

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Mòd Loch Abar 2017

The latest news and results from  
the 2017 Royal National Mòd



Last call for entries! See page 10

## Council plans 90 job cuts to help plug £20m black hole

SANDY NEIL  
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THE council plans to axe nearly 90 full-time jobs to save £11 million over the next three years, helping to plug its projected £20.2 million shortfall – meaning more cuts will be needed.

Next year alone, Argyll and Bute Council has estimated a budget gap between £8.5 million in the worst case scenario, and £0.9 million at best. Over the next three years it needs to find expected savings of between £11.1 million and £3.9 million.

Council departments identified savings options to help bridge the funding shortfall in a paper presented to the Policy and Resources Committee today (Thursday October 19), before it goes before full council on October 26 and then a public consultation from November 13 to January 2.

Frontline services face sweeping cutbacks and job losses, with the most drastic hitting roads, school janitors and public conveniences.

Planned savings include axing 14 school janitors, 24 education officers and 29 workers in the combined roads and amenity teams, as well as closing 36 out of 57 public toilets, with the loss of seven jobs – businesses will be encouraged to open their toilets to the general public. A number of council offices are earmarked for closure, with employees working from home.

Increased charges are also explored across the board, such as those for parking, stadium hire and ferries (with a review of the Islay/Jura ferry service), plus a 20 per cent hike in fees connected to the roads department, and a three per cent rise for planning,

on top of new charges for pre-application services.

The plans would also see reductions in road maintenance, grass cutting, and the subsidy to island flights at the council-run Oban, Coll and Colonsay airports, while the renewable energy budget and roads safety unit would be removed entirely.

The council also plans to establish money-making portable loo-hire and funeral services, creating a new funeral director post, and a new marine manager post with council staff managing ships

said: 'We'd love to do everything our communities want us to, but funding cuts mean that just isn't possible. We are asking for your views on making the most of the assets we have.'

Councillor Kieron Green, policy lead for health and social care, said: 'We have a large budget gap. We have a duty to address that gap. We are reliant on Scottish Government funding and that is going down year after year. The savings do not address the budget gap in full, so there will be additional need for future savings.'

SNP councillor Julie McKenzie said opposition councillors had been 'kept in the dark'. She added: 'I would have hoped to see a much more collaborative approach from the new council, with all councillors and our communities being involved from the start.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish, policy lead for roads and amenity services, said: 'Until we find out how much money we will get from the Scottish Government, we will not know where the cuts will fall, but we have to start somewhere.'

'There has been significant investment in roads and infrastructure in the past year. To decimate that budget now would be counter-productive. Roads in Argyll and Bute are in dire need of capital investment.'

'We can work with communities to keep those toilets open. If anybody can come up with ideas to save jobs and services, I would be delighted to hear from them.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson added: 'It is a consultation. Nothing has been decided. Please take the opportunity to respond, because we all want the best for Argyll and Bute.'

Council leader Aileen Morton

If anyone has ideas to save jobs and services, I would be delighted to hear them"

Councillor Roddy McCuish

instead of an external company. Overall, the total savings identified for 2018-19 were £1.848 million with 22 posts lost, £3.866 million in 2019-20 with 29 jobs gone, and £5.765 million in 2020-21 with 38 posts lost. However, the report warns: 'Even if all the savings options were to be accepted, there would still be a revenue funding gap for 2018/19 and subsequent years.'

Council leader Aileen Morton

**SALE NOW ON!**



## Western Isles schoolgirl is 'stateless'

A WESTERN Isles schoolgirl denied a passport because she could not find her mother's birth certificate had her case raised in Westminster this week, writes Sandy Neil.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus MacNeil had expressed disbelief at the Home Office's refusal to grant a passport to the 14-year-old islander, who was born in Scotland, because they were unable to confirm she was a British citizen.

The MP's office explained that in 2005 the schoolgirl's mother left her in the care of her father and paternal grandparents. In 2015, the girl's father passed away, and she is now cared for

by her paternal grandparents, who have parental rights and responsibilities.

However, her passport application was refused because her mother's birth certificate was not supplied.

Mr MacNeil said: 'This is probably the most callous case I have worked on in my time as MP.'

'Here we have a 14-year-old girl who simply wants a passport but the cruel actions of the Home Office prevent her from doing what many of us take for granted.'

'The family have been going round in circles since the passport application was refused. The girl's mother cannot be traced and neither can her birth

certificate, and the Home Office refuse to accept her late father's birth certificate – citing the British Nationality Act 1981.'

'Having made inquiries with several agencies, the reaction is the same – utter disbelief that a girl born in Scotland is being asked to apply to become a British citizen.'

'To add insult to injury, the Home Office is suggesting that she applies for registration as a British citizen – this girl was born in Scotland. If the Home Office can't confirm she is a British citizen, then what is she? Stateless?'

A Home Office spokesman responded: 'Her Majesty's Passport Office must be satisfied of an

applicant's nationality and identity before a passport will be issued. In more complex cases, UK Visas and Immigration will provide further advice to help applicants either supply the evidence that will satisfy these checks or apply to register as a British citizen. We have been in touch with the family today [October 12] to discuss the available options.'

On Monday, Mr MacNeil added: 'I welcome the fact that [Immigration Minister] Brandon Lewis MP is personally looking at this and I hope his intervention leads to the outcome we all want – for this schoolgirl to receive her status letter which will allow for her to apply for a passport.'

**Relax.....**



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OT

# Unexploded Second World War mine found on Tiree

TOBERMORY RNLI's volunteer crew had an unusual call-out on Thursday October 12 when they were asked to assist with an unexploded Second World War mine on the Isle of Tiree.

At around 2pm on Thursday, Tobermory RNLI's lifeboat operations manager Dr Sam Jones was informed by the Coastguard that a possible Second World War sea mine had been discovered on a beach on Tiree.

With the Tiree Wave Classic, a major windsurfing festival, due to start at the weekend, a Royal Navy bomb disposal expert was being flown to the island by the Coastguard's search and rescue helicopter based at Prestwick

to assess the suspected mine. With only two Coastguards able to guard the mine on Tiree, Tobermory RNLI was asked to transfer members of the Coastguard Rescue Teams based at Tobermory and the Ross of Mull to the island as reinforcements in the event that the bomb disposal expert confirmed that the mine was not intact and did not present a threat.

Tobermory RNLI's Dr Jones said: 'This was certainly an unusual tasking for our crew. We were pleased to hear that the mine was not a threat and we wish all the competitors and spectators at the Tiree Wave Classic a safe and enjoyable few days in the surf.'



Coastguard Rescue Team members aboard the Tobermory lifeboat en route to Tiree. Picture: RNLI/David McHaffie

## First new-build homes open on the Island of Coll



Councillor Robin Currie opens ACHA's new homes accompanied by Douglas Prophet, the Association's vice-chairman, Alastair MacGregor, chief executive, and new tenants Randolph Anderson and Darran Jamieson.

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has just officially opened its first new-build homes on the Island of Coll.

The two-unit development comprises two- and three-bedroom family accommodation. The two new homes will complement the nine existing ACHA properties on the island which were built in the 1960s.

The development was built by MacLeod Construction of Lochgilphead with

funding from Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA to an overall project value of £505,000.

The official opening was carried out by Councillor Robin Currie, who said: 'I'm absolutely delighted to officially open two new homes on the Isle of Coll and particularly pleased as it's a development on a small island and is hugely important to address local needs.'

'In recent years the number of houses available for let on Coll has been very limited, so the addition of two quality new-build houses is great and make an important contribution to the general health and wellbeing of local residents.'

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'Today is a milestone for ACHA - the first homes we have built on Coll since the stock transfer more than 10 years ago. It is part of ACHA's ongoing commitment to provide housing for our island communities. At the present time we have housing on 12 of Argyll's islands.'

'It is my hope that these homes will play a crucial part in meeting housing need on Coll and help us keep families on the island.'

The two homes completed on Coll are part of a 122-unit programme currently on site by Argyll Community Housing Association to meet housing need throughout Argyll and Bute.'

## Appeal launched to fund buy-out of Ulva

THE community group behind the bid to buy Ulva has started an appeal to raise the funds needed.

It was announced last week that the islanders had been granted the right to register an interest to buy the tiny island.

The North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMCWC) wants to buy Ulva so it can attract new residents and increase economic activity.

The 4,500-acre island off the west coast of Mull was put up for sale over the summer by owner Jamie Howard at offers over £4.25 million.

Much of the purchase price will need to be raised through crowdfunding, said Ian Hepburn, a director of NWMCWC. 'We have been inundated with offers of help since the first time this was mentioned,' he said.

According to *The Guardian* newspaper: 'The appeal is likely to include Australians whose forebears left Ulva during and after the Highland clearances. Ulva's most famous emigre was Lachlan Macquarie, perhaps the most revered colonial governor of New South Wales, who has a university, bank and

library named after him and whose statue stands in Sydney's Hyde Park.'

Funding could also come from the Scottish Land Fund, from which individual groups can apply for up to £1 million although, in exceptional circumstances, larger grants may be available.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives communities the right to register and then go on to buy land and assets under certain conditions.

Mr Howard, whose family has owned the island for more than 70 years, rents homes to Ulva's six residents.

Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: 'The Isle of Ulva is steeped in history and rich in wildlife. At its height Ulva had more than 800 residents and now has only a handful, a story which is unfortunately all too common to many of our island communities.'

'One of the North West Mull Community Woodland Company's key objectives is to increase Ulva's population and other small communities should take encouragement from the group's ambitious plans.'

## Gaelic language plan

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has prepared a draft of its Gaelic language plan for 2018-2022, in terms of Sections 3 and 7 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

This has now gone out to public consultation, which will finish at noon on Monday November 20.

The comhairle is seeking the views and comments of the communities of the Western Isles, of local and national Gaelic organisations, and of public authorities across Scotland, regarding the content of this draft plan.

These views and comments will be considered before the final draft of the plan is produced at the end of the six-week period.

This is the third iteration

prepared by the comhairle, following detailed reviews of the targets, outcomes and progress of the 2013-2017 plan.

The plan was presented to Comataidh Buileachaidh Plana Càinain last week and received its full support to move to a public consultation.

This plan is available on the comhairle's website at [www.cne-siar.gov.uk/consultations/index.asp](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/consultations/index.asp)

All comments should be submitted in writing, either by letter or email, within this six-week period, to: Donald Weir, Gaelic support officer, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2BW; email: Donald.Weir@cne-siar.gov.uk.

## Protect isles' produce

WESTERN Isles MSP Alasdair Allan is demanding the UK government protect Scottish produce, such as Stornoway black pudding, by upholding the Protected Food Name scheme in all future trade deals.

This comes in response to the UK government's omission of Scottish products from the EU-Canada trade deal and of key Scottish protected food

names in EU trade deals with Japan and Mexico.

Dr Allan said: 'Here in the Western Isles, we produce some iconic food and drink brands which are consumed across the world. The UK government must recognise the importance of the food and drink industry in Scotland, and the reach across the globe that these iconic brands give places like the Western Isles.'

## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### First World War commemoration

WW100 Scotland, the group tasked with marking the end of the First World War hostilities in 1918, has selected Islay as the major setting for next year's centenary commemorations.

One of the main focal points in the commemoration will be the American Monument which stands proud on a cliff top on the western edge of the Mull of Oa peninsula and has become an island landmark.

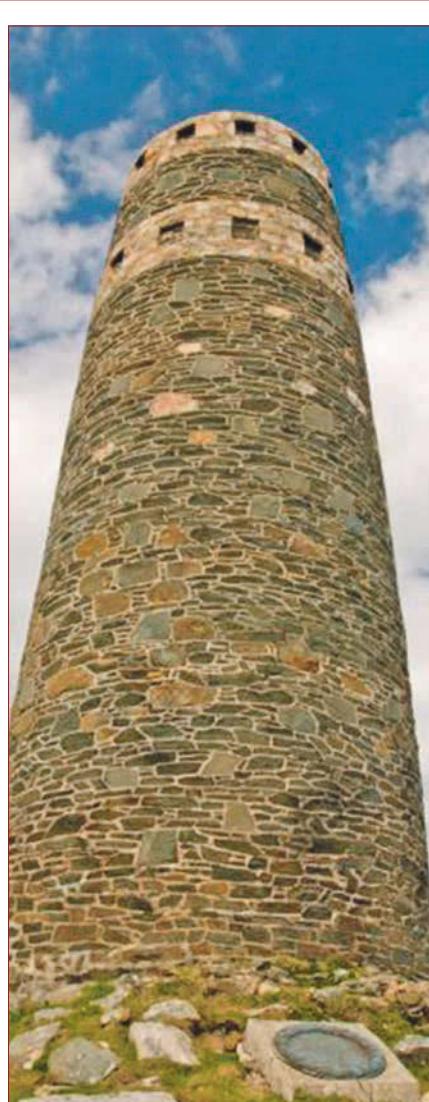
It was erected by the American Red Cross in 1920 and based on a Pictish tower design created by architect Robert Walker. It commemorates the lives lost in two separate marine disasters that took place in the closing months of the First World War.

In February, the troopship Tuscania was en route to the UK from Nova Scotia and carrying more than 2,000 American servicemen when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the North Channel, seven miles off the coast of Islay.

The loss of life was horrendous - more than 200 US servicemen died along with 60 members of the British crew. While most had drowned, others received fatal injuries after being washed up on the treacherous rocky coastline which had greatly hampered rescue attempts.

Five weeks before the signing of the Armistice, HMS Otranto, a convoy commodore ship sailing from New York and also carrying US servicemen, sank off Machir Bay in the Kilchoman/Kilchiaran district after colliding in appalling weather conditions with her sister ship HMS Kashmir. The Kashmir eventually made it to the Clyde, leaving a badly-holed Otranto.

While some of those on board were rescued by the destroyer Mounsey and taken to Belfast, of those remaining on



The American Monument at Mull of Oa.

the bodies were never recovered. The loss of life in these two disasters shocked the American nation and at the base of the Oa monument is a carved wreath with an inscription which reads: 'A Tribute From Woodrow Wilson, President Of The United States Of America, To The Memory Of His Fellow Citizens Who Gave Their Lives For Their Country In Nearby Waters 1918.'

There is little doubt that these tragedies greatly impacted on the island which already had lost men on active service.

Consequently, those involved in these rescue operations were either young lads or middle-aged men and all their efforts were rightly lauded, as were those of Police Sergeant Malcolm MacNeill at Bowmore, who played such an integral part in the rescue attempts and in the follow-up operations.

The Bowmore police officer, who was honoured by the monarch with an MBE for his efforts in the rescue operations, was the maternal grandfather of the Labour peer Lord Robertson of Port Ellen.

As part of next year's events, the brass whistle from the Otranto, currently housed at the National Maritime Museum at Irvine, is being loaned for display purposes to the Museum of Islay Life at Port Charlotte which already owns the bell from the ill-fated Tuscania.

It is these tragedies and the part that the Ilich played in the rescue of the survivors and the respectful funerals of those lost, as well as the loss of Islay's own, that are being remembered with these commemorative events whose overriding themes will be remembrance, reflection and reconciliation.

WW100 Islay is supported by the Argyll and Bute WW1 Commemoration Steering Group which is chaired by Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart.

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

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# 'Cheeky' William causes 'carnage' at Number 10

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William and Yvonne in London.

THE families of six security men locked up in a 'hell-hole' Indian jail took a 400,000-strong petition to 10 Downing Street last Thursday, marking four years to the day since they were detained.

Their anti-piracy ship MV Seaman Guard Ohio strayed into Indian waters during a storm, and the men were accused of carrying illegal arms. The six British men, Connel man Billy Irving, John Armstrong, Nick Dunn, Nick Simpson, Paul Towers and Ray Tindall, were jailed for five years in January 2016. They continue to deny the charges, but with an appeal process stalled, and the judge in charge recently stepping down, the families presented a petition to 10 Downing Street.

## Marking 50 years of charity

THE Oban committee of Cancer Research UK held a ceilidh on Saturday October 14 in the Royal Hotel to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Although not that well attended, those who were there had a great night dancing to the superb music of Drums Allowed.

During the evening two of the founder members of the committee, June Pearson and Christine Pearson, were presented with commemorative badges and certificates by the area fundraising manager Dorothy Rodger. This is truly wonderful commitment by both ladies.

The event raised £400 for Cancer Research and thanks go to the Royal Hotel for providing the venue, to Drums Allowed for the music and everyone who provided prizes for the raffle.



## TIMESLINE

### Funeral date for stalwart Coll

THE funeral of one-time Oban Times columnist Coll McDougall, who wrote the View from the Tower column under the name McCraig, will be held today (Thursday October 19) at 1pm in Oban Parish Church.

Mr McDougall, who was a well-known figure in the town and was involved in a number of organisations, including Oban FM, passed away peacefully at Eadar Glinn Care Home, Oban, on the morning of September 23.

### Man admits child porn charge

AN OBAN man has admitted possessing child pornography. David Muir, 34, of 6D Alma Crescent, pleaded guilty to possessing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday there was a record of analogous convictions. Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentence until November 7 for reports.

### Crash caused serious injury

A DRIVER who overtook on the A85 near Pennyfuir and hit a car seriously injuring its elderly driver has pleaded guilty to careless driving.

Graham Carmichael, 26, of 94 Nant Drive, Oban, admitted overtaking when it was not safe to do so between Dunbeg and Oban on June 2, 2016, causing his vehicle to collide with and overturn another driven by a 69-year-old lady, who suffered serious injury.

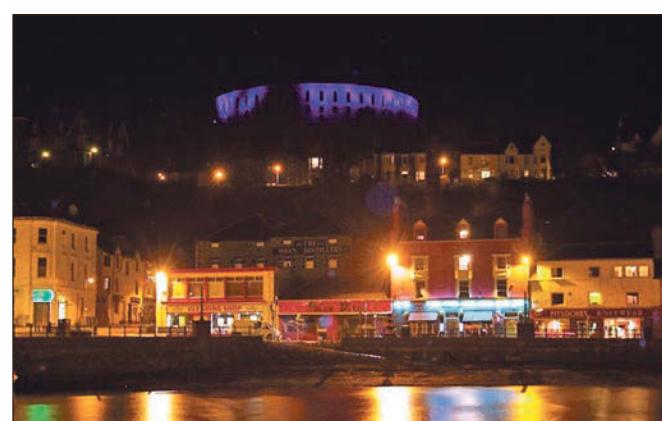
Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentence until November 7 for reports.

### End of an era as postie retires

THE village of Connel was paying tribute this week after long-standing and popular postman John MacCallum hung up his delivery bag.

A message on social media from Connel Village Store said: 'Today is the end of an era. John has served Connel and the outlying area for many years and has gone beyond the call of normal duty.'

## Lights out at McCraig's Tower



WORKS have begun to repair McCraig Tower's broken £50,000 lighting system. Oban became less bright and colourful earlier this year when the landmark's spectacular lights failed due to water damage, plunging the skyline into darkness.

The upgrade to the amphitheatre's lights cost £50,000 four years ago, funded as part of Argyll and Bute Council's CHORD project.

Since then McCraig's Tower has joined other national monuments in lighting up in different colours to mark special days, such as purple for the Epilepsy Society's Purple Day,

blue for Dyslexia Awareness Week, and yellow for World Down's Syndrome Day, and the tricolour following

the Paris terrorist attacks. A council spokesperson said:

'Work started last week to clear shrubbery at the base of the tower to allow workers to safely install new lights. The installation of the lights began

this week and is expected to take three weeks to complete.'

It is hoped they will be fixed in time to light up poppy red as a mark of respect for Remembrance Sunday on November 11.

## Round-up from Oban Sheriff Court

### £150 penalty for offensive gesture

A 68-YEAR-OLD Tobermory man has been fined £150 after making an offensive gesture when a group of youths wouldn't pick up litter.

James Fenouillet, of 5, Main Street, asked a group of youths to pick up litter.

When they refused, he shouted and swore and, upon being approached by a group leader, made an offensive gesture.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'The accused raised his middle finger and rubbed it up and down his nose.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'It's very unfortunate that a man of your age should come before the court. I have taken into account that you were well-intentioned and acting as a good citizen.'

Fenouillet was given a £150 fine, reduced from £220.

### Woman given five points on licence

A 22-year-old woman from Argyll has received a £400 fine and had five points added to her licence for careless driving near Kilmore.

Samantha Leiper, of 11 Forestry Cottages, Eredine, pleaded guilty to amended charge on Monday October 9.

The incident took place on the A816 half a mile from Kilmore.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that Leiper lost control of her car and collided with another vehicle.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This matter could have been more tragic than it turned out to be. It must have been a horrific experience for everyone involved.'

Sheriff Hughes issued her with five penalty points and said: 'Your driving has to be perfect from here on.'

### £250 fine for Oban man

A 54-year-old Oban man has been fined £250 for swallowing an item believed to contain drugs.

Campbell McBrayne Keen, of 12 Kilchurn Place, Oban, pleaded not guilty to the charge when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday October 11.

The defence's position was that Keen was simply coughing, and didn't swallow anything at all.

The court heard evidence from two police officers who stopped Keen after suspecting that he had just purchased illegal drugs. They stopped him at his home and said that Keen's coughing fit didn't start until after he had swallowed an item.

However, Sheriff Patrick Hughes ruled in favour of the officers.

## MP backs child online safety

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara showed his support towards making Argyll and Bute a safer place for children to be online after learning about valuable resources available for local schools from online safety campaigners Internet Matters. Internet Matters, which aims

to help parents keep children safe online, held a joint parliamentary drop-in session with Google to showcase the tools they both have available for parents and schools, in helping to ensure children's online safety.

Mr O'Hara said: 'As children increasingly live in a digital

world, internet safety is becoming more of a pressing issue for teachers and schools. Both Internet Matters and Google believe that all children should be able to enjoy the wealth of information and entertainment available online in a way that is as safe and age appropriate as possible.'

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

### Drug found

AT ABOUT 6.15pm on Monday October 9, on Drummore Road, Oban, a male aged 16 was stopped and searched by police. The man was allegedly found in possession of a small amount of cannabis, was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

Oban, a boy aged 15, who was cycling, was allegedly assaulted by being struck by an item which was thrown at him from a passing grey Ford Focus car.

The boy was not injured during the incident. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses.

### Three arrested

AT ABOUT 2.10am on Sunday October 15, a report was received about a disturbance in Queens Park Place, Oban.

Police attended and subsequently three men, aged 20, 20 and 21 years were arrested for alleged abusive behaviour. All three men were later issued with recorded police warnings.

### Drunk driver

AT ABOUT 4.30pm on Sunday October 15 in Fishnish Ferry Road, near Craignure on Mull, a car was stopped and the 19-year-old man who was driving was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Woman detained

AT ABOUT 7.30pm on Sunday October 15, a report was received about a disturbance in Pier Road, Tobermory, Mull. Police attended and a woman aged 18 was arrested for abusive behaviour.

She was also allegedly found in possession of cannabis. The woman was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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

## ScottishField November issue out now



10 We reveal the best 4x4s of the year

11 LEST WE FORGET - Special inside report on the ex-servicemen manning Lady Haig's Poppy Factory

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OT

# Care provider pulls out of town

**DAVID MCPHEE**  
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A MAJOR care home provider is set to close 12 of its residential homes in Scotland – but none of these will be in Argyll and Bute.

Bield Housing, which operates a number of retirement and sheltered housing facilities in the area, will close 12 of its premises, leaving 167 residents

across Scotland left to make alternative arrangements.

Some of the homes the Edinburgh-based provider operates locally include a retirement housing facility in Lynn Court, amenity housing in McKelvie Road, a sheltered housing complex in Torosay Court and retirement housing in MacCallum Court.

A spokesman for Bield Housing

said: 'I can confirm immediately that no care homes in Oban and Lorn and Argyll and Bute are among the 12 which Bield are to withdraw from.'

However, one provider of care which will withdraw from the area is Mears Homecare.

Mears issued Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) with a formal notice to withdraw its

service in the Oban area on September 18. The HSCP is currently working to transfer Mears clients to other home care providers in the area.

An HSCP spokesperson said:

'We have been given notice by Mears of their intention to withdraw from providing home care services in the Oban area and we are currently working closely with them to transfer their staff

over to other local providers. Mears will also continue to provide home care services until this process is completed which will ensure there is continuity of care for those individuals receiving home care.'

'Those clients who do currently receive care from Mears have been informed that there will be a change to their care provider and they have also been

reassured that there will be no change to the level of service that they currently receive.'

'We would also like to thank the home care providers and their staff, the community nursing team, the extended Community Care Team, social work staff and the procurement team for their continuing hard work and dedication to home care clients in the community.'

## Lifeboat called out as dinghy capsizes

OBAN lifeboat was launched on Sunday October 15 to help a capsized dinghy in Oban bay.

At 11.49am the volunteer crew of the lifeboat were tasked by UK Coastguard to assist two people in the water whose dinghy had capsized off Dungallan Park in Oban bay.

The lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald left the berth at 11.53am, arriving on scene a minute later. On arrival, it was established that the two people had been recovered to a sailing club rescue boat which was now en route to shore.

Meanwhile a second rescue boat was dealing with the capsized dinghy, now drifting rapidly and heading for the bay's busy north channel, in a fresh southerly wind and flooding tide.

A member of the lifeboat crew quickly entered the water to right the dinghy, allowing the sails to be brought down.

The lifeboat then escorted the club rescue boat as it towed the dinghy back to safety.

With everyone safe and accounted for, Oban lifeboat returned to her berth where she was made ready for service again by 12.30pm.

## Success for Oban's Furán centre

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Gaelic centre has celebrated a double success after reaching the final of a national awards scheme and winning first prize in a competition run by the Royal National Mòd.

Furán Gaelic Centre has been shortlisted in the the Community, Heritage and Tourism category of this year's prestigious Scottish Gaelic Awards, run by the Daily Record and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The Oban-based centre has also won first prize in An Comunn Gàidhealach's radio category for its Leugh Leabhar Book Club.

The book club is run by Duncan MacNeil, the council's Gaelic centre administrator, and the winning project saw primary school pupils producing a 10-minute radio programme.

Mr McNeil attended Literature Day at the mòd yesterday (Wednesday October 18) to receive the award, accompanied by some of the pupils involved in the project.

The Scottish Gaelic Awards ceremony will be held in Glasgow's Central Hotel on Wednesday November 15.



## Graduates celebrate degrees in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering halls

MORE than 80 graduating students and their guests assembled in the spectacular setting of the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban last Friday for Argyll College UHI's annual graduation ceremony.

Guest speaker Gary McLean, of Masterchef - The Professionals fame, gave an entertaining and motivational speech encouraging graduates to work hard to achieve their dreams.

Campbeltown student Rebecca Allan was named Further Education Student of the Year. Rebecca completed an NC in Administration in 2017, having progressed from an NPA in Construction.

During her time at Argyll College UHI, Rebecca was unanimously voted

class representative by her peers – a role she performed with dedication and enthusiasm. She has represented the college at the Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA) annual meeting in Inverness and was part of a small group of students invited to the Scottish Parliament to give feedback on student life.

Her tutor describes her as 'an excellent student and ambassador for the college'.

The 2017 Higher Education Student of the Year was Wendy Chance from Islay, who has successfully completed an HNC in Horticulture this year.

Wendy has shown an extraordinary talent for the subject and, despite being the only student from Islay participating

in the course, she didn't let isolation affect her studies.

Not content with local opportunities for her work experience unit, Wendy applied to the prestigious Chelsea Physic Garden in London, and was given the great accolade of being awarded a place. She made the most of this experience by working hard while there and evaluating her experience in great detail upon her return.

Wendy excelled academically, gaining the college's highest recorded result of 93 per cent in her graded unit. Her tutor nominated her for the award because of her 'academic ability, dedication and enthusiasm'.

There were a number of other prizes bestowed on the day, with Tobermory High School student James Penny receiving the Skills for Work Student of the Year prize and Dunoon woman Eileen Kistner receiving the inaugural Isle of Lismore Taproot Festival event for creative writing.

Shannon Lafferty, HISA depute president, presented two HISA awards.

Scott Anderson from Dunoon was voted as the student with Best Engagement with the Student Voice. Scott is no stranger to awards – last year he won the best class representative accolade in the same scheme.

The student who nominated him said he has 'worked tirelessly, always trying to engage with students across our network. He has made every effort to hear what students are saying and to act on their feedback. He has gone above and beyond in his role and his dedication should not go unnoticed.'

Scott said: 'I am genuinely shocked, honoured and humbled that people went out of their way to nominate me again. I'm really grateful to the students of Argyll College UHI and to HISA for giving me these opportunities and experiences that I have enjoyed so much over the past year.'

Shannon also presented the HISA Best Support Staff Award to Maureen McKenna and Judi Worthington, the Arran centre manager and assistant centre manager respectively.

They were nominated by a student who said although there were only two of them, they 'provide the support, encouragement and advice of a team of 100'.

The student nominating the pair said: 'They are always so happy, enthusiastic and positive, and work together so hard as a team to make our lives at college as smooth as possible. They have given me the best support I've ever had from non-teaching staff and have been a vital part of my college year.'

The presiding party were piped into the ceremony by Oban High School student Kate MacPherson.

Chairman of the college Andrew Campbell said: 'I thank all our staff for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that our students fulfil their potential and get every opportunity to learn, achieve and advance.'

If you would like to find out more about the wide range of opportunities available through Argyll College UHI visit [www.aryglcollege.ac.uk](http://www.aryglcollege.ac.uk).

For more pictures go to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## There's still loads to do in and around the town

### WHERE IS THIS?

'THE nights are fair drawin' in', as they say, but there are still things happening that might draw you out of your nice cosy houses on a dark and dreich evening, writes Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald.

Tonight (Thursday October 19) we have a quiz in the Royal Hotel in aid of Oban Community Sensory Garden, with Tony Cave leading the proceedings. It's always a good quiz, even when you're losing.

If something cultured appeals this weekend, then head out to the Victory Hall in Benderloch on Saturday where Scottish Opera are having a tour of Opera Highlights. And on Sunday in St Conan's Kirk at Lochawe there will be a piano recital by the talented Marek Kochmanski.

This weekend has something for the wee ones with Funbox presenting Highland Fling at the Corran Halls which is usually noisy but great fun,

so start practicing your action songs now. My favourite was always Little Bunny Foofoo and, 20 years later, I can still remember the words.

Don't forget that Oban Phoenix Cinema has a fantastic line-up of films just now, and you could easily spend all weekend watching films with Victoria and Abdul and Kingsman being the two that I really want to see. However, the cinema has films to please everyone.

As usual, we also have a great range of live music in the pubs at the weekend with Sandra MacBeth in Markie Dan's on Friday and Jono on Saturday. So, you have no excuses for hibernating yet, as there is still lots to do and see.

Last week's photo was taken at the entrance to the Perle Hotel a lovely glass panel, this week's beautiful carving should be really easy to spot, or are you so used to it you don't notice any longer?



## Rowantree Hotel goes on the market

ANOTHER Oban hotel has been put on the market, following the closure recently of the Rockport Hotel.

Now the Rowantree Hotel in George Street has been put up for sale with an asking price of 'around £1.1 million'. Colliers International and Bell

Ingram have been appointed as joint selling agents for the 24-bedroom business.

Alistair Letham, from Colliers, said: 'The Rowantree offers a wonderful opportunity to purchase a profitable business in good order throughout.'



**CHRISTMAS MENU**

**Starters**

- Curried Parsnip Soup (v)
- Smoked Salmon Terrine
- Duck and Orange Pate
- Mushroom Risotto (v)

**Mains**

- Turkey with all the trimmings, roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables & cranberry sauce
- Beef Wellington with all the trimmings
- Scottish Fillet of Salmon with dill sauce, parsnip crisps, baby potatoes & seasonal vegetables
- Chestnut, Mushroom and Cider Pie (v)

**Desserts**

- Christmas Pudding
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- Mixed Berry Pavlova
- Coffee or Tea

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# Anger as plans escape scrutiny due to errors

SANDY NEIL  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

AT LEAST three planning applications could have been denied community council scrutiny in one area alone this year, after Argyll and Bute Council officers filed them in the wrong patch, Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council heard at its meeting last week.

As statutory consultees, community councillors investigate, consult and comment on planning applications, picked up before their regular meetings from Argyll and Bute Council's weekly lists, but Kilninver and Kilmelford community councillors said errors denied them this opportunity, and asked how many more were slipping through the net across Argyll. Chairman Nigel Mitchell told

the October 10 meeting: 'This is the third one that has gone to the wrong community council for distribution. God knows how our application went to Oban. It is ridiculous. Argyll and Bute Council have got to get this sorted.'

'I am fed up looking through every application to see if they have wrongly not put it in our community council area. How many other community councils are having the same issues?'

In the first application, approved in February, the council listed a 15m high EE telecoms lattice tower as on 'land north-west of Garraron Farm, Kilmelford'. But community councillors said 'worrying errors in the description' meant they dismissed it as Craignish Community Council's concern, since 'Garraron [correct

spelling] Farm's postal address is Ardfern. Garraron Farm is not in Kilmelford, and the land north-west of it is high on a hillside facing west and hence not really visible so we regarded the application as not relevant to our community council. In fact,

reflect the postal address', and apologised for the unhelpful and 'undoubted failing', promising improvement to avoid repetition.

Then a second EE mast on land south-west of Duachy by Loch Seil was misidentified in Kilmore Community Council's patch, rather than in Kilninver and Kilmelford's.

Acting development manager Peter Bain explained this 'unrelated' mistake was due to 'human error' where a 'well-established process' of overlaying OS and community council boundary maps was 'short-circuited' using an erroneous file note'. He assured the current procedure remained 'fit for purpose', and added: 'I do not expect this issue to recur.'

Then Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council raised a third complaint from September,

where a retrospective plan to build a recreational hut on 'land approx 830m north-east of the Atlantic Bridge, Clachan Farm, Oban' was wrongly allocated to Oban Community Council.

The council has now included it in the right weekly list of applications, giving Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council more time to comment.

A council spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'Which community council is notified is dependent on this information and the onus is on the applicant to ensure they provide us with the correct address. We have been in contact with the community council that was not notified of all applications relating to its area to explain this and to apologise for this occurring. Actions have been put in place to avoid it happening again.'

## Oban's diamond couple celebrate 60 years of wedded bliss



WELL-KNOWN Obanites John and Helen Douglas this week celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

And there to help them party were their two bridesmaids from the big day 60 years ago. Flora MacCuish and Val

McKichan were delighted to be at the celebration on Tuesday October 17.

Both John and Helen are born and bred Obanites, marrying in Oban Baptist Church in 1957.

John has had a number of occupations

down the years but is probably best known for his ice-cream van.

Prior to retirement, Helen worked for many years in Simmers and Co in Albany Street.

The couple maintain close connections

with Oban Baptist Church, with Helen serving as both secretary and treasurer over the years.

They continue to live in Oban and celebrated their anniversary with their family and friends.

## Argyll tourist information centres to close

A NUMBER of tourist information centres in Argyll are to close following a serious decline in the number of visitors using them.

The VisitScotland centre at Dunoon, which has seen a 41 per cent decline in footfall since 2006/07, will close permanently next year, followed in 2019 by centres at Campbeltown, Tarbert and Inveraray.

However, four 'high-footfall' centres – Bowmore, Craignure, Oban and Rothesay – are to become 'new travel hubs, collectively welcoming more than 303,000 visitors a year'.

VisitScotland said the changes were part of a new strategy to address a transformation in the way visitors access information.

VisitScotland said: 'With a 58 per cent drop in footfall to tourist information centres will be supported by 106 VisitScotland information partners (VIPs) in the region, including the Royal Hotel in Campbeltown, Inveraray Woollen Mill and the Cruachan Visitor Centre on the shores of Loch Awe, providing local knowledge to the two million people who visit Argyll and the Isles every year.'

with a mix of industry partners, "Coo Vans" and digital products sitting alongside 26 key VisitScotland iCentres in high-impact locations.

'In Argyll and the Isles, the high-footfall centres will be supported by 106 VisitScotland information partners (VIPs) in the region, including the Royal Hotel in Campbeltown, Inveraray Woollen Mill and the Cruachan Visitor Centre on the shores of Loch Awe, providing local knowledge to the two million people who visit Argyll and the Isles every year.'

VisitScotland added: 'With so many relying on smartphones and tablets for information, a big focus of the strategy will be digital communications.'

Calum Ross, chairman for the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative, said: 'The way visitors access information has changed and we need to respond to that.'

'We are increasing our information channels across Argyll and the Isles with innovative new partnerships involving businesses, attractions and accommodation providers.'

### IN BRIEF

MOTORISTS are being warned that ongoing maintenance works at Ballachulish Bridge on the A82 will result in it being closed for four nights.

The bridge will be closed on Sunday October 22, Monday October 23, Thursday October 26 and Friday October 27, between 10pm and 6am. Light vehicles will be diverted via the B863 to Kinlochleven but, due to the width of the B863 and another bridge, HGVs will be diverted via Spean Bridge, Laggan and Perth.

## 'Harmless' hut built without permission

A DEPUTÉ lord lieutenant of Argyll and Bute has apologised for building a hut which he did not know he needed planning permission for.

A retrospective planning application to erect a recreational hut on land approximately 830m north-east of the Atlantic Bridge near Clachan Farm was raised at Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council's meeting on October 10.

Applicant Graham MacQueen, a deputy lord lieutenant, attended the meeting in Kilmelford with his agent, Allan Macaskill, a former leader of Argyll and Bute Council who now works as a planning consultant.

Mr Macaskill said Mr MacQueen 'did not realise the hut needed planning permission'.

'The applicant was advised by the developer it was a permitted development. It is a recreational hut. Argyll and Bute Council does not have a policy on recreational huts. It is the site of a derelict quarry. It is so isolated you could not know where it is.'

The hut, Mr Macaskill said, would have no connection to the water supply, and be used to store water sports equipment, and provide recreation for Mr MacQueen's family. 'Mr MacQueen's wife has had MS for 15 years,' he said. Mr MacQueen,

who lives in Oban and owns three acres of land at the waterside site, explained: 'I have lived a life where, for the past 15 years, we have not had a holiday.' The hut had already made his wife feel like she had been on 'a fantastic adventure' and had made the 'impossible possible'.

The half-mezzanine hut provided space for a wheelchair, and crushed slate spoil made a perfect surface for a path, he added. 'Overnight stays would not be an option for me,' he said. 'My visits will be very short because I have to get back to look after my team.'

'I apologise for going ahead with the building without planning permission. I am a bit of a busybody and I should take more time to attend to my own affairs.'

Mr Macaskill concluded: 'It is a harmless development, and I think there is no reason it should not be approved.'

Chairman Nigel Mitchell said he had 'no problem with the application', but his 'suspicious mind makes me ask what is going on here. I am only concerned about further development.'

Mr MacQueen assured him: 'I have no ambition to do anything further.'

## Charity lights candles in Oban for lost babies

THE charity SiMBA hosted a service at the Rockfield Centre in Oban on Sunday as part of its Wave of Light initiative.

In doing so it celebrated the brief time parents held babies here on earth, and honoured their memory as it proudly said their names. At the service poems were read out, composed especially for this year's events, by Lochaber dad Michael McGuire and others.

SiMBA Highland ambassador Susan Simpson hosted the Oban Wave of Light and said: 'It truly was an honour on Sunday to gather with bereaved parents, grandparents and their friends to spend time focusing on the love that we have for the children we've not been able to hold, nurture and watch grow up.'

'In a bereaved parent's heart, their baby does not remain a baby because they live through their child's first birthday, their child starting nursery, their child's fifth birthday, their child starting school, their child moving to high school ... university ... finding a career, a spouse,

having children. All of this goes through a bereaved parent's heart and mind as the years pass by. So it's important that bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings are given a safe place to remember their lost baby.'

Susan, with SiMBA trustee Jenni Morris, also coordinates SiMBA's monthly support groups, added: 'SiMBA is here to support families not only at events like this, but all year through.'

'We run 13 monthly drop-in support groups (including Fort William, Lochgilphead and Oban) in addition to our closed Facebook pages.'

'Full details of all of our services can be found on our website [www.simbacharity.org.uk](http://www.simbacharity.org.uk) and for information on Highland services I can be contacted on [simbahighland@gmail.com](mailto:simbahighland@gmail.com) or 07771 358382.'

Susan's daughter Niamh, nine, lit candles for her sister Alex, who died in 2007 at 13 weeks' gestation, and her big sister Eilidh, Beth, who was stillborn at 34 weeks' gestation in 2010.

## Shock over death of popular Argyll farmer

THE Argyll agricultural community was in shock after the sudden death of one of the region's most respected industry figures.

Mid Argyll farmer Bruce Dixon, of Killinochonoch, passed away, aged 52, on Friday October 13 while selling cattle at Dalmany Auction Mart.

Mr Dixon was president of Mid Argyll Agricultural Show until 2015, and his successor in

the role, Tim Lister, said: 'This is a real tragedy. Bruce was a mainstay of the farming community in Mid Argyll. He was a very good neighbour to me and was always there with help and advice for anyone.'

'The farming community is in a state of shock, and we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Bruce's family at this sad time.'

## ARGYLL ENTERPRISE WEEK

6 Nov - 10 Nov 2017

A host of **FREE** seminars, briefings and networking sessions are on offer across Argyll covering funding, business support, exporting, digital, social enterprise, tourism, creative industries and food and drink.

### inspire

- Get advice from subject experts
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- Generate ideas through meeting like-minded people

### connect

- Networking events throughout the week
- Speak with the right people
- Network in an informal and relaxed way

### inform

- Take part in informal sessions with a specialist
- Find out about the range of business support available
- Attend a practical workshop to boost your skills

Join us for Argyll Enterprise Week. For more information and to book events visit [argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com](http://argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com) or call the local Business Gateway team on 01546 604555



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OT

**Muckairn**

ELEVEN members and friends met in Muckairn Church for the first meeting of the 2017/18 session.

Marlene Stanners, chairwoman, led the worship and Stella Huntinford, treasurer, gave the reading from Corinthians chapter 13, on love. The theme this session is 'Go in love' and the hymns were 'Jesus loves me' and 'Love divine all loves excelling', accompanied by Christine Allan.

Morag MacLean gave an inspiring talk about the work of the Carers Centre, Oban, which covers Lorn and the Isles. It has 35 volunteers, as well as staff who support people of all ages caring for sick or disabled family or friends. The carers often need a sympathetic person to talk to, advice and moral support. Young carers can meet and enjoy outings, enabling them to relax away from their duties at home.

The meeting closed with the blessing and tea and fellowship. The next meeting on Monday November 6 will welcome Brian Marden from the community education department in Oban.

**Western Isles**

THE HEBRIDEAN Celtic Festival came out on top twice at the Drum Scottish Event Awards last Wednesday.

HebCelt won Festival of the Year and the Grand Prix prize, an honour that recognises the 'best of the best' in events. Comhairle Leader Roddie Mackay said: 'The Hebridean Celtic Festival is a major success story for the Western Isles. Not only is it a superb platform for international, national and local musical and cultural talent, it is also a highly significant contributor to the local economy, bringing an estimated £2.2 million into the islands last year. I congratulate everyone involved.'

DUNBEG residents are organising a bonfire night and fireworks display this year.

The display will get under way at 7.30pm on Saturday November 4 at the Lochnell Road car park.

All proceeds from the event will go towards Oban High School Pipe Band.

There will be a bonfire, fireworks display, burgers, hotdogs, various other stalls and raffles.

**Dalavich**

A RENOWNED local artist ran an art workshop at Dalavich Village Hall earlier this month.

Sian Macqueen's masterclass was open to people of all abilities and everyone left with a handful of work and a head full of knowledge.

Sian encouraged the use of artist quality acrylics in a new way that was accessible to everyone. Her colours were reflective of those in Argyll and Bute.



Artist Sian Macqueen hosted an art workshop at Dalavich Village Hall.

**Dunoon**

SCOTLAND'S leading creative industry festival is coming to Dunoon next month.

XpoNorth On The Road will be in Dunoon Burgh Halls on Thursday November 9 from 10am until 6pm when industry experts will help people make the most of their creative careers.

For more information and for a full list of what's on offer, visit [www.xponorth.co.uk](http://www.xponorth.co.uk).

# LAST CHANCE TO ENTER

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Kilmore and District SWI held its second meeting of the season last Wednesday.

**Kilmore 100 Club and SWI meeting**

THE KILMORE 100 club winners for September have been announced.

A Maxwell won £200, while £100 went to A Spence and J Overnel.

Kilmore Hall will be holding a 'come and try bowls' night on Saturday October 28 at 7.30pm, with a buffet

supper and raffle. All ages welcome.

KILMORE and District SWI held a meeting of the on Wednesday October 11.

Fourteen ladies enjoyed two workshops by Jennifer Shaw and Anne Tully. Jennifer showed the ladies

how to make jewellery from paper and Anne got everyone started on applique advent calendars. Competitions for the night were: Cross Stitch – 1 Ann Ferguson; 2 Margaret Whitton. Photograph of Autumn – 1 Fiona Dickie; 2 Sona Campbell.

**Boost for onshore wind projects**

THE DECISION to allow onshore wind projects in the Western Isles to compete for government contracts has been welcomed by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The UK government announced that Scottish Islands can compete in the spring 2019 auction for 'Contracts for Difference'.

This will enable developers to take forward on shore wind projects in the islands.

Leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Roddie Mackay, said: 'The comhairle has been campaigning for this for a number of years and this is another step forward in enabling the islands to become a major secure supplier of clean, green energy for the UK.'

Chairman of the Scottish Affairs Committee Pete Wishart said: 'Our report in the last parliament demonstrated the harm that had been done by the removal of subsidies, disrupting confidence and the ability to plan for the long term, so it is welcome the government has acted on our recommendation and made future contracts open to wind projects on the Scottish islands.'

**Garelochhead**

General Bob Bruce, with Army Reservists from Six Scots, hone their military skills on the new range complex.

**New £3m firing range opens**

A NEW state-of-the-art military firing range has opened at Garelochhead Training Centre.

The £3 million project took around two years to complete and provides a top training environment for the Armed Forces.

Major General Robert Bruce CBE DSO, General Officer Scotland, opened the centre.

The existing Garelochhead ranges have been transformed into a grouping and zeroing range and an electronic target range. Classrooms, a target store

and workshops serve the two ranges. Brigadier Neil Dalton OBE, head of training for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, said: 'The opening of these ranges represents a significant investment to provide the modern facilities required to develop and maintain individual shooting skills. These ranges will serve a host of nearby units, as well as those using the neighbouring training area, and are a great boost to the quality of infrastructure in the Clyde area.'

Chairman of the Scottish Affairs Committee Pete Wishart said: 'Our report in the last parliament demonstrated the harm that had been done by the removal of subsidies, disrupting confidence and the ability to plan for the long term, so it is welcome the government has acted on our recommendation and made future contracts open to wind projects on the Scottish islands.'

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**New lease of life for Islay distillery**

PORT Ellen and Brora, two of the most revered 'lost' distilleries in the global spirits industry, are to be brought back to life.

The distilleries, which were closed in 1983, will be brought back into production through a £35 million investment by Diageo.

In the 34 years since Port Ellen and Brora were closed, the whiskies they produced have become some of the most sought-after among whisky enthusiasts and collectors.

Port Ellen Distillery on Islay and Brora on the remote eastern coast of Sutherland will both be re-instated to

distill in carefully controlled quantities, replicating where possible the distillation regimes and spirit character of the original distilleries.

The new Brora and Port Ellen distilleries will be among Diageo's smallest distilleries, capable of producing 800,000 litres of whisky a year.

They will replicate as closely as possible the previous taste profiles of Port Ellen and Brora, with medium peated character at both sites. Subject to planning permission and regulatory consents, detailed design, construction and commissioning work, it is expected the distilleries will be in production by 2020.



Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery volunteers show off the total distributed to community groups at the end of September.

**Western Isles lottery success**

COMMUNITY groups from the Butt to Barra received a share of £4,674 from the Western Isles Lottery at the end of September.

A spokesperson for Western Isles Community Society, which runs the lottery, said they were delighted to have returned such a large sum and have already banked almost £800 to restart the community funding pot to be distributed at the end of October.

The lottery was set up for the people of the Western Isles, with their friends and families, to raise funds for local communities, while also having the opportunity to win cash prizes every week.

The website [www.westernisleslottery.co.uk](http://www.westernisleslottery.co.uk) has undergone an upgrade to promote the current local companies who are supporting them. Further talks are taking

place with businesses in Lewis, Harris and Uist to bring future, regular bolt-ons and news will be released shortly of the latest support.

The eighth successful Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery draw was held on Saturday October 7 with congratulations going to the first winner from the Point area of Lewis in addition to mainland winners in Crieff and Erskine.

First prize of £161.28 was won by Gerry MacIver of Crieff, Perthshire;

second prize of £67.20 went to 'Mrs T' of Garrabost, Point; and third prize of £40.32 was won by 'Mr A' from Erskine.

The organisers thank everyone who has joined the lottery so far.

Tickets can be bought online at [www.westernisleslottery.co.uk](http://www.westernisleslottery.co.uk) or during office hours by calling 03003 020444.

**Spectacular summer for Argyll's historic sites**

IT'S BEEN a spectacular summer for Argyll and Bute's historic sites as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) announced visitor figures for the 2017 summer season at sites across the region.

The summer season saw Iona Abbey record its busiest season with 61,531 people visiting the site between April and September 2017, an increase of four per cent on the same period last year.

Other sites have also had an impressive showing.

Bonawe Iron Furnace – the most complete charcoal-fuelled ironworks in Britain – saw a 62 per cent increase in visitors.

Dunstaffnage Castle and Rothesay Castle also recorded increases in footfall, at 18 per cent and four per cent respectively.

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Dunstaffnage Castle and Rothesay Castle also recorded increases in footfall, at 18 per cent and four per cent respectively.

Everyone welcome. Tea and biscuits will be served.

The meeting was well-attended. The next meeting will be on Thursday November 2 at 7.30pm in Lesser McLaren Hall when the speaker will be Professor Dawn Skelton from Later Life Training.

Everyone welcome. Tea and biscuits will be served.

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Dunstaffnage Castle and Rothesay Castle also recorded increases in footfall, at 18 per cent and four per cent respectively.

Everyone welcome. Tea and biscuits will be served.

The meeting was well-attended. The next meeting will be on Thursday November 2 at 7.30pm in Lesser McLaren Hall when the speaker will be Professor Dawn Skelton from Later Life Training.

Everyone welcome. Tea and biscuits will be served.

of four per cent on the same period last year.

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# Eyewitness remembers tragedy on Loch Etive

SANDY NEIL  
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LIFE is full of strange coincidences.

Kiwi Mary Parker's uncle, John Reynolds, drowned with two others in a boating tragedy in Scotland 62 years ago, but she did not know where. All she knew, passed down from family history 18,000 miles away in New Zealand, she penned in a 100-word snippet, titled 'A body of water I know well'.

She wrote: 'My uncle drowned, age 24, in a Scottish loch,' Mary wrote. 'The landlady where he and his three friends were staying, for a weekend's break, told them not to take the dinghy out. It was Sunday, and blasphemy, she said. They did, it capsized, and three of the four beautiful boys died, swept out to the freezing, North Atlantic Ocean.'

'It was a tidal loch you see, so their bodies were never recovered. My uncle was John Reynolds: tall, well over six feet like my brother Jon, and my son Samuel Jon. A body of water I know well. My grandmother, Winifred, never spoke his name again.'

Then, on a visit to the UK this month to celebrate her brother-in-law's 50th birthday, Mary planned a trip up to Glasgow and then Oban, and her British cousin, Christine, mentioned John had drowned nearby in Loch Etive, but did not know the date in the early 1950s.

The coincidence seemed too much, so Mary called *The Oban Times* to ask if she could pop in to scan the newspaper's archive of bound paper copies, which are available to read from 1934 onwards (not before owing to their fragile state).

Receptionist Louise Steel decided to take a look on her lunch break, and had a 1950s volume open on her reception desk when an elderly gentleman walked in to drop off his entry for *The Oban Times'* weekly spot-the-ball competition. His curiosity piqued, Charlie Campbell asked about the old newspaper, and Louise told him about Mary's phone call that morning, searching for the accident.

'I was there,' Charlie told an amazed Louise, on the banks of Loch Etive that sunny Sunday afternoon, and he recalled vividly the events unfolding in front of his eyes, tracing it to the summer of 1955. True enough, the edition from August 20 that



Left to right Christine McMahon, Mary Parker and her husband Eddie. T42\_Loch Etive tragedy\_01

**From The Oban Times, August 20, 1955**

'A tragic drowning fatality occurred near Connel on Sunday afternoon when three young English holidaymakers lost their lives in a boating accident on Loch Etive.'

quickly up the loch they decided to throw out the anchor, but as the hook caught in the bottom and the anchor rope snapped taut the sudden jerk seems to have pulled the bow of the boat under the water, swamping it and throwing the young men into the loch.'

'Mellor and Taylor, who could both swim, grasped their two companions and helped them to hang on to the upturned boat.'

The incoming tidal race was too powerful for them, however, and in a short time the two non-swimmers were swept away and disappeared from view. Some time later Taylor, too, lost his strength and was also swept away.'

'While the men clung to the boat they shouted for help. One of the first to know of their plight was Mrs A MacNab, Kilmarnoraig, Connel, whose loch-side house stands near to where the boat capsized.'

"The young men were laughing and joking as they rowed past,' she said, 'and I did not think anything of it when I heard some more shouts. But then I thought I heard someone cry for help and I phoned the local policeman.'

'When I went outside there was no sign of the boat but I saw two men struggling in the water. They were shouting desperately as the tide carried them away. In a few minutes they had been carried out of sight towards the far side of the loch.'

Mrs McNab also phoned Mr Peter MacLeod of Cruchan View on the other side of the loch, who, with Mr C Robertson of Oban, rowed out to the spot in his boat, but before they reached there a second boat, rowed by Major Alastair Campbell and Mr Bill Beaton, got there in time to rescue Mellor.'

Mr MacLeod and Mr Robertson continued searching while the rescued man was taken ashore, and admitted to the West Highland Hospital suffering from shock and exposure.'

year, carried the story of the tragedy that Sunday.

Charlie, now 72, witnessed the tragedy unfold as a 12-year-old boy living with his father Neil and brothers on the lochside at Achtnacree. 'I have lived [by Loch Etive] all my life. I can picture it as clear as day,' he recalled. 'That kind of thing sticks in your mind. It was a beautiful Sunday morning.'

'A boat was upturned and there were three men calling for help. They were behind the boat. It looked like they were trying to swim out the current. At that narrow bit the water races. It is like a river flowing through the bay.'

'They were 150 yards away from the shore. The winter before our boat was wrecked. If we had that boat, I reckon we could have saved them.'

'My brother Donnie went down to the shore to get Peter McLeod's boat, but there were no oars. He had to climb up the bank about 200m to get to the owner's house to get the oars, but it was too late by that time.'

'The boat that did come to save them was quite a distance away. The survivor was coming towards it. The first man must have gone down quickly. I saw the two drown in front of our house. I can see that hand come out of the water yet.'

'It is an impossibility finding anybody in that current. They never found those bodies. Loch Etive is a nasty loch for not giving up its dead.'

Thanks to *The Oban Times'* article, and a series of coincidences, Mary now knows what happened to her uncle that day, and can pass it on to her brother Jon and her son Samuel Jon, both named after him, and to her mother Winifred, now aged 90, back in New Zealand.

'It was just this big loss for my family,' Mary said. 'I do not know what it was like for my grandparents. John had died. My mother had emigrated. She said she never talked about

John again. She started a new life in New Zealand.'

I am quite overwhelmed by the coincidences. I never expected to be at Loch Etive. It was fabulous of Louise to find it. We were amazed Charlie was there. It just gives me goosebumps. I think we were meant to know more about the story.'

It culminated in an 'emotive' service in the 'dramatic landscape', Mary said, when she and her husband Eddie and cousin Christine placed a bouquet on Loch Etive. 'The water has a really strong tidal pull,' she added. 'We threw the flowers in. They did not stay around for long.'

## MORVERN lines

### A mighty Morvern bull

I AM not one of those people who revel in coincidences. Some friends seem to attract them – to be coincidence-prone, as others are accident-prone, or prone to catching a cold.

To one not normally a magnet for such events, an inquiry about an historic Highland bull from an unexpected and unrelated quarter, on the eve of the 120th autumn show and sale of Highland cattle in Oban last week, was all the more memorable.

In October 1897, a talented artist came to Morvern as a guest of London distiller Thomas Valentine Smith, who inherited the 41,000-acre Ardtornish estate from his father in 1871.

Her name was Margaret Collyer (1872-1944). A graduate of the London Royal Academy of Art, she built up a considerable reputation as an accomplished animal painter.

She moved easily in the fashionable salons of Bohemian London, where she met Flora Smith, the eccentric sister of the wealthy Valentine Smith, who also owned the most remarkable prize-winning fold of Highland cattle of the late 19th century. Flora, who was unmarried, gathered around her an eclectic group of well-known painters, writers and scientists, many of whom were summer visitors to Ardtornish.

Flora became Margaret Collyer's patron and this, along with one of her father's two-year-old bulls taking top prize at the 1893 Highland Show, most likely accounts for her visit.

The champion Highland bull was called Victor V11. His father was An Isagair and his mother Phroiseag Dubh. Brindle in colour, he was described as a stylish symmetrical bull possessing all the characteristic features of the breed who, since he was two years old, had been



The Lord of the Isles by Margaret Collyer, 1897.

winning medals at the Inverness, Perth and Edinburgh livestock shows.

Margaret Collyer left an interesting record of her visit to Morvern to paint the Ardtornish cattle. She describes coming ashore at the landing stage in Loch Aline with Rory, her Irish terrier. There she was met by Duncan wearing a coachman's uniform and an old pair of plaid breeks with a horse-drawn machine of great antiquity. It resembled a governess cart too small for the horse, which he belted with the end of the reins to make it move, all the while saying things to it in a language she felt was as well she couldn't understand.

Margaret thought the lochside road to the Smith family home, was 'very pretty', but the hideous modern stone mansion standing at the head of the loch was a shock to her artistic senses.

Reaching her destination, Duncan ex-

changed his disguise as a coachman for one of butler, ushering her into an ugly, but very warm, hall. She wrote: 'There was nothing trivial or flimsy about this house. The carpets were thick Turkey, the chairs heavy mahogany, the doors of the same wood and three inches thick. But what it lacked in daintiness it gained in warmth and comfort. I have seldom lived in more thoroughly accommodating rooms, for although I was alone there for a couple of months, I felt no loneliness.'

She was enthusiastic about the object of her journey, describing Smith's cattle as superb in size, colour and coat, and the most magnificent animals she had ever seen. It was October and they were getting their full winter coat, the fringes on their foreheads and legs were fully 20 inches long, which she felt was necessary to withstand the cold winters.

Victor V11 was produced and, although she said he lived wild and free, he was remarkably quiet. In order for her to capture him on canvas in all his glory against a sky background, he was allegedly dragged by six or seven men to the top of a high rock every morning. Once posed, and plied with salt, which she filled her pockets with each day, he stood peacefully and never once charged at her easel or umbrella with his huge horns.

Margaret Collyer was so taken by him she called her subject The Lord of the Isles after the MacDonald chiefs who lived at the nearby old castle of Ardtornish overlooking the entrance to Loch Aline. It seems that she had no need to exhibit this particular work in London as it was sold privately while still on her easel - the most likely purchasers being the Smith family.

Looking today at Margaret Collyer's painting, which is about to come on the open market, it is impossible to say where on Ardtornish it was done. A large amount of artistic licence has obviously been applied to the locality and the bull's exaggerated stance, its wild eye, windswept coat and curly tail. For all this romanticism, it is a stunning work of a fine Highland bull.

It is not known where Smith got his stock. It may have originated from an old fold belonging to John Sinclair, another distiller, from Tobermory and owner of the Fiunary estate. Other cows, including The Fiunary Queen, came from James Duncan of Glensanda and Benmore, Dunoon.

Smith died aboard his 500-ton steam yacht, the Rannoch, in Gourock Bay on August 8, 1906, leaving £147 million in today's money.

Iain Thorner  
iain.thorner@btinternet.com

**Mike and Lisa are beaming... Cairngorm have fitted their all black solar panels...**



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# Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

These are understandably very worrying times for all T members of staff working for Argyll and Bute Council and concerned about their future job security.

As we report on the front page this week, the local authority was meeting today (Thursday October 19) to discuss its budgetary dilemma.

Councillors were wrestling with the unenviable task of trying to meet its financial obligations, which have them peering into the abyss of a projected funding shortfall of some £20 million over the next three years.

The solution being suggested, which is forecast to

save around £11 million over the next three years, is to dispense with 90 full-time jobs. These planned savings include job losses for 14 school janitors, 24 education officers and 29 workers in the combined roads and amenity teams. But other option also include closing 36 out of 57 public toilets and some council offices, and increasing charges for parking, stadium hire and reviewing ferry fares for Jura.

While all of these measures are unpalatable, the harsh reality is that the council must find savings and there are simply no easy options.



## Days gone by – the Mòd

The Oban Times electronic photo archive produced this picture of four young girls at a Royal National Mòd but had no other details. Do you know who they are and what year this was?

### MacPhail



**ANGUS MACPHAIL**  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

AS I write this week's piece, the tail end of Hurricane Ophelia is rattling the windows and hammering at the door.

The west of Scotland seems only to be getting the edges of this wild storm but in other parts of the UK and in Ireland things have been much worse.

Near the Pacific coast of the USA are still raging the wild fires that have been rippling through northern California and, while far away geographically, for me they have been very close to home.

My mum's sister and her husband had to make a quick evacuation of their house on the outskirts of Sonoma last week and are still unsure whether or not their home will survive.

The destruction caused by Ophelia, and the more catastrophic hurricanes that ravished parts of the southern USA and the Caribbean recently, along with the devastation being caused by the fires of California, have caused me to wonder this: if we had

to evacuate our homes immediately, what would we take with us?

Our homes can contain lifetimes of memories, generations of gathered artefacts, irreplaceable work and items of deep sentimental attachment. Having to decide quickly what to take would not be easy.

In the modern western world we also accumulate ever-growing amounts of material goods and fill our houses with clutter and unnecessary things, but when forced to 'abandon ship', we would very quickly have to decide what is important.

Between escaping with our own lives on one end of the scale and taking those meaningless material goods on the other, there is a vast grey area of items and work that would be difficult to leave behind.

My auntie had a studio containing her paintings that she would never be able to recreate.

These must have been very difficult to leave knowing they probably wouldn't survive.

I know myself at some stages of being negligent with back-ups, my laptop has contained many finished

and unfinished songs and poems that I would never remember if it was lost to fire or flood, and to me losing these would be painful.

For every person the choice of what to save in a hurry would be different. For me, it would be Beastie the dog, songs and accordion – but over-arching everything is that as long as we escape with our lives, all else is really not that important.

New paintings can be painted, new songs could be written, items of sentimental value can be held in our memories and homes can be rebuilt.

When compared with those who in these disasters have lost lives, nothing else is important.

I am very happy to report that, among the choice of all goods in their house, my aunt and uncle grabbed Beastie the cat and ran to the coast.

All are well and they are still hoping that they will soon be able to return home.

Many in California were not so fortunate and as news comes of tragic loss of life in Ireland in this recent storm, the value of life and our gratitude for it is accentuated.



We published this photo in our Mòd preview last week and asked who these four people are. Peter Campbell called to say they are, left to right, Jessy Flemming, Helen Lockhart (Stirling Gaelic Choir), Nessie Thompson (Stirling Gaelic Choir) and Robert Thompson (Nessie's husband).

Ann Maceachen posted: 'The whole thing is a COMPLETE JOKE.'

Keith Miller wrote: 'Complete gridlock again today at lunchtime. That kind of

massively disruptive work should have been done at night'

Roger Brown said: 'I'll conceive and execute roadworks.'

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

website to read the most recent report on the home.

Given the comments from Mr McMillan and the information available on the Care Inspectorate website, I certainly would not consider placing any of my family in this facility.

It is also very disappointing to read what appears to me to be the very casual comment from Councillor Kieron Green on the situation at Lynn of Lorne care home. Given his position as chairman of the Integrated Joint Board on the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, he has a clear responsibility with regards to such matters.

As such, I would have thought that he would be asking serious questions as to how this situation has arisen and why the Health and Social Care Partnership had to wait for the Care Inspectorate to highlight these serious problems.

Councillor George Freeman, Argyll and Bute Council.

### We can help victims of sexual abuse

Sir,

The phrases 'revenge porn' and 'sexting' have been in the public consciousness over the past few years - no doubt many deeming it to be young people who 'get themselves in trouble' sharing too much with others.

Recent statistics from NCPCC do show that 39 per cent of young people aged 15 to 18 admitted to sharing an intimate image of themselves, the increase in mobile technology means more and more of us are sharing images everyday with each other.

Further recent research points to the rapid rise in older adults finding themselves in the situation where their trust has been breached so cruelly and a private image of them is threatened to be or is shared online or is in fact uploaded without their consent.

Recent amendments to the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Act 2016 show the law in Scotland is finally catching up the reality of this problem.

There is now robust legislation to deal with anyone disclosing or threatening to disclose an image or film without the person pictured's consent.

In fact, the first conviction in Scotland under these new 'revenge porn' laws happened this month.

Here at Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis, we warmly welcome this new legislation as we recognise that threatening to or sharing images without consent is sexually abusive behaviour which can have devastating results on the individuals who are targeted.

Such a violation of trust can leave people feeling scared, ashamed, alone, severely distressed and can lead to serious and long-term mental health issues.

It is our view that revenge porn is not, in fact, about revenge or porn – it is unfortunately used as with any other sexually abusive behaviour to intimidate and to assert power and control. If you or anyone you know have been affected by this or any form of sexual violence at any time in your life, no matter when, Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis offers a free confidential support service throughout Oban and outlying areas.

Advocacy can also be provided

throughout the criminal justice process if survivors wish to report to the police.

No-one deserves to suffer sexual violence and survivors deserve support to be able to recover from it.

Please contact Ailsa or Jean in the Oban office for a chat on 01631 567190 or email oban@ab-rc.org.uk. We have also launched a drop-in service at New Hope kitchen on Mondays from 11am to noon. Please stop by if you are interested in any of our services. A worker will be on hand to discuss anything privately with you then.

Ailsa MacEachen,  
Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis.

### Thanks for excellent treatment in hospital

Sir,

Having recently spent a week in Oban Hospital I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the excellent treatment I received.

The nursing was first class, the food excellent and an atmosphere of kindness and goodwill made my stay not only enjoyable but extremely therapeutic to the extent that I felt fully restored to health when it was time to go home. I think that we who live in Argyll and the Isles are most fortunate to have such an excellent hospital, to the staff of which I would now like to give a very large vote of thanks.

Mary McGrigor,  
Dalmally.

### Skateboarding gentleman identified

Sir,

The gentleman on the skateboard in your Days Gone By picture last week is Jimmy Wilson, a city of Glasgow-based Gael who took part in Mòds over the years. He belonged to the Glasgow Hebridean Choir, which is no longer in existence. He sang at ceilidhs and gatherings, including with myself at the Knightswood Highlanders, and Clan Maclean and high school associations.

Iain Henderson,  
Ibrox, Glasgow.

### Credit where it is due for Mòd Academy

Sir,

It was good to read last week that the Mòd Academy is going from strength to strength and that entry levels at this year's National Mòd in Fort William have reached record levels.

We must give credit where it is due. Whereas Oban came up with the title 'Mòd Academy' for the 2015 National Mòd, we borrowed the formula from Mull. Several years before, the adventurous and successful Mòd Ionadach na Dreòlluin (Mull Provincial Mòd) committee came up with the idea and called it Seinn is Spòrs. At the helm was Riona Whyte assisted by Janet Campbell with funding coming in the main from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Argyll and Bute Council.

Duncan N Macdonald,  
Clachacharra, Taynuilt.

Ailean Caimbeul

gach doire 's allt cur fàilt',  
's an osag chiùin air bàrr nam  
beann  
a' giùlan fonn a dàin.

Ach buaidh is piseach air na laoch  
tha seasmhach air a sgàth,  
chaidh àrach ann an tìr an fhraoich,  
ge sgoilte' an-dhùgh an àl;  
ged chaidh an sgapadh air gach  
taobh,  
cha choachail iad an gnàths;  
chan fhas an eachdraidh lag le aois,  
's chan fhaigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs.

Dùisg suas, a Ghàidhlig, 's tog do

ghuth,

na biadh ort geilt no sgàig;

tha ceudan mile dileas dut

nach diobair tha sa bhàil;

cho fad' s a shiùblhas ullt le sruth,

's a bhuailseas tuinn air tràigh,

chan aontaich iad an cainnt no 'n

cruth

gun tèid do chur gu bàs.

'N sin togaidh i le buaidh a ceann,

the aibhneas ni gair;

a teudan gleusaidh i gu teamm

le cridhe taingeil, làn;

gun cluinn Mac-talla feadh nan

gleann

AS YOU READ THIS the 2017 Royal National Mòd in Lochaber will be at least two-thirds through and I hope it has been an enjoyable experience for everyone.

It is particularly pleasing to think of the many thousands worldwide who are able to listen to live broadcasts of competitions on Radio nan Gàidheal and BBC Alba. More than a century ago Skye bard Neil MacLeod's poem asked 'Will Gaelic Die'? The message from this Mòd is certainly 'no'.

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

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

# Revised proposals are revealed for Argyll and Lochaber constituencies

MARTIN LAING

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TWO new enormous parliamentary constituencies will be created for Argyll, Lochaber and the Highlands if plans revealed today go ahead.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland today published its revised proposals for United Kingdom parliamentary constituencies as part of its 2018 review.

This marks the start of an eight-week public consultation process, which began on Tuesday (October 17) and runs until Monday December 11.

The commission has prepared its proposals after considering the responses to its consultations on the initial plans which were published in October 2016.

The UK parliament has decided to reduce the number of constituencies from 650 to 600. In Scotland, this means that 59 constituencies will be reduced to 53. Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles) and Orkney and Shetland are defined in legislation and will not be subject to change.

However, the existing Argyll and Bute area will be expanded to become Argyll, Bute and Lochaber, and will cover an area from the Mull of Kintyre to Fort William and the Ardnamurchan peninsula, as well as a number of islands, including Mull, Coll and Tiree.

And the existing Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency will disappear, to be replaced by Highland South. It will spread from Grantown-on-Spey in the east to Skye, encompassing Inverness, Spean Bridge, Mallaig and islands including Canna, Rum and Eigg.

Both existing seats are held by SNP MPs, Brendan O'Hara in Argyll and Bute and Ian Blackford in Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

When the plans were first announced last year, there were widespread objections across the two constituencies,



principally relating to the geographical size of the areas.

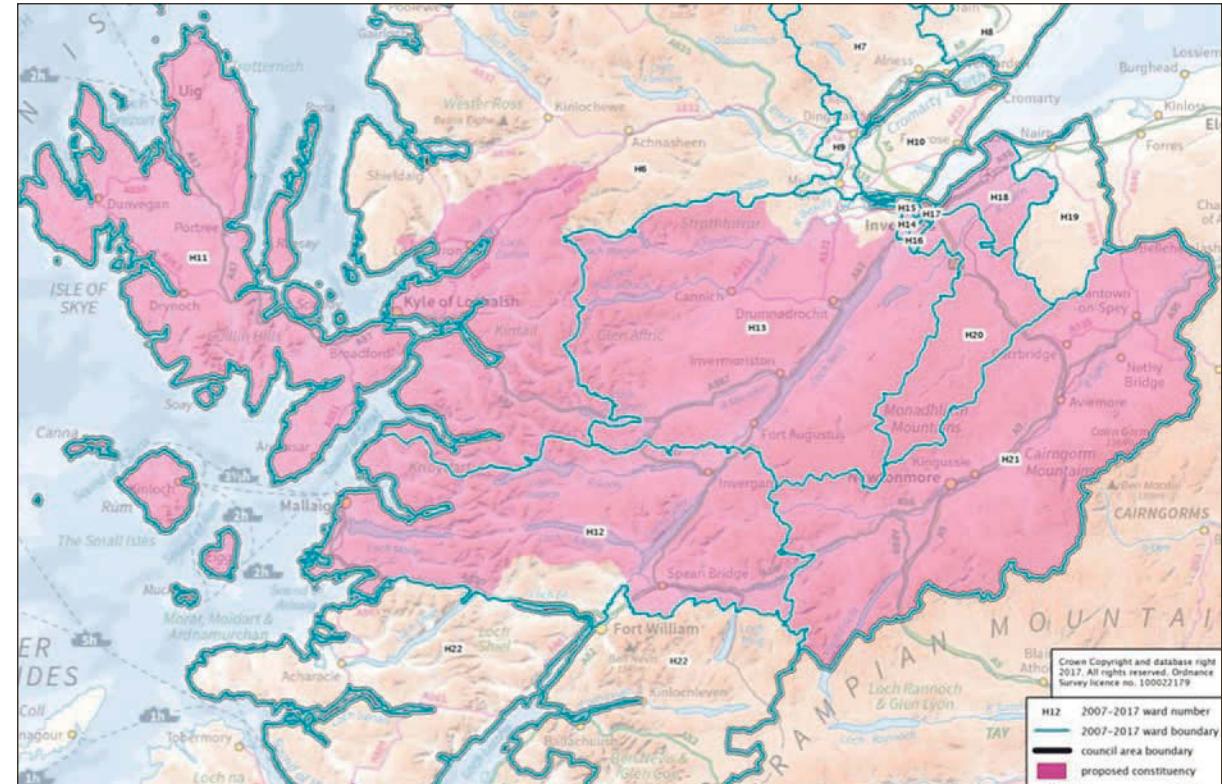
Today they were blasted again by Mr O'Hara, who said: 'The issue of boundaries was all but dropped by the Tories in the snap election. There is cross-party support for these plans to be dropped.'

'At a time when we need more scrutiny of the Brexit process and not less, it would be ludicrous for any boundary

changes to go ahead. In any event, to extend Argyll and Bute geographically any further would result in a democratic travesty.'

Mr Blackford agreed, saying: 'Highland constituencies are already spread over a very wide geographical area and these proposals take absolutely no account of this.'

'What is now being planned will reduce the number of Highland MPs to



The proposed Argyll, Bute and Lochaber constituency, left, and the proposed Highland South constituency.

just three, who will be representing 40 per cent of Scotland's land mass. I hold regular surgeries across Ross, Skye and Lochaber, including rural areas and islands so I can meet constituents face-to-face and hear directly from them about their issues of concern.'

The proposed boundary changes will not only make this harder for the elected member, but more challenging for constituents to make a personal connection.

'It is not Highland MPs who should be cut, but the over-representation at the unelected House of Lords.'

The Boundary Commission for Scotland said today: 'As set out in

legislation, each of the remaining 51 constituencies must: not exceed the maximum permitted area of 13,000 square kilometres; and be within five per cent of the UK electoral quota of 74,769.2 (ie to have between 71,031 and 78,507 electors), except where a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres when it may have fewer than 71,031 electors.'

Lord Matthews, deputy chairman of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, said: 'After careful consideration of all of the comments received during the consultations on the initial proposals, the commission has designed this revised set of constituencies.'

'Where the legislation has allowed it, we have tried to respond to the views expressed to us. However, in some areas, we have been unable to make changes because of the constraints on constituency design within which we work. This is the final opportunity we have to obtain views on our proposals so we can further improve them where the legislation allows us to do so. I hope people will take the opportunity to contribute, whether for or against what we have proposed.'

The proposals will reduce the number of constituencies currently serving Argyll, Lochaber and the Highlands from four to three.

## Yacht is left high and dry on Kerrera

THE general opinion seems to be that the Oban area escaped lightly as Storm Ophelia blew in on Monday night.

A few of the bunting streamers at the high end of George Street were brought down but otherwise there were few reports of any significant damage.

One sailing boat was left high and dry on the beach at Kerrera after being driven ashore, and was captured on camera by Tim Vollum, of Balliemore Farm on the island.

The stranded yacht certainly piqued the curiosity of Tim's young sons, Olly and Rory.



## Charity ladies will be in the pink



Carol at last year's event.

OCTOBER is Breast Cancer Awareness month so it is the ideal time to kick off fundraising for this year's Pink Ladies' Day.

The Pink Ladie's Day, now in its fourth year, is designed specifically for women in Argyll who have experienced breast cancer first hand.

The big day, held in Inveraray on Friday December 8, is all about pampering, beauty treatments, delicious food, lots of fun and friendship, relaxation and meeting like-minded (and like-bodied) women.

The organisers promise an army of makeup artists, hairdressers, massage therapists, reiki, yoga and beauty consultants, and cancer support specialists.

It's a positive day full of laughter and generally being treated to some serious TLC. There are still a few spaces available and each woman can bring a friend to share the day with – someone who has perhaps been a tower of strength during what would have been a tough time. The day is completely free.

If you live in Argyll, have experienced breast cancer and would like to be a part of this amazing day, please get in touch with Nicky on 07786 861266 or email [pinkladies-day@outlook.com](mailto:pinkladies-day@outlook.com).

Fundraising goes on throughout October and November to fund this event and anyone wishing to donate items for the tombola or lucky dip should get in touch or feel free to drop in for afternoon tea (£6.95) at Glencruitten Golf Club in Oban between noon and 4pm on Saturday October 28.

## Hospital throws open its doors

OBAN'S Lorn and Islands Hospital is hosting an open day next week to showcase its services.

The hospital's local manager, Caroline Henderson, said: 'Lorn and Islands Hospital provides a wide range of health and social care services for the people of Oban and its surrounding areas and, on most occasions, the only time that the public actually get to see for themselves what services we provide is when they are either treated here or are visiting friends or family.'

'The hospital belongs to the

## Driver is banned for year and fined

A 44-YEAR-OLD man has been disqualified from driving for 12 months and received a £300 fine for dangerous driving.

Paul Thompson, of 25 Potts Road, Motherwell, was clocked travelling at 112mph on the A82 north of Bridge of Orchy.

He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday October 12 and was willing to give a guilty plea to a lesser charge of careless driving. This wasn't accepted by the crown and two constables gave evidence.

The officers said they heard a motorcycle in the distance before clocking him driving at

112mph and overtaking 'the majority' of an eight-car convoy.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty highlighted a number of dangers, such as lay-bys, other vehicles and wild animals.

However, although Thompson admitted speeding, his position was that he overtook only two cars before pulling in.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said there was enough evidence to find Thompson guilty of dangerous driving. He said: 'It's clear this matter is going to have a severe impact on your life but the standard of your driving was dangerous.'



inspire • connect • inform

## ARGYLL ENTERPRISE WEEK

6 Nov - 10 Nov 2017

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A range of workshops, seminars, marketplaces and networking sessions for businesses

- Funding
- Digital Marketing
- Tourism
- Food & Drink
- Trading Overseas
- Creative Industries
- Community Development

Events in Arrochar, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Inveraray, Lochgilphead and Oban

Find out what is going on in your area and book your tickets at [www.aryllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com](http://www.aryllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com) or call Argyll and Bute Business Gateway team on 01546 604555

# Arena

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

## malt OF THE month

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

**Scotland's secret sector**  
Illicit distilling in Scotland was seen as a 'right of man' at the end of the 17th century. Attempts to enforce excise duty on the spirit were therefore met with resistance, ranging from riots to more and more ingenious ways of avoiding paying tax.

Now a new book, launched at the Spirit of Moray Book Festival in September, reveals the secrets of this erstwhile pillar of the Scottish economy from the mid-1600s heyday to its demise in the early 20th century, titled *Scotland's Secret History, The Illicit Distilling and Smuggling of Whisky*, by Charles MacLean and Daniel MacCannell.

Outlaws, renegades and fugitives from justice have captured the imagination through the ages. The story of Scotland's illicit whisky distillers and smugglers has been enshrined in legend, folk song and romantic images produced by the ballad tradition and Victorian painters

Arran Distillery released its Smugglers series of three whiskies over three years, starting with Illicit Stills, then The High Seas, and finally The Exciseman during the summer, which sold out within an hour online, and within four days in its Arran shop, but you can still buy bottles on the web.



such as Edward Landseer.

But the authors' new research, based on first-hand historical accounts and official records, dispels the romantic myths surrounding the illegal enterprise, revealing that the clandestine production and trade of whisky was an important economic activity in Scotland, constituting a valuable source of income for subsistence farmers as well as major landowners, merchants and civic authorities.

Spirits from small parishes travelled far and wide, across the border to England and across the North Sea to France, firing up revolution and lending solidarity to the struggles of the Jacobites.

Next Wednesday the co-author whisky expert and raconteur Charles MacLean leads a tasting sessions at Colonsay's Food and Drink Festival, and you can ask him for more of Scotland's secret stories, and his review of Arran Distillery's latest and last Smuggler whisky.

The Horseshoe Restaurant with Rooms is a food lovers getaway set in the beautiful Scottish Borders; with a wealth of local food producers, Head Chef Darren Miranda is able to change Menus on a daily basis ensuring only the best produce is used. The lucky winners of this

## Lochaber businesses encouraged to register for Sustainable Business Week

Highland business leaders are being encouraged to register for Sustainable Business Week (October 23-27) to find out how to beat rising energy, water and waste costs, and boost profits.

Sustainable Business Week is organised by Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Efficient Scotland programme, with the support of The Highland Council.

Since 2013, the

Scotland programme has helped businesses make over £138 million lifetime savings.

Sustainable Business Week is open and free to attend for all small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

across Highland. Events include a free business briefing for business owners and managers at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Friday October 27 (8.30am to 10am).

The briefing is an



## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 November 2017. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

### WIN

**A TWO NIGHT STAY FOR TWO PEOPLE AT THE HORSESHOE RESTAURANT WITH ROOMS WITH DINNER AND BREAKFAST**



competition can enjoy dinner from the tasting menu on one night of their stay and from the à la carte menu on the other.

General Manager, Mark Slaney, author of his own Wine Guide, "Tasting Notes" is always on hand to offer advice on wine selections or his other passion – The Scottish Borders.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:**

**What is the name of Mark Slaney's Wine Guide?**

Subject to availability.

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

## Fasanta's back in 2018

Due to the ongoing developments at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds, Fasanta Festival of Textiles and Fashion will be taking a break this year and returning in 2018.

Organisers said it was a difficult decision,

but due to their 'commitment to current projects and tight time constraints, the team feel that it is in the best interest of the event to give it our full attention next year.'

'We are dedicated to making the festival the very best that it can be, and so we have decided to host Fasanta every 2 years from 2018 onwards.'

'We are working away on our schedule for Fasanta 2018, the venue is booked and we have some very exciting ideas in mind for you all to enjoy.'



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## Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

[robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk)

### Glasgow Mòd goers head for Lochaber

It is a big week for Glasgow singers, musicians and choirs at the Royal National Mòd in Lochaber. I have written elsewhere in this week's paper about how well things are going up here - and I'm sure a lot of Glasgow competitors will arrive towards the end of the week.

One of many wonderful things happening at the Mòd this year is Donald MacLeod's Care for a Ceilidh scheme (usually operating in Glasgow) which saw a céilidh featuring Gunnla Sound, the Glasgow Gaelic Musical

Association, the Laxdale Ladies choir and former Mòd gold medallist DI Brown - take place at the Invernevis Care Home in Fort William.

I'm sure the residents will greatly appreciate Donnie and Co's efforts to bring the Mòd to them.

### Gaelic actor takes the reigns at An Leannag

Congratulations to Iain Beggs, star of BBC Alba's television series *Bannan*, in his new role as Gaelic development officer at An Leannag.

Iain, in his role, will work with An Lochran and others on exciting arts

and media projects for the Gaelic community around Glasgow.

### Clydebank Highlanders hold successful ceilidh

The Clydebank Highlanders had an excellent ceilidh on Friday night, with music and song of the highest standard.

The chairman was Alasdair MacMillan, who also sang a few songs. Norman MacKinnon, Rhona Morrison and Frank McCamley were the other singers. The fiddler was Jean Ann Calender, the piper Luke Pringle and the accompanist Kirsteen Grant.

The association is ex-

tremely grateful to the anonymous benefactors who have donated anew digital piano, making its first appearance on Friday night, beautifully played by Kirsteen and much appreciated by artistes and patrons alike.

### What's on

Friday October 27: Coll Association quiz night at 7.30pm in Partick Burgh Hall.

Friday October 27: Helensburgh and District Association dance in the Commodore Hotel at 8pm.

Friday October 27: The second annual Eriskay Gathering dance in Glasgow University Union at 9pm - sold out.

Saturday October 28: Glasgow Skye Association Marag supper in the Craw-

ford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

Saturday October 28: Staran - complete vocal technique with Theatre Gu Leòr, 10am.

Saturday November 11: Glasgow Skye Association children's post-Mòd ceilidh at 7.30pm in the Crawford Hall.

Thursday November 16: Tiree Association annual gathering concert at 7.30pm in Partick Burgh Halls.

Friday November 17: Tiree Association annual gathering dance at 9pm in the Glasgow University Union.

Friday November 17: Clydebank and District Highland Association ceilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick at 7.30pm.

Thursday November 23: Comunn An Taobh An Iar

haggis supper at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club.

Friday November 24: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance at 8pm in the Commodore Hotel.

Saturday November 25: Coll Association annual buffet and ceilidh in the National Piping Centre at 7pm.

### Pub scene

Islay Inn.

Friday October 21: Twist of Fate.

Saturday October 22: Black Velvet.

Sunday October 23: Calum MacPhail Duo.

Park Bar.

Friday October 21: Willie Scott.

Saturday October 22: TBC.

Sunday October 23: Trail West.



Iain Beggs from Barra has taken up the post of Gaelic Development Officer for An Leannag.

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# Petidol!

Submit your entry online - [www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol](http://www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol)

Terms and conditions apply.

**Last call for entries!**  
**Enter by midnight,**  
**Sunday,**  
**22nd October**

## Renowned choir set to play in Oban

The Audrey Male Voice Choir will be performing in Oban on Friday October 27 in aid of Mary's Meals.

The event, which has been organised by the Rotary Club of Oban, will also feature pipers from the Oban High School Pipe Band as well as the Sequence Choir.

The concert gets

under way at 7.30pm, with 100 per cent of proceeds going towards Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals, which provides meals for children attending schools in the Third World.

Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased from Alba Art Shop in Albany Street or from Rotary Club members. Iain MacIntrye of the

Rotary Club said: 'I think it's great for the town. We are privileged to be able to organise it and we are going to be able to raise funds for Mary's Meals.'

Mr MacIntrye said the band are currently doing a 'mini tour' of Scotland and picked Oban to play in. 'They are paying all their own expenses,' he added.

## Colonsay food and drink festival

Colonsay's autumn food and drink festival is under way, running until October 28.

Today (Thursday's) historical walk to Oronsay with Andrew McMorris, titled 'Norsemens, monks and chieftains', is followed by a botanical walk called 'Byrne on Fern', where Kevin Byrne introduces a dozen of his favourite Colonsay ferns.

Colonsay's own gin

distillers, Finlay and Eileen Geekie, conduct a gin-and-tonic tasting tonight (and on Monday), before Scottish-Italian food writer and TV presenter Mary Contini hosts a cookery demonstration on Friday. The same day also features an enlightening walk to the ruined village of Riasg Buidhe with Andrew McMorris, touching on history, folklore and Gaelic.

Fiona Houston leads

seaweed foraging on Saturday and Sunday, and suggests culinary uses back at Colonsay Caves.

Whisky expert and raconteur Charles MacLean takes a tasting session on Wednesday, which is followed on Thursday by Donald Paterson's baking lessons on how to make the perfect tart. On Friday, Colonsay's own brewer, Chris Nisbet, invites folk to sample beers and lagers from all over the world.

## Craignish Village Hall – 'GROWTH' – 19 October 2017

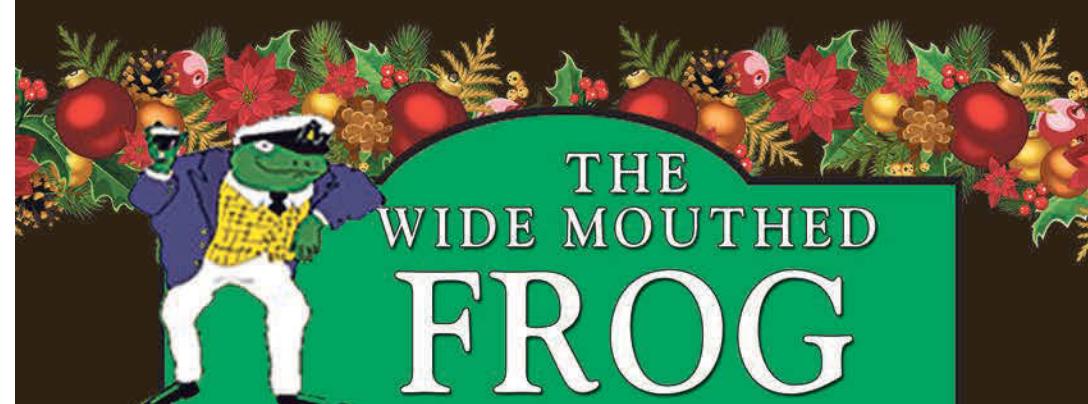
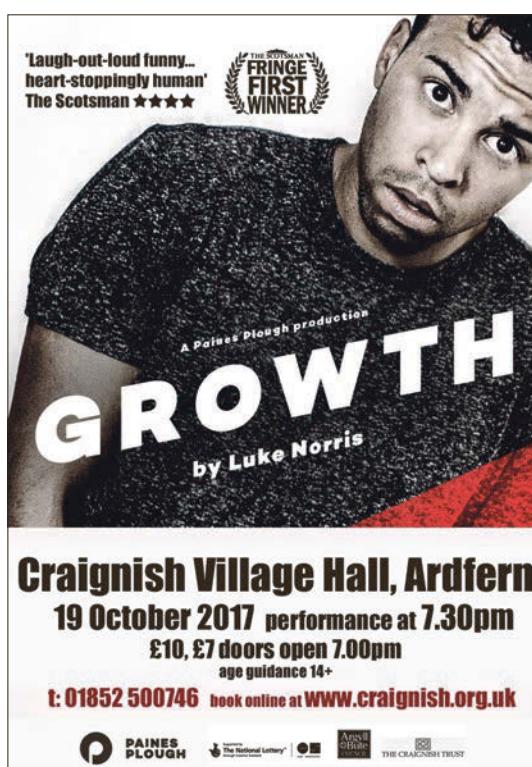


Dominic Jones and Safiyya Ingar. Picture by Rebecca Need-Meneer

The Arts Programme at Craignish Village Hall in Ardfern hits its autumn stride in style on Thursday October 19 with a performance of Luke Norris's award-winning play *Growth*, currently on tour to 29 venues across the UK.

Funny, raw and moving, *Growth* is a coming-of-age story about a young man dealing with an overwhelming problem. Tobe has successfully ignored his lump for two years ...

but it's starting to get in the way and cramping his style, so now there are decisions to be made and pants to be dropped! Writer Luke Norris has won numerous awards including two Manchester Theatre Awards and a Fringe First for *Growth*. He is also known as an actor, on screen most recently in BBC's *Poldark*, and previously in *Skins* and *The Inbetweeners*. Producers Paines Plough have assembled an outstanding cast of talented



## CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

From 1st December running until the 23rd December

**Bookings with Deposits only**

### MENU

Bucks Fix Welcome Reception

Vegetarian options available

### Starter

Soup of the Day | Melon and Parma Ham | Prawn Cocktail

### Mains

Traditional Roast Dinner - Choice of: Turkey, Beef, Lamb, Mash Potato, Yorkshire Pudding, Pigs in Blanket, Stuffing, Three Seasonal Vegetables

Choice of Sauces: Apple Sauce, Mint Sauce, Horseradish Sauce, Cranberry Sauce, Thick Home Made Stock

### Desserts

Sticky Toffee Pudding | Christmas Pudding | Mince Pie

All served with a choice of topping.

Karaoke and Disco

ALL FOR £25 PER HEAD

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

**MONDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2

**TUESDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.

**WEDNESDAY:** 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.

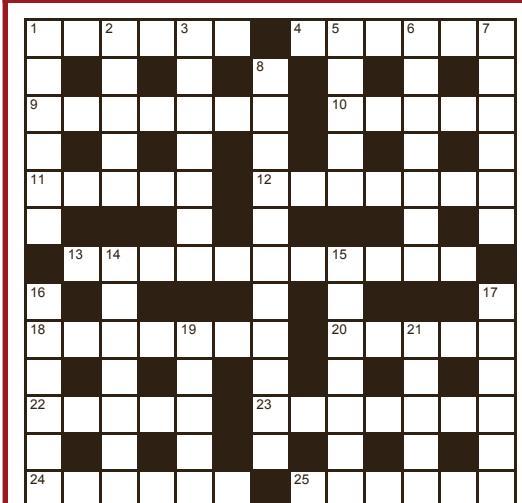
**THURSDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

**FRIDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 18:45 Sports View, 19:00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20:00 Lewis Binham.

**SATURDAY:** 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Cosher, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

**SUNDAY:** 08:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Offspring of two different plants (6)
  - 4 Written type of some poems (6)
  - 9 Defence technique (7)
  - 10 Thirteen found at a bakers shop (5)
  - 11 Shake up (5)
  - 12 Piece of land which is exposed (7)
  - 13 One in charge of a row? (4,7)
  - 18 Feast (7)
  - 20 Utopian (5)
  - 22 One found in the corner of a classroom (5)
  - 23 Repeated alternately (7)
  - 24 Generally (6)
  - 25 Allay (6)
- Down**
- 1 Take a plan or plane (6)
  - 2 Something exquisite (5)
  - 3 Strong (7)
  - 5 Sit in on (5)
  - 6 Strange sale? (7)
  - 7 Shade provider (6)
  - 8 Unable to work (3,2,6)
  - 14 A good one must be many years of cricket! (7)
  - 15 Friendly (7)
  - 16 Footnote word (6)
  - 17 Winter toboggan event (6)
  - 19 Eye parts (5)
  - 21 Uncredited actor (5)

## Pink Afternoon Tea

A delicious traditional afternoon tea for just £6.95

Plus craft stalls, tombola, cakes and bakes, guess the weight and lucky dip!

**Saturday October 28, noon to 4pm**

**Oban Golf Club, Glencruitten Road, Oban.** Free admission

This is a fundraiser for The Pink Ladies Day which takes place in December in Inveraray – a day of pampering, food, friendship and fun for women throughout Argyll who have experienced breast cancer.

The Pink Afternoon Tea is a key fundraiser for this special day.

For further information on The Pink Ladies Day or to book a stall at the fundraiser (in return for a donation), contact Nicky on 07786 861266.

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

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**MOJO**

festival of original

Argyll music

**Saturday October 21**

Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern

8pm doors open

**Oban Times LEISURE TIMES**

# OUTDOORS

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## Volcanoes, dinosaurs and three billion years of history

SANDY NEIL

[sneil@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sneil@obantimes.co.uk)

DID you know Tayvallich was once a volcano, dinosaurs roamed Eigg, Iona's rocks are two billion years old, the Vikings named 'Staffa' or 'pillar' island as a landmark, or that the Mull volcano reached 5km in height, filling up cracks in the Earth's crust as far away as Yorkshire?

Three billion years in the making, Scotland has been through an amazing geological journey, involving continental collisions, mountain building, deserts, glaciers and volcanic eruptions.

Oceans came into being and then vanished, as have the dinosaurs that once roamed the land, while large-scale volcanic eruptions and intrusions transformed the landscapes.

These stories can be 'read' in the rocks around us, and now they are easily available thanks to the Scottish Geodiversity Forum's online list of the 51 best places to see Scotland's geology, launched during the nationwide Geoheritage Festival this month.

The list includes Argyll and Lochaber's most amazing sites, such as Islay and the Garvellachs, Iona and the Isle of Staffa, Glen Coe, and the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy. Further up, Skye boasts the Cuillin Hills and Trotternish's Jurassic dinosaur fossils and footprints, lava stacks like Kilt Rock, and Britain's longest



'Eigg is a lovely geological gem within Lochaber Geopark.' Picture: Angus Miller

landslide, a 'nightmare of nature', creating the Old Man of Storr and Quiraing.

Luing and the Atlantic Islands, listed under the title A Tale of Two Oceans, tell the dramatic story of nearly three billion years of Earth's history, of an ocean that came and vanished, and then opened up into the North Atlantic.

The website explains: 'As the ancient supercontinent of Rodinia split apart, a new ocean called the Iapetus formed around 600 million years ago, accompanied by volcanic eruptions near Tayvallich and intruded sills into the ocean-floor sediments. These hard rocks form the high ground on the east side of Luing,

and consist of much-altered, grey-greenish basaltic rocks, which were used to build the Iron Age fort there.'

'The oldest rocks in this area form Coll, Tiree, Iona, Colonsay and part of Islay, but our tale begins with the Garvellachs. The Port Askaig diamicrite (a rock thought to be formed beneath ice sheets),

of international geological importance, tells about the end of the period known as Snowball Earth, around 650 million years ago.'

'Vast quantities of sediment were eroded from the continent of Laurentia and deposited in the Iapetus Ocean; at that time, northern Scotland lay on Laurentia's southern coast.

Sand settled nearer the shore, and mud further out to sea. These sediments accumulated continuously for 330 million years building layers totalling around 26 kilometres thick. The sand formed the pale, tough quartzite rocks of Jura and Scarba.

'As the Iapetus Ocean began to close about 500 million years ago, these sea-floor sedimentary rocks were squeezed between colliding continents. The thick layers of dark mudstone, filled with organic material and still plastic, were concertoined into extremely large, tight folds. As seawater was squeezed from the rock, the thin, flat clay mineral crystals became aligned at

'right angles to the pressure direction, producing the characteristic cleavage planes of slate.'

'The result is the blue-grey slates of the Slate Islands; sometimes called the "slates that roofed the world". The abandoned North Quarry and nearby coast at Cullipool on Luing is the best place to study these slate rocks.'

'The mountains of Mull now reach their highest (about 1,000 metres) at Ben More. Now, imagine instead that you are looking at a mountain 5,000 metres high – then it erupts! Around 60 million years ago, the Mull volcano was comparable to those of Hawaii today.'

'The Mull volcano, and its siblings of Skye, Rum, Ardnamurchan and Arran, mark the opening of the North Atlantic Ocean, as the supercontinent of Pangaea broke up and the bulk of old Laurentia moved away to form North America and Greenland. But a small slice of Laurentia remained attached to Europe ... we call it Scotland!'



The Slate islands, left, 'roofed the world' (picture: A Fleming); Islay, centre, saw extreme events (picture: D Webster); and the Cuillins have dinosaur fossils (picture: J Gordon).

## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy.

Participants can walk three times with the club before joining. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

### Thursday October 19 Glen Orchy Waterfalls to Duartte

A through walk from the spectacular Orchy Falls to lovely Glen Strae through a forest and open

hillside to a good track. Start from the Eas Urchaidh CP at NN242321 on B8074. Cross the River Orchy and take the track leading N up through the forest for approx 2km. Turn right at a junction at NN232323, cross the Allt Broigh-leachan on the footbridge EX, then turn left and follow the path W to the forest boundary.

Exit the forest at the stile near Airigh Chailleach ShielingsLR, at NN2097033539. Head SW towards the Allt nan Guithas and then turn W and head for the River Strae. Cross the river where convenient to reach the track on its W bank, otherwise follow E bank and cross on the bridge at NN166315. Follow the track down Glen Strae to reach the B8077 at

NN145294. Transport required. Grade: M; Distance: 16km; Height to climb: 250m; Map(s): LR50, EX377. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, 8.35am or Glencoe village car park at 8.40am. Start of walk at 9.30. Leader: Marilyn Drummond 01631 565878.

### Sunday October 22 Fraoch-bheinn and Sgurr an Utha, Glenfinnan

A fine walk on the ancient Moine featuring a garnet-encrusted summit, breathtaking deformed schists and spectacular views of often-hidden Loch Beoraid.

Start from the lay-by on the S side of the A830 just W of the bridge over the Allt an Utha, NM873817. Cross the bridge to the start of a forestry track and

follow it N to a junction just before a new bridge over Allt an Utha NM872823. The summit of Sgurr an Utha may be seen to the NE at this point. Turn E and follow the steep ATV track up E to its end at NM880826. The ascent is now pathless over heather and rocky outcrops. Continue E up the open slope of the Druim na Breinchoille, whence there are excellent views along Loch Eil. Turn NNE towards Fraoch-bheinn.

Either walk around the corrie or head up on to Fraoch-bheinn and around the line of the ridge. The final ascent to Sgurr an Utha is straightforward to the cairn at 796m. The summit is a rocky knoll with garnet-encrusted mica schists. Look out for the

reddish brown pebbles at your feet and embedded in the rocks around you! The summit drops sharply to the N and provides excellent views to Gleann Donn and Loch Beoraid as well as Coal-GhleannEX and Glenfinnan Lodge.

Head W from the summit to NM878838 and follow the burn back down to the Allt an Utha to regain the track back to the A830.

Alternatively head W to Sithean Mòr (582m) and descend S to the Allt Feith a'Chatha hydro scheme and follow the track back. (adds about 2 km).

Grade: M; Distance: 9km; Height to climb: 757m; Map(s): LR40, EX398. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.15am. Start

of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Diane Bettess 07795 934177.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

### Saturday October 21 Beinn a'Chreachain, Beinn Achaladair

Head NE along a track and a path to Crannach Wood, having crossed Allt Coire Achaladair, and cross a footbridge over the railway at NN349454 (alternatively, stay on the track, cross the river by the footbridge, which is not marked on the map, and go un-

der the railway by an underpass.) Continue east to reach the Allt Coire an Lochain and follow it to the lochan. Ascend up grassy slopes to the NE ridge of Beinn a'Chreachain (1081m). Go SW to attain the summit. Descend NW to the col at the rim of Coire an Lochan and climb SW up to the level ridge of Meall Buidhe.

Descend and follow the rim of Beinn Achaladair's NE coire to its summit (1038m). Continue over the south top and descend to the head of Coire Daingean, then NW back to Achalader farm

Distance: 17km; Height to climb: 1200m.

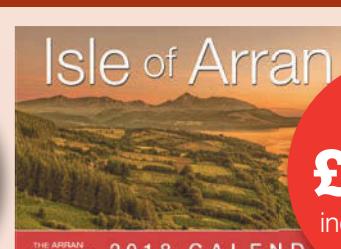
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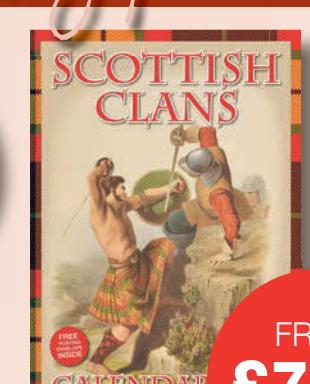
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# Dynamic duo gear up to judge competitions

Joy and Robert share top tips on picking a winner

THE ROYAL National Mòd got under way on Friday with a record number of entrants, writes David McPhee.

And as in any competition, there are winners and losers. But who makes those decisions?

We spoke to two adjudicators who have the difficult job of judging some of this year's competitions - Robert Robertson, Fort William, and Joy Dunlop, Connel.

'Adjudicating feels more nerve-wracking than being a competitor,' former Gold Medal winner Robert Robertson said.

'I remember when I was competing - you always had something to say about the decision. Now I know that everyone in the room is an adjudicator in their own head - it's quite a nerve-wracking thing to do.'

Robert will be in charge of judging junior competitions.

'Sometimes you can sit back and really enjoy a competition,' he said. 'The only sad part is it's up to you to pick a winner and sometimes that's really difficult.'

The Lochaber man was enthusiastic about the number of entries this year, especially in regards to younger men taking part, which hasn't always been the case in the past.

'Hopefully a few of them will go on to be Gold Medallists,' he added. 'If it was not for the Mòd coming to Fort William in 2007, when I was 13, maybe I would not have been so involved and so passionate about Gaelic singing.'

Joy, also a Gold Medal winner, has the difficult task of juggling adjudicating and competing at this year's mòd. 'I started off judging the children's competitions at first,' Joy said. 'For the last few years I have been adjudicating the adults.'

'With adults it's a bit more formal. You know that people have been working really hard all year and you want to give them as much positive feedback as you can, but it's a competition and you have to mark people.'

'The last thing you want is to let them down, but you do have to pick a first, second and third.'

However, even a seasoned adjudicator such as Joy has her favourite competitions and events.

'I really enjoy the adult choral competitions because the standard is so high, and the Mass Choir event.'

'There's something really special about that because you have 30-odd choirs singing together. I find it really moving.'

Joy also spoke about the importance of the Mòd and how the festival helps to preserve Gaelic culture and language.

'For me, the best part of the Mòd is you're seeing people that you have not seen in a while,' she said.

'It's a very Gaelic week. If you live in a city it's hard to find that. I love the competitions, but really it's the catching up with folk.'

'I think the Mòd is really important for Gaelic. It's a

most obvious event - most people will have heard of the Mòd, even if you're not a Gael. It's really important because it's probably the only event that is open to everyone.'

'It's the only event where anyone can take part. It's a

really important event for the preservation of the language. I know the numbers are up in Lochaber. They reported a huge increase in local competitors and that's lovely to see.'

'It's really important that we have that buy-in from the

local community. It's the locals who organise it, it's they who take part. I started with Gaelic when the Mòd came to Oban. We didn't do any in Connel, but because the Mòd came that was an opportunity for us all to learn it.'

Both Robert and Joy had some tips for those competing in this year's competitions.

'For me, what sticks out is their expression,' Joy said. 'People have to take the time to understand the song. It's the people that express it most

that I award medals to. I think for the juniors, Robert said, it's just about taking more time, being calm and relaxed.'

'They have been practising for months on their song, it's a shame to see the practise go to waste if they rush it.'



Robert Robertson and Joy Dunlop.

## Winners all the way



Hector Finlayson from Kyle won the Gold Badge for the Gaelic air class on the chanter and second in the march. 21\_MOD42nf6\_chanter



Finlay Cameron, from Fort William, winner of all three under 19 piping classes - pioaireachd, march, Strathspey and reel and jig. 21\_MOD42nf102\_piping



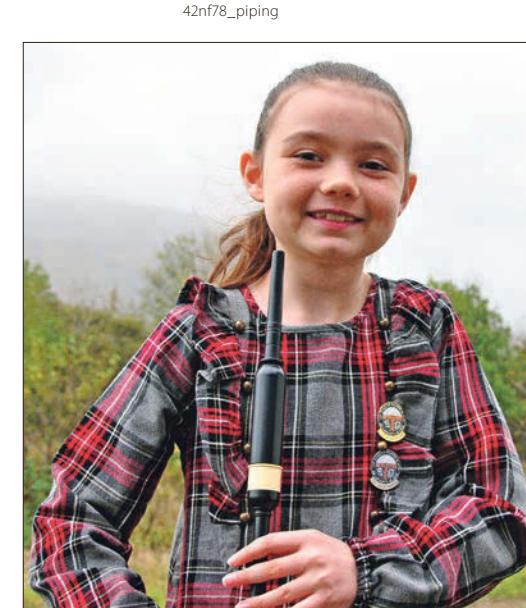
Iain MacFadyen, left, and John Wilson adjudicated the senior piping competitions on Saturday. 21\_MOD42nf8\_piping



Ross Conner from Campbelltown Grammar School won the Roderick Munro Quaich in the under 15 march competition. He was second in the under 15 Strathspey and reel. 21\_MOD42nf97\_piping



Left: Sandy Cameron from Fort William with the John T MacRae Cup after winning the march, Strathspey and reel senior piping competition. He was also third in the Ceòl Mòr and hornpipe and jig. 21\_MOD42nf91\_piping



Right: Grace Kelman from Inverness won the Gold Badge for the under 13 chanter march competition. She was also second in the Gaelic Air. 21\_MOD42nf3\_chanter



Lawrence McDuff



MEET Lawrence McDuff. He's a bus and boat enthusiast and he has brought his 1967 MacBrayne's bus along to this year's Royal National Mod, in partnership with CalMac.

The 71-year-old, from Dunoon but who now lives in Kilmarnock, is a retired banker, but for the last 17-years he has been driving a bus for a living.

His nostalgic MacBrayne has been a focal point of the town centre, attracting Mòd-goers and locals. Employees from CalMac have taken up residency in the vehicle and are using it as an information hub. Lawrence,

a Mòd trophy winner, said he had to buy it after his friend spotted it was for sale in Belfast 1990.

'We have had so many people come who have been connected with MacBrayne - some who have worked for them, others who went to school [in the bus].'

'The company is part of west coast culture and I am delighted to be part of that.'

In the summer, Lawrence uses the bus to take people on trips round Argyll.

You can read more about Lawrence and his bus on our website [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk).

# Torchlight procession to opening ceremony



Brian Fulton, CalMac director of community and stakeholder engagement, centre, and David Cannon, CalMac public affairs manager, third left, were among those taking part in the torchlight procession to the Nevis Centre for the Royal National Mòd opening ceremony.



Ronald Cameron, president of Lochaber Mòd Association at the torchlight procession on Friday night. Fort William Mod 43



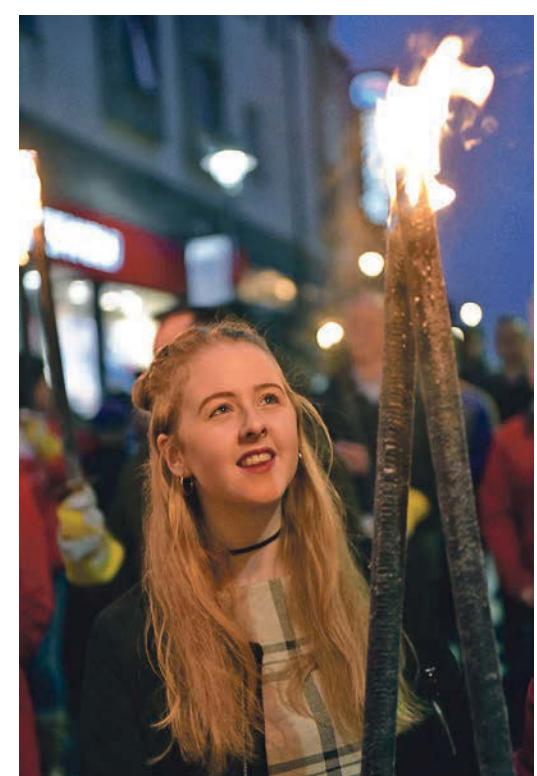
Royal National Mòd supporters share a smile with a member of Lochaber Pipe Band at the torchlight procession on Friday night. Fort William Mod 39



Anthony Oliver, chief steward of the local organising committee, with his daughter Roslyn and other Mòd volunteers. Fort William Mod 38



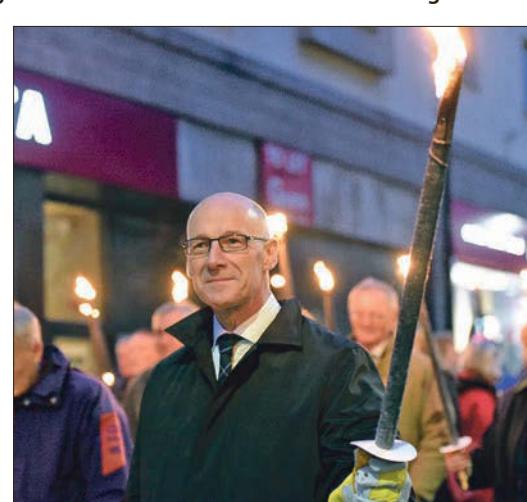
Two Mòd supporters check their torches. Fort William Mod 55



The procession was popular with people of all ages, including Hannah Calder, a Mòd competitor. Fort William Mod 44



Shona Neil, left CalMac's corporate social responsibility manager, and Blair Moglia, right, CalMac stakeholder manager, meet two guests at the Mòd reception in the Lime Tree Gallery. Fort William Mod 11



Deputy First Minister John Swinney carries his torch in the Mòd procession. Fort William Mod 49



Lochaber Gaelic Choir perform at the opening ceremony. Fort William Mod 73



Kirsteen MacDonald introduced guests at the Nevis Centre. Fort William Mod 79



Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, addresses the opening ceremony. Fort William Mod 88



Margaret MacLeod of Na H-Öganaich at the Nevis Centre. Fort William Mod 85

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Rowan Morris from Port Ellen Primary School, Islay, with the Cowal Trophy after winning the 9-10 years, learners, poetry recitation. She was also second in the solo singing girls' 9-10 years competition.

21\_MOD42nf128\_singing



Twin sisters Rebecca, left, and Rowan Morris with the Angus MacTavich Memorial Trophy after winning the under 13 duet singing competition.

Rebecca was also third equal in the poetry recitation 9-10 years learners.



Verity Lawrence from Lochaline, a member of the Mull and Morvern Gaelic Choir with the Mrs Roderick B Munro Trophy after winning the girls' 9-10 years learners solo singing.

21\_MOD42nf160\_singing



Lauren MacDonald of Port Ellen Primary School won the 11-12 years learners poetry recitation.

21\_MOD42nf136\_singing



Millie Bonniwell, aged 6, from North Connel, who attends Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Rockfield School, Oban, won the Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy for solo singing 5-6 years learners.

16\_MOD42ep8



Oisin Liam Crawford from Beauly, and member of Rionnagan Rios, won the boys' 9-10 years learners solo singing competition and holds the Dr Archie MacKinnon Memorial Trophy.

21\_MOD42nf133\_singing



Talia Graham, a pupil at The Nicolson Institute in Stornoway won the Ronald MacEachen Memorial Cup after winning the girls' 11-12 years solo singing.



Lochaline friends, from left, Isla MacKenzie, Layla MacIntyre and Verity Lawrence had a great Mòd.

A TRADITIONAL music superfan, who has already taken to the stage with some of his music idols, looks to be following in their footsteps after his Mòd win on Monday.

Aspiring Gaelic singer Andrew MacPhail, who attends Dunbeg Primary School, won the 11-12 boys' solo singing competition in his first Royal National Mòd

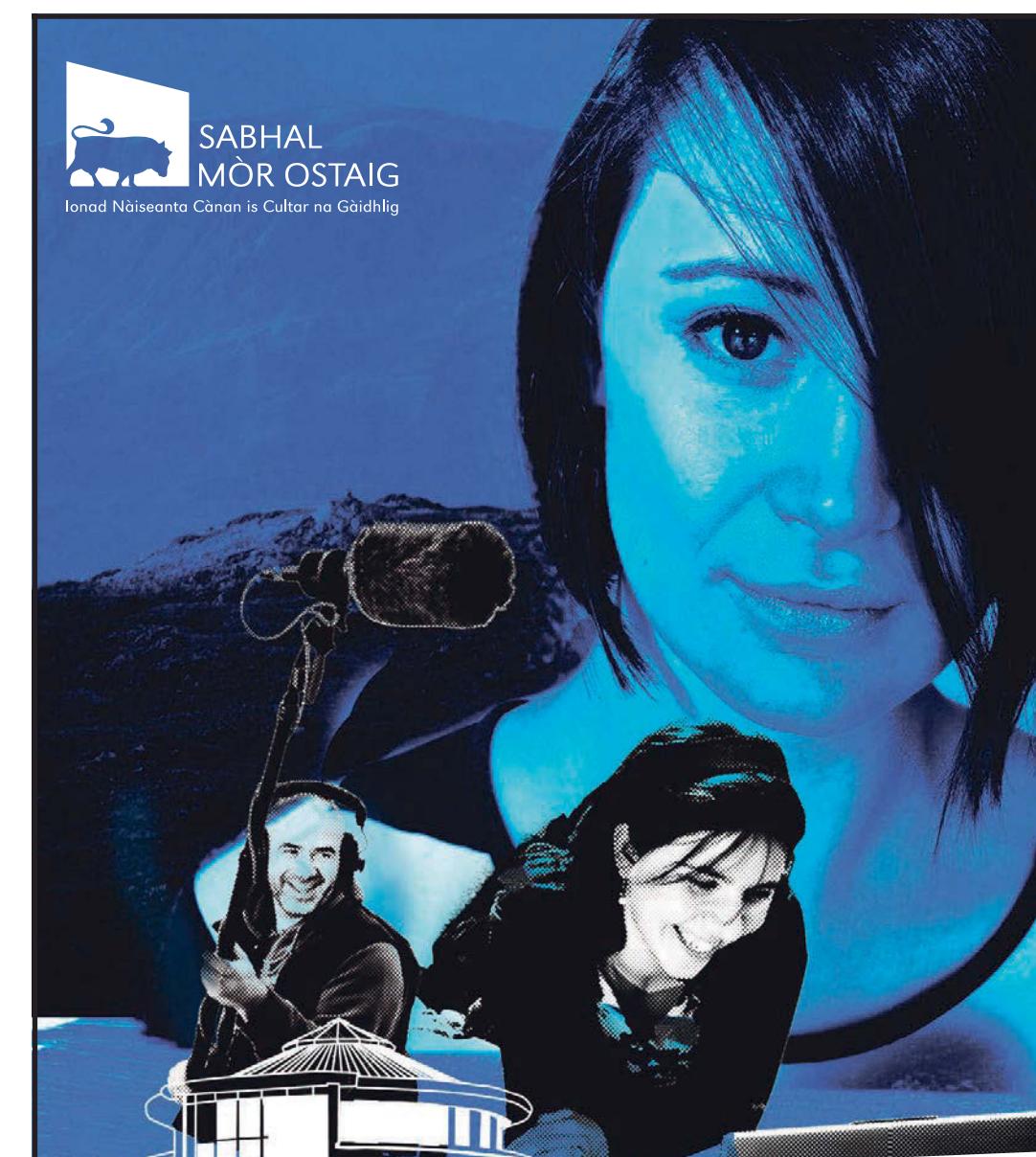
as a soloist. The 11-year-old said he loved to sing and has already taken to the stage with his heroes from trad bands Trail West and Tide Lines. He even had Oban's Ceol an Aire play at his 10th birthday party. 'All my friends are into pop music,' said Andrew, 'but I think it's rubbish. I've got more of an ear for traditional Scottish music and I hope to have my own

band one day.' Andrew's mother Catriona said: 'We always have music from trad bands playing in the house, so he has grown up with it. He knows all the words to the songs. We saw Tide Lines play on Easdale Island and the band noticed he was singing all the words during the first half, so they asked him to sing with them for a song in the second half.'



Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar won the Donald MacDonald Memorial Trophy for under-13 drama.

16\_MOD42ep14



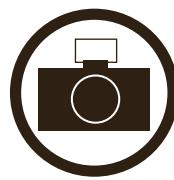
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Thar nam bliadhnaichean theasaidh air nochtadh bho àm gu àm a thaobh buaidh fharpais air a' Ghàidhlig agus ire buannachd Mòd dhi. Mar a tha seanchair agus ràdh, 's e gniomh a dhearbas, agus nuair a bheadh daicheadas sinn air a' chliù a fhuairean seinmeadairean a bhuiinn Buinn Òr aig Mòdan, saoiliadh mise nach gabh a' bhuannachd dha inbhe na Gàidhlig aiceheadh.

Mar a tha mi air a ràdh iomadh uair roimhe, ged nach eil am Mòd a' mairsinn ach beagan is seachdaine, tha a' bhuaidh aige a' dol fad na bliadhna, gach bliadhna. Seo pàirt den daineamaig a tha a' brosnachadh cleachadh na Gàidhlig anns na coimhearsnachdan. Mar a tha fios againn uile, tha buaidh na Beurla cho làidir agus gum bheil e gu math doirbh Gàidhlig a chumail ga cleachadh, agus tha sin gu h-àraid fior a thaobh oighridh.

Ach nuair a dh'fheumar faclan òrain neo bàrdachd ionnsachadh ma choinneimh Mhòdan ionadail neo nàiseanta, chan iad a-mhàin na farpasich a tha gan tarraing a dh'ionnsaigh a' chàinain a chleachadh, thig párranta agus càirdhean is eòlaich de gach seòrsa a chuideachadh. Chan eil teagamh nach eil sin uile a' cumail lasair a' chàinain beò feadh na dùthcha agus tha e cuideachd a' brosnachadh agus a' misneachadh luchd-ionnsachaidh a tha iad fhèin air an talaith chun Ghàidhlig tro iomadh cladhan. Mar eisimpleir, aithne air dileab dualchais teaghlach, neo da neach le tìdh ann an ceòl miann tuigse air faclan òrain.

Ged a tha farpasich Mhòdan a' nochtadh far feadh an t-saoghal, 's e Alba dachaigh na Gàidhlig againne, agus feumaidh an cànan soirbeadhachan na dùthach mhàthaireil fhéin. Eadar leasachaidhean foghlaim; Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005; stèidheachadh Bòrd na Gàidhlig; agus MG Alba, tha sinn taingeil airson adhartasan luachmhor. Agus leis an treas Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig aig an Riaghaltas an impis töiseachadh ri dhol an gnioimh, tha feum air aithne a thoir dhan Mhòd Nàiseanta, agus Mòdan Ionadail, mar phàirt phriseil de dhualchas nàiseanta na h-Alba a tha a' cur ri cor agus inbhe na Gàidhlig feadh choimhearsnachdan na dùthche agus fhéin, agus an t-saoghal.

AS GAELIC is celebrated at the 2017 Royal National Mòd in Lochaber it is important to recognise the Mòd as a unique national treasure. For more than a century this event, with the help of thousands of volunteers, has been part of the dynamic which promotes use of Gaelic across Scotland and beyond. National treasures merit special support.

**Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)**  
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### Brothers pipe way to victory



TWO LOCHABER brothers piped their way to victory on the first day of competitions.

As grandsons of the late Donald Cameron of Glen Nevis, Sandy and Finlay Cameron are familiar faces on the Lochaber piping scene, regularly hitting the headlines with their top-class piping performances.

And it was no different on Saturday as the brothers both came away with silverware after a long day of piping competi-

**Left:** Fort William's James MacRae won the solo singing for 7-8 years learners. The Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar pupil is tutored by his school teacher mother, Christine, a native of South Uist.

16\_MOD42ep13

### Island crowned choral winners

CÒISIR ÒG Ghàidhlig Èile (Islay) will be travelling back to the island with the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Trophy.

The group, conducted by Arlene McKerrell, were victorious in the under 19s unison choral singing competition.

Arlene said: 'It feels great. They have worked really hard on that song. It's a song that means a lot. It's a very special song to Oban.'

The song the choir sang is called Nam Aonar Le Mo Smaointean,

which translates to Alone With My Thoughts, and was written by an Oban-based minister Reverend John McLeod following the death of an Oban Royal Marine named Gordon MacPherson, who was killed aged 20.

Reverend McLeod, who was originally from Lewis, wrote the Lament in Gaelic and Erik Spence put it to music.

The song has become a popular piece with singers and bagpipe players.

Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Èile also came

second in the under 19s puirt-a-beul and the two-part harmony, completing a successful day at the Mòd.

There were more trophies heading back on the ferry to the high school as Elizabeth Macmillan-Currie won the James C MacPhee Memorial Medal for girls' solo singing 13-15 years and the Alexander Hamilton Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic.

Abbie Morris was third in the same competition, while Elizabeth picked up a third in the poetry recitation for 13-15 years learners.

A BUDDING young Gaelic speaker from Acharacle talked his way to victory as he picked up the top prize for oral conversation.

Acharacle Primary School pupil Donnie MacAskill, aged seven, confidently conversed with adjudicators for around five minutes to win the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal and a gold badge.

All 19 of the competitors were given free rein on their subject choice for the competition and as a keen young fisherman, it was unsurprising that Donnie decided to talk about all things fishing. From trout and pollock to mackerel and salmon, Donnie enjoyed talking with the judges, who shared a similar interest in the sea. Donnie has been speaking Gaelic since nursery and is a Gaelic medium pupil.

**Donnie's top talk**

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### Tobermory former teacher Janet MacDonald named Gaelic Ambassador of the Year

A FORMER maths teacher from Tobermory was celebrating this week after being named this year's winner of the prestigious Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award.

Janet MacDonald of Tobermory was presented with her award by Deputy First Minister John Swinney at a reception in the Lime Tree restaurant and gallery in Fort William on Friday October 13.

The award is in honour of her dedication to Gaelic language and culture.

Chatting ahead of the presentation, Janet told *The Oban Times* she was very surprised when she was told she had won the award a few weeks ago: 'I was speechless; really I'm not kidding. I had to keep it quiet but it wasn't too hard. My children were pleased and sorry they couldn't be here today.'

'I'm very grateful to receive this award. It's fantastic to be in such great company and to be recognised for something which is a true passion of mine is amazing.'

Janet was brought up by an English-speaking father and Gaelic-speaking mother but really started studying the language in sixth year at Oban High School, where she was encouraged by her teacher. She has worked for the Gaelic cause all her life.

Since retiring from full-time teaching, she works for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye's Gaelic college, tutoring students of An Cursa Innrigidh and other college courses.

She added: 'My interest really started with singing in the choirs in the '70s. Gaelic was



President of An Comunn Gàidhealach Allan Campbell, with Janet MacDonald and Deputy First Minister John Swinney.

JP\_MOD42jp1

not so prominent then, compared to now. Gaelic education has improved since then.'

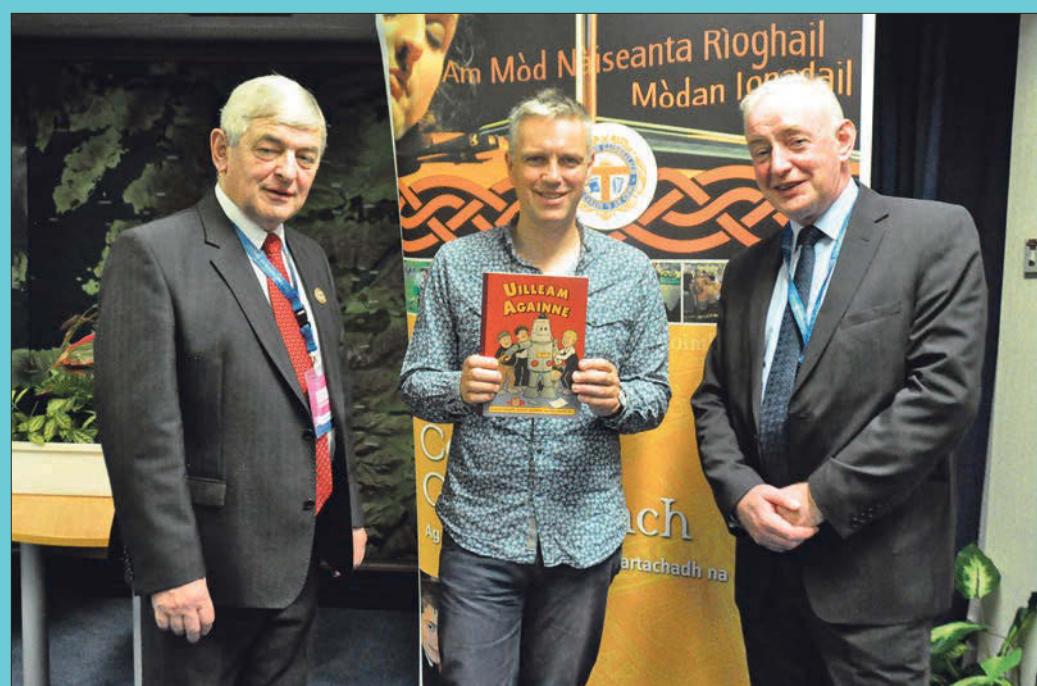
Janet was a member of the Sound of Mull group, which was well known in the '70s and '80s. She still sings with Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich and Atomic Piseag. She won the Gold Medal in Inverness in 1984, but before that she competed in many local and national Mòds and she is heavily involved with the running of the Mull Provincial Mòd, Feis Mhuile, Mull and Iona Gaelic Partnership and any other initiatives which support the language.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'Janet MacDonald has dedicated her life to the Gaelic cause and we are

delighted to see her awarded the prestigious Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award by the Scottish Government. Her contribution to the Gaelic cause through education, performance and in helping the organisation of local and national Mòds has made her a real influence for Scottish Gaels of all ages. Her impact has been profound.'

Janet joins a stellar group of Gaelic champions, with previous winners of the Gaelic Ambassador of the Year award including: Alex O'Henry, Professor Boyd Robertson, Kirsteen MacDonald, John Norman Macleod, Ruairidh Maclean, Donald Martin, Allan Campbell, Anne Lorne Gillies and Julie Fowlis.

## Oor Wullie - in Gaelic



Left to right: Allan Campbell, Domhnall Uileam Stiubhart and John Morrison with the first Gaelic version of Oor Wullie. 17\_MOD42dm1\_mondayoowullie

FOR THE first time since appearing in print in 1936, people will be able to read about the lovable rogue Oor Wullie in Gaelic.

The famous comic strip, which has been translated into Gaelic, was launched at the Mòd on Tuesday at Lochaber High School library.

'We are very proud of the book,' said Domhnall Uileam

Stiubhart, who helped put it together.

'We put books out for young people aged five to seven years old - that's the age when they start to read by themselves and very often it's English books that they read. But we are doing Gaelic books.'

'We are getting on okay, but we felt there was something missing, so we looked at

cartoons and came up with the idea that we could have Oor Wullie in Gaelic - DC Thomson were very helpful.'

Domhnall said he and his colleagues spent months and months trying to translate Wullie's Glaswegian.

'You need more Gaelic words for something said in English,' he added. 'We tried to make it as simple as possible.'



Mairead MacSween, 17, from Perthshire, won the Provost of Falkirk Medal for traditional singing, 16 to 18 years.

17\_MOD42dm8\_mondaysolo



Ryan Johnston, 16, from Islay, who won the 16-18 poetry competition, alongside his cousin, Olivia Gage, 10, from Oban. Ryan also won the boys solo singing 16-18 years open.

17\_MOD42dm3\_mondaypoetry

## Initiative to boost number of Mòd juniors bears fruit

AN INITIATIVE formed in Oban and Lochaber to encourage more young people to compete at the Royal National Mòd is a proven success, says the Mòd's chief executive.

The Mod Academy organises Gaelic and music tuition and advice for schools, in an effort to boost entries to the Gaelic showcase event.

It was initially formed in Oban ahead of the Royal National Mòd in the town in 2015, as junior competitors from the Lorn area were sorely lacking at the 2014 event in Inverness.

Using a legacy fund from the 2009 Mòd in Oban, music tutors visited schools in the Oban area in the build up to the

Royal National Mòd 2015 and oversaw a boost in entries from the local area that year.

And the success of the Oban initiative continues to bear fruit; Mòd Academy singing tutor Mary Catherine MacNeil coached two of this year's learner solo competition winners, Andrew MacPhail and Millie Bonniwell.

In Lochaber, funding has been secured for a second year of the Mòd Academy. The initiative was launched in the build up to this year's event and has resulted in a large number of Lochaber's schools taking part. Kinlochleven entered a choir this year for the first time in decades.

John Morrison, chief executive of Mòd

organiser An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'We saw that a Mòd Academy worked in Oban and it brought an awful lot of local children into the Mòd.'

'We felt it was important that we did the same in Lochaber and we funded it through ourselves, Highland Council and local contributions, including half of the retirement collection at the funeral of Charlie MacColl, who was a great supporter of Gaelic tuition for children.'

'We have shown that it [Mòd Academy] works, so we plan to do the same in Argyll ahead of next year's Mòd in Dunoon. The challenge is keeping it going but that is a challenge for the Gaelic community, not just ourselves.' Former gold medal-

list Steven MacIver, Muir of Ord, was adjudicating junior soloists on Monday and commented on the high standard of singers from Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Oban's Gaelic Medium Unit.

He said: 'They were clearly very well prepared with good Gaelic and, for learners, they had a really good blàth.'

Oban-based tutor Mary Catherine MacNeil, a gold medallist herself, said: 'This is the third year of the Mòd Academy in Oban and there is huge interest from the schools.'

'This interest seems to be growing year on year and the results are getting better and better.'

### Highland Council is backing Gaelic

A HIGHLAND councillor has reiterated the local authority's support for the Gaelic language and praised the goodwill of volunteers who support the Gaelic culture across the region.

Councillor Allan Henderson, who represents Caol and Mallaig and chairs the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, listed Highland Council's financial backing of the Royal National Mòd and the creation of its third Gaelic Plan as evidence of its commitment to the language.

He said: 'The beauty is that Gaelic has now grown up in the Highlands. It is part of every single thing Highland Council does.'



Some of the girls from the Lewis-based choir Coisir Eilean Fhraoch get into the swing of things. The choir came second in the unison under 13 fluent and third in the two-part harmony under 13 fluent competitions. 16\_MOD42ep17



Glasgow's Isla Thoms won the Maybury Gardens Cup for solo singing 11 years fluent. 16\_MOD42ep16

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Some of the girls from the Lewis-based choir Coisir Eilean Fhraoch get into the swing of things. The choir came second in the unison under 13 fluent and third in the two-part harmony under 13 fluent competitions. 16\_MOD42ep17

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Managing Director, Alasdair Barnett, a Former Pupil of Oban High School attributes this to their Friendly Team who have significant knowledge and experience in the Motor Industry with many of the Team having been with Dicksons for a significant length of time and Loyal Customers who provide positive 'word-of-mouth' recommendations'.

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The Gaelic Books Council sell a wide range of attractive Gaelic books and CDs in our shop in the heart of Glasgow and through our website, [www.gaelicbooks.org](http://www.gaelicbooks.org).

Throughout the year, we are involved in a wide range of literary events, competitions and initiatives for all ages, including monthly Gaelic reading sessions for younger children with our Young Gaelic Reading Ambassador Linda MacLeod.

We are always happy to provide book lovers, learners, parents and reluctant readers with advice, recommendations and complimentary bookmarks.

### Comhairle nan Leabhrachain

Bidh Comhairle nan Leabhrachain a' reic leabhrachain Gàidhlig tlachdmhor agus clàran anns a' bhùth againn aig cridhe baile Ghlaschu agus air an làrach-lin againn, [www.gaelicbooks.org](http://www.gaelicbooks.org).

Tron a' bhlàdhna, bidh sinn an-sàs ann am measgachadh de thachartasan litreachail, co-farpaisean agus iomairtean airson a h-uile aoi, leithid seiseanan leughaidh do phàisteann còmhla ri Linda NicLeòid, Tosaire Og airson Leughadh Gàidhlig.

Tha e na tlachd dhuinn a bhith a' toirt comhairle, molaidhean agus comharraidhean-leabhair dhaibhsan a tha measail air leabhraichean, do luchd-ionnsachaidh aig a h-uile ire, do phàrantan agus dhaibhsan a tha caran leisg a thaobh leughaidh.

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## Robert's Mòd

ROBERT ROBERTSON

Young and not-so-young perform well

MY FIRST time competing at the Royal National Mòd was exactly a decade ago, in 2007, when I was 13 years old - the last time the Mòd was in Lochaber.

I remember being struck then by the exciting vibe and atmosphere that buzzed around Fort William throughout the week and this massively stimulated my interest in Gaelic singing during a time of life (early high school) when there are plenty of other influences to distract a teenage boy from singing.

You can imagine my excitement then, having attended every national Mòd since, for the festival to be returning to Lochaber.

A lot has changed since 2007. I have seen many great performers come through the Mòd over the past 10 years and I was lucky enough, in 2013, to win the An Comunn Gaidhealach Mòd Gold Medal in Paisley.

But the most notable change for me this year is that my mother and father (both originally from Stirling and with no Gaelic whatsoever) are among the local volunteers stewarding at this year's Mòd.

I cannot begin to tell you how hilarious it is for me to see the pair of them wandering around in high-viz jackets, ushering youngsters and adults into the venues for the competitions - and trying in vain to pronounce the Gaelic names of some of the choirs.

It seems to me (possibly despite them - but who am I to say?) that the whole Mòd is running extremely smoothly and that is largely down to a very hard-working local committee and a phenomenal team of helpful volunteers - as well, of course, as those employed by An Comunn Gaidhealach.

I am sure as the week progresses, and various well-loved céilidh bands begin to inhabit the pubs and hotels, that this will be a Mòd to remember.

It has certainly already been a Mòd to remember for my own Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir.

Only a matter of weeks ago we felt (due to numbers) that reaching the Mòd this year was going to be an impossible task.

After drafting in some reinforcements, however, we managed to field the minimum number of singers and to our delight achieved second place in the unison competition - our best result in the three years I have been conducting them.

I surprised myself at just how proud I was of them all as the result was announced. For a small group of teenagers, they have pulled together, worked their socks off and can now go back to Glasgow with something to show for their efforts.

It was also a great pleasure to hear the new Lochaber Junior Gaelic Choir, under the direction of my great friends John Joe MacNeil and Carolyn Groat, who (after existing for only eight weeks) made a superb sound on the stage.

Congratulations, finally, to Coisir Gàidhlig Òg Èile, who were deserved winners.

Gaelic music is in safe hands with those youngsters ... and the aforementioned old couple who were stewarding weren't too bad either!



De a-Nis? presenter Kim Carnie, originally from Oban, interviews brother and sister Matthew and Caitlin Gilmour Wright. 16\_MOD42ep15

# Winners and competitors from the Mòd



Còisir Òg Dhàl Riata (Lochgilphead) after coming third in the two-part harmony under 19 on Monday. 17\_MOD42dm2\_mundaychoir



Còisir Òg Loch Abar (Lochaber) following their performance on Monday in the choral singing category. 17\_MOD42dm4\_mundaychoir



Oliver Clark and little sister Aoibheann from St Columba's Primary School in Oban competed in the solo singing 7-8 years learners. 16\_MOD42ep12



Port Ellen sisters Eva, 12, and Charlet Rose, 8, Munro both competed in solo singing and poetry competitions at the Mòd on Monday. Charlet was third in her poetry competition 16\_MOD42ep1



Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice (Falkirk) who won the Tom Crawford Trophy in the two-part harmony, the Martin Wilson (North Berwick) Trophy in the puir-a-beul and were third in the unison singing, all under 19s choral singing competitions. 17\_MOD42dm5\_mundaychoir



The Dugdale family, siblings Alexander, 12, Kathryn, 9, and Jacob, 7, from Tobermory, Mull, were competing in solo singing and poetry. Alexander gained a second for his singing. All three sing with Còisir Òg Tobair Mhoire. 16\_MOD42ep12



Finlay MacLeay Morrison, a pupil at Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghaschu, with the Alasdair MacInnes Memorial Trophy for 5-8 years storytelling. He also won the 8-year-olds solo singing. 21\_MOD42nf229\_singing



Sgoil Sir E Scott under 13 choir from Tarbert, Harris, won the An Comunn Gàidhealach prize for highest marks in fluent choral competitions having gained first place and the Mrs Ann Grant of Laggan Memorial Trophy in the two-part harmony and thirds in the unison and puir-a-beul. 16\_MOD42ep19



Còisir Bun-sgoil Onthank, Kilmarnock, with conductor Mairi MacLean. 16\_MOD42ep21



Dingwall's Andrea MacDonald, left, and Mhairi MacKenzie were part of the prizewinning Roinnegan Rois choir and took home The Donald Ross Memorial Trophy the under-13 duet (fluent). 16\_MOD42ep23



Fort William singer Claire Frances MacNeil, second left, receives a new award, the Charles MacColl Memorial Trophy from Charlie's wife Mairi MacColl as Charlie's son Calum MacColl, left, and Alan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, look on. Charlie was chairman of the Lochaber local organising committee the last time it played host to the Mòd in 2007 and was a great champion of The Royal National Mòd. A lifelong supporter of the Gaelic language and culture, and particularly the encouraging of young Gaelic learners, he spent more than 30 years fundraising for Mòds throughout Scotland. The Charles MacColl Memorial Trophy was awarded to the singer with the highest overall mark in the boys and girls traditional competitions on Tuesday. 21\_MOD42nf238\_singing



Calum Michael Morrison, 5, of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghaschu, with the Phemie Wilson Memorial Trophy for learners' poetry 5-6 years. Michael's father, Malky, hails from Tarbert, Harris. 16\_MOD42ep6

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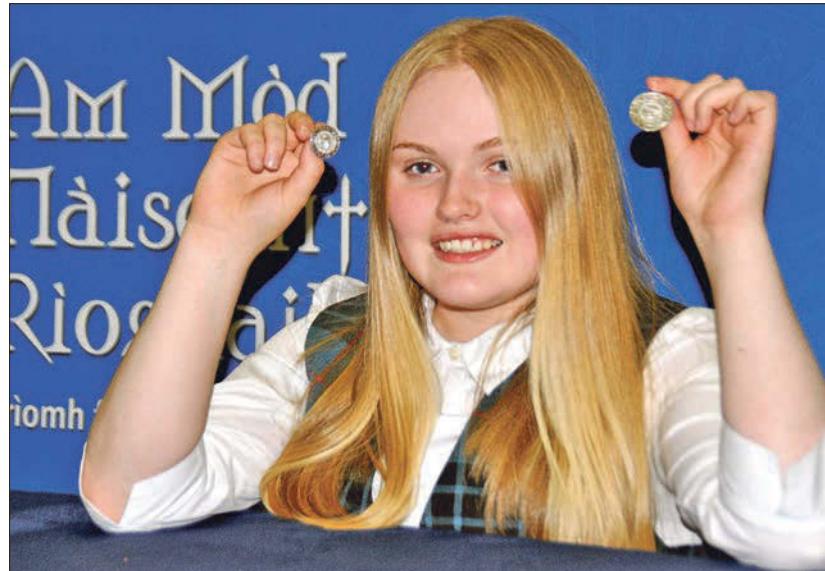
Còisir Sgoil MicNeacail (Stornoway) won the two-part harmony 13-18 years competition and were awarded The Oban Times Challenge Trophy. The choir also took home the Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy for winning the unison singing and came third in the puit-a-beul. They shared the Mrs Hobbs of Inverlochy Cup for highest marks in Gaelic with Còisir Sgoil Lionacleit. [17\\_MOD42dm01\\_tuesdaychoir](#)



Ruairidh Gray, 15, from South Uist, won the silver medal for the 13-15 years boys prescribed solo singing competition. He also came first equal in the story-telling. [17\\_MOD42dm03\\_tuesdaySolo](#)



Còisir Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, from Oban's Gaelic Medium Unit. [16\\_MOD42ep20](#)



Alice Nic a' Mhailein, right, from the Isle of Lewis, was a double silver medalist this week winning the solo girls traditional and prescribed 13-15 competitions. She came second in the duet 13-18 years with singing partner Kirsty Nicolson. [17\\_MOD42dm08\\_tuesdaySolo](#)



Left: Ellie-Ceit Johnson of Tarbert, Harris won the traditional solo for fluent girls aged 11-12. She was third in the presenting a psalm, under 13 years, and third equal in the under 13 duet. [16\\_MOD42ep25](#)



Scotland were delighted with their win on Saturday. [21\\_MOD42nf1](#)

## Alba triumph in clash with Irish

THE MÒD played host to the international Colmcille Shinty competition on Saturday, when Scotland beat Ireland's Fir Uladh 4-0.

Eóghan Stiùbhart, co-ordinator of Iomain Cholmcille, was delighted with how the day went.

He told the *Lochaber Times*: 'This is the first time the event has coincided with the Mòd. It is hugely important as the matches all involved Gaelic (Irish and Scots) players only.'

'It was massively important to have

the Iomain Cholmcille at the Royal National Mòd especially in our tenth year. It has always been a dream to get the two events to coincide and it worked out splendidly. We reduced the games to 11-a-side and used shinty posts – so no points over the bar. The games were intense, exciting and skilful. It was great to have the chief executive of Bòrd na Gàidhlig Shona MacLennan and Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, there to present the medals and awards.'



Alba captain Graham Black, Aberdeen University Shinty Club, is presented with the trophy by Allan Campbell. [IF\\_MOD42if1](#)

## James C MacPhee Medal winners



It was a worthwhile journey to Lochaber for 13-year-old Angus McLean from Kilmartin, above, as he won the James C MacPhee Memorial Medal for solo singing 13-15 years. Angus is taught by well-known Mid Argyll singing tutor Christine Johnson. When asked how he felt after winning, Angus replied simply: 'Good.' [06\\_a42ModAngus04](#)



Elizabeth Macmillan-Currie of Islay won the James C MacPhee Memorial Medal for girls' solo singing 13-15 years and the Alexander Hamilton Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic. In a successful Mòd for Elizabeth, she also picked up a second with Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ilé in the under 19s puit-a-beul.



Còisir Òg Mhalaig with teacher and conductor Sarah Macleod. [16\\_MOD42ep18](#)



The all-conquering Roinnagan Rois, an under-13 choir from the Dingwall area, which won two unison singing competitions (Monday and Tuesday), and five trophies as well as the puit-a-beul on Tuesday. [16\\_MOD42ep22](#)

# Mòd results Mòd results Mòd results

Saturday October 14

Senior Piping: Ceòl Mòr: 1 Charles Macdonald, Inbhir Nis, James R Johnston Memorial Trophy, 2 Jonathan Greenlees, Glaschu, 3 Sandy Cameron, Glaschu. Ceòl Beag: 1 Sandy Cameron, Glaschu, John T MacRae Cup, 2 Jonathan Greenlees, Glaschu, 3 Angus MacColl, Benderloch. Hornpipe & Jig: 1 Angus MacColl, Benderloch, Argyllshire Gathering Quaich, 2 Charles Macdonald, Inbhir Nis, 3 Sandy Cameron, Glaschu. Junior Accordion, MSR Under 19: 1 Kyle Gordon Rowan, Árd-sgoil Firrhill, Smith Mearns Trophy, 2 Ciornaidh Chainbeul, Sgoil Chùil Naomh Mairi, 3 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar. Accordion, own choice, U19: 1 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar, 2 Ciornaidh Chainbeul, Sgoil Chùil Naomh Mairi, 3 Kyle Gordon Rowan, Árd-sgoil Firrhill. Accordion, MSR U13: 1 Cameron MacIsaac, Árd-sgoil Loch Abar, Daniel G R Burt (Chapelhall) Airdie Memorial Trophy and The Smith Mearns 2 Anndra Uisdean Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Ghéarrloch, 3 Kieran MacCormick, Sgoil Lionacleit. Senior Accordion MSR: 1 Graham MacLennan, Steòrnabhagh Smith Mearns Trophy, 2 Andrew Macdonald, An t-Òban. Gaelic Waltz - open: 1 Andrew Macdonald, An t-Òban, Skipinshield, 2 Graham MacLennan, Steòrnabhagh, 3 Michael Lennon, Dùn Èideann. Junior Piping: Bagpipes U19 Piobaireachd - open: 1 Finlay Cameron, Acadamaidh Dholar, W G G Wilson Trophy, 2 Calum Craib, Beinn na Faogha, 3 Gregor Macdonald, Árd-sgoil an Òbain. Bagpipes, March, U15: 1 Ross Conner, Sgoil Ghàram Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain, Roderick Munro Quaich, 2 Gregor Macdonald, Árd-sgoil an Òbain, 3 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston, Bagpipes, Strathspey and Reel, U15: 1 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Lighting Electrical Cup, 2 Ross Conner, Sgoil Ghàram Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain, 3 Gregor Macdonald, Árd-sgoil an Òbain. Bagpipes, Jig, U19: 1 Finlay Cameron, Acadamaidh Dholar, Col Murdo Mactaggart Bowmore Memorial Trophy, 2 Bobby Allen, Sgoil Chryston, 3 Jamie Niall Campbell, Sgoil Ghàram Dhùn Omhain. Chanter, March, U13: 1

Grace Kelman, Inbhir Nis, 2 Hector Finlayson, An Caol, 3 Mairi MacDonald, Sgoil Ubhist a Tuath, Chanter, Gaelic Air, 13: 1 Hector Finlayson, An Caol, 2 Grace Kelman, Inbhir Nis, 3 Heather Ross, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain. Bagpipes, March, U13: 1 Curran Stainthorpe, Colaiste an Naomh Eòsaph, Roderick Ross, Ferintosh, Memorial Trophy, 2 Dugald MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar, 3 Declan Malloy, Árd-sgoil Phort Righ. Bagpipes, MSR, U19: 1 Finlay Cameron, Acadamaidh Dholar, Royal Highland Fusiliers Cup, 2 Jamie Niall Campbell, Sgoil Ghàram Dhùn Omhain, 3 Eoghan Peuton, Árd-sgoil Phort Righ. Fiddle, Gaelic Air and March, Under 13: 1 Meredith Kiemer, Sgoil Chùil an Naomh Mairi, 2 Ruaraidh Drennan, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain, 3 Ronan Slorach, Árd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig. Fiddle Groups U19: 1 Sgoil Chùil Loch Abar, Fiddle, 13-18: 1 Claire Frances NicNill, Árd-sgoil Loch Abar, Robert MacCallum Memorial Trophy, 2 Lachlan Murdo Kennedy, Sgoil Chùil Naomi Mairi, 3 Jess Muir, Árd-sgoil Greenfaulds. Senior Fiddle, Gaëlic Air and MSR: 1 Brandon Vance, Seattle, United States, The Sutherland Cup, Piano, Gaelic Air and March, U13: 1 Tom Davis, Sgoil Shiabost, Jenny M Currie Kilt Pin, 2 Amy Darroch, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, 3 Emily Armstrong, Bun-sgoil Thriodh.



**Curran Stainthorpe from St Joseph's College in Dumfries won the under 13 march competition.**

21\_MOD42nf8\_piping

Monday October 16 Folk Groups U19: 1 Còmhlan Acadamaidh Dheis, The Allan Thomas Mitchell Trophy, 2 Sgoil Chùil Loch Abar 3 Árd-an-iar. Choral - Unison U19: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile, Queen Elizabeth Coronation (1937) Trophy, 2 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu, 3 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice. Puirt-a-beul U19: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice, Martin Wilson (North Berwick) Trophy, 2 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile, 3 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu. Solo singing girls, 13-15 learners: 1 Elizabeth Macmillan-Currie, Còisir Òg Ile, James C MacPhee Memorial Medal, Alexander Hamilton Trophy for the highest mark in Gaelic in C102 and C103, 2 Floriana Lawrence, M&M's, 3 Abbie Morris, Còisir Òg Ile. Two-part harmony U19: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice, Tom Crawford Trophy, 2 Còisir an t-Seann Nòis 21.00 An Là - News 21.10 UR | NEW: Mòd 2017: Buinn an t-Seann Nòis 22.00 Muhammed Ali (rpt) 22.50 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 23.00 Seirm (rpt)



**Bobby Allen from Chryston, Glasgow, with the Lighting Electrical Cup after winning the under 15 Strathspey and reel competition on the pipes.**

21\_MOD42nf99\_piping

Ùg Ghàidhlig Ile, 3 Còisir Òg Dhàili Riata, Solo singing U19: 1 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit, Skelmorlie and District Highland Association Award. Traditional Singing, 16-18 learners: 1 Mairead MacSween, Acadamaidh Bràghaid Albann, Provost of Falkirk Medal. Poetry recitation, 13-15 learners: 1 Rachel Bolton, M&amp;M's, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal, 2 Freya MacLean, Sgoil MhicNeacail, 3 Elizabeth Macmillan-Currie, Còisir Òg Ile. Poetry recitation, 16-18 open: 1 Ryan Johnston, Bogh Mòr. Solo singing boys, 13-15 learners: 1 Angus McLean, Sgoilean Ceann Loch Sgoil, James C MacPhee Memorial Medal. Folk Groups U13: 1 Déarrasadh, The Murdo MacFarlane Trophy, Highland Council Prize, 2 Na h-Abraich, 3 Clann Thronðairnis. Action Song U13: 1 Clann Thronðairnis. Drama U13: Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar C6, Unison U13 learners: 1 Rionnagan Rois, 3 Ruairidh MacPhail, Sgoil a' Bhac. Unison rural primary schools: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Badenoch &amp; Strathspey Area Committee Trophy, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Bun-sgoil Bhoga Mòr, 3 Bun-sgoil Ath Tharracail. Two-part harmony U13 learners: 1 Cairdean Ciùil Ile, Susan Paterson Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy. Solo singing, 5-6 learners: 1 Millie Bonniwell, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy, 2 Morag Ross, Rionnagan Rois, 3 Aisling Flavin, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar. Poetry recitation, 9-10 learners: 1 Rowan Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Cowal Trophy, 2 Lauren Morris, Bun-sgoil Bhoga Mòr, 3 = Mary Morrison, Sgoil an Rubha and Rebecca Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein. Poetry recitation, 11-12 learners: 1 Lauren Macdonald, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, 2 Eva Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, 3 Isla Crosbie, Bun-sgoil Chille Chòmhain.

Tuesday October 17

Solo singing, girls 16-18: 1 Emily Robertson, Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice, The Highland Society of London Trophy, 2 Claire Frances NicNill, Árd-sgoil Loch Abar, 3 Claire MacLeod, Sgoil Sir E Scott, Unison, 13-18: 1 Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail, Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy, 2 Còisir Sgoil Lionacleit, Angus M Ross Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, 3 Còisir Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, 4 Còisir Sgoil MhicNeacail, Mrs Hobbs of Inverlochy Cup for the highest marks in Gaelic. Solo singing, girls 13-15, fluent: 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaolein, Sgoil MhicNeacail, An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Medal, 2 Peigi Barker, Árd-sgoil a' Chanaichean, 3 Elizabeth Donner, Ard Sgoil



**Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile Ghlaschu (Glasgow Islay) who finished second for their unison choral singing and third in the puirt-a-beul, both under 19s competitions.**

21\_MOD42dm6\_mondaychoir

DIARDAOIN 19 DÀMHAIR

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

13.30 UR | NEW: Mòd 2017: Là Mòr nan Coisirean Dùthchайл

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming

19.00 An Aitareachd Bhuan - Stories from Fishermen's working lives at sea (rpt)

19.30 UR | NEW: Mòd 2017: Buinn an t-Seann Nòis

21.00 An Là - News

21.10 UR | NEW: Mòd 2017: Buinn an t-Seann Nòis

22.00 Muhammed Ali (rpt)

22.50 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

23.00 Seirm (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 21 DÀMHAIR

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming

17.30 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhòir (rpt)

17.50 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

18.00 UR | NEW: Scottish Premiership - Partick Thistle v

Doucharry (rpt)

FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier - Scotland v

Albania

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DIHAOINE 20 DÀMHAIR

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

13.30 UR | NEW: Mòd 2017: Là Mòr nan Coisirean Sgireil

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming

19.00 An Là - News

19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)

19.30 UR | NEW: Prosbag

20.00 Baileean Fraoch (rpt)

20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)

21.00 Rona: Dileab Chlann Eardsaigh Raghnall (rpt)

22.00 UR | NEW: Mòd 2017: Mòd nan Coisirean

23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 22 DÀMHAIR

SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's Programming

18.30 Seachd Lè News Review

19.30 UR | NEW: Allélia!

20.00 Faobhar: Eilean Elige (rpt)

20.30 Prosbag (rpt)

21.00 An Dotair Mòr (rpt)

21.55 Muhammed Ali (rpt)

23.50 Dhan Uisge - River

Doucharry (rpt)

FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier - Scotland v

Albania

DUNDEE 21 DÀMHAIR

MONDAY 23 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming

19.00 Turas a' Bharain (rpt)

19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

20.00 An Là - News

20.30 UR | NEW: Puirt-adhair

21.00 Trusadh: Suas an Fheamainn/Seaweed Harvesters (rpt)

21.20 Hòrò Gheallaich (rpt)

22.30 Mòd 2017: Mòd na Cloinne (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 22 DÀMHAIR

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming

19.00 Turas a' Bharain (rpt)

19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)

20.00 An Là - News

20.30 Mòd 2017: Buinn Óir a' Chomhainn Ghàidhealaich (rpt)

22.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)

22.55 UR | NEW: Scottish Premiership - Dundee v Motherwell

FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifier - Scotland v

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**Cameron MacIsaac of Lochaber High School with the Daniel GR Burt Airdrie Memorial Trophy and the Smith Mearns Trophy after winning the under 13 accordion competition.**



**Samuel MacAoidh, from Sgoil MhicNeacail, was the winner of the under 19 years presenting a psalm competition and also took second place in the traditional silver medal boys 13-15.**

17\_MOD42dm1\_tuesdays

Traditional Silver Medal and Ann Kelly MacDonald Memorial Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest mark in C94A and C94B, 2 Eilidh O'Donnell, Acadamaidh Rioghail Inbhir Nis, 3 Erin Nic' Illiosa, Deugairnean Thronðairnis and Anna NicNeacail, and Anna NicNeacail, Allan C. MacLeod Memorial Trophy, 2 = Erin Nic' Illiosa, Deugairnean Thronðairnis and Anna NicNeacail, and Anna NicNeacail, Rioghail Inbhir Nis, 4 = Mary Morrison, Sgoil Chasaichean 4 & 5, 3 Sgoil Sgoil E Scott. An Comunn Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu and Marion Mary. Traditional singing, 5-6, fluent: 1 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Árd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, 2 Cathal Callan, Árd-sgoil Ghlaschu, 3 = Seumas Scullion, Árd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu and Marion Mary. Aberfoyle & District Branch Trophy, 2 Còisir Eilean an Fhraoch, 3 Sgoil Sgoil E Scott. Puirt-a-beul 13, fluent: 1 Luke Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott, 2 Eoghan MacCorqudale, Sgoil Lionacleit. Solo singing, boys 9-10, fluent: 1 Luke Johnson, Sgoil Sir E Scott, 2 Eoghan MacCorqudale, Sgoil Lionacleit, 3 = Seumas Scullion, Árd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Traditional singing, 11-12, fluent: 1 Isabella Sommerville, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, 2 Beth Chaimbeul, Clann Thronðairnis, 3 Eoghan Chaimbeul, Bun Sgoil Chille-Mhoire and Arabella Manchester, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanach. Poetry recitation, 13-15, fluent: 1 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Árd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, 2 Cathal Callan, Árd-sgoil Ghlaschu, 3 = Seumas Scullion, Árd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Conversation, 11-12, fluent: 1 Isabella Sommerville, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, 2 Beth Chaimbeul, Clann Thronðairnis, 3 Eoghan Chaimbeul, Bun Sgoil Chille-Mhoire and Arabella Manchester, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanach. Poetry recitation, 13-14, fluent: 1 Marion MacCorqudale, Sgoil Lionacleit, 2 Marion MacCorqudale, Sgoil Lionacleit, 3 = Seumas Scullion, Árd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Traditional singing, 15-16, fluent: 1 Marion MacCorqudale, Sgoil Lionacleit, 2 Marion MacCorqudale, Sgoil Lionacleit, 3 = Seumas Scullion, Árd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Conversation, 11-12, fluent: 1 Isabella Sommerville, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, 2 Beth Chaimbeul, Clann Thronðairnis, 3 Eoghan Chaimbeul, Bun Sgoil Chille-Mhoire and Arabella Manchester, Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanach. Poetry recitation, 15-16, fluent: 1 Marion MacCorqudale, Sgoil Lionacleit, 2 Marion

# FARMING NEWS

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## Farmers are given safety warning following deaths

### SANDY NEIL

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FARMERS are urged to be vigilant after new figures show five people were killed on farms in Scotland in just 12 months – the second highest death rate in Britain, after the south-west of England.

Figures from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) revealed in 2016/17 agriculture had the highest rate of fatal injury, around 18 times higher than the all-industry rate. Transport – overturning vehicles or being struck by moving vehicles – caused most deaths.

In total, 30 people have been

killed on British farms in the past year, making agriculture the riskiest industry to work in. In the past 10 years, almost one person a week has been killed as a direct result of agricultural work.

The main causes of death were 'struck by vehicles' (30 per cent), 'trapped by something collapsing' (20 per cent), 'struck by an object' (17 per cent), 'contact with electricity' (10 per cent), 'falling from a height' (seven per cent) and 'injured by an animal' (seven per cent).

In Scotland, there have been five deaths in the past year. In one such incident, a 69-year-old self-employed farmer was killed

by a cow. He tried to escape from an enclosure after the cow became agitated. He appears to have tried to climb out over the gate and was crushed as the gate fell over.

A 58-year-old self-employed forestry contractor was killed when felling a tree. As it fell, it struck another tree that was 'hung up' – previously felled and stuck in a leaning position against a standing tree. He was struck by the tree butt as it kicked up, causing fatal internal injuries.

A three-year-old child was killed when run over by a reversing telehandler driven by his father. He was playing in the farmyard without supervision. His father

was distributing chopped silage in the cow sheds then reversed into the yard area and ran over his son, causing head injuries.

HSE commented: 'The personal costs of injury and ill health can be devastating. Life is never the same again for family members left behind after a work-related death, or for those looking after someone with a long-term illness or serious injury caused by their work.'

'Managing risks in a sensible way protects you, your family, your workers and your business.'

HSE chairman Martin Temple added: 'Every fatality is a tragic event that should not happen. While we are encouraged

by this improvement on the previous year, we continue unwaveringly on our mission to prevent injury, death and ill health by protecting people and reducing risks.'

The provisional annual data for work-related fatal accidents revealed that 137 workers were fatally injured between April 2016 and March 2017 (rate of 0.43 per 100,000 workers), the second lowest year on record.

There has been a long-term downward trend in the number of fatal injuries to workers – they have halved over the past 20 years – although in recent years the trend shows signs of levelling.

## Free soil event for farmers calls at Oban

A FREE hands-on event for farmers and land managers is coming to Oban.

During October and November, the Soil Association Scotland, in conjunction with Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), will be running the series of soil events across Scotland.

The events will be led by soil experts Charlie Morgan, Grass-Master, and Liz Stockdale, head of farming systems at National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB).

Each will be a practical and informative day covering how to manage and best utilise inputs and get the optimum productivity from the most valuable asset on farm: the soil.

Sessions will look at principles and options for managing soil health and structure, managing inputs to support crop, soil and animal health, and will give

advice on how to improve the quality and productivity of soil, as well as give answers to all soil-related questions.

The sessions will include a 'bring your own soil' for physical assessment session offering farmers an opportunity to get a diagnosis on those fields that are not performing so well and what possible remedial action could be taken to get them thriving again.

Soil, Muck and Money will run from 10am to 3pm at the Corran Halls, Oban, on Thursday October 26.

The events are free for all farmers and land managers (£40 plus VAT for others). Booking is essential as numbers are limited. To reserve a place book online or contact Jane at Soil Association Scotland on 0131 666 2474 or jdingwall@soilassociation.org.

Two dozen herds competing in the Islay beef herd competition on Saturday September 30.

## Keen competition for Islay herds



The line-up at Kinnabus Farm.

The full results were as follows: Individual cow: 1 Startchmill, 2 Neriby, 3 Keills. Team of cows: 1 Startchmill, 2 Neriby, 3 Keills. Individual Autumn calf: 1 Ardnave, 2 Starchmill, 3 Carrabus. Individual spring calf: 1 Keills, 2 Knocklearach, 3 Neriby. Best over all individual calf: Keills. Team of autumn calves: 1 Ardnave, 2 Starchmill, 3 Carrabus. Team of spring calves: 1 Keills, 2 Neriby, 3 Starchmill. Best over all team of calves: Keills. Highland herd: 1 Wester Ellister, 2 Kinnabus, 3 = Easter Ellister and Carrabus. Native team of cows: 1 Craigens,

2 Mulindry, 3 Wester Ellister. Small herd: 1 Cruach, 2 Heatherfield, 3 Torrendaroch. Best overall herd: 1 Neriby, 2 Keills, 3 Starchmill. Special prize for herdsman's progressiveness: D Laing, Kinnabus.

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## Cereal harvest increases

SCOTLAND'S 2017 cereal harvest is expected to rise 12 per cent over 2016, almost fully recovering from last year's poor results.

Despite less favourable conditions in September, Scottish

farms are estimated to produce 3.1 million tonnes of cereals this year, including 1.9 million tonnes of barley and one million tonnes of wheat. The total is eight per cent up on the 10-year average.

### Correction

Owing to a technical problem, two captions were placed on the wrong pictures in our report last week from the Highland cattle sale at Oban. Pictured left is Isla Robertson, 16, of Glengorm, Mull, who took fifth in the senior young handler section, presented by Jeannie MacColl (15\_T41\_Highland Cattle Show\_06); and right is Kerry Macgillivray, 16, of Pennygawn Farm, Mull, who came fourth in the senior young handler section, presented by Jeannie MacColl (15\_T41\_Highland Cattle



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### PROPERTY INSPECTIONS CAN HELP TENANTS AND LANDLORDS



Property inspections are a massively important part of any tenancy. Giving letting agents and landlords the chance to see how the sitting tenant is treating the property, and rectify any issues they may have, inspections are vital in making sure rented homes are habitable and comfortable.

However, getting an inspection right every time is not an easy ask. Here are a few tips for making sure your process is as robust as it can be, to make the inspection itself successful and useful, and to ensure that the tenant is happy.

Nothing makes a property inspection more difficult than if the tenant feels inconvenienced by your presence, so make sure you always make the appointment as convenient as possible. Send an email to explain what you want to do and why, and

then ask them to suggest the best time. Explaining things and making sure the tenant feels like they are in control is the best way to make sure the inspection runs smoothly.

If the tenant can be there for the property inspection, it can be a good idea to make sure they are. This way, you can explain what you're looking for and why, as well as talking them through the inspection and asking any questions about damage or work that needs to be done.

If you find damage, mess or things that haven't been properly reported by the tenant, it's always advisable to make sure you photograph this and take notes. It gives you evidence in the case that tenants dispute your findings at a later date. It's also a good idea to have your tenant read over your notes at the end of the inspection and sign it if they agree.

After the inspection, it's important that you don't just disappear. Most people feel a little bit like they're under investigation when you carry out an inspection, and it can be worrying if afterwards they get no feedback from the letting agent. To put the tenant's mind at rest, send them an email in the days following the inspection that details your findings, as well as any requirements for improvement that you would like them to make.



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#### KINTORE, BENDERLOCH



**OIRO £440,000**

A modern 4 bedroom detached house in a popular residential area close to the village of Benderloch. Built in 2006, Kintore is a bright and spacious house enjoying a rural position and views across fields and hills to the North. A small porch leads to the main open plan living area which has a double height ceiling, a large garden and enjoys plentiful natural light from the floor-to-ceiling windows and patio doors and for those chilly nights there is a wood-burning stove. Leading off from the main living space is the family kitchen with plentiful worktop space, built in kitchen units and a large cooker.

#### MULLACH NA CRAOBHAN, FORT WILLIAM



**PCM £975**

Stunning spacious 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom fully furnished detached house located on the outskirts of Fort William close to Onich. With uninterrupted views over the Corran narrows and ferry crossing. On entering the property you will find a large tastefully decorated hall, the lounge is accessed through a set of double doors, a large room with wood burner fire and large picture windows allowing unobstructed views across the Corran narrows.

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#### KONADISH BLACKCROFTS, OBAN



**£340,000**

Konadish would make the ideal family home or potential B&B. The property is situated in North Connel, along side Loch Etive in a small residential area. The central entrance hall leads to a bright living room which is connected to the dining room. Across the hall is a double bedroom that could be easily used for Air B&B or as a snug/study with a separate downstairs WC. At the end of the hallway is a large family kitchen with plentiful wall and floor units with built in appliances. Patio doors from the kitchen open onto a decking area that look over fields with views of Ben Cruachan.

#### GLENSPEAN PARK, ROY BRIDGE



**PCM £875**

Detached, fully furnished, three bedroom bungalow, in Roy Bridge, outside Fort William. Newly renovated to a very high standard with modern décor throughout. This beautiful detached house is located in Roy Bridge, just outside of Fort William. The accommodation comprises 3 en-suite bedrooms, lounge, dining area and fully fitted kitchen with utility room. Deposit and full references required. Available now.

#### BURNSIDE, APPIN



**£240,000**

A well-proportioned detached bungalow situated in a sizeable garden and enjoying far reaching views across Appin towards Connel Bridge. In need of modernisation, the property offers six double bedrooms, two shower rooms, a large open reception room with lounge area with a large window, where far reaching sea views can be enjoyed. The kitchen offers plentiful storage cupboards and a dining area. Heating and hot water is provided via an LPG fired boiler located in the kitchen with large external storage tank located within the boundary.

#### LOCHABER PLACE, FORT WILLIAM



**PCM £600**

Spacious bright well proportioned unfurnished first floor flat located in Upper Achintore, Fort William with views across Loch Linnhe. The property benefits from 3 good size bedrooms, lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen and bathroom. There is off street parking and communal garden. Deposit and references required.

#### STRONGARBH PARK, TOBERMORY



**£230,000**

Strongarbh Park is a DETACHED FIVE BEDROOM HOUSE, in a popular residential area of Tobermory boasting FANTASTIC VIEWS of the harbour and town. The living accommodation is arranged over 2 floors, with the bedrooms downstairs and the living accommodation cleverly set upstairs to make the most of the views and light! On entering the property there is an entrance vestibule and there is a single bedroom/potential study to your left.

#### FLAT 5, STEVENSON HOUSE, OBAN



**PCM £475**

One bedroom, unfurnished flat in Oban Town Centre. The property comprises one double bedroom, bathroom with shower over bath and open plan living room and modern kitchen area. The property is just a short walk from a large supermarket, bus and train links and to the main high street. Available end of November.

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our website**[www.aryll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.aryll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)**Office Administrative  
Assistant****Full Time, Oban Based****The Oban Times****& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

We are looking for a full time administrative assistant to ensure the day-to-day smooth running of the advertising sales office here in Oban.

You will deal with a range of important tasks including booking adverts onto our system, sending out customer proofs and dealing with associated administration. It is essential that you have excellent computer, grammar and communication skills, strong attention to detail and the ability to work well under pressure.

In addition to salary we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

A full current driving licence is essential for this position.

Please send your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)We have the following exciting career opportunity based at:  
**Gordons Chemists – 16 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5SB****• SALES ASSISTANT - Part Time/Permanent**

15 hours / 2 days per week

Closing date: **Tuesday 31 October 2017**To Apply: Further information and application forms can be obtained in store, from the careers section of our website: [www.gordondirect.com](http://www.gordondirect.com), or from the Human Resources Department on **028 4066 9000**.

Gordons Chemists are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

**The GRAB Trust**  
GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE**Team Leader/Site Supervisor**

The GRAB Trust is looking for a Team Leader/Site Supervisor for our LORI project in Oban. This is potentially a very challenging and varied job so we are looking for a wide range of desirable skills.

The person needs to be:

- very pro-active and practical
- have good people-management skills
- have an amazing work ethic and embraces a challenge
- clean driver's license and who is familiar with driving vans
- very fit and able as may be required to carry out deliveries and collections
- have knowledge of health & safety
- able to work the odd week-end
- interested in upholstery and furniture repair or
- interested in domestic appliance testing

The hours are very sociable routinely 08.30 – 16:00 Monday – Friday, 11.00-16.00 on Saturday.

This is a four-day post spread over Monday – Saturday.

If interested in applying then please contact Julie Fairbrass (Manager) by email to acquire an application at [julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk](mailto:julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk).

Argyll TSI are seeking a Third Sector Support Officer who is creative, innovative, with excellent communication skills, and the ability to bring people together using community led approaches.

This exciting opportunity requires the successful candidate to work in a fast-paced environment, with third sector organisations and statutory partners, to deliver support on a variety of topics such as governance and volunteer management. The role also requires input at strategic meetings (A&amp;B Council and NHS) across Argyll and Bute, therefore a driving licence is essential.

The successful candidate will be based in our Oban office, covering Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The position is for 35 hours a week, at £11.00 per hour, as well as 32 days annual leave pro rata, inclusive of public holidays.

For a job description and application pack, please contact Shirley by email [shirley@argyltsi.org.uk](mailto:shirley@argyltsi.org.uk), or telephone 01631 564839.Closing date is 27th October 2017  
Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface is a Scottish Charity SC029947 and a Company Limited by Guarantee 277345**Accountant/Book  
Keeper Vacancy**

Dunstaffnage Marina Ltd require a part-time or fulltime accountant/qualified book keeper. The successful applicant will liaise directly with Senior Management to complete their duties. Duties include but are not limited to. Updating purchase ledger, Supplier Invoicing, Customer Invoicing, VAT Returns, Company Accounts, Corporation Tax Returns, Sage Accounts &amp; PAYE.

Rate per hour TBC dependant on experience.

**Reference Accountant/  
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Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg,

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**01631 566555**Email: [reception@dunstaffnagemarina.com](mailto:reception@dunstaffnagemarina.com)**North Argyll Eventide Home**

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facebook[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)**The Oban Times****Senior Reporter****The Oban Times has an opportunity for a bright, passionate and hungry reporter to join our busy team.**

As the position will be based in Oban, knowledge of the area would be an advantage. The person we are looking for will be fully qualified with shorthand, multi-media literate and be unafraid of hard work.

They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts, know their patch, and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence.

As well as writing for the newspaper of record for Argyll and the West Highlands, they will be expected to take pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as private health care and an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: Alison Arden - [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

Closing date: Monday 6th November

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## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

### Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)

Link Group Ltd, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective residential based development on vacant land north west of Dunbeg/Dunstaffnage Farm, comprising 300 new affordable homes, associated amenity space, parking, roads and infrastructure and areas allocated for potential new community and small scale retail space for local use.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting: Link Group Ltd, Watling House, Callendar Business Park, Falkirk, FK1 1XR. Telephone: 01324 417 160. Email: [developmentgroup@linkgroup.org.uk](mailto:developmentgroup@linkgroup.org.uk).

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity for public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at Dunbeg Primary School, Etive Road, Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1QF on 25.10.17 between the hours of 19.00 and 21.30.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at Link Group Ltd before 15.11.17.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

## Argyll and Bute Council ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

### THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (DUNBEG VILLAGE ROADS, DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE ROAD) (SIDE ROADS) ORDER 2017

Notice is hereby given that on Monday 16th October 2017, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Sections 12 (1) (a) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 made the above mentioned Order, the effect of which will be to authorise the improvement of a private road in Dunbeg, near Oban, Argyll that enters the route of that public road known as the Dunbeg Village Roads, Dunstaffnage Castle Road.

A copy of the Order as made and of the accompanying plan can be inspected on the Council's website at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/our-roads/regulations-and-limits> or viewed during normal office hours at the following locations:-

1 Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;

2 Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmore, Lochgilphead.

The effect of the Order is stated in the notice in the Oban Times dated 19th October and the Edinburgh Gazette dated 20th October.

The Order comes into operation on Monday 23rd October 2017.

Jim Smith Head of Roads & Amenity Services,

1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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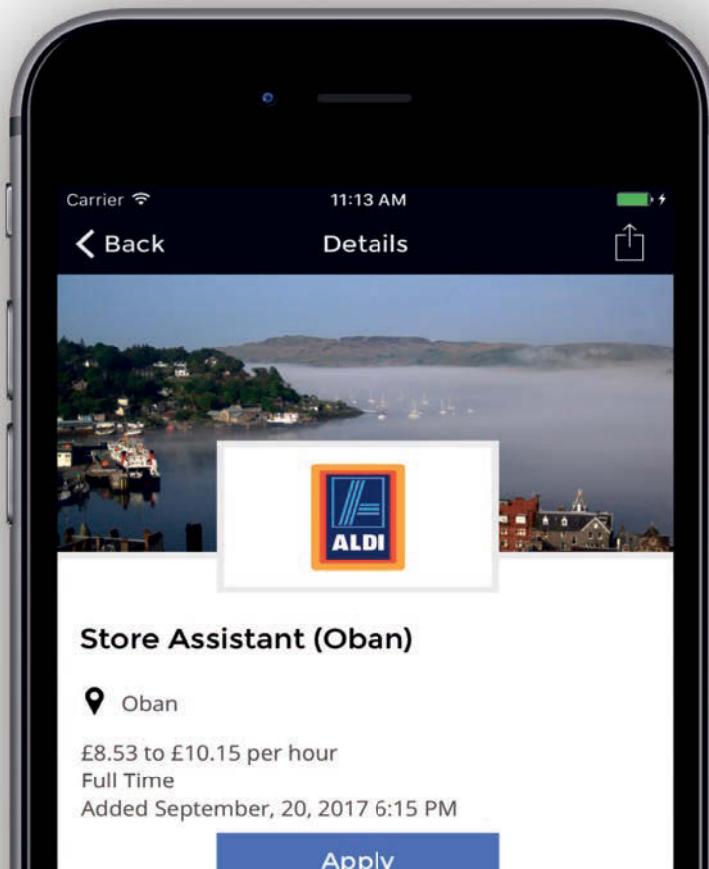


## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

## Oban Times

Applications are being sought by the trustees of the Miss Agnes Angus Bequest fund from organisations within Oban looking for funding to support activities which meet the criteria of this fund. The purpose of the Miss Agnes Angus bequest is to support schemes of lasting public improvement and for the benefit and advantage of the community of Oban. Applications should be made in writing and submitted to: Mr P Cupples, Argyll and Bute Council, Strategic Finance, Whitegates, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8SY by 3rd November 2017.

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## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.hIGHLAND.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.hIGHLAND.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](http://www.hIGHLAND.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/04441/FUL	Clan Macduff Hotel, 26 Achintore Road, Fort William	Alteration and extension, installation of platform lift, re-position staircase
17/04511/FUL	Land 2500M NW of Springfield, Highbridge, Spean Bridge	Formation of bell mouth access and stone road access track
17/04570/FUL	Land 20M SE of 1A Glenlochy Apartments, Nevis Bridge, Glen Nevis, Fort William	Erection of extension to form 3 self contained units
17/04689/S42	Land 70M SE of Hillside, Portuairk, Kilchoan	Application under Section 42 to variation of Condition No4 REF: 17/03093/ful (to reduce the visibility splay to the South East (up hill) from 60m to 50m to remove the need for ground re-profiling)
17/04693/FUL	Land 1040M SE of Conaglen House, Ardgor	Erection of house, installation of septic tank and soakaway, amendment to 16/00095/FUL
17/04702/LBC	Achara House, Duror, Appin	Strip existing coat of weathered emulsion paint, prep surface and repaint with Mineral based paint, Changing colour from light ochre to off-white

Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/04702/LBC is 21 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02530/PP	Revised house position and driveway in relation to 17/01267/PP (Erection of dwelling house, general purpose storage shed and installation of sewage treatment plant)	Land South West Of East Kames Kilmeof Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmeof
17/02299/PP	Redevelopment of derelict steading and barn to form 2 dwellings with associated garages.	Disused Steading And Barn To East Of Ash Cottage Isle Of Lismore Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Lismore & Kilbride
17/02521/PP	Amended garage location and access from that granted under planning permission 16/02117/PP	Plot C Swallow Craig Glenmore Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PG	Oban Area Office
17/02607/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 14/00852/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse)	Land East Of Achara Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/02543/PP	Retention of one storage container and siting of one additional container	1 Colonsay Business Units Dunoran Scalasaig Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7YZ	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsey

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

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## CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

E Gray, A Gray & E MacDonald  
8 Inveroy, Kilmonivaig  
0.110 ha - Amenity ground  
83990

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 16/11/2017. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Christine Helen Donnachie has registered their croft 1Torcastle and Mount Alexander, Kilmaille 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 10th April 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C4479.

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr David Lamont Elder Wilson has registered their croft known as 7 Port Ramsay, Port Ramsay, Lismore and Appin, in the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 3rd July 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home).

The croft registration number is C4432.

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Miss Anne MacLarty has registered her croft, Ariogian Croft No 1, 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 the 3rd July 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home).

The croft registration number is C4432.

## CUILCHEANNA COMMON GRAZINGS

A Meeting will be held to select a Grazings Committee on Saturday, November 4 @ 7pm in Caolais, Onich.

Signed Colin Campbell, Grazings Clerk.

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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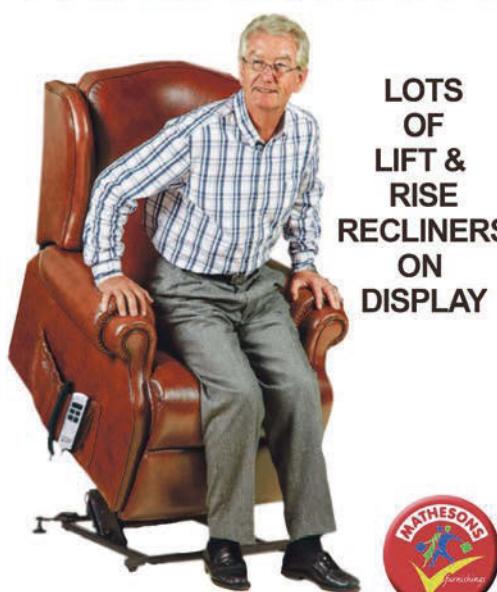
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Love from Johann xx



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**BIRTH**

**MULLEN** - At the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on September 4, 2017, to Michael and Victoria née Sloan, a daughter Isabella Rose and a wee sister for Emily.

**MARRIAGES**

**DELIN - HOPKIN** - On October 5, 2017 at Cockermouth, Cumbria, Steven, son of Barbara and Joe, to Eilidh, daughter of Josephine and Michael. Best wishes to both.

**RUBY WEDDING**

**HORNE - MACLEOD** - On October 21, 1977 at Oban Old Parish Church by Rev. John MacLeod, Neil to Patricia. Present address: 5a Soroba Park Terrace, Oban.

**MCPhAIL - LAIRD** - On October 22, 1977 at Oban Old Parish Church by Rev. John MacLeod. Malcolm to Frances. Present address: Tioran, Glencruitten Rise, Oban.

**DIAMOND WEDDING**

**MCINTOSH - MARTIN** - On October 19, 1957 at St Rufus Church, Keith, Alistair to Joyce. Present address: Dunroman, Mossspark, North Connel.

**O'LEARY - MACCUISH** - At St Columba's Cathedral, Oban by the late Canon Ewen MacInnes assisted by Fr Thomas Wynne on October 19, 1957, John to Morag. Present address: 6 Dunvegan Place, Irvine.

**DEATHS**

**HENDERSON** - Peacefully at home, Springbank House, Low Askimil, Campbeltown, on October 10, 2017. Dorothy Henderson, née Thorburn, in her 95th year, much loved wife of the late Rev Charles M Henderson, dearly beloved mother of Flora, Mary, Sorley, Caroline, Katherine and the late Donald, a loving grandmother and great grandmother.

**HENDERSON** - Sadly, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Monday, October 16, 2017, after many long battles with illnesses. Graham Henderson of Kilchrenan passed away. Grateful thanks to all doctors, nurses and local G.P.s.

**KENNEDY** - Peacefully, on October 12, 2017, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Lamont, younger son of the late Jack and Rebecca Kennedy of Dalmally and Skye, survived by his brother John. Funeral service to take place at the Free High Church, Rockfield Road, Oban, on Monday October 23, 2017 at 1.00 p.m. Interment will take place on Tuesday October 24, 2017 at Strath Cemetery, Broadford, Isle of Skye at 1.00 p.m.

**MACARTHUR** - Peacefully at home, The Flush, Machrihanish Road, Campbeltown, surrounded by her family, on October 16, 2017, Janet MacArthur, née Morrison, in her 81st year, dearly beloved wife of the late Hugh MacArthur, much loved mother of Hugh and Georgina and a beloved sister and aunt. Funeral private.

**MACFARLANE** - Peacefully, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on October 12, 2017, Janetta (Netta) MacFarlane, née MacNeil, aged 83 years, of Rudha-Loisgte, Pier Road, Tarbert and formerly of Gigha, beloved wife of the late James MacFarlane, much loved mum of Mairi, Agnes, Elizabeth, Calum, Margaret, Jamie, Iain and Dugald and adored granny and great granny. Cherished sister of Angus, Malcolm, Kenneth and the late Betty, Mary, Ian, Duncan and Lily. A dear sister-in-law, aunt, great aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held today, Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 12.00 noon, at Tarbert Parish Church, thereafter to Carrick Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to Marie Semple Fund and Autism Scotland.

**MACMASTER** - Elizabeth Bernadette. Peacefully at St John's Hospital, Livingston on October 11, 2017. Beloved mother of Tracey and much loved sister of Canon Iain, Margaret, Ronald and the late Alastair and Ewen. May she rest in peace. In accordance with Elizabeth's wishes, a private Requiem Mass has been celebrated by her brother, Very Rev Iain Canon MacMaster. The funeral service to which all family and friends are respectfully invited is on Tuesday October 24, 2017 at 1pm in the West Lothian Crematorium, Cousland Wood, Starlaw Place, Off Starlaw Road, Livingston EH54 7DA. Reception and refreshments at the Livingston Inn, 2 Main Street, Livingston Village, Livingston EH54 7AF.

**MINTER** - Jeffrey Robert (65 years). Jeff died peacefully, at Bowman's Court, Craignure, Isle of Mull, on October 3, 2017, after a long illness, bravely borne. He was the beloved son of the late Betty and Robert Minter, a much loved brother of Judy in Halesowen, and a dear friend to many on Iona and Mull. He maintained strong links with friends from England, where he was once a zoo-keeper at Flamingo Park. Over the last five decades he became well known on Iona for his wood carvings, photography and love of animals. The funeral service was held in Iona Parish Church on Tuesday October 17, with a retail collection for the SSPCA.

**JOHNSTON** - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil who died October 22, 2005 at home in Heanish, Tiree. Always in my thoughts.

- Vivienne.

**MEMORIALS**

**BLACK** - (née MacLean). Treasured memories of Kirsty, a much loved wife and best friend who passed away on October 21, 2016.

I had everything when I had you, a world of love and happiness too. Someone to turn to, so kind caring and true.

One in a million that was you, Kirsty.

Loved and remembered, always and forever.

- Jim.

**BLACK** - (Kirsty). Fond memories of our dear sister-in-law and aunt.

God saw you were tired and called you home.

- Lily, Henry and families.

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of a dear dad and grampa Jimmy, who died October 23, 2014.

Loved and remembered every day

- Iain and family, Dalmally and Margaret and family, Canada.

**JOHNSTON** - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil who died October 22, 2005 at home in Heanish, Tiree. Always in my thoughts.

- Vivienne.

**MACASKILL** - In loving memory of my dear sister Margaret Ann (Annie), who died October 16, 2000. Sadly missed.

In my heart your memory is kept To treasure, to love and never forget.

- Inserted by her loving twin sister Morag, Oban.

**MACCALLUM** - In memory of a loving wife and mother Isobel, who died October 18, 1982. We keep in our hearts the love of the past And in our minds.

Our memories forever last.

- Inserted by her husband Donald and family, 11 Longsdale Terrace, Oban.

**MACCUISH** - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Norman who passed away October 20, 1997.

A bouquet of beautiful memories is sprayed with a million tears Wishing God could have spared you for just a few more years He gave me many things in life, gifts both great and small But above all else he gave me love, the greatest gift of all.

- Love and miss you always Flora.

**MACDONALD** - Margaret (Maggie May). In loving memory of my dear partner, sister, auntie and friend, who died October 20, 2015.

Love you forever, miss you every day. Treasured memories.

- Tubby and all the family.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of a much loved wife Flora and mum, who died October 16, 2011.

Years have gone since you were here But in our eyes there is still a tear In our hearts you will always stay We love and miss you every day

- Loving husband Hughie and Hugh

**MACINTYRE** - Remembering with love a dearly loved mum, Flora, who passed away on October 16, 2011.

It doesn't need a special day To bring you to my mind For days without a thought of you Are very hard to find.

- Love Margaret xxx

**MACINTYRE** - Treasured memories of my precious mum and best friend Flora. Loved and missed so much. Till we meet again.

- Shona, James and family xx

**MACINTYRE** - Precious memories of our mum and granny Flora, who passed away October 16, 2011.

Yours is the voice we long to hear And the smile we long to see All our love

- Fiona, Frank and family xxxx

**MACKILLOP** - Remembering with love my dear mother and our granny Mary, who died October 26, 2004.

A smile for all, a heart of gold The very best this world could hold

Never selfish, always kind Mum, those are the memories you left behind.

Rest in peace.

- Helen

A special person, a special face Someone we loved and can't replace A loving nature, kind and true Is the way Gran, we remember you.

- Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

**MACKILLOP** - Remembering with love a dearly loved and respected brother and uncle Willie, who passed away October 14, 2007.

You always had a smile to share

Time to give and time to care A loving nature kind and true Is the way that we'll remember you. Rest in peace.

- Helen

There's a face we shall always remember A voice we shall always recall A memory to cherish forever Of an uncle who was dear to us all

Loved and remembered always.

- Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of Christine, died October 20, 2015, our deeply loved mum, mother-in-law, gran, great-gran and beloved partner of Iain.

Never more than a thought away Loved and missed everyday Love you to the moon and back.

- Inserted by her loving family and Iain XXX.

**TURNER** - In loving memory of Irene, a much loved wife, mum and gran, died October 17, 2016.

Miss you daily.

- Frank, Skye and all the family.

**MEMORIALS**

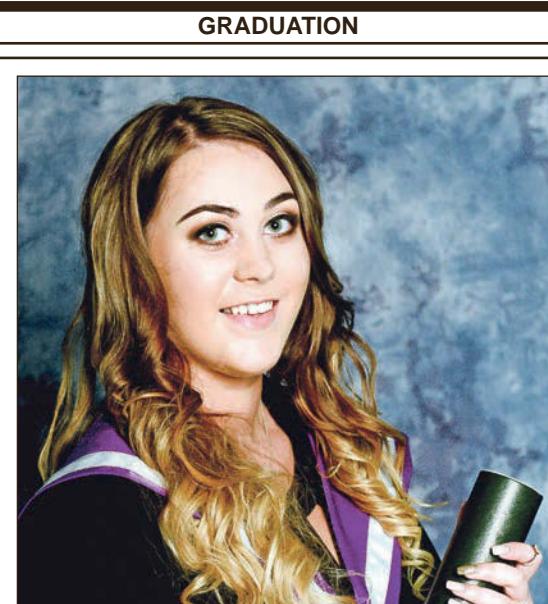
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**GRADUATION**

**JENNIFER ANN KING**  
Graduated with a BA degree in Child and Youth Studies at UHI. Jennifer is the only daughter of Linda King and the late Robert King, Caol, younger sister of Stephen and youngest grandchild of the late Cathie and Hughie Livingston, Caol and only granddaughter of the late Ann and Francis King, Greenock.

## Highland minister will be next Kirk moderator

THE Highland minister who married Madonna and Guy Ritchie and baptised their son Rocco will be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Rev Susan Brown, minister of Dornoch Cathedral, will step into the year-long role next May. The 58-year-old says she is 'deeply moved and honoured' to be chosen as the Church of Scotland's ambassador for 2018-19.

Mrs Brown said: 'Being moderator will not be about what I can do, but about what God wants to do. I am conscious that it is both a great privilege and a great responsibility - one I can only undertake at God's prompting.'

Mrs Brown brings 32 years of experience as a Highlands minister to the role. Her first parish as a fully-fledged minister was at Killearnan on the Black Isle. She spent 13 years there before moving to Dornoch Cathedral.

Mrs Brown was the first woman to serve in both Ross and Sutherland presbyteries and the first woman to be moderator of both.

Mrs Brown grew up in Penicuik, Midlothian, where her father was a miner at the Bilston Glen colliery.

It was at Sunday School aged 10 that she met her husband of 36 years, Derek Brown, who is chaplain at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, and lead chaplain for NHS Highland.

She spent two years as a probationer at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh



Rev Susan Brown of Dornoch Cathedral.

learn from the experience of those young men and women who paid a price beyond asking,' said Mrs Brown.

'The fact that 2018 has also been designated the Year of Young People provides a poignant reminder of the connection of the past, the present and the future.'

'Throughout her life Mrs Brown has enjoyed taking part in sports, including hockey, badminton and swimming. She was only two grades short of her black belt in Tae Kwon Do when she tore a knee ligament.

After she was invited to dedicate the new East Sutherland Rescue Association lifeboat, the minister volunteered to become a regular crew member, a role she filled for 10 years.

'We trained with the RNLI but our lifeboat was smaller,' said Mrs Brown. 'We did things like tow boats back in to shore after their engines cut out. I can't say I was involved in any really spectacular rescues, although we did have to rescue a stranded cow once.'

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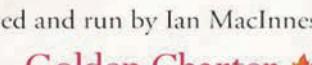
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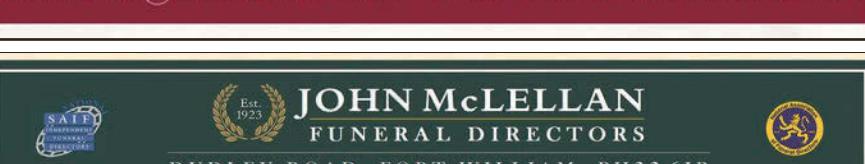
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# Fantastic fightback for John McPhee at Japanese Grand Prix in Motegi

Poor weather conditions made things difficult for the riders

**CONNEL'S** John McPhee took a solid sixth place at the recent Aragon Grand Prix, setting him up well for the next stage of the season: the triple-header flyaway races, which go from Japan to Australia to Malaysia on three consecutive weekends. First up last Sunday was the Twin Ring Motegi Grand Prix in Japan.

Motegi is a track characterised by zones of hard braking and hard acceleration. Eight right- and six left-handed corners make up the venue, with the longest straight measuring up to 762m. McPhee has a number of top 10 results at the track already, including an impressive fourth place back in 2014.

The battle for more points continues, with McPhee back in the top six of the title fight.

On the first day of qualifying action on Friday, McPhee took P15 overall for the British Talent Team as he navigated difficult wet conditions at the venue.

In the morning, the Brit was P12 with a best of 2:11.880 on lap 12 of 15, his fastest lap of the day, with FP2 proving more

difficult. The Scot did 10 laps in the afternoon but didn't improve his time, crashing late in the session.

Next up was FP3 on Saturday morning, with the weather remaining in doubt, before qualifying got under way.

John had a tough but useful qualifying session on Saturday at the Twin Ring Motegi, with conditions still treacherous as heavy rain continued.

The Scot did a best lap of 2:10.925 in the rainy qualifying session – 18th fastest – but looked set to start P17 following grid penalties to be applied to other riders – putting in 16 laps in the session and quickest on his final attempt after gathering lots of valuable information.

McPhee bounced back from a difficult qualifying position gaining seven positions despite a shortened race distance of 13 laps – moving up from P17 on the grid into the top 10.

With incredibly difficult conditions on race day, McPhee found better pace and was battling for sixth, running out of time to be able to try to move further up but able to cement

## Moto 3

some major progress through the field as he crossed the line in P10.

Next up is Phillip Island in Australia, where the British Talent Team will be looking to consolidate sixth place in the world championship standings and close the gap on the top five.

John said: 'It was a crazy race, to say the least. Being cut to 13 laps was a shame as I had to come from so far back but my pace was better. Tenth position was all I could manage but I was in the fight for sixth.'

'I know I should normally be one of the fastest in these conditions but with no feeling from the bike it's been difficult this year in the rain. I'm happy that we've had some consistently wet track time and working together with my team we've improved the feeling a lot and found the correct direction to go in.'

'Now we're onto Phillip Island where I'm really keen to get back on track.'



John McPhee, number 17, in action during the rain-soaked Japanese Grand Prix at Motegi.

## A life on the ocean wave!



Adam Lewis, winner of the single elimination competition last Sunday.

**TIREE Wave Classic**, Scotland's top wave sailing and windsurfing event, has taken full advantage of the stormy autumnal conditions this week.

The 21-strong professional squad, including four international sailors, took to the waves at the Maze and Balephuil on Sunday for a single elimination competition which

saw Adam Lewis, Somerset, come out on top, with Ben Proffitt, Shrewsbury second, Marc Paré Rico, Spain, third, and Julien Taboulet, France, fourth.

### Ophelia

The masters and amateur events hung on to the tails of Hurricane Ophelia at Crossapol on Monday and, with winds

strengths increasing to up to 60 knots, the professional fleet got some air during an expression session in the early evening as the light faded.

Pictured below are some action shots.



Photos: Richard Whitton

## Tiree Wave Classic

## Targa Rally held on Mull

THERE were, of course, a few people who took the competitive nature of the Beatson's Building Supplies Targa Rally last weekend on the Isle of Mull seriously but, equally, there were quite a few who didn't.

As the organisers said beforehand, this two-day motor sporting competition was to be regarded in the 'spirit of '88', a reference to the two barren years between the end of Selective road rallying in 1988 and the first Road Closure Act in 1990.

Surprisingly, several hundred hardy souls turned out to watch both events and, although the spectacle was different, the entertainment level was high, especially the way Andy Beaumont from Hull hurled his Sunbeam Rapier H120 around the 14 timed tests and the four regularity sections.

His winning margin over second placed Scottish and British Rally Championship regular Garry Pearson, Duns, was a mere 39 seconds. Pearson had swapped his Ford Fiesta R5 for a rather more humble 1.2-litre Renault Clio.

Road rally regular Craig Wallace (from Kirriemuir) was quick and precise too in third place in his Toyota Corolla, but had a day-long tussle with the Vauxhall Viva of David Ruddock (Raskelf) who finished the day just six seconds adrift of the podium.

Top local crew were Paul and Louise Brown (Mull) in their class-winning Ford Ka who finished 21st overall in a field of 73 cars and crews.



Targa Rally winners Andy Beaumont and Andrew Fish in their Sunbeam Rapier H120 on the first test of the day at Tobermory Caravan and Campsite. Report and photos: John Fife

## Rallying

In the following day's time trial at Mornish Forest, Reay MacKay (Fort Augustus) set fastest time of the day in his Ford Focus WRC by seven seconds over the 3.1-mile test from Andy Davies (Lampeter) in his Subaru Impreza. Only two seconds behind Davies was Brian Watson (Stonehaven) in his Lancer.

Top local crew were Eddie and Amanda O'Donnell (Salen) in their Ford Escort who finished in seventh place.



Reay MacKay from Fort Augustus in his Ford Focus WRC on the start line of the Mornish time trial.



Thumbs up from Mull's father and daughter crew, Eddie and Amanda O'Donnell, at the Mornish time trial.

## Oban go down at Giffnock

Giffnock Men's 3rds	6
Oban Men's 1sts	2
West District Division 4	

OBAN travelled to Giffnock to play their second match of the season. Following on from their triumph in Ayr, there was a degree of confidence although this was a much changed Oban team. It was a fairly quiet start to the match with each side feeling their way into the game. Giffnock showed early signs of what was to come as they almost scored twice in the first 10 minutes, but were thwarted by midfielder Ali Burton clearing off the goal-line. His defensive skill was soon matched by those in attack and he opened up the scoring.

Giffnock then were awarded a penalty stroke as the ball hit the stick and then the leg of the defender – if only this were shinty.

The scores were then levelled at one each and Giffnock then started to press using their superior skill and experience. Oban defended well and also had a number of good attacking moves.

Towards the end of the first half Giffnock scored a second which, on balance, was a reflection of the first 35 minutes; slightly ahead, but not that much in it. Oban were still in the game.

The second period definitely belonged to Giffnock, but not without Oban creating chances.

## Hockey

and forcing the home team to defend in numbers. Following one period of pressure George 'record signing' Gauley scored a cracking goal.

Andy Head in the Oban goal was kept busy and deserved his man of the match award. Without him the score would have been greater than the further four scored although two were down to Oban players putting their bodies on the line in front of goal and the resulting penalty strokes.

Oban did not give up and pressed right to the final whistle, but in the end Giffnock were just too strong.

# Oban Lorne Ladies turn on the style

Oban Lorne Ladies	74
Lismore	0
BT Women's National League 2	

SUNDAY October 15 saw Oban Lorne Ladies turn out in blustery, muddy conditions to take on Lismore women at Glencruitten. Lismore are a team from Edinburgh, not the wee island in Loch Linnhe.

The Oban side were missing a few key players due to holidays and injuries, including their captain and vice-captain, but Veronica Speirs stepped up to skipper the team of 15 players on the day. The ladies were keen to maintain their undefeated record within the league for this season so far.

Lismore made Oban work throughout the match, and should be recognised for maintaining enthusiasm and hard effort throughout the game despite the score. They certainly never gave up. However, overall the Green Army

were able to continue putting their training into practice and maintain their impressive display of supportive rugby.

Fly-half Lucy Stewart opened the scoring within the first few minutes of the game after a couple of convincing dummy passes out towards the wing. She then continued to add points to the board following a carefully placed kick up the pitch which she was able to chase down herself, before also making a successful conversion, bringing the score to 12-0 in the first 10 minutes.

Following on from a cleanly executed lineout from within their own half, the Oban back line carried out a rehearsed set play to get the ball to outside centre Erika Skofca, who stormed up the pitch while shrugging off tackles to score by the posts, making an easy kick for Stewart.

The backs continued to show off their skills, using inside

winger Kelly Lamont to burst through next to a scrum, offload across the pitch to inside centre Kirsty Sinclair, who made a convincing run herself before popping to winger Rachel MacDonald who scored under the posts.

This momentum was continued as Skofca offloaded to Lamont, powering up the pitch to avoid Lismore's attempts to prevent another try. This brought the score to 33-0.

The next try came from fullback Howdo Bean, who unfortunately received a boot to the head for her efforts, but luckily was able to continue playing. And the final try of the first half was again scored by MacDonald, bringing the score to 45-0 at the half-time whistle.

With no subs available, Oban did well to maintain their attacking play for the next 40 minutes. Lismore's defence rallied, and play seemed slower in this second half.

However, Oban certainly weren't short of points, with a further five tries scored. The first of these came for prop Ellie MacNiven, after a good show of her power to drive over the line through tackles.

Next came a hat-trick for winger MacDonald, shortly followed by another hat-trick for Stewart. Pressure on Lismore was high throughout the game and it started to show as they messed up a clearing kick near their own try line, which was tidied up by Lamont for her second try of the game.

Lismore were suffering from injuries to multiple players and, despite having substitutes, did well to maintain a full squad of players on the pitch.

After a pause in play for injury treatment, Oban started up again as they had through-



Oban Lorne Ladies pictured after a recent match. The 'Visitors 0' is a common sight on the scoreboard at Glencruitten as the girls haven't lost a point in four league games played. Photo: Stephen Lawson

out the game, with a great step by MacNiven and offload to Stewart who unfortunately lost the ball near the try line following a good tackle by Lismore.

After a lot of back and forth between the two teams, Skofca

touched down the ball for the final try of the game, bringing the full-time score to 74-0.

Oban sit five points clear of Grangemouth at the top of the BT Women's National League 2, with 299 points for and 0 points conceded, a tre-

mendous achievement for the season thus far. They now have a welcome break before their next fixture away to Helensburgh on November 5.

Training takes place at Glencruitten on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-7pm, all welcome.

## Depleted Green Machine go down at Stewartry

Stewartry	40
Oban Lorne	0
BT West Division One	

A DEPLETED Oban Lorne squad made the long trip to Castle Douglas on Saturday to take on newly promoted side Stewartry. Meetings between the sides have been close affairs over the years with Oban taking the spoils in all but one of their five recent contests.

Saturday's fixture though was to be an uphill task from the

outset as the men in green were missing several players from last week's promising performance in a home 10-8 defeat to East Kilbride.

Daniel Kemp, Tommy Sutherland, Lorne MacLachlan, Jack Strachan, Jack Baxter, Finlay Carmichael, Radi Maksimov and Cammy Smith were all absent for the travelling side, who still managed to gather a full complement of players for the trip.

After a year away travelling,

Richard MacKay returned to the side in the back row while there was also a return for hooker Ryan Jackson after an absence of more than two seasons due to injury. Alex Houston also made his first start of the season on the wing.

Despite a spirited performance Oban went down 40-0 against a hard-working Stewartry team. Oban were also dealt a blow early in the game with a neck injury to prop Connor Ferris that required attention

from the emergency services. The injury to the player is not thought to be serious and the hopes are that Ferris will make a speedy recovery and be available for the rest of the season.

Several players impressed in the defeat, particularly returning Richard MacKay and Ryan Jackson, while there was also a promising 80 minutes from second row Kyle Graham who has stepped up from the 2XV for this season.

Saturday's result leaves Oban

in 11th place in West Division 1, only a point above bottom-placed Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC. The Oban side will look to lift themselves away from the foot of the table as they welcome Greenock Wanderers to Glencruitten on Saturday in what will be the first meeting between the sides in recent years. Kick-off 3pm at Glencruitten, all welcome.



L-R: Pete Currie, Sep, Alan Brown, Ian Dawson, John Kennedy, Derek Street and Richard Deane.

## John wins Tighnabruaich open shoot

THE TIGHNABRUAICh Open shoot was held on Saturday September 30, a long-standing event in the club's diary.

Despite the rain in the early part of the morning, the rest of the day was unusually sunny which in turn helped in the attendance of 32 guns.

High gun for the day was John Kennedy on 140/150, second place went to Derek Street, Richard Deane won the pool trap and the novice prize went to Sep.

The club would like to extend its thanks to Anne McPhail, Pat Currie and Joanne McBride for the excellent catering, all members who assisted with the running of the shoot and for all prizes donated for the raffle.

both on 133/150, and fifth place went to Andrew Heatherington on 130/150. Winner of the Pairs Trophy was John Kennedy. Best local went to Derek Street. Richard Deane won the pool trap and the novice prize went to Sep.

The club would like to extend its thanks to Anne McPhail, Pat Currie and Joanne McBride for the excellent catering, all members who assisted with the running of the shoot and for all prizes donated for the raffle.

## Recent results from Dalmally Golf Club

### Golf

THE 2017 ladies' handicap championship winner was Ann Hay with close runner-up June Sutherland.

The ladies' scratch championship winner was Ann McLaren, who beat runner-up Lily McKay in a hotly-contested match.

The annual Captain's Day was held at Seil Golf Club on Sunday 8 October when a small group of men braved the elements for a successful and very enjoyable end-of-season event. The winner was Graeme MacKechnie, closely followed by William Dougal with Gary Wilson in third place.

The closing event of the ladies' season on October 9 was a charity day in support of the



Dalmally Golf Club ladies at Oban Hospice Day on October 9.

Oban Hospice, a long-standing tradition. Play was cancelled due to the weather, but over 20 playing and social members enjoyed a convivial lunch and raised £206 for the hospice.

Medal finals day for the gents' section at Dalmally Golf Club

saw the closest battle of the season for the two prizes on offer.

Just a single stroke separated the three gold medal finalists, with William Dougal's gross 73 edging him in front of a resurgent Billy McKay and lowest

handicapper in the field Graham Melvin. The silver medal saw an equally close contest, Tony Graham scoring a net 80 to overcome the challenge of Jim Livingstone, again by a single stroke. Third place went to Ewan Groat.

## Tight at the top in Glensanda mini squash team league

### Squash

SUNDAY September 24 saw the next round of the Glensanda mini squash team league competition held at Atlantis Leisure.

It was another entertaining day of great squash matches to watch. Thanks to all the teams who took part on the day and to everyone who helped with the refereeing.

The results were as follows –

The Hot Shots 16, Jackie's Ball Breakers 11; Kelly's Heroes 14, Paul's Nick-ers 5; Norfolk-in-Chance 13, The Magnificent Six 6.

The penultimate round will be held at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday September 29 starting at 10am.

League Table	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Martin Heath Team	61	27	+34	Yes	61
The Hot Shots	57	42	+15	Yes	57
Norfolk-in-Chance	54	37	+17	Yes	54
Paul's Nick-ers	50	41	+9	Yes	50
Jackie's Ball Breakers	46	67	-20	Yes	46
Kelly's Heroes	41	40	+1	Yes	41
The Magnificent Six	27	63	-36	No	27

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2750

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

F Beaton  
Furnace  
Argyll  
  
J Cameron  
Lochaline  
Morvern

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it in to The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavulin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

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

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvern Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.

The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Name .....  
Address .....  
..... Tel No. ....

Please tape your £1 coin here



# SHINTY

Best for all shiny news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

# Shinty/hurling international takes place in Inverness on Saturday

**LOCHSIDE Rovers** are the Marine Harvest South Division 1 champions following the shiny action on Saturday October 14.

## Marine Harvest Premiership

### Kyles Athletic 5

### Glasgow Mid Argyll 3

It was a more low-key end to the season than they'd hoped for but Kyles Athletic rounded off their Marine Harvest Premiership campaign with a 5-3 win over already-relegated Glasgow Mid Argyll.

The match was scheduled for Tighnabruaich but when it became clear on Thursday that the pitch would not be playable, Kyles agreed to reverse the fixture to Yoker.

Kyles' Roddy MacDonald was free of his two-match suspension following his sending off in the 2-1 defeat to Lovat on Saturday September 9 2017. Scotland Head Coach Ronald Ross will be pleased that MacDonald not only got game time ahead of this coming weekend's Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling international against Ireland but that he also bagged two goals.

Glasgow Mid Argyll welcomed Ryan Harrison back from suspension. However, Garry Luke sat this one out for passing through the disciplinary points threshold whilst Euan Murray, Stuart Reid and Iain Luke were also missing.

GMA took the lead straight from the start. Brian Slattery won the throw up and Jamie MacFadyen played the ball on to Seb MacMillan and he drove the ball high into the top right corner of the net.

The Glasgow side increased their lead from the penalty spot on 33 minutes when referee Ross Brown penalised Cammy Keith for a 'kick' inside the D. Craig Anderson took responsibility and sent the penalty into the top right corner of the net.

Kyles pulled a goal back on the stroke of half-time when Grant Irvine's ball was deflected into his own net by GMA keeper Robert Dunnings.

Jamie MacFadyen restored GMA's two-goal cushion a couple of minutes after the restart.

Seb MacMillan played the ball through and Jamie MacFadyen, from inside the D, slotted the ball into the bottom right corner of the net.

Roddy MacDonald made it 3-2 just five minutes later when he netted from inside the D.

And it was Roddy MacDonald again on 59 minutes who levelled the contest when he got a second from close range.

GMA, who hadn't played for three weeks, seemed to run out of steam and Kyles took advantage. Ross MacRae put them in front for the first time in the match on 69 minutes when he tapped the ball home from inside the box.

Ross MacRae, who normally plays in defence, sealed the win on 80 minutes, again scoring from close range.

The match ended on a sour note for the Tighnabruaich men as Sandy MacKenzie was sent off for violent conduct by referee Ross Brown. MacKenzie will now miss the start of the 2018 shiny season through suspension.

Glasgow Mid Argyll showed for a large part of this game that they will be in the mix to make a speedy return to shiny's top flight.

Kyles deserve great credit for their part in an exciting title race. In the end, they had to settle for a second placed finish but their season was far from barren with the Artemis Macaulay Cup and the Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup both gathered along the way.

### Newtonmore 5

### Oban Camanachd 0

Newtonmore signed off their season with a 5-0 win over and Oban Camanachd at The Eilan.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh named a strong squad, with 18 players to choose from, and how he must have wished to have had such options throughout the season. Norman Campbell was still on holiday so Kenny Ross continued to deputise in goal.

Conor Jones remained banned whilst Andy MacKintosh was still injured. Rory Kennedy, Ackie MacRae and Drew Macdonald were all restored to the starting line-up after missing the previous week's draw with

Lochaber. Fraser MacKintosh was also back and he started on the bench. Iain Richardson recovered from a knock picked up in the Lochaber game and he played the full game at wing centre.

Chris Eccleston and Fraser Inglis continued to deputise for Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay, who was on holiday.

The Oban side were still without the injured Scott MacKillop whilst Gary McKerracher was unavailable. Andrew MacCuish started at full centre, flanked by Malcolm Clark and Aidan MacIntyre whilst Daniel Cameron and Daniel MacVicar were in the full forward positions. Youngsters Daniel MacCuish and Evan MacLellan were on the bench.

Newtonmore opened the scoring in the second minute courtesy of a 25-yard Neil Stewart strike. It was a great goal with Michael Russell initially stretching to take down a clearance out of the Oban defence and Stewart's well-struck shot sent the ball soaring high into the net.

Fraser MacKintosh replaced Evan Menzies for the closing stages whilst Oban Camanachd lost Matt Rippon through injury late in the game.

Newtonmore never looked like losing and Michael Russell had a superb game whilst Drew Macdonald was also really effective during his time on the park.

Newtonmore may have missed out on the opportunity to make it eight successive league titles but any season which ends with the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup on the sideboard is a success, added, of course, to the MacTavish Cup won earlier on the year.

Matt Rippon and Scott MacMillan earned pass marks for a disappointing Oban Camanachd side who lacked a finisher.

Oban Camanachd's next scheduled match is a home meeting with Lovat on Saturday October 28 whilst a trip to Killiecrankie follows to complete the season the week after.

## Marine Harvest National Division

### Oban Celtic 1

### Inveraray 2

Oban Celtic finished their season off with a 2-1 defeat against Inveraray in a tight match at Mossfield.

The sides had previously met three times during the season with Oban Celtic winning twice and Inveraray once.

With Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon on holiday, Davie Hamilton looked after the side and whilst Celtic trio Ross MacMillan, Michael MacKinnon and Fulton Ronald were all free of suspension, the latter was unavailable for this one. David MacInnes served the second match of a two-game ban. Ally McKerracher made a welcome return from injury and he was an influential figure once he settled into the match.

Inveraray were without Ally Munro, Ally MacDonald and Nicolas Crawford.

Inveraray broke the deadlock on eight minutes. Ruairidh Graham took an initial shot and Allan MacDonald followed up to bundle the ball home.

Ross MacMillan drew Oban Celtic level a minute before the break. Daniel Madej played the ball down the line to Andy MacDonald who played it further down the wing to Ross MacMillan. MacMillan got past Robert Wood and although Scott MacLachlan initially stopped the ball, he couldn't get it away and MacMillan tapped it into the net from the left to make it 1-1 at the break.

The winning goal came on 77 minutes. Inveraray had possession in the corner on the right and Fraser Watt and Allan MacDonald played a one-two before

the meeting between the Kinlochshiel seconds and the Beauly seconds was postponed on Friday afternoon as Kirkton

MacMillan took the ball into the bottom corner of the net.



Scott MacMillan of Oban Camanachd gets to the ball before Newtonmore's Evan Menzies during last weekend's Marine Harvest Premiership match at The Eilan which the home side won 5-0.

Watt floated the ball goalwards and it beat the keeper on the opposite side to make it 2-1.

Inveraray were reduced to eleven players for the closing stages when Allan MacDonald was given a straight red card for a show of dissent to match official Ronnie Campbell who refereed the match well.

Oban Celtic pushed for a leveler but Inveraray held out for the win which guarantees them a fourth place finish in their first season in the National.

Both keepers – Iain MacFarlane for Oban Celtic and Inveraray's Scott MacLachlan – made good saves in the game.

Inveraray still have one match remaining when they travel to Fort William at the end of the month and they will be without the suspended Allan MacDonald for that one.

Speaking after the game, Davie Hamilton said: 'It would have been nice to finish the season with a win but we would certainly have taken a sixth place league finish at the start of the season. Many folk thought we were relegation contenders but we have proved to be hard to beat. We only suffered two big defeats – against champions Skye and Caberfeidh who are currently second – and we didn't help ourselves in those games. It's a learning curve though and the National is certainly a step up from South 1.'

Hamilton also paid tribute to the work undertaken by manager Kenny Wotherspoon adding: 'Kenny is such a good organiser and he puts in a power of work for the club. I don't think the boys realise just how much work he does to set a team out on a Saturday.'

'We all hope he carries on in the role so we can establish ourselves in the National next season and who knows where we can push on to after that.'

The goals kept flowing and Lewis Buchanan made it 4-0 on the half hour mark. There was a good exchange of passes between Iain MacFarlane and Lennon Campbell before Michael MacQueen picked out Lewis Buchanan and he fired the ball low into the corner of the net.

Lennon Campbell scored twice more before the break. Campbell finished well after taking a Michael MacQueen pass on 33 minutes and, just a couple of minutes before the break, Campbell produced a good back-hand strike after a great ball from Chrissie MacMillan found Lewis Buchanan.

Ewan Logan came off the bench at the break and he added a sixth with a debut goal on 51 minutes. Lennon Campbell's shot from the angle was saved with his feet by the Kyles keeper but Logan was first to react to score.

Lennon Campbell completed his hat-trick with nine minutes remaining. Lewis Buchanan played the ball over the top where Campbell ran onto it and, without breaking stride; he smashed the ball into the top corner of the net to claim a special goal.

On a heavy park, Lochside played a significant part of the game with a 14-year-old, two 15-year-olds and a 16-year-old in their forward line which bodes well for the future.

Lochside have looked favourites to win the league for some weeks now and with two games to go, they have shown remarkable consistency, only dropping four points all season, scoring 74 goals whilst only conceding 12 times.

### Bute W/O v Glenorchy

The Bute second team were beaten the points when Glenorchy were unable to raise a team for their 3pm throw up at The Meadows.

Bute's last match was against Col Glen in mid-August and they will try again against Taynuilt this Saturday.

Glenorchy haven't played since early September and this is the third time they have been unable to raise a team since then. They are scheduled to travel to play Col Glen this coming Saturday.

### Ballachulish P v Kilmailly P

There was disappointment for Kilmailly as they were left idle for the fourth successive Saturday due to an unplayable field.

Their match against Ballachu-

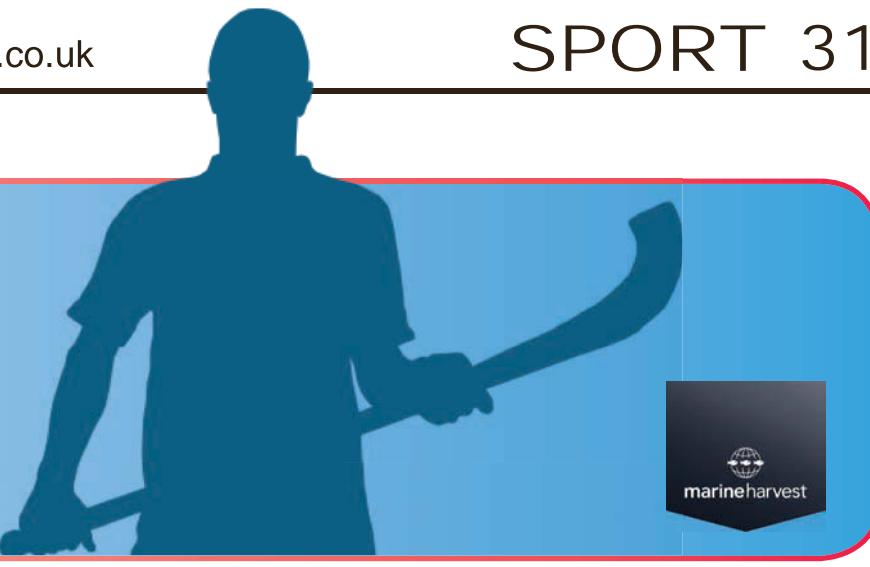


Oban Camanachd's David Lafferty looks to have got a sore one from Newtonmore's Rory Kennedy.

Photo: Neil Paterson

## Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

## Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



marineharvest

lish at The Jubilee Park will be rescheduled.

Ballachulish don't have a league fixture this Saturday whilst Kilmory travel to take on the Kyles Athletic colts.

### Taynuilt P Col Glen P

Taynuilt's meeting with Col Glen at The Taynuilt Sports Field was postponed on Friday because of an unplayable field.

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

#### Glenarry W/O v Lovat

Champions Glenarry were to be presented with the Marine Harvest North Division 2 trophy following their match against the Lovat second team at Craigard.

However, Lovat were unable to raise a team so 'Garry were awarded the points.

This was 'Garry's last match of a season in which they have only dropped four league points and the club decided to go ahead with the trophy presentation regardless.

So with Camanachd Association President Jim Bar on hand, Glenarry captain John MacKinnon lifted the Marine Harvest North Division 2 trophy before the players gathered for a social evening.

### Kilmallie 3 Caberfeidh 0

Fourth placed Kilmallie seconds beat third placed Caberfeidh 3-0 at The Canal Parks.

Scotland U21 player Innes Blackhall was given a run out for the Kilmallie reserves and he scored twice with Dean Williamson getting the other.

### Lochcarron P Strathglass P

The game between Lochcarron and Strathglass was called off on Friday as Lochcarron's Battery Park pitch was unplayable.

### Boleskine v Lochaber W/O

The Lochaber seconds were awarded the points when Boleskine were unable to field a team for their meeting at Smith Park.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

#### Inveraray 2

#### Dunoon Camanachd 0

It was title celebration day for the Inveraray second team as they were presented with the Marine Harvest South Division 2 trophy following their 2-0 win over Dunoon at The Winterton.

The match was switched to Sunday October 15 2017 with a 2pm throw up.

Inveraray were without captain Allan Cameron, Lewis Cameron and David MacPherson. Gregor Mather played the full 90 minutes in goal in place of Graham MacPherson.

Dunoon travelled with just nine players so John Smylie and Inveraray youngsters Jack Blackwood and Calum MacDonald turned out for them and all had great games.

The first half ended goalless but Euan McMurdo, who had a fine game at full centre, put Inveraray ahead on 75 minutes when he shot across the keeper from the left.

Hamish MacLennan made it 2-0 with five minutes remaining. Inveraray's David Robertson had a frustrating time up front, hitting the post and finding the young Dunoon goal keeper in fine form, but when Robertson played a free-hit to Hamish MacLellan, the youngster struck the ball home on the volley.

Inveraray had lots of pressure and deserved the win whilst John Smylie had an excellent game at full back for Dunoon.

With skipper Allan Cameron unavailable, Robert Wood, who started the season with the captain's armband before playing the majority of the season with the first team, stepped up to accept the trophy from Steve Bracken from sponsors Marine Harvest, which is added to the Bullough Cup won earlier in the season.

Dunoon are scheduled to host Oban Lorn this Saturday.

### Bute W/O v Glasgow Mid Argyll

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds were unable to raise a team for their noon throw-up against the Bute seconds at The Meadows.

The Islanders have been awarded the points.

The Bute colts have two matches remaining starting with this Saturday's home meeting with Strachur.

The GMA seconds have now completed their league programme.

### Roll of Honour

The competition winners in the men's game are now known.

#### Marine Harvest Premiership – Kinlochshiel

#### Marine Harvest National Division – Skye Camanachd

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1 – Newtonmore

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1 – Lochside Rovers

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2 – Glengarry

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2 – Inveraray

The cup successes were as follows:

#### Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup – Newtonmore

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup – Kyles Athletic

#### MacTavish Cup – Newtonmore

#### Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup – Kyles Athletic

#### Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup – Lochside Rovers

#### Strathdearn Cup – Kingussie

#### Bullough Cup – Inveraray

### WCA round up

Just the one match went ahead following the women's scheduled shinty action for Sunday October 15 2017.

### Marine Harvest National Division 1

#### Skye Camanachd P

#### Lochaber P

The crucial league meeting between Skye Camanachd and Lochaber at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree has been rescheduled for Saturday November 4 2017.

Skye need a point to confirm a second successive Marine Harvest National Division 1 title.

However, a Lochaber win will give them the advantage in the title race.

### Fort William W/O

#### v Lovat

The league's two newly promoted sides were due to meet at An Aird.

However, Lovat were again unable to raise a team so Lochaber have been awarded the points.

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

#### Lochaber 8

#### Inverness 0

The Lochaber seconds turned in a fine performance to maintain their unbeaten run with an 8-0 win over Inverness at Spean Bridge.

Rebecca MacLean, Rebecca Masson and Claire Delaney all scored twice with Shanna Michie and Stephanie Spiers also netting.

It was a first Lochaber goal for Stephanie Spears in which she dribbled the ball into the D before netting.

### Glengarry v

#### Strathspey W/O

Glengarry were unable to raise a team for their 1.30pm throw up with Strathspey at Craigard.

Strathspey were awarded the points.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

#### Lorn P

#### Cowal & Bute P

The game between Lorn and Cowal and Bute was postponed because of an unplayable field.

The game will be rescheduled.

'WE'VE had a great response from the players with a lot of boys keen to be part of the squad.'

That was the upbeat message from Scotland Head Coach Ronald Ross ahead of the latest Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling international which takes place at The Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday October 21.

'There were some players who came very close to selection,' said Ross. 'But they just failed to make the final cut this time.'

The Scotland squad has been affected by injury to Newtonmore's Andy MacKintosh whilst Fraser Heath, another who played last year, has hardly featured for his club Glenurquhart during the final third of the shinty season.

There are first caps for Lovat pair Craig Mainland and Daniel Grieve as well as Badenoch duo Michael Russell from Newtonmore and Ryan Borthwick from Kingussie.

However, the squad is built on an experienced base with Glenurquhart's John Barr and Kinlochshiel's Finlay MacRae again to the fore. The latter is joined in the squad by his brothers Keith and John as well as club-mates Conor Cormack and Mark MacDonald.

The ever-reliable Stuart MacDonald will once more be between the sticks whilst Caberfeidh's Kevin Bartlett, the only player from out-with the Marine Harvest Premiership in the squad, will again be trusted with the dead-ball opportunities.

Kyles' trio Andrew King, Grant Irvine and Roddy MacDowell have been key in their club side's title push this season whilst Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup winners Newtonmore have Glen MacKintosh, Steven MacDonald, Rory Kennedy and new cap Michael Russell. Lovat's



Pictured at the Bught Park, Inverness ahead of the shinty/hurling Internationals, (left to right) Rory MacKeachan, Scotland Under-21 captain; Ronald Ross, Scotland manager and Finlay Macrae, Scotland team captain.

Greg Matheson and Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron are others with previous of shinty/hurling experience under their belts.

Ross added: 'I am very pleased with the squad we have selected for this year's international. We have a good mixture of youth and experience and all the players have worked well throughout the preparation sessions. We've had five full sessions ahead of the game and that's important.'

The preparation sessions are vital as Ross explains: 'Shinty players have to adapt their game to suit the cross-codes rules. For example, playing the ball out for a corner in shinty is a natural

thing for a defender to do and it is a chance for a defence to regroup. However in the shinty/hurling game, it gives the opposition a free attempt to add to their points tally. Players have to be aware if these situations and not just revert to type as there are consequences in doing so.'

The Scotland boss, himself a veteran of these clashes, doesn't expect his players to be lacking in fitness. 'I think we'll be fine there. We are just at the end of our season so the players have been playing recently. Some have even been doing additional fitness work during the week so that's encouraging.'

Ross is expecting a strong Irish

squad to travel for the game. 'I think they fact Scotland have won the last three matches at The Bught will influence who they take,' he added. 'There is no second leg to retrieve the Inverness result again this year so I expect them to be strong. They have had practise sessions of their own and they know what they are doing but we will concentrate on our game.'

Scotland from: Kevin Bartlett (Caberfeidh); John Barr (Glenurquhart); Ryan Borthwick (Kingussie); Conor Cormack (Kinlochshiel); Mark MacDonald (Kinlochshiel); Finlay MacRae (Kinlochshiel); John MacRae (Kinlochshiel); Keith

MacRae (Kinlochshiel); Grant Irvine (Kyles Athletic); Andrew King (Kyles Athletic); Roddy MacDowell (Kyles Athletic); Daniel Grieve (Lovat); Stuart MacDonald (Lovat); Craig Mainland (Lovat); Greg Matheson (Lovat); Rory Kennedy (Newtonmore); Steven MacDonald (Newtonmore); Glen MacKintosh (Newtonmore); Michael Russell (Newtonmore); Daniel Cameron (Oban Camanachd).

Head Coach Ronald Ross is assisted this year by former Scotland U21 boss Garry Reid. Kevin Thain continues as forwards' coach as does Neil Bowman as head trainer.

## MacRae looks for improved showing

SCOTLAND U21 Head Coach Alan MacRae is looking for an improved performance from his side as he named his pool for the meeting with Ireland U21.

He is Alan MacRae's second year in charge of the young Scots. He said: 'The players have all come through a thorough selection process which has presented us with a strong, skilful squad who will hopefully entertain and look to restore some Scottish pride after last year's disappointing result. We are under

no illusion that it will be a tough competitive match and both the coaching team and the players are looking forward to the challenge.'

MacRae is able to include 12 players who faced the Irish last year.

The new caps are Glenurquhart's Lachlan Smith, Robert Mabon from Kingussie, Skye's Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod, Newtonmore duo Iain Richardson and Craig Ritchie and Fort William pair Alexander MacMillan and Calum

Shepherd.

Scotland U21 from: Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh); Alexander MacMillan (Fort William); Arran MacPhee (Fort William); Calum Shepherd (Fort William); Nick Dalgety (Glengarry); Lachlan Smith (Glenurquhart); Scott MacLachlan (Inveraray); Innes Blackhall (Kilmallie); Savio Genini (Kingussie); Calum Grant (Kingussie); Rory MacKeachan (Kingussie); Robert Mabon (Kingussie); Barry MacDonald

(Lochaber); Danny Kelly (Lovat); Iain Richardson (Newtonmore); Craig Ritchie (Newtonmore); Will Cowie (Skye Camanachd); John Gillies (Skye Camanachd); Ally 'Cleodi' MacLeod (Skye Camanachd).

Alan MacRae retains the same back-up team as last season.

Calum MacLeod and Ian McDonald are assistant managers; Davie McVey is head trainer whilst Lorna Forsyth continues as physio.

### Results

#### Saturday October 14

#### Marine Harvest Premiership Kyles Athl 5 v 3 Glasgow MA Newtonmore 5 v 0 Oban Camanachd

#### Marine Harvest National Division

#### Oban Celtic 1 v 2 Inveraray

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

#### Kinlochshiel P v P Beauly

Unplayable field

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

#### Ballachulish P v P Kilmory

Unplayable field

#### Bute P v P Glenorchy

Glenorchy unable to field a team, points to Bute

#### Lochside Rovers 8 v 0 Kyles Athl

Lochside Rovers 8 v 0 Kyles Athl

#### Taynuilt P v P Col Glen

Unplayable field

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

#### Boleskine P v P Lochaber

Boleskineunable to field a team, points to Lochaber

## Saints march on in West Cup

Braehead	0
Oban Saints	4
West of Scotland Cup – 3rd Round	

NORMALLY the threat of a trip to Braehead would fill any red-bloodied male with dread as it would inevitably entail an afternoon of drudgery being dragged by his better half around the shopping malls of the Intu Braehead Shopping Centre where insult would be added to injury in the shape of a substantial credit card bill.

On this occasion, however, the immeasurably more enjoyable prospect of a game of football was in store for the Oban Saints lads as they travelled south to face Braehead of the Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League in the third round of the West of Scotland Cup.

Manager Alex Craik was on holiday so assistant Donald Campbell took responsibility for team selection.

Saints started slowly allowing their opponents to settle and dictate the early exchanges. A sixth minute free-kick conceded by Craig MacMillan on the Braehead right gave Fraser O'Neil a chance to put a testing delivery into the Saints box. O'Neil found the head of Jason Hampsey nine yards out but his header lacked the power to seriously test Graham Douglas.

Operating in unfamiliar territory on the right of the front three, Scott Maitland won an 11th minute free-kick for a foul by Ryan Mulholland midway inside the Braehead half.



Paul Carmichael, Fraser MacFarlane and Scott Maitland congratulate Donald Campbell on his opening goal.

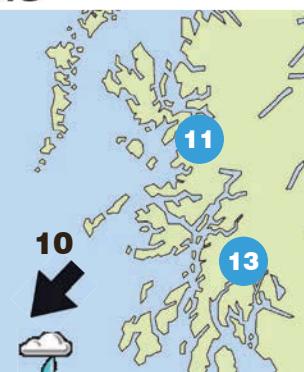


This headed effort from Craig Campbell flies over the bar.

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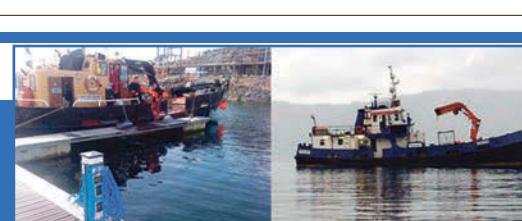


### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 19, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	05.17	3.9	11.26
Fri	05.48	4.0	12.04
Sat	00.30	0.9	06.18
Sun	01.03	1.0	06.48
Mon	01.35	1.1	07.18
Tues	02.09	1.3	07.50
Wed	02.46	1.5	08.25
			15.01
			1.7
			20.28
			3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)



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## Narrow win for Mull in West Highland derby

### Rugby

Isle of Mull	11
Lochaber	8
BT West Division 3	

AFTER a disappointing start to their season being beaten at home by Cowal 27-31, the men from Mull were at Garmany once again to face neighbouring Lochaber in what was their fifth game of the year.

Mull's 16-man squad included Sorley MacLachlan and Murdo MacLennan, coming through Mull's youth development programme and making their debut for the senior team.

The Islanders got off to a flying start, nearly scoring in the first five minutes when captain Sean Black made a break and passed to Craig O'Donnell who lost possession agonisingly close to the line.

Eventually, however, a loose ball skidded into the Mull half; Lochaber took possession and scored in the corner after taking it wide. They failed to convert and the score was 0-5.

The Islanders were finally rewarded with Sean Black once again breaking through after another loose ball was picked up and inching it over the line. No extras and the score was five apiece at half-time.

The second half saw Mull's scrummaging improve, but Lochaber remained dominant in the lineouts. It also saw Mull have the majority of possession as well as eventual kicking success, the boys in black, white and red going ahead with a penalty kick. Sgiro Ruadh's Alex Hall, making his debut for the home team, then had a try controversially disallowed for double movement.

A penalty in front of the post saw the visitors go level. With the game in the balance, James Gibbons gave the Muileachs a real scare after a clearance kick near his own try line sliced into the corner. Youngster Murdo MacLennan reacted quickly, catching it and going to deck. The match would be decided on what else but a penalty kick. Sean Black's conversion made the score 11-8 in the final few minutes.

Mull are on the road this Saturday, with a tough fixture against the in-form Glasgow Medics.

### Football



Shaun MacIver goes past Ryan Mulholland before unleashing an unstoppable volly past the helpless Braehead keeper.

### Football

run from the half-way line ended with Willie Gemmell looping a shot from the edge of the box into the gloves of Scott Fraser.

The Braehead keeper had similarly easy saves in the 83rd and 90th minutes. A good run from Keith Millar set up MacIver for a shot from the edge of the box and a Willie Gemmell free-kick onto MacIver's head both brought comfortable saves from Scott Fraser.

MacIver finally got the goal he so desperately wanted in the third minute added on by Mr Burns. Willie Gemmell and Daniel Croarkin linked up well on the right with Croarkin claiming the assist as MacIver rifled an unstoppable volley from 16 yards over the head of Scott Fraser and into the roof of the net.

Mr Burns blew for full time immediately after the restart sending Saints through to Tuesday's fourth round draw.

Donald Campbell said: 'I thought we played some good football today. Braehead were a decent side although they never put us under too much pressure.'

Saints return to league business on Saturday with a difficult away trip to the Donald Dewar Centre 3G pitch to take on the very much in-form Goldenhill.

### Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

#### Football

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, third round - Braehead 0, Oban Saints 4; East Kilbride Rolls Royce v Helensburgh postponed;

Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils v Barrhead Arky postponed; Premier Division Two – Carlton YM v Lochgilphead Red Star postponed; Tarbert 1, Castlemlie 5.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, third round - East Kilbride Rolls Royce v Helensburgh; Premier Division - Goldenhill v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Neilston v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Busby v Tarbert; Lochgilphead Red Star v Millbeg.

**WEATHER**

Thursday	Cloudy with light rain showers
	Winds moderate East South Easterly
	Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.
Friday	Cloudy
	Winds moderate North Easterly
	Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday
	Sunny intervals on Sunday
	Winds moderate easterly
	Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

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### Mòd Loch Abar 2017

The latest news and results from the 2017 Royal National Mòd



## Cinema group in desperate plea for funds

MARK ENTWISTLE  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

“We cannot continue without funds

Marie MacPherson  
Lochaner Cinema Group

WITH just £11 remaining in its bank account, the Lochaner Cinema Group says it is now struggling to continue its popular screening of films and events in local halls.

The group recently unveiled its plans to build a two-screen, 133 capacity cinema facility in the centre of Fort William during a public consultation session.

The detailed plans, which have been granted planning permission by Highland Council, outline how two units at Airds Cross (formerly Wynnes Butcher and Oceans takeaway) will be converted into a cinema with an estimated total cost in the region of £600,000.

But the group now has a more immediate problem caused by the lack of donations coming in, with the group's chairperson, Marie MacPherson, revealing that since the sponsored screening of a film a few months ago, there have been no further donations, despite approaching big business interests in the area.

'The group has survived on very little money for so long, but it has now got to the stage that we only have £11 to our name,' Ms MacPherson stated on the body's Facebook page. 'We cannot continue without funds. We cannot stage screenings and events. This is why we cannot have any more kids' screenings unless we have funds to pay for hall hire etc.'

from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). Ms MacPherson added that if the group can get the HIE grants it needs, that will cover 95 per cent of the cost.

'But we still need to find £8.5k to buy them which has a deadline of the end of November.'

'If we can't get anything before November a full-time cinema will not be possible. If we can secure the buildings the funding should follow for refurbishment.'

'We have worked really hard up to this point, but we need help from the community or all the work that's been put forward on the units will be lost.'

Confirming the bleak financial situation to the *Lochaner Times* this week, Ms MacPherson told us: 'We have been going for so long that people are beginning to get tired and we don't know what else to do to make sure we can buy this building.'

Ms MacPherson added that to continue with screenings of films in local venues over the next few months until spring, all that is needed was a small donation of £250 and money can be donated via an online fundraising page at [www.gofundme.com/community-screening-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/community-screening-fund).

As far as the new cinema project is concerned, the group is looking to purchase the two units it wants in a combined sale of £180,000, which is dependent on whether they secure funding

‘66



Claire Frances MacNeil with the Iain Morrison Memorial Trophy and the Charles MacColl Memorial Trophy outside the Duncansburgh Church. 21\_MOD42nf248

## Claire scoops prize dedicated to Lochaner Mòd stalwart

YOUNG Fort William singer Claire Frances MacNeil said she is honoured to have won a new trophy commemorating the late Lochaner Mòd stalwart, Charlie MacColl.

Claire, 17, from Torlundy, near Fort William, wowed the adjudicators on Tuesday afternoon in the 16-18 years traditional singing competition, taking home two trophies.

Her outstanding performance not only earned her the Iain Morrison Memorial Trophy for the girls' competition, but also won her the Charles MacColl Memorial Trophy, awarded to the singer with the highest overall mark in the boys and girls traditional competitions on Tuesday.

The Charles MacColl Memorial Trophy is a new addition to the traditional singing competitions at the Mòd and commemorates the late Charlie MacColl.

Charlie was chairman of the Lochaner local organising committee the last time it played host to the Mòd in 2007, and was a great champion of the Gaelic language and culture, and particularly the encouraging of young Gaelic learners, he spent more than 30 years fundraising for Mòds throughout Scotland.

For the full story visit [www.lochaner-times.co.uk](http://www.lochaner-times.co.uk).

Blackford hammers Gove over farm cash

LOCHANER MP Ian Blackford has blasted the Westminster Tory government, saying Scottish farmers will likely now lose out on hundreds of millions of pounds in convergence funding owed to them because the money has already been spent.

Mr Blackford said this became clear in his meeting, as SNP Westminster group leader, with Secretary of State for Rural Affairs Michael Gove.

Slamming as a 'blatant and shocking U-turn', the MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaner said despite promises to review it as far back as 2014 – reiterated in 2016 and 2017 – it now seems the UK government is not committed to keeping those promises and shows that the Tories 'are not to be trusted'.

In a letter to Mr Gove, Mr Blackford has asked for clarity on comments made suggesting money intended for Scottish farmers had in fact gone to Welsh, Northern Irish and English farmers instead.

'Scottish farmers are set to lose £160 million in funding because the UK government is breaking its promise to review convergence uplift funding,' Mr Blackford told us.

'The UK government only received this convergence funding because the payment rates in Scotland were historically much lower than elsewhere in the UK and among the lowest in Europe. The money was provided to address this – it belongs to Scottish farming.'



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## Insurance company agrees terms to settle over wrecked Fort health centre bus shelter

IT HAS been confirmed the insurance company responsible for signing off the claim for the wrecked bus shelter outside Fort William Medical Centre has now agreed the terms for a new structure to be manufactured, writes Mark Entwistle.

The Lochaner Times had contacted Bidwells, the managing agents acting on behalf of the landowner involved.

A temporary bus shelter was erected at the site in February after the original shelter was knocked down by a bus in July last year.

But the wooden temporary shelter has been the subject of much derision and criticism, particularly with the onset of autumn and more wet weather.

Former community councillor Mary

Bruce said it was ridiculous that almost 15 months after the original shelter was knocked down, people are still having to make do with the temporary wooden substitute.

'How has it taken almost 15 months and still nothing has been done?' she said.

'The weather has been dreadful recently and people are getting soaked by the rain and blown about by the wind. It doesn't even have a door on it to keep the bad weather out. It's just not good enough.'

Although the shelter serves those attending the town's health centre, NHS Highland has repeatedly stated that the responsibility for replacing the damaged structure lies with Bidwells.

'The responsibility for replacing

the bus shelter lies with Bidwells, the leasing agent,' said an NHS Highland spokesperson. 'A meeting has been arranged to discuss the issue with the leasing agent in the near future.'

However, Bidwells' James Allan has now told us: 'It has been a very drawn out process in terms of negotiations and communication with all parties concerned and we are now at the stage where some progress can be made.'

'We know this issue has been a major inconvenience for bus service users but the majority of the delays have been out-with our hands. We are very keen to get this resolved as speedily as possible and look forward to seeing the bespoke shelter in situ.'

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**WHAT'S ON**

■ Today (Thursday October 19) there will be a bake sale in aid of Fort William Town Team in the Community Hub on the parade. Sale starts 10am.

■ Tomorrow (Friday October 20), there will be a fundraising event inside the Fort William branch of the TSB in aid of brain injury charity Headway Highland. The event will run during bank opening times.

■ There will be an early Christmas Craft Fayre held in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall in Fort William, on Saturday October 21, from 11am-3pm.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre's committee is appealing for volunteers to help with the restoration of Kilmallie Community Gardens on Saturday October 21 from 10am to 1pm. Contact Sarah Kennedy on 0768 805040 for more information.

■ Staff and volunteers from Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care for Sight and Hearing Support will be paying an outreach visit to Morvern Medical Practice at Lochaline on Tuesday October 24, from 10.30am-12.30pm.

■ There will be an accordion demonstration at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William, on Wednesday October 25. Midi sound systems and accordions will be on display from 7pm. Admission free.

■ Lochaber Rotary Club is hosting the Audley Male Voice Choir to perform in concert at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church on Wednesday October 25 at 7.30pm. Tickets, available at the door or from the Alexandra Hotel reception desk, are £7 including tea/coffee and home-baking. All proceeds to Rotary charities.

■ Banavie Primary School primary six and seven pupils are organising a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. The event will be held at Banavie Primary School from 10am to noon on Friday October 27.

■ A craft fayre will take place on Saturday October 28 from 10am to 4pm in Nether Lochaber Hall, Onich. Contact Berit for more information on 01397 705539.

■ Last call for anyone wanting to attend the 30th Lochaber Cameron Highlander gathering on October 28 in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, starting at noon for lunch. For details contact Rory MacDonald, Blarour, Spean Bridge, or Jimmy Smith, 149 Kennedy Road, Fort William.

■ Lochaber Community Wind Band will give a charity concert on Sunday October 29, at 4pm, at Kilmallie Community Centre. Admission £5. Accompanied children free. In aid of Birchwood, Highland.

# All aboard the MacBrayne's bus for the Loch Abar Mòd!

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

TO God belongs the Earth, and all that it contains, except the Western Isles and they belong to MacBrayne's.

So goes the well-known verse that sums up just how integral a role the name MacBrayne's has played in the life and history of the West Highlands and Islands for at least 130 years.

And for that reason it is no wonder that one of the most nostalgic sights on the streets of Fort William during this year's Loch Abar Mòd has been vehicle enthusiast Lawrence Macduff's classic 1967 MacBrayne's bus, on hand to help promote event sponsor CalMac.

This is the seventh time that Ayrshire resident Lawrence has brought the now 50-year vehicle to a Mòd.

Bus and shipping firm MacBrayne's ordered her in 1967 for its Glasgow to Campbeltown service.

She transferred to Highland Omnibuses in Inverness in 1970 and worked in various locations until being sold in 1981 to the preservationists from whom Lawrence and a friend ultimately purchased the 49-seater built by AEC.

And with Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) as a proud headline sponsor of the Royal National Mòd, coupled with Lawrence's lifelong interest in MacBrayne's and its successor CalMac, it is no surprise



Lawrence Macduff with his classic MacBrayne's bus in Fort William this week.

*Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image*

that bringing his classic bus to a Mòd is always a highlight of Lawrence's year.

A retired banker, he has spent the last 17 years employed as a bus and coach driver, and this second career has given him the knowledge and contacts to ensure his MacBrayne's bus continues on in rude health into its second half century.

At the Loch Abar Mòd, the bus is parked up in the centre of Fort William for much of this week and staffed by CalMac

employees who are on hand to advise about ferry timetables and other travel information.

Lawrence himself is also on hand to greet visitors who might want to ask about the bus, resplendent in its green, cream and red classic MacBrayne's livery.

There is also a display of archive photographs of this bus in the windows, recalling its heyday on the West Coast routes, as well as all the other types of buses used in Fort William over

the years,' Lawrence told *The Lochaber Times* this week.

A clarsach enthusiast who has himself awarded some trophies during the Mòd, Lawrence says the restoration of the bus took four years and was completed in 1994.

He explained: 'I started using it as a promotional tool to help CalMac about seven or eight years ago, with the first Mòd I brought it to being the 2007 event in Fort William.

'She always draws quite a lot

of people and those of a more mature age who can remember MacBrayne's buses on these routes really love seeing her.'

Lawrence says there is a good chance this could be the vehicle's last Mòd appearance.

He said: 'I'm now 70 and getting on a bit so it might be – I'm not certain yet but as next year's Mòd is Dunoon – where CalMac does not have a presence – and then Glasgow the year after where it would be impossible to do this sort of thing, then this year's Mòd could be her last.'

'And if it is to be the final outing, where better than in Fort William, where this bus was actually used on a town service from 1968-70.'

Although MacBrayne's bought the bus for its Campbeltown service, it eventually proved unsuitable as the fixed glazed roof meant on sunny days passengers found themselves being slowly cooked.

'Somebody in the company said it was wetter in Fort William and that might be a better place for it and that's how it ended up here,' added Lawrence, who this week has actually spoken with several ex-drivers of his bus.

'It's wonderful to drive on the road, but she is hard work. But it's been a privilege to have owned her and I consider myself a custodian of a very special piece of not just Scottish transport heritage, but that of the West Highlands and Islands.'

**Swinney announces Gaelic and Mòd cash**

SCOTLAND'S Deputy First Minister John Swinney used his appearance at Friday night's opening ceremony for the 2017 Royal National Mòd in Fort William to announce more cash to fund Gaelic language and culture initiatives, writes *Mark Entwistle*.

The Scottish Government is awarding £35,000 to the Royal National Mòd towards Gaelic education initiatives and a further £20,000 of core funding every year from 2018.

Speaking at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on a celebratory evening of speeches and song, Mr Swinney said: 'This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Royal National Mòd – it is a much-valued part of Scottish cultural life and has made an immense contribution to Gaelic language throughout the country.'

'The Scottish Government is a strong supporter of our indigenous languages and we want to see all bodies working together to support and promote their use.'

'That is why, on top of the one-off funding for An Comunn Gàidhealach towards Gaelic education projects, I am pleased to confirm we will become a core funder of the Mòd. Our commitment of £20,000 a year will help ensure this important festival's future sustainability.'

Mr Swinney also announced £50,000 of development funding to MG ALBA towards the training of future writers, story editor and producers for Gaelic drama *Bannan*, to build on and help sustain the success of previous series.

Following the announcement, Allan Campbell, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: 'As the world's premiere Gaelic language festival, the Royal National Mòd is understandably costly to stage, and funding the event is an annual challenge for An Comunn Gàidhealach.'

'This announcement by the deputy first minister of an additional £20,000 annual grant from the Scottish Government for the Royal National Mòd is most welcome, and much appreciated.'

Officially opening the Mòd was local MSP Kate Forbes, who also chairs of the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Gaelic.

Speaking in Gaelic, she told the Nevis Centre audience that in the intervening years since the publication of Calum Maclean's seminal book, *The Highlands*, in 1959, in which the author lamented the dwindling number of Gaelic speakers, Gaelic had suffered many blows.

'Today, in Lochaber and the surrounding areas, we are seeing a Gaelic revival in many different forms – with the Fèisean, the Gaelic initiatives, Gaelic schools, Gaelic music, and indeed, the mòds,' she continued. 'Despite numerous setbacks and fears of decline, we are still here: speaking, singing and working in Gaelic. I, and all the other youngsters that were afforded the great opportunity of Gaelic education, are indebted to everyone that went to such efforts on our behalf and on behalf of Gaelic.'

'Too often, what appears in the newspapers about Gaelic is neither true nor reasonable. We need to call out the misrepresentation of Gaelic – because when Gaelic is attacked, we all bear the brunt of it.'

Ms Forbes added that research showed that Gaelic now contributed £148.5m to Scotland's economy every year.

## Mòd shop generates heaps of cash and laughter

A KILT sent to Canada, some old books to Sweden, a fiddle to Germany and a fascinator that the buyer intends wearing to the Melbourne Cup horse race in Australia.

These are just a handful of the items that have passed through the shop in Fort William's High Street which was opened last month to raise funds for this week's Royal National Mòd.

And if you need to ask anyone about the levels of excitement the Mòd brings to a town or area each year, just ask those who have staffed the Fort William shop for the last few weeks.

But as well as generating more than £5,000 for the Mòd, the shop appears to also have caused huge numbers of laughs for those who have volunteered to staff it.

Volunteer Theresa Ross told *The Lochaber Times* this week: 'The generosity of the people of the town and elsewhere for both giving and buying has been



Chrissie MacEachan cuts the ribbon to officially open the Mòd Shop on the High Street.

*Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image*

overwhelming. We've sold new kilts and old kilts; tweed jackets; leather jackets; old shows, new shoes; brogues and trainers; the fiddle went to Germany; the kilt and shirt to Canada; old books went to Sweden; jewellery to London and, would you believe it, a fascinator from the Mòd shop will be worn at the Melbourne Cup.'

And Theresa went on: 'The teas, all home-baking – a lot of it from Invergarry, especially the meringues – couldn't be surpassed.'

'We had great fun, the 'craic' was excellent. We chatted to folk we saw yesterday, folk we hadn't seen for years and folk we had never seen before.'

'And how many times have we heard 'What is the Mòd?' 'Do people still speak Gaelic?' and 'I thought it was a dead language'.'

'We've played traditional songs, music and the pipes and showed videos of past Mòds. People old and young wanted to

buy the 'for display only' small pipes, keyboards, Jimmy Shand records and the churn.'

'We can't believe how much some 'tourists' know about the area, but also how little some know – but they all want to know about the culture.'

'I thought the best was the person asking about Nicola Sturgeon's iron undergarments – 'how come she wears such tight clothes but you never see a panty line?'

'With the success of the Mòd shop – we've raised more than £5,000 in such a short space of time and had such fun – Isabel is continuing with the shop to raise much-needed funds for the Educational Trust.'

'So keep clearing folk, keep bringing in your stuff and keep buying.'

'Ceud, Ceud mile taing dhuibh mile - it has been a great pleasure for us all to be part of the Mòd. Suas leis a Ghàidhlig - thanks a million!'

## Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes cash for Gaelic medium early years' groups

BÒRD na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government announced grant funding to the tune of £107,911 for 40 Gaelic medium early years' groups at the Royal National Mòd in Fort William this week (Monday October 16).

The early years' scheme, which runs in conjunction with the Scottish Government's funds for children, young people, families, early intervention (CYPFEI) and adult learning and empowering communities (ALEC), is managed by Bòrd na Gàidhlig – the main public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic devel-

opment – in partnership with Comann nam Pàrant (The National Parents' Association).

The early years' groups carry out a range of activities which support young people and families to play and develop educationally through the medium of Gaelic.

The success of these groups is a crucial factor in the increasing demand for Gaelic medium education and provides support and encouragement at an early stage for families who want their children to benefit from bilingual education.

Many groups are run by volunteers, showing the

importance of the voluntary sector to Gaelic development, and are supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig's team of early years' workers.

In addition to this financial support, the bòrd works with groups on projects such as Bookbug training to enable them to run their own sessions locally through the medium of Gaelic, and has also recently launched a set of PlayTalkRead materials in Gaelic.

During the course of the year, the bòrd offers other financial support as well as covering insurance costs for early years' groups.

## View from the Chamber



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# Hiker climbing Ben 31 times in as many days

**MARK ENTWISTLE and NEILL BO FINLAYSON**  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

WHEN Andy Cole's doctor suggested 'going for a walk in the hills' as a way of helping the Blackpool resident's battle against depression, scaling Ben Nevis 31 times in 31 days might not be quite what the helpful GP had in mind.

Andy, 40, is now around the mid point of his marathon challenge and, as well as helping himself, he's also hoping to raise awareness of mental health issues plus raise much-needed funds for the local Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

'I was diagnosed with depression a year ago and the doctor suggested to get out in the hills,' said Andy with a slight smile on his face when he dropped into the *Lochaber Times* office after his first week of scaling Britain's highest peak.

'I'm a survivor of depression and I want to do something good and put something back. I like Scotland and want to move here eventually so that's why I chose to do the challenge on Ben Nevis.'

'I've been up here before and done a fair bit of walking in both summer and winter, so decided to push myself and do 31 walks in 31 days.'

Henry Marshall, who lives in Caol, is a friend of Andy and is accommodating him during the



Andy Cole returns from another climb of Ben Nevis as part of his challenge to scale the mountain 31 times in 31 days.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

31-day challenge – even giving Andy lifts to and from the start point at all hours of the day, including some 4am starts.

The two men met after Henry's cousin, who lived near Andy in Blackpool, encouraged Andy to come up walking in Lochaber.

As a result, Henry offered a room to Andy for a month. Henry also knows the members of the mountain rescue team and the rest, as they say, is history – albeit with the small exception of scaling the country's

biggest mountain enough times to equate to climbing Mount Everest almost five times.

Andy says the level of support he has had has been fantastic, saying: 'I've had support from people all around the world who are relating to what I'm doing. And I've still got a smile on my face and enjoying getting up on the hill – apart from the weather.'

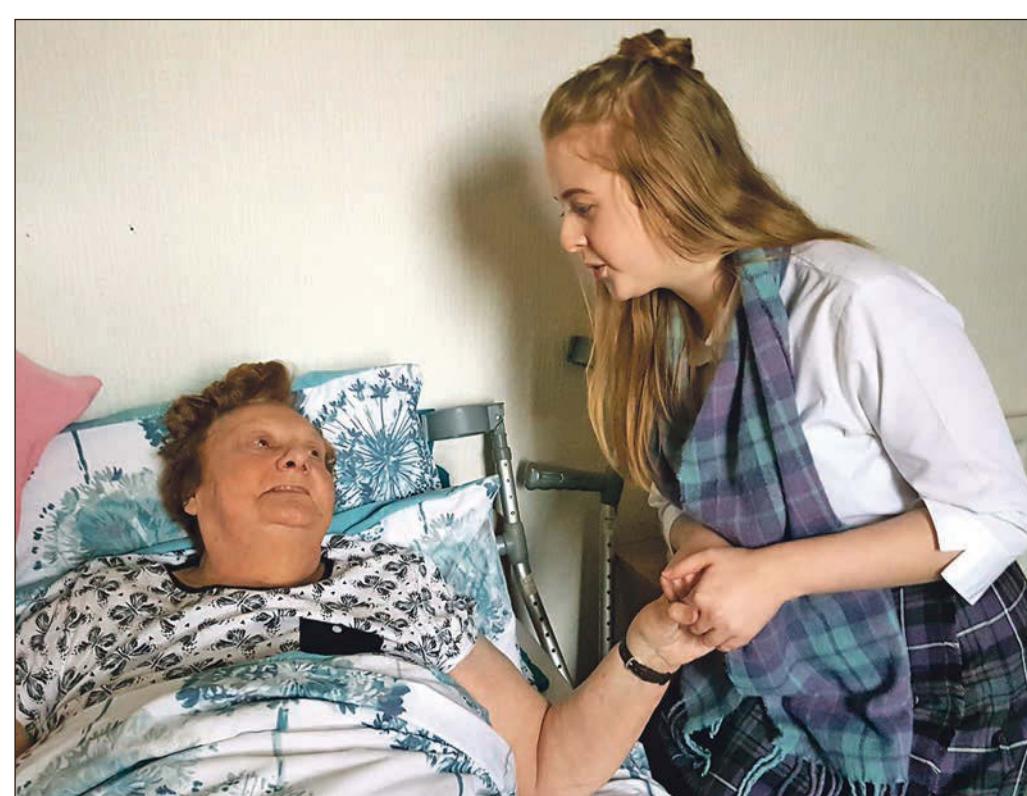
Andy revealed that the recent death of a friend who lost his battle with depression had given the climbs an emotional element. 'The whole challenge has a more personal touch now,' he said.

Andy met with the mountain rescue team after his first week of climbs and was delighted to be shown around the headquarters and was able to get a sense of scale of their operations.

The intrepid Blackpool adventurer says that one day he'd love to be able to join the team, adding: 'They're a good bunch of lads and lasses, and the work they do is so important.'

Anyone who would like to make a donation to Andy's challenge can visit his Justgiving page or check out his Facebook page, *The Lone Walker*.

Andy is also looking for more clothes and equipment as donations. He told us: 'My own boots, bags, etc are all wearing a bit thin already, so any contributions of equipment would be very welcome.'



Hannah Calder sings her entry for this year's Mòd to her former Gaelic teacher, Chrissie MacEachan, on a visit to Chrissie's home in Caol this week.

## The day the Mòd came to Chrissie in Caol...

IF ANYONE epitomises the Royal National Mòd it is Gaelic singer, Mòd gold medallist and choir conductor Chrissie MacEachan, of Caol, writes *Mark Entwistle*.

Countless singers and choirs have benefited from Chrissie's expert tutelage over the years, and this year, as in previous years, many of those competing and spectating were looking forward to greeting the Uist native at this week's Mòd in Fort William.

It was with disappointment, therefore, that people learned that a recent bout of ill health would prevent Chrissie from attending events. However, to ensure Chrissie,

82, did not miss out completely on the joys of the 2017 Mòd, long-time friend and fellow native Gaelic speaker, Theresa Ross hatched a plan.

'I thought if Chrissie couldn't get to the Mòd, then we'd bring the Mòd to her,' said Theresa, a native of Eriskay who now also lives in Fort William.

And so on Monday, Theresa, her son Iain and young local Mòd competitor Hannah Calder went knocking on Chrissie's front door.

Hannah, 18, is a former pupil of Chrissie and a gold medallist at a previous mòd. As well as being a prominent Gaelic singer and teacher,

Chrissie, who also won a gold medal at the Mòd in Skye in 1982, was conductor of the choir, *Coisir og Loch Abair*, and was made a Freeman of Lochaber in 2007.

There was no denying the delight on Chrissie's face when Hannah walked in to perform her entry for this week's solo singing competition.

'Chrissie looks forward so much to the Mòd that I didn't want her to miss out totally on it,' Theresa told us.

'She knows Hannah well, having taught her since she was just five or six years old and so she was overjoyed to see her and hear her sing.'

## Firefighters called to Corpach

FIREFIGHTERS from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was alerted at 11.48pm last Thursday to reports of a small fire within a building at BSW Timber at Corpach.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the SFRS told us: 'Operations control immediately mobilised two appliances and firefighters wearing breathing apparatus extinguished the fire.'

'Crews left the scene after ensuring the area was made safe.'

## Tourism cash welcomed

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has welcomed the announcement of a new tourism fund for rural Scotland.

The Scottish Government announced the new £6million fund in response to the tourism boom across rural Scotland. The money will be invested over the course of two years and will support a wide range of improvement projects, including parking, camping facilities, recycling points and footpath access.

## AHA sunflower pop-up cafe

LOCHABER Rural Education Trust's AHA (Active, Healthy, Achieving) Futures Group will be running its Sunflower pop-up cafe on Monday October 30 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

The cafe will also be open every Monday in November at the same time.

AHA Futures is a transition project supporting young people, which aims to unlock the potential of each individual, enhancing their life skills to help them create a brighter future for themselves.

Everyone welcome.

## Dad of family saved by Hogwarts Express praises all those involved

WHEN Stirling pastor Jon Cluett agreed to a request from a friend employed by the BBC to write up just a small story about the family's rescue in Lochaber by the steam train made famous by the Harry Potter books, little did he know how famous they would all become, writes *Mark Entwistle*.

The Jacobite steam train, which runs on the West Highland Line, has been immortalised in author J K Rowling's books as the Hogwarts Express, and the story recounting its part in the rescue of the Cluett family last Friday went viral.

News outlets from San Francisco to India picked up the story of how Jon, his wife Helen and the couple's four young children had been staying at the remote Essan bothy, on the south shore of Loch Eilt in Lochaber, when heavy rainfall caused their red canoe to be swept away by a swollen river.

The family faced a long trek back to their car across boggy ground and so Mr Cluett decided the safest option was to phone the police and mountain rescue and ask for advice on the



The Cluett family clamber aboard the 'Hogwarts Express'.

best route out. The solution the police came back with can only be described as magical.

The ever-helpful Highlands and Islands police headquarters in Inverness arranged for the next train on the nearby railway line to make an unscheduled stop to rescue the family.

To the delight of the Cluett youngsters, aged six, eight, 10

and 12, the next train just happened to be the world famous Jacobite steam train.

Mr Cluett explained: 'The amazing thing was it wasn't just any train. The next train that was passing was the Jacobite steam train – the Harry Potter Hogwarts Express.'

'After our friend did the story on Friday, we spent the next

two days fielding calls from the world's media. It was just crazy.'

'The situation wasn't dire. We hadn't done anything silly, but it was a bit tricky and I just felt the best decision was to ask the police for advice and, I have to say, they were fantastic.'

'It just happened to be the Jacobite – I doubt there would have been so much interest if it had been the 11.40 diesel service to Mallaig!' Mr Cluett laughed.

Mr Cluett says in his 20 years of living in Scotland, he has always found people helpful and generous.

He said: 'This turned into a great adventure, in a great part of the world, helped by some great people – on Sunday there were people actually out hunting for our missing boat.'

'Nobody got hurt and I think one of the reasons, aside from the Harry Potter element, that it has proved such a popular story around the world is it involved people helping each other out.'

'At a time when the news from around the world can be quite dark, this was a story that, I think, made people smile.'

## Ballachulish Bridge set to close overnight in final phase of works

THE ONGOING £400,000 maintenance works at Ballachulish Bridge on the A82 are set to enter their final phase.

The bridge works began in September to carry out essential maintenance to the expansion joint at the north end of the bridge.

Following the successful removal of the old joint, the final phase will be to install the new expansion joint to ensure the bridge continues to function safely for years to come.

To allow teams to safely access the full width of the road, the bridge will be closed for four nights over the next week, starting on Sunday, followed by Monday, Thursday October 26 and Friday October 27, between

10pm and 6am each night. During the four overnight closures light vehicles will be diverted via the B863 to Kinlochleven, adding an estimated 30 minutes to the journey.

Due to the width of the B863 carriageway and the presence of a bridge with existing restrictions, this route is unsuitable for HGVs so they will be diverted via Spean Bridge, Laggan and Perth.

Alternatively, HGVs will be stacked at either side of the bridge until the closure is lifted at 6am. Consultation with the Road Haulage Association, Freight Transport Association and local hauliers has been carried out to ensure they are made aware of these restrictions, and instead

encourage them to travel outwith the closure hours or find an alternative route.

During the overnight closures, additional bridge maintenance will be carried out to take full advantage of working on the bridge deck when it is safe to do so. This will include repairing damaged overhead beams and installing new street lighting on the bridge deck.

All local residents, businesses, transport services, emergency services and the local authority have been updated on the planned dates for the closure.

Commenting on the improvements, Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west representative, told us: 'The ongoing works at Ballachulish

Bridge have been making good progress since they began in September as we now turn towards the final stage.

'The road closures are essential to allow our teams safe access to the centre of the bridge, as well as protect motorists from the heavy machinery in use.'

'The closures have been planned to avoid clashing with the Royal National Mòd and the busier October holidays, and our teams will do all they can to keep disruption to a minimum during the overnight closures.'

'We encourage motorists to plan their journeys in advance by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up to date journey information and planning ahead.'

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FW

# Skye college reaches historic milestone at graduation

NEIL FINLAYSON

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SABHAL Mòr Ostaig UHI, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, marked another significant milestone in its history last week when the total number of graduates from the college, since graduations began in 1985, topped 1,000.

At the annual graduation ceremony on Friday October 6, 67 students graduated from the various University of the Highlands and Islands' undergraduate and postgraduate programmes which the college offers, meaning the overall number of students to have graduated from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI now stands at 1,052.

College vice principal and director of studies John Norman MacLeod said: 'We are particularly delighted more than 1,000 students have gained degrees and other advanced awards through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, with many of those graduates engaged in careers and initiatives with Gaelic language maintenance and revival at their heart.'

In addition to celebrating the academic achievements of students, Rev Dr Roderick MacLeod, originally from North Uist, and John MacLeod, from Lewis, were awarded the Sàr Ghàidheal honour in recognition of their contribution and dedication in support of the Gaelic language



College board member Sine Ghilleasbuig gives the graduation lecture.

and culture across a wide range of fields.

Professor Boyd Robertson, principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, said: 'The recipients of this year's Sàr Ghàidheal (Supreme Gael) awards are well-known in the Gaelic world and deserving of the honour. They have the good of Gaelic at heart and their deeds and achievements in support of the language have been remarkable.'

This year's graduation lecture was delivered by Sine Ghilleasbuig, a member of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI's board and a former student, who has been promoting and supporting Gaelic development and arts in



All of this year's graduates.



Rev Dr Roderick MacLeod receiving his Sàr Ghàidheal honour from professor Boyd Robertson.



College director Aideen O'Malley presenting John MacLeod with his Sàr Ghàidheal honour.

the community for many years. In her lecture she said: 'I offer my congratulations to each and every student who graduated from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig this

year. Many are milestones we have shared during the years since we first opened in 1973. As a student here myself on more than one course, I spent some

of the happiest years of my life at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Whether in the classroom, the library or the ceilidh house, I consistently found warmth, encouragement and kindness. I am proud Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has stayed true to its educational vision and that we have a strong and independent spirit here.'

New fund to alleviate tourism pressures

LOCAL groups in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch are being encouraged to apply to the Scottish Government's new £6million Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund by constituency MSP Kate Forbes.

The money, in response to the tourism boom across rural Scotland, will be invested over two years (2018/19 and 2019/20) and, says the government, will help ensure the services and facilities tourists and communities need are provided.

The new fund will support a wide range of improvement projects including parking, camping, recycling points and footpath access in Skye and Fort William as well as at Historic Environment Scotland sites.

Ms Forbes commented: 'The tourist industry is vital to the Highland economy and attracts visitors from all over the world each year. The new fund will help cater to the very welcome increasing tourist numbers in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch and help alleviate pressure on transport and services. This support for infrastructure will enable even more people to enjoy this most beautiful country in the world and is an example of the Scottish Government listening to and responding to the needs of rural Scotland.'

Details on the application process will be available soon.

## Skye civic awards

COMMUNITIES across Skye and Raasay have until Wednesday November 29 to enter the 2017 Eilean a' Cheò civic awards.

This is the seventh year of the awards which are organised by Ward 10 Highland councillors to recognise people from all age groups and walks of life who have contributed to the success and well-being of their local communities. All nominees must be resident on the isle of Skye or Raasay and be able to demonstrate their actions or activities have resulted in a significant benefit and deserve recognition.

Councillors will consider all applications and awards will be presented at a ceremony in Portree at the ward forum on Monday December 18. Nomination forms are available on the Highland Council website and should be returned to ward manager Willie MacKinnon at willie.mackinnon@highland.gov.uk by November 29.

## Skye graduate Hannah named Highland student of the year

A DETERMINED Skye student has been named University of the Highlands and Islands' Student of the Year 2017 despite having to attend classes via video link from her hospital bed.

Graduate Hannah McDiarmid from Torvaig, Skye, who was also named Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI Student of the Year, has been recognised for her unstinting dedication and determination in her studies.

Hannah graduated with a BA (Hons) Gaelic Language and Culture while managing cystic fibrosis, a chronic, life-limiting

condition which affects the lungs and the digestive systems.

Speaking about her award, Hannah said: 'I chose to study Gaelic because I have an interest in languages and, after learning a bit in school, I wanted to carry on and learn more about the culture as well. It's an honour to receive this award, especially as I wasn't brought up speaking Gaelic and I will always be thankful to everyone at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, at home and from the cystic fibrosis team for their kind support and encouragement.' Enrolled as a

distance-learning student with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, she has now successfully completed her degree from her home in Torvaig.

Hannah was nominated for the award by her programme leader Mark Wringe. He explained: 'When she first appeared on a video link from a hospital bed, she carried on in such a matter of fact, nothing to remark on way, I wished her well and didn't ask questions.'

'I took her lead in carrying on as normal, not feeling I should expect her to volunteer information.'

I have only recently gained an idea of what it must have taken for Hannah to have such a normal, uninterrupted student journey. My respect for her wish to achieve her goal on the same basis as anyone else is enormous.

It's ironic that her reliable, regular performance was, in fact, anything but normal.'

Lesley Blaikie, a cystic fibrosis nurse specialist with NHS Highlands, is part of the medical team which cares for Hannah. She said: 'Hannah always put her study first. Even being admitted to hospital didn't deter her. She would lay books on her bed and have her laptop to hand for dial-in sessions.'

'This determination did not go unrecognised by medical staff. It has been humbling for us all to see how this young lady has not let her ill health define who she is.'

Hannah received a certificate at the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI graduation ceremony on Friday October 6. She hopes to continue to learn about Gaelic and practice it as much as possible.

## Councillors defend decision to refuse Storr land transfer

“

It has been humbling for us all to see how this young lady has not let her ill health define who she is.' Lesley Blaikie

SKYE councillors have explained the reasons behind Highland Council's decision to reject a request from a community group to transfer land at a popular Skye tourist spot.

Staffin Community Trust wanted to buy ground beside the road to build a new car park, public toilets and information points at the Old Man of Storr but council members refused the trust's request.

Councillor John Gordon provided the following statement on behalf of Skye's four elected council members: 'It is not the principle of a project to develop facilities at the Storr site or reluctance by Highland Council to transfer assets under the Community Empowerment Act which led to the refusal of the asset transfer request.'

'However, members can confirm that a meeting took place on October 3 between Highland Council officers and representatives of Staffin Community Trust and that a further meeting has been scheduled to meet with the trust's board at the end of October. An invitation has also been extended to Kate Forbes MSP to meet with her to provide more information on the decision.'

Councillor Gordon's statement comes after Skye MSP Kate Forbes said she was 'hugely disappointed' in the council's decision to reject the community-led buyout, saying it was 'out of step with the spirit of community empowerment'.

## BBC chief to deliver lecture

BBC SCOTLAND director Donald MacKinnon will deliver this year's Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture on Thursday November 2 at e-Sgoil, Frances Street, Stornoway.

The lecture is aimed at continuing Angus Macleod's legacy as well as drawing further attention to the rich store of materials bequeathed by his family and now available at the museum and archive at

Ravenspoint. Donnie Morrison, of Comunn Eachdraidh na Pàirc, which has organised the annual lecture for the last 13 years in conjunction with the Islands Book Trust and the family of Angus 'Ease' Macleod MBE, added: 'I am delighted Donald MacKinnon has found time in her busy schedule to give this year's memorial lecture. She is an excellent speaker with an intimate knowledge of the islands.'

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UHI Student of the Year 2017 Hannah McDiarmid.



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Sister Diane Moore presents St Columba Primary School with a painting of St Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison.

## Sister Diane bids fond farewell to Lochaber

**MARK ENTWISTLE**

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MANY people would probably think that for an Australian more used to the sunny climes of Down Under, four years in the less balmy, rain-lashed glens of Lochaber would be long enough.

Not so, however, for Sister Diane Moore of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, who is heading back to Australia today having completed her time in Scotland.

The order has a small convent in Caol which serves the memory of Australia's first saint, Melbourne-born Mary MacKillop, whose mother, Flora MacDonald, was born in Fort William and later lived in Roy Bridge, while her father, Alexander, was born in Perthshire. The order, often called the Joseph-

ites, was founded in South Australia in 1866 by Mary MacKillop and the Rev Julian Tenison Woods. There is a shrine to the Blessed Mary MacKillop at St Margaret's Church in Roy Bridge and she visited the village in the 1870s.

Pope Benedict XVI canonised MacKillop in 2010 almost 100 years after her death. Attending the special mass were hundreds of nuns from the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart – the order MacKillop helped found.

MacKillop spent her life helping the poor and needy, including Australia's aboriginal population.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times* earlier this week, ahead of her flight home to Australia today (Thursday), Sister Diane said she was heartbroken to finally be leaving Fort William.

'I was originally only supposed to have stayed for three years but managed to get my time here extended for another year,' she told us.

'I have just loved it here and will miss this place and the people so very much.'

Sister Diane's order has operated the convent in Caol for 12 years and the nuns tend the shrine at Roy Bridge and speak to visitors interested in the life of Australia's first saint.

In Scotland, Sister Diane – who is succeeded in Caol by Sister Ann Leesue – and her predecessors, have, among other roles, worked to promote the life and spirituality of Saint Mary MacKillop and provide pilgrimage opportunities to places in the area that are significant in the nun's story.

'People here cling to Mary because

of her Scottish heritage and because of her family links with this area. It has been a wonderful, amazing, experience for me to have lived here, among some of Mary's blood descendants.'

'So I will be really sad to leave. To be honest, I am more of a winter person and returning to Melbourne and the heat of an Australian summer will not be enjoyable!'

'When I first came here I acclimated almost immediately – except for the midges, which I've never got used to.'

'Sadly, because Australia is so far away, it is extremely unlikely I will ever be able to return to Lochaber, but it has been a wonderful privilege to have lived here and the memories I will take back ... oh, the memories. So special. Snow on the Ben ... I will miss seeing that.'

## Warrant issued for missing Fort man

A WARRANT was granted to apprehend Fort William man Martin Matthews after he failed to appear at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Matthews, 58, whose address was given as Brown Court in the town, was due to appear on charges of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at another man in the underpass between Middle Street and Macfarlane Way in Fort William on April 30 this year.

Matthews is further charged with assaulting the same man by spitting on him.

The case had been continued without plea until last week, but procurator fiscal deputy Alison Young told Sheriff William Taylor that the complaint remained unserved due to difficulty in tracing Matthews.

'My understanding is that Mr Matthews might be living rough and living a nomadic lifestyle down in London,' she added.

Sheriff Taylor granted her request for a warrant to apprehend Matthews.

## Fort knitter left disappointed at Mòd showcase confusion

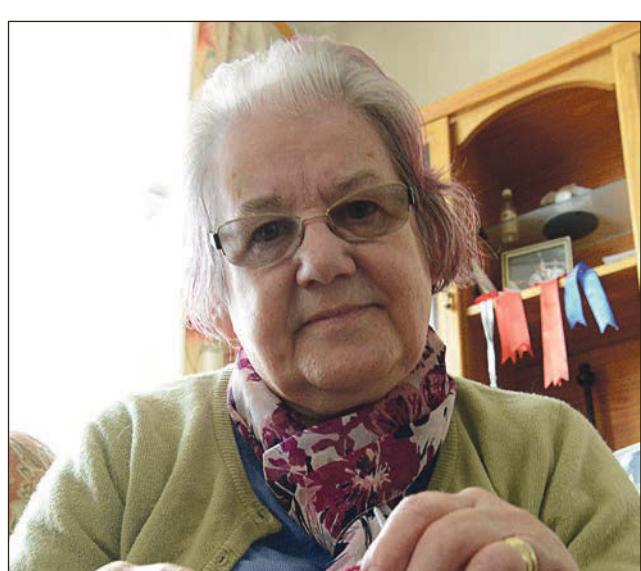
ONE of Lochaber's best known crafts workers says she is bitterly disappointed with organisers of this year's Royal National Mòd after she claimed her eight-month-old booking for a table at this week's Gaelic Showcase event in Fort William was changed without warning at the last minute, writes Mark Entwistle.

Isabel MacPhee is probably one of the last traditional handknitters of kilt socks, certainly in Lochaber, if not Scotland.

Mrs MacPhee has been knitting for 70 years and for the last 20 of those has been turning out her much sought-after kilt socks under her own Glen Isla knitwear label.

She told us: 'I booked a table for the event in the Nevis Centre way back in February and, when I checked again in the summer, was told everything was fine,' she said this week.

'But then just recently I was informed they didn't know anything about my booking and I couldn't have a whole table and would have to settle for the end of one and share with someone else.'



Isabel MacPhee has been left bitterly disappointed.

'It seems to be all about trade stands as opposed to smaller craft folk like me – local people seem to be getting squeezed out, which is a shame.'

'It's disappointing because I've always been a supporter of the Mòd,' added Mrs MacPhee, who is volunteering at the Mòd in Fort William

and has raised funds for the event in the past.

And she was intending selling her socks at this week's showcase as a way of helping raise funds for the junior Mòd in June.

John Morrison, chief executive at An Comunn, said: 'We always work hard to accommodate as many supporters

of the Royal National Mòd as possible, as we're extremely grateful for their efforts.'

'Demand for space at the Gaelic Showcase is high and the available space is limited so, while we aim to cater to all requests, it's not always possible for us to provide everyone with as much space as we would like.'

'However, we do thank each and every volunteer for their support, as they're the ones who really help to make the Mòd a success.'

Mrs MacPhee turned her hand to kilt socks to help out her late husband, Hughie, a well known piper. 'Since then demand for them has steadily increased, with a lot from people going to weddings, but mostly from other pipers,' she said. 'I put a double heel into them so they last longer – I think that's one of the things they like most about the socks.'

Mrs MacPhee was taught how to knit as a child by her father from Islay. 'My father taught me how to knit using a cockerel's feather and grey sock wool – that's how long ago it was!'

## Audley Male Voice Choir set to perform in Fort William

FOR THOSE who have had their musical appetite whetted for top quality choirs thanks to the Mòd, Lochaber Rotary Club will host the renowned Audley Male Voice Choir to perform in concert at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church on Wednesday October 25 at 7.30pm.

This 55-strong choir, founded in the mid-1950s, is including Fort William in its Scottish tour. An impressive and varied programme comprising traditional, classical and modern pieces



will also include soloists by choir members and the choir accompanist on the organ.

The choir has performed at the Royal Albert Hall and at Glasgow Cathedral.

It has an enviable fundraising reputation and a long association with Rotary.

Rotary president Donald McCorkindale said: 'This is a charity concert not to be missed.'

'Tickets, priced £7, can be bought in advance from the reception desk at the Alexandra Hotel or at the door on the night. This includes tea/coffee and home baking and all the proceeds go to charity, and I look forward to a good turnout.'

## Fort man on slippery slope to prison

A FORT William man who exposed himself was warned by a sheriff he was on the slippery slope to a prison sentence after admitting a raft of offences.

Vadims Prohorovs, 23, of Carn Dearg Road, Claggan, appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Prohorovs had pleaded guilty to exposing himself at a popular swimming spot in Glen Nevis, and beckoning one of the youngsters to come over to him, all while on bail.

Sheriff William Taylor also heard that Prohorovs had admitted stealing items, including jackets, trousers, alcohol and food, and a charge of careless driving.

Procitor fiscal depute Alison Young told the court Prohorovs had been swimming in the river at Glen Nevis on July 18.

Ms Young explained the weather had been pleasant and there were a number of people, including youngsters, swimming in the river.

She said Prohorovs had stripped down to his boxer shorts to go for a swim then walked up on top of rocks and exposed himself.

He also tried to beckon one of the youths to come over to him.

A number of people phoned the

police and Prohorovs told officers he had lost his pants when he jumped in the water.

Prohorovs's solicitor, Stephen Kennedy, said his client had alcohol dependency problems and that Prohorovs had told him the children were mocking him.

'He accepts he was intoxicated and is full of remorse. He is a man with no income, no career prospects and no motivation,' Mr Kennedy told the court last week.

Sentencing Prohorovs, Sheriff William Taylor warned him: 'I think you are in danger of being on the slippery slope to a prison sentence.'

'But given your youth and the attitude you have adopted to this offence, I am prepared to give you one final chance. I sentence you to carry out a community payback order of 200 hours within one year.'

'In addition, there will be a supervision order of one year with the condition attached that you are treated for alcoholism.'

'But I make it plain: if you do not do these hours or you do not conform with the supervision order, you will come back to the court and find the alternative of prison at the top of the list for the sheriff who deals with it.'

'This is very much your last chance.'

## Fort drink driver fined £400 and banned for a year

A FORT William motorist was fined £400 and banned from driving for a year when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Graham Grassam, 32, of Camachan Crescent, Fort William, had

pledged guilty on August 12 this year to driving a car on various roads in Fort William, as well as in the car park of the town's shinty club, with a breath alcohol level of 47mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 22mg.

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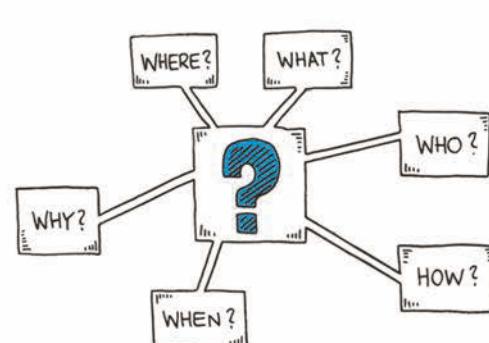
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## Lochaber residents urged to give views on free transport

THE AGE Scotland charity is urging Lochaber residents to take part in a survey on the future of Scottish Government-funded free transport.

The consultation, open to people of all ages, closes on Friday November 17.

The charity, together with Highland Senior Citizens Network, will be hosting a presentation about the concessionary transport scheme at a meeting in Kilmallie Free Church, Caol, Fort William, on Wednesday October 25. The consultation has been organised by the Scottish Government on the future of the scheme, including a proposal to raise the eligibility age to 65, in line with the women's state pension age, to save money.

At present, everyone is entitled to a free bus pass when they reach 60, with 1.3 million pass holders making 145 million journeys each year.

Transport Minister Humza Yousaf has stressed no-one will lose their pass if the age is raised.

Keith Robson, Age Scotland's charity director, said: 'We know how much older people value and use the concessionary scheme and it can be a real lifeline for many. We'd encourage everyone to make sure their voices are heard.'

The presentation will include input from Lochaber Transport Forum and Lochaber Access Panel.

The meeting will also feature the charity's Money Matters roadshow with advice on everything from pensions to budgeting. It provides an opportunity for older people's groups across Lochaber to meet up to share news and access information and support.

For more information or to join Age Scotland, email [members@agescotland.org.uk](mailto:members@agescotland.org.uk) or phone 0333 323 2400.

Everyone can respond to the consultation at [consult.scotland.gov.uk](http://consult.scotland.gov.uk) or by calling 0131 244 0781.

## Morvern

A NEW project to improve ex-offenders' chances of finding long-term employment on leaving prison in being based in Morvern.

The R-Affordable Homes project, a partnership between Roderick James Architects LLP, The Oswin Project and VELUX, will see two former offenders build an affordable home prototype on the Lochaber peninsula.

The former offenders will be given paid work and taught construction skills including installing roof windows, bricklaying, plastering, carpentry and painting and decorating.

Anthony is the first ex-offender to learn new skills at the pilot scheme social housing site in Morvern. He said: 'I got involved with the R-Affordable project at a time of my life where I didn't really think I'd ever get back on my feet. It was difficult to understand why anyone would want to help. I was introduced to the project by the Oswin Project and found the idea interesting and poignant because it was targeted toward ex-forces and wasn't looking at the past but to a future.'

Richard McLachlan, area manager at VELUX, has been overseeing the project in Morvern. He said: 'The R-Affordable Homes project is an exciting and worthwhile cause. We're really pleased to offer a helping hand to ex-offenders, including Anthony, who have spent invaluable time on-site.'

## Caol

STAGECOACH has responded to concerns voiced by Lochaber Transport Forum's bus users group over the reliability of the 8.22am service from Caol to Fort William.

The bus users group had complained the service was meant to be every 30 minutes but on some occasions the buses did not turn up. There had also been problems with bus drivers missing out part of the route.

In his response, Stagecoach's Mark Whitelocks, told the group: 'Ensuring services operate reliably is our key focus. We regularly carry out monitoring of our services to ensure they are operating correctly and take all practical steps to ensure we can provide a reliable service.'

'We are always pleased to receive feedback that helps us to identify and resolve issues where journeys are not operating correctly. We will investigate these issues further.'

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## Care Lochaber car club celebrates 20th birthday

Care Lochaber members celebrated the 20th anniversary of their car club with a celebration in the shinty club last week. Cutting cake are, from left, the longest-serving members Davie Kerr, Kath Small and Jimmy Vaughan.

## Onich

### Old phonebox gets new lease of life as defibrillator base

A FORMER phone box in Onich now houses a portable defibrillator in case of medical emergencies.

The old phone box, which no longer has a working phone in it, had been used to store copies of newspapers for residents who had not managed to get to the local shop during opening hours.

Volunteers from Nether Lochaber Community Association worked with members of the local community council to re-paint the vintage red phonebox, outside the Onich Shop and Cafe.

Training courses in the use of the defibrillator plus CPR are to be run for interested residents at the village hall.

This is the last of three

defibrillators to be installed in South Lochaber, with the others available in Glencoe and Ballachulish.

Iain Jenner, chairman of Nether Lochaber Community Council, says the defibrillator project has been a joint effort between the council and the community association.

The community council focussed on the fund-raising, while the community association organised the renovation work on the phone box,' Mr Jenner said.

'The money needed was raised through fund-raising events and we also received a lot of donations for which we are grateful. This is a very valuable asset for the local community to have in case it is ever needed during an emergency.'



From left; Neil Slinger, chairman of North Lochaber Community Association; Lawson Taylor, Onich Tearoom and shop, and Iain Jenner, chairman of Nether Lochaber Community Council with the new defibrillator. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Town Team gets Fort canopy update

Fort William Town Team held its monthly meeting last week and one of the items up for discussion was the long-running saga of a canopy for Cameron Square.

The meeting heard Sarah Kennedy has been researching retractable canopies and had obtained pictures and a quotation for a canopy measuring

7m x 4m x 3.5 m high. The cost of this would be around £18,000 plus VAT.

There is a deadline of December for any plans to be resubmitted to Highland Council, otherwise another planning fee would be levied.

Other topics discussed included a suggestion Fort William has an annual gala week, including parades along

High Street. The meeting thought it would be better if a separate organisation took this forward as the town team's committee puts a lot of effort into the Christmas Gathering and the fledgling Winter Festival.

Everyone agreed they would love to see Highland Games return to Fort William.

## Trainee and student reach SQA Star Awards finals

A TRAINEE from Fort William and a West Highland College UHI student from Skye, have reached the finals of this year's SQA Star Awards.

The annual awards celebrate success and recognise the best in education and training.

Finalists will gather at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, on Friday November 3 for the ceremony, hosted by TV personality Kaye Adams.

William Grant, of Fort William, is one of three finalists in the Training Organisation Candidate of the Year category.

William had many barriers to overcome and left school with no qualifications. He was failing to meet the demands of his first work placement when Skills Development Scotland suggested West Highland College UHI might be able to help and referred him for the Employability Fund.

The Employment and Development Team encouraged and supported William and helped him complete an SQA 3 Employability Award and gain several industry-recognised awards.

This built William's confidence and motivation and transformed his potential as a prospective future employee. As a result, his work placement hours with Morrison Plumbing were increased and led to a modern apprenticeship in domestic plumbing and heating.

A company spokesperson said: 'William is a pleasure to work with. He is very much in demand to assist our tradesmen when

going out on jobs and has grown into a confident, articulate young man.'

Fiona Grant, assistant principal, quality, learning and teaching, added: 'Having already won an award from the Scottish Training Federation last month, we are doubly delighted William's efforts, supported by our hard-working employment and development team, are once again being recognised by a national organisation.'

Joining William at the awards will be Danielle Stewart of Kyleakin, Skye, who studied Higher Photography at West Highland College UHI in Broadford. She has been named as one of three finalists in the award for college candidate of the year.

Got a story for the Lochaber Times? Call 01397 703003

## RETRO Roamer

### More items from the late 1980s

□ A couple came down the steps from the transport centre into the underpass. They were very 'Glesca' and talking animatedly. The wife pointed at the interwoven Celtic scroll and plaited crosses painted onto the wall fascia directly above the tunnel entrance. In particular, she was seeking to unravel the words 'Ceud Mile Failte'. In so doing she enquired of her bunneted spouse: 'What do they mean Jimmy?' Jimmy took the query in his stride. Seriously. 'Mind yer head,' he said.

□ When it comes to completing formal forms, many town shopkeepers must be tempted to write the occasional rude word in the boxes provided. In a current High Street shop survey, via a questionnaire issued by Highland Council, retailers are being asked to advise the previous use of the premises - 'if known'.

Only the proprietors of the Book Nook in MacRae's Lane, which took over the former single storey building where Hamish Macpherson had his shoe repair business, were able to answer the questionnaire with true feeling. 'Cobblers' was the word they wrote in the box.

□ Lochaber High School pupils have been reminded that the wearing of jerseys, track suits and scarves in football colours - including those of the Scottish national team - is not allowed in school. A sign of the times, indeed. In my day, in Fort William Senior Secondary, the teaching staff would have had difficulty knowing if we were wearing team colours. George Baird, for example, supported Stenhousemuir and Davie Allan was a Raith Rovers fan. We even had a Queen of the South follower. They might have recognised a Jambo jersey though - because we won the League Cup in 1954.

□ You'll have read of the couple who got on the wrong train at Fort William last Thursday and landed in Spean - when they thought they were en route for Mallaig. The Glasgow and Mallaig trains had stood side by side at Fort William Station and they had boarded the Glasgow one. They got out at Spean and spoke to station staff. After a phone call to 'mission control' at Banavie, a taxi was sent to get them on the right railroad. Shades of 30 years ago at the old station. Glasgow and Mallaig trains at adjacent platforms. Along platform one came a guard from the bookstall end shouting 'Mallaig train!'. Simultaneously the other guard was starting from the kissing gate end, onto platform two, with the cry also of 'Mallaig train!'. All the passengers grabbed their luggage and prepared to transfer till the guards realised their lines were crossed.

□ I'm sure it was just - or unjust - coincidence, but did you see the photograph of Ian Lang in the paper last week with the Fort William and Lochaber Tourist Board hierarchy? There was the minister shaking hands with Bruce Simpson with Alan Kirk and Ian Milton looking on. All four of them were smiling as befits a quartet of professional young men. And behind them? The West Highland Museum with its polished brass plate. No sign of the tourist information centre.

□ Tayeshi Taketsuru from Japan, and the kilted Colin Ross from Fort William, took centre stage on Friday as Ben Nevis Distillery went back into production. That's a real boost for Lochaber. Tayeshi Taketsuru is distillery chairman and Colin Ross the managing director. A wee bit unusual, perhaps, for the leading light of a whisky distillery to have the initials 'TT'.

□ Nice spell of weather we're having. So it was doubly unfortunate some of us had to spend most of Tuesday at a Lochaber District Council meeting and that the discussions should be acrimonious and singularly lacking in good humour. For the first time I can recall there was no repartee, no levity. Nothing but carping and points scoring. Even the lunchtime recess caused friction, with one councillor walking out after proclaiming the hotel meal served in the chamber was 'excessive'. She stated she preferred soup and sandwiches, both for sustenance and for the protection of the public purse.

After all the beefing at the meeting, it came as no surprise to discover what was on the members' menu - beef! While all this was going on, the district councillors' regional counterparts were also sitting down to a three-course lunch at one of Lochaber's quality hotels. It's not only armies that march on their stomachs, you know.

□ Down at the West End of Fort William on Sunday afternoon, something stirred. The winds of change blew in from the direction of Downie's Boathouse and blew down John Steel's hyperhot billboards prompting John to remark: 'Aye, well, that'll be the gondola on Aonach Mor then.' It was, in conjunction, of course, with all the Nevis Range windspeed indicators.

□ Minnie Poppins travelled from Corpach to Lochy Bridge on a red bus. Went to buy a paper at the Road to the Isles. But no purse. Left it on the bus. Along comes a green bus. Minnie hops on board, explains her predicament and sets off in pursuit of the red one. Somewhere up around Perth Place the two buses meet. Minnie jumps out of the green bus and boards the red one - again. Finds her purse. Nae problem. Pays the driver of the green bus and stays on the red bus for the trip back to Lochy Bridge. Pays for her paper. Leaves the shop. It's raining. Goes to put up her umbrella. Hasn't got it. Where is it? Aye, she left it on the green bus. Along comes a red bus. Mini pops aboard and goes in pursuit etc etc. Talk about the Clockwork Orange in Glasgow. It has nothing on Minnie Poppins. For all I know, she's still bussing around in circles.



Fort William Senior Secondary School Gaelic Choir circa 1947.

# Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Fort William residents will have been enjoying an influx of visitors this week, not to mention the sweet sounds of music filling the air as youngsters dash between venues to take part in the many junior competitions.

Yes, the Royal National Mòd is in town and what a very welcome boost it has provided for the Fort William area this week. The local economy, already having enjoyed a bumper tourist season, is being given a very welcome autumnal boost.

There are hundreds of competitors of all ages, both genders and all kinds of backgrounds – Highlands,

Islands and Lowlands – but with one thing very much in common: a desire to celebrate all that is wonderful about Gaelic culture. Everywhere you look this week, Gaelic is very much to the fore and it is brilliant to see the language and its music and culture being enjoyed by so many people.

But there is also a serious point to be made. Gaelic has been in decline for a considerable time though you might not think so to be in Fort William at the moment.

It is vital that Mòds continue to be successful to keep the language alive and vibrant.



## Days gone by – the Mòd

The Oban Times electronic photo archive produced this picture of four young girls at a Royal National Mòd but had no other details. Do you know who they are and what year this was?

### MacPhail



to evacuate our homes immediately, what would we take with us?

Our homes can contain lifetimes of memories, generations of gathered artefacts, irreplaceable work and items of deep sentimental attachment. Having to decide quickly what to take would not be easy.

In the modern western world we also accumulate ever-growing amounts of material goods and fill our houses with clutter and unnecessary things, but when forced to 'abandon ship', we would very quickly have to decide what is important.

Between escaping with our own lives on one end of the scale and taking those meaningless material goods on the other, there is a vast grey area of items and work that would be difficult to leave behind.

My auntie had a studio containing her paintings that she would never be able to recreate.

These must have been very difficult to leave knowing they probably wouldn't survive.

I know myself at some stages of being negligent with back-ups, my laptop has contained many finished

and unfinished songs and poems that I would never remember if it was lost to fire or flood, and to me losing these would be painful.

For every person the choice of what to save in a hurry would be different. For me, it would be Beastie the dog, songs and accordion – but over-arching everything is that as long as we escape with our lives, all else is really not that important.

New paintings can be painted, new songs could be written, items of sentimental value can be held in our memories and homes can be rebuilt.

When compared with those who in these disasters have lost lives, nothing else is important.

I am very happy to report that, among the choice of all goods in their house, my aunt and uncle grabbed Beastie the cat and ran to the coast.

All are well and they are still hoping that they will soon be able to return home.

Many in California were not so fortunate and as news comes of tragic loss of life in Ireland in this recent storm, the value of life and our gratitude for it is accentuated.



### Social media

There was a considerable amount of comment on the disruption to traffic in Oban caused by the works taking place on Soroba Road.

Roger Brown wrote: 'New record, 29 minutes Corran Esplanade to Mossfield Avenue.'

Linda Robb said: 'Left home 1.5 hrs before my hospital appointment and sailed through the town. The hospital cafe was full of folk who had turned up early.'

Michael Magay blasted: 'Does anyone in our abysmal council ever considered doing a computer model of the traffic flow over a potential road works. We all understand the need to repair and improve the road surface, but no thought seems to be put into temporary traffic light phasing.'

Angela Hughes agreed: 'It's absolutely shocking!!! I drove through heading out of Oban at lunchtime with not too much trouble but traffic coming into the town was backed up at Pennyfuir cemetery!!'

### Press policy

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



We published this photo in our Mòd preview last week and asked who these four people are. Peter Campbell called to say they are, left to right, Jessy Flemming, Helen Lockhart (Stirling Gaelic Choir), Nessie Thompson (Stirling Gaelic Choir) and Robert Thompson (Nessie's husband).

Ann Maceachen posted: 'The whole thing is a COMPLETE JOKE.'

Keith Miller wrote: 'Complete gridlock again today at lunchtime. That kind of

massively disruptive work should have been done at night

Roger Brown said: 'I'll conceive and execute roadworks.'

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

### Your letters

throughout the criminal justice process if survivors wish to report to the police. No-one deserves to suffer sexual violence and survivors deserve support to be able to recover from it.

Please contact Ailsa or Jean in the Oban office for a chat on 01631 567190 or email oban@ab-rc.org.uk. We have also launched a drop-in service at New Hope kitchen on Mondays from 11am to noon. Please stop by if you are interested in any of our services. A worker will be on hand to discuss anything privately with you then.

Ailsa MacEachen,  
Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis.

### Thanks for excellent treatment in hospital

Sir,  
Having recently spent a week in Oban Hospital I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the excellent treatment I received.

The nursing was first class, the food excellent and an atmosphere of kindness and goodwill made my stay not only enjoyable but extremely therapeutic to the extent that I felt fully restored to health when it was time to go home. I think that we who live in Argyll and the Isles are most fortunate to have such an excellent hospital, to the staff of which I would now like to give a very large vote of thanks.

Mary McGrigor,  
Dalmally.

### Skateboarding gentleman identified

Sir,  
The gentleman on the skateboard in your Days Gone By picture last week is Jimmy Wilson, a city of Glasgow-based Gael who took part in Mòds over the years. He belonged to the Glasgow Hebridean Choir, which is no longer in existence. He sang at ceilidhs and gatherings, including with myself at the Knightswood Highlanders, and Clan Maclean and high school associations.

Iain Henderson,  
Ibrox, Glasgow.

### Credit where it is due for Mòd Academy

Sir,  
It was good to read last week that the Mòd Academy is going from strength to strength and that entry levels at this year's National Mòd in Fort William have reached record levels.

We must give credit where it is due. Whereas Oban came up with the title 'Mòd Academy' for the 2015 National Mòd, we borrowed the formula from Mull. Several years before, the adventurous and successful Mòd Ionadach na Dreòlluin (Mull Provincial Mòd) committee came up with the idea and called it Seinn is Spòrs. At the helm was Riona Whyte assisted by Janet Campbell with funding coming in the main from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Argyll and Bute Council.

Duncan N Macdonald,  
Clachacharra, Taynuilt.

Ailean Caimbeul

gach doire 's allt cur fàilt',  
's an osag chiùin air bàrr nam  
beann

a' giùlan fonn a dàin.  
Ach buaidh is piseach air na laoch

tha seasmhach air a sgàth,  
chaidh àrach ann an tìr an fhraoich,  
ge sgoilte' an-dhùgh an àl;

ged chaidh an sgapadh air gach  
taobh,  
cha choachail iad an gnàths;

chan fhas an eachdraidh lag le aois,  
's chan fhaigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs.

AS YOU READ THIS the 2017 Royal National Mòd in Lochaber will be at least two-thirds through and I hope it has been an enjoyable experience for everyone.

It is particularly pleasing to think of the many thousands worldwide who are able to listen to live broadcasts of competitions on Radio nan Gàidheal and BBC Alba. More than a century ago Skye bard Neil MacLeod's poem asked 'Will Gaelic Die'? The message from this Mòd is certainly 'no'.

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

# Revised proposals are revealed for Argyll and Lochaber constituencies

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

TWO new enormous parliamentary constituencies will be created for Argyll, Lochaber and the Highlands if plans revealed today go ahead.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland today published its revised proposals for United Kingdom parliamentary constituencies as part of its 2018 review.

This marks the start of an eight-week public consultation process, which began on Tuesday (October 17) and runs until Monday December 11.

The commission has prepared its proposals after considering the responses to its consultations on the initial plans which were published in October 2016.

The UK parliament has decided to reduce the number of constituencies from 650 to 600. In Scotland, this means that 59 constituencies will be reduced to 53. Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles) and Orkney and Shetland are defined in legislation and will not be subject to change.

However, the existing Argyll and Bute area will be expanded to become Argyll, Bute and Lochaber, and will cover an area from the Mull of Kintyre to Fort William and the Ardnamurchan peninsula, as well as a number of islands, including Mull, Coll and Tiree.

And the existing Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency will disappear, to be replaced by Highland South. It will spread from Grantown-on-Spey in the east to Skye, encompassing Inverness, Spean Bridge, Mallaig and islands including Canna, Rum and Eigg.

Both existing seats are held by SNP MPs, Brendan O'Hara in Argyll and Bute and Ian Blackford in Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

When the plans were first announced last year, there were widespread objections across the two constituencies,



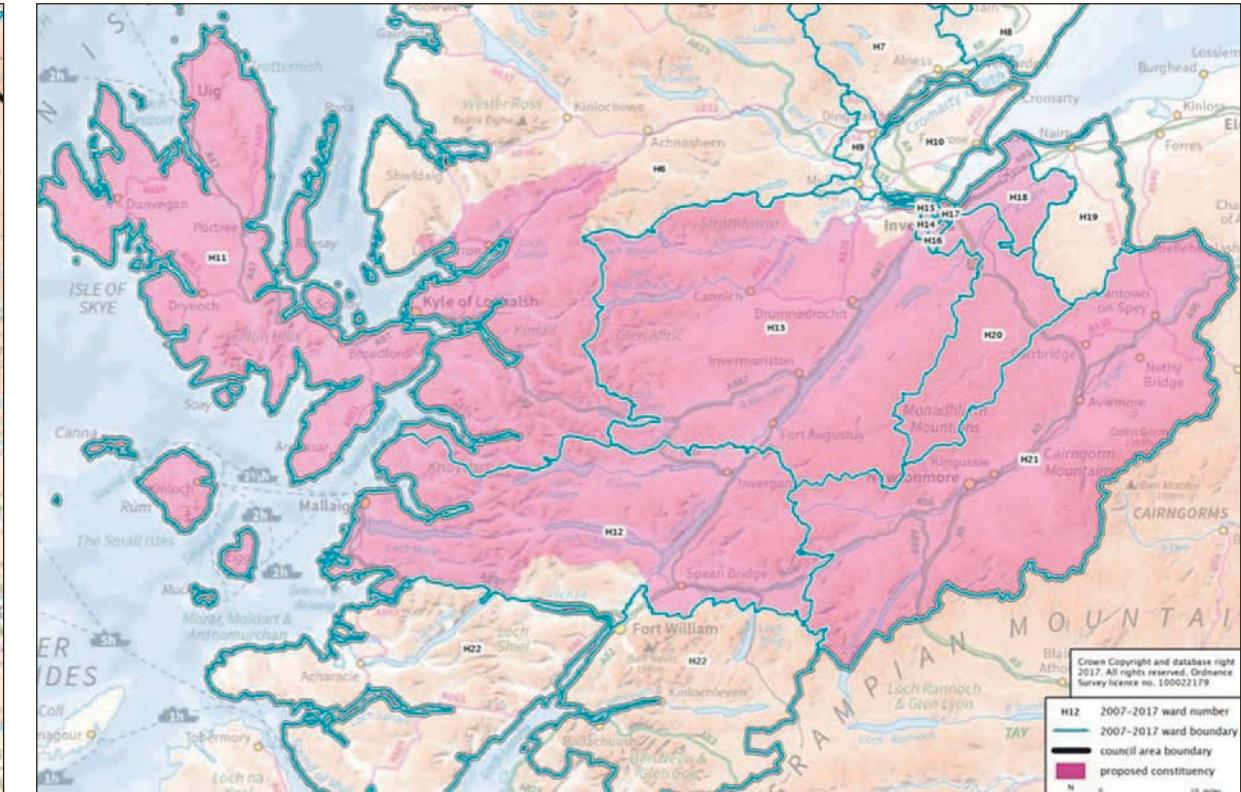
principally relating to the geographical size of the areas.

Today they were blasted again by Mr O'Hara, who said: 'The issue of boundaries was all but dropped by the Tories in the snap election. There is cross-party support for these plans to be dropped.'

'At a time when we need more scrutiny of the Brexit process and not less, it would be ludicrous for any boundary changes to go ahead. In any event, to extend Argyll and Bute geographically any further would result in a democratic travesty.'

Mr Blackford agreed, saying: 'Highland constituencies are already spread over a very wide geographical area and these proposals take absolutely no account of this.'

'What is now being planned will reduce the number of Highland MPs to just three, who will be representing 40 per cent of Scotland's land mass. I hold regular surgeries across Ross, Skye and Lochaber, including rural areas and islands so I can meet constituents face-to-face and hear directly from them about their issues of concern.'



The proposed Argyll, Bute and Lochaber constituency, left, and the proposed Highland South constituency.

just three, who will be representing 40 per cent of Scotland's land mass. I hold regular surgeries across Ross, Skye and Lochaber, including rural areas and islands so I can meet constituents face-to-face and hear directly from them about their issues of concern.'

The proposed boundary changes will not only make this harder for the elected member, but more challenging for constituents to make a personal connection.

'It is not Highland MPs who should be cut, but the over-representation at the unelected House of Lords.'

The Boundary Commission for Scotland said today: 'As set out in

legislation, each of the remaining 51 constituencies must: not exceed the maximum permitted area of 13,000 square kilometres; and be within five per cent of the UK electoral quota of 74,769.2 (ie to have between 71,031 and 78,507 electors), except where a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres when it may have fewer than 71,031 electors.'

Lord Matthews, deputy chairman of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, said: 'After careful consideration of all of the comments received during the consultations on the initial proposals, the commission has designed this revised set of constituencies.'

'Where the legislation has allowed it, we have tried to respond to the views expressed to us. However, in some areas, we have been unable to make changes because of the constraints on constituency design within which we work. This is the final opportunity we have to obtain views on our proposals so we can further improve them where the legislation allows us to do so. I hope people will take the opportunity to contribute, whether for or against what we have proposed.'

The proposals will reduce the number of constituencies currently serving Argyll, Lochaber and the Highlands from four to three.

## Lochaber Ideas Week

November 13-17, 2017



## Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture

Former Lib Dem MP and the chair of VisitScotland, Lord John Thurso, will deliver this year's Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture as part of Lochaber Ideas Week 2017 beginning 13 November.

Now in its fourth year, Lochaber Ideas Week is designed to "enhance" the area as "a fantastic place in which to live, work and visit". It includes talks, workshops, competitions, discussion and networking opportunities.

Lord Thurso will speak on the Friday of that week at Lochaber High School. Others who have previously delivered the Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture include Lord Wallace and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Chris O'Brien, destination manager at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said Lord Thurso's lecture will mark one of the highlights of the week.

"With his breadth and depth of experience, in particular his knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and tourism industries, together with his numerous high-profile and esteemed roles in the world of politics and business, he will undoubtedly give us an entertaining and impassioned speech," O'Brien added.

Born and brought up in Thurso the then Hon. John Sinclair was trained by the Savoy Group in London, working at Claridges, The Berkeley, and The Savoy before being appointed manager of the Lancaster in Paris becoming Europe's youngest 5 star hotel manager aged 27.

In 1985 he accepted the offer to become founder General manager of Cliveden. Starting on a building site he recruited all the staff and created the atmosphere ready for the opening of what became Britain's only "Stately Home Hotel". Cliveden rapidly became acknowledged as one of the UK's iconic properties gaining a Michelin star for its food, 91% in Egon Ronay and 5 red AA stars. He left Cliveden to run Granfel Holdings a private company owned by the Kuwaiti Investment Office and comprising 3 hotels and the prestigious East Sussex National Golf Course.

Succeeding his father as Viscount Thurso in 1995 he was head hunted to take over the ailing Fitness & Leisure holdings Group, owners of Champneys Health Resorts and Clubs. Subject of a BBC TV documentary "Trouble at the Top - Shape up with Lord Thurso" his actions rescuing the group and unpicking a failing time share became an object lesson in successful strategy still used in management colleges.

Lord Thurso has also been a non-executive director of a number of companies including the Savoy Group PLC, Mosimann's Ltd, Royal Olympic Cruise Lines Inc., and Walker Green bank PLC which he also

chaired. From 2002 to 2009 he was Deputy Chairman of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels PLC

Lord Thurso sat in the House of Lords from 1995 to 1999 as a Liberal Democrat and was active on business matters and Scottish affairs. Following the removal of the hereditary peers he was asked to stand for parliament and in 2001 was elected MP for Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross a seat he held until 2015. He was at various times a member of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet covering Scotland, Transport, and Business. From 2006 – 2015 he was a member of the treasury select committee, a period which covered the financial collapse and banking crisis. He served on the Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards 2012 – 2013; for the 2010 – 15 parliament he chaired the House of Commons Finance Committee, was a member of the House of Commons Commission, and spokesman for the Commission. He was appointed to the Privy Council in 2014.

In 2016 Lord Thurso was appointed Chair of Visit Scotland, the national tourist body, a role he enjoys and undertakes enthusiastically as he says: "It combines my twin passions for service - the hospitality industry which is about looking after people's leisure, and public service helping promote Scotland." He also returned to the House of Lords through a hereditary peers bye election.

Lord Thurso Chairs his family companies in Caithness as well as The International Wine and Spirit Competition Ltd and The North Highland Regeneration Fund. He is a Trustee of the Castle of Mey. He received a Catey Award for his contribution to Tourism and an honorary doctorate from Oxford Brookes. If he has time to spare he loves gardening and fishing and enjoys great wines.

The sponsor of this year's Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture is HW Energy, the provider of biomass heating products.



Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lochaberchamber>



Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LochaberChamber>

## Lochaber Phoenix fighters set for Scottish novice championships

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club kicks off what promises to be a very busy spell when three of its boxers make the trip to Ravenscraig in Motherwell this weekend to take part in the Scottish Novice Championships.

Josh Dieguno, aged 10, Eryk Wrobel, 15, and senior welterweight Dawid Jarzab will all strive to become the best novice boxer in their respective weight divisions in Scotland.

### Silver

Dieguno actually claimed a silver in the Scottish Open championships (the highest level of boxing in Scotland) earlier in the year but due to the small number of bouts he's participated in, still qualifies for this competition.

With the experience gained from the open championships, he will look to make a big impression in this championship.

Wrobel will be making his fist debut this weekend. The policy of the Lochaber club is normally not to allow one of its boxers to compete in this competition without prior experience, but Wrobel has created such a big impression with the coaching team that his entry was deemed a logical step in his progression towards becoming a top class boxer.

Everyone in the club is confident that whatever Wrobel's results are this weekend, the manner of his performances

### Boxing

will be a guide to the promising future he has in boxing.

Jarzab is the other end of the scale experience-wise. He is unbeaten having competed in the competition entry limit of six bouts, and having last boxed at the start of summer when he won by stoppage against an opponent who had competed in 20 bouts.

Possessing an iron will and intense focus, the youngster has shown a tremendous attitude to training for this competition and will be expecting to take home the gold medal as opposed to hoping.

#### Edge of their seats

These three boxers will all be competing on the club's home show on Saturday, November 4, in the Nevis Centre, when together with club mates and visiting boxers from all over Scotland they will appear in around 10 bouts in what promises to be a boxing event that will have the people in attendance on the edge of their seats.

The show will feature boxers from novice level all the way up to some of the best in Europe so there promises to be something for everyone.

For details of tickets, contact the Nevis Centre or anyone involved with the club.

The club has also recently announced a fundraising event the



Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club's Dawid Jarzab is one of the club's fighters who will be in action in Motherwell this weekend.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

following Saturday (November 11), at its own gym in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate. This is to raise money to aid the fund for stem cell treatment for local man Gary Campbell, who at the

age 29, has been struck down with motor neurone disease.

#### Stem cell

The aim is to help Gary afford stem cell treatment which will hopefully have a huge impact

on the quality of his life. The club will be having an open day between the hours of 12.30pm and 4pm where people can pop in and see what the boxers get up to on a typical training day;

perhaps take part in some of the training and also watch some sparring, as boxers from all around Scotland are expected to attend to help Gary gain an improved lifestyle.

## Battling Fort go down to Locos in tough Claggan clash

Fort William	1
Inverurie Locos	5
Highland League	

THE FIRST five minutes of this Highland League clash at a dreich Claggan Park on Saturday set the tone for what was to prove a feisty encounter.

Locos started pressuring their hosts from the start and after

### Football

off and it did in the 13th minute when Gauld made it 0-2 thanks to a rising shot that beat Ryan Hunter.

Locos then missed three attempts on goal in quick succession before Jordan Leyden netted a rebound from a Gauld shot.

That gave the visitors a 0-3 lead at the half-time whistle. But the interval seemed to give Fort a boost and, coming out, the home players looked determined to get back into the game.

On the 46-minute mark, a header from Fort's Daniel Highet was blocked on the line but just seven minutes later Liam Taylor pulled one back, beautifully stroking home the dropping ball to make it 1-3.

It was end to end stuff after this, with Aiden Taylor shooting over the bar for Fort.

But on the 71-minute mark, Kyle Gordon knocked in from close to stretch the visitors' lead. Fort were denied several attempts before the end of normal time.

In the first minute of added time, Locos' Greg Mitchell gathered up the ball inside the Fort box, close to the keeper's near post, and after a neat one-two, netted from close range.

After some sustained pressure, it was now the visitors

## Referee's injury sees Lochaber frustrated as game is cut short

Isle of Mull	11
Lochaber	8
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER travelled to Mull on Saturday looking to put last week's defeat to Shawlands FP behind them.

Things started to go wrong before the team even left for Mull with the news late on Friday that the kick-off time would need to be earlier than the normal 3pm as the referee wanted to catch a ferry.

So a 2.30pm kick-off time was agreed, but the change meant Lochaber would take to the pitch without their captain, Calum MacDonald, for the start of the game.

From the start, Mull put Lochaber under pressure as the home side looked to get some early points on the board but lost control of the ball close to the line.

#### Calf injury

After only a few minutes into the game, the referee announced that he had a calf injury and might have to abandon the match. Luckily, that did not happen the match continued anyway.

After some sustained pressure, it was now the visitors

ning to put Mull under some real pressure.

And with the arrival of Lochaber's captain, the visitors' scrum was now starting to dominate as well. After a long build-up and several missed chances, Lochaber were finally able to break the Mull defence with fly-half Euan Larter scoring in the corner.

**Loose pass**

Mull replied a few minutes later after Lochaber had won their lineout in their own 22, when a loose pass in the centre saw Mull's captain scoop up the ball and even the score at 5-5.

The referee then blew for what seemed to have been a very short first half after the try. The second half turned out to be a very scrappy affair, but Lochaber continued to dominate the set piece.

But despite their dominance in these areas of the game, Lochaber could not get control of the match, making a lot of errors and bad decisions throughout the second half.

For their part, Mull were forced into running the ball from penalties to insure they retained possession.

And it would be penalties that would decide the game after both teams being unable to score any more points with Mull having a try disallowed

### Rugby

for double movement and Lochaber loosing control and knocking the ball on over the line.

Mull also survived a scare from a sliced clearance kick which, luckily for them, found one of their own players. Mull eventually took the lead with a penalty before Rory MacKay levelled things up again with a penalty for Lochaber.

Mull then got another penalty to stretch ahead again. Following an injury to a Mull prop with 15 minutes to go, the scrums became uncontested.

#### Abandoned

About five minutes later, Lochaber tackled a Mull player into touch to receive a lineout deep in the Mull 22. But then the ref blew his whistle and abandoned the game due to his injury.

And despite saying at the time the game would be rescheduled it appears enough time had been played and the result would stand, much to the frustration of Lochaber.

The final score was Mull 11-8 which sees Lochaber slip to fourth in the league.

Lochaber's next game is at home to Cowal where they are expecting a tough encounter. Kick-off 3pm at Banavie.

**Fort William strongman lifts his way to podium place in Glasgow Strongman**

FORT William's Stuart Whyte put in a superb performance at the weekend to take a well-earned second place in the log and dead lift event at a European strongman championships in Glasgow.

The SEC audience enjoyed a fantastic event and Whyte's performance in the 105kg class added to his second place in this year's Scottish championships in Shetland earlier this year and an impressive 14th spot at the world championships in Finland last month.

Now with more than 50 competitions in a 10-year career, the welder/fabricator says he intends to continue as long as he is enjoying the sport and doing well.

'There was a good field at the SECC, so I was pleased with my performance. I managed a 140kg log lift to secure second spot,' Whyte said.

With a number of strongman competitors now professional, especially those from the United States and Australia, it makes events much more difficult for those without a major sponsor.

'There's not much sponsorship in many sports these days, let alone strongman events. So that does make it harder competing against guys who do it full-time,' added Whyte.

'But I love competing and hopefully can keep on for a wee bit longer yet.'

**Lochaber club lottery numbers Lottery**

THE NUMBERS drawn in the Caol Regeneration Lotto last week were 3, 5 and 10. There were no winners, which means today's (Thursday) draw has a £300 jackpot.

Caol Community Centre bingo lottery numbers for this week are 8, 11 and 18. There were two winners - M Fraser and J Macleod. Next week £100.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 1, 4 & 17. Still no winners, so we go to an excellent draw of £1,400 next week.

This week's Fort William Golf Club numbers were 8, 15 and 16. There was no winner, which means £800 is available for draw today (Thursday).

**South Lochaber game called off Football**

LAST Saturday's Greater Glasgow Premier AFL Division Three game between Busby and South Lochaber Thistle was called off as the pitch in Busby was unplayable.

This Saturday the Jags play host to Boswell at Kinlochleven.

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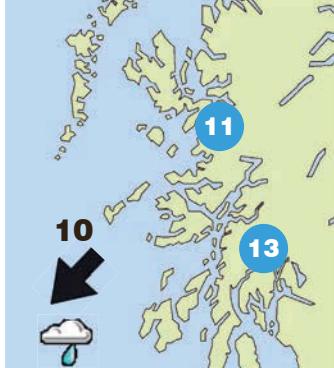


Fort's Liam Taylor tackles Loco's Neil MacLean. Photo: Iain Ferguson

**NORTH WEST MARINE DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS**

#### WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with light rain showers  
Winds moderate East South Easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 13°C.  
  
Friday Cloudy  
Winds moderate North Easterly  
Temperatures 9°C to 13°C.  
  
Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday  
Sunny intervals on Sunday  
Winds moderate easterly  
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.



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**Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban**

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**  
**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday October 19, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm						
Thur	05.17	3.9	11.26	0.7	17.22	4.1	23.58	0.9
Fri	05.48	4.0	12.04	0.7	17.53	4.1	**.**	*.*
Sat	00.30	0.9	06.18	4.1	12.39	0.8	18.23	4.1
Sun	01.03	1.0	06.48	4.1	13.13	1.0	18.54	4.0
Mon	01.35	1.1	07.18	4.0	13.46	1.2	19.25	3.8
Tues	02.09	1.3	07.50	3.8	14.22	1.5	19.56	3.6
Wed	02.46	1.5	08.25	3.6	15.01	1.7	20.28	3.4

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  
 Oban to Coll/Tiree  
 Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate  
 Moderate  
 Moderate