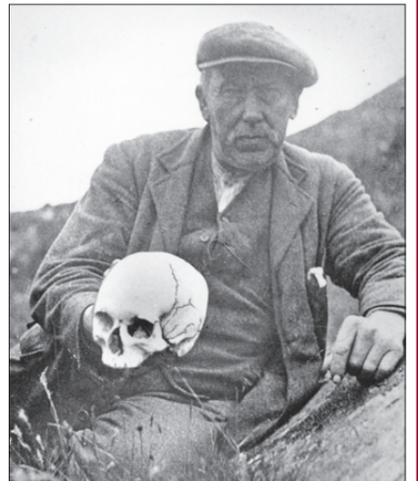
The Campbells, seeing all this from Ardracaig, a big knoll to the west, crept stealthily down through the rocks and placed themselves between the Macleans and their weapons. Some Maclean women, who were gathering shellfish on the beach, saw the approaching Campbells and shouted a warning but their cries were taken as playful frivolity and by the time the men realised the danger it was too late and the slaughter began.

Eighteen unarmed men and boys were killed. Only one man, a MacPhee, managed to escape by leaping into the sea and swimming across the bay to a rocky point where he landed and hid in a cave until the Campbells left.

Despite the lawless nature of the period and their popularity with the government, the Campbells were charged, found guilty and outlawed.

Some of the victims must have been buried where they fell because about 100 years ago an adult male and a juvenile skeleton were ploughed up in field below the old castle.

The skull of the adult, according to one report, was bleached white, but in perfect condition with teeth the like of which are rarely seen these days. Death had evidently been caused by the clean cut of a broadsword. The blow had struck the head but had glanced off slicing away part of the top of the skull. Another swipe had been more effective; it had gone through into the brain and must have caused instantaneous death.



PLOUGHED UP: Angus MacKechnie holding Maclean's skull

For some unknown reason the skull and some leg bones were not reburied but hidden under a large boulder above Glengarrisdale Bay which became known as 'Maclean's Skull Cave'. There they remained under the watchful eye of Angus MacKechnie, stalker and lobster fisherman, whose family had lived at Glengarrisdale for generations. They were greatly admired and photographed by anyone who knew about them until around 1980s when the skull disappeared. Its whereabouts is now a mystery.

According to an old Jura tradition, whenever the Glengarrisdale skull was removed in the past it would return, 'as if by magic', to its accustomed resting place.

A visitor, staying the night with Angus MacKechnie, once hid it to test the story. Sure enough, it was back in its usual place the following morning even although he had watched Angus's movements as well as he could in the intervening time.

Part of one of the leg bones is still there but as far as the skull is concerned it looks as though the 'old magic' has gone forever. We should be glad, however, that at least several photographs of this fine old Maclean relic still exist.

The cottage at Glengarrisdale is now cared for by The Mountain Bothy Association. I visited it recently and enjoyed reading some of the entries in the visitor's book. One in particular caught my eye. It was written by a man who had returned after 20 years. He recorded that although he wasn't as fit as he had been then he had shed 31 stone in the intervening period, namely: wife = 14 stone; mother-in-law = 16 stone and tongue of the above = 1 stone. He had obviously enjoyed a peaceful visit although the fate of the ladies in his life was not recorded.

Iain Thornber
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Colonsay

SEAWEED foraging is just one of the ventures on the menu from October 11 to 31 for the Connect with Colonsay events and activities programme.

Fiona Houston, co-author of Seaweed and Eat It: A Family Foraging and Cooking Adventure, is travelling to the island for the festival as the tides at the beginning of the three-week event are favourable for seaweed collecting.

She will be leading seaweed foraging walks on Sunday October 12 and Monday October 13.

Other events, tailored to children as well as adults, include nature walks, baking sessions, felting workshops, a supper club, flag-making, garden tours, cooking, collage-making, bottled liqueurs, music, farm walks, bird walks, beer tasting, a beach litter clean and much more.

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CREATIVE children have been doing their bit to support the Oban Community Playpark Fund by designing their own t-shirts.

More than 200 pre-school children had taken part in a sponsored walk, from the Corran Halls to Dunollie Castle, that raised more than £1,300 for the fund and at the finish line all children were given a t-shirt to decorate. These made up part of a goody bag donated by the Building Community Bridges project run by Argyll Voluntary Action.

The theme of the t-shirt competition was 'Play is for everyone' and children were invited to use fabric pens or paint to create their designs.

The winners were, main picture from left: Alfie Buyers, Freya Grant and Emily Lavis-Jones. Pictured inset is the fourth winner. All four winners received Waterstones gift vouchers donated by Building Community Bridges.



Four jobs go as car dealership shuts

A LOCHABER car dealership will close this week after 14 years in the area.
Hawco Fort William, a Volkswagen dealership in Caol, will close its doors tomorrow (Friday) making four people redundant.
Hawco Group marketing director Kevin Hawco confirmed there were a number of 'unfortunate' redundancies but two of the six staff members will be transferred to the company's nearest branch in Inverness.
He added: 'I can confirm we have to close our premises in Fort William on Friday.
'It is for a number of reasons, particularly some changes to the premises we occupy and the high standards required of all Volkswagen dealerships, from the smallest to the largest.
'We have had a long relationship with Fort William. We have been there for more than 12 years and we will continue to provide a high standard of service [for customers] although it will require them to come to another branch.'

Go-ahead for new student bedsits

NEW STUDENT accommodation in Fort William has been granted planning permission.
The three-storey building at An Aird, near the town's West Highland College UHI campus, will be made up of 40 bedsits for the adventure tourism course. Highland Council's south planning committee approved the plans at a meeting on Tuesday.

Under-age drink sale test

LOCHABER police will be carrying out test sales in the area over the coming weeks.
The scheme involves a fully-briefed teenager attempting to buy alcohol from off-sales to check shop staff are only selling age-restricted items to adults and are asking for identification if they are unsure.
A police spokesman said: 'If the proprietor does not ask the person their age and allows them to buy alcohol they will be

Site visit and quick action save sawmill from disaster

EMMA CRICHTON
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A MAJOR fire at a Fort William sawmill on Tuesday morning was prevented thanks to the efforts of emergency services and a safety visit to the site by firemen just three weeks ago.

Two fire engines from the town station were sent to Corpach at 1.18am when a 15-ton machine at BSW Timber, one of the largest timber yards in Europe, went up in flames.

The 'quick efforts' of Fort William fire crews meant the blaze was put out before it caught hundreds of tonnes of wood chip nearby.

Luckily, fire service group manager Pat McElhinney and watch manager Chris Findlay had recently been on a safety visit to BSW Timber which meant they were well versed on the location of water supplies at the site, as well as potential risks and hazards.

Mr McElhinney told *The Oban Times* this, combined with rain after a long spell of damp weather, prevented what could have been a huge blaze. He said: 'Thankfully the wood chip was damp which prevented it igniting but if it had been dry and we

Both crews did an excellent job and their quick efforts ensured this incident did not escalate

Pat McElhinney
fire service group manager

hadn't extinguished the fire when we did, hundreds of tonnes could have caught fire which would have had a massive impact on both the business and the environment.'

The sawmill has 225 employees and produces 250,000 cubic metres of sawn timber each year.

Mr McElhinney also praised the work of his staff. He said: 'Both crews from Fort William did an excellent job and their quick efforts ensured this incident did not escalate. Having secured a water supply, crews were deployed in breathing apparatus to attack the fire. In addition to water, firefighters predominantly used foam in a sustained attack on the fire, which prevented further fire spread and knocked the flames back. The use of foam made a massive difference due to the fact that there was diesel within the fire and this quickly killed the chance of fire spread and limited the fire in the machinery until it was extinguished. All things considered, this was a massive save for our crews and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.'

Mr McElhinney thanked BSW Timber staff for meeting his crew



QUICK ACTION: fire crews tackled a blaze at the Corpach sawmill

at the entrance to lead them to the incident, which saved time. A spokeswoman for BSW Timber said: 'A small fire took place in a

hired machine at our Fort William sawmill in the early hours of Tuesday morning. 'The fire brigade was called

and the fire immediately extinguished. A full inspection was carried out and production was not affected.'

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ACCIDENTS: the bend on the A828 at North Ledaig Caravan Park is causing consternation 16_140road01

Caravan park owner in call for road action

But roads authority BEAR says not enough accidents at bend

A CARAVAN park owner who has witnessed countless road accidents on the A828 near his site has called on the roads authority to help.

But BEAR Scotland, which is responsible for the stretch of trunk road by North Ledaig Caravan Park, says there have not been a sufficient number of accidents to merit immediate action.

Peter Weir, who has operated the caravan park near Benderloch for 32 years, says there are 'four or five' accidents every year; the most recent was last Friday when a male driver crashed into a tree opposite the entrance to North Ledaig Caravan Park and suffered a head injury.

Mr Weir, who is supported by a number of his regular visitors, is concerned about the corner on the southbound approach to the caravan site, which he says is 'slippy'.

He said: 'The vast majority of cars involved in these accidents are not coming in and out of the caravan park. The majority involve locals. They skid on the road; sometimes they hit things, sometimes they don't but I have seen damaged telegraph poles, signs, metal posts and even our disused petrol pump. 'There is a manhole on the bend and trees overhanging the road. I think it needs an anti-skid surface and the

40mph speed limit extended beyond Benderloch. If not, there will be a fatal accident very soon.'

But BEAR Scotland said it has only recorded two accidents at the North Ledaig site on the A82 where injuries were sustained between 2011 and 2013 - one short of the required number to be considered for action.

A spokeswoman for the authority said: 'We are currently preparing the 2015/16 Annual Road Safety Review for Transport Scotland which considers any site where there have been three or more injury accidents within a 100 metre radius in the three-year period from 2011 to 2013.

'While there have been two accidents where injuries were recorded in this location on the A828 in the past three years there is currently no action proposed at this site.

'We will continue to monitor the safety of the A828 at Ledaig and, if future surface treatment is identified, it will be considered within the next one to three-year programme.'

A speed limit review carried out in 2012 concluded that the existing 60 mph speed limit on the southern approach to Benderloch is appropriate in line with the Setting Local Speed Limits guidance and through agreement with the police.

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Fort rural gears up for winter session

FORT William's women's rural institute will begin its winter programme from Monday (October 6).

The first meeting will be held in Inverloch Hall at 7.15pm with all meetings thereafter held on the first Monday of the month.

Martine Young, secretary of Fort William WRI, said: 'If you have not been before why not come along. The WRI caters for a wide variety of interests.'

'Topics over the winter include the Children's Hospice Association Scotland, a police talk on safety and bogus callers, a herbalist who will speak about herbal remedies, a session on genealogy, interspersed by a musical evening and a members' night.'

The group will also be running a crafts and art class, the first in Inverloch Hall on October 8 at 2pm.

Death fall woman named by police

POLICE have named a woman who died after falling from a ridge in Glencoe.

Lisa MacDermid, 63, from Crieff is believed to have fallen between 100 and 150 metres at the Aonach Eagach ridge near Glencoe on the afternoon of Saturday September 20.

A police spokesman said: 'Police co-ordinated a search and rescue attempt with assistance from Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and Royal Navy Rescue helicopter 177 but sadly the woman died on the hill at around 2.10pm. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

Care home curry night on menu

A LOCHABER care home will be holding a fundraising event next month.

A curry night, with a range of dishes and a free drink, will be on offer at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish, on November 7.

The event is bring-a-bottle and booking is essential. Tickets can be bought at the care home or over the phone on 01855 812950.

OFF-ROAD ROUTE THE WAY AHEAD



OPENING DAY: councillors, local residents and Duror primary school pupils gathered with Sustrans staff to open the new path. From left: councillor Thomas MacLennan, Daisy Warayanan, Fionan Doonan and councillor Andrew Baxter 20_f40path01

Residents delighted as new path links villages

A NEW cycling and walking path has been opened, providing an off-road route connecting Lochaber villages.

The two kilometre section between Lagnaha and Kentallen was officially opened by Highland councillors Thomas MacLennan and Andrew Baxter last Wednesday, with the help of Duror primary school pupils and members of the local community.

The path forms part of a national cycle network scheme to create a much longer route between Inverness and Campbeltown and this £350,000 stretch fills a missing link to the existing path from Duror to Ballachulish.

Sustainable transport charity Sustrans has been working on the Oban to Fort William section of the route since 2007.

Fionan Doonan, engineering manager for Sustrans Scotland, said: 'This provides a safe off-road route for both locals and visitors to the area to use and

enjoy. Local path users from Duror will now be able to get the whole way to Ballachulish, about eight and a half miles, completely off road.'

Locals are 'delighted' with the new path, said Jonathan Baxter, chairman of Duror and Kentallen Community Council. He added:

'It's great that we finally have something other than a busy main road connecting our two villages. We're all really impressed with the quality of work from the developers and we wish them well for completing the network as soon as possible.'



SCENIC: Duror primary school pupils take a break on the path with Linda Evans, left, and Fionan Doonan of Sustrans 20_f40path02

Oyster farm expansion plan refused

EMMA CRICHTON
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A CONTROVERSIAL proposal to expand a shellfish farm in a scenic Ardnamurchan loch has been refused.

Developer Measan Na Mara Ltd sought planning permission to increase its oyster farm at the south channel of Loch Moidart from just under five acres to more than 43, saying it would boost the local economy and bring jobs to the area.

The plan prompted more than 40 objections during the consultation stage and on Tuesday members of Highland Council's south planning committee voted against the expansion by seven votes to six.

The applicant said at most the trestles would only be visible 50 per cent of the time, due to high tides but this didn't persuade planning officials.

At Tuesday's meeting, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillors Andrew Baxter and Thomas MacLennan said the tranquil site, near Castle Tioram, was inappropriate for industrial production and urged their colleagues to reject the application.

Councillor Baxter said: 'I think the feeling of remoteness would be spoiled. The thought of row upon row of oyster trestles being visible here troubles me immensely.'

'I know the visual impact will only be there up to 50 per cent of the time but it will be when people are most likely to visit the loch, at low tide times.'

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, added: 'This is going to have a huge impact on the area. I feel this

“The thought of row upon row of oyster trestles being visible here troubles me immensely”

Councillor Andrew Baxter

is just too big. It's going to be stark, industrial and a total opposite to what people go to this area to see.'

But councillor Thomas Prag said

he didn't think the impact would be negative and said they could become a typical part of coastal areas, 'the same way fishing boats are'.

Before the meeting, tourists and the community widely opposed the plan. Acharacle community council said the impact would be 'too disruptive'. In a formal objection members listed the size of the production, impact on local wildlife, a drop in tourism and noise and light pollution as concerns.

After the proposal was rejected, Hugh MacPherson, chairman of Acharacle community council, said: 'We're glad that the elected members who represent us took the thoughts of the community on board and took those views to a decision, although it was by a narrow margin.'



PLAN REFUSED: Loch Moidart, site of the proposed extended shellfish farm Photo: Iain Thomson



STEPPING OUT: the Young at Heart walking club celebrated its 20th anniversary with a group dinner

Weekly walkers mark 20 years with dinner

ALMOST 50 members of Lochaber walking group Young at Heart celebrated the club's 20th anniversary at a dinner last week.

Over the last two decades, people over the age of 50 have been coming together for weekly walks around Lochaber and a monthly trip further afield.

Hilary Dyer, secretary of Young at Heart, said: 'The club has been successful so far and will definitely continue.'

'We have some days out both locally and outside the area and it's really good for health.'

'All in all it's a great success and so was our celebration dinner.'



FUNDRAISER: volunteers and Roy Bridge villagers gathered for Macmillan Cancer Support's world's biggest coffee morning 20_f40coffee01

Cuppa cash boosts Macmillan charity

AN ANNUAL coffee morning in Lochaber raised more than £700 this year.

The fundraiser in Roy Bridge Village Hall on Saturday was part of Macmillan Cancer Support world's biggest coffee morning and gathered £776.16 for the charity.

Mhairi Ross has been running the event for the last nine years with the help of her mother and thanked all the volunteers for their help on the day.

Doors open on new rooms for homeless

NEW HOMELESS accommodation for the western isles has opened in Stornoway.

The Acres, built on the former playing field on Island Road, provides a temporary home for up to 28 people.

Opened by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader councillor Angus Campbell last week, the 24-room centre is separated into four flats with a communal kitchen, recreation area and laundry.

Councillor Kenny Murray, chairman of the environment and protective services committee, said: 'We have developed The Acres to provide a safe and welcoming environment to our clients until they can secure permanent accommodation.'

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The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

How can anyone put a price on a child's life?

DO THE math - £40,000 for a drug-support service for children is not much in the grand scheme of things.

For that kind of cash you could get the expenses of three councillors, a middle manager in the council to shuffle papers, 15 pot-holes filled or we could save the lives of children, as young as 11, who have become addicted to alcohol or drugs.

The service provided by Oban Addiction Support and Information Service (OASIS) is life-saving. Time and again we have heard the rock bottom stories of parents who have no-one to turn to.

Parents have come forward with a plea to the bean counters - do not take this service away.

The stigma of being a drug-user cannot be escaped. How can we condemn our children to a life of shame because an accountant behind a desk says this service is not economically viable?

How on earth do you put a price on heartache? It's time to think again.

GLASGOW LETTER

The Spree

A YEAR ago this column promoted the Royal National Mod, taking place in Paisley for the first time, and The Spree, the town's national celebration of arts and culture.

This year's Mod is in Inverness and The Spree, now in its third year, will continue its development as an established fixture on the Scottish festival map.

The Spiegeltent will be back in County Square and there will be action in other venues in the town centre including Paisley Abbey. With music, comedy, arts and plenty for youngsters, the festival runs from Saturday October 11 to Monday October 20.

Further details at www.thespree.co.uk

Whisky Galore - A Musical

WHISKY Galore, the story based on the Compton MacKenzie novel made into a film in 1949, is familiar to many.

For its inaugural production, Windmill Productions will be presenting the musical in Hutchesons' Grammar School Drama Studio, Glasgow, from Tuesday October 14 to Saturday October 18.

Performances will take place at 7.30pm each evening with a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday October 18.

The first half of the production sets the scene with the arrival of the cargo of whisky, while the second half is devoted to the drinking of it, the hiding of it and the disposal of it.

This promises to be an evening of top quality humorous entertainment with, I am sure, particular interest for those with Highland backgrounds.

Glasgow Islay Association opening concert

AS HAS been traditional for the past number of years, the opening concert of the Glasgow Islay Association, which will take place in the Crawford Hall at 7.30pm tomorrow evening (Friday), will be mainly sustained by the senior and junior Glasgow Islay Gaelic choirs.

Tiree Association

THE TIREE Association is planning a fundraising event in aid of its homecoming concert in Tiree in May 2016.

The fundraiser is being

held in Crawford Hall, Partick, on Friday October 24, 7pm for 7.30pm, when there will be viewings of the films *Sula* and *Return to Sula*. Filming took place on Tiree in the 1970s with local children filling the main character parts.

I am sure many of them will be looking forward to seeing how they used to look all these years ago.

The evening will include soup and sandwiches and will cost £10, or £5 for under 14s.

Composing competition

THE FIVE finalists for this year's Martynn Bennett prize for traditional music composition have been announced.

They are James Lindsay, Glasgow, Stuart MacPherson, Dumfries, and Christopher Bradley, Aidan O'Rourke and Rob Taylor who are all based in Edinburgh. Their pieces will be played at a concert in the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, on October 14 and will be judged by Jim Sutherland, Sally Beamish and Hector MacInnes, last year's winner, with a first prize of £2,000 and a runner-up prize of £1,000.

Diary dates

Friday October 3: Glasgow Islay Association opening concert - see above. Country dance festival with primary pupils from Bearsden/Milngavie in Bearsden Burgh Hall during the day.

Saturday October 4: Bearsden Celtic Festival, workshops during the day and evening concert, New Kilpatrick Church.

Tuesday October 7: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72A Waterloo Street, 8pm, Bram Taylor.

Friday October 10: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Tuesday October 14: Whisky Galore, Hutchesons' Grammar School - see above. Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72A Waterloo Street, 8pm, Mike Whellans.

Pub scene

IN THE Park Bar this weekend Martin Pottinger will be playing with Nicky McMichan on Friday and then with Alan Crookston on both Saturday and Sunday. In the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and Penny Dogs on Saturday.

Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

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.

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WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.



Oban high school football team - 1947/48

This week's flashback photograph features Oban high school's first X1 football team from 1947/48. Left to right, front row: Nicol Sinclair; Peter Ormand, captain; Malcolm Nicholson; Hew Craig; Cameron McDonald and Angus Boyd. Back row: Dugald Kennedy; Ian (John) Campbell; Ian Menzies; Duncan Campbell and Charles MacDougall. Prints or emails of flashback photos should be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

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Don't build housing on town's blaes pitch

Sir, I was interested to read in last week's *Oban Times* about a proposed plan to build housing on the blaes pitch and Mossfield car park in Oban.

I have lived in Oban most of my life and have used the blaes pitch regularly, either as a boy for recreation or for attending events like the fairground and other displays, walks, parking and spending time with friends and family.

It is also a really good area for people to use for things varying from dog training to kite flying.

It should be kept as a wide open space for the community. If built on it would only be for the benefit of a few people that live there.

This development is being linked with a proposed mini garden park elsewhere in the town and in itself is not a bad idea.

However, the area at Mossfield should not be removed to allow for this as a small mini garden park is not of the same value to Oban.

Would it not be an idea for Argyll and Bute council to do something with a small part of the blaes pitch and car park, creating a mini garden, leaving most of the wide open area for events and public leisure use?

If this area is to be developed, the general public will no

longer be able to benefit from all that it offers.

I think it should be kept for the majority of people who live in Oban.

Also, the public should be consulted before any plans are implemented.

Derek MacDougall, Miller Road, Oban.

Resignation of John Semple

Sir, Regarding your story about the decision of John Semple to resign as a councillor, your paper stated he had let his colleagues know about this.

As a fellow SNP councillor, I thought I was one of John's colleagues, but the first I knew of his decision was an email from the council's director of customer services just after 6pm on September 18.

Councillor Isobel Strong, SNP, Ward 8, Isle of Bute.

Oban Phoenix Cinema success

Sir, At present the cinema is going through exceptional change with many of our staff members moving onto pastures new.

We would like to thank, through the pages of *The Oban Times*, those people who have been involved in getting the cinema thus far and making it the successful venue it is.

Over the coming months the cinema will switch into its winter timetable - meaning only one show per day. Please

remember how important it is to visit the cinema on a regular basis.

While our attendance figures remain good, there is always a risk to the cinema's future if people don't use it.

Again, thank you to all the staff who are moving on to pastures new. We wish them, and those who are remaining, well.

Louise Glen-Lee, convenor, Oban Phoenix Cinema.

Urgent appeal for public toilets

Sir, I recently took my visitors to the area to McCaig's Tower in Oban.

It was a beautiful day and we had taken a picnic with us to enjoy.

As I had not been up into the area for years I was shocked to find there are still no toilets for visitors.

There isn't even a place for visitors to wash their hands.

Not only were we caught short, we were also caught out and sadly, we didn't spend the time in the area we really wanted to.

We decided to go to Ganavan beach as I knew there were toilets there.

Well, they were disgusting - no use to anyone because of their state.

Finally we went for a walk on Oban's north pier only to discover that the loos were closed.

This town really doesn't do itself any favours.

When is someone going

to open some toilets and put visitors out of their misery? You can only cross your legs for so long.

Mary MacLeod, Isle of Seil.

Photo rekindles Mull memories

Sir, In your edition of Thursday September 18, you published the flashback photograph of my car being loaded onto the Mull ferry in 1963.

Readers may be interested in the circumstances. I was then a geography student at London University and on my way to a field course based at Bunesan.

The car had been purchased for £30 and was already 30 years old at the time of the photograph.

Car enthusiasts may be interested to know that the accelerator pedal was in the middle between the clutch and brake and the gravity feed petrol tank was in the scuttle.

I have returned 50 years later, and I don't know why it has taken me so long.

The magnificent scenery and friendly welcome make me wonder why I have bothered to holiday abroad.

The highlight of my visit was a stunning wildlife trip around the islands with Duncan Phillips of Farsain Cruises out of Craobh Haven.

I won't be leaving it for another 50 years before I return.

John Batey.

ISLAY LETTER

Book festival

THE INCREASINGLY popular Islay Book Festival, now in its eighth year, takes place in Port Ellen primary school on Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5.

A number of well-known authors and writers will be on hand to share aspects of their craft with interested children and adults.

Among those featured in the children's section will be local author Mavis Gulliver who produces fantasy adventure stories set in the Hebrides.

Daniele Sacerdoti will concentrate on folklore and the supernatural while Barry Hutchinson will deal with the creation of terrifying villains and monsters.

Award-winning author Janis Mackay will read from her latest novel 'The Reluctant Time Traveller' and will also introduce her most recent publication 'The Selkie Girl'.

The children's attractions will culminate with 'Badger the Mystical Mutt', appearing by courtesy of television personalities McNicol and Jackson.

Making a return visit to the Port Ellen event will be Scottish crime writer Denise Mina who will be discussing her book 'The Red Road', the latest in her gripping series featuring Glasgow detective Alex Morrow.

The myths, scandals and secret world of the Bulloughs of Rum will be explored by Alastair Scott,



ISLAND'S OLDEST RESIDENT: Mary Crossey who celebrated her 100th birthday on August 25

when he discusses his study of the life of the eccentric millionaire who built Kinloch Castle, widely regarded as a fantastic folly.

Further Scottish islands will be under the spotlight when Nick Mayhew-Smith examines sacred sites and areas of religious activities in western Scotland and beyond.

The Western Isles will again feature in the appearance of author Roger Hutchinson who brought to public attention in his book 'Calum's Road, the outstanding achievement of Raasay crofter Calum MacLeod.

Roger will also address his book on Angus MacPhee, a schizophrenic who spent 50 years in an asylum and during which time he created remarkable objects from grass, which are now regarded as classics of outsider art.

Minty Cracknell, Gordon Campbell and Anne Gredley and the first and second places in the junior section were secured by Matthew Campbell and Helena Mitchell. A bottle of wine went to the angler reeling in the most unusual fish and Arthur Wilson's cuttle fish catch put him on the prize list.

Money raised at the event went to local good causes with £400 being donated to the island branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. A further £600 was handed over for the provision of a community play park at Port Ellen.

The organisers are indebted to the sponsors and donors for their generosity and support.

Oldest resident

STAFF, family members and friends met at Gortanvogie Eventide Home on August 25 to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mary Crossey, the home's and the now the island's oldest resident.

Mary, who has been a resident at the Bowmore care home for a number of years, enjoyed her party, the flowers and the cards and especially the greetings received from the Queen.

Everyone wishes the Gortanvogie centenarian many further happy and healthy days.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bownmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone 01486 810658.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

A' TOIRT AR DUALCHAIS do ar n-òigridh! Sin mar a tha fear de na buidhean-iomairt Gàidhlig as soirbheachaile a th' ann a' toirt gearr-chunntas air amas na buidhne.

Cha b' iongnadh moit a bhith air gach neach aig Coinneimh Bhladhna! Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FNG) Dihaoine seo chaidh is faisg air sia mìle òigridh ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig is an dualchas às ùr leotha, is drochaiden cànan gan togail eadar ginealach sheanairan is sheannhairan is an cuid oghaichean, agus cuislean cultarail ùra a' beachadh agus a' misneachadh ginealach eile de Ghàidheil. 'S iad oghaichean mhòran de mhuinntir na ginealach agamsa, a leig às na ceanglaichean de Gàidhlig, a tha an-diugh a' gabhail nan cothroman sònraichte a tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal a' ceadachadh. Tha na Fèisean air inbhe na Gàidhlig agus Alba àrdachadh aig an aon àm. Dè a b' iomchaidh na an Fhèis BLAS a bhith air ceann tachartais Tilleadh Dhachaigh na Gàidhealtachd agus Am Mòd Nàiseanta ga chrochnachadh. Drochaid Gàidhlig a' ceangal dà cheann an tachartais.

Tha eòlas eadar-nàiseanta ag aithneachadh gum bheil seirbheisean foghlaim agus craolaidh bunaiteach ann am fallaineachd cànan a libhrigeadh fiosrachadh agus eòlas ann an dòighean àraid, ach 's e bunait an fhiosrachaidh sin dualchas ghinealaichean de luchd-cleachdaidh a' chànain. Glic agus eirmseachd, calain is ceòl, air a shniomh ann am briathran siùbhlaich fileanta mhòran nach eil beò tuilleadh! Tha seirbheisean Foghlaim tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus seirbheisean craolaidh deatamach dhan Ghàidhlig ach tha toradh nam Fèisean cudromach cuideachd!

Òigridh a' sùghadh fiosrachadh agus a' giùlan dualchas beò air adhart gu ginealachan ri teachd, agus e' beachadh shoirbheisean foghlaim is craolaidh. Chan eil teagamh nach e an aon amas a th' aig Mòdan a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach agus aig FNG a thaobh na Gàidhlig. Tha an dà bhuidheann airson an cànan a neartachadh agus daoine de gach aois, ach gu sònraichte daoine òga, a bhrosnachadh gus Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus a' cleachdadh. Aig an aon àm 's a tha FNG a' misneachadh suas ri sia mìle òganach, tha fichead Mòd Ionadail feadh na dùthcha, agus am Mòd Nàiseanta, a' brosnachadh còrr math air deich mìle farpaiseach gach bliadhna agus a' tàladh mhiltean eile a dh'èisteachd. 'S e adhbhar toileachais a th' ann gum bheil an dà bhuidheann a' co-obrachadh agus tha mi uasal às an taic is an cuideachadh a fhuair mi mar Neach-Gairm Ionadail Mòd Nàiseanta na bliadhna seo bho Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Thog sinn drochaiden ùra eile a chuireas ri cor na Gàidhlig mar a bhios cùisean a' dol air adhart.

FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL (FNG), the independent association of Gaelic arts tuition festivals, summarises its mission as teaching young people their culture.

There could be no more important or rewarding task and since being established in 1991 FNG has achieved remarkable success.

Many young musicians achieving international distinction acknowledge the fèis movement which enabled their development.

An Comunn Gàidhealach and FNG have similar aims in respect of Gaelic language development and it is good to see logical co-operation between them.

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

Le taic bho

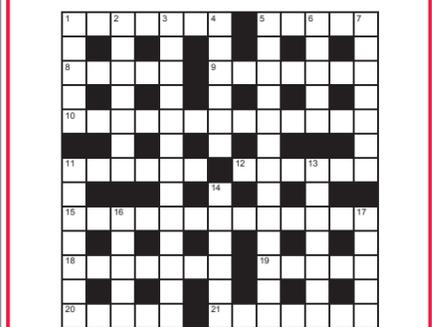
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LAST week's SOLUTION

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'Better than the Ryder Cup'

Final sees play-off between the nations

The World Stone Skimming Championships, Easdale Island



Visitors make their way to the pub 15_140stone2



Organiser Donald Melville gives last minute advice to a competitor 15_140stone3



Ferryman Tom Tinney, left, and Lorn MacLachlan entertain the travellers 15_140stone1



Left: Steven Melville from Perth 15_140stone11

PEOPLE came from across the globe to take part in the annual stone skimming world championships on the island of Easdale, last Sunday.

With a record turn-out of competitors in every field, the children's, and women's events had clear winners. But it came down to a final four in the men's contest with every one of the competitors touching the back wall.

The event sees each competitor take an averaged-sized slate skimming stone and attempt to throw the furthest distance on one of the island's former slate quarries now filled with water.

This year 317 people entered into the competition.

The event's front man, Donald 'Melon' Melville expertly raced through the number of people taking part.

Donald, who was hardly able to speak after the event because of his shouting, told *The Oban Times* that he was pleased with the good family atmosphere of the event

itself - but also a dance, auction and raffle held the evening before.

The islander said: 'So many people come back year after year not only to take part - but also to help out at the event.

'We have incredible people from the island and far beyond who come together to make this event work.'

It is still difficult for the voluntary group to find the £1,000 every year to pay the island's absentee owner a fee for the use of the quarry.

However, a fund-raiser saw a wheelbarrow sell for £100 and an IrbBru bike sell for £137.

One woman from Haddington, who had been in the rain for more than four hours, said: 'It still has to be better than the Ryder Cup.'

Another woman, from Texas, said: 'We have planned a family holiday around this event - and we still only managed to throw it a few feet more than the children.'

The winner was reigning champion Dougie Issacs from Blairgowrie, who has won the competition six times since it began 11 years ago. He hit the back wall of the quarry three times to win.



Right: Joe MacVicar, who threw 40 metres and won the Under Tens' Challenge 15_140stone16



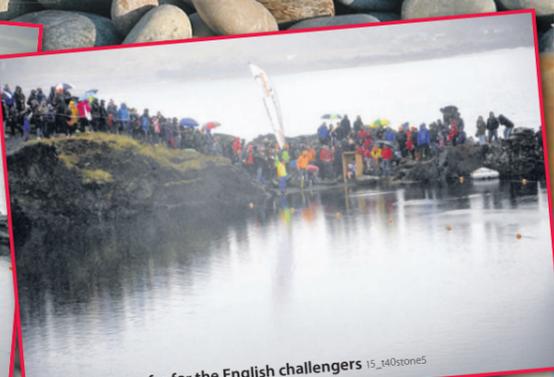
Dutch competitors took part in the event 15_140stone10



The French challengers tried their best 15_140stone7



Easdale islander Simon Fraser needs more practise 15_140stone6



So near, yet so far for the English challengers 15_140stone5

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Highland Cattle Society

117th Annual Autumn Show and Sale

One of the three in-calf heifers from Glengorm for sale in Oban in October is An Ros 5th of Glengorm.

IT IS an exciting couple of weeks ahead for Highland Cattle Society president Tom Nelson, of Glengorm, Mull.

Not only will he oversee the society's highly-anticipated Oban autumn show and sale on October 12, the stockman from his Glengorm Castle estate, Angus MacColl, will be judging at the national Highland cattle sale in Germany this weekend.

Angus was Highland judge at this year's Royal Highland Show and Glengorm will have three prime in-calf heifers on sale at Oban Mart next weekend.

Easy to see, then, why Mr Nelson can't wait for it to come around.

'I am excited about it,' he admitted. 'I think Oban has always been the leading pedigree sale for more than 100 years because the animals that come here have to have quality. You need to bring really good cattle.'

There is also added interest in the sale from a growing number of foreign breeders, many of

whom will be spending money to take Scotland's best produce further afield.

Mr Nelson said: 'The society has had a lot of enquiries from overseas and there is news on the grapevine about who is interested in coming over.'

'We don't have the biggest sale this year but we can guarantee the quality will be high.'

'That creates interest overseas and many foreign visitors have been to see Scottish folds in the lead up to our autumn show and sale.'

PASSIONATE

'A lot of people involved in Highland cattle are very passionate about the breed and have Scottish stock on farms overseas, so they like to come over and take an interest in them.'

Buyers from established Highland cattle breeding countries such as Germany and Switzerland are likely to be in attendance next weekend but there may be representatives from interested parties further afield.

'There is rumoured to be interest from Russia,' Mr Nelson explained. 'All sorts of nationalities come to Scotland for Highland cattle. We are seen as the start of it all, where key bloodlines can be found.'

Other European nations are becoming more interested: France, Spain and Italy among the growing markets.

NATURAL ABILITY

The Highland cow has a well-deserved reputation for thriving on the poorest of conditions and, thanks to a high butterfat content in her milk, she has the natural ability to produce a rapidly-growing calf without the need for high inputs of expensive concentrates to maintain milk yield.

At times of financial pressure across many parts of Europe, farmers are discovering that good mothers and good margins are closely linked.

'Some of these countries have similar land and climates to Scotland, so they are looking for a hardy cow, relatively cheap to keep that will benefit

the environment,' said Mr Nelson.

'It is a tremendous animal for improving grazing and there is no negative impact on other wildlife.'

POPULAR

'Highland cattle have always been popular for their look and character, they have a nice temperament. But more and more people are recognising them as good managers of wetland and hill.'

'They graze on all types of grass, whereas many types of continental breeds need to be kept inside over winter and are fed a higher quality diet.'

Highland cattle are also surprisingly good at coping in hot weather; one of the biggest folds in the world is in Australia.

Mr Nelson added: 'The European buyers come to really enjoy their week at the show and sale and at the society dance.'

'It all makes for a really friendly atmosphere in Oban, which is more intimate than a lot of other sales.'

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Farming

Mulindry wins best individual

THE ISLAY beef herd competition was held on Saturday September 27 where Bruce Dixon had the hard job of judging the 17 herds.



Mulindry best individual cow

The results were as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Individual cow: | Team of spring calves: |
| 1 - Mulindry, | 1 - Ardnav, |
| 2 - Aoradh, | 2 - Mulindry, |
| 3 - Auchnaglach and Adrnave. | 3 - Octofad. |
| Team of cows: | Best team of calves: |
| 1 - Aoradh, | Ardnav. |
| 2 - Octofad, | Highland herd: |
| 3 - Auchnaglach. | 1 - Mid Carrabus, |
| Individual autumn calf: | 2 - Ellister. |
| 1 - Mid Carrabus, | Native herd: |
| 2 - Uliskentuie. | 1 - Craigens, |
| Individual spring calf: | 2 - Black Park, |
| 1 - Ardnav, | 3 - Cladville. |
| 2 - Mulindry and Aoradh, | Small herd: |
| 3 - Cruach and Auchnaglach. | 1 - Cruach, |
| Best overall individual calf: | 2 - Torrandaroch, |
| Ardnav. | 3 - Heatherfield + Black Park. |
| Team of autumn calves: | Best over-all herd: |
| 1 - Mid Carrabus, | 1 - Ardnav, |
| 2 - Uliskentuie. | 2 - Mulindry, |
| | 3 - Aoradh. |



Judge Bruce Dixon with Ardnav's team of spring calves

Sybil centre stage as hill farming enters the spotlight

A LORN hill farmer is set to become a national celebrity as she fronts a new BBC series on farming.

A film crew from On the Farm will regularly visit Sybil MacPherson at Brackley Farm, Dalmally from September through to June next year, following the major events on the farm.

Sybil, who is chairwoman of the National Sheep Association Scotland, said she was looking forward to increasing the awareness of farming life among the general public. She and husband George are one of five families being featured in the series.

She added: 'I was speaking to the BBC about their series Lambing Live and how successful it was.

'From that, we got talking about farming in this part of the world and I convinced them to include us in this series about farmers working in extreme circumstances.

'We are the mountain shepherds in the series and we will be highlighting the importance of the sheep industry in remote areas of Scotland and how it impacts on rural life.

'I want to let people know how important it is to have sheep on the hill.'

Sybil was speaking at last Saturday's breeding ewe and gimmer sale at Dalmally Auction Mart, where she was showing the BBC film crew around.

'It is fabulous that they are filming here,' said Sybil. 'It is such an important breeding sale for the area.'

Jane Handa will produce and direct the On the Farm series and said Sybil was a great addition to the series, after a nervous start in front of the camera.

'Sybil seemed a bit unsure at first but she quickly got used to the camera and she has a lot of interesting things to say.

'We are following five families and finding out about their work, their lives and what they are like as people.'

On the Farm will be a 12-episode documentary and will be aired on BBC2 in September next year.



Sybil MacPherson is interviewed for On the Farm at Dalmally Auction Mart. 16_140dalsale05



Farming Focus

Lucy Sumsion, NFU Scotland Regional Manager covering Argyll & the Islands, including Arran, gives an overview of current issues in the region

NFU Scotland has recently been involved in a number of initiatives to try and highlight the issue of health and safety on farms.

In August, in partnership with NFU Mutual, the Health and Safety Executive and Scottish Government, we launched the Farm Safety Scotland Partnership, which is committed to improving the safety record of those who live and work on Scotland's farms and crofts.

The partnership has produced a new campaign leaflet 'Working Together to Save Lives'. It outlines the four most common dangers on farms - falls, animals, transport and equipment (FATE) - and urges farmers not to leave their safety to FATE.

As with many people working in rural areas in Argyll and the islands, many farmers and crofters face the additional hazard of remoteness and distance from the emergency services, where getting help quickly to the right location is vital.

In September the NFU Scotland board of directors backed another initiative, which could potentially save lives on farms.

This time we are working with Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, alongside the Scottish Ambulance Service, to encourage rural workers to pinpoint their exact location in an emergency.

The union wants all farmers, crofters, landowners and other rural workers to adopt the easy-to-use grid reference system which helps define accurately their location when summoning help.

The pocket-sized reference point cards - detailing unique landmarks such as lochs, prominent hills, masts, water features, churches, bridges or road features - can be copied and kept in multiple locations by everyone on the farm, including on the farm vehicles, in workers' pockets or pasted to the back of their mobile phones.

By identifying clearly visible landmarks, anyone involved in an accident can pass on an accurate location to emergency services, allowing help to find them more easily.

If any farmer or crofter would like to know more about the initiative and get copies of the cards and instructions on how to fill them in please contact your local NFU Scotland office which will be able to help.

Next week we will be hosting our first NFU Scotland members' surgery in Argyll.

We will be giving members the opportunity to put their questions and views directly to Allan Bowie, NFUS vice-president and Jonnie Hall, director of policy.

The surgery will take place on Tuesday October 7 in the NFUS office at the Oban Livestock Centre.

We are keen to hear from members and are willing to discuss any issues you wish to raise on a one-to-one basis, with the union ready to take action on your behalf.

Questions may relate to the new CAP payments, the future of LEASS, agricultural holdings, RPID inspections, sea eagles and geese, crofting policy or any other topic you may require assistance with, or issue you would like to see the union tackle.

The surgery coincides with the Caledonian Marts annual sale of calves, bulling heifers and in-calf heifers.

I know that many of you come to this popular sale and hope that you will take the opportunity to make use of this members' surgery.

It is recommended you call ahead and make an appointment with an outline of the subject you would like to discuss: please ring me on 01499 600154 or email lucy.sumsion@nfus.org.uk

It is also possible to drop in on the day, but you will need to go to the NFUS office to book a free slot.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE OBAN TIMES FARMING SECTION PLEASE CALL OUR ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT ON 01631 568000

OBAN

THE OBAN sale at Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd last Tuesday sold 4,111 Breeding Ewes, Gimmers and Ewe Lambs.

A total of 164 mule gimmers sold to £144 for a pen from Ian Malcolm, Poltalloch, Kilmartin selling to DI & M McDougall, Tirtuir, Lismore. Sale average £98.16 (+£4.22 on the year).

Texel gimmers (69) sold to £140 for a pair from A Buchanan, Achnaba, North Connel to S McCallum, Achna-Bheinn, Lochilthead. Sale average £87.15 (+£8.15 on the year).

Cheviot Gimmers (149) sold to £130 for a pen from A McLellan, West Drimvire, Lochgilphead to D J Watson, Ardnacross, Campbelltown. Sale average £86.50 (+£8.25 on the year).

Blackface gimmers (301) sold to £111 for a pen from The McNicols, Turnault, Barbreck to D & L Graham, Mains of Burnbank. Sale average £80.05 (+£14 on the year).

Six Bluefaced Leicester gimmers sold to £90 from A McKellar, Seaview, 15 Keill Croft, Oban to C McLarty, Homestead, Ardferrn to average £75.

Twenty Llyne Gimmers sold to £90 for a pen from H Gunn, Largiechieonbeg, Barbreck to A & J McNicol, Pendreich, Bridge of Allan to average £90.

A total of 1,367 Blackface ewes sold to £102 for a pen from I Shaw, Acharonich, Ardferrn to R Shaw, Hermitage, Drimmin to average £52.10 (+£2.16 on the year).

Cheviot ewes (540) sold to £92 for a pen from J E & J Mellor, Barndromin, Knipoch to J MacCormick, Balnagowan, Lismore to average £55.32 (+£4.43 on the year).

Texel ewes (68) sold to £70 for a pen from D Dempster, Barguillan, Taynult to W J Mitchell & Sons, Blairlinnans, Gartochran to average £56 (n/c).

Mule ewes (51) sold to £55 for a pen from D Dempster, Barguillan to R Bryce & Partners, Chalmerston, Stirling. Sale average £51 (n/c).

Swale ewes (70) sold to £44 from B Walker, Carloan, Inverary to J Gibb, Giffordland, Dalry. Sale average £37.50.

A total of 666 mule ewe lambs sold to £92 from D McDonald, Tyree, Benderloch to P J Laidlaw & Sons, Wright Park, Kippen. Sale average £77.12 (-£7p on the year).

Cheviot ewe lambs (267) to £84 from D Dempster, Barguillan to A B Campbell, Achnacreeb, North Connel. Sale average £48.90 (+£4.45 on the year).

Blackface ewe lambs (373) to £66 from D Cameron, Inion, North Connel to AMacLellan, Glenmor, Invergarry. Sale average £40.60 (-£3.61 on the year).

Leading Prices:

Mule Gimmers: £130 Kintraw; £118 Fiart; £110 Poltalloch.

Blackface Gimmers: £100 Mingary; £94 Ardtur; £92 Tiraghail; £91 Glenngorm.

Cheviot Gimmers: £122 Tiraghail; £95 Stalkers Cottage; £92 Torloisk.

Texel Gimmers: £102 Newfield.

Blackface Ewes: £98 Acharonich; £93 & £87 Sithean; £81 Achnaba; £80 Glenngorm; £72 Turnault.

Cheviot Ewes: £79 Cailaich; £78 Druimfhionghail; £77 Antuim; £70 Cailaich; £66 Slaterich.

Mule Ewe Lambs: £88 Saulmore; £84 Fiart and Saulmore.

Blackface Ewe Lambs: £65 Turnault; £60 Scammadale; £57 Glenfeochan; £50 Slaterich; £48 Ensay and Achnaba.

FORT WILLIAM

ALL classes met a fast trade at Fort William's Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd sale on September 26 when 4,068 store sheep were sold.

Lambs (3,254) averaged £36.04 per head and sold to £72 gross for Lleyms from Tigh An Uilt, Kilchoan.

Ewes and gimmers (795) sold to £69 gross for Suffolk gimmers from Mungosdail, Drimmin.

Rams and widders (18) sold to £110 gross for a Lleyn ram from Tigh An Uilt.

Other leading prices per head:

Store lambs: SuffX - Mungosdail, £58, Mamore, Fort William, £56; Chev - Annbank, Kilchoan, £57, Balnaha, Achateny, £53.50, Ardgour Estate, Ardgour, £53; CharX - 9 Bunlossit, Roy Bridge, £56; Cross - Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £55, 5 Aird, Ardsvar, £52.50, Arisaig Farms, £49; LleynX - 2 Arderry, Strontian, £54.50, Tigh An Uilt, £54, Ardtrinity Farms, £51; BF - Glendoe Estates, £51; TexX - 6 Easter Mandally, Invergarry, £49.50, Hillside, Kilchoan, £49.

Ewes and gimmers: Chev gmr - Annbank, £61; Suff ewe - Mungosdail, £60; Suff gmr - Mungosdail, £58; Chev ewe - Wood Cottage Croft, Tobermory, £56.

Rams and widders: Lleyn wdr - Tigh An Uilt, £82; TexX wdr - Craigard, Kilchoan, £51; Chev wdr - Annbank, £50.

TREEE

UNITED Auctions held its annual breeding sheep sale, also sale of cast ewes, store lambs and more on Thursday September 25 at Treee Auction Mart.

A total of 1,453 head of all classes was sold at satisfactory prices to sellers advantage.

Principal lots and prices:

Lambs: SUFFX: £64.00 - Mannal House: £63.50 - Lochphuill: £63.00 and £60.00 - 6 Crossapol: £59.50 - Benview and 6 Crossapol: £58.50 - 9 Barrapol: £57.50 - 2 Kilkenneth and Ardmay: £56.50 - Salum: £55.50 - 4 Kilkenneth. TEXX: £59.50 - Cnoc Gorm: £55.00 - Croish. BELTX: £56.50 - Heylipol Farm. CHEV: £50.00 - Vaul. CROSS: £57.50 - Croish.

Ewe lambs: MULE: £145, £120 and £115 - Mannal House: £100 - Braeside and Benview. TEXX: £70.00 - Hillcrest. CHARX: £65.00 - Farm House. CROSS: £60.00 - Farm House SUFFX: £66.00 - Benview.

Gimmers: TEXX: £140 and £130 - Carrachan: £120 - Druimfhraoich: £110 - Greenhill: £105 - Hillcrest: £100 - 1 Heanish. CROSS: £130 - Carrachan: £115 - 2/15 Balevullin: £105 and £100 - Middleton Farm: £100 - Carrachan. MULE: £140 - 2/15 Balevullin & Greenhill: £130, £120 & £110 - Greenhill: £110 and £105 - 12 West Hynish: £105 - Druimfhraoich. CHEV: £100 - Carnan and 4 Heanish.

Cast ewes: SUFFX: £87.50 - Heylipol Farm: £66.00 - Braeside: £64.00 - 2/15 Balevullin: £63.50 - 6 Barrapol: £61.50 - Druimasaidh: £57.50 - 6 Barrapol: £54.50 - 6 Crossapol. ROUGE: £58.00 - Drumagla. BELT: £87.50 - Heylipol Farm: £77.50 - Drumagla: £76.50 - Heylipol Farm. TEXX: £68.50 - Heylipol Farm: £68.00 - 2/15 Balevullin: £67.50 - Hough:

£66.50 - Hillcrest and 3 Middleton: £66.00 - Sandaig: £65.50 - 6 Crossapol: £64.50 - Garaphail, Druimasaidh, Benview and Clachan: £63.50 - Heylipol Farm: £63.00 - Ruaig: £61.50 - Mannal House: £60.50 - 36 Balepethrish, Heylipol Farm and 3A Caolis: £60.00 - Garaphail: £59.50 - 10 Balevullin: £58.50 - 6 Crossapol: £57.50 - 6 Balevullin, Heylipol Farm and 15 Crossapol: £56.50 - 6 Balevullin: £55.50 - Lochphuill, Ruaig and Ardmay.

CHEVX: £60.50 and £60.00 - Croish. CROSS: £63.50 - Braeside: £63.00 - 4 Kilkenneth: £62.50 - Hillcrest: £61.50 - Whitehouse and 6 Barrapol: £60.50 - 10 Balevullin and 10 Crossapol: £60.00 - Whitehouse: £59.50 - 6 Barrapol: £58.50 - 6 Crossapol and 3 Balevullin: £56.50 - 6 Barrapol. MULE: £61.50 - Benview: £60.50 - 6 Crossapol: £56.50 - Heylipol Farm and 36 Balepethrish.

Rams: SUFF: £500 and £400 - Heylipol Farm. TEX: £350 - Ruaig: £200 (2) - 2/15 Balevullin. CROSS: £250 - Heylipol Farm.

PORTREE

CALVES were shown in good condition and sold extremely well at Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd's show and sale in Portree on September 22.

A total of 1,129 weaned calves and store cattle were sold at the annual district ballot show and sale.

The judge, Mr A Beaton, Upper Mills Farm, Crathes, awarded the champion and the D. J. Macdonald (Orbost) Memorial Trophy to a twelve month old 450kg Limousin cross bullock from Mr N. Morrison, 12 Portnalong, Carbost, realising £1,180. The reserve, also from 12 Portnalong, was an 11-month-old 460kg Limousin cross bullock realising £1,080.

Bullocks (658) averaged 271.5p, (282.9p, Last year), and sold to 368.4p per kg a 190kg Charolais cross from Trien Croft, Carbost, and £1,130 gross for a 435kg Charolais cross from Kilmaluag House, Duntulm.

Heifers (471) averaged 246.3p, (256.9, Last year), and sold to 339.6p per kg for a pen of 193kg Charolais crosses from Corriebeinn Farms, Achachork, and £930 gross for a 295kg Charolais cross from 3 Peingown, Kilmuir.

Leading prices per head and per kg:

Bullocks up to 200kg - Trien Croft, £700; 201-250kg - Corriebeinn Farms & Burnside Croft, Culnacon, £890, 358.9p; 251-300kg - Trien Croft, £910, 325p; 301-350kg - 3 Peingown, £1,030, 302.9p; 351-400kg - Farm Managers House, Skeabost, £1,040, 273p; 401-450kg - Glenbrittle, Carbost, £1,080, 251.2p; 451-500kg - 3 Torrin, Broadford, £980, 2/3 Keistle, Snizort, 204.3p; Over 500kg - 1 Glen Bernisdale, Skeabost, £1,100.

Heifers up to 200kg - Corriebeinn Farms, £650; 201-250kg - Uiginish Farm, Dunvegan, £730, 301.7p; 251-300kg - 12 Portnalong, £900, 339.6p; 301-350kg - 3 Peingown, £880, 275p; 351-400kg - Glenbrittle, Carbost, £870, 229p; 401-450kg - 12 Portnalong, £900, 214.3p.

DALMALLY

UNITED Auctions held its annual breeding sheep sale at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday September 27 when yet another record catalogue entry of more than 8,000 head was on offer.

Quality lots from all sections was keenly bid

for by the packed ringside of buyers forward from all over the country whilst plainer sorts proved more difficult to cash.

Sale averages were as follows: Blackface ewes £60.36 (+ £5.39), Blackface gimmers £102.27 (+ £16.28) and Blackface ewe lambs £44.20 (- £5.36).

All other categories sold at levels comparing favourably to last year.

This sale attracted a large entry of stock from a very wide catchment area proving its popularity with both buyers and sellers alike for the excellent choice of quality bred stock on offer at this centre.



Dalmally Mart hits the high notes with gimmers to £620

Principal lots and prices:

Ewe lambs: MULE: £90 & £80 - Ardmay, Tiriee: £79 - Blarghour Farm and Ardachuple. BF: £84 - Dunans: £72 - Burnbank: £68 - Lurignish, Tullochcan and Lephinkill: £64 - Ballachlaven: £60 - Lurignish: £57 - Corrylorn: £56 - Tullochcan: £54 - Tullochcroisk, Bragleenmore and Tullochcan: £52 - Lephinkill: £50 - Glenkiln, Ronnahan Farms, Braefoot and Lurignish: £49 - Gogabrennan and Garrogie Estates: £48 - Bragleenmore and Burnbank: £47 - Glenbeg and Castles Estate: £46 - Castles Estate.

Gimmers: MULE: £122 - Silvercraigs: £114 and £112 - Glenshellach: £110 - Glenkiln: £102 - Blarghour Farm and Glenshellach. LLEYNX: £90 - Brackley. TEXX: £90 - Balliemeanoch. CHEV: £77 - Lochuisge. CROSS: £88 - Garraron & Melfort Farms: £80 - Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay. BF: £620 - Pole Farm: £320 and £260 - Lephinchapel: £220 - Acharonich: £132 - Lephinchapel: £126 - Achnamara: £122 - Lephinchapel: £120 - Littleport and Maol Farm, Iona: £118 - Lephinchapel: £114 - Balliemeanoch and Achnamara: £104 - Glenkiln and Innisaig: £102 - Duncroisk: £100 - Ballachlaven and Knock-Dhu.

Warranted ewes: SUFFX: £60 - Ardconnel. CHEVX: £90 - Tombuie: £80 and £72 - Barachander: £60 - Maam. CROSS: £65 - Castles Estate: £64 - Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay. MULE: £77 - Lower Tirinie Farm. BF: £270 - Pole Farm: £93 - Littleport: £90 - Corrylorn and Ballachlaven, Islay: £87 - Roromore and Balliemeanoch: £86 - Bragleenmore: £82 - Roromore: £80 - Bragleenmore and Littleport: £77 - Roromore: £75 - Bragleenbeg: £73 - £71 - Clachan Farm Partnership and Pitcastle Estate: £70 - Pitcastle Estate, Meggerie Estate, Keilor, Glenkiln, Tullochcan and Bragleenmore: £69 - Garrogie Estate: £68 - Ronnahan Farms and Duncroisk: £66 - Duncroisk: £65 - Barachander Farm, Cuilaine, Pitcastle Estate, Maam and Stroneskar: £64 - Balliemeanoch Farm, Musdale Farm, Succothmore, Brackley and Glenkiln: £63 - Benmore Home Farm.

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what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

- THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2014**
Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club night, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, 7.30pm
- FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER**
Kidderminster Male Choir, St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, 7.30pm
- SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER**
Oban Parish Church Guild, Coffee Morning, Church Centre, 10am
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 11.30am-1pm
Pre-Mod Ceilidh, Taynult Village Hall, 7.30pm
- SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER**
Crafters and Producers Market, Great Western Hotel, Oban, 11am-4pm
Craft Fayre, Creagan Inn, Appin, Every Sunday, 12-5pm
- MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER**
Oban Camera Club, Regent Hotel, Oban, Text Alex 07799 353140 for more info, Every Monday, 7.30pm
- TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER**
Oban U3A Monthly Meeting, Studio Theatre, Corran Halls, Oban, 10.30am
Furan Gaelic Pub Quiz, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm
Ft William Accordion & Fiddle Club, Musical Evening, Railway Club Inverlochry, 8pm
- WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER**
Inveraray Accordion & Fiddle Club, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray, 8pm
- THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER**
Head in the Clouds, A play for under 4s, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, 10.30am
Mike Vass - In The Wake of Neil Gunn, St John's Cathedral, Oban, 7.30pm
- SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2014**
Scottish Opera: Verdi's Macbeth, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm
Annual Beer Festival, The Inn at Loch Lomond, 12pm onwards

Email details of your event to
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Laphroaig Quarter Cask Islay Single Malt 48% ABV Around £40

LAPHROAIG Quarter Cask is a meaty whisky - big, bold peaty and eminently enjoyable. My husband Stephen was gifted a bottle for his, large-in-number, birthday. As he ripped the wrappings he cried: 'This is my favourite whisky.'

Having just purchased two equally superior bottles of single malt from a fine little whisky trader my nose was out of joint. 'Is it your favourite?,' I asked as if he was lying to me and our two guests. 'I really like its taste. It is matured in a small cask and it takes a shorter period of time to mature.'

While it was still early, and the clock had not yet struck five - it was a Sunday and a fine time for a glass.

We toasted Stephen and his many, many years of life. It is a good whisky with an oily and buttery nose with toffee, nuttiness, hickory and rum.

But sweet with a medium length fruity finish. I'm glad he enjoyed it - because from now on I am not going any more east or north than Islay for his birthday.

Luise Lee

Music written in Oban ready for Mod

MUSIC created in Oban is set to play a major part in Scotland's biggest Gaelic festival, the Royal National Mod, in Inverness in October.

'Mac-talla Cogaidh' - 'Echoes of War' commemorates the 100th anniversary of World War I, in addition to other conflicts.

It is centred on the poems and songs of the late Rev John MacLeod, one time minister of Kilmore and Oban Parish Church. The music has been composed by freelance journalist, broadcaster and musician Erik Spence, a former chief reporter on the Oban Times, now in Inverness.

The partnership was very successful, twice winning Scotland's winning entry at the Pan Celtic Music Festival in Ireland.

The concert will form part of the biggest-ever

number of fringe events at the Mod. It is scheduled to be performed in Inverness Town House on Wednesday, October 15 at 1pm.

It will include the award-winning song, Nam Aonar Le Mo Smuaintean, written following the death in the Falklands War of 20-year-old Oban soldier Gordon MacPherson. Members of Gordon's family are expected to be in the audience.

The performance will also feature a new work, 'Bantrach Cogaidh' - 'War Widow' written by Mr MacLeod who lost his father in the Iolair disaster on New Year's Day, 1919.

Erik has collaborated closely with Oban musician and composer, Dave Mason, and has underscored the poem with a contribution from Dingwall Gaelic Choir.

The narrator is journalist and broadcaster Ruairidh MacIlleathain.

Other artists taking part in the lunchtime event are Mod gold medallists James Graham and Kirsteen Menzies, piper Ewen Henderson and Lochardill Primary School Choir, Inverness.

The concert will conclude with the popular song of reconciliation, 'Thoir Dhomh do Lamh' led by no fewer than five Mod gold medallists.

Fringe manager Bob Kenyon said: 'This show is a centrepiece to the fringe.

It inter-weaves the significant and poignant words of Mr MacLeod with music compositions that ooze quality. It is exactly the type of performance that fits into an event that celebrates Gaelic culture and embraces tradition and innovation.'



ECHOES OF WAR: Erik Spence, foreground, and Dave Mason work on the Mac-talla Cogaidh project for the Royal National Mod in Inverness in October.

Fèis na Mara in Mallaig

FÈIS na Mara will return to Mallaig this weekend with concerts, ceildhs and workshops on Friday and Saturday.

The traditional music event will kick off at 7.30pm in the Mallaig and Morar Community Centre where fiddler Aonghas Grant will start the entertainment followed by the Kathleen MacInnes Trio, Mánran and Donald MacDonald and The Islands. Meanwhile the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band will be keeping visitors entertained in the West Highland Hotel.

During the day on Saturday the focus will be on the next generation of musician's with workshops on offer in Mallaig Primary School and the community centre.

This year's tutors are Kathleen MacInnes (Gaelic song) Mike Vass (fiddle and guitar), Norrie MacIver (guitar), Ewan Henderson (chanter, pipes and fiddle), Murdo Cameron (accordion and guitar) and Tia Files (drums).

The youngsters will kick off Saturday's performances with a mini ceilidh in the West

Highland Hotel at 3pm, followed by Zoe Bestel, the Ross and Jarlath Big Band, Colonel Mustard and the Dijon 5 and the Peatbog Fairies, all playing in the community centre from 7.30pm.

A bus will be travelling to and from the events making stops in Mallaig, Morar and Arisaig throughout the weekend.

Event tickets and a full line-up are available at www.feis-na-mara.com. Tickets are also available from The West Highland Hotel or The Steam Inn.



FÈIS NA MARA: Tutors Sileas Sinclair (accordion) and Deirdre Beck (fiddle) with students at one of last year's workshops. 10_f40feis01



WATCHING: sea eagles on Mull is a five star experience.

Another top award for Mull Eagle Watch

THE popular Mull Eagle Watch project has scooped the prestigious five star Wildlife Experience award from VisitScotland.

This award is given to exceptional attractions that offer top customer care and facilities.

Mull Eagle Watch received the highest award partly due to the 'involved and comprehensive experience' that the Mull Eagle Watch rangers provide.

This new award is hot on the heels of the project receiving a gold rating in the UK-wide Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Mull's eagles are a major draw for tourists to the islands and are estimated to generate up to £5million towards the local economy.

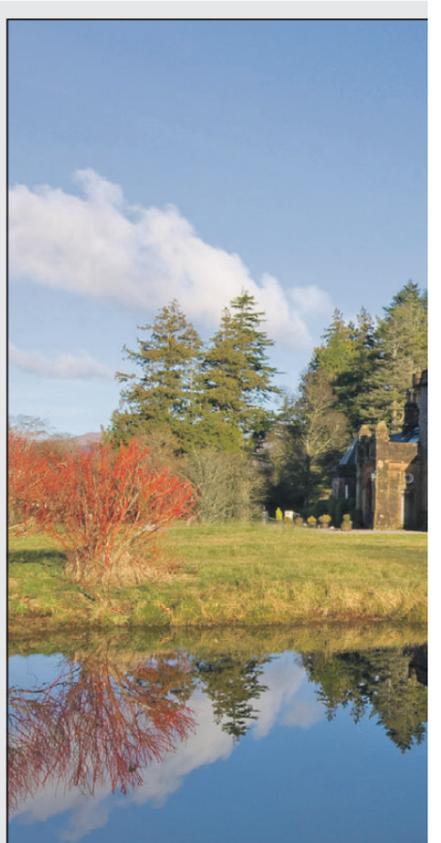
Speaking for all the Mull Eagle Watch

partners, Rachel French said: 'We are all delighted and so pleased that all the hard work from the volunteers and partners has been recognised so positively.'

'The white tailed eagles are truly fantastic birds to see in the wild - once seen never forgotten. The project is a great example of how green tourism can flourish well and support rural economies and communities at the same time.'

Mull Eagle Watch is a partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Police Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

This is the third year running that the wildlife project, based on the National Forest Estate, has been awarded a five star tourism rating.



Head chef Ross Stovold, who joined the hotel in 2013.

Na Seudan Ùr launch first CD

A 'SUPREMELY talented' young, all-female band from Tarbert, Na Seudan Ùr launched their first CD, Seunta, which means enchanting, to a packed audience at the Putechan Hotel in Bellochintury last Saturday.

Hosted by Kenny Thomson of the Glasgow Gaelic Choir, audience members from as far away as Inverness and Yorkshire were treated to a relaxed and fun evening of beautiful Gaelic and Scots song.

Na Seudan Ùr performed tracks from their CD as well as other tracks, including the premiere of a new Gaelic song.

The evening got off to a rousing start with a

fantastic piping set by a very young and talented piper from Campbeltown, Ross Connor, after which the audience was treated to a selection of tracks from Na Seudan Ùr's CD.

They also gave a premiere performance of their new song, Bean an Iasgair (Fisherman's wife); an emotional setting of a Gaelic poem by George Campbell-Hay.

Na Seudan Ùr's performance expressed beautifully the anguish of this Tarbert fisherman's wife as she listens to the storm raging throughout the night while her husband is at sea.

Later, and in keeping with the enchanted theme, a troupe of

delightful fairies (young PIs from Tarbert Academy) magically appeared with the CDs, much to the delight of host Kenny Thomson and audience members.

With the CDs finally on sale, Hannah, Emma, Niamh, Noami and Emma from Na Seudan Ùr were on hand for anyone wanting a signed copy.

A delicious buffet was one of the many items provided free of charge by the fabulous Putechan Hotel and with a rousing ceildh dance to finish - it was simply a fantastic evening.

Kenny Thomson read the Mary Ann Kennedy quote from the CD cover - 'Young musicians with big imaginations and an

obvious love of Gaelic song - hear a new Argyll generation blossom and say you were there at the start.'

Na Seudan Ùr would like to thank various sponsors for their generous support including the Argyll and Bute Council Gaelic fund, Crear charity Space to Create, the Putechan Hotel, Tarbert Harbour Authority, Tarbert Masonic Lodge, and the tremendous support from local communities in Tarbert, Mid-Argyll and Kintyre.

CDs are available at various locations in Mid-Argyll and Kintyre and from Oban Music. It will soon also be downloadable on iTunes and Spotify.



ENCHANTING: Na Seudan Ùr played to more than 150 people at a launch party for a first CD.

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THE INN ON LOCH LOMOND



Ross Stovold and the Isle of Eriska awarded their first Michelin Star

HEAD chef Ross Stovold and the team at the Isle of Eriska Hotel have been rewarded for their use of local food. This week the hotel announced its restaurant has been awarded its first Michelin star.

Ross joined the team at the five star hotel last summer and has a very natural approach to his cuisine.

He believes in cooking in a way that develops and enhances the flavours of the ingredients through as little manipulation as possible which means he is very well suited to the Isle of Eriska where there is such a diverse natural larder. The 300-acre private island produces a much wider variety of raw ingredients than the rest of the UK; from

sea vegetables and berries, to wildhips, mushrooms and naturally growing herbs. The owner of the Isle of Eriska, Beppo Buchanan-Smith said: 'Clearly we are delighted especially in our 40th year and I believe it is just reward for Ross and his team both in the kitchen and front of house and their pursuit of the best freshest local produce whether from

the island, the surrounding waters or mountains.' Food writer Richard Bath said: 'The main event in the restaurant, however, is the recent arrival of new head chef Ross Stovold. 'He moved to the island from his previous role as head chef at the Michelin-starred Alimementum in Cambridge. And although Stovold has a hard act to follow in Simon

McKenzie, the jungle drums are sounding upbeat about his impact. Our meal certainly started positively, with a sumptuous amuse bouche of Isle of Mull dauphine – a sort of smart cheese ball – with truffle mayonnaise and some gloriously salty, soft bread. 'Once we caught sight of the small but thought-provoking menu, our appetites were well and truly whetted.'



SPiRiT: opportunities for developing new markets for liqueur were given a boost by £1 million made available by Diageo.

Boost to west coast spirit

THE OPPORTUNITY to develop a new spirit for an international market is being given to people on the west coast. Distill Ventures, the world's first accelerator programme dedicated to supporting new and growing spirits businesses, have announced up to £10 million for spirit entrepreneurs in its second year of funding. The news of the increased funding levels follows hot on the heels of the coveted programme announcing that it has doubled the number of places available for the next generation of great spirits brands in 2015. Set up by a group of entrepreneurs and backed by Diageo, Distill Ventures offers budding entrepreneurs a unique combination of cash investment and access to world-class industry expertise. Successful applicants will benefit from tailored workshops, mentoring and master classes all specifically designed to help their businesses succeed. Shilen Patel, from Distill Ventures, said: 'The size of our investment fund this year reflects the success of last year's candidates and our excitement about

the future of our industry. We want to encourage entrepreneurs only just on the verge of getting started to apply – it's never too early in the journey. 'In fact, we strongly believe that the scheme can help businesses at this stage avoid some of the most common pitfalls that brands come up against in the first couple of years. 'More funding means we can take more than twice as many businesses as we did in 2014 but we know it's not just about money – a competitive environment means a growing brand needs the right advice to succeed. 'At Distill Ventures, we believe, we are able to equip our candidates with everything they need to go further, faster.' The entry window for prospective applicants to the accelerator scheme is up until September 28. Applications from both soon to launch spirit businesses or newly launched businesses are welcome. Candidates should go to www.distillventures.com/ register to express their interest and find out more.

New Picture House plans lodged with council

PLANS to upgrade and restore Campbeltown Picture House have been lodged with Argyll and Bute council. Under the proposals, the historic cinema would feature a new entrance from Hall Street, with the annexe building being demolished and rebuilt to

provide a kitchen to the cafe/bar area. There would also be an exhibition and multi-use space opening off the entrance foyer and the installation of new toilets. There is also a proposal to build a second screen to the rear of the existing cinema.

Lochaber talk about bees

BEE ENTHUSIASTS will be hosting a talk in Lochaber on Monday evening, (October 6) with the help of an expert on the buzzy animals. Scottish Beekeepers Association lecturer Pam Hunter will be at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, from 7pm with members of the association's Lochaber branch, to talk about honey bees and why they swarm. For more information call 07768805040 or email secretary@lochaberbeekeepers.org.

Inveraray Accordion and Fiddle Club starts for the season

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club gets underway for another season at the Argyll Hotel on Wednesday, October 8. There is a 'fyne' mixture of guest artistes lined up through until next April, with Janet Graham and her Scottish Dance Band from Cumbernauld taking the stage on the opening night. Janet is a regular supporter of the club and recently released a CD with all funds raised going to the Strathcarron Hospice, which won 'Best CD of the Year' at the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs' awards. As ever, supporting players are very welcome to come along for a tune – so look out that accordion or fiddle and head for the Argyll Hotel.




We will closed for maintenance from Sunday 5th October re-opening for dinner on Saturday the 11th October with our new Autumn Menu.

Christmas bookings are already starting, so book early to avoid disappointment our festive menu will be available throughout December with three courses for £25 (closed 25th Dec).

BOOKING ADVISED
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Winter opening times from 19th October
Closed Sunday and Monday

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WWW.COASTOBAN.CO.UK

Oban Phoenix Cinema	The Hundred Foot Journey	Thurs 2nd	18.00, 21.00
	A Most Wanted Man	Thurs 2nd	18.00, 21.00
	Magic in the Moonlight	Fri 3rd	18.00, 20.30
		Sat 4th	18.00, 20.30
		Sun 5th	13.00, 18.00
		Mon 6th	19.00
		Tues 7th	19.00
	A Walk Among the Tombstones	Thurs 8th	19.00
		Thurs 9th	18.00, 20.30
		Fri 3rd	18.00, 20.30
		Sat 4th	18.00, 20.30
		Sun 5th	18.00
	Planes: Fire & Rescue	Mon 6th	19.00
		Tues 7th	19.00
		Wed 8th	19.00
		Thurs 9th	18.00, 20.30
		Sat 3rd	13.00, 15.30
		Sun 4th	13.00, 15.30

The Hundred Foot Journey (PG)
The picturesque village of Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val in the south of France is home to one of the country's most prestigious restaurants. This Michelin starred temple of haute cuisine is overseen by snooty proprietress Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren). But the arrival of the displaced Indian (Kadam family) shakes things up. Bullish Papa (Om Puri) decides to open an Indian restaurant just across the road.

A Most Wanted Man (15)
Philip Seymour Hoffman stars in a heart-stopping thriller adapted from spy novelist John le Carre's bestseller. A mysterious man arrives in modern-day Hamburg seeking help from the city's Islamic community. Tortured almost to the point of death, Issa claims to be half-Chechen and half-Russian. He's also looking to recover his late father's deviously acquired fortune. It's not long before Issa has attracted the keen attention of the British, German and American security services, who are all keen to uncover his real identity. Is he a victim or a covert terrorist?

Magic in the Moonlight (12A)
Set in the 1920s on the opulent Riviera in the south of France, Woody Allen's romantic comedy is about a master magician (Colin Firth) trying to expose a psychic medium (Emma Stone) as a fake. From his very first meeting with Sophie, Stanley dismisses her as an insignificant pip-squeak who he can unmask in no time, scoffing at the family's gullibility. To his great surprise and discomfort, however, Sophie accomplishes numerous feats of mind-reading and other supernatural deeds that defy all rational explanation, leaving him dumbfounded. Before long, Stanley begins to wonder whether Sophie's powers could actually be real.

A Walk Among the Tombstones (15)
Formerly a detective with the NYPD, now a recovering alcoholic haunted by demons, Matt Scudder has a lot to make up for. When a series of kidnappings targeting the city's worst drug criminals escalates to grisly murder, the circuit's ruthless leader convinces Scudder to find the culprits and bring them to bloody justice. Working as an unlicensed private detective, Matt sees what the police don't see and treads where they most fear to. Operating just outside the law to track down the monsters responsible, Scudder stops just short of becoming one himself.

Planes: Fire & Rescue (U)
From above the world of Cars comes Disney's Planes, an action-packed 3D animated comedy adventure featuring Dusty (voice of Dane Cook), a plane with dreams of competing as a high-flying air racer. But Dusty's not exactly built for racing—and he happens to be afraid of heights. So he turns to a seasoned naval aviator who helps Dusty qualify to take on the defending champ of the race circuit. Dusty's courage is put to the ultimate test as he aims to reach heights he never dreamed possible, giving a spellbound world the inspiration to soar.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

OBAN PARISH CHURCH GUILD
Coffee morning
Saturday 4th
October at 10am
Church Centre
All welcome

FURAN - OBAN GAELIC CENTRE
Farpais-cheist Taigh-seinnse
Gaelic Pub Quiz
Studio Theatre Bar, Corran Halls, Oban
Tuesday 7th October at 7.30pm
£2 per person – Max 5 people per team
There will be a Gaelic speaker for each team

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £15.71 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 8th
October
at 8.00pm
Guest Artistes
From Cumbernauld
Janet Graham SDB
Supporting players most welcome

OBAN U3A
Tuesday 7th October
2014 at 10.30am
Studio Theatre and cafe area, Corran Halls, Oban
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting.

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SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 7.30pm

'Head in the Clouds'
Idip Theatre
A play for 0 - 4 year olds & their families
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
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Oban FM Community Radio, 132 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

<p>THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS</p> <p>MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Cline, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 Americano Show with Michelle</p> <p>TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are</p>	<p>Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len</p>	<p>& Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves</p> <p>THURSDAY: 0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight</p> <p>FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie</p>	<p>Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn</p> <p>SATURDAY: 0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis</p> <p>SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott</p>
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Skye's Three Chimneys gains Michelin Star

SKYE'S Three Chimneys Restaurant has been rewarded for its pioneering commitment to dishes of the highest standard, by receiving the food industry's top accolade, a Michelin Star.

Michael Smith, head chef and director said: 'Wonderful and unexpected news in gaining a Michelin Star, reflecting all the hard work and dedication over the last 10 years and beyond.'

'None of which could have been achieved without the support of the fabulous team here, trusted suppliers and most of all our guests who travel from far and wide.'

Michelin's recognition fulfils Michael's ambition of showcasing Scotland's rich natural larder, through continually evolving menus that places the Three Chimneys amongst the elite restaurants in the world.

Discerning diners, the Critical Couple, who strike fear into the most robust of chefs called their experience of The Three Chimneys 'glorious.'

They continued: 'The meal, fun to eat but serious in execution, and a beautiful celebration of local ingredients.'

'If Robbie Burns is Scotland's national poet, Michael Smith must surely be a candidate for their national chef.'

'For us, spending a night at the Kitchen Table, enjoying this food, being a nuisance in the kitchen

yet still being so warmly embraced there, not only was it a highlight of the holiday, it was as much fun as we can remember having in a restaurant. It made us happy then and it makes us happy now simply remembering.'

Describing their dining experience, they said: 'Dining options at The Three Chimneys centre on two menus, an a la carte and a tasting menu (Taste of Skye), both of which can be enjoyed in the cosy front restaurant, while the tasting menu can also be taken at the Kitchen Table, which here, is exactly that, a table in the kitchen with space for up to six people.'

'But this is more than just a chef's table experience peering into the kitchen form a favourable vantage point, for all guests at the kitchen table are invited to get up from the table between courses and be a part of the kitchen, stand at the pass if you like, talk to the staff and generally be involved.'

'On our part, after a few queries of 'really?' and 'sure you don't mind?' to Michael, it was clear that it is a genuine invitation to join the kitchen family and we soon lost all inhibitions to wander freely around the kitchen at will.'

'And to be clear on this point, this is their normal practice and not simply an invitation extended to us. Without doubt it is one of the friendliest and most welcoming kitchens we have ever stepped in.'



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*Source: JICREG data 01/04/2014

Young Oban band members miss out on gig of a lifetime



FRESH-FACED: Ewan Macdonald, second from left, is the only member of Ceol an Aire old enough to play their Las Vegas gig. @ceol01

MEMBERS of a young Oban ceilidh band have missed out on the gig of a lifetime in the bright lights of Las Vegas - because they are underage.

Ceol an Aire's Ewan Macdonald was asked if the band could play at the wedding of his Skye cousin, Sheena Free-stone, to Billy McEwan in Las Vegas.

But after learning

much of the week-long wedding celebrations would be around the bars and clubs of the famous Nevada destination, where the legal drinking age is 21, disappointed younger band members Malcolm Clark, Ruairidh Morrison and Angus John MacColl realised they would have to stay at home.

As a result, keyboard player and guitarist Ewan will be joined by accordion player Murray Willis for the one-hour wedding gig.

Ewan, 21, said: 'Sheena asked me if the band could play at her wedding but most of them wouldn't get into the venues, so Murray - also 21 - and I are going over for the week and playing

for an hour.

'There is a week-long wedding itinerary, so we'll do what we are told, but I'm really looking forward to hiring a Mustang to drive to the Grand Canyon.'

Ewan's fellow band members will be busy at home working on their next album, as yet unnamed, to be released in the spring.

Scottish Ensemble strings spectacular for young Highland musicians

THE SCOTTISH Ensemble, the UK's only professional string orchestra, will be visiting the Highlands in October to host a special day of tuition for young musicians in Inverness.

Pupils of all ages and abilities who play stringed instruments have the chance to come and join the Scottish Ensemble musicians for a fun day of music making with the opportunity to ask questions and learn how to get more out of their music playing.

Music development officer Norman Bolton said: 'This is a great opportunity for beginners, to those considering studying music once they leave school, to come together and learn from the experts.'

'Participants will be placed in small groups based on their standard and chance to work on various techniques as participants spend the

day building up to a performance at the end of the session for friends and family.'

The special strings session takes place in Inverness on Wednesday October 22 from 10am - 3pm and any primary aged or secondary school pupils wishing to attend should book their place by contacting the Scottish Ensemble on 0141 332 4747 or e-mailing pippa.barnwell@scottishensemble.co.uk.

In addition to Highland Council's music tutors working with pupils in schools across the Highland council area, the council runs the eight Highland young musicians groups and their next public performances will be in Aviemore's MacDon-ald Resort Arena on November 22 as part of their standard and chance to work on various techniques as participants spend the

The Big Debate with Gordon Brewer

BBC RADIO Scotland's The Big Debate with Gordon Brewer comes live from the Corran Halls in Oban on Friday, October 17.

The BBC are looking for members of the public to take part in the audience.

The Big Debate programme has been travelling around the country since the programme was first broadcast in September 2009.

The show has now visited more than 70 towns and villages across Scotland, from Kirkwall in Orkney to Kelso in the Borders.

Gordon chairs a panel of speakers from the world of politics, the arts, science, business and other areas of public life and only the audience can ask them questions.

To join the audience of The Big Debate with Gordon Brewer www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-15190428 or email bigdebate@bbc.co.uk or call 0141 422 7776

Audience members must arrive by 11.30am for the live recording at noon

Questions are chosen on Friday morning before the live programme at noon, audience members will be expected to ask their questions live on air.

St. Kilda focus of historical talk

LOCHABER Local History Society welcomes back speaker Bill Cameron to talk about The Three St Kildas tonight (Thursday).

Bill is a great enthusiast of the Island of St.Kilda having visited there many times.

His fine collection of photographs of the island is now on permanent display in the West Highland Museum.

He went one step further however in the recent school holidays - visiting three St Kildas in a matter of weeks, two at the other end of the earth.

He has returned in good time to tell us of the connections and contrasts between these communities, past and present.

The talk takes place at 8pm at the Ben Nevis Hotel.

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How to choose a new home

Looking for a new home is a time-consuming process, and it is tempting just to rush into buying the first one you like the look of. But watch out, as it will not be so easy 'to take back to the shop' if you decide you don't like it after you have moved in. Once you have decided to buy a house and found out how much you can afford, it is worth sitting down and thinking hard about what you want from your new home and what your needs are. Here is a list of some of the things you should consider when househunting.

Location, location, location

It is important to research a particular area before viewing lots of homes or making an offer on a house in your chosen location. If you decide it is not the kind of neighbourhood you would enjoy living in, then you could save yourself a lot of time and effort by doing so early on in the process. Even if you can get a bigger home for your money in an area which isn't so convenient, make sure you really are doing the right thing. Remember that you can always make changes to a house but not to the neighbourhood.

Simply touring the area can give you a good idea of what it is like. There are also some good sites on the internet where you can research different areas and what is available there. Gentrification is a key indicator of an area which is improving and where house prices are more likely to go up. Key signs of gentrification include an abundance of cafes

and trendy home design shops. Another sign of a good area to invest in is one with a lot of interest from property developers. Find out if any new flats and homes are being built. Local newspapers and council websites are a good source of information about planning activity, as well as information about local schools.

Key Tips

- Once you have found a property you feel you like, make sure you learn as much as possible about it.
- Even if it seems perfect at first glance, try to think about it from all angles.
- Write everything down - the best house-hunters take notes on each property they view which they can compare later.
- Make at least two visits. View the house in the daylight and at night. Come at rush hour, as you could get a nasty surprise - is the road used as a short-cut by motorists?
- Check what fixtures and fittings will be left by the previous owner.
- Consider the layout of the house - are there any unusual-shaped rooms that it would be difficult to fit furniture or appliances into? Are there enough power points?
- Don't be put off by the seller's choice of decor - try to imagine the house with your own furniture and style.

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SUPERIOR LOCHSIDE DWELLINGHOUSE
THE OLD INN, LETTERFINLAY, SPEAN BRIDGE, PH34 4DZ



Enjoying spectacular views over Loch Lochy to the Great Glen, The Old Inn forms a most desirable detached dwelling house. Steeped in Highland history, the property was a former 'King's House', which has been thoughtfully renovated and extended to create a fantastic family home. The property is in excellent order and offers a selection of versatile rooms in a convenient layout and has been designed so it can be easily divided into two properties, subject to all the necessary planning consents. The property benefits from oil fired central heating and double glazing, with the exception of the entrance porch.

An impressive Kitchen/Diner is at the heart of the home, boasts a vaulted ceiling with exposed beams and enjoys views to both the front and rear of the property. A semi-open plan Lounge and Sitting Room continue the theme of easy family living and benefits from 4 bedrooms plus study/5th bedroom.

The Old Inn also has the advantage of access to Loch Lochy, whilst included in the sale is approximately 2.5 acres of ground. Loch Lochy is one of the 3 lochs forming part of the Caledonian Canal, linking the west and east coasts of Scotland between Fort William and Inverness. Letterfinlay itself is situated approximately 5 miles from Spean Bridge and 15 miles from Fort William. EPC Rating: D 58

Price Guide: £350,000
For further information please call
Fort William office: 01397 702200



10 ACRE SMALL HOLDING WITH HOUSE SITE
AT SOUTH LAGGAN, INVERNESS-SHIRE, PH34 4EA
WITH PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE ERECTION OF A DETACHED HOUSE



LOCATION

This level fertile block of arable and grass land is situated at South Laggan in the heart of the Great Glen. South Laggan sits at the north end of Loch Lochy which is one of the 3 lochs forming part of the Caledonian Canal, linking the west and east coasts of Scotland between Fort William and Inverness. The property is on the west side of the A82 trunk road which connects Fort William with Inverness which is about 42 miles away to the north east.

The Caledonian Canal is just a short distance to the west of the land. The locks at the head of Loch Lochy are close by to the south.

There is a direct train service from Spean Bridge to Glasgow as well as a daily sleeper train to London. The popular Ski Centre at Aonach Mor is about 17 miles away. Mountain Biking facilities are also available at Aonach Mor and at Wolftrax at Laggan about 40 miles away. Deer Stalking, Salmon Fishing and Grouse and Pheasant Shooting are all available for let on local sporting estates.

Loch Lochy is included in the Great Glen Ways Initiative which is a project supported by Highland Council, the Forestry Commission and Scottish Canals to promote the use of the Caledonian Canal, the Great Glen Mountain Bike Trails and the Great Glen Way Long Distance Route.

As a consequence, South Laggan is located in an area which provides a wonderful variety and range of outdoor leisure and recreational activities.

DESCRIPTION

This small holding extends to about 10 acres or thereby and is a block of good quality arable and grass land that is relatively level. The land lies on the west side of the A82 road and the Caledonian Canal is a short distance to the west.

PLANNING PERMISSION

Planning Permission in Principle was granted by Highland Council on 24th June 2013, under reference 13/01582/PIP for the erection of a house. The access improvement required as a condition of the planning permission has been carried out.

The proposed house will enjoy stunning views of the Great Glen and the surrounding hills and mountains.

SERVICES

It will be the purchaser's responsibility to connect to the necessary services. Water will be provided by means of a borehole to be installed by the purchaser. Mains electricity is nearby. Drainage will be to a septic tank to be installed within the land being sold, which will be exclusive to the new house.



Offers Over: £125,000
For further information please call
Fort William office: 01397 702200

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STUNNING ESTATE ON THE SHORES OF LOCH AWE
TERVINE, LOCH AWE, ARGYLL PA35 1HE



Situated in an area of great natural beauty on the north western shores of Loch Awe, Tervine is a stunning and picturesque estate comprising approximately 127.25 acres of land, of which 91.05 acres is good quality arable land and 36.20 acres is woodland. The estate offers panoramic views to the south east down Loch Awe as well as close-up and unrivalled views across the Pass of Brander to Ben Cruachan, which rises to a summit of more than 1,000 metres. The gently sloping land, which is rich in wildlife and birds, leads down to the shingle shores of Loch Awe, whilst included in the estate are two cottages offering ideal development opportunities, three residential building plots with Full Planning Permission,

a private water system ready for connection, a telecommunications site, three large agricultural sheds and a mile of shoreline with salmon and Riparian fishing rights.

Tervine is located on the north western shores of Loch Awe, approximately a mile from the award-winning Ardanaiseig Hotel. The area around Loch Awe is home to a thriving local community as well as a very popular tourist destination, with visitors drawn to the magnificent scenery and the range of outdoor pursuits, which include excellent brown trout fishing, boating, hillwalking and climbing on the nearby mountain ranges.

- ESTATE IN AREA OF GREAT NATURAL BEAUTY
- PANORAMIC VIEWS OF BEN CRUACHAN & LOCH AWE
- SET IN APPROXIMATELY 127 ACRES OF GOOD QUALITY ARABLE AND WOODED LAND
- APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE OF SHORE FRONTAGE TO LOCH AWE
- TWO COTTAGES OFFERING EXCITING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- THREE BUILDING PLOTS WITH FULL PLANNING PERMISSION
- RIPARIAN & SALMON FISHING RIGHTS
- THREE LARGE AGRICULTURAL SHEDS
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS SITE
- INCOME FROM SINGLE FARM PAYMENT SCHEME
- EPC RATING - FANK COTTAGE: F 31
PINE COTTAGE: G 01

Offers In The Region Of £495,000
For further information please call
Oban Office: 01631 565251

DESIRABLE LOCHSIDE COTTAGES
3 & 6 ARDRHU COTTAGES, ONICH, PH33 6SD



Situated within the exclusive area of Ardrhu in Onich, the subjects of sale form desirable semi-detached and mid-terraced properties. Currently used as successful self-catering properties, the cottages would also make fantastic homes or holiday homes. The open-plan living area with patio doors leading to the front deck in cottage 3, is a most attractive feature. Enjoying panoramic views towards Loch Linnhe and the surrounding hills and only a short walk from the waters edge, the properties benefit from double glazing and LPG fired central heating.

Located in the village of Onich, with Fort William some 10 miles north and Glencoe 5 miles to the south, the properties are well placed to take advantage of the numerous leisure and pleasure activities the area has to offer. Onich itself has a shop, hotels, pubs and restaurants, with the local primary school in nearby North Ballachulish and secondary schools in Fort William and Strontian.

Cottage 3 Price Guide: £125,000
Cottage 6 Price Guide: £130,000
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BRAE HOUSE, ELLEENABEICH, ISLE OF SEIL
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£150,000**
• CHARMING MID-TERRACED COTTAGE

- DESIRABLE RURAL LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 2 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- ENCLOSED GARDEN
- EPC RATING: F 26



SUISNISH HOUSE, GLENBORRODALE, ACHARACLE, PH36 4JP
PRICE GUIDE: **£385,000**

- KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM
- BATHROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- STUDY/4TH BEDROOM
- ELECTRIC CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE GARDEN - SOME 9 ACRES
- DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE
- EPC RATING: D 67



5 KERRERA TERRACE, DUNOLLIE, OBAN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£129,950**

- LOUNGE WITH DINING AREA
- KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SOLID FUEL CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- ON STREET PARKING
- EPC RATING: D 60



THE OLD OAKS, BLAICH, BY FORT WILLIAM
PRICE GUIDE **£345,000**

- A MODERN, LUXURIOUS & SUSTAINABLE HOME
- IN IMMACULATE ORDER
- VIEWS OVER LOCH EIL
- OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE, KITCHEN & DINING AREA
- 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- UTILITY AREA
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- MULTI-FUEL STOVE WITH MECHANICAL VENTILATION & HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEM
- AIR-TO-WATER ECOCENT HEAT PUMP
- HORDAN WINDOWS & DOORS
- GARDEN
- GARAGE
- EPC RATING: B 81



HAWTHORN, LOCHYSIDE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 7NX
PRICE GUIDE: **£240,000**

- TRADITIONAL DETACHED DWELLINGHOUSE
- STUNNING VIEWS TOWARDS BEN NEVIS
- LOUNGE
- SITTING ROOM/6TH BEDROOM
- KITCHEN DINER
- OIL-FIRED RAYBURN
- SHOWER ROOM
- DINING ROOM
- 5 BEDROOMS (2 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- MAINLY DOUBLE GLAZED
- GARDEN
- SHED
- EPC RATING: E 41



CRANNAIG-A-MHINISTER, GANAVAN, BY OBAN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£359,995**

- ATTRACTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- BEAUTIFUL SEA VIEWS TOWARDS THE ISLE OF LISMORE & THE MORVERN PENINSULA
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE WITH DINING AREA
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- LARGE GARDEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & OIL CENTRAL HEATING
- DETACHED GARAGE WITH WORKSHOP
- DOUBLE GARAGE WITH PLANNING PERMISSION
- EPC RATING: D 61



OAKFIELD, DALMAILLY
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£235,000**

- SUPERIOR DETACHED BUNGALOW
- IMMACULATELY PRESENTED
- PRIVATE & PEACEFUL VILLAGE LOCATION
- EASY ACCESS TO VILLAGE FACILITIES
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN & UTILITY ROOM
- 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- SPACIOUS GARDEN WITH OPEN VIEWS
- PARKING & TURNING AREA
- INTEGRATED GARAGE
- EPC RATING: D 55



BURACH, ARGYLL ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6LF
PRICE GUIDE: **£440,000**

- SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED PROPERTY
- A MODERN FAMILY HOME
- SPECTACULAR LOCH VIEWS
- OPEN-PLAN LIVING AREA
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM, SHOWER ROOM & CLOAKROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- WORKSHOP/BOILER ROOM
- LARGE STORAGE
- GARDEN WITH DECKING AREA
- COVERED PARKING FOR 2 CARS
- EPC RATING: C 76
- TWO SELF-CONTAINED COTTAGES - FULL RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY
- OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE, KITCHEN & DINER
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING



HUNTER'S LODGE, LETTERMORE, BALLACHULISH, PH49 4JD
PRICE GUIDE: **£355,000**

- EDWARDIAN LOCHSIDE VILLA & LETTING APARTMENT
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- SPECTACULAR LOCH VIEWS
- OPEN-PLAN LIVING/DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- ANNEXE: KITCHEN/DINER, LIVING/BEDROOM & SHOWER ROOM
- LETTING APARTMENT: LIVING/DINING/KITCHEN AREA, DOUBLE BEDROOM, BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- GARDEN
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- EPC RATING: F 37



3 THE MEADOWS, STRONTIAN
PRICE GUIDE: **£279,000**

- SUPERIOR DETACHED VILLA
- IN IMMACULATE ORDER
- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED
- SWEET VIEWS TOWARDS LOCH SUNART
- WOODLAND WALKS AND SHORELINE WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (3 EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE GARDEN
- EPC RATING: C 76



GRULINE HOME FARM & COURTYARD COTTAGE, GRULINE, ISLE OF MULL
OFFERS OVER: **£520,000**

- SUPERBLY PRESENTED HOUSE & SELF-CATERING COTTAGE
- AREA OF GREAT NATURAL BEAUTY
- SET IN APPROXIMATELY 3 ACRES OF LAND INCLUDING A 2-ACRE Paddock
- LOUNGE/SITTING ROOM
- BREAKFASTING KITCHEN
- FORMAL DINING ROOM
- 2 GUEST BEDROOMS (BOTH EN-SUITE)
- OWNERS' BEDROOM SUITE WITH WET ROOM
- UTILITY ROOM & 2 CLOAKROOMS
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- LANDSCAPED GARDEN GROUNDS WITH ORNAMENTAL POND & GARDEN SHED
- LARGE GARAGE, PARKING & TURNING AREA
- EPC RATING: D 57



THE OAKS, PERTH
PRICE GUIDE: **£285,000**
STAMP DUTY PAID

- IN IMMACULATE ORDER
- STUNNING ELEVATED VIEWS
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINING ROOM
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS (3 EN-SUITE)
- STUDY/5TH BEDROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- EPC RATING: C 81



STRATHAIRD, PORT APPIN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£250,000**

- CHARMING DETACHED COTTAGE
- PANORAMIC VIEWS ACROSS LOCH LINNHE TOWARDS MORVERN
- SOUGHT-AFTER VILLAGE LOCATION
- LOUNGE & SUN ROOM/DINER
- DINING ROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 BATHROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- PARTIAL DOUBLE GLAZING
- SPACIOUS GARDEN WITH WORKSHOP
- PRIVATE PARKING & DOUBLE GARAGE
- EPC RATING: F 23



KYLE COTTAGE, 15 VICTORIA STREET, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£160,000**

- ATTRACTIVE END-TERRACE DWELLINGHOUSE
- VIEWS TOWARDS TOBERMORY BAY
- LOUNGE
- SUN PORCH
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- GARDEN, GREENHOUSE & SHED TO REAR
- ON-STREET PARKING
- EPC RATING: F 38



32 ROCKFIELD ROAD, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£110,000**

- WELL-PRESENTED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- IN GOOD ORDER THROUGHOUT
- POPULAR RESIDENTIAL LOCATION
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- SPACIOUS GARDEN WITH GARDEN SHED & DECKING
- OFF-STREET PARKING
- EPC RATING: E 41



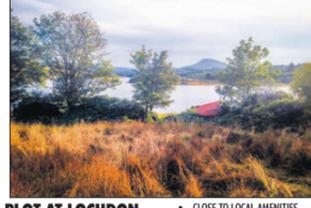
FLAT 4, ROYAL BANK BUILDINGS, 3 STEVENSON STREET, OBAN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£189,000**

- SPACIOUS TOP FLOOR FLAT
- TOWN CENTRE LOCATION
- VIEWS OVER OBAN BAY TOWARDS THE ISLE OF KERRERA
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- EPC RATING: F 24



THE GARDEN HOUSE, ONICH, BY FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RY
PRICE GUIDE **£475,000**

- SUPERIOR DETACHED VILLA
- LOCHSIDE LOCATION
- SPECTACULAR VIEWS
- IN VERY GOOD ORDER
- LOUNGE & SITTING ROOM
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN & UTILITY
- 3 EN-SUITE BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS
- EPC RATING: D 55
- THE WING - SELF-CONTAINED COTTAGE
- OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE, KITCHEN & DINER
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM



PLOT AT LOCHDON, ISLE OF MULL
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£95,000**

- UNIQUE LARGE BUILDING PLOT
- DESIRABLE ISLAND LOCATION
- PANORAMIC SEA VIEWS
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- APPROXIMATELY 1.2 ACRES (0.48HA)
- PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE FOR A DETACHED HOUSE
- SEPTIC TANK INSTALLED
- CONNECTION TO MAINS WATER & ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE CLOSE BY
- PRIVATE PARKING



18 ISLAY ROAD, OBAN
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF **£119,000**

- END-TERRACED HOUSE
- WELL PRESENTED
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE WITH DINING AREA
- KITCHEN
- 2 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & ELECTRIC HEATING
- ON STREET PARKING
- DESIRABLE LANDSCAPED GARDEN
- EPC RATING: F 38



DUNHAFAN, 4 GLENSPAN PARK, ROY BRIDGE, PH31 4AS
PRICE GUIDE **£270,000**

- SUPERIOR DETACHED VILLA
- DESIRABLE LOCATION WITH STUNNING VIEWS
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 5 BEDROOMS (3 EN-SUITE)
- UTILITY
- BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LANDSCAPED GARDEN
- EPC RATING: D 65

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Spean Bridge is located at the cross roads of the A86 and A82 with the access to all areas, 10 minutes north of the town of Fort William, 1.5 hours south of the main city of Inverness.

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3-BEDROOM Properties: 2,4,5,6,9 & 10
2-BEDROOM Properties: 1,3,7,8

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- | Air to air heating using a heat pump
- | Turfed lawns
- | Options for garage
- | Available for early entry are Plots 2 and 9

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PHASE 1: Properties: 1,2,9 & 10
PHASE 2: Properties: 3,4,5,6,7 & 8

Example of finishes

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For advice on affordable warmth in the home, contact our Affordable Warmth team:

- North Argyll: Tara (07860 774 928) or Jenny (07860 774 930)
- South Argyll: Rachel (07860 774 929)
- Isle of Bute (based at Bute Advice Centre): Julie or Alma (01700 502 784)

Other enquiries: enquiries@alienergy.org.uk; 01631 565183 or visit www.alienergy.org.uk

We also deliver the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland Area Based Scheme (HEEPSABS) in Argyll, which currently focuses on Bute. If you have recently received a letter about the scheme and you are interested in receiving insulation measures then please call the **Alienergy** office on 01631 565 183, or email heepsabs@alienergy.org.uk to register your details and an assessor will call you to arrange a house visit.

Like **Alienergy** on Facebook and follow our Tweets to keep up to date with what is available.

Other enquiries: enquiries@alienergy.org.uk; 01631 565183 or visit www.alienergy.org.uk

AS WE move towards the winter months, keeping warm in your home becomes more of an issue as the dark, cold nights set in.

However, heating your home doesn't have to cost you an arm and a leg, and by following these top tips you can keep cosy without breaking the bank.

Start by checking all your insulation, from windows to walls, ceiling to under your floors.

Cheap and effective, it is one of the most cost-effective ways to stop the cold creeping through the house.

Make sure your pipes and boilers are properly lagged too.

Something as simple as foam wraps can be picked up for just a few pounds to put around the pipes - but always put them on when the pipes are cool to make sure you don't burn yourself.

Maintenance on heating equipment is important too so make sure all water-fed radiators are bled and working correctly.

A working radiator should be warm evenly across the panel; if it isn't, there could be air trapped inside and bleeding the radiator will ensure it returns to maximum efficiency.

Once those basics are done, you can start to have a more overall view of your home's heating requirements.

Is your boiler fired to the most efficient way possible?

Can you turn your thermostat down a degree or two?

Are you buying your electricity and gas from the cheapest source?

Could a change save you pounds and make your home warmer?

These things are relatively simple to check online and you'll find numerous tools online to help you estimate your costs and your potential savings with alternative heating sources.

Remember, the right heating source can vary depending on how you use your home.

Those who spend all day in the house may wish to consider the cheapest for prolonged use, while some occasional systems, such as wet radiators, provide instant heat, although aren't always ideal to be left on all day.

Think too about future costs.

Wood-fuelled heating systems, also called biomass systems, burn wood

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enables them to turn off their primary heating for a much longer period over the spring, summer and autumn, or resolve cold spots. If your system is on its last legs, why not look at a complete system change and not only save on your heating costs but also say goodbye for ever to maintenance charges. Ideal with extensions or conservatories, why spend money extending an existing heating system when ours can be simply plugged in? Special low levels heaters available for under low window sills.

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pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth in a single room or to power central heating and hot water boilers.

A stove burns logs or pellets to heat a single room, and may be fitted with a back boiler to provide water heating as well.

A wood-fuelled boiler could save you up to £650 a year compared to old electric heating.

As resources dwindle and taxes increase, many people are also considering moving to a renewable energy source for heating and power.

Heat pumps and solar panels, once an extravagance only available to the extremely wealthy are becoming more common.

Such systems not only save you cash by heating your home from sources that can be free, but government funded feed-in tariffs can make some options earn money for you, repaying your investment and making you a profit long-term.

If, after all this, you feel you still aren't getting the most for your money, perhaps try speaking to your energy supplier to see if you're on the best rate or tariff for your circumstances.

Some may move you on to a cheaper option, if available.

If not, it might be time to consider switching to make sure you're not being ripped off.

It all feels like it will be rather difficult until you actually start to check, so don't delay and have a look at how you're heating your home today.

You'll be surprised how even making one or two of the above changes can make a significant difference to your home.

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For those who do decide to build their own home, the sense of accomplishment and the joy of having the home you always wanted is worth the effort.

It is not easy - those who have gone through the process will testify to that - but there is help out there for anyone who also wants to realise their ambition.

In most cases taking on a self-build does not mean you have to do all, or even any, of the building work yourself, so you do not have to have construction skills in order to self build.

In the rural west Highlands, self-build is the ideal way to make property available, with ample plots but a lack of available housing.

Self-build can also save costs; in most cases, it costs

less to buy a plot of land and fund the construction costs yourself than to buy an equivalent type of property on the open market.

While people normally think of self-build as building a new home from scratch on a plot of land, the same principles apply to buying a derelict empty property which needs significant work.

An existing property often has the advantage of road, water, sewerage, electricity and potentially gas connections to the site already in place.

In this case, you may be able either to demolish the property and start afresh or substantially renovate and/or extend the existing property.

Once you have worked out what budget you have available, you can find out about plots of land for sale which may be suitable for self-build from a number of sources.

There are several websites which allow you to search for details of plots for sale, although for some of these you need to pay a fee for membership.

A number of councils also have their own land or property register, which provides details of land and properties which the council or its partners wish to sell.

A lot of the land available will not be for self build

(it may be for commercial use), but most of these registers do have some sites suitable for individual or group self-build projects.

If a council does not have a register, you may wish to call the council's property or estates department to ask if they have any suitable sites for sale.

Of course, estate agents, online and on the high street, will have plots on their books and it is always worthwhile checking with local developers, who may negotiate the sale of individual plots of land from larger development areas.

Before you buy any plot, you should check whether it has full or outline planning permission or, if not, that the site is 'zoned' for housing by the council.

A plot may have full planning permission, but this means that you would be required to construct a house which exactly fits the planning approval documents.

If you wish to build a house that is different in its external appearance from the one approved, you will need to make a new planning application.

You should discuss the situation with a planning officer at the relevant council before making any decisions as they will be able to provide information about the requirements for any particular site.

If you wish to buy a plot which does not have full

Give your home a makeover

If you love your home but just wished it looked better from the outside, an external makeover could be the answer.

Beauty, they say, is in the eye of the beholder. When it comes to creating a beautiful home, though, it's all about proportions, the colour and texture of materials, window and door styles, architectural details and landscaping. Each of these elements can be adapted and altered independently, often without having to apply for planning permission. Get the mix right and you can completely transform your home's appearance - and its value, too.

A clever external makeover scheme could turn your home into a contemporary masterpiece or a period gem. A plain bungalow can become a two-storey house or a modernist classic. With vision, imagination and a book or two on the key components of each style, you can work out the look that's likely to be the most effective for your home and budget.

Is it worth it?

With the exception of listed and other protected buildings, any property can be transformed if you have sufficient funds, but you need to think carefully before spending more on your home than you can recoup should you decide to sell. Get your home valued by estate agents and compare it to other properties in your area, to see what scope there is to add further value. As a rule of thumb, the more desirable the location of your home, the more it will be worth spending on improvements to it. But be aware that there's usually a maximum value you can aspire to for any area. With moving costs taken into account, it can still be cheaper to have a makeover than to sell and move on, but it's not all about money. The most important thing is that you like the way your home looks.

Where to start

Firstly, photograph your home from all sides to identify features you are unhappy with and why. Is it the angle of the roof? What about the style of the windows and doors? Are its features nice in general, but they just seem out of context, or else they aren't working well together?

If you are planning to spend £15,000 or more, it's worth talking to an architectural designer specialising in external makeovers. They will be able to suggest styles your home lends itself to best by looking at its shape and form. They will also be able to help you to achieve the maximum effect for your budget. An initial meeting and discussion should be free of charge. And if you are planning an extension and/or interior improvements, it's wise to combine this with your exterior makeover scheme, as this will ensure the new and old parts work together.

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planning permission, the land owner will often agree to an offer which is subject to you securing appropriate planning permission. This allows you to pull out of the sale if your planning application is rejected so is a sensible option.

You should seek independent legal advice before making an offer for a plot of land, if you don't already have a solicitor. You should also get a site appraisal for the plot of land to check how suitable it is to build on.

For any self-build project, you should get professional advice from an architect to help you develop your ideas for the house you want.

An architect can also make applications for planning permission and your building warrant on your behalf, although there are also a number of other types of design professionals who may be able to help you with this.

An architect will normally carry out site inspections for you as building work progresses to check that everything is being carried out satisfactorily and in line with the designs you have chosen and

the planning and building warrant documents. You should check with your mortgage lender what professional input they require for certification of the building design and construction before they will release funds.

Unless the site is already fully 'serviced', you will need to arrange for your site to be connected to mains water and sewerage systems and for electricity and (if applicable) gas connections to be provided. It is helpful for you to check with Scottish Water and power companies early on to make sure you can get connections when you need them.

In rural areas, particularly if the site is far from other properties or on a hill, there can be problems in connecting sites to the mains water and gas grids in particular and the cost of the connection can be high; therefore if your site is in a remote area, you should check the feasibility of arranging connections before you commit to buying a site.



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57 MERCEDES SPRINTER 311 CDL, SWB, High Top Van, Manual, SLD, Ply Lined, E-pack, Met Silver	£9,950
06 MERCEDES SPRINTER 311 CDL, MWB, 4x4 Van, Manual, SLD, Rear Fitted Workshop, White	£9,950
07 SUZUKI PROCEC Overhaul, 2r, 1.0 Pickup, Manual, Alloy, Epack, 200 Tons, Met Silver, 50K	£9,950
56 CITROEN BERLINGO Multi Space, Wheel Chair Access, Manual, Epack, Met Silver	NO VAT £4,700
10 VAUXHALL ASTRA van, 1.7 CDTI Manual, E-pack, Ply Lined With Bulkhead, White	£4,950
10 KAWASAKI 600 MULE, Drop Side, Topper Body, Mower cab, Towbar, Red, 1200 HRS, Choice	£4,250
01 Mercedes C200, Kompressor, 3 door Coupe, Auto, Full leather, Alloy, Met Silver	NO VAT £2,950

VANS

09 Ford Transit 350, LWB, Semi H/Top Panel Van, 65vent, Epack, Roof Rack, White, 60K	£9,250
55 Ford Transit 350, MWB, Panel Van, Semi H/Top, Ply Lined, SLD, Very Clean, 55K	£4,450
56 VW CRAFTY, CRSD, Crew Cab Dropside Topper, Exped, Manual, Epack, Alloy Tool Boxes, Blue, 50K, Choice	£9,950

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13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles.....	£7,650
13 Skoda Roomster 1.2 Greenline TDi CR, 11,000 miles	£9,850
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59 Peugeot 207 SHDi 5 Dr Salon, 54,000 miles.....	£5,250
59 Renault Scenic Dyn, DCi 105, Blue, 52,000 miles.....	£6,500
59 Renault Clio 1.5DCi, 3 dr, White 34, 000 miles.....	£5,650
09 Renault Kangoo car, 1.2, Silver, 48,000 miles.....	£4,450
07 Renault Laguna DCi Est, Silver, 70,000 miles.....	£3,550
58 Vauxhall Astra CDTi Black 86,000 miles.....	£3,750
08 Fiat Doblo 1.9D Active Blue 52,000 miles.....	£4,250
56 Astra 1.6 Life, 5 dr, Silver, 50,000 miles.....	£3,500
54 Honda CRV Sport Vtec 2.0 ltr Blue, 91,000 miles	£4,250

COMMERCIALS

61 Kangoo Sport, 1.5DCi, 65K Miles.....	£5,750 plus VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivaro DCi Van	£8,000 plus VAT
60 Renault Kangoo ML19, DCi, White, 54,000 miles	£5,500 plus VAT
57 Vauxhall Astra Sportif Van DCi Silver.....	£3,500 plus VAT
06 Ford Transit Connect Diesel, 31,000 miles	£4,850 inc. VAT

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*Source: JICREG data 01/04/2014

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Temporary Winter Patrol Drivers



BEAR Scotland provides integrated road infrastructure services throughout Scotland including managing and maintaining Scotland's Trunk Road Network.

Temporary vacancies have arisen for Winter Patrol Drivers from 20th October 2014 to 31st March 2015 in our Oban, Fort William, Ardeve and Inveraray depots, to carry out winter patrol duties on a night shift basis on several routes of the trunk road network.

Candidates should possess a current HGV license and be prepared to carry out road maintenance duties. Training will be provided.

For an application form please contact recruitment@bearsotland.co.uk or 01738 448600, or apply on our website www.bearsotland.co.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 10th October 2014.



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£21,000 – £26,000 [Dependent on experience]

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Customer Services Assistant (Income Collection) - 1 Year Fixed Term Post
EVH Band 3/4 £15,813 – £21,474

Reporting to the Housing and Customer Services Officer this post holder will assist the team to ensure that the Association continue their excellent record in rent collection. You will require a mature disposition, excellent administration skills with good communication skills particularly on the phone and when speaking with people. You will be required to demonstrate good IT skills and organisational skills.

Our Association provides an excellent working environment with a strong culture of both organisational improvement and individual opportunities for learning and development. We have excellent conditions of service and these posts will provide the post holders an opportunity to make a difference.

These posts will be based in our office in Oban. We are committed to diversity and encourage applications from all sectors where transferable skills are present.

Potential opportunity for Housing Graduate/Post Graduate. We will consider a secondment opportunity for candidates with appropriate skills. All necessary in house training will be provided.

Application packs can be e-mailed by contacting Susan MacAskill, Finance and Corporate Services Officer susan@westhighlandha.co.uk

Closing date for Applications will be Wednesday 15th October 2014, with interviews being held during week commencing 27th October 2014
We are a Scottish Charity No SC017357

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You will be educated to Standard Grade level or equivalent including Maths and English and have experience of Microsoft Office; you must also be willing to work outside. Previous experience of working in an office environment is essential and knowledge of agriculture and other rural business is desirable.

Apply online at <http://www.sruc.ac.uk>.

Closing date: 7 October 2014

Please quote: C/FRBS/1126/14

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Tìotal Dreuchd: Tìdsear Bun-sgoile (Meadhan na Gàidhlig)

Àite: Bun-sgoil Ghearrloch

Uairean: 35 uairean san t-seachdain

Ùine: Maireannach

Tuarastal: £21,86 – £34,887

Iomradh Dreuchd: HGH007265

Neach Fiosrachaidh: Margaret Young, Fòn: 01445 712165

Cuiribh a-steach TAGRADH AIR-LOIDHNE aig www.myjobscotland.gov.uk

Mura h-urrainn dhuibh tagradh a chur a-steach air-loidhne agus sibh ag iarraidh pasgan-iarrtais far-loidhne, cuiribh fios gu Taic Gnothachais – HR C&L Fòn: 01349 868640 (post-gutha 24 uair) a' toirt seachad àireamh na dreuchd gu h-àrd.

Tha comas labhairt sa Ghàidhlig riatanach airson na dreuchd seo.

Mus tèid dreuchd a dhearbhadh, feumaidh tagraichean soirbheachail ball-rachd a ghabhail ann an Sgeama Dìona nam Buidhnean So-leònte.

Tha pasgan ath-shuidheachaidh aig a' Chomhairle agus dh'fhaodte gum bi seo ri fhaotainn dhan tagraiche shoirbheachail.

Ceann-latha: Diciadain, 15 Dàmhair 2014

Tìotal Dreuchd: Tìdsear Bun-sgoile (Meadhan na Gàidhlig)

Àite: Sgìre an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Loch Aillse

Uairean: 35 uairean san t-seachdain

Ùine: Maireannach

Tuarastal: £21,867 – £34,887

Iomradh Dreuchd: HGH007276

Neach Fiosrachaidh: Hazel Morrison, Fòn: 01471 844326

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Tha pasgan ath-shuidheachaidh aig a' Chomhairle agus dh'fhaodte gum bi seo ri fhaotainn dhan tagraiche shoirbheachail.

Ceann-latha: Diciadain, 15 Dàmhair 2014



Mid Argyll Community Pool MACPool is Recruiting

Duty Managers - Outgoing and enthusiastic people to be responsible for day to day running of the business. Experience within the leisure industry or a customer-focused business; preferred

Salary: £12,800 - £14,500

Lifeguards - Self motivated and willing to learn new skills as part of a dynamic team. No experience necessary as training will be given.

Salary: £11,750 - £12,800

Full time and part time positions are available for both roles

Closing Date: Friday 24th October 2014

Application packs from www.macpool.org.uk/recruitment or manager@macpool.org.uk

Charity Number: SC020084 • Company Number: 137229/1992

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Scottish Field

Scottish Field, the country's leading monthly glossy, is looking for full-time writer and sub-editor.

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CVs to editor, Richard Bath - rbath@scottishfield.co.uk
Email: rbath@scottishfield.co.uk

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Armed Forces & Veterans Launchpad, a service charity assisting veterans to transition to civilian life, are seeking an Admin Assistant at their office based in Tayvallich. Duties will include assisting to prepare financial reports, monitoring Big Lottery Fund criteria and general office tasks.

Experience preferred
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Email CV to mcleandonald@btconnect.com.

Farm Technician's required for New Site on Isle of Colonsay

Salary £17,978 - £22,808 plus overtime and bonus

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is installing a fish farm on the Isle of Colonsay. This is part of a move to expand the business by developing a number of new sites on the west coast of Scotland.

As a result we are looking to fill several Farm Technician posts. Applicants will be required to work on a two week on/off rota. In addition they will be required to train on one of the Company's existing sites to gain experience before the new site opens in 2015.

The successful applicants will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feed monitoring, net changing and other general farm tasks, and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. The position will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who are competent swimmers. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided.

If you are interested in applying for one of these vacancies please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of 31st October 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resources Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



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Working with the Group ESH Manager and closely with the Mill Manager at the Fort William site, your role will focus on championing an awareness and responsibility culture with our employees via the provision of hands-on support, advice and guidance on all ESH issues. This will involve monitoring site performance against targets, assisting with risk assessments and planning/developing safety management systems, carrying out training sessions, reviews, investigations and safety audits - making recommendations and initiating change where required.

Dynamic and proactive, with a passion for H&S and the ability to spread your enthusiasm to all our employees, you'll also demonstrate strong organisational and communication skills as well as the ability to maintain and make sound, practical and timely decisions, without losing sight of the overall group objectives. Of degree calibre and already holding a NEBOSH qualification (minimum diploma level), we'll also expect strong IT skills and a full driving licence. Any experience in a similar site role would be an advantage, preferably within manufacturing.

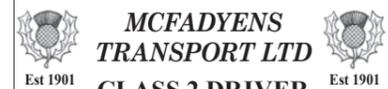
Closing date for applications: Sunday 12th October 2014.

For an application form, please clearly state your salary expectations and contact: Kathleen Woodhouse, Group HR Advisor.

Email: kathleen.woodhouse@bsw.co.uk

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HGV DRIVERS

Due to our continuing growth we have vacancies for HGV drivers delivering product from our quarries in the Argyll & Bute area i.e. Oban and surround, ideally experienced in delivering concrete, asphalt and aggregates although this is not essential as training will be provided. You must have:

- a proactive approach to health and safety
- hold a Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) licence in addition to vocational driving licence.

We are looking for candidates who have the experience to fulfil this role and who have the personal qualities to provide a positive and proactive contribution to our team.

We offer competitive terms and other benefits associated with a progressive employer.

If you wish to be considered for a position, please send a copy of your CV to gill.kerr@breedonaggregates.com or HR Manager, Breedon Aggregates, Ethiebeaton Quarry, Monifieth, Angus, DD5 3RB.

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Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press closer to home

New technology makes Royal National Mòd more accessible

ONE OF Scotland's oldest festivals, the Royal National Mòd, is embracing new technology as it aims to inform visitors to this year's event in Inverness.

The Mòd organisers, An Comunn Gàidhealach, announced this week it will launch its first ever mobile phone app, available to download ahead of this year's festival, which takes place from October 10.

The app, available through iTunes and Google Play Store, allows Mòd-goers to find out which events are happening in real time, as well as their location.

Users will also be able to filter

the programme by day, competition, artist and even find out what fringe events are on.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'While The Mòd is one of the oldest and most respected events in the world, we are all too aware that technology is constantly changing.'

'We wanted to make sure that no one misses out on their favourite competition or performance and can make sure they are heading to the correct location in the easiest way possible.'

The Royal National Mòd will feature competitions and performances in Highland

dancing, Gaelic music and song, sport, literature and drama and bring thousands of competitors and spectators from all corners of the globe to the Highland capital.

Starting with a torchlight procession through the town to Eden Court on the Friday, there is an abundance of entertainment planned for the week.

There will be concerts featuring Skipinnish, Cruinn and Skerryvore, street theatre, the Shinty Mod Cup, meet the author events, pub music nights, children's disco, come and try sessions and a ceilidh - there really is something for everyone.

Oban Angel is volunteer of the year

AN OBAN pensioner has received a national award from charity Age Scotland in recognition of his amazing volunteering efforts.

Eighty-two-year-old Andrew MacDowell was due to be presented with the Volunteer of the Year award at the Scottish Parliament yesterday (Wednesday).

The 2013 Oban Times Angel of the Year winner has profound hearing loss and is awaiting a hip operation but none of this prevents him from giving up his time to support older people in his home town and beyond in numerous ways.

He does everything from being a volunteer driver for the local 'soup group' and 'frail walking group' and setting up lunches, to doing heavy gardening work and taking away rubbish.

He is available to take anyone to church on a Sunday who can't make it themselves, along with

taking people to visit the cemetery or loved ones in hospital or care homes.

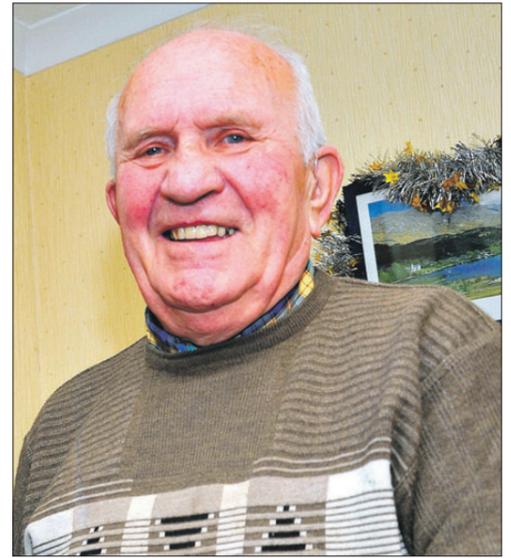
He is also chairman of Oban in Bloom and runs senior sessions at The Shed, a community workshop.

Andy said: 'I enjoy helping others. Volunteering is a two-way thing and I get a lot out of it - and it keeps me busy.'

'I'd encourage anyone who has the time to look at their local community and see where they can help. Everyone has something they can offer.'

Andy began volunteering around four years ago following the death of his wife, Rena, who he had looked after for 12 years.

Maggie Dougall, Community Resilience Worker with Argyll Voluntary Action, who helps co-ordinate all Andy's volunteering and nominated him for the award, said: 'Andy is one of our



VOLUNTEER: Andrew MacDowell, Age Scotland's Volunteer of the Year

most prolific volunteers.

'He has the ability to think about others' needs and anticipate how he can best help them.'

'Most of those he helps are over 80 and some are very frail and wouldn't get out of the house if not for him.'

'He's a wonderful personality and just determined to keep going.'

Brian Sloan, chief executive of Age Scotland, said: 'Andy epitomises what it is to be a volunteer and, during judging, we couldn't believe the endless list of activities he carries out on behalf of others.'

public notices

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/03145/FUL	Land E of Callart, North Ballachulish, Onich, Fort William	Change of land use to Target Sports Area
14/03268/FUL	Land at Achintee Farm Guest House, Achintee, Fort William	Erection of garden tearoom within the grounds of Achintee Farm Guest House
14/03593/PIP	Land South East of Shore Cottage, Eilean Shona, Acharacle	Planning Permission in Principle for a single dwelling house
14/03621/PIP	Glen Albyn, Newtown, Invergary	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

A82 SPEAN VILLAGE (SPEAN BRIDGE) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to upgrade approximately 1.22 kilometres of the A82 and A86 through the village of Spean Bridge is-

(a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

C GAIR
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Trunk Roads Bus Operations
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
17 September 2014

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01860/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Ceann Cuin Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
14/02132/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Croft 8 Caolis Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6TR	Tiree Area Office
14/02222/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Links Cottage Scarinish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6UH	Tiree Area Office
14/02242/PP	Erection of shelter	Tobermory Harbour Association Office Taigh Solais Leadaig Branch Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll	Tobermory Area Office
14/02298/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse (amended design relative to planning permission 12/02318/PP)	Land North East Of Aultornish Crannag A' Mhìneir Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office

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
14/02217/LIB	Installation of 4 replacement windows	Flat 2 126 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NT	Oban Area Office
14/02271/PP	Erection of extension (retrospective)	The Pier Cafe Pier Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office
14/02301/PP	Alterations and erection of replacement extension	16 Victoria Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PH	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgillichhead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02205/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 11/02192/PPP (Site for the creation of a dwellinghouse)	Plot 6 Carnduncan Gruinart Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bridgend

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
14/02270/LIB	Internal alterations to convert an existing store and office area to provide a new visitor tasting room and separated office	Laphroaig Distillery Laphroaig Distillery Road Laphroaig Isle Of Islay Argyll	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgillichhead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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www.highland.gov.uk

Expressions of interest are sought from those wishing to provide toilets accessible to the general public in the form of A Highland Comfort Scheme, in Kinlochleven on behalf of the Highland Council. Payments will be made available under the Highland Comfort Scheme at the rate of between £200 & £300 per month depending on a scored assessment of facilities. Toilet provision should be in the form of Ladies and Gents facilities with disabled access or separate facilities plus baby changing in either.

Interested parties should apply in writing marking the envelope "Highland Comfort Scheme" to Community Services, Carr's Corner Depot, Fort William, PH33 6TL.

Once all expressions of interests have been received and following the closing date, an officer will inspect the proposal using a standard scored process, and award accordingly.

Any questions please contact Michael Leary, Community Works Manager on 01397 709015 or communityservices@highland.gov.uk

Closing date: Friday, 31st October 2014

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For further details contact Michael Hall, Tel: 023 8023 4222, Email: michael.hall@hrecovey.co.uk
Date: 18/09/2014
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD 1421699

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr Ronald MacColl Jnr has registered his croft known as Portnacraich, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 24th June 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C593.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr William Alexander MacGillivray has registered his croft 221 Acharacle, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 24th June 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C585.

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DINING ROOM DISPLAY CABINET dining room display cabinet with wooden door finished base and

THANK YOU

To all those who celebrated with me at my 40th birthday party.

A donation of £1,155 has been given to Lochaber Rural Education Trust and £65 to the Macmillan Suite at Raigmore. The beautiful gifts, flowers and cards I received were overwhelming. Thank you all.

Linda Campbell, Fort William

BIRTHS

YATES - Elliot and Kerry (née McLaren) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Ruairidh John Angus on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at the RAH, Paisley. Second grandchild for Richard Yates, Glasgow and Jennifer MacDonald, Crieff and first grandchild for John and Angela McLaren, Oban. Thanks to Oban midwives and staff at the RAH, Paisley.

ENGAGEMENTS

POLLOCK - GRAHAM-MATHESON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Capt. Martyn Pollock R.E. youngest son of Robert and Elizabeth Pollock, Rothesay, Isle of Bute and Helen Graham-Matheson younger daughter of Dr. Lynne and Peter Graham-Matheson, Ashford, Kent on Friday August 29, 2014.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CURRIE - MACAFFER - At Kildalton Parish Church, Islay on October 6, 1964 by Rev. Frank S Gibson. William MacDougall to Morag Campbell. Present address Lagavulin, Islay.

DEATHS

BAILEY - Jonathan, Jon of Ure Gardens, Oban passed away peacefully on Sunday September 28, 2014. Beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and friendly face to all. A ceremony to celebrate his life will take place at 2pm on Friday 3rd October at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban and thereafter at 6 Ure Gardens, Oban, PA34 4JS. Family flowers. Collection for Macmillan Cancer Support c/o above address.

CRAWFORD - Margaret suddenly on Sunday, September 7, 2014. Margaret McPhail much loved wife of James Crawford loving mother of Fiona and Gordon grandmother of Kirstin and Emma. Service in Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr on Monday, October 6 at 12 noon thereafter to a service of thanksgiving at 1.30pm in Girvan North Parish Church to which all friends and family are invited. Family flowers only retiral collection in aid of charity.

FOSTER - Peacefully at home with his family, David Philip, aged 90, beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral took place at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Wednesday October 1.

GAYDON - Harry (Sam), died peacefully in his sleep, with his family by his side, at his home, Kilbride Farm House, Barbreck, Ardferr, on September 28, 2014, aged 87 years, dearly loved by his wife, Florentine (Twinkle), his children, Alexander, Francis and Isobel, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral service will be held in St Margaret's Church, Lochgilphead, today, Friday, October 3 at 10.30am. Informal dress please. Donations to Mary's Meals, C/O Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors, Lochgilphead, PA31 8LU.

JONES - Peacefully at home in Leeds on September 29, 2014, Lesley wife of John, mother of Nicola and Scott. Granny to Cody, James and Eden. Memorial service in Oban to be arranged. Sadly missed.

MACFARLANE - Peacefully after a long illness in Mossbank Care Home on Sunday September 28, 2014, Peter, much loved brother of Louisa and Catherine and the late George, Sandy and Margaret. Funeral service at St Mary's Fort William on Saturday October 4 at 11am followed by interment at Cille Choirin Cemetery, Roy Bridge. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Moss park resident's Fund. R.I.P.

MACKENZIE - Peacefully at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on September 25 2014, aged 79, Margaret MacKenzie of Lochawe, beloved wife of the late Ian, much loved mum to Lesley, Jan and Alasdair, mother-in-law to Sharron and a dear granny. Funeral will take place at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar, Clydebank on Friday, October 3 at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Breakthrough Breast Cancer & Cancer Research (UK)

MATHIESON - Peacefully after an illness on September 26, 2014, Alex Mathieson, Salen, Isle of Mull aged 71 years. Devoted husband of Jaenette, much loved father of Angus and Robert, loving grandfather, brother and uncle. Funeral service to be held at Salen Parish Church on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 12.00 noon thereafter to Pennygown Cemetery.

McINNES - Roy McInnes, formerly of Scotholm in Connel, passed away peacefully on September 25, 2014 aged 84 at Monklands hospital. Loving husband of Marie for 60 years and father to Ian, Morag and Alan. Father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, will be sadly missed. Funeral service at Falkirk crematorium on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at one o'clock. Family flowers only.

McPHEE - Peacefully at Islay Hospital on September 24, 2014, Margaret (Maggie) (née McMillan) aged 83 years, beloved wife of the late Duncan, much loved mother of Archie, Duncan and dearly loved gran of Morven, Duncan and Donald. Funeral service was held in St Kiarans Church on Tuesday, September 29 at 2pm. Interred in Kilchoman.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KENNEDY - Margaret and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for all their support and kind expressions of sympathy after the sudden passing of George. Special thanks to Donald MacKinnon for his kindness and support before and after his uplifting service. To Ian McInnes Jr for his efficiency and support with the funeral arrangements. Finally grateful thanks to Ambulance personnel, Dr Lyons, PC Paul McMillan and colleague for all their compassion and support at this sad time.

MACCORMICK - Riona and the family of the late Iain MacCormick would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming support following the sore loss of Iain. Thanks also to the staff of Ward B and Hilary and Katrina for their recent care of Iain. To Catriona and the staff of Hamish Hoey and Son for caring and efficient funeral arrangements. Sincere thanks to Mgr. MacNeil for a spiritually uplifting and comforting requiem mass. To the staff of the Oban Bay hotel for an excellent buffet. Grateful thanks to all who attended at the cathedral, the graveside and the reception. To Aaron for his amazing and moving haka. Special thanks to Iain's friends in the Yes campaign for giving him the opportunity to fight for the cause with his enthusiasm and rhetoric. It gave him so much pleasure right to the last. His shining light will never die but live on in the hearts of those who love him.

PURFIT - Chrissie's family would like to thank Dr Shirley, Dr Frank and their staff at Salen surgery for looking after Chrissie during her battle with Cancer. They would especially like to thank the Community Nurses for keeping her comfortable at home during her last few weeks and for all the support they gave to the family. They would also like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness following Chrissie's passing, all your kind thoughts are appreciated. Thank you to Ian and staff at D A Munn Funeral Directors for all their help and understanding during this difficult time. Finally, a huge thank you to Father James MacNeil for the beautiful service he did for Chrissie, it was exactly what she wanted. Thanks to all family and friends who came to pay their respects and support the family. The retiring collection raised £600 for Cancer Research UK.

TEMPLETON - Margaret's sister May and family, wish to thank most sincerely, her friends and neighbours, for all their kindness and support to her over the years. Thanks also, to the team at Lorn Medical Centre, Macmillan Nurses and the care team at North Argyll House for the wonderful palliative care provided.

MEMORIALS

MACKAY - In loving memory of Donald much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa, who died October 5, 2010. Much loved and sadly missed. - Norah and family, Caol, Corrach and An Aird.

MACKINNON - Joan, Creagan, Hough, Isle of Tiree, died September 30, 1997. In Loving Memory from Neil, Kaide, Monica and grandsons James, Calum and Charlie. Also always fondly remembered by May.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of our dearly loved son, brother and uncle John, who died on September 27, 1992. Another year without you John in our lives. Your always in our hearts and memories. Forever loved and missed and in thoughts that do often lie to deep for tears.

- Mum, David, Agnes, Marina and all your nephews and nieces xx

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our dear mum

Bella who passed away October 3, 2007 also our dear dad Lachlan who passed away June 14, 1992. Loved and remembered every day. Always in our thoughts. - Teen, Angela and Alexander

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of my father and mother, father who died September 29, 2009 and mother who died October 5, 2011. Always in my thoughts. - Roddy, Tiree and family, Oban.

McGRATH - In loving memory of our dear dad and gramma, Joseph who died 35 years ago on October 2. We only have your memory dad to remember our whole life through. But the sweetness will linger forever as we treasure the image of you. - Love always, your loving children and grandchildren xxx

McIVOR - In loving memory of Jessie, mum and mum-in-law passed away September 30, 2013. Always in our hearts. - Love Hughie and Lynne xxx

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be so he put his arms around you and whispered come to me. With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you pass away and although we loved you dearly we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove he only takes the best. - Your loving grandchildren Leanne, Donna, Garry and partners and your 10 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild xxx

MILLS - Treasured memories of Billy, a loving husband, father, father-in-law and granda who sadly died October 6, 2008. They say in time you do forget To some that maybe true But no morning dawns, no night returns Without a thought of you - Your loving wife Helen xxx

In our hearts you always stay Love and remembered every day

- Love Violet, Helen, Gordon, Billy, Gordon Jr and Paul xx

NICHOLSON - Treasured memories of my darling wife, Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993. Twenty one years have passed Since I saw you last I shared with you such happy days I miss you in so many ways You left a place no one can fill I miss you now and always will. - Ever loving husband, Bryan.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of our beloved mum and gran who died October 4, 1993. Deep in our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day Sadly missed. - Shirley, Stewart, Bryan, Sarah and grandchildren.

SIMPSON - In loving memory of a dear wife and mother Isa, who died October 10, 1994. You left a place no-one can fill I miss you now And always will. - Ever loving son Archie

STEWART - In loving memory of a dear mum, Ann, granny and great-granny, who died October 5, 2006. Mam, no words, no verse could ever say How much we miss you every day A loving thought, a silent tear Forever wishing you were here Sadly missed. - Ronald, Kate, Neil, Rhoda, Isabel and families.

WALKER - In loving memory of Marybell, our mother and grandmother who passed away October 4, 1990. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead.

WALKER - In loving memory of our dear mother Marybell, who died October 4, 1990. Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

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GRADUATIONS

Erik and Pauline Jespersen are delighted to announce that their eldest son, Sam Jespersen has graduated with a Masters in Electronic Engineering with Music (MEng) from Glasgow University. A former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High School, his parents and brothers Ross and Ruari are very proud of him.

Case to save Tinkers' Heart taken to parliament

A CAMPAIGNER took her fight to preserve a piece of Scotland's unique history to the Scottish Parliament this week.

Jess Smith, a renowned writer and historian of the gypsy and travelling community, asked MSPs at the petitions committee to preserve the only monument Scottish travellers have.

Campaigners said the Tinkers' Heart, in Argyll, had been almost destroyed through neglect, describing it as being like the 'death knell of an entire culture'.

They said the monument, overlooking Loch Fyne, must be restored and preserved for future generations.

The Scottish Parliament petitions committee said it would raise the case with Historic Scotland.

The Tinkers' Heart, a pattern of quartz stones which was laid at an Argyll crossroads in the 1700s, has been used by generations of Scottish travellers as a wedding place and for children to be blessed.

Historic Scotland has previously said the site did not meet the criteria for it to be designated a monument of national importance.

However campaigner Jess Smith, told the committee: 'In 2010, I was informed the Tinkers' Heart was almost destroyed

because of neglect and cattle trampling over it.

'The heart for these young people is so much more than a monument - it's an indicator of what they believe is their culture.

'It represents a future, a place to visit and say, 'we are part of this country and we can make a difference'. Let us remain proud of our ancestors, because they kept our dreams for equality alive.

'They travel to this little place in all weathers and we'd like to say 'thank you', and the only way we know how to fight for the Tinkers' Heart to be protected by Historic Scotland.'

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

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Honorary sheriffs appointed to preside at Oban court



Eight new honorary sheriffs have been appointed in Oban by Sheriff Principal Bruce Kerr QC. The honorary sheriffs will preside over matters when a sheriff is unavailable at Oban Sheriff Court. They are: Ken Moncrieff, Les Stewart, Muriel Kupris, Jacqueline Hoey, Frankie Lanos, Graham Innes, John MacKenzie and, not pictured, John MacGregor. The new appointments met with Sheriff Douglas Small and Sheriff Principal Kerr QC, pictured centre, on Monday to officially take up their roles. 16. 140sher01

School children are in top gear as judges



P6 pupils Temma Tierney-Clark and Archie MacColl-Smith tipped this 1905 Dog Cart to come in second in the contest. 08. a40cars01

YOUNGSTERS excitedly judged a pre-1916 car rally at Inveraray Castle, after the classics zoomed in from as far afield as Somerset.

The primary 6/7 class, from Inveraray Primary School, was invited to judge the Scottish Concours D'Elegance friendly competition, hosted by the Argyll Veteran Car Rally Club.

While inspecting a 1905

Rover 6Hp Dog Cart, Temma Tierney-Clark, from Inveraray, said: 'What I like is the feeling of the leather, and that there is space under the back seat for a dog. That's cool. It's my second favourite.'

In the French Concours D'Elegance, which is a certified competition, a classic car expert assesses the vehicles. But Charles Haycock, one of the

event organisers and member of car club, said he was after the honest opinion of the Royal Burgh youngsters.

'We like to keep this friendly, and invite a local school along to take part,' Mr Haycock said. 'It's a bit of fun for them.'

The cars did not race, but each driver was given a different route to drive before parking up at Inveraray Castle.

Thought for the week

Build on the Rock

I OFTEN obtain inspiration while walking along the shore of Loch Etive with the dog, seeing the beauty of God's creation all around me...and I get some exercise as a bonus.

On one occasion I came upon a section of very pebbly beach under the sheltering branches of a huge tree. As I came closer, I saw a great mound of sand in the middle of the pebbles.

On closer inspection I saw a rabbit burrow, obviously excavated with precision and great strength. A rabbit with a vision.

Inwardly thinking what an achievement, preparing warm, cosy and safe surroundings for itself and its offspring.

But just as I was about to continue on my walk, I looked further up the shore, beyond the burrow, and to my horror saw a line of seaweed which demarcated the high spring tide line.

The burrow would be flooded when the tide turned and all that industrious work destroyed along with any occupant of the

burrow. I actually felt sorry for the rabbit although I could see them far enough in the garden.

The parable of the man building his house on the sand came to mind. Building on a rock or the sand I imagine would take about the same time, but only one building survives the storms, the other destroyed when the tides come in.

And so with life. What foundations are we building on? Psalm 62 says 'My soul finds rest in God, my salvation comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and salvation. He is my fortress. I shall never be shaken.'

I asked myself how much time and effort have I wasted doing things MY way before asking my Heavenly Father who knows all and sees all what HIS plans are? I want to build my life on firm foundations.

I don't have time or energy to waste for my efforts to be destroyed. How about you, dear reader?

Dr Stuart Chalmers

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Another good away win for Oban Athletic

Manager delighted with team's 'great' performance

West of Scotland League
Duntocher 1
Oban Athletic 2

OBAN Athletic were on their travels again last Saturday playing Duntocher at Mounthill Playing Fields.

Thanks to injuries and work commitments Athletic started with five different midfield players from the previous week. Steph Campbell, Shaun Ford and Mark Robertson came into the central midfield positions with Sandy Woods and Euan Mackie playing right and left midfield respectively.

The game started with the home team keeping the ball and playing a lot of ball out to their two wingers causing Craig Livingston and Stephen Kelly no end of problems but they were well covered by Craig Campbell and Stephen McLeod.

The home team dominated the first 20 minutes without causing Craig Maitland too many problems in goal and eventually Athletic got into the game and started passing from the back to the midfield with Shaun Ford and Mark Robertson beginning to make inroads into the home team's half.

Athletic's first chance fell to Kris Gillies after 25 minutes. He beat Connor Boylan and

sent a shot over the bar from 25 yards.

The home team took the lead when the goalkeeper kicked the ball forward to Thomas Stewart, who was challenged by Stephen McLeod. The ball broke with Stephen claiming handball but the referee played on with the winger hitting the ball past Craig Maitland from 20 yards.

This goal was the turning point in the game as the Athletic midfield then started passing the ball a lot better and running at the Duntocher defence. From one of these moves Mark Robertson passed to Kris Gillies, who sent a through ball to the on-rushing Euan Mackie. Euan out-sprinted the two central defenders before hitting a shot into the left-hand corner of the net for a well deserved equaliser in the 38th minute.

The rest of the half was played in the midfield with both teams glad to hear the half-time whistle. The second half started with the Oban team pushing forward, creating a few half chances without troubling the goalkeeper too much.

However, Athletic took the lead in 71st minute when Steph Campbell made a great run forward with the ball,

beating three players and making his way into the box. He was then scything down inside the penalty area with the ball breaking to Kris Gillies. Kris wasted no time firing the ball into the net to make the score 2-1.

Five minutes later Kris Gillies was tripped in the box leaving the referee no option but to point to the penalty spot. Captain Stephen McLeod took the penalty but his shot hit the post.

Athletic played out time to record another impressive away win. Manager Donald Campbell was delighted with the performance.

He said: 'That was a great team performance which should set us up for a difficult tie on Saturday against Gourock Athletic in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup.'

Gourock, who play in the Central Scottish League Division 1B, are having a tough time at the moment losing all seven of their league games played so far. Saturday's game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is Gerry McEhill.

FOOTBALL



Connell's John McPhee in action during the Aragon Grand Prix. Photo: Bonnie Lane / CanBe Images

Connell racer crashes out in Aragon

A MID-race crash in difficult conditions at Aragon, Spain, while in the mix for a place on the podium denied John McPhee what looked set to be the best result of his Grand Prix career.

The SaxoPrint-RTG rider - who set himself the target of a top five finish after qualifying yesterday - had made a strong start from eighth on the grid to complete the opening lap in fourth.

Three laps later - on slicks on the wet-drying track - the Connell racer was up to third and holding his own before he was run wide and off the dry line by Spain's Alex Marquez.

The excursion, as he attempted to slip back into the pack, took him across a damp patch at the corkscrew where he

joined a lengthy list of riders to hit the deck and remount. At that stage he was down to seventh but crashed a second time when his foot became caught in the damaged gear shifter on his Honda.

'Before the incident with Marquez I felt really comfortable and was just biding my time,' said McPhee. 'The plan was to follow, try and break away from the group behind, and then push on over the final few laps.'

'But unfortunately Marquez ran a little bit wide at the top of the corkscrew and as he came back on to the dry line he ran me just a little bit wide and on to a damp patch and that was it.'

'I got back on and re-joined but just after the corkscrew I could tell that there was something not quite right

MOTORCYCLING

with the gear shifter. Basically it had bent and my boot was caught on it and as I tried to work my foot free I ended up selecting a lower gear than I was meant to be in and lost the front end.

Disaster
'So an absolute disaster after such a promising start. Although there are plenty of positives for me to take away from it - and there are still four more chances for me to get on the podium between now and the end of the season which I'll be pushing my hardest to do.'

John's next race is the Japanese Grand Prix in Motegi on October 12.

Former Connell man to judge at Horse of the Year Show

HORSE RIDING

A FORMER Connell man has been named as a judge at the national Horse of the Year Show in Birmingham next month.

Eric Mackechnie, 45, who grew up in Connell and attended Achaleven primary school and Oban high school will be judging at the event on October 8 and 9 at the NEC Arena.

He explained: 'It's billed as 'The World's Greatest Horse Show', and as a judge, you don't know you're going to be asked.'

'At the Highland Show in Edinburgh a panel picks who to ask to judge, so somebody behind closed doors has nominated me - it was a bit of a shock.'

Eric lives in Blair Drummond and works part-time at Gleneagles Equestrian Centre, but is still in Oban regularly through his other work teaching at the Oban and District Riding Club and the North Argyll Pony Club, which brings him to the area around once a month.

He will be judging the Baileys/National Pony Society Ridden Mountain and Moorland Supreme Pony of the Year section, the biggest section of the show.



Shaun Sinclair in the Escort mk2.

Shaun gets back behind the wheel

RALLY driver Shaun Sinclair was back behind the wheel after a year away from the sport when he raced in the recent Isle of Man National Rally.

Under the team name Sinclair Plant Motorsport, Shaun raced a hired Ford Escort mk 2 1800 to see if he could still cut it at a national level.

With usual co-driver Chris Hamill unavailable Alistair MacLean, Mull, took over

co-pilot duties. There were also new recruits to the team in Jason MacPhail, Angus McNeil and Jane Nicol.

On the Thursday night, Sinclair, who was seeded 72nd, opened his account with a 44th place finish following a cautious run.

The following day a more confident Sinclair opened the throttle and top 10 stage times pushed the team up to 16th

and by Friday night, this had improved to 13th overall.

The daylight on Saturday morning brought with it a host of retirements as the Sinclair team continued to flourish and at the end of the rally they narrowly missed a podium finish in fourth place, first in class.

RALLYING

Argyll girls help Scotland to home international victory

FOUR Argyll girls contributed to the first Scottish win in the Junior Home Internationals for 11 years when the competition came to Oban recently.

Orienteers Briony Kincaid, Roanne Lilley, Jura MacMillan and Eilidh Shearer are all members of the competition's host club, the Argyll-based EckO.

On day one when the individual races took place Eilidh

Shearer finished a superb second in the W14 race, with Jura MacMillan close behind in fourth place.

Roanne Lilley also had a superb run in the W16 class, finishing in third place and Briony Kincaid finished sixth in the W18 event.

Despite having Scots on every podium after day one's races Scotland still trailed England by six points.

ORIENTEERING

Some great performances and a huge team effort in the relay event on day two saw Scotland take the title by two points.

EckO thanked local landowners and Forestry Commission Scotland for their co-operation and help in what was a very successful event.



Members of the successful Scotland team, from left: Jura MacMillan, Roanne Lilley, Eilidh Shearer and Briony Kincaid.

Success for rugby girls from Argyll

RUGBY players from Argyll and Bute took part in the West Schools Girls' Rugby 7s tournament at Lochinch in Glasgow recently.

The event was heralded a huge success with more than 300 girls at under-15 and under-18 levels, taking part. Amongst the teams com-

peting were Campbeltown Grammar School, taking part in their first ever girls rugby tournament, and the most northern team in the tournament, Mull.

Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh, another school competing in girls' rugby competition for the very first

time, won the under-15 emerging schools sevens title.

Argyll and Bute emerged victorious in the under-18 sevens tournament, and were joint winners, with Belmont Academy, Ayr, in the under-15 established schools event.

GIRLS RUGBY

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

COMPETITION

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Mayhem at Mossfield as league decider abandoned

'I am flabbergasted, annoyed and dismayed at the whole thing'

- Oban Camanachd manager Gussie Campbell

EUAN PATERSON AT MOSSFIELD
epateron@obantimes.co.uk

'A SHAMBLES' and 'a sad day for shinty' were some of the comments from bemused shinty supporters at Mossfield last Saturday after the National Division decider between Oban Camanachd and Fort William was abandoned.

The home side was leading 1-0 through an Aidan MacIntyre goal, enough to win them the league but the visitors had gained a foothold in the match and needed just a draw to take the National Division title north.

Up until that point, the occasion had been a great advert for the sport with as good a crowd as Mossfield has seen for a league game in years enjoying an entertaining encounter.

It all changed on 52 minutes when referee Robert Baxter took the full force of a Scott MacMillan clearance in the groin area and dropped to the ground. Although he eventually got to his feet it was clear he could not continue.

With no fourth official assigned to league matches, representatives of both teams

and Camanachd Association director Charles Young - who was on his phone to association staff - met in the centre of the pitch and tried frantically to come up with an alternative.

With the crowd and players looking on bemused, there was hope the game could continue when grade one Oban referee Billy Wotherspoon, a spectator at the game, agreed to officiate and changed into Robert Baxter's spare kit.

But as Billy emerged from the changing room Fort William chairman Duncan MacPhee informed Mr Young the committee did not want the match to continue - under association rules both teams had to agree to the referee.

Camanachd management were visibly angered by the decision and as the decision filtered through to the players there were heated exchanges between players, coaches and officials. The majority of Fort William's players and management also expressed a desire to continue the match but to no avail.

Oban Camanachd manager Gussie Campbell was in shock at the decision, saying: 'This is absolutely ridiculous. The Fort William committee don't want

SHINTY



STRIPPED: Referee Billy Wotherspoon got changed and was prepared to take charge of the match following the injury to Robert Baxter

Photo: Neil Paterson

to play but the players do. I am flabbergasted, annoyed and dismayed at the whole thing.'

His captain Scott MacMillan was equally bemused. 'The boys are gutted, especially with the Fort William players saying they want to play on. It's a shambles.'

Camanachd coach Fraser Inglis spoke to *The Oban Times* after trying to console the Oban players. He said: 'Psychologically for us, we now know we are good enough to beat Fort William. The feeling in the dressing room is that everyone wants to play shinty, there is a referee available, a big crowd and an exciting game, so in the spirit of things the game could have continued.'

'Because of the build up to this game, a league decider, people were excited by it. All Fort William needed was a draw, so it is interesting they decided to abandon the game. We feel for Robert Baxter; there was no way he could carry on.'

The Oban Times asked Fort William chairman Duncan MacPhee at the pitchside how the club's committee had come to its decision but he declined to comment.

In a statement released on Monday Fort William Shinty Club said: 'Both clubs were disappointed at the abandonment of the game due to an unfortunate and very unusual combination of circumstances starting with a very painful injury to the referee.'

The North of Scotland retained the



POINTS OF VIEW: Players from both teams exchange heated views during the long delay after the injury to referee Robert Baxter. Photo: Kevin McLynn

'Our sympathy is with referee Robert Baxter, who five minutes after half time, sustained an injury which rendered him unable to continue. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.'

It continues: 'In a last ditch attempt to avoid abandoning, a referee was found among the spectators, who would have officiated. We are grateful to him, Billy Wotherspoon, for offering, despite his own misgivings. As a club we felt it was urgent that a decision was taken. By then there had been a full half hour stoppage and the debate as to what should happen was ongoing. We discussed it and as a club decided very reluctantly that the only sensible course at that point was to abandon.'

But Fort William manager Victor Smith said he believed his team would have done enough to secure the title if the game had continued.

'The decision was taken out of our hands, but my concerns are with the poor referee,' he said. 'It was a strange day. I understand the frustration of the Oban players.'

'We have scored in every game this season, so I don't see why we couldn't have scored on Saturday.'

In a statement released on Monday night Oban Camanachd said the club would be happy to play the re-arranged fixture on any date and that admission will be free of charge.

The club added: 'Oban Camanachd respect the right of Fort William to seek abandonment of the game; however, the timing of their decision proved problematic for all concerned.'



ON THE PHONE: Camanachd Association Director Charles Young calls for advice.

Photo: Neil Paterson



CONTEMPLATING: Oban assistant coach Fraser Inglis ponders during a discussion with Camanachd Association directors Charles Young and Richard Gall, while Oban manager Gussie Campbell contemplates what might have been. Photo: Neil Paterson

The Camanachd Association said that unless there was a fourth official allocated to a match, the formal contingency for the circumstances seen on Saturday was that the match be abandoned and the fixture rescheduled.

Torquil Macleod, the association's chief operating officer told *The Oban Times*: 'Billy Wotherspoon was an informal fix that had to be agreed by both clubs and the Camanachd

Association. I understand all the people in Oban wanted the game to be played out but it was not our decision.'

Responding to criticism over the length of time taken before a decision was reached, he added: 'I am quite sure it could have been handled better, everyone learns from these things. No-one had rehearsed this scenario, so I can understand why it took a while for

Fort William to come to that decision.'

He added that in retrospect the association could have allocated a fourth official to the match, as some were available, but the limited number of officials meant this could not be common practice at all league games.

As *The Oban Times* went to press the rescheduled fixture was to be played on November 1.

Association admit mistake in arranging Division One play-off

THE CAMANACHD Association has admitted it got it wrong when it arranged a play-off between the north and south regional champions before the season had finished.

Skye and Ballachulish were due to play at Drumnadrochit for a place in the National Division but last Thursday the Lochaber club issued an eight-point explanation why it would not take part in the match, effectively awarding the tie to Skye.

Their protest was based on the argument that both teams had not finished their league fixture schedule and it was therefore premature to award either team the respective north and south division one titles.

It argued the Camanachd Association had not been willing to reconsider the date of the match.

The statement concluded: 'We are disap-

pointed that we are giving up our opportunity to compete to play shinty at the level our club aspires to, but feel we have little alternative on this occasion, due mainly to the intransigence of the decision makers at the Camanachd Association.'

Premature

The association responded by rescheduling the fixture for November 1, admitting it had been premature in confirming Ballachulish and Skye as league champions, as teams can be deducted two points for failing to fulfil a fixture. That meant it was possible that, in such circumstances, both teams could be overtaken at the league summit.

Both teams will now be allowed to fulfil their league schedule before the play-off.

The Camanachd Association said it has apologised to both clubs for the error.



EXPLANATION: Camanachd Association director and Fort William Shinty Club committee member Richard Gall, right, explains the situation to Oban Camanachd's Gareth Evans. Photo: Kevin McLynn

North do the double in youth matches

AN AIRD Park, Fort William was the venue for the 2014 North v South Under 14 and Under 17 youth representative matches last Saturday.

The Under 14 match was a highly competitive affair played in front of a large crowd. The backbone of the South team was made up from the MacMaster Cup winning team, Oban Camanachd, and they gave an excellent account of themselves throughout the match against a strong North team.

The South, against the run of play, took the lead when Oban Camanachd's Lewis Buchanan got on the end of a through-ball to finish expertly, giving Jordan Morrison in the North goals no chance.

The North responded shortly afterwards with a well-taken goal from Seamus Gall to bring the half-time score to 1-1.

The second half was largely dominated

by the North and only the combination of excellent goal-keeping and strong defending prevented the North from taking the lead.

The introduction of Roddy Young for the North at full forward changed the pattern of the game and it was Roddy who scored the North's second goal after Cameron Sutherland had made a fantastic save from a Seamus Gall volley.

Impressive
The North then made it 3-1 shortly afterwards when the impressive Rhuaridh Anderson got on the end of a through ball from Roddy Young to finish nicely and give the North a 3-1 victory.

Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee presented medals to the winners and runners-up, and the Fraser MacPhee Memorial Trophy to the winning North captain, Calum Macdougall.

The North of Scotland retained the

Under 17 cup with a convincing win against the South at the same venue later in the day. Early goals from Will Cowie and James Falconer gave the North a 2-0 lead followed by a well-taken goal from Alexander Macmillan shortly afterwards and then Will Cowie with his second goal gave the North a 4-0 lead at half time.

The second half saw the North take full control of the game and they went on to score some fantastic goals through, Lewis Morrison (2), and Craig Macisaac (2) bringing the final score to 8-0.

North Captain Savio Genini was presented with the Trophy by Duncan MacPhee. Camanachd Association national development officer, Ronald Ross, said: 'The youth representative matches are such an important date in the youth diary bringing together the best young talent our game has to offer.'



EXCITING: The North and South senior women before their game at Mossfield Stadium last Sunday. The South won an exciting game 5-3. In the Under 18 match played earlier in the day the North had a narrow 2-1 win over their South opponents

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	10	2	2	37	17	22
Lovat	14	7	5	2	32	20	19
Glenurquhart	14	7	4	3	25	16	18
Kingussie	14	7	2	5	31	29	16
Kyles Athletic	13	6	3	4	25	20	13
Inveraray	14	3	4	7	18	29	10
Kinlochshiel	13	2	2	9	21	34	6
Lochaber	14	1	2	11	18	42	4

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	13	11	2	0	70	10	24
Oban Camanachd	13	11	1	1	46	12	23
Kilmallie	13	9	1	3	50	19	19
Beaulieu	14	7	1	6	37	29	15
Caberfeidh	14	5	1	8	31	39	11
Glasgow MA	13	4	0	9	22	43	8
Glenorchy	14	2	1	11	12	57	5
Bute	14	1	1	12	8	67	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	12	12	0	0	49	6	24
Newtonmore	12	8	1	3	37	12	17
Strathglass	14	7	1	6	38	32	15
Glenurquhart	13	5	3	5	25	26	13
Beaulieu	13	6	1	6	31	36	13
Kingussie	14	5	1	8	35	48	9
Lovat	12	3	0	9	23	41	6
Inverness	14	1	3	10	21	58	5

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ballachulish	13	9	4	0	37	13	22
Kyles Athletic	13	8	3	2	45	17	19
Oban Celtic	14	6	4	4	20	27	16
Aberdour	14	6	3	5	32	31	15
Lochside Rovers	14	6	3	5	32	34	15
Strachur	14	3	3	8	18	33	9
Taynuilt	14	2	4	8	32	46	8
Kilmory	14	2	2	10	16	31	6

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	14	11	1	2	55	20	23
Lochcarron	14	8	2	4	38	46	18
Glenarry	14	8	1	5	25	31	17
Lochaber	14	6	1	7	50	39	13
Kinlochshiel	14	5	3	6	27	33	11
Boleskine	14	5	0	9	29	48	10
Skye	14	4	1	9	38	35	9
Aberdeen Uni	14	3	3	8	29	39	9

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	14	12	2	0	66	7	26
Tayforth	14	12	1	1	51	10	25
Glasgow MA	12	6	1	5	42	25	13
Col Glen	14	5	2	7	36	36	10
Bute	12	5	1	6	22	29	10
Glenorchy	12	3	0	9	17	36	6
Ballachulish	12	4	0	8	19	41	6
Aberdour	14	1	1	12	14	84	3

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	14	10	2	2	52	17	22
Kilmallie	14	6	3	5	51	28	14
Lewis	14	6	2	6	29	30	14
Strathspey	14	6	1	7	28	44	12
Lochbroom	14	4	4	6	19	36	9
Inverness	14	3	2	9	24	48	8

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Big game for Oban Lorne this weekend

Cambuslang and the Green Machine sit joint top of the league

BT West Division 2
Oban Lorne 39
Stewartry 23

THE GREEN Machine's 100 per cent league record will be put to the test this Saturday when they travel to take on Cambuslang RFC for a top-of-the-table clash.

Oban Lorne recorded a comfortable 39-23 home victory last Saturday against Stewartry, the men from Castle Douglas who had won at Glencruitten at the same stage of last season.

But this weekend's match could go some way to deciding where the West Division 2 title will go come the end of the season, with both teams among the league favourites.

Oban Lorne and Cambuslang currently sit joint top of West Division 2 with a maximum of 15 points from their first three games.

New signing

Stand off Luke Ismail has come back from injury just in time and he got a run out last weekend, as did another new signing, Aaron Collins, a former Glasgow Warrior, who started from the bench.

A minute's silence was held prior to the game last Saturday in memory of the passing of former Argyll and Bute MP Iain MacCormick, who was a founding member and player of

Oban Lorne. And the home team made a start that Iain would have been proud of, as they found themselves 10-0 ahead after only five minutes.

A lineout in the opponents' 22 was driven over the line with relative ease by the big Oban pack, allowing flanker Dan Hull to touch down for the opener and fullback Richard MacKay was on hand to score the second of the afternoon in the right corner.

Craig Wright was unlucky at narrowly missing the two conversion attempts.

Stewartry managed to work themselves back into the game with a penalty and a well-taken try to reduce the scoreline to 10-8 after 20 minutes.

But just as the demanding Oban crowd began to get restless, Crawford Brown added a third score, touching down from a scrum that was driven over the visitors' tryline.

Wright converted for a 17-8 lead.

Oban clinched the much-needed bonus point try when centre Craig Wright gathered up a loose ball within his own half then proceeded to beat two Stewartry defenders within a small space to race clear and finish off over the tryline.

Stewartry hit back though al-

RUGBY

most instantly with their second try of the afternoon followed by a penalty to give a halftime score of 22-16 to Oban Lorne.

The Green Machine started the second half as they started the first with two tries putting the scoreline out of sight of the visitors.

Captain Cameron Smith bundled over with a powerful run followed by a second try of the afternoon from Craig Wright.

Dominated

Stewartry failed to give up and dominated a 10-minute period in the second half, during which Oban prop Andrew Johnston was sin binned for a tripping up a Stewartry player.

Oban made some second half changes with Carl Lay, Travis Smith, Stanley Lister and Aaron Collins all taking to the pitch.

Some poor Oban defending gifted Stewartry their third try of the afternoon with 10 minutes to go, much to the frustration of Oban coach Corrie Louw but Oban finished the scoring for the day with a superb penalty from Craig Wright to seal a comfortable win.

It was a good weekend for Argyll rugby with Isle of Mull recording a good 41-26 win against Cumnock at Garmony.



Vital premiership play-off match abandoned after referee fails to recover from being hit by ball

POLEAXED: Referee Robert Baxter is poleaxed by a close range shot during last Saturday's National Division league match between Oban Camanachd and Fort William at Mossfield Stadium. The vital fixture was a play-off to see which would gain promotion to next season's Orion Group Premiership. The Oban side needed to win the game while a draw was good enough for Fort William. Unfortunately the referee was unable to continue and after a long and frustrating delay the match was abandoned after 52 minutes with Oban Camanachd leading 1-0. See page 27 for more details and photographs. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Some of the wet but happy cyclists after they crossed the finish line at the Oban Sportive. 16_140sportif01

Oban Sportive records entry of 95

NORTH Connel man Craig McGougan recorded the fastest time for the short course at this year's Oban Sportive.

Craig, who regularly competes in triathlons and is originally from Taynuilt, crossed the finish line at the Oban blaes pitch in a time of three hours, five minutes.

The shorter course takes cyclists south of Oban and back round to Oban via Loch Awe.

Glasgow's Richard MacPherson was the first to complete the long course, which took entrants down to Crinan Canal and back. His time was four hours and 40 minutes for the 84-mile course.

Raises money

The Sportive is organised by Rotary Club of Oban in conjunction with North Argyll Cycle Club and raises money for Rotary causes.

CYCLING

Despite the wet weather and the draw of competing events, the Sportive managed to attract an entry of 95 in its second year.

Organisers thanked sponsors, including main sponsors Bell Ingram and BID4Oban, and the Inner Wheel Club of Oban for its support.

MacCrone to tackle World Rally Championship events next year

MULL driver John MacCrone has confirmed that he plans to tackle a number of World Rally Championship events next year in his four-wheel drive M-Sport Ford Fiesta R5.

The 24-year-old from Dervaig will debut his new Fiesta — which he will use in WRC2, the official FIA championship which runs in tandem with WRC events — when he tackles the penultimate round of the Scottish Rally Championship, the Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally this Saturday.

'We've committed to doing the

McRae next month,' confirmed MacCrone, who contested the World Rally Championship Academy in 2012, 'but we're already looking forward to next year.

Planning

'In many ways we've taken a year out in 2014, but I'm definitely planning on contesting a number of WRC2 rounds in the Ford Fiesta next year.

'The exact number we'll do will depend on the budget and sponsorship we can raise, but already we've attracted some good, positive backing: but we

RALLYING

could always do with some more.

'I got a real flavour for the WRC when I did the A cademy two years ago, and I want to get back on to the world stage as soon as possible.

'I feel I've got some unfinished business to do. So moving up to WRC2 is the next natural step to take towards finally breaking through into the topflight WRC.'

MacCrone will also defend his title at this year's Tunnock's Mull Rally on October 10-12.



REVVED UP: Mull rally driver John MacCrone in action

Oban Saints on Scottish Cup duty this weekend

FOOTBALL

OBAN SAINTS return to action on Saturday after the September weekend break with a tough away trip in the second round of the Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup.

The Oban side have been paired with Wallacetoun Sporting Club from Ayr. The game will take place at King George V Park, Ayr with a 2pm kick-off.

Wallacetoun presently sit on top of Ayrshire Division Two with a 100 per cent record — having played seven games, winning them all.

However, the Oban side will be fired up for this game and apart from the long-term injury victims and Roy McLuckie, who is on holiday, manager Iain Jackson hopes to have a strong squad to choose from.

Saints have been drawn away to Paisley and District Premier Division side Glenburn Athletic in the second round of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup.

This game is scheduled to take place on Saturday October 18.

Results from Islay Golf Club

GOLF

CHAMPION OF Champions played Sunday September 28:
1 M Shields 95-23=72; 2 D Livingstone 81-8=73; 3 R Quail 85-9=76. C.Ss 74

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunshine with rain later in the day
Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 12°C to 13°C.

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 12°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 2, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

Date	am		pm	
Thur	05.06	1.7	11.11	3.1
Fri	06.37	1.7	13.44	3.2
Sat	02.19	3.0	08.00	1.5
Sun	03.19	3.3	09.08	1.2
Mon	04.02	3.6	10.01	0.9
Tues	04.38	3.8	10.50	0.6
Wed	05.12	4.0	11.34	0.4

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

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Mallaig	+0.25
Oban to Col/Tiree	Portree	+0.55
Kennacraig to Islay	Tobermory	+0.16
	Dover	+5.30

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Four jobs go as car dealership shuts

A LOCHABER car dealership will close this week after 14 years in the area.

Hawco Fort William, a Volkswagen dealership in Caol, will close its doors tomorrow (Friday) making four people redundant.

Hawco Group marketing director Kevin Hawco confirmed there were a number of 'unfortunate' redundancies but two of the six staff members will be transferred to the company's nearest branch in Inverness.

He added: 'I can confirm we have to close our premises in Fort William on Friday.'

'It is for a number of reasons, particularly some changes to the premises we occupy and the high standards required of all Volkswagen dealerships, from the smallest to the largest.'

'We have had a long relationship with Fort William. We have been there for more than 12 years and we will continue to provide a high standard of service [for customers] although it will require them to come to another branch.'

Go-ahead for new student bedsits

NEW STUDENT accommodation in Fort William has been granted planning permission.

The three-storey building at An Aird, near the town's West Highland College UHI campus, will be made up of 40 bedsits for the adventure tourism course. Highland Council's south planning committee approved the plans at a meeting on Tuesday.

Site visit and quick action save sawmill from disaster

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A MAJOR fire at a Fort William sawmill on Tuesday morning was prevented thanks to the efforts of emergency services and a safety visit to the site by firemen just three weeks ago.

Two fire engines from the town station were sent to Corpach at 1.18am when a 15-ton machine at BSW Timber, one of the largest timber yards in Europe, went up in flames.

The 'quick efforts' of Fort William fire crews meant the blaze was put out before it caught hundreds of tonnes of wood chip nearby.

Luckily, fire service group manager Pat McElhinney and watch manager Chris Findlay had recently been on a safety visit to BSW Timber which meant they were well versed on the location of water supplies at the site, as well as potential risks and hazards.

Mr McElhinney told *The Oban Times* this, combined with rain after a long spell of damp weather, prevented what could have been a huge blaze. He said: 'Thankfully the wood chip was damp which prevented it igniting but if it had been dry and we

Both crews did an excellent job and their quick efforts ensured this incident did not escalate

Pat McElhinney
fire service group manager

hadn't extinguished the fire when we did, hundreds of tonnes could have caught fire which would have had a massive impact on both the business and the environment.'

The sawmill has 225 employees and produces 250,000 cubic metres of sawn timber each year.

Mr McElhinney also praised the work of his staff. He said: 'Both crews from Fort William did an excellent job and their quick efforts ensured this incident did not escalate. Having secured a water supply, crews were deployed in breathing apparatus to attack the fire. In addition to water, firefighters predominantly used foam in a sustained attack on the fire, which prevented further fire spread and knocked the flames back. The use of foam made a massive difference due to the fact that there was diesel within the fire and this quickly killed the chance of fire spread and limited the fire in the machinery until it was extinguished. All things considered, this was a massive save for our crews and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.'

Mr McElhinney thanked BSW Timber staff for meeting his crew



QUICK ACTION: fire crews tackled a blaze at the Corpach sawmill

at the entrance to lead them to the incident, which saved time. A spokeswoman for BSW Timber said: 'A small fire took place in a

hired machine at our Fort William sawmill in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The fire brigade was called and the fire immediately extinguished. A full inspection was carried out and production was not affected.'



Under-age drink sale test

LOCHABER police will be carrying out test sales in the area over the coming weeks.

The scheme involves a fully-briefed teenager attempting to buy alcohol from off-sales to check shop staff are only selling age-restricted items to adults and are asking for identification if they are unsure.

A police spokesman said: 'If the proprietor does not ask the person their age and allows them to buy alcohol they will be

committing an offence, even if their excuse is they thought they were 18.'

'Licence holders will not be duped into committing an offence because if they, as they should do, ask the age of the test purchaser then the youngster will answer truthfully.'

'All those who hold licences to sell alcohol in these areas are reminded they could face losing their licence if they are caught selling alcohol to a minor.'

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Caol nursery youngsters had a 'bear' good day when they took their teddies on a picnic.

Youngsters had their faces painted before taking their favourite bears on an adventure to the village playpark last Wednesday.

Views sought on improving life in north west Lochaber

THE PEOPLE of north west Lochaber are being asked how they think their communities could be improved.

Workshops, organised by

Voluntary Action Lochaber, have already been held in Arisaig, Mallaig and Glenfinnan. The final two will be in Inverie Hall, Knoydart, on

October 4 and the Morar Hotel on October 7. The Knoydart workshop will run between 11.30am and 2.30pm with the Morar event from 5.50-7.30pm.

LOCHABER IDEASWEEK
17-21 NOVEMBER 2014
Powered by



NOMINATE AND CELEBRATE SUCCESS IN LOCHABER!

Lochaber Ideas Week invites you to nominate individuals and organisations who have significantly contributed to the area and its community. Each week two reward categories will be revealed giving you the chance to tell us who YOU think deserves a reward and why.

Great Local Employer Reward How good is your job?
This Reward recognises employers both big and small who have embraced the benefits of flexible working and have been proactive in seeking to recruit and retain talented staff. Employers considered for the Reward will have shown evidence of providing opportunities for progression within the work place encouraging personal development.

Outstanding Business Contribution to the Community Reward Which business makes Lochaber?
Tremendous Business Contribution to the Community Reward recognises businesses or a business person that makes an outstanding or sustained contribution to the community. Nominees' efforts provide clear, identifiable benefits to the community and develop the reputation of the area. The business will act as a role model or inspiration to other organisations, setting an example of how other companies can support the local region.

Submit all nominations to will@ideasweek.co.uk, specify the reward category and why the organisation or individual deserves a reward (50-200 words).



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Fort rural gears up for winter session

FORT William's women's rural institute will begin its winter programme from Monday (October 6).

The first meeting will be held in Inverloch Hall at 7.15pm with all meetings thereafter held on the first Monday of the month.

Martine Young, secretary of Fort William WRI, said: 'If you have not been before why not come along. The WRI caters for a wide variety of interests.'

Topics over the winter include the Children's Hospice Association Scotland, a police talk on safety and bogus callers, a herbalist who will speak about herbal remedies, a session on genealogy, interspersed by a musical evening and a members' night.

The group will also be running a crafts and art class, the first in Inverloch Hall on October 8 at 2pm.

Death fall woman named by police

POLICE have named a woman who died after falling from a ridge in Glencoe.

Lisa MacDermid, 63, from Crieff is believed to have fallen between 100 and 150 metres at the Aonach Eagach ridge near Glencoe on the afternoon of Saturday September 20.

A police spokesman said: 'Police co-ordinated a search and rescue attempt with assistance from Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and Royal Navy Rescue helicopter 177 but sadly the woman died on the hill at around 2.10pm. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

Care home curry night on menu

A LOCHABER care home will be holding a fundraising event next month.

A curry night, with a range of dishes and a free drink, will be on offer at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish, on November 7.

The event is bring-a-bottle and booking is essential.

Tickets can be bought at the care home or over the phone on 01855 812950.

OFF-ROAD ROUTE THE WAY AHEAD



OPENING DAY: councillors, local residents and Duror primary school pupils gathered with Sustrans staff to open the new path. From left: councillor Thomas MacLennan, Daisy Warayanan, Fionan Doonan and councillor Andrew Baxter 20_f40path01

Residents delighted as new path links villages

A NEW cycling and walking path has been opened, providing an off-road route connecting Lochaber villages.

The two kilometre section between Lagnaha and Kentallen was officially opened by Highland councillors Thomas MacLennan and Andrew Baxter last Wednesday, with the help of Duror primary school pupils and members of the local community.

The path forms part of a national cycle network scheme to create a much longer route between Inverness and Campbeltown and this £350,000 stretch fills a missing link to the existing path from Duror to Ballachulish.

Sustainable transport charity Sustrans has been working on the Oban to Fort William section of the route since 2007.

Fionan Doonan, engineering manager for Sustrans Scotland, said: 'This provides a safe off-road route for both locals and visitors to the area to use and

enjoy. Local path users from Duror will now be able to get the whole way to Ballachulish, about eight and a half miles, completely off road.'

Locals are 'delighted' with the new path, said Jonathan Baxter, chairman of Duror and Kentallen Community Council. He added:

'It's great that we finally have something other than a busy main road connecting our two villages. We're all really impressed with the quality of work from the developers and we wish them as soon as possible.'



SCENIC: Duror primary school pupils take a break on the path with Linda Evans, left, and Fionan Doonan of Sustrans 20_f40path02

Oyster farm expansion plan refused

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A CONTROVERSIAL proposal to expand a shellfish farm in a scenic Ardnamurchan loch has been refused.

Developer Measan Na Mara Ltd sought planning permission to increase its oyster farm at the south channel of Loch Moidart from just under five acres to more than 43, saying it would boost the local economy and bring jobs to the area.

The plan prompted more than 40 objections during the consultation stage and on Tuesday members of Highland Council's south planning committee voted against the expansion by seven votes to six.

The applicant said at most the trestles would only be visible 50 per cent of the time, due to high tides but this didn't persuade planning officials.

At Tuesday's meeting, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillors Andrew Baxter and Thomas MacLennan said the tranquil site, near Castle Tioram, was inappropriate for industrial production and urged their colleagues to reject the application.

Councillor Baxter said: 'I think the feeling of remoteness would be spoiled. The thought of row upon row of oyster trestles being visible here troubles me immensely.'

'I know the visual impact will only be there up to 50 per cent of the time but it will be when people are most likely to visit the loch, at low tide times.'

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, added: 'This is going to have a huge impact on the area. I feel this

“The thought of row upon row of oyster trestles being visible here troubles me immensely”

Councillor Andrew Baxter

is just too big. It's going to be stark, industrial and a total opposite to what people go to this area to see.'

But councillor Thomas Prag said

he didn't think the impact would be negative and said they could become a typical part of coastal areas, 'the same way fishing boats are'.

Before the meeting, tourists and the community widely opposed the plan. Acharacle community council said the impact would be 'too disruptive'. In a formal objection members listed the size of the production, impact on local wildlife, a drop in tourism and noise and light pollution as concerns.

After the proposal was rejected, Hugh MacPherson, chairman of Acharacle community council, said: 'We're glad that the elected members who represent us took the thoughts of the community on board and took those views to a decision, although it was by a narrow margin.'



PLAN REFUSED: Loch Moidart, site of the proposed extended shellfish farm Photo: Iain Thomson



STEPPING OUT: the Young at Heart walking club celebrated its 20th anniversary with a group dinner

Weekly walkers mark 20 years with dinner

ALMOST 50 members of Lochaber walking group Young at Heart celebrated the club's 20th anniversary at a dinner last week.

Over the last two decades, people over the age of 50 have been coming together for weekly walks around Lochaber and a monthly trip further afield.

Hilary Dyer, secretary of Young at Heart, said: 'The club has been successful so far and will definitely continue.'

'We have some days out both locally and outside the area and it's really good for health.'

'All in all it's a great success and so was our celebration dinner.'



FUNDRAISER: volunteers and Roy Bridge villagers gathered for Macmillan Cancer Support's world's biggest coffee morning 20_f40coffee01

Cuppa cash boosts Macmillan charity

AN ANNUAL coffee morning in Lochaber raised more than £700 this year.

The fundraiser in Roy Bridge Village Hall on Saturday was part of Macmillan Cancer Support world's biggest coffee morning and gathered £776.16 for the charity.

Mhairi Ross has been running the event for the last nine years with the help of her mother and thanked all the volunteers for their help on the day.

Doors open on new rooms for homeless

NEW HOMELESS accommodation for the western isles has opened in Stornoway.

The Acres, built on the former playing field on Island Road, provides a temporary home for up to 28 people.

Opened by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader councillor Angus Campbell last week, the 24-room centre is separated into four flats with a communal kitchen, recreation area and laundry.

Councillor Kenny Murray, chairman of the environment and protective services committee, said: 'We have developed The Acres to provide a safe and welcoming environment to our clients until they can secure permanent accommodation.'

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OBAN CENTRE'S FUNDING SLASHED Mums in plea to save vital youth addiction service

LOUISE LEE

lee@obantimes.co.uk

THE NUMBERS of children, some as young as 11, who attend drug and alcohol addiction counselling in Oban has risen by 50 per cent in the last four weeks.

But the body providing the lifeline service is now facing a funding crisis.

Last week Oban Addiction Support and Information Service (OASIS) was told that its budget was to be slashed by £40,000, putting at risk the youth counselling service provided by the centre.

Now parents of young drug users and under-age drinkers have come forward in a desperate bid to save the service.

Parents said their lives would be completely different without the youth addiction service provided by OASIS.

One mother, who has an older teenager, said: 'Being the parent of a drug user is one of the loneliest things in the world. There is no-one to talk to. I feel completely powerless to do anything and the only support that I have had was not from my doctor - it was from OASIS.'

'We are a close family, and we brought our children up well. Every single day I think about where I went wrong as a parent, and the guilt eats me up. The only release I have, the only place I feel it is acceptable to talk about my worries is in OASIS.'

'I am frightened that the service will cease to exist - what are we meant to do then?'

Another mum said she would be 'dead' without the service: 'I have given up work, I have to drag my child out of houses. I don't know what to do most of the time and the only support I

have had is from OASIS.'

Another parent added: 'My child, who is 11, is not on the road to recovery. It is really difficult for them to admit they even have a problem - but when they do I want to know that there is a service for them to go to.'

OASIS project manager Nichola MacGillivray said: 'We had put in a bid for youth money from the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.'

'It has allocated the money to a different organisation, so this means money that would have allowed us to develop services for young people who are either not in formal education - or slipping through the net in another way - will not be able to be provided.'

'Until now we have had up to £40,000 for this type of service. But this will no longer be available to us.'

Nichola explained that the youth services provided by OASIS also offered support for parents. In the last week, one mum who heard about the service through the pages of *The Oban Times*, said she already felt like there was some sort of support network for her.

'The service in Oban is unique. It reaches out to young people and their parents - and offers an alternative to addiction to drugs and alcohol.'

One former drug user said the stigma of being an addict made it difficult for anyone to move on. She said: 'It is years since I have used drugs but I am still targeted as a drug user. It has been hell for my own children.'

'I know my son is taking ecstasy and I have gone straight to the dealers because I know who they are and I have told them to stop.'

A spokeswoman for Police Scotland said: 'It is really important that we work together to tackle this.'

'Anyone who has information on drug dealing, should contact us on 101 or through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 where they can give information anonymously.'



CRISIS COUNSELLING: OASIS manager Nichola MacGillivray offers advice

Isabella's royal debut



A BALLET student from North Connell is making a name for herself on the national stage after claiming a bronze medal at the Genée International Ballet Competition.

Isabella Sweetlicki studies with the English National Ballet School but until last year had been trained at Ballet West in Taynuilt.

A flagship competition for student solo dancers, the Genée is a week-long event held in different countries every year.

This year's prestigious competition took place in Antwerp, Belgium in front of royalty - Queen Mathilde of Belgium.

Isabella, 17, who has ambitions to become a professional ballerina, was one of only three dancers to be awarded a bronze medal.

She said: 'It is such an amazing feeling to win this medal.'

Don't waste money on 'daft course', asserts Islay candidate

A PLAN to train Argyll and Bute council employees on how to be assertive has been blasted as a waste of money.

The contract, worth thousands of pounds, will see staff briefed in being 'more assertive' - described in the Oxford English Dictionary as 'having or showing a confident and forceful personality'.

But Argyll and Bute Conservative parliamentary candidate Alastair Redman, from Islay, said: 'Having spoken to countless people on the door step while out campaigning in Argyll and Bute I have heard people rightly complaining about grass not being cut, roads and street lights not being repaired and why there is not enough affordable housing available for young people.'

'However, I have never heard them asking for council staff to be more assertive.'

He added: 'Our council continues to tell us all that it has no money for these vital services yet it seems to have ample money to take our over-stretched front-line council workers away from their ever-increasing workloads and put them through a daft course on how to be more assertive.'

'I would strongly advise our council not to bother creating this non-job and instead spend the money on the things the people of Argyll and Bute expect their money to be spend on.'

The local authority hopes the training will help staff to 'recognise your own behaviour and identify the situations in which you would like to have been more assertive.'

The tender document says: 'This course will show you how to overcome your natural behaviour in these situations and help you achieve a more successful outcome.'

The training will be a one-day course delivered to managers and employees on an annual basis, starting in December.

NEWSDESK
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ACCIDENTS: the bend on the A828 at North Ledaig Caravan Park is causing consternation 16_140road01

Caravan park owner in call for road action

But roads authority BEAR says not enough accidents at bend

A CARAVAN park owner who has witnessed countless road accidents on the A828 near his site has called on the roads authority to help.

But BEAR Scotland, which is responsible for the stretch of trunk road by North Ledaig Caravan Park, says there have not been a sufficient number of accidents to merit immediate action.

Peter Weir, who has operated the caravan park near Benderloch for 32 years, says there are 'four or five' accidents every year; the most recent was last Friday when a male driver crashed into a tree opposite the entrance to North Ledaig Caravan Park and suffered a head injury.

Mr Weir, who is supported by a number of his regular visitors, is concerned about the corner on the southbound approach to the caravan site, which he says is 'slippy'.

He said: 'The vast majority of cars involved in these accidents are not coming in and out of the caravan park. The majority involve locals. They skid on the road; sometimes they hit things, sometimes they don't but I have seen damaged telegraph poles, signs, metal posts and even our disused petrol pump. 'There is a manhole on the bend and trees overhanging the road. I think it needs an anti-skid surface and the

40mph speed limit extended beyond Benderloch. If not, there will be a fatal accident very soon.'

But BEAR Scotland said it has only recorded two accidents at the North Ledaig site on the A82 where injuries were sustained between 2011 and 2013 - one short of the required number to be considered for action.

A spokeswoman for the authority said: 'We are currently preparing the 2015/16 Annual Road Safety Review for Transport Scotland which considers any site where there have been three or more injury accidents within a 100 metre radius in the three-year period from 2011 to 2013.'

'While there have been two accidents where injuries were recorded in this location on the A828 in the past three years there is currently no action proposed at this site.'

'We will continue to monitor the safety of the A828 at Ledaig and, if future surface treatment is identified, it will be considered within the next one to three-year programme.'

A speed limit review carried out in 2012 concluded that the existing 60 mph speed limit on the southern approach to Benderloch is appropriate in line with the Setting Local Speed Limits guidance and through agreement with the police.

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Oban residents advised to take their recycling rubbish to local supermarkets

Jumbo bins are coming to town



RUBBISH: Oban town centre will have no recycling

LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk

OVERFLOWING bins in Oban's town centre are soon to be a thing of the past - as long as residents are prepared to trek to Tesco's car park with rubbish to be recycled.

The news on the future of bin collection was given to Oban community council by Stuart MacCracken, Argyll and Bute council's Streetscene officer in the area.

He told community councillors that the change from 'normal' bin collections to 'co-mingled waste' was likely to be an easy transition with only a few residents finding it more difficult.

Mr MacCracken said he was happy to provide anyone with a second

recycling bin - but would not be happy to give anyone another general waste bin.

"These times have passed," he said, "we all need to be much more serious about recycling. The council's landfill taxes are on the increase and this is the only way to reduce them."

Mr MacCracken confirmed that residents in the centre of town would not be getting recycling bins - and it was likely they would get 'jumbo' bins in the future for people to share.

He continued: "We are asking people to take their recycling to Tesco, or the Co-op while they are there."

David Gallant, a community councillor, asked why there would

be a 23-day delay in having some general waste bins collected in the town.

Mr MacCracken said he didn't believe this was the case, but he would look into the matter.

He told the community council that Soroba, as the most densely populated area in Argyll with one zone dealing with 58 wheelee bins, was proving to be a concern for the local authority.

The community council talked about the merits of providing so many wheelee bins to such a densely-packed community.

Mr MacCracken said: "In all our discussions about bins, the issue about Soroba collections has been a constant concern."

Community councillor George

Berry said: "Overflowing bins in the town centre are already a disgrace - I hope this doesn't make matters worse - if we are only taking general waste."

"I am often called upon to move mattresses that have been dumped in Soroba. If I can do it as a man with a van, I don't know why the council bin men seem to want to drive right past."

Kate Winton, who is a wheelchair user, said: "When the bins are on the road - I find it impossible to get to the hospital. Because of appointments and other things I can be up there four or five times a day. Some days I have to come all the way back down the road to cross the road and go back up to the hospital."

Ex-boyfriend set fire to shed and partner's clothes in a fit of rage

A WOMAN returned from her brother's funeral to find her home smashed up, partly gutted by fire and her possessions set alight.

Her former boyfriend was jailed for 46 months at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday with a five-year order never to approach her.

A tenant and her seven-year-old son were in their flat at Glencruitten Road, Oban, when Steven Livingston, aged 52, set fire to a wheelbarrow full of clothing in a nearby shed on June 10; a can of petrol nearby exploded.

Livingston, a prisoner at HMP Greenock, admitted setting fire to the shed. After firefighters had put out the blaze in the shed, police noted that Livingston was in the flat, sober, and the house contents undamaged.

Family members went round later and found that Livingston, who was still inside the flat, had set fire to a wardrobe and rampaged through the flat, damaging several items belonging to his former partner.

The procurator fiscal told the court: "Most of the household items were broken. The woman was very houseproud and the damage included designer items such as Louis Vuitton."

Gary Miller, defending, said: "My client lost sight of the fact she was at her brother's funeral and embarked on a drinking spree, drinking two litres of spirits."

The defence lawyer continued: "He had smashed items he believed belonged to, or had been paid for, by him."

"He is horrified at the extent of the damage and issues a public apology to her by way of this court."

Livingston had been in custody since the incident and sent letters to his former partner "of a nature she had to pass them on to the police," said the fiscal as he applied for the non-harassment order.

Sheriff Small backdated the sentence to when Livingston was taken into custody.

New research to improve home care

THE NUMBER OF people on the west coast over the age of 75 is due to double in the next 20 years.

The so-called 'demographic time bomb' has galvanised Argyll and Bute council into commissioning research into how the local authority can meet the demands on home care services for the elderly.

The research work will be carried out free of charge by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Care (IRISC).

The council says the research will bring 'key service' providers

together in an informal partnership to organise the planning and delivery of home care in Argyll.

The council confirmed that in the last three years the number of people receiving care at home has increased 27 per cent from 898 people to 1,144.

Every fifth person in Argyll and Bute will be living into their eight, ninth or tenth decade in 23 years' time and the number of carers will need to increase in order to meet the demand.

Deputy provost Dougie Philand

said: "The council's priority is to ensure the very best home care is provided to our communities."

"The number of people relying on care will continue to grow as we all live longer. Demand on services therefore will continue to increase."

"There is potential for a great wealth of shared experiences, knowledge and ideas to be tapped by bringing people together."

"This type of informal meeting can produce the most innovative ideas and that is what will build a secure, caring future for the older

members of our community."

A council spokeswoman added: "Last month, the partnership looked at jointly managing the challenges of recruitment and training and delivering services across Argyll and Bute's widespread communities."

"A further meeting is planned for December 2014."

Rhiann McLean from IRISC said: "We were very excited to work in Argyll and Bute as part of the joint IRISC and Scottish CareFit for the Future project."

Kilbowie bid of £37,000 rejected while building was valued at £1

KILBOWIE House in Oban was valued at £1 some years ago - yet Argyll and Bute council refused to sell the empty building to a publishing company which was willing to pay £37,000 for the split site.

Bombadil, an international children's book publishers, said it would have created jobs at the Kilbowie House site and had budgeted for a turnover of millions in their first year.

At the time of the bid, councillors were under the impression that the site was worth £450,000.

And members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee were asked to make judgements on the sale of the Grade B-listed property without knowing the building's worth to the council.

Dating from 1888, the Scottish baronial-style property had been valued by marketing agents at £450,000.

But officers had already placed a nominal value of £1 on the council's asset register valuation for Kilbowie House.

Councillor Gordon Blair, a member of the council's audit committee, said that valuing the property at the low amount was indicative of the cost to the council of keeping the building open.

When asked if he was surprised that Oban and Lorn councillors did not know the real cost of the asset, he said: "Nothing surprises me anymore."

He added: "Councillors should have been told of the book asset value to the council. Instead councillors believed it was worth £450,000."

Councillor Michael Breslin, also a member of the audit committee, said: "I asked what the asset register valuation was of Kilbowie House. Audit Scotland told me it is £1."

The Oban Times has since had this information verified by Audit Scotland. It understood that the imposing seafront mansion was included on an asset management plan for £1 and this information should, as a matter of course, be in the public domain and given to councillors.

Councillor Breslin continued: "As far as I know, this has never at any time been information given to elected members and if that is correct, councillors have been hoodwinked over this."

"The public need to know about this because they won't know either."

Spread over a basement, ground and two upper floors, Kilbowie's layout includes a range of rooms and spaces that can be adapted and converted for different uses.

Externally, the distinctive features of Kilbowie House include crow step gables, stepping

string courses, cable mouldings, conical roofs, crenellated parapet and a mock cannon.

In plans drawn up by Bombadil, both jobs and investment with a value of millions would have come to the town.

But Marianne Rugard, one of the owners of the company, was told some months ago that her bid for the building was not high enough.

Ms Rugard has now moved her planned investment from Oban to Dornie, by Kyle of Lochalsh.

She said: "Highland council have made it very easy to take our multi-million pound company to the north."

"We will be employing 14 people and will turn over at least £4million in our first year."

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: "The council will take the Audit Commission's recommendation on board."

Bypass completion stalled

TRANSPORT Scotland has again rescheduled its completion date for the Crianlarich bypass, citing the previous winter weather as the reason for the missed deadline.

The transport authority recently stated the work would be done by late summer this year.

However, when asked this week for an update on the work, Transport Scotland told The Oban Times it would now be autumn this year before it was finished.

A spokeswoman explained:

"Despite one of the wettest winters in recent memory, which resulted in difficult ground conditions, RJ McLeod is continuing to make progress on the A82 Crianlarich Bypass with surfacing works now well under way."

The road is expected to open during autumn 2014.

Meanwhile, Transport Scotland insists its work on the A82 at Pulpit Rock, through contractor McLaughlin & Harvey, is expected to be completed this winter.

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Oban hotel owner accuses disgruntled staff of fabricating sex assault charges

FORMER employees out for 'revenge' falsely accused a leading Oban hotelier, the town's sheriff court was told this week.

Raymond Hyams, who co-owns the Queens Hotel with his wife, denied charges of sexual assault on two female members of staff.

Hyams, aged 58, of Cuanra, North Connel, said the two women's claims of sexual assault were 'complete fabrication' following the sacking of a friend caught stealing, reprimands over dress code, conduct and a mistake that nearly cost the hotel £2,500 in commission fees.

Sandhurst-educated Hyams, a former army captain, pleaded not guilty to charges alleged to have taken place at the hotel on Corran Esplanade between 2010 and 2012.

He denied uttering sexual remarks to the two women and taking hold of one woman's hair, pressing his body against her, touching her thighs, hips and waist and slapping her bottom. In the other woman's case of sexual assault, he denied he touched her hair, body and bottom on various dates.

The crown dropped a third charge of sexual assault.

The women accused Hyams of touching, getting too close during a training session on how to use a till and making suggestive remarks.

"I believe it is revenge, resentment, anger, jealousy; they want to destroy me, they want to destroy my wife and our business," he said.

Hyams and his wife turned the hotel around to win four-stars from both VisitScotland and the AA. They joined the Best Western marketing group, but some reviews on the website TripAdvisor complained at the time of grumpy service. Staff parties were common. "Everyone was turning up the following morning worse for wear and not particularly looking after the guests," he said.

He added: "If they were reprimanded they behaved in a very sullen manner and took it out on guests."

Hyams said he tried a different light-hearted jovial approach. He said: "They thought it was funny. I said, 'If you do that again, I will tickle you.' It was a tease, not a threat and never actually happened."

"Is that a management technique you learned at Sandhurst?" said procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty. The trail continues.

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International call up for Lochaber Phoenix boxer

IT WAS a weekend of celebrations for Lochaber boxer Igor Sliwinski as he was selected to



BIG HITTER: Youth boxer Igor Sliwinski will represent Scotland at the European Youth Championships this month. 20_140boxing01

represent Scotland at the European Youth Championships later this month.

The 17-year-old light welterweight was also named number one in the country for his weight at the box-off selections in Glasgow last week.

The competition was followed by a week-long training trip to London as Igor prepares for the Euros in Croatia.

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club official, Steve Docherty, said: 'Igor has been working like a Trojan in training, having three sessions a day, six days a week. In fact we have to force him to take rest days as he is so single minded in trying to improve himself. A lot of boxers have to be stood over to ensure they work to their optimum levels but Igor is not like that. Everything is 100 per cent.'

BOXING

'He's earned his chance to test himself against the best boxers in the world as the Eastern European countries are the world's strongest at the moment. As far as I'm aware no Fort William boxer has every taken part in this competition so it is a huge honour for him.'

After the European championships Igor will be back in action quickly as he will take part in his first senior contest on November 1 at the Nevis Centre when Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club hold their next show.

Tickets for the show are available from the Nevis Centre, Steve Docherty (07881 379851) or Niall Clark (07554994744).



Vital premiership play-off match abandoned after injury to referee

POLEAXED: Referee Robert Baxter is poleaxed by a close range shot during last Saturday's National Division league match between Oban Camanachd and Fort William at Mossfield Stadium. The vital fixture was a play-off to see who would gain promotion to next season's Orion Group Premiership. The Oban side needed to win the game while a draw was good enough for Fort William. Unfortunately the referee was unable to continue and after a long, frustrating delay the match was abandoned after 52 minutes with Oban Camanachd leading 1-0.

See page 31 for more details and photographs. Photo: Neil Paterson

Fort William lose at Fraserburgh

FOOTBALL

Fraserburgh 3 Fort William 0
FORT William's game against Fraserburgh on Saturday proved too much for the away side as they went down 3-0, putting them at the bottom of the league.

Willie West opened the scoring in the 12th minute but it took the home side until the 75th minute to increase their lead when top scorer Scott Barbour fired home, then scored his second of the match in the final minute.

This defeat, combined with Huntly's 2-0 home win against Strathspey Thistle was enough to send the Claggan side to the foot of the table.

David Macdonald of Fort William F.C. said: 'Despite a battling performance for the Fort they found title chasing Fraserburgh just a little bit too hot to handle. The next game is a must-win.'

This Saturday (October 4) Fort William welcome Lossiemouth to Claggan Park with a 3pm kick off.

Lochaber pipped at the post

RUGBY

Lochaber 17 Ross Sutherland 18
LOCHABER Rugby club started on the back foot at Black Parks on Saturday being forced into their own 22 for the first few minutes of the game.

Ross Sutherland was awarded a penalty which was converted, taking the travelling team 3-0 into the lead. The game remained closely contested throughout with some good defensive play from both sides.

Lochaber were six points ahead with minutes to go until Ross Sutherland scored in the last play of the game from a simple wide movement.

The conversion took the travelling team one point ahead for the win. Standout performance from Lochaber newbie Gregor Wood saw him claim man of the match.

Lochaber travel away to Aberdeenshire 2nds ground in the next league match on Saturday October 4.

League starts

DARTS

THE TRADEWINDS singles darts league starts tomorrow (Friday).

At the open tournament last week Martyn Cameron beat Martin Keenan in the final by three legs to one ahead of semi finalists Duncan Rodgers and Graham Irving.

James Whyte scored two 180s and Duncan Rogers and Martin Keenan also managed one each.

The singles league is open to everyone and starts at 8pm tomorrow in Tradewinds bar, Corpach.

Glencoe event

MARATHON

THE THIRD Glencoe Marathon Gathering will take place this Sunday (October 5).

The event features the full route from Glencoe to the finish line at Glen Nevis, a half marathon from Kinlochleven to the end mark and a 10k leaving from Glen Nevis.

One of the most scenic marathons in the country, runners will take in views of Lochaber's most dramatic mountains as they battle for the title.



WINNERS: Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee present the U14 trophy to North team captain Calum MacDougall after the North versus South game on Sunday. Goals from Seamus Gall, Roddy Young and Ruairidh Anderson secured the North win with Lewis Buchanan netting for the South.

Local riders impress but Nottingham man smashes Tour de Ben Nevis record



RECORD: First home, Rob Friel, at the end of Tour de Ben Nevis with second place Ewan Thorburn. 20_140ben01

MORE than 300 bikers from across Britain gathered in Lochaber for the sixth annual Tour de Ben Nevis and Rob Friel smashed last year's record with 10 minutes to spare.

The Nottingham man conquered the 72km circumnavigation of Ben Nevis in three hours and 19 minutes last Saturday, cycling from the start point on Fort William High Street to Kinlochleven and Nevis Range.

Ewan Thorburn, Fort William, was second to finish in three hours, 21 minutes and 40 seconds and Roslyn Newman from Kinlochleven was first lady home in five hours, 11 minutes and 34 seconds.

As a stage race, the fastest time is not always the most important and Kinlochleven trials star Gary MacDonald

CYCLING

was praised by organisers No Fuss Events for his skills in the toughest areas of the route.

Fiona Beattie of No Fuss Events said: 'For many participants this was not about racing, but taking on the hardest journey they have ever made on their bikes.'

'They won't just do it once though, because there is something addictive about completing this route in the heart of the Outdoor Capital.'

Organisers also thanked Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team for providing safety cover, Lochaber Pipe Band for entertainment, the Tavern bar for food and all the marshalls and volunteers.

Ballachulish Shinty Club hold end of season prizegiving

BALLACHULISH Shinty Club celebrated another successful year at their end of season dinner dance on Saturday night.

Players' achievements were recognised at the Glencoe House event and Alan Clark was named manager's player of the year.

Scott Rodger won the trophy for player of the year and Lorne Brown was the club's top goal scorer.

Although unable to attend, Cian MacPhee won the under 21 player of the year for the second season in a row and, not to be outshone by the adults, Cameron Sutherland won junior player of the year and Lewis Bryson was awarded most improved player of the juniors.

Unbeaten
Iain Brown, Ballachulish Shinty Club manager, said: 'The club now look forward

SHINTY

to this weekend's home fixture with Kyles Athletic and hope to finish their league campaign unbeaten, although Kyles will have other ideas.

'Balla will be near to full strength and will use this game as part of their preparation for the play off fixture against Skye early in November.'



AWARD WINNERS: From left, Alan Clark, Lewis Bryson, Scott Rodger, Lorne Brown and Cameron Sutherland at the annual Ballachulish Shinty Club dinner dance.

New course record at Isle of Skye Golf Club

A **NEW** course record was set at the Isle of Skye Golf Club. Sandy Ross scored 59 (63-4) during the 50th anniversary trophy, played on September 20 and 21.

Other results from the event: 1 Mike Williams 54 (73-19); 2

Chris Hanley 56 (72-16); 3 Kenny MacLeod 56 (71-15); 4 Mike Mace 59 (73-14).

Talisker scramble played on Saturday September 27: 1 Alasdair Grant, Euan Forrest, Murdo Gordon and Simon Latton 52.3; 2 Alex Munro,

GOLF

Kyle Pirie, Lloyd Browett and Jamie Beaton 55.0; 3 Willie Cowie, Sandy Ross, Dave MacVicar and John Finlayson 58.1.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunshine with rain later in the day
Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 12°C to 13°C.

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 9°C to 12°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 2, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

Date	am				pm			
Thur	05.06	1.7	11.11	3.1	17.52	1.7	23.45	2.9
Fri	06.37	1.7	13.44	3.2	19.20	1.6	** ** *	**
Sat	02.19	3.0	08.00	1.5	14.48	3.5	20.38	1.4
Sun	03.19	3.3	09.08	1.2	15.37	3.8	21.39	1.1
Mon	04.02	3.6	10.01	0.9	16.19	4.1	22.28	0.6
Tues	04.38	3.8	10.50	0.6	16.57	4.3	23.12	0.6
Wed	05.12	4.0	11.34	0.4	17.35	4.4	23.53	0.5

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

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

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

FRIDAY