

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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WINTER MOTORING



MORE TOWN CENTRE SPACES AVAILABLE THANKS TO NEW SCHEME

McCuish has parking cash in his sights

LOUISE LEE

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A POTENTIAL cash boost of almost £500,000 from parking charges has been put on hold by a council committee.

Meanwhile Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee is carrying out a parking review in Oban - 'one stage at a time.'

But Oban councillors are being asked to rise to the challenge of plans being drawn up by a Helensburgh councillor, who is hoping his area can keep all the car park cash raised there - and drastically reduce the time locals have to pay for parking.

Former council leader James Robb from Helensburgh asked members of the August policy and resources committee to consider giving revenue gained from parking in the four main towns to each of the local area committees to spend.

One of 17 members of the committee who voted against the plan, Oban area committee chairman Roddy McCuish argued that councillor Robb's motion 'went too far' and he wanted to 'do things a stage at a time.'

Councillor McCuish said: 'I think we have to look closely in future at having a great deal more money staying in the area generating it.'

A consultation with the Oban community and businesses is in the process of being put together on the issue of parking.

'I have had a lot of positive feedback from businesses, which

are seeing a greater availability of parking spaces in the town centre, which is exactly the point of the council taking on the responsibility for parking enforcement.'

He said the option of Oban keeping parking revenues might well come out in the review responses but added: 'It would be daft to have a review and ignore it.'

'We have to be careful of setting a precedent, for example if Helensburgh and Lomond kept all its council tax, that would greatly affect the rest of Argyll and Bute.'

'I wish councillor Robb well in his endeavour and we will be watching closely at how he achieves this.'

Councillor Robb wants to make parking free in Helensburgh to bring people back into the town



Oban area committee chairman councillor Roddy McCuish

by only charging after the first three hours per day. He would like to do this with the support of the Helensburgh area committee.

Councillor Robb, a former finance spokesman for the authority, said parking fees in Bute and Cowal raised £66,000, in Mid Argyll and Kintyre raised £70,000, in Helensburgh and Lomond raise £158,000 while Oban, Lorn and the Isles raised £416,000 per year.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Income generated from parking is used for the upkeep of parking facilities throughout the council area.'

Robert MacLean, from Oban, who regularly takes his disabled daughter to the beach at Ganavan has asked when some of the cash might be used to sort out that car park.

He said: 'If money is being used for the upkeep of car parks it is high time they sorted the marking of bays. The way I see it at the moment the council don't have any right to charge because the official notices say 'park in marked bays' - well, there aren't any.'

Businessman Graham Fraser from Alba art and gifts shop on Albany Street said if charges were being removed elsewhere, they should be removed in Oban.

'The parking charges are not working for many of the businesses, they are scaring people away from the town. We need to either get rid of parking charges - or, thinking about giving residents a parking permit.'

No, not Venice - Oban!



OBAN man Hector Macdonald was forced to push the boat out on Tuesday morning, after flooding left his work lorry trapped in Glenruitten Road. In a moment of inspired 'blue skies thinking', he used a speedboat stored in his work

yard and took to the flood water on Lochavullin Road, paddling slowly past submerged cars in his makeshift lifeboat, taking a passenger with him on the way.

High tides, torrential rain and overflowing rivers had caused chaos over the previous seven

days, with landslides trapping drivers for five hours on Sunday night on the A82 in Lochaber.

A full round-up of the floods chaos is on page three and an exclusive picture special on page 10.

Getting a longer bang for bucks

THE SKIES above Oban will be lit up with a fireworks display on November 5, thanks to a business well known in the town.

Pyro1, the company behind Oban's infamous 'Obang' when a full display was fired off in just one minute in 2011, will return to the town to deliver a display that should last a little longer.

The display, which will take place over Oban Bay, will also welcome the Scottish Rural Parliament to the town.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish is encouraging people to come along at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start and enjoined businesses in the town to open late to take advantage of the extra footfall.

Tapping into the power of the press

WITH people across the West Highlands suffering from the effects of too much water, islanders on Coll are celebrating after a drinking water tap was reconnected.

The tap at the middle pier toilets was cut off by Scottish Water two weeks ago, much to chagrin of the islanders.

Scottish Water relented after *The Oban Times* contacted it and the tap was turned back on last week, with one community councillor calling it 'a victory for common sense'.

Tree felling raised in parliament

THE SCOTTISH Government has been urged to ensure tree-felling work in the West Highlands does not trigger landslides which then lead to road closures.

Labour MSP Dave Stewart raised the issue with Transport Minister Keith Brown on Tuesday after an incident on the A82 a mile north of Corran led to the road being closed for more than 30 hours.



CHORD project will be finished on time, says project manager

EUAN PATERSON

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A DELAY to the long-running Oban regeneration project should not worry residents, the project manager has said.

Linda Houston moved to allay fears that the CHORD project for the town centre would not be completed on time.

She told Oban community council on Monday that the start date for the first stage of work was being moved from October to December this year.

The CHORD project has been accused of stalling for six years after the town was allocated £6.9million for improvements.

But in the past year, developments have gathered pace, under the stewardship of Ms Houston: the pedestrianisation of Stafford Street, the demolition of the White Building to create a public space and better facilities for visitors and improvements to the sea front.

However, community council chairwoman Marri Malloy was concerned at what she viewed

as a further delay. She said: 'I understood that the start date would be October. This delay is bad news because Oban people have waited years for this.'

Ms Houston explained the delay was down to 'technicalities' encountered by designers on the North Pier project.

She added: 'With Stafford Street - stage one of the project - tenders are out at the moment and on November 7 we will get copies of submissions and announce the contractor by the end of November.'

'When we know the con-

tractor we will get together to discuss the practicalities of work from December to May next year.'

Speaking at the community council meeting, Oban councillor Roddy McCuish, said he shared Ms Malloy's frustration but said he had been reassured that the 'delivery date' of the project would remain the same.

The community council expressed gratitude to Ms Houston for taking the project to this point, adding they appreciated her coming to meetings to give updates.

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Drill rig collapse blocks main road

THE A83 had to be closed after a specialist drill rig being used to survey the road slipped from its mooring, down an embankment.

BEAR Scotland closed the road at Strone Point for one hour last Thursday after the rig, used as part of the investigation works for the proposed road improvements in the area, came loose.

Nobody was injured during the incident but the recovery work had to be undertaken during daylight hours to ensure the safety of the operatives.

Alternative routes were available through the A819 from Inveraray, then the A85 and A82.

Time for marked improvements

THE councillor for Oban, South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, has tasked Argyll and Bute council with reviewing road markings in the town, as many are now out of date.

Councillor McCuish, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, pointed to one example of 'historical markings' being the bus parking bay outside the old Rockfield primary school, which was used for school buses.

He told members of Oban community council on Monday: 'There are a lot of historical markings that no longer mean anything.'

Charity kitchen to open doors to all

A CHARITY that provides food and shelter for the most vulnerable people in the Oban area is encouraging people to attend its open day next week.

HOPE Kitchen is a Christian-led organisation that offers food, laundry services and computer access four afternoons per week.

But in order to publicise its work, it is opening its Argyll Street premises to the wider public next Wednesday from 10.30am.

Throughout May to August this year, HOPE Kitchen served a hot meal to 87 different people.

Keeping alive the WW1 memories

TO COMMEMORATE the beginning of The Great War, the Friends of St Conan's Kirk are holding a concert in the church, based on stories from the conflict.

'Keep the Home Fires Burning' on Friday, November 7 will involve a variety evening of local story-telling and songs of WW1 from 7pm.

There will be pipers from Oban high school and singing from Dalmally primary school.

ISLAND MOTHER'S HEARTFELT PLEA TO TREAT CHILDREN NEARER TO THEIR HOMES

'The technology is there'

LOUISE LEE
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DIALYSIS for children can mean families having to leave their Argyll homes to live near a city hospital.

That is the story of one Mull couple who had to move with their son John, aged nine, after his kidney function proved so poor he had to return to a mainland hospital for dialysis care.

Mum Karen Drysdale wanted other parents to know just how devastating the disease can be for island families: 'When John

Stirling. It was with a truly heavy heart that we decided to leave our friends on the island.

'That was ten years ago and I had hoped things in Oban might have changed for the better. I think it's got worse. The technology is there so how on earth can

it be cheaper to shunt people up and down that long and bumpy road?' Karen backs *The Oban Times - Wilma's Wish* campaign for a fully-functioning dialysis unit in Oban.

Young John underwent a successful transplant operation

shortly after his 12th birthday. Karen said: 'I often think of how different our lives would have been if we had been allowed to stay on Mull.'

'But we can't go back - at the time it was a living nightmare for every member of my family.'

FACTS ON DIALYSIS

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

KIDNEY OR RENAL FAILURE CAUSES

DIABETES

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

KIDNEY DISEASE

OBSTRUCTION

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

Guidelines from The Renal Association state a unit should be:

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

There are currently 16 travelling dialysis patients in Argyll.

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

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



was ill we were never at home. My husband Greg couldn't be at work on Mull and make it to the hospital - so it meant that we were living apart for most of the time. We didn't have any other children at that time. I don't know what we would have done if we had.

'It made no sense for John and I to come up and down the road from Glasgow to our home because we simply had to turn right round and come straight back down to the hospital.

'The worst period was winter when the ferries seemed to be cancelled all the time. In the end, we moved in with my mum in

Risk management executive a safe bet as BID4Oban changes the guard

LOUISE LEE
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THE APPOINTMENT of a risk management expert to the role of chairman may be a prudent one by BID4Oban as it prepares to deliver an ambitious business plan.

The business community company has this week announced Graeme Bass, the senior account executive at Clark Thomson, will take over from out-going chairman John Forth.

David MacGregor of Simmers & Co will succeed Alistair Jackson as vice-chairman.

Mr Bass, described as an active board member on BID4Oban, has a broad view of the business company. The group has undertaken a review of work completed to date and wants everyone in the town to know where it is going with this plan.

He said on Monday: 'It is a hugely exciting time to take on this role. It is a tremendous honour



STEADY HAND: Graeme Bass is the new chairman of BID4Oban

to be granted the opportunity to take forward the work so ably carried out by John and Alistair.

'There have been many significant achievements by the BID company in its first two years in terms of improving the physical environment of our open spaces, supporting businesses through providing assistance to improve shop fronts and encouraging local spend through the Love Oban voucher scheme.

'Earlier this year, we delivered a mobile-responsive promotional platform via the mi-LoveOban app - which is free to both levy payers and users - and, more generally, the profile of Oban as a destination has been greatly enhanced through marketing initiatives with partner organisations.'

Mr Bass, who comes with enormous global achievements in risk and insurance for both local and international companies, has settled in Oban, adding that the West Highlands was very close to his heart. 'One of my first jobs

was on the Corran Ferry as a deck hand,' he said.

His mother was a MacLean of the Lochaber MacLeans. He is no stranger to *The Oban Times* having featured on its front page in 1975 as a delegate to the International Boy Scouts Jamboree in Norway.

Mr Forth said: 'I am delighted to announce that, after two years in the role, I will be handing over the chairmanship baton to BID4Oban Ltd to Graeme Bass of Clark Thomson.'

'Graeme has been an extremely active member of the BID4Oban board and is hugely passionate about Oban's future success. He brings a sound and objective style to the team - critical when representing such a broad spectrum of businesses.'

BID4Oban manager Nic Jones said he had every confidence in a 'seamless transition', and praised Mr Forth and Mr Jackson, who he said had 'worked tirelessly' for the future prosperity of Oban.

MULL lines



FLUTTER: Burnet Moth Symposium held on the island recently

Island draws moth fans

MULL hosted the seventh International Burnet Moth Symposium recently which saw delegates travel from as far away as Serbia and Japan to Tobermory.

The four-day conference, organised by Butterfly Conservation Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage, focused on just one family: the zygaenidae or Burnet moths.

Research scientists and keen amateurs gathered together for a series of lectures and events, held at venues across the island. Mull is an important site for two Burnet species: the Transparent Burnet moth and the localised Slender Scotch Burnet moth. The latter is found only on the islands of Mull, Ulva and Gometra. The Slender scotch is extinct as a mainland species - though there was previously a population on Morvern. Following a lovely evening reception at An Tobar, delegates were invited to attend two days of lectures at Glengorm Castle.

These lectures focused on Burnet species from the Americas and Africa, with discussion on genetics, population dynamics and breeding biology. Once the presentations were over, participants enjoyed a short guided walk around the estate to view some of Glengorm's slender Scotch conservation areas and famous Highland cattle.

The Tobermory Distillery tour proved very popular, as did a trip out to the Isle of Ulva to sample delicious local produce and explore further Slender Scotch sites. The final day of lectures focused on Burnet moth conservation in Scotland, with presentations from local conservation workers and recorders at the Aros Hall.

The organisers said they have received outstanding feedback from delegates concerning the beauty of Mull, the hospitality and islanders' enthusiasm for their natural heritage.



CABLE STARS: Openreach engineers Iain McDonald from Oban and Mike Beckett from Tobermory

From cable to TV fame

TWO Openreach engineers enjoyed their fifteen minutes of fame as part of a BBC Scotland television documentary.

The subsea work to lay broadband cables will feature in a three-part series which will be broadcast in 2015.

The Digital Highlands and Islands project, being delivered by BT, is installing more than 800km of new fibre-optic cables on land and more than 400km of subsea cables over 20 crossings to Scottish islands. The links between Tobermory and Kilchoan and between Duart Bay and Oban were completed last week. The work is part of a project led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), with the Scottish government, the UK government and BT to provide fibre broadband to 84 per cent of the Highlands and Islands by 2016.

Spreading the good news

A SCOTTISH saga which sweeps across the time of St Columba to the Scottish independence referendum, has been published in a Bulgarian newspaper. The author, who lived on the island of Iona for four months this summer, has brought the tiny Hebridean isle to thousands of European readers.

Rasho Rashkov said: 'The best and advantageous way to get to know a place is not just to visit it as a tourist, but to stay for a reasonable period of time.'

'That way you get to know its history, nature, culture, way of life and customs of the local people. And, of course, it is a very good way of improving your working knowledge of the country's language.'

Mr Rashkov, who volunteered to work at the Bishop's House, continued: 'Actually, most Bulgarians are unfamiliar with the story of St. Columba and his importance to Christianity in Scotland. And the Scottish independence referendum is not well understood by the Bulgarian media and public.'

'There is no comparison between the issues thrown up during the referendum between Scotland and England with what's going on in the other end of mainland Europe.'

'The disorder, lawlessness and pandemonium in Ukraine, the fraternal civil war raging between Ukrainians and Russians, is in stark contrast to the tolerance, mutual respect and esteem shown by both sides of the independence debate.'

'It was a debate conducted largely within the framework of British civilized values and behaviour.'

Eat, drink and be merry

THE ANNUAL Salen Christmas Fayre will be held on December 3 in Salen Church.

Anyone who would like to book a table for themselves or an organisation should contact Megan Whyte or Donna Dugdale as soon as possible.

The organisers are hoping to encourage more people to set up food stalls at this year's event.



Do you have gas appliances in your home?

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Watch our video to find out how we're innovating in Oban: sgn.co.uk/oban

We're starting our testing on 3 November 2014

The first three areas we are testing are:

- November Glencruitten
- December Lochavullin and Soroba Road
- January Pulpit Hill and Gallanach

Visit our website to see when we're visiting your area.

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#SGNOban 0800 912 1700



Challenge to Holyrood to bring jobs back to Argyll

AN MP is demanding that the Scottish government relocates a government agency to Argyll and Bute to help stem the flow of jobs out of the region.

Alan Reid, who represents Argyll and Bute, said jobs are being lost to the area and it is time to reverse the trend.

Mr Reid said: 'The centralisation of the police has led to the loss of the superintendent post in Lochgilphead and two chief inspector posts in Oban and in Mid Argyll and Kintyre, being merged into one.'

'These were very well paid jobs and so the local shops lose the spending power of the post holders. Highlands and Islands Enterprise has lost many posts.'

'The plan to end jury trials in Oban and Campbeltown will see jobs go in these courts and will have implications for well-paid jobs in local legal firms.'

'The Council Tax freeze without fully compensating the local

authority has seen many council jobs go.

'All this has been one-way traffic. There has been no dispersal of civil service jobs from Edinburgh or Glasgow to Argyll and Bute. There should be.'

'Superfast broadband coming to all the towns means that a lot of administration work could be done just as well here as in Glasgow or Edinburgh and office accommodation is a lot cheaper.'

However, a Scottish government spokesman defended Holyrood's record over the decentralisation of government jobs.

He said: 'The Lerwick declaration made clear that this government believes in subsidiary and local decision making, and our reform of police and fire and rescue has brought the services closer to communities.'

'We are committed to improving public services through our continuing commitment to enhancing performance.'

More hours and money for childcare welcomed

MORE childcare and early learning hours are being offered in Argyll and Bute following the rollout of new government legislation.

For three and four-year-olds, there will be an increase from 475 to 600 hours a year for each family, and childminders will also be available at home for two year-olds, if their individual needs require it.

Argyll and Bute council is on

the lookout for childminders, who may be entitled to grants of up to £500 to start them off on their career, while school leavers and those returning to work are also being encouraged.

The council's policy lead for children and families, Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, said: 'The increased number of hours provides the opportunity for passionate, patient and committed people to help deliver childcare.'

SEVEN DAYS OF RELENTLESS RAIN DRIVES MOTORISTS AROUND THE BEND AS THEY 'NAVIGATE' THE REGION'S FLOODED HIGHWAYS



INUNDATED: (left) a Land Rover surges through the flooded A85 at Dunbeg on Sunday and (right) cars paint a forlorn picture as they lie submerged in the Lochavullin car park on Tuesday morning

Drivers plough through deluge as downpour brings chaos to roads

STEVEN RAE
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TORRENTIAL rain brought havoc to the West Highlands over the past week with landslides, road closures and rivers bursting their banks. Oban's major retail park and industrial estate were submerged in several feet of water on Tuesday morning when high tides and overflowing drains flooded Lochavullin Road and the adjacent Lochavullin free car park. Flood water lapped against the windows of some stricken cars. Despite flood warning notices and police tape to cordon off the roundabout at the Tesco supermarket, a lorry driver ploughed through the middle of the flood creating a wave which lifted parked cars and swept them into others in the car park. Police are now checking CCTV images to identify the vehicle and driver involved in the incident. Stores in the Lochavullin

industrial estate were marooned and suffered a huge loss of custom as roads were closed. A small trickle of shoppers braved the elements to walk to Tesco. Hector Macdonald, who works in the haulage department at Flit Self Drive in Oban, used a speedboat from his works yard on Glencruitten Road to paddle his way along Lochavullin Road on Tuesday morning. He said: 'Our trucks couldn't get out at all, so taking the boat out was a bit of fun to pass the time. I'll bet no-one has sailed along this street before.' Several incidents were reported to police across the region, with landslides closing off major trunk roads. On Sunday morning a German tourist had to be rescued from his car when it became swamped in water in Glen Orchy. He was taken to Oban and the car was later recovered. Later that morning, police received calls about flooding on the A85 at Dunbeg, at the

Kilchrenan junction on the A85 at Taynuilt, and later in the day landslides were reported in the Portnacroish area of Appin and northwards towards Lochaber. On Monday afternoon, police received reports of two-and-a-half feet of water lying on the A828 near Benderloch and were also contacted about water lying on the A85 at Saulmore. Police closed off the back road between Oban and Connel on Monday morning when it flooded about a mile from Connel. Emergency teams were sent to deal with landslips on the A83 near to the 'Rest and Be Thankful' in the early hours of Tuesday. Estimates suggest that 800 tonnes of material had been swept onto the trunk road and that resilience netting caught a further 1000 tonnes of material coming off the hillside. At Glen Kinglas, north of Rest and Be Thankful, a landslide saw 20 tonnes of material being washed onto the trunk road



TORRENTIAL: a landslide at Glen Kinglas closed the A83

Photo courtesy of BEAR Scotland

which was cleared. The A82 south of Fort William was closed after two landslides blocked the road near Onich on Sunday evening, with 50 people travelling in 15 vehicles, who were stuck for

five hours. Temporary traffic lights were put in place at Corrycurrahan Bridge and also at Glenrigh to partially reopen the road on Monday. Meanwhile, Soroba Road flooded when the

Black Lynn Burn burst its banks on Tuesday morning, flooding the lane linking Lynn Road and Mosspark, with one house taking in six inches of water. More pictures on page 10.

Redundancy pay fears for workers

STAFF at the Co-op store on Soroba Road, Oban will find out today (Thursday) whether they will receive redundancy pay when they lose their jobs. The store is due to close after it was purchased by German retail giant Lidl last month. A Co-op employee, who asked not to be named, said: 'All the staff received letters, dated October 24, telling them they were invited to discuss the 'potential redundancy situation'. 'Obviously, a few of us are worried by the wording of that, as before we were told it was a collective redundancy that all staff would get. Also, the union representative can't make it up for the meetings so we will be in on our own - it's ridiculous.'

The Co-op store is set to be demolished, with a new Lidl building built on the site. Lidl will transfer existing staff from its current store in Lochavullin Drive, with construction and opening dates for the new store still to be confirmed.

'Erratic' motorist stopped by police

A STUDENT has had his car seized and faces various road traffic charges after police noticed him driving erratically. Police officers watched the 26-year-old Edinburgh man driving on the A85 at Dunbeg last Saturday and stopped him at around 5pm. As well as being reported for various driving offences, the student also allegedly held a false international driving permit.

Health overspend won't affect care

A POWERFUL watchdog has criticised NHS Highland for borrowing £2.5million from the Scottish government. Medical chiefs have tried to reassure the public that patient care would not be compromised after reports of a huge budget overspend at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

'Argyll is not the place it was' says owner of premises targeted by thieves

THE OWNER of a removals and storage business that was ransacked by thieves says he has been forced to improve security at his site. Following the incident last weekend, Graham MacQueen, MBE, owner of MacQueen Bros in Oban's Glengallan Industrial Estate, warned fellow business owners that Argyll was as vulnerable to theft as anywhere else.

Thieves broke into the storage yard at MacQueen Bros and forced entry to around 30 locked containers overnight between 2pm on Saturday and 11.30am on Sunday. Mr MacQueen, who is known for his charity work in the town, said: 'Initially, I was horrified but it was not as bad as I first feared. Only about five per cent of our customers were affected. The containers

broken into did not have our high security locks and it seems they have taken diesel, scrap metal and power tools. 'We are checking our CCTV but maybe we needed something like this to realise that Argyll is not the place it was. 'You get people wandering into the area, breaking into things. We are strengthening security but everyone must realise Argyll is as vulnerable

as anywhere now.' Every MacQueen Bros customer is being given a high security lock. Police believe there was also an attempt to steal a motor vehicle at the yard. Oban CID are investigating the incident and are urging anyone who may have seen or heard anything suspicious in the area during the time the offence took place to get in touch on 101.

ADVERTORIAL

Argyll home owners cash in on £1.25m windfall - 'A lot more to come'

BARCALDINE-based business Renewables Now released a startling statistic this week: their customers are qualifying for more than £1.25m of income so far, from the government Renewable Heat Incentive scheme (RHI). The RHI scheme pays homeowners to use renewable heating systems such as heat pumps and pellet boilers to heat their homes. Will Currie, managing director of Renewables Now, is amazed at how much income is being generated since the scheme opened in April this year. 'Last week we looked at the figures we have on file here and I was stunned at the amount of money our customers are benefiting from to date. This is just the start of the scheme. We have a lot more installations

in the pipeline.' The RHI is effectively a reward for people who replace their current heating appliances with a renewable heating system. This reduces their CO2 output and assists the government in reaching its 2020 carbon reduction targets. Once a qualifying renewable heating system is installed the owner of the new system is entitled to register for seven years of quarterly payments via the RHI scheme. 'I've replaced my oil boiler with a pellet boiler,' said one customer. 'I'm now receiving £3,200 per year for the next seven years and my fuel is costing me about £1,200. Over the seven years it'll pay for my fuel and the installation costs, so effectively it's free.' Backing up the UK wide RHI

scheme is a Scottish government interest free loan of up to £10,000 to assist with the installation costs and this level of support shows the government's commitment to supporting domestic renewable heating. Renewables Now customers, who have installed biomass boilers are receiving on average, an annual income of £2,318, for ground source heat pumps £2,510 and for air source heat pump customers £868 per year. These are significant sums and uptake of the scheme is growing rapidly. The Department of Energy and climate Change (DECC), expects the scheme to be open to applicants until March 2021 although tariffs for new entrants are likely to reduce over this period.

Renewables Now Director Ann Rowan says demand is very high: 'Not a lot of people have heard about the RHI scheme since it started, but those who have, are keen to benefit from it. Our numbers of enquiries have soared as word of this fantastic opportunity spreads. We really need more installers to meet the demand. I don't think there is a better way to invest your money at the moment.' This windfall of £1.25 million is only going to increase and you can become part of it, so come along to the Renewables Technology Showcase this Saturday November 1 at Oban high school and talk to Renewables Now and Home Energy Scotland to discover what the RHI can do for you.

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New Oban and Lorn councillor reaches out across political divide to all parties

STEVEN RAE
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THE NEWLY-elected SNP councillor for the Oban North and Lorn ward has called for cross-party co-operation in the wake of the independence referendum.

Iain Stewart MacLean, North Connell, won the Argyll and Bute council by-election at stage four of the count when independent candidate Stephanie Irvine, Connell, was last to be eliminated.

Returning officer Sally Loudon announced the result just after midnight on Friday, declaring there was a turnout of 33.07 per cent (2,664 votes) with 25 rejected papers. The turnout was an increase of 249 ballots from the previous by-election in July when the late John MacGregor was elected to the ward.

Following the result, councillor MacLean, who previously ran for election in ward four, Oban South and the Isles, said: 'Thank you very much everyone. It's been a long, hard battle.'

'As you know, I stood in ward four and had a tremendous team behind me who have fought for months and months.'

'We have now extended that team beyond the SNP family and we have an alliance of others who are supporting us, and that's why we came to victory today.'

'We want to extend that beyond the SNP to co-operate with those who would like to see improvement for Scotland.'



BY-ELECTION SUCCESS: Iain Stewart MacLean (left) wins the Oban North and Lorn ward - the candidates are shown the results (right).



16_144byelection2 (left)

Councillor MacLean received 1,090 first preference votes, compared to 629 for Mrs Irvine, 530 for Labour candidate Keiron Green, Oban, and 415 for Andrew Vennard, Oban, of the Conservatives.

Councillor MacLean added: 'We need to reach out to the

people who voted 'No' [in the independence referendum], who are maybe disappointed by the promises that were made and are wavering at the moment.

'We need to see if we can do something else for Scotland.'

'Locally, I'd like the eight councillors to come together. I know

them all and will certainly work to do that. Roddy McCuish, who has just become chairman of the local area committee, I feel has that feeling too.'

'On that basis, if we can work together, cross-party, then we can hopefully provide policies that will meet to improve our

needs locally, then we can address issues for Argyll.'

The other candidates thanked their campaign teams and the staff who helped at the count, with Mr Vennard adding that he thought Mr MacLean would make a good councillor for the ward. The Oban North and Lorn

ward takes in the majority of Oban and extends to Kilmelford, Appin and Bridge of Orchy.

Councillor MacLean joins fellow SNP member Iain Angus MacDonald and independent councillors Elaine Robertson and Duncan MacIntyre in the ward.

Spanish tiles will roof slate island's history centre

A CONTROVERSIAL decision will see foreign tiles used on an island building celebrating the history of the west Highlands' slate industry.

In a decision called 'incomprehensible' by disgruntled islanders, Argyll and Bute council's planning committee agreed to changing a planning condition to allow Spanish slates to be used.

At the eleventh hour, a local builder had offered 30,000 west Highland slate tiles to the contractor - but it is understood he was turned down.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'At the meeting of the planning, protective services and licensing committee (PPSL) members agreed to allow the use of a slate known as CUPA Heavy 3 to roof the brand new Atlantic Islands Centre on Luing.'

'Although this slate is not indigenous to the area, it is a good match for Luing slate and the village itself already contains a number of buildings with different slates.'

'We feel that the use of this slate fits nicely with the historic environment of the island and is acceptable for this new build.'

An islander, who did not want to be named, said: 'It is so silly that the island is renowned for roofing the world and we can't even put our tiles on our own building.'

Putting older folk first leads team to awards final

LOCHABER'S healthcare team has been shortlisted for a national award for its work with older people in the area.

The district group for NHS Highland has made it to the final of the Scottish Healthcare Awards in the 'integrated care for older people' category after being nominated by retired Lochaber GP Michael Foxley and a doctor from Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

The team was picked for its work integrating health and social care in the region.

In a statement about the group, judges said: 'We believe the team deserves an award for the culmination of years of work which is all geared towards helping older people to live safely at home and be as independent as possible.'

'This team has taken the unique opportunity to really put the person at the heart of service delivery. They have been able to deliver the care and support to service users when they needed it most and where they wanted it most.'

'And they have had the courage to shine a light where there has been a lack of care and taken decisive action.'

Lochaber district team will be up against five other groups and individuals for the award and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh on November 6.

NHS Highland chief executive, Elaine Mead, said:

'The Lochaber district team deserves all the credit it can get for its energy, commitment and drive and I wish it well.'

To have reached this stage of such a prestigious and highly competitive award scheme is a great tribute to them.'

John Muir Trust to repair popular Cuillins path

A FOOTPATH to one of Skye's most spectacular summits is to benefit from £50,000 of repairs.

The 3.8km walkway from Loch Slapin to the top of Blà Bheinn, on the Cuillin range, is popular with walkers and mountain climbers.

This, combined with exposure to bad weather, has caused the path to crumble apart, which could be dangerous to users.

Thanks to winning a £24,000 grant and donations from supporters, the John Muir Trust has commissioned repair work at the site.

Chris Goodman, footpath manager for the John Muir Trust, said: 'Blà Bheinn, which guards the entrance to the Black Cuillin, is one of the most magnificent mountains in Scotland, with awe-inspiring views across land, loch and sea. We encourage people to take to the hills and explore, so the way we deal with these kinds of problems is to try and keep upland footpaths in a robust condition.'

Get Set 4 Autism project to tackle isolation issues

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FUNDING for children living with autism in Argyll will see more than half a million pounds invested into a vital service.

Autism Argyll has successfully secured cash from Investing in Communities which means that more than 200 families in the area will be supported.

Welcoming the cash, Alison Leask from Autism Argyll said: 'This generous funding grant is fantastic news. We know about the sense of isolation which exists locally amongst many families who have children with autism.'

'Contact with both professionals and other families who are experiencing similar challenges can be rare and, as a result, many currently feel like they are left to cope alone.'

'Get Set 4 Autism aims to overcome these issues and be empowering for parents, offering the guidance and support that their family needs to flourish.'

Autism is a lifelong, developmental condition that affects the way a person communicates, interacts and processes information. Some people will have more subtle difficulties, where others will have complex needs requiring more intensive support.

The £548,622 Investing in Communities grant awarded to the five-year 'Get Set 4 Autism' initiative, will help in providing post-diagnosis support to fam-

ilies with children up to the age of 18 years who are on the autism spectrum.

Delivered in partnership with Autism Scotland, the project aims to help reduce feelings of isolation which can be heightened by families living with autism in rural areas. It will promote a greater understanding of autism, improve communication between parents and professionals and ultimately equip parents with the information and

Generous funding grant is fantastic news

Alison Leask
Autism Argyll

practical skills to enable them to support their child better.

Charlene Tait, director of development at Scottish Autism, said: 'We are delighted with this substantial funding grant from the Big Lottery which will enable us to establish this new initiative.'

'Families living in rural areas have it particularly tough simply as it is much harder to access resources and support.'



MEDICAL MATTERS: From left, Dr Richard Wilson, Michael Russell MSP, Pauline Jespersen, Alex Neil MP and Dr Erik Jespersen 17_144surgery1

Health minister talks on rural issues

SCOTTISH cabinet secretary for health and well-being, Alex Neil, was in Oban last week to discuss rural healthcare and provisions in Argyll and Bute.

Mr Neil, MSP for Airdrie and Shotts, visited the Lorn Medical

Centre on Thursday to meet Michael Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute and staff at the practice.

Dr Richard Wilson, Dr Erik Jespersen and nursing team leader and prescriber Pauline Jespersen joined the politicians

to discuss challenges faced at the medical practice such as budget allocations, access to services and patient transport.

That evening he met with Glenorchy and Inishail community council convenor Kate

Craig and Conservative and Unionist MSP for the Highlands and Islands Jamie McGrigor, to discuss concerns regarding GP recruitment, budgets and surgery hours raised at a recent meeting held in Dalmally Village hall.

CMAL criticised for commissioning ferries that it is claimed will not produce big savings

Hybrid ferries not cheap option

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HYBRID ferries purchased by the Scottish government cost three times that of a 'normal' ferry because of their dual fuel capacity, according to an independent ferry operator.

And Gordon Ross of Western Ferries claims the battery and fuel-powered vessels will only save £19,000 per year in diesel costs.

But CMAL, the Scottish government-owned company which owns the CalMac ferries, says it is leading the way in innovative ferry design.

Western Ferries, based in Dunoon, recently paid £4 million for a ferry to run on the Dunoon-Gourock route which will take 40 cars and 200 passengers while the recently commissioned third hybrid ferry costing £12.3 million will carry 20 cars and 150 passengers.

Mr Ross, whose vessel was built at Cammel Laird, said: 'The driver for us in getting a new vessel was to reduce our tonnage. In turn this will make us much more fuel efficient.'

Professor Alf Baird of Edinburgh Napier University has criticised the Scottish government for procuring the hybrid ferries saying they are 'a



HYBRID CRITICISM: Tarbert to Portavadie's MV Lochinvar, one of the controversial hybrid ferries Photo courtesy CML

dog's breakfast' with '10 to 15 tonnes of battery on these ferries. For ships designed to carry such small numbers that is a lot of deadweight.'

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'This new vessel will be fuel efficient and have lower maintenance costs, whilst ensuring a quality

service for passengers.'

'These low emission hybrid ferries, built in Scotland, are helping to contribute to the Scottish government's targets on cutting climate change emissions, with initial operational experience indicating around a 28 per cent fuel saving and an associ-

ated reduction in carbon emissions.'

The new CalMac vessel is expected to be launched in spring 2016, before entering service in the autumn.

Its hybrid system will combine traditional diesel power with electric battery power to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

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Award just the ticket for caring rail worker Hazel-Jane



A DUNBEG woman was shocked to find she had won a national award as she was unaware she had been nominated for the prestigious accolade.

Hazel-Jane Hughes, 22, won the ScotRail Outstanding Contribution to Customer Service award at a ceremony in Glasgow on Saturday, October 25.

The former Oban high school pupil, who has worked at the customer service desk at Oban Railway station for three years, said: 'I knew I'd been nominated for the employee of the year award because I won employee of the month last November.'

'It wasn't till I got down there I realised I was nominated for the other award as well, which was a big shock in itself, never mind winning it.'

Hazel was nominated by the ScotRail executive team because of her outstanding customer care, and her ability to go the extra mile to ensure passengers

travelled in comfort and safety.

In one particular incident, she helped police catch a passenger who had left drugs on a train.

She explained: 'I managed to help the police catch the guy - he had left drugs on the train, realised and then climbed over the fence and went back onto the train to look for them.'

'I found the drugs and managed to let the police know the man was still on the train looking for the drugs.'

'He was getting quite aggressive at one point, but I managed to keep him there long enough for the police to arrive and arrest him.'

As well as a glass trophy and £150 of gift vouchers, ScotRail paid for Hazel's stay in the Radisson Blu hotel, which was the venue for the awards.

She was chosen ahead of seven other nominees, receiving her award from Ewen Cameron, a host on Real Radio Scotland, in front of an audience of around 300 people.

She added: 'ScotRail is a fantastic company to work for, they're a great employer. I'd like to thank them for everything they've done for me over the past three years.'

TRACK STAR: Hazel-Jane Hughes was shocked to win an award from employer ScotRail, having been unaware she was nominated for it

Search for dry rot in old school as campaign group calls for support

A REPORT into the effect of dry rot on Oban's old Rockfield school is being undertaken, as the group fighting to save the building as a community hub call for more public backing.

In the same week as Argyll and Bute council staff began inspecting the former primary school, Oban Communities Trust (OCT) stated its intention to operate the building as 'the heart of a creative community' under the name 'The Rockfield Centre'.

As the preferred bidder for the building, Oban Communities Trust must prepare its detailed business plan by the end of the year.

It has already successfully gained funds from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The National Lottery and consultancy support from Just Enterprise.

OCT chairman Gordon McNab said: 'The business plan is based on the results of the community consultation. Two of the recurring suggestions are the provision of small business spaces and art studios.'

'If you are a small business, artist, someone involved in the arts, a sculptor, furniture maker, or producer of crafts who is looking for space and would consider renting at The Rockfield Centre, please get in touch via obancommunitiestrust@gmail.com.'

'For the trust to take this forward, we require continued support from the community.'

OCT claims dry rot in the school has worsened over the summer and has called on the council to address the issue.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish told Oban community council on Monday that the results of the council's dry rot investigation would be made public as soon as possible.

He added: 'If there is dry rot in Rockfield, we will fix it.'

A chance to study college prospectus

FUTURE students are invited to an open day to find out more about courses on offer.

West Highland College UHI is holding the event in the Fort William campus this Saturday (November 1, 11am-3pm).

Details about both full and part-time courses on offer in the 10 college centres will be available as well as courses for 2015, including marine and coastal tourism, hospitality, digital media computing and adventure performance.

Drive agenda at transport forum

LOCHABER Transport Forum is holding its annual general meeting in the council chambers, Fort William, on November 11 at 11am.

Representatives from bus, train and ferry operators will be at the meeting, which is open to the public.

Items on the agenda include the new ScotRail and sleeper train franchises, the Lochaber community rail partnership, walking, cycling and community transport.

Seeing red over Oban's post boxes

OBAN residents are seeing red over faded post boxes.

Ken MacColl, a member of the public, told Oban community council on Monday: 'I noted red paint was thrown onto buildings in Stevenson Street. Perhaps Royal Mail could use some on the post boxes in the town, which are all faded and turning pink.'

The community council agreed to contact Royal Mail.

From Spanish 'flu to Monte Casino

THE SPANISH 'flu and Monte Casino were two of the topics on the agenda at Oban Speakers Club.

Chairman Eamonn Arthur introduced Willie Melville who talked on Creating the Kelpies, Roy Wood on Monte Casino and Archie McPhail on Spanish 'flu.

Coach boss says wardens are driving away tourists

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A COACH operator has claimed 'over zealous' parking wardens may harm Oban's tourism industry.

This was the view of tour bus manager Andy Kelly after his driver received a parking ticket as he helped infirm passengers into an Oban hotel.

The coach, owned by W and H Motors in West Sussex, was parked in the bus stop opposite the Regent Hotel on the Corran Esplanade for 15 minutes on October 8, following a day trip to Mull with tourists from England. Now, Andy Kelly is telling his

drivers to stand their ground and refuse to move their vehicles for 24 hours if they receive a parking ticket in similar circumstances.

He said: 'I'm disgusted that the warden would do stuff like that to coach drivers and companies who are trying to do their jobs and help passengers, especially elderly and infirm people.'

'In England, if our drivers are dropping off, the wardens have a bit of common sense, but this guy gave the driver no grace whatsoever, he just slapped the ticket on.'

'At the end of the day, the warden has observed what they're doing and given them a ticket anyway.'

'If the warden had a bit of common sense and gave the driver the chance to move it there would have been an obstruction for about two minutes, instead there was one for 24 hours.'

Chris Mackey, who was a passenger on the coach, said: 'I thought perhaps Argyll and Bute council had a policy to discourage tourism.'

'The coach driver was helping people inside the hotel because the passengers were mainly elderly and fairly infirm, including some who were walking with sticks. I really think the warden should go on a common-sense course.'

Dave Jones, who was driving

the coach, said: 'It seems a bit harsh, considering the vehicle is a bus and was parked in a bus stop.' Mr Jones, who has driven coaches for more than 10 years, said he decided to leave the coach there as he saw no point in paying £10 to park overnight in a car park when he had just been fined £30 for stopping in a bus stop.

He added: 'The thing is, two days before that there were coaches parked outside the hotel the whole day and they never got a ticket. I asked the warden about it and he said he wasn't on duty then.'

'Maybe the other wardens have turned a blind eye or at least had some common sense and decen-

cy to give the drivers a break.'

However, an Argyll and Bute council spokesman said wardens adopted a 'common sense' approach when it came to passengers getting on and off a coach: 'Our parking policy is about keeping traffic moving smoothly and making sure there's a good turnover of parking spaces.'

'Our wardens take a common sense approach to enforcement.'

'We have no problem with drivers stopping to offload passengers and luggage. However, if they park the coach in a bus stop and leave it, which is a contravention of the parking regulation, they will be issued with a penalty charge notice.'

Candidate challenges Coll's mobile plan

A POLITICAL hopeful has questioned why an existing network used by the emergency services has not been utilised to provide mobile phone coverage on Coll.

A total of £165,000 has been earmarked to provide a mobile phone service on the island.

The cost includes the erection of a new mast with mobile giant Vodafone providing equipment free of charge.

It is part of a community project developed by the Scottish Futures Trust, the Scottish government's Demonstrating Digital Programme, and the community-run organisation Development Coll.

Derek Graham, digital programme director at the Scottish

Futures Trust, said: 'Our work has brought mobile coverage to the island for the very first time, meaning tourists, communities and businesses will now benefit from the huge social and economic impact that having mobile coverage brings.'

However, Mary Galbraith, Argyll and Bute Labour candidate for next year's Westminster general election, claimed it would be straightforward for mobile operators to use the emergency services network - known as 'Airwave' - to serve Coll's 220 residents.

Airwave maintains almost blanket signal coverage for police, ambulance service, mountain rescue and coastguard. Its masts, covering 99.8 percent of

the UK, are available for use by other companies, and the UK government encourages firms to share the facilities.

Mrs Galbraith said: 'Airwave's masts are in all the right places.'

'Companies bolt on the kit to use existing facilities, so the work that needs to be done is installation rather than building or construction.'

'It can be done quickly and cheaply - by using an existing and underused network of masts. Unfortunately, this happens infrequently.'

She added: 'Airwave has agreed to share their masts and base-stations with mobile network operators - immediately and for a small running cost-type fee. 'Sharing infrastructure across

Argyll and Bute - including Coll - can result in better coverage from all four mobile networks, and give people a choice of mobile phone service. That's what everyone I speak to wants.'

'It would be interesting to know how much of the £165,000 could have been saved by the government on things like surveying, planning applications and consultancy fees to use the mast that is already there, and also how much Vodafone actually contributed, if anything, to the project.'

But Derek Graham defended the decision: 'The geographical layout and terrain of Coll meant that the existing mast was not fit for purpose so a first-rate system was installed which is planned to provide mobile coverage across

the whole of the island.'

A spokesman for Development Coll said that while it will operate and maintain the equipment, the installation and set-up of the mast was the decision of the Scottish Futures Trust.

A spokeswoman for Vodafone said: 'The aim of this initiative is to bring mobile phone coverage to an area which - because of the location and population numbers - would not normally be financially viable.'

'We have provided the mobile equipment for the mast free of charge and are paying the considerable ongoing cost to connect the site to the network on the mainland, supporting this community-owned scheme. 'Vodafone would always prefer

to share an existing site where possible and Airwave is often a suitable option for us.'

'However, whether we can share an existing structure depends on agreement from the owner, whether it's acceptable to the local planning authority and, most importantly, whether it meets our own particular technical requirements.'

A live connection date of October 20 was earmarked, but the project has been met with delays due to connection issues.

Some of the main beneficiaries of the mobile service are covering the annual running costs, including NHS Argyll and Bute, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Project Trust and Argyll and Bute council.

Islanders recognised for a lifetime of dedication

TWO ISLAY residents - who have made a combined 191 individual blood donations on 200-mile round trips to Glasgow - have been honoured for their outstanding achievements.

Jean Knowles, 56, was presented with a silver quach from the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) after making 104 donations, while her Laphroaig neighbour Alex Gunn, 68, received a paperweight as an award after his 87th donation.



DEDICATION: Islay residents Dr Jean Knowles and Alex Gunn at the awards ceremony in Glasgow last week

Jean, who is a retired GP, has been giving blood since she was 18, which is the minimum legal age for donors.

She said: 'Donating blood is almost on the level of a civic duty. Not everyone is suitable but it should be as much of a rite of passage as reaching the voting age.'

Moir Carter, of SNBTS, said: 'It is our honour to present Jean and Alex with their awards as a token of our appreciation for their dedication.'

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Dunoon

A NURSE from Dunoon has been entered into the final of this year's Scottish Health Awards. Kathy Graham, senior charge nurse at Dunoon Community Hospital, has been shortlisted for the 'Nurses' category, having been praised for her leadership during a time when there was concern over the hospital's future.

Pat Tyrrell, lead nurse for NHS Highland's Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, said: 'Kathy exemplifies all that is good about nursing and provides the best role model I know for how we want our nurses to be. She brought a new approach to the hospital, focusing on the quality of care and improving the experiences that patients and carers have when they were in hospital.'

The Scottish Health Awards 2014 ceremony will be held in the Corn Exchange, Edinburgh, on November 6, hosted by comedian Fred MacAulay.

Tiree

A COLOURFUL mosaic made out of painted pebbles has been put in place at Crossapol play park by the Tiree Community Development trust.

Children painted the stones with colours and images they associated with life on Tiree and the structure was assembled beautifully by landscape gardener Cameron Smith earlier this month.

The mosaic will now leave a lasting impression at the play park, to be admired by locals and visitors alike.

The trust would like to thank ACHA, Tiree Community Business and local contractors for making the project possible.

Taynuilt

A WHIST drive was held in Taynuilt on Friday October 17, with the funds going to Taynuilt PTA. The sum raised was £110.50. Ladies' prize winners: 1 Marina McInnes, North Connel, 2 Rebecca McPhee, Oban, 3 Kirsty Lawrie, Consolation prize: Kayleigh Bain, Ladies' travelling prize: Margaret Ann Nicolson, Kilchrenan. Gents' winners: 1 Keegan McPhee, Oban, 2 Jim Grout, Connel, 3 Gilbert Mullen, Oban, Consolation prize: Stella Huntingfod, Gents' travelling prize: Jim Grout.

Benderloch

MORE than 70 supporters of Scottish independence met at Benderloch's Victory Hall as Oban and Lorn's Yes campaign continues beyond the referendum.

The group met on October 3 and everyone brought some food to share through the Lord's Larder and the Salvation Army. Cath Thomson of the Salvation Army accepted the goods on their behalf.

Glenorchy

GLENORCHY and Innishail Community Council will update the community on its campaign to reinstate a full time doctor at Dalmailly Surgery when it meets on Wednesday, November 12.

The community council will meet at Lochawe Village Hall from 7pm to present its progress report.

There will also be reports on the Scottish Rural Parliament, Ben Nevis and Glen Coe National Scenic Area and other local topics.

Dalavich

DALAVICH church looked more like a Hollywood set last Saturday as filming of the community film *Angelic Creatures* began.

The church was festooned with film equipment and after 'the congregation' was seated and the film crew set up, the minister, played by real-life minister Rev Robert Brookes, read a lesson from the scriptures.

After this, the congregation, accompanied by Alison Pringle on the organ, sang *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. This was only the beginning of the film, which is directed by John MacKinnon of Dalavich Films.

Mr MacKinnon hopes to enter the end product into the Community Based Films Awards.

The next part was scheduled to be filmed yesterday (Wednesday) in the Dalavich Post Office and cafe.

Tarbert

BOOKWORMS from across Argyll can visit the Tarbert Book Festival next month, with a special feature on Scotland in War and Peace.

The festival, November 22-23, will host well-known Scottish writers, including broadcaster and author Trevor Royle talking about his recent publication *The Flowers of the Forest: Scotland and the First World War*.

Later on Saturday, David Goldie and Roderick Watson will discuss poetry from the world wars, before Argyll author Marion Pallister introduces her new book. On Sunday there will be a Sea and Seals storytelling event.



Inveraray hosts 'Pink Ladies Day' to promote breast cancer awareness

Inveraray

A SPECIAL 'Pink Ladies Day' is being organised to help women with breast cancer in Argyll, promising 'laughter, learning, pampering and friendship.'

The event - taking place at the Loch Fyne Hotel in Inveraray on December 5 - will allow those who have experienced living with the condition to enjoy coffee

and lunch together, and includes a seminar, complimentary beauty therapies and use of the hotel's leisure facilities.

Part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the day is free to attend and there will be specialists on site offering advice on balancing life's day-to-day challenges.

It is the brainchild of Nicky Murphy from Dunoon, who was diagnosed with breast

cancer last Christmas.

She said: 'This is all about touching the hearts and spirits of women in Argyll and Bute.'

'It will be a brilliant day, for a cause that is really positive and worthwhile.'

'Some of my amazing friends organised a family fun day in Dunoon in May so that we could raise funds for the Pink Ladies Day and it was a huge success.'

There will be places on the day for up to 50 women from the west of Scotland (and one guest each), on a first-come, first-served basis.

Transport from Oban, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Dunoon and Helensburgh is being arranged and anyone interested in attending should contact Nicky on 07786 861266 or email pinkladiesday@outlook.com.

Chief who oversaw new developments at park steps down from Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Loch Lomond

THE WOMAN who oversaw an increase in capital investment and improved camping provision at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is stepping down as chief executive.

Fiona Logan is leaving to take up a senior position with international company development Insights.

Ms Logan has been at the helm of the park authority since 2008. As chief executive she oversaw: a significant uplift in capital investment from Scottish Government; the introduction of byelaws and better camping provision; police

operations; the introduction of Wild Park 2020, an action plan for nature in the national park; and an 'open for business' and commercial approach to delivering public services.

She said: 'It's been an enormous privilege to have played a part in the protection, development and promotion of one of the world's most beautiful and important landscapes, but after six tremendously enjoyable years, the time is right to move on.'

'The authority's entire team deserves huge credit for the progress it has made in balancing the economic, tourism and environmental agendas within the national

park and I am very proud of our people's achievements.'

'From the ranger service and the community teams to the planning department and the land management teams, they have shown how forward-thinking and effective a modern national park authority can be.'

Linda McKay, convener of the national park authority, said: 'Over the past six years, Fiona has provided superb leadership, often during challenging times.'

'On behalf of everyone at the authority, I'd like to thank her for the energy, passion and vision she has brought to the role and wish her well in the next stage of her career.'



PASTURES NEW: Fiona Logan is leaving her role as chief executive of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

Islay group will continue fight for independence

Islay

A NEW group, The Islay Alliance, is being set up on the island to pursue the case for Scottish independence.

It follows an informal meeting of Yes supporters at the Columba Centre.

Spokesman Les Wilson said: 'The aim was to seek ways of taking the case for Scottish independence forward.'

'Those attending broke down into small groups to analyse what they

thought the strengths and weaknesses of the 'Yes' campaign had been, and to seek ways of strengthening the case for independence over the next few years.'

'A dozen of the 30 who attended wanted to explore the possibility of setting up an Islay branch of the SNP, but there was also an agreement that a wider ranging Islay Alliance should be set up to further the case for independence from a "broad church" perspective.'

'The alliance would be open to members of all parties who supported independence, and to pro-indie individuals with no party affiliations.'

A group of volunteers has now agreed to work to formally set up the new independence group, which has the working title of The Islay Alliance.

The group intends the alliance will be up and running in time to campaign in the 2015 General Election.

Mr Wilson added: 'The meeting expressed disappointment in the failure of the referendum to deliver independence but celebrated the increase in support for home rule from about 30 percent at the beginning of the campaign to 45 percent on referendum day.'

'Anger was also expressed at the inability, or unwillingness, to release the number of votes cast for each side on Islay,' he added.

Lorn gardeners explore the world of apples at Glen Loran open day

Taynuilt

MORE than 60 visitors came to Glen Loran for the Lorn Organic Growers' recent open day.

The growers, along with John Hancox from Commonwealth Orchards, held an apple day at their polytunnel project.

The visitors enjoyed the display of good Scottish apple varieties, as well as

crushing and pressing apples to produce fresh juice to taste.

John's expertise on identifying apple varieties and giving advice on the best apple trees to plant in the area was appreciated by everyone in attendance.

Lorn Organic Growers is preparing to expand its growing space again this winter in response to demand, funded by Argyll and Bute Health

and Wellbeing Fund.

New covered growing space will therefore be available for anyone wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

The group is in need of wheelbarrows and tools, such as spades and forks, to help as many people as possible take part in the new development.

The group can be contacted by email through lornorganicgrowers@gmail.com



JUICE: Visitors to Lorn Organic Growers in Glen Loran helped to crush apples

MORVERN lines

Staggering swimmers

I AM always amused to see how many new woodland enclosure fences terminate on the edge of sea and fresh water lochs on the assumption that somehow or other this will deter deer from getting into them. Both stags and hinds are excellent swimmers and there are many records of them crossing some remarkable arms of the sea let alone round the end of a deer fence.

Stags are reported to have swum across the Kilbrannan Sound from Arran to the Mull of Kintyre four and a half miles away. Others have braved the Gulf of Corryvreckan between the north end of Jura and the island of Scarba. Occasionally they attempt this when the tide is running and as a result are sometimes carried along by the strong currents to the Garvelachs - six miles to the west. I am reliably informed by Ian Mackinnon, from Jura, that stags often cross backwards and forwards over Loch Tarbert from Glenbatrick to Ruantallain to fight each other during the rutting season.

In 1935 several hundred passengers aboard MacBrayne's steamer, the *Lochfyne*, watched a stag jump over a rock on the Morvern shore and swim across the Sound of Mull - a distance of some three miles. Captain Mackenzie, who was on the bridge at the time, altered course slightly to avoid striking the animal which was seen to be battling against fierce currents before landing successfully on the Mull shore.

As well as swimming long distances in search of hinds, stags will take to sea lochs in the summer months to cool off. I have often watched large parties of them cavorting around and enjoying themselves in the shallow water in front of Laudale House on the south shores of Loch Sunart.

Stories are often told of dogs finding their way back to their old home when taken many miles away.

I came across a report recently of a collie which tackled a four-mile swim across a sea loch to return home. In June 1936 Willie MacColl, farmer, Gortan, Ardnamurchan, gave a young sheep dog to Charlie MacNeil, shepherd in Beach, Morvern, on the opposite side of Loch Sunart.

The dog disappeared one day after gathering sheep for its new master and began to head home. It travelled overland, swam across to the island of Carna at the mouth of Loch Sunart and from there to a reef further out.

The dog had still some two miles of sea to cross but the distance was too much for it. An Ardnamurchan boatman heard it howling on the reef. When he approached the dog swam out to the boat and was landed on the Ardnamurchan shore. Eventually it turned up at its old home where it remained for the rest of its life.

Morvern is not an island

Yet again Morvern has been without mail or newspapers recently.

No one expected boats to sail from Oban to Craignure, Fishnish and Lochaline during the tail-end of Hurricane Gonzalo but as high winds had been forecast for days the Royal Mail sorting office in Oban had ample warning that a delivery could not be effected by the usual route.

Morvern is not an island. Mail has been rerouted overland before in similar circumstances. It is sad to find an organisation which was once held in the highest regard for its service and reliability now falling woefully short in its duty to its customers and even sadder that none of our erstwhile politicians are prepared to do anything about it. That is, until the run up to next year's election.

Mother nature in action

One of the longest standing debates in the bird-watching world concerns woodcock and whether or not they carry their young in flight and, if so, what part of their anatomy do they use. Despite a large amount of circumstantial evidence and first-hand accounts published by many natural history writers through the years, there still seems to be a reluctance to accept this as fact.

I have a report of a shepherd in 1884 picking up a young golden eagle under rather interesting circumstances on the farm of North Corry, Kingairloch. An adult bird in the neighbourhood was alarmed for the safety of her two, fortnight-old, offsprings and was carrying them, one in each talon, to a safer place. On coming along the hillside and seeing the shepherd she got a fright and dropped them both. She must have been reasonable high above the ground because she was able to swoop down and pick up one but missed the other which was then retrieved by the shepherd and taken to the farmhouse. Apart from hearing that it was quite easily fed, snatching anything in the way of food that was held towards it, I have no knowledge of its fate or how long it was kept in captivity.

Kingairloch House particulars

In 1881 Kingairloch Estate was advertised for sale in three lots: North Corry (2,372 acres), Kingairloch, including the furnished mansion house (8,833 acres,) and Kilmalieu (2,886 acres). The total asking price was £43,000. In their sales particulars Mitchell & Baxter, 11 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, the main agents, stated that all three afforded excellent sport, including red deer, grouse and other varieties of Highland game.



Kingairloch House 1881

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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Bride hitches boat ride to her wedding

A BRIDE almost missed her wedding when the A82 landslips left her stranded in Fort William.

Nikki Jasiczak was due to marry her fiancé Daniel Cole in the Ballachulish Hotel on Sunday but feared she wouldn't make it there when the torrential rain caused two landslips on the road between her home in Achnabobane, Spean Bridge, and her wedding venue.

But the mother of two was rescued by Lochaber skipper Ryan Tozer of iPowerboat, who picked up the nine-strong bridal party from Ardgor and took them to meet the groom by motorboat.

The new Mrs Jasiczak-Cole said: 'It was unbelievable, you couldn't have dreamt what happened.'

'We got as far as Fort William and the traffic was queued right back. A police officer said no traffic was getting through, I asked if we could walk over instead but they said it wasn't safe. When I heard the hotel staff had arranged us a boat I thought it would be a bit like a fairytale but the conditions were rocky to say the very least.'

'We all made it one piece only a couple of hours late... drenched, but we made it at least. If it wasn't for the skipper and the hotel the wedding never would have gone ahead and the day was just superb. The atmosphere was just electric because of everything that had happened beforehand.'



Daniel and Nikki Jasiczak-Cole were reunited in time for their wedding

A82 blocked as Fort travellers faced 160-mile detour



CHAOS: Tree trunks blocked the A82 as water poured down the hillside at Glenrigh

Down came the trees

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER'S trunk road has returned to normal after it descended into chaos at the weekend.

The A82 was closed for more than 24 hours when torrential rain caused two landslips at Corrychurachan, five miles south of Fort William, on Sunday leaving almost 60 people trapped for five hours.

Nobody was injured but a number of vehicles were blocked between the slips which were half a mile apart and those who weren't stuck faced a diversion of 161 miles to get in and out of Fort William until the road reopened at 3.30pm on Monday.

Fort William and Ardnarnachan area inspector Donald Campbell said the people trapped had 'good spirit and patience' while engineers from BEAR Scotland and the Forestry

Commission cleared the blockage but even after the road reopened it was to single file traffic due to concerns about damage on the Corrychurachan Bridge.

This has sparked fresh calls for improvements to the Inverness to Glasgow trunk road and campaign group the A82 Partnership says the problems must be addressed.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Stewart MacLean said: 'This once again shows the vulnerability of the road. It should be another clue to Transport Scotland that something needs to be done.'

A Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We understand the importance of the A82 to communities in the area and we are in regular discussion with them about our plans for the maintenance of the route with £57 million invested since 2007.'

'The recent closure of the road south of Fort William has further

highlighted that the resilience of this section of the road needs further enhancement. We intend to urgently discuss this with the Forestry Commission to ensure that the problems encountered this week do not reoccur.'

Following a meeting of the Scottish government's 'resilience team' to address the weather problems, transport minister Keith Brown said public safety was a 'top priority'.

David Stewart, Highlands and Islands MSP, raised concerns that the landslips may have been as a result of tree felling on the hills above the A82 at Glenrigh, one mile north of Corran.

He said: 'I am concerned that it appears as if some landslips, such as on the A82, were not only caused by heavy rain and wind but potentially also due to poor planning by the Forestry Commission which has been carrying out extensive tree felling along the A82 over the



PUDDLES: Flooding on the main road to Inverlochty, Fort William

past number of weeks, which may increase the likelihood of landslips occurring.

'It is right that the Scottish Government looks into this issue to ensure that rural communities in the Highlands which have little or no alternative transport or road links are not cut off.'

A Forestry Commission

spokesperson was unavailable for comment.

Elsewhere, fire service staff from Kinlochleven were deployed to pump water out of Ballachulis. The main road into Inverlochty village Fort William, was seriously flooded and ditch clearing work was carried out to prevent flooding at Glen Nevis.

Costa coffee moves in on high street

A NEW Costa coffee shop to open on Fort William High Street has split opinion in the town.

The cafe, expected to open in early December, will be at the west end of the street, alongside JD Wetherspoon, Superdrug and Cotswold Outdoor but local business owners say they are worried that the multi-national chain company could impact their trade.

Sue Tsang, who owns Aroma cafe in the town, said: 'It will probably be quite damaging to us. I know it will definitely affect us but we won't know how much until it's actually open and probably not until the busy summer season.'

'I think big chain cafes like that are better suited to cities instead of towns like this where so many local people rely on the trade to make a living. I'm disappointed that the council didn't think more about how local people will be damaged by this.'

Susan Mackin, doesn't think Ecosse, where she is assistant manager, will lose out too much but says there are already enough coffee shops in the town.

She said: 'We might lose a bit of custom but we're not too worried because by the sound of it Costa is going to be quite small and we're popular with people coming in with prams and wheelchairs because we have so much space so I think we will appeal to different markets. I don't really think we need another cafe on the street though.'

But student Callum Duncan said he would prefer to eat and drink in a chain cafe than a local business.

He added: 'It's hard to be a student in a place like Fort William because most big companies give student discounts or other offers but independent places don't so because we don't have many chain stores students here miss out on those deals and spend more money.'



Hardship fund set to rise as more people apply for help

NOVEMBER is likely to see an increased number of people applying to Argyll and Bute council's welfare fund.

Following a trend set last year, individuals have claimed almost £17,000 a month for items such as unexpected expenses, travel and lost money.

The money given out by Argyll and Bute council, on behalf of the Scottish government, provides a safety net for the poorest households.

Argyll social fund has helped more than 2957 vulnerable people in its first 15 months. In Argyll and Bute, this amounted to grants of £303,969.

The local authority made 460 emergency grants to households, although it did receive applications from 1,670.

Applications from people who were penalised under new 'bedroom tax' legislation reached 1,231, many of whom went onto receive a payment via the council.

Since April, the local authority has made payments of £163,216 with £119,372 in community care grants and £43,845 in crisis grants.

One woman, who received the grant, said the process within the local authority made the application easy and confidential.

She said: 'I left my husband after I found out he had been cheating on me. I had very little money and nowhere to turn. I can not praise the staff in Oban council office for the care and support they gave me.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'At the moment, the scheme has been widened to include low priority as well as high and medium priority cases.'

'We would expect to see an increase in November in line with last year's pattern.'

A spokeswoman for the Scottish government said: 'Between April 2013 and June this year, the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) provided 70,000 crisis grants to low income families and community care grants to 43,000 households to help them live independently.'

'Latest data shows the average crisis support is £70 and is usually to help with food and heating bills. Some £980,000 was given out for food between April and June, up from £300,000 during the same period last year.'

'The fund has been administered by councils since its launch last year. Figures show £2million of community care grants were awarded for cookers, washing machines and fridges while £1.8million was for the refit of carpets and flooring.'

'A further £130,000 was granted for clothing and shoes.'

'Ministers are now pushing ahead with legislation that will put the SWF on a statutory footing so that all local authorities will be required to maintain a fund. Councils will also have the option of running the SWF jointly with other local authorities.'

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Weathering the storm

Once again the West Highlands has been battered by wind and rain. In three days an average of 105mm of rain fell, with up to 265mm in some places.

What followed could be described as predictable - landslides caused by the amount of water pouring off the hills and glens, water courses overflowing, loch levels rising to new highs, flooding of fields, roads, towns, houses and businesses.

Climate change experts have been warning for years that our weather would get more extreme, to expect warmer, wetter weather. Certainly in recent years that has been the case, with short sharp bursts of everything from snow to sun. It has become the norm.

If this has all been predicted and is the norm, why have government ministers and public representatives, with their by-words of resilience and sustainability, spectacularly failed to think ahead and be prepared?

Public funding cutbacks have led to infrastructure being anything but resilient, as culverts are not cleared regularly, but hillsides are cleared of vegetation and investment goes to big projects with eye-watering expenditure like the new Forth road bridge and the Waverley rail link to the Borders.

Glasgow Letter

MG ALBA Scots Traditional Music Awards

Recognition of the contribution to traditional music will take place at Inverness Leisure on Saturday December 13 at 7pm.

In total there will be 18 awards with tickets, cost £20 plus booking fee, available from Eden Court Theatre, tel 01463 234 234.

Performing artists will include Shooglenifty, Fiddlers Bid, Duncan Chisholm, Rura, Robyn Stapleton, Na h-Oganaich, Ceol nam Feis, St Roch's Senior Ceili Band, Cruin and Steele the Show.

Reminders

1 Ceol's Craic will take place in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street, this coming Saturday when the theme is 'The Circle is Unbroken'.

At 7.30pm there will be instrumental music from Neil McDermott and Alistair Cassidy and they will be followed by Margaret MacLeod together with Alasdair Whyte and his band. Mike Heron will bring the evening, showing that the spirit of music from the 60's and 70's is still relevant today, to a close.

2 For all creatures of habit another reminder that this year the annual concert and dance of the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association will take place on Friday November 14 and not on the first Friday of November which has been the traditional date.

The venue will be Glasgow University Union for both Concert and Dance.

Glasgow Skye Association

With Gaelic education in its infancy the Glasgow Skye Association introduced towards the end of its annual programme a concert showcasing the young talent in the Glasgow area and it has now added to this by organising, more recently, a post Royal National Mod Children's Concert as well.

The date this year is Saturday November 8 at 7.30pm in the Crawford

Your Letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

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

Press Policy

WEATTheObanTimesdoourutmosttomakesurethatallour reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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

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

Hall, Partick and it is hoped there will be a good turnout to acknowledge the success of the local youngsters who performed in Inverness.

Shotts and Dykehead New Innovation

Working with North Lanarkshire Council and with the assistance of staff and pupils of Calderhead High School, Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band is holding its first ever Juvenile Solo Piping and Drumming Championships on Saturday November 29.

The event will take place in Calderhead High School with 10 different categories from beginners to more advanced and is a response from the band to acknowledge the support from the community.

Quite a number of the senior band are bagpipe and drumming tutors and the organisers are hopeful that this will become an annual event. Entries must be in by November 15th with forms available at www.shottspipeband.com

Dates for Diary

Friday October 31: Glasgow Ceist and Harris Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Halls, Partick, 9pm-1am.

Saturday November 1: Ceol's Craic-see Reminders above.

Tuesday November 4: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm-Pauline Alexander/Edwin Gallagher. Singing Workshops-see Reminders above.

Thursday November 6 - Last date to book Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Dinner. Telephone 0141 882 1787 or e-mail cathercamp@aol.com

Saturday November 8: Glasgow Skye Association's Post Mod Children's Ceilidh - see above.

Pub Scene

In the Park Bar this weekend it will be Monach Isles on Friday, Scott Harvey/Willie Brady on Saturday and Nicky McMichan/Martin Pottinger on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Trail West on Friday and Penny Dogs on Saturday.



Oban Celtic shinty team - 1937

This week's Flashback image from Allan Macintyre shows the Oban Celtic shinty team of 1937 after their Camanachd Cup win that year. Allan has asked Oban Times readers for help in providing the names of the players. The only player he can name, seated front row, second from right, is Joseph Dewar Black, better known in Oban as Marconi. Prints or emails of Flashback photos to editor@obantimes.co.uk should be accompanied by a caption, name, address, and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Oban's parking ticket disgrace

Sir I read two articles on parking issues in Oban in last week's paper and just wonder what planet Oban is on now.

I worked in Oban many years ago, for many years, and know of the problems of parking.

Firstly, as regards the issue of legal parking, Argyll and Bute council's attitude and that of the warden(s) in the case of R MacKenzie do absolutely nothing to encourage visitors to the area.

To inform a motorist to appeal if not happy is all very well (considering the council has created an inspectors post to deal with same).

Should they do so and win their respective appeals, then I think it would be only fair for the council to compensate the motorist with a replacement free

parking voucher.

Maybe this would calm the overzealous practice in force at the moment.

Secondly regarding the plight of James Ditchfield, with the vehicle parked on the road in front of his house at Dunbeg since Feb/March with no road tax, no MOT and very possibly no insurance, is a disgrace to the authorities in question.

Both the local authority and Police Scotland have powers under Civic Amenities Act, 1967, which covers not only abandoned vehicles but nuisance as well.

There is also Road Traffic Act laws governing vehicle documentations.

H Kent, by email.

Gaelic language heard every day

Sir John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach, provided an eloquent and incontrovertible case for the promotion

of the Gaelic Language in modern Scotland, which I hope will be taken on board by Holyrood.

He notes that one reason for non-Gaelic speakers' sense of exclusion is the view that the language is not seen or heard in their everyday life.

However, in a sense it is, as he hints near the end of his article: the Gaelic heritage of Scotland is plainly present in the Gaelic place-names that people are reading and enunciating daily in most parts of the country (for example, in and near Glasgow: Auchinloch, Balmore, Bargeddie, Craigmaddie, Daldowie, Dullatur, Polmadie, Strathbungo, to name but a few).

It is surely not too much to expect that the school curriculum would ensure that all Scottish youngsters receive at least enough education in the language to make their local place-names intelligible (and this should apply also to Scots and Norn). Furthermore, I wonder if The Oban Times

might consider doing a wee bit more for Gaelic by including a full English translation of Allan Campbell's Beachd Ailein column, rather than the current short summary.

This would be a great help to learners like myself.

Iain Wilkie, Strachur

Small car parks are way ahead

Sir I am prompted by Steve Willis' remark about Mull becoming the biggest car park in Scotland to suggest that the provision of small car parks should be an essential part of the strategy in any road improvement.

Small, unobtrusive and well-landscaped parks have worked well in other places to relieve congestion and enable visitors to enjoy landscape and scenery, to bird watch and to get out and walk.

Jean Whittaker, Tobermory, Mull.

Social Media



Islay Letter

Death of church elder

FAMILY and friends were greatly saddened to learn of the death in the local hospital on October 10 of Bowmore resident and Round Church elder James Duncan Stewart.

Known to all as Ruadh, he had been fighting against ill health in recent months and did so with utmost bravery and never a word of complaint.

He was born in Bowmore on May 1, 1940 and was a proud fletcher who spent his life on his native isle.

He was educated at the local primary and the then junior secondary school before training as a baker with Alexander Currie at Bowmore.

He continued his baker's trade with Neil Logan at Port Ellen before deciding on a career move.

He joined the staff of Bowmore Distillery where he worked as a maltman and stillman and was highly regarded by his colleagues and earned the respect of his employers.

He had a long association with the Round Church and was admitted as a member of the Kirk Session 29 years ago.

He carried out the duties of elder with great dignity

and respect and acted for a period as the depute church officer.

As befitting a grandson of the noted Islay bard Duncan Johnston, he greatly enjoyed the music and songs of the Gaels.

He sang with the local Gaelic choir for a number of years as well as being a Round Church chorister.

He married Belle MacDougall from Port Ellen in St John's Church in March, 1968, and they have one daughter Sheena.

Ruadh and Belle lived a private but fulfilling life enhanced by friendliness and hospitality. They enjoyed separate and common interests and gardening featured high among the latter. James took great pleasure in his garden where he spent many hours growing fruit, vegetables and producing prizewinning blooms.

A service of thanksgiving for James' life was held in the Round Church on October 15 and was conducted by the Rev Valerie Watson, minister of the island's north parishes.

The eulogy was delivered by James' son-in-law Norman Sutherland, who captured the essence of Ruadh's personality.

There was also written input from James MacEwan of Bruichladdich

Distillery, at that time en route from Australia, who fondly recalled shared days when they both worked at the Bowmore distillery.

Interment followed at Bowmore cemetery and it was fitting that Gaelic airs penned by his grandfather featured high in the funeral music.

Everyone will miss Ruadh and remember with pleasure his humour and kindness.

Missing him most will be his wife Belle, Sheena and Norman as they mourn the passing of a special person in their lives.

Everyone, too, mourns the passing of a contented and kindly Highland gentleman and highly respected kirk elder.

GPs retire

IT was party time at a suitably decorated Ballygrant village hall where friends and colleagues met to celebrate the retirement from general practice of Dr Chris Abel and Dr Sandy Taylor, the husband and wife GP team who have looked after the community's medical needs for the past eight years.

Presentations took place, succulent food and spectacular cakes added to the

merriment and the dance music, courtesy of Dugie and Ringo, appealed to everyone and to the retirees in particular.

Although Chris and Sandy have packed away their stethoscopes they will continue to live on the island, which now holds a special place in their hearts.

Everyone wishes them both a long and happy retirement far removed from antibiotics and sphygmomanometers.

Locum minister

THE REV Peter B Park, minister emeritus of Fraserburgh Old Parish Church, is to serve as locum minister for the currently vacant parishes of Kilarrow, Kildalton and Oa and Jura for the next two months.

It is also planned that he will continue to provide locum coverage into the early part of the new year.

Peter and his wife Mari retired from the Fraserburgh charge in June and are spending their retirement in Oban.

While on the island they will occupy the Kilarrow manse at Bowmore.

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

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

BHA MI AIR GNOTHACH ann an Glaschu an t-seachdain seo chaidh agus rinn mi rud nach d' rinn mi riamh roimhe mas math mo chumhne.

B' e sin feuchainn ri siubhal fad na slighe aig an astar a tha ceadachte fon lagh!

Chan eil mi idir ag ràdh gur e fear a th' annam a tha cur lagh ann an suarachas ach feumaidh mi aideachadh nach eil mi air a bhith gabhail cus dragha a bhith a' siubhal beagan nas luaithe nan t-astar ceadachte, gu h-àraid far am biodh rathad fosgailte romham.

Agus chan eil mi den bheachd gun robh sin ga mo chur fhin neo daoine eile ann an cunnart oir tha rud eadar ciall agus caothach.

Cha mhotha na sin a tha mi ag ràdh nach eil cus astair cunnartach ach thar faisg air leth-cheud bliadhna de dhràibheadh, agus fad mòran dhiubh sin bha mi a' siubhal suas còrr air fichead mìle sa bhliadhna le càr, chan fhaca mi riamh duine ga pheanasachadh airson a bhith a' bacadh luchd-siubhail le bhith a' dol tuilleadh is mall!

Na mo bheachd-sa tha an fheadhainn a tha a' siubhal ro mhall agus nach leig carbadan eile seachad a' leamhachadh dhaoine chun na h-ìre 's gum bheil dràibhear an a' feuchainn seachad far nach eil sin sàbhailte. Tha an dràibhear mall pailt cho cunnartach ri fear an astair mhòir, 's dòcha fìu 's nas miosa leis gum bheil e buailteach uimhir a' bhuaidh a thoirt air luchd-siubhail eile.

Tuigidh sibh, tha mi cinnteach, carson a bha mise cho modhail air an A9 oir bho Dhimàirt seo chaidh tha a chuid den rathad sin nach eil dèibhail fo sgrùdadh chamara eadar Peairt is Inbhir Nis is astar charbadan ga thomhas gu mionaideach.

Ma shiùbhas dràibhear nas luaithe na bu chòir eadar dà chamara, thèid càin a thoigail na aghaidh is dealbh camara mar fhianais ga dhèidheadh.

Ach saoil de thachradh nam biodh truaghan air chor-eigin dol a shiubhal na ceud mìle eadar Inbhir Nis is Peairt ro luath.

Leis gum bheil uimhir de chamarathan air an t-slighe, is iad uile ga chlàradh agus ga dhèidheadh, an fadhadh gum biodh de phuingeann peanais an aghaidh an neach sin mun àm a ruigeadh e Peairt 's nach biodh cead-dràibhidh air fhàgail aige!

Chan eil trècair sam bith ann an cridhe nan camara, tha a h-uile dad dubh neo geal!

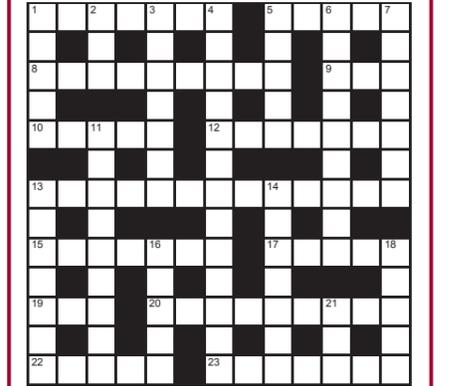
Rinn mise a' chùis air cumail ris an astar cheadachte le cuideachadh bho ghoireas rian astair a th' air a' chàr agam agus ged a bha mi mi-fhoighidneach aig amannan, saoilidh mi gum feum sinn uile fas cleachdte ri smachd an-ìochdmhor a' chamara air an A9!

DRIVING between Perth and Inverness is frequently frustrating because while speeding is monitored and penalised there is no action against slow moving vehicles which impede others and create serious queues and frustration.

For safety and fairness, average-speed cameras activated this week could perhaps be used to penalise both breaches of our highway code.

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- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1 Celebrate (7) | 1 Old and worn (5) |
| 5 Cockeyed (5) | 2 Bump (3) |
| 8 Directly related to (9) | 3 Inane (7) |
| 9 Trick taker in cards (3) | 4 Where to go in an emergency (9,4) |
| 10 Marina vessel (5) | 5 Performer (5) |
| 12 Relevant as 8 across (7) | 6 Tree climbing marsupial (5,4) |
| 13 Cocky (13) | 7 Which place (7) |
| 15 Sauce with gammon (7) | 11 Type of store sale (9) |
| 17 Bucolic (5) | 13 Argued against (7) |
| 19 Bad deed (3) | 14 Hebrew language (7) |
| 20 Skillful (9) | 16 Public swimming pools (5) |
| 22 Last left (5) | 18 Type of dinghy (5) |
| 23 Tornado (7) | 21 Regularly (3) |

LAST week's SOLUTION

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Councillor defends social media photos as party condemns him

Duncansburgh church roof raised by male voice choir

THE ROOF of the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William, may have been threatened by the stormy weather last Saturday but it was almost lifted for another reason when the East Fife Male Voice Choir gave a concert.

More than £900 was raised for Lochaber children's charity Star for Harris and the 40-strong group included songs from the First World War, from various shows and ended with Morte Christie.

For this item the choir was joined by members of the newly formed Duncansburgh Male Voice Choir.

Musical director was Jim Broadley, the accompanist Robin Bell, both well known in musical circles in Fife and beyond. Robin played an outstanding solo on the organ, Now Thank We all our God by Karl Elert.

Everyone enjoyed tea and cakes in the new hall after the concert and organisers thanked everyone who participated.

Career fair to set out opportunities for employment

MORE than 50 businesses from across the Highlands will be represented at a career fair in Fort William.

The Energise West event in West Highland College will showcase employment opportunities in Lochaber and beyond, with college staff on hand to explain training opportunities.

School pupils from across the region will be attending on November 12 and 13 but this is not just for young people, anyone considering a career change is welcome to attend.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce chairman, Bruno Berardelli, said: 'With more than 50 companies already signed up for this event and training opportunities being highlighted by West Highland College, it certainly presents a unique overview of just what Lochaber and the Highlands has to offer through the huge diversity of business sectors existing in the area.'

A HIGHLAND councillor has defended 'anti-Islamic' photos he shared online after they were called 'wholly unacceptable' by his former Liberal Democrat colleagues.

Councillor Drew Millar, who represents the Isle of Skye, resigned from the party last week when members of the Highland branch said images he shared via extreme right-wing organisation Britain First were not in keeping with the party's values.

But councillor Millar, who was chairman of the council's community safety, public engagement and equalities committee, said he stands by the social media posts, which show demonstrators with signs threatening a 'Europe 9/11', which he called 'completely wrong'.

A statement from the Highland Lib Dem council group said councillor Millar was given an opportunity to voluntarily stand aside from his position during an investigation, which he refused.

A spokesman said: 'The group was made aware that councillor Drew Millar had shared with friends on his Facebook page images and comments which came from Britain First, an extreme right wing organisation. This was anti-Islamic material used by Britain First to stir up religious hatred.'

'In the strongest possible terms, the Liberal Democrat group condemns the dissemination of such material as utterly reprehensible and wholly unacceptable. It has no place in our free and tolerant society and any councillor, from any political party, should face swift and appropriate action when found to be in breach of stringent regulations governing the conduct of members.'

But the long-standing Skye

councillor said he believes he has done nothing wrong, and was forced to resign when his position became 'untenable'.

He said he planned to continue his work as a non-aligned council member until the next election when he would retire.

He added: 'I've been accused of being anti-Muslim and I'm not at all but I am anti-racists. I don't believe people should be allowed to go round the streets threatening terrorism no matter what their race or religion, it's completely wrong.'

'I refused to stand aside because I believe in the principle of innocent until proven guilty. It was arranged that I would explain my actions at a meeting the following week but my position was made untenable so I felt I had no choice but to leave and I may as well resign from the party.'

'I'm very disappointed as I really enjoyed chairing the committee and I like to think I did a good job.'

A photo was also shared calling Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg a 'cretin'.

He said: 'Maybe it wasn't the best idea to share a photo calling the party leader that, but I think it's true.'



SHARED: The photos which Highland Liberal Democrats said councillor Drew Millar shared on social media

Lochaber comes together for cancer

FUNDRAISING group Lochaber Together has thanked volunteers for their help in raising an impressive £1,500 for Cancer Research UK, during a spectacular street party in Fort William.

The town's high street was transformed into a sea of colour and bright lights - complete with fire dancers and a massive cèilidh - as part of the nationwide 'Stand up to Cancer' event on the evening of Saturday, October 18.

A total of £1,114 was raised through collection boxes, wristband and glowstick sales alone, with £500 raised from the Cancer Research UK shop, while across the whole UK £14 million was raised the previous night from the 'Stand up to Cancer' live television fundraiser.

Adam Ramsey, chairman of Cancer Research Fort William, said: 'This is quite a big jump in the fight against cancer.'

'We want to thank our volunteers and Highland council, which closed the road for us.'

'We also want to thank the local door staff who helped police the street and MW Sound which

set up the PA.' Large crowds joined Lochaber Together volunteers from 5pm for a massive Strip the Willow along the precinct, followed by a cèilidh and local musicians

singing in a karaoke. Fire dancers 'Arson About' performed throughout the night before the event came to a close with everybody joining together for a massive conga.

Lochaber Together is continuing to look for volunteers - if interested please contact Adam on 07887 706 100 or email to adam@lochaber-together.co.uk.



FIERY DISPLAY: Fire dancers 'Arson About' with their spectacular display on Fort William High Street as part of the 'Stand up to Cancer' event

Brave Cameron's heroic efforts for charity described as 'outstanding' by Appin Trust

A BRAVE 13-year-old boy from Appin, who suffers from a debilitating bone condition, has been presented with a community award in recognition of his outstanding fundraising work.

Cameron Allen (pictured right) has raised £9,500 for charity in the last three years despite his everyday struggles with osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease), which has left him with 25 fractures in his body this year alone.

Cameron - who courageously showed up for school one day with all four limbs in plaster - was presented with the Appin Community Trust 'Outstanding Young Person' 2014 award for his fundraising for the Brittle Bone Society.

He has raised £2,578 this year

and took part in a 'Job-a-thon' in May, in which he performed as many jobs as he could in one day, including farming, marshalling a fire engine and writing for *The Oban Times*.

Cameron's condition means that his bones break easily and he is mainly wheelchair-bound, but he has not let his condition stop him from taking part in sports such as swimming.

The second-year Oban High school pupil said of the award: 'It felt really good. I hadn't been expecting anything at all. I enjoy the fundraising and will be doing more of it.'

Cameron refuses to give in to his health condition and is known for his upbeat attitude by all his classmates and teachers at the school.



Skye councillor Drew Millar

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Vehicles are submerged in Oban free car park as Lochavullin rises again



DAYS OF deluge caused flooding across Argyll and Bute over the past week, with shoppers in Oban particularly affected by the closure of Lochavullin Road. As our pictures show, some handled the effects better than others, with one Oban man taking the novel approach of rowing a speedboat through the floods.

One Oban resident who is originally from Poland went to assess the damage to his submerged Renault Clio, taking pictures on his iPad. 16_144flood9



On Wednesday morning debris, shopping trolleys and broken bollards were strewn about the car park and road as two car alarms sounded. Cars had clearly drifted into each other during the flood. 16_144nextday01



Police signs and cones on Lochavullin Road, at the entrance to the car park which was flooded. 16_144flood2



Hector Macdonald managed to paddle his way along Lochavullin Road on a speedboat he had at his work at Flit Self Drive. 16_144flood8



A house in Soroba Road was flooded after the Black Lynn Burn overflowed onto the path linking Lynn Road and Mosspark.



Vehicles partially submerged in the car park on Lochavullin Road. 16_144flood1



A car which was submerged up to the windscreen after overnight flooding on Monday night at the Lochavullin car park. 16_144flood6



The back road to between Connel and Oban, which was closed following flooding on Monday afternoon. 16_144flood5

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Iain MacLean
Scottish National Party
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Royal National Mòd

Royal National Mod bids farewell to Inverness

2015 marks return to traditional home

ORGANISERS of next year's Royal National Mod say the 2015 event in Oban will be very different to Inverness, but just as successful.

And the chairman of next year's organising committee has paid tribute to the late Oban councillor and An Comunn Gaidhealach stalwart Robin Banks, whose 'meticulous' preparations for Mods of the past have made his job 'much easier'.

Duncan Macdonald was in Inverness at the close of this year's event to accept the Mod Flag handover from his Highland capital counterpart Allan Campbell.

With all eyes on Oban for next year's Gaelic festival, Mr Macdonald insisted preparations and funding were well underway, thanks in part to the efforts of Mr Banks, who in 2013 was presented with a gold medal for his 58 years' service to An Comunn Gaidhealach, the national body responsible for overseeing the Mod.

Mr Macdonald said: 'I have inherited Robin Banks' file on what is required for a Mod. It's all there, down to the last cross of a 't' and dot of an 'i'.

'We are missing Robin a lot but he has left behind a legacy of meticulous planning that will ensure the Oban Mod is a success.'

The Inverness Mod boasted the largest ever fringe festival and the majority of competitions were in Eden Court, where the venue's own stewards ensured everything ran smoothly.

Mr Macdonald said: 'What struck me about Inverness was how helpful the stewards were at Eden Court.'

'Some people complained about the admission prices to some competitions, because there was a small handling charge involved, but the venue was very well managed and we had a lesson in professional stewarding.'

'In Oban, we don't have a venue like Eden Court and we will be relying on volunteer stewards, who do a great job. It is going to be a very different Mod; I think people will be more aware that a Mod is on when the event comes to Oban.'

'While we don't have as big a fringe festival as Inverness, we want to encourage more informal ceilidhs in hotels, which Oban is famous for. I feel that if the fringe is over-organised, it can detract from the Mod itself and we want to guard against that.'

Funding for any national Mod is always a challenge for local organising committees but Oban 2015 received a massive boost from the town's MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust when the charity committed two thirds of the profit from its shop in the White Building on the North Pier.

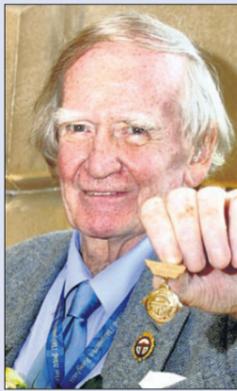
The subsequent donation, gathered between April and September this year, has amounted to £27,500 and will be handed over today (Thursday).

The traditional home of the Royal National Mod, Oban hosted the inaugural event in 1892 and hosted the event for the next two years before it went to Glasgow in 1895.

Next year will be the 16th time Oban has hosted the event. The previous time the Mod came to the town was in 2009.



READY: Duncan Macdonald is looking ahead to Oban 2015.



LEGACY: The late Robin Banks was given a long service medal for his 58 years with An Comunn Gaidhealach.



SINGERS: The 'wee ones' from Mull An Commun Gaelic group.



READY TO PERFORM: Sir E Scott School from the Western Isles.



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Royal National Mòd



FINE VOICE: Lochs Gaelic Choir from Lewis



GIRLS: The 'big ones' from the Mull An Commun Gaelic group.

ALL AT SEA: Actors take one of CalMac's older stock out on a run - providing hours of fun for children.



BIRTHDAY BOY: Kyle Rowan not only won £50 in his accordion competition and turned 13 but also met his musical hero, Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish



OBAN BOY: proud dad and Lorn boy Seonaidh MacKenzie with his son Lorne who won the boys solo singing for ages 11-12.



Correction

In our Mod edition of October 16 we carried a front page caption that wrongly said Ellen Brown-McMurray won the prescribed poetry competition for learners aged 7-8.

Ellen finished second in the competition behind Francesca McNeill of the Glasgow Gaelic School. Apologies for any offence caused.

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SERVICING • MOT • DIAGNOSTICS • REMAPPING • CAR HEALTH CHECK • GENERAL AUDI/BMW/PORSCHE REPAIRS • AUDI/BMW/PORSCHE APPROVED PARTS • FREE PICKUP AND DELIVERY ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM • 2 YEARS PARTS GUARANTEES • 5 YEAR LABOUR WARRANTY

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Customer service comes first for the A4 Audi team

A4 AUDI was established in 2006 by myself, Andrew Dunn, now managing director.

I had worked in an Audi franchised dealer as a technician for a number of years and saw an opportunity to offer an alternative to their service model.

And, thanks to EU regulation, this changed and customers are now free to choose where they take their new vehicles providing the company used is VAT registered and use only genuine parts.

A4 Audi has grown from a one-man operation to a company employing 16 highly skilled staff who can fix and maintain these highly complex cars at our state-of-the-art workshop.

We also offer the customer service package to go with it, which has received critical acclaim from numerous motoring organisations.

In 2010 we added B4BMW using the same business model and are in the process of introducing P4Porsche.

Despite the growth of the company, we are still committed to the core values - personal liaison with all customers, allowing them to make face-to-face contact with the people who are fixing their cars and an unreserved commitment to honesty and quality.

We have invested heavily in the newest and latest technology and to ensure the highest

standard of workmanship all staff routinely go on extensive training courses.

In addition, we frequently meet with parts manufacturers across Europe to ensure our parts are of the highest quality and are sourced at a competitive price.

We also constantly review our operating procedures in order to check that we are not wasting customer's time and money on unnecessary costs, which in turn inflate the price of repairs. All of these factors combined have allowed us to maintain our pricing strategy which can save our average customer 40 per cent on franchise dealers' prices.

Also, 98.6 per cent of people have said they are very happy with the service they have received. We have been based in Clydebank since the company began - which has great public transports links which are able to service the whole west coast of Scotland. As a result we endeavour to build strong links with the west coast area and are pleased to have recently sponsored the Oban Saints youth football team.

Visit our website, view our testimonials, find out about our free pick-up and delivery service.

If you own an Audi, BMW, VW, Mini, Porsche and have not used us already - give us a try.

We would be delighted to add you to a list of satisfied customers.

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm Connel Sewing Club, Connel Village Hall, 7-9pm Mull Theatre perform The Drawer Boy, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm
FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER Children's Halloween Party, Atlantis Leisure, Oban, 5-6.30pm Oban Art Society Talk/Demonstration, Lorn Resource Centre, Oban, 7.30pm
SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER Fasanta Festival of Textiles and Fashion, Various venues in Oban, All day Holly Tea in aid of MS Therapy Centre, Oban Parish Church Centre, 2pm Homebase Charity Quiz, Raffle and Auction in aid of Alzheimers, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, 7.30pm
SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER Fasanta Festival of Textiles and Fashion, Various venues in Oban, All day
MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER Oban Camera Club, Regent Hotel, Oban, Text Alex 07799 353140 for more info, Every Monday, 7.30pm
TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER Oban U3A Monthly Meeting, Studio Theatre, Corran Halls, Oban, 10.30am Fort William Accordion & Fiddle Club meeting, Railway Club, Inverloch, 8pm
WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER Oban's Fireworks Spectacular from Oban Harbour, 7.15 for 7.30pm
THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club, Monthly club night, Royal Hotel, Oban, 7.30pm
FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER Keep the Home Fires Burning, Musical Evening, St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, 7pm
SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER Coffee Morning & Open Day, Lochmell Primary, Benderloch, 10.30am-12.30pm Oban Bach Choir & Orchestra in concert, St John's Cathedral, Oban, 7.30pm

Email details of your event titled 'What's On' to whatson@obantimes.co.uk

Argyll comes together to Act for countryside

SCHOOLS and community groups in and around Argyll are helping to spread the word about a new community charity by making murals in the outdoors over forthcoming weeks.

It's all part of an awareness campaign that Act is conducting to inform local communities of the good things they have up their sleeve.

The charity, which is supported by The Forestry Commission, Argyll and Bute council, Scottish Natural Heritage and NHS Highland, has one main vision - to maintain, enhance and promote the coast and countryside of Argyll and the Isles, so it can be enjoyed by residents, businesses and visitors.

Act, which is an abbreviation for Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust, will be serving local communities as a hub facility.

Julie Young, development officer, explained: 'We wanted to provide the people of Argyll and the Isles with a platform they can use to find out about all of the projects taking place in the local community.'

'From preserving wildlife to creating new job opportunities, Act will be supporting activity which either improves enhances or promotes Argyll and the Isles its local and wider networks.'

'We want people to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible,' Julie said, 'that's why we decided to ask the young people to get involved and to explore and utilize the outdoors and the natural materials that we have on our doorstep.'

It's not just schools and community groups that are ambassadors of Act's campaign - wildlife filmmaker, John Aitchison also thinks it's a great idea.

'I'm a wildlife filmmaker so I am outdoors all the time, abroad as well as at home.'

'I know how lucky we are to live in the amazing landscapes of Argyll and the Isles.'

'Our beaches and mountains, coasts and forests (and the wildlife which lives here) are second to none, so if you belong to a group this is the perfect opportunity to get outside and make the most of it,' said Mr Aitchison.



CAMPAIGN: The act campaign is open to groups of children under the age of 18

Oban will host competition to find best Argyll haggis

SEVEN Argyll butchers and haggis makers will go head-to-head as part of Oban Winter Festival's St Andrew's Day celebrations.

The Haggisfest competition will be held in Oban Distillery on November 29 as the festival also marks the Year of the Haggis.

After judging takes place, members of the public will help to choose the winner of

the 'people's choice' award.

Haggisfest was the idea of Oban chef and owner of the Waterfront Restaurant Alex Needham, who will be one of the judges along with Gregor MacKinnon of Manor House Hotel.

Entrants come from across Argyll and include Jeanette Cutlack, Mull; Grants Butcher, Taynuilt; Alister Jack-

son, Oban; Barbreck Farm, Ardfern; H.D. Ferguson, Lochgilphead; McQueen's, Rothesay; and Joe Callaghan, Helensburgh.

Haggisfest is supported by the Community Food Fund, which is financed by the Scottish Government and has been created to promote local food and drink, in line with Scotland's National Food and Drink Policy.

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

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Regional Press
closer to home

Screen Machine

Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Lochgilphead Fri 31 Oct - Sun 2 Nov
Tighnabruach Mon 3 Nov
Tarbert Loch Fyne Tue 4 Nov
Gigha Wed 5 Nov

The Nut Job (U) 84 mins
31/10 at 5.30pm, 01/11 at 2pm, 02/11 at 5.30pm,
03/11 at 5.30pm, 04/11 at 5.30pm, 05/11 at 5.30pm

Pride (15) 120mins
01/11 at 8.30pm, 03/11 at 8.30pm, 05/11 at 8.30pm

The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG) 122 mins
01/11 at 5.30pm, 04/11 at 8.30pm

A Most Wanted Man (15) 122 mins
31/10 at 8.30pm

Gone Girl (15) 122 mins
02/11 at 8pm

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk or phone 0871 902 5750
Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50

Sponsored by RBS

New thriller set on island of Jura

JURA is the backdrop for much of the action in a hard-hitting new psychological thriller about a fragile young woman who steals a baby and flees to the island.

Author Marguerite Valentine delved into her experience as a childcare specialist and psychotherapist for the novel.

Marguerite wrote many academic papers during her career, but Between The Shadow And The Soul is her first work of fiction. Published by Silverwood Books, the book has been heavily influenced by her work, which began with setting up one of the first women's refuges in the UK.

Marguerite then gained a PhD from the University of Warwick and worked in child protection with social services before training as a psychotherapist.

Marguerite said: 'Some experiences have seared my mind, particularly cruelty to children. The idea for the book came with an image I saw years ago on the TV news of a woman caught on CCTV stealing a baby from a maternity ward. I wondered what had prompted such a drastic choice.'

'Having worked with children at risk, I also know it's heartbreaking and profoundly disturbing for social work professionals whose actions are

so restricted by bureaucracy and poor funding. They carry a huge burden of responsibility. It's all of these dynamics that I wanted to write about.'

Her family has supported the change of career, helping her with some technical aspects of the book: 'One of my sons, an engineer, advised on things like mobile phone tracking and gave me maps of Jura to help me plan. The island is a very important part of the book.'

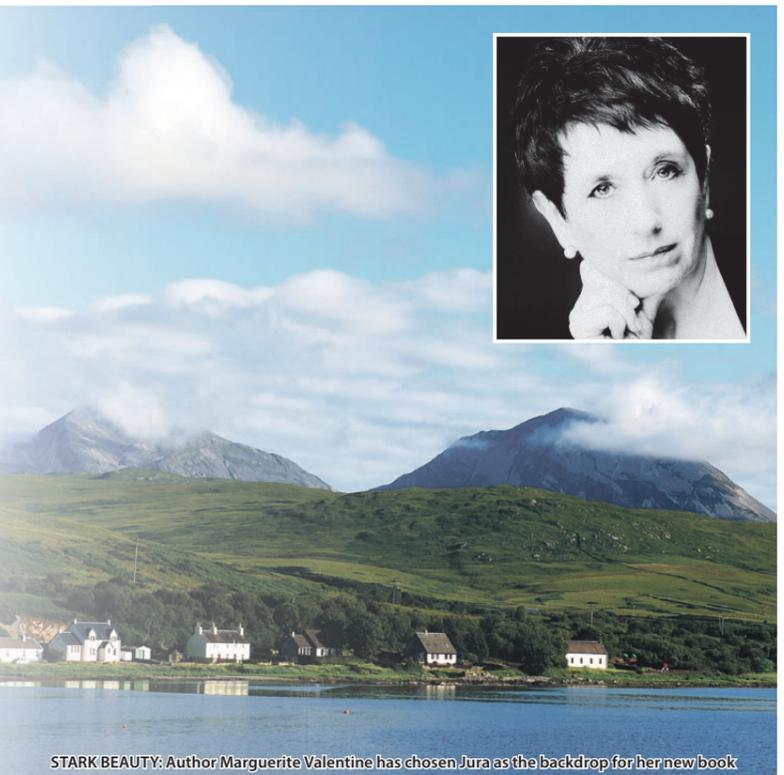
Marguerite explained to the Oban Times why she chose Jura: 'I wanted a location that was a total contrast and could provide an atmosphere of loneliness, strangeness and remoteness. This experience contributes to her breakdown.'

'I've visited twice, though that was years ago, and the island made a strong impression on me.'

'All the descriptions are based on actual observations, the argocats, the deer hunters, the walks, seeing Barnhill and the whirlpool.'

'Jura has a stark beauty and is, I think, the perfect setting for the story.'

Copies of the book in paperback (£9.99) or e-book (£2.99) format are available via Amazon or direct from Silverwood Books. Marguerite's website is at: www.margueritev.org



STARK BEAUTY: Author Marguerite Valentine has chosen Jura as the backdrop for her new book



Malt of the Month

SPONSORED BY

Ben Nevis Distillery

(Fort William) Ltd.

Drambuie Whisky Liqueur
40% ABV
Around £36

DRINKING whisky with the folk of Lewis is an experience. For an island that has only recently started producing its first 'legal' nip its people have the qualities of great drinkers. I was with George, renowned Lewis man cycle - and a number of the members of my choir - Atomic Piseag - at the Royal National Mod. We had just won the Ladies competition and of course that was the time for a wee dram. The dram of choice for a Piseagan is of course a Drambuie and if we are lucky maybe a Glayva.

These are pretty poor options when it comes to the high standards of the whisky drinker - but not for the faint hearted in the quantities consumed by the choir. It softens the throat - for singing and for post singing. But George seemed to manage to slip a dram over his throat. As did the singers. It seemed to swell the singing of Sine Bhan and made the Puir all the better.

Louise Lee

FASANTA

Festival of Textiles & Fashion

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November 2014

COMMUNITY CATWALK SHOW

Local organisations, businesses and individuals shall participate in a Catwalk Show with creative designs in categories:

- Dare to Scare
- Tapping Into Tapestry
- My Home

DOLLER VOTE
collected at event shall be donated to the Oban Community Playpark.

The presentation of the **OBAN AND LORN SCHOOLS TAPESTRIES**
Performance on the evening from **BALLET WEST**

Corran Halls Oban
Saturday 1st November
7.00 - 7.30pm
Tickets: £8.00

Gaelic historical thesaurus launched

GAELIC speakers and learners can now access specialised Gaelic terminology relating to the historical environment, via an online thesaurus.

The resource has been launched as a joint project by Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), with financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

The thesaurus contains more than 4,000 terms and is aimed at Gaelic speakers, learners and schools, as well as the general public. It provides terminology relating to areas such as architecture, archaeology and history as well as place-names for many historical sites.

As a thesaurus, it not only functions as a dictionary of terminology but also provides the meaning of each term in both languages.

Alasdair MacCaluim, Historic Scotland Gaelic Language and Policy Officer said: 'The thesaurus is an invaluable aid for translators or anybody with an interest in reading or writing about Scotland's historical environment in Gaelic. By providing consistent and standardised terminology for this specialist area, it will add to the development of the language's corpus.'

Peter McKeague, database manager at RCAHMS said: 'Scotland leads the way in multi-lingual Linked Data thesauri. Until now our vocabularies and

thesauri have acted as informal standards on the Internet.'

'Publication of the Scottish Monument terms as Linked Data will improve data quality and allow our terms to act as vocabulary hubs on the Internet.'

Through the project, which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Gaelic monument terms are available in machine readable format as part of the Scottish Monument type Thesaurus published on the www.heritagedata.org website; the home of Linked Data Vocabularies for Cultural Heritage.

Head of Gaelic Usage at Bòrd na Gàidhlig David Boag said: 'The National Gaelic Language Plan highlights the requirement for projects which add strength and consistency to Gaelic language corpus development.'

'It is vital that Gaelic is able to be used in the growing range of contexts in which it features on a daily basis, within Scotland and beyond.'

'Bòrd na Gàidhlig cannot achieve this without partners and we fully acknowledge the work that Historic Scotland and RCHAMS have undertaken in support of this aim and we welcome the creation of this high quality, valuable resource.'

The thesaurus is available on the Historic Scotland website at: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/gaelic-thesaurus

Morvern Players tackle Iain Crichton-Smith's Lazybed

AFTER the recent success of Twelfth Night and The Challenge the Morvern Players have a new production of Lazybed by Scottish writer Iain Crichton Smith.

Rehearsals for the play are currently in full swing. Set in the Highlands, Lazybed it is about a crofter

with a metaphysical dilemma who finds he can no longer lift a spade and focuses on what keeps us going from day to day.

It is directed by local film-maker Sam Firth, who has recently moved to the area and will be produced by Veronique Walraven.



STRAMASH: Accordion players take to the stage for a final set in Oban.

Full house for Accordion and Fiddle club meeting

THE FIRST meeting of Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club this season saw a full house at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. Chairman Michael Garvin opened the evening and a great turnout of supporting players from Oban and further afield joined in on the act. Some younger players started the night off: Emma McPhee, Shanna Rodgers, Zoe Brown, Caitlin Curran and nine-year-old Connie McGhee on fiddle were supported by Alec MacLean, Michael MacLeod, Craig McFadyen, Hector McFadyen, Sileas Sinclair, Ewan Henderson, Andrew MacDonald,

Robert Nairn, Fraser McInnes and Angus McColl. Guest artiste for the evening was the Kinloch Ceilidh Band, brothers Archie and Alec McAllister from Campbeltown along with Iain 'Stretch' MacFadyen from Mull. They performed a fantastic and varied selection of foot tapping music, jigs, reels, marches, continental tunes, followed by a superb solo by Archie on fiddle. The night ended with all the supporting players joining the band for the stramash. The next club night will be on Thursday, November 6 with guest artiste Iain MacPhail.

National Theatre: Frankenstein

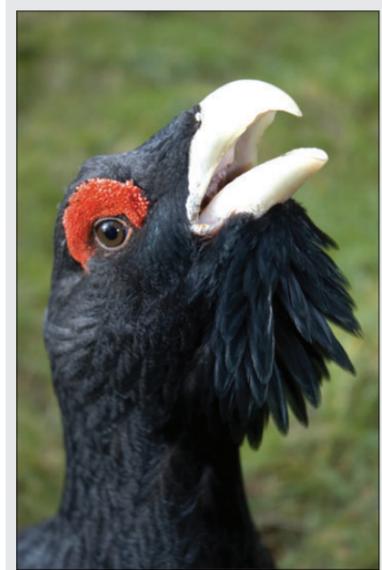
by Nick Dear, based on the novel by Mary Shelley

NATIONAL Theatre Live's thrilling broadcast of Frankenstein returns to Oban Phoenix Cinema for a limited time, thanks to unprecedented audience demand. Directed by Academy Award-winner Danny Boyle (Trainspotting, Slumdog Millionaire, London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony), Frankenstein features Benedict Cumberbatch (12 Years A Slave, Star Trek: Into Darkness) and Jonny Lee Miller (Trainspotting, Mansfield Park) alternating roles as Victor Frankenstein and his creation. The production was a sell-out hit at the National Theatre in

2011, and the broadcast has since become an international sensation, experienced by almost half a million people in cinemas around the world. Childlike in his innocence but grotesque in form, Frankenstein's bewildered creature is cast out into a hostile universe by his horror-struck maker. Meeting with cruelty wherever he goes, the friendless creature, increasingly desperate and vengeful, determines to track down his creator and strike a terrifying deal. Urgent concerns of scientific responsibility, parental neglect,



FRANKENSTEIN: A stellar cast of Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller will be performing live in London and screened directly through to Oban.



Wildlife Trust talk about the capercaillie

THE FATE of the capercaillie was the topic of the latest talk at the Argyll and Lochaber Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. The group, formerly the Lorn and Mid Argyll Members' Centre, enjoyed the opening talk to its winter lecture series by David Jardine, forest district manager for West Argyll with Forestry Commission Scotland. He spoke on the problems inherent in the conservation of the iconic bird and also on the successes achieved. Although there are some breeding populations of capercaillie in oak woods they are largely dependent on the native pinewoods, themselves under threat as over-grazing prevents regeneration. David spoke also on the conservation of the pinewoods as the two subjects are so closely interconnected. The next meeting is on Thursday, November 20 when ecologist Dr James Fenton's lecture will be entitled 'Bogged down in peat'. Lectures are held at the marine institute, Dunstaffnage at 7.30pm.

Concern for future of school band

CONCERNS about the future of an Argyll and Bute regional school band have been dismissed by the local authority as unfounded, because no decision on its future has been made yet. However, in a letter from Argyll and Bute Schools Concert Band's musical director, John Grant, he asks parents and guardians to contact

local councillors to ask them for funding for concert band training. Mr Grant adds: 'ArtsQuest will be working hard to try and raise funds in order that some pan-authority music making is sustained in the future. 'Discussion will continue with the council in the hope that it may be able to contribute if and when the financial climate improves.' A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We have been able to support the Argyll and Bute Schools Concert Band for a number of years now. We are still looking at funding for this year - no decision has been made yet.' Alastair Redmond from Islay raised the issue with The Oban Times, saying: 'It would be a sad loss to the people of Argyll and Bute to see our Argyll and Bute schools concert band disbanded in its current form due to lack of funding. 'Music is a very important part of our culture and education here in Argyll and Bute and I would hope that our council would reconsider its stance on this matter.'

Seven days

Thursday
WHERE: Connel Village Hall
WHEN: 7pm
Connel Sewing Club resumes today. Busy sewers of all abilities are getting together over the next 25 weeks. Old and new members welcome and all levels of sewers are catered for.



WHERE: Corran Halls
WHEN: 7pm
The Drawer Boy
A beautifully written, funny and bittersweet tale set in Canada. It's 1972, and an eager-eyed young actor, Miles, arrives on a small farm to do research for a role in a play about country life. He moves in with two middle-aged farmers: stoical Morgan who is not too thrilled with the self-absorbed city boy, and Angus, who lost his short-term memory after being bombed in the war.

Friday
WHERE: Caol Community Centre
WHEN: All day
For crimes committed in the workplace, Lochaber staff are invited to nominate their employers, managers or supervisors to be arrested and incarcerated behind bars to raise funds for Lochaber Hope to help people in the community. Cells will be erected at Caol Community Centre and bosses will be charged with crimes such as - bad hair, makes rotten coffee, wears odd socks, talks with their mouth full - they will be held until they have raised bail. Get Out Of Jail cards can be purchased, toilet tokens and surprise twists. Lochaber Hope, a confidential service, currently works with more than 250 people in the community. Mentoring, counselling, personal development and employment support - 'Hope for all'. Fund-raisers look forward to seeing everyone at the High Court, Caol Community Centre on October 31.

Saturday
WHERE: Corran Halls
WHEN: All day - Saturday and Sunday
Dunollie brings you Fasanta (Gaelic: fashionable) Scotland's premier two-day festival celebrating Scotland's textile heritage through a variety of workshops, master classes, panel discussions and activities for all ages including a community catwalk. This is an excellent festival that involves the whole community at the heart of its event. Not only exploring the rich cultural heritage of Oban, but far beyond.



Sunday
WHERE: St John's Church
WHEN: 3pm
Hoot is Helen MacLeod and Emma Wilkins who form Scotland's award winning harp and flute duo. As recent recipients of both the Enterprise Music Scotland Residency Project and the Tunnell Trust for Young Musicians, Hoot have dazzled audiences with their eclectic mix of music and sparkling personalities. Part of the Oban Music Society concert programme in association with Argyll and Bute Concerts Tours.



Monday
WHERE: wherever you like
WHEN: 5pm
OBAN FM's ever popular Drive Time from 5pm on the local radio station. Chat, music, phone-ins and general fun for the Oban and the entire area. Oban FM can be found at 103.3 or online at www.obanfm.com

Tuesday
WHERE: Oban Library
WHEN: 10.30am
Computing for beginners (over 55 years) at 10.30 am in Oban Library for six weeks. The course is aimed at beginners. Everyone is welcome. Contact 01631 567979 to book a place.

Wednesday
WHERE: Hope Kitchen
WHEN: from 10am
Help Hope Kitchen to celebrate its fifth birthday by making a visit to the group from 10am. Join Oban's much needed charity for tea, coffee, cake and a chance to meet staff, volunteers and service users. On sale will be home baking, knitwear and handmade Christmas cards.



Oban Phoenix Cinema	The Maze Runner	Thurs 30th 20.30	Sun 2nd 13.30, 16.10
Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	Sat 1st 13.30, 16.10	Sun 2nd 13.30, 16.10	
The Book of Life	Thurs 30th 16.05 Sun 2nd 14.00, 15.30 3D	Sat 1st 14.00, 15.30 3D	
Annabelle	Thurs 30th 18.15 Mon 3rd 20.20 Wed 5th 20.20	Sat 1st 20.20 Tues 4th 20.20 Thurs 6th 20.20	
NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE Frankenstein	Thurs 30th 19.00	Fri 31st 19.00	
Fury	Fri 31st 16.00, 20.30 Sun 2nd 17.45 Tues 4th 17.45, 20.30 Thurs 6th 17.45, 20.30	Sat 1st 17.45, 20.30 Mon 3rd 17.45, 20.30 Wed 5th 17.45, 20.30	
What We Did On Our Holidays	Fri 31st 16.00, 18.10 Sun 2nd 18.10 Tues 4th 16.00, 18.10 Thurs 6th 16.00, 18.10	Sat 1st 18.10 Mon 3rd 16.00, 18.10 Wed 5th 16.00, 18.10	

The Maze Runner (12A)
The Maze Runner is set in a post-apocalyptic world, where Thomas is deposited in a community of young men after his memory is erased. After learning they're all trapped in a maze, Thomas joins forces with fellow 'runners' to not only escape the maze, but solve its riddle and reveal the chilling secret of who brought them there, and why.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG)
Follow the exploits of 11-year-old Alexander as he experiences the most terrible and horrible day of his young life.

The Book of Life (U)
The Book of Life is the journey of Manolo, a young man who is torn between fulfilling the expectations of his family and following his heart. Before choosing which path to follow, he embarks on an incredible adventure that spans three fantastical worlds where he must face his greatest fears.

Annabelle (15)
John R. Leonetti directs this horror prequel to 'The Conjuring' (2013). Mia and John Gordon (Annabelle Wallis and Ward Horton) are terrorised by supernatural forces when

John thinks he has found the perfect gift for his wife and unborn child, a rare vintage doll dressed in a white wedding dress named Annabelle. The young boy's joy however is abruptly ended when they are invaded and attacked in their home by members of a satanic cult. The terror of that night is nothing compared to what follows as the cult conjures an entity which takes over Annabelle and transforms her into a malevolent force of evil.

Frankenstein - National Theatre Live
The thrilling broadcast of Frankenstein returns to cinemas due to unprecedented audience demand. Directed by Academy Award®-winner Danny Boyle, Frankenstein features Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternating roles as Victor Frankenstein and his creation. Childlike in his innocence but grotesque in form, Frankenstein's bewildered Creature is cast out into a hostile universe by his horror-struck maker. (DOORS CLOSE AT 19.00, PLEASE BE SEATED BY 18.50)

Fury (15)
Brad Pitt leads a tank crew on a deadly mission at the end of WWII in this gritty, action-packed war movie. April 1945. Hardened tank commander Don 'Wardaddy' Collier (Brad Pitt) has seen

action all the way from Africa to Germany. He has always sworn to protect the crew of Fury, his Sherman tank. His latest mission is a vital but positively suicidal one, striking at the heart of Nazi Germany behind enemy lines. As if being outgunned and heavily outnumbered wasn't bad enough, Wardaddy has also been assigned to lead the crew's eccentric driver Norman Ellison (Logan Lerman).

What We Did On Our Holidays (12A)
Reunited Film, David Tennant and Billy Connolly star in a heart-warming comedy about an eventful family holiday. Doug (David Tennant) and Abi (Rosamund Pike) are going through a painful divorce. Doug's father Gordon's (Billy Connolly) birthday party couldn't have come at a more inopportune time. Heading off for the Scottish Highlands, the hiding couple issue their three young children with strict instructions to keep the divorce a secret. This is more easily said than done. To keep track of the lies she's supposed to tell the extended family, sensible nine-year-old Lottie records them in a notebook. Four-year-old Jess copes with the stress by forming a bizarre attachment to a brick called Norman. But it's middle child Mickey's enthusiasm for Wikies, shared with his grandfather, that proves to have the most dramatic and unexpected consequences!

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

OBAN ACCORDION AND FIDDLE CLUB
Monthly club night
Thursday 6th
November at 7.30pm
Royal Hotel
Please note change of venue
Guest artist:
Iain MacPhail SDB
Admission £4
All welcome

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £15.71 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details

OBAN ART SOCIETY
Talk/demonstration by Margaret Ker on "Painting & Drawing to Music" 31st October 2014
Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban
7.30pm to 9.30pm
Visitors very welcome

CONCERT
MARKING THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH 2014 at 7.30 pm
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, OBAN
OBAN BACH CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
Schubert: Unfinished Symphony
Cherubini: Requiem
In memory of all who have died as a result of war
Seat with programme (obtainable at the door)
£8-00 (Concessions £6-00)

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING
A musical variety evening
Local stories and songs of WW1
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
Friday 7th November
7pm
Refreshments
£5 (friends £4) All proceeds to the Kirk restoration fund

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB
Musical Evening
on Tuesday 4 November at 8pm
GUEST ARTISTE: Colin Garvin
Railway Club Inverlochty
All Welcome
Admission £4.00, Tea & Raffle Extra
In the event of a last minute cancellation by any guest artist the committee will find an alternative artist

EDINBURGH CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT
presents an evening of modern dance devised by international choreographer, Royston Maldoom OBE.
Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern Friday 7th November, 7.30pm
Tickets £9 / £6 (conc) / £20 (family)
01852 500746 or cvh.artsevents@gmail.com or www.ticketsource.co.uk

OBAN U3A
Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 10.30am
Studio Theatre and cafe area,
Corran Halls, Oban
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting

Community Learning
Daytime and Evening classes this winter
01631 567974/567979
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/adult learning

Course	When	Start Date	Outline
Computing for beginners 55 plus	Tuesdays 10.30 - 12.30 Oban Library	4th November for 6 weeks	A course aimed at beginners.
Internet, email, word, Excel Beginners and Intermediate	Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm Lorn House	12th November for 5 weeks	Spreadsheet course
SQL Computing evening class	Thursdays 7 - 9pm Lorn House	13th November for 10 weeks	Certificate class for Beginners /Intermediate
ESOL daytime class	Tuesdays 2 - 4 pm Oban Library	21st October for 10 weeks	Conversational English class
ESOL evening class	Mondays 7 - 8.30pm Oban Library	27th October for 6 weeks	Conversational English Class
Job Information Club	Fridays 10 - 12 Oban Job Centre	Ongoing	Help with CV's, job applications, computer skills.
Beginners Computing Daytime sessions	1 to 1 and group available	Please call to arrange	Ongoing Help with first steps in computing

NEW YEAR CLASSES STARTING IN JANUARY 2015
• Digital Photography • Data Management
• Art for beginners and those with experience • Creative Crafts • Driving Theory
For further information on any of the classes or to book a place, please contact us at: Lorn Community Learning Centre, Willowview, Lower Soroba, Oban 01631 567979/567974
For help with reading, writing and number skills, please call Brian on 01631 567952

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Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com
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THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS
MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Mollie Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McClockie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 Americano Show with Michelle
TUESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey
WEDNESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Mollie's Mix with Mollie 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 Lawton
SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swinging 'Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
SUNDAY:
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott



Ballet West will tour with love story ending on Valentine's Day

AN ARGYLL-based ballet company will become the first to perform classical ballet at the Clyde Auditorium in Glasgow when it takes to the stage early next year.

Ballet West will perform Romeo and Juliet in seven venues throughout Scotland in January and February 2015, culminating in the performance at the auditorium, known as the Armadillo, on Valentine's Day.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Jonathan and Sara-Maria Barton play the lead roles in Ballet West's performance.

The tour opens at the Corran Halls in Oban on January 23 and title roles will be danced by Taynuilt brother and sister duo, Jonathan and Sara-Maria Barton, principal dancers with Ballet West.

They will be joined by a group of professional artists, including Martin Fenton, dancing the role of Juliet's fiancé, Paris.

Martin featured in the television series The Pineapple Dance Studios and is currently lead principal male dancer in the London production of The Snowman.

The 60-strong company also includes young dancers currently

studying for their HND and BA qualifications at Ballet West. Among them, Natasha Watson, bronze medallist in the 2013 Genée International Ballet Competition, as well as Andrew McFarlane, Hannah Fowler, Danielle French, Isaac Bowry and Emma Robinson, who featured in this year's Genée competition.

Other venues on the tour include The MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling; Howden Park Theatre, Livingston; Paisley Town Hall; the Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock and The Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh.

Focus on Argyll

Campbeltown Museum

The only council-owned museum in the county is home to a collection that spans the history of Argyll

IT IS often assumed that there is no one collection that spans the history of Argyll in a public collection.

However, that assumption is in fact wrong - because Argyll and Bute council has one of the broadest collections that has national significance.

The most dramatic

is probably the Bronze Age jet necklace found more than 40 years ago - valuable and rare, it is unique.

The Campbeltown museum building itself is equally as beautiful.

The A-listed Burnet Building is one of the finest buildings in the town. It is in part a working council office

and originally housed the public library.

Outside in the cloister garden there is a statue dedicated to the memory of Linda McCartney, photographer, musician and wife of Paul McCartney. The couple lived near Campbeltown where he wrote Blackbird and Mull of Kintyre.

Herd's Horn

IN 1609 Archibald the Grim - the 7th Earl of Argyll, was given the power by the King to 'plant a burgh, to be inhabited by Lowland men and trafficking burghesses, within the bounds of Kintyre'. He chose the site of the existing village of Ceanloch-Kilkerran, which was renamed Campbeltown in his honour.

The Duke of Argyll has long retained a connection with the town, granting rights for his tenants to pasture a cow on the town moor. The Herd's Horn was used by the Town Herd, who every morning collected cows from each tenant, taking them through the streets of Campbeltown to pasture, and returning them to their owners each evening for milking.

The Town Herd was a man of some importance locally - the names of all those who held the position are engraved in silver on the Horn's plaque.



Stone Ball

CARVED stone balls are probably Scotland's most enigmatic ancient artefacts. Many are carved and decorated with spirals and circles.



Stone Axe Head

BEFORE humans discovered metals they used stone to make axes and tools for hunting and felling trees. Each piece would have taken a long time to make and would have been very valuable to the first farmers in Kintyre. The axe represents probably the most fundamental change in the way that humans have lived on the planet - the introduction of farming and a settled lifestyle.

Barn Owl

THE museum displays a number of local birds and marine life demonstrating the unique habitats to be found in Kintyre. The area is a nationally important stronghold of the barn owl species. Being able to see up close these magnificent creatures helps one to appreciate their beauty and fragility. The barn owl in Scotland is the most northerly worldwide but its habitats are endangered and need protection and conservation.



Jet necklace

THIS magnificent necklace made of jet and cannel coal was found in a Bronze Age burial cairn in Kintyre in 1970. It is extremely valuable and would have been equally valuable and rare when it was worn by a Bronze Age leader c 2000BC. It is thought to have been a family heirloom and eventually buried with an important person where it was broken and scattered around the body.



A Westerly Gale

WILLIAM McTaggart - Scotland's greatest landscape painter - painted A Westerly Gale (in oil on board) and loved Machrihanish Beach. He chose this spot to capture the coming Atlantic storm, creating a painting that is the best loved and most valuable of the fine art works in the museum collection.



Come out to Crinan THE CRINAN HOTEL

BY LOCHGILPHEAD, ARGYLL



Crinan Hotel will be open all winter. Come out to Crinan, share a few laughs in a fun and different venue.

Families are very welcome, doggies welcome too. Beautiful walks along the towpath beside the canal.

Our Seafood Bar is open and shall be all winter 12.00 - 2.30pm and 6.00 - 8.30pm

Tasty local Mussels £12.00
Fish and Chips £10.50
Hot Arbroath Smokie with Organic Salad leaves and Chips £13.00
Pea and Mint Risotto £12.00
All served in our cosy relaxed Seafood Bar.

Coffee Shop beside the canal basin serving uplifting real Caffia Coffee and Yummy Cakes. From November our Coffee Shop will be open only on Saturdays and Sundays 10am-4pm

Christmas Party 2014 Available from Mid November

Canapés

Loch Crinan Jumbo Prawn Cocktail
Chefs Home Made Pâté
With Cumberland Sauce, Toasted Brioche
Pan Seared Rothesay Smoked Trout
Marinated Cucumber Salad

Slow Roasted Turkey With Pork & Sage Stuffing,
Chipolatas, Honey Glazed Parsnips, Carrots, Crispy
Roasted Potatoes, Home Made Cranberry Sauce
Whole Grilled Seabass Sautéed Samphire & Green
Beans, Parsley New Potatoes, Hollandaise Sauce
King & Queen Scallops with Chorizo, Roasted Red
Pepper & Sugar Snap Peas

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Butter
& Crème Anglaise
Caramelised Lemon Tart with Red Berry Compote
Selection of Fine Cheeses, Hand Crafted Outcakes

After Dinner Coffee with Mince Pies

£28.00 BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Vegetarian Menu available on request

MAKE A NIGHT OF IT!
HAVE DINNER, RELAX, STAY THE NIGHT.
FANTASTIC ROOM PRICES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2014.
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Farming

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Crofters to complete census

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has endorsed the 'Crofting Census' which will be launched this week by the Crofting Commission and urges all crofters to participate.

'This is about crofters taking responsibility for the future of crofting,' said Derek Flynn, chairman of the SCF.

'Crofters enjoy substantial protection under crofting law and in return are asked to comply with basic duties, the two fundamentals being that they use their crofts and live on or near them.'

One of the obligations that have come from the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 is that the Crofting Commission has a duty to issue an annual notice to all tenant and owner-occupier crofters to gather rudimentary information on the state of

crofting. This is to be known as the 'Crofting Census'.

More than 18,000 Crofting Census forms have been sent out to all crofts and crofters are legally obliged to complete the forms and return them to the Crofting Commission before the end of the three month deadline of January 16, 2015.

Mr Flynn continued: 'The deficit in information on crofts and crofting has long been a significant hindrance to the formation of policy and development initiatives that can help crofting.'

'This annual survey will gradually build up a picture of where there are problems and where crofting is working.'

'This information will help to ensure the continuation, the strengthening and the expansion of crofting communities.'

Young farmers clubs' new officer



DEVELOPMENT: Claire Cameron, club development officer

A MORVERN woman has been appointed as club development officer with the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC).

Claire Cameron will be developing clubs in areas which do not already have one and introducing them to one of Scotland's largest rural youth movements.

This will include working with schools, colleges and existing youth groups.

Claire and her family run a mixed stock farm in Kilmalieu south of Corran, and she has been involved with youth groups all her working life.

She currently works part-time for the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce as a business development officer, and will be working for SAYFC also on a part-time basis.

She is a keen carriage driver and enjoys all types

of cookery. She said: 'I am very excited about my new role as club development officer for SAYFC.'

'I hope to get into schools, youth clubs and to run some information / social evenings to chat to potential members about young farmers to help them setup new clubs.'

SAYFC chief executive Penny Montgomerie said: 'Over the last 12 months, we have seen our membership increase which has included the introduction of a new club in Skye, and the re-forming of Strathspey.'

'This has been very positive for SAYFC and ensures we continue to meet our objective of offering personal development opportunities for rural youth throughout Scotland.'

'Claire's appointment will allow us to continue reaching out to areas that do not currently have a club but

Farming Focus

Ewen Campbell, SRUC Kirkton/Auchtertyre farms gives an overview of current issues in the region

Our 'Indian summer' has really finished now, and the weather is turning back to good old Scottish autumn/winter.

So it is just as well that we have now finished weaning all our lambs and calves. They really benefited from the good summer, with average weights of the calves being 300kg at around seven months of age and the lambs averaging 28 kg at weaning.

Most of our ewe lambs have been sent away for wintering and the wethers (castrated male lambs) from our Auchtertyre flock are now at SRUC's farm at Oatridge where they will be fattened up and sold over the winter.

Some of the ram lambs from our Kirkton flock have been kept for breeding purposes, but the vast majority are going for fattening, or finishing.

Having stayed out on grass for a while, all of the lambs have now been housed and are being fed straw and concentrates until they reach the appropriate specifications for slaughter.

So far, we have managed to get 105 lambs away with another batch hopefully ready soon.

We are also pressing ahead with plans to move all our sheep handling facilities under cover into another shed, which should mean that handling takes less time and we don't have to stand in the rain.

At the moment we are busy deciding what the best layout of all the pens will be, but hopefully in a few months time the design and relocation will all be done and dusted.



BREEDERS: Sheep breeders discuss ewe and lamb performance at Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms

CAP roadshows come to the Highlands

FARMERS and crofters across the Highlands will have the opportunity to find out more about the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) at a series of Scottish Government roadshows.

The events are part of a series of 34 roadshows across Scotland where Scottish Government officials will explain how CAP support will be delivered from 2015, and what farmers and crofters need to do to receive CAP funding.

Farmers and crofters will then be able to ask questions about the new system.

Richard Lochhead, Scottish rural affairs secretary, said: 'We are about to implement the biggest reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in a generation and, while we have already provided information about the funding system, farmers and crofters will undoubtedly have questions about the practical implications of these changes.'

'These roadshows across the Highlands are the ideal opportunity for farmers and crofters to find out about the new CAP which comes into effect on January 1 as well as what they need to do to receive funding and all of the key dates and deadlines.'

'Scottish Government officials will be on hand to answer any questions farmers and crofters may have and to talk through the new system we are introducing to make the transition as smooth as possible.'

The events in Highland include: Skye Camanachd (Shinty Club), Portree, November 12, 2014, 7pm; Thistle Hotel, Inverness, November 17, 2014, 7pm; Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, November 19, 2014, 7pm; Broadford Village Hall, Skye, November 26, 2014, 7pm; and Gairloch Community Hall, Gairloch, December 2, 2014, 7pm.

Attendance is free and there is no need to register in advance.

Upland farm sales rare due to economic uncertainty

THE VALUE of Scottish farmland has been going up despite a number of major economic factors, according to rural property advisers Smith Gore, Scotland.

But John Coleman, head of farms and estate agency, cautions that buyers are reluctant to pay premium prices, because of the 'uncertainties of political change'.

He said: 'Upland farm sales are a rare commodity this year with both buyers and sellers awaiting the outcome of the delayed CAP reform details and how they will relate to Scotland, but there is a degree of optimism out there in the market which is sure to be reflected as we go forward into 2015.'

OBAN

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd sold 675 suckled calves, store, breeding and OTM cattle on October 21 through Oban Mart.

All classes of breeding cattle met an exceptionally firm trade with one of the largest turnouts of purchasers to be seen at this west coast centre with many travelling from all parts of Scotland and the North of England.

Bulls (164) sold averaged 241p per kg (mainly native breeds) selling to 316p per kg for two 152kg Aberdeen Angus from R J Campbell, 77 Borve, Castlebay, Barra and to £830 for a 400kg Aberdeen Angus from J E Taylor, Machriemore Mill, Southend, Campbelltown.

Heifers (370) sold averaged 248p per kg selling to 363p per kg for a 230kg Sim Luing from H and NA McCorkindale, Scammaldale and Ardencaple, Kilinivier and to £980 for three 280kg Shorthorns from Castle Estates, Dalmaily.

Bulling Heifers (49) averaged £885.64 to £1,100 (twice) per head for three 360kg Shorthorns from Forestry Commission, Cowal and Trochassach, Aberfoyle and MD and SA Clarke, Williamwood, Kirtlebridge, Dumfries.

In-calf heifers (55) averaged £1,257.33 to £2,100 for a Spring calving Simmental from G Reid, Brough, Tainuil.

Cows and calves averaged £1,620 to £1,800 for a Simmental from L. Whitmore, Auchencree, Barcalaine.

Heifers with calves averaged £1,510 to £1,650 for a Limousin from D J Watson, Ardnacross, Campbelltown.

Leading prices per head (bulls): Limousin - £780 77 Borve; Simmental - £760 Auchencree; £660 Ansaig Estate; Shorthorn - £700 Lochs Estate; Beef Shorthorn - £670 19 East Hynish; Whitebred Shorthorn - £750 Rhemor; 6000 Glenturret Estate; Aberdeen Angus - £710 77 Borve; £650 17/18 Borve; Highland - £400 Killindine Estate.

Leading prices per head (heifers): Shorthorn - £980 (twice) Castle Estate; £880 BeinnDorain Farming; £850 Balure of Shian; £740 Cailach; Simmental - £880 17/18 Borve; £850 Scammaldale and Ardencaple; £800 Wester Collichat, BeinnDorain Farming and Scammaldale; £760 Frackersaig; Luing - £780 and £750 Clachan Farms; £700 Ardlarach; £680 Clachan Farms & Ardlarach; Whitebred Shorthorns - £780 Killindine Estate; £740 and £700 Glenturret Estate; £620 Killindine Estate; Aberdeen Angus - £740 Machriemore Mill; £650 and £620 Carloanan; Limousin - £720 7 Calgary Croft; £680 Kenharra; £650 77 Borve; Saler - £600 19 East Hynish; British Blue - £620 19 East Hynish.

Leading prices per head (bulling heifers): Whitebred Shorthorns - £1,100 and £1,000 (twice) Cowal and Trochassach and Forestry Commission; Beef Shorthorn - £1,100 and £980 Williamwood and Dunadd; Aberdeen Angus - £980 Machriemore Mill; Limousin - £1,020 Fiant; Simmental - £780 Brencaille.

Leading prices per head (in-calf heifers): Simmental - £1,850 (twice) Mid, Lismore; £1,800 Fiant and Mid; £1,700 and £1,650 Mid; Blue Grey - £1,380 and £1,350 Stroneskar; £1,300 Stroneskar; Limousin - £1,450 (twice) Mid; £1,250 Dallachulish; £1,200 Stroneskar; £1,150 Invernahyle and Fiant.

ISLAY

ISLAY auction mart hosted United Auctions' sale on Thursday, October 23, of 2,797 sheep of all classes and 312 calves and store cattle at Islay Auction Mart.

All classes of lambs sold to average £53.80 against £57.52 at the corresponding sale last year. Lambs sold to a top of £69 for a pen of Suffolk Crosses from Callum MacLaggair Jnr, Lyrabus Farm and to a top of 173 pence per kilo for a pen of Suffolk Crosses from Claggan Farm.

Feeding Ewes from M/S Porter, Carrabus sold to £92.50.

In the cattle section, M/S Wood, Octofad, led the top prices per head when their British Blue Cross Bulls sold to £1185.00.

Leading the day's prices per kilo was Charolais Crosses from Mr and Mrs Brown, Cruach, when their consignment sold to 294 and 292 pence per kilo for both bulls and heifers. Bulls sold to average £769.48 per head (£767.25 last year) and heifers leavelled out at £656.80 per head (£668.73 last year).

Principal lots and prices:

Bulls: AX: £1100 - Lorgba: £925(3) - Keppols: £905(4) - Octomere: £805 - Octofad: £800 - Lorgba: £905, £885(2) & £825 - Ardnave: £835 - Knocklearach: 805(2) - Cruach(Brown): LMX: £1025(3) - Balacava: £1005(7) and £985(2) - Octofad: £965 - Ardnave: £925 - Kintra: £915 - Ardnave: £915(6) - Balacava: £895(2) - Octofad: £885 - Kintra and Ardnave: £865 - Ardnave: £855(3) - Balacava: £845(8) - Ardnave: £815 - Balacava: BRX: £1185 and £1055 - Octofad: £925 - Starchmill.

Heifers: AX: £790(3) - Lorgba: £925 - Ardnave: LMX: £885(3) and £845(8) - Octofad: £845(4) - Balacava.

Top prices per kilo:

Bulls: AX: 227p(3) - Keppols: 210p - Lorgba: 209p(4) - Octomere: 204p(2) - Cruach(Brown): BX: 252p(2), 247p(2), 238p, 237p, 235p(3), 230p(2), 226p(3) & 212p - Ardnave: CHRX: 294p(4) - Cruach (Brown): 283p(13) - 9 Mansefield Road: 268p(2) - Cruach(Brown): 259p(9) and 258p(5) - Knocklearach: 255p - Cruach(Brown): 229p and 215p(4) - Knocklearach: LMX: 279p(3), 278p(5) and 264p(2) - Kinabus Farm: 262p(3) and 258p(2) - Ardnave: 254p - Kinabus Farm: 237p and 236p(5) - Ardnave: 235p(3) - Balacava: 233p(8) and 232p(5) - Ardnave: 232p - Balacava(3) and Octofad(2): 230p - Kintra: 228p - Octofad(2) and Ardnave: 225p(5) - Octofad: 223p - Balacava: 221p - Ardnave: 220p(6) - Balacava: BRX: 258p - Knocklearach.

Heifers: AX: 222p - Cruach(Brown): BX: 254p, 253p, 232p(7) & 221p(2) - Ardnave: CHRX: 292p, 276p(6), 269p(2) and 258p - Cruach(Brown): 251p - Knocklearach(7) and 9 Mansefield Road(19): 238p(2) - Cruach(Brown): HX: 259p - 14 Mansefield Terr. LMX: 259p(5) - 14 Mansefield Terr: 255p - Starchmill: 240p, 239p(7) & 235p(2) - Ardnave: 234p(5) - Kinabus Farm.

Lambs: SUFF: £69.00 - Lyrabus: £67.00 - Ardbeg: £65.00 - Starchmill: £64.50 - Uiskenteuie: £62.00 - Lossit and Ardbeg: £60.00 - Smaladh: £59.50 - Collabus, Uiskenteuie & Duich: £59.00 - Duich: £58.50 - Craigfad: £57.50 - Duich: £57.00 - Ardbeg: £56.50 - Carrabus: £67.00 - Mulindry: £66.00 - Tallant: £65.50 - Mulindry: £63.50 - 7 Claddach: £61.00 - Ardbeg and Carrabus: £60.50 - Torrabus: £59.50 - Lossit: £59.00 - Kinabus Farm: £57.50 - Craigfad, Carrabus, Ardbeg and Kinabus Farm. CHEV: £58.00 - Coull(Jones). CROSS: £63.50 - Kilchiaran: £62.50 - Lossit: £61.50 - Uiskenteuie: £59.50 - Starchmill: £59.00 - Ardbeg and Kilchiaran: £57.50 - Ardfarnal. MULE: £62.00 and £58.50 - Leorin. BF: £59.00 - Ceannacroic: £58.50 - Leorin Farm: £58.00 - Lossit: £57.00 - Uiskenteuie: £52.50 - Ceannacroic: £49.50 - Dhoidmhaini: £47.00 - Coull(Jones): £44.50 - Collabus: £41.50 - Duich: £41.00 - Coullton.

Ewes: SUFF: £58.50 - 6 Bayview. BELT: £63.50 - 6 Bayview. TEX: £92.50 - Carrabus: £78.50 and £75.50 - 6 Bayview: £72.50 - 7 Claddach: £70.50 - Coull. CHEV: £68.50 - Ardfarnal. CROSS: £82.50 - Ardbeg: £69.50 - Starchmill: £67.50 - Kilchiaran. MULE: £57.00 - Coull. BF: £57.00 - Ceannacroic.

Top prices per kilo:

SUFF: 173p - Claggan: 161p - Ballinaby: 159p - Paic A Chlassan: 158p - Duich: 154p - Ardbeg: 153p - Ardbeg: 151p - Collabus: 150p - Duich. TEX: 160p - Gartness: 159p - Ardbeg, Ballinaby and Kinabus: 156p - 7 Claddach: 151p - 7 Claddach and Carrabus. CHEV: 172p - Kilbride: 162p - Coull(Jones). CROSS: 157p - Paic A Chlassan: 153p - Collabus: 152p - Duich. MULE: 148p - Smaladh & Coull(Jones). BF: 144p - Lossit: 140p - Leorin Farm.

DALMALLY

UNITED Auctions sold 2,865 lambs and sheep of all classes at their end of October sale on Friday at Dalmaily auction mart.

A good ringside of buyers ensured all classes were easily cleared at satisfactory levels. Lambs sold to £66 per head for Texel Crosses from Craig Farm. Breeding sheep from Mondayrain sold to £100.

Rams from Tulloch sold at £130 whilst feeding sheep from Barguilean sold to £56.50.

Texel Cross lambs from Mr Livingston, Birchfield sold at 179 pence per kilo and the same home led the prices per kilo for Blackface Wedder Lambs at 155 pence.

Overall, lambs sold to average 60 pence down on the corresponding sale last year.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head

Lambs: TEX: £66.00 - Craig Farm: £63.50 - Duallin Farm: £63.50 and £60.50 - Barguilean Farm: £59.00 - Craig Farm, Balantyre Farm Partnership and Blaghour Farm: £58.50 - Dunans and Barguilean Farm: £58.00 - 117 Craigston, Barra, Lephinkill Farm and Knock Dhu.

SUFF: £56.00 - Garraron and Melfort Farms.

CHEV: £43.50 - Machrins Farm, Colonsay.

CROSS: £60.00 - South Ailley Farm: £58.00 - Craig Farm: £56.00 - Barguilean Farm.

MULE: £58.50 - Blairmore Farm.

CHEV MULE: £58.00 - Barguilean Farm.

BF: £55.00 - Lephinkill Farm: £49.50 - Duncroisk and Machrins Farm, Colonsay: £48.50 - Rhunacum: £47.50 - Pitcastle Estate and Brackley: £46.50 - Duncroisk: £46.00 - Tullochcan: £45.00 - Dunloskin: £44.50 - Birchfield and Lephinkill: £44.00 - Castles Estate and Ledcharie: £43.00 - Blairmore: £40.00 - Ellary Estate.

Ewe lambs: BF: £59.00 - Bralegmore: £47.00 - Tullochcan.

Gimmers: MULE: £100.00 - Mondayrain. BFL: £90.00 - Mondayrain. BF: £80.00 - Dall Farm.

Ewes: TEX: £56.50 - Barguilean Farm. BFL: £51.00 - Ardcannel Farm. CHEV: £52.00 - Garrogie Estate. CROSS: £54.00 - South Ailley Farm. MULE: £42.50 - Barguilean Farm. BF: £56.00 - Garrogie Estates and Auchreoch: £54.00 - Dall Farm: £48.00 - Garrogie Estates.

Top prices per kilo:

Lambs: TEX: £79p - Birchfield: 74p - Dunans: 73p - 117 Craigston, Barra: 72p - Knock Dhu: 71p - 117 Craigston, Barra: 70p - Barguilean Farm and South Ailley Farm.

CHEV: 151p - Maam Farm. CROSS: 161p - Barguilean Farm and South Ailley Farm.

MULE: 166p - Blairmore Farm. BF: 155p - Birchfield: 154p - Rhunacum: 153p - Tullochcan: 152p - Dunans and Brackley: 151p - Machrins Farm, Colonsay: 150p - Castles Estate: 147p - Ledcharie and Ellary Estate.

First year students

The new shed has not been standing idle though, as we have made great use of it over the past few months for all the visitors we have had.

In September, we hosted the SRUC Edinburgh students' Freshers Week'. More than 120 SRUC first year students from our Edinburgh campus came to stay at our wigwams for three days during which they visited the farms here and other local businesses and attractions.

During the same week, we also had a visit by the UK Maternal Sheep Group. This group is made up of Blackface and easy-care sheep breeders, who share technical experience about recording ewe and lamb performance in their flocks.

Twenty-one farmers from across the UK came and had an interesting day in the sun learning about the wide range of sheep-related research being conducted across SRUC, especially here at our farms.

International and national visitors

The following week started on more of an international note, as we hosted a visit from a group of farmers and community leaders from the Black Forest in Germany.

They were visiting us to hear more about the challenges facing Scottish hill farmers and upland communities, many of which were in common with their experiences in Germany.

We were their first stop on a whistle-stop tour of the West Highlands, taking in Oban and Mull.

That same day, we also had a group of 10 advisers from Iceland's Department of Soil Conservation come to see us.

They were particularly interested in hearing about what grazing management issues we have and how SRUC interacts with farmers to raise awareness of those issues. They also enjoyed hearing about the large amount of native woodlands that we have planted in recent years and the potential for peatland restoration and demonstration on the farms.

To finish off that week, we hosted an Activity Tourism Awareness Day, organised by Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park's Skills Partnership, in association with colleagues from SRUC Learning.

Around 30 young people from schools across the area (Balfour High, Dunoon Grammar, Hermitage Academy and Vale of Leven Academy) participated in a range of outdoor activities.

They also met employers from within the national park, who outlined the skills they need in employees, and heard from SRUC Learning about the range of courses on offer to allow them to develop those skills.

Open day

Finally, when you are read this, we will also have had a Talking Science Public Open Day at Auchtertyre farm.

This event has been designed to help raise awareness amongst residents and visitors to the local area of the range of research taking place on their doorsteps.

It's raining as I write this but hopefully the weather will be kind to us on the day.

LOCHMADDY

LOCHMADDY, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, sold 273 weaned calves and store cattle and eight breeding cattle at their annual show and sale.

Prior to the sale on October 24, the judge Mr T Henderson, Udale, Poyntzfield, awarded the following results: Overall champion and first prize bull: J. A. MacLellan, 17 Houghary, 435kg, £1,000; reserve champion and first prize heifer: L. Madnes, Hastain, 290kg, £700.

'An excellent show of calves met a satisfactory demand in line with our mainland sales,' said a spokesman for Dingwall and Highland Marts.

Weaned bulls (158) averaged 230.5p and sold to 271.4p per kg twice for a pen of 350kg Charolais crosses from 1 Clachan Farm, Lochmaddy, and a 280kg Limousin cross from 6 Borve, Bernera, and £1,040 gross for a pen of 410kg Charolais crosses from 1 Clachan Farm.

Weaned heifers (92) averaged 217.8p and sold to 255.2p per kg for a pair of 290kg Limousin crosses from 8 Clachan Sands, and £860 gross for a pen of 380kg Charolais crosses 1 Clachan Farm.

Store bulls (11) and sold to 238.9p per kg for a 360kg Limousin cross from 17 Houghary, and £970 gross for a 490kg Limousin cross also from 17 Houghary.

Store heifers (8) and sold to 215p per kg for a 400kg Limousin from 17 Houghary, and £920 gross for a 460kg Limousin cross also from 17 Houghary.

Breeding cattle (8) sold to £1,700 for a Limousin cross in calf heifer from 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:

Weaned bulls up to 250kg - 1 Ahmore, £550, 229.2p; 251-300kg - 6 Borve, £760, 1 Ahmore, 252.6p; 301-350kg - 1 Clachan Sands, £950, 3 Hosta, Tighary, 256.7p; 351-400kg - 4 Grinnish, Benbecula, £900, 2 Hosta, Tighary, 236.6p; 401-450kg - 17 Houghary, £1000, 1 Clachan Sands, 253.7p. Weaned heifers 251-300kg - 8 Clachan Sands, £740, Hastain, 241.4p; 301-350kg - 8 Clachan Sands, £800, 2 Hosta, 249.2p; 351-400kg - 38 Linn, Eochar, £820, 227.8p.



A busy show ring at the Oban sale. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

FORT WILLIAM

ALL classes met a firm enquiry at Fort William for Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd on October 27, where 1,160 store sheep of all classes were sold.

Lambs (639) averaged £36.85 per head and sold to £55.50 gross for Suffolk crosses from Greenfield, Invergarry.

Ewes (502) sold to £64.00 gross for Mules from 4 Muirsharrille, Banavie.

Rams (10) sold to £130.00 gross for a Blackface from Kilmalieu, Ardgour.

Feeding sheep (9) sold to £51.00 gross for a Blackface wedder from Insh Farm, Spean Bridge.

Other leading prices per head:

Store lambs: Tex - 35 Eoligarry, Isle of Barra, £54; Cross - Barachorainn Estate, £52.50; BF - 19 Blarmacfoldach, Fort William, £51.50; Chev - Stalkers Cottage, Kinloch, £48.50; LynX - Glenquoich, Invergarry, £45; SUFF - 4 Glebehill, Kilchoan, £44.

Ewes: Chev - Glenquoich, £55; Tex - 2 Achnaphubull, Fort William, £51.50; BF - Moy Farm, Banavie, £51; Cross - Greenfield, £47.

Rams: Chev - Burnside, Isle of Mull, £70

Feeding sheep: Cross wdr - 3 Melvaig, North Erradale, £49; BF wdr - Insh Farm, £49; BF gnr - Ockle, Acharacle, £44



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NHBC reports positive figures for Scottish house building

NEW house building figures released by NHBC this month show that new home registrations in Scotland increased by nine per cent during the third quarter (Q3) compared to the same period last year. In total, 3,017 new homes were registered during the period, compared to 2,759 in 2013, with overall year-to-date registrations also marginally up on last year. NHBC regional director Malcolm MacLeod said: 'Scotland has enjoyed a promising quarter with overall registrations up nine per cent on the same period last year. Although the principle driver for this increase has been the private sector we continue to work with the social housing sector protecting the significant investment they make in delivering new homes. 'The referendum may have unsettled some prospective buyers but it is likely that the market will now settle down and the recent announcement on the Land and Building Transaction Tax coupled with the imminent availability of the next tranche of Help to Buy funding will likely lead to registrations increasing.'

Overall UK figures for Q3 2014 reveal that new home registrations have increased eight per cent on the same period last year with the private sector continuing to be the main driver of growth. These figures represent the highest year-to-date figures and the highest Q3 figures since 2007. In total for the UK, 36,343 new homes were registered with NHBC between July and September this year (28,468 private sector; 7,875 public sector), compared to 33,573 (24,984 private sector; 8,589 public sector) for the same period in 2013. This represents a 14 per cent increase for the private sector, with the public sector still under-performing when compared to last year's figures. However, NHBC anticipates that public sector registrations will begin to grow again as the next phase of the Government's Affordable Housing Programme has recently been allocated. A warranty and insurance provider for new homes, NHBC's monthly registration statistics are a leading indicator of the health of the country's new homes market.

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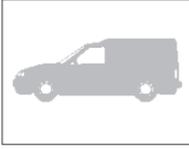
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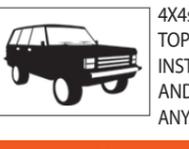
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Follow our winter driving guide to ensure your journey is safe and minimise risks to yourself and other road users:

Reduced daylight hours and hazardous weather places more demands on all road users.

If you have the chance, plan ahead for your journey by checking the forecast, road conditions and consider alternative routes.

Even the most experienced driver's heart can sink when they pull back the curtains to reveal roads covered in snow and ice, especially when the day's journey really is necessary.

If your journey is essential, take an emergency kit of: scraper, de-icer, torch, first aid kit, jump leads, shovel, warm drink and emergency food in case you get stuck or break down.

Make extra checks on your brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades to ensure they are in good condition and well maintained.

Remember, your car isn't in physical contact with wet, snowy, icy or any other road surfaces, only its tyres are, so

they must be in perfect condition and have exactly the right amount of air in them.

Check them weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure printed in the vehicle handbook.

The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre and three quarters of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference.

They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which will weaken the tyre; failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and three penalty points per tyre.

Windscreens, wiper blades and windows must be kept clean and free from defects.

Make sure your windscreen is properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive.

Low sun can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make things worse.

Washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing, and usually need a higher concentration of windscreen washer fluid for winter driving.

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Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate Tce 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

All lights including reflectors must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights and cyclists must have white front and rear red lights lit at night.

Bad weather is often blamed for causing accidents, but the real cause is inappropriate driving for the conditions that exist.

In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads.

If you have to drive through floods, drive slowly, use a low gear and try to keep the engine revving at a high rate and move forward continuously to avoid stalling the engine.

When driving an automatic vehicle, engage and hold in a low gear.

Aquaplaning is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road surface.

The safest solution is to remove the pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed and the tyres to regain their grip.

Keep well back from the road user in front in icy or snowy weather as stopping distances can be 10 times greater.

When the roads are icy, drive at slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.

High-sided vehicles are most affected by windy weather but in these conditions motorcyclists and cyclists can easily be blown off course, particularly in open stretches of road exposed to strong crosswinds.

When driving in fog use dipped headlights so other drivers can see you, and only use fog lights when visibility is seriously reduced to less than 100 metres and turn off when visibility improves.

Be prepared for a bank of fog or drifting patchy fog ahead as, even if it seems to be clearing, you can suddenly find yourself in thick fog.

Remember, if you are a pedestrian, especially in rural areas, your visibility is limited, even more so at night and in heavy rain, snow and fog.

Wear reflective clothing and carry a torch. Be safe, be seen.

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'In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads.'

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09 MITSUBISHI L200 Avenir, DCi Cab Pickup, Auto, Equip, Sat Nav, Roll Bars, Rear Cover, Black, 50K	£15,950
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57 NISSAN NAVARA Marmarth, DCi Cab Pickup, Manual, Alloy, Equip, Met Silver, 45K	£9,950
54 NISSAN NAVARA D22, DCi Cab Pickup, Manual, Canopy, Alloy, Equip, Met Red	NO VAT £4,950
11 TOYOTA HILUX HL2, DCi Cab P/U, Manual, Equip, Direct National Trust, 90K	£11,750
08 TOYOTA HILUX HL2, DCi Cab P/U, Manual, Equip, Direct National Trust, 90K	£10,950
08 MAZDA BT 50, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Equip, Alloy, Towbar, Met Grey, 80K	£9,950
10 FORD RANGER XLT, DCi Cab P/U, Manual, Canopy, Alloy, Alloy, Met Silver, 140K	£10,950
58 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, Jumbo van, 115hp, 6 Speed, SLD, Ply Lined, White, 80K	£9,450
08 FORD TRANSIT 350 DSW Cab, Alloy, Dropside Tipper, White, 50K	£9,950
59 FORD TRANSIT 350 DSW Cab, Alloy Dropside Tipper, Yellow, 45K, Choice of 3	£9,750
59 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, Jumbo van, 115hp, 6 Speed, SLD, Ply Lined, White	£9,450
09 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, Semi High Top Panel van, 6000, Equip, Road Rack, White 60K	£9,250
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07 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, Alloy Dropside P/U, 120 Body, Tall LR, White	£5,750
06 FORD TRANSIT 350, Crew Cab Pickup, 115HP Alloy Body, Removable Cap Sides, White, 45K	£9,950
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Checking your winter tyre tread

'Remember, your car isn't in physical contact with wet, snowy, icy or any other road surfaces, only its tyres are, so they must be in perfect condition and have exactly the right amount of air in them. Check them weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure printed in the vehicle handbook.'

Adequate tread depth is important for safety in wet conditions as the tread grooves help to remove the water from the contact patch between the tyre and the road surface. As the tyre's tread depth wears down, its ability to remove water from the road decreases meaning that grip levels are reduced and stopping distances are extended.

In extreme circumstances when the tyre has insufficient tread depth to clear the water properly, increased water pressure causes the tyres to lift on top of the water surface and lose contact with the road surface. During this dangerous aquaplaning situation any input from the driver such as pressing the brake or turning the steering wheel has no effect on the vehicle, leaving it at an increased risk of being involved in an accident.

Current UK law requires car drivers to have at least 1.6mm of tread depth across the central three quarters of their tyres, around their entire circumference. Drivers failing to comply with these regulations are not only at a greater risk of being involved in an accident, but could also face a fine of up to £2,500 and three penalty points for each illegal tyre.



Anyone keen to check their tyre tread depths themselves simply needs to place a 20p coin into the main tread grooves of their tyre. If the outer band of the 20p coin is obscured when inserted, then your tyre tread depth is above the legal minimum limit. However, if the outer band is visible when inserted into the tread, your tyres may be unsafe or illegal and should be checked immediately by a tyre professional. When checking your tread depth, ensure you check at least three locations around each tyre.

For more information about any aspect of tyre safety, visit www.tyresafe.org.

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ELECTRICIANS

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd currently has vacancies for multi skilled and self-motivated Maintenance Electricians within our Seawater Production areas covering Argyll, South Highland, Skye and the Western Isles.

Working in a seawater environment you will be in an autonomous role where you will carry out all planned preventative and reactive electrical work and ensure that all plant and equipment is maintained to the highest possible efficiencies. In addition you will be required to install, test, and maintain underwater lighting, feed systems and other plant equipment required both on and off shore, investigate all possible areas for improved plant utilisation and output and be required to undertake specific industry training on feed systems and other key equipment.

Applicants must be effective communicators and be able to work productively as part of a small team in a challenging environment. While the role is predominately that of an electrician, multi skilled disciplines would be seen as advantageous.

We are seeking applications from individuals who hold the following qualifications and skills profile:

- IEE 17th Edition
- Inspection, Testing and Certification of Electrical Installations
- Hold a current SJIB Grade Card
- Experience of working PLC's, Diesel generator sets
- Practical knowledge of computerised feeding systems
- Ability to read and understand Schematic diagrams
- SJIB registration desirable

It is also a requirement to have a high degree of computer literacy together with a strong understanding of breakdown cover, fault finding, repairs on motors, control systems and feeding systems.

This is a very challenging role in a difficult environment and in return we will offer a salary package in the range of £26k - £30k dependent on experience, together with additional benefits.

If you feel you have the necessary skills for this challenging role, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 14th November 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resources Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.



The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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Tha comas labhairt sa Ghàidhlig riatanach airson na dreuchd seo.

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Ceann-latha: Diciadain, 12 Samhain 2014

Scottish Sealife Sanctuary, Oban
requires an

Operations manager

As Operations Manager you will run all aspects of the businesses and lead the team on a day to day basis including recruitment, training and meeting financial targets.

Experience in a similar role essential. Great leadership skills are required. Excellent communication and organisational skills.

You must possess high aesthetic standards.

You must be able to prioritise and have experience of working to budgets, controlling costs and general administration.

To apply for this role please visit <http://tinyurl.com/qfkhmnv>



Fyne Families
MANAGER

21.5 hours per week term time plus 2 weeks during summer holidays
£9.10 per hour

We are seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to lead our services, overseeing our thriving After School Club and Early Years groups and developing our outreach at Duncholgan Traveller's Site. The successful candidate will work in partnership with the Board of Directors to develop and shape Fyne Families services and ensure a sustainable future for the organisation. Applicants must have, or be willing to undertake study towards an appropriate degree level qualification.

PRACTITIONER, DUNCHOLGAN FAMILY CENTRE
9.5 hours per week term time plus occasional school holiday clubs
£7.73 per hour

We require an enthusiastic and suitably qualified (SVQ3 in Childcare) Childcare Practitioner to help plan and deliver preschool and after school sessions for children aged 0-14 at Duncholgan Family Centre. Both posts are subject to PVG scheme membership and registration with SSSC.

For an application pack, contact Jenny at fynefamilies@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01546 606885.

Closing date for both posts FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2014.

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ADR required although training can be provided. Excellent customer care skills, basic computer literacy and a conscientious, self motivated approach to work. There is a possibility that this role could be extended to include crane operation if applicants are interested and suitably skilled.

Download application form: www.argyllresources.co.uk under people and vacancies section and either email graham.greenlees@argyllresources.co.uk or post to: Argyll Resources Group, Torrington Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL. Tel 01631 566370

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01466 794938 for application details.

Loch Fyne Seafarms

is looking to fill two processing positions in its factory in Tarbert.

Successful applicants will work as part of a small team processing King Scallops and must be happy working as part of a small team and working with fish products.

Full training will be given and all protective clothing provided. The training period will be 1-4 weeks depending on the ability of the applicant. National Minimum Wage will apply during training, moving onto piece rate.

Contact Loch Fyne Seafarms on 01880 820 100 or in writing to: Loch Fyne Seafarms, Tarbert Trading Estate, Campbeltown Road, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6SX

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THE BEST: Stuart Liddell, centre, has won the Glenfiddich Piping Championship for a second time. Bruce Gandy, left, and Roddy McLeod, right, came second and third

Stuart's now the crowned head of piping royalty

RENOWNED Inveraray piper Stuart Liddell has been crowned 'the best of the best' as he won the Glenfiddich Piping Championship for a second time.

It tops a year to remember for the pipe major of Inveraray and District Pipe Band, who also won

the Springbank Invitational in Campbeltown last month and led his band to the title of European champions in the summer.

A previous winner of the Glenfiddich title in 2009, Stuart said: 'Competing at the Glenfiddich Championship, you know that

you are up against the best of the best, and there is no knowing what way it is going to go on the day. It is always going to be the smallest fraction that separates the winner from the others.

'It's an absolute honour and privilege to be here competing

with such talent.' A descendant of piping royalty, Stuart is the son of accomplished musicians Billy and Agnes; his grandfather was the late pipe major Ronnie McCullum, MBE, piper to the Duke of Argyll.

Stuart competed against

the 10 most highly acclaimed international pipers to claim the Glenfiddich Trophy, including Benderloch's Angus MacColl, Campbeltown native William MacCallum and Canadian Bruce Gandy and Roddy McLeod of Glasgow.

'Interesting' talk for Gaelic lecture

A GAELIC expert from Lochaber is to give this year's memorial lecture for Sir Iain Noble, who helped establish Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan (pictured below) will hold the talk at Talla Dhonaigh Chaimbeil in the university tomorrow night (Friday).

The lecture, is titled 'Interesting', a word often used by Sir Noble and Dr MacLennan, who has established a career in Gaelic media, called it a 'great honour' to deliver this year's speech.

He said: 'There are very few people who wouldn't have heard the word interesting while in the company of Sir Iain Noble at one time or another.'

'I regard it as a great honour to be invited to deliver this year's lecture in memory of our good friend, Iain Noble.'

'During the lecture I will reflect on events that have had an impact on my life - who am I and why? - people I have met through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and hopefully raising a few questions that I hope will be, well, interesting.'

John N. MacLeod, vice principal at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig said: 'This annual event is very important in commemorating and

marking Sir Iain Noble's legacy, the successful developments he established and the numerous important initiatives in which he was engaged, particularly those connected with the promotion of Gaelic.

'We are delighted that Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, broadcaster, author and academic, who is actively involved in developments related to language, culture and sport at various levels, is to deliver this year's lecture.'

'We look forward to an erudite and scholarly lecture, personal recollections and an evening with fine music and merriment also.'

The lecture will begin at 7.30pm, all are welcome and entry is free. A simultaneous translation will be provided for non-Gaelic speakers.



Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan

public notices

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 TWO COMMERCIAL MOORINGS, ISLE OF MUCK

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Two Commercial Moorings, Isle Of Muck:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Isle of Muck	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Moorings 1	56° 50.578'N	006° 13.217'W
Moorings 2	56° 50.566'N	006° 15.261'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Port Mor on the Isle of Muck.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: 05374 Marine Harvest

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Graham Crerar has registered his croft, 3 Sanna, Ardnamurchan & Sunart, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 19th June 2015

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home The croft registration number is A1588

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Rosie Burgess has registered her croft at 13B Creich, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeen 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 28th February 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C161

CUILCHEANNA COMMON GRAZINGS

A meeting will be held on Monday, November 17 at 7pm in Caolas Onich, to appoint a new committee and grazings committee.

Colin Campbell Grazings Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Proposed Assignment of a Croft

Ewan James Trotter is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at No. 9 Muir-shearlich, Banavie, Fort William, Parish of Kilmallie, to Lee Trotter, of 6 Pine Grove, Fort William.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comment on the proposals in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of the publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

PROPOSED DIVISION OF A CROFT BY OWNER-OCCUPIER CROFTER

David A MacKenzie is applying to divide the croft at No 2 Bunnavoulin Morvern to create two new crofts.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of information enquiry.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/03552/FUL	Land 190m NW of 22 Deeke, Acharacle	Forestry road entrance
14/03715/FUL	Spean Bridge Hotel, Spean Bridge	Proposed alterations & extension
14/03793/FUL	Ben Nevis Public Bar, 103-105 High Street, Fort William	External Seating Area (continued use)
14/03945/MSC	Land 120m SW of 2 Bohenie, Roy Bridge	Conditions 3, 4 & 5 of Permission 13/01624/PIP
14/03949/MSC	Land 80m SW of 2 Bohenie, Roy Bridge	Conditions 3, 4 & 5 of Permission 11/03407/PIP
14/03950/MSC	Land SW of 2 Bohenie, Roy Bridge	Conditions 3, 4 & 5 of Permission 11/03409/PIP
14/03951/PIP	Bealach Ruadh, Kilchoan, Acharacle	Demolition of fire damaged houses & erection of house (plot 1)
14/03952/PIP	Bealach Ruadh, Kilchoan, Acharacle	Demolition of fire damaged houses & erection of house (plot 2)
14/03953/PIP	Bealach Ruadh, Kilchoan, Acharacle	Demolition of fire damaged houses & erection of house (plot 3)
14/03965/FUL	Land 55m South East of Yallingup, Duror, Appin	Erection of house & garage
14/03967/FUL	Land 650m North West of Poulary, Invergarry	New dwelling and garage

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

The Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (CRANLARICH BYPASS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF USE AND SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2014

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 14(1)(a) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 temporarily prohibiting the use of vehicles and temporarily restricting the speed of vehicles to 30 miles per hour and 10 miles per hour where there is convoy working on the following length of road:

That length of the A82 Dalnottar-Inverness Trunk Road, at Cranlarich, from the junction of the centreline of the southern A82 and the A84/A85 Stirling-Cranlarich Trunk Road, to a point 1720 metres northwest of that point, a distance of 1720 metres or thereby.

This Order, which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the said length of road to allow construction work to take place, will be in operation from 3rd November 2014 until 1st April 2015 and will only have effect in relation to such length of the road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The prohibitions in the Order do not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes, or to vehicles while being used in connection with the works.

Alternative routes for the traffic during the prohibition will be signposted. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/policy/legal-requirements/road-and-traffic-orders/TROs>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

A MCLAUGHLIN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,
Glasgow G4 0HF

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Ronald Cameron has registered his croft, Croft 47 Banavie, Kilmallie, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 14th July 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home The croft registration number is C658

Forestry Commission Scotland

FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND WEST ARGYLL FOREST DISTRICT

INVITATION to timber haulage, harvesting and forestry civil engineering contractors to notify their interest in a lease of an area of land (0.2 hectare approximately) at Dervaig, Isle of Mull for development and use as a contractor's yard.

For Particulars of the lease and a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire application form ET1 please email West Argyll Forest District email address waprocedure@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02327/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land North East of Scallastie Farm Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Craignure
14/02328/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land North East of Scallastie Farm Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Craignure
14/02329/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3 Land North East of Scallastie Farm Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Craignure
14/02330/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 4 Land North East of Scallastie Farm Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Craignure
14/02386/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 11/01899/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank)	Land West of Mill Farm House Barcaldine Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SE	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02481/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land East of Keepers Cottage Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
14/02506/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South of Kelowna North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA65 6BA	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02515/PP	Renewal of planning permission 11/01740/PP - erection of dwellinghouse	Sorsdale Premises Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute PA78 6TE	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
14/02526/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 11/01646/PPP (Site for the erection of 5 dwellinghouses)	Land at Former Lorn Sawmills Site Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HY	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgighthead 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 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02373/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North of Grulin Mor Guinart Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA44 7PS	Sub Post Office Bridgend
14/02424/PP	Alterations and subdivision to form 4 holiday let dwellings with associated car parking	Newton Primary School Bridgend Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA44 7PD	Sub Post Office Bridgend

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02134/PP	Installation of replacement windows and door	21 Charlotte Street Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA42 7DF	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgighthead 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.

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Councillor Roddy McCuish (EWA4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 7th November from 3.00pm - 5.00pm in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban.
He can be contacted by email - roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by telephone 01631 567854.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Ross MacLennan and Caroline Rachel MacLennan have registered their croft at 3 Kirkapoll, Kirkapoll, Isle Of Tiree 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 23 June 2015.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C578

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 OUTFALL PIPE, DUNBEG, ARGYLL

Notice is hereby given that Link Housing Association has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of an Outfall pipe, Dunbeg, Argyll:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Dunbeg, Argyll	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
	56° 26.9859 N	005° 27.1879 W
	56° 26.9943 N	005° 27.1974 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Dunbeg Post Office**.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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IKEA "ON COT" CHANGING UNIT Ikea "on cot" changing unit for sale. The unit sits on top of the baby's cot. Cost £30 new £10 Telephone 07717 497183.

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SPACE HEATER Clarke Devil 650 space heater with bottle £50 Telephone 01583 431122

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60+ ITEMS OF BOYS CLOTHES FOR 4 all in excellent condition, everything from jackets, tracksuits, t-shirts, jeans, etc (Oban) £25 Telephone 07951 025003

ADIDAS HONEY HI TRAINERS size 7, brand new never worn. comes in original box. white with grey flaps. cost £57 in JD sports (Oban) £40 Telephone 07951 025003

BOYS 4-5YRS CARBRINI BUNDLE excellent condition, 2x t-shirts, 2x shirts with a pair of matching shorts. cost £50 in JD sports (Oban) £10 Telephone 07951 025003

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WICKER CHAIR single wicker chair on modern frame £10 Telephone 01546 605374

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GREENHOUSE wanted 6 x 8 or 8 x 10 buyer can collect and dismantle Telephone 01631 770613 evenings or 07748 70087 day

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ENGAGEMENTS

MCCULLOCH - MUTANDWA - Both families have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Fiona, only daughter of John and Caroline McCulloch, Oban and Andrew, oldest son of Andrew and Ledwina Mutandwa, Aylesbury, Bucks.

MARRIAGES

MACCORMICK - JOHNSTON - At the Hilton House, Dunkeld, on October 5, 2014, Euan, son of Dugie and Dorothy, Carradale, to Margo, daughter of Martin and Jess, Alyth. A very happy day.

GOLDEN WEDDING

CARGILL - SMITH - John and Jean celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, married on October 30, 1964 by Rev. William MacDonald at Old Oban Parish Church.

DIAMOND WEDDING

MACLEAN - PATE - On October 20, 1954 at St. Columba's Church, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, by the Rev. Doctor Alexander MacDonald, Niall Iain to Inez. Present address - 7 Chalmers Court, Inveraray.

DEATHS

COULTER - After a long illness, courageously borne, at home as he wished, with his family at his side on October 26, 2014, Robert Coulter (Bob the Butcher), in his 92nd year. Dearly loved husband of Rita, brother of Mattie, father of Iain and the late Iona, grandfather of Kieran, Emma, Christopher and Ailsa and great grandfather of Patrick. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. Funeral service will take place at Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt on Friday, October 31, 2014 at 1.00 p.m. thereafter to Muckairn Cemetery. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection, if desired, will be taken for Vale of Leven Renal Unit.

GIBSON - Peacefully, on October 23, 2014, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, aged 77 years, Jimmy Gibson, 10 Glenview, Dalnally, dearly loved dad of Margaret, James, Iain and Gordon, a loving and much loved grampa, great-grampa and father-in-law. Beloved husband of the late Marybell. Funeral service will take place at Glenorchy Parish Church, on Thursday (today), October 30 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held for Diabetes UK.

ROSS - Suddenly but peacefully on October 15, 2014 at Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, Donald beloved husband of Helen, much loved father of Donald and Kenneth and much respected father-in-law of Aileen. Dear grandfather of Callum, Alexander and Katie, younger son of the late Harry and Mary Ross, Bonawe and dear brother of Jean and the late Richard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOYD - Anne, Donald and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness following the loss of their dad Alasdair. Sincere thanks to Dr E Glenn, the community and Marie Curie nurses and Careplus for their dedicated care to dad. Special thanks to Rev. J Beaton for his visits and comforting service. Thanks to Ian MacInnes of D A Munn for his professional and efficient services and the Royal Hotel for the refreshments. Thanks to all who attended the funeral at the church and graveside and gave so generously the sum of £828.20 for Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Care Trusts.

BRIMELOW - Mrs Brimelow and family thank all who sent messages and cards of condolence and for donations to Prostate Cancer UK.

MACKAY - Donald and Gordon would like to thank all family and friends for their support following the death of Marjory. We would also like to thank the staff at Mossparc Care Home and the Belford Hospital for the excellent care Marjory received during her illness. Thanks also to the Rev. Corbett, Kilmallie for the lovely service and Mike McFall Funeral Directors for the funeral arrangements and the staff at Caol Community Centre.

MACKENZIE

The family of the late Margaret MacKenzie would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support, especially Mrs Jean Wylie, following the sudden loss of our dear mum. Thanks to staff at Oban Hospital for their care. The Flower Basket for their lovely arrangement and to Catriona at Hamish Hoey Funeral Directors for her kindness and professionalism. Also many thanks to the Rev. John Sheddon for his support and beautiful funeral service. Retiring collection for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Cancer Research totalled £300.

MEMORIALS

BLACK - Treasured memories of Ivan who passed away November 8, 2012. Beloved husband, father and grandpa. No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it and only God can tell us why. - Your loving wife Liz and family.

BROWN - Treasured memories of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, James, who passed away on November 1, 2006. Sadly missed. - Mary and family, Invercoe.

CAMERON - Precious memories of our dad Ewen, died November 3, 2000. Always in our thoughts. - Emma and Eilidh, Drummarbin.

CRAIK - Treasured memories of our dearest parents, brothers Robert and Sandy and sister Nancy. Always remembered. - Chrissie and Charlotte.

HARLEY - In loving memory of Jennifer Ann Harley, who died October 31, 2008, aged 38 years. Loved and missed by her parents Joyce and Jim, daughter Nicola and grandson Ryan and all the family. Gone but not forgotten.

HARLEY - In memory of our sister Jennifer who passed away on October 31, 2008. Forever in our thoughts. - Susan and Diane, also loving aunt to Justine, Kyle, Robyn and Lauren xx

HENDRY - In loving memory of Malcolm from Mum, Marie and Liz, Alistair and Marie. I thought of you with love today. But that is nothing new I thought about you yesterday. And the days before that too I think of you in silence. And often speak your name. All I have are memories. And your picture in a frame. Your memory is my keepsake. With which I will never part. God has you in his keeping. I have you in my heart.

MACDONALD - On his first anniversary, in loving memory of my brother, uncle and great-uncle, Arthur, who passed away on October 26, 2013. Forever in our thoughts. - Mary and family xxx

MCCOLL - Special memories of my sister Madeline (Mairi) also my mum Merak and cousin Puggy.

MORRISON - Treasured memories of Ian (Heiker), who died October 29 2009. A dearly loved husband, dad and grampa. Sadly missed. Love always. - Petra, Duncan and family xxx

SIMPSON - In loving memory of Cathie (MacTavish), beloved wife of Joey and devoted mother of William. Much loved sister-in-law and aunt. Sorely missed.

SMITH - Remembering with love my husband David, died November 1, 2005. Years may pass and fade away but silent thoughts and memories stay. - Floey

WILL - Precious memories of Jason, died November 7, 1998. Sadly missed. - Love from all the family.

WILSON - In loving memory of our mum Margaret, who died on October 28, 2013. Forever in our hearts. - Donald, Joe, Eileen and families.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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Connel soup lunch raises money for Mary's Meals



FUNDRAISER: The soup lunch held at Connel church hall on Saturday. 16_144meals01

THE FUNDRAISING group Connel Friends of Mary's Meals held a soup lunch on Saturday to help children in west Africa affected by the Ebola virus. Schools in Malawi are closed due to the outbreak, meaning children who are normally fed at school are missing meals. Mary's Meals is delivering food to children in their own homes to make sure they are not going hungry while the

outbreak continues. Maureen Nicol of Connel Friends of Mary's Meals said: 'The schools are closed so Mary's Meals are providing this lifeline for children who would otherwise go hungry by delivering the food directly to them. It's such a good cause.' The soup lunch, held in Connel Church hall, raised £422, with the group already planning their next fundraiser - a Christmas fayre at the start of December.

70-year-old man sets new record for Munro climb

A FORMER Oban man has donated almost £5,000 to charity after setting a record time for climbing a Munro, at the age of 70. Iain Gill climbed Beinn Sgulaird in one hour 58 minutes, getting back to his car in a total time of three hours 26 minutes, in aid of charity ME Research UK. Iain, who celebrated his 70th birthday on July 2, chose the charity as his wife Isobel has suffered from ME for 17 years. He said: 'My target time was four and a half hours so the time achieved was better than I had dared to hope. 'I hope some others who are 70-plus will take up the challenge to beat my time, it's all good, healthy fun.'

£4,600 for research into ME, donating it to Dr Neil Abbot of ME Research UK on October 23. He added: 'A big thank you to all who helped me and the many who have contributed, making the pain and effort worthwhile.' ME Research UK is based in Perth, and funds biomedical research as part of an international drive to find a cure for the disease. For information how to donate to Iain's cause, visit: www.justgiving.com/IGill

Both Iain and Isobel were born in Oban and left in 1963, but are regularly back to visit family in the area from their home in Edinburgh. Iain was accompanied part of the way up and all of the way down the walk on August 14 by Gerry McPartlin of the Torridon Mountain Rescue team, his son Norman and daughter-in-law Beverly. The group walked to the top together, then Gerry accompanied Iain down at an aggressive pace to near the foot of the hill. Training for the challenge included Iain climbing the seven Lawers Munros in one day and several trips up Beinn Sgulaird, exploring different routes up its rocky north face. He has drafted a paper setting out in detail the route taken and other routes up the hill, and will email the paper out for any small donation made on his JustGiving page, for others who want to attempt the tricky climb. In total Iain, who attended Oban High school, has raised



RECORD TIME: Dr Neil Abbot (left) of ME Research UK receives the cheque for £4,600 from Iain Gill, who climbed a Munro in record time, shortly after his 70th birthday.

Bach Choir Remembrance concert

THE OBAN Bach Choir and Orchestra is holding a concert to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War on the eve of Remembrance Sunday. It will be held to remember The Fallen in the town's St John's Cathedral on Saturday November 8 at 7.30pm, with a performance of the moving Cherubini's Requiem; a composition first performed 200 years ago and well suited to the occasion. Schubert's Unfinished Symphony will also be performed. The Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra were founded in 1974 and they perform music mainly from the 18th century. The members come from Oban and a wide surrounding area, and are often joined in concert by professional soloists.

Oban student jointly curates new art exhibition

AN OBAN student is behind an innovative art exhibition which launches in Glasgow next Monday, showcasing work from emerging artists in Scotland. Tamara Richardson - who studies level 3 fine art at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD) in Dundee - is curating the 'Aurora' exhibition jointly with Rebecca Danks from Glasgow School of Art (GSA), which is a unique venture as it sees the two competing schools join forces. The event will run for one week only in GSA's Bourdon Building from November 1-8, open 9am-6pm Monday-Friday and 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday, showcasing a wide range of media from porcelain to film. It is also expected to open at Dundee at a later date.

Thought for the Week

Never more alive DID you ever go out guising? Old customs associated with Halloween are overlaid today with more commercial 'trick or treat'. Creative home-made disguises have given way to witch and skeleton costumes in child-sized. Some see this as harmless fun - others are not so sure. In our village tomorrow, parents will accompany small children, all dressed up, going door to door after dark, to greet neighbours who pretend surprise and offer small treats. Another generation: the 'Remembering the Ross' group, will have gathered to share stories over tea. I enjoy being part of these gentle activities which build community, on Scotland's Tell-a-Story Day. This year stories from the wider world are also on my mind. From West Africa, we've heard harrowing accounts of people suffering from Ebola but also tales of dedicated health workers - local people and some who've crossed continents to help - whose neighbourly actions echo the story of the Good Samaritan. Also, shocked by the execution of hostages in Iraq. I was moved by words from the families of David Haines and Alan Henning: 'Their desire to help was not driven by their religion, race or politics, but by their humanity. David and Alan were never more alive than when helping to alleviate the suffering of others.' I think of the story of Jesus: a life of caring and creating community, courage to the point of death, then resurrection, sign of that love in which we are 'never more alive'. Jan Sutch Pickard is a Methodist Lay Preacher in Mull.

Lochaber Pipe Band ceilidh

LOCHABER Pipe Band's annual ceilidh will be held on this Saturday. The dance in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, will feature music from the band itself as well as various local artists and visiting duo Eriskay Lilt. Pipe major, Moira Robertson, said: 'We are especially pleased to have the band's junior drummers performing both with the band and in a solo fanfare as only a year ago we had a shortage of drummers. It is credit to our drumming tutor, John Moneagle, that we are now able to put out a full drum corp consisting entirely of junior members.' Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are available from all band members of by calling Iain Robertson on 01397 704846 or 07584228587.

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Anyone for tennis?



WORLD FAMOUS tennis coach Judy Murray is on the search for the world's most remote tennis court. So far a contender at Bunabhainneadar on the Isle of Harris is in the lead, but does the west coast have any remote courts? Judy was on the road as part of a tennis campaign to encourage youngsters to take part in the game that has so influenced the lives of her sons, Jamie and Andy. Judy said: 'I started off as a volunteer coach at our local club when our kids were tiny and sort of developed from there as a coach and I've never lost my appetite for

Tennis

spreading the world of tennis and saying what a great sport it is. 'We just have this massive opportunity right now - we've got a role model, we've got a big buzz about it - we absolutely have to take advantage of that.' Judy says that having a tennis court is a bonus - as the game can be played anywhere. She said: 'The most important thing is to make sure you have fun and make sure people enjoy what they are doing.'

REMOTE: Judy Murray has set her sights on bringing tennis to remote and rural areas. Picture courtesy Stornoway Gazette

Indiscipline proves costly once again for Oban Lorne as they lose to Cumbernauld

BT West Division 2
Cumbernauld 18
Oban Lorne 12

OBAN Lorne recorded successive defeats for the first time in three years after indiscipline again proved their undoing.

The men in green were boosted by news that centre Craig Wright's red card - one of three in the last two games - had been overturned and he took his place in the starting line-up alongside the returning Corrie Louw, Donald Budge and Robin MacQueen.

But two yellow cards during the 80 minutes gave their opponents the advantage to edge the tie.

As league leaders, Oban would have been confident of retaining top spot but the defeat saw them drop to second place in the league.

Now the Oban side must get back to winning ways this Saturday as they entertain Paisley RFC at Glenclruitten.

With a driving wind blowing across the pitch last Saturday,

it was never going to be a pretty game for those in attendance at Cumbernauld.

Handling errors and silly penalties set the tone for a scrappy start but Oban did record the first score of the day after 10 minutes when prop Carl Lay touched down in the middle of a driving maul to give Oban a 5-0 advantage.

The men in green had most of the possession in the opening 20 minutes but struggled to get out of their own half, mainly because of the strong wind but also down to some poor decision making within the team.

Then the familiar sight of a yellow card being issued to a green jersey; this time scrum half Vasco Borisov was sin-binned, along with a Cumbernauld player.

The hosts were playing the conditions well and were kicking themselves into better areas of the field, while Oban were failing to get their dangerous runners onto the ball.

Cumbernauld went 6-5 up with another well taken penalty attempt and just as Oban had their 15 men reinstated, poor discipline was again the team's downfall when prop Donald Budge was sin-binned for handling in the ruck. Oban would play the rest of the half with 14 men, during which time the hosts extended their lead to 9-5.

Cumbernauld made the better start to the second half with a period of pressure within the Oban 22. The hosts, however, never looked close to crossing the try line and Oban eventually cleared their lines after being awarded a crucial penalty.

But Cumbernauld kept coming and extended their lead to 12-5 shortly after with another shot at goal.

Oban Lorne improved midway through the second half and were gaining more territory with a good scrum and some clever kicking. This led to the second try of the day, scored when Oban

Rugby

won the ball against the head at a Cumbernauld lineout. Corrie Louw gathered the ball in space after a couple of rucks close to the line and offloaded to Struan Smith who finished off under the posts. Andrew Abraham kicked the resulting conversion to tie the scores at 12-12.

Oban failed to build on this and were again undone by some poor decisions, lack of adapting the game plan and ultimately giving away too many penalties as Cumbernauld scored two further kicks to record a deserved 18-12 win.

This Saturday's match against Paisley kicks off at 2pm.

Mini rugby at Oban Lorne RFC has restarted on Wednesdays from 6-7pm at the clubhouse. Any youngster from primary one to primary seven is welcome to attend.

Top 10 finish for Jenny in Mallorca Triathlon

A FORMER Oban woman has completed an international triathlon for Team GB, overcoming soaring Mediterranean heat to earn a top-10 place.

Ex Oban High school pupil Jenny Bosman, 37, who now lives in Nottinghamshire, came fourth in her age category and was the 10th female overall in the ETU Middle Distance Triathlon Championships on Saturday, October 18 in Mallorca.

Mum-of-two Jenny, who competed for Oban Otters as a child, said: 'The race was incredibly tough, definitely my toughest to date and we raced in soaring temperatures, reportedly reaching 36 degrees.'

'I was pleased to be placed fourth in my age category and 10th female overall.'

The triathlon involved a 1.9km swim, followed by a 90 km cycle and finally a 21 km run.

Jenny was one of 18 competitors in the female, 35-to-39-year-old category and was up against athletes from all over Europe.

She now hopes to qualify for the Iron Man World Championships in 2016.



ON HER BIKE: Jenny, who didn't own a bike until 2012, came fourth in her age category at the ETU Middle Distance Triathlon Championships in Mallorca.

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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE.

Irish eyes are smiling as they teach Scotland second half scoring lesson

Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling
2nd Test Match
Ireland 24
Scotland 8

SCOTLAND manager Ronald Ross could find no fault with his players as the Irish overturned a first leg defeat to secure the 2014 Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International Series trophy on Saturday.

Michael Walshe's hurlers had it all to do after losing in Inverness and the Scots were hopeful of finishing the job at Pairc an Esler in Newry.

That didn't happen, as a resurgent Ireland side ran out 24-8 victors and secured the series quaiach 4-3 after scoring two goals in County Down and earning a vital bonus point.

Despite the disappointment, new national boss Ross MBE praised his players' effort and determination and set his sights on further progress in 2015.

'There is no doubt we have come on leaps and bounds this year. In the end, we were beaten by a better side who deserved to win.'

'They were 10 levels up from the way they played in Inverness and they did not let us play our game at all.'

'In saying that, the players could not have given any more. I feel we

have a good nucleus of a squad. We took our biggest victory to Ireland in many years but there is no doubt that, while we can win the one-off games, we struggle to win over two legs.'

It is possible the Scots will seek a discussion with Irish counterparts on whether the series should remain a two-match contest.

Certainly, Ireland were a different proposition from test one and appear to be able to call on extra reserves over a two-leg challenge.

In Eoin Price of Westmeath they had a formidable performer and it was ultimately his two three-point goals that secured the victory.

Kevin Bartlett, the Scottish stand-out from leg one, was again dominant with all of the visitors' eight points through strikes over the bar.

However, the action under the floodlights concentrated mostly around Stuart MacDonald's goal.

Interestingly, although Ireland were 9-4 up at the interval, at that point, the Scots would still have won the series thanks to aggregate scoring.

David McNerney opened Ireland's account with a double point strike and they were served by further first half points by Price (5), Paul Divilly and Patrick Maher.

Shinty / Hurling

The second half was a lesson in Irish power. Barring four points from Bartlett, it was a green and white tour de force.

Price grabbed the crucial three point goal, which secured the series by a bonus point, and a further two points.

The Irish were also abetted by counters from Conor McCann (1), Connor Lehane (5) Larkin McLaughlin (1) and Jonny McCusker (3).

For the Scots, it was not to be and they will now endeavour to build on the positives. So near, so far, yet plenty of scope for optimism.

“They were 10 levels up on the way they played in Inverness”

RONALD ROSS
Scotland Manager



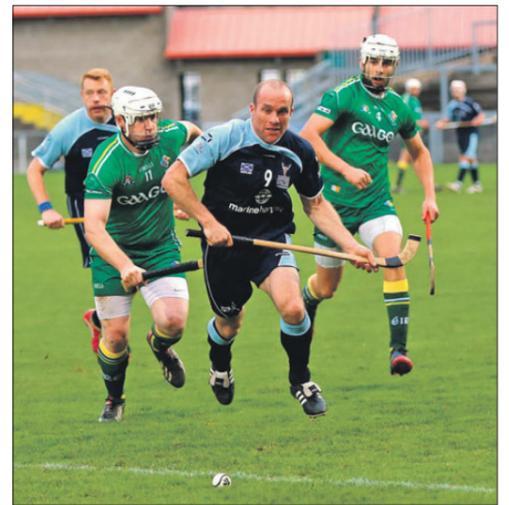
ON THE BALL: Scotland's Finlay Macrae moves in for a tackle on his Irish opponent Photos: Kim Ferguson



ATTACK: Scotland's John Barr tries in vain to stop the Irish mounting another attack



MARKED MAN: Kevin Bartlett gets away from his Irish markers



ON THE CHARGE: John MacDonald outpaces his Irish markers

Success for Under 21 and Camogie teams

WHILE it was heartbreak for the Scottish senior team, the under-21s tasted success on Irish soil for the first time with a 21-7 win.

Greg Matheson's two goals helped the youngsters restore national pride, with Lewis Tawse and Fort William's Arran MacPhee also hitting the net.

Matheson added eight points over the bar, with MacPhee also gaining one extra point.

The Scottish women also recorded a win over a County Down Select in the shinty/camogie contest in Ireland.

Katie Drain (2), Lisa Norman MacColl and Kirsty MacDonald got the goals with Lorna MacRae and Katy Smith adding the extras.

Results
U-21s - Ireland 0-7 [7 Points] (Seanda Morey 0-1, Aidan Morrissey 0-2, Gerry

Keegan 0-3, Thomas Casey 0-1); Scotland 4-9 [21 points] (Greg Matheson 2-8, Lewis Tawse 1-0, Arran MacPhee 1-1).

Women - County Down 1-6 (9 points) [Catherine McGourty 0-5, Colleen Clarke 1-0, Niamh Mallon 0-1]; Scotland 4-2 (14 points) [Katie Drain 2-1, Lisa Norman MacColl 1-0, Lorna MacRae 0-1, Kirsty MacDonald 1-0, Katy Smith 0-1].



CELEBRATION: Scotland Under 21s celebrate after their first win on Irish soil



FLYING THE FLAG: Scotland Ladies fly the flag after their 6-1 defeat of County Down

Boost for Oban side as appeal is upheld

OBAN Camanachd have welcomed a decision by shinty's governing body that allows defender James MacMillan to play in their crucial rescheduled National Division decider against Fort William.

MacMillan picked up a booking in the abandoned game between the two sides at Mossfield on September 27.

Although this took him over the disciplinary threshold, the resulting two-match ban would not have come into effect until 14 days after that date.

However, attempts to play the rematch within this time were not possible because of international fixtures and as a result MacMillan would have missed the rescheduled match.

Last Thursday an Oban

Camanchd appeal against his suspension was upheld by shinty's Behaviour in Sport Committee, meaning MacMillan's ban will now come into effect at the start of next season. It was also decided that the rescheduled match would take place on November 8.

Oban Camanachd president Allan Dunning and manager Gussie Campbell represented the club at the appeal in Fort William and both agreed the decision had restored their faith in the Camanachd Association.

Mr Dunning said: 'We are very pleased with the decision, which was taken unanimously and very quickly.'

'It is a big boost for the club because James' suspension was such a disappointment.'

'But we felt we had a strong case,

which has proved to be correct.' Mr Campbell added: 'The Camanachd Association has acted appropriately and I think we have found a solution that everyone is happy with.'

'James is an important player for us but it didn't matter who it was, I would have fought that case for any of my players because it was unfair in my eyes.'

The Camanachd Association overturned MacMillan's suspension because of 'extraordinary circumstances' that the following four Saturdays after September 27 were allocated for international commitments.

The rescheduled game on November 8 at Mossfield Park will have free admission, with donations to a recognised local charity.

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	10	2	2	37	17	22
Lovat	14	7	5	2	32	20	19
Glenurquhart	14	7	4	3	25	16	18
Kingussie	14	7	2	5	31	29	16
Kyles Athletic	14	6	4	4	25	20	14
Inveraray	14	3	4	7	18	29	10
Kinlochshiel	14	2	3	9	21	34	7
Lochaber	14	1	2	11	18	42	4

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	13	11	2	0	70	10	24
Oban Camanachd	13	11	1	1	46	12	23
Kilmallie	14	10	1	3	54	22	21
Beaulie	14	7	1	6	37	29	15
Caberfeidh	14	5	1	8	31	39	11
Glasgow MA	14	4	0	10	25	47	8
Glenorchy	14	2	1	11	12	57	5
Bute	14	1	1	12	8	67	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	14	13	1	0	53	7	27
Newtonmore	14	9	1	4	42	16	19
Strathglass	14	7	1	6	38	32	15
Beaulie	14	6	2	6	31	36	14
Glenurquhart	14	5	3	6	28	33	13
Kingussie	14	5	1	8	35	48	9
Lovat	14	4	0	10	30	48	8
Inverness	14	1	3	10	21	58	5

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ballachulish	14	9	5	0	39	15	23
Kyles Athletic	14	8	4	2	47	19	20
Oban Celtic	14	6	4	4	20	27	16
Aberdour	14	6	3	5	32	31	15
Lochside Rovers	14	6	3	5	32	34	15
Strachur	14	3	3	8	18	33	9
Taynuilt	14	2	4	8	32	46	8
Kilmory	14	2	2	10	16	31	6

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	14	11	1	2	55	20	23
Lochcarron	14	8	2	4	38	46	18
Glenarry	14	8	1	5	25	31	17
Lochaber	14	6	1	7	50	39	13
Kinlochshiel	14	5	3	6	27	33	11
Boleskine	14	5	0	9	29	48	10
Skye	14	4	1	9	38	35	9
Aberdeen Uni	14	3	3	8	29	39	9

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	14	12	2	0	66	7	26
Tayforth	14	12	1	1	51	10	25
Glasgow MA	14	7	1	6	46	29	15
Bute	14	5	2	7	25	37	11
Col Glen	14	5	2	7	36	36	10
Ballachulish	14	6	0	8	28	43	10
Glenorchy	14	3	1	10	20	40	6
Aberdour	14	1	1	12	14	84	3

Marine Harvest North Division 3							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	14	10	2	2	52	17	22
Kilmallie	14	6	3	5	51	28	14
Lewis	14	6	2	6	29	30	14
Strathspey	14	6	1	7	28	44	12
Lochbroom	14	4	4	6	19	36	9
Inverness	14	3	2	9	24	48	8

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

best for shinty news, views and photographs

Let's get ready to rumble - the martial arts grudge fight is on

THE DATE is set, the venue confirmed and tickets went on sale this week - the big fight is on.

Two of Oban's most successful martial artists, Robert Neil of the Shotokan-style Oban Kar@e Club and Wullie Rodger of Sen-shi Do Kickboxing Oban, will go head-to-head in a grudge match in the town's Corran Halls on December 13 at 1pm.

The scheduled fight is a culmination of a war of words between the two, who have agreed a set of rules that combines aspects of their respective styles of karate.

The match-up will give the winner the bragging rights but both fighters are keen to raise as much money as they can from the bout for Glasgow's Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital, where Robert's son, Seoras, underwent major heart surgery.

Robert said: 'My partner Claire and I went through a horrendous ordeal when in November 2011 our youngest son, who was only one week old, was airlifted from Oban hospital to Yorkhill for major heart surgery which saved his life.'

'Proceeds from this fight is one way we can thank the hospital and staff for saving our son.'

'I am looking forward to the event and hope many people can come along and give each of us

Martial Arts

support. It will be an exciting and challenging bout for two competitive fighting athletes.

'Both Wullie and I have been in training to see who will be local champion on the day.'

'Wullie, who has previously stated on the record of having "been there and done it", should be more than a formidable opponent for me on the day.'

'I have been continuing with my competitive karate tournaments on a regular basis but as for "been there and done it" in martial arts, I think I may have a way to go before I could make such a statement.'

'However, I feel pretty confident at winning on the day and I am sure Wullie has a similar mind set of the outcome - game on!'

Wullie is a former World United Martial Arts (WUMA) super heavyweight champion of Britain but Robert has been competing regularly over the past year, unlike his opponent, and at the beginning of this year Robert won gold in the over-35 Masters Kumite (sparring) at the Scottish Karate Grand Prix.

Tickets for the fight are available from the Juicy Roast Cafe, Argyll Street, Oban.



Wullie Rodger



Robert Neil.



CRASHED OUT: A disappointed John McPhee being interviewed after crashing out of the Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang while chasing a podium place Photo: Bonnie Lane/CanBelImages

So near and yet so far for McPhee

JOHN McPhee's hopes of landing a maiden podium finish are on hold for a further two weeks after he crashed out of the final lap of the Malaysian Grand Prix at Sepang while scrapping for third place.

The SaxoPrint-RTG Honda rider was within three-tenths of a second of the lead at the end of the penultimate lap while in fifth with just 0.542s covering the top six riders.

The Connel man, who had briefly held second place in the constant to-ing and fro-ing of the lead group of six riders, had

dropped to fifth behind team-mate Efrén Vazquez, chief title rivals Jack Miller and Alex Marquez, and Alex Rins when he slid out of contention and into the gravel.

'I am really disappointed with the finish in the race,' said the 20-year-old. 'We had a strong weekend. But it was my own mistake. I came into the last lap on first position. Then some rider went wide and pushed me to the outside. I wanted to fight back and go to the front again but that was when I made a mistake and crashed.'

'It is part of the learning. I will take all

Motorcycling

these experiences to Valencia and hope to finish the season with a good race.'

His frustration was compounded by the fact that he had missed out on a top three finish in each of the two previous grand prix by a mere two-tenths of a second.

McPhee, who remains 13th in the championship, now carries his long-held goal over to the season finale at Valencia in a fortnight.

Scottish Cup exit for ladies

OBAN Lorne ladies exited the Scottish Cup at the first round after losing a difficult tie against Broughton Rugby in Edinburgh.

A well-fought match in wild conditions on Sunday saw the Oban

Women's Rugby

side put in a tireless effort but they were eventually outclassed by the home side from Fortress Wardie who took the win 56 - 22.



GETTING TO GRIPS: Lorne's Emma Roxburgh gets to grip with her Broughton opponent

Oban brothers train with Scotland squads

TWO up and coming rugby star brothers from Oban hope to play professionally for their country one day after competing at under-18 and under-20 level.

Fergus Bradbury, 17, plays as a tighthead prop for his school team Merchiston Castle and recently joined the Scotland under-18 squad in the run-up to the Rugby Europe tournament in France.

Back row

He is a former pupil of Oban high school, along with his 19 year-old sibling Magnus, who plays at back row for Broughmuir RFC and has trained with the Scotland under-20s, competing for a place in the Six Nations early next year.

Magnus has been involved with the under-20s for more than a year and was at the first training camp of the 2014/15 season in October, though could not take part due to a dead leg.

Rugby

He said: 'I've been playing for Scotland for four years, first in the under-17s, then the under-18s and 20s.'

'It's very competitive and most view it as a step-up to professional rugby.'

Magnus regularly offers advice to his brother, who, like him, resides in Edinburgh and was his former team-mate in the Oban high school side.

Fergus said: 'I need to wait until Christmas time for the final cut of 26 players for Rugby Europe in France.'

'The Scotland [under-18] camps are tough but I'm enjoying them. I enjoy playing at a high level; I like to be able to push myself.'

HIGH LEVEL: Magnus, left and Fergus Bradbury are Scotland representatives



Saints on Scottish Cup duty

Football

OBAN Saints will be hoping to return to action this Saturday after last weekend's home league game against Alba Thistle was called off when a pitch inspection found Glencruitten to be unplayable after the heavy rain.

The Scottish Amateur League premier division champions face a tough test on Saturday when they take on Caledonian League side Giffnock North in the third round of the Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup.

The Glasgow side are presently lying in second place in the Caledonian League premier division behind Bearsden but have played three games less.

Saints will be out for revenge as Giffnock knocked them out of the West of Scotland Cup last season on penalties after the game had finished 2-2.

North went on to reach the final of the competition but lost out to Hurlford in the final.

Manager Iain Jackson is looking forward to the game. He said: 'Giffnock are a top class side, and it will be a difficult game for us but I hope home advantage will give us the edge this time.'

'I thought we were unlucky to lose to them in the West last season so a good game is in prospect on Saturday between two teams who like to get the ball down and pass it about.'

'We are starting to get a few of our players back from injury - Craig MacEwan, Scott Maitland and Dougal Graham returned in the 7-1 win over Glenburn and hopefully Marc MacCallum and Donnie Campbell will also be back soon.'

The game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Peter Laing from Lochgilphead.

Saints have been drawn away to Rosehill Star in the West of Scotland Cup third round.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

Youth Football

LAST weekend's results - Kilpatrick v Under 13s postponed; Under 14s v Ardencaple postponed; Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game. Under 19s 3, Westerton 1. Saints goalscorers were Josh Coates (2) and Duggie Tyrrell Bunge.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Milngavie BC; Blair Thistle v Under 14s; Under 15s v Stenhousemuir; Blairdardie v Under 16s; Under 19s no game.

Amateur football results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints v Alba Thistle postponed, Eaglesham 1, Campbeltown Pupils 0. Premier Division Two - Drumchapel Amateur Colts 6, Lochgilphead Red Star 2. Division 1B - Tarbert v Carlton YM postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures - Scottish Amateur Cup Third Round - Oban Saints v Giffnock North; Luncearty v Campbeltown Pupils; Dysart v Tarbert. Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Port Glasgow Amateurs.

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WEATHER		TIDAL INFORMATION
Thursday	Heavy rain Winds moderate south easterly Temperatures 12°C to 13°C.	
Friday	Heavy rain Winds strong southerly Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.	
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds strong south south westerly Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.	

FRIDAY

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, October 30, 2014 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

Date	am			pm		
Thur	03.36	1.4	09.38	3.4	16.21	1.6
Fri	04.48	1.5	10.57	3.2	17.40	1.6
Sat	06.11	1.6	13.11	3.3	19.01	1.6
Sun	01.49	3.0	07.31	1.5	14.21	3.5
Mon	02.54	3.2	08.42	1.3	15.13	3.8
Tues	03.39	3.5	09.40	1.0	15.57	4.0
Wed	04.15	3.7	10.29	0.8	16.36	4.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-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

Get ready for WINTER MOTORING



Bride hitches boat ride to her wedding

A BRIDE almost missed her wedding when the A82 landslips left her stranded in Fort William. Nikki Jasiczak was due to marry her fiancé Daniel Cole in the Ballachulish Hotel on Sunday but feared she wouldn't make it there when the torrential rain caused two landslips on the road between her home in Achnabobane, Spean Bridge, and her wedding venue. But the mother of two was rescued by Lochaber skipper Ryan Tozer of iPowerboat, who picked up the nine-strong bridal party from Ardgour and took them to meet the groom by motorboat. The new Mrs Jasiczak-Cole said: 'It was unbelievable, you couldn't have dreamt what happened. We got as far as Fort William and the traffic was queued right back. A police officer said no traffic was getting through, I asked if we could walk over instead but they said it wasn't safe. When I heard the hotel staff had arranged us a boat I thought it would be a bit like a fairytale but the conditions were rocky to say the very least. We all made it one piece only a couple of hours late... drenched, but we made it at least. If it wasn't for the skipper and the hotel the wedding never would have gone ahead and the day was just superb. The atmosphere was just electric because of everything that had happened beforehand.'



Daniel and Nikki Jasiczak-Cole were reunited in time for their wedding

A82 blocked as Fort travellers faced 160-mile detour



CHAOS: Tree trunks blocked the A82 as water poured down the hillside at Glenrigh

Down came the trees

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER'S trunk road has returned to normal after it descended into chaos at the weekend. The A82 was closed for more than 24 hours when torrential rain caused two landslips at Corrychurachan, five miles south of Fort William, on Sunday leaving almost 60 people trapped for five hours. Nobody was injured but a number of vehicles were blocked between the slips which were half a mile apart and those who weren't stuck faced a diversion of 161 miles to get in and out of Fort William until the road reopened at 3.30pm on Monday. Fort William and Ardnarnachan area inspector Donald Campbell said the people trapped had 'good spirit and patience' while engineers from BEAR Scotland and the Forestry

Commission cleared the blockage but even after the road reopened it was to single file traffic due to concerns about damage on the Corrychurachan Bridge. This has sparked fresh calls for improvements to the Inverness to Glasgow trunk road and campaign group the A82 Partnership says the problems must be addressed. Speaking on behalf of the group, Stewart MacLean said: 'This once again shows the vulnerability of the road. It should be another clue to Transport Scotland that something needs to be done.' A Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We understand the importance of the A82 to communities in the area and we are in regular discussion with them about our plans for the maintenance of the route with £57 million invested since 2007. The recent closure of the road south of Fort William has further

highlighted that the resilience of this section of the road needs further enhancement. We intend to urgently discuss this with the Forestry Commission to ensure that the problems encountered this week do not reoccur.' Following a meeting of the Scottish government's 'resilience team' to address the weather problems, transport minister Keith Brown said public safety was a 'top priority'. David Stewart, Highlands and Islands MSP, raised concerns that the landslips may have been as a result of tree felling on the hills above the A82 at Glenrigh, one mile north of Corran. He said: 'I am concerned that it appears as if some landslips, such as on the A82, were not only caused by heavy rain and wind but potentially also due to poor planning by the Forestry Commission which has been carrying out extensive tree felling along the A82 over the



PUDDLES: Flooding on the main road to Inverlochty, Fort William

past number of weeks, which may increase the likelihood of landslips occurring. 'It is right that the Scottish Government looks into this issue to ensure that rural communities in the Highlands which have little or no alternative transport or road links are not cut off.' A Forestry Commission spokesperson was unavailable for comment. Elsewhere, fire service staff from Kinlochleven were deployed to pump water out of Ballachulis. The main road into Inverlochty village Fort William, was seriously flooded and ditch clearing work was carried out to prevent flooding at Glen Nevis.

Costa coffee moves in on high street

A NEW Costa coffee shop to open on Fort William High Street has split opinion in the town. The cafe, expected to open in early December, will be at the west end of the street, alongside JD Wetherspoon, Superdrug and Cotswold Outdoor but local business owners say they are worried that the multi-national chain company could impact their trade. Sue Tsang, who owns Aroma cafe in the town, said: 'It will probably be quite damaging to us. I know it will definitely affect us but we won't know how much until it's actually open and probably not until the busy summer season. I think big chain cafes like that are better suited to cities instead of towns like this where so many local people rely on the trade to make a living. I'm disappointed that the council didn't think more about how local people will be damaged by this.' Susan Mackin, doesn't think Ecosse, where she is assistant manager, will lose out too much but says there are already enough coffee shops in the town. She said: 'We might lose a bit of custom but we're not too worried because by the sound of it Costa is going to be quite small and we're popular with people coming in with prams and wheelchairs because we have so much space so I think we will appeal to different markets. I don't really think we need another cafe on the street though.' But student Callum Duncan said he would prefer to eat and drink in a chain cafe than a local business. He added: 'It's hard to be a student in a place like Fort William because most big companies give student discounts or other offers but independent places don't so because we don't have many chain stores students here miss out on those deals and spend more money.'



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Erin, 6, donates her hair to do 'something special' to help children who have lost theirs through illness

A KIND-HEARTED Lochaber girl had her waist-length hair cut off to donate to children with cancer. Erin MacCallum-Millar, six, was just four years old when she told her parents she wanted to do 'something special' for sick little girls so, after two years of growing her brunette locks, the Duror primary school pupil had her very first haircut, chopping off seven inches and raising almost £500 in the process. Erin's chopped plaits have now been donated to the Little Princess Trust where they will be made into a wig for a child who has lost their hair through cancer treatment and other illnesses. Erin's mum, Natasha MacCallum-Millar, said: 'I'm so proud of her, the whole family is. Erin was only four when she saw something on TV and said she wanted to cut off her hair so we never thought she would actually go through with it. To be so thoughtful at just six years old really is amazing.' Erin's donations page is via www.justgiving.com/Natasha-MacCallum-Millar.



Erin MacCallum-Millar, six, spent two years growing her hair



Erin's hair will be made into a wig for a young cancer patient

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Councillor defends social media photos as party condemns him

Duncansburgh church roof raised by male voice choir

THE ROOF of the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William, may have been threatened by the stormy weather last Saturday but it was almost lifted for another reason when the East Fife Male Voice Choir gave a concert.

More than £900 was raised for Lochaber children's charity Star for Harris and the 40-strong group included songs from the First World War, from various shows and ended with Morte Christie.

For this item the choir was joined by members of the newly formed Duncansburgh Male Voice Choir.

Musical director was Jim Broadley, the accompanist Robin Bell, both well known in musical circles in Fife and beyond. Robin played an outstanding solo on the organ, Now Thank We all our God by Karl Elert.

Everyone enjoyed tea and cakes in the new hall after the concert and organisers thanked everyone who participated.

Career fair to set out opportunities for employment

MORE than 50 businesses from across the Highlands will be represented at a career fair in Fort William.

The Energise West event in West Highland College will showcase employment opportunities in Lochaber and beyond, with college staff on hand to explain training opportunities.

School pupils from across the region will be attending on November 12 and 13 but this is not just for young people, anyone considering a career change is welcome to attend.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce chairman, Bruno Berardelli, said: 'With more than 50 companies already signed up for this event and training opportunities being highlighted by West Highland College, it certainly presents a unique overview of just what Lochaber and the Highlands has to offer through the huge diversity of business sectors existing in the area.'

A HIGHLAND councillor has defended 'anti-Islamic' photos he shared online after they were called 'wholly unacceptable' by his former Liberal Democrat colleagues.

Councillor Drew Millar, who represents the Isle of Skye, resigned from the party last week when members of the Highland branch said images he shared via extreme right-wing organisation Britain First were not in keeping with the party's values.

But councillor Millar, who was chairman of the council's community safety, public engagement and equalities committee, said he stands by the social media posts, which show demonstrators with signs threatening a 'Europe 9/11', which he called 'completely wrong'.

A statement from the Highland Lib Dem council group said councillor Millar was given an opportunity to voluntarily stand aside from his position during an investigation, which he refused.

A spokesman said: 'The group was made aware that councillor Drew Millar had shared with friends on his Facebook page images and comments which came from Britain First, an extreme right wing organisation. This was anti-Islamic material used by Britain First to stir up religious hatred.'

'In the strongest possible terms, the Liberal Democrat group condemns the dissemination of such material as utterly reprehensible and wholly unacceptable. It has no place in our free and tolerant society and any councillor, from any political party, should face swift and appropriate action when found to be in breach of stringent regulations governing the conduct of members.'

But the long-standing Skye

councillor said he believes he has done nothing wrong, and was forced to resign when his position became 'untenable'.

He said he planned to continue his work as a non-aligned council member until the next election when he will retire.

He added: 'I've been accused of being anti-Muslim and I'm not at all but I am anti-terrorist. I don't believe people should be allowed to go round the streets threatening terrorism no matter what their race or religion, it's completely wrong.'

'I refused to stand aside because I believe in the principle of innocent until proven guilty. It was arranged that I would explain my actions at a meeting the following week but my position was made untenable so I felt I had no choice but to leave and I may as well resign from the party.'

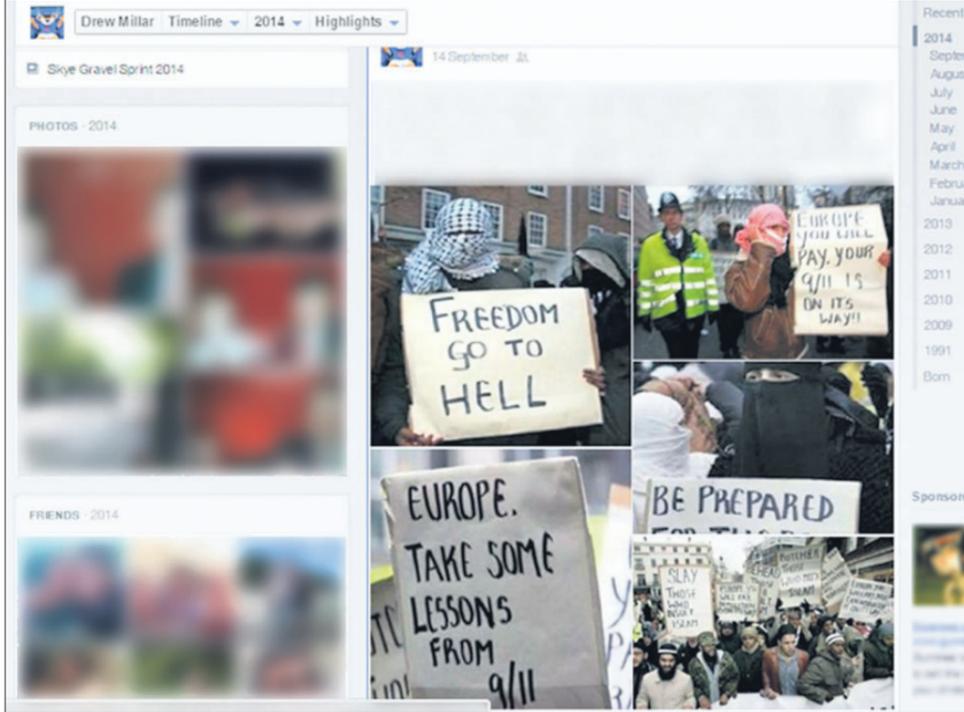
'I'm very disappointed as I really enjoyed chairing the committee and I like to think I did a good job.'

A photo was also shared calling Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg a 'cretin'.

He said: 'Maybe it wasn't the best idea to share a photo calling the party leader that, but I think it's true.'



Skye councillor Drew Millar



SHARED: The photos which Highland Liberal Democrats said councillor Drew Millar shared on social media

Lochaber comes together for cancer

FUNDRAISING group Lochaber Together has thanked volunteers for their help in raising a impressive £1,500 for Cancer Research UK, during a spectacular street party in Fort William.

The town's high street was transformed into a sea of colour and bright lights - complete with fire dancers and a massive cèilidh - as part of the nationwide 'Stand up to Cancer' event on the evening of Saturday, October 18.

A total of £1,114 was raised through collection boxes, wristband and glowstick sales alone, with £500 raised from the Cancer Research UK shop, while across the whole UK £14 million was raised the previous night from the 'Stand up to Cancer' live television fundraiser.

Adam Ramsey, chairman of Cancer Research Fort William, said: 'This is quite a big jump in the fight against cancer.'

'We want to thank our volunteers and Highland council, which closed the road for us.'

'We also want to thank the local door staff who helped police the street and MW Sound which

set up the PA.' Large crowds joined Lochaber Together volunteers from 5pm for a massive Strip the Willow along the precinct, followed by a cèilidh and local musicians

singing in a karaoke.

Firedancers 'Arson About' performed throughout the night before the event came to a close with everybody joining together for a massive conga.

Lochaber Together is continuing to look for volunteers - if interested please contact Adam on 07887 706 100 or email to adam@lochaber-together.co.uk.



FIERY DISPLAY: Firedancers 'Arson About' with their spectacular display on Fort William High Street as part of the 'Stand up to Cancer' event

ADVERTORIAL

Argyll home owners cash in on £1.25m windfall - 'A lot more to come'

BARCALDINE-based business Renewables Now released a startling statistic this week: their customers are qualifying for more than £1.25m of income so far, from the government Renewable Heat Incentive scheme (RHI). The RHI scheme pays homeowners to use renewable heating systems such as heat pumps and pellet boilers to heat their homes.

Will Currie, managing director of Renewables Now, is amazed at how much income is being generated since the scheme opened in April this year. 'Last week we looked at the figures we have on file here and I was stunned at the amount of money our customers are benefitting from to date. This is just the start of the scheme. We have a lot more installations

in the pipeline.' The RHI is effectively a reward for people who replace their current heating appliances with a renewable heating system.

This reduces their CO2 output and assists the government in reaching its 2020 carbon reduction targets. Once a qualifying renewable heating system is installed the owner of the new system is entitled to register for seven years of quarterly payments via the RHI scheme.

'I've replaced my oil boiler with a pellet boiler,' said one customer. 'I'm now receiving £3,200 per year for the next seven years and my fuel is costing me about £1,200. Over the seven years it'll pay for my fuel and the installation costs, so effectively it's free.'

Backing up the UK wide RHI scheme is a Scottish government interest free loan of up to £10,000 to assist with the installation costs and this level of support shows the government's commitment to supporting domestic renewable heating. Renewables Now customers, who have installed biomass boilers are receiving on average, an annual income of £2,318, for ground source heat pumps £2,510 and for air source heat pump customers £868 per year. These are significant sums and uptake of the scheme is growing rapidly.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), expects the scheme to be open to applicants until March 2021 although tariffs for new entrants are likely to reduce over this period.

Renewables Now Director Ann Rowan says demand is very high: 'Not a lot of people have heard about the RHI scheme since it started, but those who have, are keen to benefit from it. Our numbers of enquiries have soared as word of this fantastic opportunity spreads. We really need more installers to meet the demand. I don't think there is a better way to invest your money at the moment.'

This windfall of £1.25 million is only going to increase and you can become part of it, so come along to the Renewables Technology Showcase this Saturday November 1 at Oban high school and talk to Renewables Now and Home Energy Scotland to discover what the RHI can do for you.

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MORE TOWN CENTRE SPACES AVAILABLE THANKS TO NEW SCHEME

McCuish has parking cash in his sights

LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

A POTENTIAL cash boost of almost £500,000 from parking charges has been put on hold by a council committee.

Meanwhile Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee is carrying out a parking review in Oban - 'one stage at a time.'

But Oban councillors are being asked to rise to the challenge of plans being drawn up by a Helensburgh councillor, who is hoping his area can keep all the car park cash raised there - and drastically reduce the time locals have to pay for parking.

Former council leader James Robb from Helensburgh asked members of the August policy and resources committee to consider giving revenue gained from parking in the four main towns to each of the local area committees to spend.

One of 17 members on the committee who voted against the plan, Oban area committee chairman Roddy McCuish argued that councillor Robb's motion 'went too far' and he wanted to 'do things a stage at a time.'

Councillor McCuish said: 'I think we have to look closely in future at having a great deal more money staying in the area generating it.'

A consultation with the Oban community and businesses is in the process of being put together on the issue of parking.

'I have had a lot of positive feedback from businesses, which

are seeing a greater availability of parking spaces in the town centre, which is exactly the point of the council taking on the responsibility for parking enforcement.'

He said the option of Oban keeping parking revenues might well come out in the review responses but added: 'It would be daft to have a review and ignore it.'

'We have to be careful of setting a precedent, for example if Helensburgh and Lomond kept all its council tax, that would greatly affect the rest of Argyll and Bute.'

'I wish councillor Robb well in his endeavour and we will be watching closely at how he achieves this.'

Councillor Robb wants to make parking free in Helensburgh to bring people back into the town



Oban area committee chairman councillor Roddy McCuish

by only charging after the first three hours per day. He would like to do this with the support of the Helensburgh area committee.

Councillor Robb, a former finance spokesman for the authority, said parking fees in Bute and Cowal raised £66,000, in Mid Argyll and Kintyre raised £70,000, in Helensburgh and Lomond raised £158,000 while Oban, Lorn and the Isles raised £416,000 per year.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Income generated from parking is used for the upkeep of parking facilities throughout the council area.'

Robert MacLean, from Oban, who regularly takes his disabled daughter to the beach at Ganavan has asked when some of the cash might be used to sort out that car park.

He said: 'If money is being used for the upkeep of car parks it is high time they sorted the marking of bays. The way I see it at the moment the council don't have any right to charge because the official notices say 'park in marked bays' - well, there aren't any.'

Businessman Graham Fraser from Alba art and gifts shop on Albany Street said if charges were being removed elsewhere, they should be removed in Oban.

'The parking charges are not working for many of the businesses, they are scaring people away from the town. We need to either get rid of parking charges - or, thinking about giving residents a parking permit.'

No, not Venice - Oban!



OBAN man Hector Macdonald was forced to push the boat out on Tuesday morning, after flooding left his work lorry trapped in Glencruitten Road.

In a moment of inspired 'blue skies thinking', he used a speedboat stored in his work

yard and took to the flood water on Lochavullin Road, paddling slowly past submerged cars in his makeshift lifeboat, taking a passenger with him on the way.

High tides, torrential rain and overflowing rivers had caused chaos over the previous seven days, with landslides trapping drivers for five hours on Sunday night on the A82 in Lochaber.

A full round-up of the floods chaos is on page nine and an exclusive picture special on page 10.

Getting a longer bang for bucks

THE SKIES above Oban will be lit up with a fireworks display on November 5, thanks to a business well known in the town.

Pyrol, the company behind Oban's infamous 'Obang' when a full display was fired off in just one minute in 2011, will return to the town to deliver a display that should last a little longer.

The display, which will take place over Oban Bay, will also welcome the Scottish Rural Parliament to the town.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish is encouraging people to come along at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start and enjoined businesses in the town to open late to take advantage of the extra footfall.

Tapping into the power of the press

WITH people across the West Highlands suffering from the effects of too much water, islanders on Coll are celebrating after a drinking water tap was reconnected.

The tap at the middle pier toilets was cut off by Scottish Water two weeks ago, much to chagrin of the islanders.

Scottish Water relented after *The Oban Times* contacted it and the tap was turned back on last week, with one community councillor calling it 'a victory for common sense'.

Tree felling raised in parliament

THE SCOTTISH Government has been urged to ensure tree-felling work in the West Highlands does not trigger landslides which then lead to road closures.

Labour MSP Dave Stewart raised the issue with Transport Minister Keith Brown on Tuesday after an incident on the A82 a mile north of Corran led to the road being closed for more than 30 hours.

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Hardship fund set to rise as more people apply for help

NOVEMBER is likely to see an increased number of people applying to Argyll and Bute council's welfare fund.

Following a trend set last year, individuals have claimed almost £17,000 a month for items such as unexpected expenses, travel and lost money.

The money given out by Argyll and Bute council, on behalf of the Scottish government, provides a safety net for the poorest households.

Argyll social fund has helped more than 2957 vulnerable people in its first 15 months. In Argyll and Bute, this amounted to grants of £303,969.

The local authority made 460 emergency grants to households, although it did receive applications from 1,670.

Applications from people who were penalised under new 'bedroom tax' legislation reached 1,231, many of whom went onto receive a payment via the council.

Since April, the local authority has made payments of £163,216 with £119,372 in community care grants and £43,845 in crisis grants.

One woman, who received the grant, said the process within the local authority made the application easy and confidential.

She said: 'I left my husband after I found out he had been cheating on me. I had very little money and nowhere to turn. I can not praise the staff in Oban council office for the care and support they gave me.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'At the moment, the scheme has been widened to include low priority as well as high and medium priority cases.'

'We would expect to see an increase in November in line with last year's pattern.'

A spokeswoman for the Scottish government said: 'Between April 2013 and June this year, the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) provided 70,000 crisis grants to low income families and community care grants to 43,000 households to help them live independently.'

'Latest data shows the average crisis support is £70 and is usually to help with food and heating bills. Some £980,000 was given out for food between April and June, up from £300,000 during the same period last year.'

'The fund has been administered by councils since its launch last year. Figures show £2million of community care grants were awarded for cookers, washing machines and fridges while £1.8million was for the refit of carpets and flooring.'

'A further £130,000 was granted for clothing and shoes.'

'Ministers are now pushing ahead with legislation that will put the SWF on a statutory footing so that all local authorities will be required to maintain a fund. Councils will also have the option of running the SWF jointly with other local authorities.'

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SEVEN DAYS OF RELENTLESS RAIN DRIVES MOTORISTS AROUND THE BEND AS THEY 'NAVIGATE' THE REGION'S FLOODED HIGHWAYS



INUNDATED: (left) a Land Rover surges through the flooded A85 at Dunbeg on Sunday and (right) cars paint a forlorn picture as they lie submerged in the Lochavullin car park on Tuesday morning

Drivers plough through deluge as downpour brings chaos to roads

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

TORRENTIAL rain brought havoc to the West Highlands over the past week with landslides, road closures and rivers bursting their banks.

Oban's major retail park and industrial estate were submerged in several feet of water on Tuesday morning when high tides and overflowing drains flooded Lochavullin Road and the adjacent Lochavullin free car park. Flood water lapped against the windows of some stricken cars.

Despite flood warning notices and police tape to cordon off the roundabout at the Tesco supermarket, a lorry driver ploughed through the middle of the flood creating a wave which lifted parked cars and swept them into others in the car park.

Police are now checking CCTV images to identify the vehicle and driver involved in the incident.

Stores in the Lochavullin

industrial estate were marooned and suffered a huge loss of custom as roads were closed. A small trickle of shoppers braved the elements to walk to Tesco.

Hector Macdonald, who works in the haulage department at Flit Self Drive in Oban, used a speedboat from his works yard on Glencruitten Road to paddle his way along Lochavullin Road on Tuesday morning. He said: 'Our trucks couldn't get out at all, so taking the boat out was a bit of fun to pass the time. I'll bet no-one has sailed along this street before.'

Several incidents were reported to police across the region, with landslides closing off major trunk roads. On Sunday morning a German tourist had to be rescued from his car when it became swamped in water in Glen Orchy. He was taken to Oban and the car was later recovered.

Later that morning, police received calls about flooding on the A85 at Dunbeg, at the

Kilchrenan junction on the A85 at Taynuilt, and later in the day landslides were reported in the Portnacroish area of Appin and northwards towards Lochaber.

On Monday afternoon, police received reports of two-and-a-half feet of water lying on the A828 near Benderloch and were also contacted about water lying on the A85 at Saulmore.

Police closed off the back road between Oban and Connel on Monday morning when it flooded about a mile from Connel.

Emergency teams were sent to deal with landslips on the A83 near to the 'Rest and Be Thankful' in the early hours of Tuesday. Estimates suggest that 800 tonnes of material had been swept onto the trunk road and that resilience netting caught a further 1000 tonnes of material coming off the hillside.

At Glen Kinglas, north of Rest and Be Thankful, a landslide saw 20 tonnes of material being washed onto the trunk road



TORRENTIAL: a landslide at Glen Kinglas closed the A83

Photo courtesy of BEAR Scotland

which was cleared. The A82 south of Fort William was closed after two landslides blocked the road near Onich on Sunday evening, with 50 people travelling in 15 vehicles, who were stuck for

five hours. Temporary traffic lights were put in place at Corrycurrachan Bridge and also at Glenrigh to partially reopen the road on Monday. Meanwhile, Soroba Road flooded when the

Black Lynn Burn burst its banks on Tuesday morning, flooding the lane linking Lynn Road and Mossbank, with one house taking in six inches of water. More pictures on page 10.

Redundancy pay fears for workers

STAFF at the Co-op store on Soroba Road, Oban will find out today (Thursday) whether they will receive redundancy pay when they lose their jobs.

The store is due to close after it was purchased by German retail giant Lidl last month.

A Co-op employee, who asked not to be named, said: 'All the staff received letters, dated October 24, telling them they were invited to discuss the 'potential redundancy situation'.

'Obviously, a few of us are worried by the wording of that, as before we were told it was a collective redundancy that all staff would get. Also, the union representative can't make it up for the meetings so we will be in on our own - it's ridiculous.'

The Co-op store is set to be demolished, with a new Lidl building built on the site.

Lidl will transfer existing staff from its current store in Lochavullin Drive, with construction and opening dates for the new store still to be confirmed.

'Erratic' motorist stopped by police

A STUDENT has had his car seized and faces various road traffic charges after police noticed him driving erratically.

Police officers watched the 26-year-old Edinburgh man driving on the A85 at Dunbeg last Saturday and stopped him at around 5pm.

As well as being reported for various driving offences, the student also allegedly held a false international driving permit.

Health overspend won't affect care

A POWERFUL watchdog has criticised NHS Highland for borrowing £2.5million from the Scottish government.

Medical chiefs have tried to reassure the public that patient care would not be compromised after reports of a huge budget overspend at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

'Argyll is not the place it was' says owner of premises targeted by thieves

THE OWNER of a removals and storage business that was ransacked by thieves says he has been forced to improve security at his site.

Following the incident last weekend, Graham MacQueen, MBE, owner of MacQueen Bros in Oban's Glengallan Industrial Estate, warned fellow business owners that Argyll was as vulnerable to theft as anywhere else.

Thieves broke into the storage yard at MacQueen Bros and forced entry to around 30 locked containers overnight between 2pm on Saturday and 11.30am on Sunday.

Mr MacQueen, who is known for his charity work in the town, said: 'Initially, I was horrified but it was not as bad as I first feared. Only about five per cent of our customers were affected. The containers

broken into did not have our high security locks and it seems they have taken diesel, scrap metal and power tools.

'We are checking our CCTV but maybe we needed something like this to realise that Argyll is not the place it was.

'You get people wandering into the area, breaking into things. We are strengthening security but everyone must realise Argyll is as vulnerable

as anywhere now.' Every MacQueen Bros customer is being given a high security lock.

Police believe there was also an attempt to steal a motor vehicle at the yard. Oban CID are investigating the incident and are urging anyone who may have seen or heard anything suspicious in the area during the time the offence took place to get in touch on 101.

Brave Cameron's heroic efforts for charity described as 'outstanding' by Appin Trust

A BRAVE 13-year-old boy from Appin, who suffers from a debilitating bone condition, has been presented with a community award in recognition of his outstanding fundraising work.

Cameron Allen (pictured right) has raised £9,500 for charity in the last three years despite his everyday struggles with osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease), which has left him with 25 fractures in his body this year alone.

Cameron - who courageously showed up for school one day with all four limbs in plaster - was presented with the Appin Community Trust 'Outstanding Young Person' 2014 award for his fundraising for the Brittle Bone Society.

He has raised £2,578 this year

and took part in a 'Job-a-thon' in May, in which he performed as many jobs as he could in one day, including farming, marshalling a fire engine and writing for *The Oban Times*.

Cameron's condition means that his bones break easily and he is mainly wheelchair-bound, but he has not let his condition stop him from taking part in sports such as swimming.

The second-year Oban High school pupil said of the award: 'It felt really good. I hadn't been expecting anything at all. I enjoy the fundraising and will be doing more of it.'

Cameron refuses to give in to his health condition and is known for his upbeat attitude by all his classmates and teachers at the school.



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Watson a big hit with boxing fans as he lifts Scottish title at Ravenscraig

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club have a new champion in their ranks as Adam Watson became Scottish novice middle-weight champion at Ravenscraig in Motherwell last weekend.

After reaching the final stages last weekend he progressed to the title in some style.

Watson stormed through his semi-final opponent Ryan Edmond of the famous Leith Victoria club from Edinburgh.

The first round saw Watson try to encourage Edmond to open up to create openings, a tactic that gained some success for the Lochaber boxer and he clearly won the round.

The Phoenix boxer turned it up big time in the next round as he consistently hit Edmond with shots to the body and head resulting in an eight count being issued on the Edinburgh boxer.

The impressive showing from Watson continued until the end of the round and it was no surprise when Edmond was pulled out by his corner at the end of the session and Watson marched into the final where he would face the fearsome Chris MacLeod of

Boxing

HBA who also won his semi-final by stoppage.

The final was perhaps the most exciting of the championships as both boxers refused to give an inch as they exchanged bombs in the first round but MacLeod came on strong in the last 30 seconds to shade the session.

Both boxers sensed the title was all on the last round and once again stood and traded rockets as first one then the other would assume ascendancy. When the championship went to Watson it was a victory that proved that success is gained not solely during the contest but also in the weeks and months of preparation beforehand as Watson has prepared with a single mindedness that speaks volumes for his determination and commitment.

Junior Leon Smith was not so fortunate as he lost in a split decision in the final of his weight class in the same championships to Northwest's Owen Duffy.

After a very close opening round in which both boxers had success with combinations, the second saw Smith have the best round of his short boxing career as he walked Duffy onto shots and used good movement to avoid anything coming back his way. With both combatants knowing it was close they both came out all guns blazing in the last and stood and traded ring centre. The Lochaber contingent thought Liam had done enough but alas it was not to be.

Both athletes will be fighting at the Phoenix club's home show in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night (November 1). Tickets are available from the venue, Niall Clark (07554994744) or Steve Docherty (07881379851).



BIG HITTER: Adam Watson, right, in action against Ryan Edmond in the semi-final



SPLIT DECISION: Leon Smith

Fort hit for six Football

FORT William went down 6-0 to league champions Brora Rangers last Wednesday evening at Dudgeon Park.

This result took the home side back to the top of the Highland League and brought their goal total this season to 55 in 13 games.

Fort William's home game against Rothes FC planned for the weekend was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

This Saturday, the Fort will travel to take on Wick Academy with the next Claggan Park game scheduled to be against Cove Rangers on November 8.

Half marathon Athletics

LOCHABER runners are preparing for the annual Eddie's half marathon on Sunday (November 2).

The race around Fort William is in memory of Fort taxi driver Eddie Campbell, who completed the Ben Race no fewer than 44 times from 1952, winning three times, until his life was cut short by cancer in 1996.

Around 200 people are expected to start the challenge from An Aird, with the field setting off at noon.



PRIZEGIVING: Members of the Railway Bowling Club, gathered at the Inverlochly green for the end of season prizegiving

Railway club hand out the prizes

THE RAILWAY Bowling Club celebrated another successful season at their prizegiving last week.

Gordon Hamilton was named winner of the Club Championship cup with Lynne Donald coming a close second.

All winners: Stewart Cup pairs, Agnes Boyle and Allan Lawrie; MacKleeners Shield, Eddie Downs and Wilson Thain; D Matheson Shield, Wilson Thain and Agnes Boyle; Lochaber Singles Cup, Allan MacDonald; Craig Nevis Cup, A A Young Cup, Allan

MacDonald and Tam Rodgers; Ben Nevis Distillery Shield, Martin Keenan and Tommy Campbell; MacPherson Welding Shield, Allan Robinson and Angus Thain; Millie's Shield, Gordon Hamilton, William Clark and Elizabeth Kennedy; B Hamilton Cup, Elizabeth Kennedy and Kenny MacInnes; Charity Singles Cup, Martin Keenan; D Gillies Shield, Eddie Downs, Agnes Boyle and Lynne Donald; W Duff Cup, Agnes Boyle, Eddie Downs and Lynne Donald; J MacLennan Plate Allan Robinson and Jude Robinson; Gogs Taxi, Gordon Hamilton and P Miller;

Bowls

Balloted Rinks, Martin Keenan, Elizabeth Kennedy, Allan Lawrie and Eddie Downs; Pairs, Kenny MacInnes and Helen Ross; Charity Pairs Cup, Allan MacDonald and Tam Rodgers; Two Bowl Cup, Allan MacDonald; Gents Singles, Eddie Downs; Seniors Cup William Gibbons; Ladies Singles, Elizabeth Kennedy; Balloted Pairs Cup, W Clark and Agnes Boyle; Nominated Pairs Shield G MacKay and Tam Rodgers; Mixed Pairs Cup, Angus Thain and Wilson Thain.

Ballachulish take on Skye in division one play off game

BALLACHULISH Shinty Club will take on Skye on Saturday.

The teams will meet at Blairbeg, Drumnadrochit, for the Marine Harvest division one play off.

Balla will be without Scott Rodger, who broke his thumb in a recent friendly fixture and club chairman Iain Brown said this will be a 'big loss' from the middle of the park.

Keeper David MacPhee will

Shinty

also be missing as he serves out his last game suspension. He will be replaced in goal by youngster Cameron Sutherland.

Elliot Wilson has returned from a lengthy injury and on Monday Brown said he could have played himself into contention, a decision will be made nearer to the game.

Tight at the top in bowling league

THREE teams are refusing to give up without a fight in the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league as they are still neck and neck for the top spot after the third week of games.

The Creeps, Rotavators and 3+1 still all have the maximum 10 points in the scratch division while Rotavators are the only group with the maximum 15 points in the handicap division.

Top scratch individual game came from John Weller of Al-leycats who rolled 196 and Brian Johnstone of the same team

Ten Pin Bowling

rolled a 173. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio had the top scratch team game of 559, best handicap game of 774 and the top two game scratch team series of 1,082. Council had the top two game handicap team series with 1,513.

John Weller's game along with the top handicap game of 265, top two game scratch series of 352 and top two game handicap series of 490 were all season highs for the league so far.

Ali Young results Indoor Football

THE GOON Squad were the top scorers of this week's Ali Young indoor football league, after thrashing the young Nevis Range players 16-2.

The Volley started off Sunday night's fixtures in the Nevis Centre, winning 5-1 against Barowey before Fiorentina Turner achieved a 6-4 victory over Inverlochly United.

Harlem Globe Stoters won 7-5 against Bracelochy and Lochaber Leisure beat Outer Milan 8-2, securing their place at the top spot on goal difference.

HWE and Ali Young had the only draw of the night with five goals each and Portowey scored two goals in the final two minutes to beat MHB 4-3.

Rugby rained off Rugby

LOCHABER Rugby Club's planned home game against Aberdeen Wanderers on Saturday was postponed due to an unplayable field.

Black Parks was flooded along with most sporting venues in Lochaber and the fixture will be rescheduled for a later date.

The club will travel to Shetland for this Saturday's game.

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WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 12°C to 13°C.

Friday Heavy rain
Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 11°C to 15°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Light rain showers on Sunday
Winds strong south westerly
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, October 30, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

	am				pm			
Thur	03.36	1.4	09.38	3.4	16.21	1.6	21.57	3.1
Fri	04.48	1.5	10.57	3.2	17.40	1.6	23.28	2.9
Sat	06.11	1.6	13.11	3.3	19.01	1.6	**	**
Sun	01.49	3.0	07.31	1.5	14.21	3.5	20.16	1.4
Mon	02.54	3.2	08.42	1.3	15.13	3.8	21.16	1.2
Tues	03.39	3.5	09.40	1.0	15.57	4.0	22.05	1.0
Wed	04.15	3.7	10.29	0.8	16.36	4.1	22.48	0.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate