

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8272

Thursday 15 October, 2015

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

FREE **Cruachan**
inside
8-PAGE SUPPLEMENT
Celebrating 50 years

Oban welcomes the Royal National Mòd
8 pages of stories and photos inside



Stunned, shocked, saddened: island unites in grief over tragic Mull Rally death

Turn to page three for full story

TIMESLINE

Danny's hoping for a chain reaction

OBAN man Danny Keenan has embarked on a 250-mile cycle around Cuba to raise money for the Macmillan treatment room in the Lorn and Islands hospital. So far he has raised just under £1,000 for the Oban-based hospital. His daughter has set up a crowd-funding page to raise funds. To donate, visit <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/danny-keenan>

Charity is on menu at churches' lunch

ST ORAN'S and Dunbeg churches are organising a lunch in aid of the world-renowned charity, Mary's Meals. The lunch will take place in Connel church hall on Saturday, October 31 from 12pm until 2pm. Mary's Meals is to receive match funding from the UK government until December 28, doubling all personal donations made by UK residents, up to £5 million.

Band's set to hit interesting note

THE west coast Celtic rock band, Skerryvore, have revealed that they will make a special announcement in Oban today (Thursday) at 4pm in the Stafford Street pedestrian precinct. The band is scheduled to play in the Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban that same night alongside Skipinnish and Ceol an Aire.

Free flu jabs now available in Argyll

ARGYLL residents are being offered free flu vaccinations. The vaccination is for people with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, people over 65, children and health care workers.

MUMS' FURY AS SUPPORT SERVICES FACE SAVAGE CUTS

'Don't target our children'

STEVEN RAE
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MOTHERS of children with special needs have claimed proposed council cuts would severely damage their children's education.

Argyll and Bute council's proposal to axe almost half of additional support needs assistant jobs over the next two years has been described as 'disgusting' by the women.

They claim it would be picking on some of the most vulnerable members of society. Their children, who have a range of physical or mental health needs, are currently supported in school by trained staff.

The cuts, which are part of a draconian package to slash council



SERIOUS CONCERNS: parent Jan Roberts (second left)

spending by £18 million over the next two years, would mean the loss of 72 staff, to save £1.4 million.

The 20 women met in Oban on Tuesday to draw up a campaign to fight the cuts.

Jan Roberts, whose daughter Nadia is a pupil at Oban high school and attends the learning unit there, explained: 'It feels like our children will not be receiving the education they deserve and are being targeted and are somehow not as important.'

'We want the councillors who make this decision to know how devastating this will be as it feels they may be going in to make these decisions blindfolded.'

Continued on page five

Mòds of fun for Daisy

SHE may look like Merida, the feisty princess from the Disney movie, 'Brave', but little Davina 'Daisy' McGrigor from Dalmally, confessed that she was 'a little bit nervous' about competing in the Royal National Mòd, writes Louise Glen.

However, six-year-old Daisy said she was having 'lots of fun' in Oban as the Gaelic festival of music and culture got into full swing.

With the bright sunshine, superb planning and lots of great competitions, more than 2,000 competitors and their friends and families have flocked to the town.

Gaeldom's annual cultural celebration has been hailed an outstanding success by event organisers, An Comunn Gealhealach. And with many venues laying on superb singers and musicians, it is hoped the town will enjoy an boost in business from the Mòd.



The Royal Hotel is open for food from 7am till late each day during the Royal National Mòd with Live Music on every day.

Live Music in the Lounge Bar

Thu 15th
Craig's Trio - 2pm
Strathmore Band - 9pm

Fri 16th
Craig's Trio - 2pm
Strathmore Band - 9pm

Sat 17th
Gunnasound - 9pm

Royal Hotel, Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4BE
www.strathmorehotels.com

Constituency duties were to blame for MSP absence

HOLYROOD has denied that a Gaelic-supporting government minister snubbed the Royal National Mòd by not attending the opening ceremony in Oban last Friday.

But many Gaels found it unusual that MSP Alasdair Allan, a passionate advocate of the annual Gaelic festival, was not at the event.

Dr Allan was conspicuous by his absence, as were his counterparts from Westminster.

A Scottish government spokesman explained that a previous diary commitment

had prevented Alasdair Allan from being present at the biggest Gaelic festival in the world was officially opened.

The spokesman said: 'Dr Allan was undertaking constituency events which meant he was unable to travel in time for the opening reception.'

'The Scottish government was represented at the reception in an official capacity (by a civil servant).'

'Dr Allan is delighted to be spending three days in Oban this week, undertaking ministerial engagements and performing.'

Ferry operator voted the best in the world

CALMAC has been named the best ferry operator in the world at the Independent Travel Awards.

Nominees for the inaugural competition, organised by the Independent newspaper, were selected by public vote and industry experts, with the winners chosen by a panel of judges, including adventurer Ben Fogle.

CalMac's combination of life-line services and its expanding range of tourist opportunities were praised by the judges.

Other companies shortlisted included French operator Brit-

tany Ferries and Bosphorus Ferries, from Turkey.

CalMac's managing director, Martin Dorchester, said: 'The fact that the public and industry experts selected us is a significant and pleasing endorsement in itself. Winning is a privilege.'

'This award is accepted on behalf of our staff, who work tirelessly to keep us on the water, sometimes in very challenging conditions.'

Turn to page 20 of Mòd coverage for Martin Dorchester interview

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Ferry union's town campaign

MEMBERS of the RMT union will be in Oban this weekend, campaigning to keep CalMac public.

The union, which represents transport workers, will be in the town on Saturday, handing out leaflets to the public and making them aware of their cause, which is to stop any privatisation of the ferry service, currently subsidised by the Scottish government.

With Oban still busy for the final day of the Royal National Mod, the RMT hopes there will be a lot of support from visitors and locals in the town.

Gordon Martin, RMT's regional organiser for Scotland, said: 'We'll have people coming up from Campbeltown, as well as our Oban guys. 'We'll be handing out postcards, which people can sign with their support, and free-post back to their MSP, campaigning to keep CalMac public. We'll also be giving out badges and stickers. It's about making ourselves visible and gaining support'.

CalMac and rival operator Serco will go head-to-head for the £1 billion Clyde and Hebridean Ferry Services contract, which will run from October 1, 2016, for up to eight years.

The union fears that if Serco wins the contract, services will begin to be privatised. Ferry services were disrupted already in July this year when RMT workers went on strike, over the EU tendering process.

The companies will make their bids by December this year.

Expect delays by A85 work

TRAFFIC travelling in and around Oban is set to be severely disrupted as almost two weeks of resurfacing work is carried out on the A85 near Pennyfuir Cemetery.

BEAR Scotland, carrying out the £317,000 work on behalf of Transport Scotland, will fully close the road between 9.50pm and 6am from Sunday, 25 October until Monday, 2 November.

However, local buses will be allowed access and other traffic will be permitted through the 1.3km section of road once an hour, when it is safe to do so.

The second phase of work will continue on Monday, November 2, to Friday, November 6, overnight between 7pm and 6am, when the road will be open to motorists under a 10mph convoy system of traffic management. A 30mph speed limit will be in place outwith the working hours as vehicles will be passing over a temporary road surface.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west unit representative, said: 'We would encourage motorists to plan their journeys in advance, checking the Traffic Scotland website.'

Island branch members' UDI

SNP members on Islay have declared their own form of UDI to break away from the Campbeltown and Kintyre Branch, following a unanimous decision at a meeting on October 7.

The formation of the new branch will have to be ratified by the SNP's national executive committee, which next meets on November 5.

TRIPPING THE LIGHTS FANTASTIC



SPECTACULAR SHOW: people throughout Argyll were amazed last week by Mother Nature's dazzling light show as the aurora borealis (or northern lights) produced a stunning skyscape on Wednesday evening. Oban photographer Willie Rodger captured this wonderful image of the town's waterfront bathed in the iridescent light

Shock as local elderly man found starving

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POLICE had to come to the aid of a starving elderly man who was found without a single item of food in his house.

The shocking story was revealed when Argyll and Bute MSP, Michael Russell, visited the organisation, Help Our People Eat, better known as the HOPE kitchen as part of Poverty Week, which runs from October 11 to 17.

The Oban branch provides up to 30 people a day with food and supplies those in need with essentials such as clothes, blankets, tents and pillows.

Jess MacPhee, who has been involved with the organisation for six years said: 'We had a situation with the police last week who contacted one of the agencies who come in and spoke to us. 'The police had been called to this house. In it was an older gentleman on his own with not a bit of food in the house and he was starving. 'In the school holidays we're getting families in who are working, but their kids are home and eating all day and they can't afford it. 'The next five years are going to be horrendous and I'm just glad that we're here and we're well established. During his visit Mr Russell said: 'In a sense it's a tragedy that such places like the HOPE

kitchen are necessary, but on the other hand they are essential, so the fact that it's here and it's doing such great work is vital for the town. 'The Westminster cuts we've got at the moment, the benefit cuts, are impoverishing people and leaving children starving

and I have to say the cuts that Argyll and Bute council are proposing will leave more people starving and we have to recognise that. 'I've been speaking to people all day in Oban as I've been speaking to people all week who are shocked beyond meas-

ure that such things should be proposed.' Lorraine King, who took over as the manager of the HOPE kitchen three weeks ago, said: 'We also have an outreach service where we deliver food parcels around and about town. 'We're a Christian organisa-

tion, but it's not about religion, we don't force religion on people at all. We're not judgemental, we open the door to anybody and welcome whoever wants to come in.' HOPE kitchen in Argyll Street is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.



HOPE IN SIGHT: MSP Michael Russell (left) with Jess MacPhee (back left) and Lorraine King (back right) and volunteers at HOPE

Oban dog fouling action group is given a dozen new bins

A MEETING was held in Oban last Friday to discuss the progress of tackling dog fouling in and around the town.

It was an interagency meeting with ACHA, West Highland Housing, Argyll and Bute dog warden and councillor Elaine Robertson all in attendance.

The warden revealed that in the last three months, 17 complaints have been made to Argyll and Bute council regarding the dreaded dog dirt.

Community councillor, Julie McKenzie, said that for every complaint someone has made, another has tried and given up due to the design of the website, saying it needs to be more 'user friendly'.

But it was felt that, overall, things are looking promising and the police and the dog warden have and will continue to carry out joint patrols.

Park primary school has been identified as a problem area, with the janitor having to clean up after late night dog walkers before the children make their way to school in the morning.

A banner will be placed at the school after the holidays to help deter those not picking up after their pooches.

But that could be helped soon as the group, Oban community action against dog fouling, has been gifted 12 bins that were being made obsolete by West Highland Housing.

Julie McKenzie, a co-founder of the campaign, said: 'On behalf of the group, I'd really like to say thank you to West Highland Housing and the council for a fantastic display of generosity and partnership.'

It was also decided that highlighting dog dirt with bright spray paint would be put on hold throughout the duration of the Mod.

Book accolade for a local hotel

A PORT APPIN hotel has been selected as best newcomer in a leading guidebook.

Alastair Sawday chose the Pierhouse in his latest edition of British Hotels and Inns.

The books editor, Tom Bell, visited the hotel and presented them with a certificate to celebrate their achievement. On his website Alastair Sawday says: 'We love all things local and independent. 'We reject the bland, the corporate and the impersonal. We select only the most special places and owners.'

Important date for trilogy fans

OCTOBER 2, 2015, is the date Marty McFly travelled to in the science fiction film, Back to the Future II, in 1985.

Oban Phoenix Cinema will show the trilogy on that date, starting at 11am and finishing at 6pm.

NEW Business Gateway workshops

Introduction to Social Media - 1-5pm
20 October - Helensburgh; 18 November - Dunoon

Doing more with Social Media - 9.30am-1.30pm
21 Oct - Helensburgh; 19 November - Dunoon

Marketing your Business - 10am-4pm
27 October - Helensburgh; 12 November - Tarbert

Business Skills for Small Business Owners - 10am-1pm
27 October - Lochgilphead

Funding your Business - 10am-1pm
28 October - Inveraray

Growing your Creative Business: How to work with the Tourism Industry
3 November - Inveraray - 10am-4pm

Pricing for Profit - 10am-3pm
5 November - Oban

Improve your Selling Skills - 10am-1pm
10 November - Inveraray

Build your own Business Website - 10am-4pm
24 November - Helensburgh

Better Business Websites - 10am-3pm
25 November - Oban

Becoming an Employer - 26 November - 10am-1.30pm
26 November - Helensburgh

Introduction to Online Trading - 10am-4pm
1 December - Inveraray

Get your Business Noticed: PR on a Budget - 10am-4pm
8 December - Helensburgh

Managing and Developing Staff - 10am-1.30pm
10 December - Inveraray

To find out more or to book a place on any of these workshops please contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk



HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: Highlander Francis Atherston-Wilson (Second from the left) with Captain Gordon Rowan (centre left) and Sergeant Roddy MacPhee (centre right)

It's best foot forward for locals as they front army recruitment drive

THREE army servicemen from Argyll returned to their roots last week, hoping to entice Mod enthusiasts and Obanites to join the armed forces.

Captain Gordon Rowan, from Tiree, Sergeant Roddy MacPhee, from South Uist and Highlander Francis Atherston-Wilson, from Minard, alongside a group of recruitment officers, constructed a bright-blue gazebo in Oban's Station Square to catch the eye of 'fit and enthusiastic' individuals.

Francis, 20, whose Dad was from Oban, joined the infantry as soon as he left school because he enjoyed fitness and the combat role appealed to him.

Since then he has travelled the world, re-entered education and made 'life long' friends in the army. His service has included a five-month tour of Afghanistan.

He said: 'Enlisting in the military was the best decision I've made. It's definitely worth it. It's an exciting lifestyle where you can travel the world and get qualifications.'



BALANCING ACT: This year's host, Tony Singh, who will bring a good balance of experience and humour to the ceremony

Tony puts success on the menu at awards ceremony

AN AWARD-winning celebrity chef will spice up this year's Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) when he hosts the ceremony in Inverness next month.

Tony Singh has appeared on a variety of television shows including Ready Steady Cook, The Great British Menu, and also recently appeared on A Cook Abroad where he visited India and explored and cooked the traditional food of the Punjab.

Tony has been in the restaurant industry for more than 20 years and is renowned for his contemporary cooking, such as his signature haggis pakora.

He said: 'I am delighted to be hosting this year's HITA awards, which is such an important occasion for people involved in the industry. 'To be recognised by your peers and the people who visit this area is fantastic. Winning an award gives everyone in a business, the owner and the whole background team involved in making it work, a real boost and shows them they are doing it right. 'I'm looking forward to a great night and a real celebration of what the Highlands and Islands has to offer.'

Almost 200 competitors entered or were nominated for this year's HITA awards, with 44 being placed on the shortlist earlier this month. With the addition of four new categories, there will be 15 first place prizes up for grabs.

'We hope everyone remembers dad doing what he loved the most' - Olivia Mort

THE TRAGIC death of a competitor during the Mull Rally united the island in grief at the weekend, with the event being abandoned following the shock accident, writes Louise Glen and Steven Rae.

Navigator, Andi Mort, 47, died at the scene while driver, John MacCrone, 27, was airlifted to hospital shortly after 1pm after their Subaru Impreza crashed into a field on Saturday.

Both men were from Dervaig, with Mr Mort having recently moved to Mull from Lancashire.

Police and emergency services were called, but Mr Mort was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. John MacCrone, who won the event in 2013, was airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth University hospital in Glasgow, where his injuries were initially thought to be serious. However, he was released from hospital on Tuesday, with his family releasing a statement saying he was recovering well.

Sarah Everitt, the partner of Mr Mort, along with his children, Olivia and George, requested

that the traditional end-of-rally walk go ahead on Sunday as planned, both in tribute and as a celebration of his life. The decision was supported by the MacCrone family.

Olivia Mort said on the Mull Rally Facebook page that she was sorry that she and her brother couldn't get to Scotland in time to take part in the walk, adding: 'We hope everyone remembers dad doing what he loved the most.'

The walk was led by a lone piper and followed by three rally cars and around 1,000 people who moved in sombre silence through the streets, many in tears.

At the end of the walk, eight times Mull Rally winner, Calum Duffy, read out an emotional poem reflecting on the tragedy, with his final line: 'Take care big fella, the angels have you now, goodbye.'

In a poignant statement released on Tuesday, Mr Mort's family said: 'Andi lived life to the full and his kindness and generosity will be sadly missed by Sarah and us all.'

'We have received so many messages of sympathy and support from people shocked and dismayed to hear of Andi's death. We would like to thank every-

one for their messages of support and express our overwhelming thanks to the Mull Rally organisers and participants, emergency service personnel, the police and the people of Mull. They are a source of comfort to us at this most difficult time.'

Mull councillor, Mary-Jean Devon, who is a friend of the MacCrone family, said the whole island was in shock and grieving: 'The rally has been so much a part of island life.'

'As an annual event, it brings lots of friends that we see once a year back to the island, so it is devastating that this has happened.'

'At the moment, we want to think about Andi and his family and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.'

Mull Rally course clerk, Iain Campbell, said: 'The tragic events of Saturday have left an indelible mark on everyone associated with Mull and the sport we all love, rallying.'

'Naturally we, the organisers, are deeply saddened by the tragic incident and send our condolences to the family and friends of Andrew, and offer our best wishes to John for a full recovery. The statement of support by the people of Mull and the wider

rally family - not just from Scotland but from across the rest of the UK who formed part of the 150-crew entry - emphasises the strength there is in our sport.'

The event organisers are now working closely with Police Scotland to establish precisely what happened to cause the crash, with an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident under way.

Police are also appealing for any spectators with footage or pictures of the incident to come forward to help them piece together what caused the fatal crash.



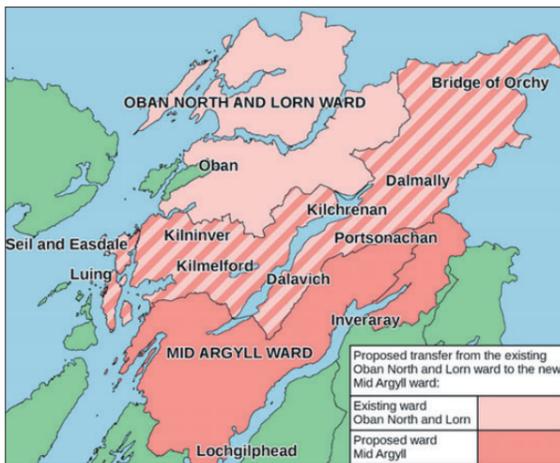
SOMBRE PROCESSION: hundreds of islanders dedicated the rally walk to Andi Mort



POPULAR: Andi Mort



RESPECTFUL APPLAUSE: islanders show their appreciation by clapping as the rally cars pass



The map shows the proposed changes. The striped area, currently part of Oban, North and Lorn, would become part of the larger Mid Argyll ward

Councils gather for Oban summit over new ward changes

STEVEN RAE
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EIGHT community councils in Oban Lorn and the Isles have joined forces to fight 'ludicrous' changes to council ward boundaries.

The coalition was formed following a meeting between community council members, held in Oban Fire Station last Thursday, chaired by Oban Community Council secretary, Kieron Green.

Councillors for the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area, Elaine Robertson, Ian Stewart MacLean, Iain Angus MacDonald, Roddy McCuish and Neil MacIntyre were present.

Under the proposals, much of the Oban North and Lorn council ward would become part of a much larger Mid Argyll ward.

Oban North and Lorn is also one of the wards set to lose a councillor, as Argyll and Bute reduces elected member numbers from 36 to 33. The council objected to the proposals when they were first made by the Boundary Commission last year.

Mr Green said: 'The joint community councils are strongly opposed to these proposals, as not only do they decrease councillor numbers representing the views of local people, they also sever the links between local communities which are reflected in the current ward boundaries.'

The communities directly affected by the transfer are Avich and Kilchrenan, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilniver and Kilmelford, Luig, and Seil and Easdale.

They all use, and rely on, a wide range of council services, health facilities, local businesses, social clubs and transport links located in

Oban. Other areas of the proposed Mid Argyll ward are much closer to Lochgilphead, or even Dunoon, and as such do not share these links with Oban.

It was argued that councillors representing the new Mid Argyll ward would therefore be more remote and less able to attend community events and meetings.

At the meeting, councillor Iain Angus MacDonald, who currently represents the Oban North and Lorn ward, said: 'This is ludicrous. It's a case of urban solutions for rural communities, and the Boundary Commission totally misunderstanding how our rural communities work.'

A joint response from the community councils will be submitted to the Boundary Commission, inviting a representative to meet local people to see, first-hand, the full impact the changes would have.

Mr Green added: 'Public services locally, including doctors surgeries, hospitals, schools, police and social services are all based largely around the current ward boundaries.'

'Historically, following boundary changes, the council has generally also changed the boundary for services it provides, and local people fear the consequences if this were to happen in the future.'

'Transport links between the areas directly affected and Lochgilphead are poor, with travel times of up to an hour and a half by car, and much longer than this by public transport if it is possible at all. The public consultation on the boundary changes ends on October 22. Constituents can have their say on the changes by visiting: www.consultation.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/node/11

Eight months in jail for cannabis dealer

AN OBAN man who supplied drugs from his home in the town has had £2,785 seized by the sheriff court and been sent to jail for eight months.

James Adam Richell, aged 30, admitted being concerned in the supply of cannabis from his home, at Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, on March 5 this year, when he appeared at Oban sheriff court on September 28.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, deferred sentence on Richell until Tuesday, October 12, to consider background reports. During the same hearing, the procurator fiscal moved for the confiscation of £2,785 from Richell.

The money had been found in a kitchen cupboard when police searched the property. The house had 'an overpowering smell of cannabis' and drug-dealing paraphernalia was found.

David McDonald, procurator fiscal, told the court that earlier on the evening of March 5, police had stopped two men in a car after seeing them visit Richell's home briefly. The car smelled strongly of herbal cannabis and one of the men said he had 'a bit of grass and just bought it there for £30'.

Police found herbal cannabis weighing 20g with a street value of £200 at the property along with drug paraphernalia as well as the cash. Sheriff Anderson heard from his defence agent about his state of mind, including a letter from Richell's GP.

The sheriff said that the eight months in jail was the only sentence applicable in the circumstances.

Potty to ignore rail warning

POLICE are warning of the dangers of trespassing on railway lines after tourists were spotted taking photos on the Glenfinnan viaduct, made famous by the Harry Potter films.

During the summer, a couple

with a young child were seen running on the railway line near the viaduct, which is five miles west of Fort William.

Police also reported that two men were recently spotted on the track taking 'selfies'.

TIMESLINE

Ferryman caught reaching 104mph

A FERRYMAN was caught doing 104mph - not on water but on the A85 at Arrivain, a known accident black-spot and speed trap.

Alexander MacLachlan, aged 43, of Dunchonnel, Cullipool, Isle of Luig, is one of the island's ferryman and one of only five people qualified to drive the island's fire engine.

Traffic police with a speed gun caught him doing 104mph on the Arrivain straight between Dalmally and Tyndrum on the A85 on March 15 this year. His 16-old-son and a friend were in the car at the time. MacLachlan admitted speeding.

Defence lawyer, Laura McManus, told Oban sheriff court on Tuesday (October 13) that MacLachlan was heading for home when he found himself stuck behind a slow-moving car. He went to over-take on the straight, but the other car began to speed up.

'He felt it was safer to get speed up to overtake,' she said. 'One-hundred-and-four in a 60?' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, who fined MacLachlan £200 and disqualified him from driving for three months.

Pennyfuir case set for another date

SHERIFF Ruth Anderson, QC, has continued the case of the accident at Pennyfuir Cemetery Oban, until November 10.

The sheriff decided that clarification was needed about the charges against a 45-year-old HGV driver from Ardrishaig before the matter could proceed. The stone wall at the cemetery was damaged along with stonework inside the grounds.

Urgent need for blood donations

OBAN residents are being urged to give blood this month. The blood transfusion service will be at the Corran Halls on October 26 and 27.

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ADVERTORIAL

Scotland's bid to tackle fuel poverty

'Warmer Homes Scotland' is the latest energy improvement scheme to be announced by the Scottish Government with a proposed £224-million set aside to help up to 28,000 Scots with their domestic heating. The funding will be offered to vulnerable households to make their homes more energy efficient in an effort to make it easier and cheaper for thousands of Scots living in fuel poverty to comfortably heat their homes.

Over the next seven years, Warmer Homes Scotland will install efficiency measures such as insulation and domestic renewables in households identified as 'fuel poor' thus helping families struggling to keep their homes warm and pay their energy bills. Homeowners can contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out which of these home energy improvement schemes, offered by the Scottish Government, they are eligible for. Home Energy Scotland offer free and impartial advice on the most effective ways to lower energy bills and make your home more energy efficient.

Local company Renewables Now are one of Scotland's longest established renewable energy installers, and for a number of years they have been helping homeowners in and around Argyll to reduce their energy bills. The company designs and installs efficient heating systems which allow homes to achieve significant savings on fuel costs. In addition, the company can provide and install the latest smart heating control products which establish smart heating zones allowing you to programme heating on a room-by-room basis depending on the time of day, day of the week and the season of the year. This intelligent approach to controlling your heating reduces energy bills even further.

To find out more about making your home more energy efficient and to discover how you could save money on your energy bills contact Renewables Now on 01631 720587.

Grant will help create archive

ARGYLL and Bute council and Argyll Estates have received a grant of up to £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting three-year joint project to catalogue, conserve and digitise 64 Argyllshire family and estate archives.

The 'Written in the Landscape' project, which will run from January 2016 until December 2018, will see the most fragile items in Argyll Estates' collection of historic maps and plans being cleaned and repaired before being digitised.

It will also create jobs for two project archivists, who will catalogue the archives for research work. They will work with local heritage centres to identify records of greatest interest to local communities and develop a training and mentoring scheme.

A series of open days, tours, talks and exhibitions to promote the archives will also be organised, along with a leaflet and online guide.

Welcoming the news, Councillor for Kintyre and the Islands Robin Currie, who is the portfolio holder for community and culture, said: 'Family and estate archives are unique and invaluable resources for investigating Argyll's rich cultural, built and natural heritage. The archives represent nearly eight hundred years of local and national history.'

'Once this project has been completed, researchers, tourists to academics will be able to access this resource.'

The Duke of Argyll said: 'We are delighted to be part of this exciting project which will support the opening up of our archive to researchers and local communities.'

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Argyll and Bute Council Archives, Argyll Estates, Tiree Community Windfall Trust, An Iodhlann, Inveraray CARS, Clan Campbell Education Foundation and private donations.

Mental health: fear of stigma

NEARLY nine out of ten people with mental health problems have said that stigma and discrimination has had an impact on them with many problems made worse by what they have experienced.

The statistics have been revealed following Mental Health Day on Saturday, which saw NHS Highland play a part in raising awareness and tackling stigma.

Michael Perera, community mental health service manager for NHS Highland, said fear of stigma and discrimination stops some people from seeking help.

He said: 'Not seeking help can lead to low confidence, low self-esteem and social isolation. There is no shame in having mental health problems and treating those going through it with dignity is just one of the things we can do to help.'

For more information, visit: www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Argyll book a spirited read

A BOOK about the history and sacred landscape of Argyll has been released. 'Argyll: The making of a spiritual landscape' was written by Ian Bradley, an author, church of Scotland minister, journalist and broadcaster.

Ian said: 'I grew up steeped in stories from my Argyll-born mother.' Check www.standrewpress.com for details.

Elvis fan David's flying high with hobby that made him big in Japan

STEVEN RAE
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AN APPIN man has turned the Scottish football team's dismal failure over the years to qualify for major tournaments into a hobby which has seen him discuss Elvis Presley on Japanese television.

As strange as that might sound, David Dunlop's flying of national flags from the garden of his family home in Appin, has got passers-by all 'shook up' with amusement and interest.

David, 46, who is employed by Aggregate Industries, recalled how he was flying the state flag of Tennessee as a personal tribute to his idol, Elvis Presley, in 2007 when he heard a knock at his front door.

He said: 'There is a guy called "Chinese Elvis" - the most famous Asian Elvis impersonator in the world. That year he was filming in Argyll, and I heard about it and put up the Chinese flag, as well as the Tennessee one. At the time, we even had a dog called Elvis.'

'The film crew stopped as they passed the house and came to the door to interview me. So my interview ended up broadcast on Japanese TV, subtitled, talking about Elvis, all through my love of flags. And I still fly the Tennessee state flag on the anniversary of his death.'

A former goalkeeper with Oban Saints, David said his unusual hobby started out as 'bit of good-natured banter' with English fans.

'I can't remember why I had a Scottish flag, but I put it up in the garden when England were playing in the finals of the 2002 World Cup, which Scotland had failed to qualify for,' he said.

'I then started flying the flag of England's opponents and the Saltire, which got a lot of cars tooting horns. It was all very much a laugh, but it took off from there. I'll always fly the Saltire when Scotland are playing football, rugby, or things



STANDARD BEARERS: David with his daughter, Isla and Iona

like that, and usually their opponent's flag too, if I've got it. And if Andy Murray is playing in the finals of a tennis tournament, I'll raise the Saltire, so if Djokovic is his opponent, I'd have the Croatian flag up too.

'And also, the standard joke is, that whenever anyone is playing England, I'll know who it is in advance and try and get the flag, and people will know when they see the flags outside the house.'

David continued: 'There's no malice in it though, it's just banter. Iona, my middle daughter, has an English godfather, so there's no anti-English feeling, it's just friendly, sporting rivalry. But after the results recently in the football, I won't be flying the flags of Poland, the Repub-

lic of Ireland or Germany for the a considerable time!

'Sometimes I get people coming to the door asking for requests. The Yorkshire Rose is one I fly every year for my neighbour. Her husband was from Yorkshire and he was one of the biggest fans of the flags, he thought it was great and a good laugh. So on the anniversary of his death every year, I fly the Yorkshire Rose in his honour.'

'The local minister was notorious for cutting it fine and rushing from Appin to Lismore for the ferry, with just a minute to spare. I always knew he'd be running late so I used to put up chequered flag out on a Sunday, pretending it was a Grand Prix. 'He loved it, and even used to

mention it in his sermons.'

'I also had the black and white chequered flag up when Lovat won the Camanachd Cup, because that's their colours, and all the buses were tooting on their way back up. I fly the Trinidad and Tobago one for Oban Camanachd, the Nigeria flag for Oban Celtic, and I'm going to get one for Oban Lorne's colours. The Trinidad and Tobago one also does for Ballachulish.'

David thinks his unusual hobby has cost him around £1000 to date. While he hopes some day to have the flags of all nations, at the last count he has the standards of 40 different countries. He even owns the flag of pop group, One Direction, which he acquired for his

three young daughters.

His wife Vivienne said: 'It's nice that people request things for special occasions, I suppose it makes us unique and it's not something many people get asked to do.'

David added: 'The study of flags, vexillology, is quite interesting. I've become a bit of an anorak.'

David and Vivienne have three daughters, Isla, 11, Iona, nine and Fallon, six.

Isla said: 'Sometimes it can be embarrassing but sometimes I like it if there's a Scotland game on. I like it when they win and the cars beep their horns.'

'And I liked it when the Strath of Appin primary school went on a trip to see One Direction and dad put their flag up for us.'

Not enough sea breezes on Tiree

TIREE'S biggest annual wind-surfing contest had to be cancelled on Monday and Tuesday because of the weather.

However, storms weren't to blame for the Tiree Wave Classic not going ahead, it was because the water was too still. Organisers were watching the horizon as calm conditions failed to produce the wild waters needed.

At the time of going to press, organisers hoped there would be enough wind and waves needed for the tournament to proceed on Wednesday.

William MacLean, event host, said: 'We've had a great start to the event and have run into the semi-finals. However, Tiree's famously sunny weather has the event on standby with a lack of wind. The forecast is bringing us both wind and waves tomorrow so we should be all systems go. In the meantime the competitors are supporting the RYA Scotland youth wind-surfing camp.'

Ironically, in July, the island's music festival had to be evacuated on the first day when the wet and wild weather meant the site became unsafe for revellers.

The seven-day Tiree Wave Classic, which began in 1986, is the longest-running professional windsurfing event in the world, and a key date on the calendar for the island.

Cash boost for winter festival

OBAN'S winter festival has been awarded £5,000 to help with the running of the event.

This is part of a record £390,000 that will help support 22 winter festivals throughout Scotland this year.

The events will take place from November 20 to 29. Fiona Hyslop, the Scottish government's Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, said: 'We want to build on Scotland's Winter Festivals programme year on year.'

'By increasing the funding package available, I hope these dynamic events will engage, inspire and mobilise communities across Scotland.'

Nicola will deliver annual lecture

FIRST Minister Nicola Sturgeon will be on Skye at the Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), at UHI next Wednesday, for the official opening of Kilbeg Phase 1 and Ionad Iain Nòbail.

The First Minister will also deliver SMO's annual lecture to an audience in Talla Dhonaich Chaimbeil. Proceedings will commence at around 10am and will conclude at midday.

The Kilbeg initiative will result in the creation of the first new 'planned village' on Skye, in almost 100 years. It will also build upon the significant socio-economic impact which the college has had in the region since its founding by Sir Iain Noble in 1973, with the first building, Ionad Iain Nòbail, to be named in his honour.

Feedback wanted for new A82 upgrade plans

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk

BETWEEN £215 and £285 million will be spent improving a road which has four times as many accidents as the national average.

The 17-kilometre section of the A82 from Tarbet to Inverarnan, which many Obanites use on their travels to Glasgow, is to have major upgrades.

And Transport Scotland hosted an exhibition in Oban to get the public's opinion on the proposed developments.

Andy Anderson of Transport Scotland said: 'The road is very narrow in sections and is characterised by its tight bends and slow journey times.'

'These are the kind of factors that have led us to the conclusion that this section of the A82 needs to be upgraded.



ONE FOR THE ROAD: Andy Anderson of Transport Scotland (left) and Fairhurst JV project manager, Euan Nicolson (right) in front of the proposed route

'We went through all the various engineering, economic and environmental considerations and weighed up the pros and cons of each of these options.'

As part of the package, a cycle track and footpath will be

incorporated in to the plans, as well as improved lay-bys to allow hill climbers and campers a safe place to park.

Mr Anderson continued: 'We're working with the national park to find suitable stopping

points. At the moment, we've got areas that people aren't too pleased about. It's informal, drivers just come off the side of the road and there is a lot of rubbish and debris.'

The next stage of the process

will take place in 2017, and, subject to funding from the Scottish government being available, construction will begin in 2019 at the earliest.

In the meantime, Transport Scotland have said they will carry out a number of short-term improvements to the road, such as the clearance of vegetation and tree canopies, improvements to the current drainage system and the removal of loose stones.

And at a later date they will look at widening the road at tight bends and add additional drainage upgrades. Transport Scotland is welcoming comments and feedback on the preferred route. To get in touch, email: A82upgrade@ch2m.com Or for more information, visit: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/project/a82-tarbet-inverarnan-upgrade

ISLAYletter by Hugh Smith

Community hub plans moving forward

Plans for the redevelopment of the St Columba church hall at Port Ellen are gathering momentum and locals will be kept fully informed on the project's progress.

The plans are to develop the hall into a multi-use community hub and the project is under consideration by the Glenmorangie Company and the Duke of Rothesay North Highland Initiative (NHI), the South Islay Development group and the kirk session and congregational board of Port Ellen's St John's Church of Scotland who own and manage the property. Despite the congregation's best efforts, the fabric of the building, a former United Free church, continues to deteriorate and considerable remedial work will be required.

The church hall is, and has been, a

community asset and all involved in the new project are anxious to ensure that the facility is maintained for the benefit of future generations while ensuring that the church continues to play a vital part in the hall administration.

Marathon successes for island runners

This year's Islay marathon was another successful event and especially so for Ardrishaig veteran runner, Andy Law, who reached the finishing line at Port Ellen in 3 hours, 8 minutes and 27 seconds after leaving the Portnahaven starting point.

Local runner, Andrew Davis, came second and breasting the tape to take 3rd place was Kirkcaldy's Steven McEwan. The first woman completing the course in 3hrs and 42mins to loud cheers from her family and supporters was Karen Wallace from Balloch.

On the home front, Port Ellen's Jim Lutomski was in 6th place while Caroline Morris, Cheryl MacIntyre and Karen Siddal also completed the course.

Menzies MacAffer whose untimely death from a terminal illness three years ago saddened the whole community.

This was the island's second marathon to date and it attracted both veterans and first-timers. The event which was largely organised by Stephen Harrison, the island high school's newly appointed headmaster.

New bistro is open for business on island

Port Ellen has welcomed its new bistro 'Sea Salt' which opened last week in what was formerly an Indian restaurant in the village's Frederick Crescent. The bistro is operated by Yan Wang and his German-born wife Veronika who also own Yan's Kitchen at Port Charlotte.

Yan has Chinese roots but spent his formative years in Spain and France. He came to the island in 2010 and met and married Veronika while both were working in the Port Askaig hotel. They now have two daughters, Emma Lin who is four and two-year-old Hannah.

The bistro is open for morning coffees, lunches and dinners. It also operates a takeaway and delivery services.

They've been together now for 65 years



All join me in sending hearty congratulations to Port Charlotte residents Mary and Robert Paget who are celebrating 65 year of happy marriage.

Bob, who farmed at Coultorsay, and Mary, nee Murray, the only daughter of a Bruichladdich GP, were married on the September 28, 1950, at St Andrew's Church in Ayr. The ceremony was conducted by the late Rev Ronald Torrie, parish minister at Kilchoman and Port Charlotte.

We all wish the 'blue sapphire' couple many more happy year together.

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



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PARENT PROTEST: mothers of special needs children are drawing up plans to fight proposed cuts to the education budget 15_t42parents1

Call to protect special needs

Continued from page one

'Different children learn in different ways. They learn through their experiences, sounds, swimming trips. Are they going to be forgotten about?'

'We want all the councillors to know exactly what they are saying "yes" to, and the impact this will have on some of the most vulnerable people in society's lives.'

As well as the additional support needs staff, there are plans to reduce classroom assistants by 20 per cent in primary schools, and the same percentage in high schools.

The women hope that parents of children without additional needs will also join the cause and realise the seriousness of the situation.

Another mother, Susan MacLeod, said: 'My son, Alexander, has had a tracheotomy in his throat and is deaf. His carer, along with three others at the school, are medically trained to deal with this and understand his needs.'

'If they're off, he can't go to school. The people who look after him need to know what to do if he is sick, how he eats, how he communicates.'

'These are vital components of our children's daily lives. They wouldn't be able to function properly without this support, including going to the toilet, eating or personal care.'

'It's against the law for parents to not put their kids into school. But how can we put our children to school if it's not safe for them?'

Liz Davidson, whose son Ross is autistic, added: 'These disgusting cuts could mean they will be given only the bare essentials - minimum access to education.'

'So they might be able to scrape through school but with no qualifications, no access to employment and no chance of independence.'

'So they will still be reliant on the state, making things worse in the long-term.'

Claire MacQueen, whose son also has additional needs, said: 'It is a huge expense to care for and educate a child who has special needs, but it's hard not to feel like we are getting picked on as we are a smaller group with a smaller voice, and making us feel like our children don't matter.'

Jan added: 'We wish schools, the staff and the teachers could give their opinions on the matter without fear of reprisal.'

'The public also needs to be aware of the implications these cuts will have. And it is a relatively short period of time until this is done.'

The group is planning a 'peaceful protest' on October 22 at Lochgilphead, when the council will vote to decide whether the plans will be put to the public or not. The public consultation will then run until February next year.

MSP for Argyll and Bute, Michael Russell, launched a blistering attack on the proposed cuts: 'I met some of these mothers on Friday and I agree that the proposed cuts are completely unacceptable.'

'I will fully support the families as they fight against plans which target the most disadvantaged children but which are also completely unnecessary.'

'This wrong-headed, salami slicing of key council budgets is bound to cause much heartache, worry and hardship.'

However, Oban-based councillor, Roddy McCuish, who is chairman of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, called on the Scottish government to use its underspend to support struggling local authorities.

'Over the past two years, the Scottish government has accumulated an underspend of £760 million, and I would call upon it to release some of that to protect jobs and services for councils.'

He went on: 'Our senior MPs and MSPs are in the best position to help generate more funding for local authorities and protect jobs and services.'

However, Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Neil MacIntyre, targeted his attack on his political opponents. He said: 'People like Michael Russell have to stop playing politics with this, and put forward some alternative solutions to saving

these jobs, instead of constantly blaming the council.'

'My suggestion would be to lose some of the quality improvement officers, who are all ex-teachers, and on big salaries, as well as some of the level of management above them too.'

'The money saved by losing those posts could save the jobs of the additional support needs assistants. In fact, it would probably give us enough money to hire more. That is my suggestion to saving these vital jobs.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'No decisions have been taken yet and we are looking for the communities' view on the options.'

'Our funding is set to fall significantly in future years. Budget estimates mean we have to save £9 million in each of the next two years with further savings in future, which is why one of the things we are looking at is our ASN (additional support needs) budget, which is in excess of £3 million; a significant proportion of the overall education budget.'

Any proposed change to the ASN staffing model will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

'The council has no option but to make choices about what we do and how we work so that we can continue to support our communities where most needed.'

Holyrood or bust - that's leader's plea

THE leader of Argyll and Bute council will return to the Scottish government and ask for more money - after acknowledging the existence of a £27 million hole in council finances, writes Louise Glen.

The council admitted it doesn't have enough cash to fund its existing services and is having to make swingeing cuts to jobs and budgets in a desperate bid to balance the books.

During a meeting of the council's policy and resources committee in Lochgilphead last week, the SNP group criticised the administration for failing to implement a programme of savings sooner.

However, of the 140 cost saving plans put before the committee, not one single item was discussed. But a vote was taken and won by the administration group which will see the plans brought before the full council on October 22.

Leader of the council, councillor Dick Walsh said: 'We did not want to become councillors to make cuts. What we have here means we will never work in the same way again, but someone has to lead the way in making the books balance. We are trying to do that.'

Later he continued: 'We would like to do all that our communities want us to, but lack of funding means that this just is not possible.'

'We have already made savings of more than £30 million in the past few years. In addition to this, through effective financial management as recognised by Audit Scotland, we have been able to invest in regeneration and building Argyll and Bute's economy of opportunity.'

'This level of funding gap, however, means that there are no easy choices to make.'

'Argyll and Bute benefits from having both rural and island communities. In fact, we have the highest number of uninhabited islands of any Scottish local authority. This brings with it financial challenges in delivering services and support.'

'The majority - 80 per cent - of our funding comes from the Scottish government. Other public agencies have had their



BALANCING ACT: Dick Walsh

The council is working to do all it can to reduce the impact of the funding gap

Dick Walsh Council leader

funding increased in recent years, while the council's has been reduced.'

Councillor Walsh added: 'The council is working to do all it can to reduce the impact of the funding gap on our communities and residents. Taking action to seek additional government resources is one more step. We are legally required to balance our budget. Where there is a funding gap, we must bridge it. This means difficult decisions.'

'We would like to progress these options to the right decisions with our communities.'

Public consultation is planned to begin at the end of this month. Decisions on cuts will be taken at the council meeting planned for February 2016 after findings from the consultation have been considered.

TIMESLINE

Man admonished for knife incident

A 31-YEAR-OLD man involved in a dramatic domestic incident where he ended up threatening to stab himself with a knife is now back living happily with his wife, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday (October 13).

Jakub Skibinski, previously of Knipoch House, Oban, admitted threatening and abusive behaviour at a property in Mossfield Drive, Oban, on July 11, when he shouted and swore, threatened violence, had a knife and struck himself in the neck.

His sentence was deferred for him to prove he could be of good behaviour.

His defence lawyer, Edward Thornton, said: 'He and his wife have subsequently been reconciled and he has been of good behaviour in the intervening period.'

'They are back living together and have been so for some months. They are now living in Dunoon.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson admonished Skibinski, saying: 'I hope this was what can be described as a one-off situation and there will be no further episodes involving you and your wife in the future.'

Search continues for missing man

SEARCHES have continued this week for missing hill-walker, Robin Garton, aged 69, who is believed to be in the Glencoe area.

Mr Garton, who is from Devizes in Wiltshire, has not been seen since the morning of Friday, September 25.

Search efforts have involved the police dive team, who focused on the River Coe and surrounding areas.

This weekend, police officers and search dogs will be joined by Glencoe mountain rescue team to cover routes Mr Garton may have taken.

He is described as 6ft 2in, of slim-to-medium build, with fair hair which is slightly balding, and occasionally wears glasses.

Anyone with any information should contact Police Scotland on 101.

NHS board taking robust measures

NHS Highland has welcomed a report which lays out the measures it is taking to balance its books.

In a report to the Scottish parliament on the 2013/14 audit of NHS Highland, the auditor general highlighted weaknesses in the Highland board's financial management.

And for the year 2014/15, the auditor commented on various actions taken by the board to improve its performance.

NHS Highland chairman, Gary Coutts, said: 'We have taken very robust measures to ensure that the criticisms we faced are not repeated and it's great to have this work documented in this way.'

Stafford Street opening is a colourful occasion

THE official opening of the newly remodelled Stafford Street in Oban was a colourful affair, thanks to the efforts of some budding young artists.

Councillors Ellen Morton and Roddy McCuish were joined by primary school pupils Aaliyah Barr of St Columba's, Sarah MacIntyre of Park and Adam Bratton of Rockfield (pictured right), who won an art competition to mark the project.

They were on hand last week to help the councillors cut the ribbon.

Depute Lord Lieutenant, Graeme MacQueen, representing the Royal British Legion, was there to unveil a specially commissioned plaque for those members of the armed forces who were killed serving their country.

Councillor Morton, policy lead for infrastructure, said: 'We really appreciate the

patience shown by the public and businesses and are hopeful they will start to see the benefits of increased footfall. 'We would encourage them to take advantage of the new space and make outdoor dining a possibility for their customers.'

'This is just the start of major regeneration work for Oban, with a further phase of public realm improvements planned along George Street

starting in the New Year.'

Councillor McCuish, chairman of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, said: 'This is a real good news story for the town; it is very heartening to see the new space being used.'

'It was particularly good to have Aaliyah, Adam and Sarah here to help us cut the ribbon. It's great when the community can get involved in projects like this.'



Fish farmer records positive sales boost

FISH farmer, Dawnfresh, enjoyed a 32 per cent boost in sales last year, which represents a welcome turnaround in the company's fortunes.

The company, which has fought off a series of planning and legal challenges against its various expansions on Loch Awe, said it was on track to return to profitability due to recent 'transformational improvements' in the business.

The firm returned pre-tax losses of £3.94million, an improvement from £5.87million for the previous year.

In June, the campaign group, Friends of Loch Etive (FoLE) took Argyll and Bute council to court, claiming the planning permission for Dawnfresh's Etive 6 farm was granted illegally.

FoLE lost its case, with judge Lord Burns deciding the planning permission granted was entirely right and proper.

FoLE now faces a bill for thousands of pounds in legal costs after losing the case.

Passenger numbers take off for airports

NEW ROUTES and extra flights have helped Highlands and Islands Airports (HIAL) to a 'top flight' year, bosses have announced.

HIAL said its 11 airports were used by 4.7 per cent more passengers during the 12 months to March 31, with 1.4million people flying in or out of its airports, which include Barra, Campbeltown, Islay and Tiree.

HIAL's latest annual report also revealed operating losses of £442,000, compared with a trading deficit of £3.8million the previous year.

The business runs at a loss due to providing lifeline services, which are subsidised by the Scottish government. The best performing airport was Barra, which saw a 14 per cent increase in passengers.

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Kinlochleven



FUNDRAISERS: Heather Borland, Brittany Fordham and Jack Daynes enjoy Jeans day at Kinlochleven high school

KINLOCHLEVEN high school pupils and staff raised more than £200 to support people suffering with genetic disorders.

Everyone paid £1 to wear denim on the 'jeans for genes' day on September 18, in a fundraiser for the charity of the same name. A homebaking stall also boosted funds on the day. The higher biology class arranged a whole-school assembly to raise awareness about the Jeans for Genes campaign and fourth year pupil, Lorna Jamieson, spoke about her experience of living with a genetic disorder.

School captain and sixth year, Esme Leitch, said: "The higher biology class should be commended for addressing such an issue in such a mature and respectful manner. In total £254 was raised and everyone at Kinlochleven high school should be very proud."

CHILDREN raised £150 at school by hosting a pyjama day.

Every pupil and member of staff at Kinlochleven primary school paid £1 to wear their pyjamas to school with the money going towards helping young refugees fleeing from Syria. Children in the senior class, who had been learning about the refugee crisis, had come up with the idea of a fundraiser. Primary five, six and seven pupils also made popcorn to sell at the school 'read-in', where everyone brought in books, blankets, pillows and teddies and gathered in the hall to read for an hour.

Appin

THE 2015-16 session of Appin SWI got underway on August 20 with a well-attended coffee evening, the proceeds of which went to the Children's Christmas Party Fund.

On September 3, members had a most interesting visit to the MacDougall Collection at Dunollie House, where they had a warm welcome and a guided tour of the house and museum. A stop at the Lochnell Arms Hotel, on the road home, for an excellent meal finished off a most enjoyable evening.

The first meeting of the session was on Thursday September 17 in Port Appin Hall and took the form of a members' night. Helen Currie spoke about her summer visit to Orkney on a local history course and what a worthwhile experience it was. Brenda MacLeod then gave a report on the National Conference in Edinburgh, the theme of which was 'A Time of Change'.

The evening finished with tea and a beetle drive. Competition results: three treacle scones, gold - Myra MacDougall; silver - Chrissie Malone and Moira Thomson; red - Barbara Carmichael. The next meeting is tonight, Thursday, in Appin Hall at 8 p.m.

Strath of Appin



Primary one, two and three pupils at Strath of Appin primary school recently experienced the wealth of locally sourced Scottish produce when they visited the Creagan Inn, Appin. Chef, Duncan MacCorquodale, gave an informative talk about the Scottish ingredients he uses in his restaurant. He then gave a cookery demonstration using some of these ingredients, including haddock, beef, scallops and mussels. The children took great delight in tasting the dishes - some even trying a Scottish food they had never tasted before.



CREATIVE: members of Lochaber SWI with some of the creations they made on the papercraft course

Ladies brush up on papercraft skills

MEMBERS of Lochaber SWI took part in a two-day papercraft course in Fort William.

The course was the second of the autumn that the ladies have enjoyed. Eleven members tried tea-bag fold-

ing, iris folding, bag and box making. The course was led by Joyce Luby from Duns in Berwickshire.



ON SONG: prizewinners at this year's Mòd Bharragh is Bhatarsaigh

Organisers delighted with success of fifth Barra and Watersay Mòd

ORGANISERS of the fifth Barra and Watersay Mòd reported another successful year, following the event on September 25 and 26.

Mòd Bharragh is Bhatarsaigh was held in Castlebay Community School as local musicians welcomed competitors from Fort William, the Uists and Glasgow.

Concerts on Friday and Saturday evening were well attended and audiences were rewarded with quality performances from prize-winners young and old, and from singers of the calibre of Paul MacCallum and Cathy Anne MacPhee, and Riona and Alasdair Whyte.

Adjudicators Eilidh Steel, Allan MacDonald and Mark Neal, regaled the group with a variety of

sprightly tunes on fiddle, bodhran and guitar respectively, and piper Moira Robertson's selection of well-chosen tunes was much appreciated.

Jean Campbell of the Mòd Bharragh is Bhatarsaigh committee said: "We would like to thank all those who helped to make the Mòd the success it was: chairpersons, door stewards, office staff, tea makers and stewards who ran around tirelessly. Special thanks to Annie Jean, Seumas and the team of helpers, who kept everyone supplied with good food throughout."

Awards were presented by Barra musician and former Feis Bharragh student, John James Galbraith.



Aithne MacDougall won the Heathbank Hotel trophy for overall junior winner



Ruairidh Gray is presented the MacInnes Bros trophy for vocal fluent solo

MORVERN
lines

A Strontian visitor who came from a land Down Under

EVERY year, thousands of visitors from across the globe come to Scotland to search their ancestry and to get a feel for the place where their forebears lived and worked.

If Richard Cameron, who travelled all the way from Brisbane to discover his Lochaber roots a few weeks ago, is a man to go by, there is no doubt that the heart still beats as fast for the old homeland as it ever did.

Although Richard knew his three times great-grandfather, Alexander Cameron, had been born in Ardnurchan around 1777 and left Tobermory for Australia aboard the *Brilliant* in 1837, he had never visited the area before.

After calling at Achnacarry to pay his respects to his chief, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, Richard spent a few nights in Strontian. From there he went to Camusaine on the north shores of Loch Sunart, where his family had been small tenant farmers of Sir James Miles Riddell, following it up with a visit to Drimnatorran Bridge spanning the Strontian River which Alexander, who was a stonemason to trade, helped build shortly before he emigrated to New South Wales. It is good to see the 'natives' coming home.

Richard's uncle, Harry Murray, was the most highly decorated infantry soldier of the British Empire during the First World War and the most highly decorated Australian soldier of all time.

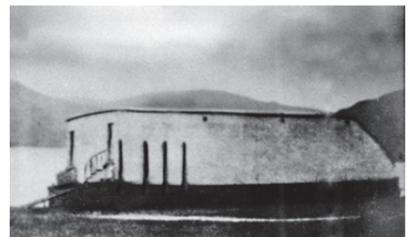
Murray's ancestors were early settlers of northern Tasmania. In 1908, Murray was forced to leave the struggling family farm and find work in western Australia. At the outbreak of war in 1914, he was cutting railway sleepers in the kari forests of the south-west when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force as a private soldier in the 16th Battalion.

At the end of the war, in 1918, he commanded a machine gun battalion as a Lieutenant Colonel and had been awarded six decorations, including the coveted Victoria Cross.

After the war, Murray led a secluded life on sheep stations in the Queensland bush. He rarely attended Anzac Day services or unit reunions, avoided publicity and protected his privacy.



STEPPING BACK IN TIME: Richard Cameron from Brisbane who came to Sunart to find his ancestral roots



BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT: the 'floating church' of Strontian

An artefact from the famous floating church of Strontian

IF A PROJECT in Sunart goes ahead, another 'visitor' will soon be making an appearance in Strontian. This one will not have travelled very far, only from Ardnastang Bay where it has been lying below the surface of Loch Sunart since 1846.

Diver John Macmillan, from Achraacle, believes he has found one of two gigantic mushroom anchors which held the famous 'floating church' of Strontian in position.

At the Disruption of 1843, many worshippers from Ardnurchan, Sunart and Morvern disenchanted with the local lairds dictating their religion, severed their connections with the Established Church and joined the Free Church of Scotland.

Many landowners refused them church sites so they were forced, along with many of their colleagues elsewhere in the Highlands, to worship on the open hillside or below the high water mark.

That is until someone came up with the idea of a floating church which could be anchored at sea beyond the landowners' jurisdiction.

The 'floating church', as it became known throughout the Highlands, was built by Robert Brown in the Glen Yard, Port Glasgow. It cost £1,400 - £114,000 today - which was raised locally.

Considering the clearances and the famine of the time it was a huge sum which must have caused tremendous personal sacrifices.

Launched in June 1846, it measured almost 80 feet long, 24 feet wide and 27 feet high. It came with a vestry, a pulpit, a preacher's desk and seating for more than 700. It had three entrances: one at the bow for the minister and two at the rear for the congregation.

The church was towed from the Clyde to Loch Sunart by two steam tugs, the *Gulliver* and the *Conqueror*, and moored in Ardnastang Bay in six fathoms of water. Worshippers from Morvern walked to Liddesdale Bay on the opposite shore and crossed by rowing boat, whilst the Sunart congregation embarked from a nearby stone jetty pulling themselves out in small boats on long ropes stretched between the church and the shore. The hull had a form of Plimsoll line showing that for every 100 people aboard it sank an inch in the water.

The church bobbed around until about 1856 when one night, during a storm and an unusually high spring tide, it broke loose and was washed ashore on the sandy beach below Ardnastang.

Here it lay secured against large upright posts, continuing to provide a place of worship and a school until 1870 when the landowner relented and gave the local congregation a site on which to build a stone church.

Shortly after the foundation stone was laid, the 'Iron Church' was dismantled and removed by a Clydeside scrap-dealer who bought it from the congregation for £4. At a well-attended public presentation in Strontian village hall recently, the decision was taken to raise this interesting relic and to have it professionally conserved, preserved and displayed locally. It is hoped the cost, estimated to be in the region of £8,000, can be met with grants and donations.

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It's all kicking off at new look village pitch

BUDDING footballers in Arisaig were delighted to be back on their playing field this weekend after months of improvements on the pitch.

The Arisaig Community Trust (ACT) celebrated the reopening with a football match, the children against the 'old crocks' which was held on Saturday.

Players and spectators enjoyed hot drinks and pies at half-time, before the adults came out close winners with a final score of 10-9.

The field was officially opened by Elspeth MacMillan on behalf of the MacMillan Family Trust, owners of the pitch, who gave ACT a 50-year lease which allowed them to carry out the work.

Hugh Cameron, chairman of ACT, said: 'We're grateful to the MacMillan family for the gesture, to Souters for carrying out the work to such a high standard and to all of the organisations who made this possible with grants. We hope to install adventure play equipment and picnic tables to make this a really good community area for us to enjoy.'



GAME ON: Elspeth MacMillan officially opens Arisaig playing field as the children and 'old crocks' football teams look on 21_042field01

Centre tug blocks ferry

A LOCHABER community was cut off from Fort William after a boat blocked its slipway on Tuesday morning.

The ferry connecting Camusnagual to town had to be cancelled when a tug from the Underwater Centre was stationed across the pier for repairs, blocking access.

Morning runs had to be cancelled, forcing residents to drive round the Arnamurchan peninsula to reach the mainland at Kinlochheil.

Dougie Robertson, operator of the Camusnagual Ferry, said on Tuesday morning: 'We only managed one run in the morning then the tide went out so we could get round the boat but 3pm will have to be our last for the day. All I can do is apologise to anyone who has been inconvenienced and I've reported it to Highland council.'

Steve Ham, commercial director at the Underwater Centre, said: 'Our boat, the Ben Crom, was right beside the slipway. We had it booked in for repairs but that was delayed so the boys decided to do it on the shore but they misjudged where she was by a few metres so ended up in the way of the ferry. I apologise for any inconvenience.'

Lifeline transport at risk as council reviews grants

ELDERLY, DISABLED AND COMMUNITY GROUPS FACE A FIGHT FOR SHARE OF LESS MONEY

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

LIFELINE transport help for the elderly, disabled and community groups, could be at risk as Highland council grants are reviewed.

Travel charities including Lochaber community car scheme, Morvern on the Move, Lochaber Action on Disability and Lochleven community minibus association, have been told they must go out to tender and will undergo a 'competitive' Highland-wide application process.

But decisions will not be made until the local authority's community services committee in February next year.

The £416,561 currently used to support 22 transport schemes across Highland could be cut and new applicants can also bid for a share, leaving more charities to fight for a share of less money.

Lochaber groups will find out the criteria required at consultations later this month, but say a loss or reduction of grants could mean the end of their vital help.

Lochaber community car scheme uses volunteers to transport anyone who can't rely on public transport due to ill health, injury or disability and makes around 500 trips every month to doctors appointments, supermarkets or community activities. The charity currently receives £57,500 in grants from Highland council.

Julie Wileman, scheme co-ordinator, said she doesn't know yet what impact any potential cuts will have: 'We haven't been told much yet. All we have is a letter saying we're going out to tender, but any cuts could affect us massively.'

'There's no point in worrying too much before we know if we're going to lose anything,

“If we lose our grant we'll have to close our doors”

Julie Wileman
Community car scheme

but if we lose our grant, we'll have to close our doors, we wouldn't have a choice.

'The scheme has grown so much over the last couple of years, but the funding has been capped, so we're already worse off when you take inflation into account. If I could get more funding from other places I

would, but it won't be enough. 'If we lose the council grants we can't continue and that's all there is to it.'

Julie is also worried about the competition as the grants are Highland-wide and the council hasn't announced if rural charities will be assessed in the same way as city-based organisations.

She said: 'We could be competing against groups in Inverness and places like that where there are loads of different groups. That will be really difficult, mainly because there's so many more of them who probably work with a lot more people. You would think they would separate the rural ones from Inverness but we just don't know yet, we don't have a clue how it's going to work.'

Morvern on the Move operates two minibuses on the Arnamurchan peninsula and receives £11,000 grant funding from the council, but

co-ordinator Calum Finnigan thinks his association might be safer as they also act as a school bus for Lochaline primary.

He said: 'As well as the grant, we receive a subsidy for the school run so that helps pay for maintenance. We've thought this might be on the cards for the last few years, so that's why we tendered for the school runs, to protect ourselves.'

'We're fortunate in that sense, but it's still a worry because a lot of community groups hire the bus and they get help from the council to do that, so if that funding is cut they might not be able to afford to hire the bus. If that happened we would lose money, but the groups like youth clubs would also lose out because they wouldn't get out and about on trips.'

A Highland council spokeswoman said: 'The final funding amount will be dependent on volume of applications received and amounts requested.'

TIMESLINE

Grant cash boosts school activities

KINLOCHLEVEN high school has been awarded a £5,000 grant for extra-curricular activities for pupils.

Headteacher, Rebecca Machin, hopes the money from the Access to Education Fund will allow the youngsters to take part in more activities.

Mrs Machin said: 'We are delighted. This will make such a difference to our youngsters. Our plan is to increase the range and frequency of extra-curricular activities.'

Refugees heading to the Highlands

HIGHLAND council will house up to 30 refugees as part of a national resettlement programme to help people fleeing from Syria.

An agreement has been made with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, subject to the confirmation of available housing.

Margaret Davidson, leader of the council, said: 'We are unlikely to receive the first refugees until early in the New Year.'

Husband and wife stand side by side

A HUSBAND and wife are to stand side by side in the hope of being elected as MSPs.

David Stewart, current MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has been chosen to stand for Labour in the Inverness and Nairn constituency at next year's Scottish parliament elections while his wife, Linda Stewart, will represent the same party for neighbouring Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch.

Mr Stewart said he is 'delighted' to be selected to stand while Mrs Stewart, a director with University of Highlands and Islands, said she is 'looking forward to the challenge'.



Money Matters

with Iain Cairns



Protecting the things that matter

When it comes to protecting the things that matter we seem to value our gadgets and our pets more than we do our families.

In the recent Drewberry Protection Insurance Survey report 2015 it confirmed that one in four respondents had taken out insurance to cover their pets but worryingly only 7% had taken out any income protection.

The problem with buying any kind of insurance is that we can't predict the future and can never be certain that we will need it. Taking phone insurance as an example, if your new smartphone is lost, damaged or stolen within the first few months of getting it then the phone insurance is a tremendous bargain. But if it goes two years and your phone is still as shiny as the day you got it, then it could be considered a waste of money. But surely protecting a life, or to me more accurate, financially protecting the people we leave behind, must be considered as having greater value than a smartphone. I find that clients always have the same two questions - "will I need it?" and "how much will it cost?"

Taking each of these in turn. Firstly mortality - the risk of death. Everyday 1,374 people in the UK die, which is 57 each hour of the day. Reviewing the cost is a priority call "do I spend

my money on a freshly ground coffee everyday or a monthly premium for a life insurance?"

There will always be a selection of people who would rather save the money they'd otherwise spend on insurance premiums and simply hope nothing bad happens to them. While others would prefer to have the peace of mind that comes with knowing their loved ones are truly protected should the worst happen. Often the difference between these two polar opposites is the education on wants and affordability - after all, who doesn't want peace of mind?

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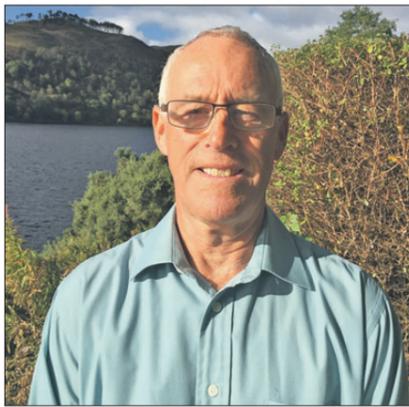
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Bruce was the power behind the royal visit to start up Cruachan

MARIAN MILLER
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SWITCHED ON: Bruce McMillan

WHILE Cruachan hydro-electric power station celebrates its 50th anniversary today (Thursday), one man who played a major role in HM The Queen's visit to open it will be quietly holding his own celebration.

Bruce McMillan will never forget his 24th birthday, on October 15 1965, the day the Queen came to Loch Awe.

As a graduate electrical engineer, his first job was as a general assistant for two years during the commissioning of Cruachan power station.

Bruce said: 'As a general dogsbody, I did whatever jobs were available and clearly the machinery that the Queen was going to 'start' had to be ready.

'The control that the Queen was to operate merely flashed a light down the line to let people know the machine should start. 'But the problem with doing any opening in an underground power station is that it is difficult to make a visual impact.'

While a power station above ground might show machinery starting or water rushing in, this was not the case with Cruachan, where a pony motor was run to start up the turbine itself.

'So, round the top of the pony motor housing we mounted 10 or more car spot lights. 'Hidden wires went back to the room Willie Lawson (assistant engineer, maintenance) and I were in. 'The idea was that when the pony motor started, the spots would light up in turn and at increasing speed. The main pumps and fans ran anyway so there was plenty of noise.'

The result looked like the lights were connected to the turning turbine, getting faster as the turbine speeded up once turned on. In

reality, Bruce was in a room turning a rotary switch, like those found on a tram car, and the faster he turned the lever, the faster the lights went in sequence.

'The faster you wound it, the faster the lights went,' said Bruce. 'We had to test it a few times and between the vibrations of the machinery and the constant switching on and off, the filaments were popping all the time.'

'You could buy the spot lights after, if you wanted them. They cost £4 each and I had one myself which was on my car for years.'

While Bruce did not get to meet the Queen, he almost bumped into her. A carpeted wooden platform had been built out over the area, where turbines three and four are now situated, for the Queen and her party to stand on while she pressed the button that would engage turbine two for the first time.

'The night before we had the police dogs in and the police doing security checks and the carpet had been vacuumed too, so someone had taken a bit of old rope and put it across the front of the stairs.

'We got the message the following day to say the party was on its way but we realised the rope was still there, so I shot out and untied the rope and got away just before she arrived.'

Bruce, who worked a total of 15 years at the station, between other posts, and ended up as deputy generation engineer at Cruachan from 1975-85, fondly remembers his time when the plant was still being commissioned.

'You couldn't have been in a better place to come and start your career,' he said. He married Greta in 1965 and they lived in the hydro homes in St Conan's Road in Lochawe village for three years with their son, Ewan.

'Most of us lived in St Conan's Road,' said Bruce, 'our kids growing up together. It was a great community to live in.'

The couple's son went on to study engineering too and followed in his father's footsteps by going to Cruachan power station, where he was station manager himself for 10 years. Bruce, who will be celebrating his 74th birthday today, stayed with Scottish Hydro Electric until he retired in Perth in 1996.

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A 'deathtrap' and hazard to ferry

ARDGOUR RESIDENTS DEMAND CRUMBLING WRECK IS REMOVED FROM SHORE BEFORE FIRST WINTER STORM BREAKS

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

CONCERNS have been raised that the first winter storm could demolish a wrecked fishing boat, leaving debris scattered across Loch Linnhe.

Worried members of the Ardgour community say the MV Capri, which is on the shore next to Ardgour pier, could put the lifeline Corran Ferry out of action if it begins to fall apart, as the abandoned vessel has begun to split at the bow.

Ardgour resident, Fergie MacLean, has also said it could be a deathtrap to children who have been seen playing on the dangerous wreck, which has been deemed a 'hazard' by HM Coastguard.

Mr MacLean said: 'The big problem is it's now starting to split at the bow and, if parts start to break off the boat into the loch, it won't be safe for the Corran Ferry to run because



ACT NOW: Ardgour residents are calling for a wrecked boat to be moved before it causes chaos to the Corran Ferry

if something got stuck in the propulsor it could ruin the entire ferry. We're already well into October, so winter is on its way. All it takes is one storm and the boat could fall apart.

'It's also a danger to the public because children have been playing on it and people have been seen smashing its windows so there will be broken glass there to add to the danger. It's a deathtrap and needs to be moved, but there has been a lot of passing the buck about who is responsible for it.'

Tony Boyd, chairman of the recently disbanded Ardgour community council, said: 'We have asked the council for it to be moved, but it doesn't look like anyone is doing anything about it. It looks like it's just going to stay there until it falls into an even worse state. Then the next thing we know it will have bits falling off which will put the ferry in danger so the

council will have to do something about it then.'

A spokesman for HM Coastguard visited the site to see the danger first hand. He said: 'The vessel is in a very poor state indeed, beyond repair and beginning to break up. In my opinion, the vessel is a hazard to the ferry operation, other shipping and the public.'

But a Highland council spokeswoman has insisted it is not their responsibility to move it and the local authority will only take action if there is a 'high risk of hazard'.

She said: 'Unfortunately the vessel is privately owned and lying on property owned by Crown Estates. Additionally, the owner is reported to have recently deceased since the Capri was beached. Highland council has no clear duty or authority to remove the vessel. However, some time ago, at the request of the Marine and Coastguard

Agency (MCA) the council wrote to the owner to request that the boat be removed, but no response was received.

'We are constantly monitoring the position of the wreck and are aware of its poor condition, particularly in relation to its proximity to the finger pier for the Corran Ferry.'

'If the Capri were to become wholly unstable and begin to break up to the extent that there was a high risk of hazard to shipping, we would work with the relevant agencies including the MCA to formulate a plan of action to make the vessel safe.'

But Mr MacLean said this isn't good enough and Highland council should take a 'prevention rather than cure' attitude: 'The council said they would move it if it becomes a problem, but what use is that? It should be moved before it becomes an issue rather than waiting until disaster strikes.'

TIMESLINE

Police need help to trace culprits

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area.

Sometime between 11pm on Saturday October 10 and 2.05am the following morning, a bicycle was taken from outside a bar on Fort William High Street.

On the night of Friday October 9 a caravan was damaged at Annat Point, Corpach, and items were taken from inside.

At approximately 4.30 am on Sunday October 11, the window of Nickel and Dime, High Street, Fort William, was smashed.

Sometime between 5.30pm on Tuesday September 29 and 1.30pm on Monday October 5, a box was damaged and money was stolen from St Bride's Church, North Ballachulish.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Public gets say on transport needs

HIGHLAND council is seeking public opinion on the future of school, public and dial-a-bus transport services.

The local authority will hold a series of consultations to find out the needs of communities.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Information gathered by the council will be used to ensure transport services purchased can best meet local needs within the budget available.'

Meetings will be held in the Broadford hotel between 2 and 4pm, Portree's council chambers between 7 and 9pm (both October 26), Fort William's council chambers between 1.30 and 3.30pm and Ardnamurchan high school between 6.30 and 8.30pm (both November 3).

An online survey can be accessed via www.highland.gov.uk/transport-programme from October 26.

Jobs wiped out as budget cuts bite

CLEANING jobs at Highland schools and offices are to be axed.

More than 92 supervisor roles will be replaced with 20 area managers, who could be responsible for up to 650 members of staff in 310 locations as Highland council attempts to cut the education cleaning budget by £580,000 by April 2017. This will also see 192 maintenance hours cut, the equivalent of five full-time cleaners, and schools losing night-time cleaning.

The cuts were agreed at Highland council's education, children and adult services committee meeting last Wednesday, but Bill Alexander, director of care and learning, said job losses will come from leaving current vacancies open, ending fixed term contracts,

and transferring staff to other council jobs in a bid to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Councillor Ken Gowans raised concerns about the hygiene of council buildings in light of the changes: 'If we have less cleaners, we have less cleaning being done. How will that impact health and safety?'

Drew Millar, chairman of the committee, said 'high use' areas such as toilets and medical rooms will be given priority.

It is estimated cutting hours and supervisor posts will save £477,000 while taking away night cleans will keep another £20,000 in the council pot.

Consultation with affected staff will take place between October and November and trade unions have already been briefed.

New car service powers up in Fort

THE FIRST electric car chauffeur service in Scotland has been launched in Fort William.

Elecar officially opened on Saturday after a year of planning by director, Scott Easson, a Lochaber local who has brought the energy-saving business to the West Highlands.

Mr Easson, from Glen Nevis, is offering his Tesla Model F for tours, weddings, airport runs and any other trips.

He said: 'I'll do anything as long as it's legal. I've always been fascinated by electric cars, but I couldn't find one I wanted. Then I heard about the Tesla but they start from about £50,000 so I couldn't justify it just for personal use. That's when I decided to set up Elecar.'

The car can be charged at home or at any public charge point and Elecar offers fixed price trips all over the country.



ON THE ROAD: The first chauffeur-driven electric car service was launched by Scott Easson

Ankle break man loses damages bid

A MAN who fell and broke his ankle in the dark has lost his bid to sue Western Isles council for turning the street lights off.

Michael MacDonald tripped as he walked home from a friend's house in South Uist at 2am on November 27, 2011 and sought £20,000 in damages from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar as they had switched out the lights.

But last week, a judge in the Court of Session in Edinburgh ruled in the council's favour, saying there was no legal obligation as to when and where a local authority must provide street lighting. The council had previously taken the decision to turn off street lights in rural areas between midnight and 6.30am and had publicised the change beforehand.

Victoria Leslie, lawyer for Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, said: 'The court's ruling has clarified a contentious issue around the extent of the duties of local authorities and set an important precedent in an era of spending cuts. If the court had agreed with the claimant in this case, it may have caused local authorities to reconsider their policies in relation to street lighting as well as the provision of other public services.'

Gas found in homes

THERE are almost 100 local authority homes in the Highlands with a high level of radioactive gas.

Following tests carried out for Highland council last year, 95 council houses were found to have unsatisfactory levels of radon, a naturally occurring gas. Radon is only dangerous in long-term exposure cases, but the council will reduce levels in these homes, either by increasing ventilation or sucking out the gas. Any houses with a radon level higher than 100 becquerels per cubic metre will need to be treated in this way.

A Highland council spokesman said all affected tenants have been contacted.



FANCY DRESS: Lochside RC pupils dressed up as scarecrows for their harvest festival celebrations 16_142lochside01



KIND-HEARTED: Banavie youngsters will deliver food parcels to elderly people in their community 16_142banavie01

Spreading harvest cheer



THREE Lochaber primary schools showed the generosity of pupils when they collected food for the elderly as part of the harvest festivals.

Children from Lochside RC, Banavie and Roy Bridge collected tins and boxes of food which will be parcelled up and delivered to pensioners in their communities.

GENEROUS: Roy Bridge primary school pupils, left, filled 20 bags with jams, chutneys and soup made by the children themselves

WIN Oban Times Heart of the Community

WIN AN IPAD MINI!

Ship Ahoy!

A fantastic bespoke ship is one of the exciting features of the new play park planned at Atlantis Leisure, Oban later this year. The ship will be unique to Oban as it has been specially designed for the new play park, and will include a 6-metre high climbing tower, fireman's pole, scramble nets and climbing rocks.

And the ship needs a name!



The Oban Times is asking all children up to the age of 15 years old to send us your suggested name for the ship. Scottish Sea Farms has donated £20,000 towards this fantastic facility and has also donated an iPad mini to give to the lucky winner of this competition. A shortlist of the top five names will be printed in The Oban Times early November and readers will be asked to vote for their favourite.

To enter, simply complete the coupon below and send to The Oban Times, Ship Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. The closing date for entries is Tuesday October 27, 2015. Photocopied coupon entries will not be accepted.

I would like the ship to be called: *The Oban Times*

Name:

Address:

Age: School:

Contact Telephone Number:

Contact Email Address:

Terms and conditions: All entrants must be aged 15 years or younger. Employees and members of Oban Community Playpark, Scottish Sea Farms and any families and agencies connected with the competition are not eligible to enter. The prize is as stated. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). Closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday October 27, 2015.

Feedback wanted on speed cuts

AMANDA CRAWFORD
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY group will be knocking on doors to gauge support for its campaign to reduce speed limits on a south Lochaber trunk road, ahead of a meeting with governing bodies.

Nether Lochaber community

council (NLCC) will carry out the visits to collect feedback from the community on its campaign to lower speed limits on a four-mile stretch of the A82.

The paperwork will be carried out this month, before Scottish government transport minister, Derek Mackay MSP, meets with Transport Scotland, Dave Thompson MSP, local councillors and community

councillors on October 20. The meeting will include a visit to the site, which is soon to be included in a cycle network as part of Scottish government plans.

NLCC chairman, Iain Jenner, said: 'There is an opportunity to reduce the speed limits, but there is a conflict of opinion within the community and, while the majority thinks the limit should be reduced, some

favour an upgrade, including widening of the road.

'However, I think they should drop the limit and upgrade the road to make it safer. There are blind corners, narrowing of roads and the width of the carriageway is not up to standard.'

These factors are adding to the concerns of locals and the aim of the reduction would be to make it safer for children,

residents entering the A82 from their homes and cyclists.

The community council would like to see the speed limit reduced to 50mph in North Ballachulish, 40mph at the junction of St Bride's primary school, 30mph through Onich and 40mph from there until the road passes Corran.

On initial reviews, Transport Scotland said the road would remain at 60mph, but on

further deliberation it was decided it would be reduced to 50mph on the four-mile stretch of Nether Lochaber, which includes north Ballachulish, Onich, Inchree, Bunree and Corran. Mr Jenner said: 'The decision was made without the new National Cycling Network by Sustrans being considered. I would like to bring this to the attention of Transport Scotland.'

TIMESLINE

Vehicle checks as winter draws in

AS PART of a national 'Get ready for Winter' campaign, Police Scotland's Highlands and Islands division will enforce vehicle checks.

The campaign, which launched on Monday October 5, will see checks carried out by police officers at various locations across the Highlands.

Road policing inspector, Angus Stewart, said: 'With the approach of winter and darker nights, I would take this opportunity to remind road users of the need to check their vehicles and ensure all equipment is working correctly. Particular attention should be paid to lights and tyres. However, winter safety is not all about snow and ice. There are other factors such as high winds, heavy rain, fog and low sun that all affect your journey, so ensure your visibility is not obscured and wipers and washers are in good working order.'

Inspector Stewart is also urging cyclists to wear light coloured and fluorescent clothing and to ensure bikes are fitted with lights and reflectors.

Hallowe'en book sale fundraiser

A HALLOWE'EN book sale will be held in Fort William to raise money for local charities.

The Rotary Club of Lochaber has arranged the event for October 31 in Duncansburgh Macintosh church hall to sell second hand novels donated by Lochaber residents.

The sale will run from 10am until 4pm and refreshments will be available.

Lochaber Rotary president, Terry Lee, said: 'We have almost 2,000 good quality books for sale. I would encourage as many people as possible to stop by and buy our books and help provide funds for community projects and local charities.'

Highland council's tender workshops

TRANSPORT businesses large and small have been invited to a series of events to find out how they can tender their services to Highland council.

Representatives from the local authority's transport and procurement units will be holding workshops across the region over the next few weeks, as part of a process offering school and public transport businesses contracts with the council.

Events will be held in Portree on October 26, Fort William on October 27 and Auchtertyre on November 2. For more information and a full list of events see www.highland.gov.uk/transportproviders

Former pupils return to Lochaber

Former pupils of the old Banavie school returned to Lochaber from as far away as Australia and Canada for a reunion at the weekend. Anyone who attended the old primary and secondary school from its opening in 1924 until its closure in 1964, was invited to attend the event held at Caol community centre on Saturday night



Staffin dig bone fragment find helps unearth history



UNEARTHED: a fragment of bone has been discovered during an archaeological dig in Staffin, north Skye

The excavation has given us the opportunity of adding to our knowledge of early habitation of Staffin

Dugald Ross
Staffin community trust

A FRAGMENT of bone has been discovered following an archaeological dig in north Skye.

The excavation in Staffin by University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) students also uncovered several hundred flints and it is hoped the discoveries will help to offer a fuller picture of the area's hunter-gatherer period 8,000 years ago.

The site at Staffin Bay was suspected to be a Mesolithic building, but it now appears to be post-medieval. The 12 millimetre bone looks like it has been burnt and shaped, possibly to be made into jewellery, but further investigations will be carried out by UHI archaeologists.

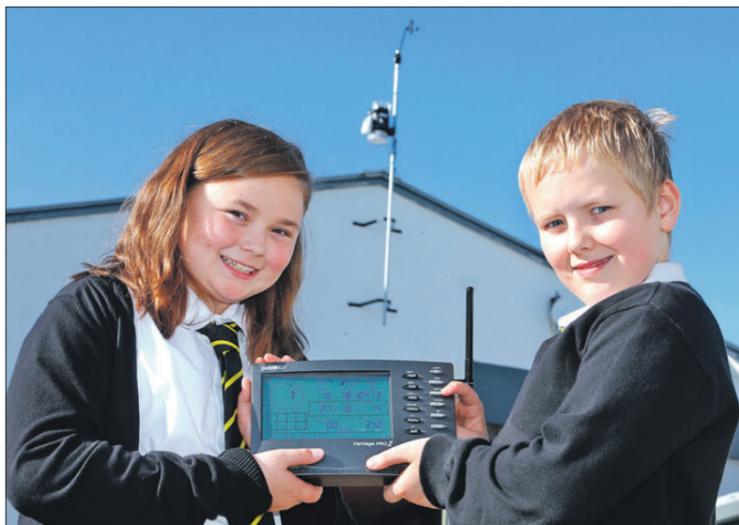
More than 200 people took part in the five-day dig, including 10 local volunteers and pupils from Staffin and Kilmuir primary schools.

Dan Lee, UHI lifelong learning and outreach archaeologist, said the site may have been one of several areas along Staffin Bay where hunter-gatherers congregated and worked stone.

He added: 'Although the structure did not turn out to be prehistoric, it has protected significant evidence for Mesolithic activity below it. Hopefully, we have enough material for radiocarbon dates and further excavation would be useful to better define the extent of the site. The UHI archaeology institute looks forward to working with Staffin Community Trust on future phases of the project.'

Dugald Ross, a director of Staffin Community Trust, has monitored the site for several years.

He said: 'The excavation has given us the opportunity of adding to our knowledge of early habitation of Staffin and, although the circular foundation now appears to be a later date than initially thought, the lower levels have yielded material which is typical of the first groups of people to have arrived in Scotland after the last Ice Age.'



GOOD FORECAST: Plockton high students Gracie Hammond and Robert Baker with the school's new weather station

Plockton forecast looking good

PLOCKTON high school pupils will soon become weather forecasters as a new weather station has been installed in the grounds.

The equipment, worth £1,157, was funded by a grant from Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Trust and will

allow the youngsters to monitor wind, rain and temperature - information which will be shared with the community.

Plockton high teacher, Elfine George, said: 'Data will be collected and interpreted by school pupils. We will then be able to share this information

through the Plockton web, other local schools and local harbour associations. This new weather station will provide good, accurate, local information for the entire community and we are grateful to Scottish Sea Farms for its generous support of the project.'

Nicole, 16, dishes up winning menu

A SIXTEEN year-old from Spean Bridge has been named young chef of the year following the annual Rotary Club of Lochaber competition.

Lochaber high school pupil Nicole Cameron's innovative menu of haggis ravioli with whisky sauce, loin of venison in bramble sauce and raspberry crème brûlée with homemade shortbread earned her the top spot in the eyes of judges, Duncan Gibson, chef and manager of Glenfinnan House Hotel, and Steve Bracken, business support manager at Marine Harvest.

The event was also hosted at Lochaber high and head-teacher, Jim Sutherland, said: 'Nicole should be very proud of her achievement as we all are at Lochaber high school.'

'As always, we are grateful to the Rotary Club of Lochaber for organising the annual competition and to all the staff who work so hard to mentor the young people beforehand.'



Nicole will now go on to represent Lochaber in the rotary district final, to be held in East Kilbride in January.

Runner-up was 16 year-old Ardnamurchan high school pupil, Hannah Hunter from Kilchoan.

Lochaber rotary president, Terry Lee, said: 'Once again we were overwhelmed by the sheer quality and cookery skills of these Lochaber youngsters.'

'We are indebted to Marine Harvest and the Glenfinnan House Hotel for their support and we look forward to next year's competition.'

SKILLED: Nicole Cameron, left, winner of the Rotary Club of Lochaber's young chef competition, with runner-up Hannah Hunter

Accordion and fiddle club entertains

THE SKYE Accordion and Fiddle Club's first monthly meeting of the season was well attended at the usual venue to the Royal Hotel, Portree.

Club secretary, Linda Shaw, filled in as master of ceremonies and the opening selections were played by stalwarts John MacGilvary on accordion and Donald John Campbell on drums.

The audience was delighted to welcome on stage a visiting

young lady on accordion who had travelled all the way from Cumbernauld to attend the club night. Janet Graham is already well-known to the club and was accompanied on drums by Donald John Campbell of Portree and on keyboard by Derek Hamilton of Galston and played several delightful sets for the assembled company. It was then the turn of the evening's

guest band, the Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio, who created a slight hint of mayhem and increased mirth levels in the function room, but also provided a lively and varied programme of music played in punchy west coast style.

Leader, Charlie Kirkpatrick from Glasgow, was on his usual Hohner three-row button-box, Derek Hamilton of Galston was on keyboard and vocals and Gordon Young of Balerno completed the trio on drums.

Charlie interspersed the band's performance with a few anecdotes on subjects as varied as his band members' childhoods and equine flatulence. They interacted well with their appreciative audience and provided a great session of entertainment. The next club night will be on Thursday November 5 with special guests, Alan Small on accordion, and Gemma Donald on fiddle.

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Arena

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

food and drink

As part of the Year of Food and Drink Scotland, the *Oban Times* has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry.

Over the coming months, the paper will be promoting a selection of events, stories, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast.

Each week, one business from the sector will be the focus of this exciting new column, along with a delicious recipe, so keep an eye out and allow the *Oban Times* to provide a taste of the fantastic food and drink available in the area.

The Year of Food and Drink is a chance to spotlight, celebrate and promote Scotland's natural larder and quality produce to people and visitors.



This week...

Who is it? Coriander

What do they do? Quality Indian cuisine
Where can I find them? 8 Soroba Rd, Oban
Tel: 01631 570806
Open 7 days 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., 5:00 - 11:15 p.m.



Food lovers and critics agree - Coriander in Oban offers mouth-watering Indian cuisine with customer service that can't be beaten.

Owners, Thofayel 'Kay' Khan and Koysoor Ahmed, who took over Coriander in 2013, have garnered the prestigious North West Restaurant of the Year and Takeaway of the Year at the Scottish Curry Awards. They use local produce whenever possible, along with wholesome ingredients such as fresh herbs and spices, vegetable oil, pure butter ghee, mustard, olive oil, garlic and chillies, to create dishes that are both healthy and tasty. No matter your tastes - hot and spicy or mild and creamy - Coriander has something to please, from traditional curry favourites to a luscious selection of vegetables and side dishes. Why not try their exclusive house specials, such as murg makhani, paneer tikka, mirch naga and garlic rice? Whether you are a vegetarian or a meat lover, Coriander makes it easy to please the even the pickiest eaters - and if you have a special dietary requirement, Kay and Koysoor are happy to accommodate, so just ask.

And speaking of accommodation, the Coriander team make their customers feel like family, going out of their way to make sure you are happy and satisfied with your dining experience. Customers are even welcome to bring their own bottle, with no corking fee. Diners enjoy the stylish, relaxed ambience, perfect for elegant parties or romantic meals. Visit Coriander on Facebook and TripAdvisor and see what the buzz is all about, and then dine in, order takeaway, or book your holiday party, and see for yourself why their loyal customers are calling Coriander the most exciting Indian food experience in Oban.



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If you would like your business to feature in our weekly Food & Drink column call us on 01631 568000

Focus on fantastic local scenery and you could win a great prize



ENTRIES are invited for a national photography competition celebrating the country's scenic beauty

Keen 'snappers' from across the region are being urged to get their entries in for the Scottish Landscape Photographer of The Year 2015 Competition.

Celebrating the beauty of Scotland's breathtaking scenery, the competition - which has been endorsed by VisitScotland, the country's national tourism organisation - is open to amateur, professional and young photographers from the UK and overseas. The closing date for entries is 14 November.

Timed to coincide with the spectacular colours of the Scottish autumn, the competition is the brainchild of Fife-based landscape photographer, Stuart Low. Now in its second year and building on the success of the inaugural competition, this year's contest boasts an increased prize fund of £14,000 and has attracted new sponsors such as by Academy Class, Caledonian MacBrayne, Calumet Photographic, Fotospeed, Scottish Natural Heritage and Formatt-Hitech.

Competition founder, Stuart Low, said: 'I'm absolutely delighted that the competition - which is all about promoting photography and tourism - is continuing again after the inaugural competition proved a great success.'

'The book we produced is a best-seller and the exhibition of winning images was so popular that there were

extended runs at various galleries across Scotland.

'In this day and age, we're used to seeing images on a screen, but the fact that people could see winning photos printed or hanging on a wall has led to several of the photographers earning sales and also to many exhibition visitors being inspired to take up photography.'

'The exhibitions were also good for tourism because they've raised the profiles of the locations shown in the images and encouraged tourists to visit these places during their stay. I'm really excited about seeing this year's entries and hoping to build on the competition's success once again.'

Malcolm Routhead, chief executive of VisitScotland said: 'We welcome the return of the Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year competition. With over 11,000km of coastline, hundreds of islands, majestic mountains and beautiful canals, rivers and lochs, Scotland's landscape and distinctive geography makes for the perfect photographer's playground.'

'From the Scottish Borders to the Shetland Islands, we have a worldwide reputation for our natural

beauty with has inspired both photographers and filmmakers alike to come to our shores and take in our spectacular landscapes. They say a picture paints a thousand words and we look forward to seeing 'essays' of wonder from entrants once again.'

For more information about the various categories in the Landscape Photographer Of The Year 2015 competition and details of how to enter, email Stuart Low at stuartlow1202@googlemail.com

CAN you imagine how many digital cameras there might be in the world? Well, thousands. A quick browse of social media will show hundreds of photos posted, many of them beautiful landscapes and seascapes, which show great amateur talent.

Oban Camera Club encourages the enthusiasm of photographers and nurtures talent through guest speakers, tutorials and competitions. The group meets every Monday at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Regent Hotel, Oban.

Call for more - and smaller - National Parks in Scotland



CREATING more National Parks need not be unduly complicated or expensive, according to the latest joint research report published by two charities, the Scottish Campaign for National Parks (SCNP) and The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS).

The report argues that National Parks in remote less populated areas of Scotland such as Glen Affric in the Highlands or the northern Cheviots in the Borders would have smaller budgets, staffing and governance structures than the two relatively large and complex existing National Parks.

Ross Anderson, Chairman of SCNP said: 'This is the second in our series of research reports building on our Unfinished Business report published a couple of years ago which called for the creation of more National Parks.'

'It clearly shows that future National Parks in Scotland would cover smaller areas and would have

fewer staff, smaller boards and lower budgets than either of our two existing National Parks.'

John Mayhew, Director of APRS said: 'The flexibility built into the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 provides significant scope for a variety of approaches depending on the character and needs of the area concerned, while maintaining the balance between national significance and local accountability.'

'The research report argues that, as the seven additional National Parks proposed by SCNP and APRS extend into only one or two council areas, they could each cost as little as £1.5m to £3m per annum to run, with no more than 10 to 30 staff and 8 to 13 board members.'

'This new report follows on from Unfinished Business, published previously by SCNP and APRS, which challenged the Scottish government to bring forward a national strategy to deliver more National Parks in Scotland.'

'At present there are only two, the

Cairngorms National Park and the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, with boards of 19 and 17 members respectively, primarily established to protect outstanding landscapes and manage visitor pressures.'

Mr Mayhew continued: 'Scotland remains near the bottom of the world league in terms of its number of National Parks, yet travel writers regularly champion Scotland's natural and cultural heritage as of world-beating quality.'

'The Scottish government has failed to fulfil its 2011 manifesto pledge to "work with communities to explore the creation of new National Parks".'

'A local referendum overwhelmingly supported the creation of Scotland's third National Park in Harris, but Scottish Ministers failed to back this grassroots enthusiasm.'

'Ministers have repeatedly kicked the consideration of more National Parks into the long grass whenever the issue is raised.'

Guitar duo 'wingin it' to victory

AN 'astoundingly good' guitar duo are coming to Argyll next month, to play an intimate live gig in the Victory Hall in Benderloch.

'Wingin' It are one of the most highly-rated guitar pairings in the country who, in their live show, deliver a fiery, energy-fuelled array of acoustic music styles.

Weaving effortlessly between bluegrass, gypsy jazz, folk and pop, their performances are sure to capture the imagination.

Having won the coveted Danny Kyle Award at the Celtic Connections festival, the pair have gone on to dazzle audiences ever since.

The gig, on November 7, is to promote their debut album, For The Many,

which consists of 10 self-composed pieces covering many musical genres and styles.

The album writing process began when, in 2011, the duo were commissioned to compose 10 minutes of new original music by the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust, and then asked perform the piece at a prestigious concert in Perth Concert Hall in front of a sold-out audience.

That 10 minutes of material formed the core of the album, providing three pieces; Lament for Gordon, Among Us and Raising the Bar.

This spurred the duo on to start writing more material with the plan to record their debut album. As the recording sessions progressed, and

they called in help from additional musicians, the album really started taking shape.

What began as material purely for the duo soon became a far more textural and varied soundscape, enhanced by sound effects, and edging towards a soundtrack and cinematic experience.

It was Martin Taylor, MBE, one of Britain's best-known jazz guitarists who described them as 'astoundingly good' in a recent review.

Make sure you don't miss out on your chance to be 'astounded'.

Tickets for the gig are £12 at the door or £10 in advance, and can be booked by calling 01631 720 247.

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Entertainment Guide

Cinema

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Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

16 OCTOBER 2015 - 22 OCTOBER 2015

BACK TO THE FUTURE (PG) Wed: 11:00
BACK TO THE FUTURE - PART II (PG) Wed: 13:30
BACK TO THE FUTURE - PART III (PG) Wed: 15:45
BRAVE (PG) (KIDS CLUB) Sat: 10:00
ENO: THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (12A) Mon: 19:30
INSIDE OUT (U) Fri: 13:15, 16:00; Sat: 11:00, 12:30; Sun, Mon, Tue, Thu: 11:00, 13:30; Wed: 11:00
OPEN STAGE Fri: 23:00
ROCKETS GALORE (U) Fri: 21:00
RSC: HENRY V (12A) Wed: 19:00
STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON (15) Fri: 17:45; Sat, Mon, Wed: 20:35; Sun, Tue, Thu: 16:00, 20:35
STRANGE MAGIC (U) Fri: 13:30, 15:30; Sat: 13:15, 15:00; Sun, Mon, Tue, Thu: 11:00, 13:15; Wed: 13:15
SUFFRAGETTE (12A) Fri: 18:30, 21:00; Sat: 15:30, 17:30; Sun, Tue, Thu: 15:30, 19:15; Mon: 15:30, 16:00; Wed: 15:30
THE MARTIAN (12A) Daily Except Fri: 17:45
THE MARTIAN 3D (12A) Sat: 20:00; Sun, Tue, Thu: 21:30

COMING SOON

SPECTRE (12A) 26/10/2015
A cryptic message from Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization. While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind SPECTRE.

BACK TO THE FUTURE
Oban Phoenix will proudly present a 'marathon' of the Back to the Future movies in all their glory! Starring Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd as the famous time travelling pair, join Marty McFly as he battles time to save his parents' marriage and get back... to the Future! A 'marathon' ticket covers all three movies! These films are PG rated and perfect for the holidays! (Part 1 - 136mins. Part 2 - 124mins. Part 3 - 138mins)

BRAVE (KIDS CLUB) - 100MINS - PG
Determined to make her own path in life, Princess Merida defies a custom that brings chaos to her kingdom. Granted one wish, Merida must rely on her bravery and her archery skills to undo a beastly curse.

ENO: THE BARBER OF SEVILLE - 170MINS - 12A
The Barber of Seville will have you smiling from the moment it begins. When grumpy Bartolo stands between his beautiful young ward Rosina and her lover Count Almaviva, there's only one person to call on: local barber and man-with-a-plan Figaro. But with Rosina kept under lock and key, can Figaro fix it for them? It could be a close shave.
Set in an elegant vision of 18th-century Seville, Jonathan Miller's much-loved production is as side-splittingly funny as ever. For this revival, the talented Christopher Allen will conduct Rossini's sparkling score, packed full of wit and playful tunes. A superb cast includes ENO favourite Andrew Shore (The Pirates of Penzance, The Masteringers of Nuremberg) in one of his signature roles as Dr Bartolo, former ENO Harewood Artist Kathryn Rudge as Rosina, and rising baritone Morgan Pearce as the barber Figaro.

INSIDE OUT - 118MINS - U
After a girl moves to a new home, her emotions are plunged into chaos as they compete for control of her mind.

OPEN STAGE
Come along with your instruments to our Open Stage Night. Entry and hospitality by donation.

ROCKETS GALORE - 88MINS - U
This glorious sequel to 'Whisky Galore!' sees the islanders of Todday once more at odds with the authorities from the mainland!
The very future of the idyllic Hebridean island is threatened when the government decides that Todday would be the ideal place to build a giant missile base! Hugh Mander is sent from the mainland to compile a secret report on the island and its inhabitants. While there, he falls in love with Janet, the local schoolmistress, but he is soon exposed as a government spy! Hurt and humiliated, Janet now personally leads the islanders in a campaign to stop the missile base being built. A star-studded cast including Donald Sinden, Gordon Jackson and Jeannie Carson (plus Ronnie Corbett in an early role) keep the laughs coming in this great traditional British comedy!

RSC: HENRY V - 180MINS - 12A
Henry IV is dead and Hal is King. With England in a state of unrest, he must leave his rebellious youth behind, striving to gain the respect of his nobility and people.

Radio

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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 American Jukebox 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 Christmas'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, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
SUNDAY: 0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

Volunteers at the heart of a great Oban Mòd

mòd an Òbain 2015



Volunteers of the Mòd. 26_142moduesday7001

Kilchoan Primary School relax in the sun. 26_142modmonday7223

It's all about Oban

THIS year's Royal National Mod is all about Oban - it's volunteers and its initiatives to get people involved with the event.

And what a job they have done! From the torchlight procession, with help with Neil Mackay at BID4Oban, to a marvellous afternoon tea at Glencruitten church, to stewarding and chairing each event, they have done an exceptional job.

Fundraising for the Mòd was boosted by The MacQueen Bros. Charitable Trust who gave £27,000 to the event.

This in turn allowed a unique training programme called the Mòd Academy which encouraged youngsters in the town to take part with tutoring from Gaelic specialists as well as preparing children for events.

Duncan Macdonald, the local organising committee convenor, said the initiative had been supremely successful in encouraging more people to take part.

He said: 'We only had two junior competitors in Inverness last year and it was a real shame that it was the case.'

'When we were planning for the Mòd, we wanted to see that

more people from the local area were encouraged to take part in the event.

'So taking a leaf out of other people's books we organised the Mod Academy. This has been a resounding success. Approximately 70 additional Oban junior performers will participate in the Oban Mòd competitions.'

'We had financial help too from Bord na Gaighlig and from Argyll and Bute council.'

'The big challenge is to keep it going in the future.'

Talking about the essential role of the volunteers who are helping out at the event - he added: 'There have been thousands of volunteer hours that have been put into the effort of bringing together the Mòd. And every minute has been worth it.'

'The Oban Times and BID4Oban have helped to raise awareness. I'd like to thank all the people from the town who came out to the torchlight procession. It made all the difference to sharing a welcome with those who are coming to visit us.'

Mr Macdonald continued: 'As I have said elsewhere, we trust that visitors, Oban residents and those involved in the hospitality industry, will have very fond memories of the Mòd in Oban.'

'There have been thousands of volunteer hours that have been put into the effort of bringing together the Mòd.'



More photos available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK/MOD

Torchlight parade



Oban high school pipe band led the march. 26_142modaturday7023



These three children took part on the short march through the town. KM_142modfrsat (5)

Welcome to Oban



A glass sculptor and designer from Mid Argyll was commissioned to design the award for the 2015 Gaelic ambassador. Lucinda Hopkinson uses a method of fusing, layering and moulding to make her work from her studio in Kilmichael Glen. Lucy is pictured with Gaelic ambassador, Boyd Robertson. 26_142modaturday7006



Oban High School traditional school of music played at the opening ceremony with Soren Maclean and Donald Shaw. KM_142modfrsat (6)



Callum MacDonald, age 12, from Lochgilphead, came 2nd in the under-13s class 7_142modaturday1009

Characters of the MÒD

Sheena MacTighe and Audrey Paterson



26_142modaturday7040

SHEENA MacTighe and Audrey Paterson were volunteering on the door of the fiddle competitions on Saturday. The night before they had performed at the opening ceremony. They also sang at the Celtic Praise service before attending musical Fighe.

In between times they have rehearsed for quartets, rural choirs and area choir, Nan Piseagan. The two women have known each other 'since our children were small' and share a lifelong love of the Mòd - both national and provincial.



Dunbeg Primary School. 26_142modmonday7201

Singing Co bring harm

Children performa

CHILDREN made Scotland's biggest Gaelic Cultural Festival even better with days filled with tough competitions and choirs to challenge the adults.
 On Saturday, 21 children's competitions in fiddle, chanter, bagpipes, piano, accordion and melodeon took place.

More than 320 competitors on Monday took part in 32 junior events in singing, drama and poetry.
 More than 70 children from Oban and the surrounding area took part in the competitions.
 John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach said: 'The children's competitions are always a



Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuilie in the action song. 26_142modmonday7039



Dalriada choir did very well taking home some fine silverware for their choir performances. 17_142modtuesday7006



Aged only nine, Blythe Shand from Dunfermline, led a very strong field to win the Jenny M B Curries Kilt Pin. 26_142modSaturday7039



Tiree Primary School. 26_142modmonday7053



Bowmore Primary School. 26_142modmonday7046



Finlay Cameron, 14, from Fort William, who received a first in the strathspey and reel and second for the march in the under 15s junior piping category. 17_142ModSaturday3022



Angus MacPhail, accordion winner, Kyle Gordon Rowan, 14 and Hector MacFadyen. 7_142modSaturday1003



Brighde Chaimbeul, 17, from Caol, received the first place trophy for her performance in the under 18s march. 17_142ModSaturday3028



Kirsty MacCormick from Oban. 7_142modSaturday1002



Abbie Morris from Ards Sgoil Ile who competed in the under 13s fiddle competition. 26_142modSaturday7004



Scott MacPhee who won silver medal in the poetry competition. 26_142modmonday7085



Ally Weir, 17, from Fort William smiles after competing. 17_142ModSaturday3026



Emma Hill, 13, who is a pupil at Oban high school. 17_142ModSaturday3002



Calum Garvin from Oban before he competed in the march and strathspey and reel competitions for 13 to 15 year olds. 17_142ModSaturday3011



Alasdair Mclean, 17, from Kilmartin. 17_142ModSaturday3027



Aaron Hossain, a sixth year pupil at Oban high school after he competed in both the march and strathspey and reel competitions for 16 to 18 year olds. 17_142ModSaturday3025

Competitions only to Mòd

ances 'equals' adults

wonderful start to The Mòd and we saw some excellent performances on Saturday to kick off this year.

'This is when competition begins to heat up, so we have some fantastic evening entertainment for families to unwind after a busy day.

'So far Oban has been a terrific host once again and

we're looking forward to an excellent week for The Mòd.'

While organisers were challenged about the number of youngsters taking part they were clear that while children's competitions may have decreased, the numbers of adults entering has actually increased.



Rockfield Primary with conductor, Joanie Garvin 26_142modmonday7214



Oigrìdh Shuaineart Choir 26_142modmonday7114



St.Columba's School, Oban with conductor, Anne Barlow. 26_142modmonday7107



Bowmore Primary School with conductor, Claire Jordan. 26_142modmonday7021



Islay's Port Ellen choir with Maureen MacDonald. 26_142modmonday7238



Bowmore Boys Choir 26_142modmonday7097



Ronachan Rois from Dingwall. 26_142modmonday7111



Lochgilthead duo, Molly Blythe and Brodie Crawford. 17_142modtuesday7017



Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile 26_142modmonday7203



Hannah Macrae, from Lochaber who is a finalist in the Traditional Musician of the Year, was first to perform in the fiddle competition and took second place overall. 26_142modsatursday7044



Taking third place was Lochaber's Rhona MacKintosh whose tunes were described as having a beautiful tone. 26_142modsatursday7043



Winners of Action Song: Clan Thron Dairnis. 26_142modmonday7042



Waulking song winners Clann Thronairnis. 26_142modmonday7245



Taking in the sun was this Oban youngster 26_142modmonday7075



Young Mary enjoys the Mòd. 26_142modmonday7232



Sunbathing in the gardens. 26_142modmonday7117



Joy's MÒD

Gaelic Songstress



Hello, my name is Joy Dunlop and I am a Mòdaholic. Despite it being five years since I worked for An Comunn Gàidhealach, organisers of the Royal National Mòd, this time of year will always hold a special excitement for me. My first experience of Gaelic language and song was the result of the Mòd coming to Oban in 1992 and from then on, I've been hooked! The Mòd is a staple of my social and work calendar and, although I no longer work for An Comunn, I love that I can still be involved in the week as an adjudicator, chairperson, performer and participant.

Having the Mòd visit your home area is a particularly special experience and it's been fantastic seeing the excitement build in Argyll over these last few years. The local committee has been a power house of organisation and fundraising efforts and this last year has seen everyone pulling together in a bid to make this week as successful as possible. As I drove into Oban and caught sight of the colourful, bilingual welcoming banners and beautiful Mòd window displays in the local shops, I felt that familiar flutter of pre-Mòd excitement – ahhh, the scent of the Mòd!

For many, their Mòd experience starts at the beginning of the week, but for those involved in competitions, our preparations have been ongoing over the last year. Sadly for me, this meant that instead of enjoying the beautiful torchlight parade and official opening ceremony (featuring Argyll's finest exponents Karen Matheson and Donald Shaw) on Friday night, I was locked into a room with 20 men, fine tuning our thick and thin Gaelic I sounds... the work of a chorister is never done!

Although the opening weekend of the Mòd is typically a quieter one for most, there's still enough to enjoy, with Saturday bringing the instrumental competitions and much loved Fiddlers' Rally and the ecumenical church service and Celtic Praise evening being held on Sunday. Celtic Praise is a newer event, first held as part of the 2003 Mòd in Oban and it's a lovely to see how it's grown to be an integral part of the Mòd week.

For me though, it felt that my Mòd had properly begun on Monday morning, when I saw the hoards of children teaming into venues for their various competitions. It's truly heartwarming to see the genuine enthusiasm that the young competitors have for our language and culture and, as chairperson, I enjoyed listening to wonderful singing from all ages.

Off course, the day doesn't finish with the end of competitions and for me, it was back to the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for the first of our children's fun nights. These bilingual events are open to all and it's just so lovely to watch the children interacting with each other in Gaelic and enjoying a fun, family friendly event as part of their Oban Mòd experience. Cap this with a late night quartet rehearsal and my Mòd is fairly off to a swinging start – long may it continue!

Number of cups of tea drunk so far – 27
Number of men in kilts nearly ran over – 4

Children's solo success

Strong voices, great timing make for Mòd magic in Oban



Domhall Lachlan Peulan was presented with the An Comunn Gàidhealach silver medal for his singing.
17_142modtuesday7040

A silver medal was presented to Ruairidh Gray by John McLeod for his excellent traditional singing.
17_142modtuesday7036



Sarah Garvin from Oban.
KM_142modtuesday8048



Laura Robertson from Lochaber who won the singing competition for under 10's.
KM_142modtuesday8013

Winner of sing a prescribed song girls 13-15, Emily Robertson, Falkirk. KM_142modtuesday8068



Laura and Shauna Macleod from Oban.
KM_142modtuesday8059



Eubha Fraser with mum, Wilma Kennedy. Wilma won the gold medal in 1991.
KM_142modtuesday8054



Calum Garvin from Oban.
17_142modtuesday7056



Ealasaid MacLean from Lismore.
KM_142modtuesday8066



Chloe McNeill, 17 from Lochgilphead.
17_142modtuesday7047



Finley MacLennan, age 11, from Inverness. 17_142modtuesday7028



A police escort for John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach. 17_142modtuesday7048

Characters of the MÒD

Teresa Russell - Volunteer



26_142modaturday7045

Teresa Russell - a Welsh woman living in Oban. Teresa was volunteering at the fiddle competitions on Saturday morning. Teresa is a firm supporter of the Royal National Mòd. She is exceptionally proud of her daughter, Toni, who teaches the clarsach,

amongst many other things. Teresa was wearing her new Mòd outfit and was cutting a dash around town. She said: 'I love the Mòd. It is so lovely to see so many friends and it will be great to see Toni perform later this week.'



More photos available online
OBANTIMES.CO.UK/MOD

Former Oban teacher named as Gaelic ambassador

THE Mòd began with the presentation of the coveted Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award at a special CalMac reception in the Caledonian hotel followed by a torchlight procession through the town from Station Square to the Corran Halls.

The Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award was presented to Professor Boyd Robertson, Principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - the National Centre for Gaelic language and culture on the Isle of Skye and one of the constituent colleges of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

A native of North Uist and former Principal Teacher of Gaelic at Oban High School, Professor Robertson has extensive experience in producing courses and resources for learners of Gaelic. He chairs the inter-University Faclair na Gàidhlig (Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic) Steering Committee and the UHI Gaelic Committee and is a member of the Management Board for the Soilleis research partnership.

His services to Gaelic education were also recognised with the conferral of an Honorary Doctorate in Education by the University of Edinburgh in 2014.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'Professor Boyd Robertson is certainly a worthy recipient of the Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award, made with the support of the Scottish government. He has championed the Gaelic language through education for many years and continues to be a fantastic role model for the younger generation of people looking to learn Gaelic.'

'Boyd continues to strive to make Gaelic an appealing and, more importantly, accessible language for those who are interested in learning it. His work as a member of the initial Bòrd na Gàidhlig, - the first government appointed Gaelic development agency - in



Former Oban high school teacher, now Professor Boyd Robertson of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was named the Gaelic ambassador at the Royal National Mòd. Boyd said he was particularly delighted to receive the award in Oban due to his strong ties and fond memories of the area. He was presented with his especially sculpted 'waves' by John MacLeod, president of the Royal National Mòd - and last year's Gaelic ambassador, Kirsteen Macdonald. 26_142modaturday7005

particular, showed his passion for maintaining the language in modern day Scotland.

'It gives us great pleasure to identify him for this prestigious award at the 2015 Royal National Mòd in Oban.'

Professor Robertson, added: 'I am honoured and humbled to be given this accolade by the Scottish government and regard it not just as a personal award but as recognition of the

work of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the innovative and iconic institution I am privileged to lead. It is a particular pleasure to receive the award in Oban where I spent the first 10 years of my career in education.

'I would like to thank An Comunn Gàidhealach and the Scottish government for bestowing this honour on me and I look forward eagerly to events at the Mòd and to renewing my acquaintance with friends in Argyll and in the rest of Gaeldom.'

Friend



A 'VERY special man' was celebrated at the opening ceremony of the Royal National Mòd.

Charlie MacColl, 69, who lives in Fort William, was named as the first Friend of the Royal National Mòd for his dedication to the organisation that runs Gaelic's biggest annual festival. His friend, Alan Campbell - an Oban Times columnist, said:

d of the Mòd



'Over the last 30 years he has been a true friend to the Mòd. He has raised funds, he has organised the Mòd committee and he has always been on hand to support the activities of the organisation. He is a deserved winner of this award. I was delighted to present it to him on Friday night at the opening ceremony

with his friends and family in attendance. He has raised many thousands of pounds for the Mòd, and he has done a great deal in encouraging musicians and singers of all ages to get involved. Charlie even created a Ceilidh Bus to take Fort William musicians all over Scotland.

Many of the musicians and singers who were involved in the bus prior to the 2007 Mòd in Fort William said they devoted almost every weekend to travelling across the country - often not knowing where they were going in order to raise awareness of the Royal National Mòd.

Choirs show off their silverware



Rionnagan Rois won unison singing competitions. 17_142modtuesday7051



Sir E Scott who sang in two part harmony success. KM_142modtuesday8004



Coisir Bun-sgoil Taobh Na h-Aibhne. 17_142modtuesday7050



Sgoil Lionacleit who took part in choral singing competitions. KM_142modtuesday8026

Robert's MÒD

OUR GLASGOW LETTER WRITER

As Duncan MacDonald (the Mòd convener for Oban 2015) alluded to in his speech at the official opening last Friday night, the Mòd has once again come 'home' to Oban - where it began with the first ever meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach in 1891.

For this reason, the opening ceremony was destined to be a massive occasion. So massive, in fact, that (through no fault of my own) I very nearly missed it!

Having attempted to park somewhere down on the esplanade, I found myself stuck behind the torchlight procession. This huge throng of Mòd revellers holding aloft torches as they marched through the Oban darkness was extremely impressive - if only I had been on the other side of it! How ironic to be held up from reaching the Mòd opening ceremony, by getting stuck behind the main event of the Mòd opening ceremony itself.

I eventually got myself parked and made my way into the hall. As Davy Paterson walked onto the stage, followed by a seemingly endless number of kilned singers, I thought: goodness me, the ranks of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir have fairly swelled under the conductorship of Audrey Paterson! It transpired that this was a joint effort between Taynuilt and Oban Gaelic Choirs - and it was a stunning sound they made when they began the evening with Suas Leis a' Ghàidhlig.

Speeches were made by Janet MacDonald, Duncan MacDonald, Martin Dorchester, John MacLeod, and the Rev Dr Angus Morrison. Kirsteen MacDonald, the presenter for the evening, kept proceedings flowing perfectly. Oban High's traditional school of music gave a couple of great sets of tunes (one as a collaboration with Donald Shaw and Sorren Maclean), and then a rendition of Gur Mìlis Mòrag which featured stunningly tight vocal harmony from three of the girls. Ian Maclean performed a tribute to Robin Banks on the button box accompanied by Finlay Wells on guitar and Clare Jordan on the piano. Angus MacColl gave a set of Gaelic singalongs which had the whole crowd singing along. A particularly touching part of the evening was when Charlie MacColl was given the award of 'Caraid a' Mhòid' from An Comunn Gaidhealach as recognition for all his great work over the years - which, being born and raised in Lochaber, I have witnessed first hand. Boyd Robertson, the principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, deservedly received the award of 'Gaelic Ambassador of the Year'.

Karen Matheson and Donald Shaw took the stage with Sorren Maclean. Karen and Donald had both taken part in Mòds in years gone by; and Karen admitted to still feeling anxious standing up in front of a crowd at the Mòd! She finished by thanking her in-laws for encouraging herself and Donald to sing as children at the cèilidhs in Taynuilt village hall; and then concluded by singing a song she had learnt in those years that had become her favourite Gaelic song of all time. It was that old Mòd classic, Gleann Bhaile Chaol, and, with it, Karen had the whole audience in the palm of her hand.

On Sunday night, I was lucky enough to be asked to sing at Celtic Praise in the Corran Halls. This was the first time I had ever attended Celtic Praise and what a wonderful evening it was. A huge audience singing their hearts out with the performers was spine-tingling.

Monday night was a classic example of a typically busy night at the Mòd. I was greatly looking forward to Rachel Walker's Fighe in the Corran Halls and I had also been asked to sing at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for the children's cèilidh. So I popped into the Argyllshire (where there was a great wee atmosphere, kept going by fear an taighe, Freddie MacKenzie) and gave a couple of songs. Ten minutes, a hurriedly eaten fish supper, and some fairly bad indigestion later, I was taking my seat in the Corran Halls to enjoy a splendid performance of music put together by Rachel. Fighe gave an insight into the spinning of wool and the formation of tapestries - particularly the Prestonpans Tapestry. It was a blend of original and older songs, and the overall feeling of the music seemed to capture the atmosphere of the subject matter perfectly.

After a cracking few days, I am now sitting in my hotel room writing this article, and (if I open my window) I can hear faintly the distant thud of Trail West's bass drum drifting on the wind across Oban bay. I am having to draw upon all my will power to get this article finished before I head out for some more Mòd craic. Although I'm not entirely sure I can take any more! This is a quandary that the national Mòd has a habit of bringing about. And this Mòd, in particular, is proving to be an absolute cracker.

Fighe - The rhythm of the weaver in song



Isla Munro dancers perform. KM_142modtuesday2007



Arthur Cormack who sang at the Fighe event. KM_142modtuesday2001



Rachel Walker who wrote and performed the outstanding Fighe. KM_142modtuesday2014

Ceilidh thrills with local voices



Freddie MacKenzie singing at the children's ceilidh in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. KM_142modtuesday2022



Enjoying the dancing. KM_142modtuesday2023



Alister Currie playing at the ceilidh in the Argyllshire Gathering. KM_142modtuesday2016



Fiona Hunter who performed during the Mòd. KM_142modtuesday2004

Ecumenical Gaelic church service

SINGING during an ecumenical church service held in Oban and Kilmore parish church was broadcast across the nation last Sunday.

And the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland preached in Gaelic.

The Royal National Mòd service was held in Oban Parish Church. Gaelic learner, the Rev Dugald Cameron and tenor in the town's Gaelic Choir, introduced the service.

Those who contributed to worship have strong Oban and Lorn connections.

Conducting the service was Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod. He has led Gaelic worship in Argyll for thirty years.

The sermon was given by former Oban high school pupil, the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who asked people to live kindly and be generous to others.

A sermon in Gaelic preached by the Moderator has not been heard since 1969.

Monsignor James MacNeil of St Columba's Cathedral in Oban led prayers with readings from Brigadier Macfarlane of St John's Episcopal Cathedral and Mary MacDougall - Session Clerk of Lismore Parish Church.

Helen Jordan and the Junior Fiddlers of the Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society led the hymn, Freagiar do Dhia, to the tune Lismore.

And Mòd gold medallist, Mary Catherine MacNeil, beautifully sang Do Lamh, A Chrioda.

Psalms were presented in the most uplifting way by John MacLeod, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Also, for the first time in many years, BBC Radio nan Gaidheal broadcast the service live.



A packed Oban Parish Church heard a sermon in Gaelic from the Moderator, Angus Morrison. 26_142modmonday7001

Roddy thanked for sterling work



Duncan MacNeil, left, Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod and Roddy McCuish celebrated the outstanding service the cleric has given to the Gaelic community. He was presented with a book of his sermons and a quaiuch.

Music, choirs and singing fill the air in Oban



Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Dr Angus Morrison, presents solo piper, Colin Campbell, with the John T MacRae cup. 17_142ModSaturday3030



Fiddle competition winners. Bronze Rhona MacIntosh, gold Magnus Westwell and silver Hannah MacRae. 26_142modSaturday7042



Juniors from Rockfield School, Oban who took part in the drama competition. 7_142modMonday6058



All the fiddlers in the 'exceptional' class of players aged between 13 and 18-years-old. Despite looking otherwise, Magnus Westwell from Edinburgh was delighted with his trophy. 26_142modSaturday7041



Mairead MacSween and Laura Nicoll from Braghaid Albann. 7_142modMonday6001



Upper school, Rockfield, Oban who took part in the drama competition. 7_142modMonday6066



Soloist from Tiree, Finlay McKinnon, age 11. 7_142modMonday6080



Emily Armstrong, age 10, Piano Soloist, Tiree. 7_142modMonday6082



WINNERS: Oban High School Folk Group, Group One. 7_142modMonday6092



Faran: Eilean Leodhais in Folk Groups Competition. 7_142modMonday6087

Picture Perfect in Oban



A packed hall for the drama competition. 7_142modMonday6065



Lochaber Folk Group 7_142modMonday6096



Comhlan Ard-sgoil Phort Rìgh 7_142modMonday6100



Davina McGrigor from Dalmally who came 4th in the singing competition 26_142modMonday7024



Volunteers at Glencruitten Church Hall. 26_142modMonday7006



Solo singing winner: Auran MacKay Watson, Glasgow Gaelic School. 26_142modMonday7034



Mòd president John MacLeod presents the James C MacPhee medal to Ryan Johnston from Bowmore for solo singing. 7_142modMonday6103



Finn McLaughlin from Oigrih Sunnart 26_142modMonday7030



Alan Thomas Mitchell Trophy: Oban High School are presented with the trophy in the folk group category. 7_142modMonday6101

Fiddlers' Rally saw Argyll stalwarts in tune with stars in the making



Magnus Westwell plays with the Fiddlers' Rally. 23_142modaturday7052



Dunoon Fiddlers. 7_142modaturday1006



Breadalbane Fiddlers. 26_142modaturday7001



Fiddlers from Cowal. 26_142modaturday7049



Fiddlers from Lochgoilhead. 26_142modaturday7048



Practising on the lawn prior to the fiddle competition. 7_142modaturday1005

Top marks for Kilmartin soloist Celtic Praise

Kilmartin's Alasdair Mclean performed in the 16-18 year old boys singing competition and won first place with Cait am faic mi do dhreach-sa? All who listened said his tutors had done a fine job in bringing on such a fine voice with superb Gaelic.

KM_142modtuesday8067



Everybody's favourite, Robert Robertson, was pipped at the post by another singer for once. Moira Dunlop, who was too shy to have her picture taken, gave an outstanding performance at the Celtic Praise on Sunday night. Robert, however, will no doubt make up for this with some fringe performances later in the week.



Fiddler winner under 19: Fergus Westwood. 26_142modaturday7046

Characters of the MÒD

Barbara McNaughton



26_142modaturday7047

Joining the Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society in 1974 has seen a lifelong commitment from this Glendaruel woman to taking part in fiddle events all over Scotland. Barbara McNaughton was in Oban, not only to listen to the 'superb' competitions in the af-

ternoon - but was taking part in the performance in the evening. Barbara has enjoyed playing at the Fiddlers' Rally for decades but still loves to get up on stage to perform. She is pictured with (left to right) Elchris Macfarlane, Liz Macfarlane and hiding in the distance, Donnie Clachar.

Legendary correspondent 'Mr Scalpay' was a renowned Gaelic poet and Bard of the Mòd

Gaelic poet, Donald R Morrison from Harris, died earlier this month.

The following tribute to him and his writing appeared in last week's Oban Times.

But as Mr Morrison was a Bard of the Royal National Mòd, we felt it was most appropriate to include it again in our special Mòd supplement.

A fluent Gaelic speaker, Donald Morrison was born in Harris, the year after the First World War ended.

He was the Scalpay correspondent of the Oban Times for many years and brought readers memorable stories of life through his special lens illustrating a by-gone era.

Affectionately known as 'Mr Scalpay', he would send a handwritten note in his scratchy writing to the newspaper offices where, for more than two decades, junior reporters would write them up for the next edition.

The number of tourists on Scalpay, the building of the bridge, the herring running in the seas, yachts in the bay, whether the sheep were on the hill or in the field - 'Mr Scalpay' was first with the community news from the island.

A former news editor, Euan Paterson, said there would never be a correspondent like him again.

Euan, who worked with him for

many years, said: 'One of my first jobs as a reporter was to type up notes from Mr Morrison.'

'He was a diligent correspondent and would send news often, sometimes three times a week. He was keen to get news from Scalpay out to the world via the newspaper.'

'For a man who wrote so eloquently - he was a man of very few words on the telephone.'

'He would phone and ask for envelopes, notepads and pens. We sent them to him and he sent his news back to us.'

'One of my favourite stories was the argument between two islanders over the age of one of them. One islander said that he would be 80 on his birthday - while the other, also an octogenarian, disagreed.'

Euan continued: 'Anyway the upshot was that no-one would be able to find out as, at that time, births were not registered on the island.'

A humble man, it was not for many years that Euan found out that Mr Morrison was, in fact, a renowned Gaelic poet.

'In one report he said three important things happened in 1953; "Edmund Hillary climbed Mount Everest, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned and I was named the Bard of the Royal National Mòd".'

'It is sad to think that it is the end of an era,' Euan added.

While Mr Morrison had no family of his own, and never married, he benefited from working in the family woollen and knitting business as well as helping out in the family shop.



WRITER AND POET: Donald R Morrison, the Scalpay correspondent, was first with community news from the island and also wrote poetry in Gaelic

One of his nieces, Christina Macinnes, who now lives in Inverness said: 'He was a confirmed bachelor and was well looked after latterly by three nieces and the wonderful staff in Harris House residential care.'

'Affectionately known locally as Dolly, he was born on Guy Fawkes night, 1919. He was quite private about his writing. He would write away and it wasn't until it was published that we would know

about it. He lived with us, in the old style, with him at one end of the house and us at the other.'

'There was a living area in the middle where we all would spend time together,' she added.

While he was very private at home, Mr Morrison would meet his other 'bachelor friends on a Saturday night in the shop - where they would share a few stories.'

Donald Morrison died aged 95 on Friday, October 2.

Sun shines on CalMac summit

David Cannon, CalMac public relations manager, and Martin Dorchester enjoy the October sunshine at this year's Royal National Mòd.



IN THE midst of the Royal National Mòd, Caledonian MacBrayne's Travel and Tourism Conference also took place in Oban.

Held at the town's Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday, the conference brought together more than 100 key industry professionals and a range of top speakers.

They included the Independent's senior travel editor and broadcaster, Simon Calder – a familiar face on the sofa of BBC Breakfast and famous as the 'man who pays his way' – and the Scottish Tourism Alliance's chief executive, Marc Crothall.

They were joined by Fiona Richmond from Scotland Food and Drink, Visit Scotland Marketing Director, Charlie Smith and The Leith Agency Insight Planner, Michael Higgins, amongst others.

CalMac is in a unique position as a tourism enabler for Scotland's west coast, working with other tourism partners at national and local destination level to support and promote tourism across the west coast.

The company has just won best ferry operator at the inaugural Independent Travel Awards against global competition – partly in recognition of the work it has done and continues to do within the tourism field.

From stocking a wide range of local products on board the ships through to providing customised deals to island attractions, from promoting the west coast destinations to a younger audience via its interaction with a range of festivals to gaining VisitScotland's Taste our Best accreditation – all are

CalMac commitments to tourism and the communities which depend on its services. This is the only tourism conference of its kind which concentrates on Scotland's west coast opportunities by bringing together some of the biggest industry players and transport providers from across the country and, indeed, beyond.

The conference also heard from CalMac's managing director, Martin Dorchester, as well as the company's head of commercial, Graeme MacFarlan, UK tourism development manager, Maggie Maguire, marketing manager, Peter Griffiths and commercial director, Jocelyn McConnachie.

'Our ships carry excited visitors and regular commuters all around the west coast,' said Martin Dorchester.

'We're proud to promote our stunning area and to work closely with key partners across our network destinations as well as across Scotland and beyond.'

'We're also proud to play our part in creating a memorable and enjoyable experience for the visitor.'

Mr Dorchester added: 'It was a privilege to bring together such a wealth of knowledge and expertise for a day of sharing and collaboration and looking

forward at the conference.' Caledonian MacBrayne is the operator of the UK's largest ferry network. In 2014 alone it carried 4.65 million people, 1.1 million cars, 92,000 commercial vehicles and 11,000 coaches across its 200-mile long network straddling Scotland's west coast.

The routes traverse some of Europe's most breath-taking and challenging stretches of water to provide lifeline services to remote communities on islands and mainland destinations.

In an independent economic report compiled this year by leading think tank, The Fraser of Allander Institute, Caledonian MacBrayne, which employs some 1,400 staff, was found to contribute almost £270million turnover to Scotland as a whole – much of it within the sometimes fragile communities which it serves.

The same report found that CalMac enables 3,247 jobs in island tourism, representing £53.4million worth in wages.

The company recently became the first UK ferry operator and first major transport operator in Scotland to sign up to gain Living Wage accreditation and it has also become a signatory to the Scottish Business Pledge.

Our ships carry excited visitors and regular commuters all around the west coast

Martin Dorchester, managing director of CalMac

Calder praises Iona manager Dot

TOURISM guru, Simon Calder, the keynote speaker at the CalMac tourist providers conference on Tuesday, said the Royal National Mòd was a superb event for the town of Oban.

The Oban Times caught up with Mr Calder shortly before he hitchhiked back to Glasgow, and he said his few days in Oban, Mull and Iona were

'superb.'

Mr Calder continued: 'This area has so much to offer. I want to mention one particular hotel on the island of Iona, The St Columba.'

'I was greeted by a member of staff. She knew exactly what I needed. She said: "Hello my name is Dot and I am the manager here. I can help you with

anything you need".'

'The next thing she said is "here is the Wifi code".'

'Hotels need to realise they have sophisticated travellers who can turn on lights and run a bath - but we all need essential information like Wifi codes. And travellers need that.'

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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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 Mòd Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday, October 27. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons. This a special one off competition to celebrate the Mòd. The entry with the cross nearest to the centre of the ball wins the jackpot.

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Ballyheather 3rd of Earn, the overall female champion winning the Invernairn Cup, is owned by Mrs H Corrigan. She was brought out by stockman, Donald MacNaughton. Also pictured is Wayne Eaton of sponsors Barclays Bank

Highland Cattle Society's 118th show and sale

A TWO year old heifer Ballyheather, 3 of Earn, from Mrs H Corrigan was the Overall female winner of the Invernairn Cup and two year old champion and winner of the George Bruce Memorial Trophy at the Highland Cattle Society's 118th annual Autumn show and sale at Oban on Sunday, October 11.

The full results are as follows: Section One: Three year old heifers: Class one: 1 Iona of Cnoc from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara; 2 Ruadh Aillidh 3 of Isle of Bute from R and E McMillan sold to TJE Barr, Carlisle for 1600 guineas (gns); 3 Dosan Og 89th of Achnacloch from Tordarroch Estates sold to Yann Guisnel, France 2400 gns; 4 Solas Ruadh 19th of Craigmill from Messrs Brown.

Class Two: 1 and reserve Champion three year old heifer Kirsty 9th of Craigmill from Messrs Brown sold to K Gascoigne, Yorkshire; 2 Belle of Rhudobach from Messrs R & E Crawford sold to M et Mme Todeschini, France for 2400 gns; 3 Anna Fiadhach 6th of Glengorm from Glengorm sold to Mrs Smith, Ardentalen for 1200 gns; 4 Molly 2 of Rhudobach from Messrs R & E Crawford sold to TJE Barr, Carlisle for 2000 gns; Class Three: 1 Reserve Overall, Champion three year old heifer and winner of Bell Ingram Quaich Claggorm 33 of Glengarnock from A and H Kirkpatrick sold to M et Mme Todeschini, France sold for 3000 gns; 2 Susan 8th of Glengarnock from A & H Kirkpatrick sold to N McLellan, Islay; 3 Iseabal 6th of Achnacloch from T.L. Nelson 1992 Trust sold to M Eberhart, Austria for 3000 gns; 4 Eva 1 of Tordarroch from Culloden Fold sold to Mr A Ewing, Annan for 1100 gns.

Other Prices: An Ros 7th of Glengorm from Glengorm sold to TJE Barr, Carlisle for 1500 gns; Eilidh 7th of Isle of Bute from R and E McMillan sold to Mr A Ewing, Annan for 1300 gns; Una Bhuidhe of Miungairigh from Mr AJ MacColl sold to Annie Perkins, Warwickshire for 900 gns;

Two Year Old Heifer: Section two: Class Four: 1 and Reserve Champion Two Year old Nemanda 3 of Knockend from Ronald and Frances Fergie sold to Mrs D Wain, Derbyshire for 1800 gns; 2 Bannoch 7th of Cailaich

from R and S Strachan sold to Sir James Paice, Cambridge for 1600 gns; 3 Bean Ruadh of Dams from Mr and Mrs CW Wilson sold to Yann Guisnel, France for 1400 gns; 4 Hazel 14 of Knockend from Ronald and Frances Fergie sold to Duncan MacGregor, Kilsyth.

Class 5: 1 Overall female winner of the Invernairn Cup, two year old champion & winner of the George Bruce Memorial Trophy Ballyheather 3 of Earn from Mrs H Corrigan sold to Yann Guisnel, France for 2200 gns; 2 Nana A Glean 5th of Blairlogan from Blairlogan Highlanders sold to K Gascoigne for 1800 gns; 3 Mhairi 3 of Earn from Mrs H Corrigan sold to Sir James Paice for 1000 gns; 4 Catriona 2 of Gray Brae from Douglas and Hilary Crane.

Other Prices: Ella 34 of Cailaich from R & S Strachan sold to Werner, Germany for 1100 gns; Una Bhuidhe of Balnabroich from Michael & Sally Nairn sold to Mr Hyslop, Biggar for 1100 gns; Hazel 13th of Knockend from Ronald & Frances Fergie sold to Yann Guisnel for 1100 gns; Nicole Ruadh of Ceannacroic from Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd sold to Yann Guisnel for 1000 gns; Sophie 6th of Knockend from Ronald and Frances Fergie sold to A Ewing, Annan for 700 gns; Magaidh 27th of Pollok from Glasgow City Council sold to M Eberhart, Austria for 700 gns; Chorrach 12th of Pollok from Glasgow City Council sold to Wesner, Germany for 700 gns; An Ros 8th of Glengorm from Glengorm sold to A Ewing for 600 gns.

Section Three: Yearling Heifers: Class 6: 1 Champion Yearling Heifer and winner of Braes of Greenock Challenge Bowl Heather Buidhe of Ceannacroic from Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd sold to Yann Guisnel for 1300 gns; 2 Reserve Champion yearling Eilidh 2 of Balnabroich from Sally and Michael Nairn sold to Yann Guisnel for 700 gns; 3 Sheila Beg of Balnabroich from Michael and Sally Nairn sold to A Ewing, Annan for 500 gns; 4 Lizzie 2 of Seam from Mr and Mrs Simon Haley sold to Yann Guisnel, France for 1000 gns.

Class 7: 1 Peallachag Beag 4 of Dams from Mr and Mrs CW Wilson; 2 Foula of Rannoch from Donald MacNaughton sold to Glenstrae Farmers, Dalmally

for 500 gns; 3 Magaidh 30th of Pollok from Glasgow City Council sold to the Burns Family, Bonnybridge for 380 gns; 4 Bhanna Prionnsa 11th of Pollok from Glasgow City Council sold to Jim Fraser, Tilbouries for 380 gns.

Other Prices: Seud Ruadh Beag 350th of Benmore from Mrs Emma Paterson sold to R and E Crawford, Isle of Bute for 800 gns; Annag 2 of Dams from Mr and Mrs CW Wilson sold to S and R Hunter for 800 gns; Miriam Alexis 5th of Heatherhills Glenlivet from Mr AW Garrick sold to Glenstrae Farmers, Dalmally for 800 gns; Gruagach 2 of Balnabroich from Michael and Sally Nairn sold to Glenstrae Farmers, Dalmally for 600 gns; Lady Carly 1 of Tordarroch from Tordarroch Estates sold to J Fraser, Tilbouries for 400 gns; Molag 2 of Ardentraive from The Keys Family sold to Yann Guisnel from France for 400 gns.

Heifer calves: Section 4: Class 8: 1 and Reserve Champion Magaidh of Cladich from Mrs JH Strickland sold to Yann Guisnel, France for 800 gns; 2 Mairina of Caomh 5th of Glengorm from Glengorm sold to Mr JB Cockburn, Yorkshire; 3 Arlene Ruadh of Ceannacroic from Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd sold to R and E Crawford, Isle of Bute for 780 gns; 4 Lynsey of Keillmore from Stuart D Campbell sold to Mr R Raeside, Glasgow for 800 gns.

Class 9: 1 Champion calf and winner of Myrecairnie Perpetual Trophy Rowen 5th of Hunters from R & S Hunter sold to Mr R Halford, Tyne and Wear for 650 gns; 2 Eileen 4 of Hunters from S and R Hunter; 3 Katlin 1 of Hunters from S and R Hunter sold to the Burns Family, Bonnybridge for 520 gns; 4 Wendredra 5th of Hunters from S and R Hunter sold to the Burns Family, Bonnybridge for 820 gns.

Other Prices: Sorcha Dubh 3 of Cladich from Mrs JH Strickland sold to Blairlogan Highlands, Alva for 800 gns; Peigi Dubh 2 of Ardan from Ardan Marine sold to R and E Crawford, Isle of Bute for 720 gns; Sharon 3 of Dunach from Lord Denham sold to Mr A Ewing; Lucilla 5th of Cladich from Mrs Jon H Strickland sold to Mr R Raeside, Glasgow for 700 gns; Furan Magaidh 8th of Glengorm from Glengorm sold to Ger-

old Lintelmann, Germany for 700 gns; Lady Alma Grianaich of Cladich from Mrs JH Strickland sold to Mr A Ewing, Annan for 500 gns; Catriona Ruadh 5th of Dunach from Lord Denham sold to Mr G Montgomery, Cardross for 450 gns; Jane Usal 4 of Cladich from Mrs Jon H Strickland sold to the Burns Family, Bonnybridge for 450 gns; Lach Geal of Dunach from Lord Denham sold to Mr R Raeside, Glasgow for 450 gns.

Section 5: Cows: Class 10: 1 Caileag Bheag 43 of Penngown from Mr HA Garton sold to Mrs H Barker, Callander for 1100 gns; 2 Ruadh Eilidh 6th of Esecfeld from Mr and Mrs S Haley sold to Mr Craig Finnie for 2600 gns.

Class 11: 1 Champion Cow and Winner of Thaggnam Cup Una Dubh 22 of Pollok from Glasgow City Council sold to Annie Perkins, Warwickshire for 2400 gns; 2 and Reserve Cow Monica 8th of Thaggnam from Mr HA Garton sold to S Gillon Cathness for 2200 gns; 3 Mairearad Mhacair 4 of Ardbhan from The Keys Family sold to A Ewing, Annan for 1000 gns; 4 Ceat 32 of Megergie from David D Cameron sold to Mr W Davies, Swansea.

Other Prices: Eilidh 5th of Tordarroch from Tordarroch Estates sold to N McLellan, Islay for 1500 gns; Kaylee of Idvies from Tordarroch Estates sold to J and J Singer, Laurencekirk for 1000 gns; Carly of Idvies from Tordarroch Estates sold to Mr Hyslop, Biggar for 900 gns.

Males: Yearling bull calf: Class 12: 1 and Winner of Neil Jackson Perpetual Memorial Trophy Fearnoch 2 of Rannoch from Donald MacNaughton sold to H Corrigan, Easter Ross for 600 gns; 2 Uisge Beatha 2 of Dunach from Lord Denham sold to R and S Hunter, Lanarkshire for 350 gns; 3 Balach Mhor of Dunach from Lord Denham sold to R & S Hunter, Lanarkshire for 400 gns; 4 Luachmhor of Dunach from Lord Denham sold to R and S Hunter, Lanarkshire for 350 gns.

Sale Averages: Three year old heifers - 1922 guineas/£2019 13 sold; Two year old heifers - 1193 guineas/£1253 15 sold; Yearling heifers - 640 guineas/£672 14 sold; Heifer Calves - 598 guineas/£628 18 sold; Cows - 1587 guineas/£1667 8 sold.



Seven year old Kate Cameron from Glen Lonan with her calf Sharon 3rd of Dunach. Kate was competing for the first time and was the youngest competitor in the young handlers class. Kate is the daughter of John and Wilma Cameron who is the manager at Glen Lonan and Dunach and runs the Dunach fold for Lord and Lady Denham



Asha Nelson, 14, of Glengorm, Mull, showing for the first time. Asha is the daughter of current Highland cattle society president, Tom Nelson



Dougie Macdonald of Benderloch, winner of the Oban Times trophy for young handler, with judge of the section, Lynne Maclean



Claggorm 33rd of Glengarnock owned and brought out by Andrew Kirkpatrick also made 3,000gns



Iseabal the sixth of Achnacloch made 3,000gns for her owners T L Nelson 1992 trust brought out by Duncan Buchanan

Market reports

Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd sold 1011 suckled calves, store, breeding and Over 30 Month (OTM) cattle at their Annual Show and Sale on Tuesday, October 6.

Judge was Alan Pettigrew, Airdrie. The champion, was a Spring born Limousin bullock from I Campbell, Strongorm, Balvicar, it scaled 270kgs and realised £900 to B Marley, Low Wilington, Co Durham. Reserve champion was a Limousin heifer from Poltalloch Farms, Lochgilphead, it scaled 250kgs and realised £740 to D G Watt, Cairntack, Belhelvie. Bullocks averaged 255p per kg (+4p per kg on the year) selling to 331p per kg for Limousins from I Campbell, Strongorm, Balvicar and £1080 for a Limousin from A Campbell, Achnacreebeg, North Connel. Heifers averaged 229p per kg (+1p per kg on the year) selling to 303p per kg for a Charolais from D Buchanan, Shenavallie, Benderloch and to £1100 for a Limousin from E McGillivray, Barcaldine Home Farm. Leading prices per Kg:

Bullocks: 328p Airds; 317p Torosay Deer Farm and Kilbride (Craig); 314p Kilbride (Anderson); 311p Dunach Estates; 310p Scammadale; 309p Poltalloch Farms and Kilbride (Craig); 307p Kinlochlaich and Strongorm; 300p Antuim and Poltalloch Farms; 299p Kengharair; 298p Balnagowan and Airds; 297p Scammadale; 296p Shenavallie, Kinlochlaich and Poltalloch; 292p Achnacreebeg, Rhulios. Heifers: 296p and 293p Poltalloch Farms; 284p Kilbride (Craig); 274p Antuim; 273p Strongorm and Kilbride (Anderson); 272p Rhulios and Airds; 268p Achnacreebeg; 265p Ardachy; 260p Poltalloch Farms and Achnacreebeg; 255p Kengharair and Kilbride (Anderson); 247p No.77 Borve; 244p Strongorm. Leading prices per head: Bullocks: £1080 Achnacreebeg; £1060 and £1020 Culbuhurig; £990 Craignach; £960 Treshnish and Craignach; £930 No.77 Borve, Port Ramsay, Balnagowan and Craignach; £920 Achnacreebeg and Strongorm; £900 Culbuhurig and Strongorm; £880 Ardachy; £860 Ardencape and Ardachy.

Heifers: £1,100 Barcaldine Home Farm; £970 & £910 Achnacreebeg; £900 Balnagowan; £860 Achnacreebeg; £820 Fiart; £780 Strongorm; £770 Fiart; £750 Culbuhurig; £740 Poltalloch Farms; £720 Fiart, Ardachy and Culbuhurig.

Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held a special sale of 2,875 all classes of lambs and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on October 9. As this was an extra sale, held in addition to the normal calendar list there are no comparison for sale averages. Lambs sold to average £37.44 per head or 133.6 pence per kilo. Lambs sold to £58 per head for Texel crosses from Tullich Croft. Breeding sheep were in good demand with Blackface gimmers selling to £81 from Kilbride Croft, Isle of Seil and the same home sold Blackface warranted ewes to £71. Overall, all classes sold at keen rates and to a strong force of buyers. Principal lots and prices, lambs: Suff: £54 - Callart, Onich. Tex: £58.00 - TullichCroft :£52.00 - Bruilin :

£51.00 - Couston Farm. Chev: £48.50 - Machrins Farm, Colonsay. Cross: £55.00 - Kilbride Croft, Seil : £50 - Brackley. BF: £51.50 - 2 KeilCroft : £47.50 - Rears : £45 - Achnaba and Machrins Farm, Colonsay £44.00 - Dunans : £43 - Glenshellach and 83 Borve, Barra : £42 - Castles Estate : £41.50 - Rhudle Farm: £41 - Invernahyle and Brackley: £40 - Rhudle and Knockderry. Gimmers: Tex: £68 - Kilbride Croft. Chev: £64.00 - Cour Grazings. Cross: £64 - Cour Grazings. BF: £81.00 - Kilbride Croft: £70 - Achnaba. Ewes: Tex: £60 - Kilbride Croft. Chev: £47.50 - Machrins Farm. Cross: £43 - Garrogie Estate. Mule: £50 - Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay. BF £71 - Kilbride Croft : £56.00 - Achnaba. Lambs per kg: Suff: 161p - Callart, Onich. Tex: 157p - Callart, Onich. Chev: 168p - Couston Farm : 167p - Garvachy : 160p - Machrins Farm. Cross 150p - 15 Ardmhor, Barra. BF: 155p - RhudleFarm : 149p & 145p - Garvachy : 144p - Achnaba : 141p - Glenshellach, Killundine Estate and Rears: 140p - Rears&Rhudle Farm.

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Selection of used 12" Wide Static Caravans for Sale off-site.

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WANTED

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All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan, any 4x4 considered non-runners, failures, single or double cab and accident damaged, MOT failure, genuine people to deal with.

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All types of motor homes & caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

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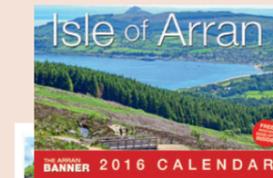
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Scottish Field Small	£7.95	£7.95	£8.50	£
Oban Times West Highland	£7.95	£7.95	£8.50	£
Arran Banner Isle of Arran	£7.95	£7.95	£8.50	£
Total				£

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

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The Oban Times is inviting applications for a senior reporter.

As the position will be based in Oban, knowledge of the area would be an advantage.

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

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- ✓ Talent, self motivation and commitment
- ✓ A full current driving licence



Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND JOURNAL



Assistant Farm Manager
Loch Etive, Near Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland and Ireland. We have 5 sites located within Loch Etive, near Taynuilt and are looking to recruit an Assistant Farm Manager to help strengthen and develop the team already in place.

You will have responsibility for various aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience and a proven track record is essential. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

This is a full time position, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days including weekend cover on a rota basis. You would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business.

Salary: circa £26k plus additional payment for weekends worked.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:-

Jane McCusker, HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008 or E-mail: jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk

For an informal discussion about the role please contact Lewis Campbell, Farm Manager on 07827 300099.

Closing date for applications: 26 October 2015.

Freelance / Consultancy Project Organiser/ Design Team Co ordination

Oban Communities Trust has reached an exciting time in the development of The Rockfield Centre and now requires further expertise. This post requires a specialist with experience in project development and design team procurement processes. The contracted post is offered on a short term freelance consultancy basis over a period of 5 months (44 days) at a day rate of £350.

Applicants are invited to forward covering letter and their CV to info@obancommunitiestrust.org.uk

Deadline for applications 29th October 2015
Interviews will be held on Friday 6th November 2015
Job description can be accessed on our website

<http://www.obancommunitiestrust.org.uk/work-with-us/> or telephone 07762756072 for more information



Commercial & Procurement Manager Temporary Maternity Cover

Working within the Commercial team your role will be to manage quotes, project purchases and claims for new and existing projects for Wind Towers (Scotland) Limited.

Key Responsibilities

- Negotiate legal terms and conditions and customer and supplier framework agreements.
- Manage quote process for projects.
- Manage commercial disputes with customers and suppliers.
- Provide weekly/monthly management data to the Management team.
- Provide project analysis and monitor project budgets.

Further details are available on our website: <http://www.windtowersscotland.com/careers>.

To apply for this position please send your CV and covering letter to: hr@windtowersscotland.com or post to HR Manager, Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd, PO Box 9263, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6WA

Closing date: Sunday 18th October 2015

Library Supervisor

£19,672 - £20,859 Campbeltown Library Refs: CMC00391 / ARB00662

Clerical Assistant (Temporary)

£14,599 - £15,457 Oban Refs: DVP00181 / ARB00669

01546 604334

Closing date for both posts: 30 October 2015.
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



Planned Maintenance Manager (AHFA) Oban

Salary £27,146 - £31,427 per annum 35 hours per week

We are seeking a highly motivated individual to oversee the development and delivery of our planned maintenance programme.

The successful candidate must hold an HNC or equivalent in Housing Maintenance or, have relevant technical skills within the construction sector.

For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact Phil Burn, Operations Manager on 01546 605824 or email philip.burn@ahfa.co.uk

Customer Services Assistant (ACHA) Oban

Salary £17,097 - £18,889 35 hours per week

Interviews for this post will be held in Oban on Friday 6 November.

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: Tel 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 30 October 2015.

Part-time Administrator

Uncommon Knowledge is a specialist psychology training company based in Oban, with thousands of customers all over the world. We need a part-time administrator to help deal with customer emails and order fulfilment. 3 hours per day Monday to Friday (flexible start times). £7.70 per hour plus other benefits.

Find out more
<http://www.unk.com/company/part-time-admin/>

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North Argyll Eventide Home Association Limited NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
Tel. 01631 562168

Care Assistant

Permanent full time position. £8.38 - £8.65 per hour depending on qualifications.

Domestic Assistant

Part time. £7.46 per hour
For an application form contact Manager Morag A Telfer 01631 562168



REQUIRE QUANTITY SURVEYOR / ESTIMATOR

FOR PROJECTS THROUGHOUT ARGYLL & THE ISLANDS (Partially qualified candidate may be considered) ALSO

SKILLED LABOURER/HANDYMAN

(Mid-Argyll based) BOTH FULL TIME AND PERMANENT POSITIONS FULL DRIVING LICENCE PREFERRED ENQUIRIES IN WRITING AND/OR CV TO KILMORY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RR. OR e-mail - ll@mkmacleod.co.uk

Mull Building Supplies

Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, PA34 4BH

Administrator / Office Manager

Full time position, based at our Oban Office

Application / C.V. in writing to:

Recruitment, Mull Building Supplies, Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, PA34 4BH Or to: mullbuilding@btconnect.com



Field Sales Consultants

£35,000-£50,000 OTE

We are looking for individuals who are:

- Motivated and confident
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- Great communicators

Full training provided at our Academy.
Please apply to: jane.ralston@everest.co.uk

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DIRECTOR OF STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Inverness base, or location in the Highlands and Islands to be agreed
Salary £69,827 - £85,935 per annum, excellent benefits package

Operating across half of Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise is one of Europe's most highly-regarded development agencies. HIE's unique integration of economic and community development is central to its success in generating sustainable economic growth in every part of the Highlands and Islands, particularly in fragile areas.

We're offering a rare opportunity for a talented individual to take on a senior leadership role within the agency.

As Director of Strengthening Communities, you'll lead a multi-disciplinary team in shaping our approach, ensuring effective implementation of policy and the delivery of projects which enable communities and social enterprises to flourish. You will also head HIE's work in arts and culture development, and have lead responsibility for the agency's contribution to Inclusive Growth, a key theme of Scotland's Economic Strategy.

Reporting directly to HIE's Chief Executive, you'll be a skilled manager with senior economic and/or community development experience. You'll be driven by a desire to help build stronger rural communities with control of their own assets and able to plan effectively to determine their futures.

You will also be responsible for the delivery of HIE's Gaelic Plan to derive economic and community benefit from the language.

Bli th an urra ri lùbhrigeadh Ar Plana Gàidhlig, a' brosnachadh buannachdan eaconomach, sòisealta agus coimhearsnachd bhò na cothroman a' dha co-cheangailte ri Gàidhlig.

TO APPLY ONLINE VISIT:
www.hie.co.uk/vacancies

JOB REFERENCE: 480
CLOSING DATE: 12 November 2015
INTERVIEW DATE: 24 November 2015

We encourage online applications but if you are unable to apply online please contact us for an application pack, e-mail recruitment@hient.co.uk or call 01463 244414



Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Money Advice / Outreach Worker

Based in Lochgilphead - 28 hrs per week
£24,198-£26,443 pro rata. Driving licence.

For an application pack contact 08456 123 808.
Closing date 30th October 2015

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obantimes.co.uk/digital

First Registration of a Croft
Mrs Shona MacDonald has registered their croft 2 Bohuntin, Kilmonivaig, 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 26/06/2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1550.

First Registration of a Croft
Mr Archibald Maceachan has registered their croft 5 Bunacaimb (share), Arisaig & Moidart, 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 2/7/2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1615.

First Registration of a Croft
Dr Julian Overnell and Mrs Denise Overnell have registered their croft The Croft, Kilmore, Kilmore & Kilbride 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 23rd June 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1643.

David Stewart MSP
Regional MSP for the Highlands & Islands
Advice Surgery



Saturday 17th October 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland, Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban, PA34 4DN
No appointment necessary
All constituents welcome
Write: PO Box 5717, Inverness, IV1 1YT
Telephone: Constituency Office 01463 716299
E-mail: david.stewart.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

MARY SCANLON MSP



CONSTITUENT SURGERIES
TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER
TOBERMORY
AROS HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE: 12.30 - 1.30 PM
IONA
IONA VILLAGE HALL: 4.00 - 5.00 PM
WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER
CRAIGNURE
CRAIGNURE VILLAGE HALL: 11.30 AM - 12.30 PM
OBAN
OBAN CUSTOMER SERVICE POINT: 2.00 PM - 3.00PM
No appointment necessary
For more information please contact Mary on 01463 241004 or e-mail mary.scanlon.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or www.maryscanlonmmp.com

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Regional Press
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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
PDK Shellfish Ltd of 2 South Pier, Gallanach Road, Oban PA34 4LS is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 5 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at the operating centre at John Macalister (Oban) Ltd, Oban Livestock Centre, Oban PA34 4SD. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NFJ Lady stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
Moorings x7, Colonsay
Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of 7 moorings at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Eilean Olmsa Mooring 1	56° 05.306' N	06° 09.790' W
Eilean Olmsa Mooring 2	56° 05.279' N	06° 09.650' W
Port Sgibinis Mooring	56° 06.902' N	06° 10.625' W
Scalasaig North Mooring 1	56° 04.295' N	06° 10.968' W
Scalasaig North Mooring 2	56° 04.292' N	06° 10.941' W
Scalasaig South Mooring 1	56° 04.239' N	06° 11.015' W
Scalasaig South Mooring 2	56° 04.239' N	06° 10.978' W

(WGS84)
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Colonsay Village Hall. Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: 05655 Marine Harvest

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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

E A Fraser Pt45/46 Banavie, Kilmallie
0.205 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.60346

A C MacColl 84 Portuairk, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
0.177 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.60709

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

G Goulding & I E Hancock
1 Portnaluchraig, Arisaig & Moidart
0.086 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
4.86.60134
Conditions: 2a, 4, 8

Mr J Livingstone & Mrs C D Livingstone
Glasdrum, Lismore & Appin
0.110 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.58523
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4

Mrs M C Maclean
5 Ruaig, Tiree
0.106 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.58093
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4

Conditions

(2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(b) the proposed development completion
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
(8) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.

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.

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 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/03606/PIP	Plot 1, Low Bridge, Glen Gloy, Spean Bridge	Renewal of consent 12/03389/PIP for dwelling house and associated site development works
15/03704/FUL	90 High Street, Fort William	Change of use of vacant (Class 1) retail unit to (sui generis) hot food takeaway including installation of extraction system
15/03739/PIP	Land NW of Ford Cottage, Badabrie, Corpach, Fort William	Erection of dwelling
15/03767/FUL	Land 15m East of 9 Lochy Crescent, Inverlochty, Fort William	Construction of domestic use double garage

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@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	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02598/PP	Alterations and extension to tea room and new access stairs to upper accommodation	Calgary Arts Tearoom Calgary Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6DQ	Sub Post Office Dervaig
15/02660/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 12/01477/PPP - Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse and formation of new vehicular access	Site C South East of Inverlussa Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
15/02689/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land West of Knockalla Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Craignure

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02287/LIB	External and internal alterations to dwellinghouse (including installation of replacement windows and roof covering) and erection of replacement rear extension	Pennygate Lodge Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02736/PP	Variation of condition 2 relative to planning permission reference 14/00653/PP (erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new vehicular access - amended design relative to planning permission reference 11/00399/PP) Amendment from timber to aluminium (retrospective)	146 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, 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.

IT'S TIME

TO BOOK YOUR AD IN THE 2016 OBAN INDEX

If you wish to advertise your business within the Oban 2016 Index please call Fiona 01631 568018 or email fmacinnis@obantimes.co.uk to secure your space




PROPERTY

rightmove 01369 267002 rightmove.co.uk

Kames by Tighnabruaich Argyll

Albion House is a spacious two story villa with a large garden, located in the centre of the village of Kames. Comprising of five bedrooms, three reception rooms, family bathroom, two shower rooms, kitchen and utility room. The layout of this unique property could be easily adapted to provide two spacious one bedroom apartments with letting potential, and a four apartment two story family home.



For details contact:
Scottish Property Centre, Argyll 4 - 6
Auchamore Road, Dunoon, PA23 7DY

Home Report Valuation
£185,000.00

Bell Ingram 01631 566 122 bellingram.co.uk



Plot at Inverinan, Taynuilt, Argyll
Prime building plot in an attractive rural village location
Planning Permission in Principle granted for the erection of a single dwelling
Services available for connection close by
Rural location
The plot size extends to approximately 0.172 ha (0.43 acres)
Offers over £45,000

TO LET
2 bedroom semi in Taynuilt, £565 per month plus bills and Band D Council Tax, sorry no dogs, dss or smokers, available from 25th October.
Landlord reg no 206432/130/14570.
Telephone
07759149437

Flat to Let
5 apt flat in Oban town centre.
Telephone
01631 562649
Landlord reg no 101781/130/29430

FOR SALE



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Former Bank premises with Change of Use for residential
Flexible layout including annex suitable for B&B / Studio etc

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OFFERS INVITED AROUND £149,500

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surveyors & property consultants
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TO LET
Business opportunity for a family in a 4 bedroom house.
In a beautiful rural setting, with wonderful views, near Kilchrenan.
£650pcm.
Great Success this season with one room let on airbnb.
Contact Frank on 07831 264806
Landlord Reg: 266939/130/02351

ADVERTORIAL

"Wow" that won't break the bank!

In June of this year, the Royal Bank of Scotland closed the doors on dozens of its rural branches across the land for the last time.

With pressure on the Bank to improve profitability and repay the State which bailed it out from the brink of collapse during the recession, the easiest way to do this was to close branches, axe jobs and save money.

So ends the first incarnation of Bank House, Kinlochleven - an imposing, detached, redbrick building which was built to house the bank branch and the managers family in the days when bank managers were feared and respected as some of the most solid pillars of society.

So what will happen to it now?

Well, according to the selling agents, Smart & Co.; given Kinlochleven's superb location of as a tourist hub for outdoor pursuits plus the style and size of the property, it is easy to imagine it playing a significant part in the tourist accommodation marketplace as a boutique hotel, B&B, or self-catering units. But it would equally make a fantastic home with the former bank making an excellent "granny-flat", teenagers annex, or a studio.

The building retains many of the original architectural features such as stained glass, cornices, shutters on windows etc, but it is the former bank that offers a true wow factor...

"the walk-in vault - with its full size, heavy steel door dominates the back wall. This could make a unique talking point for any new owner." Says Doug Smart of Smart & Co.

"Imagine turning that vault into the bathroom or a wine-cellar or even just retaining it as a strong room for storing valuables or special items that need extra security."

The building has its own front and rear gardens with stunning views along the river and of the Mamore mountains. Planning Permission has been obtained to change the use back to residential and it would be possible to either keep the branch separate from the main house or to knock a doorway through to interlink them to provide around 6 or 7 bedrooms.

All this Wow won't break the bank either - the property has been valued independently at £165,000 in its current condition, but is available at Offers In the Region of £149,500.

For more information contact Smart & Co on 01764 670 335.



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THANK YOU
Joey Reffin thanks everyone who came to my 90th birthday and for cards, presents, flowers and best wishes.
It was a wonderful day and hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.
Will see you all for the next one xxx

GOLDEN WEDDINGS



GILFILLAN
Caroline and Robert, married October 1, 1965 in St Oran's, Connel. Thank you to all for good wishes and cards and gifts on our 50th anniversary.

McDOUGALL - HUNTER - On October 16, 1965 at Kilchrean Parish Church by Rev. C. MacKenzie, Jean McDougall, Kilchrean, to Tommy Hunter, Lochgilphead.

DEATHS

HUGHES - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital on October 8, 2015, Joe, aged 89 years, South Cuan, Luung. Much loved husband of the late Eva and father of David, Anne and Alan. Sadly missed.

MACALLISTER - Donald William (Willie Dan), died in a Kirkcaldy care home on October 11, 2015, after a long illness, in his 74th year. Rest in peace.

MACCOLL - Florence MacColl, Torlundy, passed away peacefully at Belford Hospital, Tuesday, October 13. Funeral to be held on October 22 at 12pm in Kilmonivaig Parish Church. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Macmillan Nurses, Belford Hospital.

MACDONALD - Peacefully on October 7, 2015 at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, MaryAnn MacDonald of Tiree, wife of the late Donald MacDonald, mother of Hugh and Isabel, beloved grandmother of Anne, James and Kathryn. Funeral on Thursday, October 15 at Heylipol Church, Tiree and afterwards at the Lodge Hotel. No flowers please. If you wish to make a donation in her memory, please donate to either the Smile Train - www.smiletrain.org - or the Leprosy Mission - www.leprosymission.org.uk

MACINTYRE - Peacefully at St Margaret's Hospice, Clydebank, on Monday October 12, 2015, aged 55 years. Alasdair (Ally) MacIntyre formerly of Bunessan, Isle of Mull. Sadly missed. Funeral service to be held at Clydebank Crematorium on Thursday, October 22 at 1.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations to St Margaret's Hospice.

McLAREN - Suddenly but peacefully on October 10, 2015, in her 88th year, Mary (née Fraser), beloved wife of the late Walter McLaren and much loved aunt, grand aunt and great-grand aunt. Funeral service will take place at St Munda's Church, Ballachulish at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 16 and thereafter to Duror Cemetery.

NICOLSON - Passed away on September 24, at her home surrounded by her devoted family, friends and Rev. MacRae. Catriona Nicolson, age 94 years, died after an illness borne with great courage, dignity and always a smile. Beloved mum to John, Neil and Christina. Dearly loved mother-in-law, granny, great-granny and good friend to so many. Sincere thanks to Rev MacRae and Rev D MacLean for the comforting service, also to Rev D MacDonald for the comforting prayer at the graveside. We would like to thank Mike and Jamie, funeral directors for their excellent care, McDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers and the Moorings Hotel for the lovely tea. The family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of our mum. The retiral collection raised £970 for STAR for Harris charity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAKEBREAD - (née Thomson), Margaret and Lynn, Nicholas, Alfred and Angus send our heartfelt thanks to all the district nurses, Dr. Richard Wilson, Emergency Care Community Team, Gaynor and Kay and all the district nurses, Marie Curie nurses, Brian McElhone (ASW), Edward Thornton and D & A Munn for all their care and support. Moreen Gracie for sourcing the wonderful flowers. The Glen for the exceptional catering and staff. Thank you to all our wonderful family, neighbours, work colleagues from Shellach View, TSI (AVA), dearest friends for all their help, support and expressions of sympathy at the sad loss of Senga; daughter, sister and mum. The retiral collection raised £206.74 for Riding for the Disabled, many thanks to those who donated.

FLEMING - Poacher, Brenda, and kids would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of our dad and Bampa Billy (Flip). Thanks to all who attended the funeral service and kind donations which raised £476 for North Argyll Stroke Association. Thanks also to Margaret, Cathy and Adrienne and to the staff of Mears for helping with his care.

The Rev. Christine Fulcher for a lovely service, Hoey and Son Funeral Directors for all their help. The Rowantree Hotel for excellent service.

MACDONALD - Kelly, Steven, Wendy, Roddy and Shaun sincerely thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and words of comfort received by way of many beautiful cards, letters, emails, phone calls, flowers and visits following the sad loss of Kelly, a much loved partner, daughter and sister. They would like to start by thanking all the community for the support they gave to Kelly and the determination in helping her to fight her illness. Throughout her illness so many people supported her professionally - from all the staff at the Belford Hospital, Craig Nevis Surgery, Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie Nurses, District Nurses, and the Nursing Guild, to the community and her friends especially Lisa, Rebecca and Leanne - we cannot thank all of you enough. Special thanks to Dr Smith, Mr Day, Mr Scott, Dr Burn, Miss Prince and Dr MacDonald for your personal friendship to Kelly. Thank you to Father Roddy McAulay for his comforting service along with Mr David Sedgwick for his endless support and for reading a lovely tribute to Kelly. Special thanks to Scott Greenlees and colleagues of John McLellan Funeral Directors for their professional guidance and for the respect and kindness they gave, not only to us but also to Kelly. Thank you to everyone who paid their respects at the church and graveside and generously donated over £1,700. The money raised to help Kelly through Kelly's Klumb will be added to the funeral donations and will be divided between local charities throughout Lochaber. There have been so many people to thank, sorry if they missed anyone out but they are so grateful to everyone.

MACDONELL - (Fort William) - John Alister and family wish to thank most sincerely, all family, friends and neighbours for all their kind expressions of sympathy following the recent sad loss of Cathie, a much loved wife, mum and granny. Sincere thanks to all the staff at the Belford Hospital for their exceptional care. Thanks also to Mgr. Donald MacKinnon, Mgr. Thomas Wynne and Deacon Thomas Wynne for the very comforting Requiem Mass. Also thanks must go to Mike McFall and staff and Charlie Toal for their invaluable support in handling all the funeral arrangements. Special thanks to John Cameron organist and Niall Stewart for piping at the church and graveside. Finally we would like to thank The West End Hotel for their catering and hospitality after the funeral. The generosity of those attending the service resulted in the raising of £1,200 for Macmillan Nurses (Lochaber).

MACINTYRE - (Corpach). The Macintyre family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards and kind messages of sympathy received in their recent sad loss of Mary. Sincere thanks to Reverend Richard Corbett for the service and to John McLellan Funeral Directors, especially Scott Greenlees, for their professional funeral arrangements. Thanks to Sean Cameron for piping at the church and cemetery and to McDonald Brothers for the beautiful flowers. Thanks also to The Moorings Hotel for the lovely funeral tea. Finally, thank you to all who came to pay their last respects and the generous donations for Tweeddale Medical Practice and Kilmallie Parish Church which raised £658.

MUNN - Nella, Janice and Donnie wish to thank family and friends for their loving support and kindness following the very sad loss of Angus. Heartfelt thanks to the excellent staff at Care Plus, Ward 1 (Lorn and Islands Hospital), Lynn of Lorne, Tigh a Rudha and Tiree Surgery. Sincere thanks to the Rev. Elspeth MacLean for her comforting service, Joyce MacInnes for her lovely music, Moeren at Flower Basket for the beautiful flowers, Andy Hayes and the Tiree Cooperative for their professional funeral arrangements and Scarinish Hotel for their excellent catering.

Grateful thanks for the very kind donations at the service totalling £660 which will be split between Tiree Surgery and Tigh a Rudha.

MEMORIALS

CRAIG - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grampa, John (Jack) Craig, who died October 10, 1993.

No longer in my life to share But in my heart you are always there I miss your smile, your cheery ways I miss the things you used to say The happy times I recall It's then I miss you most of all - Irene.

CRAIG - Not a day goes by without a thought or a tear And the constant wish that you were here. - Carole, Neil, Allan, Graham and Alison.

MACCALLUM - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel, who died October 18, 1982. We talk about you always and think about you too We have so many memories but wish we still had you. - Inserted by her husband Donald and family 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban

MACDONALD - Janet (Sally), died peacefully on October 10, 2014. Always in our thoughts Sadly missed - Michael, Colin, Christine and grandchildren

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of deeply missed Archie, Irene and Sarah MacGillivray. Mum and Dad we miss you so much - David and Graham x

MACGILLIVRAY - In memory of our mother Irene, who died October 10, 2005 and our father Archie, who died October 17, 2009. Sadly missed - Ian, Graham and David

MACINTYRE - Precious memories of our loving mum and granny Flora, who passed away October 16, 2011. We all want you to know that you will always stay Loved and remembered in our hearts forever and a day All our love - Fiona, Frank and family xxxxx

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of my precious mum Flora MacIntyre. No words can explain how much I love and miss you You are always in my heart and thoughts You will always be my best friend mum Till we meet again. - Shona and James xx Love and miss you every day Granny - Love Jamie

MACKAY - In loving memory of Marjory, who passed away October 16, 2014. Always in our thoughts - Love Donnie and Gordon

MACLEAN - Ina. In loving memory of our dear mum, granny and great-granny who died October 19, 2014. Always in our hearts and thoughts every day. - Love from Charlie, John, Jessie, Margaret and their families.

MACLEOD - Precious memories of Ian, loving husband, father and papa, who died October 14, 2002. Sadly missed along life's way Loved and remembered every day - Nancy, Mary, Iain and families

McGIBBON - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Effie, died December 8, 2001, Angus, died, October 19, 1993. The years will not darken, nor the shadows dim the precious memories we have of them. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena and family

STEWART - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Marjorie, died September 17, 1996, Ernie, died November 11, 1999. The years will not darken, nor the shadows dim the precious memories we have of them. - Maureen, John, Fraser, Sheena and family

WOODROW - Treasured memories of our David, a dear son and brother, died October 16, 1990, as a result of an accident, aged 21 years. The tears in our eyes can be hidden Our face doesn't always look sad There's never a night or morning We don't think of the son we had May you always walk in sunshine And God's love around you flow For the happiness you gave us No-one will ever know - Mum, Dad, Fraser, Sheena and family

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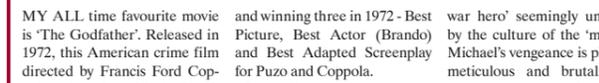
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Moderator returns to his roots



The right reverend Dr Angus Morrison, the moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, centre, enjoyed a ceilidh in Glangarry hall during his four-day visit to Lochaber.

AN ESTEEMED member of the Church of Scotland returned to his roots for a four-day visit to Lochaber. The right reverend Dr Angus Morrison, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and his wife Marion both hail from Lochaber and visited churches, schools and community organisations during their four-day trip. Dr Morrison, born in Glencoe, held a conference in Fort William's Duncansburgh MacIntosh church, held an assembly at Ardnamurchan high school, visited Voluntary Action Lochaber, Nevis Radio and the Underwater Centre, before letting his hair down at a ceilidh in Glangarry hall with the congregations of Invergarry, Fort Augustus and Kilmonivaig.

Thought for the week
MY ALL time favourite movie is 'The Godfather'. Released in 1972, this American crime film directed by Francis Ford Coppola is based on Mario Puzo's 1969 novel of the same name. Starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, 'The Godfather' and its two sequels, 'The Godfather Part 2' (1974) and 'The Godfather Part 3' (1990), chronicle the history of a powerful New York crime family, the Corleones. The Godfather is regarded by movie buffs as one of the great works of world cinema having been nominated for 10 Oscars and winning three in 1972 - Best Picture, Best Actor (Brando) and Best Adapted Screenplay for Puzo and Coppola. In an Oscar winning performance, Marlon Brando portrays the ageing, world weary Vito Corleone, the 'Godfather'. He has maintained his power by making accommodations with rivals and by quietly 'making people an offer they could not refuse'. When cut down by an assassin's bullets, the mantle of leadership passes to Vito's youngest son Michael. A clean cut 'all American' war hero' seemingly untainted by the culture of the 'mafioso', Michael's vengeance is planned, meticulous and brutal. With every minute of the movie, his character becomes darker, colder and more calculating. For me, Pacino's depiction of Michael Corleone is a classic study of evil. Although fictional, the Godfather trilogy lays bare some of the bleakest and darkest aspects of our all too human souls.....sin. The 'Godfather' movies offer little in the way of redemption. Unlike the movies, the Bible does offer redemption to all in the form of Jesus Christ. No fiction here. Jesus, a real historical character, Son of God, led a sinless life and was crucified on a Roman cross for my sin so that I, a sinner, through trusting in him would not have to pay the penalty for my sin. In the Gospel of John it says: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'. Now that's an offer you can't refuse. C.E. Morrison

GRADUATIONS

Helen Tinney
Graduated with Second Class Honours BSC Biomedical Science from Caledonian University, Glasgow. Daughter of Patrick and Marion, sister of Victoria and Marion. Granddaughter of Marion and the late Billy MacCulloch and the late Pat and Betty Tinney (Bonawe). Helen is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High School.

Moira Gillespie
Graduated from the University of the Highlands and Islands with a 2:1 BA (Hons) Business and Management with Human Resource Management. Moira is the youngest daughter of Kirsteen Gillespie and the late John Gillespie.

Jamie Malcolm McGee
Younger son of Brian and Valerie McGee formerly of The Kimberley Hotel, Oban, now of Riverside House, Callander graduated with a 2:1 Honours in Business with Marketing from Caledonian University. He has taken up a position in Procurement with Visit Scotland in Glasgow.

Dr Alison Caroline MacFadyen
Graduated with a Ph.D in Molecular Microbiology from the University of Strathclyde. Alison is the daughter of Neil and Carole MacFadyen, Connel and granddaughter of Mary and the late John MacFadyen, Dunbeg and Irene and the late John (Jack) Craig, Oban. A former pupil of Lochneil Primary and Oban High School. Alison has accepted a postdoctoral position at Newcastle University.

Saints made to work for cup victory

Oban Saints	3
Glasgow Island	1
Mòd Cup	

TWO goals from Donnie Campbell and one from Craig MacEwan clinched the 2015 Royal National Mòd Cup for Oban Saints at Glencruitten last Saturday.



PRESENTATION: Oban Saints captain, Donnie Campbell, being presented with the Mòd Cup and a special glass memento of the occasion by John MacLeod, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach

After the previous Saturday's convincing 9-1 win over Millbeg Villa in the Scottish Amateur Cup, Saints manager, Alex Craik, used this match to give all his available squad some game time ahead of next Saturday's trip to East Kilbride to face East Kilbride Rolls Royce in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup.

Saints started the game well knocking the ball about confidently and were unlucky when Craig MacEwan hit the post with a fine strike in the ninth minute. The islanders came back into the match playing some good football and created a couple of half chances with former Brora Rangers player, Tom Smith, catching the eye.

The visitors have goalkeeper, Greg Broadhurst, to thank for an excellent save from a Donnie Campbell pile driver. This was the first of several good saves from the Glasgow netminder. Saints took the lead in the 23rd minute after the visitors failed to clear their lines. With the ball bouncing around the Glasgow Island penalty area, Craig MacEwan reacted first and was on hand to knock the ball home.

Credit

The lead was short-lived however as Saints were quickly pegged back by an impressive Glasgow Island side who were a credit to the Glasgow Colleges Football Association premier division.

The visitors were awarded a free kick on the left. The ball was floated into the Saints penalty area where Steven Dunn outjumped the home defence to head the ball home for a well taken goal.

The big crowd of spectators who turned up to watch the match



WINNERS: Oban Saints and some young 'supporters' pictured after the D & K Lafferty-sponsored side had defeated Glasgow Island 3-1 to win the Mòd Cup at Glencruitten last Saturday Photos: Kevin McGlynn

were being well entertained by the two good footballing teams.

As the game moved into the second half, the superior fitness of the home side began to tell and they took the lead with a well taken goal from Donnie Campbell after good work from Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan. Despite regaining the lead,

Saints were made to work hard for their victory and were unable to relax until finally making the tie safe with a third goal by Donnie Campbell in the dying minutes to make the final score 3-1.

A sporting encounter was well handled by referee, Martin Rae. After the match, John MacLeod president of An Comunn

Gaidhealach, presented medals to both sets of players before handing over the impressive Mòd Cup to Saints captain Donnie Campbell.

The Royal National Mòd Cup now joins the Argyll and Bute Cup in the Saints trophy cabinet. The man of the match, chosen by the referee, was awarded

Football

to Glasgow Island's Stephen Kettings. This Saturday, Saints stay on cup duty when they travel to Murray Park, East Kilbride to take on Rolls Royce EK in the second round of the West of Scotland Cup.

Stoirm Mhor takes inaugural West Highland Offshore Series

JOHN MacKenzie of Pennifer, Skye, rounded-off his Westerly Typhoon 'Stoirm Mhor's' sailing year with top spot in the first running of the annual West Highland Offshore Series, finishing 4.5 points ahead of Donald MacKenzie's Ceol Beag. The two boats ran busy summer racing campaigns along the region's coast, and it was their regular inclusion in events around the West Highlands that saw them some distance ahead of their nearest rivals.

Just under 70 boats took part in the series which began in June at the Glencoe Regatta feeder race from Oban, and included an overnight race across The Minch at midsummer. The series' final race had been due to be Skye's Last Gasp, but the weather conspired on several dates to serially delay the race resulting in

Plockton's Frithard Trophy being the last scoring event of the nine scheduled.

The top three placed skippers will be able to celebrate in some style thanks to the Sonas Group's Dussdale House Hotel in Sleat who agreed to sponsor the prizes for 2015.

Fortunate

Series co-ordinator, Ian McKay, commented, 'We are fortunate that the owners of the Dussdale are keen sailors themselves, the hotel even has its own yacht and moorings for guests' use, and when they heard about the concept of the West Highland Offshore Series they instantly jumped onboard to help. When you remember that there was no fee to enter this championship, their prizes represent a fantastic gift back to competitors for just taking part!'

Sailing

The calendar for next season's series is already beginning to take shape and sailing clubs on Scotland's West Highland coast are urged to make their interest in being included known as soon as possible via the Facebook or webpage which is hosted at www.skysailingclub.com

West Highland Offshore Series: 1 Stoirm Mhor (Westerly Typhoon) J. MacKenzie (Skye); 2 Ceol Beag (Elan 40) D. MacKenzie (Invergordon); 3 Shogun (Sigma 33) B Langlands (Kyle); 4 Jigsaw (Trapper 300) D Kirk (Strathaird); 5 Roxanne (X-362 Sport) C Matheson (Skye); 6 Nimrod (Dehler 34) C Crawford (Oban).

Full results hosted at www.skysailingclub.com

Double bronze for Oban karate man

Karate

OBAN Shotokan recently entered the 1st United World Karate (the largest karate organisation in the world) Scottish Championships recently at Dundee International Sports Complex. This is the first competition of its kind to hold three separate karate disciplines - traditional, general, and contact events.

Rab Neil, the Oban instructor, got bronze in the full contact bareknuckle knockdown event in the 18 years+ open weight category. He also received a bronze in the traditional team rotation events 21 year old +.

This is a major feat for Rab who, at 52 years of age, is still competing in these top level advanced categories and managing to get medals.

Rab took on full contact fighters from the tough Kyokushin, K1, and traditional styles. Rab was unable to recover properly from an injury received earlier in the full contact events which resulted in a points decision going against him after completing the three two minute rounds in the quarter final.

Rab is the first in Scotland to receive a medal in both disciplines - full contact, and traditional karate on the same day at the same event.



MEDALLIST: Rab Neil, second right, pictured with one of the two bronze medals he won at the recent Scottish championships



HAT-TRICK MAN: Oban Athletic's Kris Gillies holds off a Cardross defender during last Saturday's game at Glen 2. Kris netted a hat-trick, all from the penalty spot

Hat-trick hero Gillies nets three from the spot during six-goal rout

Oban Athletic	6
Cardross	0
WoS AFL - League Cup	

OBAN Athletic returned to League Cup duty on Saturday with a home game against Cardross and went on to win the group stage with an impressive six goal win without reply.

Glen 2 was in great condition for football and the Oban team started brightly knocking the ball about the park confidently with Sean Ford and Mark Robertson dictating play in midfield.

Surging runs up the wings from Stephen Kelly and Rhuri McLennan were putting the Cardross defence under pressure and, within the first few minutes, Kris Gillies saw a shot going

just wide of the post and Alan Buchanan had a one-on-one with the keeper, which he saved with his outstretched foot.

A good run from Mark Robertson on the right wing on 15 minutes sent the ball to Kris Gillies, his pass played in David Smith who had the easiest task to place his shot past Ewan Prickett in the Cardross goal to open the scoring.

On the 20 minute mark, Craig Campbell played the ball out to Craig Livingston from the home 18 yard box where the youngster knocked the ball out wide to Sean Ford.

Sean then played a good pass through to Alan Buchanan who beat his marker before sending the ball through to the back post and, from six yards, David Smith

had the easiest of tasks to tap the ball into the net.

Cardross had no answer to Athletic and, in the 35th minute, a pass from Stephen Fox found Kris Gillies. Kris beat his marker, but a late tackle from Kevin McKell caught Kris on the foot bringing him down.

Peter Laing, who had a good game as referee, awarded a penalty. Kris brushed himself down before sending the keeper the wrong way.

Within five minutes, Alan Buchanan was fouled in the box by McKell with a soft tackle but a clear penalty. Kris Gillies again stepped up to score to make the half-time score 4-0.

The second half started with Athletic back on the front foot scoring another goal on the 55th

Football

minute through Sean Ford after good work from Craig Campbell and Alan Buchanan.

Athletic were awarded their third penalty of the game when Lance McCuish, on for the injured David Smith was tripped in the box. Kris Gillies stepped up to drill home his third spot kick of the game.

Athletic played out the rest of the half mainly in the midfield area with Alan Buchanan and Kris Gillies missing another couple of chances before the referee blew for full-time with the Oban side coming out on top 6-0.

This Saturday, Athletic are away to Crookston in the final group match of the League Cup.

Disappointing week for the Fort

Football

FORT William football club failed to pick up any points out of two games in what proved to be a disappointing week for the team.

Ally Ewen's men went down 5-2 in an away game against Nairn on Saturday, just three days after losing 2-1 to Clachnacuddin at home last Wednesday night.

This Saturday, the Claggan side welcome Formartine United before the second round of the Scottish Cup against Cove on Saturday October 24, which will also be played at home.

Isle of Skye

Goal

THE Alpha trophy, division one: 1 John Finlayson 63 (73-10); 2 Jamie Beaton 65 (75-10); 3 Alex Munro 70 (79-9).

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1200

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Kyles blow title hopes after 4-0 defeat at Lovat

Shinty season draws to a close but some vital games still to come

Premiership

KYLES ATHLETIC blew any hopes of winning the Marine Harvest Premiership title when they lost 4-0 at Lovat.

This game was a rematch of the Camanachd cup final, but the Tighnabraich side had no answer to the slick moving Lovat forward line.

Kyles travel to take on already relegated Inveraray at the Winterton on Saturday.

OBAN CAMANACHD fresh from their Mòd Cup win and, more importantly, the point they picked up against Glenurquhart last weekend, have a vital home game against Lochaber on Saturday.

The red and blacks will be hoping to keep up their recent run of good form with a win that will ease their premiership play-off concerns.

It was a disappointing end to the season for **FORT WILLIAM** when they were thrashed 7-0 by Newtonmore in the last game.

With the first team managers and many senior players at the wedding of former An Aird man, Chris Bamber, it was second team coaches, Peter Wood and Lachie MacDonald, who took a young team to the Eilean.

First team manager, Victor Smith, said: 'We had a very young team because of the wedding and it wasn't a good score. The boys weren't too disheartened though, they knew it was going to be a tough game and they put up a good fight.'

But it may not be the end for the Fort as they are now sitting at seventh place, meaning they could face Kilmallie in a derby play-off to keep their spot in the Premiership.

With Kyles losing at Lovat, **NEWTONMORE** have all but retained the Marine Harvest Premiership title. They extended their lead at the top of the league to six points with only three games remaining. They also have a better goal difference than Kyles.

The Badenoch side had a convincing 7-0 win at home to Fort William last weekend. Evan Menzies scored five goals with the other two coming from Glen MacKintosh and Scott Chisholm.

This Saturday 'More take on Scottish cup holders, Lovat at the Eilan

LOCHABER will travel south to play Oban Camanachd this weekend, after almost a month without a game.

The Spean Bridge side's last fixture was at home against Inveraray on September 26 when they ran out 4-0 winners.

Lochaber will be favourites to win as they are seven points ahead of their rivals, but Oban will put up a good fight as they struggle to avoid a relegation play-off.

INVERARAY played their last game of the season on Saturday when they defeated Kinlochshiel 4-3 at the Winterton. Despite the win, the Royal Burgh side will finish bottom of the premiership and will be relegated to the National Division next season.

On target for 'Aray were Euan McMurdo, Gary MacPherson and a brace from David Robertson.

Scottish Cup holders, **LOVAT** had a convincing 4-0 win over Kyles Athletic at Kiltarlity last weekend thanks to goals from Lorne MacKay (2), Lewis Tawse and Greg Matheson.

Lovat play their last game of the season on Saturday away to Newtonmore.

GLENURQUHART travelled to play Oban Camanachd in their last game of the season. As well as a league fixture, the Mòd Cup was at stake for the winners.

The Drumnadrochit side were leading 3-2 thanks to goals from Neale Reid (2) and Euan Brady, but Camanachd equalised in the last minute of the game. To make things worse for the Glens, they lost the penalty shoot-out for the Mòd Cup.

KINGUSSIE had no fixture last Saturday and will again be free this coming weekend. The men from the Dell have only one game remaining and that is away to Oban Camanachd which will be played at Mossfield on Saturday October 31.

The result of this game could go a long way in deciding who takes on Kilmallie in the premiership play-off match.

Shinty

KINLOCHSHIEL completed their league programme on Saturday when they travelled to play Inveraray, but had to travel back north on the end of a 4-3 defeat. Shiel's scorers were Keith MacRae (2) and Duncan MacRae

South Division One

BUTE kept the pressure on league leaders, Lochside Rovers, with a convincing 8-1 home win over Glenorchy.

Scoring for the islanders were Robert Walker (4), Gordon MacMillan and David Davidson.

Bute are sitting second in the league, two points behind Lochside, but have a game in hand and a better goal difference.

They travel to take on near neighbours Kyles Athletic on Saturday.

LOCHSIDE ROVERS ensured the Marine Harvest South Division One remains a two-horse race, with a 5-2 win over town rivals Oban Celtic on Saturday.

Rovers manager, Gareth Evans, said: 'I would say the scoreline flattered them a wee bit, as in the first half we were all over them and 3-0 up at half-time, and then 4-0 up at one point. Credit to Celtic, they came back into it, but we roared back and scored again.'

'Our keeper, Brian Logan, had a couple of penalty saves too, so I suppose if they had gone in it could have been 5-4, but I would say it was a comfortable win.'

Rovers now have two games left, a fixture at home against Strachur on Saturday and then away to Glenorchy the following weekend, ties which Evans said he would be hopeful to take the points from.

Bute, who are two points behind Rovers, but with a game in hand, have tricky ties with Kyles, Strachur, and Oban Celtic still to play.

Lochside's match with Strachur throws-up at 2.30pm at Ganavan.

Bottom side **KILMORY** took on Kyles Athletic at Lochgilphead on Saturday and, despite putting on a brave performance, lost 4-2.

On target for Kilmory were Ali Cunningham and Steven Gilmour.



Lovat's Ryan Ferguson and Kyles Athletic's innes Macdonald challenge for the ball during last weekend's premiership match at Kiltarlity which the home team won 4-0. Photo: Neil Paterson



Glengarry's Mathew Clark and former Fort William player Davie Duncan, now playing for Inverness, in action during last Saturday's North Division Two match. Inverness won 4-2

when they are away to Kyles Athletic.

STRACHUR had no game last weekend. They travel to play league leaders Lochside Rovers at Ganavan on Saturday.

North Division Two

GLENGARRY went down 4-2 to Inverness on Saturday, in what was only their second league defeat this season.

Dale Scott opened the scoring in the 11th minute to secure the first of the 'Garry goals, followed

by a 69th minute effort by Andrew Gilchrist, but it wasn't enough to keep up with the city men.

This weekend, Glengarry will make the short trip to Spean Bridge to play Lochaber's second team in their final game of the season.

Manager, Ewen Cameron, said: 'We had a young team at the weekend but we should have a few more back in time to play the neighbours. We beat Lochaber 3-2 the last time we played them but that was at home, so it will be more difficult this time round.'

Fixtures

Saturday Oct 17
Marine Harvest Premiership
 Inveraray v Kyles Athletic
 Graham Cameron
 Newtonmore v Lovat
 Ewan MacRae
 Oban Camanachd v Lochaber
 David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Beaulieu v Newtonmore
 Calum Girvan

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Kyles Athletic v Bute
 Willie MacDonald
 Lochside Rovers v Strachur
 Lachie Wood
 Glenorchy v Aberdour
 Dek Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Lochaber v Glengarry
 Archie Ritchie

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Ballachulish v Aberdour
 John Wood

Throw ups 2.30 unless stated

Results

Saturday October 10
Marine Harvest Premiership
 Inveraray 4 - 3 Kinlochshiel
 Lovat 4 - 0 Kyles Athletic
 Newtonmore 7 - 0 Fort William
 Oban Caman 3 - 3 Glenurquhart

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Strathglass v Newtonmore
 Strathglass unable to field a team. Strathglass deducted 2 league points and match to be rescheduled

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Lovat 4 - 1 Glenorchy
 Kilmory 2 - 4 Kyles Athletic
 Oban Celtic 2 - 5 Lochside Rvrs

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Inverness 4 - 2 Glengarry
 Kilmallie 3 - 1 Lochaber
 Skye 8 - 0 Boleskine

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Aberdour 4 - 1 Bute

Womens Camanachd Association
Saturday October 10
National Division 2
 Lovat 3 - 0 Cowal & Bute



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Rockfield primary school from Oban won the primary 5 Mòd Cup tournament which was sponsored by mgalba last Saturday defeating Taynuilt in the final at Mossfield Stadium. Broadcaster, Hugh Dan MacLennan, presented the trophy to the boys
 Photos: Kevin McGlynn



Newly formed North Lorn won the primary 7 Mòd Cup, defeating Rockfield after a penalty shoot-out in the final. The boys are pictured with Hugh Dan MacLennan who presented the cup



The newly formed Fort William ladies team were winners of the development cup #42fortladies190

Fort William Ladies win development cup

FORT William were victors of the ladies development shinty cup, after the final of a round robin tournament at the weekend.

Hard training
 It was only last winter the women met in the Nevis Centre to look into forming a Fort ladies

team, but after months of hard training the town entered two teams into the cup, Fort William and An Gearasdan, and the Fort won against Inverness in a closely-fought contest on Sunday.

The tournament has been running since July with teams from Inverness, Skye, Glengarry and Lewis.

Marine Harvest Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	15	14	0	1	54	10	28
Kyles Athletic	15	10	2	3	50	21	22
Glenurquhart	18	9	4	5	39	34	22
Lochaber	17	7	3	7	34	42	17
Lovat	17	6	4	7	36	36	16
Kinlochshiel	18	6	4	8	30	44	16
Fort William	18	6	3	9	27	41	15
Kingussie	17	5	3	9	24	33	13
Oban Camanachd	14	3	4	7	18	26	10
Inveraray	17	2	3	12	19	45	7

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	16	13	1	2	59	27	27
Newtonmore	14	9	4	1	69	19	22
Kingussie	16	8	4	4	55	29	20
Glenurquhart	16	8	2	6	27	34	18
Strathglass	15	7	3	5	42	38	17
Beaulieu	15	6	2	7	24	30	14
Kinlochshiel	16	4	4	8	25	54	12
Lovat	16	3	1	12	22	55	7
Lochcarron	16	1	1	14	24	61	3

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	18	15	2	1	73	19	32
Glengarry	17	10	2	5	59	31	22
Aberdeen Uni	18	9	3	6	62	39	21
Lochaber	17	10	0	7	62	31	19*
Caberfeidh	18	9	2	7	57	42	19*
Kilmallie	18	10	0	8	40	41	17*
Boleskine	18	8	1	9	53	61	16*
Lewis	18	7	0	11	35	69	14
Inverness	18	3	2	13	20	81	8
Strathspey	18	2	0	16	18	65	3*

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	12	11	1	0	58	10	23
Kilmallie	12	9	1	2	51	16	19
Glasgow MA	12	6	1	5	25	23	13
Caberfeidh	12	4	3	5	29	22	11
Beaulieu	12	5	1	6	29	31	11
Inverness	12	2	2	8	17	32	6
Ballachulish	12	0	1	11	4	79	1

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	16	14	0	2	66	21	28
Bute	15	12	2	1	62	8	26
Oban Celtic	16	11	1	4	52	25	23
Inveraray	18	10	2	6	40	33	22
Aberdour	17	7	1	9	27	36	15
Kyles Athletic	16	7	1	8	34	47	15
Taynuilt	18	6	2	10	31	49	14
Glenorchy	16	3	3	10	19	56	7*
Stachur	16	3	3	10	24	26	5*
Kilmory	18	1	3	14	17	51	3*

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Col Glen	14	10	2	2	52	19	22
Tayforth	14	10	1	3	58	30	20*
Glasgow MA	14	7	2	5	52	26	15*
Bute	14	7	0	7	35	45	12*
Oban Lorn	14	6	0	8	29	36	11*
Glenorchy	14	4	2	8	21	38	9*
Ballachulish	13	4	2	7	16	39	5*
Aberdour	13	2	1	10	20	50	3



The Oban Times
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Camanchd win Mòd Cup after dramatic penalty shoot-out



UP FOR THE CUP: Oban Camanchd pictured with the Mòd Cup after their penalty shoot-out win over Glenurquhart last Saturday. Also in the photograph is Jim Barr, president of the Camanchd Association, John MacLeod, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and Hugh Dan MacLennan who presented the trophy on behalf of sponsors, mgalba. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

'It is good to win some silverware but our priority will always be to stay in the premiership'

OBAN Camanchd Club enjoyed a successful day last Saturday with the Oban side drawing 3-3 with Glenurquhart which steered them clear of the automatic relegation spot.

Lochside Rover's Camanchd reserve team beat Oban Celtic by 5-2 to consolidate top spot in South Division 1. The day was completed when the red and

blacks won a penalty shoot-out to retain the Mòd Cup.

Camanchd went into the game against Glenurquhart without long-term injury victims, Craig MacMillan, Keith MacMillan and Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish.

Rang the changes

With 15 minutes to go and trailing 3-1, team manager, Ian Hay, rang the changes against a Glen

outfit who were sitting in third place in the premiership.

Glenurquhart took a 2-0 lead through Neale Reid and Euan Brady, but young Daniel MacVicar pulled a goal back for Camanchd just before half-time. Neale Reid put the Drumadrochit side 3-1 in front after 44 minutes, but Aiden MacIntyre netted in the 77th minute to give

Camanchd a glimmer of hope. The Glens must have thought they had secured both points, but up stepped Aiden MacIntyre in the last minute of the game to snatch a point for the Oban side.

This result means Inveraray are relegated as a result of Camanchd's recent fine run of form - one defeat in the last six league matches.

Camanchd, Kingussie and Fort William are now in a three team contest to see who will play in the play-off against Kilmallie and remain in the premiership.

Avoid

Next week Lochaber are the visitors to Mossfield as Camanchd look to close in on their rivals and avoid the play-off scenario.

To complete a good day, Ca-

Shinty

manachd won a dramatic penalty shoot-out to retain the Mòd Cup. Ian Hay said: 'While it is good to win some silverware, our priority will always be to stay in the premiership and, with our recent good run of form, we have given ourselves a chance.'

Riding for the Disabled - Scottish dressage competition

Riding

RIDERS from the Highlands, Borders, Ayrshire, Glasgow, Central and Argyll and Bute recently travelled to the Glasgow RDA Centre to take part in the Scottish dressage competition.

The judges, Mrs Beattie and Mrs Young, presided over 25 classes that included championship tests in walk, walk and trot, and walk, trot and canter and rides to music, as well as non-championship tests in walk and walk and trot. There was something for everyone.

With the laughter and camaraderie there was also a palpable determination to do well and all the riders certainly rose to the occasion.

Kate Bennet, regional chairman, handed out very well-earned rosettes and awards to all the riders who had worked so hard.

Champions were: Joanne Linsley, Highland Group and Lauren Dempsey, Glasgow Group

Thanks go to the team who organised and supported the competition, everyone who trained and transported the riders and, of course, the riders and their horses for wonderful displays of dressage riding.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Mòd Cup - Oban Saints 3, Glasgow Island 1; Premier Division - Goldenhill 3, Campbeltown Pupils 2; Premier Division One - Jamestown 3, Lochgilphead Red Star 0; Premier Division Two - Rosehill Star 5, Tarbert 0.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup second round - Campbeltown Pupils v Helensburgh; East Kilbride RR v Oban Saints; Lochgilphead Red Star v Dunoon; Tarbert v Gargaddie.

Oban Lorne on semi-final duty

Rugby

OBAN Lorne had no game last weekend. This Saturday, they travel to take on Annan in the semi-final of the West Region BT Shield.

Lorne Ladies take on Aberdeenshire Quines in a BT National Division One league match at Glencruitten on Sunday, kick-off 2pm

Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

THE Oban Saints youth teams didn't play last weekend due to school holidays.

This weekend's fixtures - Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Dumbarton United v Under 15s; Under 16s no game, Ardencaple v Under 19s.

Islay Golf Club

Golf

OCTOBER medal played Sunday October 11 - 1 B O'Neill 83-13=70; 2 J Doherty 91-19=72; 3 A MacAllister 88-15=73 Css 71.

Top ten finish for McPhee in Japanese Grand Prix

CONNEL'S John McPhee put the trials and tribulations of another difficult weekend behind him to scythe his way through from 24th on the grid to ninth in the wet, abridged Japanese GP Moto3 race at Motegi.

The scheduled 20-lap race was reduced to a 13-lap sprint due to heavy early morning mist and a wet track which delayed the warm-up sessions for all three classes by two hours.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed Saxoprint-RTG rider rocketed through to 14th on the opening lap and was soon battling for seventh with title contender, Enea Bastianini, and eventual podium finisher, Jorge Navarro.

Front-runners

But eighth was as good as it got as he was up against the championship front-runners on better-booted bikes in the difficult conditions.

John dropped back to ninth with three laps to go after points-leader Danny Kent - battling back from a disastrous start - charged past to chase after title rival, Bastianini.

While Kent managed to reel in and overhaul the Italian to take sixth place, McPhee - struggling with a lack of front end grip - settled for ninth just over half a second in arrears of Red Bull Ajo's Karel Hanika and fourth-place clear of Leopard Racing's Efrén Vazquez.

Motorcycling

The Scot's RTG team-mate Alexis Masbou crashed out on the opening lap.

That Moto3 bandwagon now rolls over to the Australian GP at Phillip Island next weekend.

McPhee's top 10 finish moves him back up to 11th in the Moto3 World Championship standings.

After the race John said: 'Starting from 24th position, I was happy to finish in the top 10 today after starting from 24th on the grid.'

After a strong warm-up I was feeling confident. I thought that top five would be possible, but in the race I had some problems with the grip and, as I started to push harder, I started to lose the front in the corner entry.

'I was losing the rear so I had to be a little bit careful not to crash. I still gave 100 per cent and, in the end, we made some good points in the championship, so not a bad result after a difficult weekend.'



Former Oban man, Drew Thomson, 55, far right, is pictured after winning a bronze medal in the M6 category (55-60 years) in the World Veterans' Judo Championships in Amsterdam. He travels from his home in Glenlyon every week to train at the Palace of Arts in Glasgow. Drew won a gold medal in the British championships a few years ago and has medalled twice in the Netherlands since then, but to win a bronze at the World Championships is the pinnacle of his career so far.

Rosie wins 'Scotland's toughest marathon'

LOCHGILPHEAD'S Rosie Doull was the first female finisher at the elite Glencoe Marathon on recently.

Rosie completed the tough course in 4hrs 18mins 55secs, running along with her boyfriend, Jordan, and dad Brian, who came 26th overall.

They were running for the Clic Sargent charity, as a family friend's daughter, Emily, has just finished treatment for leukaemia

and they have found the children's cancer charity very supportive.

The marathon is considered Scotland's toughest, as it is held completely off-road and climbs to a height of 1,600 metres, including a 500 metre climb up the Devil's Staircase, before descending into Kinlochleven and ending in the shadows of Ben Nevis.

21-year-old Rosie has always been a keen runner through

Marathon

her time at Ardrishaig Primary School, then Lochgilphead High School. She also joined the Mid Argyll Jog Scotland before leaving to do a sports degree at Dundee University.

She is currently a member of Dundee Road Runners and came second in the Kintyre half marathon last year.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 15 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	00.57	1.1	06.45	4.0	13.01	1.1	18.51	4.4
Fri	01.25	1.1	07.13	3.9	13.30	1.2	19.18	3.8
Sat	01.49	1.3	07.42	3.8	13.59	1.4	19.46	3.7
Sun	02.15	1.4	08.16	3.6	14.35	1.5	20.20	3.5
Mon	02.52	1.6	08.57	3.4	15.23	1.7	21.03	3.2
Tues	03.45	1.7	09.52	3.2	16.32	1.9	22.04	3.0
Wed	05.07	1.8	11.18	3.1	18.01	1.9	23.46	2.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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It's all kicking off at new look village pitch

BUDDING footballers in Arisaig were delighted to be back on their playing field this weekend after months of improvements on the pitch.

The Arisaig Community Trust (ACT) celebrated the reopening with a football match, the children against the 'old crocks' which was held on Saturday.

Players and spectators enjoyed hot drinks and pies at half-time, before the adults came out close winners with a final score of 10-9.

The field was officially opened by Elspeth MacMillan on behalf of the MacMillan Family Trust, owners of the pitch, who gave ACT a 50-year lease which allowed them to carry out the work.

Hugh Cameron, chairman of ACT, said: 'We're grateful to the MacMillan family for the gesture, to Souters for carrying out the work to such a high standard and to all of the organisations who made this possible with grants. We hope to install adventure play equipment and picnic tables to make this a really good community area for us to enjoy.'



GAME ON: Elspeth MacMillan officially opens Arisaig playing field as the children and 'old crocks' football teams look on

Centre tug blocks ferry

A LOCHABER community was cut off from Fort William after a boat blocked its slipway on Tuesday morning.

The ferry connecting Camusnagual to town had to be cancelled when a tug from the Underwater Centre was stationed across the pier for repairs, blocking access.

Morning runs had to be cancelled, forcing residents to drive round the Ardnarmurchan peninsula to reach the mainland at Kinlocheweil.

Dougie Robertson, operator of the Camusnagual Ferry, said on Tuesday morning: 'We only managed one run in the morning then the tide went out so we could get round the boat but 3pm will have to be our last for the day. All I can do is apologise to anyone who has been inconvenienced and I've reported it to Highland Council.'

Steve Ham, commercial director at the Underwater Centre, said: 'Our boat, the Ben Crom, was right beside the slipway. We had it booked in for repairs but that was delayed so the boys decided to do it on the shore but they misjudged where she was by a few metres so ended up in the way of the ferry. I apologise for any inconvenience.'

Lifeline transport at risk as council reviews grants

ELDERLY, DISABLED AND COMMUNITY GROUPS FACE A FIGHT FOR SHARE OF LESS MONEY

EMMA CRICHTON
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LIFELINE transport help for the elderly, disabled and community groups, could be at risk as Highland council grants are reviewed.

Travel charities including Lochaber community car scheme, Morvern on the Move, Lochaber Action on Disability and Lochleven community minibus association, have been told they must go out to tender and will undergo a 'competitive' Highland-wide application process.

But decisions will not be made until the local authority's community services committee in February next year.

The £416,561 currently used to support 22 transport schemes across Highland could be cut and new applicants can also bid for a share, leaving more charities to fight for a share of less money.

Lochaber groups will find out the criteria required at consultations later this month, but say a loss or reduction of grants could mean the end of their vital help.

Lochaber community car scheme uses volunteers to transport anyone who can't rely on public transport due to ill health, injury or disability and makes around 500 trips every month to doctors appointments, supermarkets or community activities. The charity currently receives £57,500 in grants from Highland Council.

Julie Wileman, scheme co-ordinator, said she doesn't know yet what impact any potential cuts will have: 'We haven't been told much yet. All we have is a letter saying we're going out to tender, but any cuts could affect us massively.'

'There's no point in worrying too much before we know if we're going to lose anything,

“
If we lose our grant we'll have to close our doors
”

Julie Wileman
Community car scheme

but if we lose our grant, we'll have to close our doors, we wouldn't have a choice.

'The scheme has grown so much over the last couple of years, but the funding has been capped, so we're already worse off when you take inflation into account. If I could get more funding from other places I would, but it won't be enough.

'If we lose the council grants we can't continue and that's all there is to it.'

Julie is also worried about the competition as the grants are Highland-wide and the council hasn't announced if rural charities will be assessed in the same way as city-based organisations.

She said: 'We could be competing against groups in Inverness and places like that where there are loads of different groups. That will be really difficult, mainly because there's so many more of them who probably work with a lot more people. You would think they would separate the rural ones from Inverness but we just don't know yet, we don't have a clue how it's going to work.'

Morvern on the Move operates two minibuses on the Ardnarmurchan peninsula and receives £11,000 grant funding from the council, but co-ordinator Calum Finnigan

thinks his association might be safer as they also act as a school bus for Lochaline primary.

He said: 'As well as the grant, we receive a subsidy for the school run so that helps pay for maintenance. We've thought this might be on the cards for the last few years, so that's why we tendered for the school runs, to protect ourselves.'

'We're fortunate in that sense, but it's still a worry because a lot of community groups hire the bus and they get help from the council to do that, so if that funding is cut they might not be able to afford to hire the bus. If that happened we would lose money, but the groups like youth clubs would also lose out because they wouldn't get out and about on trips.'

A Highland council spokeswoman said: 'The final funding amount will be dependent on volume of applications received and amounts requested.'

TIMESLINE

Grant cash boosts school activities

KINLOCHLEVEN high school has been awarded a £5,000 grant for extra-curricular activities for pupils.

Headteacher, Rebecca Machin, hopes the money from the Access to Education Fund will allow the youngsters to take part in more activities.

Mrs Machin said: 'We are delighted. This will make such a difference to our youngsters. Our plan is to increase the range and frequency of extra-curricular activities.'

Refugees heading to the Highlands

HIGHLAND council will house up to 30 refugees as part of a national resettlement programme to help people fleeing from Syria.

An agreement has been made with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, subject to the confirmation of available housing.

Margaret Davidson, leader of the council, said: 'We are unlikely to receive the first refugees until early in the New Year.'

Husband and wife stand side by side

A HUSBAND and wife are to stand side by side in the hope of being elected as MSPs.

David Stewart, current MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has been chosen to stand for Labour in the Inverness and Nairn constituency at next year's Scottish parliament elections while his wife, Linda Stewart, will represent the same party for neighbouring Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch.

Mr Stewart said he is 'delighted' to be selected to stand while Mrs Stewart, a director with University of Highlands and Islands, said she is 'looking forward to the challenge.'



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The only way is up for Fort shop fundraisers

STAFF at a clothing store in Fort William swapped their pretty pumps for hiking boots as they raised money for charity.

M&Co workers raised more than £1,400 for Cancer Research UK by walking up Ben Nevis last Sunday, October 4.

Rachael Cree, assistant manager at the High Street store, said: 'It was not as bad as I thought it would be. We had a brilliant day for it. The weather was good.'

Rachael was one of seven staff members to take part in the event. She said: 'We only decided to go for it four weeks ago, so I didn't do any training for it. I just decided to wing it really. I was so nervous because customers were coming into the shop and telling me how hard it was and how awful it was. It really wasn't that bad and I would definitely do it again... in another year.'

In little more than two weeks, the shop raised £520 thanks to generous customers and sponsors, exceeding their £500 target. It took the group four hours and 15 minutes to get to the top, supporting each other all the way.



ON THE UP: the M&Co girls at the bottom of Ben Nevis

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A 'deathtrap' and hazard to ferry

ARDGOUR RESIDENTS DEMAND CRUMBLING WRECK IS REMOVED FROM SHORE BEFORE FIRST WINTER STORM BREAKS

EMMA CRICHTON
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CONCERNS have been raised that the first winter storm could demolish a wrecked fishing boat, leaving debris scattered across Loch Linnhe.

Worried members of the Ardgour community say the MV Capri, which is on the shore next to Ardgour pier, could put the lifeline Corran Ferry out of action if it begins to fall apart, as the abandoned vessel has begun to split at the bow.

Ardgour resident, Fergie MacLean, has also said it could be a deathtrap to children who have been seen playing on the dangerous wreck, which has been deemed a 'hazard' by HM Coastguard.

Mr MacLean said: 'The big problem is it's now starting to split at the bow and, if parts start to break off the boat into the loch, it won't be safe for the Corran Ferry to run because



ACT NOW: Ardgour residents are calling for a wrecked boat to be moved before it causes chaos to the Corran Ferry

if something got stuck in the propulsor it could ruin the entire ferry. We're already well into October, so winter is on its way. All it takes is one storm and the boat could fall apart.

'It's also a danger to the public because children have been playing on it and people have been seen smashing its windows so there will be broken glass there to add to the danger. It's a deathtrap and needs to be moved, but there has been a lot of passing the buck about who is responsible for it.'

Tony Boyd, chairman of the recently disbanded Ardgour community council, said: 'We have asked the council for it to be moved, but it doesn't look like anyone is doing anything about it. It looks like it's just going to stay there until it falls into an even worse state. Then the next thing we know it will have bits falling off which will put the ferry in danger so the

council will have to do something about it then.'

A spokesman for HM Coastguard visited the site to see the danger first hand. He said: 'The vessel is in a very poor state indeed, beyond repair and beginning to break up. In my opinion, the vessel is a hazard to the ferry operation, other shipping and the public.'

But a Highland council spokeswoman has insisted it is not their responsibility to move it and the local authority will only take action if there is a 'high risk of hazard'.

She said: 'Unfortunately the vessel is privately owned and lying on property owned by Crown Estates. Additionally, the owner is reported to have recently deceased since the Capri was beached. Highland council has no clear duty or authority to remove the vessel. However, some time ago, at the request of the Marine and Coastguard

Agency (MCA) the council wrote to the owner to request that the boat be removed, but no response was received.

'We are constantly monitoring the position of the wreck and are aware of its poor condition, particularly in relation to its proximity to the finger pier for the Corran Ferry.'

'If the Capri were to become wholly unstable and begin to break up to the extent that there was a high risk of hazard to shipping, we would work with the relevant agencies including the MCA to formulate a plan of action to make the vessel safe.'

But Mr MacLean said this isn't good enough and Highland council should take a 'prevention rather than cure' attitude: 'The council said they would move it if it becomes a problem, but what use is that? It should be moved before it becomes an issue rather than waiting until disaster strikes.'

TIMESLINE

Police need help to trace culprits

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area.

Sometime between 11pm on Saturday October 10 and 2.05am the following morning, a bicycle was taken from outside a bar on Fort William High Street.

On the night of Friday October 9 a caravan was damaged at Annat Point, Corpach, and items were taken from inside.

At approximately 4.30 am on Sunday October 11, the window of Nickel and Dime, High Street, Fort William, was smashed.

Sometime between 5.30pm on Tuesday September 29 and 1.30pm on Monday October 5, a box was damaged and money was stolen from St Bride's Church, North Ballachulish.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Public gets say on transport needs

HIGHLAND council is seeking public opinion on the future of school, public and dial-a-bus transport services.

The local authority will hold a series of consultations to find out the needs of communities.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Information gathered by the council will be used to ensure transport services purchased can best meet local needs within the budget available.'

Meetings will be held in the Broadford hotel between 2 and 4pm, Portree's council chambers between 7 and 9pm (both October 26), Fort William's council chambers between 1.30 and 3.30pm and Ardnamurchan high school between 6.30 and 8.30pm (both November 3).

An online survey can be accessed via www.highland.gov.uk/transport-programme from October 26.

Jobs wiped out as budget cuts bite

CLEANING jobs at Highland schools and offices are to be axed.

More than 92 supervisor roles will be replaced with 20 area managers, who could be responsible for up to 650 members of staff in 310 locations as Highland council attempts to cut the education cleaning budget by £580,000 by April 2017. This will also see 192 maintenance hours cut, the equivalent of five full-time cleaners, and schools losing night-time cleaning.

The cuts were agreed at Highland council's education, children and adult services committee meeting last Wednesday, but Bill Alexander, director of care and learning, said job losses will come from leaving current vacancies open, ending fixed term contracts,

and transferring staff to other council jobs in a bid to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Councillor Ken Gowans raised concerns about the hygiene of council buildings in light of the changes: 'If we have less cleaners, we have less cleaning being done. How will that impact health and safety?'

Drew Millar, chairman of the committee, said 'high use' areas such as toilets and medical rooms will be given priority.

It is estimated cutting hours and supervisor posts will save £477,000 while taking away night cleans will keep another £20,000 in the council pot.

Consultation with affected staff will take place between October and November and trade unions have already been briefed.

New car service powers up in Fort

THE FIRST electric car chauffeur service in Scotland has been launched in Fort William.

Elecar officially opened on Saturday after a year of planning by director, Scott Easson, a Lochaber local who has brought the energy-saving business to the West Highlands.

Mr Easson, from Glen Nevis, is offering his Tesla Model F for tours, weddings, airport runs and any other trips.

He said: 'I'll do anything as long as it's legal. I've always been fascinated by electric cars, but I couldn't find one I wanted. Then I heard about the Tesla but they start from about £50,000 so I couldn't justify it just for personal use. That's when I decided to set up Elecar.'

The car can be charged at home or at any public charge point and Elecar offers fixed price trips all over the country.



ON THE ROAD: The first chauffeur-driven electric car service was launched by Scott Easson

Ankle break man loses damages bid

A MAN who fell and broke his ankle in the dark has lost his bid to sue Western Isles council for turning the street lights off.

Michael MacDonald tripped as he walked home from a friend's house in South Uist at 2am on November 27, 2011 and sought £20,000 in damages from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar as they had switched out the lights.

But last week, a judge in the Court of Session in Edinburgh ruled in the council's favour, saying there was no legal obligation as to when and where a local authority must provide street lighting. The council had previously taken the decision to turn off street lights in rural areas between midnight and 6.30am and had publicised the change beforehand.

Victoria Leslie, lawyer for Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, said: 'The court's ruling has clarified a contentious issue around the extent of the duties of local authorities and set an important precedent in an era of spending cuts. If the court had agreed with the claimant in this case, it may have caused local authorities to reconsider their policies in relation to street lighting as well as the provision of other public services.'

Gas found in homes

THERE are almost 100 local authority homes in the Highlands with a high level of radioactive gas.

Following tests carried out for Highland council last year, 95 council houses were found to have unsatisfactory levels of radon, a naturally occurring gas. Radon is only dangerous in long-term exposure cases, but the council will reduce levels in these homes, either by increasing ventilation or sucking out the gas. Any houses with a radon level higher than 100 becquerels per cubic metre will need to be treated in this way.

A Highland council spokesman said all affected tenants have been contacted.



FANCY DRESS: Lochside RC pupils dressed up as scarecrows for their harvest festival celebrations 16_142lochside01



KIND-HEARTED: Banavie youngsters will deliver food parcels to elderly people in their community 16_142banavie01

Spreading harvest cheer



THREE Lochaber primary schools showed the generosity of pupils when they collected food for the elderly as part of the harvest festivals.

Children from Lochside RC, Banavie and Roy Bridge collected tins and boxes of food which will be parcelled up and delivered to pensioners in their communities.

GENEROUS: Roy Bridge primary school pupils, left, filled 20 bags with jams, chutneys and soup made by the children themselves

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Stunned, shocked, saddened: island unites in grief over tragic Mull Rally death

Turn to page nine for full story

TIMESLINE

Danny's hoping for a chain reaction

OBAN man Danny Keenan has embarked on a 250-mile cycle around Cuba to raise money for the Macmillan treatment room in the Lorn and Islands hospital.

So far he has raised just under £1,000 for the Oban-based hospital.

His daughter has set up a crowd-funding page to raise funds. To donate, visit <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/danny-keenan>

Charity is on menu at churches' lunch

ST ORAN'S and Dunbeg churches are organising a lunch in aid of the world-renowned charity, Mary's Meals.

The lunch will take place in Connel church hall on Saturday, October 31 from 12pm until 2pm.

Mary's Meals is to receive match funding from the UK government until December 28, doubling all personal donations made by UK residents, up to £5 million.

Band's set to hit interesting note

THE west coast Celtic rock band, Skerryvore, have revealed that they will make a special announcement in Oban today (Thursday) at 4pm in the Stafford Street pedestrian precinct.

The band is scheduled to play in the Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban that same night alongside Skipinnish and Ceol an Aire.

Free flu jabs now available in Argyll

ARGYLL residents are being offered free flu vaccinations. The vaccination is for people with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, people over 65, children and health care workers.

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MUMS' FURY AS SUPPORT SERVICES FACE SAVAGE CUTS

'Don't target our children'

STEVEN RAE
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MOTHERS of children with special needs have claimed proposed council cuts would severely damage their children's education.

Argyll and Bute council's proposal to axe almost half of additional support needs assistant jobs over the next two years has been described as 'disgusting' by the women.

They claim it would be picking on some of the most vulnerable members of society. Their children, who have a range of physical or mental health needs, are currently supported in school by trained staff.

The cuts, which are part of a



SERIOUS CONCERNS: parent Jan Roberts (second left)

draconian package to slash council spending by £18 million over the next two years, would mean the loss of 72 staff, to save £1.4 million.

The 20 women met in Oban on Tuesday to draw up a campaign to fight the cuts.

Jan Roberts, whose daughter Nadia is a pupil at Oban high school and attends the learning unit there, explained: 'It feels like our children will not be receiving the education they deserve and are being targeted and are somehow not as important.'

'We want the councillors who make this decision to know how devastating this will be as it feels they may be going in to make these decisions blindfolded.'

Continued on page five

Mòds of fun for Daisy

SHE may look like Merida, the feisty princess from the Disney movie, 'Brave', but little Davina 'Daisy' McGrigor from Dalmally, confessed that she was 'a little bit nervous' about competing in the Royal National Mòd, writes Louise Glen.

However, six-year-old Daisy said she was having 'lots of fun' in Oban as the Gaelic festival of music and culture got into full swing.

With the bright sunshine, superb planning and lots of great competitions, more than 2,000 competitors and their friends and families have flocked to the town.

Gaeldom's annual cultural celebration has been hailed an outstanding success by event organisers, An Comunn Gealhealach. And with many venues laying on superb singers and musicians, it is hoped the town will enjoy an boost in business from the Mòd.



Money Matters with Iain Cairns



Protecting the things that matter

When it comes to protecting the things that matter we seem to value our gadgets and our pets more than we do our families.

In the recent Drewberry Protection Insurance Survey report 2015 it confirmed that one in four respondents had taken out insurance to cover their pets but worryingly only 7% had taken out any income protection.

The problem with buying any kind of insurance is that we can't predict the future and can never be certain that we will need it. Taking phone insurance as an example, if your new smartphone is lost, damaged or stolen within the first few months of getting it then the phone insurance is a tremendous bargain. But if it goes two years and your phone is still as shiny as the day you got it, then it could be considered a waste of money. But surely protecting a life, or to me more accurate, financially protecting the people we leave behind, must be considered as having greater value than a smartphone. I find that clients always have the same two questions - "will I need it?" and "how much will it cost?"

Taking each of these in turn. Firstly mortality - the risk of death. Everyday 1,374 people in the UK die, which is 57 each hour of the day. Reviewing the cost is a priority call "do I spend

my money on a freshly ground coffee everyday or a monthly premium for a life insurance?"

There will always be a selection of people who would rather save the money they'd otherwise spend on insurance premiums and simply hope nothing bad happens to them. While others would prefer to have the peace of mind that comes with knowing their loved ones are truly protected should the worst happen. Often the difference between these two polar opposites is the education on wants and affordability - after all, who doesn't want peace of mind?

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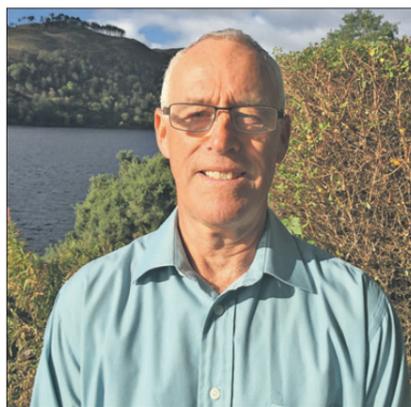
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Bruce was the power behind the royal visit to start up Cruachan

MARIAN MILLER
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SWITCHED ON: Bruce McMillan

WHILE Cruachan hydro-electric power station celebrates its 50th anniversary today (Thursday), one man who played a major role in HM The Queen's visit to open it will be quietly holding his own celebration.

Bruce McMillan will never forget his 24th birthday, on October 15 1965, the day the Queen came to Loch Awe.

As a graduate electrical engineer, his first job was as a general assistant for two years during the commissioning of Cruachan power station.

Bruce said: 'As a general dogsbody, I did whatever jobs were available and clearly the machinery that the Queen was going to 'start' had to be ready.

'The control that the Queen was to operate merely flashed a light down the line to let people know the machine should start.

'But the problem with doing any opening in an underground power station is that it is difficult to make a visual impact.'

While a power station above ground might show machinery starting or water rushing in, this was not the case with Cruachan, where a pony motor was run to start up the turbine itself.

'So, round the top of the pony motor housing we mounted 10 or more car spot lights.

'Hidden wires went back to the room Willie Lawson (assistant engineer, maintenance) and I were in.

'The idea was that when the pony motor started, the spots would light up in turn and at increasing speed. The main pumps and fans ran anyway so there was plenty of noise.'

'The result looked like the lights were connected to the turning turbine, getting faster as the turbine speeded up once turned on. In

reality, Bruce was in a room turning a rotary switch, like those found on a tram car, and the faster he turned the lever, the faster the lights went in sequence.

'The faster you wound it, the faster the lights went,' said Bruce.

'We had to test it a few times and between the vibrations of the machinery and the constant switching on and off, the filaments were popping all the time.'

'You could buy the spot lights after, if you wanted them. They cost £4 each and I had one myself which was on my car for years.'

While Bruce did not get to meet the Queen, he almost bumped into her.

A carpeted wooden platform had been built out over the area, where turbines three and four are now situated, for the Queen and her party to stand on while she pressed the button that would engage turbine two for the first time.

'The night before we had the police dogs in and the police doing security checks and the carpet had been vacuumed too, so someone had taken a bit of old rope and put it across the front of the stairs.

'We got the message the following day to say the party was on its way but we realised the rope was still there, so I shot out and untied the rope and got away just before she arrived.'

Bruce, who worked a total of 15 years at the station, between other posts, and ended up as deputy generation engineer at Cruachan from 1975-85, fondly remembers his time when the plant was still being commissioned.

'You couldn't have been in a better place to come and start your career,' he said.

He married Greta in 1965 and they lived in the hydro homes in St Conan's Road in Lochawe village for three years with their son, Ewan.

'Most of us lived in St Conan's Road,' said Bruce, 'our kids growing up together. It was a great community to live in.'

The couple's son went on to study engineering too and followed in his father's footsteps by going to Cruachan power station, where he was station manager himself for 10 years.

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'We hope everyone remembers dad doing what he loved the most' - Olivia Mort

THE TRAGIC death of a competitor during the Mull Rally united the island in grief at the weekend, with the event being abandoned following the shock accident, writes Louise Glen and Steven Rae.

Navigator, Andi Mort, 47, died at the scene while driver, John MacCrone, 27, was airlifted to hospital shortly after 1pm after their Subaru Impreza crashed into a field on Saturday.

Both men were from Dervaig, with Mr Mort having recently moved to Mull from Lancashire.

Police and emergency services were called, but Mr Mort was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. John MacCrone, who won the event in 2013, was airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth University hospital in Glasgow, where his injuries were initially thought to be serious. However, he was released from hospital on Tuesday, with his family releasing a statement saying he was recovering well.

Sarah Everitt, the partner of Mr Mort, along with his children, Olivia and George, requested

that the traditional end-of-rally walk go ahead on Sunday as planned, both in tribute and as a celebration of his life. The decision was supported by the MacCrone family.

Olivia Mort said on the Mull Rally Facebook page that she was sorry that she and her brother couldn't get to Scotland in time to take part in the walk, adding: 'We hope everyone remembers dad doing what he loved the most.'

The walk was led by a lone piper and followed by three rally cars and around 1,000 people who moved in sombre silence through the streets, many in tears.

At the end of the walk, eight times Mull Rally winner, Calum Duffy, read out an emotional poem reflecting on the tragedy, with his final line: 'Take care big fella, the angels have you now, goodbye.'

In a poignant statement released on Tuesday, Mr Mort's family said: 'Andi lived life to the full and his kindness and generosity will be sadly missed by Sarah and us all.'

'We have received so many messages of sympathy and support from people shocked and dismayed to hear of Andi's death. We would like to thank every-

one for their messages of support and express our overwhelming thanks to the Mull Rally organisers and participants, emergency service personnel, the police and the people of Mull. They are a source of comfort to us at this most difficult time.'

Mull councillor, Mary-Jean Devon, who is a friend of the MacCrone family, said the whole island was in shock and grieving: 'The rally has been so much a part of island life.'

'As an annual event, it brings lots of friends that we see once a year back to the island, so it is devastating that this has happened.'

'At the moment, we want to think about Andi and his family and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.'

Mull Rally course clerk, Iain Campbell, said: 'The tragic events of Saturday have left an indelible mark on everyone associated with Mull and the sport we all love, rallying.'

'Naturally we, the organisers, are deeply saddened by the tragic incident and send our condolences to the family and friends of Andrew, and offer our best wishes to John for a full recovery. The statement of support by the people of Mull and the wider

rally family - not just from Scotland but from across the rest of the UK who formed part of the 150-crew entry - emphasises the strength there is in our sport.'

The event organisers are now working closely with Police Scotland to establish precisely what happened to cause the crash, with an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident under way.

Police are also appealing for any spectators with footage or pictures of the incident to come forward to help them piece together what caused the fatal crash.



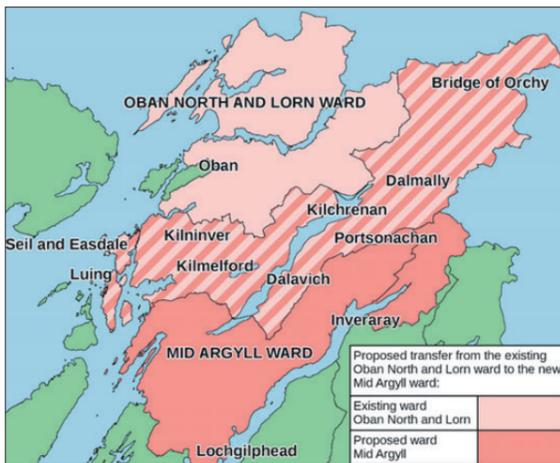
SOMBRE PROCESSION: hundreds of islanders dedicated the rally walk to Andi Mort



POPULAR: Andi Mort



RESPECTFUL APPLAUSE: islanders show their appreciation by clapping as the rally cars pass



The map shows the proposed changes. The striped area, currently part of Oban, North and Lorn, would become part of the larger Mid Argyll ward

Councils gather for Oban summit over new ward changes

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

EIGHT community councils in Oban Lorn and the Isles have joined forces to fight 'ludicrous' changes to council boundaries.

The coalition was formed following a meeting between community council members, held in Oban Fire Station last Thursday, chaired by Oban Community Council secretary, Kieron Green.

Councillors for the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area, Elaine Robertson, Ian Stewart MacLean, Iain Angus MacDonald, Roddy McCuish and Neil MacIntyre were present.

Under the proposals, much of the Oban North and Lorn council ward would become part of a much larger Mid Argyll ward.

Oban North and Lorn is also one of the wards set to lose a councillor, as Argyll and Bute reduced elected member numbers from 36 to 33. The council objected to the proposals when they were first made by the Boundary Commission last year.

Mr Green said: 'The joint community councils are strongly opposed to these proposals, as not only do they decrease councillor numbers representing the views of local people, they also sever the links between local communities which are reflected in the current ward boundaries.'

The communities directly affected by the transfer are Avich and Kilchrenan, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilniver and Kilmelford, Luig, and Seil and Easdale.

They all use, and rely on, a wide range of council services, health facilities, local businesses, social clubs and transport links located in

Oban. Other areas of the proposed Mid Argyll ward are much closer to Lochgilphead, or even Dunoon, and as such do not share these links with Oban.

It was argued that councillors representing the new Mid Argyll ward would therefore be more remote and less able to attend community events and meetings.

At the meeting, councillor Iain Angus MacDonald, who currently represents the Oban North and Lorn ward, said: 'This is ludicrous. It's a case of urban solutions for rural communities, and the Boundary Commission totally misunderstanding how our rural communities work.'

A joint response from the community councils will be submitted to the Boundary Commission, inviting a representative to meet local people to see, first-hand, the full impact the changes would have.

Mr Green added: 'Public services locally, including doctors surgeries, hospitals, schools, police and social services are all based largely around the current ward boundaries.'

'Historically, following boundary changes, the council has generally also changed the boundary for services it provides, and local people fear the consequences if this were to happen in the future.'

'Transport links between the areas directly affected and Lochgilphead are poor, with travel times of up to an hour and a half by car, and much longer than this by public transport if it is possible at all. The public consultation on the boundary changes ends on October 22. Constituents can have their say on the changes by visiting: www.consultation.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/node/11

Eight months in jail for cannabis dealer

AN OBAN man who supplied drugs from his home in the town has had £2,785 seized by the sheriff court and been sent to jail for eight months.

James Adam Richell, aged 30, admitted being concerned in the supply of cannabis from his home, at Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, on March 5 this year, when he appeared at Oban sheriff court on September 28.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, deferred sentence on Richell until Tuesday, October 12, to consider background reports. During the same hearing, the procurator fiscal moved for the confiscation of £2,785 from Richell.

The money had been found in a kitchen cupboard when police searched the property. The house had 'an overpowering smell of cannabis' and drug-dealing paraphernalia was found.

David McDonald, procurator fiscal, told the court that earlier on the evening of March 5, police had stopped two men in a car after seeing them visit Richell's home briefly. The car smelled strongly of herbal cannabis and one of the men said he had 'a bit of grass and just bought it there for £30'.

Police found herbal cannabis weighing 20g with a street value of £200 at the property along with drug paraphernalia as well as the cash. Sheriff Anderson heard from his defence agent about his state of mind, including a letter from Richell's GP.

The sheriff said that the eight months in jail was the only sentence applicable in the circumstances.

ADVERTORIAL

Scotland's bid to tackle fuel poverty

'Warmer Homes Scotland' is the latest energy improvement scheme to be announced by the Scottish Government with a proposed £224-million set aside to help up to 28,000 Scots with their domestic heating. The funding will be offered to vulnerable households to make their homes more energy efficient in an effort to make it easier and cheaper for thousands of Scots living in fuel poverty to comfortably heat their homes.

Over the next seven years, Warmer Homes Scotland will install efficiency measures such as insulation and domestic renewables in households identified as 'fuel poor' thus helping families struggling to keep their homes warm and pay their energy bills. Homeowners can contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out which of these home energy improvement schemes, offered by the Scottish Government, they are eligible for. Home Energy Scotland offer free and impartial advice on the most effective ways to lower energy bills and make your home more energy efficient.

Local company Renewables Now are one of Scotland's longest established renewable energy installers, and for a number of years they have been helping homeowners in and around Argyll to reduce their energy bills. The company designs and installs efficient heating systems which allow homes to achieve significant savings on fuel costs. In addition, the company can provide and install the latest smart heating control products which establish smart heating zones allowing you to programme heating on a room-by-room basis depending on the time of day, day of the week and the season of the year. This intelligent approach to controlling your heating reduces energy bills even further.

To find out more about making your home more energy efficient and to discover how you could save money on your energy bills contact Renewables Now on 01631 720587.

Potty to ignore rail warning

POLICE are warning of the dangers of trespassing on railway lines after tourists were spotted taking photos on the Glenfinnan viaduct, made famous by the Harry Potter films.

During the summer, a couple

with a young child were seen running on the railway line near the viaduct, which is five miles west of Fort William.

Police also reported that two men were recently spotted on the track taking 'selfies'.

TIMESLINE

Ferryman caught reaching 104mph

A FERRYMAN was caught doing 104mph - not on water but on the A85 at Arrivain, a known accident black-spot and speed trap.

Alexander MacLachlan, aged 43, of Dunchonnel, Cullipool, Isle of Luing, is one of the island's ferryman and one of only five people qualified to drive the island's fire engine.

Traffic police with a speed gun caught him doing 104mph on the Arrivain straight between Dalmaily and Tyndrum on the A85 on March 15 this year. His 16-old-son and a friend were in the car at the time. MacLachlan admitted speeding.

Defence lawyer, Laura McManus, told Oban sheriff court on Tuesday (October 13) that MacLachlan was heading for home when he found himself stuck behind a slow-moving car. He went to over-take on the straight, but the other car began to speed up.

'He felt it was safer to get speed up to overtake,' she said. 'One-hundred-and-four in a 60?' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, who fined MacLachlan £200 and disqualified him from driving for three months.

Pennyfuir case set for another date

SHERIFF Ruth Anderson, QC, has continued the case of the accident at Pennyfuir Cemetery Oban, until November 10.

The sheriff decided that clarification was needed about the charges against a 45-year-old HGV driver from Ardrishaig before the matter could proceed. The stone wall at the cemetery was damaged along with stonework inside the grounds.

Urgent need for blood donations

OBAN residents are being urged to give blood this month. The blood transfusion service will be at the Corran Halls on October 26 and 27.

WIN AN IPAD MINI!

Ship Ahoy!

A fantastic bespoke ship is one of the exciting features of the new play park planned at Atlantis Leisure, Oban later this year. The ship will be unique to Oban as it has been specially designed for the new play park, and will include a 6-metre high climbing tower, fireman's pole, scramble nets and climbing rocks.

And the ship needs a name!

OBAN COMMUNITY PLAYPARK

The Oban Times is asking all children up to the age of 15 years old to send us your suggested name for the ship. Scottish Sea Farms has donated £20,000 towards this fantastic facility and has also donated an iPad mini to give to the lucky winner of this competition. A shortlist of the top five names will be printed in The Oban Times early November and readers will be asked to vote for their favourite.

To enter, simply complete the coupon below and send to The Oban Times, Ship Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. The closing date for entries is Tuesday October 27, 2015. Photocopied coupon entries will not be accepted.

I would like the ship to be called: The Oban Times

Name:

Address:

Age: School:

Contact Telephone Number:

Contact Email Address:

Terms and conditions: All entrants must be aged 15 years or younger. Employees and members of Oban Community Playpark, Scottish Sea Farms and any families and agencies connected with the competition are not eligible to enter. The prize is as stated. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). Closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday October 27, 2015.

Great Glen win for Lochaber

Youth shinty

LOCHABER high school emerged victorious in the Great Glen shinty sixes competition held in Drumnadrochit, for the first time in five years.

Ten teams from the Highlands and Islands turned out to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the tournament, organised by Allan MacLeod, including the Nicolson Institute on Lewis, who made their debut in the competition.

Lochaber captain Iain MacIntyre set the team on their way by scoring two goals in a 3-0 victory over Charleston in the opening game.

The Fort William side's second match, against Glenurquhart, was a very close contest. Seamus Gall put Lochaber in front before Glenurquhart equalised and the match was only won when Dean Williamson scored with the last hit of the game. In the next match, Ruairidh Shaw came into the team to partner Lewis Cameron in defence and a 2-0 win was achieved against a Glenurquhart second team, MacIntyre and Gall scoring the goals.

A 6-0 win against a young Kingussie second team then secured Lochaber's passage to the semi-finals. Lochaber faced Kilchumen in the first semi and goalkeeper, Phillip Fyfe, had to produce a good early save to keep the score at 0-0, but Gall scored early to ease the pressure and Lochaber ran out 3-0 winners.

In the second semi, between Glenurquhart and Kingussie, there were no goals so the match went to a penalty shoot-out, with the Glen winning 3-2. This result set up a rematch with Lochaber in the final.

Once again the match was a close, hard-fought contest. Fyfe had to make a couple of early saves to keep Lochaber in the match, but gradually the momentum began to shift as Lochaber centre, Ryan Boyle, began to get control of midfield, backed up by a strong and determined performance from Calum MacDougall at half back.

Despite enjoying the bulk of possession, the Lochaber forwards could not get the breakthrough and several golden chances were missed with the match ending 0-0. The final then went into 'golden goal' extra time and, two minutes into the added on time, it was Lochaber who scored the winner. Williamson was fouled when bearing down on goal and, from the resulting free hit, Gall played a clever reverse pass to Williamson who rifled the ball into the bottom corner of the Glenurquhart net.

After the match, Helen MacLennan of sponsors Shinty Shop presented the trophy to captain Iain MacIntyre and the player of the tournament award which was given to Seamus Gall of Lochaber high.

Lochaber high headteacher Jim Sutherland said: 'It is five years since a Lochaber team last won the trophy and this win was a real squad effort with all eight players making a big contribution to the victory.'



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Big hitters turn on the style at the Nevis Centre

LOCHABER Phoenix boxers entertained a packed Nevis Centre for their home show at the weekend and turned out some worthy winners against opposition from all over Scotland.

Bill topper and senior middleweight, Mark Gillespie, produced an accomplished and controlled performance to soundly outpoint previously unbeaten Blair Tavendale of Dundee's St. Francis club. Mark produced the best performance of his short boxing career to consistently beat Tavendale to the punch and, when his Dundonian opponent fired back, Gillespie had utilised his footwork to evade his opponent's blows to win in a points verdict.

A local boxer who didn't need the scorecards was youth welterweight, Lee Bruce, who overwhelmed Dunfermline's Stewart Smith in the opening minute courtesy of two counts and a

Boxing

knockdown. Lee started incredibly strongly and his intensity and strength was far too much for his opponent.

One of Lochaber's most talented young boxers, Robbie Hall, took to the ring on Saturday night, but found himself outworked by the Scottish intermediate champion, Cooper Walker, of Glasgow's Springhill club. While the 16-year-old landed the more powerful single shots, Cooper was more industrious and fitter which enabled him to clinch the decision.

Another 16-year-old, Kevin Aitchison, came out on top in a clash against Claymore's James Viray. Kevin's superior engine and better movement ensured he was always slightly ahead on points and ran out winner



UP FOR A FIGHT: Lochaber Phoenix boxers line up before the show. From left: Dan Nixon, Lee Bruce, Robert MacDonald, Robbie Hall, Max Buchanan, Ewan Easson, Kevin Aitchison, Tyler Whyte, Ross McConnell, Joshua Buchanan and Kein Johnson

courtesy of a unanimous decision. Schoolboy boxer Robert MacDonald just lost out on the scorecards after a high class contest against Dunfermline's Jack Colquhoun in which both boxers threw a lot of shots without either landing a huge amount, but Jack's strength and power were the deciding factor.

Dan Nixon was another local who lost out but only after a high class contest against Durie's Matthew Traynor. The Glasgow boxer made full use of his superior reach but the much improved Nixon presented plenty of problems to his Glaswegian opponent.

It was then the turn of 14-year-old Ewan Easson who kept his unbeaten record going against Elgin's Ian Reid, never letting his standards slip throughout his bouts.

Debutant, Ross McConnell, showed a nice style and a tight defence, but alas was edged out

by the narrowest of margins due to the slightly higher workrate of his opponent, Balaal Waheed of Sparta Grangemouth boxing club.

Another local who battled valiantly but narrowly lost out on the scorecards was Joshua Buchanan who faced Dunfermline's Preston.

Buchanan did have large periods of success during the contest but didn't manage to sustain these instances enough. However, he performed well enough to imply there will be a successful future in boxing for him.

A local boxer who did gain the verdict and also looked to have a huge future was 11-year-old Tyler Whyte, whose opponent was Springhill's Marcus Sutherland.

Both these boxers were unbeaten going into the bout and, after Sutherland edged the first round due to some untidy work by Tyler, the local boxer began to box to

instruction, keeping the contest at long distance and not letting Sutherland get close. The unanimous decision in his favour was well deserved.

Thirteen-year-old Kein Johnstone was against against Doon Valley's Jamie Scally who has been Scottish champion for the last three years. Kein and Jamie took part in a contest that belied their age with the skills that were on show with both boxers having moments of success. This was a tough ask for Kein as he had been out of action for more than a year. The decision went to Scally, but Johnstone showed that, by the time of the Scottish championships, he will be a force to be reckoned with once again.

The home show kicks off a busy schedule for the Phoenix boxers as they prepare to enter a large squad in next weekend's Scottish Novice Championships at Ravenscraig.

Cameron Whyte fights for his country in Russia

Boxing

ONE YOUNG boxer missing from Saturday's line up at the Nevis Centre was Cameron Whyte, who is representing Scotland at an international competition in Russia.

The 13-year-old is one of just six youngsters in the country to be selected for the European Schoolboy Championships, which begin later this month.

After training at Boxing Scotland's high performance centre in Glasgow regularly in the run up to the selection, Cameron stepped up his efforts, staying in the city three nights a week until the competition.

Lochaber Phoenix boxing club official, Steve Docherty, said: 'We feel Cameron deserves this honour, not least because he has been Scottish champion for the last three years, but also his commitment to the sport coupled with his ability is as impressive as I've ever seen in any sportsman his age.'



INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Thirteen-year-old Cameron Whyte will represent Scotland at the European Schoolboy Boxing Championships in Russia.



GOLDEN GLOVES: Top Pro Boxing promoter Joe Forbes, right, presents the boxer of the night trophy to Mark Gillespie, helped by young fight fan Toby Jackson

Basketball festival at Lochaber high

ALMOST 200 primary school pupils attended this year's Lochaber high school basketball festival, giving them a chance to meet and play with youngsters from other schools.

The primary sevens were split into mixed teams on arrival for both the morning and afternoon sessions and were helped by organisers, Active Schools, PE teachers and Lochaber high school pupils.

In the morning, after a play off between the two highest scoring teams, winners' medals were

scooped by Grace Livingston (St Brides), Ronnie Fulford (Spean Bridge), Noelia Neira-Lorenzon, Ethan Cairns (both Lundavra), Duncan MacDougall, Kaiya Clarke (both Banavie), Fraser Disher and Larisa Klava (both Lochyside).

Tied at the top In the afternoon, two teams were once again tied at the top of the leader board with first place going to Connor Hervo, Ben MacKinnon (both Caol), Jake Kyle, Nicola Dolowa (both Inverloch), Shana Duncan

Basketball

(Lundavra) and Finlay Dempster (Caol). Active Schools co-ordinator, Bridget Thomas, said: 'It's great to see so many pupils, both primary and secondary, enjoying themselves, taking part in sport and working together. The high school pupils were instrumental in the success of this festival and, in fact, in many other runs throughout the year. Thanks also go to Lochaber high school PE department for their support.'



SUCCESSFUL DAY: Glengarry youngsters enjoyed their shinty club development day

Glengarry shinty club hold development day

THE SECOND Glengarry shinty club development day proved to be as successful as the first, leading to hopes it will become an annual event.

Teams from Inverness and Kinlochshiel travelled to Craigdar Park, Invergarry, to enjoy coaching and tournaments for all ages.

Inverness pipped the home side to the post in the P5 and under games, but it was Glengarry's Fergus MacDonald who won player of the tournament.

Keen for revenge, Glengarry overcame Inverness in the P7 and under event, and Cameron Bremner was player of the tournament, keeping another trophy at Glengarry.

The under 14s was a closer competition and

Youth shinty

Glengarry just inched out on goal difference, but this time player of the tournament went to Duncan Mathieson from Kinlochshiel. All prizes were presented by John MacAuley of OJ Sports.

Afterwards Glengarry announced their club awards for 2015. Players of the year were Yasmine MacCallum (P3), Joshua Seymour (P5), Ruthven Hamilton Goudie (P7) and Mungo Blakey (U14s). Most improved players were Ben White (P3), Athol Hamilton Goudie (P5), Cameron Fraser (P7) and Lewis Dempster (U14s).

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds moderate north easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate south south easterly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 15 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am				pm							
Thur	00.57	1.1	06.45	4.0	13.01	1.1	18.51	4.4	Ardnishraig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.25	1.1	07.13	3.9	13.30	1.2	19.18	3.8	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	01.49	1.3	07.42	3.8	13.59	1.4	19.46	3.7	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	02.15	1.4	08.16	3.6	14.35	1.5	20.20	3.5	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	02.52	1.6	08.57	3.4	15.23	1.7	21.03	3.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.45	1.7	09.52	3.2	16.32	1.9	22.04	3.0				
Wed	05.07	1.8	11.18	3.1	18.01	1.9	23.46	2.9				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate