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Father-to-be Billy's plea to see his child

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A YEAR since Connel seaman Billy Irving was arrested and jailed alongside fellow crew members in India, his pregnant girlfriend has re-issued a plea for him to be allowed to come home. Billy, 34, was arrested on October 12 last year as part of the crew of an AdvanFort anti-piracy vessel operating in Indian waters. The authorities accused the captain of the boat of trying to buy fuel illegally and carrying weapons without a licence, with the crew held jointly liable. But his girlfriend Yvonne MacHugh, who revealed to *The Oban Times* that she is 22 weeks pregnant with Billy's child, says she has suffered 'mental torture' with the number of false dawn offers up by the Indian authorities. The most recent, in

July, saw the charges against the men quashed, only for the Indian prosecutor to appeal the decision. Although the six British nationals among the crew were freed in July, they face further detention following the appeal hearing at the Supreme Court in India on October 27. Yvonne said: 'The last year has been a nightmare - there is no other way to describe it. 'If they turned this into a movie it would be the most pathetic film ever made; they are free, then they are not free, then they are free again and it just goes on. 'Billy was doing great when I was over this summer and we had a blast after his release, but that was when we thought he was getting home at any moment. 'We are having a baby now, which is keeping him going, but he has become a broken man.' Former soldier Billy, whose family is paying his living costs

while he is stranded in India, said: 'I have been away from home for 16 months now and I cannot wait for this nightmare to end. 'This has affected my family and me mentally, physically and financially. I need to get home soon as I have a baby on the way and other issues that need sorting. 'Most importantly, I need to get home and get back to work so I can pay off debts and be able to support my baby. I would like to thank my family and friends for all their support. It truly has helped me cope with what is happening to us over here.' Earlier this year, Yvonne presented a petition with more than 144,000 signatures to Downing Street demanding action from the Prime Minister to press for action to speed the release of Billy and his five British colleagues. She is frustrated by the lack of action from the government but Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, who has lobbied the Indian High Commission and the Foreign Commonwealth Office on Billy's behalf, explained the slow pace of the Indian legal system has drawn out the issue. He added: 'It looks as if we have to go at the pace of an extremely slow Indian legal system. 'I regularly raise the matter with the foreign office and I have met with a senior official from the Indian High Commission. 'It is obviously very frustrating for Billy, who must be living a very tedious existence with no indication as to when he will be allowed home.' The Mission to Seafarers is also working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to try and assist with the repatriation of the men.



PURE GOLD: Islay's Ellen Brown-McMurray, left, won a gold badge in the prescribed poetry competition for learners aged seven to eight, while her fellow Port Ellen primary pupil Eva Munro took first place in the girls' solo singing for learners aged nine to 10



HAPPY MEMORIES: Yvonne MacHugh travelled to India to see Billy following his release from an Indian prison but their ordeal is far from over

Don't renege on your Gaelic pledge

BROKEN promises from successive governments will destroy the Gaelic language, writes Louise Lee. That was the stark warning issued by president of An Comunn Gaidhealach John Macleod as he addressed the 1,500-strong audience at the opening ceremony of the Royal National Mod in Inverness last Friday. Holyrood was accused of reneging on promises it made in 2005 to promote and safeguard Gaelic. He said it was time that the guarantees made by the Scottish government were now delivered: that Gaelic should be on an equal

footing with English. Mr Macleod, who has been president since 2007, asked: 'Did not the Gaelic Language Act - almost 10 years ago now - state that Gaelic would become an official language of Scotland, commanding 'equal respect' to English?' He said 50 organisations had written and presented plans to Holyrood ministers actively promoting the Gaelic plans. But these plans still 'languished' in bureaucrats' boxes. He also cited the fact that the language was not used on the recent referendum ballot paper as a clear example of Gaelic not being

taken seriously by government. He said that by simply using those 'six words' on the ballot paper, there would have been a clear example of equal respect instead it was 'refused without an adequate explanation'. Mr Macleod ended his speech by saying: 'Why can't the residents of Gaelic communities not go to a public meeting in their own community and use their native language without having to give prior notice of their intention to do so? 'It is up to each one of us who feels strongly about the status of our language to press for its public

use to be an unqualified option, and especially in Gaelic-speaking communities. 'The statutory backing that Gaelic received in 2005 should not be forgotten or dismissed as unrealistic.' A spokesman for the Scottish government said it was 'encouraging Gaelic as a vibrant part of Scotland's communities'.



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Oban's talking the talk

THE BIG Debate is coming to Oban this Friday, October 17, to discuss the most stimulating moral, political and social issues of the day. Former Newsnight anchorman Gordon Brewar will host the programme, to be held at the Corran Halls, which will be broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland. Every Friday the lunchtime programme visits a different part of Scotland. The show asks the audience to pose questions to be discussed by an expert panel of speakers. As the programme broadcasts to a Scotland-wide audience, the show looks for issues that raise matters of genuine national and international interest. Tickets for the event can be obtained on the day at the venue, or to pre-book, visit: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-15190428.

A bite of The Big Apple

MUSICIANS from Oban High School who have been invited to take part in the Tartan Day Parade in New York next April have been given the backing of Argyll and Bute council's area committee. At its October meeting last Wednesday, Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee voted unanimously to back the school as it attempts to fundraise for the trip and will prepare a letter of endorsement. The high school musicians, comprising the pipe band, traditional school of music and choir will perform in conjunction with a pipe band in New York when they travel to The Big Apple. The school is seeking financial support to help with the cost of the trip. Area committee chairman councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'The area committee believes that the experience these groups have in New York will be one which will stay with them for the rest of their lives.'

Group's milestone year

THE MAIN ferry operator serving the Argyll and the Isles, David MacBrayne Group Ltd, says the group has enjoyed another successful year. The government-owned group is the parent company of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), which employs more than 1,300 people and has served the Highlands and Islands for more than 160 years. The annual report, published last Friday, highlighted the increased services, including Campbelltown-Ardrossan and Mallaig-Lochboisdale, across its network of 28 routes. The firm has also received a number of awards for the quality of its customer service, including Scottish Public Transport Operator of the Year. Group chairman David McGibbon said: 'It has been a year of major milestones for us as we strive to meet the needs of the communities and business we serve.'



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with Strawberry Ice Cream
or Mature Cheddar and Oatcakes

We NEVER compromise quality

New transport contract piles more misery on Argyll dialysis patients

Wilma's Wish
argyll4dialysis

An The Oban Times campaign

Revised arrangements will see three or four patients sharing the same car on long journeys to receive life-saving dialysis treatment. One carer says the service is 'not good enough', writes Louise Lee

NIGHTMARE car journeys are 'cutting short' the lives of people on dialysis and from now on will mean three or four people travelling in a 'private' car rather than the individual service that was previously provided.

The service provided for patients is 'not good enough', says one carer who looks after her husband.

A round trip of up to six hours a day, three times a week can be arduous for patients who are receiving treatment 52 weeks of the year. To compound the situation, transport provided by a new contractor will see three or four patients in cars move patients up and down the road.

Pauline O'Neil, from Benderloch, says the situation is now a huge cost problem and her husband, Jim,

may give in and refuse treatment altogether.

Jim, who had to travel in the back of a small family car with two other patients believes the situation is 'inhuman' - and it is time alternatives to the 'horrendous' travel situation for patients was dealt with.

Dave Alsopp, who has now had a kidney transplant, explains that after dialysis a patient is very tired.

He said: 'What we forget is that dialysis is a serious treatment. It takes all of your blood out of your body, filters it and then replaces it. For most people that would be a major procedure, but for us there is no alternative.'

Patients agree the travelling situation must have a huge cost attached to it and perhaps if the

resources that were being put into paying a contractor were diverted to treatment patients could get smarter, quicker treatment in a local hospital.

One man was offered £35 per night to stay in a hotel in Glasgow rather than come up and down the road for his treatment.

However, the only hotels he could find that were close to the hospital were £110 per night and

he was expected to make up the difference.

Pauline continued: 'When a patient has to travel for treatment on a regular basis there is no-one who really realises the effect that can have on someone's health.

'My husband sometimes just wants to give in.

'The treatment is relentless and the measures that could be in place to help him - such as

accommodation near his treatment hospital, a dialysis unit close to our home, transport that is suitable for his condition - are not there.

'Unless you have a patient at home with a long-term life-limiting condition, there is no way you will understand just how it takes over your whole life.

'Dialysis treatment is not a choice, it keeps people alive. Without it patients will die.'

FACTS ON DIALYSIS

Most people have two kidneys, about four inches long, found at the back of the body near the lower ribs. A healthy kidney is a filtering system for blood in the body - vital for life.

KIDNEY OR RENAL FAILURE CAUSES

DIABETES

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

KIDNEY DISEASE

OBSTRUCTION

- A renal (kidney dialysis) patient from Argyll will typically travel for up to 36 hours a week to receive treatment
- spend 12 hours a week on a dialysis machine
- spend six hours a week waiting for transport
- take 24 hours to recover from treatment
- spend three days a week going to and from appointments
- be unable to take up a full time job

Guidelines from The Renal Association state a unit should be:

- less than 30 minutes from home
- within 25 miles of a person's home

There are currently 16 travelling dialysis patients in Argyll.

There are other patients who have dialysis at home. This method means being on a machine all night - most nights. It does not work for everyone.

Health experts are predicting a boom in dialysis patients because of an increase in obesity and diabetes-related conditions.



Record investment exudes warm glow

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has confirmed a record investment of £8.2million in energy efficiency work in its homes for the years 2014 and 2015.

The community-based housing association has issued contracts in Islay, Oban, Bute, Cowal, Helensburgh and Dunbeg for roof renewal, insulation and external roughcasting.

The association will also receive a £195,000 grant through the Green Homes Cashback Scheme, allowing a further 30 homes to be added to the existing programme of works.

Following a visit to the works on 51 homes in Dunbeg, Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'I am delighted to see the advanced level of works in the village. The rendering work, in particular, makes our properties look brand new.'

'I hope our tenants will see the benefit in years to come through warmer homes and reduced energy bills.'

Councillor for Oban, Lorn and the Isles Roddy McCuish, who also serves as secretary of ACHA's board of management, said: 'I am delighted ACHA has been able to secure this extra funding from the Scottish government.'

'This will lead to warmer homes and reduced energy bills for our tenants, as well as improving the appearance of the properties.'

Staff shortages put court orders at risk

COMMUNITY Service hours for court orders are grinding to a halt due to a lack of staff to supervise the work.

The community payback scheme, delivered by Argyll and Bute council in partnership with other organisations, is designed to ensure that criminals perform a practical task as an alternative to prison.

But a recent report to councillors sounded the alarm bells.

It highlighted problems with the delivery of the service and that there was a real 'risk' to 'maintaining the community payback order service within Oban and Mid Argyll, given staffing turnover and vacancies.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We regularly recruit for seasonal supervisors across Argyll and Bute and are currently looking to fill a three-day permanent post based in Oban.'

'There has been a limited impact on people completing community payback orders as there are other options available alongside the work squad approach - for example, placements with other agencies and charities.'

Four line up for Oban ward in the shadow of tragic councillor John

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A BY-ELECTION will take place next Thursday for the vacant seat in the Oban North and Lorn ward of Argyll and Bute Council.

The election has been called following the death of councillor John MacGregor, who died just a week after being sworn in at Kilmory.

The North Connel business-

man, pictured right, who was 62 years old, had won the previous by-election in the ward on July 17, triggered by the resignation of councillor Louise Glen Lee.

But just a week into his duty councillor MacGregor died on July 28.

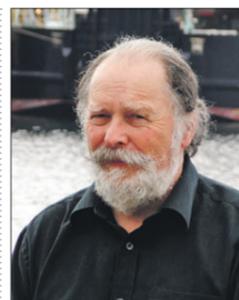
There are four candidates for the vacant seat: Kieron Green, Scottish Labour Party; Stephanie Irvine, Independent; Iain Stewart MacLean, Scottish National Party;



Kieron Green
Labour



Stephanie Irvine
Independent



Iain MacLean
SNP



Andrew Vennard
Conservative

I have listened to people's concerns across Oban North and Lorn, knocking on doors and attending community councils from Luig to Lismore, Dalmally to Dunbeg.

This is a challenging time financially but we must protect our vital public services, including schools and social care.

Prioritising verge cutting and road and pavement maintenance will create a safer and more attractive environment.

With an aging population, the council has to continue to provide a full range of care including residential care homes such as Eadar Glinn.

Many young people leave Argyll after they have completed their studies and changing this will require a wider variety of jobs and apprenticeships locally.

To help achieve this, money spent through initiatives including CHORD and TIF should be used to support existing businesses expand as well as attract outside investment.

I currently work as a school technician in Oban and have a track record representing people as a trade union workplace steward. I am passionate about ensuring our council delivers quality public services to people throughout our area. I promise to continue to listen to issues raised by local people and work in co-operation with our existing councillors, so please vote for me on October 23.

As a person who grew up in Oban and then returned later to work and build a life here in this beautiful part of Scotland, I have a deep affection for my home town and the areas that surround it.

I am greatly concerned that as we emerge from the recession, Argyll and Bute council should turn its attention more towards supporting business and encouraging growth in the local economy.

Oban town centre, for example, is desperately in need of a review of town centre car parking, with excessive charges and lack of provision stifling growth.

I would actively seek to work with Bid4Oban to regenerate the town centre.

Living in Connel as I do, I am also very aware of the need to sustain rural areas with educational provision, housing and vital services.

With a background in business, I co-founded the Oban Town Centre Traders Association which became a strong local team and delivered projects such as the Oban Christmas lights.

Also working with the North Argyll Community Trust, I gained a real insight into the workings of local voluntary groups and the problems they face sourcing funding.

Standing as an Independent candidate, I would be free from party politics to work for what is in Argyll's best interests.

As a boy, I attended Oban high school and have lived in this ward for more than 40 years.

Thus far I have been a businessman, a member of the community council, a care provider and I have been involved in local housing developments.

I am a father, a grandfather, and an active member of my community. Now, I am asking to be your representative.

In the last few years since retiring, I have been heavily involved with politics through the SNP where I am deputy convener of both the Oban branch and the constituency association.

I have come to know many councillors, especially all seven others of our area committee.

If we are to achieve better outcomes for Oban, we require more co-operation amongst all our local councillors to prevent poor outcomes like those of the former Rockfield primary school, Kilbowie and CHORD.

A councillor's main role is to provide policy steerage to the council by representing the needs and aspirations of their constituents.

I firmly believe I have the skills and experience to make a difference.

We can and must do better and so please consider lending me your vote at the ballot box and I will work hard to return your faith and investment in me.

and Andrew Vennard, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

One of the largest geographical wards in Scotland, Oban North and Lorn (ward five) takes in much of Oban and spreads north to Appin, and east as far as Bridge of Orchy.

This week, all four candidates present their own personal manifestos to *Oban Times* readers and why they think they should be elected to serve ward five.

MULL lines



STANDARD BEARERS: Dervaig schoolchildren are delighted with their first eco schools green flag

Home comforts for Ulva

ULVA school community association (USCA) housing project on the Isle of Mull has received a huge boost as full planning permission was granted last week.

Two affordable houses will be built next to Ulva primary school, which will be owned by the Ulva Ferry community and rented to local families.

The innovative houses are being designed by Tobermory-based firm Thorne Wyness Architects and will be built by a local contractor.

The three-bedroom homes will be offered to rent at a 'mid-market' affordable rate with secure tenancies and low heating bills.

The housing project is the result of extensive community consultation carried out by USCA, which identified affordable housing as the top priority for the area.

Thanks to a sympathetic local landowner, a plot of land at Ulva Ferry was made available for purchase with assistance from the Scottish Land Fund, along with funding to employ a housing project manager for two years to oversee the design, procurement and construction of the houses.

Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) is supporting USCA in the project as anchor organisation. MICT will employ the housing project manager and will take on the long-term responsibilities of owning and renting the two houses.

Helen MacDonald, housing project manager, said: 'Planning permission approval further confirms Argyll and Bute council's commitment to supporting the Ulva Ferry community in achieving its aims for rural regeneration.'

'The council's planning department has been particularly supportive, working with the community to find a suitable plot that would impact least on the landscape. We are delighted we can now press on with the project.'

The council has also provided a grant of £180,000 from its rural housing development fund towards the construction costs of the houses.

Further funding is still required, however, so a 'buy-a-brick' scheme has been launched. By buying a virtual brick, residents can contribute to ensuring the future viability of the community.

To make a donation, visit the website justgiving.com/ulvaferryhousing.

For more information, contact Helen MacDonald, housing project manager, on 01688 500056 or email hmacdonald@mict.co.uk



OTTER OUTRAGE: Midge the otter has been stolen from the Mull Otter Fund car that sits in Tobermory high street. Photograph courtesy of Mull Otter Fund

A bunch of otter rotters

MIDGE the otter has been stolen from the side of a van in Tobermory main street.

The soft toy has been on the van to attract tourists to give cash to the Mull otter fund, which has been working to protect the islands. But over the weekend, Midge was taken from the van.

On Facebook, the organisers of the group, said: 'Stealing from a good cause is about as low as it gets and, sure enough, the lowest of the low is somewhere in Tobermory today.'

'If you've got collection boxes anywhere within easy reach, I'd keep a close eye on them.'

And now, in the last half hour, someone's ripped off one of the dummy collecting tins from the side of the van, causing damage.

'It was left lying in the middle of the street, probably when [they] realised it didn't have any money in it.'

Eilidh a triple champion

TOBERMORY RNLI lifeboat station bade farewell to long serving volunteer lifeboat shop manager Eilidh Wilshire, who retired in late September.

Eilidh took over the shop, next door to the lifeboat station at the end of Tobermory Main Street, in 2002.

By the time of her retirement 12 years later, the shop's turnover had more than tripled, helping to raise money to save lives at sea.

Eilidh isn't the first member of her family to be involved in the RNLI.

Her husband, John was formerly the station's lifeboat operations manager and her son Iain was deputy second coxswain.

Eilidh's retirement was marked with a presentation and a bottle of champagne at the lifeboat station. Ian Stevens, Tobermory's lifeboat operations manager, said: 'The lifeboat shop is popular with visitors and locals and everyone at the station is very proud of it.'

Eilidh's tenure as volunteer shop manager has seen turnover increase by more than three times.

'These figures speak for themselves and are down to Eilidh's commitment to the shop and to the RNLI.'

'From Christmas cards to tea towels, everything sold at the lifeboat shop helps to save lives at sea. We are all very grateful to Eilidh for her sterling service over the years and wish her all the very best in her retirement.'

Man who hit child given six months

A MAN, who was convicted of assaulting a woman and a child and behaving in a threatening and abusive manner, has been jailed for six months at Oban sheriff court.

Ross Higgins, 38, 53 Stonecylee Road, Cumbernauld, appeared in the town's court for sentencing on Tuesday having been convicted last month following a trial at which he denied the incidents took place in an Oban house on March 22.

Sentence had been deferred for a criminal justice report on Higgins. Defence lawyer David Watt said his client now recognised that he was not the 'wronged' party and he had severely 'wronged' the woman and child. Sheriff Douglas Small told Higgins: 'Standing your record and the nature of these incidents, there is only one disposal I can impose and that is one of custody.'

He also imposed a five-year non-harassment order on Higgins.

Town hall project gets under way

THE £2.2MILLION project to repair and refurbish Campbelltown town hall is set to begin in early November, following an asset transfer from Argyll and Bute council to the South Kintyre Development Trust.

Argyll and Bute council is contributing £687,000 from its CHORD regeneration initiative and the Campbelltown Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

The trust intends to appoint a local contractor within the next fortnight to carry out the work, which includes exterior stone repairs; repairing the roof and windows; new toilet facilities, including disabled toilets and baby changing facilities; and the installation of a ramp, lift and kitchen.

Major disruption for A83 roadworks

A SECTION of road on the A83 near to Tarbet Tea Rooms is currently undergoing a £400,000 upgrade that has required overnight road closures.

Work on the 1.81-kilometre stretch within the village of Tarbet began on October 12 and runs over a three-week period.

The overnight works by BEAR Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, involve resurfacing and re-shaping the carriageway and drainage works. Hours of operation will be from 8.30pm to 6am each night, with diversions in place via the A82, A85 and A819.

To reduce the disruption caused by the 70-mile diversion, the workforce will allow vehicles to pass through the works approximately every hour, when it is safe to do so.

Tragic discovery ends search for missing Oban woman

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TRIBUTE has been paid to a 'lovely, cheery, happy' Oban woman whose body was found by police officers in a river on Saturday after being reported missing nine days previously.

Amunai Hobbs, 41, left Oban on Wednesday, October 1, to fly out from Glasgow Airport to visit her home country of Thailand for six weeks when she disappeared.

Mrs Hobbs, of Longsdale, had been in Oban for 15 years, having arrived in the town after marrying diver Archie Nicholson, who subsequently died.

She worked for the past couple of years as a toilet attendant at the North Pier public conveniences, where she was described as always having a welcome smile and a big bowl of sweets for children.

She met Davie Hobbs, a road sweeper also with Argyll and Bute council, nine years ago and the couple married in Oban registry office seven months ago.

The couple's good friend and Davie's fellow radio presenter at Oban FM, Maggie May, gave



HAPPIER TIMES: Amunai on the day she married Davie Hobbs

She was such a happy, cheery, lovely person

Maggie May
Oban FM DJ

Amunai away on the wedding day. Maggie said: 'She was absolutely brilliant. She was a beautiful girl. She was such a happy, cheery, lovely person.'

'The kids up where she stayed loved her. When the children went into the toilets, she would always have sweets to give them.'

'That was a girl who would give you her last. If you needed anything she would give it to you.'

'We had a night out to see Alvin Stardust and she loved it. She loved dancing and was never off the dance floor.'

'I couldn't say a bad word about her and no one in the town would either, she was just such a lovely person.'

Mrs Hobbs, who had no children, had been due to fly to Thailand, where she had two sisters and a brother, on Thursday October 2 but had gone to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley from Glasgow Airport after saying she felt unwell but she left before being attended to.

Maggie said: 'She didn't know Paisley and we think she just got lost.'

Davie, who described his wife as his 'soulmate', presents the Saturday evening rock 'n' roll show on Oban FM.

A police spokesman said Mrs Hobbs' body was recovered from the River Cart, Inchinnan Road, Paisley around 11.40am on Saturday, October 11.

'A post mortem will take place to establish the cause of her death; however, at this time there would appear to be no suspicious circumstances.'

'A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal,' added the spokesman.

Water, water, everywhere nor any drop to drink - at least on Coll

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RESIDENTS on Coll are angry that a tap used by the public for clean drinking water has been turned off without warning.

The tap, located next to the middle pier toilets in Aringour, is widely used by islanders, as the water supply to many homes outwith the village is often not suitable for drinking.

The tap was capped off two weeks ago by Argyll and Bute council on behalf of Scottish Water, and the matter was top of the agenda of last Wednesday's community council meeting.

Rob Wainwright, who is treasurer of Coll community council, said: 'We, like so many other households on the island, used the tap for our drinking water.'

'Suddenly the tap is disconnected with no warning, so people are pretty unhappy as once again this sort of thing has been done with no consultation with the community.'

'People are having to hunt around the village and the people there are delighted to help out, but ultimately they are paying for it as their water is metered. We

have heard rumours, and they are only rumours, that there is a large spring leaking through a garden just below the water treatment plant, and a figure of 10,000 litres was quoted, but whether that was the amount in total, or per day, or per hour, I'm not sure.'

'It all comes back to keeping the community in the loop about these things.'

Rob also mentioned that visitors from the sailing community, an important part of Coll's tourism industry, regularly used the tap.

He added: 'The timing of this is tying in neatly with the announcement that Uist is to get a multi-million pound drinking water upgrade. That gives force to the old saying that even the cows on Uist get fresh drinking water.'

Juliet Conway, who lives approximately five miles from the village with her partner and two children, told *The Oban Times* she was informed by Argyll and Bute council that the tap had to be capped due to an 'overuse of supply' affecting the village resources.

She said: 'It's not like the people who were using the tap were filling up bowlers or anything, all we used it for was drinking and



CUT OFF: Coll resident Amanda Robbie at the tap on the middle pier, which has been capped by Scottish Water

brushing our teeth. Coll is a very popular destination for visitors on yachts, campervans and campers, who all have a need for fresh water. What message does this send out to these tourists? 'Are they going to have to fill up

in public toilets or pay for bottled water, which is proving very expensive for our local stores to transport, due to CalMac's clamp-down on commercial vehicles' weight? Julie Oliphant, who has run the

Coll Hotel with husband Kevin for 30 years, and has had requests from people to use the tap at the back of the hotel since the pier tap was capped off.

She said: 'It's alright for Scottish Water or Argyll and Bute council to block people from using the tap but they don't have to deal with the reality of the situation on the island.'

'We're in a bit of a quandary really because we would never deprive anyone of water, but at the same time, we have to pay for it because we're a business and it's metered.'

'We're happy to help anybody out and haven't said 'no' to anyone who has asked to use the tap, but we can't go on forever.'

'Maybe it's time to have a look at the water situation on Coll as a whole. We are sending money overseas to pay for people in Africa to get water there, maybe the government should be sending it to Coll.'

A spokeswoman from Scottish Water said: 'Scottish Water is aware of this matter and will be working with Argyll and Bute council to discuss what options are available to bring the tap back into operation.'

£10M to tackle antisocial camping in park

AN AMBITIOUS £10 million investment in new campsites has been proposed to tackle antisocial camping around Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

The beautiful landscape around the park is being damaged by 'informal camping' away from the main sites,

with increasing reports of litter and fire, abandoned equipment and caravans parked in lay-bys for entire summer seasons.

With the help of local businesses and Transport Scotland, £10 million is to be raised by the National Park Authority to go towards new camping

facilities within a five-year period, as well as new by-laws regulating where visitors can camp and park.

Twenty locations - some of them extended lay-bys where 'informal camping' takes place - have been identified and these could be transformed into proper campsites

with toilets and a water supply. There is also to be continued work with the police and education authorities to encourage responsible camping and respect for the park.

Consultation on the proposals began on Monday, October 13 and will run until January 12 next year.

Dame Judi gives the shirt off her back for Oban lifeboat

TWO dames and a duke have added their names to a list of growing supporters of a grand charity auction organised by Oban lifeboat fundraisers.

Dame Judi Dench, one of Britain's best loved stars of stage and screen, is the latest celebrity to support the auction at a ball in November.

Dame Judi has joined Dame Helen Mirren, the Duke of Argyll and a host of other household names to donate an item to go under the hammer at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow.

The award-winning actress (pictured), who plays 'M' in the James Bond movies, has donated a signed T-shirt.

In keeping with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute theme, the T-shirt has a print of an old newspaper report on the front featuring the words 'Mayday, Mayday, Mayday'.

Lynsey Anderson, RNLI community fundraising manager, said: 'We are so grateful to Dame Judi for supporting our cause. Her donation means that our 23-item auction now has the support of two dames and a duke, as well as a host of other stars from the world of stage and screen, art and sport.'

The most unusual item has been donated by Coronation Street. The TV soap's donation is a beige Marks and Spencer cardigan which was worn on set by Hayley Cropper, a character who was killed off earlier this year. Torquhil Campbell, the Duke of



Argyll, has donated a bottle of Royal Salute 38-year-old Stone of Destiny whisky. Dame Helen Mirren was the first star to donate an item. She agreed to a request to write out the Shakespearean words she recited when she was presented with the BAFTA Fellowship award earlier this year. Other stars backing the auction include breakfast TV queen Lorraine Kelly, racing driver Susie Wolff, tennis star Andy Murray, artists Jack Vettriano and Jolomo - John Lowrie Morrison of Argyll - and sculptor Laurence Broderick. The auction, led by McTear's auctioneer Natasha Raskin of Bargain Hunt fame, will take place during the RNLI's Gladraggs Ball on Saturday, November 22. All profits from the event will go to saving lives at sea.

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MYSTICAL TOUR: guests from all over Europe joined civic dignitaries and staff for a tour of the 'legendary' Glensanda quarry



SHIPSHAPE: the refurbished MV Yeoman Bontrup at Glensanda pier

A 'mystical' place for quarrymen

STEVEN RAE
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SITTING on the banks of Loch Linnhe on the Morvern peninsula, Glensanda quarry has been referred to by visitors as 'mystical' and 'legendary'.

The largest granite quarry in Europe, Glensanda can only be reached by boat and is an impressive sight to behold on the approach after the 25-minute journey by ferry from Rhu Garbh, near Balcaldine, with the 15th century Glensanda Castle in the distance.

Aggregate Industries, which owns the site, has recently announced a massive £30 million investment and to celebrate invited around 100 guests for a tour of the quarry and an insight into operations last Thursday October 9.

Guests at the event included members of staff from Aggregate and employees from parent company Holcim's European operations, councillor for Oban North and Lorn Elaine Robertson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Inverness Iain Thornber and Angela Yeoman, whose husband bought the site and surrounding estate in 1982.

Mrs Yeoman said: 'I still enjoy coming back to see how the site is doing. I remember we had moved our first million tonnes by 1987, although it was quite rough in the beginning as the workers had to



BIG BANG THEORY: councillor Elaine Robertson sets off an explosion to mark Aggregate's £30million investment in Glensanda

start from scratch. For the first two years the men could only work in the summer as they didn't have the facilities.

'When we drew up the plans with Highland council, we agreed certain things to do with making sure buildings and workshops would be situated in certain places, and Aggregate has followed through with the business plans that were in place, which is good to see.'

Despite the smooth crossing over Loch Linnhe for Mrs Yeoman and the other visitors on the ferry, the past four years have been anything but plain sailing for the company.

the release of processed rock and water. Again, no one was seriously injured.

But perhaps most testing of all in this catalogue of misery, was the shock waves from the global recession. The convulsions of the economic chaos reverberated as far as the Morvern peninsula.

Global construction and infrastructure projects slowed down, resulting in less demand for the quarry's products, less output and lower revenue.

The decrease in demand for materials from Glensanda, particularly those used in ready mix and pre-cast concrete used for road construction, concrete blocking and road surfacing, put a strain on finances at the quarry. Worldwide market conditions became increasingly difficult as the recession began to bite in the latter part of 2012, and operations at Glensanda were scaled down.

Eventually, nine workers including lab technicians, transport and workshop employees, plant fitters, coxswains and secondary operators were made redundant in December 2013.

However, the company managed to weather the storm and with an increase in pipework and offshore renewable energy projects, as well as greater spending on construction materials in northern Europe, the demand for granite products at the

quarry grew. Glensanda's capacity to move up to eight million tonnes of granite a year meant Aggregate could fulfil orders which other quarries couldn't match, supplying granite to some of the largest construction projects in Europe, including power stations, offshore pipelines, port redevelopments and road construction.

Coupled with the ongoing global recovery from the recession, the quarry has increased its output by a million tonnes since its lowest figure in 2012. It employs 130 workers at Glensanda, with another 60 support staff based elsewhere. It is reckoned that, all in all, Glensanda accounts for 500 local jobs.

David Lamb, operations manager at Glensanda, was positive about the future for the quarry. 'Our output peaked at 7.5 million tonnes of granite in the early 1990s, then during the recession we were down to 5.5 million tonnes, but this year it has risen to 6.5 million tonnes, which is great,' he said.

'This new £30 million investment is wonderful as it secures the future for Glensanda for at least 25 years, which is the life of the new crusher in the new location.

'People who were doing mining degrees 25 years ago were learning about Glensanda then - the place really is quite legendary.'

Pat Ward, chief executive of

Aggregate Industries, shared Mr Lamb's views and was pleased that the future of the site was secured.

He said: 'The economy in general has seen a downturn but I think the workforce here at Glensanda has been very resilient. They're very passionate employees.'

'The staff I've come across here are all a very can-do bunch of guys so it's great to see the guys in the quarry get the recognition they deserve.'

'This day has been great as it lets people from Europe who have known about Glensanda since the 1980s and wanted to see it since then get a real insight into the operations here. During the conversations I've had with people over the past few days, they've said, 'we've been dying to visit Glensanda for 20 years'. For a quarryman, Glensanda is a mystical place.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, praised the help the quarry has given the local community saying: 'This is a wonderful commitment by Aggregate Industries as it ensures ongoing economic development at Glensanda and for the whole area and gives security to many local employees.'

'On behalf of the community, I would like to pay tribute to the support we have received in the past and continue to receive with community projects.'

A first class effort by Argyll students

FULL-TIME students at Argyll College University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) celebrated the successful completion of their studies at a graduation ceremony in Oban.

Held at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on September 26, the ceremony, which was also attended by family and friends, saw the presentation of academic awards to more than 80 successful students who had come together in Oban from across the college's 14 centres.

Argyll College UHI principal Fraser Durie warmly welcomed the graduating students and their families and reiterated the college's commitment to the people of Argyll and the Isles.

He said: 'In 1997, when the college embarked on the early stages of its development there was no higher or further education in our area. It was accepted that if you wanted to study beyond school, you had to leave Argyll and Bute and Arran. Now in 2014, we have more than 1,515 enrolled on our programmes.'

The ceremony's entertaining keynote speech was delivered by sound production tutor Jamie Smith and student Cameron Johnson gave an insight into student life at Argyll College.

The ceremony saw the presentation of several special recognition awards including the Mary MacKenzie Memorial Cup for hairdressing presented to Katherine MacCuish, the SFW Student of the Year Award awarded jointly to Scott Johnson of Campbeltown and Kelly Crawford of Lochgilphead and the UHISA Award for Student Support presented to Jenny MacDonald.

The Wilma Campbell Rose Bowl for Argyll College UHI further education student of the year was awarded to Claire Young, who recently completed a National Certificate horticulture course in Lochgilphead.

Former Argyll College principal Michael Breslin was made Master of the University in recognition of his role in the development and establishment of Argyll College and UHI.



THE GRADUATES: students at Argyll College celebrate their academic achievements at a graduation ceremony in Oban



A830 INVERLOCHY - ANNAT ELECTRICITY CABLE INSTALLATION

We will be carrying out essential electricity upgrade works on the highway along the A830 between Banavie and Annat from 27 October for 16 weeks.

During these works sections of the A830 will be reduced to a single carriageway with traffic light control in place to protect our staff and road users.

As with all streetwork excavations, some disruption is unavoidable and we would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience you may be caused.

We will be utilising specialist drilling techniques at certain stages of the project to further minimise disruption to the local community and businesses.

We aim to be considerate and helpful. If you have any particular problems please advise us and we will action your comments to the best of our ability.

We will do all we can to minimise the disruption and we will reinstate the road and excavations as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns or queries about this essential work, our Project Team can be contacted on 01821 642860 Monday - Friday during office hours.

New operator 'good news' for Argyll passengers

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RAILWAY development group Friends of the West Highland Lines says it expects promised train service improvements to be delivered under the new ScotRail franchise.

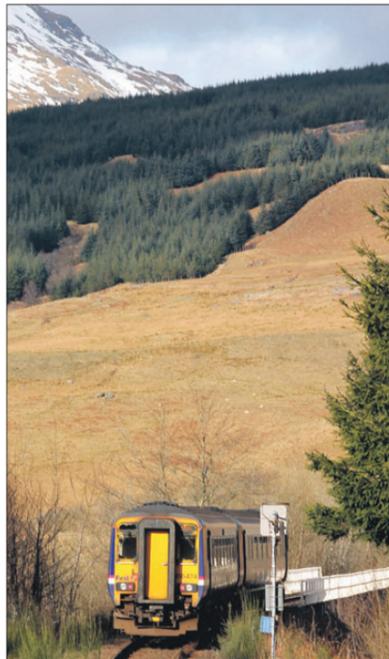
Dutch-based firm Abellio will operate all passenger train services in Scotland from April 2015, including those running from Glasgow to Oban, Fort William and Mallaig when they take over from current operators FirstGroup.

And many of Transport Scotland's specifications for the new contract are tailored around improving long-distance rural journeys such as on the West Highland routes.

This includes a 'scenic trains' initiative which asks for new tourist trains; using premium carriages with bigger windows, more comfortable seats and high-quality catering using local produce.

Friends' chairman Doug Carmichael commented: 'The prime requirement for the West Highland lines from Glasgow to Fort William, Mallaig and Oban is hugely improved trains.'

'We need trains with air conditioning and a toilet to each coach. In the peak summer season we need more coaches on each train to stop overcrowding.'



ON TRACK: the west Highland rail service has been awarded to Dutch company Abellio

'It would also be a huge step forward to have a summer train locomotive-hauled with large-window coaches, providing a high standard of catering in a restaurant car and at seats and an observation coach at each end.'

Abellio chief executive Jeff Hoogesteger said his firm had ambitious plans: 'We look forward to delivering significant new benefits for passengers under the next franchise.'

'With a population of 5.3 million and 82.5 million passenger journeys a year on ScotRail, not once did we underestimate the challenge of delivering a high quality service to existing passengers while encouraging more people to use the network.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell welcomed the Abellio contract, adding: 'This is good news for Oban and Argyll.'

'I am pleased to see a commitment to cross selling with other transport operators and improvements in information and timetabling so that ferries and trains link up - something of vital concern in this area.'

Oban had already received a major boost earlier in the year when ScotRail doubled the amount of trains running every day from three to six and introduced a school service to Dalnally, Taynuilt and Connel.

Workers in line for holiday pay bonus

WORKERS in Argyll and Bute are in for a bonus after an European Union ruling will see the council pay out more than £300,000 in 'miscalculated' holiday pay.

Through no fault of its own, the council has been totting up holiday pay on the basis of an employee's contractual hours. But an EU ruling last month means it will now be calculated on all hours worked.

A recent English court judgement, involving British Gas, ruled that holiday pay must be based on annual hours worked, including additional hours.

In practice this means someone who is contracted to work 15 hours a week but regularly works more hours should see no difference between pay received while on holiday and that paid when working.

A council spokeswoman: 'All council employees affected by this will receive the backdated payment in their October pay.'

'Councils and trade unions are working together at a national level to find a way forward for settlement of any backdated claims outwith the current year.'

The ruling has still to be tested in a Scottish court, therefore further back payments may be due to workers for years prior to 2013/2014.

Bins collection to help environment

GREEN and blue bins in Oban, Lorn and Mid Argyll are now to be emptied on alternate weeks in a bid by Argyll and Bute council to help improve the environment.

From October 27, homeowners will be able to use their blue bins for all plastic material, cans, paper and card, while green bins will be used for everything else.

All homes will now receive a blue bin if they don't have one already and the council believes the changes will save residents from making regular trips to recycling centres.

Council head of roads and amenity services Jim Smith said: 'We introduced an enhanced service in the Helensburgh and Lomond area in 2009 and it has been very successful.'

'I am confident residents in Mid Argyll and Oban and Lorn will benefit from this enhanced service.'

More information for residents can be obtained either from the council's website or information packs.

Session declared a successful recipe

CARERS young and old enjoyed an afternoon of cooking together on Friday October 3 thanks to partnership working between North Argyll Carers Centre, the NHS Highland Keep Well Team and Argyll College.

Chef Alison Sykora shared professional tips, while offering nutritional advice and hints on eating well on a limited budget.

Young Carers were particularly pleased to have a chance to use their 'Cookit' food kit, which was donated to them by the Scottish government's 'Focus on Food' team and everyone went home with delicious samples.

Mairi Fleck, training co-ordinator at North Argyll Carers centre, thanked everyone involved and hoped this will be the first of many similar events.

A living wage for health contractors

NHS Highland is to ensure all its contractors pay staff the living wage.

Highland MSP and Shadow Minister for Wellbeing Rhoda Grant welcomed the news that the health board is to require all contractors to pay their staff a minimum rate of £7.65 per hour.

Ms Grant said: 'Times are difficult enough for working people to make ends meet and this living wage guarantee can only help staff striving to look after themselves and their families on low wages. This move brings NHS Highland in line with the policy of NHS Scotland.'

Plastic bags carry five pence charge

FREE carrier bags will be a thing of the past when a new five pence charge comes into force on October 20.

The charge will apply to all single-use carrier bags. Iain Gulland, director of Zero Waste Scotland, said: 'Single-use bags are a highly visible item of litter which blights our streets and seas.'

Rowdy fan claimed he was set up over sectarian chants on busy Oban train

A FOOTBALL fan claimed he was 'taught' sectarian songs by four 'friends' who he had been drinking with on a train journey between Glasgow and Oban.

Oban sheriff court heard on Tuesday that Harry Stage, 19, formerly of Oban, now Holland Street, Glasgow, had been on the 6.20pm train from Glasgow to Oban on August 30.

Between Dalmally and Oban the group began to cause a disturbance to 30-40 passengers, the court heard, and the accused seemed to be leading the behaviour with sectarian remarks and singing songs of a similar nature.

'When the train arrived at Oban, police officers were waiting,' said procurator fiscal John Service, 'and while carrying out their investigations about the incident, unusually, one of the accused's friends, who was with him, produced his mobile phone footage and they saw the accused singing and shouting loudly some sectarian songs and chants.'

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton said Stage was a fan of a Glasgow team but had come into the company of four rival fans who he had known since school and had been at a match that day.

Mr Thornton continued: 'A substantial amount of alcohol was purchased and consumed on the train and, presumably as a bit of fun, he was taught some songs by his so-called friends.'

'He can't help but feel that to some extent he was set up.'

As soon as the train arrived, Mr Thornton said, his client's friend took some pleasure in showing the phone footage to the officers.

'He didn't realise the significance of his behaviour on that occasion.'

Stage pleaded guilty to causing a disturbance and singing songs with sectarian content as well as possessing cannabis found during a routine search on him.

The sales adviser was told by Sheriff Douglas Small that he could have been jailed but he was ordered to carry out 200 hours' unpaid work in the community within nine months.

Lennox's balancing act has cyber world in a spin

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A VIDEO of an Oban man balancing his baby son on the palm of his hand has now been seen by millions of people around the world.

Sandy Smith and six-month-old baby boy Lennox became an overnight sensation after wife and mother Simone Gilmartin posted the video to her facebook page.

The original video, filmed two weeks ago, has now been seen by close to three million people but global media outlets will have helped take that figure to tens of millions.

Sandy, an engineer who now lives in Whiteinch, Glasgow, said: 'It all happened over one weekend.'

'I was just playing with Lennox one Friday night and realised that he could probably stand on my hand.'

'When Simone came home she filmed it and put it on her facebook page at 8pm on Saturday. By Monday morning we had nearly two million views.'

'We were astonished when our friends phoned us on Saturday to say it had 1,500 views, so to find out there were two million a couple of days later was incredible.'

Over the next fortnight the couple were inundated with media requests from NBC and ABC news channel in the USA and from Greece, where Simone's family hail from.



Sandy, 32, explained Lennox's party trick, where he hovers less than a foot above his parents' bed, seemed to come quite naturally.

'The film that everyone has seen was only the second time I tried it, so it is quite amazing,' he said. 'The past couple of weeks have been a bit of a whirlwind.'

'We have had lots of positive comments from people, almost everyone finds it really funny but we saw some cynical comments on the Daily Mail website.'

'The topic there seemed to be what the dangers would have been of Lennox falling on the bed - it was quite funny to read some of it actually.'

Sandy's sister, Donna, a youth worker at Atlantis Leisure in Oban, said: 'I couldn't believe how many hits it got. The family all loved it and everyone I have spoken to thinks it's hilarious.'

HIGH WIRE ACT: main picture, Little Lennox Smith shows perfect poise and, left, safely in dad Sandy's arms



Why am I in a cell? - asks drunk man

A MAN who got so drunk that he didn't know why he woke up in a police cell was fined £300 at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday for vandalising a car.

Marek Zimnoch, 35, of Glenshellach Road, Oban, had been drinking with friends at their home on April 14 and was making his way along Glencruitten Road in the town when he was seen by police trying the door handles of a parked car.

He had pulled the handles of all four doors so hard that they came off, causing £450-worth of damage.

The court heard he had no recollection of causing the damage and had to ask why he was in a police cell when he woke up the following day.

Having pleaded guilty to vandalising the car, he was ordered to pay £450 compensation to car's owner.

Charity lunch for Ebola campaign

SUPPORTERS of Argyll charity Mary's Meals will be holding a special charity lunch to support its work in feeding those affected by the Ebola outbreak in west Africa.

The Connel Friends of Mary's Meals meet regularly throughout the summer to raise money for the charity's school meal provision around the world.

But on hearing many of the schools that Mary's Meals supports were closed as a result of the virus outbreak, and that the charity was now handing out food aid in Liberia, the friends have organised a special soup lunch for October 25 in St Oran's Hall, Connel.

Noisy neighbour's community order

FORTY-nine-year-old Lorna Campbell, of Soroba Road, Oban, was ordered at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work in the community.

She admitted in court to breaching an anti-social behaviour order on July 19 by playing excessively loud music at 1am at her home.

Block of wood just missed toddler

LOUISE LEE
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A TODDLER walking along an Argyll road was almost hit in the head by a block of wood after a speeding car and trailer bounced off a barrier centimetres from where she was standing.

Clearly shaken by the event, Evie Paterson, three, told dad George, 'that was a close shave.'

Now the school at Kilninver, a village where speeding has dominated community concerns, is demanding immediate action to ensure the situation does not arise again.

George told *The Oban Times*: 'Normally when I pick up Evie from school she runs along the road in front of me. But this day she was really tired and she asked me to carry her home.'

'I picked her up and as we walked



CLOSE SHAVE: George Paterson holds the bit of wood that almost hit his three-year-old daughter Evie, as parent council chairwoman Tina Files looks on

home a Land Rover was speeding through the village. Its trailer was bouncing along the road.

'It seemed to clip one of the barriers and when it did, the car started to go out of control. It bounced into the school barrier and then it went into one of the bollards, ripping it out of the ground.'

'At that point a piece of wood about 40 centimetres long went flying through the air and almost hit Evie. I was absolutely shocked.'

'If it had been one second later, or if I had not been carrying her then

I can't imagine what would have happened.' Parent council chairwoman Lucy Files said she was not putting up with the risk to children on the road any longer.

She has written to her MP, her MSP and local councillors to demand action on this stretch of the road.

She said: 'This piece of road is a death trap.'

The road at Kilninver, the A816, has a speed restriction of 30mph through the village but eye witnesses say traffic is speeding in the area.

A recent police operation saw a marked increase in the number of offenders caught.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'This situation had not been reported to us, however, now we are aware of it we will investigate and repair any damage to the fence.'



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Plockton

MEMBERS of the Lochalsh branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute held a mini auction in Achmore hall on October 2. The auctioneer was Bill Gillespie and £450 was raised for Highland Hospice funds.

SKYE and Lochalsh sports council met at the Fingal Centre, Portree, on September 29. Sarah Ross, school co-ordinator for Skye, gave a comprehensive report on recent activities.

Grants totalling £632.20 were awarded to Sleat and Strath football club, Broadford youth club and Skye camanachd shinty club. The shinty club grant will go towards the cost of coaching under 18 ladies throughout Skye and Lochalsh and is the first grant to ladies shinty from the council.

THERE was only 1.5 inches of rain in Plockton during September, the driest September for many years. There were 18 dry days and it was the driest month this year. August had 8.5 inches, but four inches fell over three days. The warmest day in September was 21.2°C, with the coolest 7.5°C.

THE VILLAGE of Kyle has been saddened in the past few weeks with the passing of three well-loved citizens.

They were 95-year-old Dolly Munro; 81-year-old Alastair Fraser and 87-year-old Bill Ramsay. Sympathy is expressed to all family relatives.

A CONCERT was held in Dornie hall on September 26 in aid of local Macmillan Cancer Support funds.

The organiser was Kate Beaton and Dr John Adamson was chairman. The event raised £600.

BRITISH Legion Scotland has launched a competition for primary five, six and seven school pupils across Scotland.

Schools will investigate, capture, record and illustrate with photographs and stories, memories of the First World War from their local community.

Ten pupils from the winning school will win a trip to the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo in August 2015.

ON SEPTEMBER 29, more than 100 people attended a concert at Plockton high school organised by Lochan.

Music was provided by the Paul MacKenna band and the Outside Track band.

PLOCKTON historical society presented a talk on the history of local mansions by Richard Wilberforce in Plockton hall on September 25 with 20 people in attendance.

The society's scheduled talk on September 23 had to be cancelled following the sudden death of guest speaker Bill Ramsay from Kyle.

Tiree

TREE high school's annual gala day raised £2,500 - £500 up on last year's figure.

Also up was the number of local people attending the event which was supported by the parent teacher association and featured community and arts and crafts stalls. 'Soak the staff' was a hit again, as was the staff's version of *River Dance*.

PUPILS at Tiree high school who play traditional instruments or who attend music club were invited last week to take part in workshops with the winners of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the year competition.

Workshops were given in fiddle, accordion, guitar and piano to both primary and secondary pupils.

The pupils enjoyed the workshops and picked up great tips and tunes from the musicians.

Morar

MORAR'S Women's Rural Institute has returned for the season, with their first meeting on October 2.

Guest speaker was Val Lee who gave a talk on aromatherapy, with samples of essential oils, to the ten members and one guest who attended.

Flora Lawrie was the winner of the autumn foliage competition while Isobel Morton picked up first prize in the apple chutney contest.

The next meeting will be on Thursday November 6 at Lady Lovat primary school when guest speaker Angus MacIntyre will give a talk on the ranger service.

Easdale

PUPILS at Easdale primary school took part in a competition to design a logo and slogan for world stone skimming championships tee-shirts.

Joseph MacVicar won the design logo on the front of the tee shirts and Jessica Aldwinkle won the slogan on the back of the tee shirt.



BUSY BEES: Sarah Kennedy, left, and Alison Blair of Lochaber Beekeepers Association taught Banavie's nursery class all about their buzzy friends

Banavie youngsters buzz into nursery

BANAVIE primary school's nursery class were busy bees last week when they had two interesting visitors. Alison Blair and Sarah Kennedy of Lochaber Beekeepers Association taught the children all about looking after the creatures. The youngsters enjoyed trying on the protective clothing and learned about how bees make honey.



TASTY: Appin children enjoy their harvest lunch

Strath of Appin

CHILDREN at Strath of Appin primary school enjoyed a harvest lunch while learning all about where their food comes from, as part of a project.

The One Planet Picnic initiative is part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful eco-schools programme and clean and green legacy 2014. It is designed to raise awareness of where food comes from and how it is produced.

Strath of Appin primary school's picnic took the form of its harvest lunch where all the children and staff in the school were invited to enjoy fabulous foods that had been freshly prepared in the school kitchen. All the dishes included ingredients that had been sourced and produced locally.

The food experiences included leek and potato soup, salmon, eggs, Highland beef, seasonal vegetables, grown in the school grounds, bramble and apple crumble, honey and oatcakes which were made by primaries one, two, and three.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their lunch and were able to appreciate the importance of sustainable, Scottish food in a healthy diet.

The school thanks everyone who contributed produce to enable the children to benefit from a valuable learning experience.

Glengarry shinty players on the ball

GLENGARRY Shinty Club's youth development day was a success with more than 30 local children participating and players visiting from Inverness and Fort William.

Russell Jones of the Camanachd Association was on hand to coach the youngsters, with activity stalls and a bouncy castle on the sidelines. The home teams were victorious in both under 14 and P7 and under categories but Inverness pipped the local juniors to the post in the P5 and under tournament.

Catherine Cameron of Glengarry Shinty Club said: 'The committee is indebted to everyone who attended, including visiting teams. A huge thank you to coach Elaine for all her hard work organising the whole day.'



ON THE BALL: Glengarry shinty club juniors celebrate success at the youth development day



CLASS ACT: smiles all round from the new primary one pupils at Port Ellen primary school, Islay

MORVERN lines

THE SOUND of Mull must have witnessed many sights over the centuries but none surely more spectacular than the passage of the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and her naval escort.

Every year after Cowes Week Regatta, the Queen and members of the royal family would sail to the Western Isles for their annual holiday cruise before taking up residence at Balmoral for the summer. Many family picnics were enjoyed on beautiful remote beaches and islands such as Colonsay, Skye, Eigg, Rum, Mull and the Isle of Harris.

Britannia was first seen in these waters during her sea trials after she was launched in the Clyde in 1954. I am unsure if her route took her through the Sound of Mull that year but she was certainly present in 1956 when Her Majesty visited Duart Castle on a wet and stormy day. Her commanding officer on that occasion, and until he retired in 1958, was Sir Arthur Connolly Abel Smith whose sister, Mrs Emmeline Owen Hugh Smith, owned Ardtornish Estate. Thereafter, until shortly before she was decommissioned in 1997, *Britannia* was a welcome and familiar sight in the sound most summers. When it became known that the royal yacht was in the vicinity, local folk would often gather near the wishing stone beyond Fiunary, where the navigable channel comes closest to the Morvern shore, to watch her pass by. The Queen and other members of the royal family sometimes came out on deck to wave while passing yachts dipped their red ensigns in salute.

Every time *Britannia* entered the sound from the south, she and the accompanying frigate would slow down almost to a standstill off Duart Castle to allow the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Macleans to wave to each other with sheets, towels and pillowcases. Rockets too used to be fired between them providing a lively spectacle.

Lord Maclean of Duart and Morvern, who organised Prince Charles's wedding, was Lord Chamberlain from 1971 to 1984 and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Argyll from 1954 to 1975.

The royal yacht was one of the most beautiful vessels in the world and generated admiration wherever she went. When she sailed westwards through the sound for the last time in August 1997, it was one of those lovely evenings that only the west coast can produce. Anyone who witnessed *Britannia*'s red, gold and black streamlined hull gliding through the tide race below Ardtornish Castle; the flag of the Lord High Admiral (the Queen) on the foremast, the Royal Standard on the main and the Union flag on the mizzen, and heard the music of the Royal Marine Band echoing among the ruins of the ancient seat of the Lords of the Isles, will testify to the glamour and excitement that her immaculate presence always generated.

Of course, *Britannia* must give pleasure to many visitors who travel to Edinburgh's Port of Leith to see her, but I cannot help wondering, when the time came, if the bottom of the sound of Mull or The Minch would have been a more appropriate final resting place.



FAREWELL: *Britannia* during her final cruise of the Western Isles firing rockets over Duart Castle

Britannia was not the first royal yacht to visit these shores. According to a Mull tradition, Czar Alexander II and his wife and family sailed round the island on the Russian royal yacht, *The Queen Victoria*, following a state visit to Britain in 1838. During their first visit to the Highlands and islands in August 1847, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, accompanied by the young Prince of Wales - later King Edward VII - and the Princess Royal, entered Fingal's Cave, Staffa in a barge belonging to the Royal Yacht, *Victoria and Albert*.

Fifty five years later King Edward VII returned to Mull with Queen Alexandra aboard the *Victoria and Albert III*, the first royal yacht not to be powered by sail, and anchored in Loch Tuath during a cruise of the Western Isles. The purpose of their visit was to take part in a seal shooting expedition among the Treshnish Isles. Bad weather prevailed in the morning and as the royal party waited for conditions to improve, a local fishing boat came alongside. In addition to lobsters the fisherman had a rough-haired fox terrier with him. The Queen took a great liking to it. A price was agreed and both dog and lobsters were passed up.

History does not relate the fisherman's name but it has been suggested that the terrier may have become Caesar, the King's famous companion. When the King died in 1910, Caesar, led by a kilted Highlander, walked behind his coffin in the funeral procession through London.

According to Wikipedia, not always entirely reliable on matters Highland, Caesar was bred by the Duchess of Newcastle and given to the King by Lord Dudley in 1902. However, research in the Royal archives at Windsor has failed to establish exactly where Caesar hailed from. It would be nice to think he had come from Mull and



COMPANIONS: King Edward and Caesar

that some of his progeny may still be scampering around the island.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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Lamb sale cash boosts Lismore school funds



CASHING IN: Josh and Shane sold a Suffolk cross lamb at Oban Mart for school funds.

TWO CHILDREN from an island primary have raised money for their school by earning a top price at a sheep sale.

Shayne Stewart and Josh Layton, the two primary seven pupils at Lismore primary school, went to Oban Mart on September 16 to sell a Suffolk cross lamb which had been gifted by island crofter Peter Walker, Achduin.

The boys sold their lamb for £62, the top lamb price for the day, which has gone straight into school coffers.

Head teacher Catherine Davies admitted it was one of the more

unusual fundraisers she had seen but insisted the educational value of the trip to the sales was much greater.

She said: 'The children should all know about farming. There are more sheep than humans on the island and it is part of everyday life here.'

Culture
'Most of them are from farming families or have family involved in farming, so it is a big part of their lives, their culture.'

Ms Davies explained she was hopeful the school could adopt a lamb at birth and teach the

children how it is looked after until it is sold in August. The boys said they enjoyed their day at the mart, adding it was much bigger and busier than they had expected.

Eleven-year-old Josh said: 'We have lots of sheep on the island but we wanted to learn what happens to them once they leave on the ferry.'

'The mart was very big and quite smelly but it was really exciting when the bidding began.'

Asked if the trip had made him want to become a farmer, Josh replied: 'No, I want to be a footballer. Farming looks really hard.'

New Skye hospital a priority says MSP

AN MSP is putting pressure on the Scottish government to build a new hospital for Skye, after it emerged patients are having to travel 100 miles for endoscopy treatment.

Patients are currently enduring mammoth trips to Fort William and Inverness, often staying overnight, as these procedures have been discontinued at the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford.

The planned new hospital is expected to replace the MacKinnon Memorial and Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, has asked cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing Alex Neil MSP for clarification on when this will happen. He said: 'This is really not an acceptable situation for patients on Skye.'

'The cabinet secretary confirmed he would be reviewing the ending of endoscopy services and that NHS Highland will be discussing proposals for the new hospital at their next meeting in December.'

There have also been calls from islanders to build the new hospital in Portree, instead of the NHS preferred location of Broadford.

Largest number of recruits for years

THE HIGHLAND and Islands division of Police Scotland has seen its largest influx of training recruits for decades.

Nineteen new officers completed their final week of training at the regional headquarters in Inverness last Friday.

They spent the first 12 weeks of the programme at Tulliallan in Fife and will now move to police stations up and down the country.

Divisional commander, chief superintendent Julian Innes, said: 'I'm delighted to welcome our new officers to the area.'

'The Highlands and Islands present a safe and satisfying place to live, often presenting policing matters as unique as our geography.'

'In our combined 80 years of police service, superintendents Angus MacPherson, Ross MacKillop and I agree this is the largest intake of new police recruits to the area during our time.'

Plans for five-star tourist resort take root in forest

HANNAH HITS THE HIGH NOTES AT MÒD



MACPHEE MEDAL: Fort William girl Hannah Calder won the coveted James C MacPhee Memorial Medal for girls solo singing, learners aged 13 to 15, at the Royal National Mòd in Inverness. The Lochaber high school pupil said appearing at the prizewinners concert was a long-term goal. See pages 10 to 15 for full coverage of this year's event Mòd 17_142mod44

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A MASSIVE tourist complex worth £25million has been proposed for Lochaber.

The 'masterplan' for Leanachan Forest will be presented to the public at a consultation next month and proposals include a five-star spa hotel, a bunkhouse, lodges and a campsite in the 7,300 acres of national forest land near Nevis Range Mountain Resort.

Thousands of tourists visit the area every year for biking, walking and snowsports and developers Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise say the scheme will boost these numbers.

The project, which will be known as Nevis Forest and Mountain Resort, has been split into four 'development zones' with potential building plans for each area. One includes the possibility of a spa hotel, luxury lodges or a combination of both while camping pods and yurts could be available elsewhere in the forest.

Highland councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, said it would be a great use of the space at Leanachan.

He added: 'I welcome these proposals and think everyone should get involved in shaping a development which will increase the number of visitors to Lochaber.'

'There's tremendous potential in and around Leanachan Forest and I hope we can make the most of it.'

Lesley Benfield, chief executive officer of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said she is 'delighted' about the proposal and added that she looks forward to seeing the full plans.

Steve Williams of Forestry Commission Scotland said the scheme could take up to 20 years to complete but he hopes to lodge a planning application by next summer.

He added: 'It would be our intention to take this forward as

Massive Leanachan masterplan includes spa hotel, bunkhouse, lodges and campsite

quickly as we can but a project of this size will have to involve funding from a lot of external investors.'

An exact cost is not available at this stage but developers say if all plans go ahead it could reach £25million. It is also unclear how many jobs will be available but Mr Williams said it would be a 'big boost to the local economy'.

Members of the public have been invited to a consultation on November 4 at the Pinemartin Cafe, Nevis Range. The event will be between 2pm and 7pm with a presentation at 3pm.

Project team member Robert Grant said: 'We've established good links and a robust feedback process with key stakeholders and the wider community who are keen to get involved with these developing proposals.'

'The majority of participants would welcome the facilities and the additional tourist numbers that it could bring.'

'We're still listening though and have already taken on board the feedback we've received. This latest version of the proposal includes some changes to the bunkhouse as well as some new elements including the Lochaber rural complex site and ski range and we're now looking for further comment.'

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2014



Authors share stories of bereavement

THE UNPREDICTABILITY of coping with bereavement was summed up in one moment for retired Oban solicitor Graeme Pagan, who has co-written a book on the subject.

When his son presented an old coal scuttle from Graeme's garage that belonged to his late wife, Heather, Graeme broke down as memories of his beloved came flooding back.

The incident gave name to Don't Mention the Coal Scuttle, a collection of anecdotes and personal experiences that Graeme has co-written with retired nurse Alison Pringle, who lives in North Connel.

The book has other contributions from people Graeme and Alison met during their three-year project.

The pair were first introduced in the 1970s but they met again four years ago, just weeks after Heather's death. Alison had lost her husband, Murray, five years



Alison Pringle and Graeme Pagan are launching their book on bereavement this week.

16_142book01

previously and they found they had much in common. 'As we talked over the next few months, I realised Alison had been helping me through my grief and I thought someone else should have the benefit of that,' said

Graeme. 'That's when I got the idea for a book. I found it gave me something to achieve because when it was finished I had a real low, as if it had kept me going.'

Alison, whose late husband was a civil engineer with Argyll County Council, Alison, says the idea of 'closure' is too simple a notion when dealing with bereavement. She added: 'I was happy to help with the book if it helped people. You can't say, "On Tuesday I will feel better". You learn to live with what you've got or you will go under.'

'It wasn't difficult to talk about it again because you never forget about it. I live with the memory of the wonderful guy I had.'

Asked if writing the book opened old wounds, she replied: 'I wouldn't say that. When you get cut the scar tissue is tougher than the initial skin. I don't really feel unhappy but I do have my moments. A good marriage built on good love is not meant to leave

you ripped in shreds because that takes away from the happiness you have.'

The pair said they had plenty of help from women who wanted to share their stories but found men were more reluctant to contribute.

Graeme and Alison, however, are both very open about their experiences and hope this honesty will help others make sense of losing a life partner.

Far from a depressing read, the book incorporates a lot of humour in its anecdotes.

'Heather was very effervescent and outgoing, yet very private and she didn't want people to know about her illness,' said Graeme. 'I suppose the book lets me tell people how wonderful I thought she was.'

'My brother asked me if I was writing the book for me, or for others. I think it's a bit of both.'

The book will be launched tomorrow (Friday) at 7pm in Oban Library.



Halloween Party

Sat 25 Oct, 2-3.30pm

Glencoe Visitor Centre, Glencoe PH49 4HX

Don your favourite costume and join our rangers for an afternoon of spooky Halloween fun! There'll be apple bobbing, creepy crafts, gruesome feely boxes and more! Perfect party for 5-11 year olds. Entry is a donation of £2 per child.



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Eilidh 'the ceilidh' is student of the year

A THREE music student has been honoured with three prestigious awards from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Eilidh MacFadyean said she was 'delighted' when she was named student of the year for both the Skye-based Gaelic college and the overall University of the Highlands and Islands. Eilidh is the first student from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) to win the UHI award.

The Gaelic and Traditional Music student, now in the final year of her honours degree, also received the Margaret Robertson Memorial Award in recognition of her efforts to organise events at the

college. Eilidh said: 'I am delighted to have been named student of the year for Sabhal Mòr and UHI. It was totally unexpected and I am very honoured that staff at SMO thought that I was deserving of such an award.'

'The last three years have been fantastic, with the chance to learn from some of the best lecturers in Gaelic and Traditional Music.'

The awards were presented at SMO's 30th graduation on October 3, which saw 50 pupils graduate from a number of courses. Nearly 900 students have now graduated from the college.



Eilidh MacFadyean receives her student of the year award from Fiona Larg, secretary of UHI.

Iain MacLean Scottish National Party



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It's time to talk the talk

There's nothing quite so lethal as the dead hand of political prevarication and obfuscation to kill off any strategy or piece of progressive legislation. Kicking things into the long grass now seems to be an essential prerequisite for a successful political career.

The 2005 Gaelic Language Act is such a case in point. President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, John Macleod, opened this year's Royal National Mòd in Inverness with an impassioned plea for action from the Scottish government.

Before his 1,500-strong audience, he described how boxes of plans on how to strengthen and promote the Gaelic tongue were gathering dust in the corridors of power. He called for an end to the soothing rhetoric and for real action from Holyrood. As thousands of Gaels gather this week in Inverness in a wonderful celebration of language and culture, it is crucial our own politicians - MPs, MSPs and councillors - fight to ensure that the 2005 Act is properly and robustly implemented.

GLASGOW LETTER

Workshops and singing sessions

ACCLAIMED Gaelic singers are to lead a series of informal workshops on Gaelic songs of particular subject or type and the stories which accompany them.

The workshops will take place in Coffee and Craic - An Cafaigh Ur Gaidhlig - 74 Elderslie Street, Finnieston, Glasgow, G3 7AL, starting on Tuesday October 28.

This first evening will feature Margaret MacLeod on the songs of Murdo MacFarlane from 7pm to 8pm, followed by a singing session with Margaret until 9pm.

The cost of each workshop is £4/£2 and for the singing session £3 with those attending the workshop having free access to the singing session. Discounts will apply for those attending the five sessions planned between now and Christmas and concession rates will apply for under 18s. I will provide details of future sessions in due course.

Not all workshops will be followed by singing sessions and where that is the case the time will be from 7pm to 8.30pm. Attendance must be pre-booked by contacting Linda MacLeod on 0141 341 1025 or linda@anlochran.com.

The workshops are funded by Enterprise Scotland and Creative Scotland.

Clydebank and District Highlander's Association

REGULAR readers of this column will recall that when I reported on the September ceilidh of the above association it was alongside reports on two other ceilidhs held on consecutive nights and that I commented on the satisfactory attendances.

That being the case, one might expect an improved attendance when there is only one function taking place over a weekend but not so at the 'Bankies' recent ceilidh. I remain puzzled. That said, those who did attend were well entertained by singers Mary C MacLean, Pauline Cochrane, Gordon McKeever and Norman MacKinnon together with accordionist Archie Gardner and piper Robert Wood.

Jean Lester was chairwoman and Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist.

Gaelic day

CLANN Gaidhlig is holding a day of Gaelic classes in Paisley Grammar School on Saturday October 25.

There will be language classes at different levels according to demand and singing workshops. Registration takes place at 9.30am, with classes starting at 10am, and the cost will be £15 for the day or £12 for Clann Gaidhlig members, including tea/coffee.

The emphasis will be on conversational Gaelic and

there will be the chance to move to a different class if the class is not appropriate to the level of learning.

To take part, telephone 0780 591 8509, email fios@clannghaidhlig.org or write to Clann Gaidhlig, c/o 62 Park Gardens, Kilmarchan, Renfrewshire, PA10 2LR, enclosing a cheque made payable to Clann Gaidhlig.

Glasgow Tíre Association

THE TÍRE Association is holding a film, soup and sandwich evening in Crawford Hall, Partick, on Friday October 24 at 7pm to 7.30pm.

The evening will feature the films *Sula* and *Return to Sula*, filmed on the island in the 1970s.

The association will then look forward to its annual gathering concert on Thursday November 20 in Partick Burgh Halls, with the dance the following evening in Glasgow University Union.

With professional after dinner speaker, actress and comedienne Isobel Rutter chairing proceedings at the concert and with entertainment provided by Darren MacLean, Linda MacLeod, Alasdair Whyte and the Rowan Brothers, a night of high quality entertainment is guaranteed.

The dance should be the same, with the island's own *Skipinnish* providing the music.

Stirling ceilidh

THIS month's ceilidh of the An Comunn branch in Stirling takes place in the Lesser Albert Halls on Saturday October 25 at 7.30pm.

Artists will be Donald Iain Brown, Alasdair Whyte, Margaret Callan and family, piper Innes Smith and the Cluaran Highland Dancers. Admission £5.

Diary dates

Tuesday October 21: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm, Lizanne Knott.

Thursday October 23: Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm - Rachel Sermani.

Friday October 24: Three film show - see above. St Andrew's in the Square, 7.30pm - Rab Noakes.

Saturday October 25: Glasgow Skye Association Marag Supper, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. An Comunn, Stirling branch ceilidh, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm - see above.

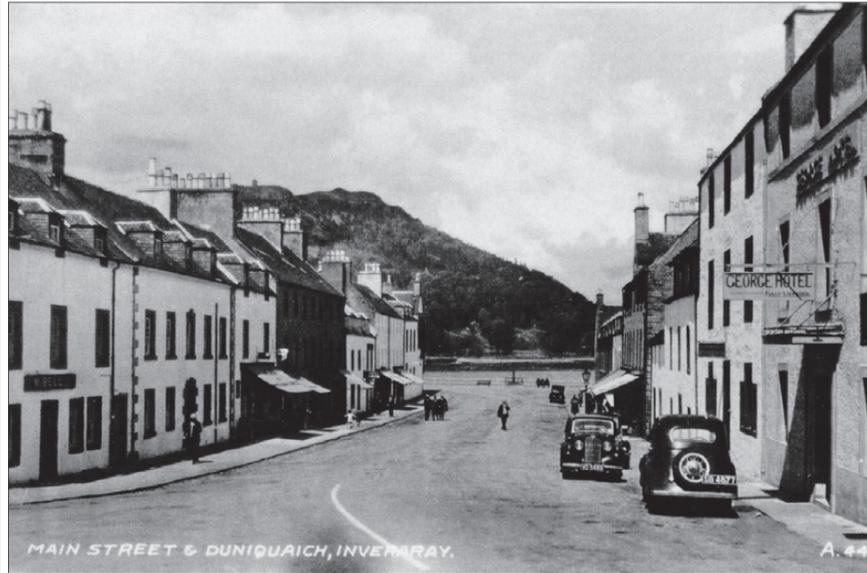
Sunday October 26: Scot's Guards Piping Recital, Haymarket, Edinburgh, 4pm - Jack Lee. Cost £10. Curry served after recital.

Tuesday October 28: Gaelic singing workshops - see above.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be played by Martainn Skene on Friday, Trail West on Saturday and Nicky McMichan on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be the Keelies on Friday and Black Velvet on Saturday.

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



Main Street and Duniquaich, Inveraray

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Colin Armstrong of Coventry and features Main Street and Duniquaich, Inveraray. Prints or emails of flashback photos should be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Let's put a face to 'The Voice'

Sir, It has come to our attention that an anonymous publication, *The Voice*, has been circulated widely by email in the Oban area and beyond.

This document focuses on elected members of Argyll and Bute council and the local authority's business.

It is clear those behind *The Voice* have a deep interest in their local community. As councillors elected by and for the local people, so do we.

Because of this, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss in more depth the issues raised in *The Voice*.

However, as it is circulated anonymously, we are not able at the moment to make a direct response.

We will be happy to discuss these matters directly with those behind *The Voice* in person.

Please get in touch with us direct at 01631 567945 or 01546 604209.

Councillors Roderick McCuish, Elaine Robertson,

Neil MacIntyre, Duncan MacIntyre, Iain Angus MacDonald, Mary Jean Devon, Alistair MacDougall, Oban, Lorn and The Isles Area Committee.

Why the charge to park at Inveraray Castle?

Sir, Through your columns I would like to ask why car parking fees have been introduced for people wishing to visit Inveraray castle?

In the old days you could park there for free and enjoy the surroundings but now when you want to visit, as well as paying to go into the castle, there is the added cost of paying to park your car.

Recently attending an event there one weekend afternoon, the entry fee was £20 before you had started to pay for things you wanted to buy from the stalls or refreshments.

It takes away from the attraction of the natural beauty of the place and never used to be like this.

Derek Arbuthnott, Kames, Lochgoilhead.

Two-lane road would be a disaster for Mull

Sir, Could someone please tell me I am wrong about this crazy suggestion emanating from Mull's community council, regarding the idea of a two-lane road running from the north of Mull to the south.

In my 35 years here I cannot recall them instigating one single tourism or environmental project on the island. Yet here they are now stepping out of the shadows with their big idea, which would completely devastate the island's fragile economy.

The council members need to get out far more and talk with our tourism businesses and their discerning and environmentally aware visitors.

They do not come to Mull because they are attracted to driving 60 or more miles an hour on a two-lane road. Nor will our freedom to roam sheep, cows, red deer, otters and cyclists welcome it either.

People like myself have striven to get Mull to the top of the eco-tourism tree and we need decision makers who understand the 'essence' of what these magical islands are all about. We need decision makers that have an empathy with Mull, if we are to stay up there where everyone on Mull benefits directly or indirectly. If speed is needed from north to south, and I can only think that conveying injured or ill people is the reason for speed, then let's have our

own helicopter, to not just move poorly or injured people around the island, but to take them for care even beyond that if need be. This is far more sensible and less damaging to our natural environment and far easier to rapidly deliver than a gigantic road development, and far quicker for the patient.

David Woodhouse, Isle of Mull Wildlife Expeditions.

Get better trains on track

Sir, I read with interest Abellio has been awarded the ScotRail contract.

Let's hope it gives us the trains we deserve in the West Highlands.

For 25 years we have been stuck with the same cramped, noisy and unpopular Sprinter units. Other communities in the Highlands - Kyle of Lochalsh, Inverness, Thurso - at least got an upgrade to newer trains several years ago. Yet the West Highlands has had to contend with the same old rubbish - unreliable heating, dirty windows, only one toilet per two coaches and a refreshment trolley which only shows up once or twice the whole journey.

The sleeper to Fort William is a far quieter and more comfortable ride and it's a shame we don't have one running to Oban too. Fingers crossed after a quarter of a century, we finally get trains that are fitting for 'the top rail journey in the world'.

Neil Higgins, Oban.

ISLAY LETTER

runner and soccer player whose exploits on the football pitch earned him the nickname 'the chopper'.

Following retirement, he and his solicitor wife Sue moved to Islay following the arrival of their only daughter Alison and son-in-law Andrew Jackson, now proprietors of Bowmore House.

He was diagnosed with a terminal illness at the beginning of the year and went on to fight it with courage and determination.

The Rev Thomas Bryson, minister of Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry, conducted the service of thanksgiving for Eddie's life in the Round Church on September 30 and this was followed by cremation at Cardross.

Eddie will be greatly missed by everyone who came into contact with him and most especially by his wife Sue, daughter Alison and son-in-law Andrew, and by his two granddaughters Lily and Eliza.

Arctic Stars awarded

FOR A quarter of a century a Portnahaven brother and sister have led a crusade to gain recognition for the bravery displayed by their late father Charles MacArthur while serving on the Arctic convoys during the Second World War.

Seumas MacArthur and his sister Katie, wife of the veteran Mòd gold medalist Donald M MacLeod, are now delighted that, after much lobbying and correspondence, their father and his fellow seamen have received the recognition they deserve with the posthumous award of the Arctic Star.

Charles MacArthur sailed as an able seaman and bosun on the Donaldson Atlantic Line and took part in the

Russian convoys which transported much-needed supplies, including tanks and planes, to aid the Russian efforts on the Eastern front. These convoys sailed through treacherous waters often in sub zero temperatures and were on numerous occasions the victims of German warplane and U-boat attacks.

More than 3,000 British seamen lost their lives in the operations and 18 Royal Navy and 104 merchant ships were sunk by enemy action. Conditions faced by the convoys were such that Britain's wartime leader Winston Churchill described it as 'the worst journey in the world'.

In neighbouring Port Wemyss, nonagenarian Betsy West has also fought long and hard to gain recognition for the part played by her late brother Malcolm MacNeill in the Russian convoys. He served on the convoy rescue ship *SS Rathlin* where the duties were both arduous and unpleasant and bombardment by German bombers was a constant threat.

The tenacity of these family members is to be commended as they now become the proud owners of the long awaited Arctic Star medals.

Golden wedding

RAISE a glass to local haulier Willie Currie and his wife Morag, nee MacAffer, who celebrate 50 years of happy marriage.

They were married in Kildalton Parish Church on October 6 1964 by the Rev Frank S Gibson, then minister of Kildalton and Oa parishes. Congratulations and slàinte mhath! **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810658.**



Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

MUN ÀM A BHIOS SIBH a' leughadh seo bidh Mòd Nàiseanta Rioghail 2014 ann an Inbhir Nis gu math air adhart, agus gu dearbh ma bhios sibh fada gun Tim Obain na seachdain seo fhàotainn bidh cùisean seachad!

A' sgrìobhadh seo aig toiseach Mòd na bliadhna seo, agus mar Neach-Gairm na Comataidh Ionadail, tuigidh sibh gum bheil mise a' guidhe gach soirbheachadh dhan a h-uile neach a bhios ri farpais, agus cuideachd dha na ceudan a bhios ag obair gu dìcheallach gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid cùisean air adhart cho math 's a ghabhas.

'S e rùn an sgioba-libhrigidh gun tèid daoine dhachaigh toilichte, ach 's dòcha nach bidh mothachadh sam bith aig a' mhòr-chuid air meud na h-obrach a chaidh an sàs gus an fhèis iongantach seo a chur air bhonn.

Tha faisg air ceithir bliadhna bhon a staidhcheadh Comataidh Eagrachaidh Ionadail Mòd 2014 aig coinneamh poblach ann an Inbhir Nis, agus bhon uairsin tha sinn air a bhith ag obair gu dìcheallach a' togail airgead agus a' comharrachadh gach taic a dh'fheumar ma choinneamh fèill mhòr den t-seòrsa.

Mar a bhios fios aig a' mhòr-chuid agaibh, tha na tàlant an nochdas aig Mòdan Nàiseanta ag èirigh gu ìre mhòr a tobairchean Mhòdan Ionadail agus as an aonais sin cha bhiodh Mòd Nàiseanta idir cho fallain.

Le mothachadh air sin dh'aontaich Comataidh Ionadail Mòd 2014 obrachadh às leth an tachartais ionadail aig an aon àm 's a bha sinn a' strì airson Mòd Nàiseanta Inbhir Nis, agus gun amaiseamaid air dileab de bheagan tèarainteachd dhan Mhòd Ionadail a' buinnig às a' Mhòd Nàiseanta.

Tha na trì Mòdan Ionadail a ghabh àite ann an Inbhir Nis bhon uairsin air fàs nas trainge gach bliadhna, chun na h-ìre gur e seo an Mòd Ionadail as motha a th' ann a-nise!

Tha sinn glè mhoiteil gum bheil Mòd 2014 Inbhir Nis, agus an t-iomall a tha na chois, a' taisbeanadh feadh cultairail Gaidhlig cho math 's a chunnacas is a chualas riamh aig Mòd!

Le sàr aoiagheachd Ghàidhealach a' feitheamh air luchd-tadhaill a' Mhòid ann an Inbhir Nis bidh làn mhothachadh aig muinntir a' bhaile, agus gach neach a thadhlas an seo seachdain a' Mhòid, gum bheil Fèill Chultairail Gaidhlig a' gabhail àite an seo.

Dh'iarraing taing a thoirt dhan a h-uile duine a chuidich, agus gu sònraichte buill na Comataidh Ionadail, luchd-obrach a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach, agus Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd.

ROYAL National Mòd 2014 is the first National Mòd in the city of Inverness and, coinciding with Highland elements of Homecoming Scotland, a truly special event has been planned. And it has started extremely well.

Hundreds joined a colourful and exuberant torchlight procession through the city to the Mòd opening ceremony at a packed Eden Court Theatre and, as convener of the local committee, I am delighted.

With the highest ever competitor numbers, organisers are hoping this will be remembered as one of the best ever gathering of Gaels.

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

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LAST week's SOLUTION

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

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

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

Public gets behind Fort shops plan

A DEVELOPER hoping to bring a new retail park to Fort William said he is 'amazed' at the support he has received from the public.

Morbaine Limited has lodged a planning application with Highland Council for proposals including an Aldi supermarket and discount store Home Bargains among other units still to be named.

The developer already has consent for non-food retail use at North Road but wants to expand to allow food sales.

Morbaine director Alex Brodie said if the plans were approved construction would begin as soon as possible and the retail park would bring 150 permanent jobs to the area.

He added: 'Some of the team were in the area recently talking to local people about the application and were amazed at the level of support. It is clear residents want the extra jobs and shopping choice these new stores will bring.'

'Our proposals have already received strong backing from the community during the public exhibitions stage and I am delighted so many residents have registered their support for the full planning application.'

'We are also grateful for the support of the local community councils.'

Highland Council's south planning committee is expected to have made a decision by November 28.

Incidents prompt police appeal

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about a number of incidents in the last week.

Sometime between 5pm on Tuesday October 7 and 9am the following morning a grey RIB vessel moored at the Kinlochmoidart jetty was deliberately damaged, causing it to sink.

Overnight on Wednesday October 8 a child's black and green bike was taken from a stairwell in a block of flats near Fort William High Street.

Between October 1 and 8 a ceramic planter was taken from the front door of an address in Banavie. It is about 2ft by 1ft and contained three plants.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact local police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Arisaig spotlight on cutting waste

THE PEOPLE of Arisaig will be asked how they can reduce energy waste in the village during a survey on Tuesday evening (October 21).

Members of the Arisaig eco project are inviting residents with a PH39 postcode to attend their event in the Land Sea and Islands Centre between 4pm and 7pm to share ideas about how each household can reduce CO2 emissions. Homemade soup, bread and baking will be available.



ACHARACLE STORE OWNER KEEPS PROMISE TO REPLACE BUILDING Pensioner rebuilds lifeline shop



Allan, 71, is building and paying for a new shop from his life savings.

A PENSIONER is using his life savings and spending his retirement rebuilding a lifeline shop for Ardnamurchan.

Allan MacGillivray, 71, bought the Acharacle Community Store 29 years ago but when he passed it on to his daughter Wendy Burgess and her husband David in 2010, rather than take it easy, he promised he would build a new shop to replace the 50-year-old crumbling building, which serves the whole peninsula.

But as the determined grandfather's applications for grants were rejected he decided to dig into his own hard-earned savings for the £70,000 plan and do most of the labour himself to keep costs down.

Mr MacGillivray, who now lives in Salen, said: 'The wee shop is falling to pieces. I really think a gale could blow it down. It's still up through force of habit.'

'So many people rely on the shop, it serves the whole area of Ardnamurchan so people come from all over to get their bits and pieces. It's not big enough for purpose either, I've expanded it over the years and done some work on it but its time has come, we need a new one.'

David has been helping to build the new shop as well as running the current store with Wendy. He called his father in law 'a wonderful man'.

He said: 'He must be the hardest working retired person I've ever met. He's a total family man who



Allan MacGillivray, left, passed his village shop to his daughter Wendy Burgess and her husband David in 2010.

would give and do anything for his family. Even though he should be enjoying his retirement he is building a shop and looking after his family. What a wonderful man.'

Mr MacGillivray is doing most of the building work himself, only employing a local joiner when he needs expert help, and hopes

to have the new store ready by Christmas. Mr Burgess added: 'He just never stops. To be retired and still doing things like this is just great. The shop means so much to the community. As well as us being so remote it brings employment to the area and it will be a part of our children's future too.'

The hardest working retired person I've ever met

David Burgess



MS society celebrates 25th anniversary

The Lochaber branch of the multiple sclerosis society celebrated its 25th anniversary on Sunday. Members and supporters gathered in Caol community centre for an afternoon tea to mark the occasion and a celebratory cake was cut by founding members Morag Matheson and George Landsborough.

Rhona finds recipe for success

A LOCHABER teenager is to compete against people from all over the west of Scotland in the final of a cooking competition.

Rhona MacIntosh was crowned winner of the Rotary Club of Lochaber's young chef competition and will now go on to represent the region in the rotary district final, against chefs from the west coast and Glasgow.

The Lochaber high school pupil won over five other teenagers from Lochaber, Mallaig and Ardnamurchan high schools, all of whom had to prepare a three-course meal for two, in under two hours and with a budget of £15.

Judges Duncan Gibson, Glenfinnan House Hotel, Tanya Warner, Farmstead Fayre, and Tony Boyd, Marine Harvest, awarded second place to Gregor Mews, also representing Lochaber high school.



Rhona MacIntosh and Gregor Mews of Lochaber high school took first and second place in the Rotary Club of Lochaber's young chef competition

Energy scheme investment powers ahead

INVESTMENT into a new community-owned energy scheme in Lochaber is now well underway as applications for shares worth more than £52,000 have come in since the project's launch.

Sunart Community Renewables has offered stakes in a hydro scheme for a previously untapped power source in Strontian and members announced the total so far at

a launch night on October 3.

Founding member Jamie McIntyre called the applications 'a massive vote of confidence' but the group still has a long way to go to reach the £850,000 total, a third of which must come from community shares.

He added: 'Investing in the Sunart Community Hydro scheme is a great opportunity to support the development

of renewable energy, and the creation of an income stream for local community development. Buying our shares will not make you rich, but you can be confident that your investment is both green and ethical.'

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

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DONATION: members of Mallaig and district community minibus project present their cheque to Care Lochaber. From left: Jan O'Malley, June Cairns, Anita Nicholls and Ann Martin.

Bus sale boosts Care Lochaber

THE UNFORTUNATE demise of one Lochaber charity has resulted in a cash boost for another.

Mallaig and district community minibus project came to an end last year due to lack of use, rising maintenance costs and a lack of support in the area but now Care Lochaber's community car scheme has benefited from £4,600 from the sale of the buses.

Under charitable law when one charity folds any money left in the account must be passed on to another organisation with similar aims and members of the minibus project decided on Care

Lochaber, which provides transport to those who have difficulty accessing buses or trains as a result of ill health, isolation or mobility problems.

Anita Nicholls, project manager for the community car scheme, said: 'This financial contribution will enable us to pay volunteer expenses and help towards salary and running costs of the scheme.'

'We are planning a series of open days in different localities including Mallaig, Arisaig and Morar which will enable us to promote the scheme to new users who require transport and also to recruit volunteer drivers.'

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE OBAN AREA
Together for older people

Royal Voluntary Service has a proud history in volunteering, providing support to older people in our communities. In Oban we have several initiatives including Befriending, operating our shop and Cafe, Meet and Greet Service with Lorn and Islands Hospital and delivering Meals on Wheels.

The majority of those we support in this way are older or vulnerable people. Our volunteers will offer friendship, information, practical support, delivery of a hot lunch and a great cuppa in our hospital.

To support these initiatives we are looking to recruit volunteers for our services in the Oban area. Volunteering is flexible - volunteers let us know when they are free and available and we design our rota around their busy schedules. We know our volunteers always have lots of other things to do!

If you could offer an hour or so per week to support an older person, perhaps by visiting them for a chat and a coffee, taking them out to get some shopping or just accompany on a quick trip to the Post Office, or if you would like to volunteer for any of the above, please get in touch.

You will be offered full training and support from our on site team.

If you would like to get involved please contact Audrey on 01631 570233, mobile 074442498868 or Theresa at our hub office on 01475 600442.

We look forward to hearing from you.

ABERCHALDER WIND FARM

Community Consultation Events

Glenarry Community Hall
Tuesday 28th October, 2pm - 8pm

Fort Augustus Village Hall
Wednesday 29th October, 2pm - 8pm

Introduction to the Aberchalder Wind Farm
Gamesa Energy UK Limited is investigating the potential for a wind farm at Aberchalder, approximately 3.5 km east of Invergarry and 7.5 km south of Fort Augustus.
Gamesa identified Aberchalder as a suitable location for a wind farm after undertaking a suite of feasibility studies. Our initial findings suggest that Aberchalder can accommodate a capacity of up to 65 MegaWatts in a scheme that is both sensitive and appropriate to the local area.
We intend to submit a planning application for the development in 2015.

Community Consultation Events
Your views are important to us. We would therefore like to invite you to visit our exhibition at the Glenarry Community Hall on Tuesday 28th October and at Fort Augustus Village Hall on Wednesday 29th October where you will be able to meet members of the project team and hear more about our proposals.
There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback and ask any questions.
For latest development updates please visit the project website www.aberchalderwindfarm.com

If you are unable to attend, we'd still love to hear from you - please do ring us on 0800 612 8105

Please note that all comments made to Gamesa are not representations to The Highland Council. Representations can be made to The Highland Council when a formal planning application is made.

www.aberchalderwindfarm.com



Royal National Mòd



MULLEACHS: are doing it for themselves. Mull Gaelic Choir took part in choir competitions and as individual competitors throughout the Mòd 15_142mod66

Welcome to the 2014 National Mòd

THE AIR in Inverness is full of music, song and chatter as the city hosts the 2014 Royal National Mòd.

The organising committee, chaired by Oban Times columnist Allan Campbell has done itself proud with a great venue at the Eden Court Theatre and a community which is celebrating the traditions of the culture and heritage of the Gaeltach.

This is the biggest Mòd ever, and the whole of the country is represented, and beyond.

There seems to be fewer numbers from the Oban area – and they are missed at the competitions so far.

Some concerns have been raised about the number of competitors

from the town which will host the 2015 Mòd and was the birthplace of the Royal National Mòd in 1892.

But the choirs from the west coast who have come and taken part have done well, including the choirs from Mull under the tutelage of Riona Whyte.

In Mid Argyll the work of Fiona Munro with Coisir Og Dhailriata has seen exceptional results within both individual and choir competitions.

Organisers say that more children than ever are taking part in the event, due in no small part to the commitment of the Gaelic language plans – but that some of the 50 organisations that have such plans are not implementing them

as quickly as possible.

This is the modern day Mòd where technology and innovation are merging with the needs of the communities that come to take part. There is a mobile phone app that steers visitors around the Mòd and alerts competitors to the times of competitions.

New for this year is the Mòd as a political platform for change and for companies such as CalMac to lobby and inform its community.

The fringe programme is the biggest ever and Highland Council has used it to drive forward a tourism message – with everyone from street sweepers to council officers giving the same message – ‘you are welcome to come back’.

Everyone’s favourite bobbies

Constable Donald Maclean (below left) and Sergeant George Murray – both from Lewis who are the official Mod police unit at the Royal National Mòd.

Shannon MacLean, centre, is not in trouble, but has been doing particularly well in all her solo, and duet competitions with Beth Sexton.

Shannon, who sings with

Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile, won the The Meryl Mae Stewart Trophy for the highest marks in Music and The Highland Society of London Trophy for the highest marks.



University unveils new Gaelic action plan

WITH THE Royal National Mòd in full swing in Inverness, the University of the Highlands and Islands launched its second Gaelic language plan.

The document sets out the university’s strategy for continuing to promote and develop the use of Gaelic through its practices, curriculum and communications until 2018.

Proposals include producing more bilingual resources, encouraging staff to learn Gaelic as part of their development plans and holding more Gaelic events.

Two books from Nova Scotia to be launched at Mòd

TWO new books from Cape Breton University Press, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, were launched at the Royal National Mòd.

Cape Breton and Nova Scotia have close ties with the Highlands and islands of Scotland, in no small part due to thousands of Gaelic-speaking migrant Scots

and their traditions. Bolstering its list of Celtic and Gaelic-centred titles, the new books have direct connections with those Highland roots.



DUET: Caitlin Crawford and Aifric Pirrie from Coisir Og Dhailriata performed a duet at the Mòd on Tuesday. 17_142mod75



SINGING: Twelve-year-old Allison Mackay, of Coisir Og an Rubha in Stornoway, won the gold medal in the under 13 girls singing competition for fluent speakers. She was also part of band Cailleagan Beag an Rubha which took silver in the under 13 folk group contest. 15_142mod74



SOLO COMPETITIONS: Sixteen-year-old Chloe McNeill, Lochgilphead, sang in the solo competition for 16-to-18-year-olds. 17_142mod76



ADJUDICATION: Ishbel Banks, Oban, took up her role helping the adjudicators. 15_142mod71



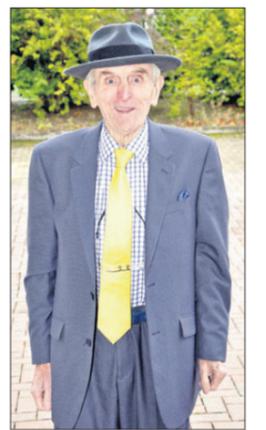
MARKETING: Alice MacDonald, centre, vice convener of the Inverness Royal National Mod organising committee, has been running one of the busiest stalls in the market place in the Eden Centre. One of the biggest sellers was a purple hoodie and Alice said that she could have sold three times the number that she had brought. Alice said: ‘The stall has been going very well. We have been up into the wee hours making up mystery bags that have also been selling very well.’ Island children have been particularly active on the stall. 15_142mod68



TRADITIONS: Coran Murray-Pickering, 15, from Lewis who sings with the Nicholson Institute and is the daughter of Anna Murray a many-time Mod winner. She is pictured with Micheal Callan, 15, who goes to Glasgow High School. The two youngsters won the traditional medals for boys and girls. 15_142mod77



VISITORS: Chrissie and Freddie MacKenzie, Oban, were having a great time at the Royal National Mod in Inverness. 17_143mod70



STALWART: Norman MacLean, Skye, has attended Mods for longer than anyone would dare to remember. 17_143mod69

RESULTS FOR SATURDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY ON PAGE 19

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Royal National Mòd



WINNERS: Islay Junior Gaelic Choir had a successful Monday at Inverness Mòd. 17_142Mòd48



Composer hopes handing back award will help 'Mòdernise' traditional music

AN ARGYLL composer is handing back a trophy in a bid to persuade Mòd officials to accept modern arrangements of traditional music.

But An Comunn Gàidhealach says it is continually 'Mòdernising' Gaelic language and culture and that's why there has been an outstanding growth in the number of competitors.

Susan Rhodes won the Gaelic choral arrangement competition after arranging the music for Balaich An Iasgaich, a song that will be performed today (Thursday) by Tarbert Loch Fyne Gaelic Choir.

Na Seudan Ur, an under-19 folk group, was criticised for not staying true to the roots of traditional music when performing Bean an Iasgair at the Mòd on Monday.

Susan said: 'The feedback was to keep true to the roots of the tradition and that it had a jazz lounge style.'

'But that's the reason there has been a revival in Scottish music because people are blending it with other styles and putting their own twist on it. If you can't do that at the Mòd, it will die. You can take traditional music and do something else with it.'

'We like to put a twist on it. We don't expect to get marked down because they didn't like it.'

She added: 'The Mòd needs to have an objective list of criteria by which they mark competitors, not someone listening saying I like it or I don't... it makes a mockery of it. There has to be space to be creative with it and not be marked down.'

Susan hopes the Mòd office will

sit up and take notice as it did 20 years ago when Na Seudan Ur's Gaelic teacher, Dr Neil MacDonald, was also criticised for a duet performance that was also deemed 'too modern'.

Dr MacDonald and his duet partner Neil Houston performed Mo Run Geal Dileas.

He said: 'It was a modern arrangement for a traditional song. We were scored badly and there was a backlash. After that there was a rule introduced that encouraged modern arrangements.'

Susan hopes a criteria that looks at things such as Gaelic interpretation, expression, playing of musical instruments and polish will all be taken into considera-

tion and marked accordingly in future years.

She said: 'We never come to a Mòd expecting to win but you do expect it to be fair.'

John Macleod, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach said: 'We are committed to responding to modern developments at The Mòd, which is one of the reasons we have programmed the biggest fringe programme in our history.'

'This includes performances from modern and traditional artists and bands, including Skip-innish, Cartriona Murray, Trail West and Angus Nicolson.'

'However, the competitions concentrate on celebrating the traditional values of the language,

and that is something we are very proud of.'

'We bring thousands of Gaels and non-Gaels together each year to celebrate traditional Gaelic culture and have seen a 10 per cent increase in under-18s entering the traditional singing events this year, which shows there is a continuing and growing interest in their decisions.'

'Our judges and adjudicators are selected for their vast experience and we have every confidence in their decisions.'

'It is regrettable that Susan is choosing to hand back her trophy as she was a very deserving winner and we hope to see her and Na Seudan at The Mòd in 2015.'



SUSAN PATERSON: The Susan Paterson Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy was awarded to Port Ellen Primary who competed in the two-part harmony competition for area, district and town choirs for learners under-13. The trophy was presented by David Cannon of Caledonian MacBrayne. 17_142Mòd40



CHOIR: Coisir Og Dhailriata had a successful Mòd, taking one second place and two third place awards. 17_142Mòd33



ALLAN THOMAS MITCHELL: Folk group Faram 2, Eilean Leòdhais, from Lewis, won The Allan Thomas Mitchell Trophy for folk groups under-19. 17_142Mòd41



DUET WINNER: Mairead MacSween and Laura Nicoll, from Breadalbane Academy in Aberfeldy, won the duet for learners aged 13 to 15. 17_142Mòd43



THANKS, BUT NO THANKS: Susan Rhodes, musical director of Na Seudan Ur, and Gaelic tutor Neil MacDonald want a set criteria for marking Mòd performances. 17_142Mòd58

BBC Alba shows WWI showcase for young Gaelic speakers

MG ALBA staged an exclusive screening at the Royal National Mòd for four young Gaelic speakers who star in Episode 4 of Clann a' Chogaidh Mhòir, Small Hands in Big War, which is to be broadcast on BBC ALBA tonight (Thursday) at 10pm.

Clann a' Chogaidh Mhòir recounts the unfolding story of a

global catastrophe using the first-hand accounts of young people in a programme that is enriched by archive footage and stills from the period.

Narrated by Angus Peter Campbell, of Caol, each episode uses original journals and letters to recount challenging and dangerous situations navigated by a young lead character set against

a background of international events.

The stories are told through the languages of Europe, with the drama dialogue utilising a different language in each episode, including one programme focused on Gaelic.

Episode four is devoted to a Scottish protagonist, Alison Brook. We see her experience the

impact the war has on her own community and the Zeppelin attack on Edinburgh in 1916.

Alison Brook is played by Eilidh Morag MacPhee from Inverness and she is joined in the cast by Seumas Scullion, Seòras Cuthbert and Òrla NicChoinnich Nì Eadhra.

The programme will be repeated tomorrow, Friday, at 6.30pm.

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Royal National Mòd



Cruinn release second album

ACCLAIMED Highland-based Gaelic singing quartet Cruinn will release their second album at the Royal National Mòd tomorrow (Friday) at Eden Court, Inverness.

The band consists of four well known Gaelic singers who have all built up their own careers as solo singers and as members of other well known music acts.

The band are James Graham from Lochinver, Fiona Mackenzie from Isle of Lewis, Brian Ó hEadhra from Dublin, and Rachel Walker from Kinlochewe.

The new album is entitled 'Stòras' which means treasure or riches. It was recorded over two weeks in August at Castlesound Studios by Stuart Hamilton and was produced by the band. The album consists of 12 tracks of newly written and traditional Gaelic songs.

The new material is diverse in nature including newly composed songs from Rachel - 'Òran an t-Slaightear' & 'An Smeòrach', two new songs by Brian - 'Mairidh ar Gaol' & 'Cèilidh na Bliadhna', a translation of a Norwegian song by Fiona - 'Led Er Din Sang', and a translation of an Irish song - 'Air m' Anam Chan Innsinn Cò i'. Songs on the album which Gaelic music enthusiasts might recognise are - 'Gu ma Slàn do na Fearaibh' and 'Griogal Cridhe'.

Band member Brian Ó hEadhra said: 'We are very proud of this new work. It is important to us that new songs enter into the Gaelic song repertoire.'

'We have enjoyed working out interesting harmonies and arrangements to these songs and feel that this album builds on the sound of our first album which was nominated for Album of the Year at last years MG ALBA Trad Awards.'

High numbers in children's competition bodes well for Mòd future

THIRTY ONE junior events in singing, drama and poetry took place at the Royal National Mòd with more than 800 competitors performing.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach said: 'It is always wonderful to start the Mòd with the children's competitions and we saw some excellent performances on Saturday. It's encouraging to see an increase of entries from children, and this year we have seen a particular growth of 10 per cent of under-18s entering traditional singing events.'

'I am also delighted that Bòrd na Gàidhlig have reported a steady growth of children entering P1 Gaelic medium education, and now it is our job to help keep these youngsters engaged in Gaelic culture.'

'Events like The Mòd allow children and adults alike to compete against, meet and have fun with their peers.'

'Our Gaelic Ambassador of the year 2014, Kirsteen MacDonald, comes from a non-Gaelic speaking household and is an inspiring example of how Gaelic education, and being a Mòd gold-medallist of course, can open doors professionally and is a valuable asset in Modern Scotland.'

'We hope we spread this message across Inverness, Scotland and beyond this week and inspire the participation in Gaelic language and culture.'

Council leader hails great start to Inverness Mòd

A'SMASHING' start to the Royal National Mòd has reverberated around the city of Inverness, says council leader, councillor Drew Hendry.

Mr Hendry said the press coverage of the opening of the Mòd would encourage people to come to the city.

He said: 'Everyone is welcome and welcome back again.'

Hotel's German music programming stops Mòd participation

MUSIC in one of the premier locations for An Comunn Gàidhealach at the Royal National Mòd has been causing a stir after the opportunity to play traditional Scottish music was ruled out.

Due to the fact that the hotel's music is programmed in Germany it is difficult for staff to change the tune.



BASKING IN THE GLORY: Not only did Kyle Rowan of Edinburgh win his accordion competition – but he also shared his 13th birthday and his success with his extended family. He is pictured with his cousin's husband Iain MacInnes, a BBC presenter, with his baby Katy, his wife Eillen, mum Mairi, auntie Effie Rowan and dad Gordon Rowan. Mairi from Islay and Gordon from Tiree both came from farming families. 15_142Mòd20



FAMILY AFFAIR: The dedication of parents is never forgotten at the Mòd. Saturday is often the day when parents are running from venue to venue with books in hand. For one mum, she had a specially good day with two of her children taking part in the melodian competition. From left: Annie, 15, mum Donna, Ruairidh, 12, who is taking part in the drama competitions with his group, Tairneanaich (thunder) and TorMòd 'Tam' MacLennan from Lewis were enjoying the day and winning a few prizes as well. 15_142Mòd18



PIANO: Isla MacLeod, 12, won the Jenny M B Currie kilt pin in the Slow Gaelic Air and March competition. Isla, from Staffin, Skye, shone out in a field of nine competitors for the award. 15_142Mòd15



PORTREE PIPER: One of the longest competitions of Saturday was the Piobaireachd competition with a field of 23 competitors taking part. The event started at 9.30 am and didn't finish until after 3pm. It was an enjoyable competition and many of the youngsters taking part seemed to relish the long day. Katrina Martin, 13, was not placed but did well in the competition. She has been playing the pipes for some five years. She practices outside if the weather is fine – much to the amusement of her neighbours. 15_142Mòd17



TALENTED: Young Magnus Westwell, of Orkney, is a very talented young man not only did he win the fiddle competition and the Robert MacCallum Memorial Trophy – but he is also making quite a name for himself as a dancer. While he would not commit to The Oban Times if he would join Taynuilt's Ballet West, he would clearly be a real asset to Argyll. 15_142Mòd21/22



WEIR'S WAY: Ally Weir of Lochaber excelled at the Piobaireachd competition, taking fourth place in one of the most competitive fields in years. 15_142Mòd23



Giorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, from Caol, won the accordion competition. 15_142Mòd24



MACPHAILS OF TIREE: While names might be the same there is no relation between Angus, the adjudicator, and Connor Alastair MacPhail who took second place in the accordion music under 19s competition. Angus, who plays with Skipinnish, and is also from Tiree said the quality of the performers in the morning's competitions were superb. He said: 'A few people suffered from nerves, but there were five youngsters who were near the top.' The winner, Gairloch's Alasdair Macdonald was 'slightly more relaxed' than anyone else. Angus explained that as a judge in the accordion and melodian competitions he was just as nervous as the competitors. 15_142Mòd13



WALKING ON THE WAVES: Robert Robertson of Fort William, left, Alastair Carmichael MP of Islay and Angus MacPhail of Tiree at the reception after the opening ceremony. 15_142Mòd12



Royal National Mòd



SUAS LEIS A' GHÀIDHLIG: Combined Highland choirs led the singing at the opening ceremony. 15_142Mòd8

Mòd Ambassador and gold medallist Kirsteen pays tribute to her mentors

THE 2014 Mòd Ambassador has thanked her parents, saying it was her late mother's wish that she should learn Gaelic. Kirsteen MacDonald, who married fellow Gaelic singer James Graham - also a Gaelic speaker - earlier this year, has long been a promoter of the language, and is a two-time gold medallist, the Mòd's highest accolade for a solo singer.

Most people will know Kirsteen as a BBC weather presenter on mainstream television and BBC Alba, but she is a renowned presenter and singer within the Gaelic world. In a moving speech upon accepting her award, she said a number of people had been instrumental within her school life, who encouraged and nourished her desire for the language. By name she mentioned Lisa

Story, a primary school teacher, and Janet MacGregor of Milburn Academy in Inverness. But it was to her father she gave her highest praise, thanking him for keeping her in Gaelic education after her mother passed away. Something she said was amazing for someone who was not a Gaelic speaker. She said it was an honour and a privilege to be named the Gaelic ambassador.

AMBASSADOR: Kirsteen MacDonald became the Am Mòd Naiseanta Rìoghail 2014 Gaelic Ambassador a position that she quite rightly deserved for her commitment and encouragement of others in the language. Kirsteen won the gold medal in 2006 in Dunoon. 15_142Mòd2



UNITED FOR GAELIC: (left to right) John MacLeod, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Alistair Allan MSP, minister for Gaelic, and Danny Alexander MP, chief secretary to the secretary. 15_142Mòd3

Danny Alexander salutes confidence and growth in Gaelic language

CHIEF secretary to the treasury Danny Alexander called Gaelic one of the oldest and most important cultures in the whole of the United Kingdom. A former competitor in the Mòd he said the growth of the event echoed the growth of the town of Inverness itself. Mr Alexander said: 'As a teenager I competed in the local Lochaber Mòd. They wouldn't let me sing - I took part in prose and poetry recitals. I don't remember how I got on, but I did manage to secure an ordinary grade in Gaelic a couple of years later. 'Much has changed in Inverness, since the Mòd was last here in 1997. You will find an Inverness that has grown dramatically, like the Mòd. 'You will find an Inverness, that has grown in confidence too, like the Gaelic language. There is a much wider understanding of the importance of Gaelic language and culture than in 1997. 'The creation of the Scottish Parliament, of Bord na Gàidhlig, and of BBC Alba have all made a contribution. 'On behalf of my constituents, and of Her Majesty's government, let me wish all the competitors good luck, and we hope to see you back in Inverness again before too long.'

Alastair Carmichael speaks passionately on the future of the Gaelic language

POET Duncan Johnson should be added to the list of great war poets, Alastair Carmichael, Scottish Secretary told a packed audience at the opening ceremony of the Royal National Mòd. Mr Carmichael said he was reminded of fellow-Ileach of Johnson after his work was sung at a commemoration of the outbreak of World War One.

Carmichael described the song, Sine Bhan, as that of a haunting love song. Following Skipinnish onto the stage it must have been a daunting task for the Westminster politician to deliver his speech. But it was well received, especially as he began in Gaelic and spoke at length. Mr Carmichael said there needed to be a concerted effort on the part

of the government, the public sector, the private sector, community bodies and individual speakers to give Gaelic a sustainable future. **SCOTTISH SECRETARY:** Alastair Carmichael MP spoke at length in Gaelic - his speech about his support of the language and the possibilities for the future were well received by the audience in the Eden Hall. 15_142Mòd10



Mòd procession illustrates unity between Inverness residents and the Royal National Mòd

INVERNESS city centre manager Davidd Hass said the opening procession of the Royal National Mòd was a once in a lifetime experience. A parade through the town saw more than 3,000 people wind their way through the city centre, past the cathedral and into Eden Court. Carrying flame torches the event went off without a hitch. Mr Hass said: 'The procession showed that the town wants to be part of the Mòd and we want to welcome people to the city.'



CASTLE: The 3,000 strong procession walked through the town centre and over the River Ness to the Eden Centre. The procession was overseen by Inverness' city manager David Hass. 15_142Mòd6



MINION: A happy minion led the procession through the town. 15_142Mòd7



SKIPINNISH: The west coast collective played four tunes at the opening ceremony with Walking on the Waves proving a big hit. 15_142Mòd11



DANCERS: In a stunning set of dancing from Inverness youngsters - girls of all ages took part to entertain dignitaries. 15_142Mòd4

Best for Mòd news and results

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Lochaber Ideas Week

Invigorating business in the Highlands



ENTREPRENEURS from across the country and beyond will soon be descending on Lochaber for the second annual Ideas Week.

Building on the success of the debut last year, the event now spans over a number of locations and includes competitions, talks, workshops and networking events for business people in the area from November 17-21.

The event kicks off in the Alexandra Hotel with the innovative 'Around Lochaber in 80 Tables' featuring 15 minute power meetings based on the concept of speed dating.

This will allow attendees to meet potential future business connections with organisations from within and outwith Lochaber.

On Monday evening the focus will be on doing business in rural communities with a talk titled 'Natural Capital' in the Moorings Hotel. Key note speakers Steve Bracken and David Corrigan of Marine Harvest and Myles Farnback of Wilderness Scotland will give an insight to how they make the most of their

surroundings on the west coast.

Tuesday offers more inspirational lectures with 'How to turn your ideas into success' in the Moorings, including speeches from lawyers Johnathan Rees and Alex Tutty, as well as artist and educator Claire Gibb of Room 13, founded in Caol.

Why not head along to explore how to nurture ideas and draw inspiration from surroundings?

For the most imaginative entrepreneurs, Lochaber High School is hosting 'A creative community' on Tuesday to look at how community initiatives and projects can provide opportunities and enhance the areas we live in. With talks from the high school's head teacher Jim Sutherland and author Alastair McIntosh this is one not to be missed!

Wednesday marks the halfway point of Lochaber Ideas Week and there's no better way to spend it than at the much-anticipated Dragon's Glen final.

Inspired by the popular business television show the competition

was open to any budding entrepreneurs over the age of 16 with an aspiration to start up a business venture in Lochaber. Proposals were submitted to the 'dragons' in September and on Wednesday the three finalists will make their last pitch and the winner will be revealed. With a £7,500 cash prize among other benefits, the finalists have everything to play for!

There is no sign of momentum slowing at the end of the week as Thursday is taken up by an entrepreneurship workshop at the Ben Nevis Hotel where Fergus Ewing MSP will be on hand to discuss the importance of innovation in all business sectors. Urban policy expert Diarmaid Lawlor and climber Cathy O'Dowd will also be giving talks at the event.

On Friday Ideas Week will be looking to the future as the Moorings welcomes Alistair Smith, learning and mo-

ivation expert. Mr Smith will go through a number of case studies and offer practical guidance on how to develop and get the best out of employees.

Finally on Friday evening the week will round off with a dinner and awards ceremony at the Moorings, an opportunity to celebrate businesses and individuals who have contributed to Lochaber with locally sourced food, superb live music and most importantly, great craic!

Award categories aim to represent the theme of Lochaber Ideas week and to celebrate community, education and business. Categories include local hero, exceptional learning opportunity, great local employer and excellent customer focus.

All in all, Lochaber Ideas Week is set to be a jam-packed five days with a number of events not to be missed! If all that is not enough, a full programme is available at www.ideasweek.co.uk

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Highlands and Islands Enterprise is proud to support Lochaber Ideas Week.

Best wishes to all the participants, who are playing a part in building our future together in the Highlands and Islands.

FIND US AT
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Alexandra Hotel & The Ben Nevis Hotel are proud to support and host events for Lochaber Ideas week. A week long event dedicated to promoting business and growth for the Lochaber Area through a series of talks, workshops, competitions, discussions and networking.

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Monday 17th November 12:00- 17:00 Around Lochaber in 80 Tables has been designed for networking key businesses and generating new partnerships. Tel: 01397 702241 salesalexandra@strathmorehotels.com	Thursday 20th November 14:00-18:00 Entrepreneurship Event. A discussion on how to develop and diversify your business. Four top quality speakers, an event not to be missed. Tel: 01397 702331 salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com
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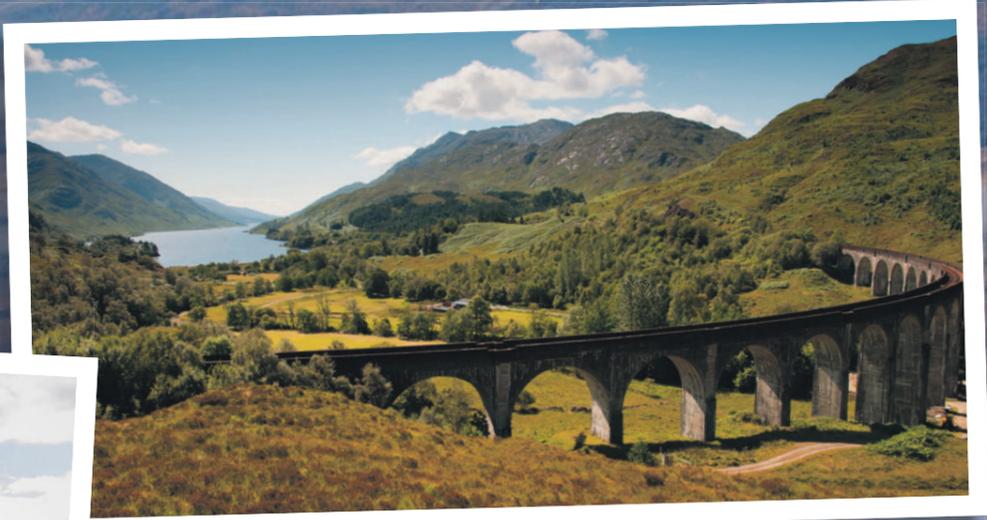
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Visit www.ideasweek.co.uk and get involved NOW!

For further details on Lochaber Ideas Week 2014 and how you can get involved, contact:
Will Rowland, Lochaber Ideas Week Project Officer
Tel: 01397 705765 Mobile: 07708 391291 Email: will@ideasweek.co.uk

Lochaber Ideas Week
Invigorating business in the Highlands



what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm
Moving Voices, Oban Phoenix Cinema, 7-9pm
Mull Theatre perform The Drawer Boy, Druimfin, Isle of Mull, 8pm
FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER
Gordon Buchanan: Lost Adventures, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm
Wildlife Talk, Scottish Wildlife Trust, SAMS, Dunbeg, 7.15pm
SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 11.30am-1pm
Appin Historical Society, Clydebuilt - The Story of George Reith, Port Appin Hall, 2.30pm
SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER
Crafters and Producers Market, Great Western Hotel, Oban, 11am-4pm
Craft Fayre, Creagan Inn, Appin, Every Sunday, 12-5pm
MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER
Oban Camera Club, Regent Hotel, Oban, Text Alex 07799 353140 for more info, Every Monday, 7.30pm

Email details of your event to
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Youth publisher relocates from Sweden to Dornie

BOMBADIL publishing has found a home in the Highlands after a long struggle to find the head quarters for its growing youth-to-youth publishing house.

The Swedish publisher has decided to take its multi-million pound business and with it bring an international audience into Dornie.

All of the company's authors are under the age of 26 and editors have been replaced by mentors with a passion for books, stories and creativity.

Company director, Marianne Rugard said: 'Bombadil Publishing is

a new world of publishing where young people write for young people.

'Our world is all about commitment, enthusiasm and drive; dreams, stories and passions. It is about expressing and sharing ideas and stories with others, creating, publishing, marketing and selling the perfect books for young people by young people between the ages of 12 and 26.

'Books are a reflection of the soul and the authors' dreams, and Bombadil aims to change the world by letting young people's voices be heard and allowing them to express their views free-

ly and without shackles and borders, though always with empathy and respect in focus.

'By giving a voice to young people, Bombadil has expanded fast and now has young people in 90 countries writing across the globe.

'We are proud of this success, but we are even more proud of our authors. Books provide knowledge and share stories of value to the individual person.

'We publish all genres and all types of books, whether they are reality-based, fictional, non-fiction or poetry.

'If there is a dream, if

there is passion - there is a book worth publishing.

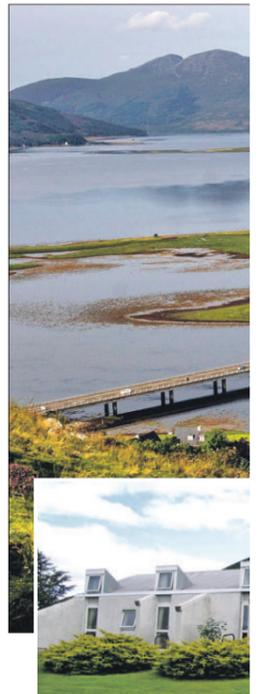
'Sometimes a little help is needed to finish the master piece, so at Bombadil Publishing we work with mentors instead of traditional editors.

'These mentors help ensure quality but are also there to guide the author through the amazing and awe-inspiring road from manuscript to finished book.'

Later this year Bombadil will be hosting its first short story competition with Labels4kids. The competition was announced last Friday, on the company's website.



COMMITMENT: Marianne Rugard of Bombadil an innovative Scottish publisher who will be at the cutting edge of modern international writing for young people



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OUT OF SIGHT: Shannon MacDonald from North Connel is currently exhibiting her work in Edinburgh

Oban high pupil exhibits at arts festival in Edinburgh

SHANNON MacDonald, a fourth year pupil at Oban high school, is currently exhibiting work at the prestigious arts venue, Summerhall, in Edinburgh, as part

of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival.

The multi-media exhibition is called, Out of sight/Out of Mind.

The festival, now in its

eighth year, takes place in venues across Scotland throughout October and uses the arts to challenge perceptions about mental health and promote wellbeing.

Shannon and her friend Shelby Townsley from Perth, created a piece of work called, 'The Power of Being Me', which is about challenging negative

preconceptions and stereotypes.

Shannon and her family who are from North Connel, attended the launch of the exhibition on Friday October 3.

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Argyll businesses shortlisted for Thistle Awards

VARIOUS hotels, restaurants, pubs and other visitor attractions in Argyll and Bute have been shortlisted as regional finalists in this year's Thistle Awards.

Having helped her parents regularly when they went on holiday, Graeme and Emma were often asked if they would purchase Glenegedale House from her parents and return to Islay.

The awards are recognised as Scotland's tourism industry Oscars, with regional winners progressing to the national finals next year.

Glenegedale House on Islay is nominated in the central south west region in the most hospitable B&B or guesthouse category.

Glenegedale's patrons Graeme and Emma Clark are in their second year of running their venture, having returned to the island 20 years sooner than originally planned.

Emma grew up in Bunnahabhain on Islay where her parents ran a guesthouse, and after leaving school and studying hospitality management at university, met Graeme while working part-time in a hotel in Glasgow.

The couple wound their long-term plans forward by 20 years and returned to Islay with their two children to open the guesthouse in February 2013, receiving many five-star reviews online since opening.

Other Argyll and Bute nominees include: Tiroran House Hotel, Mull; Glenburnie House and Clan Cottages, both Oban; The Majestic Line, Dunoon; Southworth Development at Machrihanish Dunes and Mull Eagle Watch.

The regional winners will be announced on November 7 at Hampden Park, and will progress to the national final on March 5 next year.

For a full list of categories and nominees, visit: www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk.

Bumper year for midges predicted in 2015

EXPERTS claim that 2015 will be a bumper year for the midge.

With a higher number hatching at the end of the season, there is a higher likelihood that the population of the biting insects will be higher at the start of next season.

New sessions begin at SWRI

Kilbrandon meeting

KILBRANDON SWRI kicked off the new session with 'Our Favourite Things'.

Members brought along their favourite things and shared their experiences and stories.

From theatre programmes and RAF and World War II memorabilia to a nurse's hat and a harp, members enjoyed a lively evening and learned a little bit more

about each other.

Speaker for October was James Fenton, an intrepid explorer, who shared his experiences of polar wildlife. His presentation included very interesting photographs of life in the Arctic and the Antarctic. His informative talk, filled with anecdotes, gave members an insight into the very exciting and adventurous life he had led.

Taynuilt meeting

TAYNUILT SWRI president Jessie Servant welcomed 14 members and two visitors to the first meeting of the 2014/2015 session held in the village hall.

The demonstrators for the evening on October 8 were Alice Campbell and Margaret Brown in a hands-on evening of beadwork.

A beautiful arrangement of earrings, bracelets and necklaces previously made by Alice and Margaret were on display.

Members were given a choice of two different

styles of bracelet to make and packs were given out containing the relevant beads according to preference.

Members said they thoroughly enjoyed the evening and a vote of thanks was given by Jessie Servant. Tea was given by hostesses for the evening Alice Campbell and Ann MacCallum.

Competitions: Flower arrangement in Ramekin (9x9x9) - 1 Marlene Stanners, 2 Ann Sutherland, 3 Mary Morse and Jessie Servant. Christmas card - 1 Ann Sutherland.

Jackson Carlaw first speaker at new season Lorn Lunch Club

DEPUTY leader of the Scottish Conservatives Jackson Carlaw was the first speaker of the new Lorn Lunch Club season.

The West of Scotland MSP spoke at the club's opening meeting on September 26 in the Regent Hotel, Oban.

Mr Carlaw had previously spoken at the club but members were keen to have him back. He opened his talk by expressing his relief at the outcome of the Scottish

referendum and said he was proud Scotland was still part of the United Kingdom.

The next speaker, on Friday, October 31, will be Alex Johnstone MSP, followed by former MEP Struan Stevenson on November 29 when the club will host its St Andrew's Day lunch.

Former Scottish Conservatives leader Annabel Goldie will speak at the club on December 19.

A Book of Death and Fish by Ian Stephen

PETER MacAulay sits down to write his will.

The process sets in motion a compulsive series of reflections: a history of his own lifetime and a subjective account of how key events in the post-war world filter through to his home, Stornoway.

He reveals his passions for history, engines and fish, and witnesses

changing times - and things that don't change - in the Hebrides.

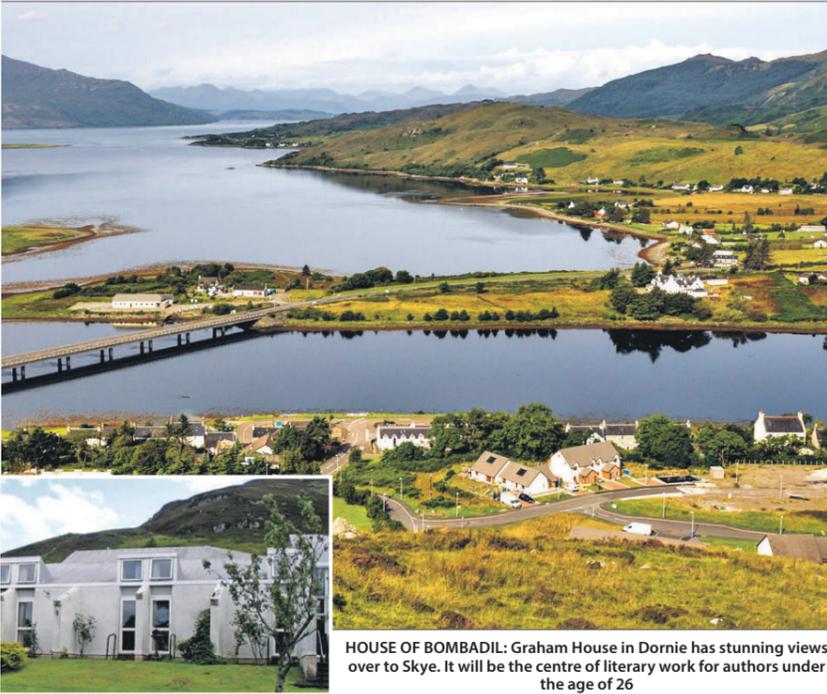
The novel is driven by its idiosyncratic narrator, but with counterpoints from people he engages with - his father, mother, wife, daughter, friends.

It's all about stories, a litany of small histories witnessed during one very individual lifetime.

USA Duo in Benderloch

HEY Harley from the USA will be performing at Benderloch's Victory Hall on Saturday October 18.

The newly-formed duo includes singers Lizanne Knott and Bill Reveles who will perform Americana country tunes.



HOUSE OF BOMBADIL: Graham House in Dornie has stunning views over to Skye. It will be the centre of literary work for authors under the age of 26

Tributes paid as chairman and MC stands down from Skye club

THE SKYE Accordion and Fiddle Club's 2014/15 season started with a well-attended meeting in its usual venue of the Royal Hotel, Portree on October 2.

Prior to the music, tributes were paid to Jim Campbell who was standing down from chairmanship of the club and as master of ceremony (MC) after many years of dedicated service. The role of MC was taken over by John Cameron who started the music on his accordion by playing several sets with David Morton, also on accordion, and with choral accompaniment from the audience.

The two stalwarts were followed by a popular visitor to the club, John Stuart of Peterhead on accordion, backed on second box by Skye's Blair Douglas, on fiddle by Willie James of Forres and on keyboard by Aileen Jamieson of Peterhead.

Skye fiddler Ellie MacPherson contributed to the entertainment, followed by a solo performance by Douglas who played several of his own compositions. Regular local fiddler Wendy Riva took to

the stage with her usual polished performance and possibly the loudest cheers of the night followed two accordion sets from 10 year-old Erin Baker making her first appearance at the club.

The first half of the evening concluded with new MC John Cameron on accordion, accompanied on keyboard by Douglas, playing two beautiful tunes which John had composed as a youngster, 'The Maid of Strathglass' and 'Kilmorack Braes'.

The second half was devoted to the eagerly awaited guest band, The Lindsay Weir Trio led by Lindsay, originally from Culbokie on accordion, her husband Colin Garvin on keyboard and, on drums, Gordon Young of Balerno. The trio produced a great and varied programme of music played impeccably to their usual high standard to delight the audience and the evening closed with a fine stramash from all the evening's players.

The next club night will be on November 6 and will feature The Colin Donaldson Trio.



LINDSAY WEIR: Guest artist at the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

Prestonpans tapestry to be displayed in Oban during Fasanta Festival

THE Prestonpans Tapestry is the first in what has been a significant renaissance in stitching major new tapestries.

Its exhibition is likely to be a very popular event and people will come from all over the country to see the tapestry made by women and some men from all over the country.

The tapestry will be displayed in Oban during Fasanta, the festival of fashion and textiles which takes place over the weekend of November 1 and 2.

Led by Dorie Wilkie the lead stitcher, more than 200 embroiderers made more than 10 million stitches in the process, taking more than 25,000 hours to create the 104-metre tapestry.

The panels tell the

story of Bonnie Prince Charlie's journey from France to Victory at Prestonpans in 1745.

Also on display will be fabulous tapestries created by the communities of Arrochar, Tarbert and Tiree.

If anyone has a tapestry they would like to display at Fasanta please get in touch with Shona on shona@dunollie.org.

The Tapestry was commissioned by the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust, designed by Cockenzie based artist Andrew Crummy, and stitched by more than 200 volunteers.

Some were experienced stitchers, but some had never sewn before.

The project lasted about 18 months;

stitching for just nine. The rest was research and design time.

The average time taken for each panel was about 300 hours.

Technically, a tapestry is woven.

This is stitched, so it is an embroidery.

The name tapestry is used as an artistic convention, just as with the famous Bayeux Tapestry.

Many of the stitchers were based in East Lothian, but people right along the route of Prince Charlie's march were involved.

This included people from the Western Isles, Arisaig, Lochaber, Pitlochry, Dunblane, and Edinburgh.

Some came from even further afield: France, America, and Australia each provided a panel.

Almost the stitchers were female, but the artist's father-in-law stitched a panel in Dublin, and some other men made supporting contributions.

Identification tags mark who stitched each panel.

Many are simple initials, others include pets and symbols.

Some people did more than one panel, so some tags may occur more than once.

The tapestry will be displayed at Oban Distillery over the course of the weekend and it will be woven into music by Gaelic singer-songwriter Rachel Walker in her specially-commissioned piece at the Corran halls.

The Fasanta Festival of Textiles and Fashion see page 18.

Celtic Connections 2015 opening night will be dedicated to Martyn Bennett

AN ECLECTIC mix of more than 2000 musicians from every corner of the globe will appear at the Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow next year.

The festival, held between January 15 and February 1, includes some of the best-known musicians in traditional and roots music, world, indie, jazz, folk, soul and

Americana. One of the main themes running through next year's festival is paying homage to the late and great musicians who have left their mark on the current musical landscape.

The opening night will be a show dedicated to the remarkable Martyn Bennett, one of Scotland's great musical visionaries.

Born in Canada, Bennett grew up on Mull and then moved to Edinburgh and was a musical innovator.

With his flailing dreadlocks and high energy, he cut a charismatic figure as he embarked on his bold experiments, exploring his dual interest in the Scots tradition and technology.

To commemorate 10

years since his passing, the opening night of the festival will feature a full orchestration by experimental cross-genre classical violinist Greg Lawson of Bennett's last great work, the album Grit.

It was a fearless album that drew from the great voices of the tradition like Lizzie Higgins and Sheila Stewart MBE

and placed them against a soundscape of beats and samples and started the evolution of Celtic fusion.

There will be a tribute night to singer, songwriter, song collector, author, broadcaster, playwright, actor, director, poet and activist Ewan MacColl, who died in 1989.

MacColl established the country's first folk club and started the groundbreaking Radio Ballads series.

Curated by his sons Calum and Neill, both successful musicians themselves, and featuring a hand-picked house band, a stellar array of artists from diverse genres will perform both well-loved and lesser-known songs from MacColl's repertoire.

Band of Friends is a celebration of the life and music of Rory Gallagher. The Irish-born legendary blues-rock guitarist died tragically young in 1995 but his legacy lives on in the work of accomplished musicians Gerry McAvooy, Ted McKenna, and Marcel Scherpenzeel.

Covering all parts of the globe and producing some of the greatest rock and blues albums of the 60s, 70s and 80s, the music of Rory Gallagher lives on through this three-piece band.

Donald MacLeod MBE. Born in Stornoway, he served, and played, throughout World War II, once reportedly escaping capture by speaking Gaelic, before sweeping the boards on the post-war competition circuit.

Renowned for his melodic inventiveness, he published seven collections of his tunes, and pioneered the use of recording in teaching.

To celebrate this remarkable legacy, a multi-generational cast includes pipers Calum MacCrimmon, John Wilson, John Mulhearn, James Duncan Mackenzie and Rona Lightfoot, plus Alasdair White, Charlie MacFarlane and the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band.

Among the artists appearing at Celtic Connections 2015 are: Fairport Convention, Calexico, Craig Armstrong with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera, Shooglenifty, Tweedy, Eddi Reader, Treacherous Orchestra, Lambchop performing Nixon, Carlos Nunez, Danu, King Creosote - Scotland With Love, Angeliqe Kidjo with the RSNO, Punch Brothers, Dick Gaughan, Le Vent Du Nord, Blazin' Fiddles, Tommy Emmanuel, Hudson Taylor, The Pierces, Taraf de Haïdouks, The Mischa Macpherson Trio, Ella the Bird, Tony Allen and Skerryvore.



Helping to launch the 2015 Celtic Connections programme are Graham Rorie (fiddle), Michael Steele (pipes/flute) and Aidan Moodie (guitar), who have started classes at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Thurs 16th	13.00, 16.00 3D, 18.00, 21.30
		Fri 17th	13.00, 15.30, 18.00, 20.30
		Sat 18th	13.00, 15.30 3D, 18.00, 21.00 3D
		Sun 19th	13.00, 15.30 3D, 18.00
		Mon 20th	13.00, 16.00 3D, 18.00
		Tues 21st	13.00, 15.30, 19.00 3D
		Wed 22nd	13.00, 16.00 3D, 18.00
		Thurs 23rd	13.00, 15.30 3D, 18.00 3D
	The Equalizer	Thurs 16th	20.30
	Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	Thurs 16th	13.00
		Fri 17th	13.00, 15.30, 18.00
		Sat 18th	13.00, 15.30
		Sun 19th	13.0, 15.30
		Mon 20th	13.00, 15.30
		Tues 21st	13.00, 16.00
		Wed 22nd	13.00, 15.30
		Thurs 23rd	13.00, 15.30
	Dracula Untold	Fri 17th	20.30
		Sun 19th	18.00
		Tues 21st	18.00
		Thurs 23rd	18.00
		Sat 18th	18.00, 20.30
		Mon 20th	19.00
	Wed 22nd	19.00	

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (12A)
The city needs heroes. Darkness has settled over New York City as Shredder and his evil Foot Clan have an iron grip on everything from the police to the politicians. The future is grim until four unlikely outcast brothers rise from the sewers and discover their destiny as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The Turtles must work with fearless reporter April O'Neil (Megan Fox) and her wise-cracking cameraman Vern Fenwick (Will Arnett) to save the city and unravel Shredder's diabolical plan.

The Equalizer (15)
In The Equalizer, Denzel Washington plays McCall, a former black ops commando who has faked his death to live a quiet life in Boston. When he comes

out of his self-imposed retirement to rescue a young girl, Teri (Chloe Grace Moretz), he finds himself face to face with ultra-violent Russian gangsters. As he serves vengeance against those who brutalize the helpless, McCall's desire for justice is reawakened. If someone has a problem, the odds are stacked against them, and they have nowhere else to turn, McCall will help. He is The Equalizer.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG)
Disney's "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" follows the exploits of 11-year-old Alexander (Ed Oubonli) as he experiences the most terrible and horrible day of his young life - a day that begins with gum stuck in his hair,

followed by one calamity after another. But when Alexander tells his upbeat family about the misadventures of his disastrous day, he finds little sympathy and begins to wonder if bad things only happen to him. He soon learns that he's not alone when his mum (Jennifer Garner), dad (Steve Carell), brother (Dylan Minnette) and sister (Kerrie Dorsey) all find themselves living through their own terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

Dracula Untold (12A)
Luke Evans (Fast & Furious 6, Immortals) stars in Dracula Untold, the origin story of the man who became Dracula. Gary Shore directs and Michael De Luca produces the epic action-adventure that co-stars Dominic Cooper, Sarah Gadon and Charles Dance.

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THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 Americano Show with Michelle

TUESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are

Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

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

& Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY:
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie

Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn

SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

November 1-2 2014

Fasanta

FESTIVAL OF TEXTILES & FASHION

Fasanta Tickets now on sale at www.dunollie.org

Professionals will be hosting workshops during the festival

WORLD-RENOWNED professionals will be hosting workshops, including Dorie Wilkie, Robin Elliot, Jan Timms and Dr Susan Kay-Williams. Not household names - but their work with fabric and fashion will be.

Robin Elliot of Andrew Elliot Weavers is a fabric designer whose tweed has been used for Dr Who and Harry Potter films.

Andrew is a graduate of the Scottish College of Textiles in Galashiels. Robin honed his skills with his late father as his mentor, and strives to secure this indigenous company's place in the niche market for contemporary textiles. With an ethical philosophy, Robin believes in a sustainable future for Scottish textiles, based on integrity and innovation. The company supplies well-made, individual fabrics, with a

strong cutting edge in design, allied to the aspects of vintage fabric production and the heritage of the Borders textile industry.

The company has also produced a number of historical reproduction fabrics in conjunction with Ian Dale of Angus Handloom Weavers, which includes work in Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the V&A Museum, Osborne House, Kew Palace and the Great Tower at Dover Castle.

Dorie Wilkie has always been interested in textiles, sewing clothes and making 'things'.

In the 1980s she founded the Bonnyrigg patchwork group and went on to study for a City and Guild in Art, Design and Embroidery at Telford College with further studies at Leith School of Art.

After answering an advert for volunteers, Dorie became the stitch co-ordinator for the Prestonpans Tapestry Project.

For the Great Tapestry of Scotland she is responsible for supervising sewing techniques, running workshops, visiting the stitching groups to offer advice, co-ordinating all of the volunteers, keeping spirits high and preparing the finished tapestry for exhibition.

Dr Susan Kay-Williams is the chief executive of the Royal School of Needlework

at Hampton Court. She has a long-term interest in textiles and was introduced to dyeing on a one-day workshop in the 1980s.

Susan is constantly in demand as a speaker, especially for NADFAS in the UK, and internationally in the US and Japan. She is a fellow of the RSA.

Her study in colour has led her to believe that the colour and shade of dyed textiles were once as much an indicator of social class or position as the fabric itself and for centuries the recipes used by dyers were closely guarded secrets.

From pre-history to the current day, the story of dyed textiles in Western Europe brings together the worlds of politics, money, the church, law, taxation, international trade and exploration, fashion, serendipity and science.

Jan Timms says she has been working in the world of couture and costume for most of her career.

Her speciality is the art of Tambour Bead Embroidery.

This type of beading and embroidery is also known as Broderie Chainette and Broderie de Lunéville, named after Lunéville in France where during the 19th century, the tambour hook, which had been used exclusively for thread embroidery was first used to apply beads and sequins.

With a mesmerizing array of beads, sequins, embroidery threads and metallic threads available the design possibilities for tambour beading and tambour embroidery are limitless.

As well as undertaking commissions for beading and embroidery Jan is also a dressmaker producing bespoke pieces which incorporate tambour beading and embroidery.

Community at heart of fashionable festival

A PROGRAMME of events from the team behind the Fasanta Festival of Textiles and Fashion will see a prestigious list of professionals and exhibitions descend on Oban this November.

Fasanta - Gaelic for fashionable - now in its second year, is bringing a wealth of creative talent to the area, building on the successes of the 2013 pilot event. The weekend will offer a whole host of workshops, competitions, exclusive exhibitions, talks, discussion, children's activities and entertainment.

Fashion capital of Scotland

There is no doubt that Oban will be the fashion capital of Scotland for the weekend of November 1-2 - with something for everyone on the programme, young and old.

The festival is co-ordinated by Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds and is based in the Corran Halls, with special activities and events being held at participating venues across Oban.

The aim is to bring together the communities of Lorn and the isles with creative professionals from across Scotland in celebration of fashion and textile heritage. 'Tapping into Tapestry' is the theme of the festival and organisers have set out this year to create exciting opportunities for festival goers of all ages to showcase their creative talents and learn new skill.

With expert-led workshops, activities for all ages and high profile performers and exhibi-

tions, including the The Prestonpans Tapestry exhibition - a major cultural event in itself - it is likely that tickets will be in demand for this fast growing event. For more information and booking see www.dunollie.org.

Marketplace

The Fasanta marketplace will be open across the course of the weekend for fashion and textile artists, makers, businesses and education establishments to sell, exhibit and promote their business - as well as engage with other artists.

Last year's event was a draw for people to come and see what is on offer from some of Scotland's most inspiring makers.

The 2013 event saw business connections that would have otherwise never been made for one Oban designer.

Sally Weaser, a polymer clay artist, from Oban said: 'Fasanta 2013 was an incredibly successful event for me.'

'It allowed me to showcase my work to an audience who, ordinarily, I would not have access to and has led me along a path with my work that was unexpected and exciting.'

'I am very grateful to Fasanta for the opportunities it has given me and am looking forward to this year's event.'

The Marketplace will be held at the Corran Halls, Oban on Saturday November 1 from 10am - 5pm and Sunday of November 2, from 10am - 3.30pm.

There will be no charge for entry to the marketplace.

For more information or to

reserve a space at the Marketplace please contact fiona@dunollie.org or telephone 01631 570550.

Community catwalk

This year Fasanta is inviting local organisations, businesses and individuals to take part in a Community Catwalk Show.

Competitors are being asked to design outfits around one of the following themes:

Tapping into Tapestry, Dare to Scare or My Home. Designs will be judged by a panel of industry professionals, with competitors competing to win the sought-after Fasanta Design Award 2014.

As part of the show the audience will have a chance to vote for its favourite design through a dollar vote, with all funds raised being donated towards Oban Community Play Park Fund. Audience vote winners will be rewarded with a special prize; a unique trophy, specially designed and donated by Oban Chocolate Company.

Contact Shona for more information and an application pack on shona@dunollie.org or telephone 01631 570550

Primary schools design project

To celebrate the Year of Homecoming and to link in with the Tapestry theme, 31 Lorn and the isles primary schools have been asked to design a tapestry to illustrate the diversity of the communities served by Oban.

Schools have been working on designing panels which depict 'My Home'.

The entries will be presented on Saturday November 1 at the community catwalk event - before a ceremonial hanging in Atlantis Leisure centre on Sunday. The tapestry will then be displayed at the leisure centre until Christmas, for everyone to come and see.

Entertainment

The organisers are delighted to have added some performing artists to the bill this year.

Rounding up the Saturday night show, the internationally renowned Ballet West will be performing a special piece to audiences at Corran Halls and to head up the Sunday event,

award-winning Gaelic singer-songwriter Rachel Walker will be performing her specially commissioned performance piece 'Fighe' - or 'Weaving' in English.

Rachel's music has been inspired by the rhythm, script and poetry surrounding looms, mills and tapestries and the story of Bonny Prince Charlie's journey as depicted in the Prestonpans Tapestry. It will be performed by a line-up of well-known accomplished musicians and if it was anything like last year's piece will be a spell-binding experience.

For the family

The fun for all the family continues on Sunday with a children's activity day at Atlantis Leisure. Fasanta's younger audience can enjoy crafts with Tara's 'Threads and Things' workshop and learn some killer battle moves at the Prestonpans Inspired 'Move it' class. Families can also join in the fun on a Tapestry Trail at the Oban Distillery, where all 104 metres of the Prestonpans Tapestry will be displayed.

Dunollie's 'Kettle' catering will be providing festival goers at the Corran Halls with refreshments, home baking and light lunches. To the delight of customers the Dunollie Cream Teas will be back by popular demand, with the café open to the public across the Saturday and Sunday. In keeping with the focus on fashion, a special screening of The Devil Wears Prada will be shown as part of the festival programming at the Phoenix Cinema, Oban.

Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds exclusive exhibitions

One of the main inspirations for the festival has been the collection of costume held in storage at Dunollie Museum.

For this weekend only Dunollie will be allowing visitors to explore some of the previously unseen pieces and offering guided tours of these exclusive exhibitions. For fashion enthusiasts this is not to be missed.

A shuttle bus will be running from Corran Halls to Dunollie over the course of the weekend.



FASANTA
Festival of
Textiles & Fashion

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd Nov 2014

TAPPING INTO TAPESTRY

Dunollie brings to you FASANTA (Gaelic: fashionable) a festival celebrating Scotland's textile heritage through a variety of workshops, master classes, panel discussions and activities for all ages.

WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Dr. Susan Kay-Williams
Chief Exec. Royal School of Needlework

Dorie Wilkie
Prestonpans & Great Tapestry Stitching Coordinator

Jan Timms Tambour Beading Expert

Robin Elliot Andrew Elliot Weavers

FASANTA HOSTS NATIONAL TREASURE

PRESTONPANS TAPESTRY

MARKET PLACE & CREAM TEAS

Saturday 1st November

Evening Event: **COMMUNITY CATWALK**

Local entrants will compete to win the FASANTA Design Award 2014

Dollar vote will be awarded to **OBAN COMMUNITY PLAY PARK**

Performance from: **BALLET WEST**

Presentations of Schools entries for:

OBAN AND LORN SCHOOLS TAPESTRY

Sunday 2nd November

Day Event: **FASANTA Children's Day**

ATLANTIS LEISURE

Colourful Creations Workshops, Jacobite Tapestry Treasure Hunt and Battle moves Dance Class

OBAN AND LORN SCHOOLS TAPESTRY

Grand Unveiling

Evening Event: **FIGHE**

Composed & arranged by award winning singer/songwriter Rachel Walker

FASANTA
Festival of
Textiles & Fashion

Sunday 2nd November 2014

FASANTA CHILDREN'S DAY at ATLANTIS LEISURE

A fun filled interactive day for all ages

Come try our workshops:
Make Colourful Creations with Threads and Things....

Look for Clues in Prestonpans Family fun Tapestry Trail
Bust a move in our Battlemoves Dance Class

Plus... The Grand Unveiling of Oban and Lorn Schools Tapestry



For further information and prices please visit: www.dunollie.org/what'son or visit the FASANTA Facebook page.

FASANTA
Festival of
Textiles & Fashion

Sunday 2nd November 2014, 7.45pm
Corran Halls, Oban

'FIGHE'

Composed and arranged for FASANTA 2014 by award winning Gaelic singer/songwriter Rachel Walker

A brand new piece featuring traditional and newly composed songs and instrumental music in both Gaelic and Scots new compositions by Rachel Walker inspired by the rhythm and written information and poetry surrounding looms, mills and tapestries, paying particular attention to the story of the Prestonpans tapestry.



With singers, musicians and dancers including:

- Gaelic Singer Arthur Cormack
- Scots Singer Fiona Hunter
- Virtuoso fiddle player Archie McAllister.

Also featuring on stage demonstration of spinning.

Tickets £12 from www.dunollie.org or call into Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds reception Mon - Sat between 10am and 4pm.



For info or booking details visit: www.dunollie.org or Fasanta Facebook page.

For info or booking details visit: www.dunollie.org or Fasanta Facebook page.



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FASANTA Festival of Textiles & Fashion

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November 2014

DUNOLLIE TAPPING INTO TAPESTRY
Dunollie brings to you FASANTA (Gaelic: fashionable) a festival celebrating Scotland's textile heritage through a variety of workshops, master classes, panel discussions and activities for all ages.

PERFORMANCES FROM
RACHEL WALKER (Specially Commissioned Performance)
BALLET WEST

FOR THE COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY CATWALK MARKET PLACE
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES CREAM TEAS

THE UNVEILING OF
THE OBAN AND LORN SCHOOLS
TAPESTRY PROJECT

LOOK OUT FOR
PRESTONPANS TAPESTRY EXHIBITION
104 meter Tapestry celebrates the enduring triumph of youthful hope and ambition.

WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES
Dr. Susan Kay-Williams Chief Exec. Royal School of Needlework
Dorie Wilkie Prestonpans & Great Tapestry Stitching Coordinator
Jan Timms Tambour Beading Expert
Robin Elliot Andrew Elliot Weavers

For more information see www.dunollie.org or go to the Fasanta Facebook page.
'I am really looking forward to the Fasanta textiles festival and in particular the Community Catwalk event. I believe The Oban Times is even putting in an entry this year!'

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Store sheep meet good trade at Fort

AN EXCELLENT entry forward met with the current trade at the October 9 sale of 2,569 store sheep of all classes at Fort William, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd.

Lambs (1,576) sold to £62 gross for Suffolk crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan.

Ewes (963) sold to £57 gross for a cross from Blargie Farm. Gimmers (12) sold to £82 gross for Cheviots from Kilmory, Achateny.

Feeding sheep (18) sold to £51 gross for a Blackface wether from Mucomir, Spean Bridge.

Other leading prices per head:

Store lambs: Chev - Duror, Glenelg, £57.50; Blargie Farm, £52; Glenfintig Estate, Spean Bridge, £50; TexX - Glenfintig Estate, £55; 35 Eoligarry, Isle of Barra, £54; 19 Blarmafaldach, Fort William, £51; Cross - Torlundy, Fort William, £55; Glendoe Estate, Fort Augustus, £51.50; 9 Bunlossit, Roy Bridge, £47; BF - 11 Blaich, Fort William, £53; Fersit, Roy Bridge, £51.50; Blargie Farm and 9 Bunlossit, £50; SuffX - 4 Glebehill, Kilchoan, £53; BDM - 13 Calgarry, Ardvassar, £51; LleynX - Tigh Airigh, Blarmafaldach, £51; Mule - Glendoe Estate, £50; CharX - Breakachy, Laggan, £47; Swale - Breakachy, £46.

Ewes: Chev - Torlundy, £56; Cross - 1 Kinsadel, Morar, £55; LleynX - Tigh an Uilt, Kilchoan, £52; SuffX - 1 Kinsadel, Morar, £49; BF - Insh Farm, Spean Bridge, £48.

Feeding sheep: Chev wdr - 1 Kinsadel, £50; BF wdr - Insh Farm, £46; Chev Ram - 1 Kinsadel, £40.

Highland cattle show champion tops sale prices at Oban mart

A TEENAGE exhibitor was among the top awards at the annual autumn show and sale of pedigree Highland cattle at Oban Livestock Centre at the weekend.

Sixteen-year-old Oban high school pupil Erin Cameron, of Dunach Estates won The Oban Times trophy for Best Young Handler, presented by Allison Logan, at Sunday's show.

Her calf, Eilidh 5th of Dunach, which she exhibited on behalf of Lord Denham, also won its class in what was a great day for the teenager.

Erin was joined on the day by French girl Hillana Moland Nichaux, who had been helping at Dunach during the summer.

She was not the only European at the sale, which attracted visitors from Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Germany, Austria and England.

Top price at Monday's sale went to the show's female champion, a three-year-old heifer Capleadh Proiseag 4th of Broomrigg owned by Mr Douglas Fountain. It was sold for 5,200 guineas to Michael Poland, Mottistone fold, purchased by stockman Willie MacLean.

This heifer is by Urquhart of Tordarroch and by Capleadh Proiseag 2nd. She is in calf to Jock of Invernaid. Judge Charlie Bruce, from Banff, said: 'There's a good standard of stock in

all the classes.

'There's been some really good three and two-year-old heifers and a really nice championship calf.

'It's been a very good turnout, with the stock well-presented by the exhibitors and a good, large crowd at ringside, including some new young faces which is always good to see.'

Hazel Baxter, breed secretary of the Highland Cattle Society, said: 'The quality has been really good and it's been a great turnout.'

Overall female, winner of Invernairn Cup, best three-year-old and winner of Bell Ingram Quach was Capleadh Proiseag 4th, from Mr and Mrs D Fountain.

Reserve female, best yearling heifer and winner of Braes of Greenock Challenge Bowl was Frances 3rd of Brathens Fold, sold for 2,300 gns.

This heifer is by Thorn of Bien Esk and out of Benitdh of Hoegaard.

SELECTED RESULTS

Section One:
Class One:
Three-Year-Old Heifers
First, champion three-year-old and best female, Capleadh Proiseag 4th of Broomrigg from Mr and Mrs DR Fountain sold to Mr M Poland for 5,200 gns.
Second, Barabel Ban Flath 12th of Glengorm from Glengorm sold to Mr and Mrs C Klinger, Norfolk for 2,400 gns.



Erin Cameron, 16, from Oban, who won The Oban Times trophy for Best Young Handler. 16 +2cattleaward01



Female champion was a three-year-old heifer Capleadh Proiseag 4th of Broomrigg, sold for 5,200 guineas to Michael Poland, Mottistone.



Barabel Ban Flath 12th of Glengorm owned by Glengorm Estate, Mull sold for 2,400 guineas.

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Lifting tatties Bantieskirk Norwick Unst Shetland - photo by Heather Gray

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On 21 October 2014 the Crofting Commission is sending out Crofting Census forms to all crofts. The Census, which is a legal requirement, provides crofters with the opportunity to shape the future of crofting.

For more information visit:
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Standing room only as £40,000 tup tops 'electric' sale

UNITED Auctions' annual Blackface ram sale at Dalmally Mart was 'electric' as a top price of £40,000 was achieved in a ringside that was packed to the rafters.

The sale last Saturday was topped by renowned breeder Ian Hunter, Dalchirla, Crieff - who bred the record-breaking £90,000 tup sold at Dalmally in 2010 - for his second shearing through the ring.

It went to three buyers J Wight and Sons of Midlock, M E McCalf Smith of Connachan, Crieff and Trollos Farms, Elvanfoot.

Next best was £20,000 from E MacMillan, Lurg Farm, Fintry sold to J Wight and Sons of Midlock and CC MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie.

Nunnerie topped the lamb ring to £16,000, selling four ways to JR MacGregor (Dyke) Ltd; Duncan MacGregor Ltd, Burnhead; HA Blackwood, Auldhouseburn, Muirkirk and J Murray, Crossflat, Muirkirk.

Meanwhile Dalchirla made the second best lamb price of £14,000 bought by David Morrison, Dalwynne.

Dalmally auctioneer for the West of Scotland, Peter Wood, who sold the top ram said: 'It was an electric sale for Dalchirla, drawing a crowd packed to the rafters, both to bid and see how much the stock would fetch.'

UA's new auctioneer and Argyll man Raymond Kennedy helped sell 172 lambs to average £1,021 (down £82 to 26 more sold) and 22 shearlings and aged rams to average £746 (down £38 to 37 more sold on the year).

Mr Wood added: 'Overall, the quality of tups was of a high standard with good carcass sheep in great demand from start to finish for the full eight hours' trading while smaller types were harder to cash.'

One local breeder, John MacPherson of J and J MacPherson, Balliemeanoch, Dalmally, said he

was 'delighted' when his first shearing through the ring fetched £5,000, which was split three ways to S McClymont and Son, Tinnis, Selkirk, Burncastle Farming Company, Burncastle, Lauder and RF Lambie, Asheraig.

John is the third of four generations of MacPhersons farming around 1,600 Blackfaces on 6,200 acres near Loch Awe.

He now works with his son Alec and was watched on at the sale by his father Ian, who is retired. Ian inherited the farm from his father John MacPherson and remembers coming to the Dalmally sales as a teenager in the late 1940s.



THREE GENERATIONS: Alec, Ian, John MacPherson with Blackface shearlings at Dalmally Auction Mart.

TOP PRICE: Ian Hunter, Dalchirla and his £14,000 Blackface ram lamb.

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John Deere 6220 SE, 2004, D104 KUK, c/w John Deere 631 loader £21,495
Massey Ferguson 5455, 2004, S104 NIKK, c/w Massey Ferguson 845 loader/soft drive/quick release/3rd service £20,495
New Holland TL90, 2004, SP04 HBI, c/w Howard FX loader/foystick/3rd service/4ft muck fork £18,295
John Deere 3215 telehandler, 2004, 90% tyres, 8ft bucket £17,495
Manitou Mani reach MLJ 629, 120 turbo, 2003, SF03 2WB, 6M reach, 2.9 ton lift, pallet forks...£14,795
Massey Ferguson 4245, 1998, R404 PHG, 85 hp, 4140 recorded hours, speed shift with 40K...£14,795
New Holland 7840, 4WD, 1995, N392 WRS, 16 speed with 40K, 90HP...£11,995
Zetor 6340E, 1999, 4wd, c/w tractor/120/3rd service/loader, 75hp...£11,795
Massey Ferguson 390, c/w Chilton M4060 loader, 5ft bucket/15 ft muck fork, 1992...£10,995
Massey Ferguson 399, 4wd, 1994, L312 RMB, 6 cylinder Perkins, 100hp approx, 12/12 shuttlebox...£10,795
Massey Ferguson 6150, 4wd, 1995, N287 CS, 4 cylinder Perkins, Dynashift...£10,795
Deutz Fahr DX 3.70, c/w Quickie 3360 loader/3rd service, 4wd, 1988, ES84 KSL, 76 hp...£9,795
Kubota L3600 4WD, 1994, M348VPS, c/w Kubota L4680 loader/foystick/5ft bucket, 39HP, shuttle box, www.gordonagri.co.uk...£9,495
Case 4230 XL, 1995, N509 GNG, 4wd, front linkage fitted at cost of approx £2000...£9,995
Case 895 Stockman, 4wd, c/w Quickie loader, 1992...£8,995
Massey Ferguson 375, 2wd, c/w Quickie loader, 1992 J reg...£8,495
Zetor S245, 4wd, c/w Quickie 2300 loader/lever controls, 1989...£7,995
Case 895 XL Duo, 2wd, 1993, K694 EKY, 2 spools, twin PTO...£6,995
David Brown 1490 2wd, c/w David Brown loader with lever controls, 1982 reg...£5,795
International 685, 2wd, c/w Quickie 3260 loader with bucket and muck fork, 1983 reg, uk...£5,495
Zetor 6011, 2wd, c/w Quickie 2560 loader, double ball spike/lever controls, 1985, 8753 VSL, £4,995
Volvo EC55B pro Excavator, 5.5 Ton, 2007, rubber tracks at 50%, twin speed tracking, 1 bucket, Quick Hitch...£15,995
JCB 8025 ZTS, MIDI Excavator, 2.5 Ton, 2009, rubber tracks at 60%, twin speed tracking, 1 ditching bucket...£14,995
Kubota KX 161-3 Excavator, 5 Ton, 2005, rubber tracks at 50%, twin speed tracking, 1 ditching bucket...£14,795
Newson 1503 mini digger, 1.7 ton, 2002, full cab, rubber tracks at 60%, twin speed tracking, expanding tracks, 3 buckets, quick hitch, blade, slew...£9,495
JCB 8016 Mini Digger, 1.5 Ton, 2007, rubber tracks at 50%, 1 bucket...£8,795
JCB 8016 Mini Digger, 1.5 Ton, 2007, rubber tracks at 30%, 1 bucket...£8,795
Hanix H088 Micro Digger, 0.8 Ton, 2007, ROPS, rubber tracks at 50%, 2 buckets...£6,495
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Prices top £950 for spring-born Limousin at Oban show and sale of suckled calves and store cattle

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd hosted its great annual show and sale of suckled calves and store cattle on Tuesday October 7 at Oban Mart.

The show was judged by Alan Pettigrew, Faskine Farm, Airdrie, and the following were his awards:

Champion was a 302kg spring born Limousin bullock calf from I Campbell, Strongorm and sold for £950 to D & G Watt, Cairntack, Belhelvie.

Reserve champion was an autumn born heifer from A Campbell, Achnacreebeag, scaled 388kg and sold to £960 to the judge Alan Pettigrew, Faskine.

Single bullock: 1 I Campbell, Strongorm; 2 D McCormack, Balgarve, Lismore scaled 348kg and sold to £950 to D & G Watt, Cairntack; 3 A McGilvary, Achuran, Lismore scaled 410kg and sold to £990 to D & G Watt, Cairntack.

OTM cattle (34) sold to a top of £870 for a 668kg Limousin from S Troughton, Ardachy, Connel.

Leading prices per head: Bullocks: 0-250kgs - £720 Ardencaple and Scammadale and Duntrune; 251-300kgs - £800 Dunach; 301-350kgs - £950 Strongorm and Baligarve; 351-400kgs - £960

Leading prices per kg: Bullocks: 0-250kgs - 318p Saultmore; 251-300kgs - 290p Feall; 301-350kgs - 315p Strongorm; 351-400kgs - 315p Feall.

Other Leading prices per head: Heifers: Char - 448kg £1050 Feall; Saler - 504kg £1040 Feall; Lim - 520kg £690 Ensay; AA - 240 £660 Duntrune.

Other Leading prices per kg: Heifers: Lim - 374kg £940 Achnacreebeag; AA - 452kg £930 Carie; Char - 430kg £930 Feall; Lim - 390kg £920 Achnaba; Saler - 462kg £890 Feall; Lim - 428kg £840 At'Uath; Sim - 290kg £800 Dunach Est; Sim - 282kg £780 Iochdar; AA - 266kg £770 Duntrune; Sim - 760kg £760 Saultmore; Sim - 270kg £730 Ardencaple and Duntrune; AA - 242kg £700 Rhulios.

351-400kgs - £940 Achnaba; 401-450kgs - £930 Feall; 451-500kgs - £930 Carie.

Other Leading prices per head: Heifers: Lim - 374kg £940 Achnacreebeag; AA - 452kg £930 Carie; Char - 430kg £930 Feall; Lim - 390kg £920 Achnaba; Saler - 462kg £890 Feall; Lim - 428kg £840 At'Uath; Sim - 290kg £800 Dunach Est; Sim - 282kg £780 Iochdar; AA - 266kg £770 Duntrune; Sim - 760kg £760 Saultmore; Sim - 270kg £730 Ardencaple and Duntrune; AA - 242kg £700 Rhulios.

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251p Achnacreebeag; 401-450kgs - 217p Feall; 451-500kgs - 206p Carie.

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Business

editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

Scottish salmon tops international survey

AN INDEPENDENT survey of retail and foodservice buyers has voted Scottish farmed salmon the best in the world, as demand continues to grow.

Exports of Scottish salmon grew by £60 million in the first six months of the year, proving that overseas demand remains high.

An additional 12,000 tonnes of Scotland's iconic fish made its way to kitchens and dining tables around the world, marking yet another outstanding period of performance for the industry.

Scott Landsburgh, chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation, said: 'Scottish salmon is renowned for high quality, firm texture and distinct flavours. These characteristics, coupled with many health benefits and full traceability, are important attributes for a growing number of consumers.'

'This has been another strong period of growth for Scottish salmon producers and demonstrates just how important Scottish salmon has become in foreign markets and to the Scottish economy.'

The survey was conducted by Seafood International, which produces a monthly online journal about the seafood industry.

CalMac sails off with UK transport award

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne (CalMac) has sailed home as UK ferry operator of the year at the National Transport Awards 2014.

This is the first time the prestigious awards have included a ferry category and CalMac received the accolade in recognition of the services it delivers to coastal and island communities across Scotland.

Martin Dorchester, chief executive of CalMac, said: 'There is something special about being the first name on this award and I'm delighted for everyone in the company who has worked so hard to achieve it.'

Council puts island flights out to tender

EXPRESSIONS of interest are being sought from air companies who would like to operate flights to the islands of Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.

The tender will be published in November and Argyll and Bute council will appoint an operator in the new year. The council is looking for companies interested in the service to contact them via Procurement Scotland.



AWARD: ScottishPower Hydro group manager Ross Galbraith, left, accepts the engineering plaque from Lawrence Shackman, head of the Glasgow and West of Scotland branch of ICE

Cruachan power station celebrates award success

CRUACHAN power station has been presented with a top engineering award.

ScottishPower Hydro group manager Ross Galbraith accepted a plaque, awarded by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), at a ceremony at Cruachan last Tuesday.

The award, presented annually, usually honours an engineer who has made a significant contribution to the built environment.

However, for the first time, ICE has presented the award to a civil engineering project.

The plaque was presented by Lawrence Shackman, head of the Glasgow and West of Scotland branch of ICE, the leading source of professional expertise in transport, water supply and treatment, flood management, waste and energy.

Energy Mr Shackman said: 'Cruachan is a magnificent example of civil engineering and was ahead of its time in providing a sustainable source of energy.'

'The plaque is dedicated to the scheme as well as all those people

responsible for its design and construction.'

Mr Galbraith said: 'We are delighted that the station has received this award. Cruachan is an incredible feat of engineering, and the quality of the original design and construction has stood the test of time.'

'We are all proud to be involved with the station and work hard to ensure it will remain an important part of meeting the UK's energy demands for years to come.'

Designed by Scottish engineer Sir Edward McColl and operational

since 1965, Cruachan Power Station is a pumped storage hydro power station owned and operated by ScottishPower.

The station is built into the hollowed out rock of Ben Cruachan and uses electricity from the grid at times of low demand to pump water from Loch Awe to its storage reservoir part way up the mountain.

At times of peak demand, this water is released from the reservoir through the station's turbines to generate electricity allowing the station to supply up to 440MW of electricity.

Class act at Dunollie Castle

A COMBINATION of imagination, local skills and a bit of lateral thinking has resulted in an impressive outdoor classroom/stage being built at Dunollie Castle.

Custodians of Dunollie Castle wanted to take advantage of a Creative Scotland initiative to develop local artistic skills through collaboration with internationally renowned artists and the idea of a willow structure came about in March last year, inspired by German-based living architect specialist Marcelle Kalberer.

But the ground beneath the willow dome proved to be too damp for outdoor activities. It flooded regularly

in winter and the ground had to be damp to sustain the willow.

Jane Isaacson, sustainability and development manager at Dunollie, explained that a raised wooden platform was an obvious solution but it would need continual maintenance to prevent rot.

'I was walking my dog on the beach at the Marine Resource Centre in Barcaldine when I saw the recycled plastic material that Fusion Marine uses for its outdoor furniture and jetties,' said Jane.

'I knew then I had found the perfect sustainable solution and which in the long term would prove much more cost-effective than wood.'

Fusion Marine agreed to supply the recycled plastic material for the project, as well as advice on installation.

The platform itself was designed and built by North Connell joiner Charlie Boyd to fit the heptagonal shape of the living willow structure.

Canopy A canvas canopy for the dome was made by Owen Sails of Benderloch.

'We can now use the willow hall to its full potential as an all-weather outdoor learning space for our young museum programme and for special activities and performances throughout the year,' said Jane.

'The willow garden is also a

wonderful and peaceful place for visitors to enjoy. We are especially pleased that this fabulous venue has been created by local companies.'

Rhuaraidh Edwards, Fusion Marine, said: 'Recycled plastic was the perfect material choice for this application and we are delighted to have been able to lend the project some of our extensive knowledge and expertise in recycled plastic to help create this exciting outdoor venue.'

'We are currently enjoying strong local sales of our range of recycled plastic outdoor picnic tables, benches and decking. The fact they won't rot makes them ideal for the rather damp climate of Argyll and Lochaber.'



WILLOW STAGE: the willow-domed platform at Dunollie House

Book now for free advice workshops

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway workshops are proving as popular as ever, with well over 200 bookings already made for the 37 workshops taking place between September and December.

A range of free workshops is being run across Argyll and Bute, including several on the islands.

Anyone wanting to secure a place is urged to book now as only a limited number of spaces are still available at some of the workshops being held locally, including 'Business Start-up' workshop on November 5 and 6 in Lochgilphead and November 12 and 13 on Mull; 'Practical Basic Book-keeping' on November 6 in Lochgilphead and December 3 on Mull; 'Improve your Business

Website' on October 28 in Oban and November 18 on Mull; 'Online Trading Essentials' on November 17 on Mull; 'Marketing Your Business' on October 22 in Lochgilphead and on Mull November 4; 'Becoming an Employer' on November 18 in Lochgilphead; and 'Getting the Most Out of Your People' on November 19 in Lochgilphead. To book a place or to find out more contact 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Meanwhile, Business Gateway is hosting a drop in session at The Caledonian Hotel, Oban, on October 21, between 5pm and 7pm. Anyone who would like an informal chat on starting a business is welcome to go along.



POSTER POWER: Jewson Oban yard assistant Daniel Carson, left, and branch manager Brian MacInnes beside the wall of posters drawn by pupils of Park primary school. 16_142jewson01

Park pupils quick on the draw for Jewson

PRIMARY school pupils in Oban are showing the health and safety experts how it's done, after joining forces with building suppliers Jewson.

Children from Park primary school have drawn health and safety posters which are now displayed in the firm's Sinclair Drive office; part of a wider competition run by Jewson, in which each UK branch receives drawings from its nearest schools.

Oban received the highest number of submissions in Scotland with each branch selecting their favourite drawings which are then put into an overall national competition.

Jewson Oban branch manager Brian MacInnes said: 'I expected 20 or 30 posters but we got 93.'

He added that no other branch in Scotland had 'done anything on this

kind of scale'. As a thank you, 100 pupils from Park primary were to be treated to a viewing of the comedy film Alexander and The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day at the Oban Phoenix cinema yesterday (Wednesday).

Four lucky pupils from Park primary have had their posters entered into the national competition: Thomas McCrindle, 10, Beth MacDonald, 10, Ailsa Dowd, 11, and Ross Campbell, 11.

The school's primary 6/7 teacher Pauline MacInnes said: 'As a school we like to promote health and safety whether it's the kids' own wellbeing or in other ways such as road safety.'

'I was really pleased with their level of knowledge and how they related it to their own families.'

Gateway grant a recipe for success

AN ARGYLL hotel which was awarded a Business Gateway Plus Growth grant is using the money to create a bigger and better food menu.

John McNulty bought the Taynuilt Hotel in 2012 and since then has invested his own money into completely transforming the building. Previously, the hotel was operating as a small bar for local people and was in a dilapidated condition, whereas now, it is a modern yet traditional place to eat, drink and stay.

With support from Argyll and Bute's Council's Business Gateway service, the Taynuilt Hotel is continuing its progression and expansion.

John said: 'We used our own money for the refurbishment and it was the best thing we could have done so early on.'

'We wanted to keep it traditional in style but give it a modern twist as we wanted more light and a warmer atmosphere. We also built a new bar and fitted an up-to-date commercial kitchen.'

'I was a head chef previously and when I took over the hotel, I had a vision of the type of food I wanted to offer. I'm a big believer in sourcing local produce, including drinks, so we use salmon from local smoke-houses, Oban langoustines, meat from our local butchers shop and beer from nearby breweries.'

'We have also introduced new dishes that we believe showcase Scottish produce in the best way.'

John aims to expand the menu and is also hoping to make further changes to the guest rooms and bar area.

He added: 'I approached my local Business Gateway office as I thought it would be a good idea to get support and advice on my growth plans.'

'The one-to-one advice I received from my adviser was fantastic and has helped us to effectively plan our growth strategy. I was also encouraged to apply for the Business Gateway Plus Growth Grant which we received and used to buy a combi steam oven which will allow us to make a larger volume of food as the demand continues to increase.'

Angela Vernel, business adviser at Business Gateway, said: 'The Taynuilt Hotel has developed an impressive reputation in the last year and the refurbishment has turned it into a quality establishment.'

'As well as advice on growing the business, John successfully applied for our growth grant which has allowed him to make an investment which will complement his plans for the business.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business call 01546 604555 or visit www.bgateway.com



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Tempting time of year for domestic burglars

With Christmas now just 11 weeks away, many people are already filling their homes with expensive gifts for loved ones, making this a tempting time for domestic burglars.

During the third week of National Home Security Month (w/c October 13), organisers of the campaign are urging people to protect their valuables, including any Christmas gift purchases, from theft.

Computers, cash, electrical goods and jewellery are among the most commonly stolen items in domestic burglaries and, as a result of people's love for gadgets, the average cost of a burglary has risen by 40 percent over the last three years. With the latest game consoles, phones or tablets at the top of many Christmas wish lists, homes across the UK provide rich pickings for burglars at this time of year.

However, it is not just festive purchases that are at risk as 21 percent of people say they never hide their own personal valuables when leaving the house, with 37 percent leaving portable gadgets such as e-books or tablets easily accessible.

David Herbert, from National Home Security Month lead sponsor Yale, said: 'Home security is more important than ever at this time of year and there are a number of ways you can protect your home from falling prey to opportunistic criminals.'

'To protect smaller valuable items and reduce the risk of fraud, use a home safe. This can be used for items such as jewellery, small electronic gadgets, important documents and gift receipts, but make sure you bolt it securely to a wall or floor so it can't be stolen.'

'Alarms also offer an effective visual deterrent. Statistics show that 60 percent of burglaries attempted on homes with alarms are unsuccessful. However, 71 percent of homes still don't have a working burglar alarm so if yours is one of them it's worth getting one fitted.'

Search for 'National Home Security Month' on Facebook and Twitter channels for daily tips on maximizing door and window security during the dark nights.

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Fyne Homes
A PROPERTY SERVICE GROUP

TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER
Covering Mid Argyll & Kintyre Full time post of 35 hours
Salary Scale: Grade 5 £27,033 - £32,613

Fyne Homes are currently recruiting for a Technical Officer to be based in either the Lochgilphead or Campbeltown office and will involve travel to cover the areas of Mid-Argyll, Kintyre, Cowal & Bute. Due to the nature of this role a current driving licence and use of a car for business purposes is required.

You will provide an effective and efficient property management service, as part of a small team within Fyne Homes and work closely with the contractors supplying services under our framework agreements.

Key tasks include the day to day management of reactive, cyclical and capital investment programmes along with working alongside our Design Teams delivering our high quality new build development programme.

You should preferably have at least 5 years practical experience of property maintenance, some of which consists of experience at a supervisory level. Much of the work involves communicating directly with tenants and other members of the public in a front line role. You will require good interpersonal and communication skills, a strong commitment to customer service and the ability to work as part of the team and on your own initiative within laid down objectives and targets. A knowledge and understanding of legislation and statutory responsibilities is necessary as is an ability to use current communications technology, such as smartphone, tablet etc to process workload.

It is desirable that candidates can demonstrate practical working knowledge and experience in the property maintenance/ building sector.

In return for the above we offer an attractive salary and good conditions.

Application packs can be obtained from Fyne Homes Ltd, 81 Victoria Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0AP
Tel: 0845 6077117
e-mail: postmaster@fynehomes.co.uk
or visit our website - www.fynehomes.org.uk
Closing Date: Monday 3rd November 2014
Fyne Homes Ltd believes in promoting equality and diversity

**NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE
CARE HOME**
Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
Tel. 01631 562168

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☎ 01546 604334 Ref: CME01290

Closing date: 31 October 2014.
To apply visit our website

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COUNCIL**

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

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argyll community housing association

Director of Finance & IT
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(salary review pending)
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October 2014
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3rd November 2014
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contact the recruitment team:
Tel 01546 605917 or
email recruitment@acha.co.uk

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To discover more and apply, visit www.sepa.org.uk
Closing date: 31 October 2014.

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To apply or for a copy of job description and Practice Profile, please send CV with a covering letter explaining why you feel you would be the right person for this post to:
**Muriel Miller, Practice Manager,
Lochgilphead Medical Centre,
Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JZ**

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Only online applications can be accepted at www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers
Closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 30 October 2014.

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Youthbank providing peer-assessed grants

A NEW funding programme has been set up in Oban with one aim; providing grants for young people by young people.

YouthBank, run by North Argyll Youth Forum, allows groups of three or more people aged 11-25 to apply for

financial assistance with local projects to be assessed by others of their own age who then decide whether or not they have been successful.

This can be any kind of project from sports events and competitions to improving local facilities, and the first

award so far was a small amount given to North Argyll Young Carers - £120 which they used to produce 'hoodies' to promote their identity.

CLD youth worker Scott Douglas, who is leading the programme, explained: 'If we gave out big grants, our funds

would be going pretty quickly.

'There are other grants available such as from the council, but ours is simpler and shorter because it is peer-assessed.'

'Young people can be their own harshest critics, with more scrutiny coming from their peers.'



Some of the members of the North Argyll Youth Forum, from left: Catriona MacKenzie, Ben Collins, Ryan McDougall, forum leader Scott Douglas, Kayleigh Campbell, Naomi Campbell and Annalise Bateman. 16_042youthforum01

Future growing season topics discussed at Lorn Garden Club meeting

SPEAKERS from Glen-cruitten walled garden, Lorn Organic Growers and Muckairn House shared their gardening notes at the October meeting of Lorn Garden Club.

Members were given insights into three local poly-tunnel projects at

their meeting last Tuesday.

All agreed that poly-tunnels enabled a much longer growing season and more rapid growth - provided you had the resources for prolonged daily watering.

Apart from the need for

daily watering, one of the consistent challenges was that mice like to establish themselves in the tunnels. There were descriptions of hollowed out beetroot and beans chewed off at ground level.

Another tip was that irrigation sprinklers can

damage some plants - one chilli grower protects his plants with plastic, within the tunnel, but it is generally possible to close off individual sprinkler heads.

The meeting closed with tasty Victoria sponge and lemon drizzle cake.

Retiring Speakers Club president performs final duties

RETIRING president of Oban Speakers Club, Frank Walton, performed his last duty when he passed the chain of office to new president Alex Clark.

Mr Clark then took over last week's meeting and handed over to chairman for the first

half, John Maclean. His speakers were Bill Leech who spoke about Roal Amundson, Tom Clegg on SS King George V and Jim Fraser on The Great Fire of London.

In the second half the topics chairman Nick McLean took a novel approach when he answered

one of his topics himself. His other topics were given to Guido Faccenda, Frank Walton and Archie McPhail.

Timekeeper for the evening was Eamonn Arthur and a fair and humorous general evaluation was given by Peter Mills.

The next meeting will be held on October 23 in the Ambo Room, Glen-cruitten Church Centre at 8pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club or just coming along to see what is involved should contact Jim Fraser on 01631 562162 or 07748796716.

New light shone on WWII hero's distinguished career



HERO: Sqd Ldr 'Steve' Stephen during his RAF days climbing into a Meteor aircraft

NEW INFORMATION has come to light about one of Oban's World War Two heroes, who famously escaped a POW camp in Burma during an illustrious career with the RAF.

In an extraordinary career spanning 37 years in the air force, Squadron Leader James 'Steve' Stephen fought in the Battle of Singapore, flew in bombing raids and spent three months on the run in the Burmese jungle.

A love of flying then saw him continue in the RAF after the war with their Aerobatic Team - now known as the Red Arrows - and he was later chairman of Royal British Legion Scotland Oban

branch after moving to the town in 1974. He died in 2000 at the age of 80.

A set of four antique mugs belonging to Sqd Ldr Stephen during his RAF days was discovered last week when his widow Eileen Stephen was moving from Oban to Edinburgh.

Three of these are commemorative tankards presented to him by his superiors; one displays the signatures of each of his flying partners while another commemorates the achievements of the Aerobatics Team.

Flying with 146 Squadron in Burma, Sqd Ldr Stephen's Hawker Hurricane was shot down

and he was imprisoned by the Japanese, but was only held captive for a day or so before managing to escape.

He was posted missing for three months, during which time he somehow managed to survive in the dense Burmese jungle before reaching safe allied territory.

This traumatic experience took its toll on Sqd Ldr Stephen's health; he subsequently had to withdraw from flying for a period and suffered from nightmares for years, though he rarely ever talked about the whole ordeal.

His widow, Mrs Stephen, recalls his legendary career: 'He went to start

in the RAF engineering college just as the war started when he was 18. He retired when he was 55.

'At the time personnel were very scarce. He was an engineer and a gunner, and the RAF couldn't afford to lose people like that.'

'His favourite plane was a Spitfire, after that he worked on Hurricanes and with Bomber Command flying Typhoon fighter-bombers.'

'Flying bombing raids, there was the danger was that you flew through your own debris, so the Typhoon was the one plane that scared him.' In 1946 Sqd Ldr Stephen flew the

RAF's first jet aircraft the 'Meteor' with 245 Squadron, before joining the Aerobatic Team.

Later roles saw him utilised as a flying instructor during the Korean War - where he wanted to fight but was seen as too valuable an asset to the RAF - and a period working as a personal pilot after retirement.

He was also a great supporter of the Oban War and Peace Museum from its opening in 1995, which now has his old uniform on display.

Eileen added: 'Steve was very well-respected as a pilot, he had a lot of friends. Flying was his life.'

public notices

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr Allan MacNaughton has registered his croft 225 Acharacle Cuidhu, Ardnamurchan and 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 30 June, 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C609.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr John Allan MacKintosh has registered his croft 49,50and part 52 Banavie, Kilmallie 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 22 June, 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C574

Mrs Effie McArthur has registered her croft at Conisby Kilchoman 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 16th June 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C539.

SUNART AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NOTICE
2014 AGM
WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2014
8PM
STROUTIAN FIRE STATION

Application For Apportionment Balephetrish Special Common Grazings.
L and I A Mackinnon, Parkhouse, Balephetrish, Treen intend to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 5.89 hectares for the purpose of improving livestock management. Balephetrish grazings clerk/ constable Elspeth Mackinnon has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

Any comments on the application should be lodged with the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW before 16/10/2014. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr Alistair MacDonald has registered their croft 23&24a Carnoch, Lismore and Appin, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 9 July, 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C608.

Oban Lifesaving Club AGM
In Atlantis Leisure
12th November
6.30pm - 8pm

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED
Mrs J H Mackie, Mr J Fergus, Mr G I Fergus & Mr G R D Stevenson
Surrigarth East, Westray
0.26 ha - Existing house site 4.86.51180
Conditions: 3(a), 4
Conditions
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mr Neil McEachern Maclean has registered his croft 1 Ballymeanach, Kilchoman on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 14th May 2015.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C415

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/03231/FUL	Storage Building, Hospital Cottage, Glencoe	Extend existing storage building to form new biomass fuel store and use existing building as new biomass boiler room
14/03682/FUL	Land 150M East of Fassfern House, Fassfern, Kinlochell	Construction of Allt an Inbhir hydro electric scheme
14/03749/PIP	Land to South East of Tom-Na-Moine, Kilchoan	Erection of 2 houses (renewal of 11/02918/PIP)
14/03769/FUL	Nevis Bank Cottages Belford Road Fort William	Renewal of planning permission 11/02360 for erection of 6 flats and upgrading of access road and parking vacant site
14/03770/FUL	Land 70M NW of Glenmore Cottage, Acharacle	Proposed dwelling house
14/03784/PIP	Land 40M East of 2 Toigal Morar	Proposed 2 no house sites
14/03794/542	Land 70M North West of Inverskilavulin, Glenlochy Banavie	Removal of condition 2 from 007/00121/FULLO
14/03795/FUL	McLean House & Campbell House, Glenlochy, Banavie Fort William	Change of use from 2no holiday lets to 2no dwellings

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: elanning@highland.gov.uk

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01942/PP	Erection of replacement walk-in cabinet 1.5m x 1m x 2.1m high.	Eas Daimh Weir Glen Lochy Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmlally
14/02323/MIN	Continuation of quarrying and associated operations	Pennygown Quarry Glenforsa Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JN	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
14/02411/PP	Renewal of planning permission 11/01515/PP (Siting of caravan for use as members club house).	Hangar Argyll Aero Club Oban Airport North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SW	Sub Post Office Ledaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A830 TRUNK ROAD (BLAR MHOR AND LOCHABER HIGH SCHOOL) (30MPH, 40MPH AND PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2014
THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and (c) and section 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. This will have the effect on the A830 Fort William - Mallaig Trunk Road at Blar Mhor of extending the existing 30mph limit past Lochaber High School in a north western direction for an additional 460 metres or thereby, and also imposing a 40mph speed limit for 1.190 kilometres or thereby west of this point. There is no change proposed for the length of the part-time 20mph limit. The Order:

- Imposes a 40 mph speed limit on the following length of road: That length of the A830 Fort William - Mallaig Trunk Road at Blar Mhor from a point 505 metres or thereby southeast of the extended southeast kerbline of the B8006 Kilmallie Road (at Banavie) north-westwards to a point 118 metres or thereby east of the extended centreline of Wilson Way, a distance of 1.190 kilometres or thereby.
- Imposes a 30mph speed limit on the following length of road: That length of the A830 Fort William - Mallaig Trunk Road at Blar Mhor from its junction with the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road at Lochybridge, north-westwards to a point 505 metres or thereby southeast of the southeast kerbline of the B8006 Kilmallie Road (at Banavie), a distance of 1.035 kilometres or thereby.
- Imposes a part-time 20mph speed limit on the following length of road: That length of the A830 Fort William - Mallaig Trunk Road at Blar Mhor from a point 130 metres or thereby southeast of the extended southeast kerbline of the B8006 Kilmallie Road (at Lochybridge), north-westwards to a point 190 metres or thereby northwest of the extended southeast kerbline of the B8006 Kilmallie Road (at Lochybridge), a distance of 320 metres or thereby.

The A830 Trunk Road (30mph Lochybridge and Lochaber High School Part-time 20mph Speed Limit) Order 2006 (SSI 2006/22), is revoked by this Order.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved, the order to be revoked and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 16 October 2014 until 13 November 2014 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; BEAR Scotland, Bridge Point Depot, 23a Longman Drive, Inverness Depot IV1 1SU and Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William, Lochaber PH33 6EU.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Robert McTaggart, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A830/LMC by 13 November 2014.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/traffic-orders

G EDMOND
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

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LOCHGILPHEAD - Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyle Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 0NB

BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - McMANUS - David and Charlotte, Taynuilt, are very proud to announce the safe arrival of their son Evan Ryan Alexander...

CARTER - Alex and Gillian (nee Smith) are delighted to announce the early arrival at Children's Hospital, Vancouver on September 22, 2014...

McKAY - Lorna and Gerry are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Eve Barbara on August 22, 2014 at PRM Hospital, Glasgow.

SILVER WEDDING

MUNRO - GALE - At Oban Parish Church on October 14, 1989, by Rev Andy Campbell, Calum to Susan.

GOLDEN WEDDING

MACLEOD - STEELE - At St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on October 17, 1964. Ewen MacLeod to Catherine (Katie) Steele.

DEATHS

BRIMELOW - Peacefully on October 9, 2014 at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban with his wife and family, Keith, in his 83rd year...

CAMPBELL - Peacefully, after a long illness, on Friday, October 10, 2014, aged 82 years, Audrey, beloved wife of the late Duncan Campbell...

HENDERSON - Peacefully at home, Springbank House, Low Askomil, Campbeltown, on October 13, 2014. Rev. Charles Malcolm Henderson, in his 92nd year...

HOOD - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on October 13, 2014, Iain McPherson Hood, in his 56th year, Craiglussa, Peninver, dearly beloved son of Frances Mary Elder...

MACDONALD - Suddenly, but peacefully, in Oban on Monday, September 29, in his 40th year, Niall, formerly of Tobermory and Balloch, a very much loved son, brother, uncle, cousin and a dear friend to so many.

MACDOUGALL - Ruth Mary, beloved youngest daughter of the late Kenneth and Flora MacDougall, Caol, and dear sister of Carol and Barbara, passed away on October 3, 2014 in Aberdeen.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

MUNRO - Suddenly, but peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on October 9, 2014, Joyce Munro, (nee Renton), aged 82 years, of 29 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead and formerly of Achenreir, Barcaldine. Much loved wife of the late Alexander (Sandy) Munro and loving mother of Morag. Adored granny of Fiona, Andrew and Alistair, and much respected mother-in-law of Peter. Funeral service will take place at Cardross Crematorium today, Thursday, October 16, at 11.15am, followed by a memorial service in Lochgilphead Parish Church at 3.30pm.

MURDISON - Mary. After a short illness, suddenly, but peacefully at the Belford Hospital, on Sunday, October 12, 2014, leaving behind her loving husband Thomas and family. Service to be held at Kilmalie Church, Corpach on Wednesday, October 22, at 11am.

ROSS - Suddenly, but peacefully at home on October 8, 2014. Sandra Ross (nee Brown), beloved wife of Jim. Sadly missed by all who knew her.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Maree and Gary would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support, cards, flowers and kindness following the sad loss of their dear Ian. Sincere thanks to the doctors of Glen Mor practice, district nurses and the staff of Invernevis House for their excellent care. Thanks to Rev Richard Corbett for his comforting service, Jamie Manson of Mike McFall Funeral Directors for his caring and efficient arrangements and the Railway Club for their excellent purvey. Final thanks to all who attended the service and their generous donations which raised £465 for Invernevis Resident's fund.

MACFARLANE - Louisa and family of the late Peter, would like to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends for the many expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls received following their sad loss. Special thanks to the management and staff of Moss Park Care Home for their unfailing care to Peter, also to Rev Mgr MacKinnon and all the clergy for the beautiful funeral service, Tweeddale Medical Practice and Mike McFall Funeral Directors. Our thanks also to those who attended the funeral service at church and graveside and gave so generously to Moss Park Care Home Resident's fund. The sum of £343.78 was raised. Thank you also to management and staff of the Alexandra Hotel for refreshments.

McINNES - Marie and family would like to thank relatives and friends for all their kindness and support after the passing of Roy. Special thanks to the Village Care Home, Cumbernauld. The retiring collection raised was £350 for Cancer Research.

MEMORIAMS

CURRIE - In loving memory of our dear dad and papa, 'Cally', who died October 4, 1999.

Always in our hearts xx - Agnes, Martin, Chloe and Leona. Mary, Iona and Ashley.

JOHNSTON - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil who died at Heanish, Tiree, on October 22, 2005. Always in my thoughts. - Vivienne.

MACCALLUM - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel, who died October 18, 1982.

A special smile, a special face and in our hearts a special place. No words we speak can ever say how much we miss you every day.

- Inserted by her husband Donald and family 11 Longdale Terrace, Oban.

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of my dear mother Mora, who passed away on October 17, 2013. Always in my thoughts. - Joy. x

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear wife Flora and mother who died October 16, 2011. Always in our thoughts. R.I.P. I often lie awake at night while others are asleep. I lie and think about you Flora with tears upon my cheeks. Silent tears fall gently which others do not see, for a kind and loving wife who meant the world to me. You taught me many things in life, things both good and true but you never told me how to cope with the hurt of losing you.

- Loving husband Hughie and son Hugh. MACINTYRE - Remembering with love a dearly loved mum Flora, who passed away on October 16, 2011. Loved and remembered every day. Never more than a thought away. - Love Margaret xxx

MACINTYRE - Precious memories of a very special mum Flora MacIntyre. Death changes everything, time changes nothing. I still miss you as much as the day I lost you mum. There is a big hole in my heart that can never be filled. You were my mum but also my best friend. Till we meet again mum. Love you and miss you so much. - Shona and James xx Love and miss you everyday granny. - Love Jamie.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Flora MacIntyre, who died October 16, 2011. We did not know that morning God was going to call your name. In life we loved you clearly. In death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you. You didn't go alone. As part of us went with you. Thank you for all our beautiful memories. And your love is still our guide. Though we cannot see you. You're always by our sides. All our love, forever in our hearts. - Michelle, Eilidh and Beckie xxx

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our precious Mum and Granny who passed away October 16 2011. Deep in our hearts we keep a memory box which makes us smile or shed a tear, each time it unlocks so, so easily. We love and miss you more than words could ever say. - Fiona, Frank, Steven, Fiona, Andrew and Tanya xxxxxx Gentle Jesus up above please give Granny all our love. - Chelsey, Steven and Gracie xxx

McGIBBON - Remembering our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Effie, died December 8, 2001. Angus, died October 19, 1993. In God's hands but forever with us in our hearts. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena and family.

MacLEOD - Cherished memories of Ian, who died on October 14, 2002. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered everyday. Greatly loved and sadly missed. - Nancy, Mary, Iain and grandchildren.

STEWART - Remembering our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Marjorie, died September 17, 1996. Ernie, died November 11, 1999. In gods hands but forever with us in our hearts. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena and family.

STODDART - Kenneth John, 4 Kilbride, Broadford, Isle of Skye, died October 12, 2000. Forever in our thoughts. - Donald John and family in Fort William and Skye.

WOODROW - Treasured memories of our David, a dear son and brother, died October 16, 1990, as a result of an accident.

We are sending a dove to Heaven David with a parcel on its wings. Careful how you open it, as it's full of beautiful things. Inside are a million kisses wrapped up in a million hugs to say how much we miss you and send you all our love. Missed and loved forever - Mum, Dad, Fraser, Sheena and family.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer. West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Fort primary schools celebrate harvest time



FORT William youngsters celebrated the harvest festival by gathering food for the elderly. Lochside R.C Primary School held a special assembly last Thursday including songs and prayers before pupils handed out food packages to pensioners who live close to the school.

Left: Lochside R.C Primary School pupils celebrate the Harvest festival.



BANAVIE PRIMARY SCHOOL: Pupils with food they collected for the elderly.

Thought for the week

FOOD for Thought

IT'S CURRENTLY the political party conference season. With a general election looming in May 2015 politicians have already begun talking about how they all plan (if elected) to make our lives better. For many however, the last five years have been tough. Recession followed by the coalition government's policy of austerity has led to flat-lining incomes or redundancy for many. Increasing food and fuel prices, higher rents, reforms to the benefit and tax systems have all conspired to put intolerable pressure on some of the UK's most vulnerable people. Many are now being forced to resort to food banks to feed themselves and their families, unthinkable even five years ago.

The leading organisation in the food bank movement is a Christian charity called the Trussell Trust. Since its inauguration in 2004 it has developed a network of 200 food banks, with a further 250 planned by 2015. The Trust currently operates 10 food banks in Scotland. In Oban 'Hope Kitchen', led by Christians, provides hot meals, friendship and support for vulnerable people in need. It also provides food parcels for families and individuals in crisis situations. In addition, Oban's churches contribute to the 'The Lord's Larder', an emergency food resource for local people in need. The Bible has a lot to say about food and the hungry. Jesus' brother James in his Epistle

points out the key relationship between a person's faith and its practical outworking: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead." The Christians who operate the Trussell Trust have obviously taken a leaf out of James' letter. The organisation's motto is 'Restoring Dignity and Reviving Hope'...that's something we should all support.

C.E. Morrison

Kilmore SWRI enjoy delicious homebaking

KILMORE and District SWRI held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 8 at the Kilmore Village hall, with 17 attending. Mrs Fiona Dickie gave a cookery demonstration on 'Back to Basics', where she shared her top tips for produc-

ing award-winning pancakes, oatcakes and scones, with lots of delicious samples to eat. The winners of the competitions were: Fruit Ginger Bread; 1 Ann Robertson, 2 Anne Tully. Autumn Flower Arrangement in a Ramekin; 1 Anne

Ferguson, 2 Maimie Nicolson. Zoologist Sara Frost will give a presentation on her work for Wildlife Conservation in Canada at the group's next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at 8pm in the Kilmore Village Hall.



Fiona Dickie gives a cookery demonstration at the recent meeting of Kilmore and District SWRI.

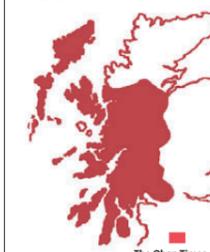


Anne Ferguson, who won the best floral arrangement at the recent meeting.

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GRADUATIONS



Erin Rosie graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University, BA with First Class Honours in International Fashion Branding. Erin is a former pupil of Paisley Grammar School, she is the daughter of John and Diane Rosie, formerly of Kinlochleven, the granddaughter of Anne and the late Willie Walker, and May and the late Johnny Rosie.



Sarena Victoria Anne Duff graduated with a 2:1 BA (Hons) in Psychology from the University of Strathclyde. Daughter of Owen and Anne Duff, Ardrishaig, granddaughter of Ina and the late Ian MacDonald, Clachan, Gwen and the late Allan Duff, Taynuilt and Aileen Nye, Cambridge. Sarena is now studying for a Masters in Forensic Psychology.



NO WAY THROUGH: Lewis Cameron is tightly marked by Eaglesham's Ross Carlin during last Saturday's match at Burnside Park Photo: Derk Black

Injury-hit Saints are edged out at Eaglesham

'I can't fault the players, they worked hard, but defensive lapses cost us the game'

SAFL Premier Division
**Eaglesham 2
Oban Saints 1**

A WOEFUL 30 minute spell during the first half of this game cost Saints dear at Burnside Park in Eaglesham.

The Oban side were without long-term injury victims Donnie Campbell, Dene Cassells, Scott Maitland and Colin Tindall. They were joined this week by skipper Marc MacCallum, Craig MacEwan and Dugal Graham who had to call off at the last minute with a toe injury. On the plus side Lewis Cameron, Ross Maitland and Myles McAuley joined the squad after missing last week's 2-1 Scottish Cup win over Wallacetown.

Saints who are normally pretty solid at the back, took on a distinctly charitable look when it was easily parted for two Eaglesham goals within the first 30 minutes.

The home side opened the scoring in the 19th minute after clever play carved open the Saints defence leaving Tony Atley time and space to slot the ball past Thomas McCulloch.

As if things couldn't get any worse for Saints, they were

dealt another severe blow to their already well stretched resources when they lost top goalscorer Allan MacKay to a back injury. Allan's place in attack was taken by Ross Maitland.

The home side increased their lead in the 26th minute and again the Saints defence parted like the Red Sea as Gavin Doherty broke through and slotted the ball home.

Saints then fell victim to two rejected penalty decisions from the referee. Firstly Dean Smith was clearly bundled over in the penalty area then David McArthur had a net bound shot 'saved' by an Eaglesham defender's arm but on both occasions referee Alan Lamb waved away the spot kick claims from the Saints players.

After a few stern words from manager Iain Jackson at half-time, Saints rallied and produced a vastly improved second half performance.

The visitors created a good chance right at the start of the second half with Dean Smith shooting over the bar.

Saints had to replace defender Jamie Graham, who was feeling unwell early in the

second half, his place being taken by young David Beaton with David McArthur moving back into Jamie's full back position.

The Oban side were back in the game after 60 minutes. Dean Smith's free kick was well saved by the keeper but the ball came out to Ross Maitland who found the bottom corner of the Hams' net with a fierce 25 yard strike

Bombarded
The visitors bombarded the Eaglesham goal for the entire second half and Lewis Cameron should have done better when he got on the end of a Daniel Cassell's flick but his shot was easily saved by the keeper.

As the half progressed, almost the whole Eaglesham team were camped inside their own half as Saints threw everything but the kitchen sink at them.

The visitors created another great chance when Lewis Cameron danced past three defenders but he couldn't find Daniel Cassells with his cut back from the byline.

Time was running out for the last season's league champions as they continued to bombard

FOOTBALL

the Eaglesham goals and only a great point blank save from keeper Gordon Taylor prevented Alex Craik from scoring with a header.

Alas, there was to be no last gasp equaliser for Saints and the players and management were left to reflect ruefully on a poor first half which had gifted victory to Eaglesham.

Manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed. He said: 'We started the game quite well then gave away two poor goals which in the end cost us dear.'

'We were excellent in the second half but credit to Eaglesham. They pulled everyone behind the ball and defended in depth for most of the second 45 minutes.'

'I can't fault the players, they all worked hard, but two defensive lapses in concentration cost us the game.'

Saints are on West of Scotland Cup duty this Saturday when they travel to take on Paisley Premier League outfit Glenburn Athletic. The game will take place at St James Playing Fields, Paisley, with a 2pm kick-off.



Islay

SUMMER league played Wednesday October 1 - 1 S Currie 34 pts; 2 T Logan 33 pts; 3 A MacMillan 32 Pts Css 72.

October medal played Sunday October 12 - 1 R MacLean 88 - 19 = 69; A Woodman 81 - 8 = 73; 3 S Currie 85 - 10 = 75. Css 73.

Isle of Seil

MARY Phillips from Seil Island Golf Club won first prize for ladies at the annual regional golf volunteer competition at Marr Hall, Erskine, on October 5.

The competition was organised by ClubGolf Scotland to thank volunteers for their help throughout the year.



WINNER: Mary Phillips

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Premier Division - Eaglesham 2, Oban Saints 1; Kings Park Rangers 0; Campbelltown Pupils 3. Premier Division 2 - Clydebank 2, Lochgilphead Red Star 1; Division 1B - Tarbert 5, FC Argyll 2.

This weekend's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup 2nd Round - Glenburn Athletic v Oban Saints; Kilbride Thistle v Dunoon; Tynecastle v Dunoon Athletic; Premier Division - Campbelltown Pupils v Finart; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Motherwell Thistle; Division 1B - FC Clydebank v Tarbert.

Saints youth fixtures and results

YOUTH FOOTBALL

THIS weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Ardencaple; Renton Craigandro Blacks v Under 14s; Under 15s v Broomhill SC; Under 16s v Ardencaple; Under 19s no game.

Athletic lose out in Scottish Cup replay

FOOTBALL

OBAN Athletic lost their Scottish Cup second round replay against Gourrock last Saturday, going down 5-2.

On target for the Oban side were Scott MacMillan and Kris Gillies with a late penalty.

Athletic are away to Third Lanark this Saturday. The game will take place at Torglen.

North Connel rink wins Alasdair Macnab Trophy

CARPET BOWLS

CONNEL Carpet Bowling Club hosted a well-supported and successful mixed rinks competition for the Alasdair Macnab Memorial Bowling Cup on October 11.

Played for annually by Connel and North Connel carpet bowling clubs and Oban bowling club, this year's competition attracted 12 teams of four players each.

Every team played four games before the top four went into the semi-finals.

Eventual winner was a team skipped by North Connel's Iain MacMillan, whose rink was made up by Iain Miller, Connel; John Kidd, Oban; and Donald MacLean, Oban.

The beaten finalists were skipped by Connel's Sandy Carr and included Margaret MacLean, Colin Carmichael and Dave Rennie, all Oban.

Beaten semi-finalists were Charles Drummond's rink of Anne Stewart, Oban; Jeanne Lowe, Connel and Anne MacDougall, Oban and Mike Perrett's team of Janet Church, Oban; Ian Weir, Oban; and Moira Spreadbury, Oban.

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Jenny picked for Team GB

A FORMER Oban woman is to compete for Team GB in an international triathlon this weekend, despite having only started competitively cycling two years ago.

Jenny Bosman, 37, who grew up in Oban but now lives in Nottinghamshire, didn't even own a bike until 2012, when her husband bought her one for Christmas.

But now she is gearing up for the ETU Middle Distance Triathlon Championships on

Saturday, competing in the women's 35-39 age group, which involves a 1.9km swim, followed by a 90km cycle and finally a 21km run.

Jenny's selection was confirmed in July this year following an impressive season of running which saw her place third in the Outlaw Iron distance triathlon in 2013 and then win the event this year.

Jenny, who studied at Oban high school, said: 'It was totally unexpected.



KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY: Jenny approaches the finishing line of the 2014 Outlaw Triathlon in Nottingham in August, with daughter Mia and son Euan.

TRIATHLON

'It was a nice surprise as the selection was based on last year's times so I've actually improved since then.'

The event will feature athletes from all across Europe, with 18 competitors in total in Jenny's category.

Jenny, who works as a vet in her new hometown of Newark, said: 'Middle-distance is not really my distance. It's shorter and quicker so I will do well to place.'

'I had been marathon running for some time and came first in the Robin Hood Marathon in Nottingham in 2009 and 2010, but then I started getting injured quite regularly so in 2012 I decided to give triathlon a try as the distances were a bit shorter.'

Despite having given up competitive swimming when she left Oban Otters as a 12-year-old, and only owning her bike for two years, Jenny is enjoying competing in triathlons and hopes to be placed in Saturday's event.

She said: 'It's my first time abroad so I will do well to place, but overall it's just a great feeling to be competing.'

'Also, it's my dream to qualify for the Iron Man World Championships in 2016, so I will be aiming towards that too.'

Jenny will be cheered on at home by Husband Neil, children Mia and Euan, as well as her parents Andy and Doreen Henderson, who live in Oban.



LOOKING GOOD: Oban Saints under 14s wearing their new playing kit kindly sponsored by R A Clement Associates

Top four finish for John McPhee in Japanese Grand Prix at Motegi

JOHN McPhee racked up his best Grand Prix finish to date with fourth place in the Moto3 race at Motegi, narrowly missing out on a maiden podium at the end of a frantic six-rider battle for the lead.

The RSF-backed SaxoPrint-RTG rider dropped four places to seventh at the start before gradually working his way up to the back of the lead group where he played a patient waiting game before reclaiming third with five laps to go.

But in the cut and thrust of the closing laps the Connel racer was shuffled back to sixth before moving back into contention for a podium finish down the back straight.

A near perfect entry into the final 90-degree turn netted fourth, just sixth-tenths of a second behind Estrella Galicia 0,0's race winner and championship leader Alex Marquez.

SaxoPrint-RTG's Efrén Vazquez took second

MOTORCYCLING

while Ambrogio's Brad Binder followed on to claim the final podium place.

With three races to go, McPhee remains in 13th place in the standings but was buzzing after his career-best finish.

'It was a great race,' he said. 'Obviously I'm really happy to get the best result of my grand prix career but disappointed at the same time not to have made it onto the podium.'

'I knew I had to hit my perfect braking marker into the final turn and get a really good exit and was hoping I could have got past Binder for that final podium place.'

'But today, it seems, it wasn't to be. Rest assured, I'm more determined than ever now to get on that podium before the end of the season.'

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

WIN £950

COMPETITION

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

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.

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.

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, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

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 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.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

M Murphy, Inverloch, Fort William & I Brown, Easdale

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name
Address
Tel No.

Green Machine sees red during home defeat at Glencruitten

BT West Division 2
Oban Lorne 9
Strathendrick 19

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne suffered one of their worst defeats in recent seasons last Saturday as a lacklustre display and poor discipline derailed their season.

The team had Craig Wright and Andrew Johnston red carded during the defeat against Strathendrick at Glencruitten - player-coach Corrie Louw was also dismissed the previous week - and there were two further sin-binnings last weekend.

The tally over the past two weeks is six yellow cards and three red cards.

Louw said he would be appealing at least two of the red cards and bemoaned the refereeing decisions that have cost him key players for the bulk of the season.

But he refused to blame the referee for Saturday's defeat - Oban Lorne's first of the season - and instead demanded his players apologise to the Green Army for their performance.

Louw said on Tuesday: 'We just never turned up and Strathendrick played well. The team should apologise to the fans; the way we played was embarrassing.'

'We have a meeting tonight to address discipline, commitment and a long-term plan. If the boys are going to play like that, there is no point in playing at all. They need to set their own goals for what they want to achieve.'

Louw, who admits his team is playing with more aggression this season, insisted the dismissal of Craig Wright for an alleged spear tackle was a miscarriage of justice and, if upheld, could see the centre miss the remainder of the season through suspension.

'We know the referees have a hard job but there is a big difference between being fair and being silly with decisions,' Louw added.

The Green Machine had gone into Saturday's game with confidence after their table-topping 17-8 away win against promotion rivals Camusbang.

But Oban's trademark bulk within the pack was reduced with Louw and injured prop Tommy Sutherland missing.

Strathendrick took a 15-minute lead when their fullback slotted over a well taken penalty to lead 3-0.

Oban hit back with a Craig Wright penalty to level the scores shortly after.

Neither side looked close to scoring a try in a disappointing and frustrating first half. As time ticked towards the half time whistle, Strathendrick looked the more confident team with ball in hand and were rewarded with another successful penalty attempt at goal for a 6-3 lead.

Both teams made a similar start to the second period and traded penalties for a 9-6 scoreline to the visitors.

Oban then had a 10-minute spell of dominance in the 'Endrick half but could only come away with another Wright penalty to tie the score at 9-9.

Oban then squandered at least three chances to score the opening try of the day and were made to pay when Strathendrick scored a try from a result of some poor Oban defending in their 22. With the away side now leading 16-9 it signalled the start of a disastrous closing 20 minutes to the game for Oban Lorne.

Oban's debutant fullback Plato Moisiadis was sin-



STOPPED SHORT: Oban Lorne's Struan Smith is stopped just short of the line during last Saturday's defeat to Strathendrick Photo: Kevin McGlynn

binned for a late tackle on Strathendrick's right winger leaving the home side with only 14 men on the park.

Minutes later Craig Wright was given a straight red card

for the alleged dangerous tackle, much to the astonishment of both teams and the home supporters.

Oban played with 13 men for the next five minutes, allow-

ing the visitors to extend their lead to 19-9. Just as Moisiadis was about to return to the field from his sin-binning Oban replacement scrum half Graham MacEachan was yellow carded

for kicking out at an opponent within a maul and was sent to the sidelines.

Then, with eight minutes to go, Oban Lorne's Andrew Johnston saw red but there

was confusion over why the prop was dismissed.

Oban Lorne will have to regroup ahead of next weekend's BT Shield match at home to Camusbang, kick off 3pm.

Lorn Ladies turn on the style in first home league game of the season

Women's National League
Division 2
Oban Lorne 51
Grangemouth Stags 0

OBAN Lorne Ladies celebrated their 51-0 victory on Sunday in their first home match of the season thanks in part to a barnstorming start by Kelly Lamont.

Lamont scored the first three tries of the match within 20 minutes before a shoulder barge from a Grangemouth prop ended her significant contribution for the day.

The two sides had met only two weeks ago - Oban recording a 31-10 win - but the blistering start knocked the stuffing out of their opponents

who never recovered. Oban again struggled to pitch a full team, only fielding 13 players, and after the sin-binning of the Grangemouth prop scrums became uncontested.

But Oban pulled together as a team and after some exciting phases of play, keeping Grangemouth pinned to their try line, both Rebecca Weeks and Rebecca Sims barged their way through the defensive line to score tries consecutively.

Towards the end of the second half Sims sustained an injury and Oban was forced to drop the match to 11-a-side.

Into the second half the ladies kept the intense pressure on Grangemouth, flying up the

park to close down space and force errors.

Camilla Leslie was able to slam the ball over the try line twice after a couple of these errors from Grangemouth, giving Oban seven tries without reply.

Sprinting
Oban's Sheila McGregor was close to the eighth try for Oban, only to be disallowed, but she got her score towards the end of the match after sprinting up the park to score a well-earned try.

As Grangemouth battled on, determined to gain something back for their efforts, their numbers again dropped through injury, resulting in

WOMEN'S RUGBY

Oban matching them down to finish the game 10-a-side.

Not content with the final score line, Kirsty Sinclair scooped the ball and accelerated around the Grangemouth wingers to score the final try of the day.

Weeks stood in as the kicker this week, booting three out of Oban's nine conversions through the posts.

Amongst a number of strong individual performances, Mhairi Cruickshanks was awarded player of the match for her fearless tackling and strong running.



DIVING OVER: Rebecca Sims dives over for a try in the comfortable win against Grangemouth Photo: Stephen Lawson



CLASH OF THE ASH: action from last year's second test at the Bught Park

Scotland hungry to restore some pride

NEW SCOTLAND shinty manager Ronald Ross believes his players are hungry to restore pride as they seek their first series victory in the forthcoming Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international matches.

The national coach has assembled a group of players 'with something to prove' and is certain they will give the Scottish fans plenty to cheer about against Ireland's hurlers over the two-test series.

'The Scots have been building up intensely to the first test clash at Bught Park on October 18 and Ross is happy with his charges' application and desire so far.

He hopes a refreshing blend of youthful energy and trusted experience can rejuvenate performance at the elite level,

with Ireland having the better of recent cross-code exchanges.

Ross commented: 'What we have is, I hope, a fresh, youthful and hungry team. For me, everyone has something to prove and that is vitally important. I know that from playing in these matches myself.'

'Results have not gone our way in recent times and we know the size of the task ahead, with Ireland being very strong. We also know they will run all day.'

'However, the players have been made aware that this is a stage for them to go out and prove to everyone just how good they are. Some of these players went over to Ireland with me way back at U17 level and I know exactly what they are capable of. What we need

is for each player to try to win their individual battle and really give the fans something to get behind. There is some fresh blood in there and a fresh approach.'

On merit
'Make no mistake; the new caps are very much there on merit and the more experienced players are guys who would still walk into the top teams in the country, no matter what division they may be playing in at the moment.'

'We are looking forward to it and we just want to get started.'

Match details: First test, The Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international will take place at Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday October 18, throw-in 2pm.

Tickets are available at the

SHINTY/HURLING

ground on the day or in advance from Eden Court Theatre. Prices are £10 adults, £5 concession and under 12s go free when accompanied by a paying adult. Discounts are available to Camanachd Association members.

Second test: the hurling/shinty international will take place at Páirc Esler, Newry, Northern Ireland, on Saturday October 25, throw-in 5pm.

Also on the day will be the camogie/shinty challenge match (1pm) between Scotland's senior women and a Down county select and the U21 hurling/shinty international (3pm) between Scotland's U21 men and their Irish hurling counterparts.

The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	10	2	2	37	17	22
Lovat	14	7	5	2	32	20	19
Glenurquhart	14	7	4	3	25	16	18
Kingussie	14	7	2	5	31	29	16
Kyles Athletic	13	6	3	4	25	20	13
Inveraray	14	3	4	7	18	29	10
Kinlochshiel	13	2	2	9	21	34	6
Lochaber	14	1	2	11	18	42	4

Marine Harvest National Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	13	11	2	0	70	10	24
Oban Camanachd	13	11	1	1	46	12	23
Kilmallie	14	10	1	3	54	22	21
Beaulie	14	7	1	6	37	29	15
Caberfeidh	14	5	1	8	31	39	11
Glasgow MA	14	4	0	10	25	47	8
Glenorchy	14	2	1	11	12	57	5
Bute	14	1	1	12	8	67	1

Bute docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	14	13	1	0	53	7	27
Newtonmore	14	9	1	4	42	16	19
Strathglass	14	7	1	6	38	32	15
Beaulie	14	6	2	6	31	36	14
Glenurquhart	14	5	3	6	28	33	13
Kingussie	14	5	1	8	35	48	9
Lovat	14	4	0	10	30	48	8
Inverness	14	1	3	10	21	58	5

Kingussie docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ballachulish	14	9	5	0	39	15	23
Kyles Athletic	14	8	4	2	47	19	20
Oban Celtic	14	6	4	4	20	27	16
Aberdour	14	6	3	5	32	31	15
Lochside Rovers	14	6	3	5	32	34	15
Strachur	14	3	3	8	18	33	9
Taynuilt	14	2	4	8	32	46	8
Kilmory	14	2	2	10	16	31	6

Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	14	11	1	2	55	20	23
Lochcarron	14	8	2	4	38	46	18
Glenarry	14	8	1	5	25	31	17
Lochaber	14	6	1	7	50	39	13
Kinlochshiel	14	5	3	6	27	33	11
Boleskine	14	5	0	9	29	48	10
Skye	14	4	1	9	38	35	9
Aberdeen Uni	14	3	3	8	29	39	9

Kinlochshiel docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Marine Harvest South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	14	12	2	0	66	7	26
Tayforth	14	12	1	1	51	10	25
Glasgow MA	14	7	1	6	46	29	15
Bute	14	5	2	7	25	37	11
Col Glen	14	5	2	7	36	36	10
Ballachulish	14	6	0	8	28	43	10
Glenorchy	14	3	1	10	20	40	6
Aberdour	14	1	1	12	14	84	3

Ballachulish docked one point for failing to fulfil a fixture
Col Glen docked one point for failing to fulfil a fixture



Shinty fixtures

Saturday 18 October
Shinty/Hurling
International - 1st Test
Scotland v Ireland
Innes Wood - 2pm
at Bught Park, Inverness.

Results

Saturday October 11
Marine Harvest National
Division
Glasgow MA 3 - 4 Kilmallie

Marine Harvest
North Division 1
Glenurquhart 3 - 7 Lovat
Newtonmore 1 - 4 Skye

Marine Harvest
South Division 2
Glasgow MA 2 - 4 B'chulish

Calling all experienced shinty coaches

THE CAMANACHD Association invites experienced coaches to sign up as soon as possible for a UKCC Level 2 coaching course.

This course is designed to help experienced coaches who are in charge of U17 and senior squads.

The course, to be held at Lochaber high school, will consist of three practical/theory sessions - Saturday November 1, 10am to 6pm; Sunday November 2, 10am to 6pm, and Saturday November 8, 10am to 6pm.

The course fee is £200 but funding to cover the majority of this is available from sportsotland and local sports councils/associations.

To book places contact: Graham Cormack on 01463 715931; 07894 588538 or email graham.cormack@shinty.com

Improved finish by squash team

A TEAM from Oban Squash Club finished 11th out of 20 teams at Edinburgh Sports Club's Octoberfest.

The result is a vast improvement from last year's position of 17th from 18 teams. The three-day invitational tournament attracts teams from all over the UK and Europe.

The Oban team consisted of: Nicola Morgan, Kerry Delaney, Paul Murphy, Paul Kersley, Alan Moore, Michael Kelly and Kenny Drummond.

Boleskine win 2014 Mod Cup

CONGRATULATIONS to Boleskine for securing the 2014 Mod Cup with a 4-2 defeat of Inverness at the Bught Park, Inverness, last Saturday.

The annual fixture is held as part of the Royal National Mod, taking place in Inverness this year.

Scorers were: Boleskine - Keith Nicholson, Steven Cameron (2) and Ewan Fraser. Inverness - Donnie Forbes and Dougie Rankin. The match referee was Callum Girvan.

Ballachulish on their travels

BALLACHULISH'S young junior side made the trip to Glasgow to play their first game for some time.

Goals from James MacKenzie, Lorne Brown (2) and Ali MacDonald gave them a fine 4-2 win over Glasgow Mid Argyll who replied with goals from Lewis Miller and Neil Beaton.

This brings their season to a close and the club feel it has been good experience for this young side who will continue to improve in the coming seasons.

Duffy wins Mull Rally

but McCrone suffers cruel disappointment



Winner Calum Duffy powers his state-of-the-art Ford Escort MkII through the darkness on Mull on his way to his eighth victory. Photo: LindsayPhotoSport

TWELVE months after his rally ended prematurely on the fourth stage of the Friday night, when he slid backwards into a ditch, Calum Duffy sealed his eighth Tunnock's Mull Rally victory.

But the Dervaig ace, piloting his Ford Escort MkII, and

co-driven by brother Iain, endured a few nervous minutes of uncertainty after he took the flying finish at the end of the final stage, the 22-mile aptly-named Long One.

'I really thought we'd blown it,' admitted Duffy, who started the

final test with a 2min 23sec advantage over the Subaru Impreza of nearest rival Tristan Pye.

'I really felt I'd had a rubbish final stage. My rear tyres had gone completely by the time we still had the final six miles to do. 'The car's been great all weekend, and to win 12 months after we went out so early last year makes this win all the sweeter.'

While Duffy clocked 22mins 19secs for the final test, Pye shaved a whopping 28secs off the Mullerach's time and eventually finished 1min 58secs away from his first Mull win.

The Bishop Auckland driver was delighted with his result, and overall performance in the rally, backed for the first time by EventScotland.

'I know it's an old cliché, but I'm over the moon,' he beamed. 'It's been a lot of hard work all weekend, but to finish second behind Calum is an achievement: I'm feeling pretty proud, to be honest.'

There was disappointment though for the large and expect-

ant crowd which had gathered at Dervaig to watch the finish, hoping to see their local heroes bag another one-two.

But while Duffy celebrated, last year's winner John McCrone suffered the cruellest of disappointments.

Starting the final test in his Tunnocks and Castrol-liveried Ford Fiesta R200 in third, just 39secs behind Pye, the Dervaig ace — who set seven fastest times as he recovered from the 'off' on SS1 which cost him 2min 30secs and dropped him to 63rd in the 140-car field — was determined to ease himself into second.

But midway through the final stage, his car suffered a broken driveshaft after a jump within sight of the finish line. Despite limping on in an effort to finish, the car's second driveshaft broke on an uphill section and he was forced to park-up at the side of the road.

'Gutted, to be honest,' said a clearly disappointed McCrone, co-driven by Larkhall's Stuart

RALLYING

Loudon, admitted afterwards. 'Would we have caught Tristan? I don't know, but we were certainly 'on it' through the opening section of the stage.

'I finished second here behind Calum two years ago, and won last year, so it would definitely have been brilliant to have been on the podium again. But it wasn't to be.'

There was disappointment too for longtime leader James MacGillivray. The Salen driver — fastest on five of the opening six stages, and who led for much of the rally — was forced out when he went off in his Subaru Impreza on stage 11 at Penmore. And with the Escort MkII of Ellon's Doug Weir — who started the final stage in a comfortable fourth — going off on the final stage, Bury's John Cope found himself in third.

'I'm amazed,' the Subaru Impreza driver admitted. 'I didn't think I'd get anywhere near the



A beaming Fergus Barlow from Tobermory can't hide his delight after powering his Ford Fiesta R2 to seventh overall and a 2WD Class win on his home event. Photo: LindsayPhotoSport

podium, but a couple of the guys who started ahead of me suffered misfortune, and I've been in the right place to capitalise on it. I feel sorry for them, but I'll happily take the podium place.'

And while veteran Jimmy

McRae was forced to retire his Mk1 Escort with recurring fuel-feed problems, Tobermory's Fergus Barlow clinched seventh place overall, and the coveted two-wheel drive Class win.

'Class win, and seventh over-

all? If someone had suggested that before the start of the rally I'd have laughed: and I'd then have bitten their hand off,' he said.

'I'm so, so pleased with this result. It's been fantastic.'



NEW KIT: Oban Saints Under 13s with their new strips sponsored by the Oban branch of Buildbase and tracksuits sponsored by G McHardy & Son Plumbing. Pictured along with the boys are Andy Buchanan from Buildbase and Andrew McHardy from G McHardy & Son, Plumbing. Under 13 coach Brian Forgive said that the team were very grateful for the support of the local businesses and the boys were looking forward to wearing the kit in the seasons ahead.

Organisers keep their fingers crossed

WITH flat, calm, sunny conditions at the beginning of this week, all eyes at the Tirez Wave Classic 2014 were focussed on the mid-to-end of the week forecast.

With swells of three-five feet building to six feet later in the day and winds of up to 23mph forecast for yesterday (Wednesday) and similar for today (Thursday) organisers of the windsurfing wavesailing event were buoyant at the beginning of the week that a result would be achieved for the pro fleet, even if it was only via an all-out 'expression session' rather than via heats.

Because the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) World Cup Windsurf event at La Torche in France starts on Saturday, Tirez Wave Classic

organiser Jim Brooks had planned to finish the pro event by Tuesday to allow sailors the time to take part in both events.

A total of 30 competitors registered to take part across the four fleets — professionals, amateurs, masters and women — along with a 20-strong youth fleet made up entirely from local, up-and-coming windsurfers.

Among the professionals on the island this week have been multiple Tirez champion Ben Profit, 36, who had just come from winning the indoors slalom title in Poland and who was a favourite to win going into the week's competition, alongside Phil Horrocks, 36, from Rhosneigr in Wales.

Ben, originally from Shrewsbury, said earlier this week: 'It

was great to win here last year and I am super keen to win it again. There are some solid riders here so I just hope the forecast comes in before we have to head to PWA La Torche in France.'

Speaking about the British Windsurfing Association (BWA) championships, due to finish up in Cornwall, Phil said: 'It is really tight at the top this year and I think it will come down to the last event for sure. With such a close competition and level of riders we've got everything to play for in Tirez.'

But it looked like the amateur fleet was likely to get the best of the conditions, with the pros due to compete on Tuesday. Willy Angus, from outdoor activities company Wild Diamond on

WIND SURFING

Tirez, was confident there was a good storm coming for the latter half of the week.

'Typically in Tirez a good forecast can come in quicker than predicted and it looks like the wind and swell should be pretty solid by mid week,' he said on Monday. The latter part is looking really strong so fingers crossed the pros don't miss it and the amateur fleets could be on for some exciting conditions.'

Tirez Wave Classic 2014 is funded by Argyll and Bute Council and supported by EventScotland, the BWA, Puravida Boardriders, Wild Diamond, Tirez Lodge Hotel, CalMac and the community of Tirez.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds light south south easterly
Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 16, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

Date	am			pm		
Thur	05.03	1.7	10.45	3.0	18.00	2.1
Fri	01.05	2.8	06.09	1.8	13.19	3.0
Sat	02.19	2.9	07.27	1.8	14.31	3.1
Sun	03.04	3.1	08.40	1.7	15.09	3.3
Mon	03.37	3.3	09.32	1.5	15.42	3.5
Tues	04.09	3.5	10.12	1.3	16.16	3.7
Wed	04.43	3.7	10.47	1.1	16.50	3.9

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

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

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tirez	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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New Skye hospital a priority says MSP

AN MSP is putting pressure on the Scottish government to build a new hospital for Skye, after it emerged patients are having to travel 100 miles for endoscopy treatment.

Patients are currently enduring mammoth trips to Fort William and Inverness, often staying overnight, as these procedures have been discontinued at the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford.

The planned new hospital is expected to replace the MacKinnon Memorial and Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, has asked cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing Alex Neil MSP for clarification on when this will happen. He said: 'This is really not an acceptable situation for patients on Skye.'

'The cabinet secretary confirmed he would be reviewing the ending of endoscopy services and that NHS Highland will be discussing proposals for the new hospital at their next meeting in December.'

There have also been calls from islanders to build the new hospital in Portree, instead of the NHS preferred location of Broadford.

Largest number of recruits for years

THE HIGHLAND and Islands division of Police Scotland has seen its largest influx of training recruits for decades.

Nineteen new officers completed their final week of training at the regional headquarters in Inverness last Friday.

They spent the first 12 weeks of the programme at Tulliallan in Fife and will now move to police stations up and down the country.

Divisional commander, chief superintendent Julian Innes, said: 'I'm delighted to welcome our new officers to the area.'

'The Highlands and Islands present a safe and satisfying place to live, often presenting policing matters as unique as our geography.'

'In our combined 80 years of police service, superintendents Angus MacPherson, Ross MacKillop and I agree this is the largest intake of new police recruits to the area during our time.'

Plans for five-star tourist resort take root in forest

HANNAH HITS THE HIGH NOTES AT MÒD



MACPHEE MEDAL: Fort William girl Hannah Calder won the coveted James C MacPhee Memorial Medal for girls solo singing, learners aged 13 to 15, at the Royal National Mòd in Inverness. The Lochaber high school pupil said appearing at the prizewinners concert was a long-term goal. See pages 10 to 15 for full coverage of this year's event Mòd 17_142mod44

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A MASSIVE tourist complex worth £25million has been proposed for Lochaber.

The 'masterplan' for Leanachan Forest will be presented to the public at a consultation next month and proposals include a five-star spa hotel, a bunkhouse, lodges and a campsite in the 7,300 acres of national forest land near Nevis Range Mountain Resort.

Thousands of tourists visit the area every year for biking, walking and snowsports and developers Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise say the scheme will boost these numbers.

The project, which will be known as Nevis Forest and Mountain Resort, has been split into four 'development zones' with potential building plans for each area. One includes the possibility of a spa hotel, luxury lodges or a combination of both while camping pods and yurts could be available elsewhere in the forest.

Highland councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, said it would be a great use of the space at Leanachan.

He added: 'I welcome these proposals and think everyone should get involved in shaping a development which will increase the number of visitors to Lochaber.'

'There's tremendous potential in and around Leanachan Forest and I hope we can make the most of it.'

Steve Williams of Forestry Commission Scotland said the scheme could take up to 20 years to complete but he hopes to lodge a planning application by next summer.

He added: 'It would be our intention to take this forward as

Massive Leanachan masterplan includes spa hotel, bunkhouse, lodges and campsite

quickly as we can but a project of this size will have to involve funding from a lot of external investors.'

An exact cost is not available at this stage but developers say if all plans go ahead it could reach £25million. It is also unclear how many jobs will be available but Mr Williams said it would be a 'big boost to the local economy.'

Members of the public have been invited to a consultation on November 4 at the Pinemartin Cafe, Nevis Range. The event will be between 2pm and 7pm with a presentation at 3pm.

Project team member Robert Grant said: 'We've established good links and a robust feedback process with key stakeholders and the wider community who are keen to get involved with these developing proposals.'

'The majority of participants would welcome the facilities and the additional tourist numbers that it could bring.'

'We're still listening though and have already taken on board the feedback we've received. This latest version of the proposal includes some changes to the bunkhouse as well as some new elements including the Lochaber rural complex site and ski range and we're now looking for further comment.'



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For further details on Lochaber Ideas Week 2014 and how you can get involved, contact: Will Rowland, Lochaber Ideas Week Project Officer. Tel: 01397 703765. Mobile: 07708 391291. Email: wil@ideasweek.co.uk

Lochaber Ideas Week
Invigorating business in the Highlands



Ferry firm allays new vessel delay fears

A SCOTTISH maritime company has made assurances a new ferry for the Western Isles will not be delayed again, after the German shipyard building it announced it could face bankruptcy.

A spokeswoman for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) said the *MV Loch Seaforth* will be sailing to Scotland 'in the

next few weeks' to take up the Stornoway to Ullapool route.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus Brendan MacNeil had raised concerns about potential further delays caused by the future acquisition of German shipyard Flensburger Schiffbau Gesellschaft (FSG). He said: 'The handover of the *MV Loch Seaforth* has been

delayed since September and it is concerning we may be facing further delays.'

The CMAL spokeswoman added: 'From the information available, CMAL does not believe FSG will close due to bankruptcy, however, in the unlikely event that does happen, it will have no impact on the *MV Loch Seaforth* as she is now under CMAL control.'

Fort William businessman takes the helm at chamber

A FORT William businessman has been appointed chairman of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce.

Bruno Berardelli, managing director of Highland Wood Energy, received a unanimous vote at the chamber's annual general meeting on October 9, the first since the merge of Fort William Chamber of

Commerce and Outdoor Capital of the UK earlier this year.

The 37-year-old thanked retiring chairman Don Hind, adding: 'Over several years in the post he took the chamber through complex merger negotiations to make it the highly regarded organisation it is today.'

'We will build on this and I look forward

to welcoming even more business members to provide a unified and positive front in helping to actively create an even stronger Lochaber economy.'

'There are about 1,000 businesses operating in Lochaber, from sole traders to multi-national organisations and together our voices are stronger.'

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Public gets behind Fort shops plan

A DEVELOPER hoping to bring a new retail park to Fort William said he is 'amazed' at the support he has received from the public.

Morbaine Limited has lodged a planning application with Highland Council for proposals including an Aldi supermarket and discount store Home Bargains among other units still to be named.

The developer already has consent for non-food retail use at North Road but wants to expand to allow food sales.

Morbaine director Alex Brodie said if the plans were approved construction would begin as soon as possible and the retail park would bring 150 permanent jobs to the area.

He added: 'Some of the team were in the area recently talking to local people about the application and were amazed at the level of support. It is clear residents want the extra jobs and shopping choice these new stores will bring.'

'Our proposals have already received strong backing from the community during the public exhibitions stage and I am delighted so many residents have registered their support for the full planning application.'

'We are also grateful for the support of the local community councils.'

Highland Council's south planning committee is expected to have made a decision by November 28.

Incidents prompt police appeal

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about a number of incidents in the last week.

Sometime between 5pm on Tuesday October 7 and 9am the following morning a grey RIB vessel moored at the Kinlochmoidart jetty was deliberately damaged, causing it to sink.

Overnight on Wednesday October 8 a child's black and green bike was taken from a stairwell in a block of flats near Fort William High Street.

Between October 1 and 8 a ceramic planter was taken from the front door of an address in Banavie. It is about 2ft by 1ft and contained three plants.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact local police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Arisaig spotlight on cutting waste

THE PEOPLE of Arisaig will be asked how they can reduce energy waste in the village during a survey on Tuesday evening (October 21).

Members of the Arisaig eco project are inviting residents with a PH39 postcode to attend their event in the Land Sea and Islands Centre between 4pm and 7pm to share ideas about how each household can reduce CO2 emissions. Homemade soup, bread and baking will be available.



ACHARACLE STORE OWNER KEEPS PROMISE TO REPLACE BUILDING Pensioner rebuilds lifeline shop



Allan, 71, is building and paying for a new shop from his life savings.

A PENSIONER is using his life savings and spending his retirement rebuilding a lifeline shop for Ardnamurchan.

Allan MacGillivray, 71, bought the Acharacle Community Store 29 years ago but when he passed it on to his daughter Wendy Burgess and her husband David in 2010, rather than take it easy, he promised he would build a new shop to replace the 50-year-old crumbling building, which serves the whole peninsula.

But as the determined grandfather's applications for grants were rejected he decided to dig into his own hard-earned savings for the £70,000 plan and do most of the labour himself to keep costs down.

Mr MacGillivray, who now lives in Salen, said: 'The wee shop is falling to pieces. I really think a gale could blow it down. It's still up through force of habit.'

'So many people rely on the shop, it serves the whole area of Ardnamurchan so people come from all over to get their bits and pieces. It's not big enough for purpose either, I've expanded it over the years and done some work on it but its time has come, we need a new one.'

David has been helping to build the new shop as well as running the current store with Wendy. He called his father in law 'a wonderful man'.

He said: 'He must be the hardest working retired person I've ever met. He's a total family man who



Allan MacGillivray, left, passed his village shop to his daughter Wendy Burgess and her husband David in 2010.

would give and do anything for his family. Even though he should be enjoying his retirement he is building a shop and looking after his family. What a wonderful man.'

Mr MacGillivray is doing most of the building work himself, only employing a local joiner when he needs expert help, and hopes

to have the new store ready by Christmas. Mr Burgess added: 'He just never stops. To be retired and still doing things like this is just great. The shop means so much to the community. As well as us being so remote it brings employment to the area and it will be a part of our children's future too.'

The hardest working retired person I've ever met

David Burgess



MS society celebrates 25th anniversary

The Lochaber branch of the multiple sclerosis society celebrated its 25th anniversary on Sunday. Members and supporters gathered in Caol community centre for an afternoon tea to mark the occasion and a celebratory cake was cut by founding members Morag Matheson and George Landsborough.

Rhona finds recipe for success

A LOCHABER teenager is to compete against people from all over the west of Scotland in the final of a cooking competition.

Rhona MacIntosh was crowned winner of the Rotary Club of Lochaber's young chef competition and will now go on to represent the region in the rotary district final, against chefs from the west coast and Glasgow.

The Lochaber high school pupil won over five other teenagers from Lochaber, Mallaig and Ardnamurchan high schools, all of whom had to prepare a three-course meal for two, in under two hours and with a budget of £15.

Judges Duncan Gibson, Glenfinnan House Hotel, Tanya Warner, Farmstead Fayre, and Tony Boyd, Marine Harvest, awarded second place to Gregor Mews, also representing Lochaber high school.



Rhona MacIntosh and Gregor Mews of Lochaber high school took first and second place in the Rotary Club of Lochaber's young chef competition

Energy scheme investment powers ahead

INVESTMENT into a new community-owned energy scheme in Lochaber is now well underway as applications for shares worth more than £52,000 have come in since the project's launch.

Sunart Community Renewables has offered stakes in a hydro scheme for a previously untapped power source in Strontian and members announced the total so far at

a launch night on October 3. Founding member Jamie McIntyre called the applications 'a massive vote of confidence' but the group still has a long way to go to reach the £850,000 total, a third of which must come from community shares.

He added: 'Investing in the Sunart Community Hydro scheme is a great opportunity to support the development

of renewable energy, and the creation of an income stream for local community development. Buying our shares will not make you rich, but you can be confident that your investment is both green and ethical.'

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



DONATION: members of Mallaig and district community minibus project present their cheque to Care Lochaber. From left: Jan O'Malley, June Cairns, Anita Nicholls and Ann Martin.

Bus sale boosts Care Lochaber

THE UNFORTUNATE demise of one Lochaber charity has resulted in a cash boost for another.

Mallaig and district community minibus project came to an end last year due to lack of use, rising maintenance costs and a lack of support in the area but now Care Lochaber's community car scheme has benefited from £4,600 from the sale of the buses.

Under charitable law when one charity folds any money left in the account must be passed on to another organisation with similar aims and members of the minibus project decided on Care

Lochaber, which provides transport to those who have difficulty accessing buses or trains as a result of ill health, isolation or mobility problems.

Anita Nicholls, project manager for the community car scheme, said: 'This financial contribution will enable us to pay volunteer expenses and help towards salary and running costs of the scheme.'

'We are planning a series of open days in different localities including Mallaig, Arisaig and Morar which will enable us to promote the scheme to new users who require transport and also to recruit volunteer drivers.'

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Father-to-be Billy's plea to see his child

EUAN PATERSON
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A YEAR since Connel seaman Billy Irving was arrested and jailed alongside fellow crew members in India, his pregnant girlfriend has re-issued a plea for him to be allowed to come home.

Billy, 34, was arrested on October 12 last year as part of the crew of an AdvanFort anti-piracy vessel operating in Indian waters.

The authorities accused the captain of the boat of trying to buy fuel illegally and carrying weapons without a licence, with the crew held jointly liable.

But his girlfriend Yvonne MacHugh, who revealed to *The Oban Times* that she is 22 weeks pregnant with Billy's child, says she has suffered 'mental torture' with the number of false dawn offers up by the Indian authorities. The most recent, in

July, saw the charges against the men quashed, only for the Indian prosecutor to appeal the decision.

Although the six British nationals among the crew were freed in July, they face further detention following the appeal hearing at the Supreme Court in India on October 27. Yvonne said: 'The last year has been a nightmare - there is no other way to describe it.

'If they turned this into a movie it would be the most pathetic film ever made; they are free, then they are not free, then they are free again and it just goes on.

'Billy was doing great when I was over this summer and we had a blast after his release, but that was when we thought he was getting home at any moment.

'We are having a baby now, which is keeping him going, but he has become a broken man.'

Former soldier Billy, whose family is paying his living costs

while he is stranded in India, said: 'I have been away from home for 16 months now and I cannot wait for this nightmare to end.

'This has affected my family and me mentally, physically and financially. I need to get home soon as I have a baby on the way and other issues that need sorting.

'Most importantly, I need to get home and get back to work so I can pay off debts and be able to support my baby. I would like to thank my family and friends for all their support. It truly has helped me cope with what is happening to us over here.'

Earlier this year, Yvonne presented a petition with more than 144,000 signatures to Downing Street demanding action from the Prime Minister to press for action to speed the release of Billy and his five British colleagues.

She is frustrated by the lack of action from the government but Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, who has lobbied the Indian High Commission and the Foreign Commonwealth Office on Billy's behalf, explained the slow pace of the Indian legal system has drawn out the issue. He added: 'It looks as if we have to go at the pace of an extremely slow Indian legal system.

'I regularly raise the matter with the foreign office and I have met with a senior official from the Indian High Commission.

'It is obviously very frustrating for Billy, who must be living a very tedious existence with no indication as to when he will be allowed home.'

The Mission to Seafarers is also working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to try and assist with the repatriation of the men.



PURE GOLD: Islay's Ellen Brown-McMurray, left, won a gold badge in the prescribed poetry competition for learners aged seven to eight, while her fellow Port Ellen primary pupil Eva Munro took first place in the girls' solo singing for learners aged nine to 10



HAPPY MEMORIES: Yvonne MacHugh travelled to India to see Billy following his release from an Indian prison but their ordeal is far from over

Don't renege on your Gaelic pledge

BROKEN promises from successive governments will destroy the Gaelic language, writes Louise Lee.

That was the stark warning issued by president of An Comunn Gaidhealach John Macleod as he addressed the 1,500-strong audience at the opening ceremony of the Royal National Mod in Inverness last Friday.

Holyrood was accused of reneging on promises it made in 2005 to promote and safeguard Gaelic.

He said it was time that the guarantees made by the Scottish government were now delivered: that Gaelic should be on an equal

footing with English. Mr Macleod, who has been president since 2007, asked: 'Did not the Gaelic Language Act - almost 10 years ago now - state that Gaelic would become an official language of Scotland, commanding 'equal respect' to English?'

He said 50 organisations had written and presented plans to Holyrood ministers actively promoting the Gaelic plans.

But these plans still 'linguished' in bureaucrats' boxes.

He also cited the fact that the language was not used on the recent referendum ballot paper as a clear example of Gaelic not being

taken seriously by government. He said that by simply using those 'six words' on the ballot paper, there would have been a clear example of equal respect instead it was 'refused without an adequate explanation'.

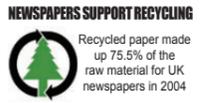
Mr Macleod ended his speech by saying: 'Why can't the residents of Gaelic communities not go to a public meeting in their own community and use their native language without having to give prior notice of their intention to do so?'

'It is up to each one of us who feels strongly about the status of our language to press for its public

use to be an unqualified option, and especially in Gaelic-speaking communities.

'The statutory backing that Gaelic received in 2005 should not be forgotten or dismissed as unrealistic.'

A spokesman for the Scottish government said it was 'encouraging Gaelic as a vibrant part of Scotland's communities'.



Authors share stories of bereavement

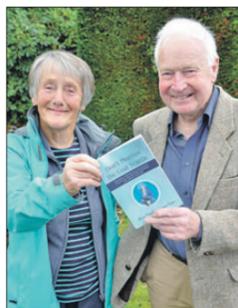
THE UNPREDICTABILITY of coping with bereavement was summed up in one moment for retired Oban solicitor Graeme Pagan, who has co-written a book on the subject.

When his son presented an old coal scuttle from Graeme's garage that belonged to his late wife, Heather, Graeme broke down as memories of his beloved came flooding back.

The incident gave name to *Don't Mention the Coal Scuttle*, a collection of anecdotes and personal experiences that Graeme has co-written with retired nurse Alison Pringle, who lives in North Connel.

The book has other contributions from people Graeme and Alison met during their three-year project.

The pair were first introduced in the 1970s but they met again four years ago, just weeks after Heather's death. Alison had lost her husband, Murray, five years



Alison Pringle and Graeme Pagan are launching their book on bereavement this week.

Graeme. 'That's when I got the idea for a book. I found it gave me something to achieve because when it was finished I had a real low, as if it had kept me going.'

Alison, whose late husband was a civil engineer with Argyll County Council, Alison, says the idea of 'closure' is too simple a notion when dealing with bereavement. She added: 'I was happy to help with the book if it helped people. You can't say, "On Tuesday I will feel better". You learn to live with what you've got or you will go under.'

'It wasn't difficult to talk about it again because you never forget about it. I live with the memory of the wonderful guy I had.'

Asked if writing the book opened old wounds, she replied: 'I wouldn't say that. When you get cut the scar tissue is tougher than the initial skin. I don't really feel unhappy but I do have my moments. A good marriage built on good love is not meant to leave

you ripped in shreds because that takes away from the happiness you have.'

The pair said they had plenty of help from women who wanted to share their stories but found men were more reluctant to contribute.

Graeme and Alison, however, are both very open about their experiences and hope this honesty will help others make sense of losing a life partner.

Far from a depressing read, the book incorporates a lot of humour in its anecdotes.

'Heather was very effervescent and outgoing, yet very private and she didn't want people to know about her illness,' said Graeme. 'I suppose the book lets me tell people how wonderful I thought she was.'

'My brother asked me if I was writing the book for me, or for others. I think it's a bit of both.'

The book will be launched tomorrow (Friday) at 7pm in Oban Library.

Eilidh 'the ceilidh' is student of the year

A THREE music student has been honoured with three prestigious awards from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Eilidh MacFadyean said she was 'delighted' when she was named student of the year for both the Skye-based Gaelic college and the overall University of the Highlands and Islands. Eilidh is the first student from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) to win the UHI award.

The Gaelic and Traditional Music student, now in the final year of her honours degree, also received the Margaret Robertson Memorial Award in recognition of her efforts to organise events at the

college. Eilidh said: 'I am delighted to have been named student of the year for Sabhal Mòr and UHI. It was totally unexpected and I am very honoured that staff at SMO thought that I was deserving of such an award.'

'The last three years have been fantastic, with the chance to learn from some of the best lecturers in Gaelic and Traditional Music.'

The awards were presented at SMO's 30th graduation on October 3, which saw 50 pupils graduate from a number of courses. Nearly 900 students have now graduated from the college.



Eilidh MacFadyean receives her student of the year award from Fiona Larg, secretary of UHI.

Iain MacLean

Scottish National Party

Ward 5 by-election

Make sure your voice is heard

On Thursday 23rd October

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Promoted by Ken MacColl, Kinnaird, Villa Road, Oban on behalf of Iain Stewart MacLean, 4 Falls View Apartments, North Connel



Halloween Party

Sat 25 Oct, 2-3.30pm

Glencoe Visitor Centre, Glencoe PH49 4HX

Don your favourite costume and join our rangers for an afternoon of spooky Halloween fun! There'll be apple bobbing, creepy crafts, gruesome feely boxes and more! Perfect party for 5-11 year olds. Entry is a donation of £2 per child.

For family events throughout Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk

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Man who hit child given six months

A MAN, who was convicted of assaulting a woman and a child and behaving in a threatening and abusive manner, has been jailed for six months at Oban sheriff court.

Ross Higgins, 38, 53 Stonyclee Road, Cumbernauld, appeared in the town's court for sentencing on Tuesday having been convicted last month following a trial at which he denied the incidents took place in an Oban house on March 22.

Sentence had been deferred for a criminal justice report on Higgins. Defence lawyer David Watt said his client now recognised that he was not the 'wronged' party and he had severely 'wronged' the woman and child. Sheriff Douglas Small told Higgins: 'Standing your record and the nature of these incidents, there is only one disposal I can impose and that is one of custody.'

He also imposed a five-year non-harassment order on Higgins.

Town hall project gets under way

THE £2.2MILLION project to repair and refurbish Campbelltown town hall is set to begin in early November, following an asset transfer from Argyll and Bute council to the South Kintyre Development Trust.

Argyll and Bute council is contributing £687,000 from its CHORD regeneration initiative and the Campbelltown Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

The trust intends to appoint a local contractor within the next fortnight to carry out the work, which includes exterior stone repairs; repairing the roof and windows; new toilet facilities, including disabled toilets and baby changing facilities; and the installation of a ramp, lift and kitchen.

Major disruption for A83 roadworks

A SECTION of road on the A83 near to Tarbet Tea Rooms is currently undergoing a £400,000 upgrade that has required overnight road closures.

Work on the 1.81-kilometre stretch within the village of Tarbet began on October 12 and runs over a three-week period.

The overnight works by BEAR Scotland, on behalf of Transport Scotland, involve resurfacing and re-shaping the carriageway and drainage works. Hours of operation will be from 8.30pm to 6am each night, with diversions in place via the A82, A85 and A819.

To reduce the disruption caused by the 70-mile diversion, the workforce will allow vehicles to pass through the works approximately every hour, when it is safe to do so.

Tragic discovery ends search for missing Oban woman

MARIAN MILLER
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TRIBUTE has been paid to a 'lovely, cheery, happy' Oban woman whose body was found by police officers in a river on Saturday after being reported missing nine days previously.

Amunai Hobbs, 41, left Oban on Wednesday, October 1, to fly out from Glasgow Airport to visit her home country of Thailand for six weeks when she disappeared.

Mrs Hobbs, of Longsdale, had been in Oban for 15 years, having arrived in the town after marrying diver Archie Nicholson, who subsequently died.

She worked for the past couple of years as a toilet attendant at the North Pier public conveniences, where she was described as always having a welcome smile and a big bowl of sweets for children.

She met Davie Hobbs, a road sweeper also with Argyll and Bute council, nine years ago and the couple married in Oban registry office seven months ago.

The couple's good friend and Davie's fellow radio presenter at Oban FM, Maggie May, gave



HAPPIER TIMES: Amunai on the day she married Davie Hobbs

She was such a happy, cheery, lovely person

Maggie May
Oban FM DJ

Amunai away on the wedding day. Maggie said: 'She was absolutely brilliant. She was a beautiful girl. She was such a happy, cheery, lovely person.'

'The kids up where she stayed loved her. When the children went into the toilets, she would always have sweets to give them.'

'That was a girl who would give you her last. If you needed anything she would give it to you.'

'We had a night out to see Alvin Stardust and she loved it. She loved dancing and was never off the dance floor.'

'I couldn't say a bad word about her and no one in the town would either, she was just such a lovely person.'

Mrs Hobbs, who had no children, had been due to fly to Thailand, where she had two sisters and a brother, on Thursday October 2 but had gone to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley from Glasgow Airport after saying she felt unwell but she left before being attended to.

Maggie said: 'She didn't know Paisley and we think she just got lost.'

Davie, who described his wife as his 'soulmate', presents the Saturday evening rock 'n' roll show on Oban FM.

A police spokesman said Mrs Hobbs' body was recovered from the River Cart, Inchinnan Road, Paisley around 11.40am on Saturday, October 11.

'A post mortem will take place to establish the cause of her death; however, at this time there would appear to be no suspicious circumstances.'

'A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal,' added the spokesman.

Water, water, everywhere nor any drop to drink - at least on Coll

STEVEN RAE
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RESIDENTS on Coll are angry that a tap used by the public for clean drinking water has been turned off without warning.

The tap, located next to the middle pier toilets in Aringour, is widely used by islanders, as the water supply to many homes outwith the village is often not suitable for drinking.

The tap was capped off two weeks ago by Argyll and Bute council on behalf of Scottish Water, and the matter was top of the agenda of last Wednesday's community council meeting.

Rob Wainwright, who is treasurer of Coll community council, said: 'We, like so many other households on the island, used the tap for our drinking water.'

'Suddenly the tap is disconnected with no warning, so people are pretty unhappy as once again this sort of thing has been done with no consultation with the community.'

'People are having to hunt around the village and the people there are delighted to help out, but ultimately they are paying for it as their water is metered. We

have heard rumours, and they are only rumours, that there is a large spring leaking through a garden just below the water treatment plant, and a figure of 10,000 litres was quoted, but whether that was the amount in total, or per day, or per hour, I'm not sure.'

'It all comes back to keeping the community in the loop about these things.'

Rob also mentioned that visitors from the sailing community, an important part of Coll's tourism industry, regularly used the tap.

He added: 'The timing of this is tying in neatly with the announcement that Uist is to get a multi-million pound drinking water upgrade. That gives force to the old saying that even the cows on Uist get fresh drinking water.'

Juliet Conway, who lives approximately five miles from the village with her partner and two children, told *The Oban Times* she was informed by Argyll and Bute council that the tap had to be capped due to an 'overuse of supply' affecting the village resources.

She said: 'It's not like the people who were using the tap were filling up bowlers or anything, all we used it for was drinking and



CUT OFF: Coll resident Amanda Robbie at the tap on the middle pier, which has been capped by Scottish Water

brushing our teeth. Coll is a very popular destination for visitors on yachts, campervans and campers, who all have a need for fresh water. What message does this send out to these tourists? 'Are they going to have to fill up

in public toilets or pay for bottled water, which is proving very expensive for our local stores to transport, due to CalMac's clampdown on commercial vehicles' weight?'

Julie Oliphant, who has run the

Coll Hotel with husband Kevin for 30 years, and has had requests from people to use the tap at the back of the hotel since the pier tap was capped off.

She said: 'It's alright for Scottish Water or Argyll and Bute council to block people from using the tap but they don't have to deal with the reality of the situation on the island.'

'We're in a bit of a quandary really because we would never deprive anyone of water, but at the same time, we have to pay for it because we're a business and it's metered.'

'We're happy to help anybody out and haven't said 'no' to anyone who has asked to use the tap, but we can't go on forever.'

'Maybe it's time to have a look at the water situation on Coll as a whole. We are sending money overseas to pay for people in Africa to get water there, maybe the government should be sending it to Coll.'

A spokeswoman from Scottish Water said: 'Scottish Water is aware of this matter and will be working with Argyll and Bute council to discuss what options are available to bring the tap back into operation.'

Drink driver told she is lucky to avoid jail after being over limit

AN OBAN woman with a previous conviction for drinking and driving has narrowly avoided being sent to jail after pleading guilty to driving while unfit through drink or drugs.

Charlene MacDonald, 29, of Combie Court, also pleaded guilty at Oban sheriff court to driving with no insurance, while disqualified and to resisting officers.

Procurator fiscal John Service said she had been driving a van on Lorn Road, Dunbeg, on July 26 and was stopped by police because she wasn't wearing a seatbelt.

'They noticed her speech was slurred and her eyes seemed glazed. She was later deemed unfit to drive by a police surgeon.'

Defence lawyer James Dunbar said MacDonald had only driven a short distance and had a few drinks but was 'by no means drunk', also the medication she was taking may have affected her.

Despite a substantial previous record, including already being banned for drinking and driving, Mr Dunbar said her previous record related to an unstable time in her life when she had been involved with drink and drugs and had been homeless.

He said she was now in a stable relationship and was engaging with support services.

Sheriff Douglas Small told MacDonald: 'I have to say it is with great hesitation that I have decided not to send you to Cornton Vale Prison today.'

Sentencing MacDonald to a three-year community payback order, including 300 hours of unpaid work in the community, Sheriff Small said: 'If you breach the order I will have no alternative but to send you to Cornton Vale.'

He also disqualified MacDonald from driving for a total of eight years.

Islands air service goes out for bids

EXPRESSIONS of interest to operate air services from Oban Airport to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree are being sought by Argyll and Bute council.

Hebridean Air Services has been operating the subsidised services from the North Connell airfield since May 2011 but the contract is due for renewal next year.

The island services are described by the council as being 'essential to the social and economic wellbeing of the islands as they provide resilience in the event of ferry cancellations and helping to counter issues such as depopulation'. The tender is due to go out in November.

£10M to tackle antisocial camping in park

AN AMBITIOUS £10 million investment in new campsites has been proposed to tackle antisocial camping around Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

The beautiful landscape around the park is being damaged by 'informal camping' away from the main sites,

with increasing reports of litter and fire, abandoned equipment and caravans parked in lay-bys for entire summer seasons.

With the help of local businesses and Transport Scotland, £10 million is to be raised by the National Park Authority to go towards new camping

facilities within a five-year period, as well as new by-laws regulating where visitors can camp and park.

Twenty locations - some of them extended lay-bys where 'informal camping' takes place - have been identified and these could be transformed into proper campsites

with toilets and a water supply. There is also to be continued work with the police and education authorities to encourage responsible camping and respect for the park.

Consultation on the proposals began on Monday, October 13 and will run until January 12 next year.

Dame Judi gives the shirt off her back for Oban lifeboat

TWO dames and a duke have added their names to a list of growing supporters of a grand charity auction organised by Oban lifeboat fundraisers.

Dame Judi Dench, one of Britain's best loved stars of stage and screen, is the latest celebrity to support the auction at a ball in November.

Dame Judi has joined Dame Helen Mirren, the Duke of Argyll and a host of other household names to donate an item to go under the hammer at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow.

The award-winning actress (pictured), who plays 'M' in the James Bond movies, has donated a signed T-shirt.

In keeping with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute theme, the T-shirt has a print of an old newspaper report on the front featuring the words 'Mayday, Mayday, Mayday'.

Lynsey Anderson, RNLI community fundraising manager, said: 'We are so grateful to Dame Judi for supporting our cause. Her donation means that our 23-item auction now has the support of two dames and a duke, as well as a host of other stars from the world of stage and screen, art and sport.'

The most unusual item has been donated by Coronation Street. The TV soap's donation is a beige Marks and Spencer cardigan which was worn on set by Hayley Cropper, a character who was killed off earlier this year. Torquhil Campbell, the Duke of



Argyll, has donated a bottle of Royal Salute 38-year-old Stone of Destiny whisky. Dame Helen Mirren was the first star to donate an item. She agreed to a request to write out the Shakespearean words she recited when she was presented with the BAFTA Fellowship award earlier this year.

Other stars backing the auction include breakfast TV queen Lorraine Kelly, racing driver Susie Wolff, tennis star Andy Murray, artists Jack Vettriano and Jolomo - John Lowrie Morrison of Argyll - and sculptor Laurence Broderick.

The auction, led by McTear's auctioneer Natasha Raskin of Bargain Hunt fame, will take place during the RNLI's Gladrags Ball on Saturday, November 22. All profits from the event will go to saving lives at sea.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE OBAN AREA
Together for older people

Royal Voluntary Service has a proud history in volunteering, providing support to older people in our communities. In Oban we have several initiatives including Befriending, operating our shop and Cafe, Meet and Greet Service with Lorn and Islands Hospital and delivering Meals on Wheels.

The majority of those we support in this way are older or vulnerable people. Our volunteers will offer friendship, information, practical support, delivery of a hot lunch and a great cuppa in our hospital.

To support these initiatives we are looking to recruit volunteers for our services in the Oban area. Volunteering is flexible - volunteers let us know when they are free and available and we design our rota around their busy schedules. We know our volunteers always have lots of other things to do!

If you could offer an hour or so per week to support an older person, perhaps by visiting them for a chat and a coffee, taking them out to get some shopping or just accompany on a quick trip to the Post Office, or if you would like to volunteer for any of the above, please get in touch.

You will be offered full training and support from our on site team.

If you would like to get involved please contact Audrey on 01631 570233, mobile 074442498868 or Theresa at our hub office on 01475 600442.

We look forward to hearing from you.

ABERCHALDER WIND FARM

Community Consultation Events

Glengarry Community Hall
Tuesday 28th October, 2pm - 8pm

Fort Augustus Village Hall
Wednesday 29th October, 2pm - 8pm

Introduction to the Aberchalder Wind Farm
Gamesa Energy UK Limited is investigating the potential for a wind farm at Aberchalder, approximately 3.5 km east of Invergarry and 7.5 km south of Fort Augustus.

Gamesa identified Aberchalder as a suitable location for a wind farm after undertaking a suite of feasibility studies. Our initial findings suggest that Aberchalder can accommodate a capacity of up to 65 MegaWatts in a scheme that is both sensitive and appropriate to the local area.

We intend to submit a planning application for the development in 2015.

Community Consultation Events
Your views are important to us. We would therefore like to invite you to visit our exhibition at the Glengarry Community Hall on Tuesday 28th October and at Fort Augustus Village Hall on Wednesday 29th October where you will be able to meet members of the project team and hear more about our proposals.

There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback and ask any questions.

For latest development updates please visit the project website www.aberchalderwindfarm.com

If you are unable to attend, we'd still love to hear from you - please do ring us on 0800 612 8105

Please note that all comments made to Gamesa are not representations to The Highland Council. Representations can be made to The Highland Council when a formal planning application is made.

www.aberchalderwindfarm.com

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LONG SLOG AHEAD: The 40-strong field set off on the Glen Nevis 10k 20_142marathon02

Records smashed at Glencoe Marathon

MORE than 600 athletes descended on Lochaber for the Glencoe Marathon Gathering with records smashed in two of the three races.

Kevin O'Donoghue got to the marathon finish line at Glen Nevis first of the 417-strong field in three hours, 33 minutes and 59 seconds, breaking the record time of three hours,

44 minutes and 50 seconds by more than 10 minutes.

Sprinting
The Mamores half marathon event from Kinlochleven to the Glen saw 148 runners compete and it was won by George Pettit who finished in 1:36:48, sprinting more than 20 minutes ahead of last year's 1:57:04 best time.

The 10k race round Glen Nevis was won by Stephane Ducouret, who reached the finish line first of the 40 athletes in an impressive 56:10, coming up short of the 43:01 event record.

Top finishers
Marathon top finishers: 1 Kevin O'Donoghue 3:33:59; 2 Hugh McInnes 3:47:11; 3

MARATHON

James Crozier 3:47:17.
Half marathon top finishers: 1 George Pettit 1:36:48; 2 Allan Ramsay 1:37:05; 3 Craig Cunningham 1:48:12.
10k top finishers: 1 Stephane Ducouret 56:10; 2 Lewis Galloway 56:32; 3 Zoe Plug 57:47.



DELIGHTED: Kevin O'Donoghue before crossing the finish line at the Glencoe Marathon 20_142marathon01

Gordy back at Claggan Park

FOOTBALL

FORT William FC have announced the signing of Skye-based striker Gordy McCarroll.

The 24-year-old signed the contract for his second stint after coming back in style with two goals in the 4-3 victory against Lossiemouth on October 4.

David MacDonald of Fort William Football Club said they are 'delighted' to have him back on board.

As *The Oban Times* went to print the Fort were preparing for an away game against Forres Mechanics last night (Wednesday) and will welcome Nairn County to Claggan Park on Saturday.

Top flight victory for Martyn

DARTS

MARTYN Cameron won the Tradewinds darts open singles league following a 3-2 victory over John Matheson on Friday night.

Semi finalists were Jacqui Hill and Graham Irving with the quickest game of the night played by John Matheson who also managed a 112 checkout.

This Friday marks the start of a weekend of darts in Tradewinds Bar with the Travis Perkins out of the hat three competition.

The first Bryan Whyte memorial cup singles event kicks off at 1pm on Saturday and the doubles contest begins at the same time on Sunday.

All competitions are open to everyone.

Ali Young indoor league kicks off

INDOOR FOOTBALL

FIORENTINA Turner kicked off week two of the Ali Young indoor football league with a 12-1 victory over newbies Nevis Range.

MHB beat Inverlochty 12-2 and Portoway won their game against Outer Milan 9-3 on Sunday night.

Also in the Nevis Centre, Baroway went down 8-1 to the Goon Squad and Barcelochy went down 8-4 to Ali Young. The Volley beat HWE 6-1 and Lochaber Leisure had the narrowest victory of the evening with a 5-3 win over Harlem Globe Stoaters.

Opening win for Fort Falcons

NETBALL

FORT William netballers were delighted to win their first game in the Highland and Moray League last weekend.

Members of Fort William Falcons have once again combined with players from East Sutherland to form a squad and compete, winning their first game against Ospreys 49-26.

The team's next game will see them take on Gordonstoun on November 2.

Stuart wins captain's prize

GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club Captain's Prize, played on October 11 and 12: 1 Stuart McLaren 60 (76-16); 2 Kyle Pirie 62 bh (77-15); 3 Alex Munro 62 (72-10); 4 John Finlayson 63 bh (74-11); 5 Willie Cowie 63 (73-10).

Ten pin teams bowl them over

FORT William's 10 pin bowling league began its new season in the Nevis Centre.

After the first session of the Lochaber Building Supplies league last Monday there are five teams with the maximum five points in the scratch division - The Creeps, Ardtoe/Nevis Radio, Rotavators,

3+1 and Fairway Fillies. In the handicap division three of these teams also achieved maximum points - The Creeps, Rotavators and Fairway Fillies.

The top scratch individual game was 195 from Brian Stewart of Bandits who also had the top handicap game

TEN PIN BOWLING

with a score of 230.

The Creeps swept the board taking all of the highest team scores with 584 in scratch, 787 in handicap, 1,091 in the scratch two series and 1,497 in the two-game handicap series.



WINNERS: George MacKay and Ian Rodger were the winners of this year's Railway Bowling Club President's Pairs competition. Jim Bell (left), president of the club, presented the duo with the trophy at the Inverlochty clubhouse as runners up Alan Ramsay and Keith Brannagan look on.

Guide to mountain biking in the Highlands

FORT William youngsters helped celebrate the launch of a Highland-wide guide to mountain biking.

E-guide
Caol primary school pupils met Commonwealth athlete Lee Craigie at Banavie on Fri-

MOUNTAIN BIKING

day to learn about the e-guide including the routes, videos and maps developed by Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland and Scottish Cycling.



ON THEIR BIKES: Commonwealth athlete Lee Craigie enjoyed a cycle with Caol primary school pupils



BOWLED OVER: Competitors prepare for the first night of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league 20_142tenpin01

Difficult conditions for Loch Linnhe Swim

STRONG winds and fierce waves battered the seven competitors who took to the chilly waters of Loch Linnhe for the annual swim.

Emma Pearce was this year's winner on October 4, finishing

in 21 minutes and 51 seconds in her sixth loch swim.

Shortly behind in second place was Sarah Hughes, in 22 mins and 45 secs with John Ireland taking third place in 24 mins and three seconds.

SWIMMING

Hollie Sapsford, Morag Hughes, Moira Mackenzie and Eilidh Campbell also completed the Treslaig to Lochaber Yacht Club challenge.

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WEATHER		TIDAL INFORMATION	
Thursday	Cloudy Winds moderate easterly Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.	Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, October 16, 2014 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.	
Friday	Light rain Winds light south south easterly Temperatures 13°C to 14°C.	Date	
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Heavy rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.	Thur	05.03 1.7 10.45 3.0 18.00 2.1 ** ** *
		Fri	01.05 2.8 06.09 1.8 13.19 3.0 20.09 2.1
		Sat	02.19 2.9 07.27 1.8 14.31 3.1 21.16 1.9
		Sun	03.04 3.1 08.40 1.7 15.09 3.3 21.54 1.7
		Mon	03.37 3.3 09.32 1.5 15.42 3.5 22.25 1.3
		Tues	04.09 3.5 10.12 1.3 16.16 3.7 22.53 1.3
		Wed	04.43 3.7 10.47 1.1 16.50 3.9 23.21 1.1
		Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)	

Ardrishaig -5.35

Campbeltown -5.30

Crinan -0.47

Islay Port Ellen 2.00

Lochboisdale +0.30

Mallaig +0.25

Portree +0.55

Tobermory +0.16

Dover +5.30

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay Moderate