

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Royal National Mòd 2015



7 pages of stories, photos and results inside

WIN AN IPAD MINI!



Don't forget to turn your clocks back this weekend



Contestants left parking mòd in town

STEVEN RAE
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ROYAL Mòd enthusiasts are furious that over-eager traffic wardens ticketed their cars while they were taking part in competitions.

With an estimated 8,000 visitors to Oban's already cramped streets for the nine-day long celebration of Gaelic culture, many visitors were angry at receiving fines while parked at the busy competition venues.

The Mòd is estimated to have injected around £3 million into the local economy, and some are now questioning whether a more-lenient, sympathetic parking strategy could have been adopted during the festival.

Oban resident, Kevin McCubbin, who sings with the Coisir Ceann an Tuirc, received a parking ticket while he and his fellow choir members were winning three medals. He said it had 'taken the shine off the victory'.

Kevin, 42, who is a graphic designer in the town, said: 'I parked in the free car park at the Corran Halls about 8.30am, and when I came out, there was a ticket on my car. I was parked behind cars and not specifically in a bay but

I wasn't blocking any other cars, and it was a free car park so I thought I would be fine.

'I was angry when I saw the ticket and, after winning the competition it was pretty gutting, and took the shine off the win a wee bit.

'I think the council could have used a bit more common sense and been a bit more lenient, considering the money coming into the town as a result of the Mòd, instead of trying to target people, especially those parked in a free car park.'

Others took to the *Oban Times* Facebook page to complain about parking fines.

Rowan Paterson said: 'I got a £30 fine while I was working at the Corran Halls last week for the Mòd. The Corran Halls car park was completely full and I put as many tickets on my car as I could afford, but ran out of change after a while and couldn't get away to get more.

'Seems a shame designated, free parking wasn't arranged for visitors, considering how much money the Mòd brought to the economy.'

Mary J D Gregory said: 'Would it have been such a terrible thing to allow free parking during the

Mòd? The parking attendants could have had a week off to enjoy the Mòd.'

Beth Davies said: 'I'd call them (attendants) 'ready to pounce' in the past week. I have never lived anywhere with as ridiculous parking as Oban - 80p - yet won't take coins to allow you to pay it? Rip-off central.'

However, a spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said strict parking regulations were vital for a variety of reasons: 'Effective traffic management has a number of benefits: supporting the local economy by ensuring parking turnover, safeguarding access for blue badge holders, for deliveries, and for emergency vehicles as well as ensuring road safety by managing inconsiderate and irresponsible parking.'

'There was significant pressure on car parks during the Mòd, making the enforcement of restrictions essential to maintain the flow of traffic and the safety of pedestrians.'

'Our wardens adopt a common-sense approach to enforcing regulations and act professionally and responsibly. They are only there to enforce the rules. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the driver to park correctly.'

Union takes to the streets

MEMBERS of the transport workers union RMT were out in force for the final day of the Mòd on Saturday, campaigning to keep ferry services in public ownership.

Thousands of freepost postcards were handed out to people, giving information on how to

contact their local MSP to urge them to lobby for CalMac.

RMT's Scotland organiser, Gordon Martin, said: 'We had an excellent response. Many thanks to the members of the public who took time to stop and talk to us.'

The union fears that ferry services could be privatised,

with the £1 billion Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract currently out to tender by the Scottish government.

CalMac and rival operator Serco are the only two firms to put in bids for the eight-year contract, with a decision to be announced next year.



Singing their praises

OBAN Gaelic choir's conductor, Sileas Sinclair, (pictured above) triumphantly lifted the Lovat and Tullibardine shield on Saturday. The win was a fairytale end to the Royal National Mòd in Oban, which has been hailed

a huge success, with the home choir winning the most prestigious choral event in their own backyard.

The crowd erupted and some were in tears as the winners were announced. With the Mòd generating

an estimated £3 million for the town (see page 3), the staging of the event has been a massive achievement for Oban - the birthplace of the competition.

Our seven-page special on the Mòd starts on page 11.

TIMESLINE

New ferries set to join CalMac fleet

THE SCOTTISH government is to add two 100-metre ferries to its fleet, currently operated by CalMac, in a £97 million deal.

The hybrid ferries will be able to run on both liquid natural gas and marine diesel.

Ferguson's Clyde shipyard in Port Glasgow was announced as the successful bidder on Friday by government agency, Transport Scotland.

Work on building the new ferries is due to start next year.

Royal approval for island volunteers

ISLAY and Jura Community Enterprises has been presented with the Queen's Award for Volunteering.

It was one of 187 charities, social enterprises or groups to receive the prestigious award this year, but the only one from Argyll, for its provision of Bowmore's Mactaggart Leisure Centre and other sport-based activities on the islands.

Alcoholism causes rise in death rate

NEW figures show the rate of alcohol-related deaths in the Western Isles is more than twice the Scottish average.

Last year on the islands there were 15 alcohol-related deaths - a rate of almost five and a half deaths per 10,000 people - compared to a national average of just over two.

Parents to protest at Kilmory castle

ANGRY parents are set to stage a protest at Kilmory Castle today (Thursday) over proposed cuts to special needs teaching staff by Argyll and Bute council. For the full story, see page 5.



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£60M deal will lead to new homes, says boss

AN ARGYLL housing association has signed a deal worth £60 million with the Bank of Scotland, which will help them build hundreds of new homes in the region.

The funding agreement will allow Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to continue its investment in existing housing stock which stands at £100 million, and meet the government's Scottish Housing Quality Standard.

The agreement also provides funding of up to £13 million, £10 million from Bank of Scotland and up to £3 million from other lenders, for investment in new housing developments in the period from 2018 to 2022.

Chief executive of ACHA, Alastair MacGregor, said: 'The funding will be instrumental in supporting our continued investment into providing affordable housing in Argyll. 'In addition to supporting our current investment programme in houses, it will also help to support the development of up to 200 new houses in the area.'

Twenty refugee families housed by Christmas

THE council has said it expects to house around 20 families of Syrian refugees by this Christmas.

Argyll and Bute council has said there has been an 'overwhelming' number of offers of support from residents and are now encouraging local people to register if they can help in any way.

A 'skills bank' is being set up by the local authority, to co-ordinate volunteers who want to help the refugees when they arrive in Argyll.

The Scottish government has pledged to accept at least 2,000 of the 20,000 refugees the UK Government has agreed to take.

Provost Len Scoullar, said: 'In response to and in partnership with that support, Argyll and Bute, working with the Scottish government, will be one of 20 council areas expected to welcome Syrian families by Christmas.

'We have identified that there is available accommodation and support in Campbeltown and in Bute and it is likely that our first families will be welcomed into those communities.'

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STATE VISIT: Oban high school pupils on a trip to the USA realised that the New York Times was no substitute for the *Oban Times*, so they took a copy of their favourite newspaper with them. The students are on the annual exchange to Laurinburg, North Carolina, and are pictured in front of the White House

McGrigor says constituents concerned over ward plans

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SENIOR Argyll politician, Jamie McGrigor, is urging people to speak out about radical plans to change council ward boundaries. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) proposes reducing the number of elected members of Argyll and Bute council from 36 to 33, and has redrawn the ward boundaries, with much of Oban North and Lorn to become part of a much larger Mid Argyll ward.

The Highlands and Islands MSP's 3,500-acre estate in Archnonnal, on the banks of Loch Awe, would be transferred from the current Oban North and Lorn ward to the new Mid Argyll one, if the proposals are approved.

He said: 'I have received a significant number of representations from constituents on the proposals and will be writing myself on behalf of constituents who have been in touch with me. I share the concerns of constituents that some communities could be disadvantaged by being divided from others who share

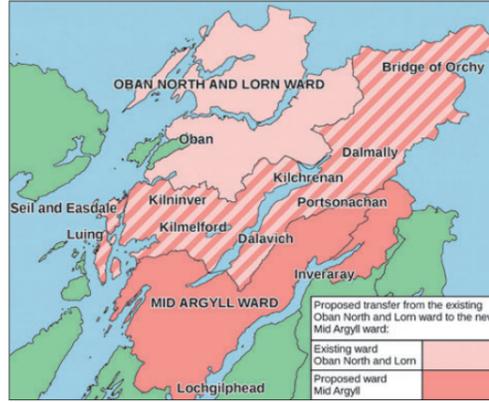


SPEAK OUT: Jamie McGrigor

common interests and transport links and placed in different wards where they are far removed from the main population centres in that ward.'

Eight of the community councils in the area previously joined forces at a meeting earlier this month to fight the changes, described as 'ludicrous' by Oban North and Lorn councillor, Iain Angus MacDonald.

The communities directly affected by the transfer are Avich and Kilchrenan, Glenorchy and Innishail, Kilninver and Kilmel-



CONTROVERSIAL BLUEPRINT: map of the proposed new wards

ford, Luig, and Seil and Easdale. They all use, and rely on, a wide range of council services, health facilities, local businesses, social clubs and transport links located in Oban.

Other areas of the proposed Mid Argyll ward are much closer to Lochgilphead, or even Dunoon, and as such do not

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

Constituents have until today, Thursday, to comment on the changes at www.consultation.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/node/11

Resigned: SNP group in shock board move over planned cuts

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THE ARGYLL and Bute SNP council group has resigned from the service choices project board (SCPB) because of the proposed budget cuts.

The four SNP members on the SCPB are Sandy Taylor, Richard Trail, Iain MacLean and Gordon Blair.

The SCPB helps delegate the budget and advises where the money would be best spent in regards to council-run services.

The move comes just two days before councillors vote on the budget to decide if the proposed cuts will go to public consultation or not.

Among the most-criticised proposals is the plan to reduce 45 per cent of additional support needs staff, who assist children with learning and physical disabilities, as well as 20 per cent of primary and



CUTS TARGET VULNERABLE: Sandy Taylor

secondary school classroom assistants.

Sandy Taylor, leader of the SNP group said: 'The savings options this administration is taking forward carve away major parts of vital services with no idea of the consequences.'

'The majority of their cuts target the most vulnerable in our communities, the elderly, our children in education and those with disabilities.'

While serving on the board, SNP group members said they sought to ensure all service-saving options included a risk assessment and a discussion on the impact it will have for the communities affected.

Play park group set date for party

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THE much anticipated opening of Oban community play park is little more than five weeks away.

To mark the occasion, a party is being organised by the Friends of Oban Community Playpark and will take place on the last day of the town's winter festival from 11am to 3.30pm on Sunday, November 29, at Atlantis Leisure centre.

There will be a wide variety of free family activities on offer and various festive proceedings to set a carnival mood.

Friends of Oban Playpark committee member, Sally Weaser, said: 'No one can believe it's happening. Every time the children and I drive past the park,

they shout, "Oh look, there's more!"'

Children up to the age of 15 have the opportunity to stamp their mark on the pirate-themed play park.

As part of a competition in the *Oban Times*, they are being asked to name the ship and the lucky winner will receive an iPad Mini, thanks to Scottish Sea Farms, who donated the device.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark are still trying to raise money in order to build a park for the under fives.

They are hosting a 'spooky ghost fish-making workshop' on Saturday, October 31, in the function room in Atlantis Leisure, where they will create the 'festive fish' and hang them along the seafloor to raise awareness of the campaign.

Electrifying tale of epic proportions

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AN AUTHOR from Mid Argyll, who has written an engrossing and engaging account about the impact the giant hydroelectric Cruachan power station had on a West Highland community, introduced her book to the Oban public last Wednesday.

Marian Pallister's 'Cruachan - the hollow mountain' chronicles the life and times of the neighbouring community that existed within the shadow of Ben Cruachan before, during and after the construction of the mighty power station.

In the early 1960s, thousands of people descended on Loch Awe, Dalmally and Taynuilt to take on the monumental task of hollow-



POWERFUL STORY: author, Marian Pallister, with her book

ing out Ben Cruachan - Argyll's highest mountain - to build the ground-breaking, in every sense of the word, power station. Speaking at the launch of her

book in Oban's Waterstones, Marion said: 'The inspiration behind the book is the fact that it's the 50th anniversary of Cruachan power station.'

'A lot of books have been written about the Tunnel Tigers, but no-one has written anything about the community.'

'It was very much an enjoyable experience and I was delighted to find people in the community who were happy to speak about their history.'

Marion added: 'Before starting the book, I had preconceptions that it would have been a difficult time for those living in the area.'

'But the way this project was done, there was a lot of involvement between the workers and the community.'

'People got married, made lifelong friends and created businesses from the skills that they learned. An elderly lady told me that it was a very happy time, which is amazing.'

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Ship Ahoy!

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

And the ship needs a name!

OBAN COMMUNITY PLAYPARK

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

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

I would like the ship to be called:

Name:

Address:

Age: School:

Contact Telephone Number:

Contact Email Address:

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

New gathering in Oban aims to help bereaved

PEOPLE affected by bereavement have been invited to Oban's Rowantree Hotel on George Street, next Thursday.

The informal gathering is organised by Graeme Pagan and Linda Burgin, both from Oban, who experienced bereavement around the same time. They found discussing their similar situations helped them cope with their loss.

Graeme said: 'It's a very informal gathering of those who have been bereaved. Sharing life's experiences with others who have been affected in the same way can be very helpful particularly those facing the loss of a husband, wife, soulmate or partner.'

'Just being in the company of those who are trying to cope with the same kind of loss can be very helpful.'

The gathering will be held between 11am and 1pm, with anyone welcome.

Pauline is shortlisted for top nurse award

A PRACTICE nurse partner in Oban has been shortlisted in the Scottish Health Awards 2015.

Pauline Jespersen, who is also the integrated team leader at Lorn Medical Centre in the town, has been nominated for the Nurse Award for her work over the last 15 years at the practice.

Pauline has been highlighted for her leadership skills and her role as a mentor and for providing support to the many practice nurses who work in isolated roles in the remoter and rural parts of Argyll and Bute.

The winners of the 16 categories at the Scottish Health Awards will be announced on November 4 at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh.

Organisations receive Common Good cash

A TOTAL of £8,000 was given out by Oban Common Good Fund at its last meeting.

The HOPE Kitchen in Oban's Argyll Street, which provides meals for the homeless and delivers food parcels to OAPs, was given £3,000; Oban Tennis and Squash Club, was to receive £2,500 following further information; Oban Winter Festival was given £2,000 plus a £1,000 underwrite for the lighting of McCaig's Tower and the local organising committee of the Royal National Mod in Oban was given £500.

The common good fund next meets on November 19.



ROCK SOLID: managing director Alister Bennett congratulates David Buchanan

It's half a century of good Times for stalwart David

AN OBAN Times stalwart is celebrating an incredible 50 years with the company, writes Steven Rae.

David Buchanan, 67, started with the newspaper in 1965 as an eager 17-year-old apprentice, eventually working his way up to production manager and into his current position of studio manager.

David joked: 'The first 50 years are the hardest. I've loved every minute of it though. I remember when I went for the job, going in to see the owner of the paper,

Alan Cameron, and while I was speaking to him, he dropped his glasses and a pin dropped out. He said to me, "If you can find that pin, you've got the job". Thankfully I found the pin. That was on the Friday, and I started on the Monday.'

Father-of-three David was made production manager in the 1980s. Company chairman, Howard Bennett, said: 'I would like to thank David, both personally and on behalf of the company, for all the skilled, quality work he

has done over so many years. 'David has moved forward effortlessly with the huge changes in technology and still today plays an important role in getting our newspapers to our readers.'

Managing director, Alister Bennett, shared the chairman's sentiments when he presented David with a watch and bottle of whisky, thanking him for his stalwart service, adding that David had been 'solid as a rock' during his time at the *Oban Times*.

MSP's 'graduated licence scheme'

A HIGHLANDS and islands MSP has called for an overhaul of the driver licence system, in an attempt to save lives.

Labour's David Stewart met transport minister, Andrew Jones, at Westminster last week to discuss his plans for a 'graduated licence scheme'.

Under the plans, all drivers would have to display plates on their vehicle for six months after passing their test, there would be a near-zero alcohol level limit and a restriction on the number of passengers for drivers under the age of 25, similar to schemes already in place in other countries.

He said research showed 22 lives and £80 million could be saved each year in Scotland if the scheme was adopted.

Mr Jones said that while he wanted to improve road safety, he was hesitant about a graduated licence scheme and the restrictions on freedom it could impose.

Floating the idea of pontoons for Oban bay - again

PONTOONS may be coming to Oban Bay in 2017.

That's what was the pledge made by councillors at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) area committee meeting on Tuesday.

During the meeting, it was decided the council would focus its efforts on delivering a permanent transit berthing facility on the north side of the North Pier. The announcement comes after disappointment in April, when plans for step-ashore pontoon facilities, promised by the local authority, didn't go ahead.

The council released a statement on Tuesday saying it had discussions with Oban Bay Marine Ltd, the group which has been campaigning for short-stay pontoons in Oban since 2007.

The council said it had 'identified a deliverable scheme which could be in place for summer 2017'.

Chairman of the area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'We are looking forward to seeing this project taking shape, ensuring that any investment we make will have real, long-term economic benefits to Oban and surrounding areas.'

The council will now start working on a business case, to be put before planners and then sent out to tender if approved.



PONTOONS PLEDGE: councillor Roddy McCuish

proved. Councillor McCuish continued: 'To allow cruise passengers to access the town next summer, we will be doing what worked so well this year - removing and resetting the fence on the Oban Times slip, doubling its capacity and creating a "meet and greet" area for visitors.'

Back in April, councillor McCuish would not be drawn into why the pontoons project, which was promised by the council to be ready by summer 2015, was abandoned, saying: 'I understood the pontoons would be in Oban Bay this summer, unfortunately that is not now the case.'

When asked again about the previous failure to provide the pontoons this year, he said: 'I realise there were lots of people disappointed previously, but we feel that this is by far the best option.'

£3M better off thanks to the Mòd's pulling power

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THIS year's Royal National Mòd in Oban is estimated to have injected more than £3 million into the town's economy.

Organisers said about 8,000 people from across the UK and worldwide attended, coming from as far afield as Canada and the USA for the annual celebration of Gaelic culture.

Hotels, restaurants, shops and pubs recorded a huge increase in trade with the nine-day boost to the economy during a traditionally quieter part of the year in the run-up to Christmas.

Neil Mackay, events manager for business organisation BID4Oban, said: 'We hoped that the 2015 Mòd would be good for the town and whole area.'

'We were pleased to be able support the local committee by providing the street and lamppost banners to decorate the town. Along with contributions from Mòd organisations, it brightened up the town with colourful, traditional bunting. We feel this all added to the atmosphere. Quality media coverage with



HAPPY THROG: hundreds of people take to streets on Saturday for the procession

genuine sponsorship all adds to the credibility of this event. Once again, Oban has proved it can deliver and it is appreciated, which is not really a surprise because we know that people love Oban.' Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish, who is chairman of

the Oban Lorn and the Isles area committee, added: 'The Mòd has been great for the town, not just from the cultural aspect, but all the businesses in Oban and the surrounding area enjoyed a huge economic benefit. The Mòd really does boost the

whole economy of the area, and with a figure somewhere in the region of £3million quoted, it shows just what Oban can do.'

Next year's Mòd will take place from October 14 to 22 in Lewis, with the main centre based in Stornoway.

A slippery slope for ski instructor

A ski-instructor is heading off to Canada without a driving licence and with £500 less in his pocket after an appearance at Oban sheriff court last week (Wednesday October 14).

Lewis Edward Peter Baldwin, of Gillingham in Kent, who spent the last 14 months working at the Ardenaisieig hotel, Kilchrean, had just handed his notice in to quit, as he had been offered a new job as a ski instructor in Banff, Alberta.

At Oban sheriff court, the 23-year-old admitted drink-driving and possessing cannabis in his staff-quarters caravan at the hotel on September 27.

Procurator fiscal David McDonald said a 999 call was made at 3.20am that morning when Baldwin said he had crashed his car and was trapped: 'He said his car had

left the road and he could not give the exact location.'

After 'an extensive search' of the area, Baldwin's empty car was found off the road leading to the luxury hotel. Mr McDonald said Edwards was found at the caravan at 6.30am, a breath-test proved positive and a reading at Oban police station at 8am was 102; the limit in Scotland is 22.

He added that there was a strong smell of cannabis within the caravan and police found two dried-out cannabis plants.

Baldwin's defence lawyer, Laura McManus, said he had been working at the hotel for 14 months and saving to go to Canada. The cannabis plants had been for his own personal use and were of no value.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson fined Baldwin, a first offender, £500 and disqualified him from driving for 30 months.

Two-year anniversary of a 'living hell', says fiancée

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THE FIANCEE of Connel seaman, Billy Irving, has spoken of her anguish as the two-year anniversary of his capture and arrest passed on Sunday.

Billy, 34, and fellow MV Seaman Guard Ohio crew members, were accused of carrying illegal weapons when they entered Indian waters as part of anti-piracy operations, and arrested on October 18, 2013.

Despite being given clearance to leave India by courts and immigration officials, he continues to languish in the country, separated from his fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, and son, William, who was born in February.

Having been told that the case against him and his fellow crew members was being quashed at Madras high court in July 2014, Indian state police applied for a retrial, and he was last in the Indian Supreme Court in September to try and secure his release from the country.

Yvonne discussed the heartache involved since the day she was told 'her hero' Billy was being held captive:



HAPPY FAMILY: Billy and Yvonne with William

'How can an innocent man, who was doing his job protecting other seafarers, be subjected to the treatment he has received, from his company, his government and the Indian police?' she said. 'Billy's role as a maritime security adviser allowed for the safe passage of seafarers through dangerous waters.'

'It allowed men to feel safe at work, to put food in their children's bellies and to provide countries all over the world with vital supplies.'

'It took courage to do his job. Yes, there are dangers and we were as prepared as possible for the worst.'

'But not once did we even consider he would be arrested for simply doing his job, and the years of heartache and not knowing day-to-day what we would be faced with next.'

'Months of no contact while he was in prison and then finally seeing him after seven long months in jail - that can only be described as living hell.'

'Then having all charges quashed and a feeling of pure relief, to only have them appealed by the police and go through a long, drawn-out trial with no certainty as to what the outcome will be.'

'I am so proud of Billy. He has dealt with this situation with dignity, never given up hope or felt pity for himself.'

'He has held his head high and picked me up when I thought I'd crumble. Everyone has a hero, and Billy is mine.'

Yvonne also said the British government, 'should hang its head in shame with the lack of help, support and intervention they have shown during this time', claiming they had failed to fulfil their duty of care to Billy and the other five seaman.

Newly elected MP for Argyll

and Bute, Brendan O'Hara, said: 'I have been working very closely with my colleague, Kirsten Oswald, MP for East Renfrewshire, on this matter as Yvonne and William are now living in her constituency.'

'As his MP, I cannot seek to influence any forthcoming trial but I will continue to demand that the Indian justice system expedites this case, as two years is a ridiculous amount of time for a UK national to be stuck awaiting trial.'

'This case has already been all the way to the Indian Supreme Court, only to be returned all the way down to the lower courts again.'

'Billy has the correct UK travel documents to allow him to return home immediately.'

'Kirsten Oswald and I are working together and will continue to work together to make sure that this issue remains firmly on the radar of the Foreign Office.'

'We are in direct contact with Billy and his family and we plan to do whatever we can ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK next month to highlight this ongoing unfairness.'

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Popular radio DJ dies

TRIBUTES have flooded in for Oban FM presenter Margaret MacDonald, known as 'Maggie May' (pictured), who died on Tuesday.



The presenter, who had worked at the station for around 10 years, was understood to have been ill for a number of months.

Laura Johnston, Oban FM's station manager, said: 'Myself and everybody at Oban FM,

past and present, are saddened by the news.

'Maggie will be sorely missed, as she was a big part of not just Oban

FM but the whole community.'

Iain Blair-Simmonds, advertising manager at the station, said: 'She will be sadly missed. She was one of our stars.'

People also took to Facebook to pay their respects to the popular DJ, with the presenter's well-known catchphrase sign-off from her radio show, 'cheerier bubbles' quoted in some of the tributes.

★★★★ The Scottish Daily Express

★★★★ The Herald

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STUNNING IMAGE: Linda with her award-winning photograph

Hospital manager Linda has a passion for high art

A WOMAN'S passion for the mountains of the Highlands has led to her winning a photography competition as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival.

Linda Kerr, library services manager for Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, won the adult category in the stills photography competition at the festival.

The theme for the competition was 'Passion for the Highlands' and she explained in her entry: 'The mountains and wild places of the Highlands are my passion.'

An enthusiastic Munro-bagger, Linda said: 'Big open skies, jagged craggy peaks and high ridge walking exhilarate me. Snow adds another dimension.

In this wilderness I am inhaling nature's tonic.'

She took her winning photo of a snow-covered Binnean Mor, near Kinlochleven, last February.

Along with the other entries, her winning photo is being displayed at an exhibition in Eden Court in Inverness.

'It's great to have one of my pictures shown alongside so many great photographs at a venue like Eden Court,' said Linda, who won a £50 voucher.

'I know that promoting well-being is what the arts and film festival is all about, and well-being is something I certainly get out of hillwalking.'

The festival takes place at various venues throughout Scotland from October 10-31.

Volunteering cash boost

OBAN teenager, Nicole Lopez, held a coffee morning last Saturday to raise money to cover the cost of volunteering abroad.

On the day, she raised £100, making her combined total £500, including previous fundraisers. She said: 'Volunteering is something I've

always wanted to do to make the world that little bit better.

'I've wanted to do it for a few years, then one day I thought, I'm just going to do it.

'I'm hoping to host a movie marathon in the Cinema next.'

Nicole wants to go to Tanzania to volunteer for three months next September.

Popular band aims to build on success with two-day event

MARIAN MILLER
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ORGANISERS of the recently-launched 'Oban Live' event are being urged to talk to nearby residents most likely to be affected by next year's two-day open air concert at the town's Mossfield stadium.

The ever-popular traditional Scottish folk-rock band, Skerryvore, announced during last week's Royal National Mod in Oban that a two-day musical extravaganza was to be held in the town on May 13-14, 2016.

It comes on the back of the huge success of Skerryvore's 'Decade' concert earlier this year at the same venue in the town.

'What we didn't expect is for 99 per cent of attendees to want to do it all again,' explained Daniel Gillespie, band member, director of the Decade concert and one of the brains behind the award-winning Tiree Music Festival.

Last Thursday, at the new performance area in Oban's Stafford Street, Daniel said: 'Following much discussion and thought we are delighted to launch Oban Live - an event to celebrate the town, community and incredible atmosphere of Oban.'

Councillor for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, said: 'Skerryvore's Decade event proved it is possible to do something like this in Oban and we are delighted that the band is committed to helping build on that initial success.'

He said fears that the council-owned Mossfield pitch might be damaged during the Decade concert had proved to be unfounded and showed that the



ENCORE: On the back of the success of last year's 10th anniversary concert in Oban, folk rock band Skerryvore launch Oban Live

stadium could be used to its full potential. He thanked the shinty community for being accommodating enough to accept a move to Taynuilt on the weekend of May 13-14.

Councillor McCuish added: 'Argyll and Bute council will be working closely with the partners involved and lessons will be learned from the Decade event.'

'The organisers will be encouraged to consult residents as much as possible because it is important they are given due consideration.'

'There are tremendous opportunities and possibilities to develop Oban Live to be a

continuing success with fringe events and incorporating all the aspects of the economic benefits for the area especially with the expertly chosen dates.'

An economic impact report found that Skerryvore's Decade afternoon and evening event, which drew people from all over the country and further afield to see a variety of mainly modern Scottish traditional music bands including Skerryvore, generated an estimated £1.1 million for Oban and Lorn.

But the band is now keen to explore ways the town, community and area can be integrated with Oban Live and discussions are

under way with Argyll and Bute council and other partners on the best way forward.

This includes looking at how any profits can be re-invested in Oban and Argyll and Bute.

'Oban gave us the best 10th birthday party possible,' said Skerryvore fiddler, Craig Espie, 'so in return we want to give back an event that will bring a huge economic boost to the town as well as a unique open-air concert showcasing world class musicians and bands.'

Video of this available online
OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Campaigning island group calls on airport operator to lower its prices

STEVEN RAE
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A GROUP campaigning for lower airfares for the Scottish islands has hit out at airport operator, Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), as it reports a much-improved financial situation.

Last week, Scottish govern-

ment-owned HIAL reported a much lower operating loss, and record passenger numbers at its 11 airports, which include Barra, Islay and Tiree.

The annual report revealed operating losses of £442,000, compared with a trading deficit of £3.8million the previous year. HIAL runs at a loss due to providing lifeline services, which are subsidised by the Scottish government.

Islanders for Fair Air Fares (IFAF) has responded by calling on the operator to lower its charges to help make flying more affordable.

The campaign group said HIAL is charging £17.04 per passenger in airport usage fees, whereas Glasgow is only £10.72 and Edinburgh and Aberdeen are £11.66.

Scott Preston, founder of IFAF, said: 'HIAL is an independent, private company, with the Scottish government ministers acting as shareholders.'

'What we have said to the company, the Scottish government, HIAL and operator, Loganair, is that they all need to do something to reduce prices as much as they can.'

'HIAL now has to justify being the only member of the group which says they can't do something, despite being the most expensive airports in the UK with the most expensive landing fees.'

'Sumburgh in the Shetland Isles, for example, has facilities which can only be described as 'Third World', and this is despite HIAL getting a £20.1million subsidy. HIAL charge these over-priced landing fees for the facilities and their upkeep.'

Scott added: 'Nobody has an objection to paying for the airport, but why is it so much when it has the most dreadful, basic facilities. However, HIAL always seem to say, "It's the best we can offer for the prices we charge".'

'Every single airport has different ways of improving. Why not sell local produce and charge a bit of commission? At least that way people can choose not to use the facilities at the airports if they don't want to.'

'Loganair has come up with its compassionate fare scheme, the first scheme of its kind in the UK. And the Scottish government has announced the air discount scheme will be extended.'

'Now it's time for HIAL to do its part.'

A HIAL spokesman said it was looking forward to discussing the issues with the campaign group in the coming weeks.

Argyll at risk of being a victim of 'digital divide'

PEOPLE across the Highlands and islands suffer from the poorest internet connectivity in Scotland, a survey has found.

Seven local authority areas in Scotland are in danger of being left behind in the new digital age, with one-in-five people in the Highlands and Western Isles council regions having never been online at all.

Argyll and Bute was listed

as one of the other areas at risk of being held back as the 'digital divide' widens.

Charity Go ON UK compiled the results for Orkney, Shetland, East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway as well as the West Highlands.

The Western Isles also suffered from the poorest broadband speeds, with 19 per cent of household not receiving speeds of two megabits per second.

£40k of improvements all in a day's work on A83

RESURFACING work on the A83, north of Stronachuilin between Ardrishaig and Tarbert in Mid Argyll, which is due to start today (Thursday) has been postponed until tomorrow (Friday).

The £40,000-worth of improvements will take place in one day, between 7am and 7pm, instead of two days.

A 10-mph convoy system

will be in place to ensure the safety of the workers and motorists.

A BEAR Scotland spokesman said: 'We thank motorists for their patience in advance and would also encourage them to plan ahead before setting out by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up-to-date travel information.'

New technology to fuel ferries' economy drive

TECHNOLOGY to control fuel consumption on CalMac's 10 largest vessels is being installed to improve costs and emissions.

Project Ecoship will send consumption information back to head office in a

continuous feed of data.

The £450,000 cost of installing the system will be recouped in a year through fuel savings, the operator estimates, with eight of the 10 vessels already using the system.

TIMESLINE

Critic Jay praises seafood eateries

A RENOWNED food critic has praised two Oban eateries in last week's Observer magazine.

Jay Rayner visited the Oban Seafood Hut and Ee-usk last month and enjoyed them both for different reasons.

He appreciated the ruggedness and simplistic style of the seafood hut and the presentation and preparation of Ee-usk.

John Ogden of Oban Seafood Hut said: 'I think it does wonders for Oban.'

'It couldn't be more accurate. We are what we are, a crab stall on the pier.'

'But what it doesn't mention is the infrastructure behind what everyone sees, the smoke house, the saw mill, the purification tanks.'

Calum MacLeod of Ee-usk said: 'It's a great advert for Oban to be recognised as the seafood capital of Scotland.'

TV highlights Coll basking sharks

OBAN-based company, Basking Shark Scotland, appeared on the ITV television programme, Countrywise, on Monday night.

Countrywise, which explores the best of Britain's coast and country, showed presenter, Liz Bonnin, and company owner, Shane Wasik, searching for basking sharks off the island of Coll.

They were successful in their endeavour and swam alongside the protected species which can grow up to 12 metres in length.

Basking Shark Scotland doesn't just seek out sharks, they also offer snorkelling and seal tours.

To find out more visit: www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk.

Trust helps boys' rugby training

A CHARITABLE Trust in Taynuilt has made donations to a group of schoolboys selected to attend a rugby training camp in France.

Taynuilt Medical Practice, who made the donation, have, in the past, contributed to the Lorn Organic Growers, Mid Lorn, Barcaldine and Appin schools.

The purpose of the trust is to aid educational needs or enhance the health and well-being of patients, staff and the community.

Woman charged under drugs act

A 29-year-old woman has been reported for allegedly having diazepam tablets in Oban on Friday, October 16. She was searched near Lynn Road, and charged under the misuse of drugs act.

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SPARKLING: Liz Macaskill show off one of her six bottles of wine

Bubbling over with joy

HALF-A-DOZEN lucky contest winners will toast the festive season in style after winning six bottles of sparkling wine in an Oban Times competition.

Two successful competitors, Margaret MacKay from Oban and Liz MacAskill from Connel, collected their prize last Thursday.

All they had to do to win the intoxicating prize was answer a simple question about where the wine was made.

Margaret said: 'To say I am delighted is an understatement. I am a pensioner and wine just doesn't happen in my house.'

'I'm drunk with success. The wine will be kept for Christmas and New Year, family birthdays and I'll give a bottle to each of my neighbours as they're good to me.'

Liz, on the other hand, said that she was probably going to raise a glass this week to her success.

AS COUNCILLORS VOTE ON AUSTERITY CUTS, MOTHERS PLAN TO LOBBY ARGYLL AND BUTE'S HEADQUARTERS

Irate parents lay siege to Kilmory castle

STEVEN RAE

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ANGRY Oban mothers are set to take their protest over a proposed 'disgusting' cut to special needs education to the doors of the council's Kilmory castle headquarters in Lochgilphead today (Thursday).

The 'peaceful' protest has been organised by the irate women as Argyll and Bute councillors vote on a plan to axe almost half of the additional support needs (ASN) assistant jobs over the next two years.

The beleaguered local authority has drawn up an eye-watering parcel of cuts for the next two years as it desperately attempts to claw back £18 million to balance the books. The council said it will consult the public before implementing any cuts.

The anxious Oban parents claimed the job losses would severely damage their children's education, who have a range of physical or mental health needs.

The proposed cut would mean the loss of 72 staff, to save £1.4 million.

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

The women hope that other parents will also join their campaign to fight the cuts, as they say every child in mainstream education will be affected by the proposals in some way.

An online petition calling for the removal of all the options that affect the vulnerable children had been signed by 593 people at the time of going to press.

Jan Roberts, whose daughter Nadia attends the learning unit at Oban high school, said: 'Last



CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Oban mothers are set to confront councillors face-to-face at Kilmory castle today

... the very fact ASN cuts are even on the proposals ... is shocking and disgusting

Jan Roberts

Saturday we had a stall on the street for the afternoon and spent that time gathering signatures for the petition, face-to-face with people on the street.

'Everyone we spoke to that day was in agreement that the very fact ASN cuts are even on the proposals to be one of the choices is shocking and disgusting.'

'We have been gathering support via our Facebook page and also have a reasonable amount of support from councillors too.'

'We hope to encourage the rest of the councillors to think of the consequences of putting this particular proposal through on Thursday.'

The group's Facebook page, 'Argyll and Bute Parents against Council Cuts' had more than 1,000 supporters at the time of going to press. The page uses a stark image of a skeleton with its head in its hands as the profile picture (see below).

Jan explained: 'The thinking is that they are trying to strip our children's services to the bare bones. I also thought the head in hands position shows our despair at the situation.'

A council spokesman emphasized that no decisions on cuts would be taken until the period of public consultation had been completed. He said: 'Our funding is set to fall significantly in future years. Budget estimates mean we have to save £9 million in each of the next two years with further savings in future, which is why one of the things we are looking at is our ASN budget, which is in excess of £3million: a significant proportion of the overall education budget.'

'The council has no option but to make choices about what we do and how we work. There are no easy choices now.'



SNP trio advise council to sell castle to make savings

THREE prominent SNP politicians have come up with a dramatic solution to help solve the council's drastic £18 million funding shortfall - sell a castle.

The castle in question is Kilmory castle, Argyll and Bute council's leafy headquarters in Lochgilphead.

The party's three Argyll and Bute parliamentarians - constituency MSP, Michael Russell, constituency, MP Brendan O'Hara and Highlands and Islands regional MSP, Mike MacKenzie have issued counter-proposals to the cuts planned by the council.

Top of their 20 proposals to save money is the sale of Kilmory castle as a focus on the decentralisation of power,



Michael Russell

and using existing local council offices with fewer senior staff, claiming it would save £1 million a year in wages and £1 million in running costs.

They also called for a reduction in councillors' expenses, and asking community councils to identify possible savings.

Council leader, Dick Walsh, said the authority appreciated that politicians acknowledged the tough financial situation that lay ahead.

He added that the council hoped the parliamentarians would support the request for more Scottish government funding to bridge the gap, and to assist in growing the economy and population in the region over the next two years.

Kerrera road still on track

MARIAN MILLER
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AN ISLAND community's bid to link the north and south ends of Kerrera has hit a bump in the road - but islanders are determined it won't be the end of the journey for their hopes.

A report before Argyll and Bute's council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee this week updates councillors on the provision of a long-called-for link road across the spine of the island.

While planning permission has been granted and Dunollie Estate, which owns Kerrera, has said it will allow the necessary ground to be acquired by the community, it would appear there is no more money in the pot

to finance further improvements to the island's infrastructure.

The report to councillors states that following the completion of the topographical survey by the council, there is no funding for detailed designs or the legal processes, which could cost an estimated £500,000.

'There is also no available external funding to bid for as the Coastal Communities Fund (run by the Scottish government with income from the Crown Estates) is currently closed to new bids, although this may change in 2016,' said the report.

It concluded that the ball was in the community's court when it came to acquiring detailed designs and estimated costs.

Despite the lack of funding currently available, chairman of

the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, Tim Vollum, said the islanders were in it for the long run.

'Everyone wants to see the road built - the council and the community,' he said.

'It is great that it is on the area committee's agenda because it gives us the opportunity to talk about which direction to go next. It is up to the community and Argyll and Bute council to come together and come up with a plan.'

In 2014, the community's bid to the Coastal Communities Fund made it to the second round, but fell at that hurdle for the lack of a topographical survey, which has since been completed.

'I think it will take time to get all the bits and pieces of the

jigsaw together,' said Tim. 'We just have to look around to see if funds can be generated from somewhere else.'

'It is clear that everyone is trying to work together, but it is about sitting round the table and talking about how we are going to do it.'

'We just want to do this as a community, but we need to keep the pot simmering and not let it go off the boil.'

He added the community was aware that the council did not have the funds to build a road which could cost upwards of £800,000- £1 million, but said he would like to see Transport Scotland, the Scottish Road Works Commissioner in Edinburgh and the Scottish transport minister get involved.



Mike MacKenzie

Beware the hungry pregnant midges

ARGYLL, and the vast amount of midges that call it home, were the centre of attention on Monday night when they were showcased on a television programme on BBC One.

'The Secret Life of Midges',

visited Lochaber in an attempt to discover who and what doesn't attract the tiny flying pests.

It was revealed that one in seven Scots could contain a natural repellent in their body odour, which results in being bitten

five times less. An abundance of information about the extraordinary insects was also disclosed during the broadcast.

They can flap their wings 1,000 times per second and can fly to heights of 700 metres.

Nine out of 10 midges complete their life cycle without biting anyone or anything and males don't bite at all.

The odds are if someone is bitten, it is a hungry pregnant female behind the attack.

Man who bugged home ordered to stay away

AN OBAN man who pleaded guilty to stalking his ex-partner and planting a recording device in her house has been given a non-harassment order.

Piotr Jakubiec, 42, previously admitted visiting addresses in the Oban and Taynuilt areas uninvited and unexpectedly, between December 10 last year and January 7 this year, where former partner, Agnieszka Sarbiewska, lived and worked, repeatedly following her and making a key to her flat where he fixed a recording device to listen to private conversations.

Jakubiec, a landscaper, had claimed he had done so due to fears about the welfare of their child.

Appearing for sentencing on October 15, Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, made her first non-harassment order ever at Oban sheriff court, warning Jakubiec he could still be jailed if he does not adhere to the conditions.

'This is worrying: this is quite extreme behaviour and it got worse as the trial progressed,' she said.

'This is a situation where they have not been living together as husband and wife for years, yet he continues to behave like this.'

Ms Sarbiewska had become suspicious that Jakubiec had been recording her after a female friend had phoned her to say that details of a private, personal conversation between the



SENTENCE DEFERRED: Piotr Jakubiec

two women had been revealed to her by her friend's partner.

'At a previous hearing, she said: 'I thought that Piotr had some recording device in the house. Right after she phoned me, I looked under the kitchen table as this was where we held the conversation. I found two black pieces of tape which were not there before.'

The black adhesive tape had been used to hold the recording device in

place. She also told the court that on different occasions Jakubiec had driven past her house, arrived at her place of work, and, on one occasion, she had seen him pass her on the A85, turn his car around and begin to follow her in his vehicle.

She tearfully told the court that the behaviour had made her feel 'very, very bad'.

Deferring sentence on October 15, Sheriff Anderson told Jakubiec, of Highland Apartments, Breadalbane Street, Oban, that the only reason he was not going to jail was because he was a first-time offender and in full-time employment.

She said: 'That does not mean to say I might not do so in the future, but I am hoping you will now behave yourself and that you will step back from your previous relationship.'

She deferred sentence for three months on Jakubiec, to be of good behaviour, and granted bail with the conditions that he did not enter locations where his previous partner lives or works and issued the non-harassment order, despite opposition from his defence lawyer.

'This is a serious enough case to warrant a non-harassment order,' said the sheriff. She added: 'This is not a non-communication order; it is a non-harassment order.'

Knife threat to ex's new boyfriend

WHEN his relationship broke down after six years, a Mull man threatened his ex-girlfriend's new partner with a knife, Oban sheriff court heard last week, (October 14).

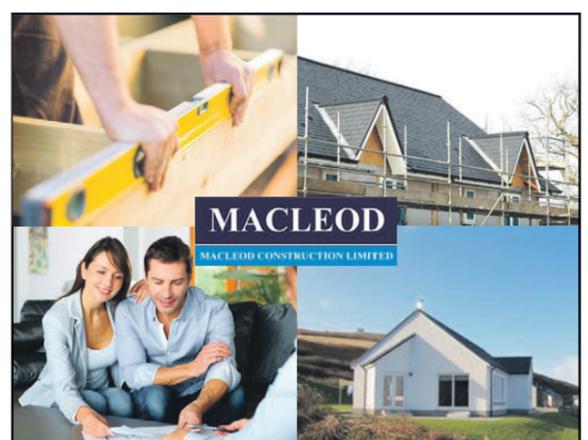
Anthony Richard Parkin, aged 32, now living at Morven View, Salen, Mull, had returned to collect some belongings from the home he had shared with his former partner and children, on the understanding no-one would be in.

'His partner, children and the third party were there,' said defence lawyer Edward Thornton, as Parkin pleaded guilty to threatening and abusive behaviour, shouting and swearing and brandishing a knife at the address in Fionnphot, Mull, on August 8 this year.

The court heard that Parkin had picked up a kitchen knife at the property.

'He accepts he lost his temper and he deeply regrets that his children saw this,' Mr Thornton added.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, advised Parkin 'to put his children's welfare first and get a grip' as she deferred sentence for three months for him to be of good behaviour.



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TIMESLINE

Police in search for play park vandals

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a play park next to an Oban primary school was vandalised.

Two men were spotted in the park, next to Park primary school, on Monday, October 19, between 1.30am and 2am, and are accused of damaging the children's equipment, before leaving the scene.

Police are asking for anyone who may have seen the incident and can provide information to contact PC Macintyre at Oban police station on the non-emergency number, 101.

Wheelchair theft leads to help plea

A WHEELCHAIR was stolen in Oban and police want the public to help them find it.

The wheelchair was reported missing at some time between 8.15pm on Saturday, October 10, and 10am the next morning. The wheelchair was left on the Railway Pier, next to the train station and the adjacent seafood stall.

Anyone with any information should contact PC Jeremy Moore at Oban police station on the non-emergency number, 101.

Driver accused of violent struggle

A MAN has been charged after being accused of having a quantity of heroin in Oban on Monday.

The 35-year-old man was stopped in his car in Argyll Street at midday and is alleged to have struggled violently with police as they searched him.

He was charged under the misuse of drugs act, obstructing a search and possession of a class A drug.

He was reported to the procurator fiscal.

Pensioner to face motoring charges

A PENSIONER was charged with a number of traffic offences at the weekend, in a notorious speeding black-spot.

The 66-year-old man was arrested for overtaking when it was unsafe to do so, crossing solid white lines on the road and speeding, at Arrivain, near Tyndrum, at around 1pm on Saturday, October 17. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Man reported for abusive manner

A MAN was charged following drunken, disorderly behaviour in Oban town centre at the weekend.

The incident happened at 1.45am on Friday, October 16 in the town's George Street.

The 27-year-old man was arrested for threatening and abusive behaviour.

A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Coll

A TEAM of archaeologists have discovered 3,000-year-old weapons on Coll, including broken swords and spearheads.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland nature reserve on the Isle of Coll has described it as the first discovery of its size in Argyll for many years.

The find was dug up during an archaeological investigation directed by the RSPB, in conjunction with Treasure Trove Unit and National Museums Scotland.

To date, 12 objects that may have been used for fighting have been found.

Following the discovery of the ancient weapons, the Treasure Trove Unit contacted a handful of museums in the area, which were each then given the opportunity to apply to display the ancient weapons as part of their own collections.

The weapons have since been entrusted to Kilmartin Museum having been shown at Coll's An Cridhe community centre last Wednesday and Thursday.

Trevor Cowie of National Museums Scotland gave a talk about the discoveries, and a question-and-answer session with archaeologists from RSPB Scotland was held afterwards.

Representatives from the Kilmartin Museum were also on hand to give their thoughts about the possibility of future excavations on the island.

Jill Harden, RSPB Scotland reserves archaeologist, said: 'This is the first discovery of this size from Argyll for many years.'

'The items were recovered from what had once been a freshwater loch.

'It seems that they had been purposefully broken and cast into the waters as part of a ceremony, most likely as offerings or gifts to the gods or goddesses of the time. Trevor Cowie, of National Museums Scotland's department of Scottish history and archaeology, said: 'While a fair number of objects from this period have been discovered in the west of Scotland in the past, we generally know very little about the precise places where they were found.'

'Archaeological techniques have developed dramatically since those 19th century discoveries were made, so we have a great opportunity here to resolve many unanswered questions.'

Plockton

PLOCKTON Historical Society presented a talk on the origins of bagpipers in Plockton village hall on September 17. Around 30 people attended the presentation by Ross Calderwood from Balmacara.

On September 24, the Plockton Horticultural and Handicrafts Society presented a talk in the village hall. It was given by Anthony Hovey of Skye Vegetables. His interesting address on how to grow vegetables and salad crops was enjoyed by the audience after the worst summer for a long time for gardens.

Scottish folk band, Rura, drew a large crowd to Plockton high school on September 29.

Two fundraisers in Plockton Hotel raised £1,140 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A race night raised £1,100 and the remaining £300 came from a coffee morning.

September was the driest month of the year in Plockton with only one and a half inches of rain. The highest temperature was 21.2°C and the coldest 7.3°C.

Barra

BARRA residents will have the chance to receive information about part-time and full-time learning courses with the Open University, during an informal drop-in session on the island today (Thursday).

Information on courses and qualifications will be available at the event at St Brendan's Hospital, Castlebay, between 2pm to 4pm, with no appointment necessary.

The event will take place inside the hospital, where an Open University tutor will offer advice and information to prospective students on issues including courses and financial support available. Full details are available at www.open.ac.uk/events.

Argyll and Bute

PRIMARY pupils from Argyll and Bute are being challenged to travel back in time and imagine what life was like on board a First World War battleship in a national competition.

'Stories of the Sea - Hold The Front Page!' is the third annual school's competition organised by Legion Scotland (Royal British Legion Scotland).

Funded by Co-operative Funeralcare and the Scottish government, this year's challenge asks P5, P6 and P7 pupils to use their imaginations to produce a newspaper article about life on the high seas during the war. Ten classmates and two teachers from the winning school will be sent on a three-day trip to Orkney where they will visit Scapa Flow, Britain's main naval base during WWI where seven battleships still lie today.



Duror choir on song at Appin open night

Duror Community Choir entertained the audience at Appin SWI's open night held in the village hall last Thursday. The choir, conducted by Terry Goodwin, far right, and accompanied by organist, Kerr Jamieson, and Malcolm Knowlson on guitar, performed a varied programme including 'Highland Cathedral', 'I remember it well', 'Hallelujah' and a traditional Maori song. The audience joined in a rousing medley of songs from the First World War, including 'It's a long way to Tipperary' and 'Keep the home fires burning' to end a very enjoyable evening.



GENEROUS: Spean Bridge primary school's 5/6 class raised £172 for UNICEF to help children fleeing Syria

Generous pupils help Syrian children

SPEAN Bridge primary pupils raised more than £170 for UNICEF after hearing about the plight of children in Syria.

The P5/6 class read about youngsters

fleeing their home towns to escape fighting and told the rest of the school in assembly.

They then asked parents to donate £1 per family, or whatever they could

afford, and raised £89.95. But the fund was boosted further when pupil, Abi Kay, came to school with £83 raised by a Facebook appeal made by her parents.



BEST FEET FORWARD: Kinlochleven high school pupils took on a hike and camping trip

Arisaig

AFTER a wet summer, rainfall in Arisaig during September was just one third of the average for this time of year, at one and a half inches.

This brings the rainfall for the year to

date to 44 inches, still slightly higher than usual. The average daily temperature ranged from 9.2°C to an unseasonably warm 18.75°C. The hottest day was 26°C, dropping to 7°C on the coldest night.

Kinlochleven

FIFTEEN south Lochaber teenagers braved the outdoors for a hike and camping trip, which saw them take the first step to a Duke of Edinburgh award.

The Kinlochleven high school pupils walked from Corriechoille to Spean Bridge in unseasonably good weather last month, carrying all their own supplies and navigation equipment. It included an overnight stop-off as part of their qualifying expedition for the award.

Mrs McBride, Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator at Kinlochleven, said: 'They proved themselves to be highly responsible, trustworthy and determined young people and thoroughly deserve the accreditation for completing this part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.'

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry

ABRIDGED minutes of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council's October meeting.

BEAR and Transport Scotland - Transport Scotland is planning culvert replacements and road surfacing on various sections of the A86 near Laggan, the A889 at Dalwhinnie, and on the A82 at Aberchalder until early November.

No response from Dave Thompson MSP concerning the delay in infilling the ditches at Aonachan Crossroads and when the proposed resurfacing of the A82 to the south of the Spean Bridge might take place.

The 30mph sign to the east of Roy Bridge is working again, and the Laggan Dam lay-by is at last being resurfaced, but requests to clear the vegetation at the side of the pavement to the Commando Memorial have gone unheeded.

Broadband - Peter McIntosh reported that the designs were complete for the three Spean Bridge sites, and the formal agreements awaited signature. Highland Council - The lines have been painted on the B8005 to the west of the Gairloch Triangle but the sign is still to be erected. The parapet at Clunes

has been damaged again, and the potholes have re-appeared. The hatching in front of the fire and rescue garage in Spean Bridge has been repainted.

The new re-cycling equipment needed to resurface roads had not been purchased, but an alternative plan was being assessed.

Although the community councillors felt they were currently unable to find sufficient volunteers to assist with the winter resilience programme, the secretary was instructed to request that the grit bins were filled prior to the onset of winter.

Christmas lights - Peter McIntosh reported Glen Spean and Great Glen Tourism Group plans had been delayed because of illness, but some improvements in the lights were expected this year with the support of Highland Stagecoach.

Community council elections - The chairman was pleased to announce that there were six nominations in the community council election which would be uncontested. He congratulated the successful candidates and thanked those who had decided to stand down. It was thought there might have been a late nomination and the

chairman was asked to investigate and offer this person the opportunity to be co-opted. This left a further two vacancies.

Commando Memorial car park toilets - Following further community complaints, the chairman and treasurer have held preliminary meetings with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and others about toilet provision, adjacent to the car park. The RSPB has offered a site visit and access to the plans for their successful composting toilets at Boat of Garten, and that has been accepted.

Highland Stagecoach - It appears Citylink/Highland Stagecoach intend to make changes to the Inverness/Fort William Service by reducing the number of 919 Citylink coaches, replacing them in part with 19 service buses. This appears to be the result of a review into services that were not cost-effective. The community council was concerned about the lack of consultation and feels it should explore alternative operators.

Spar car park - Councillors welcomed the new drainage and resurfacing at the Spar shop car park, but were concerned about safety now that the exit via the Woollen Mill car park had been blocked off.

MORVERN lines

Caring for patients in days gone by was so different from today

WE TEND to take 24-hour medical cover for granted, but not so long ago, things were very different.

There were no telephones or radios to summon the doctor, only ponies, boats and signal fires on hills and remote promontories; no cars, helicopters or fast inflatables to rush patients and expectant mothers to clinics and accident and emergency wards; hospitals were few and far between and community medical centres hadn't been thought of.

I am not too young to recall a gruff Ardnamurchan doctor consulting and dispensing from the very public running-board of a Forestry Commission lorry outside the old Strontian village hall. One of his patients was suffering from boils, prompting the acidic aside that it was unusual for them to be found, in this case, on brass necks. An ointment was prescribed and if that was unsuccessful an injection would follow, 'and if that doesn't work we will get Big Lachie [the Department of Agriculture gamekeeper] to put a shot in you', thus concluding the hurried and unsympathetic visit to the doctor!

The late and greatly respected, Dr Flora MacDonald, Salen, Mull, once ran out of new suture needles and had to apologise to a patient for the bluntness of an old one when she was putting a couple of stitches in his hand.

'I had to sew up the udder of one of Lachie Knock's cows last night and haven't had time to sharpen it' was her jocular explanation. Most likely she had because these were the days when rural doctors could and would turn their hand to animal medicine when there wasn't a vet available.

Donald Morrison (1885-1986), the grand old seannachie from Ardtun on Mull who ended his days in the Eventide Home in Salen after enthralling School of Scottish Studies sound recorders with hours of fascinating local history, told me that when he was a boy, a doctor would visit the Ross of Mull only every few months. Dr John MacLachlan of Rahoy (1804-74), the famous Gaelic bard, often travelled as far as the Uists to tend to the sick, spending weeks away from his home on the shores of Loch Teacuis. Likewise, Dr MacNaughton from Salen, Loch Sunart. These were popular men, famous for their medical skill and revered by the less well-off members of the community for waiving their fees in times of hardship long before the birth of the National Health Service.

It was always said by an older generation that, wherever there was disease or sickness, a cure would be found in the locality. From this remark it was obvious country folk had a far greater grasp of healing than the average person does today.

Hippocrates, a Greek physician who lived more than 2,000 years ago and considered the most outstanding figure in the history of medicine, maintained that a doctor must teach his patients to care for their own health.

Until recently, however, most doctors have preferred to believe that patients can know too much. Now, thanks to the internet, they are less inclined to be so possessive of their knowledge and the mystique of their craft - a change that must go a long way towards preventive medicine.



Rahoy House

There used to be an artesian well, which I hope is still there, a little way above Rahoy House, from whose cold, clear waters Dr MacLachlan made up his potions. St Cyril's Well below the ancient McColl burial-ground on Beinn Churalain overlooking Loch Creran, is dedicated to St Cairrell and, for centuries, was visited on St Patrick's Day by people from all over Scotland. Now I hear it is being fouled and trampled by cattle.

A favourite wild plant which people in the Hebrides have used for medicine from the beginning of time, is bog bean (Menyanthes trifoliata) called 'Tribhileach' in Gaelic. Bog bean is found in ditches and bogs and, when boiled, was used extensively for rheumatoid arthritis, loss of appetite, upset stomachs and hangovers. It was prescribed by a GP on Mull up until only a few years ago.

Rose hips are a rich source of vitamins and antioxidants and often used as a spring tonic and to promote hoof growth and soothe aching joints in cattle and horses. I was told a story the other day about a Highland bull, born on Mull but now living on a farm in Strathpeffer, who became out of sorts. Conventional medicine proved hopeless but, on being fed quantities of rose hips, he recovered. News of this miracle went round and the story goes that the arthritic ladies of Mull and Morvern have cleaned out the health shops in Oban and Fort of rose hip supplements.

An apocryphal story, no doubt, and one not dissimilar to the old woman who found a cache of marijuana washed up after a storm on a beach at the back of Mull. She had no idea what it was but thought maybe the hens would like it. They did. Word got out and soon she was selling the eggs for £50 a dozen in Tobermory.

Perhaps I should end by recalling the prayer of old Highlanders, for preservation from the disorder that whisky would not cure.

Iain Thornber
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Portsonachan



Portsonachan village hall on Loch Awe-side recently held a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The event, organised by the village hall committee, raised the magnificent sum of £371.

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Keep coaches on every bus service

COUNCILLOR FEARS 'SHODDY' BUSES WILL REPLACE CURRENT VEHICLES

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY councillor has slammed changes to the Fort William to Inverness bus service, saying Lochaber will be left with an 'embarrassing' and 'inappropriate' service.

Two of the current five Citylink 919 coach routes between Fort William and the city are to be replaced with the Highland Stagecoach 19, which John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said often provide old and damaged buses for the route.

The bus link is the only public transport link between the town and Inverness, with no train available.

Mr Fotheringham is angry there has been no public consultation ahead of the changes, due to come into force in November. He said: 'This is just another example of businesses showing they don't care about Lochaber, but because it's a commercial service they have no obligation to ask customers

what they think, despite us being the ones paying the fare.

'The Fort William to Inverness route is always busy and must be extremely profitable between locals going to Inverness for shopping and appointments and tourists going to visit Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle. To take away our coach service and replace it with an inappropriate and shoddy bus service is embarrassing.

'Since West Coast Motors and Shiel Buses took over the route to Glasgow they have put on brand new coaches, so why can Stagecoach not do the same for the Inverness route?'

'Now it will be argued that the 19 service is cheaper than the 919 service, so there will be benefits to the travelling public, yet there are no safeguards to the type of coach or bus that may be used and Highland Stagecoach have shown this summer that they do deploy a variety of inappropriate buses on the service.'

A spokeswoman for Scottish Citylink said: 'Like all businesses, from time to time we take a look at our network to

determine which services are most in demand and which have fewer passengers using them. This is to ensure we are providing the kind of services that reflect the travel habits of our customers. As a result, we are making some changes to our 919 route.

'From 23 November, we will be withdrawing a small number of services from the route. However, we will continue to offer six daily journeys between these locations.

'Stagecoach North Scotland operated these services on our behalf. We informed them of this change and understand they plan to introduce additional journeys in the area to provide even more journey options for local people.

'We work hard to make sure we are using our resources effectively to meet the needs of as many of our customers as possible. We carried out a consultation with local authorities and received no responses raising any concerns with our plans.'

Mr Fotheringham, who regularly travels to Inverness

by bus, also said Steve Walker, managing director of Highland Stagecoach attended his community council meeting in September and said there would be no changes to the Fort William to Inverness route: 'I specifically asked him at the meeting if there would be changes and he assured me there would not. Then less than a month later I discovered that was not true. Nobody listens to the people who actually use the service.'

A spokeswoman for Stagecoach North Scotland said: 'Most of the vehicles on Service 19 use the same vehicles as are used on Service 919.

'Where that is not possible, we ensure the vehicles used on the route are adequate for the journey. All of our buses are maintained through a strict regime that goes beyond what is required by law. We are adding two new journeys to reduce the impact on the local community of the Scottish Citylink changes to service 919 and will continue to operate the majority of services using coaches wherever possible.'

'Vital' council work praised

A LOCHABER councillor has praised the 'vital' work of community councils after hearing six in the region couldn't secure enough members this year.

Nominations were held ahead of community council elections in November, but some groups failed to meet the minimum number of candidates and will have to disband. These include Ardour, Arisaig, Kinlochleven, Mallaig, Morvern and West

Ardnamurchan. Thomas MacLennan, Highland councillor and leader of Lochaber area committee, said: 'I'd like to thank the community councillors for all their work over the years.

'They play a vital role in their areas and the council is indebted to them.'

Anyone interested in becoming a community councillor in the disbanded areas will have another chance to stand in January next year.

Musician's winning words

FORT William musician, Ewen Henderson, has been named joint winner of a Gaelic poetry competition.

The Mánran singer was one of two winners of the inaugural MacDonald of Sleat poetry prize, established by Sir Ian MacDonald in memory of his daughter, Deborah MacDonald, who died last year.

Ewen's poem, 'Foghar nan Gallan', (Autumn of the Saplings), was described by Sir Ian as a 'skillfully crafted

memorial'. The other winner was Eoghan Stewart from Easter Ross.

Sir Ian, chairman of the trustees of Clan Donald Lands Trust, said: 'The two poems are beautiful and I can see why it was so difficult to choose an outright winner. Our darling daughter died much too young and these poems are skillfully crafted memorials to her. We thank those who wrote such meaningful words at such a sad time.'



GARDEN DREAM: area organiser for Poppy Scotland, George Kerr, with two of the crosses. 20_143poppy01

High hopes for a garden full of memorial crosses

A WOODEN cross planted beside Fort William war memorial in memory of each of its 154 names is the aim of the Royal British Legion (RBL).

With less than three weeks till Remembrance Sunday, on November 8, poppy sellers will be out in Lochaber from Saturday, October 24. Last year, generous donations from locals and visitors totalled more than £7,550 and the aim is to surpass that this year.

George Kerr, area organiser for Poppy Scotland, has ordered more than enough wooden crosses to remember every person on the Parade's war memorial. He hopes Fort William residents will buy a cross for a minimum donation of £3 each and 'adopt' a serviceman. Mr Kerr said: 'People can write the name of the serviceman on the cross and a short message. What a sight it would be to view a garden full of crosses this year, as a token of respect from us to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.'

The war memorial has a range of names from the First World War until the first Gulf War in 1991.

Mr Kerr, the former commanding officer of the Army Cadet Force (ACF) in Argyll, said he has enough wooden crosses to include memorials in out-lying areas such as Ballachulish and Spean Bridge. It is also hoped to have a silent tribute guard of honour by the memorial from sun up to sundown on Saturday November 7, including ACF and RBL members.

Mr Kerr added: 'Without our volunteers, particularly Bill, Ian and Tommy, who distribute boxes of poppies and tins, none of this would be possible.'

TIMESLINE

Meeting spotlights community safety

COMMUNITY safety will be the focus of the final Lochaber District Partnership meeting of the year.

The joint meeting of Highland council and NHS Highland, to be held in council chambers on Tuesday October 27, will include a presentation by Highland Drug and Alcohol Partnership and a fire and rescue autumn action plan.

Also on the agenda is the proposed new Belford Hospital site, which was secured by Highland council earlier this month. The meeting is open to the public and starts at 1.15pm.

Chance to speak up on council services

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar will be holding a series of budget consultation meetings throughout the Western Isles in the coming weeks.

The meetings are an opportunity for the public to have their say on the prioritisation of services. Meetings are scheduled to be held as follows in November: Tuesday, 10: Sir E Scott School, Tarbert; Wednesday, 11: The Nicholson Institute, Stornoway; Tuesday, 17: Sgoil an Taobh Siar, Barvas; Thursday, 19: Castlebay School, Barra - all at 7pm and Friday, 20: at 5pm Daliburgh School, South Uist and 7pm: Cannish Hall, North Uist.

Roybridge talk on early mapping

EARLY government organised mapping in the Highlands will be the topic of a talk in Roybridge Hall tomorrow evening, Friday. Noel Williams, locally regarded as a fine speaker, will give the talk. The event starts at 7.30pm and the entrance fee of £3 or £4 includes Colby plum pudding and 'stand up' from Mick Tighe.



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Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

There are always at least two sides to an argument and the happy ground is somewhere in the middle. Or so the accepted wisdom goes.

This year's Royal National Mod in Oban has been hailed a tremendous success, generating an estimated £3 million for the town and surrounding area as it attracted 8,000 visitors. The townsfolk were welcoming and hospitable and the quality of the competitions was described as outstanding.

Yet there was one notable, niggling exception - over-zealous parking attendants. Competitors found that they were on the receiving end of fines as their

competitions over-ran and their parking tickets expired. One gold medal winner said he felt 'gutted' when he discovered the fine notice slapped on the windscreen of his car and that it took the 'shine' off his achievement.

Another complained it struck a rather distasteful note to an otherwise wonderful event. Given the significant financial benefit the Mod brought to the town, surely there could have been some relaxation of parking constraints at venues.

And perhaps the council beaks will take a sympathetic view to any contestants who lodge a legitimate complaint about a parking fine.



Days gone by - Connel Bridge, 1960s

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by a reader from Clydebank and features Connel Bridge in the 1960s. A steam train is midway over the bridge, heading back to Oban. Digital versions of flashback photos for the Oban Times can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, the Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Do something useful - call for stop to cuts

Sir,
I congratulate organisations like HOPE for supplying food to people in Oban living in poverty and Michael Russell MSP is correct to express concern about the impact Argyll and Bute council cuts will have on people on low incomes.

However, it's his SNP government which has ordered the council to make the cuts. Rather than just bash the council and the UK government, could Mr Russell do something useful, like persuading his own government to stop the cuts?

Alan Reid, Dunoon.

Well-deserved award for ferry firm CalMac

Sir,
We were delighted and not at all surprised to read CalMac has been named best ferry operator by the Independent Travel Awards against global competition, (the Oban Times, October 15).

We are international tourists, not reliant on the ferries as 'lifeline services to remote communities', vital as this service is.

The award affirms our experience that CalMac demonstrates an exceptional standard of efficiency, professionalism, courtesy, friendly and witty communication, knowledge of the islands and responsiveness to passengers' needs. Cheerfulness, helpfulness and excellent all-round

service have enhanced our holidays in the Hebrides and Western Isles. CalMac staff are brilliant ambassadors for opening the door to this truly unique part of Scotland.

We hear there is a tender for management of these ferries and we sincerely hope the tender will be judged not only on cost, but also on all these facets of quality of service and of experience. Organisational acumen at all levels of management is evident in our overall excellent experience. We have felt totally confident in entrusting our safety to the CalMac service.

Lindsey and Ian Napier; Susan Young; Rosamond and Richard Madden, Australia.

Island toilets need urgent attention

Sir,
I wish to express concern regarding the lack of action by any authority on Mull to improve or even maintain facilities on the island for visitors.

We speak to many of these people when we are out and about and they invariably complain about the lack of signposted designated parking, the lack of notice boards and footpath signs and, above all, the lack of clean, functioning and serviced toilets.

In 2014, the toilets in Salen were out of action during our four-week stay, the hand dryer in the gents loo at Craignure was not working and the lights in the Ulva Ferry toilets seemed to have a mind of their own. They came on as you opened the door, but switched off shortly

afterwards, plunging you into total darkness. I've now been told they are motion activated and come on again if you wave something about - the mind boggles!

This year, the Salen toilets were up and running - running being the operative word. If the floor in the gents loo was any wetter, I'd have needed wellingtons. Also the pedestal in the gents loo was not fixed to the concrete floor. For several days there was no paper in the ladies loo and my wife had to make do with paper serviettes from the tea room just along the road. I hope the authorities on Mull can be shamed into action.

Inveraray pier in a sorry state of repair

Sir,
I have visited Inveraray most summers for the past 50 years and am saddened the pier is in such a sorry state of repair.

It is now just an ugly ruin. Residents and visitors are not allowed to walk on the pier. How has this been allowed to happen? The old school was once a venue for various attractions, with local children given the chance to dance and sing, giving them confidence and enjoyment to residents and visitors. But this building is now just a reminder of past delights.

I understand there is now a committee trying to bring back the lovely Inveraray everyone once knew. I wish them every success.

Rachel Williams MBE, South Glamorgan.

Glasgow Letter

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

Heron Valley's video success

HERON Valley, a young trad band taking Glasgow by storm, have had astounding success with their debut single release.

The music video for their track, entitled 'Pressed for Time', has now reached more than 76,000 people on facebook. It was filmed in Uig Hall, just outside Dunoon, in front of a live crowd.

They are the latest evidence that traditional bands in the 21st century are getting a lot of mileage from social media. Speaking personally, Skipinnish have found social media an invaluable tool to generate publicity for our last three singles. Skerryvore and Trail West have also found music videos a great help.

Heron Valley is living proof that facebook also enables bands who are perhaps slightly lesser established to build on their following. They hail from Strachur and Sandbank, but they are developing a significant, young following in Glasgow.

They head to Glasgow fairly regularly for gigs in the Park Bar and never fail to get the pub bouncing.

This was also true when they played in Oban for the final night of the Mod - just after I had walked offstage with the Skipinnish boys.

I had hoped to be tucked up in bed by the time they finished at 4am, but such was the energy coming from this band, I could not resist staying and hearing their whole gig. This band is winning the west coast over very quickly, and quite rightly so.

The track is available on iTunes, Spotify and Vimeo and the video can be seen on YouTube. I must warn you, however, that it is in no way advisable to listen to the track if you want to be saved from humming James Mackenzie's famous pipe reel 'Smelling Fresh' every five minutes for the next week.

Highlanders' dance

THE HIGHLANDERS' Club is having its next dance in Partick Burgh Hall on Saturday October 24 from 8pm till 11pm.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

BHA MÒD Sònraichte san Òban dìreach mar a bhiodh dùil, agus taing a-rithist dhan a h-uile neach a rinn uimhir a dheasachadh chruaidh gus cuisean an libhrigeadh cho ealanta.

Gun teagamh chuir an aimsir àlainn loinn air leth air an tachartas cuideachd agus cha b' urrainn crìoch na bu shnasail dha baile a' Mhòid na gun do bhuanach Còisir Ghàidhlig an Obain prìomh fharpais nan còisir, Sgiath MhicShimidh agus Thulaich Bhàrdainn!

Ged is e an aon amas a th' aig gach Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail, agus gu dearbh aig gach Mòd Ionadail, a' Ghàidhlig agus a' chomhar-rachadh agus fhòilleachadh, tha a h-uile Mòd beagan eadar-dhealichte.

'S e rud math a tha an sin agus 'e mo bheachd gum bheil an aon dileab às gach fear le inbhe na Gàidhlig ga togail feadh an t-saoghail. 'S fhada bho bha mise ag argamaid gum bheil Gàidhlig na pàirt chudromach de dhualchas nàiseanta Alba agus ri linn sin gum bheil deastanas air Alba dìon agus taic a' chumail rithe. Tha mi moiteil gun do shoirbhich an iomairt a thòisich mi trì bliadhna



DEBUT SINGLE: Heron Valley are the latest trad band to use social media

Tickets are £9 and there will be a bar.

Glasgow Skye prize draw

GLASGOW Skye Association's 150th anniversary prize draw will be drawn on Friday October 23 at the Marag Supper in Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Glasgow.

The evening begins at 7.30pm and salad is available as an alternative to marags. Music will be provided by Charlie Kirkpatrick and Kenneth Thomson.

What's on

Friday October 23: Glasgow Skye Association Marag Supper, the Crawford Hall.

Saturday October 24: Tìree Association fundraising race night, Crawford Hall.

Thursday October 29: 'Lasag: Coinnich ri Ughdar' (Meet the author), Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul, 7pm, Gaelic Books Council, 32 Mansfield Street.

Thursday October 29: Seinn Air a' Phìob (Song on the Pipes) by An

Lòchran and the Big Music Society, at St Andrews in the Square.

Friday October 30: Comunn Uibhist agus Bharragh Ghlaschu (Glasgow Uist and Barra Association) ceilidh dance, Crawford Hall.

Saturday October 31: Leugh and Seinn le Linda, Gaelic Books Council, from An Lòchran and Comhairle nan Leabharraichean.

Friday November 5: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association complimentary dinner to gathering chairman, Glasgow Pond Hotel.

Saturday November 6: The Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association (Comunn Leodhais agus Na Hearradh Ghlaschu) annual gathering concert, followed by dance, Glasgow University Union.

Sunday November 7: Glasgow Skye Association's Post-Mòd children's ceilidh, Crawford Hall.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday October 22: Session. Friday October 23: Eriskay Lilt. Saturday October 24: Trail West. Sunday October 25: Trail West.

Islay Inn: Friday October 23: Black Velvet. Saturday October 24: Penny Dogs. Wednesday October 28: quiz.

Ailean Caimbeul

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 - Piping (6)
 - Implying why (6)
 - When the doors are locked (7,5)
 - Buckwheat pancakes (5)
 - Theft (7)
 - Inclination (8)
 - Jacob's twin in the bible (4)
- Down
- One who repairs arms (8)
 - Inflexible (5)
 - Hot salad veg (6)
 - Coming up from London? (12)
 - Wicked (7)
 - House votes (4)
 - Pointed tool used to separate rope (12)
 - Said when a sneeze is heard (5,3)
 - Mass of gold (7)
 - As a whole (2,4)
 - Rewards (5)
 - Final notice (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

P	O	S	S	E	S	S	B	O	N	U	S
I	N	S	O	U	T	I	O	N			
C	R	O	S	S	O	U	E	S	T	I	O
K	W	E	A	T	H	E	A	S	A		
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A	S	T	M	N	U	N					
L	I	S	T	S	A	U	K	L	E	T	S

'New' choir back on song at Mòd

LOCHABER Gaelic choir, performing in competition for the first time, sung their hearts out to win one of the major trophies at the Royal National Mòd in Oban.

Lochaber Gaelic Choir's rendition, on Friday last week, of their prescribed piece 'Tir a Mhuraín' and their own song 'Maraiche nan Cuanant', won them the Margaret Duncan Memorial Trophy.

'Maraiche nan Cuanant' was composed by Flora MacPhail, awarded the Bardic crown this year, and her son Angus.

The 19-strong choir, reformed in early 2014, in the knowledge that the Mòd will be coming to Fort William in 2017, went into the competition determined not to come last.

Conductor, Rachel Walker, who teaches music at the school of excellence in traditional music in Plockton and at West Highland college, said: 'We were absolutely delighted. Our aim was to come fifth or sixth out of the seven choirs competing. We could not quite believe it when we were judged the winners. We were gobsmacked with the result. I'd like to thank the choir for all the hard work at rehearsals which made this possible.'

There had not been a Gaelic choir in Lochaber for many years when Fiona Cameron, who is now the chairman and Claire Delaney decided to set the wheels in motion and reform one.

The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Caol community centre and anyone who might like to join is welcome to go along.



TRIUMPHANT RETURN: the newly-reformed Lochaber Gaelic choir won the Margaret Duncan Trophy at the Royal National Mòd in Oban last week

TIMESLINE

Body found after police search

MESSAGES of grief and support were placed on social media sites after Lochaber police confirmed the body of a woman had been found following a search on Monday.

Police said the family, of 41-year-old Louise Stewart, have been informed, there were no suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Snap up a bargain book at club sale

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber's Hallowe'en book sale on Saturday October 31 will include a range of second hand and out of print titles.

Soup and sandwiches will also be served over the lunchtime period.

The event, in Duncansburgh Macintosh church hall, runs from 10am till 4pm.

Pupils raise cash to help refugees

PUPILS at a Lochaber school held a series of fundraising events to raise cash for Syrian refugees.

Last Thursday and Friday a raffle and non-uniform day helped Ballachulish primary pupils raise £272.

The winner of the raffle got to choose three friends to share the top prize of lunch served up by a teacher followed by time to watch a DVD of their own choice.

Police files

Bus raided

IN THE early evening of last Saturday, a suspected thief raided a bus parked outside the Ben Nevis Hotel.

Various items were taken between 8pm and 8.30pm.

Windows and doors smashed

THE FRONT window of the Nickel and Dime shop on Fort William High Street was smashed at about 4.30am on Monday, October, 12.

At 1.15am on Wednesday October 14, the glass front doors of Tesco supermarket on Fort William's High Street were smashed.

Bike taken

POLICE are searching for a red and black mountain bike suspected stolen from the rear of premises on Fort William High Street.

The Scott Aspect adults machine disappeared sometime between Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October, 17.

Car vandalised

A RED Vauxhall car was scratched sometime between Sunday and Monday morning October 18 and 19.

The damaged vehicle was parked on Kilmallie Road, Caol.

Bikes among 'found property'

FORT William police are keen to trace the owners of a large amount of found property.

This includes a number of bikes, some of which are quite valuable, mobile phones, wallets and cameras. The police say that if anyone has had anything taken they should always to check to see if it has been handed in to the office.

Play park party swings into action

A PLAY park party should swing into action at Banavie Park by Neptune's Staircase on the Caledonian Canal on Saturday.

Starting with drum fun at 3pm prompt, this is the first major event organised by 'Friends of Banavie Park', to help raise funds to improve the play and recreational facilities at Banavie Park.

The community group was set up in 2014 because local people wanted to improve the facilities at the park. A public consultation carried out by the group identified the need for better equipment for older children whilst maintaining the natural feel of this famous scenic spot.

Lisa Wharton, vice chairwoman of the group, who has

two young children, said: 'It is such a stunning location, with amazing potential. Our community consultation showed that there is a real desire for improvements to the park, particularly in providing more facilities for older primary children.'

'We are very sensitive to the needs of other users of the park, and we aim for the play

area to have a natural feel and be harmonious with the scenic surroundings.'

Events on the day also include a kids ceilidh, storytelling, pony rides, nature crafts, a disco, karaoke, bouncy castle, hot food and home baking.

With support from Scottish Canals and 'No Fuss' it is sure to be a fun day.

Carrie Starkie, treasurer of

the Friends, wanted to thank everyone involved for their support and said: 'We are so grateful to all the local businesses and individuals who are supporting this event. Party in the Park will be a great way to raise awareness and funds towards improving the park and we're really looking forward to getting the whole community together for a fantastic time.'

Rail workers' long service honoured

FOUR local people have received awards for dedicating 25 years each to Fort William railways. The assistant general secretary of RMT union, Steve Hedley, recently travelled from London to present Stevie Wallace, Mel Davenport, Steven Cameron and Paul MacDonald with service badges at the Railway Club, Inverloch.



Learn how to save a life

EVERY Scottish Fire and Rescue Service fire station has received a new life-saving training kit from the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

Fort William fire station personnel demonstrated the kit last Friday. The station will act as a base to train the public. It takes 30 minutes to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation using the Call Push

Rescue kit and it's taught by DVD. Community groups should contact their local fire station, both full-time and retained, to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the DVD and practice with the kit.

Members of the public can contact their local station or fire officer and arrange a mutually agreeable time to visit the station.

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An equal platform for youngsters

A NEW social enterprise has been created to help young people in south Lochaber facing rural isolation.

It is hoped the not-for-profit scheme, Kinlochlovin', will help youngsters in the Kinlochleven high school catchment area access the same opportunities as young people in more urban areas.

Rebecca Machin, Kinlochleven headteacher, said: 'We are confident through Kinlochlovin' we can provide the training and enterprising skills to ensure all of the young people of Kinlochleven have an equal platform to showcase their talents.'



WINNER: Kinlochleven high school pupil Beth Shepton with her winning logo

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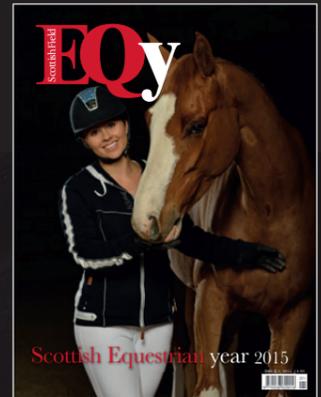
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Pulsing with fairy lights, fireworks and celebrations from St Andrew's Day to Burns Night, winter is a magical time to take a break in the Scottish highlands. The glens are covered with frost and the mountain peaks frosted with snow, so beautiful viewed from indoors, where it's warm and cosy, with roaring woodstoves, hearty delicious fare and a dram of some of the world's finest whisky to keep warm.

In country villages and vibrant towns, everything is decorated

in lights and greenery, making for the ideal merry ambience. Seasonal fun abounds, from winter festivals to Hogmany parties to Burns Night suppers, showcasing quintessential Scotland. Hotels, lodges and inns offer a choice of Christmas and New Year breaks that are sure to bring cheer to the season. Whether your taste is a deluxe country manor or a country pub with rooms- there is a break for every budget and whim. And as the Seafood Capital of Scotland and home of wonderful local produce such as lamb, beef, venison and game, fabulous fare is on offer all year round.

A spa break is the perfect way to cure those winter blahs. Imagine getting pampered with facials, relaxing massages and beauty treatments, while enjoy-

ing world-class gourmet fare and champagne...pure bliss. A session in the sauna and a hot stone massage will chase those winter blues away for good. And shop til you drop- for gifts or for yourself- at one of west coast's many stylish chains and independent stores.

What about a whisky break in the West Highlands, home of some of the world's most famous brands? From Islay to Campbeltown, from Oban to Mull, visitors are spoiled for choice when it comes to the aqua vitae. A fascinating distillery tour, followed by a taster, is sure to warm up the coldest of days.

Make dreams come true with a stay in one of the west coast's stunning castles or manor houses. Celebrate the festive season in a style befitting royalty for a Christmas that will be remem-

bered for years to come. Visit the area's fascinating museums- without fighting the summer crowds.

For those who truly want to get away from it all, head off to a remote Hebridean island for a tranquil break. Leave the computer, the phone and the rat race behind and escape totally, whether for romance or relaxation. A fireplace to keep snug and the quiet beauty of the islands- it's just the antidote to the busy workaday routine.

November is a great time to visit the west coast for the Oban Winter Festival, held the 20-29, with a Victorian themed market, parades, ceilidhs, live music, art and exhibitions. The town will be bustling with fun and food, as Oban celebrates the Year of Food and Drink with a special Haggisfest. The famous

McCaig's Tower will transform into a kaleidoscope of dancing light, culminating in fireworks over Oban Bay.

For those ready to hit the powder, Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK is ground zero for winter sport. Fort William, Ben Nevis and Glencoe are not only some of the most scenic areas in Scotland, they offer outstanding skiing, snowboarding, ice climbing and mountaineering, with the highest peaks in Britain. The Fort William Winter Festival in February features workshops, film screenings and fringe events celebrating wild mountain culture.

Warm highland and island hospitality, first-rate dining and festive celebrations- the west coast has all the ingredients for memorable winter break. What are you waiting for?

Mountain guides secure extra funding

A FIRM of Fort William mountain guides have found some extra funding thanks to an enterprise trust.

Abacus Mountain Guides have received an award of £7,710 to support plans to expand their operation and employ an additional member of staff.

The funding was given by the LMM Business Enterprise Trust who provide one-off grants to businesses in North West Scotland to support and improve employment opportunities.

Abacus Mountain Guides provide adventures on the West Coast of Scotland, creating tailor-made trips based on weather and conditions, previous experience and aspirations.

It is hoped that once the new member of staff has gone through their training and qualified as a summer and mountain leader, they will be able to lead activities, generating additional income from the company.

Mike Pescod, the director of the guides firm said: 'Like many people running small businesses I found I was spending all my time 'in' the business meaning I had no time to spend 'on' the business.'

Businesses in North West Scotland, looking to start up, expand or diversify and can demonstrate the benefit they could make to the local community, can apply to the LMM Business Enterprise Trust through Foundation Scotland at: www.foundation-scotland.org.uk

The closing date is November 13.

Diamond couple celebrate

A COUPLE celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with a private reception in the Ardgour Inn and a dance for the community in the village Hall.

John and Katie Maitland, 78 and 79 respectively, celebrated 60 years of marriage on Thursday, October 15 surrounded by friends and family. They were joined by Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Iain Thornber, who delivered a card of congratulations from the Queen.

Both attended Grantown Grammar School, but their paths did not cross there as Katie was in the year above John.

Back in 1953, John's mother was working at Aigas near Beaulie, and John, aged 16, decided to cycle the 40 miles down to Nethy Bridge for the Highland games with the intention of entering the mile race for locals. But because he was not local, he was told he could only enter the open mile.

John said: 'I started the race, but was left for dead and my whole day was shot, but some friends said I should come to the marquee dance in the evening.'

'I did and the highlight was meeting a beautiful girl, Katie. By good luck she had cycled from Boat of Garten so I was able to accompany her home before riding back to Aigas.'

The couple became romantically involved and one day aged



ANNIVERSARY CHEER: John and Katie Maitland cut their diamond wedding cake.

18, John was talking to Katie and in the conversation said 'when we are married', so he had to propose. They bought their ring at Gavins jewellers in Inverness near the townhouse.

With John's national service in the Camerons looming, the young couple married at Dulnain Bridge Church on Speyside in 1955 and enjoyed a short four day honeymoon in Dundee.

After basic training, John was posted to Berlin and latterly to Bury St Edmunds, from where he regularly wangled leave to see his wife.

Back home at the end of his military stint, John started forestry work and remained in the business until his retirement. At first the couple lived at Treslaig for eight years but relocated to Ardgour, where they have been residents for 40 years.

Asked about the secret for a long marriage they both agreed they are opposites temperamentally, but if Katie says: 'Do what you want,' in response to something it makes John stop and think. John added: 'In my forestry work I was often away from home in the week but now I am at home and that is where I want to stay.'

The couple have three boys, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren with a fourth on the way.



ON THE UP: Ice Factor Kinlochleven is to re-open in December following a fire in July

Fire ravaged Ice Factor to re-open by December

THE WORLD'S biggest indoor ice climbing facility will re-open before the end of the year.

Ice Factor Kinlochleven has been closed since July after a fire started in the sauna of the £3.4 million tourist attraction.

Jamie Smith, owner of the 119-year-old building in south Lochaber, said work costing hundreds of thousands is underway and Ice Factor should re-open in December.

He said: 'I am optimistic Ice Factor Kinlochleven will finally re-open for business in December. Over the past nine weeks, considerable progress has been made by staff

and specialist teams to help clean, rebuild and reinstate key facilities. In the climbing areas alone, work is ongoing to strip the huge ice and climbing walls, re-establishing both the ice-pack and an estimated 9,000 climbing holds.'

Mr Smith also expressed his gratitude to customers for their patience: 'I am hugely appreciative of the support and understanding of our many loyal customers. The team now looks forward to welcoming climbers and visitors back to once again enjoy all the fun and adventure that this big, bold exciting facility has to offer.'

Pupils on the fast track to Chinese trip of a lifetime

A TRAIN trip on the world's first commercial magnetic levitation train was one of the highlights of a visit to China by Lochaber pupils.

The high school youngsters raced through Shanghai on the fastest train in the world, which can reach speeds of 268mph.

The group of pupils and staff have just returned from the 'trip of a lifetime' to the People's Republic of China. They visited three major centres: Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai where they saw some of the country's most famous sights.

The first stop was in Beijing to visit Tian'men Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Ming Tombs and the Great Wall before moving on to Xi'an by overnight sleeper train.

The main attraction in Xi'an was the Terracotta Army with additional visits to the Huaqing Hot Springs and the Wild Goose Pagoda. Then it was a flight to Shanghai for an evening cruise on the Huangpu River, the train trip, shopping on Nanjing Road and visits to the Yu Gardens and the Jade Buddha Temple.

As well as visiting world-famous sights, the group, accompanied by guides, took part in a Chinese tea ceremony, went to the theatre to see an acrobatics show and the Tang Dynasty Show.

They visited the 'Bird's Nest' Olympic stadium, sampled the wares in a Chinese supermarket and learned much about Chinese history and culture.



TRIP OF A LIFETIME: Lochaber High School pupils and teachers in China.

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Oban Gaelic choir triumphs at Lovat and Tullibardine

mòd an Òbain 2015



Còisir Ghàidlig an Òbain wins top trophy at home Mòd

NO-ONE could have written a better script for the Lovat and Tullibardine competition for area choirs at this year's Royal National Mòd in Oban.

Rumours had been flying around in the weeks before the most prestigious choral competition that Còisir Ghàidlig an Òbain was in a position to be a real contender this year.

And in the lead up to Friday afternoon, the signs were all there - second in the male voice choral competition, winning the trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic and second for the full choir in the puirt-a-beul.

They all proved to be good omens as Còisir Ghàidlig an Òbain pipped Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir at the post by two points to lift the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield after 21 years and at a home Mòd.

But the home town choir had a long wait to sing at the Corran Halls on Friday afternoon.

To speed up the process and keep the audience entertained, 16 adjudicators (Gaelic and music) judged the two regional choirs competitions, the Lovat and Tullibardine and Margrat Duncan Trophy, simultaneously.

With the 16 choirs singing alternately between the competitions, it was almost two and a half hours before Còisir Ghàidlig an Òbain took to the stage with conductor of 13 years Sileas Sinclair to a rousing welcome from the audience.

It was clear from the hush in the hall as the choir sang that Oban had nailed the challenging prescribed song Gaoir nam Ban Muileach arranged by Còisir Ghàidlig Inbhir Nis conductor and musician Mary Ann Kennedy.

The arrangement of an own choice song by Sileas proved to be the icing on the cake as Oban sang Òran do Bhonaparte.

As chairman Allan Campbell read out the Gaelic and music marks in the order in which the choirs had sung, the Corran Halls held its breath.

But it was clear when the marks of 186 and 186 were read out for Oban, just one mark more in each than Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, that Oban had taken the shield.

The crowd erupted as the marks for the final choir were announced and there were many tears among members of Còisir Ghàidlig an Òbain, some of who were singing with the



Oban Gaelic Choir share the love before winning the Lovat and Tullibardine.

choir for their first year and some were even following in their parents' footsteps.

As well as claiming the shield, the choir was delighted when its Gaelic reader Christine MacIntyre lifted the Donald Thomson Memorial Quaich for the Gaelic tutor of the choir obtaining the highest marks in Gaelic and the Weekly Scotsman Quaich for highest marks in Gaelic.

Sileas was presented the Malcolm G MacCallum Silver Baton and Oban Times Silver Salver for the highest marks in music.

It was the culmination of an extremely busy and successful week for Sileas, daughter of well-known musician Neil Sinclair of Connel, who also runs Oban High School Traditional School of Music, teaches music privately and plays with her own cèilidh band Drams Allowed.

She was delighted when the high school folk group won the Folk Groups open under-19 competition.

She was also involved in the National Mòd Fiddlers' Rally on the first Saturday evening

of the Mòd as well as Rachel Walker's Fìghe Concert on the Sunday.

She paid special tribute to her former music teacher Jean Gillies, North Connel, who was the last conductor to be in charge of Còisir Ghàidlig an Òbain when it won the Lovat and Tullibardine in 1994.

'What an amazing week,' said Sileas on her social media page. 'Can't even begin to say how proud I am of Oban Gaelic Choir.'

'They all did themselves and the town so proud winning the Lovat and Tullibardine

shield in Oban. Thanks to Chris MacIntyre for being our fantastically excellent Gaelic reader.

'Brilliant to achieve this up against choirs of such a high standard. We've been working so, so hard and it's all paid off.'

Sileas said she was particularly proud to be presented with the Malcolm G MacCallum silver baton by his son and former Glasgow Hebridean Gaelic Choir conductor and Lovat and Tullibardine winner himself, adjudicator Raibeart MacCallum. Raibeart is originally from Campbelltown.

Joy and happiness as Lorn women pick up duet trophy



More photos available online OBANTIMES.CO.UK/MOD

HAPPINESS: Joy Dunlop (left) and Nicola Pearson share a hug, a laugh and a smile after winning the duet competition for singing in harmony. 17_142modwednesday8029; 17_142modwednesday8030; 17_142modwednesday8031

JOY DUNLOP is no stranger to success at the Royal National Mòd, having won the Gold Medal in 2010.

This year, the 32-year-old picked up her first ever win in the duet section, when she and partner Nicola Pearson took the Neil MacLean and Jenny M B Currie Trophy for their performance of the Gaelic love song, Iain Ghlinn Cuach.

Joy explained: 'This is the first time we had sang together in competition, so we were very surprised to win. I haven't really competed in duets since school.'

'Because we were so busy with other competitions, we missed the announcement that we'd won, but it was a great surprise to hear we had come first.'

A native of Connel, where her parents still stay, Joy

now lives in Glasgow, working freelance as a teacher of Gaelic, mainly singing.

She also picked up the Hector Russell Dirk as conductor of Argyll-based male-voice choir, Coisir Ceann an Tuirc. She said: 'Again, I missed the results because I had to run off to another competition. Then I looked at my phone and had about 50 missed calls and texts

to say we had won, which was great.'

Discussing Oban as a venue, Joy said: 'Not that I'm biased, but I think Oban is the best place for the mòd.'

'Everything is so central and the committee works so hard to make it such a great event. And thankfully we had such great weather this year, so yeah, it's been fantastic.'

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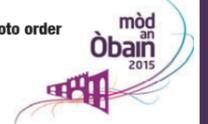
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Lovat and Tullibardine choirs sing to packed Corran Halls



TO THE FORE: Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, conducted by Mary Ann Kennedy, were fourth in this year's Lovat and Tullibardine. t42ModSaturday_8062



TRIUMPHANT: Thirteen years of waiting over, Oban Gaelic Choir conductor Sileas Sinclair holds aloft the Lovat and Tullibardine shield. t42ModSaturday_8194



Sileas Sinclair handed the baton by adjudicator Raibeart MacCallum. t42ModSaturday_8221



CIVIC PRIDE: Oban Gaelic Choir triumphant in the Lovat and Tullibardine competition, making the town proud. t42ModSaturday_8255



POPULAR: Glasgow Gaelic Music Association, conducted by many times Lovat and Tullibardine winner Kenneth Thomson. t42ModSaturday_8091



COMPETITIVE: Lothian Gaelic Choir was placed sixth in the Lovat and Tullibardine. t42ModSaturday_8031



SHARE: Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, conducted by Kirsteen Grant, were pipped to the top place by two points in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield but took home a share in the Rev William Macdonald Memorial Quaich for the highest marks in Gaelic for competitions A301, A304, A307, A308 with Dingwall Gaelic Choir. t42ModSaturday_8054



CLYDESIDERS: Govan Gaelic Choir, who competed in the Lovat and Tullibardine along with nine other choirs. t42ModSaturday_8044

Royal National Mòd results 2015

Saturday October 10, 2015

Fiddle Groups: 1 Na Seann Dhaoine, The Dr and Mrs Atholl Robertson (Oban) Trophy, £100 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Na Daoine Eile, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshops; Piping Ceòl Mòr: 1 Jonathan Greenlees, Glaschu, The James R Johnston Memorial Trophy, £150 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Angus J MacColl, An t-Òban, £100 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Colin Campbell, Inbhir Nis, £75 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Piping Ceòl Beag: 1 Colin Campbell, Inbhir Nis, The John T MacRae Cup, £100 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 J. Decker Forrest, n t-Eilean Sgitheanach, £75 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Jonathan Greenlees, Glaschu, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Piping Hornpipe and Jig: 1 J. Decker Forrest, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, The Argyllshire Gathering, £100 (The Argyllshire Gathering), 2 Cameron Macdougall, Neig, £75 (The Argyllshire Gathering), 3 James MacPhee, Inverness, £50 (The Argyllshire Gathering); Bagpipes Open 13-15: 1 Angus Finlay MacPhee, Inbhir Nis, The Roderick Munro Quaich, Gold Badge, 2 Finlay Cameron, Drochaid Ruaidh, Gold Badge, 2 Angus Finlay MacPhee, Inbhir Nis, Silver Badge, 3 Eòghainn Peutan, Ard-sgoil Phort

Rìgh, Bronze Badge; Piano Open 13-18: 1 Alan Angus Rowan, Ard-sgoil Firrhill, The Margaret Hill-Boyle Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Eilidh G Morrison, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 Magnus Westwell, Ard-sgoil Coille nan Ridirean, Bronze Badge; Fiddle Open 13-18: 1 Magnus Westwell, Ard-sgoil Coille nan Ridirean, The Robert MacCallum Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Hannah MacRae, An Gearasdan, Silver Badge, 3 Rhona MacKintosh, Sgoil Chiùil Lochabair, Bronze Badge; Bagpipes Open 16-18: 1 Brìghde Chaimbeul, An Caol, The Royal Highland Fusiliers Cup, Gold Badge, 2 John Campbell, Ard-sgoil Lourdes, Silver Badge, 3 Donald C Stewart, Acadamaidh Baile nan Stiùbhartach, Bronze Badge; Bagpipes Open 16-18: 1 Brìghde Chaimbeul, An Caol, The Royal Highland Fusiliers Cup, Gold Badge, 2 John Campbell, Ard-sgoil Lourdes, Silver Badge, 3 Donald C Stewart, Acadamaidh Baile nan Stiùbhartach, Bronze Badge; Fiddle Open U13: 1 Lachlan Murdoch Kennedy, St Mary's Music School, Gold Badge, 2 Emma Morrison, Ard-sgoil Dalziel, Silver Badge, 3 = Dòmhnall MacGriogair, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu and Abbie Morris, Ard-sgoil Ile, Bronze Badge; Accordion Open U13: 1 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar, The Daniel G R Burt (Chapel-hall) Airdrie Memorial Trophy, The Smith Mearns Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Calum Macdonald, Lochgilhead Campus, Silver Badge, 3 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Ard-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Bronze Badge; Chanter Open U13: 1 Molly Perkins,

Kyle Gordon Rowan, Ard-sgoil Firrhill, The Smith Mearns Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Connor Alasdair MacPhail, Baileartainn, Silver Badge; 3 William Campbell, Ard-sgoil Inbhir Theòrsa, Bronze Badge; Accordion Music Open U19: 1 Kyle Gordon Rowan, Ard-sgoil Firrhill, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 William Campbell, Ard-sgoil Inbhir Theòrsa, £30 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Duncan Shirkie, Eilean Leòdhais, £20 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Melodeon Open U19: 1 Duncan Shirkie, Eilean Leòdhais, Hebrides Haulage Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Catriona Bain, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 Annie Margaret MacLennan, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Bronze Badge; Piano Open U13: 1 Blythe Shand, Touch Primary School, Dunfermline, The Jenny M B Currie Kilt Pin, Gold Badge, 2 Abigail Cavanagh, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Silver Badge, 3 Evie MacLean-Yuille, Bronze Badge; Fiddle Open U13: 1 Lachlan Murdoch Kennedy, St Mary's Music School, Gold Badge, 2 Emma Morrison, Ard-sgoil Dalziel, Silver Badge, 3 = Dòmhnall MacGriogair, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu and Abbie Morris, Ard-sgoil Ile, Bronze Badge; Accordion Open U13: 1 Archie MacKechnie, Acadamaidh Dholar, The Daniel G R Burt (Chapel-hall) Airdrie Memorial Trophy, The Smith Mearns Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Calum Macdonald, Lochgilhead Campus, Silver Badge, 3 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Ard-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Bronze Badge; Chanter Open U13: 1 Molly Perkins,

Sgoil Lionacleit, Gold Badge, 2 Laura Robertson, Bun-sgoil Gàidhlig Lochabair, Silver Badge, 3 Declan Malloy, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Bronze Badge; Bagpipes Open U13: 1 Eilidh Mòrag Nic a' Phi, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Albainn, The Roderick Ross, Ferintosh, Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Innes Munro, Bun-sgoil an Dùn Beag, Silver Badge, 3 Eòsaph Caimbeul, An Caol, Bronze Badge.

Monday October 12, 2015

Choral Unison Rural Primary: 1 Bun-sgoil Phort Ilein, The Badenoch and Strathspay Area Committee Trophy, 2 Còisir Nam Balach - Bun-sgoil Phort Ilein, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Bun-sgoil Bògh Mòr; Poetry Recitation Learner 13-15: 1 Rachel Grigor, Ard-sgoil Boroughmuir, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Ryan Johnston, Bògh Mòr, Silver Badge, 3 Rachel Bolton, CGM - Loch Alainn, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner 13-15 Girls: 1 Holly Smith, An Eaglais Bhreac, James C MacPhee Memorial Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Mairead MacSweeney, Acadamaidh Bràghaidh Albann, Silver Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Ryan Johnston, Bògh Mòr, Silver Badge, 3 Jean Graham Trophy: = Ryan Johnston, Bògh Mòr and Holly Smith, An Eaglais Bhreac. Silver Medal Learner 13-15 Boys: 1 Ryan Johnston, Bògh Mòr,

James C MacPhee Memorial Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Ross McLeish, Ard-sgoil an Òbain, Silver Badge, 3 Lewis Davey, Bògh Mòr, Bronze Badge; Duet Learner 13-15: 1 Mairead MacSweeney & Laura Nicoll, Acadamaidh Bràghaidh Albainn, The Donald Ross Memorial Trophy, Gold Badges, 2 Holly Smith & Lucy Smith, An Eaglais Bhreac, Silver Badges, 3 Rachel Bolton & Floriana Lawrence, CGM - Loch Alainn, Bronze Badges; Traditional Learner 16-18 Boys/Girls: 1 Katie MacFarlane, An t-Ard-Ruigh, Provost of Falkirk Medal, £50 (Falkirk Council), Gold Badge, 2 Hannah MacRae, An Gearasdan, Silver Medal; Poetry Recitation Learner 16-18: 1 Katie MacFarlane-Cameron, CGM - Cille Chomhghainn, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal, Gold Badge; Folk Groups Open U19: Oban High School Traditional School of Music Group 1, The Allan Thomas Mitchell Trophy, Gold Badges, 2 Faram, Eilean Leòdhais, Silver Badges, 3 Sgoil Chiùil Lochabair, Bronze Badges; Folk Groups Open U13: 1 Clann Thronndairnis, The Murdo MacFarlane Trophy, £500 Voucher (The Highland Council Fujitsu Prize), Gold Badges, 2 Ceòl an Rubha, Silver Badges, 3 Bunsgoil Achadh na Creige, Bronze Badges; Choral Unison Learner U19: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile, The Queen Elizabeth (1937) Coronation Trophy, 2 Còisir Òg Dhailriata, 3 Rionnagan Rois; East Kilbride District Council Trophy: Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile; Iain Thomson Memorial Trophy: Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile; The Alistair

MacNeil (North Berwick) Trophy: Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile; The Jean Walker Memorial Trophy: Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile and Còisir Òg Dhailriata. Choral 2 Part Harmony Learner U19: 1 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile, The Tom Crawford Trophy, 2 Còisir Òg Dhailriata, 3 Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir; Choral Puirt-a-beul Learner U19: 1 Còisir Òg Dhailriata, The Martin Wilson North Berwick Trophy, 2 Còisir Òg Ghàidhlig Ile, 3 Rionnagan Rois, Solo Singing Open U19: Katie MacFarlane, An t-Ard-Ruigh, The Skelmorlie and District Highland Association Quaich, 2 Emily Robertson, An Eaglais Bhreac, 3 Hannah Calder, Ard-sgoil Lochabair; Sing walking songs Open U19: 1 Clann Thronndairnis, The Harris Tweed Authority Award; Conversation Learner 5-6: 1 Adam Kaiess, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Silver Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Rufus Hughes, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Silver Badge, 3 Muireann Dalton, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Learner 5-6: 1 Muireann Dalton, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Daisy's Den Trophy, Gold Badge; Poetry Recitation Learner 5-6: 1 Paige Charlotte Fleming, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain, The Phemie Wilson Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Donald Andrew Fletcher, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Silver Badge, 3 = Sorley Finlay Cavanagh, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu and Catriona Mackinnon, Bun-sgoil an Ath Leathainn, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Learner 7-8: 1 Muireann Dalton, Sgoil

Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Rotary Club of Falkirk Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Scott McPhee, Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Silver Badge, 3 Isla Duke, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner 5-6: 1 Catriona Mackinnon, Bun-sgoil an Ath Leathainn, The Joan Campbell Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Ryven Perry, Bun-sgoil Taobh na h-Aibhne, Silver Badge, 3 Sorley Finlay Cavanagh, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner 7-8: 1 Muireann Dalton, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu, The Hugh Macintyre Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Rowan Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Silver Badge, 3 Verity Lawrence, CGM - Loch Alainn, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Learner 9-10: 1 Eva Munro, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, The Cowal Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Jack Mutch, Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire, Silver Badge, 3 Bronagh Newman, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Learner 11-12: 1 Freya Maclean, Còisir Òg an Rubha, Gold Badge, 2 Rachel Bolton, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile, Silver Badge, 3 = Abbie Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein and Emily Mackie, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner Girls 9-10: 1 Jessica Gordon, Rionnagan Rois, The Mrs Roderick B Munro Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Aaliyah Macdonald, Còisir Òg an Rubha, Silver Badge, 3 Amy Mustarde, Inshes Primary School, Bronze Badge; Jessica Gordon, Rionnagan Rois, The Donald MacLeod Trophy, Solo Singing Learner Girls

11-12: 1 Kirsty Nicolson, An Rubha, The Ronald MacEachen Memorial Cup, Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Abbie Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard Medal, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Learner Boys 9-10: 1 Angus MacAskill, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Aora, The Dr Archie MacKinnon (Islay) Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Alexander Dugdale, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile, Silver Badge; Solo Singing Learner Boys 11-12: 1 Matthew Higgins-Macleod, Ard-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard Medal, Gold Badge, 2 John Angus Morrison, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard Medal, Silver Badge, 3 Innes Munro, Bun-sgoil an Dùn Beag, Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard Medal, Bronze Badge; Choral 2 Part Harmony Fluent 13-18: 1 Sir E Scott, 3 Sgoil Lionacleit, Choral Puirt-a-beul Fluent 13-18: 1 Sir E Scott School, The Belle Campbell Trophy, 2 = Sgoil Lionacleit and Ard-sgoil an Òbain, 3 Sgoil

Achadh na Creige and Bun-sgoil Phort Ilein; Duet Learner U13: 1 Molly Blyth & Brodie Crawford, Sgoiltean Ceann Loch Gilp, The Angus MacTavish Memorial Trophy, Gold Badges, 2 Oscar Tormod Fish & Juliet Mackenzie, Còisir Òg an Rubha, Silver Badges, 3 Annie Farreu & Abbie Morris, Bun-sgoil Port Ilein, Bronze Badges; Original Drama Open U13: 1 Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige Priomh 1-4, Donald MacDonal Memorial Trophy, Gold Badges, 2 Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige Priomh 4-7, Silver Badges; Action Song Open U13: 1 Clann Thronndairnis, Gold Badges, 2 Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, Silver Badges, 3 Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile, Bronze Badges.

Tuesday October 13, 2015

Choral Unison Fluent 13-18: 1 Sir E Scott, The Mrs Campbell Blair Trophy, The Angus M Ross Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, 2 Sgoil Lionacleit, 3 Sgoil MhicNeacail; Sir E Scott, Reverend Archie M. Beaton Trophy; Heather K Moore Cup; £25 - An Comunn Gàidhealach for the highest marks in fluent speaker's choral competitions. Choral 2 Part Harmony Fluent 13-18: Sgoil MhicNeacail, 'The Oban Times' Challenge Trophy, The Mrs Hobbs Cup for the highest marks in Gaelic, 2 Sir E Scott, 3 Sgoil Lionacleit; Choral Puirt-a-beul Fluent 13-18: 1 Sir E Scott School, The Belle Campbell Trophy, 2 = Sgoil Lionacleit and Ard-sgoil an Òbain, 3 Sgoil



MUSICAL: Dingwall Gaelic Choir was third in the Lovat and Tullibardine competition and won the J Norman McConachie Trophy for the highest marks in music for competitions A301, A304, A307, A308. 142ModSaturday_8006

Gaelic constabulary



FÀILTE: Police on the beat could soon be addressing the public in Gaelic.

Clean sweep for Lochaber choir in Margrat Duncan



WINNERS: The newly-formed Còisir Ghàidhlig Loch Abair, conducted by Rachel Walker, competed for the first time in the Margrat Duncan Trophy and not only won but took the An Comunn Silver Baton (May Brown), the John McNicol Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic and the Staffinders Quiaich for the highest marks in Music. 142ModSaturday_8069



MASCOT: Còisir Dhùn Èideann (Edinburgh Gaelic Choir), complete with mascot, competed this year in the Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy. 142ModSaturday_8008



OVER THE SEA: Còisir Sgìre Phort Rìgh made the journey from Skye to take part in this year's Royal National Mòd in Oban. 142ModSaturday_8058



PERTSHIRE: Aberfeldy and District Gaelic Choir came second in the Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy with 362 points. 142ModSaturday_8026

WITH Gaelic culture at the forefront of people's minds in Oban, Police Scotland has announced the possibility of rebranding vehicles in the language.

As well as the rebranding, officers could be encouraged to learn Gaelic, as part of the force's Gaelic language plan, announced on Thursday.

Any change would be carried out on a rolling basis, to reduce costs.

Police Scotland chief superintendent Julian Innes, local policing commander for the Highland and Islands, said: 'As a public body, Police Scotland has a legal obligation to develop a Gaelic language plan and we will do that in consultation with the communities we serve and organisations which work with us.'

'The consultation is open and accessible to anyone and I'd encourage those who would like a chance to contribute to do so by making contact with their views.'

There are more than 87,000 people

in Scotland who have some ability to understand Gaelic and almost half of them live in the Highlands, Western Isles and Glasgow.

It appears the language is growing among young people, as census figures show 618 more people under the age of 18 spoke the language in 2011 than in 2001.

But despite the increase among young people, the total number of Gaelic speakers fell by 966 over the decade.

Joe Moore, Bòrd na Gàidhlig interim chief executive, added: 'Gaelic language plans have proven to be successful in supporting Gaelic by mainstreaming the language in to the everyday operations of public bodies while offering those with Gaelic the opportunities to use the language.'

'We are pleased to see Police Scotland and the SPA launch their draft plans for public consultation and look forward to working with them through-out this process.'

Clarsachs string together in perfect harmony



PINK: The Oban-based group, The Pink Ladies, played together for the first time since 2009. 15_142ModWednesday6012



WINNER: Lawrence Macduff presents Anna NicNeacail, 14, who won the intermediate 2 junior clarsach competition, with the Lawrence Macduff cup. 15_142ModWednesday6003



SILVERWARE: Erin Gillies, 11, from Staffin, shows off the trophy she won in the elementary junior clarsach event. 15_142ModWednesday6002



VICTORY: Mairi Callan, 14, from Glasgow, who won the Glendale Quiaich for her performance in the open clarsach event. 15_142ModWednesday6004



RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Mairi Callan, 14, and her brother, Cathal, 12, who were both successful at this year's Mòd. 15_142ModWednesday6005

Perfect poetry



PROUD AS PUNCH: Mary Sofia Morrison, 9, from Lewis, sits proudly after winning her poetry recitation competition. 15_142ModWednesday6001



WINNER: Lochlann Trenholm, 12, from Dunblane, won the K Barry Milner Trophy for his performance in the intermediate 1 juniors clarsach event. 15_142ModWednesday6010



Ealasaid MacLean, 10, from Lismore after she had competed in the beginner's junior clarsach event. 15_142ModWednesday6007



WINNER: Mathew Gilmour Wright, 8, from Edinburgh, who was victorious in the beginner's junior clarsach competition. 15_142ModWednesday6008



WINNER: Susan MacKay from Cardross won the Jean C Campbell award for her performance in the senior solo clarsach competition. 15_142ModWednesday6006



TEAMWORK: The Craigmaddie Clarsachs, who are based in Glasgow, were victorious in the group clarsach competition. 15_142ModWednesday6011

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Island roots branch out into Gold

THE CHANGE in scheduling to an evening final of the Gold Medal for fluent Gaelic speakers on the same day as the heats failed to faze Donald Iain Brown and Catriona MacNeill.

This year's solo singing Gold Medal winners both now live in Glasgow but have their roots firmly on the islands.

Donald Iain is from Tiree and comes from a musical family as his brother Campbell leads the popular ceilidh band Gunna Sound, whose music could be heard from a variety of venues throughout Oban during the week.

The Gold medallist, who works for the BBC in Glasgow, said he was delighted to finally win the coveted competition, having been runner-up for the last four years.

'I am relieved that I have finally won it. I had always said that Oban 2015 would

be the last one I would go for because it's home turf,' said Donald Iain, who also sings for Glasgow Gaelic Choir.

Catriona MacNeill's family hails from Barra and her father, Donnie MacNeill is a member of another redoubtable ceilidh band, which could also be heard during Mòd week in Oban, The Vatersay Boys.

She has won the Gold Medal in just her second attempt, although last time she didn't make it through to the final.

She said she was 'very surprised' to win as she had been very nervous.

A PhD student at Gaelic college Sal Mor Ostaig, Catriona has been known to lift the pipes to play alongside her father and she also sings in a Gaelic choir but the rival to Donald Iain's - Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir.



Donald Iain Brown and Catriona MacNeill show off their gold medals.

KM_142modthursday7002

Traditional Gold Medals wing their way west



WESTWARD HO: Katy Graham, Am Bac, won the ladies' Gold Medal for solo singing and the Islander Shield. Katy also won the Scotia Trophy for the highest mark. Tormod Macleòid, Càrlabhagh, won the men's Traditional Gold Medal for solo singing and the Islander Shield.

Argyll's male-voice choirs take top spots in Mull shield



GAELIC: Oban based choral singing group, Còisir Ghàidhlig an Óban, won The Glen Ballachulish Cup for achieving the highest marks in Gaelic in the male voice choir competition. 15_143ModFriday6001

FIRST: Argyll-based choral singing group, Còisir Ceann an Tuirc and conductor Joy Dunlop, won The Mull and Iona Shield, the Cor Meibion Bro Glyndwr Trophy for achieving the highest marks in music and The Hector Russell Dirk after sweeping the boards in the choral singing for men. 15_143ModFriday6005

Highland Dancing



APPIN GIRLS: Isla Dunlop, 11 and Eva MacColl, 9, before their last dance of the afternoon. 07_143ModThursday6001



WINNER: Melanie Ronnie, 14, from Edinburgh, was crowned the overall winner in the under 14s dancing. 07_143ModThursday6003



STRIKE A POSE: Three members of Jackson dance academy, from Greenock, have a bit of fun after winning silverware. 07_143ModThursday6005



TROOP: Four members of Jackson dance academy, from Greenock, show off their trophies. 07_143ModThursday6006



LOCALS: Dancers from Oban and the surrounding areas who competed in a variety of intermediate danced throughout the day. 07_143ModThursday6010



Niamh Stainthorpe, 8, from Ruthwell, was the runner up in the under 9s dancing. 07_143ModThursday6004



SISTERS: Catriona Gammons, 12 and Eilidh Gammons, 7, with their trophies. 07_143ModThursday6008



Eva MacColl, 9, a dancer from Appin. 07_143ModThursday6002



Mary MacColl, 12, from Lesmahagow. 07_143ModThursday6009



Rachel May, 11, from Caithness. 07_143ModThursday6007

Alasdair and Kirsty on song for silver pendants

TWO Islanders picked up this year's adult silver pendants for solo singing in the Gaelic learners' competitions. Alasdair Currie, 19, from Ballygrant on Islay, won the men's silver pendant for Gaelic learners. Alasdair is no stranger to Mòd trophies but not for singing. In 2012 at the Royal National Mod in Dunoon he took home the Col Murdoch MacTaggart, Bowmore, Memorial Trophy for the 16-18 years piping, Strathspey and Reel. Stornoway's Kirsty Watt, 21, picked up the women's Silver pendant. Kirsty was a finalist in

the Young Trad at the 2012 Celtic Connections. She has been steeped in traditional music all her life, listening to her grandmother sing Gaelic songs from an early age. In 2010 Kirsty was Young Musician of the Year in Stornoway. The silver pendant qualifying competitions took place on Wednesday morning with the finals on Wednesday afternoon to make way for the Gold Medal final, usually held on the Thursday, on Wednesday evening to allow it to broadcast live on BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal.



SILVER: Kirsty Watt and Alasdair Currie, winners of this year's adult silver pendants for solo singing. 26_142modwednesday8050



More photos available online
OBANTIMES.CO.UK/MOD

Golden girl Kim takes home Oban Times medal



MEMORABLE MEDAL: Kim Carnie (right) receives the Oban Times Gold Medal for singing a prescribed song by a Lorn bard from Louise Glen of the newspaper. The 21-year-old law student is no stranger to local and national mods having competed in and won many junior competitions from the age of six. Kim is originally from Oban but now lives in Glen Lyon, Perthshire. 17_142modwednesday8004

It just takes two to duet



MULL: Donna Dugdale and Hector MacKechnie from Tobermory. 17_142modwednesday8008



OBAN: Iain Macaskill and Ann Barlow from Oban. 17_142modwednesday8014



STIRLING: Catriona Lang and Sandy Campbell from Stirling. 17_142modwednesday8019



SECOND: Megan MacLennan and Mairead MacNeil from Glasgow, who came second. 17_142modwednesday8023



DUO: Heather Harvey and Karen Macrae from Caol Loch Aillse. 17_142modwednesday8042



THIRD: Elizabeth Campbell and Clare Campbell from Erskine who were third place. 17_142modwednesday8048



IN HARMONY: June F Riddell and John Duff, Aberfeldy. 17_142modwednesday8052



HAPPY: Eileen Duncan and Melanie Hayes from Tunga. 17_142modwednesday8060



More photos available online
OBANTIMES.CO.UK/MOD

Silverware everywhere



CUP: Alasdair Currie from Ballygrant, Islay, won the Bank of Scotland Cup in the qualifying heat for the Silver Pendant with a song about emigration as his own choice. KM_142modwednesday7001



SALVER: Kirsten Laurie, Port Ellen, won the Margaret Campbell trophy for a prescribed song in the ladies qualifying heat for the Silver Pendant final. KM_142modwednesday7011



QUALIFIER: Fergus Muir, Bowmore, won the Katie Stewart Memorial trophy for solo singing in the men's qualifying heats for the Silver Pendant, for singing a prescribed song learners. KM_142modwednesday7004

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Rural choirs rally in Oban



Joy's MÒD GAELIC SONGSTRESS



I'm sure that there are many others who are also currently suffering from acute PMS (Post Mòd Syndrome) – that all encompassing feeling of emptiness and bewilderment to not be quaffing Drambuie at 8am in a futile bid to 'lubricate the vocal chords'. The choirs may have all headed home and the official banners removed from the fences but I'm definitely not the only one in denial that the Mòd is finally over. As one of the best loved venues, the expectation for Oban to pull out all the stops this year was at an all time high and wow, what a belter of a Mòd it turned out to be!

The second part of the week is always the busiest for adult competitors and if you're involved in a plethora of roles, it becomes a stupendous feat of organisational genius to synchronise your competitive diary. My Mòd Wednesday brought a last minute, stand in stint adjudicating the ladies' qualifier for the Gold Medal competitions (no pressure there then), before swiftly heading to the other side of the table to compete in the duet competition. Despite listening to beautiful singing all morning, I can't say that my ever-growing terror was in any way quelled – I'd forgotten how nerve-wracking it can be to stand up and compete. Thankfully, the Mòd luck shone upon us and we returned home with a lovely shiny trophy, which will definitely not be used to store Potpourri... (long story).

The Oban Mòd is known for its impressive Fringe circuit and, again this year, the town's pubs and hotels were alive with music and song. I had a ball being part of the official entertainment team and so enjoyed singing in the packed venues throughout the week with a lovely team of musicians and singers. Everyone involved did a sterling job but a special mention must go to Hector and Craig McFadyen who kept The Royal Hotel jumping both day and night all week – I'm sure that they now must be suffering from Mòd induced repetitive strain injury (RSI).

When you're involved with three separate choirs, Mòd Friday morning can feel a tad frantic but it was more than worth it to find out Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, my lovely male voice choir, were the winners of the Mull and Iona Shield competition. As an area choir, logistics mean that our rehearsals are few and far between but the boys pulled out all the stops on the day and gave a stunning performance – thank you all so very much for all your hard work and apologies again for the odd appearance from 'evil Joy'...

The real winners of this year's Mòd though, can only be the all-conquering Oban Gaelic Choir, who swept the boards in the Lovat and Tullibardine competition. Their performance was just spectacular and the roar that was heard when their marks were read out confirmed them as very popular winners. It's been lovely watching the choir grow in strength and confidence over these last few years and I'm so thrilled to see them reaping the benefits of their hard graft and diligence. Congratulations again to them and their fabulous conductor, Sileas Sinclair, and Gaelic reader, Christine McIntyre, for a phenomenal result.

Roll on Mòd Steòrnabhagh in 2016!

Number of massed-choir renditions of Sine Bhàn – 94

Top speed reached whilst running between competitions - 6 mph (agility hampered by ankle length kilt)

Enthusiastic cuddles received on a daily basis – too many to count. I love the Mòd.

Oban Times silver salver goes to deserving Sileas Sinclair



LUCKY: Oban Gaelic Choir conductor Sileas Sinclair receives the Oban Times Silver Salver, from the newspaper's Louise Glen, for the highest marks in music in the Lovat and Tullibardine competition.



TAYNUILT: Coisir Ghaidhlig Thaigh an Uillt was conducted by former silver pendant winner Audrey Paterson, who took over the role in the last year.



MAGIC MULL: Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich (Mull Gaelic Choir) won the rural choirs' Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich as well as the Selma Shield for the highest marks in Gaelic and their conductor Elizabeth Jack won the Grace Robertson Memorial Baton for conductor of the choir gaining highest marks in music. The choir was second in the Aline MacKenzie Memorial Trophy for rural puirt-a-beul.

Mòd choristers gather for last farewell to Oban

COMPETITIONS over, celebrations over, kilts and tartan skirts packed away for another year, it was time on Saturday morning for the final farewell to Mòd an Obain 2015.

Under a brilliant blue sky members of all the rural and area choirs, their friends and families gathered at Station Square to parade behind Oban Pipe Band through the town to

the Corran Halls for the singing of the massed choirs.

People lined the streets as hundreds of those who had taken part in the Mòd marched through the town with Oban Gaelic Choir, as winners of the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield, in pride of place behind the pipe band.

The massed choirs gathered in the Corran Halls car park,

eventually arranged themselves into their various choir parts and were conducted by, among others, Jackie Cotter, Hamish Menzies and Sileas Sinclair in one last, two-hour long sing-song and farewell to Oban.

The official handover to the 124th Royal National Mòd which will be held in Stornoway on the Western Isles, October 14-22 2016 was the final act of the day.



FAREWELL SONGS: Jackie Cotter conducts the massed choirs.

Spirit moves bardic crown to Tìree

FLORAIDH MacPhail from Tìree was 'crowned' as bàrd at this year's Mòd an Obain.

The bàrd is an honorary role awarded to someone who has made a significant contribution to Gaelic literature.

It lasts for four years and Floraidh, who took over from the first overseas bàrd Lewis MacKinnon of Nova Scotia, is one of only five women out of 22 bards to be presented with the prestigious crown by An Comunn Gaidhealach.

John MacLeod, president of An Comunn Gaidhealach said: 'She is a skilled writer, who has been writing for many years, however, her first collection wasn't published until 2012.'

It is easy to see that her writing skills run in the family as her son, Angus MacPhail, is a member of the famous Scottish traditional music band Skipinnish and the

pair won the new song competition at the Western Isles Mòd in 2001.

She said she was grateful that

people got pleasure from her writing, which she confessed was a random process brought about when 'the spirit moves'.



CROWNED: Mòd president John MacLeod with new bàrd Floraidh MacPhail.



A FIRST: Coisir Ghaidhlig Bharrach (Barra Gaelic Choir), singing for the first time at a national Mòd, came third in the Lorn Shield for rural choirs which was won by Coisir Ghaidhlig Mhealbhaich.



Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile (Islay Gaelic Choir) - whose ladies' section is pictured above - was third in the Sheriff MacMaster competition for rural choirs.



Robert's MÒD OUR GLASGOW LETTER WRITER



PC Donald MacLean epitomising the spirit of the Mòd with a bit of nonsense as I arrived to play the final dance on Friday night.

Well, I have survived Mòd Oban 2015... just! It turns out that staying in the same hotel as the Vatersay Boys, Trail West, Skerryvore, and some of my Skipinnish band mates, is a little bit dangerous... and not particularly conducive to the hours of sleep needed to compete all week in Mòd competitions. I should add, of course, that I was always tucked up in bed early on pre-competition nights – in case one of my conductors (or, even worse, my mother!) is reading this article.

A special shout out should go to Sheena at the Kelvin Hotel who made us all feel right at home; although she wasn't particularly keen to let us leave on the Saturday morning. Nobody seemed to want this wonderful Mòd to end!

The Mòd fringe is always, for me, what makes the Mòd. Sometimes you win competitions, and sometimes you lose them, but the results never change the enjoyment of giving songs and tunes with everyone and anyone in the hotels and bars afterwards.

That said, the competitive side of this year's Mòd was particularly memorable. I was not competing solo this year at all – so I had time to sing with a number of choirs. On Friday afternoon, being part of the Lochaber Gaelic Choir line up who won the Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy was undoubtedly one of my proudest ever moments at the Mòd. This was the first time in many years (as far as I know, the first time in my life-time) that Lochaber entered a senior choir at the Mòd. I think we all felt it was a huge honour, in front of a packed Corran Halls, to sing our hearts out for Lochaber. I should add that I was relieved to be singing in the bass section because, by the Friday morning of a long week of the Mòd, my voice was certainly not up for reaching the giddy heights of the soaring tenor lines. I was so thrilled for Rachel Walker, our conductor, who has done a great job in getting this choir off the ground. Hopefully Coisir Ghaidhlig Loch Abair will now go from strength to strength and be able to field an even stronger line up at Stornoway 2016.

The day before, I had been hugely delighted to be part of Melvich Gaelic Choir's Lorne Shield victory. That was a wonderful achievement in the choir's 40th anniversary year; but also puts into perspective how big an achievement it was for Lochaber to win in our first year.

Congratulations also to Oban Gaelic Choir who, under the conductorship of Sileas Sinclair, grabbed a historic victory in the coveted Lovat and Tullibardine for the first time since 1994. It was so pleasing to see both Lochaber and Argyll doing so well at this year's Mòd – Joy Dunlop's Argyll male voice choir (Còisir Ceann an Tuirc) also won their competition on Friday morning.

It has been reported that the Mòd brought £3m into the Oban economy. I would dearly love to hear a figure for the economic contribution that the Oban and Lochaber choirs made with their Friday night celebratory 'refreshments'!

The Mòd in Oban was absolutely top notch; but, for now, it's over and out. I'm going to sleep for a week.

PS. Could whoever accidentally picked up my tweed, kilt day jacket, please return it? It may have been picked up anywhere between Markie Dans and the Royal Hotel.

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Royal National Mòd results 2015

MhicNeacail; Duet Fluent 16-18: 1 Eilidh Macdonald & Anna Macdonald, Port Ilein, Gold Badges, 2 Mikaela Carmichael & Duncan Carmichael, Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig, Silver Badges, 3 Katie MacFarlane & Lewis Gibson, An t-Àrd-Ruigh, Bronze Badges; Traditional Fluent 16-18 Girls: 1 Amy Mackay, Sir E Scott, Gold Badge, 2 Mairi MacLennan, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 = Rebekah MacLeod, Sir E Scott and Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol, Bronze Badge; Traditional Fluent 16-18 Boys: 1 Callum MhicNeacail, Sgoil MhicNeacail, The Neil MacLaine Cameron Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Alex John Morrison, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 William Iain MacSween, Acadamaidh Bràghaid Albann, Bronze Badge; Presenting a Psalm Open U19: Callum MhicNeacail, Sgoil MhicNeacail, The Allan C MacLeod Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Claire MacLeod, Sir E Scott, Silver Badge, 3 = Rebekah MacLeod, Sir E Scott and Alex John Morrison, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 5-6: 1 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Seona Brown, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Silver Badge, 3 Dolan Gray, Sgoil Dhalabroig, Bronze Badge; Gold Badge Solo Singing Fluent 5-6: 1 Isabel Craig, Sir E Scott, Gold Badge, 2 Eva Gray, Sgoil Dhalabroig, Silver Badge, 3 Tormod MacLeod, Sgoil nan Loch, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Fluent (7 years): 1 Murray MacInnes Begg, Sgoil Lacadal, Gold Badge, 2 = Eoghann Caimbeul, Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire and Niamh Reid, Bun-sgoil Taobh na h-Aibhne, Silver Badge, 3 Amy Darroch, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Fluent (8 years): 1 Isabella Sommerville, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Gold Badge, 2 Matthew Gilmour Wright, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Silver Badge, 3 Evie Kellett, Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile, Bronze Badge; Ancient Folk Tale Fluent 9-10: 1 Marion Mary MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Gold Badge, 2 Cathal Callan, The High School of Glasgow, Silver Badge; 3 Eubha Fraser, Bun-sgoil Whitehills, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 9-10: 1 Anndra Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Ealasaid MacLean, Bun-sgoil Lios Mòr, Silver Badge, 3 Innes John Begg, Sgoil Lacadal, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 11-12: 1 Marion MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Gold Badge, 2 Megan Niclomaire, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Silver Badge, 3 Hamish Scott, Sir E Scott, Bronze

Badge; Solo Singing Fluent Girls 11-12: 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaoilein, Còisir Òg an Rubha, Gold Badge, 2 Lili McShea, Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig, Silver Badge, 3 Eilidh Lamb, Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing (9 years): 1 Emily Macdonald, Bun-sgoil Shlèite, Cardonald Highlanders' Association Cup, Gold Badge, 2 Mary Sophia Morrison, Sgoil Lacadal, Silver Badge, 3 Johanna MacLver MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat, Bronze Badge; Duet Singing (10 years): 1 Laura Robertson, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abair, Nancy Craik Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Alison M Gheumach, Sgoil a' Bhac, Silver Badge, 3 Eve Byrne, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Fluent Boys 9-10: 1 Ross MacLeod, Bun-sgoil Phort Rìgh, Gold Badge, 2 Joel Robertson, An Eaglais Bhreac, Silver Badge, 3 Seumas Caimbeul, Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Fluent Boys 11-12: 1 Finlay MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Gold Badge; 2 Cathal Callan, The High School of Glasgow, Silver Badge, 3 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing - Traditional (10 years and under): 1 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Ealasaid Faye MacKinnon, Bun-sgoil Taobh Lochaidh, Silver Badge, 3 Beth Chaimbeul, Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing - Traditional (11-12 years and under): 1 Alice Nic a' Mhaoilein, Còisir Òg an Rubha, Gold Badge, 2 Marion Mary MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Silver Badge, 3 = Ellie Macdonald, Sgoil MhicNeacail and Eilidh O'Donnell, Acadamaidh Rioghail Inbhir Nis, Bronze Badge; Choral Unison Fluent U13: 1 Rionnagan Rois, The Aberfoyle and District Branch Trophy, 2 Sir E Scott, 3 Còisir Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce; Choral Puirt-a-beul Fluent U13: 1 Rionnagan Rois, The Mrs Schroder Cup, 2 Sir E Scott, 3 Còisir Bun-sgoil Taobh na h-Aibhne; Traditional Fluent U13 Boys: 1 Innes Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Cathal Callan, The High School of Glasgow, Silver Badge; 3 Eubha Fraser, Bun-sgoil Whitehills, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 9-10: 1 Anndra Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Ealasaid MacLean, Bun-sgoil Lios Mòr, Silver Badge, 3 Innes John Begg, Sgoil Lacadal, Bronze Badge; Story Telling Fluent 11-12: 1 Marion MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Gold Badge, 2 Megan Niclomaire, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Silver Badge, 3 Hamish Scott, Sir E Scott, Bronze

Recitation Fluent 13-15: 1 Seumas Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit, Silver Badge, 3 Isobel Paterson, Sgoil Lionacleit, Bronze Badge; Solo Singing Boys 13 -15 Fluent : 1 Dòmhnall Lachlann Peutan, Acadamaidh Rioghail Bhaile Dhuthaich, Oban Times Gold Medal; Silver Medal, Gold Badge, 2 Duncan MacLeod, Acadamaidh Rioghail Bhaile Dhuthaich, Silver Badge, 3 Ruairidh Gray, Sgoil Lionacleit, Bronze Badge; Duet Fluent 13-15: 1 Duncan MacLeod & Rona MacLeod Acadamaidh Rioghail Bhaile Dhuthaich, Gold Badges, The David CB Maitland Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Music, 2 Anna Nic an t-Sgairt & Hannah NicLeòid, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badges, 3 Kirstyn Howarth & Faith Elson, Rionnagan Rois, Bronze Badges;

Wednesday October 14, 2015

Conversation Fluent 9-10: 1 Alec Dòmhnallach, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, The Ewen Dingwall Memorial Trophy, Gold Badge; 2 Archie MacIellan, Sgoil Phàibil, Silver Badge, 3 = Katie Cowan, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Daniel J MacLeod, Sgoil a' Bhac, Bronze Badges; Gold Medal Heat Prescribed (Ladies): 1 Catriona NicNèill, Cnoc Iòrdain, The Mary C MacNiven Memorial Salver, 2 Isabel NicLeòid, Càrlabhagh, 3 =Ainsley Hamill, Cárđanros and Ceitidh Smith, Inbhir Nis; Gold Medal Heat Prescribed (Men): 1 John Howieson, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, The Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy, 2 Dòmhnall-Iain MacLilleDhuinn, Glaschu, 3 Hector MacKechnie, Morven; Gold Medal Oran Mòr (Ladies): 1 Ainsley Hamill, Cárđanros, The Mr & Mrs Archibald Macdonald Memorial Trophy, £30 (Jessie M MacLachlan Memorial Prize), 2 Isabel NicLeòid, Càrlabhagh, 3 Catriona NicNèill, Cnoc Iòrdain, The Joyce Murray Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic is shared by Isabel NicLeòid, Càrlabhagh and Catriona NicNèill, Cnoc Iòrdain, Gold Medal Oran Mòr (Men): 1 Dòmhnall-Iain MacLilleDhuinn, Glaschu, The F S Cameron-Head Memorial Trophy, 2 Hector MacKechnie, Morven, 3 Iain Howieson, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach; Traditional Medal Heat - Ladies: 1 Isabella Bain, Am Bac, The Moray Trophy, 2 Lisa NicNill, Barraigh, 3 Katy Graham, Am Bac; Traditional Medal Heat - Men: 1 Tormod MacLeòid, Càrlabhagh, The Lochaber Rotary Club Trophy, The Donald Murray Memorial Trophy, 2 Neil Macritchie, Càrlabhagh, 3 Ciaran Iòsaph

MacAonghais, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach; Puirt-a-Beul Ladies and Men Open: 1 Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis, The Duncan Johnston Memorial Trophy, 2 = Clare Jordan, Connel and Alison NicAnnain, Glaschu, 3 =Ainsley Hamill, Cárđanros and Lisa Anne Fiona NicDhòmhnail, Ullapull; Oban Times Gold Medal: 1 Kim Carnie, Gleann Liobhann, Oban Times' Gold Medal, 2 Sandaidh NicDhòmhnail Jones, Uibhist a Deas, 3 Linn Phipps, Eilean Leòdhais; Traditional Song Learners: 1 Fiona Ross, Glaschu, The George Clavey Memorial Quaiçh, 2 Donna Dugdale, Tobar Mhoire, 3 Krista Mhairi MacInnes, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach; Silver Pendant Heat - Ladies: 1 Kirsten Laurie, Port Ilein, The Margot Campbell Trophy, 2 Kirsty Watt, Steòrnabhagh, 3 Sandie Kennedy, Cill Rìmhinn; Silver Pendant Heat - Men: 1 Fergus Muir, Bogh Mòr, The Katie Stewart Memorial Trophy, 2 Coinneach MacLeod, Lunainn, 3 Alasdair Currie, Baile a' Ghràna; Silver Pendant Working Song - Ladies: 1 Kirsty Watt, Steòrnabhagh, Catherine M B Dunlop Quaiçh, 2 Kirsten Laurie, Port Ilein, 3 Mairi McGillivray, Ile; Silver Pendant Sea Song - Men: 1 Alasdair Currie, Baile a' Ghràna, Bank of Scotland Cup, 2 Coinneach MacLeod, Lunainn, 3 Fergus Muir, Bogh Mòr; Kennedy-Fraser Cup: 1 Alison Campbell, Arasgain, The Kennedy-Fraser Cup, The Johanna Fortune Memorial Trophy, £30 (ACG), 2 Donna Dugdale, Tobar Mhoire, £20 (ACG), 3 Nicola Pearson, Calanais; Sarah Weir Trophy Ladies/Men: 1 Carol Maclean, Tobar Mhoire, The Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy, £20 (Mull & Iona Association), 2 Linn Phipps, Eilean Leòdhais, £15 (Mull & Iona Association), 3 Shona Keith; Provincial Mod Winners: 1 Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis, Lochewe Branch Cup, 2 Seònaid Nic Suain, 3 Donna Dugdale, Tobar Mhoire; Skye or Sutherland Song: 1 Fiona Ross, Glaschu, The John D Gillies Memorial Trophy, 2 Donna Dugdale, Tobar Mhoire, 3 Raonaid M J Deans, Comar nan Allt; Senior Duet Singing: 1 Nicola Pearson & Joy Dunlop, Eilean Leòdhais, The Neil MacLean & Jenny M B Currie Trophy, £20 (Mull Local Mòd), 2 Megan MacLellan & Mairead MacNeil, Glaschu, £15 (Mull Local Mòd), 3 Elizabeth Campbell & Clare Campbell, Arasgain, £10 (Mull Local Mòd); Clarsach Self Accompaniment: 1 Mairi Callan, The High School of Glasgow, The Glendale Quaiçh, Gold Badge, 2 Rachel Grigor, Àrd-sgoil Boroughmuir, Silver Badge, 3 Eilidh Lamb, Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghil-

leasbuig, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Introductory: 1 Matthew Gilmour Wright, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, The Helmsdale Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Ragnhall MacFhionghuin, Àrd-sgoil Lochabair, Silver Badge, 3 = Hannah Margaret Ford, Parsons Green Primary and Caitlin Gilmour Wright, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Intermediate 1 Juniors: 1 Lochlann Trenholm, Àrd-sgoil Dhùn Bhlàthain, The K Barry Miller Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Mollaidh Nicholson, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Silver Badge, 3 Katie Cowan, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Bronze Badge; Clarsach - Intermediate 2 (Open): 1 Anna NicNeacail, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh, The Lawrence MacDuff Cup, Gold Badge, 2 Clodagh O'Donnell, Àrd-sgoil St Ninian, Silver Badge, 3 Mairi Callan, The High School of Glasgow, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Advanced Juniors: 1 Anna Westwell, Àrd-sgoil Broughton, The Duncan Chisholm Trophy, Gold Badge, 2 Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, An Caol, Silver Badge, 3 Meredith Kiemer, Bun-sgoil Gartmore, Bronze Badge; Clarsach Senior: 1 Susan MacKay, Cárđanros, Jean C Campbell Award, 2 Anke Rutten, Zuid Holland; Clarsach - Solo Playing (Intermediate/Advanced): 1 Robyn Harris, The Elspeth A Hyllsted Trophy, 2 Anne Stephen, Obar Phuil; Clarsach Solo: 1 Anke Rutten, Zuid Holland, Hilda Mary Campbell Trophy; Clarsach Open: 1 Anna Westwell, Àrd-sgoil Broughton, The Margaret Balfour Trophy; Clarsach Duets U13: 1 Lili McShea & Bronwen Stahl, Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig, The Lord Birsay Trophy, Gold Badges; 2 Lochlann Trenholm & Clodagh O'Donnell, St Ninian's High School & Dunblane High School, Silver Badges, 3 Sorcha Thompson & Erin Couper, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Bronze Badges; Clarsach Open: 1 Craigmaddie Clarsachs, Pilgrims Harp Trophy; Poetry Recitation Fluent (7 years): 1 Murray MacInnes Begg, Sgoil Lacadal, Gold Badge, 2 Emma Chaimbeul, Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire, Silver Badge, 3 Eoghann Caimbeul, Bun-sgoil Chille Mhoire, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation Fluent (8 years): 1 Matthew Gilmour Wright, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Gold Badge, 2 Isabella Sommerville, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Silver Badge, 3 Maria Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Bronze Badge; Conversation Fluent 11-12: 1 Marion Mary MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Gold Badge, 2 Innes Scullion, Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu,

Silver Badge, 3 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Bun-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Bronze Badge; Poetry Recitation (9 years): 1 Mary Sophia Morrison, Sgoil Lacadal, Gold Badge, 2 Daniel J MacLeod, Sgoil a' Bhac, Silver Badge, 3 =Mairi NicLeòid, Sgoil nan Loch and Lexy NicLeòid, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Bronze Badges; Poetry Recitation (10 years): 1 Anndra Monk, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Gold Badge, 2 Alison M Gheumach, Sgoil a' Bhac, Silver Badge, 3 Rebecca Swallow, Bun-sgoil Chondobhrat, Bronze Badge; Bible Reading Fluent 9-10: 1 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Gold Badge and Bible, 2 Alison M Gheumach, Sgoil a' Bhac, Silver Badge, 3 Marion Mary MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Bronze Badge and Bible, 2 Alison M Gheumach, Sgoil a' Bhac, Silver Badge, 3 Marion Mary MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Bronze Badge and Bible, 2 Alison M Gheumach, Sgoil a' Bhac, Silver Badge, 3 Marion Mary MacCorquodale, Sgoil Lionacleit, Bronze Badge and Bible; Reading Prose Fluent U13: 1 Erin NicLlòisa, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Gold Badge, 2 Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Àrd-sgoil Gheàrrloch, Silver Badge, 3 Megan Niclomaire, Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Bronze Badge; Reading Prose Fluent 13-15: 1 Dòmhnall Lachlann Peutan, Acadamaidh Rioghail Bhaile Dhuthaich, Gold Badge, 2 Hannah C MacLeod, Sgoil MhicNeacail, Silver Badge, 3 Isla MacLeod, Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh, Bronze Badge; Silver Pendant Final Ladies: 1 Kirsty Watt, Steòrnabhagh, Silver Pendant, £50 (Cil Gàidhlig), The Catherine Gemmell Memorial Trophy, The Morag Robb Memorial Salver, The John A MacRae Quaiçh, 2 Mairi McGillivray, Ile, £30 (Cil Gàidhlig), 3 Eileen Duncan, Tunga, £20 (Cil Gàidhlig); Silver Pendant Final Men: 1 Alasdair Currie, Baile a' Ghràna, Silver Pendant, £50 (Cil Gàidhlig), The Alasdair MacInnes Memorial Trophy, 2 Coinneach MacLeòid, Lunainn, £30 (Cil Gàidhlig), 3 Fergus Muir, Bogh Mòr, £20 (Cil Gàidhlig).

Memorial Trophy, Silver Medal, £30 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Choral Rural: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Mhealbhaich, The Lorn Shield, The Mrs Catherine C MacDonald Silver Baton to the Choir Conductor, £100 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), The Captain Angus Stewart Trophy for the highest marks in Music, The Dalriada Cup for the highest marks in Gaelic, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig Chàrlabhaigh, £60 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Bharraigh, £40 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Còmhlan Luadh Bhàideanach, £20 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Choral Area: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Obain, Lovat & Tullibardine Shield, Malcolm G MacCallum Silver Baton for conductor Sileas Sinclair, £250 (ACG), Donald Thomson Memorial Quaiçh for the Gaelic Tutor of the choir gaining the highest marks in Gaelic, The 'Weekly Scotsman' Quaiçh for the highest marks in Gaelic, The Donald J MacAskill Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic - Christine Macintyre, The 'Oban Times' Silver Salver for the highest marks in Gaelic, Evelyn Huckbody Memorial Trophy, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, = Calum Robertson Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, Senior Choral Competitions, 2 Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, £200 (ACG), 3 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, £150 (ACG), The J Norman McConachie Trophy, The Rev William Macdonald Memorial Quaiçh was shared between Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and

Dingwall Gaelic Choir; Choral Area: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig Loch Abair, The Margart Duncan Memorial Trophy, An Comunn Silver Baton (May Brown), The John McNicol Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, The Staffinders Quaiçh for the highest marks in Music, £100 (ACG), 2 Aberfeldy and District Gaelic Choir, £60 (ACG), 3 Nairn Gaelic Choir, £40; Choral Area Ladies: 1 Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, The Esme Smythe Trophy, £100 (ACG) £25 (Alex MacArthur Memorial Prize), The Donald U Johnston Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, 2 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, £60 (ACG), The Angus Johnston Trophy for the highest marks in Music, 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, £40 (ACG); Choral Open Men: 1 Còisir Ceann an Tuirc, The Mull & Iona Shield, The Hector Russell Dirk to the conductor of the winning choir, Joy Dunlop, The Cor Meibion Bro Glyndwr Trophy for the highest marks in Music, £100 (ACG), £30 (Martin MacKay Memorial Prize), 2 Oban Gaelic Choir, The Glen Ballachulish Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, £60 (ACG), 3 Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, £40 (ACG); Puirt-a-Beul: 1 Lethan Gaelic Choir, The Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup, £60 (ACG), 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Obain, £50 (ACG), 3 Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, £40 (ACG).

Friday October 16, 2015

Oran Luaidh: 1 Clò nan Nighean, Harris Tweed Authority Trophy, £50 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 2 Banail Thròndairnis, £30 (An Comunn Gàidhealach), 3 Còmhlan Luadh Bhàideanach, £20 (An Comunn Gàidhealach); Choral Area: 1 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Obain, Lovat & Tullibardine Shield, Malcolm G MacCallum Silver Baton for conductor Sileas Sinclair, £250 (ACG), Donald Thomson Memorial Quaiçh for the Gaelic Tutor of the choir gaining the highest marks in Gaelic, The 'Weekly Scotsman' Quaiçh for the highest marks in Gaelic, The Donald J MacAskill Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic - Christine Macintyre, The 'Oban Times' Silver Salver for the highest marks in Gaelic, Evelyn Huckbody Memorial Trophy, 2 Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, = Calum Robertson Memorial Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic, Senior Choral Competitions, 2 Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, £200 (ACG), 3 Dingwall Gaelic Choir, £150 (ACG), The J Norman McConachie Trophy, The Rev William Macdonald Memorial Quaiçh was shared between Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and

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We have removed the football 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.

This is a special one off competition to celebrate the Mòd. The entry with the cross nearest to the centre of the ball wins the jackpot.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Mòd Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday, October 27. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Mòd Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

.....

Tel No.

Arena

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

food and drink

As part of the Year of Food and Drink Scotland, the *Oban Times* has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry. Over the coming months, the paper will be promoting a selection of events, stories, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast.

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

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



This week...

Who is it? Winston Churchill Venison
What do they do? Wild venison products from Scotland's south west highlands
Where can I find them? Balagowan Larder, Glen Lean, Sandbank, Dunoon PA23 8RD
Tel: 01369 705319
www.winstonchurchillvenison.com



Winston Churchill Venison was established, in a very small building, in early 1990. Winston taught himself butchery in order to sell to friends and family and slowly the business grew. Initially we sold our surplus carcasses to the dealers, but now we use all our own and buy in from neighbouring stalkers when the need arises. All of our venison is harvested from the wild.

We are a very small, family run business that takes great pride in all that we do. We are located in an Argyllshire forest, very near to Dunoon with breathtaking views into Glen Kin and Kilmun hills across the Holy Loch. Balagowan has been our residence since 1986 and sits on the south western edge of the Loch Lomond National Park.

As the business grew we realised that we were outgrowing our small premises. The larder - purpose built during the year 2000 - was designed with the help of our local Environmental Health Department so that we covered all health and safety aspects, thus we have a very up to date, and user friendly, butchery. Once we commissioned the new larder our sales grew even faster which dictated that we needed to expand our team and seek butchery training.

Alastair joined us during 2003 with very little butchery experience, but we put him on a butchery course run by the Scottish Meat Traders Federation, to whom we subscribe. He very quickly gained butchery skills, became fully qualified and now runs the larder for us. He has two assistants, Preston and Danii, both of whom are in their teens and are on the same training course that Alastair took.

Contact us for all of your requirements, from dinner parties to weddings



Delicious Wild Venison products from Scotland's South West Highlands



We are a very small, family run business that takes great pride in all that we do. We are located in an Argyllshire forest, very near to Dunoon with breathtaking views into Glen Kin and Kilmun hills across the Holy Loch.

Tel: 01369 705 319
Larder: 07879 491 181
Email: info@winstonchurchillvenison.com

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

Mull was Alexander's No 1 choice for book launch

THE FIRST book in a brand new adventure series for younger readers from one of the world's most prolific and best-loved authors, was launched on the Isle of Mull recently.

Alexander McCall Smith, creator of The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency, travelled over to the island on his small boat from Morvern on October 15 to launch his new book, 'School Ship Tobermory'.

He was greeted by crowds at a signing at the local bookshop, Tobermory Tackle and Books, followed by a family event at the Aros Hall. He finished the day with a literary dinner at Hebridean Lodge where he thanked the people of Mull for his warm welcome and for giving him their blessing on naming his book 'School Ship Tobermory'.

Alexander and his publisher, Hugh Andrew of Birlinn, were delighted to bring the book to Tobermory first - before it is seen, read and talked about

around the globe. Co-publishers are already in place in America and Australia.

Accompanying the author was the book's illustrator, Iain McIntosh. Iain and Alexander have worked together for many years and Iain's work is easily recognised not only from his illustrations for Alexander's 44 Scotland Street series, but also for a fine example of his work which appears large on the wall of the Tobermory Distillery beside the harbour and engraved into the glass of their door.

The book is about Ben and Fee MacTavish, a brother and sister who are off to a new school.

But this is no ordinary school - it's the School Ship Tobermory, where young people from all over the world train to be sailors and learn about all things nautical.

When a film crew arrives on another ship, the Albatross, Ben is one of the lucky ones

to be chosen as a movie extra. But after a day's filming, his suspicions are aroused - are the director and his crew really making a film or are they up to something more sinister?

Alexander, who has two other books in the series planned, said: 'Launching the School Ship Tobermory in Tobermory itself was a wonderful idea of the publishers. I am delighted that this new series for younger readers is based here and I very much look forward to writing future books in the series.'

'The School Ship Tobermory will be visiting many different parts of the world, but it will always return to its home port - and what a wonderful home part that is.'

Illustrator Iain added: 'Being involved in the whole book launch was wonderful. Tobermory Harbour is the perfect setting for the book and a real highlight was meeting the Harbour Master, Jim Traynor.'



Alexander McCall Smith, front, with Iain McIntosh, in Tobermory for the launch of his new book which is set in the town

It's a new page turner as hotel's lounge opens

A LOCHABER hotel has become a treasure trove for avid readers, with the opening of a new library dedicated to Scots' work.

The Scottish Literature Lounge is now open inside the Loch Leven Hotel, North Ballachulish, for use by both guests and local visitors.

The extensive library was created by pulling together

the personal collections of the Innes family, hotel owners, and contributions by friends.

The books, featuring Ian Rankin and Alexander McCall Smith, are displayed on solid French oak, specially designed for the lounge, which was formally opened by guest Harry Richmond, director of Sportsman's Charity.



Gordon Innes, left, partner of the Loch Leven Hotel, celebrates the opening of the Scottish Literature Lounge with guest, Harry Richmond

Entertainment Guide Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

23 OCTOBER 2015 - 29 OCTOBER 2015

ICE AGE 4: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (U)
Fri, Sun: 11:15, 13:30; Sat: 11:15, 12:30

INSIDE OUT (U)
Fri, Sun: 11:15, 13:30; Sat: 11:15, 12:30

MACBETH (15)
Fri, Sun: 19:00; Sat: 20:30; Mon: 17:00; Tue, Wed: 16:15; Thu: 16:20

RICKI AND THE FLASH (12A)
Mon, Tue, Wed: 18:15

SPECTRE (12A)
Mon: 20:00; Tue, Wed, Thu: 19:00

STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON (15)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 18:00; Mon, Tue, Wed: 20:30

STRANGE MAGIC (U)
Fri, Sun: 11:00, 13:30; Sat: 13:30, 15:00

SUFFRAGETTE (12A)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 15:45; Mon, Tue, Wed: 16:00; Thu: 18:00

THE BOOK OF LIFE (U)
Thu: 16:15

THE MARTIAN 3D (12A)
Fri, Sun: 16:00; Sat: 17:30

SYNOPSIS

ICE AGE 4: CONTINENTAL DRIFT - 94

Manny, Diego, and Sid embark upon another adventure after their continent is set adrift. Using an iceberg as a ship, they encounter sea creatures and battle pirates as they explore a new world.

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

MACBETH - 133 MINS
Macbeth, a duke of Scotland, receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders his king and takes the throne for himself - 133 mins

RICKI AND THE FLASH - 122 MINS
A musician who gave up everything for her dream of rock-and-roll stardom returns home, looking to make things right with her family.

THE BOOK OF LIFE - 91 MINS
Manolo, a young man who is torn between fulfilling the expectations of his family and following his heart, embarks on an adventure that spans three fantastic worlds where he must face his greatest fears.

THE MARTIAN - 161 MINS
During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, he must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

SUFFRAGETTE - 126 MINS
A drama that tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes, they were working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing. Radicalized and turning to violence as the only route to change, they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality - their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives. Maud was one such foot soldier. The story of her fight for dignity is as gripping and visceral as any thriller, it is also heart-breaking and inspirational.

THE BOOK OF LIFE - 91 MINS
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Radio

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Community Radio - your local radio station

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For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk

or call us on 01631 570057

THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

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

THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY:
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Law

SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

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Lochgilphead Wed 28 - Sat 31 Oct
Tighnabraich Mon 2 Nov
Inside Out (U) 101 mins
22/10 at 5.30pm, 23/10 at 5.30pm, 24/10 at 2pm, 26/10 at 5.30pm, 27/10 at 5.30pm, 28/10 at 5.30pm, 29/10 at 5pm, 31/10 at 2pm, 02/11 at 5.30pm
"... an instant classic." The Independent
Ricki and the Flash (12A) 101 mins
22/10 at 8.30pm, 24/10 at 8.30pm, 26/10 at 8.30pm, 27/10 at 8.30pm, 28/10 at 8.30pm, 31/10 at 8.30pm, 02/11 at 8.30pm "... Streep letting her hair down." Telegraph
The Legend of Barney Thomson (15) 96 mins
23/10 at 8.30pm, 30/10 at 8.30pm
NT: Hamlet (12A) 240 mins £14/£12
An encore screening starring Benedict Cumberbatch.
29/10 at 7.30pm
"... a blazing, five-star Hamlet." The Telegraph
Mediterranea - FREE SCREENING (15) 107 mins
Shortlisted for the Lux Prize. 30/10 at 5.30pm
"This rich, observational, ripped-from-the-headlines story about the plight of fruit-pickers in southern Italy demands a wide audience." The Guardian ****
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Scottish International Storytelling Festival 2015
Stories Without Borders
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'Music from Kurdistan & folktales from Iraq'
Mohammed Nafea, Iraqi musician & singer and Dougie Hudson, Scottish musician will be accompanied by Marion Kenny, storyteller. They will transport you to the Middle East with folktales from Iraq and stories closer to home.
Oban Library
Friday 30th October
7.00 pm
This is a free event. Please reserve a seat by phoning 01631 57444

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group
Coffee Morning
Glencruitten Road
Church Hall
24th October
10am - 12 noon
All the usual stalls
Any donations gladly accepted.
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A low-carbon alternative to electric heating that could save you up to £880 a year

What is biomass?

Biomass renewable heating systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth in a single room and can power central heating and hot water boilers.

Central heating systems using locally sourced sustainable wood fuel are a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels and can be cheaper to run than off-gas alternatives.

How does it work?

A boiler burns logs, pellets or chips, and is connected to a central heating and hot water system. A wood-fuelled biomass boiler could save you up to £880 a year compared to electric heating*.

What do I need?

Suitable properties should have enough space to install the heating system (inside or outside) and store the fuel, and have a locally available wood fuel source.

The benefits of biomass heating

1 Affordable heating fuel

The price of wood fuel varies considerably but it is often cheaper than other ways of heating your home.

2 Financial support

Wood fuel boiler systems could benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive. For a four-bedroom detached house, you could receive payments of around £1,245 to £1,880 a year**. In addition, the Home Energy Scotland renewables loan scheme is currently open to new applications. Interest-free loans for up to 75 per cent of the total cost of renewables systems are available up to £10,000.

3 A low-carbon option

The carbon dioxide emitted when wood is burned is the same amount that was absorbed over the months and years that the plant was growing. The process is

sustainable as long as new plants continue to grow in place of those used for fuel. There are some carbon emissions caused by the cultivation, manufacture and transportation of the fuel, but as long as the fuel is sourced locally, these are much lower than the emissions from fossil fuels.

For more information call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out how you can save energy and more money, and book a free home visit to assess your property.

*Based on a typical four-bed detached solid-walled home switching from electric storage heating to a biomass pellet boiler. Using an off-peak (Economy 7) electricity price of 7.22p/kWh and a wood pellet price of 4.77p/kWh (bulk price). Prices correct as of October 2015 and valid for 2015.

**Based on an RHI tariff of 6.43p/kWh, valid for installations made between October 1 and December 31, 2015.



energy saving trust

thinking about wood fuelled heating for your home?

Scotland has an abundance of wood. However, is a wood fuelled heating system the right option for you and your home? We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available, including an interest free loan of up to £10,000 from the Scottish Government.

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0808 808 2282
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GADGETS ADD £52M TO SCOTTISH ENERGY BILL

Scotland sees proliferation of household appliances in the last five years

Scottish households could save £52m a year by switching off standby

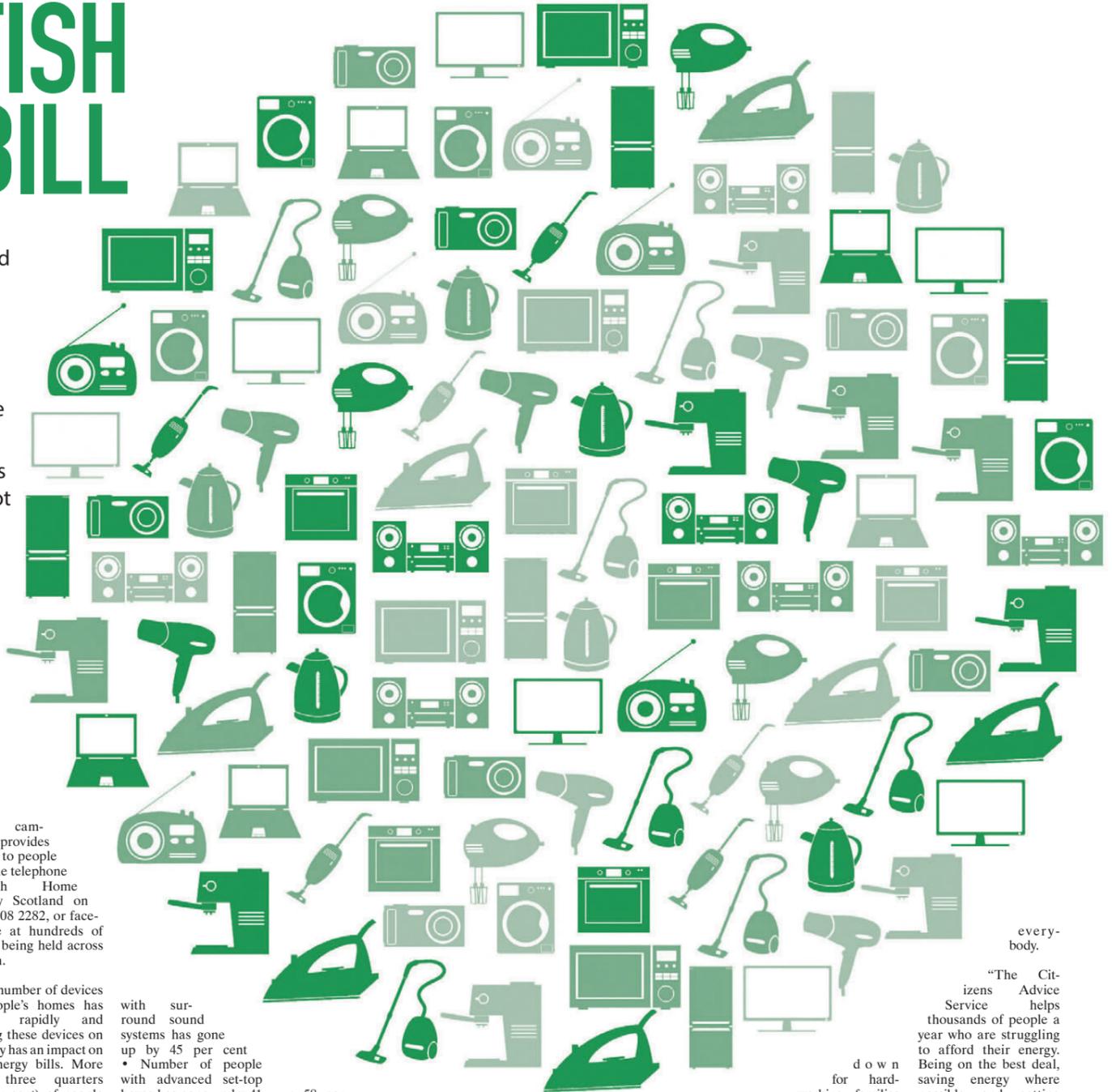
More than half (57 per cent) admit to leaving the TV on in a room when we're not watching

Big Energy Saving Week research shows almost 30 per cent blame spouse for not turning things off

Two fifths (41 per cent) blame their children

Take our BuzzFeed QUIZ: Which Bond are you?

Find out how you could save around £200 by switching energy supplier, or even more, and visit BeAnEnergyShopper.com



Householders in Scotland are blaming their partners and children for wasteful energy habits, sending energy bills soaring by around £52m a year.

Almost 30 per cent of us blame their spouse for leaving appliances switched on around the house. Men are more likely to blame their partners than women, with 33 per cent of men blaming partners compared to 25 per cent of women. Two fifths (41 per cent) blame their children.

The findings from an Ipsos MORI survey of 2,710 UK participants, including 527 from Scotland, show the average number of gadgets in people's homes has increased by 29 per cent

since 2010. In particular, the number of kitchen gadgets has boomed.

Across Scotland, the number of kitchen gadgets has increased by 55 per cent and more than twice as many households now own smoothie makers and electric juicers compared to five years ago.

The findings are revealed ahead of the launch of Big Energy Saving Week, a joint campaign with Energy Saving Trust, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Citizens Advice, and Citizens Advice Scotland which begins on Monday 26 October, helping people cut their fuel bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to.

The campaign provides advice to people over the telephone through Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282, or face-to-face at hundreds of events being held across Britain.

The number of devices in people's homes has grown rapidly and leaving these devices on standby has an impact on our energy bills. More than three quarters (76 per cent) of people in Scotland admit to regularly leaving at least two devices on standby. An advanced set-top box left on standby for 20 hours a day could cost around £20 a year alone just in standby mode.[1]

Gadget overload

- Number of people

with surround sound systems has gone up by 45 per cent

- Number of people with advanced set-top boxes has gone up by 41 per cent

- Number of people with tablets has quadrupled and the numbers with desktop computers has fallen
- Number with coffee machines has gone up 57 per cent
- Number with ice-cream makers has gone

up 58 per cent

- Number with e-readers has doubled

Almost half (43 per cent) of those who leave their TV on standby do so because it's more convenient, and 21 per cent because they can't access the plug, or simply

because they see no reason to turn it off.

More than half of us (57 per cent) leave the TV on as background noise when they are in a room, and 48 per cent regularly leave it on when there is

no-one in the room.

A fifth of us regularly leave multiple TVs switched on so as not to miss anything when we move between rooms.

Mike Thornton, Director of Energy Saving Trust Scotland, said: "Taking control of your energy use is the simplest way to save money in the home. More and more, we are seeing people wasting money on their bills because they prefer to leave things on standby rather than switching off - adding around £30 to their bills every year.

"Getting down on your hands and knees and working out what you can and can't switch off can be a real pain for some of us, but it doesn't have to be like that. We suggest safely plugging everything that you can switch off into one extension socket and everything that you can't into another."

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd said: "My number one priority is to keep bills

everybody.

"The Citizens Advice Service helps thousands of people a year who are struggling to afford their energy. Being on the best deal, saving energy where possible and getting support to switch where needed can have a massive impact on people's ability to manage their energy costs.

Working families and businesses across the country. Our reforms are pushing up competition, pushing down tariffs and saving households millions by switching energy supplier.

"But knowing how much energy you use - and waste by leaving appliances on standby - also goes a long way in helping put consumers in control of their bills. And with smart meters on their way, making bills more accurate and affordable will only get easier."

Gillian Guy, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice, said: "Smaller energy bills could make a warm home in winter more affordable for

For easy steps to switching energy supplier visit BeAnEnergyShopper.com, or for more tips and advice on saving energy in your home, please call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to speak to an advisor.

ERNIE IS MISSING

Alienergy's Affordable Warmth Team are missing their Energy Champion mascot Ernie! Last seen on his way to Bute. If you find our little green friend please give us a call on:

01631 565 183

email us at:

enquiries@alienergy.org.uk

tweet us at:

@Alienergy13

like us on Facebook:

Alienergy



While we wait for Ernie to return our Affordable Warmth Team are here to help you get ready for the winter. We can maximise your income with a FREE benefits check and Ernie you some funds for energy efficiency measures, assist you with applying for the Warm Home Discount and other schemes you may be eligible for, make sure you know how to use your heating system efficiently, make sure you are being billed correctly and budget for the winter months. Don't delay give us a call today!



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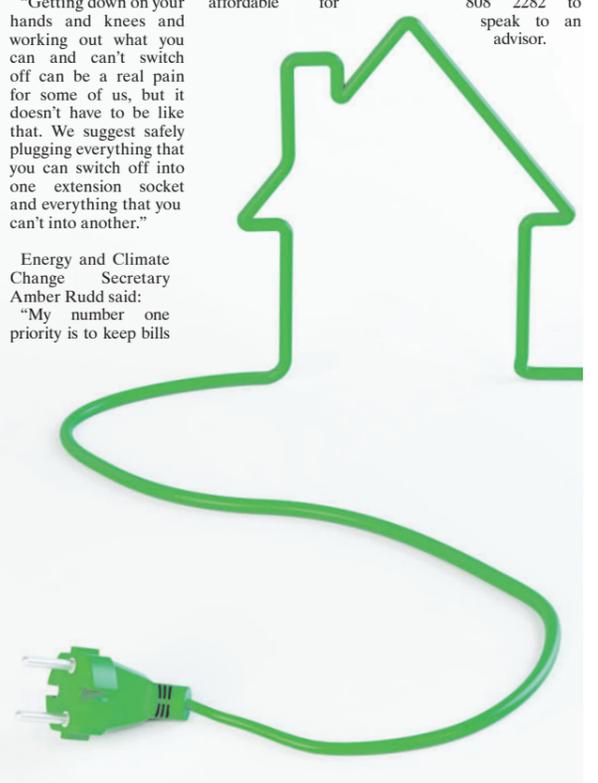
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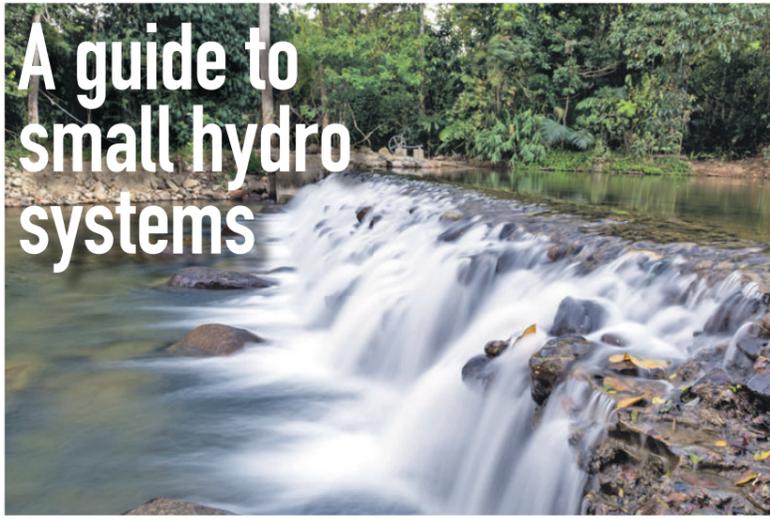
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A guide to small hydro systems

In Scotland we could argue that we get more than our fair share of rain. However, we could also counter that our damp, cool climate is a real benefit - here in the Highlands many streams and rivers could be ideal for generating electricity from hydro technology.

Small or micro hydroelectricity systems, also called hydropower systems or just hydro systems, can produce enough electricity for lighting and electrical appliances in an average home.

How do hydropower systems work?

Before water flows down the hill, it has potential energy because of its height. Hydro power systems convert this potential energy into kinetic energy in a turbine, which drives a generator to produce electricity. The greater the height and the more

water flowing through the turbine, the more electricity can be generated.

The amount of electricity a system actually generates also depends on how efficiently it converts the power of the moving water into electrical power.

The benefits of hydro systems

Cut your electricity bills

A hydro system can generate 24 hours a day, often generating all the electricity you need and more.

Be paid to generate energy

If eligible, you'll get payments from the Feed-in Tariff scheme for all the electricity you generate, as well as for any surplus electricity you sell back to the grid.

Cheap heating and hot water

A hydro system may generate more electricity than you need for lighting your home and powering your electrical appliances - so you can use the excess to heat your home and your hot water too.

A cheaper option for off-grid homes

Installing a hydro system can be expensive, but in many cases it's less than the cost of getting a connection to the National Grid if you don't already have one.

Cut your carbon footprint

Hydroelectricity is green, renewable energy and doesn't release any harmful carbon dioxide or other pollutants

Will hydropower work for me?

Hydropower is very site specific. Most homes will not have access to a suitable resource even if they have a water course running nearby. Assessing a hydro site properly is a job for a professional. If you think you might have a suitable site the

next step is to contact an experienced installer, who can assess the suitability of your site and explain in detail about what is involved. To be suitable for electricity generation, a river needs to have a combination of

• flow - how much water is flowing down the river per second, and

• head - a difference in height over a reasonably short distance.

It's also important to consider what happens to the river in summer. The minimum flow during dry periods is usually the

deciding factor, no matter how impressive the river looks when it is in flood. If there is a good hydro resource in or near your community it might be worth developing it as a community energy project, rather than as a system to supply just one home.

Costs, savings and financial support

Costs for installing a hydro system can vary, depending on the location and the amount of electricity you can generate. A typical 5kW scheme, suitable for an average home might cost from £25,000 including installation. Some sites cost less than this to develop; others cost

much more due to the nature of the site and the equipment used.

Interest-free loans of up to £2,500, funded by the Scottish Government, are available to help with the installation costs of a new hydro system.

Maintenance costs vary but are usually low as hydro systems are

very reliable.

Savings will depend on the number of hours the turbine is able to run in a year, which in turn will depend on how often the level of the river is high enough to supply the system. Your installer will be able to predict this for you and estimate the amount of electricity

that will be generated.

Hydro is eligible for payments from the UK Government's Feed-in Tariff scheme. You will receive payments for each kWh of electricity generated by your system and you will also receive payments for each kWh of electricity you export to the grid.

Technology	Tariff band (Total installed capacity kW)	Generation Tariff	Export tariff
Eligibility date 1 Oct 2015 to 31 Mar 2016			
Hydro	15 or under	15.45 p/kWh	4.85 p/kWh
Hydro	>15 - 100	14.43 p/kWh	4.85 p/kWh

Case study

Ross-shire farmer John McKenzie has two hydro systems running together, as well as a wind turbine and solar photovoltaic panels. All the electricity needed for his large modern farm house and agricultural outbuildings is supplied using the renewables systems and

John has noticed significant cost savings. He says:

"I export lots of green electricity into the grid via the Feed-in Tariff scheme - this in turn is financially beneficial."

"Hydro is a proven technology and Scotland

has plenty of rain - I would really recommend this to other homeowners."

John is enthusiastic about promoting renewables systems to other homeowners:

"I want people to come

and visit my home. The renewables systems are pretty cool and I'm located right on the edge of Dingwall - I am one of the few accessible sites in this area. I want to help spread the word - and encourage a greener Scotland by sharing my stories."

Further information

Visit energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/domestic or call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808

2282 to find out more about how you can save energy and money. Book a free home renewables

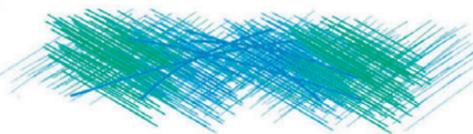
visit from a specialist to discuss what could work best for you.

If you would like to book

a visit to John McKenzie's property and view his renewables systems please visit <http://goo.gl/Ds8yim>.

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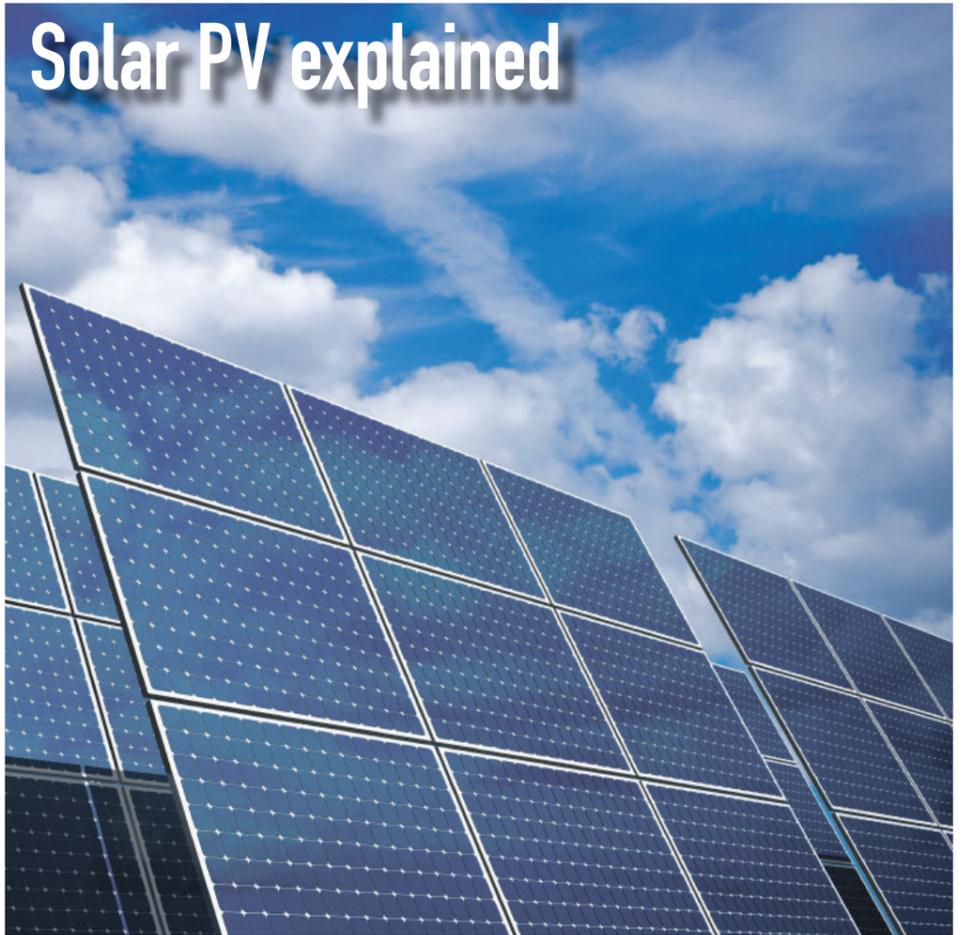


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Solar PV explained

What is Solar PV?

Solar electricity is green renewable energy and doesn't release any harmful carbon dioxide or other pollutants.

Solar panel electricity is known as a solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The cells in solar PV panels are made from layers of semi-conducting material, usually silicon, convert light into energy and can even generate some electricity on a cloudy day. This electricity is used to run household appliances and lighting.

The power of a PV cell is measured in kilowatts peak (kWp). That's the rate at which it generates energy at peak performance in full direct sunlight during the summer. PV cells come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most PV systems are made up of panels that fit on top of an existing roof, but you can also fit solar tiles.

How does it work?

When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the

layers. The stronger the sunshine, the more electricity is produced. Groups of cells are mounted together in panels or modules that can either be mounted on your roof or on the ground.

What are the benefits of solar PV?

- You will cut your electricity bills. Sunlight is free, so once you've paid for the initial installation, your electricity costs will be reduced.
- Get paid for the

electricity you generate. The UK Government Feed-in Tariff scheme pays you for the electricity you generate, even if you use it.

You can sell your electricity back to the grid. If your system is producing more electricity than you need, you can sell the surplus back to the grid through the Feed-in Tariff scheme.

Reduce your carbon footprint. A typical home solar PV system could save over a tonne of carbon dioxide per

year - that's more than 30 tonnes over its lifetime.

How much could you save?

If you know your system size, you can get a tailored estimate of FIT payments for your system using our Solar Energy Calculator. [<http://www.pvfitcalculator.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>]

For more information call 0808 808 2282 to find out how you can save energy and more money

Solar Maintenance Services LTD

0800 246 5126



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How will I Benefit from a Solar PV Energy System?

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You earn a fixed income for every kilowatt hour of electricity you produce on you roof regardless of how much you use

The Export Tariff:
You earn an additional fixed income for every kilowatt hour of electricity you generate and sell back to the grid

User tariff:
When you are using the electricity you have generated by your modules, there is a saving to you as you are not buying from your electrical supplier (approximately 15p per kWh)

info@solar maintenanceservices.uk.com

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People across the country are being urged to act now to cut their bills and make their homes warmer as part of a Scottish Government campaign to encourage people to call the Home Energy Scotland hotline (0808 808 2282).

A one-stop shop for ad-

vice and support, Home Energy Scotland from the Scottish Government is there to help Scots keep warm. Around a third of Scottish households have been offered advice by the hotline since it started. Home Energy Scotland is a source of free clear and impartial advice on how to

make your home cheaper to heat. Plus, a warm energy efficient home is good for your physical and mental health as well as your finances.

This new campaign to raise awareness of the hotline comes as the Scottish Government has extended the range of support available with schemes such as Warmer Homes Scotland and interest free loans for energy efficiency improvements.

Everyone can get help from the hotline. As well as receiving money-saving energy advice and an assessment of their property by phone, households may be eligible to receive help to replace their old, inefficient boiler with a new model, which could also cut hundreds of pounds off their annual fuel bills. Many are also in line for free loft and cavity wall insulation, and some will even receive

a full central heating system at no cost.

Interest free, unsecured loans of up to ten thousand pounds are also available to householders for installing a variety of measures such as solid wall insulation, double glazing or a new boiler. There are also a wide number of schemes available across Scotland that are based upon where people live. Just one call to Home Energy

Scotland is all it takes for people to find out if they are eligible.

To find out exactly what you are eligible for - whatever your circumstances - call the Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland hotline now on 0808 808 2282 or go to www.homeenergy-scotland.org

Act now to make your home warmer and help Scotland go greener together.

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Radiant Heat - the key to energy efficient electric heating

Electric Heating has come a long way in the last few years partly due to the introduction of German Chamotte Clay core heaters to the British market. Although cost effective replacements for any heating system, or just warming up that new extension, many clients are storage

heater owners fed up with high runnings costs, and lack of control. These German heaters typically use about half the power of storage heaters and produce mainly radiant heat which gives a much more cosy environment. A top quality electronic thermostat combined

with a timer give complete control over energy use. Did you know you can now heat a room with a mirror or a picture on the wall? Far Infrared heaters produce purely radiant heat, just like the heat from the sun and use even less power to heat a room than the

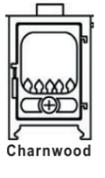
German heaters. ElSCO Heating are now in their fifth year of supplying quality energy efficient electric heating across Scotland from Elgin and Glasgow. Check out www.elsco.co.uk or phone 01343 819676 for a free info pack on both these innovative heating solutions.

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For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact Phil Burn, Operations Manager on 01546 605824 or email philip.burn@ahfa.co.uk

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Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead on Friday 6 November.

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team:
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Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 30 October 2015.

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Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

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First Registration of a Croft

Dr Julian Overnell and Mrs Denise Overnell have registered their croft The Croft, Kilmore, Kilmore & Kilbride on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 23rd June 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1643.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth MacDougall has registered her Croft: 2 Portnaluchaig (Share), Arisaig & Moidart, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 25 June, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1529.

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Archibald Maceachen has registered their croft 5 Bunacaimb (share), Arisaig & Moidart, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 27/7/2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1615.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION

Abhainn Greadhain Hydro Scheme, South Ballachulish

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Green Highland Renewables Ltd for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Abhainn Greadhain Hydro Scheme, namely:

Description of Controlled Activity	Waters Affected	National Grid Reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.5metres in height	Abhainn Greadhain	NN 0472 5885
Abstraction of 0.736m3 per day of water	Abhainn Greadhain	NN 0472 5885
Return of abstracted water approximately 1.42km away from abstraction point	Abhainn Greadhain	NN 0472 5893

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1138676: Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A KNIFE DEALER'S LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Mario Di Cicca has applied for grant of a Knife Dealer's licence for the premises known as The Anglers Corner, 114 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NT to trade Monday to Sunday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Any person wishing to object or make representation regarding this application must do so in writing specifying the objection or nature of the representation, giving the name and address of the person making it and signed by that person to the undersigned by no later than 28 days from 22nd October 2015. The Licensing Authority may entertain an objection/representation received after the 28 days before they make a final decision if satisfied there is a good reason why not made within 28 days.

CHARLES G REPPKE, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT
16th October 2015

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH43 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
15/03618/FUL	Land 255M South of St Edwards Centre	Isle of Canna	Installation of 6 number 15m wind turbines (17.5m to blade tip). Replacement of existing agricultural shed, excavation and installation of electricity cables in a trench from the turbines to the main power distribution network
15/03670/FUL	The Prince's House	Glenfinnan	Alterations to form staff accommodation
15/03695/FUL	143 High Street	Fort William	Change of use of residential staff flat to HMO
15/03780/FUL	Land 535M SE of Lavinia Cottage	Inverie, Knoydart	Upgrade existing forest road and new road to link existing community road to forest road
15/03806/FUL	Land North of Clevehurst Spean Bridge		Erection of house - Renewal of 12/03582/FUL
15/03826/PIP	1 Ariundle	Strontian, Acharacle	Erection of house, plot 1 (renewal of 12/03312/PIP)

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02644/PP	Demolition of existing boat house and erection of replacement boat house and refurbishment of existing jetty	Mucklaim House Mucklaim Castle Road Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JA	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/02670/MFF	Modification of existing fin fish farm site to include addition of feed barge, increase of cage sizes from 70 metre circumference to 80 metre circumference and increase in extent of moorings	Port Na Mine Fish Farm (Etive 3) Inverawe Taynuilt Argyll	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/02695/PP	Alterations and erection of extension to hotel (Amended design to planning permission reference 14/02219/PP)	Brander Lodge Hotel Bridge Of Awe Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HT	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/02710/PP	Erection of agricultural building (retrospective)	Ardnacross Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA27 6JS	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
15/02829/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 12/00746/PPP (Site for the erection of 14 dwellings including 4 affordable)	Land West Of Glenview Dalmailly Argyll And Bute PA33 1AS	Sub Post Office Dalmailly

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse, Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02707/LIB	Installation of replacement lighting	Connel Bridge Connel Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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Livestock Roadshow hits Oban

Lucy Sumsion, NFU Scotland regional manager covering Argyll and the Islands, including Arran, gives an overview of current issues in the region.

AUTUMN is always one of my favourite times of year and this year has been particularly good, with such a wonderful spell of weather.

Hopefully after the poor spring and summer, livestock will finally have had chance to put on a bit of condition ready for the winter ahead. With sheep and cattle being the backbone of farming and crofting across Scotland, the union is always striving to support our livestock farmers. This autumn we are holding a series of livestock roadshows across the country, with the first of these exciting events being held on October 30 at 7.30pm at the Corran Halls, Oban. The meeting is designed to bring local farmers and crofters up to speed on the latest Scottish livestock research projects, how to avoid penalties at inspection and a guide to burying deadstock within the derogated areas.

One of a number of invited speakers for these events, Dr Joanne Conington from SRUC, said: 'Here at SRUC we have a wide range of research projects looking to improve animal per-

formance and farm efficiency, through the use of 'precision farming' technologies that capture some aspects of animal performance.

'For example, some animal behaviours are indicators of onset of disease, physiological state and animal wellbeing. We can now capture this remotely, so are able to pick up on an issue earlier. 'Precision livestock farming also involves measuring meat quality and quantity using computer tomography and linked to abattoir data. We are also looking at new disease forecasting models for liver fluke, which are now used for disease risk maps, predicting likelihood of disease into the future based on climate change forecasts.

'Finally, we are trying to address the issue of black loss, or lamb mortality, in extensive grazing systems through research into genetics of lamb survival which will deliver EBVs for this trait. Together with aspects of ewe longevity, such new breeding goals help to exploit differences in individual animal performance to improve efficiency, production,

reduce wastage in the food chain to supply more resilient livestock.'

With the new CAP regulations and the introduction of the Basic Payment Scheme, along with the Voluntary Coupled Payments for hogs and calves, farmers and crofters need to be aware of what this all means in relation to implementation and inspections. One of the key speakers who will be attending the event is Bill Dundas, Oban-based Principal Agricultural Officer with the Rural Payments and Inspections Division. Bill said: 'This is an ideal opportunity for our local office to give farmers advice on how best to avoid penalties at inspections. We will be touching on common errors found on farm and highlighting some simple changes which can increase the compliance rate.'

As well as giving everyone the opportunity to hear from these excellent speakers the meeting will also be good chance for the union to highlight the work we have undertaken on behalf of our members over the summer and for you to meet our Livestock Policy Manager, John Sleight.

John Deere 5315 4wd, 2005, c/w Trime 2.0 loader, 40k with shuttle box.....	£16,795
New Holland TM135 4WD, 2001, c/w front linkage/spools, 135hp, Range command.....	£16,495
Kubota M5700, 4WD, 2006, c/w Loader/4th bucket, shuttle box, 60hp, ex local authority, air con.....	£15,495
New Holland 6635 4WD, 1998, c/w Greys Loader, 85 HP approx, left hand reverser.....	£13,995
Zetor 5340 4wd, 2004, reg. 5N04 PZK, c/w Quick loader, 4 cylinder, 60hp, 980 recorded hours.....	£13,995
JCB 526 Farm special, 2001, c/w pallet forks, PUH, ex boat yard (fresh water).....	£13,595
John Deere 6100 4WD, 1996, same owner for 12 years, 3815 recorded hours, 75 HP, PowerQuad, Air con.....	£13,295
Case 578, 2001, Synchro Forward and Reverse, 4WD, 2 Spools, PUH, Trailer Braking.....	£11,995
Massey Ferguson 3075 Autotronic, 1994, 4WD, Reg. 86 HP, 5088 Recorded Hours, 4x2 Powershift.....	£11,995
Kubota L5740 4wd, 2010, c/w W & A Wilson front linkage, 4 cylinder, 60hp approx, hydraulic, air con, 897 hours.....	£11,995
Ford 7840 4wd, 1994, c/w Allied 955 loader/bale spike/joystick, 6 cylinder, 90 hp, Syncrosift.....	£10,995
Massey Ferguson 399 4wd, 1988, c/w Massey Ferguson 880 loader, 6 cylinder Perkins, 95 HP.....	£10,995
Renault Pales 210, 2001, 3 cylinder Deutz, 52 hp, 4100 recorded hours, shuttle box, 2 spools.....	£8,795
Case 4230 4wd, 1994, reg. M36 5A0, 85hp approx, 2 spools, partial power shift.....	£8,795
Kubota B2110, 4wd, 2006, only 490 recorded hours, 22hp approx, full cab, 5 ft hydraulic snowblade, power steering.....	£6,495
Ford 3910 2wd, 1989, 50hp approx, 2773 recorded hours, same owner for past 15 years, column change, PUH.....	£5,295
Same Centurian 75, 4WD, 1984, A415 SES, 4 cylinder 75hp, 8 forward/reverse gears, 5605 recorded hours.....	£4,795
Tateuchi TB23R 2.6 ton, 2007, c/w 2 buckets, quick hitch, short tail swing, rubber tracks at 80%.....	£11,995
two speed tracking.....	£9,995
JCB 803, 2001, 3 ton, c/w 3 buckets, rubber tracks, blade, slew, piped for breaker.....	£8,995
JCB 8016 mini digger, 2007, 1.6 ton, 3 buckets, rubber tracks 50%, blade, slew, piped for breaker, 1405 recorded hours, twin speed tracking.....	£8,995
Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicle, Diesel, 2011, snow plough, salt spreader, winch.....	£7,995
Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicle, Diesel, 2010, Green, Agri registered, reg. SMO6 FCM, good tyres.....	£6,995
Honda Foreman 500cc, 2010/11, AUTO/ESP, selectable 4wd/2wd, enclosed footwells, UK delivery £95.....	£3,795
Honda Foreman 500cc, 2010/11, ES, selectable 4wd/2wd, enclosed footwells, UK delivery £95.....	£3,495
Yamaha Grizzly 450cc, 2011, auto, 4wd, tow ball, UK delivery £95.....	£3,395
Yamaha Grizzly 550cc, 2008, auto, 4wd, tow ball, UK delivery £95.....	£3,295
Yamaha Grizzly 550cc, 2007, auto, green, 4wd, tow ball, UK delivery £95.....	£2,995
Suzuki King quad, 750cc, brand new, power steering, auto, UK delivery £95, save £250.....	now £7,200
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Livestock Roadshow
Friday 30 October at 7.30pm Corran Halls, Oban
Guest speakers:
Dr Joanne Conington, Animal & Veterinary Sciences, SRUC
Bill Dundas, Principle Agricultural Officer, RPID
John Sleight, Livestock Policy Manager,
NFU Scotland
All NFUS members welcome
For further information please call 0131 472 4000

Tup lamb records tumble in bumper Dalmally sale

IT was a record-breaking day at Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday as United Auctions held its annual blackface tup sale.

Ian and Patsy Hunter, Dalchirla Farm, Crieff set a new breed and centre record for a tup lamb, the hammer coming down at £160,000. The record-breaking lamb was purchased in a three-way split to H A Blackwood of Auldhouseburn, J Murray, Crossflat and W Dunlop, Elmsleugh.

The second top priced lamb from Dalchirla sold for £35,000 in a four way deal between

Allanfauld, Dyke, Midlock and Tom Bagan. A third lamb sold for £20,000 to a combination of Glen, Gatehouse, Balrazzie and Little Larg.

Another sold for £14,000 to Dunruchan, while a fifth lamb went for £4000 to Troless. The Jackson family from Pole, Lochgoilhead purchased another tup lamb from Dalchirla for £2,200.

A tup lamb from Messrs Wight, Midlock sold for £10,000 to Loughash and Dalwyne. Other Midlock lambs went for £8,000 sold to Woodburn and Aberchuil

and £7,000 to Rhodders.

Loch Awe-side farmers J and J MacPherson sold a shearling for £1,100 to Musdale, and another for £1,300 to Kirkpatrick, Barr.

Dalchirla also boasted the top priced shearling at £62,000 - purchased in a three way split to Troless, Harestone and Whelphill.

A Lurg shearling was meanwhile knocked down at £24,000 to Allanfauld, Baliemeanoch and Harestone.

Altogether, 507 shearlings and 164 tup lambs were sold, averaging £860 and £2,274 respectively.



A packed Dalmally ringside.



The record-breaking tup lamb from Ian and Patsy Hunter, Dalchirla.

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PHOTOGRAPHY
CANON PRO9000 MARK 11 Printer, Olympus 510 Digital Camera, Olympus E1 Digital Camera, Olympus 50-200lens, Olympus 1.4 converter, Metz pro flash gun 4/3rds(new- boxed), Tamron case, Battery Charger, Manfrotto 190 Pro tripod, filters. Bargain, £500 the lot Telephone 01631 563232*.

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PERSONAL NOTICE

THANK YOU STEVIE FLETCHER

Would like to say thanks to all in every way, the do, the craic, the food, the dance

Farewell my friends, good luck Bonne chance

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BIRTHS

BARR - Donald John and Kirsten (née Crooks) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Amy Grace Ann, 6lbs 6oz, born on October 9, 2015. A little sister for DJ and Jamie, third grandchild for Peter and Joan Bendloch. Fourth grandchild for Derek and the late Vera, Oban. Special thanks to the midwives at RAH and at Oban.

DEATHS

COULTER - On October 8, 2015, peacefully at Eadar Glinn, Margaret Mary (Rita) Gardner. Beloved wife of the late Robert (Bob the Butcher). Dearest mum of Iain and the late Lorna and dear friend to Shirli. Loving sister, grandmother and great grandmother. A celebration of life was held at Muckaigh Parish Church, Taynuilt on October 14, 2015.

MACRAE - Peacefully at home in Kinlochleven on October 16, 2015, Jessie (née MacLaren), aged 103 years. Dear wife of the late Donald and a dear aunt. Sadly missed.

MARTHALER - Peacefully after a short battle borne with such dignity, on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, (Christine) Brigitte of Struan Crescent, Tobermory, age 67 years. Beloved partner of Ralph, loving sister of Annemarie, devoted aunt and friend to many. Private service to be held at Cardross Crematorium on Friday, October 23, followed by a memorial service in Tobermory at a date to be arranged.

MITCHELL - At the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on October 11, 2015, Charles (Charlie) M Mitchell, of 2 Coronation Mansions, Lochneil Street, Lochgilphead, aged 84 years, (formerly of Durran, Eredine). A dear brother, uncle and friend to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service took place in Lochgilphead Parish Church on October 20, 2015, followed by service at Cardross Crematorium.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLACK - Anne and the family of the late Alan, would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind support and sympathy after their sad loss. Special thanks to paramedics, Rev Ken Hunter for an uplifting service, D&A Munn for services and the Royal Hotel for a lovely lunch. The donations at the church of £298 go to ABCD.

BLACKADDER - Marta (née Davis) Bruce and family would like to thank friends, family and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy shown to them following Marta's passing. They would like to thank all those who attended the church service and graveside. Many thanks to the Reverend John Paton for a beautiful and uplifting service, Bill McClymont funeral director for his professional handling of the funeral arrangements and Park Lodge for their excellent purvey. A big thank you also to Jim Poulson for his kindness and Dr Jennifer Jack for her help and care during Marta's illness. The family would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Hazel, Ann and Val and indeed to all Marta's friends who supported her throughout her illness. The family would particularly like to thank nurses Christina McNeill and Cheryl Howe for their dedication, care and support which was invaluable to Marta. The retiral collection for The Parkinson's Society raised a total of £340 - thank you all.

COULTER - Iain and Shirli would like to thank everyone for comforting cards, letters, phone calls, flowers and visits following their sad loss of Rita. There were many people involved in Rita's care: Ambulance Crews, Staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, especially wards B and I, Taynuilt Surgery and District Nurses, the girls from Carers

Direct, Lorn Medical Centre and the wonderful team from Eadar Glinn. We are so grateful to you all for your care of Rita. Thanks also to the Rev Robert Brookes for a comforting and uplifting service and his support during Rita's last few days with us. Ian MacLennan and staff from Munn's for sensitive and professional funeral arrangements, Moreen for her lovely floral arrangements, Emma and staff at Brander Lodge for providing an excellent buffet and refreshments and also those who attended at church and graveside.

FORREST - Morag, Joe, David and families would like to thank everybody who attended their mum's touching funeral service in Salvation Army, Fay and Marilyn in Caol Community Centre. Mike McFall and his team for handling all our wishes. The sum of £300 will be donated to Macmillan Nurses, Belford Hospital.

KIRSOP - Eddie, Sheena and Thomas would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for all their kind support and sympathy shown in the loss of their fun loving daughter Joanne (36). Thanks to Rev. George Cringles for his comforting service, also Ward B, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, to Catriona and staff of Hamish Hoey for all funeral arrangements, the Lochneil Hotel for catering. Not forgetting Helen and Marina for 12 years of love and care in her own home. The collection of £928.31 was raised for Scottish Spina Bifida Association and Argyll RDA Driving Group.

McLAREN - The family want to thank all friends and relatives for their kind expressions of sympathy following the loss of their much loved aunt, Mary McLaren (née Fraser). Thanks to all who attended at the church and graveside. Many thanks to Rev Ann Winning for her comforting service, Barbara Summers for the lovely music, Mike McFall and Jamie Manson for the professional funeral arrangements, also McDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers. Our thanks to the staff at Abbeyfield, Ballachulish who took such great care of Mary in her final months also Dr Wilmington and Dr Calder and all the staff at the Ballachulish Medical Centre. The retiral collection raised £370, shared between Mary's Meals and Save the Children.

ROBERTSON - Since the passing of our treasured dad and grandad, Alan, Lorna and family would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. Sincere grateful thanks to all who paid their respects, Rev D Cameron, Hamish Hoey and Son, Petals and Royal Hotel. Thanks to all staff at Ward I for their care for Ian. £184.81 was raised for North Argyll Stroke Association.

MEMORIAMS

BLACK - Treasured memories of a beloved husband, father and much loved seanair, Donald Black, Lismore, who died October 21, 2013.

We miss you every day.
BOYD - In loving memory of our dear dad, grandpa and great-grandpa Alasdair, who passed away October 19, 2014.

Loved and remembered every day.
- Anne, Donald and families

GIBSON - In loving memory of our dear dad, grandpa and great-grandpa Jimmy, who died, October 23, 2014. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts.
- Iain, Kirsty and family, Dalmally, Margaret, Kenny and family, Canada

GIBSON - In loving memory of Jimmy, a dear father and much loved grandpa, who passed away on October 23, 2014. Forever in our thoughts, always in our hearts.
- Love from Gordon, Isabel, Lauren and Kyle

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In memory of Dawn Joyce

HOLLAND - In loving memory of Gary James, who died October 24, 1990, age 18 years, also his dad Robert, who died March 15, 1991, age 45 years. No words can describe the pain and hurt of losing you both. Though 25 years have come and gone the pain is always with us. What we would give Gary to see you smile and hear you laugh just one more time. But our memories and love for you are with us always. Goodnight, Gary, God bless you, your dad and all the family gone before and after you.
- Love Mum, John, Sharon, Dougie, Eoghan, Jessica, family and friends

HUME - In loving memory of my husband David, who passed away suddenly on October 23, 2014. Sadly missed.
- From Heather and all the family.

JACKSON - Loving memories of Alasdair, who passed away October 28, 2005. A page in our book of memories is gently turned today.
- Inserted by his wife Creina and family in Skye, Mull and Lochaline.

JOHNSTON - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil, who died at home in Heanish, Tiree on October 22, 2005. Sadly missed.
- Vivienne.

MACCUISH - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Norman, who passed away on October 20, 1997. A bouquet of beautiful memories sprayed with a million tears. Wishing God could have spared you for just a few more years. You gave me many things in life, gifts both great and small but above all else you gave me love, the greatest gift of all. Love and miss you always.
- Flora

MACINTYRE - Remembering with love a dearly loved mum Flora, who passed away 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 - In memory of a loving wife and mother, who died on October 16, 2011. Your left us with beautiful memories. Your love is still our guide. Although we cannot see you We know that you are by our side. We will always tend your resting place. Even though the pain it brings Because to us you will always be. The wind beneath our wings RIP
- Love from Hughie and son Hugh.

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- Love from Hughie and son Hugh.

MACKILLIP - Remembering with love our dear mother and nana Mary, who died October 26, 2004. The rolling stream of life goes on But still the empty chair Reminds us of the face, the smile. Of one who once sat there Mum, you are not forgotten though on earth you are no more Still in memory you are with us As you always were before.
- Helen and Joe.
A special person, a special face Someone we loved and can't replace. Never selfish, always kind. These are the memories nana, you left behind.
- Iain, Deirdre and Mhairi.

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Obituary - ANGUS MUNN 1927 - 2015

Angus Munn from Tiree, who has died aged 88, was a well-known figure around Argyll after a 33-year career with the county police.



SADLY MISSED: Angus Munn

His talent for meticulous organisation, combined with great humour and compassion, took him through the ranks to a six-year spell as chief inspector in Oban.

Away from the beat, he was a keen golfer and a competitive gardener, but above all he was absolutely devoted to two things: his family and the island of his birth.

Angus was born in Heanish, Tiree in 1927, the eldest child of Neil Munn and Agnes Bain.

Neil, always known as 'Neila', worked part-time as a fisherman and boatman for the Scarinish Hotel launch Spindrift, of which he was very proud.

Life for the family - Angus had two sisters, Cathie and Maryanne - held few luxuries. Like many island children, he walked to Scarinish school in his bare feet and with not a word of English in his head.

His first task was to learn the phrase, 'Good Morning Miss Nisbet' for his revered teacher.

Angus proved to be a bright pupil and he progressed to Cornaigmore School before leaving at 15.

It was 1942 and Tiree was in the middle of a huge construction boom as the RAF base expanded.

Within weeks he was taken on as clerk for the Taynuilt-based Caledonian Construction Company, bicycling the length of the island to check its road building teams.

In 1944 he moved with the company to work throughout Argyll.

At the age of 23, Angus was called up for National Service with the RAF and became supervisor of the telephone exchange at the Dyce base.

His officers noted qualities that were to stand him in good stead for the rest of his career: a sharp dress sense, an easy-going manner and a keen mind.

Back on Tiree and at a loose end, the local officer, Archie MacDonald, suggested Angus apply to the Argyll County Police.

Angus' first job was a daily cycle ride from Inveraray to a

hut at the Glen Shira Hydro-electric camp containing a cosmopolitan group of 'Tunnel Tigers', and this was followed by stints in Campbeltown, Dunoon at the start of the American Polaris submarine base, and a long spell with the CID at Lochgilphead, where he was promoted to sergeant and then inspector.

Mindful of his roots, he always had a kind word for the underdog, the troublemaker and the outsider.

This was particularly true for the travelling people of Argyll, and he was never afraid to 'Coorie doon below the reek' of their tents.

His final job was as chief inspector in Oban, with a patch that included his native island.

Angus brought great patience and flexibility to his policing role, and these qualities were fully tested when he returned home to Ganavan one evening to find his daughter's 17th birthday party in full swing and his front door opened by a youth wearing his police uniform and swinging his truncheon.

Retiring in 1985 at the age of 58 it was only a matter of weeks before he was headhunted to work for Argyll and Bute (later Gleaner) Oil at Connel, retiring as manager of five depots after six more years.

Angus married Nella Cameron in 1953, and they had a daughter Janice, now a senior education manager in Edinburgh.

Angus and Nella spent

their summers on his beloved Tiree, where he regularly won first prize at the gardening shows, fished contentedly and attempted, as commodore, to bring order to the start of the Tiree Regatta using an egg timer and a shotgun - a project that had only occasional success.

Rather reluctantly, he spent the winters in Oban, where he played an excellent game of golf and captained the Glencruitten Golf Club.

Much in demand as a drily humorous after-dinner speaker, he achieved legendary status for a hilarious 45-minute speech at his daughter's wedding.

He loved Gaelic song, was a founder member of An Iodhlann, Tiree's historical centre, in the very building he had started his working life in 1942, and took great pleasure passing on tales of island life with a mischievous, but always kindly, twinkle in his eye.

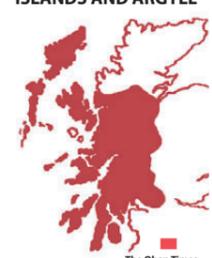
In one of these, his father had been flown by the RAF Tiree commander Squadron Leader Preston-Potts on an unannounced 'jolly' to Scapa Flow in Orkney, only to be greeted by the sight of every gun in the Royal Navy fleet swivelling in their direction.

His final years were affected by declining health, but he was able to return to the island he loved this summer, and died peacefully in the old people's home there.

He is survived by Nella and Janice. JH

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Thought for the week

MY ALL-time favourite movie is 'The Godfather'. Released in 1972, this American crime film directed by Francis Ford Coppola is based on Mario Puzo's 1969 novel of the same name. Starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, 'The Godfather' and its two sequels, 'The Godfather Part 2' (1974) and 'The Godfather Part 3' (1990), chronicle the history of a powerful New York crime family, the Corleones. The Godfather is regarded by movie buffs as one of the great works of world cinema having been nominated for 10 Oscars

and winning three in 1972 - Best Picture, Best Actor (Brando) and Best Adapted Screenplay for Puzo and Coppola.

In an Oscar-winning performance, Marlon Brando portrays the ageing, world weary Vito Corleone, the 'Godfather'. He has maintained his power by making accommodations with rivals and by quietly 'making people an offer they could not refuse'. When cut down by an assassin's bullets, the mantle of leadership passes to Vito's youngest son, Michael.

A clean cut 'all American' war hero' seemingly untainted by the culture of the 'mafioso', Michael's vengeance is planned, meticulous and brutal. With every minute of the movie, his character becomes darker, colder and more calculating. For me, Pacino's depiction of Michael Corleone is a classic study of evil.

Although fictional, the Godfather trilogy lays bare some of the bleakest and darkest aspects of our all too human souls... In the 'Godfather' movies offer little in the way of redemption.

Unlike the movies, the Bible does offer redemption to all in the form of Jesus Christ. No fiction here. Jesus, a real historical character, Son of God, led a sinless life and was crucified on a Roman cross for my sin so that I, a sinner, through trusting in him would not have to pay the penalty for my sin. In the Gospel of John it says: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

Now that's an offer you can't refuse.
C.E. Morrison

GRADUATIONS

Dr James Iain Cook
graduated from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of London in Defining the role of semiochemicals in host location and selection by UK Culex species biting midges. He is the son of Flora Cook and grandson of the late Jimmy and Flora Chisholm, Fort William.

Shona McCorkindale
Graduated from the University of the Highlands and Islands with a BA Business and Management. Shona is the daughter of Neil and Hazel McCorkindale, Scammadale.

Shinty/hurling internationals take place in Inverness on Saturday

THE Camanachd Association confirmed the senior men, senior women and under 21 men's squads for Saturday's Marine Harvest shinty/hurling and shinty/camogie international matches.

Ronald Ross MBE, head coach of the Scotland senior men's shinty squad, said: 'I am delighted with the senior men's squad. They have all committed to the practice sessions, we are well prepared and we have a great chance of retaining the trophy we won last year.'

'The Irish are always tough to beat, but on our home ground and with good support, we have a real opportunity.'

The internationals will be held at Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday with the following throw-in times: 10.30am - shinty/camogie challenge match; 11.30am - Under 21 shinty/hurling international; 2pm - senior shinty/hurling international

A second senior hurling/shinty international will be held at Croke Park, Dublin on Saturday November 21.

Scotland senior men's squad: Lee Bain, Kingussie; John Barr, Glenurquhart; Kevin Bartlett, Lovat; Daniel Cameron, Oban Camanachd; Conor Cormack, Beaulay; Zander

Ferguson, Lochaber; Fraser Heath, Glenurquhart; Grant Irvine, Kyles Athletic; Rory Kennedy, Newtonmore; Paul MacArthur, Newtonmore; Liam MacDonald, Kilmallie; Roddy MacDonald, Kyles Athletic; Steven MacDonald, Newtonmore; Stuart MacDonald, Lovat; Glen MacKintosh, Newtonmore; Stuart MacKintosh, Glenurquhart; Finlay MacRae, Kinlochshiel; Calum Miller, Kyles Athletic; Shaun Nicolson, Lochaber; Neale Reid, Glenurquhart. Management team: Ronald Ross, Ally Ferguson, Jimmy Gow and Neil Bowman.

Under 21 squad: Craig Anderson, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Ewen Campbell, Beaulay; Jordan Fraser, Kinlochshiel; Cammy Keith, Kyles Athletic; Innes MacDonald, Kyles Athletic; Jack MacDonald, Beaulay; Michael MacKenzie, Lovat; Iain MacLeod, Skye; Lewis MacNulty, Inveraray; John MacNulty, Glenorchy; Oliver MacRae, Kinlochshiel; Daniel Madej, Oban Celtic; Rory McGregor, Kingussie; Gary McKerracher, Oban Camanachd; Blair Morrison, Caberfeidh; Craig Morrison, Caberfeidh; Jordan Murchison, Skye; Donald Nixon, Kinlochshiel; Callum Stewart, Newtonmore. Management team:

Garry Reid, Alan MacRae, Allan MacKechnie and Ross Brown. Women's squad: Sarah Corrigan, Skye; Kirsty Deans, Badenoch and Strathspey; Kirsty Delaney, Lochaber; Niamh Ni Dhonaile, Aberdeen; Kate Drain, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Laura Gallagher, Lovat; Catriona Gibb, Skye; Emma Gordon, Skye; Vickie Henderson, Aberdeen; Paige MacDonald, Lorn; Caitlin MacLean, Skye; Lorna MacRae, Skye; Laura McCafferty, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Rachel McCafferty, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Alana McGarrie, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Elizabeth McGregor,

Badenoch and Strathspey; Jeanette McGregor, Badenoch and Strathspey; Lindsay Michie, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Rosie Mulligan, Aberdeen; Taryn Neilson, Aberdeen. Management team: Stuart Reid, Scot Campbell; Eoghan Stewart; Robbie Gordon and Brian Slattery.

Tickets can be bought in advance from Eden Court Theatre (01463 234234/www.eden-court.co.uk) or at the ground on the day. Prices are £10 Adults / £5 Concession / Under 12s Free* (when accompanied by a paying adult). Discounts are available to Camanachd Association members.

Oban Camanachd's recent good run of form continues



Lorne Dickie slams home a retaken 39th minute penalty to give Oban Camanachd a 1-0 half-time lead over Lochaber at Glencruitten last Saturday. Connor Howe made sure of the points for the Oban side with a late goal to make the final score 2-0

Oban Camanachd	2
Lochaber	0
Marine Harvest Premiership	

OBAN Camanachd continued their recent good run of form, one defeat in seven games, with a good win against Lochaber who are sitting fourth in the premiership.

The red and blacks were without Craig MacMillan, Keith MacMillan and Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish and talisman, Daniel Cameron, but they made light of this and bagged another two valuable points.

With Dugie MacIntyre Jnr and Alex MacVicar taking charge in the absence of team manager, Ian Hay, the home side made a positive start using the spacious Mossfield Park, which was in excellent condition, to good use with fast open play putting the Lochaber defence under constant pressure.

The Camanachd forwards and, in particular, Connor Howe who was surprisingly overlooked for this week's under 21 international, were revelling in the condi-



Oban Camanachd's Malcolm Clark gets a shot on target during last Saturday's game against Lochaber

tions and after half an hour were awarded a penalty when Daniel MacVicar was brought down in the box.

Lorne Dickie's first attempt was saved by the Lochaber keeper, but referee, Lachie Woods, ordered a retake as one of the Lochaber players had encroached into the penalty area.

Dickie made no mistake second time around to give Camanachd a deserved lead.

With Ian MacMillan pulling the strings in midfield and Garry Lord and Scott MacKillop secure in defence, Camanachd fully merited their 1-0 half-time lead.

The second half was more of the same with the Lochaber defence under pressure and having to resort to which ever means necessary to combat the lively Camanachd forwards with Scott MacMillan, another surprising exclusion from the international team, controlling midfield.

Camanachd finally secured victory in the last minute of the game through Connor Howe to make the final score 2-0

Because of the international break, Camanachd have no game on Saturday. Their next game is on Saturday October 31 when Kingussie are

Shinty

the visitors. This game will go a long way in deciding which team will play Kilmallie in the play off for a premiership place as only one point separates Kingussie and Camanachd.

Commented manager Ian Hay: 'We are looking forward to the game against Kingussie with renewed confidence although we realise it will be a difficult match and we will have to be at our very best to take anything from the game as both clubs know what is at stake.'

Record numbers attend Active Schools events

SCHOOL pupils across Scotland have made a record number of visits to Active Schools-supported sport and physical activity sessions in the past school year.

The 6.1 million visits by children equals a five per cent increase on the previous 12 months.

The figures released by Sport Scotland, the national agency for sport, also show that, during the 2014/15 academic year, the number of activity sessions offered has increased by seven per cent to 333,000, with more than 100

different sports and activities on offer.

The number of people delivering these sessions also increased to more than 20,000 - an increase of six per cent, with 17,500 of these unpaid volunteers.

The Active Schools Network, which is a partnership between Sport Scotland and the 32 local authorities, has been delivering opportunities for school pupils to get involved in sport and physical activity before school, during lunch and after school over the past decade.

Chief executive of Sport Scotland, Stewart Harris, said: 'It is terrific news that the Active Schools Network is reporting record highs across so many different measurements. This success is being delivered through excellent partnerships between local authorities, the Scottish government and Sport Scotland, and there are now strong connections between schools, clubs and communities.'

Active schools

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Green Machine exit West Shield at the semi-final stage

Annan	24
Oban Lorne	17
BT Shield - semi final	

OBAN Lorne were knocked out of the BT Shield on Saturday after going down 24-15 at Annan.

The Green Machine fielded arguably their strongest side of the season so far, but could not prevent the West Division 2 side from winning the game.

Oban went ahead through an early Craig Wright penalty after five minutes. Annan then hit back with a penalty of their own before extending their lead to 10-3 with a try.

The men is green managed to hit back with a try from captain, Cammy Smith, to level the game at 10-10.

As Oban were growing into the game, the hosts scored another try to take a 17-10 lead.

With minutes to go until half-time, Oban scored again to come right back into the game. Struan Smith scored the try which made

the half-time score 17-15 in favour of the hosts.

Oban pressed for a try in the second half that would see them take the lead. Poor decision-making of taking a scrum close to the line rather than kicking good penalty chances proved to be Oban's downfall as they failed to get points on the board for the rest of the game.

Annan added to the scoreline and put the result beyond doubt with five minutes to go with the last try of the game to make the final score of 24-15.

This was a disappointing result for Oban who were looking to

BT West Division One	P	W	L	D	F:A	Diff	Pts
2 Glasgow Academicals	3	3	0	0	107:41	66	15
3 Newton Stewart	3	3	0	0	118:23	95	14
4 Helensburgh RFC	5	2	3	0	124:121	3	11
5 Allan Glen's	4	2	2	0	62:95	-33	10
6 Garnock	5	2	3	0	82:95	-13	10
7 Oban Lorne	3	2	1	0	66:54	12	9
8 Lenzie RFC	3	1	2	0	69:85	-16	7
9 Kilmarnock	4	1	3	0	58:105	-47	5
10 Cambuslang	5	0	5	0	56:147	-91	1

Rugby

reach the final of the West Shield for the second consecutive season. Annan now progress to take on West 1 leaders, Carrick RFC.

Oban's attention now turns back to West Division 1 where the team host Lenzie RFC this Saturday at Glencruitten, kick off 1pm.

Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute RFC are back in league action on Saturday with a home game against bottom placed Glasgow East RFC. Kick off is at 1pm at Glencruitten.

Despite a slow start Tiree Wave Classic comes alive

DESPITE a slow start because of the weather, windsurfers got up to speed by the end of last week as the Tiree Wave Classic windsurfing competition came to a close.

The biggest annual windsurfing competition of the calendar for the island was cancelled last Monday and Tuesday, as the tame waters meant conditions weren't blustery enough for the competitors.

By Wednesday, the wind and waves were strong enough for the event to go ahead, with Ross Williams named as the winner in the men's pro competition and Sara Kellet in the women's on Friday, as the windsurfing came to a close.

A spokeswoman for Tiree Wave Classic said: 'It has been a fantastic week of windsurfing, adrenaline and fun. There have been some world-class windsurfers in attendance and we have seen some amazing talent on the water.'

'We send a massive congratulations to all those who took part, and want to thank all the

Windsurfing

sponsors for making the event possible.'

The proceedings were rounded off on Friday with a prize-giving at the Tiree Community Hall, An Talla, followed by a ceilidh.

For more information, including video footage from the event, visit: www.facebook.com/tireewaveclassic



Some world class surfers attended the Tiree Wave Classic

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1250

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

M. Macintyre, Lochgilphead

I. Campbell, Pulpit Hill, Oban

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 crosses must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

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.....

Tel No.

Six in a row for Newtonmore as they clinch premiership title

Premiership

NEWTONMORE secured their sixth consecutive league title last Saturday when they narrowly defeated Lovat 3-2 at home. The five-goal thriller started with a sizzle as the first half came to an end, but neither team managing to get on the score sheet. The second half saw the champions dig deep and took a two goal lead through Fraser MacKintosh and Norman Campbell. Kevin Bartlett pulled a goal back for the Camanachd cup holders, but Norman Campbell restored their two goal lead. Lorne MacKay made it a nervy last few minutes for Newtonmore when he scored with eight minutes to go, but the Badenoch men held out to win by the odd goal in five. Assistant manager, Ian MacKintosh, said: 'It was one of those days when the result was more important than the performance. Lovat played some excellent shinty, especially in the first half. But despite their pressure, we had the more clear-cut chances.'

Manager, PJ MacKintosh, who was away on holiday and missed the game said: 'I'm delighted, we've won it six times in a row now. The boys have worked very hard all season. A lot of teams up their game when they play us, but if you want to be successful you have to put the hard work in.'

With the shinty/hurling international matches on this weekend Newtonmore have no game. They play their last two games of the season against Kyles at home on October 31 and finish the season off when the travel to play Oban Camanachd

Two weeks ago, **FORT WILLIAM** finished up their season thinking they were safe in the premier division for another year, but due to recent results that might not be the case. They are seventh in the league ahead of three other teams including Inveraray who are already relegated.

The other two, Oban Camanachd and Kingussie, have been accumulating points and are within touching distance. Kingussie are just two points behind Fort William with a game

Shinty

still to play and Oban Camanachd are three points behind with three games to go. Joint manager, Adi Robertson, said: 'We're getting a bit worried now, but it's out of our hands. We might get dragged into the play-offs, but we'll just have to wait and see.'

LOVAT narrowly lost out 3-2 away to league winners, Newtonmore last Saturday. This was the Kiltarlity side's final game of the season. On the score sheet for Lovat were Kevin Bartlett and Lorne MacKay.

KINGUSSIE were without a game last weekend. They are not back in action again until October 31 at Mossfield, when they take on Oban Camanachd in what will be a dramatic end to their season. Both teams are fighting relegation alongside Fort William who could be dragged in to a play-off game if Kingussie can beat the Oban side.

KYLES ATHLETIC ran out 4-1 winners away to Inveraray last weekend. On the score sheet for the away side were Sandy MacKenzie, Gordon Whyte and Innes MacDonald with a double. Kyles, who are now mathematically unable to win the league, are next in action on October 31, when they are away to newly-crowned champions, Newtonmore.

LOCHABER suffered a 2-0 defeat away to Oban Camanachd last weekend in their final game of the season. The away side are sitting safely in fourth place in the league. **INVERARAY** played their final game of the season last Saturday when they lost 4-1 to Kyles Athletic. Relegated Inveraray will play their shinty in the National Division next year.

South Division One
LOCHSIDE ROVERS recorded a 2-0 victory over Strachur last



CHAMPIONS: The Newtonmore squad and coaches celebrate winning the Marine Harvest Premiership after their 3-2 win over Lovat.

weekend. The Oban side were held to a goal-less draw at half time, but thanks to an early first half double from Brian MacCallum, they were able to secure the two points. With Bute also winning against Kyles in convincing fashion, the destination of the league title is between these two teams with Bute the favourites by virtue of having a game in hand and a superior goal difference.

Lochside have one game left this season, away to Glenorchy and if they win that and Bute don't win both of their remaining games, the Oban side will win the league. Manager, Gareth Evans, said: 'We didn't play all that well, but we had seven or eight boys out for various reasons, but we created plenty of chances, we just couldn't score.'

'We were never in danger of losing the game, although it was a struggle, but we got there in the end. Bute's last game of the season is away to Oban Celtic. Gareth continued: 'If Celtic put out a full team, Bute will be in for a hard match.'

Evans has been named Manager of the Year for South League Division 1. Evans commented: 'This award is representative of the team's commitment to the philosophy of bringing through and developing players from our under 17 team which will auger well for the future of the club.'

BUTE recorded a 4-0 win against Kyles Athletic last Saturday in South Division One. On the score sheet were Robert Walker with a hat-trick and James Craig. The islanders are sitting in second place in the league two points behind leaders, Lochside, but have a game in hand and a better goal difference. Bute are at home to Strachur this weekend and play Oban Celtic away from home in their final game of the season, so it's still all to play for.

GLENORCHY ran out 2-0 winners at home to Aberdour last Saturday. On the score sheet for the Dalmally side was Connor Sartin who got both the goals. The Mart park men play their last game of the season on October 31, when they are at home to league leaders, Lochside Rovers, with a 2.30pm throw up.

STRACHUR were defeated 2-0 by Lochside Rovers last weekend at Ganavan. Strachur play their final game of the season this Saturday away to Bute with a 2.30pm throw up.

OBAN CELTIC didn't have a fixture last weekend. They are next in action again on October 31, when they are away to Kyles Athletic. The green and whites will then have the opportunity to dictate where the league title goes when they play Bute in Oban on November 7, the last game of the season. Oban Celtic manager, Davy Hamilton, said: 'It's currently a two horse race for the league,

but all in all it's not been a bad season for Celtic.'

North Division Two
GLENGARRY finished their season in disappointing fashion. The Invergarry side ran out 4-1 losers away to Lochaber in North Division Two. Stuart Gregory secured their only goal of the game. Glengarry finished the season in second place behind Skye.

SKYE won their final game of the season last Saturday when they defeated Lochaber 3-1 at home. Skye are now sitting in second place in the league. They have a game in hand on Lochaber and will play them at home on October 31.

LOCHABER were defeated 4-1 by Inveraray last Saturday. Lochaber are now sitting in fourth place in the league. They have a game in hand on Inveraray and will play them at home on October 31.

INVERARAY were defeated 2-0 by Lochside Rovers last weekend at Ganavan. Inveraray are now sitting in seventh place in the league. They have a game in hand on Lochside Rovers and will play them at home on October 31.

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CHALLENGE: Lovat's Greg Matheson is challenged by Newtonmore's Michael Russell during last weekend's game at the Eilan.

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EYES ON THE BALL: Inveraray's Garry MacPherson and Kyles Athletic's Grant Irvine in action during last Saturday's premiership clash at the Winterton. The Tighnabrauch side won 4-1.

Photo: Stephen Lawson

Shinty exhibition opens at Hampden Park

A UNIQUE exhibition detailing shinty's past, present and future has been opened at the award-winning Scottish Football Museum at Hampden Park, Glasgow. In a partnership that will celebrate the historic links between football and shinty, the stick and ball game is to be showcased for six months in 'An Tadhail: The Goal'.

The exhibition is being organised by the Camanachd Association, in partnership with the Scottish Football Museum. It was formally opened by Eileanan Siar (Western Isles) MP, Angus Brendan MacNeil, himself a former shinty player from his Glasgow University days. The ceremony was chaired by Robert Craig, Chairman of the SFA's Football Museum at Hampden which is hosting the exhibition. He said: 'This exhibition is a first for the Football Museum in that all the objects have been drawn from collections out-with the museum. It is also the first, of what we hope, will be a series of exhibitions linking football to the wider world of sport in Scotland. The exhibition

is a visible demonstration of the links being developed through the Sports Heritage Scotland Group, which is designed to encourage co-operation between the national sporting bodies to produce resources that widen the scope of the Museum's Alzheimer project to other sports.' Speaking on behalf of the Camanachd Association, past-president, Archie Robertson, said: 'This is something special for our sport. Shinty has a long, rich and proud history, and a bright and exciting future. This exhibition provides an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the sport, plus engage a new and wider audience. The Scottish Football Museum is an excellent facility and resource. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to showcase shinty at Scotland's National Stadium and for the advice, expertise and support provided by the Museum's team.'

The group which organised the display was led by shinty historian and broadcaster, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan. He said: 'The opportunity to hold the exhibition in Hampden arose directly out of

our partnership with Alzheimer Scotland and the hugely successful Shinty Memories Project. The first period of the exhibition until Christmas will focus on our past. Then we will move towards the present and the future and the start of the next playing season. Some of the exhibition will last for six months and some parts of it will be changed and rotated to allow us to show as much as we can of shinty's rich heritage.'

Many of shinty's great trophies will be on display on a planned rotation and clubs and associations within the game are to be offered the opportunity to be part of the six-month long event. Interesting and unusual objects are also being sought for display and clubs' views will be sought on the content. Given shinty's participation in the Scottish Sporting Heritage network, which is also based at Hampden, the partnership between football and shinty looks set to develop. The exhibition includes significant collections of memorabilia and medals from throughout the shinty community.

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Marine Harvest Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	16	15	0	1	57	12	30
Kyles Athletic	16	11	2	3	54	22	24
Glenurquhart	18	9	4	5	39	34	22
Lochaber	18	7	3	8	34	44	17
Lovat	18	6	4	8	38	38	16
Kinlochshiel	18	6	4	8	30	44	16
Fort William	18	6	3	9	27	41	15
Kingussie	17	5	3	9	24	33	13
Oban Camanachd	15	4	4	7	20	26	12
Inveraray	17	2	3	12	19	45	7

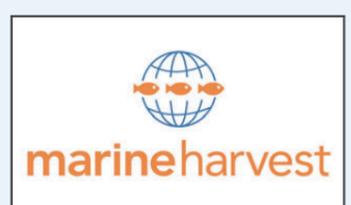
Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	16	13	1	2	59	27	27
Newtonmore	15	10	4	1	73	22	24
Kingussie	16	8	4	4	55	29	20
Glenurquhart	16	8	2	6	27	34	18
Strathglass	15	7	3	5	42	38	17
Beaulieu	16	6	2	8	27	34	14
Kinlochshiel	16	4	4	8	25	54	12
Lovat	16	3	1	12	22	55	7
Lochcarron	16	1	1	14	24	61	3

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	18	15	2	1	73	19	32
Glengarry	18	10	2	6	60	35	22
Lochaber	18	11	0	7	66	22	21*
Aberdeen Uni	18	9	3	6	62	39	21
Caberfeidh	18	9	2	7	57	42	19*
Kilmallie	18	10	0	8	40	41	17*
Boleskine	18	8	1	9	53	61	16*
Lewis	18	7	0	11	35	69	14
Inverness	18	3	2	13	20	81	8
Strathspey	18	2	0	16	18	65	3*

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	12	11	1	0	58	10	23
Kilmallie	12	9	1	2	51	16	19
Glasgow MA	12	6	1	5	25	23	13
Caberfeidh	12	4	3	5	29	22	11
Beaulieu	12	5	1	6	29	31	11
Inverness	12	2	2	8	17	32	6
Ballachulish	12	0	1	11	4	79	1

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	17	15	0	2	68	21	30
Bute	16	13	2	1	66	8	28
Oban Celtic	16	11	1	4	52	25	23
Inveraray	18	10	2	6	40	33	22
Aberdour	18	7	1	10	27	38	15
Kyles Athletic	17	7	1	9	34	51	15
Taynuilt	18	6	2	10	31	49	14
Glenorchy	17	4	3	10	21	56	9*
Stachur	17	3	3	11	24	48	5*
Kilmory	18	1	3	14	17	51	3*

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Col Glen	14	10	2	2	52	19	22
Tayforth	14	10	1	3	58	30	20*
Glasgow MA	14	7	2	5	52	26	15*
Bute	14	7	0	7	35	45	12*
Oban Lorn	14	6	0	8	29	36	11*
Glenorchy	14	4	2	8	21	38	9*
Ballachulish	13	4	2	7	16	39	5*
Aberdour	13	2	1	10	20	50	3



The Oban Times
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Royce are rolled over by Saints in West of Scotland Cup

'Everybody worked really hard all afternoon and we got our just rewards for the effort we put in'

Rolls Royce EK	1
Oban Saints	5
West of Scotland Cup	

OBAN Saints travelled to East-Kilbride last Saturday to take on Rolls Royce EK in the West of Scotland Cup 2nd round

With manager Alex Craik away on holiday in Lanzarote, his assistant, Donnie Campbell, was thrown in at the deep end for his first match in charge of the team at Murray Park in East Kilbride where the temperature was not as warm as Lanzarote, but Saints certainly turned up the heat on their opponents with an impressive 5-1 win.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side started well and Craig MacEwan had a header cleared off the line in the first minute.

However, that let-off for the home side was only to last three minutes when their defence only half cleared a corner with the ball falling kindly for Donnie Campbell who rifled an unstoppable shot past the helpless goalkeeper.

The visitors were pressing forward at every opportunity and the home side have keeper, Dean Trainor, to thank for several top class saves in the first half to keep his team in the game.

Saints increased their lead in the 16th minute when Craig MacEwan scored with a fine header after good work from Lewis Cameron and Donnie Campbell.

To their credit, Rolls Royce kept plugging away, but strikers Gavin Miller and Blair McDonald were getting little change out of the Saints central defensive partnership of Dene Cassells and Jamie Graham, who rarely put a foot wrong all afternoon.

Saints were on top in the early stages of the game and had a couple of good chances to increase

their lead through Dean Smith and Craig MacEwan.

The home keeper then brought off a great save from a Donnie Campbell piledriver.

David McArthur was also unlucky to see a goalbound effort cleared off the line on the half-hour mark.

Scott Maitland then made a great run down the left flank before sending over a superb cross, but Craig MacEwan's effort slid agonisingly past the post.

Although Saints were well on top, the home side almost pulled a goal back when Craig Duncan just failed to connect properly with a corner from the left.

Saints should have gone in at the half-time break three or four goals in front as they had passed up several good scoring chances.

Allayed
The visitors would be hoping that these missed chances would not come back to haunt them in the second half, but any fears they had were allayed as Saints increased their lead in the 53rd minute after some excellent work from Donnie Campbell and Dean Smith squaring the ball into the path of Willie Gemmell who drilled a daisy-cutter past the helpless East Kilbride goalkeeper and into the bottom corner of the net.

Saints seemed to take their foot off the pedal a bit and allowed the home side back into the game and they were unlucky when a fine effort from Ross Moore came back off the crossbar.

The Oban side increased their lead in the 72nd minute when Scott Maitland and Lewis Cameron combined on the left wing before sending Donnie Campbell through the middle for the Saints captain to fire an unstoppable shot past Rolly

Football

keeper, Dean Trainor, to make the score 4-1.

The visitors then replaced Dean Smith, who had a good game up front, with Allan MacKay.

Credit to the home team, they kept plugging away and were rewarded for their efforts when Paul Innes made a penetrating run from deep in his own half before thundering a great right foot shot past Saints' keeper, Thomas McCulloch.

Any thoughts of a fight-back from the home team were short lived as Saints restored their four goal advantage when Martin Bonar and Shaun MacIver made progress up the right before setting up Donnie Campbell who danced past the East Kilbride central defenders and the goalkeeper before rolling the ball home to make the score 5-1.

The home side never gave up and Thomas McCulloch made a fine save with his foot to deny East Kilbride a second goal.

Just on the final whistle, Shaun MacIver netted with a fine header, but referee Gary Kirkwood, who had a good game, ruled that the Saints youngster was offside.

Club secretary, David Buchanan, said: 'I thought the boys were excellent today. Some of the football we played was top class.'

'Right from the first whistle we never gave Rolly a chance to settle into the game. Everybody worked really hard all afternoon and we got our just reward for the effort we put in and fully deserve to be in the third round draw.'

This Saturday, Saints are on the road again, this time on league business when they travel to Netherpollok to take on Shawlands FP. The game kicks-off at 2pm



CRASHED OUT: John McPhee, No 17, leads the Australian Grand Prix before crashing out on turn 6

Crash ends McPhee's podium hopes at Australian Moto3 Grand prix

CONNEL'S John McPhee's chances of capitalising on pole position to deliver a second Grand Prix podium of the season hit the deck 13 unlucky minutes into the Australian Moto3 Grand Prix at Phillip Island.

The RSF-backed Saxoprint-RTG rider - back to his confident best after switching back to the 2014 Honda chassis - lost the rear of his bike at turn 6 to join what was to become a long list of casualties.

Rough and tumble

The Scot, who gave as good as he got in the rough and tumble of the opening laps, had just completed lap six in the lead when he crashed out, taking Leopard Racing's Joan Mir with him.

A further 18 riders, including Leopard's points-leader Danny Kent - who was taken out by Niccolò Antonelli - and title rival Enea Bastianini, were also involved in crashes.

Football

'To make the error and crash out like that was a huge disappointment to say the least,' he lamented. 'So apologies to the team for messing up. Up to that point it was probably the best race of my grand prix career - and a lot of fun too.'

John delivered his best qualifying performance since Malaysia in 2014 to finish second fastest on the timesheet, but was promoted to pole after championship leader, Danny Kent, was hit with a six-place grid penalty.

McPhee, who ended the session 0.36 of a second shy of championship leader, Kent, led the front row ahead of Red Bull Ajo's Miguel Oliveira and Leopard Racing's Efrén Vazquez. The Connel rider is next in action on Sunday in the Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang.

Donnie makes his Scotland debut



WELL DONE DONNIE: Oban Saints midfielder, Donnie Campbell, on the ground, turned out for the Scottish Amateur International select team in a practice match at Colville Park, Motherwell, recently. Donnie played well and impressed international team manager, Bruce McNaught, and will be asked to take part in further games and training sessions before Scotland take on Ireland later in the season. Saints striker, Lewis Cameron, was also in contention for a place in the international set-up, but he's taking time out and leaves to play football in Australia at the end of the month. Photo: John Rodgers

Jiu Jitsu

Oban BJJ travelled to Kilmarnock for a team meet, where 67 members from other affiliated teams under Marcos Nardini came together to train and swap techniques. This was a fantastic experience for the Oban club members, meeting up with similar minded folk and making new friends.

Monday's BJJ fundamental classes continue to grow and attract new members as this class is perfect for beginners and intermediates alike.

Tuesdays MMA stand-up class has been focusing on boxing and movement drills, with a small circuit based on drills post class.

The club are currently arranging a kids grappling class which will focus on games that involve learning the basics of BJJ & grappling. This class looks like starting the first Friday in November.

For more details contact the club coach Iain (Coogie) Potter on: coogiepots@gmail.com

Kyokushinkai Karate

Saturday the 17th of October

MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

saw club members at the British Open/Cup of Europe event at the K2 Arena in Crawley and, with only one fighter left in the mix, the club's hopes were pinned on Mark Welsh. A full report will be in the next article in two weeks. Unfortunately, Amy Campbell and Katie MacDonald picked up injuries and were unable to compete.

Nine club members however made the trip south to show their support and met up with Union members from around the country who had come to cheer Mark on.

Training has now also started in earnest towards the next grading test which is due to be held on the 6th of December.

Club instructor, Iain Rodger, is currently busy organising the Scottish Open Knockdown tournament, which is on February 27th in Glasgow.

For details on the classes or events, contact the club coach Iain Rodger on: iain@ikku.co.uk

Shukokai Karate

The Argyll Martial Arts clubs are carrying on as normal. In addition, some of the junior members are in training for the competition in Lochgilphead on November 1, and all the members are training towards the next grading test.

For details on the classes, contact the club coach Kenny Gray on: kennigray@btinternet.com

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup second round - Campbeltown Pupils 7, Helensburgh 1; East Kilbride RR 1, Oban Saints 5; Lochgilphead Red Sar 1, Dunoon 2; Tarbert 3, Bargeddie 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Inverclyde; Shawlands FP v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Kings Park Rangers; Lochgilphead Red Star no game; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Hillington; Division One - Dunoon Athletic v Whitehill FP.

Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Under 14s no game; Dumbarton United 9, Under 15s 0; Under 16s no game, Ardencaple 1, Under 19s 2.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Kilbowie Union; Under 14s v Dumbarton United; Under 15s v Broomhill; Under 16s v Milngavie; Under 19s no game.

Amateur football inter-league competition

Football

THE draw for Scotland's amateur football inter-league trophy competition was made recently.

The draw was - Caledonian AFL v Lothian and Edinburgh AFL; Scottish Amateur AFL v Ayrshire AFL; Strathclyde Saturday Morning AFL v Central Scottish AFL; Aberdeenshire AFL bye.

Quarter final ties will be played on Sunday, November 22.

Friendly matches last weekend

Football

TWO friendly football matches took place in Oban last Sunday. Bunnass defeated Glensanda 5-3 at Glen 2 while Oban Electrical Services beat CalMac 5-1 at the community 3G pitch.

Kickboxing

Some of the Senses Do Kickboxing black belts are in training for their 2nd degree black belt grading test which will take place in December. These tests are a gruelling affair - they take several hours and finish with each candidate fighting a fresh opponent every minute for forty minutes. Tests of this kind find out who has the spirit to carry on when most people would give up.

The clubs' junior members are in training for the tournament in Lochgilphead on November 1st to see who will take the gold, silver and bronze medals home.

Adult fighters are also starting to prepare for the Scottish Open Knockdown tournament in Glasgow in February; this is Scotland's premier full contact event drawing fighters from all over Europe. The event is open to any organisation, so for any fighter wishing to showcase or test their full contact ability, this is THE place to be.

For details on the classes contact the club coach Wullie Rodger on: shihanwill@gmail.com

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Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 14°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 7°C to 14°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 13°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 22 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	06.36 1.8 13.44 3.3 19.26 1.7	** ** *
Fri	02.17 3.0 07.55 1.6 14.44 3.5 20.37 1.4	
Sat	03.11 3.3 09.01 1.3 15.30 3.8 21.34 1.1	
Sun	03.51 3.6 09.55 0.9 16.11 4.1 22.22 0.8	
Mon	04.27 3.9 10.43 0.7 16.51 4.3 23.05 0.6	
Tues	05.04 4.1 11.29 0.5 17.30 4.4 23.47 0.4	
Wed	05.42 4.2 12.13 0.4 18.09 4.4	** ** *

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Royal National Mòd 2015

7 pages of stories, photos and results inside



WIN AN IPAD MINI!



Don't forget to turn your clocks back this weekend



Keep coaches on every bus service

COUNCILLOR FEARS 'SHODDY' BUSES WILL REPLACE CURRENT VEHICLES

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY councillor has slammed changes to the Fort William to Inverness bus service, saying Lochaber will be left with an 'embarrassing' and 'inappropriate' service.

Two of the current five Citylink 919 coach routes between Fort William and the city are to be replaced with the Highland Stagecoach 19, which John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said often provide old and damaged buses for the route.

The bus link is the only public transport link between the town and Inverness, with no train available.

Mr Fotheringham is angry there has been no public consultation ahead of the changes, due to come into force in November. He said: 'This is just another example of businesses showing they don't care about Lochaber, but because it's a commercial service they have no obligation to ask customers

what they think, despite us being the ones paying the fare.'

'The Fort William to Inverness route is always busy and must be extremely profitable between locals going to Inverness for shopping and appointments and tourists going to visit Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle. To take away our coach service and replace it with an inappropriate and shoddy bus service is embarrassing.

'Since West Coast Motors and Shiel Buses took over the route to Glasgow they have put on brand new coaches, so why can Stagecoach not do the same for the Inverness route?'

'Now it will be argued that the 19 service is cheaper than the 919 service, so there will be benefits to the travelling public, yet there are no safeguards to the type of coach or bus that may be used and Highland Stagecoach have shown this summer that they do deploy a variety of inappropriate buses on the service.'

A spokeswoman for Scottish Citylink said: 'Like all businesses, from time to time we take a look at our network to

determine which services are most in demand and which have fewer passengers using them. This is to ensure we are providing the kind of services that reflect the travel habits of our customers. As a result, we are making some changes to our 919 route.

'From 23 November, we will be withdrawing a small number of services from the route. However, we will continue to offer six daily journeys between these locations.

'Stagecoach North Scotland operated these services on our behalf. We informed them of this change and understand they plan to introduce additional journeys in the area to provide even more journey options for local people.

'We work hard to make sure we are using our resources effectively to meet the needs of as many of our customers as possible. We carried out a consultation with local authorities and received no responses raising any concerns with our plans.'

Mr Fotheringham, who regularly travels to Inverness

by bus, also said Steve Walker, managing director of Highland Stagecoach attended his community council meeting in September and said there would be no changes to the Fort William to Inverness route: 'I specifically asked him at the meeting if there would be changes and he assured me there would not. Then less than a month later I discovered that was not true. Nobody listens to the people who actually use the service.'

A spokeswoman for Stagecoach North Scotland said: 'Most of the vehicles on Service 19 use the same vehicles as are used on Service 919.

'Where that is not possible, we ensure the vehicles used on the route are adequate for the journey. All of our buses are maintained through a strict regime that goes beyond what is required by law. We are adding two new journeys to reduce the impact on the local community of the Scottish Citylink changes to service 919 and will continue to operate the majority of services using coaches wherever possible.'



GARDEN DREAM: area organiser for Poppy Scotland, George Kerr, with two of the crosses. 20_143poppy01

High hopes for a garden full of memorial crosses

A WOODEN cross planted beside Fort William war memorial in memory of each of its 154 names is the aim of the Royal British Legion (RBL).

With less than three weeks till Remembrance Sunday, on November 8, poppy sellers will be out in Lochaber from Saturday, October 24. Last year, generous donations from locals and visitors totalled more than £7,550 and the aim is to surpass that this year.

George Kerr, area organiser for Poppy Scotland, has ordered more than enough wooden crosses to remember every person on the Parade's war memorial. He hopes Fort William residents will buy a cross for a minimum donation of £3 each and 'adopt' a serviceman. Mr Kerr said: 'People can write the name of the serviceman on the cross and a short message. What a sight it would be to view a garden full of crosses this year, as a token of respect from us to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.'

The war memorial has a range of names from the First World War until the first Gulf War in 1991.

Mr Kerr, the former commanding officer of the Army Cadet Force (ACF) in Argyll, said he has enough wooden crosses to include memorials in out-lying areas such as Ballachulish and Spean Bridge. It is also hoped to have a silent tribute guard of honour by the memorial from sun up to sundown on Saturday November 7, including ACF and RBL members.

Mr Kerr added: 'Without our volunteers, particularly Bill, Ian and Tommy, who distribute boxes of poppies and tins, none of this would be possible.'

'Vital' council work praised

A LOCHABER councillor has praised the 'vital' work of community councils after hearing six in the region couldn't secure enough members this year.

Nominations were held ahead of community council elections in November, but some groups failed to meet the minimum number of candidates and will have to disband. These include Ardgour, Arisaig, Kinlochleven, Mallaig, Morvern and West

Ardnamurchan. Thomas MacLennan, Highland councillor and leader of Lochaber area committee, said: 'I'd like to thank the community councillors for all their work over the years.'

'They play a vital role in their areas and the council is indebted to them.'

'Anyone interested in becoming a community councillor in the disbanded areas will have another chance to stand in January next year.'

Musician's winning words

FORT William musician, Ewen Henderson, has been named joint winner of a Gaelic poetry competition.

The Mánran singer was one of two winners of the inaugural MacDonald of Sleat poetry prize, established by Sir Ian MacDonald in memory of his daughter, Deborah MacDonald, who died last year.

Ewen's poem, 'Foghar nan Gallan', (Autumn of the Saplings), was described by Sir Ian as a 'skillfully crafted

memorial'. The other winner was Eoghan Stewart from Easter Ross

Sir Ian, chairman of the trustees of Clan Donald Lands Trust, said: 'The two poems are beautiful and I can see why it was so difficult to choose an outright winner. Our darling daughter died much too young and these poems are skillfully crafted memorials to her. We thank those who wrote such meaningful words at such a sad time.'

Businessman chips in with shop plan

A FORMER video rental store in Fort William High Street may get a new lease of life as a fish and chip shop.

Up to five new jobs will be created if Fort William businessman, Thomas Donoghue, who was brought up in the area, is successful with his application for change of use from retail to a hot food takeaway for the former Blockbuster Video unit.

The shop, at 90 High Street, has lain empty since the national chain closed its doors in November 2013 after going into administration.

Mr Donoghue, speaking to the Oban Times on Tuesday, said: 'It is in a great location in a busy area of the town. I would probably employ four to five people. It will be good to see the shop being used again.'



CHIP SHOP PLAN: the former Blockbuster store in Fort William High Street. 20_143takeaway02

It is not Mr Donoghue's first venture into fish frying takeaways as he previously ran chippies in Stevenson, Ayrshire and Prestwick. He has other

business interests locally including home improvements and selling catering equipment.

Fort William community council chairman, Neil Clark, said Mr Donoghue's application would be discussed at a meeting after The Oban Times went to press.

Further planning news revealed this week is that a £270,000 grant has been secured to help convert the former secondary school in Achintore Road into council offices.

The roofless building has lain empty for more than quarter of a century since closing as a school after more than 100 years of use.

The grant to help restore the B-listed Victorian building comes from Historic Environment Scotland.

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'New' choir back on song at Mòd

LOCHABER Gaelic choir, performing in competition for the first time, sung their hearts out to win one of the major trophies at the Royal National Mòd in Oban.

Lochaber Gaelic Choir's rendition, on Friday last week, of their prescribed piece 'Tir a Mhuraín' and their own song 'Maraiche nan Cuanant,' won them the Margaret Duncan Memorial Trophy.

'Maraiche nan Cuanant' was composed by Flora MacPhail, awarded the Bardic crown this year, and her son Angus.

The 19-strong choir, reformed in early 2014, in the knowledge that the Mòd will be coming to Fort William in 2017, went into the competition determined not to come last.

Conductor, Rachel Walker, who teaches music at the school of excellence in traditional music in Plockton and at West Highland college, said: 'We were absolutely delighted. Our aim was to come fifth or sixth out of the seven choirs competing. We could not quite believe it when we were judged the winners. We were gobsmacked with the result. I'd like to thank the choir for all the hard work at rehearsals which made this possible.'

There had not been a Gaelic choir in Lochaber for many years when Fiona Cameron, who is now the chairman and Claire Delaney decided to set the wheels in motion and reform one.

The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Caol community centre and anyone who might like to join is welcome to go along.



TRIUMPHANT RETURN: the newly-reformed Lochaber Gaelic choir won the Margaret Duncan Trophy at the Royal National Mòd in Oban last week

TIMESLINE

Body found after police search

MESSAGES of grief and support were placed on social media sites after Lochaber police confirmed the body of a woman had been found following a search on Monday.

Police said the family, of 41-year-old Louise Stewart, have been informed, there were no suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Snap up a bargain book at club sale

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber's Hallowe'en book sale on Saturday October 31 will include a range of second hand and out of print titles.

Soup and sandwiches will also be served over the lunchtime period.

The event, in Duncansburgh Macintosh church hall, runs from 10am till 4pm.

Pupils raise cash to help refugees

PUPILS at a Lochaber school held a series of fundraising events to raise cash for Syrian refugees.

Last Thursday and Friday a raffle and non-uniform day helped Ballachulish primary pupils raise £272.

The winner of the raffle got to choose three friends to share the top prize of lunch served up by a teacher followed by time to watch a DVD of their own choice.

Police files

Bus raided

IN THE early evening of last Saturday, a suspected thief raided a bus parked outside the Ben Nevis Hotel.

Various items were taken between 8pm and 8.30pm.

Windows and doors smashed

THE FRONT window of the Nickel and Dime shop on Fort William High Street was smashed at about 4.30am on Monday, October, 12.

At 1.15am on Wednesday October 14, the glass front doors of Tesco supermarket on Fort William's High Street were smashed.

Bike taken

POLICE are searching for a red and black mountain bike suspected stolen from the rear of premises on Fort William High Street.

The Scott Aspect adults machine disappeared sometime between Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October, 17.

Car vandalised

A RED Vauxhall car was scratched sometime between Sunday and Monday morning October 18 and 19.

The damaged vehicle was parked on Kilmallie Road, Caol.

Bikes among 'found property'

FORT William police are keen to trace the owners of a large amount of found property.

This includes a number of bikes, some of which are quite valuable, mobile phones, wallets and cameras. The police say that if anyone has had anything taken they should always check to see if it has been handed in to the office.

Play park party swings into action

A PLAY park party should swing into action at Banavie Park by Neptune's Staircase on the Caledonian Canal on Saturday.

Starting with drum fun at 3pm prompt, this is the first major event organised by 'Friends of Banavie Park', to help raise funds to improve the play and recreational facilities at Banavie Park.

The community group was set up in 2014 because local people wanted to improve the facilities at the park. A public consultation carried out by the group identified the need for better equipment for older children whilst maintaining the natural feel of this famous scenic spot.

Lisa Wharton, vice chairwoman of the group, who has

two young children, said: 'It is such a stunning location, with amazing potential. Our community consultation showed that there is a real desire for improvements to the park, particularly in providing more facilities for older primary children.'

'We are very sensitive to the needs of other users of the park, and we aim for the play

area to have a natural feel and be harmonious with the scenic surroundings.'

Events on the day also include a kids ceilidh, storytelling, pony rides, nature crafts, a disco, karaoke, bouncy castle, hot food and home baking.

With support from Scottish Canals and 'No Fuss' it is sure to be a fun day. Carrie Starkie, treasurer of

the Friends, wanted to thank everyone involved for their support and said: 'We are so grateful to all the local businesses and individuals who are supporting this event. Party in the Park will be a great way to raise awareness and funds towards improving the park and we're really looking forward to getting the whole community together for a fantastic time.'

Rail workers' long service honoured

FOUR local people have received awards for dedicating 25 years each to Fort William railways. The assistant general secretary of RMT union, Steve Hedley, recently travelled from London to present Stevie Wallace, Mel Davenport, Steven Cameron and Paul MacDonald with service badges at the Railway Club, Inverloch.



Learn how to save a life

EVERY Scottish Fire and Rescue Service fire station has received a new life-saving training kit from the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

Fort William fire station personnel demonstrated the kit last Friday. The station will act as a base to train the public. It takes 30 minutes to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation using the Call Push

Rescue kit and it's taught by DVD. Community groups should contact their local fire station, both full-time and retained, to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the DVD and practice with the kit.

Members of the public can contact their local station or fire officer and arrange a mutually agreeable time to visit the station.

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An equal platform for youngsters

A NEW social enterprise has been created to help young people in south Lochaber facing rural isolation.

It is hoped the not-for-profit scheme, Kinlochlovin', will help youngsters in the Kinlochleven high school catchment area access the same opportunities as young people in more urban areas.

Rebecca Machin, Kinlochleven headteacher, said: 'We are confident through Kinlochlovin' we can provide the training and enterprising skills to ensure all of the young people of Kinlochleven have an equal platform to showcase their talents.'



WINNER: Kinlochleven high school pupil Beth Shepton with her winning logo

★★★★ The Scottish Daily Express

★★★★ The Herald

MOZART'S

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Contestants left parking mòd in town

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

ROYAL Mòd enthusiasts are furious that over-eager traffic wardens ticketed their cars while they were taking part in competitions.

With an estimated 8,000 visitors to Oban's already cramped streets for the nine-day long celebration of Gaelic culture, many visitors were angry at receiving fines while parked at the busy competition venues.

The Mòd is estimated to have injected around £3 million into the local economy, and some are now questioning whether a more-lenient, sympathetic parking strategy could have been adopted during the festival.

Oban resident, Kevin McCubbin, who sings with the Coisir Ceann an Tuirc, received a parking ticket while he and his fellow choir members were winning three medals. He said it had 'taken the shine off the victory'.

Kevin, 42, who is a graphic designer in the town, said: 'I parked in the free car park at the Corran Halls about 8.30am, and when I came out, there was a ticket on my car. I was parked behind cars and not specifically in a bay but

I wasn't blocking any other cars, and it was a free car park so I thought I would be fine.

'I was angry when I saw the ticket and, after winning the competition it was pretty gutting, and took the shine off the win a wee bit.

'I think the council could have used a bit more common sense and been a bit more lenient, considering the money coming into the town as a result of the Mòd, instead of trying to target people, especially those parked in a free car park.'

Others took to the *Oban Times* Facebook page to complain about parking fines.

Rowan Paterson said: 'I got a £30 fine while I was working at the Corran Halls last week for the Mòd. The Corran Halls car park was completely full and I put as many tickets on my car as I could afford, but ran out of change after a while and couldn't get away to get more.

'Seems a shame designated, free parking wasn't arranged for visitors, considering how much money the Mòd brought to the economy.'

Mary J D Gregory said: 'Would it have been such a terrible thing to allow free parking during the

Mòd? The parking attendants could have had a week off to enjoy the Mòd.'

Beth Davies said: 'I'd call them (attendants) 'ready to pounce' in the past week. I have never lived anywhere with as ridiculous parking as Oban - 80p - yet won't take coins to allow you to pay it? Rip-off central.'

However, a spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said strict parking regulations were vital for a variety of reasons: 'Effective traffic management has a number of benefits: supporting the local economy by ensuring parking turnover, safeguarding access for blue badge holders, for deliveries, and for emergency vehicles as well as ensuring road safety by managing inconsiderate and irresponsible parking.'

'There was significant pressure on car parks during the Mòd, making the enforcement of restrictions essential to maintain the flow of traffic and the safety of pedestrians.'

'Our wardens adopt a common-sense approach to enforcing regulations and act professionally and responsibly. They are only there to enforce the rules. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the driver to park correctly.'



Singing their praises

OBAN Gaelic choir's conductor, Sileas Sinclair, (pictured above) triumphantly lifted the Lovat and Tullibardine shield on Saturday. The win was a fairytale end to the Royal National Mòd in Oban, which has been hailed

a huge success, with the home choir winning the most prestigious choral event in their own backyard. The crowd erupted and some were in tears as the winners were announced. With the Mòd generating

an estimated £3 million for the town (see page 3), the staging of the event has been a massive achievement for Oban - the birthplace of the competition. Our seven-page special on the Mòd starts on page 11.

TIMESLINE

New ferries set to join CalMac fleet

THE SCOTTISH government is to add two 100-metre ferries to its fleet, currently operated by CalMac, in a £97 million deal.

The hybrid ferries will be able to run on both liquid natural gas and marine diesel.

Ferguson's Clyde shipyard in Port Glasgow was announced as the successful bidder on Friday by government agency, Transport Scotland.

Work on building the new

Royal approval for island volunteers

ISLAY and Jura Community Enterprises has been presented with the Queen's Award for Volunteering.

It was one of 187 charities, social enterprises or groups to receive the prestigious award this year, but the only one from Argyll, for its provision of Bowmore's Mactaggart Leisure Centre and other sport-based activities on the islands.

Alcoholism causes rise in death rate

NEW figures show the rate of alcohol-related deaths in the Western Isles is more than twice the Scottish average.

Last year on the islands there were 15 alcohol-related deaths - a rate of almost five and a half deaths per 10,000 people - compared to a national average of just over two.

Parents to protest at Kilmory castle

ANGRY parents are set to stage a protest at Kilmory Castle today (Thursday) over proposed cuts to special needs teaching staff by Argyll and Bute council. For the full story, see page 5.

Union takes to the streets

MEMBERS of the transport workers union RMT were out in force for the final day of the Mòd on Saturday, campaigning to keep ferry services in public ownership.

Thousands of freepost postcards were handed out to people, giving information on how to

contact their local MSP to urge them to lobby for CalMac.

RMT's Scotland organiser, Gordon Martin, said: 'We had an excellent response. Many thanks to the members of the public who took time to stop and talk to us.'

The union fears that ferry services could be privatised,

with the £1 billion Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract currently out to tender by the Scottish government.

CalMac and rival operator Serco are the only two firms to put in bids for the eight-year contract, with a decision to be announced next year.

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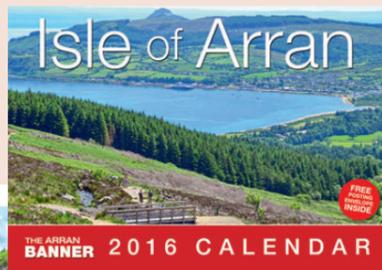


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Floating the idea of pontoons for Oban bay - again

PONTOONS may be coming to Oban Bay in 2017.

That's what the pledge made by councillors at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) area committee meeting on Tuesday.

During the meeting, it was decided the council would focus its efforts on delivering a permanent transit berthing facility on the north side of the North Pier. The announcement comes after disappointment in April, when plans for step-ashore pontoon facilities, promised by the local authority, didn't go ahead.

The council released a statement on Tuesday saying it had discussions with Oban Bay Marine Ltd, the group which has been campaigning for short-stay pontoons in Oban since 2007.

The council said it had 'identified a deliverable scheme which could be in place for summer 2017'.

Chairman of the area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'We are looking forward to seeing this project taking shape, ensuring that any investment we make will have real, long-term economic benefits to Oban and surrounding areas.'

The council will now start working on a business case, to be put before planners and then sent out to tender if approved.



PONTOONS PLEDGE: councillor Roddy McCuish

proved. Councillor McCuish continued: 'To allow cruise passengers to access the town next summer, we will be doing what worked so well this year - removing and resetting the fence on the Oban Times slip, doubling its capacity and creating a "meet and greet" area for visitors.'

Back in April, councillor McCuish would not be drawn into why the pontoons project, which was promised by the council to be ready by summer 2015, was abandoned, saying: 'I understood the pontoons would be in Oban Bay this summer, unfortunately that is not now the case.'

When asked again about the previous failure to provide the pontoons this year, he said: 'I realise there were lots of people disappointed previously, but we feel that this is by far the best option.'

£3M better off thanks to the Mòd's pulling power

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

THIS year's Royal National Mòd in Oban is estimated to have injected more than £3 million into the town's economy.

Organisers said about 8,000 people from across the UK and worldwide attended, coming from as far afield as Canada and the USA for the annual celebration of Gaelic culture.

Hotels, restaurants, shops and pubs recorded a huge increase in trade with the nine-day boost to the economy during a traditionally quieter part of the year in the run-up to Christmas.

Neil Mackay, events manager for business organisation BID4Oban, said: 'We hoped that the 2015 Mòd would be good for the town and whole area.'

'We were pleased to be able support the local committee by providing the street and lamppost banners to decorate the town. Along with contributions from Mòd organisations, it brightened up the town with colourful, traditional bunting. We feel this all added to the atmosphere.'

'Quality media coverage with



HAPPY THROG: hundreds of people take to streets on Saturday for the procession

genuine sponsorship all adds to the credibility of this event. Once again, Oban has proved it can deliver and it is appreciated, which is not really a surprise because we know that people love Oban.'

Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish, who is chairman of

the Oban Lorn and the Isles area committee, added: 'The Mòd has been great for the town, not just from the cultural aspect, but all the businesses in Oban and the surrounding area enjoyed a huge economic benefit.'

'The Mòd really does boost the

whole economy of the area, and with a figure somewhere in the region of £3million quoted, it shows just what Oban can do.'

Next year's Mòd will take place from October 14 to 22 in Lewis, with the main centre based in Stornoway.

A slippery slope for ski instructor

A ski-instructor is heading off to Canada without a driving licence and with £500 less in his pocket after an appearance at Oban sheriff court last week (Wednesday October 14).

Lewis Edward Peter Baldwin, of Gillingham in Kent, who spent the last 14 months working at the Ardenaiseig hotel, Kilchrean, had just handed his notice in to quit, as he had been offered a new job as a ski instructor in Banff, Alberta.

At Oban sheriff court, the 23-year-old admitted drink-driving and possessing cannabis in his staff-quarters caravan at the hotel on September 27.

Procurator fiscal David McDonald said a 999 call was made at 3.20am that morning when Baldwin said he had crashed his car and was trapped: 'He said his car had

left the road and he could not give the exact location.'

After 'an extensive search' of the area, Baldwin's empty car was found off the road leading to the luxury hotel. Mr McDonald said Edwards was found at the caravan at 6.30am, a breath-test proved positive and a reading at Oban police station at 8am was 102; the limit in Scotland is 22.

He added that there was a strong smell of cannabis within the caravan and police found two dried-out cannabis plants.

Baldwin's defence lawyer, Laura McManus, said he had been working at the hotel for 14 months and saving to go to Canada. The cannabis plants had been for his own personal use and were of no value.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson fined Baldwin, a first offender, £500 and disqualified him from driving for 30 months.

Two-year anniversary of a 'living hell', says fiancée

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

THE FIANCEE of Connel seaman, Billy Irving, has spoken of her anguish as the two-year anniversary of his capture and arrest passed on Sunday.

Billy, 34, and fellow MV Seaman Guard Ohio crew members, were accused of carrying illegal weapons when they entered Indian waters as part of anti-piracy operations, and arrested on October 18, 2013.

Despite being given clearance to leave India by courts and immigration officials, he continues to languish in the country, separated from his fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, and son, William, who was born in February.

Having been told that the case against him and his fellow crew members was being quashed at Madras high court in July 2014, Indian state police applied for a retrial, and he was last in the Indian Supreme Court in September to try and secure his release from the country.

Yvonne discussed the heartache involved since the day she was told 'her hero' Billy was being held captive:



HAPPY FAMILY: Billy and Yvonne with William

'How can an innocent man, who was doing his job protecting other seafarers, be subjected to the treatment he has received, from his company, his government and the Indian police?' she said.

'Billy's role as a maritime security adviser allowed for the safe passage of seafarers through dangerous waters.'

'It allowed men to feel safe at work, to put food in their children's bellies and to provide countries all over the world with vital supplies.'

'It took courage to do his job. Yes, there are dangers and we were as prepared as possible for the worst.'

'But not once did we even consider he would be arrested for simply doing his job, and the years of heartache and not knowing day-to-day what we would be faced with next.'

'Months of no contact while he was in prison and then finally seeing him after seven long months in jail - that can only be described as living hell.'

'Then having all charges quashed and a feeling of pure relief, to only have them appealed by the police and go through a long, drawn-out trial with no certainty as to what the outcome will be.'

'I am so proud of Billy. He has dealt with this situation with dignity, never given up hope or felt pity for himself.'

'He has held his head high and picked me up when I thought I'd crumble. Everyone has a hero, and Billy is mine.'

Yvonne also said the British government, 'should hang its head in shame with the lack of help, support and intervention they have shown during this time,' claiming they had failed to fulfil their duty of care to Billy and the other five seaman.

Newly elected MP for Argyll

and Bute, Brendan O'Hara, said: 'I have been working very closely with my colleague, Kirsten Oswald, MP for East Renfrewshire, on this matter as Yvonne and William are now living in her constituency.'

'As his MP, I cannot seek to influence any forthcoming trial but I will continue to demand that the Indian justice system expedites this case, as two years is a ridiculous amount of time for a UK national to be stuck awaiting trial.'

'This case has already been all the way to the Indian Supreme Court, only to be returned all the way down to the lower courts again.'

'Billy has the correct UK travel documents to allow him to return home immediately.'

'Kirsten Oswald and I are working together and will continue to work together to make sure that this issue remains firmly on the radar of the Foreign Office.'

'We are in direct contact with Billy and his family and we plan to do whatever we can ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK next month to highlight this ongoing unfairness.'

Popular radio DJ dies

TRIBUTES have flooded in for Oban FM presenter Margaret MacDonald, known as 'Maggie May' (pictured), who died on Tuesday.

The presenter, who had worked at the station for around 10 years, was understood to have been ill for a number of months.

Laura Johnston, Oban FM's station manager, said: 'Myself and everybody at Oban FM,



past and present, are saddened by the news. 'Maggie will be sorely missed, as she was a big part of not just Oban

FM but the whole community.'

Iain Blair-Simmonds, advertising manager at the station, said: 'She will be sadly missed. She was one of our stars.'

People also took to Facebook to pay their respects to the popular DJ, with the presenter's well-known catchphrase sign-off from her radio show, 'cheerie bubbles' quoted in some of the tributes.

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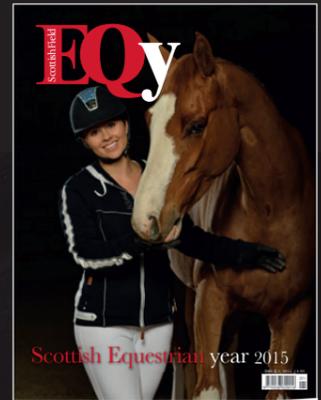
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Scottish Equestrian year 2015



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OH, CALEDONIA
Perrin's Duggie MacLean on the inspiration behind his whisky (p.10)

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Fort William have no answer to four-goal Formartine

'Formartine are a bit like the 'Chelsea' of the Highland League with millionaire backing, the gap in financing compared to us is frightening'

Fort William 1
Formartine 4
Highland League

FORT fought hard against the Highland League's 'Chelsea,' Formartine, who finally forced four into the net.

Fort had many chance but aside from teenager Liam Taylor's delightful diving header in the closing moments, it was a tough game against a side currently three from the top of the league.

The Aberdeenshire outfit, which included a number of top players, found a much improved Fort William side, smarting from six successive losses, determined to get into the game.

Fort's John McLeod gave them their first chance, in the 10th minute, but Formartine's keeper made a great save to deny him the goal.

Formartine took the lead in the 14th minute through Cammy Keith, who fired home from close range. Ex-Aberdeen player, Jamie Masson, doubled the pain at the back post seven minutes later. That was how it stayed until after the break as the Fort players kept at it denying Formartine any chance of improving their lead.

Next up it was the turn of another top flight player ex-Celtic, Ross County and Motherwell's Paul Lawson, who made it 3-0 in

Football

the 50th minute. He was closely followed by Graeme Rodger adding the fourth four minutes later from close in.

Vice chairman, David MacDonald, said: 'Taylor's header allowed us to grab a small crumb of consolation in the final minute.

'Everything we miss-hit went miles wide and everything Formartine miss-hit landed at the feet of an on-rushing forward and was walloped into the back of the net after that.

Punished

'Our play has tightened up quite a bit after a number of losses and it was a decent performance from the boys. We are not getting the breaks and, when we make a mistake, it is being punished.

'Formartine are a bit like the 'Chelsea' of the Highland League with millionaire backing, the gap in financing compared to us is frightening.'

On Saturday, Fort William meet league leaders, Cove Rangers, in the second round of the Scottish Cup. If Fort win it would be the first time in their history they have got through to the third round.

Mr MacDonald said: 'A win would be great, but almost as important as the glory would be the boost to our finances.'



Fort captain, Darren Quigg, chases Formartine's Graeme Rodger.
Photos: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Phoenix boxers storm into Scottish semis

AN 11-year-old who made his competitive boxing debut three weeks ago, stormed his way into the Scottish Novice Boxing semi-finals at Ravenscraig.

Tyler Whyte, from Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club, won his quarter final bout over Thomas Kelly of Glasgow's Barn Club.

Variety

This was a hard-fought contest where Tyler's greater variety and

cleaner shots edged things his way.

Unfortunately, the semi-final against Doon Valley's Scott Geddes went the way of the Ayrshire boxer in a bout which was made even harder for Tyler in the second round when he was extremely harshly penalised by the referee for careless headwork.

Knowing he needed a knockout to win in the last round, after

his points punishment, Tyler came out like a whirlwind and, although he did not get the stoppage victory he required, he won the round and the club was happy with the progress he has shown in a short time boxing.

Other boxing club members enjoyed success during the championships at the enormous Ravenscraig sports facility in Motherwell.

Boxing

Max Debenovs, 11, made his debut against Kincorth's Kyle Burnett. While Max gave it his all, he could not overcome the height advantages of Kyle and, added to the fact that the more stylish work came from the Aberdonian boxer, then the decision to Burnett was expected.

A boxing club spokesman said: 'It was a worthwhile first outing for Max however, who will no doubt learn and improve for the experience.'

Senior middleweight, Mark Gillespie, continued his rich run of form when he comfortably outpointed Sean Connolly of Galashiels in his last sixteen bout.

Nimble footwork

Southpaw Connolly barrelled forward at every opportunity but Mark showed nimble footwork to evade his attacks constantly catching Sean with left hooks, jabs and, in particular, eye catching straight right crosses to thoroughly deserve his unanimous points decision.

With Mark's quarter final opponent withdrawing through injury, he now progresses to this weekend's semi-final and finals sessions at the same venue.

Mark will be joined by youth middleweight, Lee Bruce, and schoolboy, Ewan Easson, who await their respective opponents in their finals of which a full report will feature next week.



Wilson Thain and Peter Black were the winners of Fort William Railway bowling club's President's Day nominated pairs. This marked the last game of the season for the club and president, Bill Clark, was runner-up with partner, Helen Ross. From left: Wilson Thain, Helen Ross, Peter Black and Bill Clark



Formartine's Neil Gauld challenges Fort William FC's Andreas Broomfield. Photo: JohnPaul Peebles, The Write Image

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Cove Rangers	13	13	0	0	36	9	39
Brora Rangers	14	11	1	2	56	15	34
Formartine United	14	11	1	2	51	17	34
Turriff United FC	14	10	2	2	41	11	32
Fraserburgh FC	13	8	1	4	25	15	25
Inverurie Loco Works	14	8	0	6	32	15	24
Wick Academy	14	8	0	6	31	16	24
Forres Mechanics	14	8	0	6	25	27	24
Buckie Thistle	14	8	0	6	29	35	24
Nairn County	14	7	0	7	28	31	21
Lossiemouth	14	6	1	7	21	30	19
Deveronvale	14	4	4	6	24	31	16
Keith FC	14	5	0	9	20	38	15
Clachnacuddin	14	4	1	9	32	29	13
Huntly	14	3	1	10	20	34	10
Strathspey Thistle	14	3	0	11	20	34	9
Fort William	14	2	0	12	17	45	6
Rothies	14	0	0	14	5	81	0

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Coaching

THIS Level 2 course is designed to help experienced coaches who are UKCC Level 1 qualified and/or senior 1st and 2nd team coaches.

The course has been accredited as a United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) course.

The course will consist of three day practical/theory sessions and will take place at Glenurquhart High School, Drumnadrochit, on Saturday November 7, Sunday November 8, and Saturday November 14. A coaching session assessment will also take place at individual candidates' clubs or schools.

The course fee is £200, but funding to cover the majority of this is available from sports-scotland and local sports councils/associations.

Each candidate will receive a resource manual and copies of the rules of shinty.

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For further details, and if you would like to attend, please contact: Graham Cormack, the National Development Manager, at graham.cormack@shinty.com

Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council hand out grants

Funding

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council have dished out another round of grants, this time totalling £1,591.

The recipients were Skye and Lochalsh cricket club, Kyleakin junior sports club, Kintail indoor bowling club, Skye and Lochalsh indoor football association and the Isle of Skye dance club.

The council's next meeting will be held on December 7.

Skye golfers play three man scramble

Golf

THREE teams battled it out in this event at Skye golf course last weekend.

The results of the games on Saturday, 17 and Sunday 18, October, are as follows:

1 Chris Hanley, Mike Williams and Kenny Macleod 55.7, 2 Martin Bird, John Allan Macleod and John Marshall 58.4, 3 Sandy Ross, Donald Bethune and Phil McCaherty 59.1.

Fort under 17s net 10 against Invergardon

Youth football

FORT William FC's under 17 team hammered Invergardon 10-1 on Sunday.

Ronan Cameron scored a hat-trick, while Ewan MacLean, Ryan Henderson and Phillip Hancer, scored a couple of goals each and Stevie Neal netted a single.

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
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Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Heavy rain showers on Sunday
Winds light west south westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 13°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday October 22 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	06.36 1.8 13.44 3.3 19.26 1.7 **,** **		Ardrihaig	-5.35
Fri	02.17 3.0 07.55 1.6 14.44 3.5 20.37 1.4		Campbeltown	-5.30
Sat	03.11 3.3 09.01 1.3 15.30 3.8 21.34 1.1		Crinan	-0.47
Sun	03.51 3.6 09.55 0.9 16.11 4.1 22.22 0.8		Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Mon	04.27 3.9 10.43 0.7 16.51 4.3 23.05 0.6		Lochboisdale	+0.30
Tues	05.04 4.1 11.29 0.5 17.30 4.4 23.47 0.4			
Wed	05.42 4.2 12.13 0.4 18.09 4.4 **,** **			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate