

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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**Primary Times 2016** COVERING SCHOOLS IN ARGYLL, & THE ISLES **FREE**

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### Argyll Training closes after failed bid for funding

A LAST-DITCH appeal to the Scottish Government for £160,000 to save Argyll Training, a 25-year-old charity supporting young people into work, has failed, resulting in 16 redundancies, writes Sandy Neil.

With cross-party agreement, Argyll and Bute Council committed £80,000 to sustain the 'vital service' until employability fund changes kick in next September, and leader Dick Walsh appealed to ministers John Swinney and Jamie Hepburn to find the extra two thirds of the cost.

But following a recent meeting, Argyll Training's now former managing director Fraser McCowan confirmed: 'Sadly the government were unable to assist. They said they were unable to under European rules and if they supported us other organisations would come to them.'

As a result, Argyll Training staff were made redundant last Friday (September 30).

Mr McCowan said: 'Sadly, we are unable to continue. We are just winding up. Staff are finished, gone. Some have found other jobs, so it would be difficult to get them back.'

'The council's support was magnificent. It was nobody's fault. It was a reduction in funding without any notice.'

'I think there will be further casualties in the training sector. We are not unique, but we were unique in covering the area no-one else did.'

'There are no other providers who will step in. It is a sad loss for the area and the young people we help.'

## No fun for school holidays

As the October school holidays begin youngsters are told... No cycling, no ball games, no skateboarding, no scooters – which means 'no fun' for Oban's young people

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A SIGN listing things that people are not allowed to do in a council-funded pedestrianised area in the centre of Oban has brought outrage and humour from Obanites in equal measure.

A sign stating No Cycling, No Ball Games, No Skateboarding and No Scooter Riding was confirmed by area leader Councillor Roddy McCuish as 'advisory only', but he said it was hoped it might bring to the end months of complaints about young people using the Stafford Street area.

The sign was placed by Argyll and Bute Council officials.

According to Oban police officers, unless someone is committing an offence then no enforcement in the area will take place. The sign has 'absolutely no standing in law,' *The Oban Times* was told.

'Young people are being victimised as trouble makers. For the most part they are well behaved, not drunk or disorderly and not involved in drugs,' a police spokesman said.

Oban Community Council discussed the matter at their monthly meeting last week with



some members saying the sign was 'pointless' as it could not be enforced.

Complaints had previously been made to the community council and to *The Oban Times* about the high number of young people who use the area for recreation.

On previous occasions, young people have been blamed for damaging flower beds and specially-made glass for the area, and for making tourists to the town 'feel uncomfortable'.

Oban Community Council had previously agreed to meet with young people and one councillor

said she would take the matter forward. But in the six months since that meeting no-one has returned to the community council to tell them what had been agreed at the meetings.

Councillors who were present at the community council meeting last Monday were not aware

The sign on Stafford Street that has caused *Oban Times* readers to get in touch.

Photograph: Katrina Rasmussen

of any progress being made towards a skate or recreation area for children.

A group was set up to address the issue and work with the young people, but to date there has been no changes to either the number of young people using the area, or any alternative areas being identified for young people to play on bikes, scooters and skateboards etc.

Young leader Kevin Irvine said: 'Young people are easy targets.' And speaking of the location of the public area on Oban's wee bay, he continued: 'We can't upset the million pound view, now.'

Meanwhile for younger children, Oban Community Playpark has been closed due to health and safety concerns over the surfacing but hopes to reopen before the October holidays.

And a beach hut on Tieve that offers free surf lessons to young islanders is at the centre of a planning row, with planners recommending it be removed.

For full story turn to page two.

### Billy waits in hope over bail hearing

AN INDIAN court hearing is expected to rule today (Thursday October 6) on whether anti-piracy seaman Billy Irving, from Connel, and five fellow British ex-soldiers will be released on bail from Puzhal Prison in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, to appeal their convictions for alleged firearms offences.

In 2013 the MV Seaman Guard Ohio's 35-strong crew – who were tasked with protecting commercial ships from Somali pirates off the African coast – were arrested for straying into Indian waters with unlicensed weapons.

Last January a judge jailed them all to five years, despite their pleas of innocence.

Their lawyers will now present Madurai High Court with arms licences proving, they argue, the UK Government authorised their employer, US security firm AdvanFort, to carry arms.

An earlier bail application on Tuesday September 27 was not heard after a prosecutor failed to appear.

### US woman aided by GPS alarm

AN AMERICAN woman who fell while walking on Ben Cruachan had to go Stateside to get help.

Last Saturday, the 45-year-old fell, breaking her knee and arm. She set off a personal safety GPS alarm that sent a message to the USA who in turn phoned Oban police for help.

Shortly after 6.30pm, the woman was winched to safety before being treated in Lorn and Islands hospital. Police Scotland and Oban Mountain Rescue team both attended.

### What you said via The Oban Times Facebook page

**Chris Hamill:** I dearly hope the very same councillors are as supportive when it comes to finding a place for the dudes to ride? I have been very supportive of the regeneration project but struggle to understand the 'concrete' flower beds??

**Rory Brian Craig:** Despicable!!!! Council happy to spend millions on pointless upgrades

but won't provide for the younger generation. I mean, seriously, how many skate parks could have been built for the price it's cost to upgrade the pavements! And before anyone says it cost millions to build a skate park, don't start, years ago in Taynuilt we managed to get one build on scrap land for next to nothing!

**Gregor Mcluckie:** 'Tell me where the kids of Oban can go to do these things. The town is a joke. Nowhere for kids to go so they have to stay in, or get themselves into trouble and moved on for loitering in groups around the town.'

**Saskia Cheney:** 'Money would

be better spent going towards providing an alternative. Everyone is all for kids having an active lifestyle yet the kids who aren't sat inside on their Play Stations have nowhere to actually be active! The council needs to sort its priorities.'

**John 'Panda' Gallacher:** 'As it's [the sign] being completely ignored it's obviously a waste

of time erecting them. Maybe if they had somewhere to go these signs wouldn't be needed!'

**Ian Rodgers saw the funny side:** 'It's missed out 'No Bin Collections!'

**Margaret Allen asked:** 'Are you allowed to breathe in Oban?'  
**Rosie Gillies said:** 'So we can still use roller blades though?'

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## Scottish Government rejects Dawnfresh appeal over cages

FRIENDS of Loch Etive (FoLE) has welcomed a Scottish Government decision to reject an appeal for two further cages on Loch Etive, writes Louise Glen.

Fish farmer Dawnfresh had appealed against Argyll and Bute Council's refusal to grant permission for expansion at the Etive Six fish farm site at Sailean Ruadh on the loch.

In reaching his decision on Monday, the government reporter concluded that the Dawnfresh plans 'would have such significant adverse impact on the landscape as to warrant a refusal of planning permission'.

A spokesman for FoLE said: 'We are delighted that we have won this battle to stop Etive Six getting even bigger than it already is. 'Loch Etive belongs to the Etive community not to one company seeking to expand its industrial fish farming operations to the detriment of the loch and at the risk of damaging its ecology and the fragile tourist economy upon which the Etive community so clearly depends.'

Stewart Hawthorn, farming director for Dawnfresh, said: 'Naturally we are disappointed that our application for two new pens at Loch Etive has been turned down by the Scottish Government Reporter. 'We made a strong case both environmentally and broader issues such as the potential economic benefits for the area and we remain committed to farming responsibly and sustainably. 'At Dawnfresh we and our people are part of the community around Loch Etive. 'In the months ahead we will work to convince people of the benefits of trout farming to the local community in providing healthy seafood the area can be proud of.'

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## Housing investment welcomed

AN ANNOUNCEMENT by the Scottish Government last week about building more affordable homes on Scotland's islands has been welcomed by Argyll and Bute Council.

The £5 million affordable homes fund will provide money for up to 100 new homes over the next three years.

This investment is on top of the existing £25 million Rural Housing Fund for the building of new homes and refurbishment of existing properties in rural areas.

Provost Len Scoullar said: 'This is an extremely welcome announcement.'

'Living on an island myself I know firsthand what a wonderful, unique way of life it is. However, I also know how important affordable housing is in retaining islanders and to those considering relocating to an island.'

'This funding will enable people to make easier life choices and will help us to inspire others to see that Argyll and Bute is a wonderful place where people choose to live, learn, work and do business.'

# Barra community's plea to save shop from demolition

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A PETITION on Barra to save a community shop has more than 2,300 signatures - with 400 from within the local community - but the building is still under threat of demolition.

Buth Bharragh, a community co-operative, has occupied the 'old Co-op' building in the village of Castlebay, Barra for almost three years - having built up trade since 2012 - but last week Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) was still pressing forward with its plans to take the building down.

The social enterprise has supported more than 80 people develop businesses on the islands and runs a community shop with a craft and social meeting place for all ages.

A spokesperson for Buth Bharragh told *The Oban Times* that it had had very little support from the local authority development department to continue in its current location. Yet its work has been recognised at both a local and regional level.



A mainland shopper in Buth Bharragh. t41barrashop1-but bharragh

rethink its plans to demolish our community shop.

'The council has allowed us to have this building since December 2013. 'As a group we feel we are

being forced to move into a much more expensive building, outwith the historic centre of Castlebay, that has little potential to develop.'

The new building also belongs to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar but is one of the commercial properties in the Castlebay Development Estate.

Described locally as 'a barn', the empty business units are up for rent at approximately £7,300 per annum with a rateable value of a further £3,500 per annum.

Much more than the fledging, yet successful, co-operative can afford, it says.

At present Buth Bharragh pays a rent of £125 per month.

Over the past three years of trading, year-on-year the business has grown to turn over almost £97,500 per annum with three full months of trading still to complete in 2016. Of the £97.5k turnover until the end of September, £43,000 goes back to producers, which is a massive boost to the fragile local economy.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar was asked for a comment but at the time of going to press it had failed to respond.

To sign the petition visit the shop, or go to the Buth Bharragh website at [barrahebrides.com/bth-bharragh](http://barrahebrides.com/bth-bharragh)

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## Farmers wanted for BWMB county role

THE British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB) is seeking new county members for its regional committees.

County members are the BWMB's grassroots representatives, attending two regional meetings and one annual conference each year.

They are an essential point of contact for the 40,000 wool producers who market their wool through the board.

BWMB chairman Ian Buchanan said the county members played a fundamental role in the running and success of BWMB through their local contacts and knowledge as well as serving as the public face of the board.

'The support of our 81 county members is essential in helping raise awareness of BWMB activity to wool producers helping them to understand how the board operates and changes which they may be seeing at the farm level.'

He said that like any cooperative organisation BWMB relied on the strength in numbers it got from its broad membership.

'The collective marketing of wool as undertaken by BWMB would only be possible with the support of wool producers and this is of benefit to all producers across the UK. Feedback from county members has been particularly useful in recent years as wool prices have been driven by the global market.'

'Their contributions and comments have helped shape our communications and policies and ensured wool producers better understand the world market that we now operate in.'

Meanwhile, BWMB chief executive officer Joe Farren said the opportunity to become a county member was one sheep farmers should grasp eagerly: 'These roles are important for BWMB, but even more important for the sheep industry.'

'By becoming a county member farmers have a rare opportunity to help influence the marketing and promotion of one of their products at many levels. Their input in the running of BWMB is one of the things which sets the board apart from other wool traders and gives members a unique opportunity in modern agriculture.'

'I would urge all wool producers to seriously consider standing as a county member and to help BWMB to continue the good work it does for the sheep industry,' he said.

'I am confident, with the help of the regional committee structure, BWMB can continue to drive demand for wool and hence improve wool prices. But it is important that our grassroots producers are involved in managing BWMB from the ground up for the oard to be truly successful,' added Mr Farren.

Producers wanting to stand as a county member must be a registered wool producer and must be nominated by at least 10 fellow registered wool producers in their relevant area.

The term of office would be for three years commencing on January 1 2017.

Nominations close on Thursday November 10 and those wishing to stand must be under 70 years of age.

## Councillor's email sparks call for him not to attend Tiree hearing

A COUNCILLOR has been told he is not welcome at a public hearing to decide the fate of two Tiree beach huts, writes Louise Glen.

This follows an email sent by Oban South and the Isles councillor Neil MacIntyre to a supporter of the application to keep the Blackhouse Watersports huts at Balevullin and Gott Bay after council officers recommended refusing a retrospective application.

In the official email, Councillor MacIntyre said: 'I look forward to hearing everyone's views at the meeting but my own views will not change.'

Under Scottish Government guidance given to councillors, it is stated: 'Councillors must not be - or be seen to be - biased, predetermined or have a closed mind...they must have regard to all material considerations and be prepared to change their views which they are minded towards if persuaded that they should.'

Argyll and Bute Council said it was 'a matter for individual councillors' to decide if they



A date for the hearing on Tiree has still to be arranged.

should be making planning decisions or not.

The huts are used as training bases for potential surfers in the Tokyo Olympics - as well as for community groups and for the growing watersports business on the island.

Applicant Iona Larg, who runs her business from the beach huts, said: 'It would seem fairly reasonable to expect that anyone making a decision on this application would have an open mind about the hut.'

'I think that Councillor MacIntyre may not have an open mind and therefore shouldn't be involved in the planning application.'

Ms Larg says she received a similar email from Councillor MacIntyre prior to a previous planning meeting held at Argyll and Bute Council's headquarters in regard to the Tiree Beach Hut.

Councillor MacIntyre told *The Oban Times*: 'I have always spoken at these Planning Protective Services and Licensing meetings on different matters even ones that have gone on to hearings and this is the first time it has been mentioned that I should not be able to take part.'

'...it would seem very strange that councillors are not able to discuss the relevant points at these meetings.'

'You would have to make a decision to go straight to a hearing and not discuss it or have more of these meetings in private which would be a backward step in my mind. 'At the same meeting I also

made a comment on the house at Connel; that in my mind the council made a mess of the planning and if the lady wants the house demolished because the council planners were wrong, that is what I will support.'

'I have heard nothing about those comments from the lady or our own planning department so I must be able to take part in that hearing.'

'I only confirmed the comments I made in public and have been very honest in my replies to anyone who has contacted me.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council is not aware of these emails referred to so cannot offer a view on the content.'

'Declarations of interest are a matter for individual members. There is a councillors' code of conduct which gives guidance on these matters and we would expect councillors to adhere to it.'

The date of the planning hearing on Tiree has still to be arranged.

## Hunt on to find Mòd's best vlogger

A VIDEO competition to find the best Vlogger at the Royal National Mòd 2016 has been launched by MG ALBA (The Gaelic Media Service).

Vlog a' Mhòid/Mod Vlog will be open to entries from anyone participating in the Mod in any way whether it be as a performer, TV viewer, radio listener, competition adjudicator or Mod supporter.

Suggested vlog subjects could include Mòd preparation, such as rehearsals, travel, preparing to go on stage, receiving the marks, watching the

programmes, ceilidhs, massed choirs or the journey home.

The competition will be open until Tuesday October 25.

There will be two age categories, with prizes being awarded in under 18 and adult categories.

The prize for each category will be a Go-Pro camera.

All vlogs must be filmed on mobiles, be in Gaelic, the subject matter must be about the Mòd and films should be no longer than three minutes duration.

Full details of the competition

can be found on the MG ALBA website [www.mgalba.com](http://www.mgalba.com).

Competitors can choose to make one vlog, separate vlogs or a series of vlogs.

In order to assist potential vloggers, Calum MacLean, of the BBC's *The Social* has provided a Vlog Dos and Don'ts guide, which can also be viewed on the MG ALBA website.

The competition has the support of Mòd organisers An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Iseabail Mactaggart, MG ALBA director of development and partnerships said: 'One of

MG ALBA's objectives is to encourage more people to create more of their own content, using Gaelic, on digital media.'

'Gaelic is at the heart of the Mòd, and the event is a great opportunity for a vlog competition.'

'We are looking forward to seeing the vlogs, and to seeing them being shared as much as possible.'

Mòd 2016 will open in Stornoway on Friday October 14 and will come to a close with the Massed Choirs performance on Saturday October 22.

## Managers appointed at Tiree and Islay airports

HIGHLANDS and Islands Airports Limited has appointed new station managers at two of its island airports.

The senior management positions at Tiree and Islay have been accepted by John MacCaskill and Niall Colthart respectively.

John has previously held a number of roles at HIAL, having worked as part of the corporate operational support team in air traffic services for the past 12 years. Prior to this he worked at HIAL's Inverness head office as part of the health and safety subdivision.

Before joining the team at Tiree Airport as a part-time firefighter in 1993, John worked

in the island's building trade having relocated from Glasgow in the early 1980s.

John said: 'I am delighted to take on the station manager role at Tiree Airport. I have always had close family ties with the island and have a genuine interest in the community.'

'The airport manager role will be a great opportunity to strengthen my involvement in island development and connectivity. Air travel provides a vital transport service to the islanders and I am committed to ensuring that the airport holds its reputation as an integral part of island life.'

John is heavily involved with island community groups as

the current chairperson of the Tiree Transport Forum as well as vice-convenor for Tiree Community Council.

Niall Colthart has firm roots at Islay Airport, having spent much of his childhood at the airport with his father, who was the station engineer as well as an auxiliary firefighter. After a brief stint working on the island's fishing boats, Niall joined the airport's fire service aged 21.

Niall progressed within the Islay fire service to crew manager and in July 2016, celebrated 20 years of service at the airport.

Niall said: 'Due to the size and nature of Islay Airport, I've already been involved with several aspects of the day-to-day opera-

tions, alongside my primary duty within the airport fire service.'

'I'm looking forward to leading the team at Islay Airport in my new position as station manager, while also ensuring that the island has a successful airport operation.'

As well as being active in the management of security provision, Niall has assisted with air traffic services as a fully-trained ASIFO at Islay for 19 years.

As station managers, John and Niall will be responsible for all aspects of airport operations, from passenger transit and airport security measures to air traffic control and the airport's fire service.

HIAL's managing director

Inglis Lyon said: 'It's great to welcome two islanders to join the teams at Tiree and Islay airports. Both men have exceptional experience and knowledge of their airports and the local communities.'

'The station manager job is a multi-faceted role encompassing all aspects of the airport operation. I am confident that our new station managers will rise to the challenges associated with running a remote island airport.'

'I look forward to working closely with John and Niall over the coming years to ensure that HIAL's airport offering continues to support local connectivity across Scotland.'



## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### Driver's Vision MOT

Autumn is well and truly here and winter is not far away. With the regular commute to and from work taking place in either low visibility or even in the dark it is imperative drivers have the best possible vision. Amazingly most drivers do not have regular vision checks, far less a full eye examination. If, like me, you passed the driving test at age seventeen, you could theoretically not have another vision check for driving until you reach your seventieth birthday.

There is much more to vision and driving than the very simplistic test of reading a number plate at 20.5 metres. Not only do you need clear distance vision but you also require excellent peripheral vision. The tasks involved in driving are many and complex. Driving is possibly the ultimate test for your visual system. You need to see other road users, pedestrians, road signs and road conditions as

well as maintain control of your vehicle. You need to be able to perform these different tasks in extremes of bright sunlight, pitch dark and in dense fog.

I regularly come across patients who believe they can adequately read a number plate at the prescribed distance yet, when faced with having to actually read one are unable to do so. The reality is, if stopped by the police and you fail to read a number plate at the appropriate distance you are committing a criminal offence and your insurance company will probably refuse you cover in the event of an accident. Frequently all that is required is for the driver to wear appropriate spectacles to bring their vision up to the required standard. Drivers should have regular eye examinations. These are normally free as NHS Scotland funds free eye examinations usually every two years. You owe it to yourself and other road users!

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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WHICH FLY DID RIVER AWE SALMON FIND IRRESISTIBLE?

BROADCASTER STEPHEN JARDINE ON THE JOY OF BEING A DOONHAMER

## Dangerous driving charges

A CLAGGAN man has pleaded not guilty to charges of driving dangerously and while under the influence of drink or drugs from Benderloch to Oban.

Alexander Watson, of 3 Polmona, Claggan, Fort William, is accused of driving a van on the A828 between Benderloch and Connel, and the A85 from Connel to Argyll Square, Oban, while being unfit to drive through drink or drugs, on September 26.

The 33-year-old also faces a second charge of dangerous driving by repeatedly overtaking vehicles where it was unsafe and swerving across the central white line markings into the path of oncoming traffic.

Watson appeared from custody to deny both charges at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday September 27, when his trial date was set for December 5.

He was released on bail.

## Council hits out at Audit Scotland

COUNCILLORS last week accused Audit Scotland of failing to understand Argyll and Bute Council's problems.

The move came as members agreed to continue an improvement plan designed to address a number of issues identified earlier in the year by Audit Scotland.

At last Thursday's council meeting in Kilmory, council leader Dick Walsh reminded members of the 'challenging timetable' and cuts to funding faced by the authority while setting the 2016/17 budget.

A motion tabled by Councillor Walsh – and agreed by a margin of two votes in the chamber – also took a swipe at Audit Scotland's conclusions in a critical report on the council's 2016/17 budget setting process.

Councillors agreed the watchdog's conclusions 'understate the ever-changing and challenging circumstances faced by the council at that time'.

Last Thursday, the authority's executive director of customer services Douglas Hendry said: 'I think it is clear there has been significant progress and indeed closure on many aspects of the action plan.'

The council estimates that it may be facing a budget gap of around £10.5 million in the next financial year.

Mr Walsh said: 'We will be preparing to set out a timetable for the next budget setting process on October 27.'

Fractious debate among councillors on the issue of openness and transparency led to Helensburgh councillor Vivien Dance saying: 'We are facing around £11 million of cuts and here we are discussing process and semantics. We all have a chance to work together through this nightmare, if common sense was to prevail.'

Former council leader James Robb said afterwards: 'I cannot believe that with only four months to go [until the budget is set] the administration has not made any plans to deal with its projected £10.5m overspend next year.'

'It is totally irresponsible and it will no doubt require further intervention from Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission.'

## Police files

POLICE in Oban are looking for two husky dogs who ran into a field of sheep, injuring two. PC Alison Simpson would like to hear from anyone with information about the attack.

**THE theft of an outdoor motor from a locked shed at Barcaldine is being investigated by Police Officers.**

**The 550cc Suzuki outdoor in black and red was taken some time between September 19 and October 4. Anyone with information should contact Constable Andrew Simpson.**

# Oban housing row reaches new heights

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A ROW over the height of flats on the Glenshellach estate was not resolved at a meeting of Oban Community Council, in spite of developers being present at the meeting.

Computer expert and community councillor Stewart McIvor said both images appeared in some way favour either the developers or those opposing the plans.

Speaking on behalf of the planning group, a sub-committee of the community council, Mr McIvor said: 'After a close examination of both the images I think one seems as though it has been made to look as though it [the proposed development] is smaller than it actually is, and the other bigger than it would actually be.'

A spokesman for the developers explained the images were generated by a computer and 'should be right'.

The spokeswoman for Glenshellach Residents Association said it had used a fixed point on the landscape and the flats were

then generated in regard to that fixed point to outline the height.

The planning application for three-storey flats on the Glenshellach Estate has upset some residents association members who say the area is already overcrowded and that the road in the development will not tolerate any more dense housing. More than 50 letters of objection have been received by Argyll and Bute Council planners.

After the community council meeting, and responding to the concerns raised by the residents association by letter to the community council, ACHA chief executive told councillors he did not believe the current proposals reflected 'excessive density'.

The housing boss continued: 'ACHA's current and proposed housing in Glenshellach amounts to 107 units.'

'Many of our tenants do not own cars and use public transport. The contribution of proposed ACHA homes to increased traffic pressures is on the very margins at least.'

The planning application is one of two for the Glenshellach area.



Top, the image submitted by the residents association, and below, the image created for the developers.

## Lack of carers prolonging OAP's hospital stay

AN OBAN pensioner who has been 'stuck' in hospital for four weeks is calling on more people to consider a career in caring, writes Louise Glen.

Kate Winton, 75, went into Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban on September 12 with a sickness bug on advice from her GP. But four weeks later she is unable to go home as her care providers are unable to provide her with a package of home support.

Mrs Winton, a community councillor and a disability rights advocate, has no complaints about her care – or indeed the excellent support being provided at every level of the hospital.

In fact, Mrs Winton, who has MS, even goes as far as to say that every single stop has been pulled out to help her find a way to go home.

Mrs Winton explains: 'There is no prospect of going home until I find carers. At present it is looking like I am going to



have to become an employer of carers myself.

'I have been told that the people who work for carers' companies only get a small proportion of the money paid by the local authority to them.'

'And of course many carers move onto other jobs.'

In the last year, Mrs Winton has lost 11 carers – five in one week when her last package of carers was pulled.

Mrs Winton said: 'I cannot be at home without carers and in the meantime I am taking up a much-needed hospital bed.'

'It seems that people are not considering a career in caring because the salary is too low. Companies pay carers £7.20 an hour, while some supermarkets pay upwards of £9.50 per hour.'

## Councillors' plea for 'plain English' in reports

TWO ARGYLL and Bute councillors have made a plea for plain English.

Councillor George Freeman complained at last Thursday's meeting of the full council that reports from the local authority contained too many acronyms and that their meaning may not be clear to many members of the public.

While the council discussed policy lead councillors' reports,

Councillor Gordon Blair agreed.

'Could I make a plea,' he said, 'for all documents to be in plain English as many are for public use.'

The reports also attracted complaints from members that some policy lead councillors appeared to have cut and pasted sections of text from original reports by officers rather than being in their own words.

## Tackling weed invasion

AS INVASIVE non-native weed species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed become an ever-growing problem, Councillor Elaine Robertson raised the issue at last week's council meeting.

The Oban North and Lorn member said that concerns over the issue had been raised with her by people in her ward.

Council officers advised the

member that Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust is currently developing a bid for European funding for the control and/or eradication of non-native invasive species.

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## Benderloch's first book festival praised as real page turner

BENDERLOCH'S 'tremendously successful' week-long Bookends Festival ended last weekend when the winners of its competitions were announced.

In the festival's book titles competition, Fiona Cruickshank won the children's section prize, a £20 book voucher, with her book, *One Billion Reasons Not to Visit the North Pole*, while Frances Sinclair won a free festival pass with *Donald Trump: My Part in his Downfall*.

In the raffle, Fiona MacFarlane from Taynuilt won a stack of books gifted by this year's authors, and 14 teams vied for chocolates – but not the wooden spoon – at Friday's literary quiz night.

On Saturday Judy Fairbairns shared readings on her memoir *An Island Wife*, weaving her stories of life on Mull with good humour and thought-provoking insights.

Judy said of festival: 'I had thought this to be a small rural attempt at a culture revival. I was very wrong. The dynamic, enthusiastic energy I encountered told me of my arrogance. This book festival is an acorn in the reading revival...watch it grow mighty!'

Russell Campbell, who launched his second novel *Fool Me, Fool You* at the festival, brought Bookends to its climax with an entertaining talk on: 'How, Why, Where and When of having your book published'.



Fiona MacFarlane from Taynuilt with her stack of books from the Bookends raffle. T41\_Bookends\_01\_Fiona MacFarlane

Russell said: 'I was chuffed to be asked to speak by [organisers] Campbell and Joy Cameron, who together with so many volunteers have produced a really inspiring

week for the Oban area.

'The audience was really enthusiastic and gave me the perfect lift-off, so I'd like to say a big thanks to all the Bookenders.'

Joy and Campbell said: 'We've been so overwhelmed with the response that we're opening the reading room in the Victory Hall, Benderloch this Friday October 7 and Saturday October 8 again from 3.30pm to 6.30pm to give people a final chance to find books they'd like to read or simply share the ambience of the space. On the Saturday evening Mairi Campbell and Kim Edgar will be giving a concert in the reading room before it is finally closed for this year.'

The next Bookends Festival is planned for spring 2018.

Joy said: 'As it is organised and hosted solely by volunteers we'll need to give ourselves time to make sure that the authors we have for next time round are free to join us and we'll start to gather a huge selection of books to rival what we managed for this year.'

'The Book Bins and Book Boxes will remain in place in a few sites for a week or so in order that we can make sure everyone has had a final rummage through the last lot of book donations.'

'We have some plans for pop-up events too, so Bookends will be appearing in all sorts of places before the next major festival.'

## Pensioner drove into petrol pump

AN OBAN pensioner has been banned from driving for 16 months and fined £500 after he drove into a petrol pump while over the drink drive limit.

Martin Stewart, 71, of Glenview Guest House, Soroba Road, admitted charges of careless driving while being almost three times over the legal limit at Oban Filling Station on September 18.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday September 28 that the accused was witnessed at 7pm that evening driving into the petrol station on Soroba Road to buy a half bottle of whisky.

Then at 9.30pm, he said, 'the cashier watched the accused collide with one of the pumps, and abandon his car at an odd angle. He made his way back into the shop staggering. The accused asked for cigarettes and alcohol.'

Staff refused to sell him these and pleaded with him not to drive off, but 'he drove off with his door open,' Mr McGinty said.

After police officers traced Stewart to his home address, Mr McGinty added, 'they managed to rouse him at 11.35pm, and found 'the accused was smelling of alcohol and staggering. Upon caution, he said: 'You know me, don't you? I drove down the road. I was drunk. I shouldn't have done it. I have done a really silly thing and I know I will probably lose my licence.'

Mr McGinty concluded: 'There is CCTV that caught everything on camera.'

Representing himself, Stewart said: 'I was very stupid.'

When Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC asked to see his driving licence, he responded: 'I have cut it up and put it in the bin. I can't take the chance I will do that again.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'You were clearly drunk and you were driving on the streets. Really dangerous.' She banned Stewart from driving for 16 months, reduced from two years for his guilty plea, and fined him £500, reduced from £750, to be paid within 14 days.

## Teens sentenced for violent assault

A TEENAGER has been jailed and a second sentenced to a community payback order for a 'violent' assault in Oban.

Both 19-year-olds admitted assaulting a man on Argyll Street on March 12 by repeatedly kicking him to his head and body, causing him to lose consciousness. Both previously appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on August 17, when Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentencing for reports.

Defence agent Jane McLaren appealed to Sheriff Anderson to impose a community payback order on Darren Clark, of 10 Mill Brae, Bunessan. 'He has turned a corner,' she told the court on Tuesday September 27. 'This has been a huge fright to him. He has taken responsibility. There is no excusing the fact. Alcohol contributes to his violent behaviour. He has not got over the death of his friend, and uses alcohol to cope with it.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'This was the death of a friend two years ago. Get over it and get

on with life. He is violent and he is a drunk.'

She sentenced Clark to eight months in a young offenders' institute.

Defending the second teenager, Laura McManus also asked for the court to impose a community payback order on her client Calum MacLean, of 37 Catalina Avenue, Oban.

'He has no previous convictions,' Ms McManus said. 'Mr MacLean accepted he reacted with violence. He has reduced his use of alcohol. He no longer associates with his co-accused. This is no bad thing.'

Sheriff Anderson sentenced MacLean to an 18-month community payback order, with 240 hours of unpaid work to be carried out in the first nine months, and 'supervision for your propensity to violence and alcohol consumption'.

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OT  
Winter volunteers shortlisted for award

A GROUP of Oban volunteers have been nominated for a prestigious award. The organisers behind Oban Winter Festival have been short listed for the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards 2016 as the Best Cultural Festival. The recognition is a huge achievement for a small committee of volunteers who work closely with local businesses, charities and schools to put together a programme of events showcasing local crafts and skills annually for 10 days in late November. The growth of the family-friendly festival provides a major economic boost for the town, with visitors coming from near and far to experience the Oban Winter Festival welcome. A spokeswoman for the group said: 'Some of the committee hope to attend the ceremony dinner in Inverness but it may not be everyone, as after all we have a festival to run that month.'

**Cake and coffee packs out Oban parish event**



The organisers and some of the delicious home-baked cakes that were on offer.

SPARE seats were sparse at Oban Parish Church's coffee morning last Saturday. The church hall was packed

from start to finish with people enjoying a cuppa and a cake to raise money for the church.

Margaret Maclean, president of Oban Parish Church, said that the day was good and very busy.

'The tables have been full the whole time,' she said. 'Our sessions start on Wednesday and everyone is welcome.'

Oban Parish Church sessions are held on Wednesdays from 2pm in the church centre.

Moo-ve on down to Oban cattle festival

THIS Saturday will see the town buzzing with cattle buyers and sellers – and for the first time, BID4Oban is launching its Highland Cattle Festival. Based in Station Square from noon to 4pm, the event will see experts in cattle and crafts explain all about the Highland Cattle Society and its connections to the town. Business improvement company BID4Oban, in partnership with the Highland Cattle Society, Dunollie Castle, The Crafty Ewe shop and Oban High School Pipe Band, will bring a festival spirit to the town, prior to welcoming the prestigious Highland Cattle Society autumn sale and show on Sunday. Members of The Highland Cattle Society will be there to explain more about the breed, its history and its long-standing connection to Oban and the West Highlands. Members will also be able to provide information about the show. In keeping with the country feel, the curatorial team from Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds will be bringing along an interesting and varied display of 19th- and 20th-century cattle-related artefacts to keep the public guessing. Throughout the afternoon there will be spinning displays and demonstrations from the Crafty Ewe, who will also answer questions about all things crafty. And what event in the town would be complete without an appearance from the award-winning Oban High School Pipe Band? Derek Connery, BID for Oban manager, said: 'Why not pop along and say hello?'

**Laura's campaign sees more than 200 sign up to lifesaving stem cell register**

MORE than 200 people from Oban have signed up to become potential lifesavers following a campaign started by a 16-year-old girl with leukaemia. Laura is battling the disease for the third time in her life. She was first diagnosed aged two, and battled the blood cell cancer again aged six. She is scheduled to undergo a stem cell or bone marrow transplant today (October 6) to replace damaged blood cells with healthy ones. However, before the operation, Laura wanted to raise as much awareness as possible for



Oban Lorne Rugby Club, who took part in Laura's Appeal to sign up to become a potential lifesaver. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

the stem cell register. And with the help of Anthony Nolan and The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), she was able to get an additional 212 people from Oban to join the register. A Facebook page was set up to help raise awareness for the campaign, which published a statement following the event. It said: 'The reason we launched the appeal, was that we hoped that we would find a lifesaver. Well today, 212 people joined the register in Oban and hopefully that person is now available to give someone that second chance. Laura is now in

isolation in hospital getting the last few days of treatment before her transplant, but we managed to speak to her on FaceTime earlier. She's asked us to pass on her thanks to everyone for all their help. Everyone who put up a poster, shared our posts, you have all played a huge part in making this the success it was. Laura's mum, Rhoda, would also like to thank everyone on behalf of the family, and says they've been blown away by the support they've received over the last few weeks.' On Friday, September 30, a

donor registration day was held, with the SFRS visiting Oban High School before going to the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), then holding a drop in event in the Oban Community Fire Station. Just over 100 pupils from the high school joined, 15 from SAMS and the remaining potential lifesavers made their way to the fire station in the evening. However, those who weren't able to make it on Friday can still join the register. To apply for a registration pack, visit [www.anthonynolan.org/sfrs](http://www.anthonynolan.org/sfrs).

vouchers to **WIN stay or dine at Ardanaiseig on Loch Awe**



**Ardanaiseig on Loch Awe is renowned as Scotland's most wildly romantic hotel.** One of the UK's top wedding venues, it's also the ideal place to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any other special occasion, or spend a relaxing break. Owned by a London antiques dealer and built in 1834, the Grade 2 listed house at Kilchrenan near Taynuilt showcases eccentric ornaments and antique furniture. It has 16 ensuite double bedrooms plus a cottage within the grounds - and its own private island! It was shortlisted in the Luxury and Fine Dining categories in the 2016-17 Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards. Its bridal/honeymoon suite is the hotel's Boatshed, a two minute walk from the hotel, lapped by the loch waters. The Oban Times has teamed up with Ardanaiseig to offer readers the opportunity to win vouchers to stay or dine there, or donate to friends or relatives as gifts. It's the perfect Christmas present! We're also giving readers an exclusive 10% discount on the vouchers. Simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Ardanaiseig Competition, POBox 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Tuesday 12th October, 2016

**Q. On which loch is Ardanaiseig located?**

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

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, Ardanaiseig Competition, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by the closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 12th October, 2016. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.  Please tick if you do not wish The Oban Times or Ardanaiseig Hotel to contact you with future promotions and offers.

**Our winner will receive a £50 voucher to be spent at Ardanaiseig.** To receive your 10% discount, call Ardanaiseig on 01866-833333 or email [hello@ardanaiseig.com](mailto:hello@ardanaiseig.com), quoting code OTV1. Offer expires on 21 December 2016. Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 12th October, 2016. Accommodation is subject to availability. Voucher must be used by 21st December 2016

**Have-a-go gran bravely abseils down Cruachan**

Moira takes on challenge for charity and ticks it off her bucket list

A 79-YEAR-OLD grandmother has abseiled 1,300ft down Cruachan Dam at Loch Awe to raise money for charity, writes Sandy Neil. Moira Thomson, a former chef at Appin's Airds Hotel, who turns 80 in November, decided to join her granddaughter Karen MacDonald and the rest of the staff from Oban's Specsavers in the abseil so she could tick the activity off her bucket list. The super-gran was described as 'cool, calm and collected' as she took up her position before her 400m descent down the dam's vertical then steep declining slope. 'She is an inspiration to all of us,' Moira's daughter-in-law Linda Thomson said: 'This was the first time she has abseiled. She has a wee bucket list and we are working through them.' Moira plans to see Rod Stewart and the Edinburgh Military

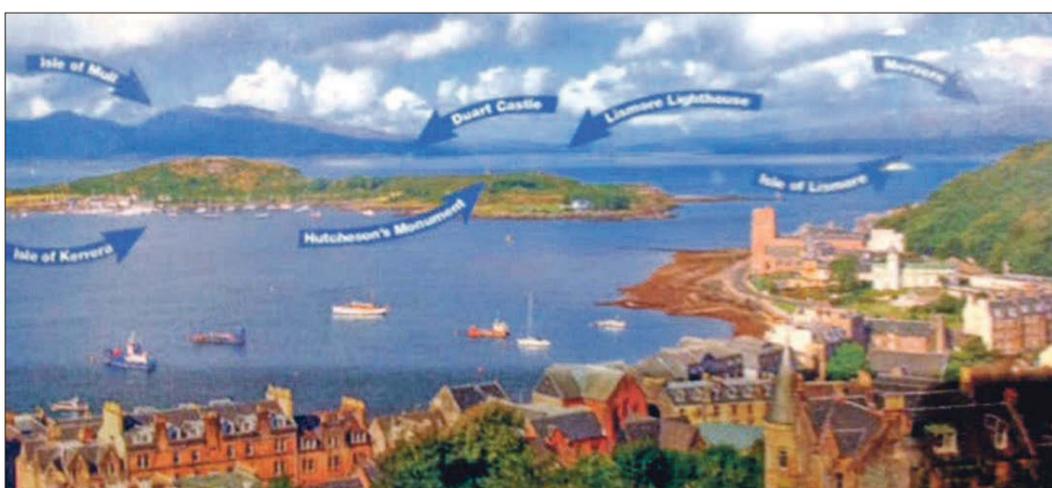


Moira pictured with her grand-daughter Karen after the abseil.

Tattoo as part of her bucket list. Iona Campbell, David Farquarson, Martyna Surovka, Kirsty Clark, Kerry McDougall, Leslie Reid, Toni MacIntyre and Lauren

Williams-Bale also abseiled down the hollow mountain dam with Moira, so far raising £691 on their Just Giving page for Oban Mountain Rescue and the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Karen explained: 'A couple years ago my gran decided to write a bucket list, along with seeing both Ronan Keating and Rod Stewart live, she had decided that she would quite like to do an abseil. This year I mentioned that the staff at Specsavers were going to be arranging with Oban mountain rescue to do an abseil off Cruachan Dam. Gran was desperate to get involved. After a conversation with CHAS and how they help support families across Scotland with a child or children with life-shortening illnesses, she decided that this was the charity that she wanted to help. And thanks to the Oban mountain rescue for arranging the event, we have decided to split the proceeds 50/50.'



**What a view: new sign enhances Oban attraction**

VISITORS to MacCaig's Tower in Oban will now be able to identify the many points of interest that are seen from the vantage point. Oban Rotary Club and Oban Community Council paid for a panoramic coloured photograph to be sited at the viewing platform for visitors. The photograph highlights the Isle of Kerrera, Hutchison's Memorial, Isle of Lismore, Morvern, Lismore Lighthouse, Duart Castle and the Isle of Mull.

## Tourist's appeal to help find brooch

ROSE McLaren, a tourist in Oban, lost a silver brooch on September 21 between 11.30am and 12.15pm.

It was possibly lost on the road from Tesco to Oban train station.

The silver brooch has great sentimental value to Rose as it was given to her when she was a district Girl Guide commissioner. Rose describes the brooch as being silver, oval shaped and has a girl guide emblem in the centre.

If anyone has any information that could help then please contact Rose on the following email address: McLarenRose@btinternet.com.

## Business spotlight in Argyll and Bute

A SERIES of informal business briefings across the area will be hosted by Fergus Murray, Argyll and Bute Council's head of economic development.

Mr Murray will outline the work the council is doing to encourage more people to live, work and invest in Argyll and Bute.

These sessions are an ideal opportunity for small and medium-sized business owners to put their questions directly to Mr Murray and raise any issues that may impact their business and to network with other business owners.

For a full list of dates email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 604 555 to register for a place.

# Wanted: Pink Ladies who deserve a day's pampering

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A SURVIVOR of a life threatening disease is putting her experiences at the heart of a day allowing women living with cancer to thrive.

Nicky Murphy, an advertising director with Wyvex Media, has had first-hand experience of breast cancer and now provides a day for 80 women who would benefit from a day of laughter and pampering.

Nicky, who was raising a young baby at the time she was diagnosed with the illness, said: 'The Pink Ladies' Day is a special annual event dedicated to women from the west of Scotland who have experienced firsthand living and

dealing with breast cancer.

'This day is all about laughter, learning, pampering and friendship, along with good food and relaxation.'

Nicky continued: 'I was diagnosed with breast cancer at Christmas 2013. There was a lot to it.'

'My illness involved chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy and medication called Herceptin.'

'Having a one-year-old daughter and working full time added to the challenge.'

'The thing that I struggled with most was the change in appearance.'

'That might seem shallow, but I felt I could cope because I was able to hide things away on the inside by putting a smile on my face and pretty

much getting on with life. But the outside gives everything away. My confidence took a hit and I could have done with a bit of pampering and TLC.'

'That's when I dreamt up The Pink Ladies' Day.'

'I knew what it would mean for women like me to have a day of escapism.'

'Towards the end of my chemotherapy I threw myself into organising a big fundraiser with three of my very dear friends Joanna Brennan, Mary Downie and Maureen Heron, to raise enough money to create this special event.'

'Now in its third year, the incredible fundraising from the Loch Fyne Oysters Three Peaks Challenge team means this year's Pink Ladies' Day is even bigger and better.'

'As October is Breast Cancer Awareness month we are launching details of this year's Pink Ladies' Day.'

The Pink Ladies' Day is a complimentary day out on Friday December 9 for guests who will meet like-minded and like-bodied women who are either in remission, or living with breast cancer to simply relax and enjoy themselves.

This event is available for up to 40 women from the west of Scotland and a friend on a first-come, first-served basis.

Nicky explains: 'Often women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer have at least one female friend or family member who has been a fantastic support to them during and after treatment,

so this is the chance to spoil them a little too. Those preferring to come on their own will be welcomed with open arms and will be well looked after throughout the day.'

Anyone wishing to attend this special, free day in Inveraray must register in advance either by emailing Nicky Murphy: pinkladiesday@outlook.com or by calling Nicky on 07786 861266.

Pre-booking is important so that the group is clear on numbers and can communicate with guests about the seminar, activities and beauty/therapy treatments ahead of the day.

In order for pink ladies to enjoy a wee bit of 'fizz' during the day, the group can also arrange transport from points throughout Argyll.

## CalMac agrees new pay deal with staff

CALMAC has been able to come to an agreement with various unions regarding pay.

Following negotiations, the unions: RMT, Nautilus, Unite, and the TSSA have all agreed to accept the new offer.

The unions have recommended that their members accept this new offer.

CalMac's managing director Martin Dorchester said: 'We all needed to start this journey working together if we were to continue to deliver reliable services while introducing the innovative service improvements that everyone wants to see.'

'I'm pleased after reaching mutual agreement we will now be able to do that.'

## Pupils' cash dash for H<sub>2</sub>O

AROUND 350 pupils from Oban High School took part in a fun run, which raised £2,000 for an Oban-based youth work charity.

The pupils completed either a five-kilometre or 10-kilometre route in order to raise money for Hope 2 Oban (H<sub>2</sub>O), which was established 13 years ago.

The run was organised by senior pupils who are studying for their Sports Leaders Awards.

H<sub>2</sub>O said a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the event and would like to give a special thanks to Morrison Construction, which is currently building the new high school, for its donation of £500.

## Funding for credit unions in schools

CREDIT unions will be encouraging children to manage their money through new Junior Savers Schemes, Scottish Communities Secretary Angela Constance MSP has announced.

Ten credit unions working in areas such as Aberdeen, Dumfries and Galloway, West Lothian and Stirling are set to receive a share of nearly £200,000 to set up new projects in schools.

Ms Constance said: 'This funding will help credit unions set up schemes which will bring maths to life and give children an understand-

ing of the importance of saving and managing money.'

'Through the scheme and our new Junior Savers toolkit, credit unions will be able to work with schools to raise awareness of money issues. This early work can help to change behaviour, and ultimately play a role in our efforts to reduce inequalities.'

The Junior Savers Scheme is a response to the recent Scotland's Credit Unions: Investing in our Future report which highlighted the need to improve financial education for young people.

## Park to close for maintenance

OBAN Community Playpark has had to close while it undergoes essential maintenance work, writes David McPhee.

A health and safety officer for Argyll and Bute Council was concerned with some aspects of the park.

Lyndsay Elliot, chairwoman of Friends of Oban Community Playpark, said the park had closed temporarily for two reasons. The first is that there are bits of weed proof membrane sticking out in certain places, which is a potential tripping hazard. However, Argyll and Bute Council is scheduled to repair this today (Thursday).

The council is also going to remove the wooden benches, as

there is some concern about a nail sticking through.

The second problem is that the flooring in the new play park has failed.

Lyndsay said: 'Basically there's a couple of holes and the ground has worn away. The different coloured flooring should have bonded, but it has failed and it's in front of the swings, so someone could trip.'

'It's not a good news story, but the company that put it in are going to make it right. It's no-one's fault and it will get fixed.'

'It's just a shame that in the meantime the park has to close.'

However, it's not all doom and gloom for Friends of Oban

Community Playpark. Fundraising for the under-five's section is gathering momentum, with £58,000 of the £100,000 target already secured.

And a winter project is in the works: the friends are seeking crafty individuals to help decorate their winter forest.

The project will be called 'Woollen Woods' and will consist of knitted animals, flowers, leaves and anything else that might be found in a wooded area. Anyone who would like to make something for the garden should hand it in to Atlantis Leisure.

For more information, search for 'Friends of Oban Community Playpark' on social media.



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OT

## Western Isles

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) recently hosted visitors from eight EU partner countries - Belgium, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Cyprus, Spain, Croatia and Latvia - as part of its involvement in the EU-funded Beyond Energy Action Strategies (BEAST) project.

The purpose of the project is to get countries working together on practical ideas for sustainable energy developments in their regions.

Activities included a visit to West Harris Trust and to Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust), where partners were enthused with what has been achieved through the community share offer to support the construction of three wind turbines. With approaches to internal and external wall insulation being of particular interest to some of the visitors, there was a positive response to visits to homes being treated by Tighean Innse Gall through the Scottish Government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme.

On the second day of the visit, EU partners presented some of the key projects being taken forward in their regions, including electric vehicle uptake, microgrids, energy efficient street lighting and energy performance contracting. They also heard from Tighean Innse Gall on its energy advice and insulation measures, Hebridean Housing Partnership on work done to monitor and improve energy efficiency in island homes and an innovative project by the Comhairle's Technical Services Department on use of waste fish products in the Anaerobic Digester at Creed Park.

Councillor Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, who welcomed the visitors to the islands, said: 'There is much we can learn from, and share with, our partners across Europe in respect of the challenges we face to reduce energy consumption, improve energy efficiency and increase renewable and alternative energy production in our regions. The visitors were extremely positive about the work they saw going on in the islands.'

□□□

RECORDED crime in the Western Isles has fallen by 58 per cent in the 10 years between 2006/07 and 2015/16 - the largest fall in crime in any local authority in Scotland. This is part of a nationwide fall of 41 per cent.

MSP for the islands Alasdair Allan believes this shows the success of SNP policies in policing and justice.

Mr Allan said: 'These are welcome figures that show a steep fall in recorded crime in the period since the SNP entered office in 2007 - and shows that SNP policies, such as having more police officers, have made our communities safer. It is excellent to see recorded crime across the isles has more than halved since 2006/07 and that we have seen the largest fall in crime of any area of Scotland. I think we should all recognise, and pay tribute to, the hard work and professionalism our police officers show on a daily basis. Having safe communities, where everyone feels welcome, is vital to creating the Scotland that we all want to see.'

## Stornoway

AN EVENT showcasing the life-saving research the Isle of Lewis community has helped to fund over the last 40 years was recently staged in Stornoway Town Hall.

Cancer Research UK set up the pop-up laboratory, which gave the public the chance to take part in interactive science experiments demonstrating Cancer Research UK's work.

Alasdair Allan, SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, said: 'It was great to be able to go along to Cancer Research's pop-up laboratory to hear about the life-saving research the organisation is undertaking.'

The event marked the milestone of the Isle of Lewis local committee raising more than £1m for Cancer Research since its inception 40 years ago; a fantastic testament to the fund raising abilities of volunteers. It never ceases to amaze me how giving this community is when it comes to charity. Virtually every family has been affected cancer. Cancer survival rates have doubled in the last 30 years, with half of all patients diagnosed now surviving and it was really heartening to hear about the charity's ambition to accelerate this progress and see three in four patients surviving cancer by 2034.'

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## Young Taynuilt rider clinches top trials championship title

SEVEN-year-old Euan Sim from Taynuilt recently won the Scottish Auto Cycle Union youth trials route D championship for riders aged six to nine years.

After five rounds held at various Scottish venues, Euan lifted the prestigious title, winning four rounds and coming second in the last one. Riding an Oset 20-lite trials bike, he competed against both electric and petrol bikes.

Euan is also competing in the Scottish Oset series which consists of six rounds for electric bikes only, held at the Bob

MacGregor Trials Academy in Dunlop, Ayrshire.

He's currently leading this series, winning the last five rounds with only one more round to go. This is the young Taynuilt rider's first time competing in the Scottish championship, having been runner-up in last year's Scottish Oset series.

Bob MacGregor Training Academy membership includes a monthly training day and Euan has reaped the benefit of his practise there.

## Mull riding group marks first year

ISLE of Mull Riding for the Disabled group held a fun afternoon to celebrate the fact it has been running for a year and to thank everyone who has helped get the group up and running.

Riders and volunteers took part in a demonstration lesson to show off what they have learned.

There was a tombola, Guess the Name of the Unicorn, horseshoes to throw and to decorate, and, of course, lots of cakes.

Pony rides were very popular, especially on Storm, the smallest RDA pony.

The group meets on Fridays at Killechrochan, and it welcomes new riders and volunteers, who are sure to have a fantastic time.

For more information, people can get in touch with Sue Penny 01688 302292.



## Website promotes dementia project

AN LANNTAIR has launched a new website for its award-winning dementia-friendly community project, Arora.

Arora works with people living with dementia and carers in the Western Isles by focusing on individuals and capturing the sparks of creativity they share.

Arora is founded on the core values of community care, creative spirit and shared culture. The project engages with people who are living with dementia and those in their circle of care, as well as reaching out to the wider Western Isles community, with the intention of co-designing a dementia-friendly community that reflects the place and its people.

The project relaunched in April 2015 and works with those impacted by dementia through workshops and events for cèilidh culture, hand memory and other creative approaches.

Arora's brand was created by branding and design agency Good. Arora was chosen as one of two winners of the 2015 Good for Nothing appeal - an initiative which sees Good create branding for a charity or business which looks to make positive change in the world - but which could not ordinarily afford to invest in branding.

The Arora team has been working closely with Good to develop a new brand identity and website which sheds light on creative engagement within a bilingual community. The 2016/17 Good for Nothing appeal is open for entries now, with successful entrants to be chosen in early 2017 (<https://www.wearegood.com/good-for-nothing>).

## MORVERN lines



A very rare wild white Inverness-shire otter.

### Very rare wild white otter

IF YOU thought hen's teeth were the rarest thing in nature, think again.

White otters in the wild, especially those that are not albinos, are at the pinnacle of the list and one of the most elusive mammals in the British Isles. An albino was spotted, fleetingly, in Moray eight years ago but, as far as I know it has not been seen again.

The above photograph was taken in September 2013 at the edge of a river in a West Inverness-shire glen, 900 feet above sea level. This animal was definitely not an albino as the photographer was close enough to see that its eyes were brown, not pink.

Records contain few references to pure white otters. The earliest I know is from Jura where Henry Evans, who leased large tracts of the island for deer stalking and was the fore-father of modern deer management, recounted that one was killed on the island in 1888. Another, probably shot on Islay, was stuffed and displayed in Kildalton House.

Eurasian otters - *Lutra, lutra* - are one of the most eagerly sought, yet shyest animals in the world. They are known in parts of Scotland by their Gaelic name, Dobhran - water dog - or Bieist-dubh - black beast - and belong to the same family as badgers, weasels, stoats, pine martens and mink.

In olden days otter skins were thought to have magical properties and the animals themselves were supposed to be vulnerable only if shot in the white spot underneath the chin. The skin, being magical, was considered a charm and an antidote against smallpox and drowning.

It was also considered lucky to have one's targe, or shield, lined with the skin of an otter. Rob Roy, the famous MacGregor outlaw who later became a folk hero, had his favourite sporran made from otter skin. There can be no doubt it was the otter's association with the supernatural that led to them being hunted almost to extinction long ago.

There is a tendency in the media today to blame landowners for killing rare species. In the days when predatory birds and animals were considered fair game, hundreds of otters were trapped and shot by crofters, small-holders and others who lived and worked on the land. They were killed for their valuable skins which went a long way towards meeting rents. Of course otters were plentiful then and no one envisaged that one day they would become less common.

Victorian natural history books, parish statistical accounts and game books are full of reports of otter kills to such an extent anyone would think communities were vying with each other for a place in the Guinness Book of Records. The lists are endless but the following are typical examples of the unbelievable slaughter: the Glengarry district, 48 between 1837 and 1840; the Island of Longay (off Scalpay) 7 in 1895; Inverewe Estates, 12 over 26 years; The Lews, 95 between 1876 and 1885; Gigha, 6 in 1887; Jura, 40 between 1877 and 1887; the Sutherland Estates, 263 between 1831 and 1834 and Assynt, where 12 were killed by one trapper between 1869 and 1880.

Many landowners discouraged killing otters. A notable exception was Skye laird Capt Allan MacDonald of Waterinish. Now and again he kept them as pets but persecuted others for pleasure even although he admitted they lived principally on eels and perch which were once plentiful around his shores. MacDonald, was born on Skye in 1823. He was considered an expert in natural history and maintained that the South Uist otters were lighter in colour because they foraged in fresh water, while those in Skye confined their activities to the sea. The heaviest otter he killed on Skye, weighed 27 lbs.

MacDonald, who gave evidence to the Napier Commission in 1883 and helped start the Skye Highland Games, had a pack of formidable terriers which he bred specially for killing otters. In the early 1900s the origins of this breed were brought into question and became the subject of a spirited exchange of letters in the British Kennel Club Gazette between several of its readers.

One was MacDonald's nephew who wrote: 'My late uncle took more interest in and knew more about the terriers of his native island than anyone living. He maintained that the short-haired breed was the purest and real Skye terrier and that the long-haired breed [recognised by the Kennel Club] was descended from a Maltese terrier and French poodle landed on the West Coast of Skye from a shipwreck. Ladies fancied them much as lap dogs, and thus made them fashionable.'

'One of the Waterinish dogs was stuffed when he died. All that remains to be seen of him now is the head, legs and tail, rats having destroyed the rest. On one occasion, in a fight with an otter, he had his nose, lips and some of his teeth torn away, leg broken, and one of his sides cut in two places, and was for three days in the cairn before he came out. After recovering from his wounds, he was keener than ever for otters.'

Iain Thornber  
[iain.thornber@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.thornber@btinternet.com)



## Charity Portsonachan coffee event

A Portsonachan coffee morning organised by volunteers raised £460 in aid of cancer charity Macmillan. Carol Russell, who helped to organise the event in Portsonachan Village Hall on Friday September 23, said: 'We would like to thank everyone who contributed delicious home-baking, time, effort and donations.'

## MP demands apology over flights axe

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar should apologise for the two years of travel inconvenience it has inflicted on islanders by axing inter-island flights, says Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus MacNeil.

Welcoming the news that flights between Stornoway and Benbecula are to be extended to a four-day service, Mr MacNeil said it was time for the local authority to admit that cutting inter-island air services was the wrong decision. He said: 'I welcome the addition of Friday flights on the Stornoway to Benbecula service but this does not go far enough. The decision to cut the previous five-day service to just three

and scrap the Barra - Benbecula service altogether had a massive impact on people, particularly those travelling to hospital appointments.'

'I welcome the return of cash that was pockled from the Scottish Government but I now think the comhairle should apologise to islanders for the impact the previous decision has had on communities for more than two years.'

'The comhairle has just spent more than £10,000 on a review of the inter-island air services ahead of the new contract - the people of Uist and Barra could have saved them the time and the public money by informing them that only a five-day service and reinstatement of the

Barra-Benbecula service is good enough for our communities.'

Mr MacNeil is also calling for the comhairle to ensure the travel network it provides allows passengers to make connections and travel from one end of the isles to another in one day.

He said: 'The comhairle must look at having a bus link directly between these planes and ferries so people can leave Barra on the 9:25am ferry and seamlessly catch the plane and also be able to return in the evening for last or second last ferry. We must end this period where it can be quicker to get to Edinburgh, London or Brussels than one end of the Hebrides to the other.'

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# Let's get behind the hospital campaign

MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



RURAL and remote ... the phrase is so often used it has become a cliché.

Rural and remote ... it is almost voiced as a pejorative term by those apologists from the urban central belt who have little understanding of the areas of which they speak.

The occupants of our cities and urban conurbations talk of rural and remote areas as if there should be a high level of acceptance that life here must be somehow diminished; that we should tamely accept a lesser quality of services and treatment than those who live in our major towns and cities - simply because we are geographically peripheral.

There is a very definite sense of a shrug of the shoulders by the city-dwellers - a suggestion that we've made our beds and now must lie on them purely because we live in the Highlands and Islands.

That position infuriates me. We who live in Argyll and the Highlands pay the same local and national taxes as anyone else and experience the same hardships, stresses and demands as others.

We deserve - and must demand - equal recognition and respect as anyone else in the country. There are, after all, many of the same problems afflicting our areas as elsewhere - and many more besides - especially when it

comes to health care. *The Oban Times* in recent weeks has launched a campaign under the banner Care Matters to fight for the retention and restoration of essential services at Lorn and Islands Hospital and elsewhere.

This is a crucial and urgent campaign - and one we at *The Oban Times* will prosecute with determination over the weeks and months ahead.

There have been significant - pernicious and damaging - cost-cutting exercises over a prolonged period to services provided at the hospital that have deleteriously affected local people.

That is not to demean in any way the staff at the hospital or any of our other professionals providing medical or social care. In fact, the care providers do a magnificent job in the face of increasing pressures. There are countless stories of how much their efforts are appreciated and the fantastic job they do.

However, successive Scottish Governments, including the present one, pay lip-service to the needs of rural and remote communities while embarking on a damaging - for us - centralising of services.

Why should people from Oban, Argyll, the Highlands and Islands have to endure lengthy, distressing and problematic journeys to Glasgow and other destinations to access services taken for granted by our fellow compatriots?

I think we deserve better. Let's



all get behind the Care Matters campaign. It is not a political struggle but a social one. The provision of good care services affects everyone, regardless of political persuasion.

We all hope we will not need the attention of our care providers but the reality is that many people do.

What do you think? Have you benefited from the excellent work done by our care providers or have you a story to tell about problems accessing services?

Let me know. Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or

at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB.

■ THERE'S no escaping Oban ... even when travelling abroad.

On a recent trip to Rome, I was staying at the excellent boutique River Palace Hotel on the Via Flaminia, close to the city centre.

Retiring to the hotel bar after a hard first day's sightseeing, I was delighted to see that among the few malt whiskies on offer was Oban's finest.

Mind you, at 12 euros for a single nip, I had to resist the temptation to indulge in a wee dram from our home patch.

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Bushmills irish	€ 10,00

## 'Inspiring' student dies during climb



Kieran Shaw.

A 'WONDERFUL, inspiring' Highland student has died after falling while climbing.

Tributes were paid to Kieran Shaw this week who 'died doing what he loved.' Kieran had been climbing near the East Gully, Aonach Mor, Ben Nevis, on Sunday when he fell.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) and the Coastguard rescue helicopter attended the accident around 3.30pm and airlifted the 21-year-old to the Belford Hospital but he died as a result of his injuries.

Kieran's sister Hannah set up a JustGiving page for LMRT. More than £2,800 has been raised at the time of going to press.

Hannah wrote: 'Our world fell apart. I am sorry to tell you that my wonderful, inspiring, handsome brother has been taken from us. It honestly feels like losing a part of yourself - and I still expect every second that he is about to walk through the front door.'

'My brother was the bravest, kindest, most courageous person who died doing what he loved. Sleep tight beautiful angel, always in my heart.'

Kieran, from Helensburgh, was a student at the West Highland College UHI in Fort William. The college has taken to social media to pay respects to Kieran and offer fellow students support.

John Stevenson, leader of LMRT, said: 'We really appreciate any fundraising that is done for the mountain rescue but it's very sad circumstances that it comes under.'

# Argyll Enterprise Week update... 31 Oct - 04 Nov 2016

## Key sectors help to drive growth

Argyll Enterprise Week, to be held in Oban from October 31, is fast approaching and aims to support Argyll and Bute's business community and encourage enterprise. A key theme of the week is the creative, food and drink and tourism industries, and there will be a wide range of exciting activity centred round these thriving sectors. 'Food and drink, tourism and the creative industries are key areas for the Argyll and Bute economy with potential to grow and develop their success further. The food and drink sector alone generates more than £1 billion to the Scottish economy, with Argyll and Bute businesses contributing significantly to this activity,' explains



Sheena Kitchin, Craft Scotland.

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for sustainable development. 'If you are involved in these industries or would like to find out more about them, I would encourage you to take advantage of the information and support opportunities available in Argyll Enterprise Week.'

A key partner to this part of the week's events is Craft Scotland, which is a Scottish charity, funded by Creative Scotland that aims to create opportunities for Scottish makers to exhibit, sell and promote their work.

Craft Scotland works with hundreds of craft makers to unite, inspire and champion craft across Scotland. They run exhibitions

and events which connect the public with the Scottish craft community. It is estimated that Scottish craft contributes more than £70 million to the economy with a growing community of makers.

'We were delighted to be asked to take part in Argyll Enterprise Week,' said Sheena Kitchin, who manages the tourism project for Craft Scotland.

'We will be hosting a workshop in collaboration with VisitScotland on Friday November 4 which will focus on the opportunities for craft makers within the tourism industry. This will help attendees to make the most of these opportunities to develop and grow their business.'



Argyll singer/songwriter Joe Mcalinden is one of the guest speakers at the XpoNorth event at Kinetic Studios on November 4.

## XpoNorth brings free events to Oban

XpoNorth is the creative industries network that provides support and help on behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

All year round this network supports people across the Highlands and Islands to achieve their goals in the fields of screen, broadcast, gaming, writing, publishing, design, craft, fashion, textiles and music.

During Argyll Enterprise Week, XpoNorth will be on the road and hosting a number of free events at the Kinetic Studios, Oban, on Friday November 4. The day will be packed with creative business owner's presentations and industry experts from, amongst others, Creative Scotland, BBC and Glasgow School of Art. Learn about music placement, screen broadcasting and design innovation as part of this fun filled packed day of activity. Book at argyll-enterprise-week-xponorth-on-the-road.eventbrite.co.uk

## Have your say on region's tourism future

There will be a host of free activity on both Thursday November 3 and Friday November 4 centred on the creative, tourism, and food and drink sectors.

On Thursday November 3 at the Corran Halls, Scottish Food and Drink and Highlands and Islands Enterprise will present the new Food and Drink Strategy 2030. This is an opportunity to voice opinions and feed into this important industry strategy. The workshop will outline the research so far and help shape the direction of travel for the industry. There will also be the opportunity to

meet with Rick Allison, a UK market analyst who will set the scene on current trends, helping businesses to understand opportunities locally and beyond.

On Friday November 4 join Craft Scotland at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for their workshop titled 'Working with the Tourism Industry'. Craft Scotland and Visit Scotland will be presenting this workshop on the real opportunities within the tourism industry for crafters and makers and how to make the most of these opportunities to develop and grow their business.

In addition to the Craft Scotland event, the Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative will be running a workshop titled 'Wild About Argyll - Adventure Tourism in Argyll and The Isles'.

The workshop is targeted at all businesses and individuals who are either already involved in the adventure market or view this as an opportunity. Adventure tourism has been identified as a growth area, particularly for Argyll and this was highlighted recently by the epic 12-day adventure endured by celebrity cyclist Mark Beaumont.



Adventure tourism will be the subject of a workshop run by the Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative.

**inspire - connect - inform**

Join us in Oban for Argyll Enterprise Week. For more information and to book events visit [argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk](http://argyllenterpriseweek.eventbrite.co.uk) or call the local Business Gateway team on **01546 604555**

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The students celebrate in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls after being awarded their degrees.

# Argyll College UHI graduations



Sharyn McGuinness is presented the Argyll College UHI Student of the Year Award by Nicholas Ferguson CBE.

MORE than 100 graduating students and their guests assembled in the spectacular setting of the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, last Friday for Argyll College UHI's annual graduation ceremony.

This was the college's largest ceremony to date with more than 56 different qualifications being conferred including the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) being awarded for the first time.

Guest speaker Nicholas Ferguson CBE, chairman of Saville's plc and former chairman of Sky plc, presented further education awards and Professor Clive Mulholland, principal and vice-chancellor of the University of the Highlands and Islands presented 75 higher education awards.

College principal Fraser Durie said: 'Rarely do so many of our students get the opportunity to come together in one place, given that so many study at a distance from both their tutors and their peers, so it's extremely gratifying that so many are attending today's event.'

'It is satisfying to see that our student numbers continue to rise year on year but, most importantly, we are also seeing an increase in levels of student satisfaction as measured in our annual student surveys. I am also gratified that Argyll College UHI can count itself among the top two colleges in Scotland for the number of further education students entering the workforce.'

Sharyn McGuinness, an SVQ3 Health and Social Care student from Rothesay, Bute, picked up the Argyll College UHI Student of the Year Award. Sharyn, a social services support assistant worker on Bute, had her studies interrupted in late 2014 when she was suddenly diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Sharyn underwent surgery followed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and then endured a long and painful rehabilitation process during which she had to learn to speak, walk and write again.

Sharyn took the major decision to



Sharyn McGuinness addresses the graduation ceremony and was rewarded with a standing ovation.

resume her studies in August 2015 and succeeded in overcoming the odds to complete her SVQ3 in November last year. Sharyn was awarded the prize because of her remarkable resilience, motivation and commitment to complete her qualification, which the judges felt was truly inspirational. These sentiments were echoed by the assembled audience who gave Sharyn's speech a standing ovation.

There were a number of other prizes bestowed on the day with Dunoon student Scott Anderson receiving the Highlands and Islands Students Association (HISA) award for Best Class Representative, presented by HISA president Luke Humberstone.

His tutor described Scott as 'a natural and effective spokesperson for the class, committed to getting students to engage and showing them they have a valued voice with senior management'. Scott has been elected HISA deputy president for Argyll College UHI for 2016-17.

Tobermory High School student Ruth Darling was awarded Skills for Work Student of the Year, and Oban

hairdresser Karma MacLean received the Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for Hairdressing.

Islay-based business student Sarah Mottram received further education Student of the Year. The judges felt that as a full-time carer with a range of family responsibilities, Sarah's ability to juggle these demands with full-time study, combined with her impeccable attendance and academic record, made her a worthy recipient.

Jamie-Lee Ogilvie gave an entertaining and moving account of the student experience, describing her initial struggle adjusting to college life. 'I wasn't an ideal student, and my first year was hard for me. It was also hard for my tutors,' she said. Jamie-Lee is now in her fourth year at Argyll College UHI studying for a SVQ3 in hairdressing and has recently been voted class representative by her fellow students.

A number of college staff also received recognition of enhanced teaching qualifications and chairman of the college Andrew Campbell said: 'We are fortunate to be supported by

many dedicated staff who combine their busy teaching schedules with a commitment to continuing professional development, staff who have gained a teaching qualification for further education, teaching practice in Scotland's colleges PDA, and BA in professional development (BAPD). I thank all our staff for their hard work and dedication in ensuring our students fulfil their potential and get every opportunity to learn, achieve and advance.'

To find out more about the range of opportunities available through Argyll College UHI, there will be an open day in the Oban Centre, Glenshellach Business Park, between 10am and 8pm on Wednesday October 26. Visit [www.argyllcollege.ac.uk](http://www.argyllcollege.ac.uk) for more details.

For a full list of graduates, go to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).

The Oban Times is offering discounted rates to publish graduation pictures. To book your picture in for just £20 (for Argyll College graduates only) call 01631 568000 and quote 'O grad Argyll'.



Scott Anderson receiving the Highlands and Islands Students Association award for Best Class Representative from HISA president Luke Humberstone.



Karma MacLean, who received the Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for Hairdressing, with curriculum manager Rena MacDonald.

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# New group is formed to save park as plans for site change

**MONICA GIBSON**  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

DRAWINGS for a development on the site of a former Fort William school have been redrafted after more than 70 people attended a public consultation and made their opinions heard.

Plans for a new 70-home development to be built on the site of Lochside Primary School were revealed to residents last week.

The Highland Council and Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) are behind the project for which an artist's impression and information was displayed in Caol Community Centre from Thursday September 29.

affordable homes in the area, the scheme has raised some concerns.

The council told *The Oban Times* the main three areas for comments were whether a bus shelter would be kept at the entrance to the site, concern in relation to the secondary exit into Castle Drive and that the bike park was included within the development area.

Carol Gosling, who lives in Castle Drive, said while residents knew the school was earmarked for development, in previous consultations the park had not been included.

She added: 'The local development plan just ring-fenced the actual site of the school. But when the council put the new



There are concerns that the bicycle park could be included within the development area.

Picture: Eilidh Anderson

plans up they crossed through the park which we were quite dismayed about.

'The developer, acting on the council's information, has included an access road through the play area which would annihilate any safe area to play on.'

'We have been told there needs to be two access roads because of the flood risk but we are unsure about that because all the other developments on Lochside only have one.'

Carol, who has two young boys, has joined other families from the area to start a campaign to 'save our park' and has created a Facebook page to raise awareness.

She said: 'My boys have not taken it too well about the proposals. They are very fond of that park. It has been something which the whole community

have come together to look at.

'We want the area to stay as the quiet little cul-de-sac it is and not become just a through-road.'

'We've even been contacted by people from farther afield who used to live here and they remember how it was and have shown their support.'

A spokesperson from the Highland Council said the updated drawings reflected the comments already received and that the plans could change again based on the reactions received.

She added: 'We are very much in the consultation stage and welcome any comments from individuals and groups about the outlined proposals for the

redevelopment of the site as this forms part of the conversation under way with the community which we want to have.'

'The public drop-in event held last week was well attended and an exhibition is still running in the community centre this week so people can look at the proposals and pass on their views, comments and suggestions.'

'A planning application is likely to be submitted sometime in November and then there will be a further period of public consultation where comments can be submitted. In the meantime, we welcome comments and they can be submitted to our planning service or to our housing team via john.mchardy@highland.gov.uk.'

## TIMESLINE

### Views sought on development plan

A PLAN aiming to highlight the best options for future development has reached a new stage. West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan (West-Plan) is being developed by the Highland Council.

From April to June this year, the council consulted on a number of subjects in what was called the main issues report (MIR), asking for views and showed options for how they could be improved.

Now the council is running an additional sites consultation (ASC), seeking comments on selected sites the council considers should be discussed. To read and comment on the ASC, visit <http://consult.highland.gov.uk>. Any comments need to be received by noon on Friday October 28.

### Trial halted after lawyer is taken ill

THE trial of a man accused of attempted murder by setting fire to a house in Mallaig was halted this week because his defence counsel was ill. Kieran Ridley, 32, was to have gone on trial at the High Court in Livingston on Tuesday following the fire in October 2015.

### Public welcome at Transport Forum

THE NEXT quarterly open meeting of the Transport Forum will be held on Tuesday November 1 at around 11.20am in Fort William council chamber. Members of the public are welcome to attend and raise transport-related concerns. The forum will hold its annual general meeting immediately before this at 11am.

## POLICE FILES

A BLACK Ford Focus, parked on Moss Road in Caol, was damaged between 4pm on Friday September 23 and Sunday September 25.

A VEHICLE parked on Park Road, Kinlochleven sustained damage on Friday September 30 at 2am. Police are looking to identify a person of medium build with dark hair worn in a short pony tail, wearing a dark parka jacket, who was seen in the area.

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org>.

## Parents voice fear for safety at school crossing

RENEWED concerns over the safety of children making their way to a Lochaber school have come to light after 'near misses' took place.

Parents and councillors have been campaigning for a crossing outside Banavie Primary School to be installed for some time.

Currently, a lollipop lady helps to ensure children making their way across the A830 are unharmed and she is accompanied by 20mph signs designed to flash at either side of the school day.

However, recent malfunctions in the signage have added to frustration among parents who fear the worst for their kids.

Pamela Donald said she witnessed the lollipop lady almost being knocked over and took to Facebook to raise awareness. She wrote: 'ONCE AGAIN the flashing 20mph signs for motorists coming from town towards Corpach are not working.'

'I also called into the police station and told them. They are aware of all of the above, but we just need to report all these things and get it all recorded. The more of us complaining the better. Please share.'

Councillor Ben Thomson shared the post online, explaining that Transport Scotland argued there was not enough foot traffic to justify a pelican crossing. He wrote: 'That they respond in those terms when it's child safety we're talking about makes my blood boil.'

The representative for Caol and Mallaig told *The Oban Times* last Friday: 'I was at the parents' association meeting and I don't think the incident was the only one recently. Lots more people were coming to me saying they had seen or heard of similar incidents.'



Ben Thomson says an apparent lack of concern for child safety at Banavie Primary School 'makes his blood boil'.

Mr Thomson added: 'The 20mph signs are, more often than not, not working. While I commend Transport Scotland for trying to make this part of the road safer, I don't think this will solve the problem. What they want to do is just narrow the road but this is a trunk road and the patroller is still just relying on her PPE [personal protection equipment] to stop moving traffic.'

'I think the best way would be if anyone who needs to can stop the traffic by means of a peli-

can crossing. This would give the direct benefit of immediately increasing safety but also the indirect benefit of perceived safety. It would encourage parents to think, "I don't need to drive my child to school" because the child or children have a safe means of crossing the road.'

A spokesperson from Transport Scotland confirmed that, outwith school hours, there was insufficient demand to warrant a signalised crossing at this location and added: 'We want to

narrow the road at the existing crossing patroller crossing to reduce vehicle speeds and the time it takes to cross from one side of the road to the other. This will make it easier and safer for those wishing to cross.'

'Following the useful feedback from the meeting, we will work on the designs of these safety measures and, once completed, will carry out further consultation with all parties before any construction begins.'



Gilberta Paterson is congratulated by Councillor Brian Murphy.

## Gilberta celebrates 100th

A CENTENARIAN says long walks and fresh air has helped the years 'fly by'.

Gilberta Paterson from Nevis Road, Inverlochty, was born on October 5, 1916, in Bo'ness, and lived in Stenhousemuir, near Falkirk for 50 years. She has a son, Sandy, who ran the post office in Inverlochty but now lives in Inverness.

Mrs Paterson worked as a telephone operator and remembers

watching bombs being dropped on the Forth Bridge in the Second World War from the window of her exchange a few miles away down the river.

She has no secret for long life, but always liked to keep fit and go for walks. She also loves flowers and enjoyed many happy hours looking after her garden.

She said: 'I can't believe I have reached 100 as time has just flown in.'

## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club's next show takes place at Kilmallie Hall on Saturday October 8. Boxing starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Charlie Anderson on 07867 389177, Phil Bradley on 07901 977536 or Niall Clark on 07477 150100.

REPRESENTATIVES from Lochaber Sensory Care will be at Dail Mhor Care Home, Strontian, on Monday October 10 from 1.30pm until 2pm and at Acharacle Medical Centre from 3pm to 4pm.

THE COMMUNITY car scheme AGM will take place on Tuesday October 11 in An Drochaid, Claggan, from 6pm until 8pm.



Shane Manning and some of the parking enforcers.

## Traffic wardens return

PARKING enforcers are back in Fort William in a bid to deter 'bad habits' among drivers.

A new team has been out and about since Monday looking for anyone parking illegally.

For the moment only warnings have been issued but, after two weeks, charges of £60 will be levied.

The interim period is to

allow motorists to familiarise themselves with the new rules and for the enforcers to get used to the job.

Shane Manning, Highland Council's principal traffic officer, said: 'On Tuesday there were three officers in Fort William on patrol. This is to create a degree of familiarity and to let the team work together. There is a team of 12 enforcers.'

## WHY I LOVE LOCHABER



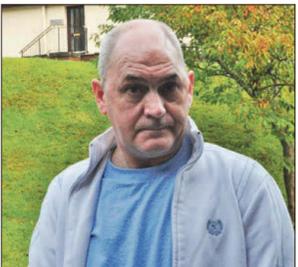
**Maureen Cameron**, 64, lives in Claggan, Fort William. 'I was born and bred in Lochaber, in Onich. I am a crofter's daughter so I just couldn't live without the hills. Fort William has a lot to offer people with disabilities too.'



**Allison Kane**, 51, is financial officer at Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL). She said she loves Lochaber because of the beautiful scenery. Allison enjoys working at VAL in Fort William because 'it has a nice relaxed atmosphere.'



**Claire Harper**, 37, said that Fort William was a 'fantastic place to raise young children'. She said: 'I feel like my children are safe when they go out to play here. It's a great environment for families.'



**Douglas Gordon**, 55, moved to Fort William 20 years ago. He commented: 'I'm so glad I moved to Lochaber - I love the peace and quiet here.'



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# Arena

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

## 2016 marks the final year for the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship

THIS is the final year of the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship. Since 2014, the funding has come under the auspices of the newly established William Grant Foundation, which the family shareholders created in order to provide support to communities and good causes in Scotland.

provide more general support for Scottish culture and heritage through its grant-making. Subsequently, 2016 will be the last year William Grant & Sons coordinates Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship. Liz Maxwell of William Grant & Sons, said: 'The main aim of the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship was to

encourage, stimulate and perpetuate the art of fiddle playing throughout the country and we are proud to have accomplished this.' The 2016 Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship will take place on Sunday October 30 at Blair Castle and is open to spectators. It will not run as a competition but will instead be a

celebration of the history of the event, and all former champions have been invited to attend and perform. The Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship was created in 1989 by Scottish distiller William Grant & Sons, which owns the Glenfiddich brand, and had been funded by the family owned company since then.

## Sàr-sgeoil: Outlander

THE AUTHOR of the hugely successful Outlander novels – which inspired the smash-hit TV series – has revealed the sight of 'men in kilts' rather than knowledge of Scottish history led her to pen the best-selling books.

In an exclusive interview to be shown on BBC ALBA this week, Diana Gabaldon tells Cathy MacDonald that viewing an old episode of Doctor Who showing men in kilts was 'powerful and compelling' – and the author had no prior knowledge of Scotland or its history. Diana said: 'I didn't expect that anyone would read this novel, let alone publish it. I didn't know anything about Scotland but the image of the men in kilts stayed in my head.'

'I then wanted to have a strong female character to create a sexual tension and I decided to have an English woman to create conflict. Then, as I started writing the character of Claire Randall, she just wouldn't speak like an 18th century Englishwoman at all. She was speaking in a modern tone of voice and after wrestling with her for a few pages I hit upon the idea of having her travel back in time.'

The interview with Diana is featured in



Cathy MacDonald and Outlander author Diana Gabaldon.

Sàr-sgeoil: Outlander, to be shown on Thursday evening. Cathy MacDonald visits some of the Scottish locations which inspired the novels, including Culloden, of which Diana says: 'I've walked on a lot of battlefields. Most of them are not haunted. That one is.'

In an intimate conversation, Diana tells

Cathy about how and why she became an author. Writing Outlander was her first foray into novel writing and she had no intention of showing it to anyone – but the series of books has gone on to sell more than 27 million copies worldwide.

Diana talks about readers' reactions across the world to the Scottish imagery in the book and

the 'Outlander effect' that has been drawing hordes of enthusiastic fans to Scotland. She says she has developed a close connection to the people and places she writes about, particularly Scotland.

Cathy also explores the facts behind the fiction and finds out about the Highland folklore drawn upon in the novels. Cathy visits some of

the locations featured in the book and television series such as the real current seat of Clan MacKenzie at Castle Leod in Strathpeffer, Castle Leoch in the book.

Sàr-sgeoil: Outlander, produced by Caledonia TV, will be broadcast on BBC ALBA is available to view on BBC iPlayer.



## Tiree's musical medicine man

The role of a doctor in a small island community is an important one. It can have an impact on how people feel about seeking medical advice, it can affect people's perception of their own wellbeing and it can mean life or death in emergency situations.

Having officially hung up his stethoscope for the last time at the end of August, Dr John Holliday has served the Island of Tiree with distinction in this role for almost exactly 30 years. In this respect alone, the Doc deserves great thanks for his constant warmth, professionalism, caring attitude, tenacity when needed and all encompassing brilliance as a doctor.

However, his contribution to the community goes much wider and deeper than just his medical skills. The number of bands and musicians that Tiree has produced in recent years is well known and Gordon Connell is deservedly well recognised as the primary factor in this musical phenomenon. There are many others, though, who helped to make this possible and the Doc is most certainly one of them.

The Feis on Tiree has been an important catalyst for starting, and fuel for maintaining, the interest of children in traditional music. The Doc was the main instigator in getting this off the ground in 1990 and has worked on the

committee for many years. He took flute and tin whistle classes throughout the winters and was always encouraging musicians young and old.

Apart from his encouragement, he is the main reason all my fingers are still intact and able to play the accordion. From jamming my fingers in doors to breaking them in the hauler of the boat, he always gave very special care to them. I remember once when I was 11 years old I was out fishing with my dad and got a fishhook badly lodged through my finger. Through the Coastguard, dad had organised the Doc to be waiting for us at Scarinish Harbour. Although I was in pain, all was OK till we reached the surgery and he began the job of removing the hook. Every time the poor man attempted to touch the hook, it ignited a flurry of 'colourful' expressions from this foul-mouthed young patient.

With great skill and resilience, though, he pushed it through, cut the barb with pliers and pulled it back out with no lasting damage to the finger. Many doctors would have been offended by the atrocious language from such a young brat of a patient and would never have wanted to have to treat or meet him again. The Doc, however, wrote me a tune about it and in it he even incorporated discords and accidental notes to represent the swears

words. This episode was the start of a very long and happy musical and finger-mending connection.

His integration into the community was genuine and total with his keen interest in the cultural, geographic and anthropological history of the Island. He learned to speak Gaelic, his children were educated in Gaelic and he took a lead role in the Tiree and Coll Gaelic Partnership, who were to set up An Iodhlain, the island's historical museum. My great-auntie Maggie Sgiobanaid put it succinctly when she said: 'Bìdh am fear seo a' taghalt air muinntir Thiriodh.' (This one mixes socially with Tiree people.) His energetic wife Clare – who, among many greater attributes, makes the most incredibly good ginger cake – and two fine children have also been significant positive additions to the island.

On the southern coast of Baugh a monument was raised in recognition of the service to Tiree of Dr Alexander Buchanan from 1860 to 1911 marking the high regard in which he was held by the people of Tiree and the positive effect he had on the community. While another monument could fittingly stand beside it in the name of Dr John Holliday, I suspect he might prefer to be remembered in the local lore down the generations in story and in music. I wish a long and happy retirement to Tiree's musical medicine man.

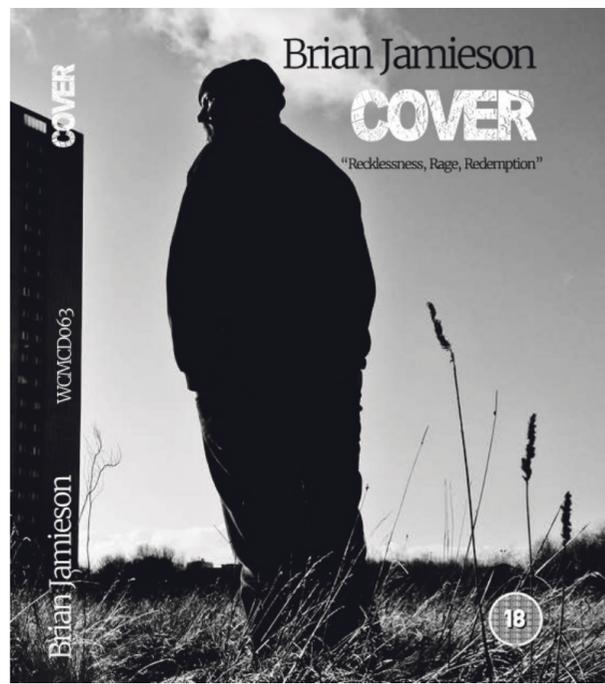
## New LP out by Scottish hip hop artist Brian Jamieson

COVER is the new LP from Scottish hip hop pioneer Brian Jamieson. The LP is a story set in the fictional notorious Glasgow housing scheme Hainehill, and follows the trials and tribulations of the main character, Sean McManaman, voiced by Brian.

McManaman must go through life disfigured by a terrible facial scar, with resulting judgement and prejudice from all corners. Sean's life spirals into a complete

chaos of vice – gambling, alcohol, drug addiction and unprotected sex. The album follows his journey on a road to near impossible redemption in a typical Glasgow housing scheme plagued by social deprivation.

The music on the LP is produced by Nick Turner from the award-winning Watercolour Music studios. Brian's vision was for an album that gives the vibe of a movie soundtrack rather than a conventional LP.



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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**Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
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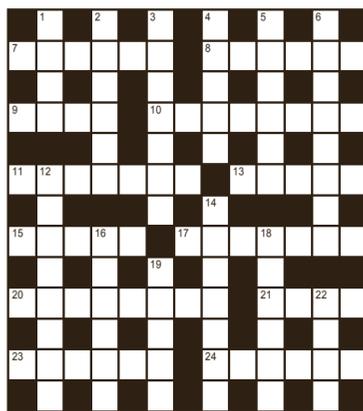
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### Across

- 7 Ground squirrel (6)
- 8 Small digging tool (6)
- 9 Hammer part (4)
- 10 Money given (8)
- 11 Short (7)
- 13 Contradict (5)
- 15 Corpulent (5)
- 17 Official journal (7)
- 20 From one side to the other in a ring (8)
- 21 Advocate (4)
- 23 Bright red fruit (6)
- 24 Hat (6)

### Down

- 1 Zero, on a court (4)
- 2 Said to express gratitude (6)
- 3 Precious metal resembling platinum (7)
- 4 Con game (5)
- 5 Detest (6)
- 6 One who's life is dedicated to self gratification (8)
- 12 Tat (8)
- 14 Recount (7)
- 16 Melancholy (6)
- 18 Correspond (6)
- 19 Type of alcohol (5)
- 22 Liquid butter (4)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION





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Friday 7 October - Thursday 13 October

**BRIDGET JONES'S BABY | 15 | 145 MIN**  
Fri: 21:00, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue: 19:30, Wed: 19:00, Thu: 19:30

The continuing adventures of British publishing executive Bridget Jones as she enters her 40s.

**CAPTAIN FANTASTIC | 15 | 138 MIN**  
Fri, Sat: 18:30, Mon: 19:00, Tue: 20:15

In the forests of the Pacific Northwest, a father devoted to raising his six kids with a rigorous physical and intellectual education is forced to leave his paradise and enter the world, challenging his idea of what it means to be a parent.

**FINDING DORY | U | 123 MIN**  
Mon: 16:45, Tue: 15:45

Disney-Pixar's "Finding Dory" reunites everyone's favourite forgetful blue tang, Dory, with her friends Nemo and Marlin on a search for answers about her past.

**HELL OR HIGH WATER | 15 | 122 MIN**  
Sun: 19:15, Thu: 19:00

In HELL OR HIGH WATER, two brothers, Toby and Tanner, go on a calculated bank robbery spree that puts them on a collision course with a West Texas Ranger determined to take them down.

**HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE | 12A | 121 MIN**  
Fri: 14:00, Sat: 14:15, Sun: 17:00, Mon: 14:30, Tue: 18:00, Wed, Thu: 16:45

Parent and baby screening: Tue: 11:30

Ricky is a defiant young city kid who finds himself on the run with his grumpy foster uncle. A national manhunt ensues and the two are forced to work together to survive.

**KIDS CLUB: THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS | U | 120 MIN**  
Sat: 11:00

Taking place in a Manhattan apartment building, Max's life as a favourite pet is turned upside down, when his owner brings home a sloppy mongrel named Duke.

**RSC LIVE: KING LEAR | 12A | 210 MIN**  
Wed: 19:00

King Lear has ruled for many years. As age begins to overtake him, he decides to divide his kingdom amongst his children, living out his days without the burden of power. Misjudging his children's loyalty and finding himself alone in the wilderness, he is left to confront the mistakes of a life that has brought him to this point.

**SILVER SCREEN - CAPTAIN FANTASTIC | 15 | 138 MIN**  
Sun: 14:30

In the forests of the Pacific Northwest, a father devoted to raising his six kids with a rigorous physical and intellectual education is forced to leave his paradise and enter the world, challenging his idea of what it means to be a parent.

**STORKS | U | 109 MIN**  
Sat: 12:00, 14:15, 16:30, Sun, Mon: 12:00, 12:30, 14:15, Tue: 12:00, 13:45, 14:15, Wed: 11:45, 12:30, 13:45, Thu: 12:00, 12:30, 14:15

Storks deliver babies...or at least they used to. Now they deliver packages for global internet giant Cornerstone.com. Junior, the company's top delivery stork, is about to be promoted when he accidentally activates the Baby Making Machine, producing an adorable and wholly unauthorized baby girl.

**SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS | PG | 117 MIN**  
Wed, Thu: 14:30 Fri 16:16

Swallows & Amazons tells the story of the Walker children, whose summer holiday in the Lake District sees them sailing out on their own to a local island, only to find themselves in competition with a rival group of children who call themselves the Amazons and ultimately an adventure far bigger than they could have imagined.

**THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN | 12A | 153 MIN**  
Fri: 20:15, Sat: 16:30, 21:00, Sun, Mon, Tue: 16:30, Wed: 16:00, Thu: 16:30

With the sleepy town of Rose Creek under the deadly control of industrialist Bartholomew Bogue, the desperate townspersons, led by Emma Cullen, employ protection from seven outlaws, bounty hunters, gamblers and hired guns.

**THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS | U | 120 MIN**  
Fri: 16:15, 18:15

Taking place in a Manhattan apartment building, Max's life as a favourite pet is turned upside down, when his owner brings home a sloppy mongrel named Duke.

# Revellers turn back the clock with Relentless



Revellers in Oban were treated to an 'old skool reunion' last Saturday night in the Corran Halls. For the first time since 1995, Relentless took place, which featured a series of DJ's from across the country such as QFX, Casio bros, Trevor Reilley, Alan Tait, The Docor, MC Conduct, Mark McLaughlan and local DJ Drew Walker.



# Scottish Opera's national tour visits Oban this autumn

SCOTTISH Opera's new production of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* visits the Corran Halls in Oban on Thursday October 20 at 7.30pm as part of a 17-date national tour. The company's music director, Stuart Stratford, conducts the first six performances with Derek Clark, Scottish Opera's head of music, taking over the remaining dates. Mr Stratford said:

*'The Elixir of Love* is full of fantastic melodies, a witty plot and it is shot through with a bolt of Italian sunshine which permeates all of the music. I am very excited to be conducting this new chamber realisation of the score arranged by our head of music Derek Clark, and can't wait to visit the further reaches of our country to share this incredible piece with

the people of Scotland.' Young British director Oliver Platt and designer Oliver Townsend take inspiration from the world of PG Wodehouse for their staging of *The Elixir of Love*. Ellie Laugharne takes on the role of Adina and is joined by baritone James Cleverton and Toby Girling, as well as Scottish Opera emerging artists Elgan Llyr Thomas and

Glasgow-born Hazel McBain. A chorus of five singers joins the cast onstage. Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

# Development trust funding applications

THE Western Islands Development Trust (WIDT) is currently inviting applications from community groups for funding for projects with a focus on alleviating fuel poverty and promoting renewable energy. To date it has invested almost £80,000 in grant payments to promote these objectives. Beneficiaries include: Cothrom Limited, South Uist; Kinloch Historical Society, Lewis; Western Isles Association for Mental Health, Stornoway; Back FC, Lewis; the West Harris Trust; and

the Hebrides Energy Community Interest Company, Stornoway. Chairman of the WIDT Angus Campbell said: 'In relation to the particular challenges which we face in the Outer Hebrides to increase renewable and alternative energy production in our region and lower the level of fuel poverty which currently stands at a Scottish high of 71 per cent, we are pleased to invite applications from community groups with a particular focus on addressing fuel poverty and making the most of the fantastic renewable

energy opportunities we have in our islands. The WIDT is benefiting communities across the islands and this is a small though significant indication of the type of community benefit that can accrue from renewable projects once we get the interconnector in place and the larger scale projects get under way.' If a community group in the Western Isles is looking to improve energy efficiency or develop a renewable energy scheme, it is invited to visit the website of the WIDT for more information.

# BUDDY HOLLY & THE CRICKETERS comes to the Nevis Centre, October 14, 2016, 7:30 pm. 24 Years of Rock 'n' Rolling The World! 2016



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It stars some of the finest actor-musicians in the UK whose combined West End credits include Buddy, Lennon, Forbidden Planet and Jailhouse Rock and was endorsed as Britain's most popular Buddy Holly act when the boys guested on BBC One's Saturday night live programme, "The One and Only", hosted by Graham Norton.

**The Nevis Centre**  
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The Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William  
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On the 7th September, Buddy turns 80; he and the boys will be celebrating with a special 80th Birthday party tour.

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**REVIEWS**  
"The audience were dancing in the aisles and roaring for more" The Stage  
"Buddy brilliant!" Graham Norton, BBC One  
"Fantastic...The best... tremendous night out...I can't praise the show enough" The Kent and Sussex Courier

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

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# Arena

## Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



Get in touch with your stories at [bodach@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:bodach@obantimes.co.uk)

### The ever-changing face of the NHS

Recent news coverage of staff shortages in healthcare across the highlands and islands has focused attention on just how far services have come in a couple of generations. Certainly we would all like the security of complete local healthcare services, but the National Health Service in Scotland is not immune from budget restrictions and difficult decisions have to be made about deploying resources for maximum benefit.

This is often difficult for many groups to accept. Those suffering from long-term illness, the very young and the very old often feel disadvantaged, inconvenienced or neglected when it comes to the availability of particular services; and I am sure every one of us has felt frustrated at the apparent difficulty of securing an appointment with a General Practitioner.

For the majority of the population the benefits of advances in medical science over the last 50 years far outweigh the disadvantages of inconsistent health care provision. Improved diagnostics, treatments and therapies in all fields of medicine have increased life expectancy and improved the quality of life for sufferers of chronic, acute and terminal conditions. Recently-built, multi-million pound community hospitals and integrated care centres have replaced a creaking network of cottage hospitals, and offer modern primary care services to patients who would formerly have been forced to travel long distances for appropriate treatment.

The days of the local doctor making house calls are over.

Village elders recall an era when the only motor car in the area belonged to the doctor, and I have my own memories of tweed-suited individuals carrying oddly-shaped black leather bags. Small armies of district nurses criss-crossed the countryside dealing efficiently and effectively with everything from cuts and bruises to emotional upset and bereavement; and patients accepted a combination of medicine, folk remedy and common sense advice.

Like every other type of building, hospitals come and go. The town of Oban, for example, once accommodated four of them. Dalintart Hospital was built as a poorhouse in 1862; the West Highland Cottage Hospital opened in 1896 and the County Hospital opened in 1909. Oban Maternity Hospital opened in 1955. All four closed in 1995, replaced by the new Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Now more than 20 years old, this purpose-built hospital provides acute services to the local area and medical and surgical services to the entire region. Specialists visit from other parts of the country and help provide care in three wards and a high dependency unit. In addition to accident and emergency services, the hospital accommodates the GP service and dental surgery.

Advanced diagnostics are available on site: x-ray, ultrasound, endoscopy, computerised tomography (CT) and echocardiography are supported by laboratory services. There is even a new MacMillan chemotherapy unit and a full suite of commu-

nity healthcare, therapy and rehabilitation facilities. Even 25 years ago some of these services would not have been available in rural hospitals.

Modern integrated community health facilities exist in Bowmore, Dunoon, Helensburgh Lochgilphead, Rothesay and Craignure, and have transformed healthcare for local and wider populations. Many specialist services are now within reach and long, difficult and stressful journeys to city hospitals are a thing of the past for many patients.

Still, the highlands and islands fail to attract healthcare professionals in sufficient numbers to meet increasing demand. Doctors, nurses and dental surgeons in general practice or particular specialisms and practitioners across a range of therapies are needed to service a population that is living longer, but long and unsocial hours are not especially appealing. Multi-disciplinary teams rely on GPs, nursing staff, pharmacists, allied health professionals and the Scottish Ambulance Service for round-the-clock care, but for some reason recruitment in rural areas is becoming an acute problem. In the face of outstanding improvement in community health facilities, there is worrying potential for a significant drop in the number of professionals available to deliver services.

We all know someone who has had life-changing support from their local healthcare professionals. Let us hope the highlands and islands continue to benefit from their expertise, commitment and care.



## dining out

### Lochaber

*Baywater Restaurant*  
at The Arisaig Hotel  
Main Road, Arisaig, Highland PH39 4NH

Enquiries@arisaighotel.co.uk  
**01687 450210**  
[www.opentable.co.uk/baywater-restaurant](http://www.opentable.co.uk/baywater-restaurant)

**THE EAGLE BARGE INN**  
The Only Floating Pub on the Caledonian Canal!

Fully licensed pub, restaurant & accommodation  
Specialising in Seafood.  
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[eaglebarge@btinternet.com](http://eaglebarge@btinternet.com)  
Dogs Welcome

**LOCH LEVEN HOTEL**  
[www.lochlevenhotel.co.uk](http://www.lochlevenhotel.co.uk)

**LOCH VIEW RESTAURANT**  
Enjoy best local seasonal produce in this stylish restaurant with amazing loch and mountain views, creative dishes executed with flair!

**OLD FERRY BAR**  
Award winning bar with over 50 gins to choose from, 60 malts, craft beers and perhaps the best cocktail list in the Highlands!  
Dog friendly bar with great food, real log fire and a terrace.

T. 01855 821 236 | E. [reception@lochlevenhotel.co.uk](mailto:reception@lochlevenhotel.co.uk)  
Loch Leven Hotel, Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish, PH33 6SA

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

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

**Regional Press**  
closer to home

**Alzheimer's Research UK**

**CHALLENGE TO REMEMBER**

**THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG**

**MEMORY FEST – OBAN** Tickets on sale now

The Wide Mouthed Frog,  
Dunstaffnage Bay,  
By Oban, PA37 1PX,  
Tel: 01631 567005

**Just Giving**

**Simply Live**

**MEMORY FEST OBAN**

Alzheimer's Research UK is the leading dementia and Alzheimer's disease research charity. Their vision is a world where people are free from the fear, harm and heartbreak of dementia. Their scientists have been behind some of the biggest breakthroughs in dementia research. They are working hard to raise awareness and tackle issues with key decision makers.

Memory Fest – Oban will therefore be raising money for the same cause and hope to do this while giving people a great night of entertainment at The Wide Mouthed Frog at Dunstaffnage.

The charity event/Halloween party is on Friday October 28, with all proceeds going to Alzheimer's research UK.

The Wide Mouthed Frog have some great entertainment lined up. Headlining the event is Simply Mo, winner of the best male vocalist at the Tenerife Entertainers' Awards. Scottish band Fingerhalo are also performing on the night with tracks from David Bowie and The Kinks plus many more.

The guitarist in Fingerhalo, Jo Callis, was the guitarist/keyboard player for the popular 1980s band Human League, famous for tracks such as Don't you want me baby?.

The night's events, which kick off at 8pm, include quiz, karaoke, disco, live music and free food, all for £10 per person.

We are also providing a night's accommodation, free meal and wine for best Halloween costume.

Rick Gothard at The Wide Mouthed Frog stated: 'Entrance to what is going to be a fantastic evening will be by ticket only. We are delighted to be organising this charity event for such a worthwhile cause. Come along and support Memory Fest – Oban.'

Tickets for this good cause will be going on sale on October 7and can only be purchased at The Frog. The price of £10 includes food.

All ticket sales will go to the Alzheimer's research UK charity to start the ball rolling.

# Grimsay set to sparkle with week of events and celebrations

GRIMSAY Week starts on November 1 with open houses, exhibitions, workshops, talks and teas, and ending with a blazing finale, 'Grimsay Sparkles', a ceilidh and bonfire on November 5.

This year's theme is Fearann's Cànan, or Land and Language, celebrating the skills, history and potential of Uist crofting communities.

Matthew Topsfield of Grimsay Community Association explained: 'There are so many exciting projects coming together on Grimsay and this seemed to be the right time for us to join together to celebrate them and the place we're in.'

'While our activities focus on delivering benefits to our communities today and into the future, they are deeply rooted in the history and culture of these islands. It is important that we recognise and preserve those traditions, but we must also revive and reinvent them to ensure they are sustained in the modern world. These events are not just a celebration of our heritage, but will give people an opportunity to learn or develop a skill that could open up new opportunities for them.'

The high point of the Grimsay week

programme will be the official opening of the Wool Centre on Friday November 4 where people will get an opportunity to view the new exhibition and retail space along with tours of the mill site.

New work using Uist Wool yarns has been commissioned from several designer-makers from the Outer Hebrides and this collection of garments, interior textiles and sculptural pieces will be premiered as part of the official opening event.

Uist Wool is also offering two special creative workshops with Berneray-based designer-maker Flora Kennedy of Inner Wild, and Catherine Slater of Travelling Yarns, who is a regular visitor to the Outer Hebrides from her home near Drumnadrochit.

Anyone with an inventive mind is welcome to attend and even if you class yourself as a novice knitter there will be plenty of expert support to guide you through these informal and fun workshops. Men are particularly welcome and all materials will be supplied.

Grimsay Community Association will launch its heritage and local food programmes, as well as future plans for the former manse site. Featured speakers

will be Dr Margaret Bennett on Eric Cregeen: Living Accounts of Island Life, Donald Cameron presenting a programme of recordings from the BBC and Dr Ken Davies asking What is Sustainability in Crofting?

Grimsay Boatshed Trust has preserved traditional boatbuilding skills on Grimsay through its training programmes for young people and by maintaining the fishing fleet at Kallin Harbour. You can learn about this skilled work, perhaps try your hand at some of the traditional methods involved and see many Grimsay boats on video.

The Blackland Centre will hold an open house on the croft at 5 Scotvein, inviting visitors to learn about progress in reclaiming blackland on the east side of the Uists, with a display of traditional (Stewart-built) and modern croft equipment.

Other local organisations and businesses also throwing their doors open to visitors include Uist Coastal Rowing Club and Kallin Shellfish.

The Grimsay Week programme can be found on the GCA Facebook page and at Ceann na h-Airigh. All events are free to attend, but some will require prior booking.

# Cove Park Unveils a Brand New Purpose-Built Artists Centre

Cove Park is opening a brand new purpose-built artists' centre. This £1.4 million development transforms the centre's ability to offer year-round individual and group residency opportunities to artists of all disciplines from Scotland and across the world.

Cove Park is a 12-bedroom residency centre on the coast, 40 miles west of Glasgow, that offers artists at all career stages from UK and abroad, time and space to develop new work, and form new professional connections.

The new centre, designed by architect Cameron Webster and named the Jacobs Building after Cove Park's founders, offers for the first time in centre's 15-year history a fit for purpose resource for public and residents alike.

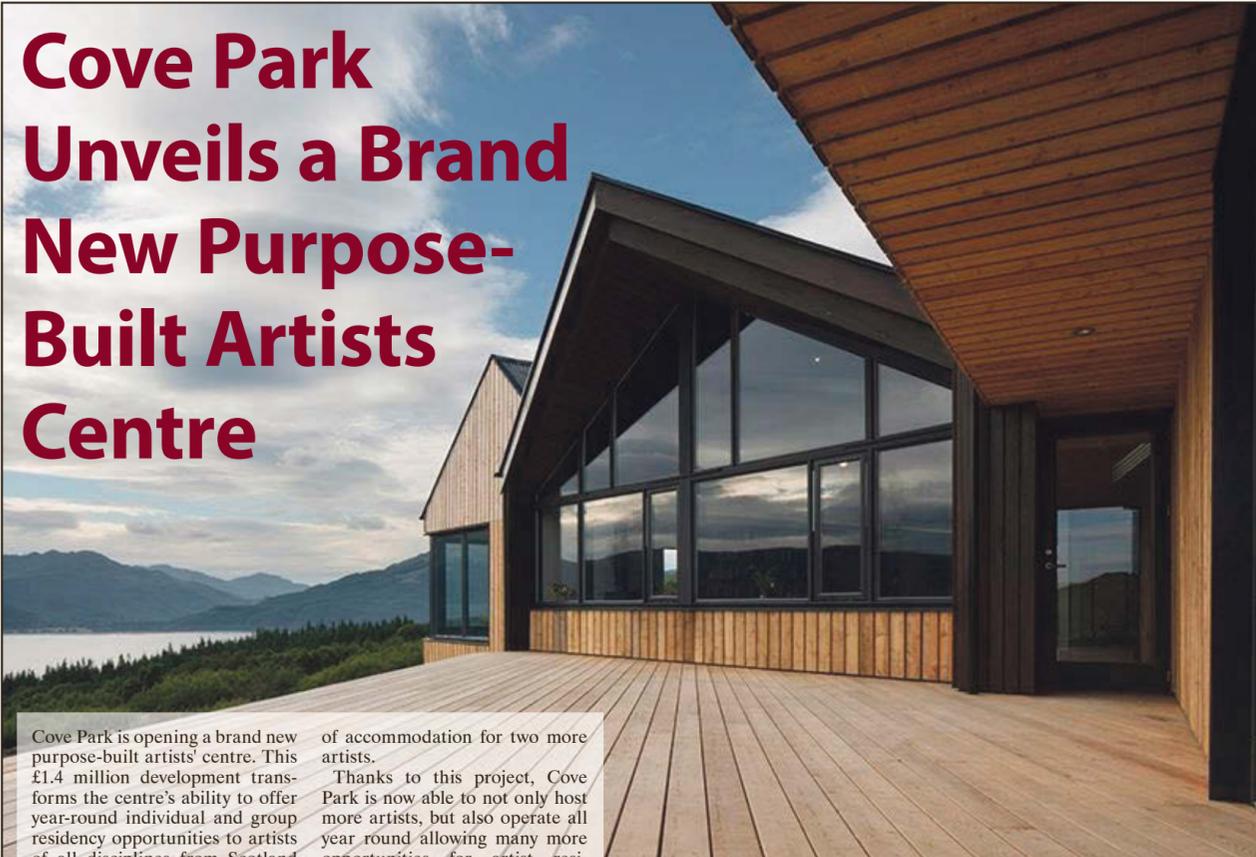
On the 50-acre site of natural beauty, with views over Loch Long and the Firth of the Clyde beyond, now stands a building designed for community and education events, rehearsals, exhibitions and meetings, all available free charge to Cove Park users. In addition to the artists' centre, this capital project included the build

of accommodation for two more artists.

Thanks to this project, Cove Park is now able to not only host more artists, but also operate all year round allowing many more opportunities for artist residencies. The centre was funded by a major capital award from Creative Scotland and a number of foundations and trusts.

Cove Park was founded in 2000 by Peter and Eileen Jacobs and has offered funded and self-funded residencies from one week to three months to some 1,600 artists. They range from distinguished practitioners such as Turner Prize-winners Simon Starling and Elizabeth Price, Booker Prize winner Margaret Atwood and acclaimed theatre director Tom Morris, to organisations such as National Theatre of Scotland, Scottish Book Trust, Glasgow School of Art and Royal Opera House.

Residencies actively respond to the diversity of contemporary artistic practice in all the art forms, whether performing or visual arts, crafts, literature or music.



# Iona takes centre stage in 'magical' new work by John Lowrie Morrison

ARGYLL artist John Lowrie Morrison OBE, known as 'Jolomo', is focusing on the 'magical' island of Iona for an exhibition of new paintings in Edinburgh.

John will explore his lifelong fascination with the island in 'Iona - Columba's Isle', which will be hosted by Scottish Art Portfolio at the Dundas Street Gallery until October 15. A regular visitor to the island for more than 50 years, he says he never gets tired of painting its magical light.

John said: 'I first went to Iona with a sketchbook in 1964 on Angus and Dan MacKechnie's wooden boat - no CalMac ferries in those days. The island anchored itself indelibly in my psyche - I am continually lured back to painting it.'

'Every visit brings up new thoughts and ideas. I have a studio on Mull and can see Iona from the big studio

windows. I never get tired of painting the island - even well trodden motifs become new on Columba's Isle.'

John Lowrie Morrison, who lives and works in Argyll, worked for 25 years in art education before making the decision to paint full-time. His distinctive colourful landscapes of Scotland quickly made him one of the country's most popular painters, with celebrities such as Sting, Madonna and Rick Stein buying his work.

He began to paint interiors for the first time recently, inspired by the windows of Iona Abbey. A lay preacher in the Church of Scotland, he is also inspired by the island's spiritual connections as the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland. A percentage of proceeds from the exhibition will go to support Carers Trust, of which John and his wife Maureen are vice presidents.





## Festival of Textiles and Fashion

21st, 22nd & 23rd October 2016 Corran Halls, Oban





**Workshops Talks Exhibitions**

**Children's Activities Marketplace Cream Teas**

Saturday 22nd October 7.30pm **Community Catwalk**

(Proceeds from tickets will be donated to North Argyll Young Carers Centre)

More Information at: [www.fasantafestival.org](http://www.fasantafestival.org)



## A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 6 - Thursday 13 October 2016

**DIARDAOIN 6 DÀMHAIR**  
THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER

17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** - Children's Programming

19.00 **Air an Toir** - Ishbel Ross from Skye on the Balkan Front WW1 (rpt)

19.30 **Beul Chainnt** - the Gaelic language (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** - News

20.30 **ÙR | NEW: Ò Mo Dhùthaich / From Uist with Love** - Episode 3

21.00 **Sàr-sgeòil: The Lewis Trilogy** (rpt)

22.00 **Rapal TV** - music (rpt)

22.30 **ÙR | NEW: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** - Mandela v De Klerk

23.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

23.30 **Taghadh bho Na Trads** - music (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 7 DÀMHAIR**  
FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER

17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** - Children's Programming

18.35 **Machair** (rpt)

19.00 **An Là** - News

19.30 **BÈO | LIVE: Rugby** - Edinburgh v Treviso

21.30 **Dualchas a' Chaisteil** - the story of renovating Lews Castle - Episode 3 (rpt)

22.00 **Seirm** - music from Blue Rose Code and Kathleen MacInnes (rpt)

23.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** - music quiz (rpt)

23.30 **Rapal TV** - music (rpt)

**DISATHAIRNE 8 DÀMHAIR**  
SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

16.00 **BÈO | LIVE: Rugby**: Zebre v Glasgow

17.55 **Prògraman na Cloinne** - Children's Programming

19.05 **Machair** (rpt)

19.30 **Craic** - Chat show (rpt)

20.00 **Taghadh bho Na Trads** - music including Manran, Skerryvore and others (rpt)

20.30 **Alba: 1984** - the news making the headlines (rpt)

21.00 **ÙR | NEW: Seirm** - music from Altan and Julie Fowlis

22.00 **A gu U: An do Bhlaith thu?** - archive programming (rpt)

23.00 **As an Eilean** - film based on book by Iain Crichton Smith (rpt)

24.35 **Belladrum 2015** - Highlights (rpt)

**DI DÒMHAICH 9 DÀMHAIR**  
SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER

12.50 **BÈO | LIVE: Challenge Cup** - Queen of the South v Linfield

15.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** - Children's Programming

17.25 **De a-nis?** (rpt)

17.55 **Donnie Murdo / Danger Mouse** (rpt)

18.30 **Seachd Là** - News Review

19.30 **Slighe Anndra** - the Church of Scotland throughout Europe (rpt)

19.55 **Binneas: Na Trads** - music short (rpt)

20.00 **Eòrpa** - Current Affairs (rpt)

20.30 **Ò Mo Dhùthaich** - From Uist with Love - Episode 3 (rpt)

21.00 **Tearmann/Home from Home** - the work of Scotland's hospices (rpt)

22.00 **A gu U: An do Bhlaith thu?** - archive programming - Episode 2 (rpt)

23.00 **Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** - Face

to Face - Mandela v De Klerk (rpt)

23.50 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

**DILUAIN 10 DÀMHAIR**  
MONDAY 10 OCTOBER

17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** - Children's programming

19.05 **Muir is Tìr** - nature and wildlife (rpt)

19.30 **Beul Chainnt** - the Gaelic language (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** - News

20.30 **ÙR | NEW: Dualchas a' Chaisteil** - following the Lews Castle renovation - Episode 4

21.00 **ÙR | NEW: Trusadh: Am Bonn Òir** - the story of the Mod Gold Medal

22.00 **Horo Gheallaidh** - music (rpt)

22.30 **Bannan** - Gaelic drama - Episode 3 (rpt)

23.00 **Disappearing Island An-diugh** - updating the profile of Barra - repeat from 1965 (rpt)

**DI CÌADAIN 12 DÀMHAIR**  
WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER

17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** - Children's programming

19.05 **Muir is Tìr** - Natural History (rpt)

19.35 **Grem Bidh** - the role of food in our culture and environment (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** - News

20.30 **ÙR | NEW: Eòrpa** - the biggest stories from around Europe

21.00 **ÙR | NEW: Bannan** - Gaelic Drama - Episode 4

21.30 **A Song of Crotal and White An-diugh** - Life on the Isle of Lewis updated from 1969 (rpt)

22.30 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** - music quiz (rpt)

23.00 **Sàr-sgeòil: The Lewis Trilogy** (rpt)

**DIARDAOIN 13 DÀMHAIR**  
THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER

17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** - Children's Programming

19.00 **Air an Toir** - Iain Mackenzie and his political career in New Zealand (rpt)

19.30 **Grem Bidh** - the role of food in our culture - Episode 2 (rpt)

19.55 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** - music (rpt)

20.00 **An Là** - News

20.30 **ÙR | NEW: Ò Mo Dhùthaich / From Uist with Love** - Episode 4

21.00 **An Dùbhan** - Sanjeev Kohli does Gaelic (rpt)

22.00 **Niteworks: Baile air Bhoil** - Niteworks and guests in Glasgow

22.30 **ÙR | NEW: Aghaidh ri Aghaidh** - Pepsi v Coca-Cola

23.25 **Bannan** (rpt)

bbc.co.uk/alba | [bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://bbc.co.uk/iplayer)

The BBC ALBA air a ruith le MG ALBA ann an co-bhuinn ris a' BhBC. | BBC ALBA is run by MG ALBA in partnership with the BBC.

## Viewpoint

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

It's a sign – but not one that many will be expected to pay any attention to.

This week the metal signpost listing things that people are not allowed to do at the pedestrian area on Stafford Street in Oban has sparked outrage amongst many readers who commented on our Facebook page.

The 'advisory only' post has been erected in a bid to resolve a row over young people using the area to play on their bicycles and scooters.

Many people have called for a skatepark to be created and *The Oban Times* agrees. It's a sensible solution – but only if the young people get involved to say what they want and help take the project forward.

*The Oban Times* would love to hear from young Obanites who want to see a skate/bike park created in the town and who are willing to get involved to help make the project a reality.

We're willing to help if you're willing to get involved.



## Days gone by – flashback to 1994

No wonder everyone was smiling in this photograph as there was a large donation being made to a good cause. Andy MacIntyre, the manager of Oban's Co-op, presented a cheque to Angus Smith, who was representing the Feis Latharna committee watched by tutors and pupils attending the Feis. Andy handed over a cheque for £1,500.

## Glasgow Letter

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

## Gaelic flat

WE ARE now one full month into autumn and that means the university year is well and truly under way.

Once again, the Glasgow University taigh na Gàidhlig (Gaelic flat) has new residents for the coming year.

Taigh na Gàidhlig is a fantastic scheme, established in 2009, which provides young Gaelic speakers with an opportunity to use Gaelic in their everyday lives in Glasgow, among their peers, and regardless of their chosen area of study or career aspirations.

It is the only scheme of its kind in Scotland.

I often reflect upon how good it is for the Gaelic language that everyone who goes anywhere near that flat, from the postman in the morning, to guests at the (very occasional!) parties will hear only Gaelic spoken within its walls.

This year's residents are Eilidh Cormack (Skye), Lorna Young (Oban), Hamish Macleod (Lewis), Jamie Macdonald (Tiree) and Robbie Greig (Edinburgh). What craic this team have been having in their first month in residence.

They have already been part of the Gaelic Department's oidhche faillte (welcome night) at which they all contributed wholly to the ceilidh which encourages all attendees to get up and give a turn. They also hosted a ceilidh in the flat itself, which I hear was a great success.

Most entertainingly, perhaps, some of them were also involved in the Comunn Oiseanach Gaelic 'sub crawl'. For those unfamiliar with the term, a sub crawl is the Glasgow



This year's Gaelic Flat residents, from left to right, Eilidh Cormack, Lorna Young, Hamish Macleod, Jamie MacDonald and Robbie Greig.

version of a pub crawl stopping to experience the local hostelries at every stop on the subway.

I have not yet heard any stories from the sub crawl – possibly because the participants are all aware that, if I did hear any, I would put them in *The Oban Times*.

The idea of the sub crawl is an interesting one and, although some of the station names are now different, it always reminds me of that classic Francie and Josie ditty: 'There was Partick Cross and Cessnock, Hillhead and Merkleand Street, George's Cross and Govan Cross where all the people meet.

'West Street, Shields Road, the train goes round and round. You've never lived unless you've been on the Glasgow underground.'

The first month now behind them, the real hard studying for their degrees will now begin in earnest.

However, the students of the Gaelic flat will be there all year – doing

a grand job promoting all things Gaelic.

## What's on

**Friday October 28:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

**Friday October 28:** The First Ever Eriskay Annual Gathering in the Glasgow University Union.

**Saturday October 29:** Glasgow Skye Association Marag supper in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

## Pub scene

**Park Bar.**

**Friday October 7:** Deoch 'n' Dorus.

**Saturday October 8:** Gunna Sound.

**Islay Inn.**

**Friday October 7:** The Keelies.

**Saturday October 8:** Parting Glass.

**Wednesday October 12:** quiz night.



## Social media

**THERE was heated comment after a sign was erected at Stafford Street saying: 'No cycling, ball games, skateboarding, scooter riding.'**

**Gregor Mcluckie** wrote: 'Yes let's put these up all over Oban, why not????? Tell me where the kids of Oban can go to do these things. The town is a joke nowhere for kids to go so they have to stay in or get themselves into trouble

and moved on for loitering in groups around the town. No park, skate park or any form of public place for them to go.'

**Saskia Cheney** suggested: 'Money would be better spent going towards providing an alternative. Everyone is all for kids having an active lifestyle yet the kids who aren't sat inside on their Play Stations have nowhere to actually

be active???' The council needs to sort their priorities!

**Maddy Johnstone** urged: 'Build a skatepark council and kids would have somewhere to go, there isn't much for kids in oban, so skatepark or something they'd love to have.'

**April Hendry** agreed: 'Poor kids so much for wanting our children to be out and about and active.'

## Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

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

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.

## Councillor was only performing his duty

Sir, I was intrigued by the column headline 'Hearing considers councillor's conduct' (*The Oban Times*, September 29). Eagerly I read on, expecting to hear that someone had fiddled their expenses, or perhaps attended a council meeting while under the influence of strong drink.

But my appetite for salacious details went unfulfilled because the only misdemeanour committed by the person of interest, Councillor Michael Breslin, was to criticise the judgement of some senior council employees, which is precisely the reason why we elect councillors in the first place.

It is called democratic accountability. Let me explain it to these disgruntled employees as simply as possible.

When your position involves spending very large amounts of the public's money and making decisions which affect their lives, then you must expect that the public will take a close interest in what you do with their cash. Therefore, the public elect councillors to scrutinise your activities on their behalf.

By raising objections (having a hissy fit in other words) because Councillor Breslin failed to show you 'the respect and courtesy due to them ... by raising matters relating to their conduct or capability in public', these employees and ex-employees demonstrate their complete ignorance of this principle and therefore their unfitness for their roles as public servants.

**S White,**  
Struan Cottage, Minard.

## Thanks for such generous support

Sir, I would like to thank all the good people who gave such wonderful and generous support on my sponsored walk to Iona recently.

My daughter, Ruth, who accompanied me every step of the way, and I have been so grateful for all the prayer support we received and that of St Conan and St Columba. The miles seemed to fly by and we arrived on Iona in great fettle.

We were particularly touched by the friendship we received en route – friendly waves, toots on the horn and thumbs-up signs.

We would particularly like to thank the blessing that the Rev Liz Gibson, Lochdon, gave us to help us on our way.

To donate, please visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Calum-MacFarlane-Barrow](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Calum-MacFarlane-Barrow).

God bless  
**Calum MacFarlane-Barrow,**  
Dalmally.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

'S IOMADH RUD BUIDHE nach òr agus 's iomadh rud bòidheach as fhiach a sheachnadh! Seo fear de na seanfhacail is bitheanta a chluinnear agus tha e fìor ann an iomadh seadh agus suidheachadh, fiù 's mar eisimpleir a thaobh dhaoine a bhith a' dol an sàs ann an cleasan cunnartach leithid bogsadh.

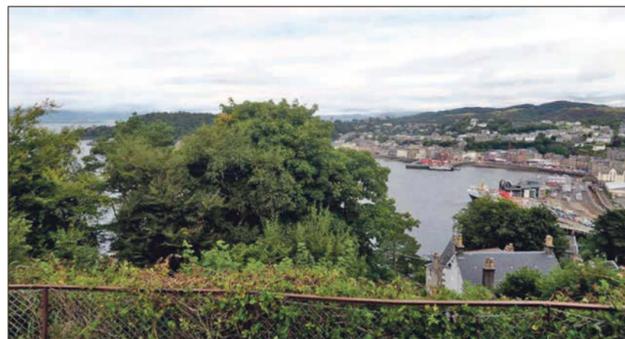
Ged a tha mion-phuingean chùmhnan choimearsalta gu math eadar-dhealichte seach co-dhùnadh pàirt a ghabhail ann an spòrs, feumaidh gu ìre an aon seòrsa tuigse air na cnapan-starra agus na cunnartan a dh'fhaodadh èirigh a bhith nam pàirt den obair-deasachaidh a dh'ionnsaigh leithid de chùmhnan.

Mar a tha mi air a ràdh an seo iomadh uair roimhe, choisinn CalMac dìlseachd agus taic nan coimhearsnachdan a tha a' bhuidheann air a bhith a' frithealadh fad iomadh bliadhna, agus cha b' iongnadh an toileachas a rinn a' mhòr-chuid de mhuinntir nan coimhearsnachdan sin ris an naidheachd gun do bhunnaich a' chompanaidh cùmhnan ri ochd bliadhna a tha tòiseachadh air a' mhìos seo fhèin.

Ach eadar fìor dhroch aimsir thar nan seachdainean a chaidh agus an trioblaid a dh'fhàg an t-aiseag Hebrides a' grunnachadh aig cidhe Loch nam Madadh, suarach cho soirbheachail 's a tha toiseach tòiseachaidh na cùmhnan ùr air a bhith dha CalMac.

Ach ged a dh'fhaodas co-fhaireachdainn a bhith againn dha luchd-stiùiridh is obrach na buidhne is iad a' stri ri seirbheisean a chumail a' dol an aghaidh dhùbhlain den t-seòrsa, 's ann air muinntir nan coimhearsnachdan air am bheil a' chùmhnan seo a' frithealadh a dh'fheumar cuimseachadh.

B' e feumalachd bhunaitich na cùmhnan a bhunnaich CalMac gun libhrig e seirbheisean deatamach dha gach coimhearsnachd a tha e a' frithealadh, agus bhiodh dùil gun tug eòlas mòr na buidhne lèirsinn dhan tagradh aige a thaobh dùbhlain aimsire is a leithid. Tuigear nach gabh leithid na trioblaid aig an aiseag Hebrides fhaicinn ro-làimh ach tha eòlas gu leòr air na duilgheadasan a tha ag



Trees are obscuring the wonderful views of Oban from Pulpit Hill.

## Oban is missing a fine tourism opportunity

Sir, Although we have lived in Alloa since 1991, I still think of Oban as our home town and, indeed, still have a house there, since my father-in-law died last year.

I recently took some relatives to the summit of Pulpit Hill to enjoy the wonderful vista of Oban Bay. Imagine my disappointment when I found the view spoiled by overgrown trees which are completely blocking bonny Oban Bay. It was once, but sadly now no longer a photographer's dream shot.

That was not my only disappointment, however. I feel much more could be done to enhance the environs, such as decent seating, upgraded lighting (one lamppost looked positively dangerous) and a few strategically placed flower beds/baskets.

Perhaps some interpretative signage to inform viewers about the scene before them would add to the overall experience. There are toilets there already so with just a bit more imagination and not an awful lot of expense the viewpoint could be turned into an excellent visitor attraction where people would want to linger and perhaps enjoy a picnic on a fine day.

Come on, Oban, a great opportunity is being missed here.

Perhaps Oban's BID team might like to add this project to its to-do list.  
**David McCann,**  
Alloa.

## Town centre building is a genuine eyesore

Sir, I refer to the supplement in *The Oban Times* entitled 'Oban town centre, a new era'.

How can Oban claim to have entered a new era when it allows the Boots building to hold prime position in its main street? Inside the supplement is a series of comparative photographs – then and now. All I can say to that is that the low buildings occupying centre stage in George Street in

Victorian times are far superior to the 'shacks' which occupy the site today.

I took a photograph on a recent visit to the town because I was genuinely astonished that this eyesore could be allowed to continue in that state. Even the wiring on the outside of the building is unlikely to meet regulations, never mind the dire visual impact of the facade.

I grew up in Oban in the 1950s and 1960s and make frequent visits to the town. I do acknowledge the progress made in certain areas but this particular negative example surely cannot be allowed to continue.

**Norman McDonald,**  
Woodhead Avenue, Kirkintilloch.

## Where have all the hooters gone to?

Sir, Last Hogmanay, to the great disappointment and disbelief of many Oban people, the ships in Oban Bay did not sound their horns at midnight.

What went wrong? Did they all have laryngitis? Why are Oban's old and anticipated traditions being eroded?

Please, Oban Port Authority and ships' officers, do not stop the hooters. Hogmanay is not the same without them resounding over Oban Bay, bringing in the new year.

**Ishbel Banks,**  
Gowan Brae, Oban.

## Congratulations to GB's paralympians

Sir, After team Great Britain achieved its best paralympics result in more than 30 years, we can all take pride in our country's almost unbelievable medals haul and sporting prowess.

Our country has come second ahead of the US in the games. I would like to pass on my congratulations and thanks to all of team GB for showing that once again Great Britain is a world beater.

**Alastair Redman,**  
Islay.

Ailean Caimbeul

èirigh nuair a bhriseas soitheach san t-seirbheis agus a dh'fheumar bàtaichean a ghluasad mun cuairt gus beàrnan a lannadh.

Tha e furasta a thuigsinn carson a bhios daoine mì-thoilichte nuair a tha an t-seirbheis a' fulang air sgàth trioblaid le aiseag air seirbheis fad' air falbh an àiteigin eile, agus le iarrtasan choimearsnachdan a' fàs airson leudachadh air na seirbheisean saoilidh mi gum bheil mòr-fheum aig cabhlach ChalMac air leudachadh ach am bi e nas uidheamaichte dèiligeadh ri trioblaidhean agus geallaidhean na cùmhnan a ghlaidheadh fad nan ochd bliadhna romhainn.

CALMAC is having a challenging start to its new eight-year contract delivering ferry services to the Clyde and Hebridean islands. Whilst the problems with the ferry *MV Hebrides* could not be anticipated the impact of adverse weather and breakdowns is well known to the company and will have been a core element of contract planning.

Communities expect the promised lifeline services to be delivered and perhaps the Calmac fleet needs to expand to better enable it to sustain these services.

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

## Le taic bho



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## 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.

# MULL RALLY 2016



## Crews race to register for island's event

APPLICATIONS for this year's Mull Rally opened and closed on August 3.

It took just 12 hours for the 177 spaces to be filled, with the first 150 entries coming in at one every 64 seconds.

This is three times as fast as last year, with more cars. The 2015 rally received 150 entries in 36 hours.

This took the event organisers by surprise. Writing on the website afterwards, they said: 'It is really encouraging to see that response and desire from competitors wanting to take on the challenge of the Mull Rally.'

'We all know that Mull is known as a challenging event in the far-flung corners of the earth but it's great that so many want to participate.'

The event, which will run from October 14-16, is now in its 47th year. The Tour of Mull Rally, as it was originally known, was the brainchild of the late Brian Molyneux and first ran in 1969 as a road rally.

The rally is based in Tobermory and is one of only two events in the UK where roads are closed and cars are allowed to rally over them.

The Mull Rally takes place over two nights and an afternoon. The race covers a total of 150 miles on the island's single-track roads.

This year's clerk of the course is Andy Jardine, who has served as the deputy clerk of the course for the past four years.

'The past four years have been a real privilege to work with Iain Campbell, and the wider team, to deliver what has become a resurgent Mull Rally,' Andy said after the announcement of his appointment, which was published on the official Mull Rally website.

'It's humbling to see the effort that so many officials and marshals put into making the event happen in such a professional way.'

'I hope that by taking on the role of

clerk and providing continuity, this team is maintained and continues to do what it does best.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Andy said: 'It's an exciting prospect [to be clerk of the course]. It's important to keep the rally going. There weren't an awful lot of volunteers this year. We are still looking for someone else [to take over as clerk of the course].'

'We have made some minor changes this year, but it's more or less business as usual.'

'There's a lot of people who are responsible for brining the event together, not just the clerk. Without them it would not happen.'

Hundreds of spectators from all over the UK, Ireland and much further afield make their way to the island in October for the event.

... continued on back page of pullout

## Helensburgh Subaru supports local rally team

Subaru's newest UK dealer, Helensburgh Subaru, is delighted to be sponsoring local entrants James MacGillivray and Ian Fraser in this year's Mull Rally - known as the 'best rally in the world'.

Both driver James and co-driver Ian are resident on the Isle of Mull and will be familiar faces in Argyll and within the rally community.

Every October, Mull becomes a hive of activity and the 47th year of this rally is no exception.

Rally crews from all over the UK and abroad will be testing their driving skills to the limits on the island's tough roads.

Helensburgh Subaru director Ernie Cowan said: 'I caught up with James and Ian recently and they are delighted with this new sponsorship from an Argyll company - and I am sure that his Subaru Impreza WRX will be ideally suited for the narrow twisty roads on Mull.'

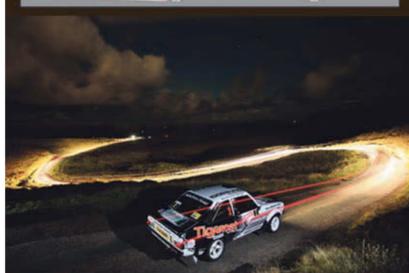
James said: 'The Subaru Impreza is well suited for Mull

with its breathtaking performance of the boxer engine combined with the stability of its symmetrical all-wheel drive system.'

'With the support of Helensburgh Subaru, Ian and I are looking forward to the challenge of the rally with its 160 miles of competitive driving.'

'Getting to the finish of the Mull Rally is a result in itself, but hopefully come Sunday we will be standing on the top step at the finishing ramp.'

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Wishing all competitors a successful and safe Mull Rally 2016

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## Mull Rally 2016

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\*winner will be announced 21/10/16

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

We would like to wish all competitors and spectators a safe and successful Mull Rally 2016

# MULLRALLY 2016



Photographs  
courtesy of  
Lindsay  
Photo Sport

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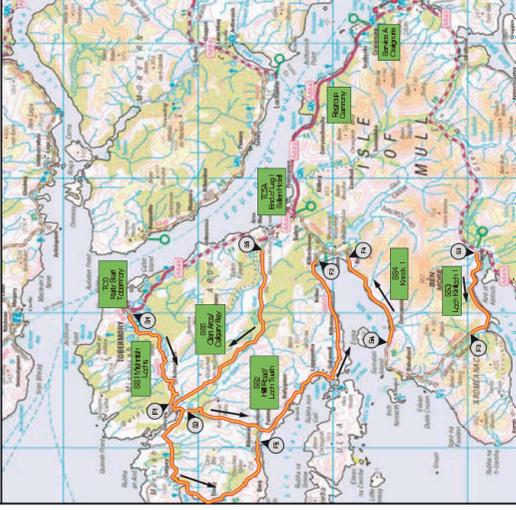
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Best of luck to all drivers at this year's Mull Rally

### 2016 Mull Rally Leg 1 Friday 14th Oct



SS	SS Dist	Liaison	Dist	Target	Time	Due	Open
SS1	0	START - Tobermory	0.00	18:00	18:00	18:00	18:00
SS2	1	Mishnish Lochs 1	0.30	00:05	18:05	18:05	18:05
SS3	2	Hill Road/Loch Tuath	6.77	0.84	00:06	18:22	18:22
SS4	3	Loch Kinloch 1	14.51	10.77	00:28	20:09	20:09
SS5	4	Loch Kinloch 2	18.92	4.58	00:12	20:29	20:29
SS6	5	Loch Kinloch 3	21.29	16.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS7	6	Loch Kinloch 4	23.57	18.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS8	7	Loch Kinloch 5	25.84	20.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS9	8	Loch Kinloch 6	28.11	22.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS10	9	Loch Kinloch 7	30.38	24.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS11	10	Loch Kinloch 8	32.65	26.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS12	11	Loch Kinloch 9	34.92	28.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS13	12	Loch Kinloch 10	37.19	30.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS14	13	Loch Kinloch 11	39.46	32.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS15	14	Loch Kinloch 12	41.73	34.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS16	15	Loch Kinloch 13	44.00	36.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS17	16	Loch Kinloch 14	46.27	38.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS18	17	Loch Kinloch 15	48.54	40.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS19	18	Loch Kinloch 16	50.81	42.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS20	19	Loch Kinloch 17	53.08	44.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS21	20	Loch Kinloch 18	55.35	46.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS22	21	Loch Kinloch 19	57.62	48.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS23	22	Loch Kinloch 20	59.89	50.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS24	23	Loch Kinloch 21	62.16	52.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS25	24	Loch Kinloch 22	64.43	54.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS26	25	Loch Kinloch 23	66.70	56.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS27	26	Loch Kinloch 24	68.97	58.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS28	27	Loch Kinloch 25	71.24	60.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS29	28	Loch Kinloch 26	73.51	62.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS30	29	Loch Kinloch 27	75.78	64.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS31	30	Loch Kinloch 28	78.05	66.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS32	31	Loch Kinloch 29	80.32	68.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS33	32	Loch Kinloch 30	82.59	70.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS34	33	Loch Kinloch 31	84.86	72.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS35	34	Loch Kinloch 32	87.13	74.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS36	35	Loch Kinloch 33	89.40	76.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS37	36	Loch Kinloch 34	91.67	78.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS38	37	Loch Kinloch 35	93.94	80.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS39	38	Loch Kinloch 36	96.21	82.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS40	39	Loch Kinloch 37	98.48	84.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS41	40	Loch Kinloch 38	100.75	86.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS42	41	Loch Kinloch 39	103.02	88.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS43	42	Loch Kinloch 40	105.29	90.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS44	43	Loch Kinloch 41	107.56	92.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS45	44	Loch Kinloch 42	109.83	94.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS46	45	Loch Kinloch 43	112.10	96.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS47	46	Loch Kinloch 44	114.37	98.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS48	47	Loch Kinloch 45	116.64	100.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS49	48	Loch Kinloch 46	118.91	102.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS50	49	Loch Kinloch 47	121.18	104.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS51	50	Loch Kinloch 48	123.45	106.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS52	51	Loch Kinloch 49	125.72	108.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS53	52	Loch Kinloch 50	127.99	110.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS54	53	Loch Kinloch 51	130.26	112.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS55	54	Loch Kinloch 52	132.53	114.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS56	55	Loch Kinloch 53	134.80	116.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS57	56	Loch Kinloch 54	137.07	118.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS58	57	Loch Kinloch 55	139.34	120.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS59	58	Loch Kinloch 56	141.61	122.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS60	59	Loch Kinloch 57	143.88	124.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS61	60	Loch Kinloch 58	146.15	126.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS62	61	Loch Kinloch 59	148.42	128.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS63	62	Loch Kinloch 60	150.69	130.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS64	63	Loch Kinloch 61	152.96	132.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS65	64	Loch Kinloch 62	155.23	134.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS66	65	Loch Kinloch 63	157.50	136.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS67	66	Loch Kinloch 64	159.77	138.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS68	67	Loch Kinloch 65	162.04	140.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS69	68	Loch Kinloch 66	164.31	142.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS70	69	Loch Kinloch 67	166.58	144.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS71	70	Loch Kinloch 68	168.85	146.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS72	71	Loch Kinloch 69	171.12	148.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS73	72	Loch Kinloch 70	173.39	150.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS74	73	Loch Kinloch 71	175.66	152.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS75	74	Loch Kinloch 72	177.93	154.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS76	75	Loch Kinloch 73	180.20	156.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS77	76	Loch Kinloch 74	182.47	158.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS78	77	Loch Kinloch 75	184.74	160.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS79	78	Loch Kinloch 76	187.01	162.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS80	79	Loch Kinloch 77	189.28	164.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS81	80	Loch Kinloch 78	191.55	166.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS82	81	Loch Kinloch 79	193.82	168.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS83	82	Loch Kinloch 80	196.09	170.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS84	83	Loch Kinloch 81	198.36	172.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS85	84	Loch Kinloch 82	200.63	174.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS86	85	Loch Kinloch 83	202.90	176.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS87	86	Loch Kinloch 84	205.17	178.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS88	87	Loch Kinloch 85	207.44	180.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS89	88	Loch Kinloch 86	209.71	182.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS90	89	Loch Kinloch 87	211.98	184.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS91	90	Loch Kinloch 88	214.25	186.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS92	91	Loch Kinloch 89	216.52	188.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS93	92	Loch Kinloch 90	218.79	190.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS94	93	Loch Kinloch 91	221.06	192.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS95	94	Loch Kinloch 92	223.33	194.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS96	95	Loch Kinloch 93	225.60	196.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS97	96	Loch Kinloch 94	227.87	198.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS98	97	Loch Kinloch 95	230.14	200.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS99	98	Loch Kinloch 96	232.41	202.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS100	99	Loch Kinloch 97	234.68	204.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS101	100	Loch Kinloch 98	236.95	206.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS102	101	Loch Kinloch 99	239.22	208.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS103	102	Loch Kinloch 100	241.49	210.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS104	103	Loch Kinloch 101	243.76	212.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS105	104	Loch Kinloch 102	246.03	214.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS106	105	Loch Kinloch 103	248.30	216.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS107	106	Loch Kinloch 104	250.57	218.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS108	107	Loch Kinloch 105	252.84	220.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS109	108	Loch Kinloch 106	255.11	222.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS110	109	Loch Kinloch 107	257.38	224.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS111	110	Loch Kinloch 108	259.65	226.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS112	111	Loch Kinloch 109	261.92	228.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS113	112	Loch Kinloch 110	264.19	230.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS114	113	Loch Kinloch 111	266.46	232.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS115	114	Loch Kinloch 112	268.73	234.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS116	115	Loch Kinloch 113	271.00	236.73	00:38	22:04	22:04
SS117	116	Loch Kinloch 114					



...continued from front page of pullout

The rally relies on volunteer marshals and radio operators to help with the running.

Before this year's Mull Rally starts, the organisers are putting on an event in the rugby club in Oban.

On the Thursday before the rally, October 13, a marshal training night will commence, providing interested individuals with the necessary know-how to become a marshal.

The event is free of charge and

everyone is welcome. It will take place from 8pm.

The rally also relies on sponsors. Beatson's Building Supplies is the main sponsor of the rally for the second year running.

The company also has a high profile at Knockhill, Scotland's national motorsport centre, where its name dominates the circuit on the famous bridge which straddles the Fife race-track.

The official website, www.mullrally.org, provides regular news, seeded entry lists, spectator information and

programmes, photographs and additional information.

And there is also an official Mull Rally page on both Facebook and Twitter, which provide up to date news. They can be found by searching Mull Rally.

Local drivers are at the forefront of the seeded list, with Calum Duffy, from Dervaig, being seeded in first place and Paul Mackinnon, from Tobermory, in second and John MacCrone, from Dervaig in third.

However, one local driver won't be

able to take part in the race this year.

Alasdair Currie from Tobermory has been forced to pull out with a serious hand injury. Unfortunately for the 18-year-old, his plans were ruined after an accident last month. An operation took place in Glasgow to mend severed

tendons in his hand, and the news soon came that the young driver would not be able to compete or have use of his left hand for several months.

Currie said: 'I'm gutted to be missing out on the final two rallies of the season. The nature of the injury was seriously unlucky.'

Currie and his co-driver Steven Brown recently announced they would run/cycle the Mull Rally route to raise money for Marie Curie and RNLI. Even though the pair have been forced out of competing,

they will still complete their charity fundraiser.

Steven will continue to run/cycle, while Alasdair will have to walk/run the route. They urge everyone to donate online at Just Giving.

Currie told *The Oban Times*: 'Even though I can't compete, I will do what I can to stick by my word and support my chosen charity and help the car club in any way with the running of the event.'

'I will be back next year - bigger, better and just as determined. Nothing will stop me.'

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We would like to wish all competitors and spectators a safe and successful Mull Rally 2016

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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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## Top 10 tips to keep your home secure this autumn

*Autumn is just around the corner; it's that time of year when we're settling into the new school year and contemplating when to put the heating back on! Not only is it a perfect time to prepare your home for the cooler weather, but also to make sure it is as safe and secure as it can possibly be.*

It's important to consider the security of your home especially when you're back at work after the summer holidays, particularly as burglaries are more likely to take place during the day, between 11am and 5pm.

Although many people have contents insurance cover, nothing can compensate for the stress it causes, or replace the personal items and gifts you may lose as a result of a burglary.

NHBC, the UK's leading warranty provider and standard setting body for new homes, offers the following security tips to help you keep your home and possessions safe and secure.

### Improve the security potential of your doors

It is important to have robust locks on both the front and back

doors. Ensure entrance doors to your home are fitted with securely fixed locks or a multi-point locking system with at least 1000 differs (the number of possible keys for a given lock). Also ensure that you have a latch and deadlocking system.

### Do you have sliding back doors?

These should be secured by way of a multi-point locking system and have an anti-lift device fitted so that doors cannot be lifted from their frame from the outside.

### Check your window locking systems

Ground floor windows and any others that are easily reached by climbing are recommended to be fitted with lockable devices/handles which cannot be released without a key. If you own a home built in the last 10 years, this may already have modern security locks

### Be secure, but also safe

Some doors can be locked from the inside. If that's the case with yours, and it's locked using a key, make sure you have a spare key in a convenient place nearby, so that you can get out quickly in an emergency. Newer houses are fitted with locks on the front door which have a thumb turn on the inside to provide a quick escape without the use of a key.

### View outside

Ensure that you have a wide angle view of the area immediately outside the main entrance door to check on callers.

Newer properties may already have a through-door viewer or clear glazing either to part of the door or a convenient window which provides a view of the main entrance.

You may also want to replace your front door if it looks tatty, it's the kind of thing that will attract a burglar's eye.

### Consider a light sensor...

Crime can be prevented by external detection security lighting that switches on after dark when someone is nearby, illuminating the general area. It's highly effective in deterring potential intruders and therefore definitely worth considering if your home doesn't already have it installed.

### ...and alarm systems

A house alarm systems acts in two ways – to deter intruders, and detect the opening of a window or a door. Some systems can also be linked up to a mobile phone number letting the owner know the alarm has been triggered.

### Lock rear entry gates

Make sure your back garden is as private and secure as possible.



Many burglaries start at the back, where no-one can see them taking place.

### Keep ladders and other equipment safe

Do not leave ladders, steps etc. visible in the garden, as they attract the keen eye of the burglar and makes things easy for them, so always ensure that they are kept out of sight, ideally in a locked shed or garage.

### If you're away - try to make your home look occupied!

Leave the lights on in the evening (but not just hall or landing lights) or use an automatic time switch.

But, if you're away for a length of time, arrange for a neighbor to generally keep an eye on your home while you are away.

Mark Jones, NHBC's head of house building standards, said: 'There are a number of simple steps people can take to ensure they don't fall victim to this disturbing crime.

'From burglar alarms to security lights, these measures can add value to properties and offer homeowners peace of mind in helping to make sure their homes and belongings are well protected.

'People who live in newer properties may already have security locks, burglar alarms and security lighting included as standard.

'But there are also a number of simple measures people can take to keep their homes and property safe from burglars.'

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### Average age of first-time buyers continues to increase

The average age of first-time buyers in the UK is now at its highest for some time as the gap between the youngest and the oldest first timers hits seven years, according to a new study released this week.

Findings released by the Halifax have shown that the average age of a first-time buyer nationwide has now hit 30-years old, as the continually rising price of property means that many younger people are priced out of buying and cannot get themselves a footing on the ladder.

However, it is the gap between the youngest and oldest average first timers that will be most surprising. Halifax said that in the areas where new buyers are significantly younger than the average age at which someone would buy a home, the average is 27-years old. But when it comes to areas that are above the nationwide average, this rises to 34.

The report also shows that this gap is becoming somewhat geographic, with the northern UK being more favourable to people yet to hit 30.

'The majority of areas in the country where the average age of first-time buyers is two to three years below the national average of 30 are mostly locations where house prices are typically lower both in monetary terms and in relation to earnings, factors that help to reduce the size of the deposit needed,' said Chris Gowland, mortgages director at the Halifax.

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<p><b>Falls View Apartments, North Connel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Floor Apartment</li> <li>2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Views of Connel Bridge &amp; Loch Etive</li> <li>Sought after location</li> <li>Private parking</li> <li>EPC Rating D65</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £180,000</b></p> <p>5 Falls View Apartments - A modern ground floor apartment located in the popular settlement of North Connel overlooking Connel Bridge and the falls of Lora. This well maintained two bedroom apartment is presented in walk in condition, forming part of an attractive block of four apartments.</p>	<p><b>Ardconnell Villa, Oban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious Ground Floor Apartment</li> <li>3 Bedrooms &amp; 1 Study</li> <li>1 bathroom &amp; 1 additional WC</li> <li>Popular Residential Area</li> <li>Communal Garden &amp; Private Area</li> <li>EPC Rating - D64</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £185,000</b></p> <p>Ardconnell Villa - A deceptively spacious three bedroom ground floor apartment, one of four apartments within a traditional stone villa, located in a popular residential area close to Oban's many amenities and attractions.</p>	<p><b>Pulpit Road, Oban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Storey End Terrace</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom</li> <li>Located in Popular Residential Area</li> <li>Excellent Condition</li> <li>Ideal Family Home</li> <li>EPC Rating - D58</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £170,000</b></p> <p>54 Pulpit Road - This two storey end terrace located in the popular Pulpit Hill area of Oban boasts spacious rooms and the practical layout make this an ideal family home. The ground floor accommodation comprises a large lounge leading to the dining room and then kitchen at the rear of the house.</p>	<p><b>Callicvol, Tobermory, Isle of Mull</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached House</li> <li>4 Bed / 2 Bath</li> <li>Elevated position</li> <li>Stunning views over Tobermory Bay</li> <li>Large decking</li> <li>EPC Rating - D62</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £250,000</b></p> <p>Callicvol - A detached 4 bedroom house in an elevated position above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Currently run as a small B&amp;B Callicvol comprises a large lounge/diner, separate lounge, kitchen, family bathroom and two double bedrooms on the ground floor. Upstairs are two further bedrooms and a shower room.</p>
<p><b>Glenelg, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid Terraced House</li> <li>5 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Detached Workshop</li> <li>Central location</li> <li>Walking distance to amenities</li> <li>EPC Rating - F35</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £240,000</b></p> <p>A deceptively spacious 5 bedroom mid-terrace house in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. The property comprises a small porch which leads to a spacious lounge dining room on the ground floor with the kitchen and family bathroom at the rear. Upstairs there are 5 bedrooms with 1 ensuite shower room.</p>	<p><b>George Street, Oban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beautifully Presented Top Floor Flat</li> <li>1 Bedroom/1 Bathroom</li> <li>Stunning Views over Oban Bay</li> <li>Town Centre Location</li> <li>EPC Rating - C72</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £98,000</b></p> <p>121 George Street provide a rare opportunity to purchase a town centre flat with spectacular sea views. Accessed from a common stone stairwell, with hall, double bedroom, shower room, large lounge with views of McCaigs Tower and a bright spacious kitchen diner with sea views; this property is in walk-in condition and would make an ideal first time home, holiday rental or buy-to-let investment.</p>	<p><b>Cove, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached House</li> <li>6 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Elevated situation close to centre of Tobermory</li> <li>Driveway parking and easily maintained garden</li> <li>Opportunity to generate excellent rental income</li> <li>EPC Rating - D63</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £250,000</b></p> <p>Cove - A spacious 6 bedroom house currently sub divided into two 3 bedroom flats. Cove offers a fantastic opportunity of purchase a large family home or spacious flat with the potential to generate additional rental income as a holiday let or long term rental.</p>	<p><b>St Marys, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious Detached Bungalow</li> <li>3 Bedrooms/1 Shower Room</li> <li>Private situation in Upper Tobermory</li> <li>Private garden</li> <li>Walk in condition</li> <li>EPC Rating - D66</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £185,000</b></p> <p>3 St Marys is a bright and spacious bungalow set in large garden grounds, in walk-in condition and in a quiet location above Tobermory making it an ideal family home comprising lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and shower room.</p>

# FARMING NEWS

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## Calls for urgent action from UK government on outstanding issues

URGENT decisions must be made by the UK government on a number of crucial food, farming and fisheries issues to protect rural communities, Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing has said.

In a series of letters to Defra and the Treasury, Mr Ewing has called on the UK government to provide immediate clarity and certainty on a number of key farming, food, forestry and fisheries issues that are directly impacting on the Scottish rural economy.

These include:  
■ Confirmation that the less favoured area support scheme (LFASS) in 2017 will continue as normal.

■ Confirmation that applications under the agri-environment climate scheme, for which contracts usually start in January 2016, will be honoured in full by the Treasury, even if the contracts may not all have been issued and confirmed before the autumn statement.

■ Clarity on when and how DEFRA intends to take forward the recommendations of the Red Meat Levy Forum.

■ Clarity as to whether the Treasury has agreed to a call to extend its EU funding guarantee to cover the outstanding £360 million Pillar 2 and EMFF funding that is vital to the rural economy.

■ Agree the UK level fisheries con-

cordat which governs the allocation of quota in key fish stocks.

■ Settle the long-standing issues relating to the seafood levy and Scottish Convergence funds.

Mr Ewing said: 'My number one priority is to protect the economic future of our rural economy and communities that are particularly vulnerable to the uncertainty caused by the result of the EU referendum.'

'I am concerned the UK government is neglecting the day job and I am concerned about the impact this may have on the rural economy. There are a range of domestic farming- and food-related decisions that, since the EU referendum, are sitting with UK ministers, which if made, I believe, could provide much needed certainty and clarity to our rural communities.'

'This ranges from our calls for the UK government to extend its EU funding guarantee and passing on in full the convergence uplift to Scotland, to acting on the recommendations of the Red Meat Levy Forum report and the fisheries concordat.'

'It is the Scottish Government that is providing certainty and building growth in Scotland's rural economy in these uncertain times. I would urge the UK Government to do their bit and make these urgent decisions to protect those living in our rural communities.'

## Relief for dairy farmers as price for milk rises at last

BELEAGUERED dairy farmers are enjoying an increase in the price they receive for milk after suffering years of deflation.

Dairy farmers have endured three years of falling milk prices due to pressure from supermarkets to lower prices and falling overseas sales of British milk.

Last summer the squeeze came to a head when protesters paraded cows through supermarket aisles claiming retailers were paying less than the cost of production.

Last month farmer-owned milk suppliers in the UK have announced price increases in October: First Milk is increasing its price to members by two pence per litre, while Arla is increasing its price by 1.6p. Dairy Crest, one of the biggest dairy companies in

the UK, also upped the price it pays farmers for milk by one pence a litre.

The 'modest' price hike was cautiously welcomed by farmer Graeme Kilpatrick, milk committee chairman for the National Farmers Union of Scotland, but he added they do not go far enough. 'These positive milk price moves will be welcomed by members of these co-ops with the promise of more to come as we head into winter, the most challenging time for milk production as feeding and housing costs kick in,' he said.

'While these are significant increases, the sad reality is that milk prices are still a long way short of production costs and it is imperative that if we are to rebuild long-term confidence in milk production that this momentum is carried right into next year.'

## Difficult task to select best Islay beef herd – but best overall named as Neriby

THE ISLAY beef herd competition was held on Saturday October 1 with an excellent turnout of herds. Judge Jimmy Cowie from Aberdeen had the difficult task of selecting from a high standard of stock but, with the help of his son-in-law Richard, chose the following.

Results were as follows:

**INDIVIDUAL COW** 1st Starchmill  
2nd Neriby 3rd Cruach

**TEAM OF COWS** 1st Strachmill  
2nd Knocklearach 3rd Neriby

**INDIVIDUAL AUTUMN CALF** 1st  
Ardnave 2nd Startchmill 3rd  
Uiskentuie

**INDIVIDUAL SPRING CALF** 1st  
Neriby 2nd RSPB-Aoradh 3rd  
Cruach

**BEST OVER ALL CALF** Neriby

**TEAM OF AUTUMN CALVES** 1st  
Ardnave 2nd Starchmill 3rd  
Uiskentuie

**TEAM OF SPRING CALVES** 1st  
Neriby 2nd Starchmill 3rd  
Craighens

**BEST OVER ALL TEAM OF CLAVES**  
Neriby

**HIGHLAND HERD** 1st Easter  
Ellister (A Wiggins) 2nd Kinnabus  
(D Laing) 3rd Easter Ellister  
(Dawson)

**NATIVE HERD** 1st Mulindry 2nd  
Craighens 3rd Ballymeanach

**SMALL HERDS** 1st Cruach (N  
McDonald) 2nd Torrandaroch 3rd  
heatherfield

**BEST OVER ALL HERD OF THE DAY** 1st Neriby 2nd Craighens 3rd  
Knocklearach

A big thank you to all the sponsors, all the entrants as without them we would have not such a good day along with anyone that contributed to make the day it was.



Herd at Mulindry.



Herd at Craighens.



Calf at Black Park.

## MARKET PRICES

**SALE REPORT FOR SALE HELD AT CALEDONIAN MARTS LTD ON TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2016.**

**CALEDONIAN MARTS LTD, (Tuesday 27th September 2016) had forward 2436 Prime Lambs, Ewes and Tups.**

1406 Lambs averaged 170.4p. Top price per head was £101 for Beltex's from Doune Farm, West Lundy, and to 205p from R A Campbell, Meikle Seggie. Quality fletcher Lambs dealer on the week, plainer and leaner types at last weeks levels.

Leading Prices:-  
32kg - 39kg  
Texel £64 Arnprior, 170p Balquhatstone  
Mains  
Texel Cross £64 & 165p Bellside  
Cont Cross £63.50 Bellside, 165p  
Auchenloch  
39.1kg - 45.5kg  
Beltex £89 and 205p Meikle Seggie  
Texel £87 Pett, 202p Meikle Seggie  
Beltex Cross £87 Strageath, 194p Meikle  
Seggie

Texel Cross £87, 193p Pett  
Cont Cross £87 Meikle Seggie 193p  
Strageath  
Cont £83 The Moor, 191p Pett  
45.6 - 52kg  
Beltex £100 and 202p West Lundy  
Beltex Cross £98 and 200p West Lundy  
Texel £95 and 198p Meikle Seggie  
Cont £83 The Moor, 191p Pett  
Cont Cross £92 Faulds, 193p Strageath  
Cont £92 Pett, 193p Meikle Seggie  
Also forward were 1015 Cast Ewes and 15  
Tups. Cast Ewes averaged £51.01 with  
252 heavy ewes averaging £64.98 selling  
to £127 for a Suffolk from J Christie, West  
Carse, Gargunock. 339 export ewes  
averaged £39.41 selling to £58 for a pen of  
BF from J Heggie, Carden, Fossoway and  
to £58 for a pen of Cheviots from R & A  
Fletcher, Naemoor, Rumbling Bridge.  
Tups averaged £65.80 selling to £116 for  
a Charolais from D Maitland Gardner &  
Partners, Culdees, Muthill

Other Leading Prices

Suffolk  
£89 West Carse  
£75 Cairn  
£69 Aytton  
£66 Badyen  
Texel  
£84 Lochend  
£80 Glenalmond  
£79 Hardiston  
£78 Aytton  
£77 Arnprior  
£76 Hill of Armnore, Easterton &  
Bankhead  
Blackface  
£56 Rockfoot  
£55 Home Farm  
£51 Cretlevane & Standingfauld  
£49 Auchleskine  
£48 Immeroin  
Beltex  
£75 Lochend  
Cross  
£75 Bankhead  
£72 Carden  
£68 Belstruther  
£67 Standingfauld, Hill of Armnore

**Oban - Caledonian Marts Ltd (Tuesday 27th September 2016) sold 3636 Breeding Ewes & Gimmers and Ewe Lambs.**

A large ringside of buyers forward, resulted in Oban Market having the best trade for genuine hill ewes on the West Coast.

1334 BF Ewes averaged £55.40 (+£9.85 on the year), selling to £84 from J McNicol & Sons, Turnault, purchased by P J Laidlaw & Sons, Knowehead, Kippen.  
719 Cheviot Ewes averaged £73.10 (+£12.10 on the year), selling to £88 from R Strachan, Cailaich, Isle of Mull, purchased by James Drife, Netherhill, Crawfordjohn.  
204 BF Gimmers averaged £66.49 (+£3.51 on the year), selling to £82 from A MacNeil, Tiraghoil, Isle of Mull, purchased by F Worrell, Tormaukin, Glendevon.  
411 Cross Gimmers averaged £84.80 (+£22.30 on the year), selling to a top of

£140 twice for Cheviots from A MacNeil, Tiraghoil, Isle of Mull and Texels from S MacCallum, Achna-bheinn, Lochgilphead.  
239 BF Ewe Lambs averaged £40.03 (-£5.35 on the year) selling to £72 from CP Barrington, Ardachy, Isle of Mull.  
335 Cheviot Ewe Lambs averaged £53.17 (+£10.95 on the year), selling to £82 from Caddleton Farms, Ardmaddy Castle, Oban.  
394 Mule Ewe Lambs averaged £80.80 (+£12.32 on the year), selling to £86 from D MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch.

Leading Prices:-  
BF Ewes  
£74 Achalach  
£72 Glengorm Estate  
£68 Mingary  
£66 Rhemore  
Cheviot Ewes  
£86 + £85 Antium  
£80 Fasgadh  
£80 Barnbromin  
£80 Slaterich  
BF Gimmers  
£880 Carnasserie  
£78 Mingary  
£78 Ballygrundle  
£72 Calva  
Cheviot Gimmers  
£120 Antium  
£112 Caddleton Farms  
£110 Ballimakillichan  
£98 Balure (Tayinloan) & West Drimvore  
Texel Gimmers  
£135 Saulmore  
£125 Inion  
£105 Tullietem Farms  
Mule Gimmers  
£112 Dalvore  
£106 Calva  
£100 Homestead  
£100 Calva  
Suffolk Gimmers  
£115 Homestead  
BF Ewe Lambs  
£54 Turnault  
£54 Ardlarach  
£54 Scammadale  
Cheviot Ewe Lambs  
£70, £66 + £62 Caddleton Farms  
£62 Slaterich  
£62 Barnbromin  
Mule Ewe lambs  
£85 + £84 Fiart

£85 Tyree  
£84 Saulmore

**ISLAY SALE - FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2016**

Principal lots & prices

Top prices per head

LAMBS  
SUFFX:  
£75.50 - Carrabus: £71.50 - Pairc A  
Chlissan: £68.00 - Octofad: £67.50  
- Uiskentuie, Bayview, 108 Frederick  
Cresc & Balmartin: £66.50 - Starchmill:  
£66.00 - Craigfad: £65.50 - Kilchiaran:  
£64.50 - Octofad, Islay Estates & Craigfad:  
£63.50 - Duich, 108 Frederick Cresc & Sa-  
naigmor (G Bignal): £63.00 - Uiskentuie  
£62.00 - Achnach: £61.50 - Woodend  
& Kilchiaran: £60.50 - Craigfad.  
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## Busy times on campus as dozens of visitors stay for study periods

By Ewen Campbell, SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

AUTUMN is just around the corner and the store lamb and calf sales are in full swing. All the lambs on our Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms have now been weaned, with some kept for fattening in the shed here at Kirkton while others have gone to Oatridge, near Edinburgh. The lambs are looking well, in spite of the wet summer and the first batch will be ready to go to the abattoir very soon. We have also been busy checking our ewes to decide which ones to keep on for breeding next year (stock draw time). We have been checking their weight, condition, teeth and udders, to name a few. Ping Zhou, our PhD student who is looking at the differences between the Scottish blackface and the Lleyn ewes, has been busy measuring the pelvic dimensions of each individual ewe. It took us two days to measure them all with a calliper. Ping is looking to see whether there is any connection between these measurements and lambing difficulties/mortality at lambing time.

The calves have also recently been weaned and sent to Oatridge for the winter. The cows are now back grazing on the hill, where they have been during the summer. They are part of our Moorland Management Plan, which, in turn, is part of the agri-environment scheme which we have recently signed up to. There is plenty of grass for them to eat up there at the moment and we will leave them there as long as possible.

As well as dealing with all our beasts here on the farm, we have also been very busy with visitors. The school year has started, which meant that we got a lot of SRUC new students coming here to experience the 'real farming life'. At the beginning of September, we have had 80 MSc students from SRUC Edinburgh campus who came and stayed in our wigwams at Auchtertyre. They visited the farms and my colleague John Holland told them all about the environment, biodiversity, grassland management and other research we carry out here. The students were from a range of courses - environmental protection and management, soil, food security, plant health and ecological economics. Quite a mixed bunch but they all enjoyed their visit.

Two weeks later, it was the turn of the undergraduates to come. More than 100 BSc students (agriculture, animal science, environmental science, rural business) from SRUC Edinburgh campus came for their freshers' week and stayed three days in the wigwams. They used Kirkton and Auchtertyre as a base for different site visits around the area. They spent a day with my colleagues and myself, and heard about the range of activities we are doing on electronic identification (EID) and handling systems, targeted selective treatment of worming of lambs, precision livestock farming, genetic improvement of the ewes, breed differences, cattle production, grassland management and tourism diversification business with the wigwams. Hopefully, this visit will have given them a good idea of what their studies will mean in practice, and it should encourage them to do well in the next four years.

So, once again, a busy month for us here at SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre.

## Challenge 'urges' MSPs to question CAP process and whether IT is fit for job

NFU Scotland has urged MSPs to use the opportunity to challenge Scottish Government officials over the flawed delivery of CAP support in 2015, and to seek assurances on what is being done to deliver 2016 payments.

The union also urges MSPs to establish whether the IT system will ever be fit for purpose and be capable of delivering payments accurately and on time in the future.

The union's call came ahead of the Scottish Parliament's public audit committee taking evidence last Thursday September 29 on Scottish Government's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Futures programme - the IT programme that has failed in its delivery of CAP payments to farmers and crofters.

The union has urged committee members to consider the following when questioning Scottish Government officials responsible for the CAP futures programme.

'NFU Scotland president Allan Bowie said: 'Deep flaws within the CAP futures programme, and its inability to accurately deliver 2015 support payments in a timely manner, placed the whole rural economy in jeopardy last spring.'

'Audit Scotland has questioned whether the CAP futures programme will ever be fit for purpose and this evidence session provided MSPs with an opportunity to drill down on the reasons for that failure and for key Scottish Government officials to identify what is being done to rectify the failings.'

'The blunt truth is that there are almost 700 farmers and crofters who have yet to receive some or all of their 2015 basic payments.'

'Combined with balance payments outstanding from other schemes, that means tens of millions of pounds are still missing from the Scottish economy and the flawed IT system is primarily to blame.'

'It is totally unacceptable that technical glitches still hinder the ability of officials to give an unambiguous reason to claimants as to why they have not been paid, as well as a clear timetable for when their payment will be received.'

'In addition to this, many businesses that have received a payment in full or in part for 2015 schemes are yet to receive an official statement confirming how their payment has been calculated and what schemes each payment relates to. That is vital for tax and accounting purposes and Scottish Government must give a date as to when these notifications will be issued.'

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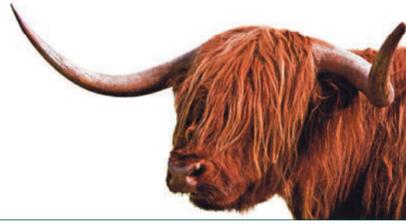
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# HIGHLAND CATTLE SHOW & SALE

Sunday 9th & Monday 10th October 2016



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EACH year, under the auspices of the Highland Cattle Society, Oban Caledonian Livestock Mart hosts a spring bull sale with buyers flying in from all over Europe to bid for top quality Highland cattle to improve their own folds, followed by a great female show and sale in October, which also brings buyers from all over Europe.

The 119th annual Highland Cattle Autumn Show will take place at Oban Livestock Centre, Upper Soroba, on Sunday October 9, followed by the sale on Monday October 10, with both events starting at 10am.

Trophies, prizes and awards will be judged by Mr Robert Phillip of Green Farm, Hellfield, for the best heifers, calves and cows, and Ms Melissa Sinclair of Pollok Fold will judge the best young handler.

Highland cattle, famous for their shaggy coats of thick flowing red hair and long horns, are well suited to the sparse hill grounds of western Scotland where they originated. The breed has a long and distinguished ancestry in Argyll and some of the best examples of the breed are from Argyll and the Islands. Animals are regularly sold at well over 2000 guineas each.

According to the Highland Cattle Society, the breed has changed little over the years and there are written records dating back to the 18th century. The Highland Cattle Herd Book, which lists pedigrees, was first published in 1885 and new folds (as herds of Highlanders are known) are added to the society's database each year of British Highlanders. The breed standard was first set down in 1885 and has been used ever since.

New folds are founded every year both at home and abroad and, in recent years, Highland cattle societies have been started in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Holland, Finland, France, Switzerland and Norway – and there are also High-

landers in Luxembourg, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland and the Faroe Islands.

In the British Isles, folds are found from the furthest south to the extreme north on many different types of ground varying from the slopes of the Sussex Downs and the fenlands of East Anglia, to the windswept machars of the Outer Hebrides.

While the breed is remarkably versatile and can adapt to many different terrains, there is universal agreement that it does best in the west of Scotland on poor mountain land with relatively high annual rainfall and cold westerly winds.

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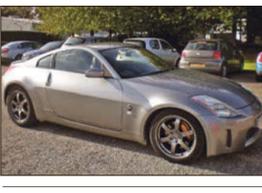
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## argyllshire advertiser

Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

### Maternity Cover

The Argyllshire Advertiser has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry **trainee reporter** to join our busy team to cover maternity leave.

The person we are looking for will ideally have passed their NCTJ Prelims, including shorthand, be multi-media literate, and unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch, and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full, current driving licence.

As well as writing for the newspaper, they will be expected to take occasional pictures on the job and contribute to our social media channels.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, plus initial financial help towards accommodation.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

WYVEX MEDIA   THE ARRAN BANNER

## campbeltown courier

Incorporating Argyllshire Advertiser

### Trainee Reporter

Here at Wyvex Media, publisher of The Oban Times, the west Highland's best-selling weekly newspaper, we pride ourselves on producing quality grassroots journalism.

Our weekly paid-for newspaper, the Campbeltown Courier has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry young trainee reporter to join our busy team.

Based at our Campbeltown office, the person we are looking for will ideally have passed their NCTJ Prelims, including shorthand, be multi-media literate, and unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch, and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence.

As well as writing for the newspaper, they will be expected to take occasional pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as private health care and an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: [Alison Arden - ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:Alison.Arden@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

WYVEX MEDIA   THE ARRAN BANNER

## Marine Husbandry Staff

Based in our Loch Nevis Operations

Scottish Sea Farms are pioneers in the farming of superior quality Scottish salmon, reared with unrivalled husbandry in the West Coast and Highlands of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland. Recently awarded Business of the Year 2016 in Scotland's Food and Drink Excellence awards, we pride ourselves in providing a training and personal development plan designed to add to the skills of our staff and enable rapid career progression.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

### Senior Marine Husbandry Staff - with Critical Equipment Specialisation

A unique role designed to undertake planned preventative maintenance of site equipment including generators, vessel engines, outboards, small plant, net cleaners, feed systems, incinerators forklifts etc. Showing leadership in health & safety and working with site staff to keep critical equipment in optimal condition. Would be ideal for an aspiring engineer keen to become involved in Scotland's highly successful aquaculture industry. Specialist training will be provided. Applicants to be dynamic, meticulous and excellent communicators.

### Experienced Marine Husbandry Staff

You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of skills including fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety. Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

### Trainee Farmer

Applications are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

All positions are full time, working a 40-hour week, Monday to Friday with 1:3 weekend working required on a rota system. In return, we will offer an attractive salary dependent on experience along with pension scheme, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme. **A current driving licence is essential. To find out more, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email [recruitment@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:recruitment@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.**

Closing date: Friday 21st October 2016.



**Driver/Pupil Escort** (part time/term time/permanent)  
**£15,819 - £16,765 (pro rata)** **Ulva Primary School, Isle of Mull**  
 Ref: CTF01152

**Duty Officer** (full-time/permanent)  
**£20,165 - £21,388** **Corran Halls, Oban** Ref: CMC00279

**Business Advisor** (full-time/permanent)  
**£32,447 - £35,494** **Lochgilhead or Helensburgh** Ref: DVE0063

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date for all posts:  
 21 October 2016.  
**To apply visit our website**

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**blue triangle**

**Project Worker - Oban**  
 Full-Time: 35 hours per week.  
 Salary: SCP18: £18,813 - SCP22: £20,871 per annum.  
 This post is for a Project Worker in our Solas Service, which provides both accommodation and support for five single people male and female aged over sixteen.  
 We are also recruiting for Relief Workers on an ongoing basis. Information regarding this position can also be found on our website.

**Assistant Project Manager - Oban**  
 Part-Time: 30 hours per week.  
 Salary: £26,043 - £28,527 per annum (pro-rata).  
 You will be expected to demonstrate and excel in this important leadership role, working closely with the Project Manager. You will guide and motivate staff to provide a high quality service to services users. You will have knowledge of homelessness and tenancy sustainment issues as well as proven abilities in key working, staff supervision and team working. It is also essential that you are a competent practitioner in both housing management and housing support.

Closing date for applications is 21st October 2016 at 5pm.  
 Any informal inquiries please contact Ian Batt, Operations Director on 0141 285 6322.

To apply, please visit:  
<http://www.btha.org.uk/items/BTHA-Jobs> and submit an application form to [cdonaghy@btha.org.uk](mailto:cdonaghy@btha.org.uk), or by post to **Cara Donaghy, Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, 3rd Floor, 100 Berkeley Street, Glasgow G3 7HU.**

Registered Charity No SC010858.

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**North Argyll House**  
 Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

**Senior Care Officer**  
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 Morag A Telfer 01631 562168

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**01631 770301**

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If you are interested, please call 07702 442 481 or send your cv to [Neil.blamires@kingdom.co.uk](mailto:Neil.blamires@kingdom.co.uk)

**LEGAL SECRETARY/TYPIST**

Full time position available in very busy legal office (one year's maternity cover initially but may be extended). Duties will include audio typing, reception and other general administrative duties. Secretarial/typing experience essential. Salary will be dependent on experience.

Apply in writing, enclosing your C.V. to **Anderson Banks, 22 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AT** or by email to [jmclaren@andersonbanks.co.uk](mailto:jmclaren@andersonbanks.co.uk) no later than Friday 14th October 2016.

**Sign up for job alerts at hijobs.net**

**RECRUITMENT**

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS**

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

Call now to place an ad in our Public Notice section. Tel: 01631 568000

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 online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/04269/FUL	Land 310M NW Of Silver Hill, Acharacle		Erection of house and installation of private drainage system
16/04205/PIP	Land 615M South East Of Moss Of Keppoch, Arisaig		Erection of house, formation of vehicular access, installation of septic tank and soakaway (renewal 13/02638/PIP)

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**Application for Apportionment Moss and Blain Common Grazings**

Karen MacGillivray of 16 Moss intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 0.425 hectares for the purpose of providing an access to her croft house. Any comments on the application should be lodged with the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW before November 3, 2016. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**Forestry Commission Scotland**  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

**NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

Forest Enterprise Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following Woodland properties:

Name	Area	Grid ref.	Location
Airdura	approx. 200 ha.	NM 671 314	by Craignure, Mull
Glen Forsa	approx. 101 ha.	NM 606 417	by Slen, Mull
Doctors Wood	approx. 14 ha.	NM 683 461	by Lochaline, Morvern
Longrigg Wood	approx. 87 ha.	NM 800 623	by Strontian, Morvern
Great Glen Woods	approx. 224ha.	NM 765 677	by Torlundy, FortWilliam

Enquiries to Forest Enterprise Scotland at – [ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
Full details are being sent to the relevant Community Council and Non Government Organisations.  
[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 – 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/02557/LIB	Erection of 5 signs affixed to the building (illuminated and non-illuminated) and repainting of shop	33 Main Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office
16/02293/PP	Demolition of coal shed, extension to dwellinghouse and erection of shed for bike hire business	Annabost Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6QJ	Sub Post Office Dervaig
16/02545/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse, erection of replacement dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Sonass Ardentalen Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SF	Oban Area Office
16/02105/PP	Erection of 6 dwellinghouses	Land South of Fasadale Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
16/02468/PP	Alterations and extension to guest house including roof terrace and repainting of facades of existing building	1 Argyll Terrace Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PB	Tobermory Area Office
16/02477/PP	Erection of 15 metres high lattice telecommunications tower and associated works	Land North West of BT Radio Station Kiloran Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay
16/02538/PP	Installation of 7 external uplighters	Bowling Alley 56 Shore Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4NT	Oban Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

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As from 1 January 2017

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Up to 10 metres £5  
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Up to 10 metres £50  
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Over 20 metres £200.00

**General Quayside Usage**  
Single Usage £5.00  
Annual Usage £50.00

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**First Registration of a Croft**  
Sean Reid has registered his croft, 204 Arivegaig, Ardamurchan & 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 May 25, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C3048

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED**  
Mr J Henderson  
19 Moss, Tiree  
4.86.58471  
0.34 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
Condition - With fencing conditions. Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)  
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

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

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**DIAMOND WEDDINGS**

**CAMPBELL – STEWART** – At Oban Old Parish Church by Rev. Wm. MacDonald on October 2, 1956, Duncan to Joan.

**DEATHS**

**JAMIESON** - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on October 1, 2016, in his 87th year, John (Ian) Jamieson, husband of the late Helen, (nee Munro), father of Anne and Christine. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Wednesday, October 12 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

**LIPROT** - On September 18, 2016, Alan, North Argyll House, Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, formerly of Tigh-Air-Oisean, Clachan Seil, by Oban, husband of the late Jane Liprot.

**MACKINTOSH** - (Balintore/Oban). Peacefully in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on Wednesday September 28, 2016, Colin Thomson Mackintosh, Main Street, Balintore, (formerly of Glenshallach Terrace, Oban), dear partner of Sylvia, much loved father and father-in-law of Avril and Andy and loved by all the extended family and friends. A service was held in Nigg Old Church on Tuesday October 4, followed by an interment in Kiltearn Cemetery, Evanton. Enquiries to Alasdair Rhind, Funeral Directors, Sutherland House, Bank Street, Tain.

**McLEAN** - Kenneth. After a short period of illness, on September 23, 2016 at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, Kenneth McLean (aged 87), much loved husband of the late Annie McLean for 61 years, beloved father of Kenny, Lachlan and Flora, and a much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar on Friday October 7, 2016 at 10.30am. Family flowers only. Donations will be accepted for Clydebank Asbestos Group.

**MENZIES** - Suddenly but peacefully, at home, 40 Bruce Drive, Stenhousemuir, on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, Kenneth Alexander, in his 44th year, formerly of 13 MacDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead, dear partner of Kirsty, loving father of Calum and Kian, son of Joy and the late Kenneth Menzies, much loved brother of Jamie and a dear nephew, cousin and uncle. Funeral held at Falkirk

Crematorium, on Thursday, October 6, 2016.

**MONCRIEFF** - Surrounded by her family, at the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Clydebank, on Tuesday September 27, 2016, Elizabeth Anne, (Betty), much loved wife of Ken, a loving mother, grandmother, aunt and friend. A Service for the Celebration of her Life, will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Thursday (today), October 6 at 1.00 p.m.

**NICOL** - Peacefully in London on September 30, 2016, Angus Evers Nicol, aged 83 years; son of the late Phyllis Mary Evers Nicol, and of the late Henry James Nicol, formerly of Kilninver, Argyll; much loved father of Catharine and Augusta and grandfather of Genevieve and Samuel; dear brother of Elspeth. Funeral mass at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Tuesday October 18 at 11.30 a.m., followed by interment at Kilninver Cemetery. A Requiem Mass will be held at the Brompton Oratory, London, on Friday October 21 at 11.00 a.m.

**RALSTON** - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on October 2, 2016, aged 84 years, Margaret, beloved wife of the late James, much loved mother, mother-in-law, sister, aunt and friend. Funeral at Glenorchy and Innishail Parish Church, Dalmally, on Tuesday, October 11 at 1.00 p.m.

**YOUNG** - Jacky (John) of Kinlochleven, passed away October 1, 2016. Funeral Service will take place at Church of Scotland, Kinlochleven on Friday October 7 at 12 noon, followed by interment at Kinlochmore Cemetery. Donations in lieu of flowers to Crossroads Lochaber. The family of the late Jacky Young would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends, neighbours, doctors, nurses and night carers for all their care and attention.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACKAY** - The family of the late John Norman, who passed away September 13, 2016, would like to thank everyone for their kind words and memories shared. Special thanks to the staff of the Lynn of Lorne Nursing home and Ward B, Lorn and Islands hospital for their care and support. Thanks also to Rev. Jeff McCormick for the touching funeral service at Achnaba on September 21. Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn, the Falls of Lora for their

excellent catering and all who attended the funeral and their kind contributions to the collection for the RNLI.

**McLUCKIE** - Jean, Roy and Gillian, the family of Paul, (son of the late George), who sadly passed away on September 13, 2016, wish to thank all family and friends for support and kind expressions of sympathy. Thanks to Rev. George Cringles for a lovely service and to all who attended at Dunbeg Church on September 24. Thanks to Ian of D & A Munn and Royal Hotel staff for support and kindness.

**MEMORIAMS**

**CRAIG** - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grampa, John (Jack) Craig, who died October 10, 1993. As time goes by without you And days turn into years They hold a million memories And so many silent tears Loved and remembered always. - Irene xx

**CRAIG** - Not a day goes by without a thought and tear And the constant wish that you were near. - Carole, Neil, Allan, Graham and Alison xx

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law, grampa and great grampa Donald, who died October 5, 2010. Loved and remembered always.

**CRAIG** - Not a day goes by without a thought and tear And the constant wish that you were near. - Carole, Neil, Allan, Graham and Alison xx

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law, grampa and great grampa Donald, who died October 5, 2010. Loved and remembered always.

**MACLEAN** - Fondest memories of our dear mother Bella, who passed away October 3, 2007, also our dear father Lachlan, who passed away June 14, 1992. Loved and remembered every day

**McGRATH** - In loving memory of our dear dad and grampa, Joseph, who died October 2, 1979. Time changes many things but not the sadness this days brings

**McTAGGART** - Treasured memories of my dear husband and our dad Ian, who passed away on October 10, 1995. Dearly loved and so very sadly missed. Also, remembering loved ones gone before. - Love Hilda, Gwen and Ian William, Glencoe.

**MILLS** - Cherished memories of Billy, a loving husband, dad, father-in-law and grampa, who sadly passed away October 6, 2008. Your memory is my keepsake With which I shall never part God has you in his keeping I have you in my heart - Your loving wife - Helen xxx As time unfold another year Memories keep you ever near

Silent thoughts of time together Hold memories that will last forever - Love Violet, Helen, Gordon, Billy, Gordon Jnr and Paul xx

**MUNN** - In loving memory of Angus, a dear husband, dad, father-in-law, who died October 4, 2015. Remembering you is easy We do it every day But missing you is something That will never go away - Nella, Janice and Donnie.

**NICHOLSON** - Treasured memories of my darling wife Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993. Twenty three years have passed Since I saw you last I shared with you such happy days

**CRAIG** - Not a day goes by without a thought and tear And the constant wish that you were near. - Carole, Neil, Allan, Graham and Alison xx

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law, grampa and great grampa Donald, who died October 5, 2010. Loved and remembered always.

**CRAIG** - Not a day goes by without a thought and tear And the constant wish that you were near. - Carole, Neil, Allan, Graham and Alison xx

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**Obituary Mrs Lynn Galbraith – 1940-2016**



MRS Lynn Galbraith, 76, of Eildon, Longsdale Road, Oban, passed away suddenly after collapsing on Saturday September 10 in the early morning at Oban hospital. She was born on November 7, 1940, in Arizona, USA. Mrs Galbraith worked as a teacher in England for

30 years before moving to Oban in 1990 with her husband Colin Galbraith. Together they ran the Esplanade Post Office for 24 years. Her cremation service was held on Friday September 15 at Cardross near Helensburgh. It was a short service as Mrs Galbraith

had wished. Everybody was invited to have soup and sandwiches after the service. Mrs Galbraith was a popular and well-known lady in Oban who will be solely missed by family and friends. She is survived by Colin, son Robert and granddaughter Sinead.

**Thought for the week**

**Justice ... God's For It!**

'THEREFORE the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him' - Isaiah Ch 30 V18

I have lost count of the number of times that I have uttered the phrase, 'There's no justice in this world!' Like most Scots, my understanding of 'justice' is limited to the notion of fairness, the law and the courts - yet there is much more to justice than meets the eye. The Hebrew word for justice is 'mishpat'. Widely used in the Old Testament, it means to treat people equally and is about giving people what they are due, whether punishment or protection or care.

'Mishpat' also means giving people their rights. The Bible often highlights the need to care for and speak up in favour of widows, orphans, immigrants and the poor. In biblical times, these people were at the margins of society, living at subsistence level, sometimes only days away from starvation. In 21st-century Scotland, we could expand this group to include asylum-seekers, the vulnerable (through substance abuse and/or psychiatric problems), the homeless, single parents, elderly people and the victims of abuse. Another aspect to the biblical idea of justice is the word 'tzadeqah' usually translated as 'being righteous'. In the Bible, 'tzadeqah' refers to day to day living where all relationships in family and society are conducted with fairness, generosity and equity. In scripture, 'tzadeqah' and 'mishpat' frequently appear together. In the Gospel of Matthew, giving to the poor is described as 'acts of righteousness'. In the Old Testament, Job describes every failure to help the poor as sin ... an offence against the very nature of God who is for the poor. It is heartening therefore to note that many Scots not only understand the true nature of justice, but are prepared to step up to the mark with their time and finances in support of the poor and the vulnerable. Seems that there is true justice after all ... and it pleases God too!

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**GRADUATION**

**Sean Alexander MacPhail**  
Younger son of Brian and Joanne MacPhail, Tobermory, recently graduated from University of Northumbria with a BSc (2:1 Hons) in Physiotherapy. Sean is a former pupil of Tobermory High School. He now works for NHS in Newcastle upon Tyne. Sean is the younger grandson of Betty and the late Tommy MacPhail, Tobermory and Joan and Robert Tait, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**GRADUATION**

**Katy Marshall**  
Katy recently graduated from Glasgow University with a degree MBChB in Medicine and is now practising in the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. Katy is the daughter of Alan and Wendy, sister of Andrew and granddaughter of Senga and the late Gordon Marshall. Katy attended Milnathort Primary and Strathallan schools in Perthshire.

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# Rebecca stars in another Mid Argyll Triathlon success

ONCE again the MacQueen Bros Mid Argyll Triathlon delivered on its reputation as one of the most fiercely contested - and friendliest - events on the calendar.

A triathlon that promotes community participation, last Sunday's competition also attracted some of the best athletes from across Scotland.

That feel-good factor from the Olympics and Paralympics was clearly still around, with the superlative results of Team GB and Paralympics GB perhaps encouraging some stunning performances on the Mid Argyll course.

In total there were 134 entrants competing in this multi-sport challenge (500m swim, 20km bike and 6.5km run) hoping to be the next Brownlee or Vicky Holland. New personal bests were set and athletes exceeded expectations, spurred on by enthusiastic support from friends, families and club mates.

In the individual race there was clearly going to be some intense competition at the sharp end of the race, but equally there was nip and tuck in the individual race categories with inspirational performances by Doug Wood in the super vin-

tage 70-plus age group and Mid Argyll Triathlon Club's Sue Allen in the vintage 60-plus categories both putting in super strong and determined performances to win their respective categories by some distance.

The stand-out performance on the day was by Mid Argyll Triathlon Club's Rebecca Helliwell, overall winner in the female race.

### Superb

Coming out of the swim Rebecca was in 10th place, but she put in a superb cycle to haul herself into second place, coming off the bike second fastest - giving her a three-and-a-half minute lead for the run. This was unassailable, as a strong and consistent run meant she was able to hold her lead and won by 27 seconds, ahead of Amy MacGregor Penicuik (1:23:50) and Gillian Fowler from Glasgow (1:24:08) in third.

First male home was Neal Robertson of Glasgow Tri Club, whose consistency across all three disciplines gave him a comfortable win by two and a half minutes from Gregor Stewart, Glasgow (1:07:26) and in third place Michael Kinsella, Glasgow Tri Club (1:07:37).

Other highlights in the other age group categories included Lorne Barrie from Lochgilphead winning the junior male category in a great time of

### Triathlon

1:28:08. Lorne's swim was just superb in a time of 8:24.

The female super veteran category was won by Christine Caterson, but a strong finishing Melanie Peacock-Chmielewska of Mid Argyll Tri club came home in a personal best 1:27:11 - just 20 seconds behind.

The female vintage category saw Sue Allen dominate to win, but in second place was Pauline Perman 1:46:28 and Mid Argyll Tri Club's Marjorie Leighton secured a personal best 1:48:10.

The local male and female categories were keenly contested, with Mid Argyll Tri and Cycle Club members battling for bragging rights.

The first local male triathlete home was Iain MacNicol in 1:21:50, with a fast finishing Colin MacVicar in second place (1:22:44) ahead of Kris Gordon (1:25:57).

The first local female triathlete was Rebecca Helliwell with Melanie Peacock-Chmielewska, Castleton (1:27:11) and Morag MacNicol, Cairnbaan (1:35:36) in third.

The team race is always the first heat away and this year there were 14 teams involved - and some priceless banter between the relay team members.

First out of the water was the Glasgow Uni Tri team 2, fol-



Winners in the female classes, left to right, Sue Allen, winner in the vintage category; veteran winner Rebecca Helliwell; and first senior Amy MacGregor.

lowed by the GU Tri Freshers and Glasgow Uni Girls in third. Ace and 'Any old Iron' were in fourth and fifth. With the top five separated by less than two minutes, the bike leg was going to be crucial.

### Unassailable

Glasgow Uni Tri team 2 had a superb bike, giving them what looked like an unassailable four-to-five-minute, 45-second lead over the other three university tri teams and Some Old Iron. But with the fastest team run of the day, Some Old Iron were able to come through the field - catching the leader with 300m to go to claim the win

by just 13 seconds. The junior team of Joe Payne, Ben Smith and Gregor McGeachy also produced some great performances, beating some of the adult teams and hopefully they will be back to defend their title next year.

A complete list of results is available from the Mid Argyll Triathlon Club website.

### Results:

Individual events:  
Male senior (1st male) - Neal Robertson, Glasgow Tri Club 1:04:59  
Female senior - Amy MacGregor, Penicuik 1:23:50  
Female veteran - Rebecca Helliwell (1st female), Mid Argyll Tri Club 1:23:33

Male veteran - Robert McGonigal, Gourrock 1:10:41  
Male super vet - Martin Duthie, G72 Tri Club 1:08:43  
Female super vet - Christina Caterson, Glasgow Tri Club 1:26:51  
Female vintage - Sue Allen, Mid Argyll Tri Club 1:37:49  
Male super vintage (70+) - Douglas Wood, Stirling Tri Club 1:25:29  
1st Mid Argyll female finisher - Rebecca Helliwell, Lochgilphead 1:23:33  
1st Mid Argyll male finisher - Iain MacNicol, Cairnbaan 1:21:50  
Team events:  
1st adult team - Some Old Iron (Colin MacFarlane, John Rea, Stephen Whiston) 1:12:15  
1st junior team - GBJ (Joe Payne, Ben Smith, Gregor McGeachy) 1:25:33



Senior male winners, left to right, third placed Gregor Stewart, winner Neal Robertson and runner-up Michael Kinsella.

## MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAN RODGER

BJJ IT HAS been a hectic couple of weeks for Oban BJJ. The team travelled to Glasgow to

join more than 100 different students in an inter-club event with other clubs from the same affiliation. This was topped off

with Sean Rowan receiving his blue belt.

Last Saturday the monthly seminar in Oban proved to be the biggest in a long time with the butterfly guard being covered.

This culminated with lots of folk getting stripes on their belts and club stalwart Pawel 'ugluk' Sczencia receiving his blue belt.

Beginners classes are every Friday at 7pm and are getting busier each week; if anyone has the slightest interest please get in touch or pop along.

For club info contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com



Coogie Potter with Pawel Sczencia, who received his blue belt at the monthly seminar of Oban BJJ.

### Kyokushinkai Karate

THE WORLD championships in Japan are very close with Team GB coach Iain Rodger and fighter Craig MacLachlan from Senshi Do Kickboxing flying out on October 19.

Both Iain and Craig are very grateful for the sponsorship received so far.

The tournament is set over three days, October 21, 22 and 23, and has several hundred fighters attending from around the world. The draw



Oban BJJ at the monthly seminar.

has already been made and published on the tournament web site.

Craig's first round opponent is a fighter from Iran.

Members of the Caledonia Kyokushin clubs regularly attend national and international events and although the club has stopped taking new starters for the rest of the year to allow those already there

to work through the syllabus towards their next grades, anyone thinking of coming along to learn this style of karate should contact Iain Rodger to add their name to the list for the January intake.

Anyone interested in learning this traditional style of karate should contact Iain Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

### Shukokai Karate

CLASSES continue as usual in Oban and Inveraray.

The Shukokai Karate club members are working towards the next grading which is planned for late October/early November.

Anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on: kenni.gray@btinternet.com

### Kickboxing

THE KICKBOXING clubs are continuing as normal and fighter Craig MacLachlan is training very hard towards the World Championships in Japan later this month.

Beginners are welcome to join the club at any time.

For more information contact Wullie Rodger on: shihanwill@gmail.com



Ryan Henderson and Billy Rydings are presented with new strips by sponsor Gerry Hallas of LBS Fort William, who is also sponsoring all four of the Fort William FC youth teams. The teams play in the Highland Youth league with fixtures as far away as Wick and Buckie, with annual costs of around £10,000 per year. One of the coaches, Danny Conlon, said: 'We have to raise quite a bit of money to keep the teams going and LBS kit sponsorship is a fantastic boost which is greatly appreciated.' Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

## Generous sponsorship for Fort William FC youth teams



Gerry Hallas of LBS hands over new kit to Kyle Dignan, captain of the Fort William FC U-15 team.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Taynuilt

LADIES Greensomes Open played on Sunday October 2  
Gross winners: 1 Anne and Alice MacCalman (Taynuilt GC) 88; 2 Mary Phillips and Donna Campbell (Seil GC) 90; 3 Fiona McGlynn and Carol MacLarty (Taynuilt GC) 92.

Handicap winners: 1 Sandra Elliott and Sally Thompson (Taynuilt GC) 69.8 (21.2); 2 Jill Stewart and Mairead Sim (Taynuilt GC) 72.2 (18.8); 3 Ann Hay and Ann MacLaren (Dalmally GC) 75.2 (23.8).

Longest drive at 1st and 10th: Anne MacCalman (Taynuilt GC); nearest the pin at 3rd and 12th: Mairead Sim (Taynuilt GC); nearest the pin at 6th and 15th: Alison Livingstone (Dalmally GC).

Glencruitten

THE WINNERS of the Bothy Open at Glencruitten on Saturday were Joe MacLean, Scott Jordan, Bill Matthews and Andrew Matthews with a net score of 96 points. The team of Willie McAdam, Duncan Forgive, Donald McGill and Neil Armour were second with 95 points, and in third place were Malcolm Cullen, Alan Jamieson, Steven McCuish and George MacKenzie with 92 points.

The leading visiting team with a score of 90 points were Ryan McGlynn, Keith Cowan, George Burns and Colin Penman. The leading ladies team were Christine Cameron, Mary Plunkett, Nicola McKie and Maureen Devine with a score of 77 points.

On Sunday the winner of the Bothy Stableford was Alan Jamieson with a score of 31 points, James Muir was second with 29 points (bih) and Jonathan Macmillan was third with 29 points.

This weekend is the start of the Saturday Stableford.



# Successful festival held by Lochnell Football Club

LOCHNELL Football Club held a highly successful festival – their first ever – at North Connel pitch last Saturday.

What was originally planned as a low-key local get together ended up as a major event with the hosts being joined by teams from all round Argyll as well as Renfrew, Paisley and Glasgow.

**Keenly contested**

More than 70 friendly games involving 130 young footballers were keenly contested in sun-kissed conditions with participants glad of the refreshing

**Don McAllister, Lochnell FC – Youth Coach of the Year**  
Don is currently the chairperson of Lochnell FC and the leader of the club. He realises the importance of sport to young people's lives and the benefits sport brings to them. He works in partnership with the council and the SFA, and the club have been awarded the SFA Quality Mark Standard Award.

Not only is he involved with the committee he also gives up his time to coach the young players on a weekly basis, as well taking them to festivals in Oban and fixtures around Scotland.

He has created school-to-club links, and significantly increased club memberships. Along with club development, Don also realises the importance of his own coaching experience and is currently attending the Level 2 SFA coaching qualification in his own time.

**Youth football**

fruit generously provided by the newly opened Lidl store in Oban. Medals were presented to all players by Active Schools co-ordinator Gillian Walker and the club's chairperson, Felicity Campbell.

The club would also like to acknowledge the support of Lochnell Arms Hotel in staging the event, as well as thanking the many volunteers who contributed to its success.



Don McAllister, Lochnell Football Club, accepts his Youth Coach of the Year award from Gillian Walker, Active Schools co-ordinator. Also pictured is Councillor Roddy McCuish along with the coaches and players of Lochnell FC during the football festival held last weekend at North Connel.

Photos: Kevin McGlynn

## Benderloch badminton ladies honoured

**Mamie Cattanach and Margaret McColl, Benderloch Badminton Club – service to sport**

TWO badminton coaching stalwarts from Benderloch have been honoured by Argyll and Bute council for service to the sport.

Mamie and Margaret have run the badminton club in Benderloch for more than 30 years. The club coaches children from primary one to fifth year from Appin to Oban. Both volunteer for nine months of the year to provide this service, highlighting their commitment to promote

**Badminton**

badminton. This has led to many individuals benefiting from the club, meaning that there has been a lasting legacy for badminton in the community.

The ladies have provided players with the confidence and practice required for competition level, ensuring that they can progress within the sport.



Mamie and Margaret with their awards along with members of Benderloch Badminton Club. The ladies were presented with their awards by councillors Roddy McCuish and Elaine Robertson.



Lochnell's Matthew Sloss scores against Oban in one of the group games held during the festival.



Run for the community, by the community

## # Did you know?



ATLANTIS has more than 40 fitness classes a week, giving Oban the largest selection of fitness and dance classes anywhere in the west of Scotland.

There are two air-conditioned studios, the latest Smart Tech equipment from Les Mills and 14 different types of classes for you to achieve your fitness goals. Monday and Wednesday mornings have a special programme of activities perfect for those with low to moderate fitness, but if they don't suit you, try any class and instructors can advise you how to build up your fitness safely and effectively.

The instructors are all highly qualified and attend continuous training to bring you the latest and most effective workout every time. The only hard thing, is choosing what you're going to try.

## Craggy Island event is a sell-out Triathlon

THE SOLD-OUT Craggy Island Triathlon will take place early next month.

The popular event, which raised £6,000 for Oban Mountain Rescue, will run on October 8-9, with 200 competitors taking part each day.

The event will start at approximately 12.30pm on Saturday and on Sunday racing will commence at approximately 2pm.

Competitors will swim from Gallanach to the isle of Kerrera, then ride 14km on a mountain bike, before running 8km over the bumpy off-road terrain.

A children's race will also take place on Sunday from approximately 3pm.

The event is organised by Paul McGreal, who owns Durty Events, and Kerrera's Duncan MacEachern.

The organisers would like to thank all the volunteers and the community of Kerrera which has helped make the event possible. To find out more, or to register for next year's race, visit www.durtyevents.com.



Bloodied and beaten but morale remains high with David MacLennan and Sean Black.

## Mull lose out to league leaders

IN AN extremely tough and physical game, Mull RFC were defeated 0-27 at Garmony by the unbeaten league leaders Lanark.

In spring-like conditions on a superb playing surface, Mull, after their fine victory last week against Hyndland, surprisingly made a hesitant start and after 10 minutes Lanark scored a deserved try that was converted to make 0-7 to the visitors. They scored again soon after, pushing their score up again and giving the Garmony crowd a performance that befitted a team sitting on top the league. Just before the interval, Lanark made it 0-17 and looked to have the game sewn up.

Mull came out fighting after the restart, despite David MacLennan going off with a suspected broken nose. But for some dubious refereeing

**Rugby**

decisions from Duncan McCabe, Mull might have at least got some points on the board. Debutant Jacob Ellis was a welcome addition to the Muileachs' front row, coming on as hooker to bolster the many scrums. Finally, against the run of play Lanark bulldozed over the try line giving them their bonus point, and a deserved victory with a final score 27-0.

**Frustration**  
Reay Whyte's scintillating commentary did much to lighten the gloom for the Mull supporters, but the frustration was clear with both the score, and the fact that the Muileachs were penalised nearly 20 times.

They did, however, equal the far bigger pack in the scrums, and jumper Finlay MacLaren performed valiantly in the lineouts against the extremely well-drilled Lanark team.

Other performances of note included Ross Rankin and Donald Cruickshank in the back row, who had travelled from Kilchoan and Oban respectively to represent Mull. Duart's Stuart Wilson had some surging runs on the wing, while Donald 'Budgie' MacIver kept the ball out of danger on numerous occasions with his kicking. Mull skipper Craig O'Donnell was 'very disappointed with the result against a skilful and well-organised Lanark team'.  
The boys in black and white are now looking forward to the visit of Argyll and Bute this Saturday, who leapfrogged Mull in the league after their win over Hyndland. Kick off at Garmony is at 2.30pm.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3700

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

W McGleish  
Croft Avenue  
Oban

I McHaughton  
Riverside Court  
Tobermory

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.  
**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.  
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.  
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.  
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Name .....

Address .....

Tel No. ....



# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

## Magnificent seven for Newtonmore

### Marine Harvest Premiership

**Kinlochshiel 1  
Newtonmore 7**  
Newtonmore clinched a seventh successive Marine Harvest Premiership title when they beat Kinlochshiel 7-1 in their 3pm throw up at Kirkton.

There was a Saturday morning pitch inspection at Balmacara with the Bught Park put on stand-by. However, the Kirkton pitch was ruled able to host not one but two matches so the games went ahead as scheduled.

Kinlochshiel defender Conor Cormack is nearing recovery from a hand injury but this game came too soon for him. Newtonmore's Paul MacArthur sat this one out as an accumulation of bookings triggered a one-game suspension. Neil Stewart missed out through injury and Jamie Robinson and Michael Russell were unavailable.

The visitors started with an unfamiliar midfield of David Fraser, Drew MacDonald and Iain Richardson but their forward line was as experienced as you'll currently get with Evan Menzies, Fraser MacKintosh, Glen MacKintosh and Norman Campbell taking their positions.

There was also a more familiar look about the Newtonmore scorers as Glen MacKintosh gave them the lead after just 13 minutes and Norman Campbell made it 2-0 from close range on 19 minutes.

There was worse to come for the home side a minute later as the pressure on their goal continued and Glen MacKintosh got his second.

Newtonmore's one-touch shinty was creating chances and Glen MacKintosh completed his hat-trick on 23 minutes.

MacKintosh went on to make it four first-half goals when he scored five minutes before the break, again from close in.

It was a devastating first-half performance from Newtonmore and they never gave the home defence a moment's peace.

Although winning, Newtonmore have not been at their best in recent weeks but this was one of those days when everything clicked and Kinlochshiel were

unfortunate enough to be on the receiving end.

Keith MacRae pulled a goal back for 'Shiel 10 minutes after the restart.

Newtonmore may have eased off somewhat during the second 45 minutes but they went on to add to their tally through young substitute Iain Robinson on 70 minutes.

With Scotland's shinty/hurling meeting with Ireland looming, Scotland forward Glen MacKintosh showed that he remains the game's top scorer when he rounded off the 7-1 win just five minutes from time with what was his fifth goal of the afternoon.

The victory confirms that Newtonmore cannot be caught at the top of the table and their final three matches are against Oban Camanachd, Kyles Athletic and Skye Camanachd.

### Skye Camanachd 2 Kingussie 1

Skye Camanachd kept their Marine Harvest Premiership survival hopes alive when they beat Kingussie 2-1 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye boss John MacLeod was forced to make a change in defence as Chris MacLennan was out with a nasty eye injury sustained playing football through the week. Neil John Campbell started in his place. Steven Morrison was missing and his brother Danny Morrison had been unwell during the previous 48 hours so he was only able to take a place on the bench.

Kingussie co-managers Russell Jones and Davie Anderson were without defender Rory MacKeachan, who served a one-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Savio Genini, Ryan Borthwick and Rory MacGregor were among their other absentees.

Skye took the lead on nine minutes when Kenny Campbell punished some hesitancy in the visiting defence to score.

Skye suffered a blow when forward Jordan Murchison had to come off with a hamstring problem. Iain Murray went on in his place.

The home side had to make a second first-half change just before the break when Neil John Campbell, who was having a good game in defence, had to

come off after twisting his knee when making a challenge to clear the ball.

Kingussie pressed for a leveller and James Falconer had twice gone close before Thomas Borthwick equalised on 66 minutes when he scored following an Alexander Michie corner from the right.

Skye restored their lead just a couple of minutes later. Gillesbuig MacDonald, who had a superb game at full centre, played in a shy from the left and Kenny Campbell picked out Danny Morrison on the Skye right and he thumped the ball home to make it 2-1.

The meeting doubled up as a contest for the 2016 George Michie Memorial Cup, which was presented to Skye captain Neil MacVicar after the final whistle.

This was a tight contest and a first league win of the season for Skye, who still have three matches remaining – away to Kinlochshiel, at home to Fort William and away to Newtonmore.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	15	14	1	0	63	11	29
Oban Camanachd	17	11	3	3	34	20	25
Kyles Athletic	15	9	3	3	46	20	21
Kinlochshiel	16	8	3	5	33	26	19
Lovat	17	7	1	9	29	43	15
Glenurquhart	18	6	3	9	26	41	15
Kingussie	17	6	2	9	27	35	14
Lochaber	17	4	6	7	26	38	14
Skye	15	1	8	6	15	28	10
Fort William	17	0	2	15	14	51	2

Kingussie have one match left – a trip to Tighnabruich to face Kyles Athletic.

### Lochaber 1 Fort William 0

Lochaber gave themselves a great chance of beating the drop to the Marine Harvest National Division when they beat Fort William 1-0 in their 3pm derby meeting at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber's Barry MacDonald was free of suspension so he started in midfield. Shaun Nicolson was missing, while injury restricted Brian MacDonald and Neil MacDonald to places on the bench.

Fort William were without keeper Paul MacKay so outfield player Jack Fraser, who previously represented the



On a sunny day under Ben Nevis, Kilmallie are crowned champions of The Marine Harvest National Division. Photo: Neil Paterson

North in goal at youth level, took over between the posts. Arran MacPhee started after playing for the seconds against Skye a fortnight earlier.

Both teams made a lively start with chances created at both ends.

It was Ben Delaney who fired Lochaber in front in 11 minutes. Delaney turned his marker and rifled the ball into bottom left corner of Jack Fraser's goal to make it 1-0.

Lochaber came within a whisker of doubling their lead a minute before the break. Ben Delaney was through with only keeper Fraser to beat. Delaney pushed the ball past the Fort custodian and referee John Angus Gillies initially thought the ball had come back into play off the rear stanchion. However, after consulting with the goal judge, it was confirmed that

threshold. Daniel Cameron was back after missing the defeat to Newtonmore the previous Saturday. Fraser Inglis was in charge on the touchline as Iain Hay wasn't present.

Oban Camanachd took the lead on 17 minutes. The ball was played in to Daniel MacVicar's feet and he spread the ball to his right where an unmarked Malcolm Clark ran in and he met the ball in line with the penalty spot and he sent a low drive into the bottom left-hand corner of Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald's net with the ball appearing to take a bounce on the way in.

Greg Matheson ensured the sides would go into the break on level terms when he scored on 38 minutes. Matheson leathered the ball low past Gavin Stobbart in the Oban goal, beating the big keeper at his left post to make it 1-1.

Oban Camanachd almost went back in front from the restart but some hesitancy between two of their forwards allowed Drew Howie to come in and clear the ball away.

Oban had most of the pressure in the second half and they kept pushing for a second goal but some good saves from Stuart MacDonald kept them at bay.

Lovat looked as if they might just hold on until three minutes from time when Malcolm Clark scored what proved to be the winner. The goal came when Lorne Dickie hit a shot from distance which Stuart MacDonald saved with his club.

Two Oban forwards ran in on the rebound and it was Malcolm Clark who got to the ball first, and he sent the rebound into the net for his second goal of the game to give the Oban side, who spurned a late chance to score a third at the death, the points.

Lovat's final league fixture is a trip to Kirkton to play Kinlochshiel.

Next up for Oban Camanachd is the visit of Newtonmore to Mossfield this coming Saturday. Iain Hay's side have been superb at home this season and their only point dropped came in their league meeting with Skye Camanachd.

### Glenurquhart 0 Kyles Athletic 0

Glenurquhart and Kyles Athletic shared the points following a 0-0 draw in their 3pm throw up at Blairbeg.

Iain MacLeod continued in



Kilmallie captain Martin Stewart is presented with the National Division Trophy by Jayne MacKay of Marine Harvest. Photo: Neil Paterson

goal for Glenurquhart in place of the injured Stuart MacKintosh. Scotland defender John Barr made it back from working abroad but Andrew Corrigan didn't.

Kyles Athletic had John Whyte back in goal after he missed the win over Skye. However, talisman Roddy MacDonald and Dunkie Kerr were among their absentees.

Both teams had chances to make the breakthrough but their respective defences were largely on top.

The point, perhaps crucially, moves Glenurquhart a point ahead of Kingussie and Lochaber and five points ahead of Skye Camanachd in the battle to beat the drop.

### Marine Harvest National Division

#### Kilmallie 3 Beaulay 2

Kilmallie were presented with the Marine Harvest National Division trophy following their 3-2 win over Beaulay at the Canal Parks.

Kilmallie had Ryan Stewart and Robbie MacFadyen back and both started on the bench as part of a 15-players squad. Beaulay's Ryan MacKay was free of suspension.

Michael Rodger gave Kilmallie an 11th minute lead when he sent a low shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Jack MacDonald equalised on 36 minutes with a shot, again into the bottom corner of the net.

However, to the delight of the home support, Liam MacDonald put Kilmallie back in front a couple of minutes before the break when struck the ball home following a goalmouth scramble.

#### Glasgow Mid Argyll 4 Caberfeidh 3

Glasgow Mid Argyll sealed their place in next season's Marine Harvest Premiership when they beat Caberfeidh 4-3 at Yoker.

Mark Bain was back for GMA, while forward Calum McLay had recovered from a knock sustained in the previous weekend's defeat to champions Kilmallie. However, Ryan Harrison sat this one out after picking up an injury in that game.

Caberfeidh welcomed Jamie MacKintosh back into their squad. When referee Robert Baxter awarded GMA a 16th minute penalty, Craig Anderson stepped up to send a waist-high strike into the net.

However, Gavin McLaughlin squared the contest on 21 minutes.

GMA took a 2-1 lead into the interval when John McNulty fired the ball into the top right corner of the net from the edge



Glenurquhart chairman Gary MacKintosh had to take over between the sticks in the North Division game against Beaulay which the red and blacks won 4-0. Other players in the picture are Beaulay's Leen Dunbar and Glen's Drew MacLennan. Photo: Donald Cameron



Newtonmore's second team won the Marine Harvest North Division League title. Photo: Tina Marshall



# Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

# Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

of the D. Calum McLay was first onto a rebound after the Cabers' keeper had palmed the ball down on 50 minutes and McLay flicked the ball over the line to make it 3-1.

Caberfeidh fought back though and they were awarded a penalty on 61 minutes which Craig Morrison converted to make it 3-2.

GMA's crucial fourth goal came on 70 minutes when Innes MacMillan floated a free-hit into the D from wide on the left. The ball went through a number of players and left Calum McLay one-on-one with the goalie and McLay confidently slotted the ball into the bottom left corner of the net to make it 4-2.

The goal was important as Caberfeidh's Colin MacLennan made it 4-3 on 78 minutes but GMA saw out a nervy final 12 minutes to secure their place at shinty's top table.

This was the final league match of the season for Strathglass and they finish second in the table, six points behind leaders Newtonmore.

Kinlochshiel have a reserve team meeting with Skye Camanachd this coming Saturday.

## Glenurquhart 4 Beauly 0

The Glenurquhart second team beat the Beauly reserves 4-0 at Blairbeg.

With Glen keeper Cameron MacLennan ruled out through injury, Gary MacKintosh took over between the sticks.

There was a touch of fortune about the only goal of the first half with the ball going into the visiting net off Beauly's Sandy Tulloch.

Jed Stoddart made it 2-0 on 54 minutes and he got a second to make it 3-0 on 71 minutes.

Callum Miller rounded off the scoring with a fourth home goal a couple of minutes later.

The victory lifts the Glen into fourth place in the league, above Beauly, with Glenurquhart finishing their league programme at home to the Fort William seconds in a fortnight's time.

This was the Beauly second team's final league match of the season.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

Lochside Rovers 1  
Aberdour 2  
Lochside Rovers hosted Aber-

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

Newtonmore 6  
Kingussie 1  
Newtonmore came out on top, winning 6-1 in their reserve team derby with Kingussie at the Eilan.

Newtonmore were without Iain Robinson and Iain Richardson, who were on first-team duty at Balmacara.

Kingussie had absentees too, including veteran Kevin Thain, who was unavailable, and youngsters Roddy Young



Glenurquhart's Lachlan Smith gets his block in on Kyles Athletic's Scott MacDonald during last Saturday's Premiership match at Drumnadrochit which ended in a 0-0 draw. Photo: Donald Cameron

and Alexander Michie, who were with their senior side in Portree. Kingussie gave a place at wing centre to youth player Roma Fraser, recently named in the Scotland women's squad for shinty/camogie international against Dublin. Her father, Rory Fraser, took up his usual position for Kingussie at full back.

Kenny Ross and David Cheyne each bagged doubles for Newtonmore, while Martin Hall and John MacKenzie got the others. Dylan Borthwick notched the Kingussie goal.

After the final whistle, Newtonmore second team captain Cameron McNiven was presented with the Marine Harvest North Division 1 trophy by Angus MacKay, Marine Harvest logistics manager. It was a shinty family affair for the MacKays as Angus's wife Jayne was at the Canal Parks to present Kilmallie with the Marine Harvest National Division trophy.

## Kinlochshiel 0 Strathglass 1

Strathglass beat the Kinlochshiel second team 1-0 in their noon throw up at Kirkton. Kinlochshiel's Jonnie MacAskill served the second game of a two-match ban. However, Douglas Campbell was free of his suspension.

Michael Stoke was missing for Strathglass with a hand problem.

The only goal of the game came just five minutes into the second half when Darren Reid scored for the visitors.



The North and South Under-17 teams line-up for a photograph before Sunday's thrilling encounter at An Aird. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

team was a Saturday morning casualty as at the Taynuilt Sports Field was ruled unplayable.

## Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochcarron v  
Aberdeen University W/O  
League champions Aberdeen University were given a walk-over when second-placed Lochcarron were unable to raise a team for their match at Battery

## Marine Harvest South Division 2

Tayforth 5  
Bute 0  
Tayforth clinched the Marine Harvest South Division 2 title when they beat the Bute second team 5-0 at Levenhall Links.

Andy Scott put Tayforth in front on 27 minutes and Hamish Anderson doubled their advantage with five first half minutes remaining.

When Andy Scott got his second a couple of minutes later, Rona Stewart - Badenoch & Strathspey and they took their 3-0 lead into the break.

Former Kingussie player Hamish Anderson went on to complete his hat-trick with goals on 55 and 60 minutes.

After the match, the Marine Harvest South Division 2 trophy was presented to Tayforth captain Ewan Menzies by Paul MacArthur, Camanachd Association regional development officer - central.

## Dunoon Camanachd P Aberdour P

The match between Dunoon Camanachd and the Aberdour second team has been rescheduled for this coming Saturday.

## Women's shinty round-up

Scotland women's shinty/camogie squad announced.

Scotland women's head coach Stuart Reid has named his squad for the 2016 shinty/camogie international against Dublin at the Bught Park on Saturday October 22.

The final pool of 20 players has been whittled down from the 30-player training squad.

Stuart Reid and his coaching staff will now make their final preparations at a training session on Sunday October 16 in preparation for the Dublin clash.

Scotland women from: Taryn Neilson - Aberdour Elizabeth McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey Jeanette McGregor - Badenoch & Strathspey Rachel McCafferty - Glasgow Mid Argyll

end when the wet weather left An Aird unplayable.

## North U14 8 South U14 1

First up was the noon throw up between the North U14 and South U14 for the Fraser MacPhee Trophy.

The North maintained their dominance in this clash, recording an 8-1 victory. Skye's Ross Gordon scored twice with Fort William's Victor Smith grabbing a hat-trick.

Skye's Dan MacDonald, Kingussie's Kieran MacPherson and Niall MacCallum from Strathglass got the other North goals.

## North U17 5 South U17 4

(after extra time)  
The meeting between the North U17 and South U17 was a much closer affair and it took extra-time to separate the teams. The match was tied at 4-4 after regulation time. The North goals came from Newtonmore's Iain Robinson twice, Robbie Brindle from Beauly and Skye's James Pringle.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar, Kyles Athletic's Scott MacDonald and a double from Glasgow Mid Argyll's Calum McLay countered from the South.

The winning extra-time goal came from Iain Robinson as he completed his hat-trick to make it 5-4.

## Fixtures

### Saturday October 8

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kinlochshiel v Skye  
Evan MacRae  
Kyles Athletic v Lochaber  
David Mitchell  
Oban Cam v Newtonmore  
Deek Cameron - 1pm

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Ballachulish v Beauly  
Andy Maclean

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Kingussie  
Neil Ferguson  
Kinlochshiel v Skye  
Ronnie Campbell - noon

Marine Harvest South Division 1  
Glenorchy v Taynuilt  
Alan Harrison  
Oban Celtic v Kyles Athletic  
Robert Baxter - 3.30pm

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh v Kilmallie  
Brian MacKay  
Inverness v Aberdeen Uni  
Lochcarron v Lochaber  
John Wood

Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Dunoon v Aberdour - noon

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

## Results

### Saturday October 1

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kinlochshiel 1-7 Newtonmore  
Lochaber 1-0 Fort William  
Lovat 1-2 Oban Camanachd  
Glenurquhart 0-0 Kyles Ath  
Skye 2-1 Kingussie

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Kilmallie 3-2 Beauly  
Glasgow MA 4-3 Caberfeidh

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Glenurquhart 4-0 Beauly  
Newtonmore 6-1 Kingussie  
Kinlochshiel 0-1 Strathglass

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Lochside Rovers 1-2 Aberdour  
Taynuilt P-P Inveraray  
Game to be rescheduled

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Lochcarron P-P Aberdeen Uni  
Walkover to the University  
Lochaber P-P Kilmallie  
Game to be rescheduled

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Dunoon P-P Aberdour  
Game to be rescheduled  
Tayforth 5-0 Bute

**Youth Fixtures Sunday October 2 Inter-District**  
North U-14 8-1 South U-14  
North U-17 4-5 South U-17  
(after extra time)



The North Under 14 team, in blue, proved too strong for their South counterparts, winning 8-1. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Beauly's Liam Mutch and Glenurquhart's Ruairidh Ralston in action. Photo: Donald Cameron

## Disallowed tries prove costly as Green Machine lose at Annan

Annan	10
Oban Lorne	0
BT West Division 1	

OBAN Lorne travelled to Violetbank to take on Annan RFC in a rematch of the previous season's shield tie where Annan came out top as narrow winners.

This was to be the first league meeting between the two sides for several seasons.

Determined to make amends on the previous result, Oban named a strong side with Struan Smith and Lorne MacLachlan returning in the back row, Dave McCabe returning at inside centre and Alessandro Franzo starting on the wing in place of Calum MacLachlan.

The match started at a frantic pace with a lot of scrappy kicks, offloads and passes; Annan having the better of the possession and the better of the penalty count. An Oban offence at the ruck gifted Annan a shot at goal and the resulting kick sailed wide - a let-off for Oban.

Annan started to build on good territorial kicking from their fly half, pinning the Oban wings back and forcing the Green Machine to play from deep in their own half. A series of carries aided by poor tackling in the Oban defence resulted in

the first score of the match after a quick pick-and-go from the Annan tighthead. Oban were now behind 5-0 and the conversion was successful taking the score to 7-0.

In the first half Annan were definitely the better side, spreading the ball well and kicking into good territory. Oban definitely had the better of the Annan pack in the scrums but did not capitalize on this enough.

The second half started fast and frantically, with second row Jack Baxter, Oban's most consistent player this season by a long way, making a break down the right flank of Annan's defence and gaining considerable yards. This seemed to lift Oban hugely and Annan were now under pressure.

A penalty five metres out saw Oban opt for the scrum, a huge shove saw the ball spit out the Annan scrum and Vasil Borisov dived on to the ball over the line. The try was disallowed and a reset scrum was the decision from the man with the whistle.

Further pressure continued from Oban, who didn't let Annan into the game for the first 20-30 minutes of the second half. Another big scrum in the Annan 22 saw Struan Smith outstretched and downing the

### Rugby

ball on the Annan try line. It was disallowed again.

On Annan's first visit to the Oban half, they were awarded a penalty for an Oban player sealing off. They opted for posts and again Oban were let off the hook with the kick sailing wide. With 10 minutes to go, Annan were back in the game and spreading the ball wide again. A break into the 22 saw them awarded another penalty at the breakdown with the Annan fly half scoring the penalty, taking the score to 10-0 to the home side.

Annan turned Oban over in their 22 and threw the ball wide and their winger kicked the ball out to bring the game to an end. It was another frustrating performance for Coach Louw to look at, with the work rate in general being highlighted as a major issue.

The result leaves Oban Lorne 9th in the league only above winless Irvine RFC. Oban Lorne must secure a win against fellow strugglers and Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC next Saturday if the team have any aspirations of climbing up the league table.

Kick-off next Saturday is 3pm at Ardencaple, Helensburgh.



Oban Lorne's Audrey Barr, right, takes a hard hit during last Sunday's game against Broughton.

Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Good home win for Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute	46
Hyndland	29
BT West Division 4	

ARGYLL and Bute RFC welcomed Hyndland to Glencruitten on Saturday for the first game between the two sides this season. Argyll had beaten the visitors home and away last season but knew they would be in for a tough test.

The home side boasted a squad of 19 players, frustratingly, however, after last week's call-off at Cowal due to a lack of numbers. Players returning to the squad included Allan Wright, Darren Miller, Travis Smith, and Islay's Anthony Bowman.

Argyll made a great start to the game and scored straight from the kick-off. An offload by Mid Argyll's Mark Charlton found scrum half Allan Wright who raced clear from the halfway line to touch down under the posts. Steven Parr's conversion gave a 7-0 lead with only seconds of the game being played.

This was not a sign of what was to come as the visitors would make the home side work hard throughout the game. Hyndland took possession of the ball and were looking dangerous with some strong runners in the backline.

They levelled the score to 7-7 after five minutes when some extremely poor tackling in the Argyll backline let the Hyndland inside centre in for a try.

Argyll regrouped from this and dominated the play in the Hyndland half. A combination of poor discipline at the breakdown and a lack of firepower due to

uncontested scrums meant that Argyll were struggling to get on the front foot and create any meaningful scoring chances.

The hosts regained the lead with a Steven Parr penalty, 10-7.

Hyndland had other ideas of how the game was to go and scored two tries in a five-minute period to lead 17-10. The visitors did not have to work hard for their scores, again due to some woeful tackling along the Argyll backline.

The hosts knew they were not playing well and would have to up their efforts particularly in defence to get anything out of the match. Injuries within the Argyll team meant that utility back, Gin Tas entered the field in what would be a memorable game for the Lithuanian.

Just before halftime a Hyndland clearing kick was gathered by the replacement Gin Tas inside his own half.

The player then went on a storming run down the touchline, weaving his way through the defence to touch down under the posts. Another conversion from Parr tied the scores at 17-17 at the break.

Like the first half Argyll made the best start to the second and scored a try within the first five minutes. Daniel Broderick picked and went blind from the uncontested scrum before off-loading to replacement winger Eba Mecauskas who touched down in the corner. A great conversion extended the score to 24-17.

From the resulting kick-off came the best score of the day. Islay's Anthony Bowman

caught the ball in his own 22 and very cleverly kicked over the top of the on-rushing Hyndland pack. Bowman's pace let him reach the ball before anyone else where he gathered it in one hand by the halfway line and raced clear to score a fantastic try.

This great individual effort brought the score to 31-17 with Argyll hungry to press on.

Despite Argyll going a couple of tries ahead, credit must go to Hyndland who kept fighting in the game. The visitors were at times even down to as low as 13 players due to a lack of subs and injuries.

Again some poor tackling let Hyndland in for another soft score to narrow the margin to 31-22. Argyll, with a numerical advantage, were dominating most of the attacking play and looked dangerous every time they moved forward.

Now playing at stand-off for the injured Steven Parr, Gin Tas capped off an impressive afternoon with two further tries taking his total to four for the afternoon as Argyll raced 46-22 ahead.

Hyndland refused to give up and scored a deserved consolation giving a final score of 46-29 in an entertaining game.

Argyll must step up their overall performance next weekend as they travel to face neighbours Isle of Mull RFC next Saturday.

Mull have been unlucky not to have won the majority of their opening five matches and will provide Argyll and Bute with their toughest test of the season so far.

Kick off is 2.30pm at Garmony.

## Oban Lorne Ladies bow out of Sarah Beane Cup

Oban Lorne Ladies	5
Broughton Ladies	27
Sarah Beane Cup - Preliminary Round	

### Rugby

AN UNUSUALLY dry and sunny October day welcomed the National League Division 1 team Broughton to Glencruitten for the opening round of the Sarah Beane Cup.

Sitting a league higher than the Oban ladies, it was bound to be a tough game, and sure enough Broughton were quick to put pressure on the defensive line, scoring their opening try only three minutes after kick-off. However, spurred on by this the Green Army quickly regrouped to up the pressure and maintained good possession as the first half began to unfold.

A clever run and impressive break up the right wing by Broughton introduced a level of panic to the game but a great covering tackle by full back Claire MacFarlane stopped the runner in their tracks, although injuring herself in the process and had to leave the field.

Unfortunately, a couple of offloads later the away side were to score under the posts (0-10). As expected, Broughton were proving to outplay the girls in green as the tries started to rack up, with their stand-off even having time to generously offload to a supporting runner to score the fourth try of the game before the half-time whistle (0-20).

The game was rife with injuries to both sides, with the first half taking a full hour to play. Oban scrum half Audrey Barr suffered a nasty elbow to the nose meaning the home girls were a player down. Barr returned to the pitch out of position, on the wing.

The girls in green were starting to up the anti, but unfortunately had no success in putting points on the board. With relentless offloads and attacks

the forward pack worked hard to drive forward and eventually hooker Laura MacCormick was able to dive over the line to bring the half time score to 5-20.

Returning player Roxy Goddard was impressive throughout the game with her clever creative play on the wing, intercepting numerous Broughton passes and stealing the ball from their hands.

The Broughton ladies, however, continued their scoring streak with a fifth try 15 minutes into the second half, and the first successful conversion of the game following two off-the-posts in the first half (5-27).

This half proved to be less one sided, with play moving back and forth across the pitch. Shortly after this, Oban captain Camilla Leslie appeared to suffer a boot to the head whilst on the floor following a ruck resulting in a nasty cut and after decorating the pitch with blood, she left for the remainder of the game leaving Oban a player short until close of play. The referee deemed there to have been no contact, therefore no action was taken as a result of the head injury to Leslie.

The final score was 5-27, a respectable score given the difference in leagues of the two teams, with Oban maintaining strong scrums and relentless forward drive throughout the game earning recognition from the Broughton captain in her after-match speech.

The team would like to wish Broughton all the best in the next round of the cup, and will drop to the bowl play-offs in the coming weeks.

The Green Army's next league game is away to Annan on September 16. The ladies train every Tuesday and Thursday at the rugby club with new players, experienced or not, welcome.

## Oban Saints Scottish Cup tie called off

### Football

LAST weekend's Scottish Amateur Cup second round tie was cancelled, extending Saints' run of fixture-less Saturdays to four which is already one more than the brief summer close season.

Saturday's scheduled opponents Bishopton of the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League Premier Division were unable to raise a team for the trip to Oban and have consequently conceded the tie.

Saints progress to the third round of the Scottish Amateur Cup which was drawn yesterday (Wednesday).

This Saturday Saints return to league duty with a tough away match in Paisley against Ferguslie Star. The match will be played on the 3G pitch at Seedhill Sports Grounds with a 3pm kick-off. Referee in charge is James Tedford.

Saints manager Alex Craik is hoping to have a full squad to choose from for this important fixture.

## Scottish AFL results and fixtures

### Football

LAST Saturday's results - Scottish Amateur Cup, second round - Broomlands v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Oban Saints v Bishopton, walkover to Saints; Rothesay Brandane 1, Lochgilphead Red Star 2; Tarbert v AFC Ravenscraig, postponed; Stanley Athletic 4, Dunoon 0.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup - Broomlands v Campbeltown Pupils; Tarbert v AFC Ravenscraig; Premier Division - Ferguslie Star v Oban Saints; Premier Division 2A - Lochgilphead Red Star v Rossvale.

## Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures

### Youth football

LAST weekend's results - Under 13s 1, Drumchapel 11. Saints goalscorer was Innes MacDonald. Under 14s 1, Drumsagard 4. Netting for Saints was Connor Moore.

Dumbarton United Blacks 2, Under 15s 6. Scoring for Saints were Jamie Forgive, Aaron McKay, Gavin Forgive, Aidan MacPhee, Liam Richmond and Euan Finlay. Under 16s 6, Broomhill 0. On target for Saints were Cameron Kerr (2), Keir MacLean, Scott Mossman, Sandy Welsh and Joe Harper. Under 17s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Dumbarton United; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Drumchapel; Under 16s v Loch Lomond; Under 17s no game.



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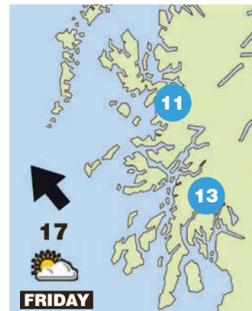
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**WEATHER**

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Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Friday Sunny intervals  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.



**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 6, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thu	02.33 1.5 08.15 3.6 14.41 1.6 20.17 3.5	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	03.04 1.7 08.51 3.4 15.19 1.8 20.49 3.3	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	03.46 1.9 09.34 3.2 16.13 2.0 21.31 3.1	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	04.54 2.0 10.38 3.0 17.28 2.1 22.39 2.9	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	06.15 2.0 13.27 3.0 18.50 2.1 *** **	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	01.59 2.9 07.35 1.9 14.34 3.2 20.10 1.8	<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>			
Wed	02.58 3.1 08.44 1.6 15.19 3.5 21.13 1.5	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)					
Oban to Coll/Tiree					Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay					Moderate

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## Welcome to your all new Lochaber edition

THIS week sees a whole new chapter being written for journalism in the Lochaber area.

Following the recent merger of the *Lochaber News* into a new-look West Highland edition of *The Oban Times*, this week's newspaper is proud to bring readers a special issue that offers the best of both worlds.

The new-look *Oban Times* West Highland edition will incorporate the best content from the *Lochaber News*, additional news and sports pages from Lochaber, as well as news from across the wider West Highlands and Argyll.

And to celebrate the new venture, readers of this northern edition can tuck into free cake!

From this week onwards, our strengthened editorial and commercial teams in Lochaber will produce more pages dedicated to Lochaber. Furthermore, as an indication of *The Oban Times'* commitment, we will shortly relocate from our current office on The Parade to a High Street presence in Fort William.

Wyvex Media, owner of *The Oban Times*, and Scottish Provincial Press were delighted last month to confirm they

had reached agreement on the merger of the *Lochaber News* into the new-look West Highland edition of *The Oban Times* and the transfer of *Lochaber Life* magazine to Wyvex Media.

Technological and economic changes have meant that Lochaber has increasingly found it difficult to sustain two local newspapers and both parties had been engaged in positive and constructive talks to ensure that a strong local publishing presence remains a vital part of the community. Both companies agreed that Wyvex's closer geographical ties and strength in the market make it the sensible choice to continue to provide local news and services to the people of Lochaber. There will be no change to the publishing strategy of *Lochaber Life* magazine, although this will now be published by Wyvex Media.

We very much want to hear readers' and advertisers' views about the new newspaper. Let us know what you think. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk, visit us on Facebook or Twitter, or write to The Editor, The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6BA.



Meet the team: among those based in our Fort William office are, left to right, senior reporter Monica Gibson, advertising sales and admin assistant Janice McAlpin and reporter Ellie Forbes. Not pictured is reporter Katie Carabine.

**FREE  
inside**

**Primary  
Schools  
2016**

Due to publication restrictions the Primary one supplement is not available in this digital edition

ARGYLL,  
LOCHABER,  
KINTYRE &  
THE ISLES



WELCOME RETURN VISIT  
OF POPULAR IRISH VOCALIST

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## 'Inspiring' student dies climbing

A 'WONDERFUL, inspiring' Highland student has died after falling while climbing.

Tributes were paid to Kieran Shaw this week who 'died doing what he loved.' Kieran had been climbing near the East Gully, Aonach Mor, Ben Nevis, on Sunday when he fell.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) and the Coastguard rescue helicopter attended the accident around 3.30pm and airlifted the 21-year-old to the Belford Hospital but he died as a result of his injuries.

Kieran's sister Hannah set up a JustGiving page for LMRT. More than £2,800 has been raised at the time of going to



Kieran Shaw.

press. Hannah wrote: 'Our world fell apart. I am sorry to tell you that my wonderful, inspiring, handsome brother has been taken from us. It honestly

feels like losing a part of yourself - and I still expect every second that he is about to walk through the front door.'

'My brother was the bravest, kindest, most courageous person who died doing what he loved. Sleep tight beautiful angel, always in my heart.'

Kieran, from Helensburgh, was a student at the West Highland College UHI in Fort William. The college has taken to social media to pay respects to Kieran and offer fellow students support. It said: 'We are extremely saddened at the tragic death of one of our students, Kieran Shaw, while on a private climbing outing.'

'We have been in contact with the family to express our deepest sympathy and will do all we can to support them. We will also be putting in place appropriate counselling for our other students and staff in the School of Adventure Studies.'

John Stevenson, leader of LMRT, said: 'The man who was climbing with Mr Shaw raised the alarm via his mobile phone. They were scrambling near the summit of Aonach Mor but weren't roped together. 'We really appreciate any fundraising that is done for the mountain rescue but it's very sad circumstances that it comes under.'

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FW



The new pontoons allow large vessels to visit the town and are part of a larger project to rejuvenate Fort William's shoreline.



The cruise liner Boudicca dwarfed other boats in Fort William's harbour.



Buses lined up to take eager passengers to see the sights, including Glen Nevis and the Commando Monument.

**Eye to eye**  
with John Wallace

**Driver's Vision MOT**

Autumn is well and truly here and winter is not far away. With the regular commute to and from work taking place in either low visibility or even in the dark it is imperative drivers have the best possible vision. Amazingly most drivers do not have regular vision checks, far less a full eye examination. If, like me, you passed the driving test at age seventeen, you could theoretically not have another vision check for driving until you reach your seventieth birthday.

There is much more to vision and driving than the very simplistic test of reading a number plate at 20.5 metres. Not only do you need clear distance vision but you also require excellent peripheral vision. The tasks involved in driving are many and complex. Driving is possibly the ultimate test for your visual system. You need to see other road users, pedestrians, road signs and road conditions as

well as maintain control of your vehicle. You need to be able to perform these different tasks in extremes of bright sunlight, pitch dark and in dense fog.

I regularly come across patients who believe they can adequately read a number plate at the prescribed distance yet, when faced with having to actually read one are unable to do so. The reality is, if stopped by the police and you fail to read a number plate at the appropriate distance you are committing a criminal offence and your insurance company will probably refuse you cover in the event of an accident. Frequently all that is required is for the driver to wear appropriate spectacles to bring their vision up to the required standard. Drivers should have regular eye examinations. These are normally free as NHS Scotland funds free eye examinations usually every two years. You owe it to yourself and other road users!

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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# Visit by cruise liner gives boost to town's economy

**MONICA GIBSON**  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

AFTER an uncertain start, the cruise liner Boudicca's maiden call into Fort William has been hailed a 'resounding success'.

The Fred Olsen luxury vessel arrived on Wednesday September 28. The pontoons had been built, shelters for the passengers installed, excursions organised and all that remained was for the weather to hold up its side of the bargain. Which it did not. Gale-force winds prevented the 880 passengers aboard from visiting Portree and an attempt to get to Ullapool also had to be cancelled.

Many a sleepless night was had on September 27 as interested parties kept a watchful eye on a track-finder website to find out whether or not the boat would make it into Loch Linnhe - which

thankfully she did.

After her safe arrival, Anthony Borradaile, cruise director, told *The Oban Times* 90 per cent of the passengers on board were from the UK and that the typical British mentality had helped to keep spirits up on board, despite the complications.

He added: 'Keeping the passengers informed has been key. They know we have done everything in our power to try and take them to Portree but we wouldn't jeopardise their safety. 'There has been a real excitement about coming into Fort William, though, so we are delighted that worked out.'

Mikael Degerlund from Finland, the ship's captain who has been sailing on various vessels for 35 years, described *Boudicca* as an elderly lady but said she had state-of-the-art equipment.

Captain Degerlund, who also has a pilot's licence, had pre-

viously come to Fort William in 2015 to test the route. In his report he said it would be for the captain on the day to decide if he felt it appropriate to sail through the Corran Narrows and that not all commanders would want to do it.

At that time he did not know that he would be captaining *Boudicca*.

He added: 'There are only maybe three other places in the world which offer scenery as beautiful as Fort William and the Corran Narrows: the Norwegian fjords, Chilean fjords and Alaskan fjords. Why don't more people know about Scotland?' he wondered.

He said he believed for the economy it could mean about 100 euros spent per person who went ashore. He said that, with the right weather conditions, a large liner could pass through the narrows but he thought

Fort William had to find its own attractions to offer people and make it stand out to passengers when they are asked afterwards to name their favourite port.

Back on (semi) dry land, members of Fort William Town Team greeted passengers who were whisked away by coach tours to nearby attractions. A charter steam train had also been organised.

Later, local historian Ian Abernethy and Bill Cameron helped to conduct a homespun 'virtual tour' in the town discussing 'then and now' from the West End Hotel to the old fort and everything in between.

Marilyn and Jeff Alvrud from Rochdale said of their experience: 'The downside about sailing around Scotland is the weather but the upside is the views. We have been out to see the Bonnie Prince Charlie monument and it was just stunning.

'We took the steam train out to Glenfinnan and the coach back, and it was definitely worthwhile. 'Someone said it's one of the best train routes in the UK and she wasn't joking.

'We like to cruise a lot. We have been to Barbados and sunny climes but we have enjoyed this one just as much.'

John and Christine Dainty from Birmingham had been to Fort William and sailed down the Caledonia Canal in the past but had really enjoyed this trip.

They also booked the steam train excursion but decided to head back into town in the early afternoon to spend some time in the High Street.

They said: 'It's a shame we haven't been able to get off at some of the other stops so we are so thankful to be able to do so in Fort William.

'We are going back out this afternoon to stretch our legs.'



Councillor Thomas MacLennan hands Captain Mikael Degerlund a special plaque commemorating the Boudicca's first visit to Fort William.

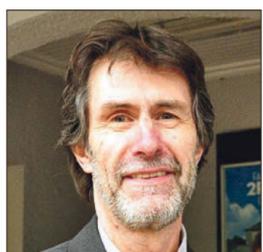


Sarah and James Kennedy with Scot Dingwall from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which provided £20,000 towards shelters at Fort William's West End car park.

## WHY I LOVE LOCHABER



**Oliver Millington**, 25, from Fort William, runs the town's climbing wall business Three Wise Monkeys. He said: 'I love Lochaber because of the great diversity of things there are to do here.'



**Benny MacDonald**, 61, is a member of the Lochaber Transport Forum and lives in Fort William. Benny loves Lochaber because 'it's the great outdoors'. He said: 'We have such great culture and history here. I did move abroad for a while when I was younger, and tried to travel the world living in other places, but I came back here.'



**Gordon Stewart** from Arisaig used to come to Lochaber on holiday when he was a boy. 'I have come to Arisaig on holiday since I was about one year old. Arisaig has been a huge part of my life and I have been here for 36 years. There is a great community feel here. I love the beaches and the sea.'



**Hege Hernaes** is originally from the west coast of Norway, but has lived in Glenfinnan for about 23 years. Hege said she loves Lochaber because of 'its beauty'. 'I love the people and the atmosphere in Lochaber, there is always something to do here.'



**Miriam Iorwerth**, 35, from Fort William said she loves Lochaber because 'there is a real sense of community here and, of course, its beautiful landscape'.

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# New group is formed to save park as plans for site change

MONICA GIBSON  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

DRAWINGS for a development on the site of a former Fort William school have been redrafted after more than 70 people attended a public consultation and made their opinions heard.

Plans for a new 70-home development to be built on the site of Lochside Primary School were revealed to residents last week.

The Highland Council and Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) are behind the project for which an artist's impression and information was displayed in Caol Community Centre from Thursday September 29.

affordable homes in the area, the scheme has raised some concerns.

The council told *The Oban Times* the main three areas for comments were whether a bus shelter would be kept at the entrance to the site, concern in relation to the secondary exit into Castle Drive and that the bike park was included within the development area.

Carol Gosling, who lives in Castle Drive, said while residents knew the school was earmarked for development, in previous consultations the park had not been included.

She added: 'The local development plan just ring-fenced the actual site of the school. But when the council put the new



There are concerns that the bicycle park could be included within the development area.

Picture: Eilidh Anderson

plans up they crossed through the park which we were quite dismayed about.

'The developer, acting on the council's information, has included an access road through the play area which would annihilate any safe area to play on.'

'We have been told there needs to be two access roads because of the flood risk but we are unsure about that because all the other developments on Lochside only have one.'

Carol, who has two young boys, has joined other families from the area to start a campaign to 'save our park' and has created a Facebook page to raise awareness.

She said: 'My boys have not taken it too well about the proposals. They are very fond of that park. It has been something which the whole community

have come together to look at.

'We want the area to stay as the quiet little cul-de-sac it is and not become just a through-road.'

'We've even been contacted by people from farther afield who used to live here and they remember how it was and have shown their support.'

A spokesperson from the Highland Council said the updated drawings reflected the comments already received and that the plans could change again based on the reactions received.

She added: 'We are very much in the consultation stage and welcome any comments from individuals and groups about the outlined proposals for the

redevelopment of the site as this forms part of the conversation under way with the community which we want to have.'

'The public drop-in event held last week was well attended and an exhibition is still running in the community centre this week so people can look at the proposals and pass on their views, comments and suggestions.'

'A planning application is likely to be submitted sometime in November and then there will be a further period of public consultation where comments can be submitted. In the meantime, we welcome comments and they can be submitted to our planning service or to our housing team via john.mchardy@highland.gov.uk.'

## TIMESLINE

### Views sought on development plan

A PLAN aiming to highlight the best options for future development has reached a new stage.

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan (West-Plan) is being developed by the Highland Council.

From April to June this year, the council consulted on a number of subjects in what was called the main issues report (MIR), asking for views and showed options for how they could be improved.

Now the council is running an additional sites consultation (ASC), seeking comments on selected sites the council considers should be discussed. To read and comment on the ASC, visit <http://consult.highland.gov.uk>. Any comments need to be received by noon on Friday October 28.

### Trial halted after lawyer is taken ill

THE trial of a man accused of attempted murder by setting fire to a house in Mallaig was halted this week because his defence counsel was ill. Kieran Ridley, 32, was to have gone on trial at the High Court in Livingston on Tuesday following the fire in October 2015.

### Public welcome at Transport Forum

THE NEXT quarterly open meeting of the Transport Forum will be held on Tuesday November 1 at around 11.20am in Fort William council chamber. Members of the public are welcome to attend and raise transport-related concerns. The forum will hold its annual general meeting immediately before this at 11am.

## POLICE FILES

A BLACK Ford Focus, parked on Moss Road in Caol, was damaged between 4pm on Friday September 23 and Sunday September 25.

A VEHICLE parked on Park Road, Kinlochleven sustained damage on Friday September 30 at 2am. Police are looking to identify a person of medium build with dark hair worn in a short pony tail, wearing a dark parka jacket, who was seen in the area.

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org>.

## Parents voice fear for safety at school crossing

RENEWED concerns over the safety of children making their way to a Lochaber school have come to light after 'near misses' took place.

Parents and councillors have been campaigning for a crossing outside Banavie Primary School to be installed for some time.

Currently, a lollipop lady helps to ensure children making their way across the A830 are unharmed and she is accompanied by 20mph signs designed to flash at either side of the school day.

However, recent malfunctions in the signage have added to frustration among parents who fear the worst for their kids.

Pamela Donald said she witnessed the lollipop lady almost being knocked over and took to Facebook to raise awareness. She wrote: 'ONCE AGAIN the flashing 20mph signs for motorists coming from town towards Corpach are not working.'

'I also called into the police station and told them. They are aware of all of the above, but we just need to report all these things and get it all recorded. The more of us complaining the better. Please share.'

Councillor Ben Thomson shared the post online, explaining that Transport Scotland argued there was not enough foot traffic to justify a pelican crossing. He wrote: 'That they respond in those terms when it's child safety we're talking about makes my blood boil.'

The representative for Caol and Mallaig told *The Oban Times* last Friday: 'I was at the parents' association meeting and I don't think the incident was the only one recently. Lots more people were coming to me saying they had seen or heard of similar incidents.'



Ben Thomson says an apparent lack of concern for child safety at Banavie Primary School 'makes his blood boil'.

Mr Thomson added: 'The 20mph signs are, more often than not, not working. While I commend Transport Scotland for trying to make this part of the road safer, I don't think this will solve the problem. What they want to do is just narrow the road but this is a trunk road and the patroller is still just relying on her PPE [personal protection equipment] to stop moving traffic.'

'I think the best way would be if anyone who needs to can stop the traffic by means of a peli-

can crossing. This would give the direct benefit of immediately increasing safety but also the indirect benefit of perceived safety. It would encourage parents to think, "I don't need to drive my child to school" because the child or children have a safe means of crossing the road.'

A spokesperson from Transport Scotland confirmed that, outwith school hours, there was insufficient demand to warrant a signalised crossing at this location and added: 'We want to

narrow the road at the existing crossing patroller crossing to reduce vehicle speeds and the time it takes to cross from one side of the road to the other. This will make it easier and safer for those wishing to cross.'

'Following the useful feedback from the meeting, we will work on the designs of these safety measures and, once completed, will carry out further consultation with all parties before any construction begins.'



Gilberta Paterson is congratulated by Councillor Brian Murphy.

## Gilberta celebrates 100th

A CENTENARIAN says long walks and fresh air has helped the years 'fly by'.

Gilberta Paterson from Nevis Road, Inverlochy, was born on October 5, 1916, in Bo'ness, and lived in Stenhousemuir, near Falkirk for 50 years. She has a son, Sandy, who ran the post office in Inverlochy but now lives in Inverness.

Mrs Paterson worked as a telephone operator and remembers

watching bombs being dropped on the Forth Bridge in the Second World War from the window of her exchange a few miles away down the river.

She has no secret for long life, but always liked to keep fit and go for walks. She also loves flowers and enjoyed many happy hours looking after her garden.

She said: 'I can't believe I have reached 100 as time has just flown in.'

## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club's next show takes place at Kilmallie Hall on Saturday October 8. Boxing starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Charlie Anderson on 07867 389177, Phil Bradley on 07901 977536 or Niall Clark on 07477 150100.

REPRESENTATIVES from Lochaber Sensory Care will be at Dail Mhor Care Home, Strontian, on Monday October 10 from 1.30pm until 2pm and at Acharacle Medical Centre from 3pm to 4pm.

THE COMMUNITY car scheme AGM will take place on Tuesday October 11 in An Drochaid, Claggan, from 6pm until 8pm.



Shane Manning and some of the parking enforcers.

## Traffic wardens return

PARKING enforcers are back in Fort William in a bid to deter 'bad habits' among drivers.

A new team has been out and about since Monday looking for anyone parking illegally.

For the moment only warnings have been issued but, after two weeks, charges of £60 will be levied.

The interim period is to

allow motorists to familiarise themselves with the new rules and for the enforcers to get used to the job.

Shane Manning, Highland Council's principal traffic officer, said: 'On Tuesday there were three officers in Fort William on patrol. This is to create a degree of familiarity and to let the team work together. There is a team of 12 enforcers.'

## WHY I LOVE LOCHABER



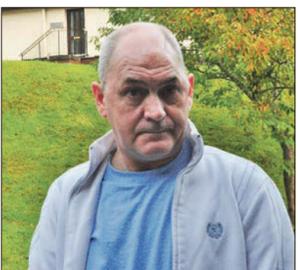
**Maureen Cameron**, 64, lives in Claggan, Fort William. 'I was born and bred in Lochaber, in Onich. I am a crofter's daughter so I just couldn't live without the hills. Fort William has a lot to offer people with disabilities too.'



**Allison Kane**, 51, is financial officer at Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL). She said she loves Lochaber because of the beautiful scenery. Allison enjoys working at VAL in Fort William because 'it has a nice relaxed atmosphere.'



**Claire Harper**, 37, said that Fort William was a 'fantastic place to raise young children'. She said: 'I feel like my children are safe when they go out to play here. It's a great environment for families.'



**Douglas Gordon**, 55, moved to Fort William 20 years ago. He commented: 'I'm so glad I moved to Lochaber - I love the peace and quiet here.'

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Invergarry pupils at the Wild about Scotland bus that visited the Highlands.

## Youngsters go wild for conservation bus

AN EDUCATION bus has visited students in the Highlands, appealing to their wild side. Pupils from St Bride's, Invergarry, Ardgour, Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Strontian primary schools experienced a series of interactive Scottish wildlife sessions last week,

thanks to a specially-designed double-decker education bus. 'Wild about Scotland', has been developed by the Royal Zoological Society for Scotland (RZSS) and has been made possible through a partnership between Clydesdale Bank and RZSS. Pupils took part in inter-

active sessions which focused on Scottish native species, habitats and environments. Sessions were delivered by a team from RZSS. Barbara Smith, from RZSS, said: 'Our mobile education bus has had a huge impact across the length and breadth of Scotland,

carrying out a large number of pit stops in the Highlands. 'It is vital that we reach out to teach young people about conservation work and the species on their own doorstep. This outreach project makes up a significant part of RZSS's work and we hope to continue with

this, and other similar projects, for the foreseeable future.' Helen Page, from Clydesdale Bank, added: 'Wild about Scotland aims to engage a younger generation with Scotland's wildlife - not just in forests or wild areas of Scotland, but also in their own back gardens.'

## WHY I LOVE LOCHABER



**Baiba Samohvalova**, 32, moved from Latvia to Fort William eight years ago. 'A friend asked me if I wanted to move here. I like Fort William because it's quiet. As a single mother, I think it is a safe place to raise my son. I study at the college because I want a better life for me and my son.'



**Carina MacLean**, 17, has lived in Kinlochell her whole life. 'I love Lochaber because all my friends and family are here and when I left school I didn't feel confident enough to move away from home. I have never lived anywhere to know any different. Lochaber feels like home.'



**Dr Anna De Jong**, 28, lived in Australia until moving to Lochaber a year ago. 'The landscape and environment here are amazing. Fort William is unique and different to anywhere else in the world. All the people have been really friendly and open.'



**Dr Peter Varley** is the director of the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research. He has lived in Arisaig for eight years. 'The wide open landscape is fantastic. There is a great sense of community here and people are so outdoor focused.'



**Lucia Petrovicova**, 30, from Slovakia, has lived in Fort William for eight years. 'I like that the town is busy all year round, and there is a winter season. I love the hills and the scenery.'



**Peter Homola**, 31, also from Slovakia, moved to Fort William three years ago. Peter is to move to Kirkcaldy soon. 'I like it here, but I hope to move on to a bigger place one day.'

## WIN vouchers to stay or dine at Ardanaiseig on Loch Awe



**Ardanaiseig on Loch Awe is renowned as Scotland's most wildly romantic hotel.** One of the UK's top wedding venues, it's also the ideal place to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any other special occasion, or spend a relaxing break.

Owned by a London antiques dealer and built in 1834, the Grade 2 listed house at Kilchrenan near Taynuilt showcases eccentric ornaments and antique furniture. It has 16 ensuite double bedrooms plus a cottage within the grounds - and its own private island! It was shortlisted in the Luxury and Fine Dining categories in the 2016-17 Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards. Its bridal/honeymoon suite is the hotel's Boatshed, a two minute walk from the hotel, lapped by the loch waters.

The Oban Times has teamed up with Ardanaiseig to offer readers the opportunity to win vouchers to stay or dine there, or donate to friends or relatives as gifts. It's the perfect Christmas present! We're also giving readers an exclusive 10% discount on the vouchers. Simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Ardanasieg Competition, POBox 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by Tuesday 12th October, 2016



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Please post your entries to The Oban Times, Ardanasieg Competition, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by the closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 12th October, 2016. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.  Please tick if you do not wish The Oban Times or Ardanasieg Hotel to contact you with future promotions and offers.

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Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners will be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 12th October, 2016. Accommodation is subject to availability. Voucher must be used by 21st December 2016

## £10,000 donation is in memory of Kelly

**MONICA GIBSON**  
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FRIENDS and family, who fundraised to save a Lochaber girl who was diagnosed with cancer, have marked the anniversary of her death by donating more than £10,000 to help others.

Kelly MacDonald passed away at the age of 29 in September last year. She only found out she had skin cancer in May of 2015 but, rather than giving in, Kelly organised events to raise money to help fund her treatment.

Sadly, Kelly lost her battle with cancer but her efforts were not in vain as events she put in motion raised around £22,000. Kelly's mother, Wendy, said: 'It's good that people remember Kelly.

'I still cannot get used to her not being here. I would like to thank everybody for their amazing generosity.'

The fundraising started initially with a coffee morning in the beauty salon Kelly owned. This was followed by a garden party with cakes and raffles.

But her idea for a sponsored climb up Ben Nevis took the fundraising to whole new level.

Wendy, who works as a health care assistant at Belford Hospital, said: 'It was amazing.

'For instance, a team of four men were sponsored to cycle 40 miles and then run up Ben Nevis carrying their bikes



Kelly was a popular hairdresser and partner in Unique Hair Salon.

on their shoulders. More than 50 people participated in "Kelly's Klimb" and that's where the majority of the money was raised.'

Kelly's family and friends thought carefully about what to do next.

Wendy explained: 'We couldn't use any of the money raised for Kelly's treat-

ment, as her cancer had quickly spread throughout her body.

'We decided that, as the money was raised in Lochaber, it should stay in Lochaber.

'And we wanted some to be for palliative care because, like Kelly, a lot of people want to stay here and be cared for at home.'

As the first anniversary of Kelly's death approached, her family and friends donated £10,300 to the health board's Lochaber Community Nursing fund.

Aside from palliative care, the family has also given funds to help others and plans to make further donations

Wendy said: 'We've also purchased a "cuddle cot" for the Belford Hospital. We hope it never has to be used but it's there if it's needed.'

The MacDonald family also want to raise awareness locally about malignant melanoma in Kelly's memory.

Wendy continued: 'Due to the wet climate in the Highlands, people think they cannot develop skin cancer.

'It can only take one ray of sunlight for your skin to get damaged and, even when the sun is hidden on a dull day, your skin can still change colour, which can sometimes lead on to developing cancer.

'Kelly said that if she'd got better, she wanted to sell her business and educate people about the dangers of not properly protecting your skin.'

## Pupils settle in at new shared campus

A NEW sense of motivation is being felt by staff and students as they settle in to their new Caol campus.

Fort William's St Columba's and Caol primaries ventured into their new shared building last week. The move to the state-of-the-art campus was well received, with everyone saying it felt like home already.

Head teacher from Caol Primary Steven Hamilton described the campus as airy and with lots of space which is more conducive to learning.

He added: 'There is a great deal of interaction - the kids all come together at lunchtime and it's great to see them mixing on the playground but all the while there are still two schools with their own identity.

'It's also helpful for the staff - if a P6 teacher wants to talk to someone about things which are relevant to that year they can walk along the corridor and share ideas. It's just a great use of resources.'



Left to right are George Shearer, Victoria Niblock and Aaron Maclean from St Columba's and Sara Carmichael, Stevi-Leigh Love and Kerr MacKinnon from Caol.

# New group aims to improve bus services across Lochaber

**ELLIE FORBES**  
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A NEW bus users' group has been set up in Fort William following a growing number of complaints about services in Lochaber.

Organised by the Lochaber Transport Forum, a meeting of the bus users' group will be held every three months with representatives from bus operators, the Highland Council and regular bus passengers.

At the inaugural meeting Wednesday September 28, chairman of the Lochaber Transport Forum and Fort William councillor Brian Murphy said: 'A lot of problems with buses have been raised at transport forum meetings so we have set up this bus users' group for people with concerns about services.'

'We want buses in Lochaber to operate efficiently and in accordance with people's needs.'

Maureen Dempsey from Claggan, who frequently uses the bus to get to and from Fort William, voiced concerns about the state of Stagecoach buses. She said: 'I was on a bus about two weeks ago that was swimming in water and absolutely disgusting. You wouldn't have even put a dog in it, so why are people in Fort William getting these buses? Why are the operators allowing buses to be sent to us that are fit for the scrapyard?'

Iain Beaton, operations manager for Stagecoach West Highlands, offered his apologies for the state of the bus, explaining there was a designated cleaner at the depot for the buses.

John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge

and Achnacarry Community Council, said: 'Just because I live in Lochaber, I shouldn't be treated like a second-class citizen and that is how I feel.'

'Citylink is advertising comfortable and modern coaches yet the 919 service to Inverness is just a joke. The buses are always breaking down, the air-conditioning is working one week and not the next, in the winter the heating isn't working

“People are always complaining. The buses that are provided are elderly, rubbish and constantly late”

**John Fotheringham**  
Community council chairman

but the air-con is. People are always complaining but nothing improves.

'The buses that are being provided are elderly, rubbish and constantly late - it's just unacceptable. You, the operators, set the standards when you advertise so you should adhere to those.'

'I came to this meeting because people want to make a

difference. The transport forum has been listening to complaints for years, but it's not made a huge difference.'

'We need to make a difference this time otherwise this meeting is pointless.'

David Frenz, operational director for Scottish Citylink, responded by saying no one in Lochaber should feel like a second-class citizen. He said: 'We are looking at investment in new vehicles, but in the past six months we have had zero correspondence from the public about buses being late or broken down.'

He added that it was important a dialogue between operators and bus users continued outside of the group's meetings.

The other key issue raised at the meeting was the absence of timetables from bus stops around Lochaber.

Mr Murphy said: 'There is little point running buses if people don't know when they are running. We got new posts at bus stops for timetables, yet we still have not got the timetables up.'

'I hope someone gets this sorted because I'm getting really frustrated with this issue.'

'It's the same problem that keeps coming up - people telling us that the timetables will get put up but nothing happens. Surely it's in the bus operators' interests to get them up.'

Inquiries and complaints can be made to the Highland Council on 01349 886606.

Alternatively, David Frenz can be contacted on david.frenz@stagecoachbus.com.

The next meeting of the bus users' group will be December 6 at 11.30am in the council chambers Fort William.



Councillor Brian Murphy at Carn Dearg bus stop in Claggan, where there is still no timetable available for bus users. Picture Iain Ferguson

## TIMESLINE

### Three are injured in head-on crash

THREE people were injured in a head-on collision at Glencoe last week.

The incident occurred on Monday September 26 at 9.30pm just south of the Kings House Hotel in Glencoe.

Two cars were involved in the crash and both drivers were said to have suffered minor injuries.

A passenger in one of the vehicles was taken to the Belford Hospital in Fort William with suspected broken ribs.

They were kept in overnight for observation.

### Fundraising jazz concert in village

JAZZ duo Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer are set to play a fundraising concert for Ballachulish village hall this weekend.

Ian and Dominic have been playing together for a number of years, but their new endeavour entitled Jazz in the Village has taken them on rural tours to villages all over the country, often bringing jazz for the first time to remote communities.

The pair, who play saxophone and piano, will be playing Jazz in the Village on Sunday October 9 at 8pm in Ballachulish hall.

### Apprenticeships the way forward

SMALL Highland businesses are being urged to consider apprenticeships to develop their workforce.

Recent figures from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) show that last year in the Highlands there were 1,321 new apprenticeship opportunities offered by businesses across the Highland Council area.

# Kebabish

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FW

## Kentallen

WORK has started on a £261,000 tourism development at Kentallen.

Investment from Kentallen Leisure Ltd will see new pontoons added and the Old Railway pier on the shores of Loch Linnhe extended.

Sailors, boat users, divers, kayakers, local tour operators and fishermen all stand to benefit from the proposed marine development.

The project is being supported with a £65,400 contribution from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), which will also create five new jobs in a rural part of Lochaber.

Director of Kentallen Leisure Paul McFrtridge said: 'Offering additional attractions like these means we can appeal to a wider range of visitors and provide more enhanced facilities for our core short break and food and drink markets.'

'Whether people arrive here by boat and want to do some cycling or drop in while touring the Highlands by bike for a coffee or some recently landed seafood, we aim to develop a visitor experience that is as flexible and memorable as possible.'

Elaine Jones from HIE added: 'Kentallen Leisure's proposed provision of safe and modern pontoon and landing facilities will contribute to Scotland's marine tourism strategy, helping bring more marine visitors to the area while retaining them for longer.'

## Western Isles

THE WESTERN Isles Council recently hosted eight EU visitors as part of its involvement in an EU-funded project.

The Beyond Energy Action Strategies (BEAST) project aims to get countries working together to look at sustainable energy developments in the region.

Visitors from Belgium, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Cyprus, Spain, Croatia and Latvia came together last week to exchange ideas for the project.

The group took a trip to the West Harris Trust and to Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust), where partners were enthused with what has been achieved through the community share offer to support the construction of three wind turbines.

Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'There is much we can learn from, and share with, our partners across Europe in respect of the challenges we face to reduce energy consumption, improve energy efficiency and increase renewable and alternative energy production in our regions.'

'The visitors were extremely positive about the work that they saw going on in the islands and I hope that useful links may have been formed for future joint working between the Outer Hebrides and other parts of Europe.'

## Broadford

A 'COMPROMISE' by a bank after it announced a branch closure on Skye has been well received by the island's MSP and her constituents.

Kate Forbes believes Bank of Scotland's promise to offset the closure of its Broadford branch by providing more regular visits from its mobile bank is a step in the right direction. She hopes the move will increase cash deposit and access facilities, particularly for customers unable to make the nine-mile trip from Kyle or those who have difficulty accessing online banking.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch said: 'Though I am sorry to see the branch close its doors, it's good news that the mobile bank will be visiting Broadford on a much more regular basis.'

In recent times the Broadford branch had only been opening from 10am to 3pm on a Tuesday and Friday.

Following a meeting between Ms Forbes and BOS representatives, it is understood the Kyle branch will open an hour longer each day to compensate for the closure.

Calum Macleod, from Broadford and Strath Community Council, thanked BOS and Ms Forbes for their efforts in exploring additional options. He added: 'Particularly encouraging are the assurances of the new mobile banking facility coming more frequently combined with planned upgrading of the banking facilities within the Broadford Post Office.'



Deborah Moffat receives her prize from Sir Ian MacDonald, chairman of Clan Donald Lands Trust. Also pictured are judges Mark Wringe, left, senior lecturer at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Professor Boyd Robertson, second right, principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and Jan Wallwork Clarke, right, chief executive of Clan Donald Skye.

## Sleat poetry judges impressed

AN AMERICAN poet has won this year's MacDonald of Sleat poetry prize.

The competition, run by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, was instituted by Sir Ian MacDonald of Sleat in memory of his daughter, Deborah, who died two years ago.

This year's winner is Vermont-born Deborah Moffat, who came to Scotland in 1982.

She began writing poetry in Gaelic in 2013 after nine years of learning the language.

Deborah won the Wigtown Prize in 2015 with the poem *Lilidh sa' Mhachair* and in 2016 with the poem *Clann na Coille*.

Her Gaelic poetry has also been published in *Northwords Now*, *Causeway/Cabhsair*, *Southlight*, and *Poblachd nam Bàrd*.

Mark Wringe, a member of the literary panel judging the competition, said: 'All the poems were presented to us anonymously, so any of them could have been by a poet new to us. But the feel and subject of *An Seudair*'s

*an Giuthas* ('*The Cedar and the Pine*') impressed us all for its originality and freshness.'

The prizes were awarded by Sir Ian MacDonald at the Clan Donald Centre on September 24.

Sir Ian commented: 'It is good that there has been an increase in the number of poems submitted to the competition this year and it is very exciting that an American lady has won.'

'That will be of considerable interest to Clan Donald USA.'

## Busy two days as Kyle lifeboat responds to emergency call-outs

THE FIRST autumn gales resulted in two call-outs in as many days for the lifeboat crew in Kyle.

As storm-force winds battered the west coast, Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI's volunteers were called out in rough conditions on Tuesday afternoon (September 27) and again the following evening.

In the first incident, the crew were paged at 2.33pm after a member of the public reported seeing a group of kayakers in distress close to Eilean Donan Castle.

After a short search, the kayakers were found. They were all experienced and able to continue on their own.

This was a false alarm with good intent and, speaking of the incident, one of the crew said: 'Although the kayakers were not actually in any difficulty, the member of the public who called the Coastguard thought



The first autumn gales of 2016 led to two call-outs in as many days for Kyle's lifeboat crew. Photo: Kyle RNLI



that they were and did the right thing considering the weather.'

At 6.20pm on Wednesday September 28, the crew were paged, at the request of Stornoway Coastguard, to help someone stuck on a boat in Glenelg bay.

The crew quickly found the man, who was unable to get off the small vessel because of the very high winds and large swell.

They transferred the man onto the lifeboat and headed for the jetty in the village.

But because of bad conditions and debris in the water, the lifeboat was unable to get alongside and it was decided to transfer the man to the Glenelg Ferry slipway.

Once the casualty was safely ashore, the crew returned to Kyle where the boat was refuelled and made ready for service by 7.10pm.

## Mallaig

## CalMac bookings will be affected until next week

BOOKINGS with ferry operator CalMac between Mallaig and Armadale might still be affected until next week, according to a transport forum.

Following an accident involving the *MV Hebrides*, representatives from Sleat Transport Forum were informed that significant changes to ferry deployment would take place and would have an impact on Mallaig to Armadale services, some of which are operated by the *MV Lord of the Isles*.

The Lochboisdale to Mallaig service using the *Lord of the Isles* was suspended and that vessel sent to Oban to operate to Coll, Tiree and Colonsay.



The *MV Clansman* was sent to Uig, Skye, to operate to Lochmaddy and Tarbert with the *Hebrides* expected to be in dry dock for up to 10 days in Greenock.

Rob Ware, forum secretary, said: 'As a result of these changes there will be no further sailings of the *Lord of the Isles* on the Mallaig to Armadale route for potentially two weeks from today (September 28).' Mr Ware added: 'Any passengers and vehicles currently booked on the *Lord of the Isles* service will be rebooked to the other two ships, until at least Monday October 10.'

CalMac operations director Drew Collier said: 'It is hoped that these contingencies, which will be in place for at least a week, will provide a robust and sustainable service until the *MV Hebrides* is available to return to her usual place within the network.'

## Arisaig

## Community takes over railway station

A HIGHLAND community trust has adopted Arisaig railway station.

Arisaig Community Trust has taken over the upkeep of the station through ScotRail's station adoption scheme.

From the end of the

month, the trust will be in charge of flower planting at the station and ensuring it is 'welcoming' for visitors.

Previously maintained by someone from Mallaig, the trust wanted to bring it back into the hands of the Arisaig community.

Gordon Stewart from Arisaig Community Trust told *The Oban Times*: 'When the idea of station adoption first came out, I think a lot of people didn't really understand what it was all about.'

'However, since adopting

## MORVERN lines



A very rare wild white Inverness-shire otter.

## A very rare wild white otter

IF YOU thought hens' teeth were the rarest thing in nature, think again.

White otters in the wild, especially those that are not albinos, are at the pinnacle of the list and one of the most elusive mammals in the British Isles. An albino was spotted, fleetingly, in Moray eight years ago but, as far as I know, it has not been seen again.

The above photograph was taken in September 2013 at the edge of a river in a West Inverness-shire glen, 900 feet above sea level. This animal was definitely not an albino as the photographer was close enough to see that its eyes were brown, not pink.

Records contain few references to pure white otters. The earliest I know is from Jura where Henry Evans, who leased large tracts of the island for deer stalking and was the forefather of modern deer management, recounted that one was killed on the island in 1888. Another, probably shot on Islay, was stuffed and displayed in Kildalton House.

Eurasian otters – *Lutra lutra* – are one of the most eagerly sought, yet shyest, animals in the world. They are known in parts of Scotland by their Gaelic name, *Dobhran* – water dog – or *biest-dubh* – black beast – and belong to the same family as badgers, weasels, stoats, pine martens and mink.

In olden days, otter skins were thought to have magical properties and the animals themselves were supposed to be vulnerable only if shot in the white spot underneath the chin. The skin, being magical, was considered a charm and an antidote against smallpox and drowning.

It was also considered lucky to have one's targe, or shield, lined with the skin of an otter. Rob Roy, the famous MacGregor outlaw who later became a folk hero, had his favourite sporran made from otter skin. There can be no doubt it was the otter's association with the supernatural that led to them being hunted almost to extinction long ago.

There is a tendency in the media today to blame landowners for killing rare species. In the days when predatory birds and animals were considered fair game, hundreds of otters were trapped and shot by crofters, smallholders and others who lived and worked on the land. They were killed for their valuable skins which went a long way towards meeting rents. Of course otters were plentiful then and no one envisaged that one day they would become less common.

Victorian natural history books, parish statistical accounts and game books are full of reports of otter kills to such an extent anyone would think communities were vying with each other for a place in the Guinness Book of Records. The lists are endless but the following are typical examples of the unbelievable slaughter: the Glengarry district, 48 between 1837 and 1840; the Island of Longay (off Scalpay) seven in 1895; Inverewe Estates, 12 over 26 years; the Lews, 95 between 1876 and 1885; Gigha, six in 1887; Jura, 40 between 1877 and 1887; the Sutherland Estates, 263 between 1831 and 1834; and Assynt, where 12 were killed by one trapper between 1869 and 1880.

Many landowners discouraged killing otters. A notable exception was Skye laird Captain Allan MacDonald of Waterish. Now and again he kept them as pets but persecuted others for pleasure even although he admitted they lived principally on eels and perch, which were once plentiful around his shores. MacDonald was born on Skye in 1823 and was considered an expert in natural history and maintained that the South Uist otters were lighter in colour because they foraged in fresh water, while those in Skye confined their activities to the sea. The heaviest otter he killed on Skye weighed 27lbs.

MacDonald, who gave evidence to the Napier Commission in 1883 and helped start the Skye Highland Games, had a pack of formidable terriers which he bred specially for killing otters. In the early 1900s, the origins of this breed were brought into question and became the subject of a spirited exchange of letters in the *British Kennel Club Gazette* between several of its readers.

One was MacDonald's nephew who wrote: 'My late uncle took more interest in and knew more about the terriers of his native island than anyone living. He maintained that the short-haired breed was the purest and real Skye terrier and that the long-haired breed [recognised by the Kennel Club] was descended from a Maltese terrier and French poodle landed on the West Coast of Skye from a shipwreck. Ladies fancied them much as lap dogs, and thus made them fashionable.'

'One of the Waterish dogs was stuffed when he died. All that remains to be seen of him now is the head, legs and tail, rats having destroyed the rest. On one occasion, in a fight with an otter, he had his nose, lips and some of his teeth torn away, leg broken and one of his sides cut in two places, and was for three days in the cairn before he came out. After recovering from his wounds, he was keener than ever for otters.'

Iain Thornber  
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**The Oban Times** & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES now incorporating **LOCHABER NEWS**

**- READER OFFER -**

**FREE CAKE**

for every Lochaber reader courtesy of Farmstead Fayre

To celebrate our first serving of **The Oban Times** incorporating **Lochaber News**, we are giving away a free slice of sponge cake or one cupcake to every reader!

The free cake is courtesy of Farmstead Fayre, a family run bakery and catering company based in Fort William that provides high quality food, from catering for events to a single slice of delicious cake. Products are made to order with the finest Scottish ingredients and can be completely personalised to suit individual tastes.

Visit [www.farmsteadfayre.co.uk](http://www.farmsteadfayre.co.uk) or telephone 01397 708747.

To claim your free cupcake or slice of sponge cake, simply take this voucher to Farmstead Fayre, Unit 15, Ben Nevis Estate, Fort William, PH33 6PR. **BUT HURRY!** The offer is only available until close of business on **Wednesday, October 12th, 2016**. Opening hours are 9am to 5pm on weekdays and 9am to 1pm on Saturday. Closed on Sunday.

**GIVE ME MY FREE CAKE PLEASE**

**The Oban Times** & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES now incorporating **LOCHABER NEWS** Farmstead Fayre

T&Cs: This voucher entitles the holder to one slice of sponge cake or one cupcake worth up to £1.50 retail price at Farmstead Fayre, Fort William between Thursday October 6 and Wednesday October 12, 2016, during opening hours only. While stocks last. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. No cash or product alternative. Photocopies will not be accepted. Digital subscription enquiries please call 01631 568000.

## Argyll Training closes after failed bid for funding

A LAST-DITCH appeal to the Scottish Government for £160,000 to save Argyll Training, a 25-year-old charity supporting young people into work, has failed, resulting in 16 redundancies, writes Sandy Neil.

With cross-party agreement, Argyll and Bute Council committed £80,000 to sustain the 'vital service' until employability fund changes kick in next September, and leader Dick Walsh appealed to ministers John Swinney and Jamie Hepburn to find the extra two thirds of the cost.

But following a recent meeting, Argyll Training's now former managing director Fraser McCowan confirmed: 'Sadly the government were unable to assist. They said they were unable to under European rules and if they supported us other organisations would come to them.'

As a result, Argyll Training staff were made redundant last Friday (September 30).

Mr McCowan said: 'Sadly, we are unable to continue. We are just winding up. Staff are finished, gone. Some have found other jobs, so it would be difficult to get them back.'

'The council's support was magnificent. It was nobody's fault. It was a reduction in funding without any notice.'

'I think there will be further casualties in the training sector. We are not unique, but we were unique in covering the area no-one else did.'

'There are no other providers who will step in. It is a sad loss for the area and the young people we help.'

# No fun for school holidays

As the October school holidays begin youngsters are told... No cycling, no ball games, no skateboarding, no scooters – which means 'no fun' for Oban's young people

LOUISE GLEN  
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A SIGN listing things that people are not allowed to do in a council-funded pedestrianised area in the centre of Oban has brought outrage and humour from Obanites in equal measure.

A sign stating No Cycling, No Ball Games, No Skateboarding and No Scooter Riding was confirmed by area leader Councillor Roddy McCuish as 'advisory only', but he said it was hoped it might bring to the end months of complaints about young people using the Stafford Street area.

The sign was placed by Argyll and Bute Council officials.

According to Oban police officers, unless someone is committing an offence then no enforcement in the area will take place. The sign has 'absolutely no standing in law,' *The Oban Times* told.

'Young people are being victimised as trouble makers. For the most part they are well behaved, not drunk or disorderly and not involved in drugs,' a police spokesman said.

Oban Community Council discussed the matter at their monthly meeting last week with



some members saying the sign was 'pointless' as it could not be enforced.

Complaints had previously been made to the community council and to *The Oban Times* about the high number of young people who use the area for recreation.

On previous occasions, young people have been blamed for damaging flower beds and specially-made glass for the area, and for making tourists to the town 'feel uncomfortable'.

Oban Community Council had previously agreed to meet with young people and one councillor

she would take the matter forward. But in the six months since that meeting no-one has returned to the community council to tell them what had been agreed at the meetings.

Councillors who were present at the community council meeting last Monday were not aware

The sign on Stafford Street that has caused *Oban Times* readers to get in touch.

Photograph: Katrina Rasmussen

of any progress being made towards a skate or recreation area for children.

A group was set up to address the issue and work with the young people, but to date there has been no changes to either the number of young people using the area, or any alternative areas being identified for young people to play on bikes, scooters and skateboards etc.

Youth leader Kevin Irvine said: 'Young people are easy targets.' And speaking of the location of the public area on Oban's wee bay, he continued: 'We can't upset the million pound view, now.'

Meanwhile for younger children, Oban Community Playpark has been closed due to health and safety concerns over the surfacing but hopes to reopen before the October holidays.

And a beach hut on Three that offers free surf lessons to young islanders is at the centre of a planning row, with planners recommending it be removed.

## Billy waits in hope over bail hearing

AN INDIAN court hearing is expected to rule today (Thursday October 6) on whether anti-piracy seaman Billy Irving, from Connel, and five fellow British ex-soldiers will be released on bail from Puzhal Prison in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, to appeal their convictions for alleged firearms offences.

In 2013 the MV Seaman Guard Ohio's 35-strong crew – who were tasked with protecting commercial ships from Somali pirates off the African coast – were arrested for straying into Indian waters with unlicensed weapons.

Last January a judge jailed them all to five years, despite their pleas of innocence.

Their lawyers will now present Madurai High Court with arms licences proving, they argue, the UK Government authorised their employer, US security firm AdvanFort, to carry arms.

An earlier bail application on Tuesday September 27 was not heard after a prosecutor failed to appear.

## US woman aided by GPS alarm

AN AMERICAN woman who fell while walking on Ben Cruachan had to go Stateside to get help.

Last Saturday, the 45-year-old fell, breaking her knee and arm. She set off a personal safety GPS alarm that sent a message to the USA who in turn phoned Oban police for help.

Shortly after 6.30pm, the woman was winched to safety before being treated in Lorn and Islands hospital. Police Scotland and Oban Mountain Rescue team both attended.

### What you said via The Oban Times Facebook page

**Chris Hamill:** I dearly hope the very same councillors are as supportive when it comes to finding a place for the dudes to ride? I have been very supportive of the regeneration project but struggle to understand the 'concrete' flower beds??

**Rory Brian Craig:** Despicable!!!! Council happy to spend millions on pointless upgrades

but won't provide for the younger generation. I mean, seriously, how many skate parks could have been built for the price it's cost to upgrade the pavements! And before anyone says it cost millions to build a skate park, don't start, years ago in Taynuilt we managed to get one build on scrap land for next to nothing!

**Gregor Mcluckie:** Tell me where the kids of Oban can go to do these things. The town is a joke. Nowhere for kids to go so they have to stay in, or get themselves into trouble and moved on for loitering in groups around the town.

**Saskia Cheney:** Money would

be better spent going towards providing an alternative. Everyone is all for kids having an active lifestyle yet the kids who aren't sat inside on their Play Stations have nowhere to actually be active! The council needs to sort its priorities.

**John 'Panda' Gallacher:** 'As it's [the sign] being completely ignored it's obviously a waste

of time erecting them. Maybe if they had somewhere to go these signs wouldn't be needed!'

**Ian Rodgers saw the funny side:** It's missed out 'No Bin Collections'.

**Margaret Allen asked:** 'Are you allowed to breathe in Oban?'  
**Rosie Gillies said:** 'So we can still use roller blades though?'



# Lochaber Ideas Week

November 14-18, 2016

## In the Dragons' Glen: meet Anja Baak of Great Glen Charcuterie

ANJA Baak runs Great Glen Charcuterie with her husband Jan Jacob Baak in Roy Bridge.

The company produces a range of charcuterie made with locally-sourced wild venison which it sells to retailers and restaurants across the UK.

Anja is in charge of the marketing and sales of the company. Originally from the Netherlands, where she trained as a primary school teacher, Anja moved to Scotland in 2000 with her family when her husband was offered a job.

When her husband started the venison business Anja used the left over deerskin to produce deer leather booties. This was a small business which she could operate alongside her growing family.

In 2010, Anja got involved full-time in Great Glen Charcuterie. The company has seen a huge growth over the past few years and has won many awards including best marketing initiative at the 2015 Highlands and Island Food and Drink Awards and its salami was awarded Best British Charcuterie in the Guild of Fine Food awards in 2013.

Anja is also an ambassador for Women's Enterprise Scotland (WES).

WES inspires, motivates and encourages women to start their own business. And it offers support to those already trading to help them grow and become stronger.



## Sales expert will be able to offer help and advice

FOR most businesses, there are more customers in the market than they can satisfy but it often doesn't feel like that as finding, selling and growing these customers can be challenging.

Selling should be enjoyable and profitable. Unfortunately, it's rarely enjoyable when you are struggling to generate sales and profits. Attend a Lochaber Ideas Week strategic sales workshop and join fellow business leaders just like you to discover practical strategies and tactics you can take away and implement in your business immediately that will impact your bottom line.

Iain Swanston of Klozers, pictured, specialises



in helping businesses accelerate their sales growth and has a track record of delivering significant, sustained improvements in his clients' professional sales capabilities.

With a 30-year track record, Iain's broad expertise in sales enables him to equip sales people and businesses with everything they need to deliver higher, sustainable revenues.

With a broad portfolio of solutions each predicated on accurate up-front diagnosis of the challenges organisations are facing, Iain is the 'go to' guy for making sales happen. Hence one Microsoft business manager described Iain as the 'satnav for sales success'.

Book a free place by clicking visiting [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk).

## Highland politicians step up for Question Time

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce a 'Question Time' event as part of Ideas Week 2016.

Hosted by Laurence Young, Question Time will be focused on the questions and issues arising from the business forums that have taken place throughout Lochaber in 2016.

The panel of experts waiting to take questions is made up of four MSPs – Kate Forbes, Donald Cameron, David Stewart and John Finnie.

Lochaber Ideas Week 2016 is in association with West Highland College UHI and The Oban Times, powered by No Fuss Events and hosted by the Moorings Hotel. Question Time is a free event on Monday November 14 at 2.30pm.

For more information or to book a place, visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) and seize the opportunity to debate the business issues of Lochaber with the area's elected representatives.



Left to right are Kate Forbes, Donald Cameron, David Stewart and John Finnie.

## Dangerous driving charges

A CLAGGAN man has pleaded not guilty to charges of driving dangerously and while under the influence of drink or drugs from Benderloch to Oban.

Alexander Watson, of 3 Polmona, Claggan, Fort William, is accused of driving a van on the A828 between Benderloch and Connel, and the A85 from Connel to Argyll Square, Oban, while being unfit to drive through drink or drugs, on September 26.

The 33-year-old also faces a second charge of dangerous driving by repeatedly overtaking vehicles where it was unsafe and swerving across the central white line markings into the path of oncoming traffic.

Watson appeared from custody to deny both charges at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday September 27, when his trial date was set for December 5.

He was released on bail.

## Council hits out at Audit Scotland

COUNCILLORS last week accused Audit Scotland of failing to understand Argyll and Bute Council's problems.

The move came as members agreed to continue an improvement plan designed to address a number of issues identified earlier in the year by Audit Scotland.

At last Thursday's council meeting in Kilmory, council leader Dick Walsh reminded members of the 'challenging timetable' and cuts to funding faced by the authority while setting the 2016/17 budget.

A motion tabled by Councillor Walsh – and agreed by a margin of two votes in the chamber – also took a swipe at Audit Scotland's conclusions in a critical report on the council's 2016/17 budget setting process.

Councillors agreed the watchdog's conclusions 'understate the ever-changing and challenging circumstances faced by the council at that time'.

Last Thursday, the authority's executive director of customer services Douglas Hendry said: 'I think it is clear there has been significant progress and indeed closure on many aspects of the action plan.'

The council estimates that it may be facing a budget gap of around £10.5 million in the next financial year.

Mr Walsh said: 'We will be preparing to set out a timetable for the next budget setting process on October 27.'

Fractious debate among councillors on the issue of openness and transparency led to Helensburgh councillor Vivien Dance saying: 'We are facing around £11 million of cuts and here we are discussing process and semantics. We all have a chance to work together through this nightmare, if common sense was to prevail.'

Former council leader James Robb said afterwards: 'I cannot believe that with only four months to go [until the budget is set] the administration has not made any plans to deal with its projected £10.5m overspend next year.'

'It is totally irresponsible and it will no doubt require further intervention from Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission.'

## Police files

POLICE in Oban are looking for two husky dogs who ran into a field of sheep, injuring two. PC Alison Simpson would like to hear from anyone with information about the attack.

**THE theft of an outdoor motor from a locked shed at Barcaldine is being investigated by Police Officers.**

**The 550cc Suzuki outdoor in black and red was taken some time between September 19 and October 4. Anyone with information should contact Constable Andrew Simpson.**

# Oban housing row reaches new heights

LOUISE GLEN  
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A ROW over the height of flats on the Glenshellach estate was not resolved at a meeting of Oban Community Council, in spite of developers being present at the meeting.

Computer expert and community councillor Stewart McIvor said both images appeared in some way favour either the developers or those opposing the plans.

Speaking on behalf of the planning group, a sub-committee of the community council, Mr McIvor said: 'After a close examination of both the images I think one seems as though it has been made to look as though it [the proposed development] is smaller than it actually is, and the other bigger than it would actually be.'

A spokesman for the developers explained the images were generated by a computer and 'should be right'.

The spokeswoman for Glenshellach Residents Association said it had used a fixed point on the landscape and the flats were

then generated in regard to that fixed point to outline the height.

The planning application for three-storey flats on the Glenshellach Estate has upset some residents association members who say the area is already overcrowded and that the road in the development will not tolerate any more dense housing. More than 50 letters of objection have been received by Argyll and Bute Council planners.

After the community council meeting, and responding to the concerns raised by the residents association by letter to the community council, ACHA chief executive told councillors he did not believe the current proposals reflected 'excessive density'.

The housing boss continued: 'ACHA's current and proposed housing in Glenshellach amounts to 107 units.'

'Many of our tenants do not own cars and use public transport. The contribution of proposed ACHA homes to increased traffic pressures is on the very margins at least.'

The planning application is one of two for the Glenshellach area.



Top, the image submitted by the residents association, and below, the image created for the developers.

## Lack of carers prolonging OAP's hospital stay

AN OBAN pensioner who has been 'stuck' in hospital for four weeks is calling on more people to consider a career in caring, writes Louise Glen.

Kate Winton, 75, went into Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban on September 12 with a sickness bug on advice from her GP. But four weeks later she is unable to go home as her care providers are unable to provide her with a package of home support.

Mrs Winton, a community councillor and a disability rights advocate, has no complaints about her care – or indeed the excellent support being provided at every level of the hospital.

In fact, Mrs Winton, who has MS, even goes as far as to say that every single stop has been pulled out to help her find a way to go home.

Mrs Winton explains: 'There is no prospect of going home until I find carers. At present it is looking like I am going to



have to become an employer of carers myself.

'I have been told that the people who work for carers' companies only get a small proportion of the money paid by the local authority to them.'

'And of course many carers move onto other jobs.'

In the last year, Mrs Winton has lost 11 carers – five in one week when her last package of carers was pulled.

Mrs Winton said: 'I cannot be at home without carers and in the meantime I am taking up a much-needed hospital bed.'

'It seems that people are not considering a career in caring because the salary is too low. Companies pay carers £7.20 an hour, while some supermarkets pay upwards of £9.50 per hour.'

## Councillors' plea for 'plain English' in reports

TWO ARGYLL and Bute councillors have made a plea for plain English.

Councillor George Freeman complained at last Thursday's meeting of the full council that reports from the local authority contained too many acronyms and that their meaning may not be clear to many members of the public.

While the council discussed policy lead councillors' reports,

Councillor Gordon Blair agreed.

'Could I make a plea,' he said, 'for all documents to be in plain English as many are for public use.'

The reports also attracted complaints from members that some policy lead councillors appeared to have cut and pasted sections of text from original reports by officers rather than being in their own words.

## Tackling weed invasion

AS INVASIVE non-native weed species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed become an ever-growing problem, Councillor Elaine Robertson raised the issue at last week's council meeting.

The Oban North and Lorn member said that concerns over the issue had been raised with her by people in her ward.

Council officers advised the

member that Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust is currently developing a bid for European funding for the control and/or eradication of non-native invasive species.

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## Benderloch's first book festival praised as real page turner

BENDERLOCH'S 'tremendously successful' week-long Bookends Festival ended last weekend when the winners of its competitions were announced.

In the festival's book titles competition, Fiona Cruickshank won the children's section prize, a £20 book voucher, with her book, *One Billion Reasons Not to Visit the North Pole*, while Frances Sinclair won a free festival pass with *Donald Trump: My Part in his Downfall*.

In the raffle, Fiona MacFarlane from Taynuilt won a stack of books gifted by this year's authors, and 14 teams vied for chocolates – but not the wooden spoon – at Friday's literary quiz night.

On Saturday Judy Fairbairns shared readings on her memoir *An Island Wife*, weaving her stories of life on Mull with good humour and thought-provoking insights.

Judy said of festival: 'I had thought this to be a small rural attempt at a culture revival. I was very wrong. The dynamic, enthusiastic energy I encountered told me of my arrogance. This book festival is an acorn in the reading revival...watch it grow mighty!'

Russell Campbell, who launched his second novel *Fool Me, Fool You* at the festival, brought Bookends to its climax with an entertaining talk on: 'How, Why, Where and When of having your book published'.



Fiona MacFarlane from Taynuilt with her stack of books from the Bookends raffle. T41\_Bookends\_01\_Fiona MacFarlane

Russell said: 'I was chuffed to be asked to speak by [organisers] Campbell and Joy

Cameron, who together with so many volunteers have produced a really inspiring

week for the Oban area.

'The audience was really enthusiastic and gave me the perfect lift-off, so I'd like to say a big thanks to all the Bookenders.'

Joy and Campbell said: 'We've been so overwhelmed with the response that we're opening the reading room in the Victory Hall, Benderloch this Friday October 7 and Saturday October 8 again from 3.30pm to 6.30pm to give people a final chance to find books they'd like to read or simply share the ambience of the space. On the Saturday evening Mairi Campbell and Kim Edgar will be giving a concert in the reading room before it is finally closed for this year.'

The next Bookends Festival is planned for spring 2018.

Joy said: 'As it is organised and hosted solely by volunteers we'll need to give ourselves time to make sure that the authors we have for next time round are free to join us and we'll start to gather a huge selection of books to rival what we managed for this year.'

'The Book Bins and Book Boxes will remain in place in a few sites for a week or so in order that we can make sure everyone has had a final rummage through the last lot of book donations.'

'We have some plans for pop-up events too, so Bookends will be appearing in all sorts of places before the next major festival.'

## Pensioner drove into petrol pump

AN OBAN pensioner has been banned from driving for 16 months and fined £500 after he drove into a petrol pump while over the drink drive limit.

Martin Stewart, 71, of Glenview Guest House, Soroba Road, admitted charges of careless driving while being almost three times over the legal limit at Oban Filling Station on September 18.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday September 28 that the accused was witnessed at 7pm that evening driving into the petrol station on Soroba Road to buy a half bottle of whisky.

Then at 9.30pm, he said, 'the cashier watched the accused collide with one of the pumps, and abandon his car at an odd angle. He made his way back into the shop staggering. The accused asked for cigarettes and alcohol.'

Staff refused to sell him these and pleaded with him not to drive off, but 'he drove off with his door open,' Mr McGinty said.

After police officers traced Stewart to his home address, Mr McGinty added, 'they managed to rouse him at 11.35pm, and found 'the accused was smelling of alcohol and staggering. Upon caution, he said: 'You know me, don't you? I drove down the road. I was drunk. I shouldn't have done it. I have done a really silly thing and I know I will probably lose my licence.'

Mr McGinty concluded: 'There is CCTV that caught everything on camera.'

Representing himself, Stewart said: 'I was very stupid.'

When Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC asked to see his driving licence, he responded: 'I have cut it up and put it in the bin. I can't take the chance I will do that again.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'You were clearly drunk and you were driving on the streets. Really dangerous.'

She banned Stewart from driving for 16 months, reduced from two years for his guilty plea, and fined him £500, reduced from £750, to be paid within 14 days.

## Teens sentenced for violent assault

A TEENAGER has been jailed and a second sentenced to a community payback order for a 'violent' assault in Oban.

Both 19-year-olds admitted assaulting a man on Argyll Street on March 12 by repeatedly kicking him to his head and body, causing him to lose consciousness. Both previously appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on August 17, when Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentencing for reports.

Defence agent Jane McLaren appealed to Sheriff Anderson to impose a community payback order on Darren Clark, of 10 Mill Brae, Bunessan. 'He has turned a corner,' she told the court on Tuesday September 27. 'This has been a huge fright to him. He has taken responsibility. There is no excusing the fact. Alcohol contributes to his violent behaviour. He has not got over the death of his friend, and uses alcohol to cope with it.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'This was the death of a friend two years ago. Get over it and get

on with life. He is violent and he is a drunk.'

She sentenced Clark to eight months in a young offenders' institute.

Defending the second teenager, Laura McManus also asked for the court to impose a community payback order on her client Calum MacLean, of 37 Catalina Avenue, Oban.

'He has no previous convictions,' Ms McManus said. 'Mr MacLean accepted he reacted with violence. He has reduced his use of alcohol. He no longer associates with his co-accused. This is no bad thing.'

Sheriff Anderson sentenced MacLean to an 18-month community payback order, with 240 hours of unpaid work to be carried out in the first nine months, and 'supervision for your propensity to violence and alcohol consumption'.

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## Viewpoint

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

There are few more emotive subjects than the safety of the most vulnerable members of our society: young children.

So it should come as little surprise that parents and others are upset about the perceived risk to pupils – and their lollipop lady – at Banavie Primary School in Fort William. There are claims from concerned people in

the area that there have been a number of near misses as drivers ignore the speed limit signs.

Now a campaign has been started for the installation of a pelican crossing, though Transport Scotland says there is no need owing to insufficient traffic. The cost of a pelican crossing would be only a modest one but it is a price worth paying to keep the wee ones safe.



## Days gone by – flashback to 1994

No wonder everyone was smiling in this photograph as there was a large donation being made to a good cause. Andy MacIntyre, the manager of Oban's Co-op, presented a cheque to Angus Smith, who was representing the Feis Latharna committee watched by tutors and pupils attending the Feis. Andy handed over a cheque for £1,500.

## Glasgow Letter

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

## Gaelic flat

WE ARE now one full month into autumn and that means the university year is well and truly under way.

Once again, the Glasgow University taigh na Gàidhlig (Gaelic flat) has new residents for the coming year.

Taigh na Gàidhlig is a fantastic scheme, established in 2009, which provides young Gaelic speakers with an opportunity to use Gaelic in their everyday lives in Glasgow, among their peers, and regardless of their chosen area of study or career aspirations.

It is the only scheme of its kind in Scotland.

I often reflect upon how good it is for the Gaelic language that everyone who goes anywhere near that flat, from the postman in the morning, to guests at the (very occasional!) parties will hear only Gaelic spoken within its walls.

This year's residents are Eilidh Cormack (Skye), Lorna Young (Oban), Hamish Macleod (Lewis), Jamie Macdonald (Tiree) and Robbie Greig (Edinburgh). What craic this team have been having in their first month in residence.

They have already been part of the Gaelic Department's oidhche fàilte (welcome night) at which they all contributed wholly to the ceilidh which encourages all attendees to get up and give a turn. They also hosted a ceilidh in the flat itself, which I hear was a great success.

Most entertainingly, perhaps, some of them were also involved in the Communn Oiseanach Gaelic 'sub crawl'. For those unfamiliar with the term, a sub crawl is the Glasgow



This year's Gaelic Flat residents, from left to right, Eilidh Cormack, Lorna Young, Hamish Macleod, Jamie MacDonald and Robbie Greig.

version of a pub crawl stopping to experience the local hostelries at every stop on the subway.

I have not yet heard any stories from the sub crawl – possibly because the participants are all aware that, if I did hear any, I would put them in *The Oban Times*.

The idea of the sub crawl is an interesting one and, although some of the station names are now different, it always reminds me of that classic Francie and Josie ditty: 'There was Partick Cross and Cessnock, Hillhead and Merkleland Street, George's Cross and Govan Cross where all the people meet.

'West Street, Shields Road, the train goes round and round. You've never lived unless you've been on the Glasgow underground.'

The first month now behind them, the real hard studying for their degrees will now begin in earnest.

However, the students of the Gaelic flat will be there all year – doing

a grand job promoting all things Gaelic.

## What's on

**Friday October 28:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

**Friday October 28:** The First Ever Eriskay Annual Gathering in the Glasgow University Union.

**Saturday October 29:** Glasgow Skye Association Marag supper in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

## Pub scene

**Park Bar.**

**Friday October 7:** Deoch 'n' Dorus.

**Saturday October 8:** Gunna Sound.

**Islay Inn.**

**Friday October 7:** The Keelies.

**Saturday October 8:** Parting Glass.

**Wednesday October 12:** quiz night.



## Social media

**THERE was heated comment after a sign was erected at Stafford Street saying: 'No cycling, ball games, skateboarding, scooter riding.'**

**Gregor Mcluckie** wrote: 'Yes let's put these up all over Oban, why not????? Tell me where the kids of Oban can go to do these things. The town is a joke nowhere for kids to go so they have to stay in or get themselves into trouble

and moved on for loitering in groups around the town. No park, skate park or any form of public place for them to go.'

**Saskia Cheney** suggested: 'Money would be better spent going towards providing an alternative. Everyone is all for kids having an active lifestyle yet the kids who aren't sat inside on their Play Stations have nowhere to actually

be active!?!? The council needs to sort their priorities!'

**Maddy Johnstone** urged: 'Build a skatepark council and kids would have somewhere to go, there isn't much for kids in oban, so skatepark or something they'd love to have.'

**April Hendry** agreed: 'Poor kids so much for wanting our children to be out and about and active.'

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

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

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

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

## Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

## Councillor was only performing his duty

Sir,  
I was intrigued by the column headline 'Hearing considers councillor's conduct' (*The Oban Times*, September 29). Eagerly I read on, expecting to hear that someone had fiddled their expenses, or perhaps attended a council meeting while under the influence of strong drink.

But my appetite for salacious details went unfulfilled because the only misdemeanour committed by the person of interest, Councillor Michael Breslin, was to criticise the judgement of some senior council employees, which is precisely the reason why we elect councillors in the first place.

It is called democratic accountability. Let me explain it to these disgruntled employees as simply as possible.

When your position involves spending very large amounts of the public's money and making decisions which affect their lives, then you must expect that the public will take a close interest in what you do with their cash. Therefore, the public elect councillors to scrutinise your activities on their behalf.

By raising objections (having a hissy fit in other words) because Councillor Breslin failed to show you 'the respect and courtesy due to them ... by raising matters relating to their conduct or capability in public', these employees and ex-employees demonstrate their complete ignorance of this principle and therefore their unfitness for their roles as public servants.

**S White,**  
Struan Cottage, Minard.

## Thanks for such generous support

Sir,  
I would like to thank all the good people who gave such wonderful and generous support on my sponsored walk to Iona recently.

My daughter, Ruth, who accompanied me every step of the way, and I have been so grateful for all the prayer support we received and that of St Conan and St Columba. The miles seemed to fly by and we arrived on Iona in great fettle.

We were particularly touched by the friendship we received en route – friendly waves, toots on the horn and thumbs-up signs.

We would particularly like to thank the blessing that the Rev Liz Gibson, Lochdon, gave us to help us on our way.

To donate, please visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Calum-MacFarlane-Barrow](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Calum-MacFarlane-Barrow).

God bless  
**Calum MacFarlane-Barrow,**  
Dalmally.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

'S IOMADH RUD BUIDHE nach òr agus 's iomadh rud bòidheach as fhiach a sheachnadh! Seo fear de na seanfhacail is bitheanta a chluinear agus tha e fìor ann an iomadh seadh agus suidheachadh, fiù 's mar eisimpleir a thaobh dhaoine a bhith a' dol an sàs ann an cleasan cunnartach leithid bogsadh.

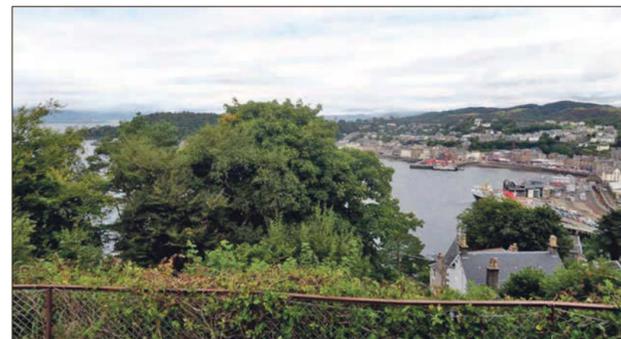
Ged a tha mion-phuingean chùmhnan choimearsalta gu math eadar-dhealichte seach co-dhùnadh pàirt a ghabhail ann an spòrs, feumaidh gu ìre an aon seòrsa tuigse air na cnapan-starra agus na cunnartan a dh'fhaodadh èirigh a bhith nam pàirt den obair-deasachaidh a dh'ionnsaigh leithid de chùmhnan.

Mar a tha mi air a ràdh an seo iomadh uair roimhe, choisinn CalMac dìlseachd agus taic nan coimhearsnachdan a tha a' bhuidheann air a bhith a' frithealadh fad iomadh bliadhna, agus cha b' iongnadh an toileachas a rinn a' mhòr-chuid de mhuinntir nan coimhearsnachdan sin ris an naidheachd gun do bhunaich a' chompanaidh cùmhnan ri ochd bliadhna a tha tòiseachadh air a' mhìos seo fhèin.

Ach eadar fìor dhroch aimsir thar nan seachdainean a chaidh agus an trioblaid a dh'fhàg an t-aiseag Hebrides a' grunnachadh aig cidhe Loch nam Madadh, suarach cho soirbheachail 's a tha toiseach tòiseachaidh na cùmhnan ùr air a bhith dha CalMac.

Ach ged a dh'fhaodas co-fhaireachdainn a bhith againn dha luchd-stiùiridh is obrach na buidhne is iad a' stri ri seirbheisean a chumail a' dol an aghaidh dhùbhlain den t-seòrsa, 's ann air muinntir nan coimhearsnachdan air am bheil a' chùmhnan seo a' frithealadh a dh'fheumar cuimseachadh.

B' e feumalachd bhunaiteach na cùmhnan a bhunaich CalMac gun libhrig e seirbheisean deatamach dha gach coimhearsnachd a tha e a' frithealadh, agus bhiodh dùil gun tug eòlas mòr na buidhne lèirsinn dhan tagradh aige a thaobh dùbhlain aimsire is a leithid. Tuigear nach gabh leithid na trioblaid aig an aiseag Hebrides fhaicinn ro-làimh ach tha eòlas gu leòr air na duilgheadasan a tha ag



Trees are obscuring the wonderful views of Oban from Pulpit Hill.

## Oban is missing a fine tourism opportunity

Sir,  
Although we have lived in Alloa since 1991, I still think of Oban as our home town and, indeed, still have a house there, since my father-in-law died last year.

I recently took some relatives to the summit of Pulpit Hill to enjoy the wonderful vista of Oban Bay. Imagine my disappointment when I found the view spoiled by overgrown trees which are completely blocking bonny Oban Bay. It was once, but sadly now no longer a photographer's dream shot.

That was not my only disappointment, however. I feel much more could be done to enhance the environs, such as decent seating, upgraded lighting (one lamppost looked positively dangerous) and a few strategically placed flower beds/baskets.

Perhaps some interpretative signage to inform viewers about the scene before them would add to the overall experience. There are toilets there already so with just a bit more imagination and not an awful lot of expense the viewpoint could be turned into an excellent visitor attraction where people would want to linger and perhaps enjoy a picnic on a fine day.

Come on, Oban, a great opportunity is being missed here.

Perhaps Oban's BID team might like to add this project to its to-do list.  
**David McCann,**  
Alloa.

## Town centre building is a genuine eyesore

Sir,  
I refer to the supplement in *The Oban Times* entitled 'Oban town centre, a new era'.

How can Oban claim to have entered a new era when it allows the Boots building to hold prime position in its main street? Inside the supplement is a series of comparative photographs – then and now. All I can say to that is that the low buildings occupying centre stage in George Street in

Victorian times are far superior to the 'shacks' which occupy the site today.

I took a photograph on a recent visit to the town because I was genuinely astonished that this eyesore could be allowed to continue in that state. Even the wiring on the outside of the building is unlikely to meet regulations, never mind the dire visual impact of the facade.

I grew up in Oban in the 1950s and 1960s and make frequent visits to the town. I do acknowledge the progress made in certain areas but this particular negative example surely cannot be allowed to continue.

**Norman McDonald,**  
Woodhead Avenue, Kirkintilloch.

## Where have all the hooters gone to?

Sir,  
Last Hogmanay, to the great disappointment and disbelief of many Oban people, the ships in Oban Bay did not sound their horns at midnight.

What went wrong? Did they all have laryngitis? Why are Oban's old and anticipated traditions being eroded?

Please, Oban Port Authority and ships' officers, do not stop the hooters. Hogmanay is not the same without them resounding over Oban Bay, bringing in the new year.

**Ishbel Banks,**  
Gowan Brae, Oban.

## Congratulations to GB's paralympians

Sir,  
After team Great Britain achieved its best paralympics result in more than 30 years, we can all take pride in our country's almost unbelievable medals haul and sporting prowess.

Our country has come second ahead of the US in the games. I would like to pass on my congratulations and thanks to all of team GB for showing that once again Great Britain is a world beater.

**Alastair Redman,**  
Islay.

Ailean Caimbeul

èirigh nuair a bhriseas soitheach san t-seirbheis agus a dh'fheumar bàtaichean a ghluasad mun cuairt gus beàrnan a lannadh.

Tha e furasta a thuigsinn carson a bhios daoine mì-thoilichte nuair a tha an t-seirbheis a' fulang air sgàth trioblaid le aiseag air seirbheis fad' air falbh an àiteigin eile, agus le iarrtasan choimhearsnachdan a' fàs airson leudachadh air na seirbheisean saoilidh mi gum bheil mòr-fheum aig cabhlach ChalMac air leudachadh ach am bi e nas uidheamaichte dèiligeadh ri trioblaidan agus geallaidhean na cùmhnan a ghlaidheadh fad nan ochd bliadhna romhainn.

CALMAC is having a challenging start to its new eight-year contract delivering ferry services to the Clyde and Hebridean islands. Whilst the problems with the ferry *MV Hebrides* could not be anticipated the impact of adverse weather and breakdowns is well known to the company and will have been a core element of contract planning.

Communities expect the promised lifeline services to be delivered and perhaps the Calmac fleet needs to expand to better enable it to sustain these services.

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

## Le taic bho



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## Wee Rangers just too good for the Fort

Fort William	2
Cove Rangers	6
Highland League	

FORT William entertained current Scottish Highland Football League champions Cove Rangers last Saturday at Claggan Park.

The home side found the Aberdeen team too hot to handle as Cove quickly raced into a two-goal lead through Jonny Smith and Mitch Megginson.

Scottie Davison pulled one back for the home side on the half-hour mark but Cove rapidly restored their two-goal lead just minutes later through Grant Campbell.

Jonny Smith got his second of the afternoon to make it 4-1 be-



The agony and the ecstasy as Fort suffer another defeat.  
Photos: JohnPaul Peebles, Abrightside Photography

### Football

fore Cove's Harry Milne made it 5-1 on the hour mark.

Fort's top scorer Scottie Davison got his second of the match and seventh of the season, firing home a brilliant 30-yard free kick.

But Cove completed the scoring in the 83rd minute through Kevin Buchan to make the final score Fort William 2, Cove Rangers 6.

Next up for Fort William was an away game last night (Wednesday) before they take on Turriff United at Claggan on Saturday.

Connor Scully of Cove Rangers chases down Fort William's Iain Maclellan.



## Lochaber battle all the way but lose out to Ross Sutherland

Lochaber	10
Ross Sutherland	36
BT Caledonia 2NW	

### Rugby

LOCHABER were looking to build on their good performance from last weekend when they took on Ross Sutherland at the weekend.

The visitors went on the attack early but it was Lochaber who opened the scoring with Jonathan McCook kicking a penalty.

It didn't take long for Ross to get on the board with the first of their tries.

The game flowed from end to end with Lochaber unable to break down the visiting defence and Ross added a few more tries in the first half.

Near the end of the second half it looked like Ally Rowantree was going to get Lochaber's first try after some great attacking play finally breaking down the Ross defence, until a Ross player came flying in with a tackle around Rowantree's neck which resulted in the Ross player being sin-binned and a penalty try awarded with McCook kicking the conversion.

Lochaber had two players sin-binned themselves, one in either half. The final score was Lochaber 10-36 Ross Sutherland.

The Lochaber side are away to Highland Reds next weekend; kick off 3pm Canal Park, Inverness.



Lochaber's Chris Simpson is going for the ball, passed to him by Jonathan McCook (on the ground).  
Photos: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Callum Boyd runs, backed up by Jack Ringland.



Callum Boyd, ball in one hand and handing off an opposing player with the other one.



Lochaber Shinty Club's under-14 team won the Second Phase league going through the campaign undefeated. Pictured along with the team are, back row left, coach Lachalan Campbell and Camanachd Association president Jim Barr. Back row right is referee John Angus Gillies, who represented Marine Harvest. Photos: Kim Ferguson



Lochaber captain Cameron Whyte.

## Ian wins £600 in Lochaber Shinty Club lotto draw

### Lotto

THE JACKPOT of £600 in Lochaber Shinty Club's weekly lotto draw was won by Ian MacFarlane. The winning numbers were 1, 2 and 7.

The jackpot reverts to £100 next week.

Numbers in the Fort William Golf Club lotto draw on Thursday September 29 were 15, 16 and 18. There were no winners so the jackpot on Thursday October 6 will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers were 1, 2 and 20.

There were no winners, so the jackpot rises to £800 for next weekend's draw.

The numbers in the Caol Community draw were, 9, 15, and 18. There were no winners, so the prize money goes up to £400 in Sunday's draw.

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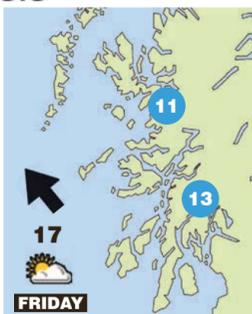
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### WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.

Friday Sunny intervals  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.



### Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

#### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 6, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	02.33 1.5 08.15 3.6 14.41 1.6 20.17 3.5		Ardrishaig	-5.35 Mallaig +0.25
Fri	03.04 1.7 08.51 3.4 15.19 1.8 20.49 3.3		Campbeltown	-5.30 Portree +0.55
Sat	03.46 1.9 09.34 3.2 16.13 2.0 21.31 3.1		Crinan	-0.47 Tobermory +0.16
Sun	04.54 2.0 10.38 3.0 17.28 2.1 22.39 2.9		Islay Port Ellen	2.00 Dover +5.30
Mon	06.15 2.0 13.27 3.0 18.50 2.1 **** **		Lochboisdale	+0.30
Tues	01.59 2.9 07.35 1.9 14.34 3.2 20.10 1.8		<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>	
Wed	02.58 3.1 08.44 1.6 15.19 3.5 21.13 1.5		Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)			Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
			Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate