

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8379

Thursday 2 November, 2017

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence



EXCLUSIVE OBAN LIVE LOCAL TICKET OFFER

Get your tickets **FIRST** and save a further 20% with this Oban Times **EXCLUSIVE** offer.



VOTE FOR YOUR TOP 100

See all the entries in our 20 page special **FREE INSIDE**



Roads minister pledges to examine safety on the A85

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

TRANSPORT Minister Humza Yousaf has pledged to look into the measures being called for by *The Oban Times* in our campaign to improve safety on the A85.

Mr Yousaf said he is having surveys and reports prepared on the issue as he accepted a petition, signed by almost 300 people, from *Oban Times* deputy editor Martin Laing.

The petition – both online and printed in the newspaper since the beginning of this year – was signed by a total of 290 readers.

Appearing sympathetic to the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign, Mr Yousaf said on Monday during a visit to Oban: 'We have a number of reports being prepared at the moment and I will look into them when they are ready, but there are no overnight solutions.'

'I was looking at the possibility of double white lines and that is not an unreasonable request which I will give serious consideration to. And we are having speed reduction surveys done which are taking place right now and they will report back to me before the end of the financial year.'

'But even before that, I should be able to get draft initial assessments of what the impact might be. When you reduce speed limits there is absolutely a potential safety positive.'

The campaign and petition were launched this year as a result of a number of very serious accidents, several of them causing fatalities.

Mr Yousaf also visited the Kerrera ferry at Gallanach to see the new vessel there for himself and to meet CalMac staff who



Humza Yousaf accepts the petition from Martin Laing.

STAY Alive on the A85

have taken over the operation of the route.

He said: 'I am really delighted CalMac has taken over this service. There are some teething issues regarding the ramps, but these are being attended to. This is going to help us stop the trajectory of decline on our islands.'

Mr Yousaf was in Oban as part of the Convention of the Highlands and Islands, which saw Scottish Government ministers gather at the Corran Halls to discuss a number of issues, including digital connectivity, Brexit and the integration of health and social care.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing also outlined plans to begin work to identify Scotland's first aquaculture innovation sites.

CoHI was chaired by Deputy First Minister John Swinney, and also involved Scotland's Brexit Minister Michael Russell, who is Argyll and Bute's MSP, and

Mr Yousaf, who is also Islands Minister.

Mr Ewing said: 'Scottish ministers are attending the CoHI to listen to our rural communities, exchange ideas and strengthen the relationship between national and local government, stakeholders and local people.'

'It is always a pleasure to be in Oban, the gateway to many of our island communities and a key hub for much of our seafood trade on the West Coast. It is, therefore, a fitting location to announce that we are now commencing work towards identifying a range of aquaculture innovation sites around Scotland.'

'Fish and shellfish farming contribute £620 million to the national economy annually. Atlantic salmon production accounts for 90 per cent of the economic impact, supporting more than 10,000 jobs. Much of this is concentrated in our rural and island economies and it is important that we support the sector to explore new approaches which will allow sustainable and productive growth.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'We are delighted to host the Convention of the Highland and Islands, and to welcome colleagues to Oban to discuss topics of real importance to our rural and island communities.'

'Holding the convention in Oban also gives us a chance to highlight the significant regeneration work that has taken place in the town, and the development of the North Pier pontoons which are helping to bring more people to the area and contributing to a thriving rural economy.'

□ Dunbeg fights 300 homes because of road problem, page five.

It was all fright on the night!



Soroba Community Centre's first Hallowe'en party was a major success. The Oban centre was crawling with creepy creatures, skeletons, zombies and superheroes, as well as petrifying princesses such as Gracie, three, and Sophia, two, above. 'What a fabulous turn-out and amazing costumes,' the organisers said. 'We hope you all had as much fun as we did and we hope you've all had a spooktacular Hallowe'en.' Donations went towards a new Oban Community Centre.

Fireworks nights are set to be a real blast

HUNDREDS of fireworks will be sent shooting into the sky in Oban and Dunbeg this weekend. Oban's annual fireworks spectacular, which is sponsored by BID4Oban, takes place this Sunday November 5 from 7.30pm at Oban harbour.

People will be able to watch from the bay as the display explodes over the water.

Oban is infamous for its fireworks due to a technical glitch in 2011 that resulted in all of them being released within a minute.

The video, which was posted onto *The Oban Times*' YouTube page, has been viewed more than 1.6 million times and has appeared on numerous prime-time television shows.

However, this isn't the only event taking place in Oban and Lorn. The Dunbeg community has rallied together and organised a fireworks display and bonfire on Saturday November 4.

The bonfire will be lit at 7.30pm at Lochnell Road car park. The organisers have asked everyone to leave their sparklers at home in order to keep children safe, but will have glow-sticks on sale as a substitute.

There will also be burgers, hot dogs, various other stalls and raffles on the night, with all proceeds going towards Oban High School Pipe Band.

James MacDonald and other volunteers will finish building the bonfire on the day, come rain or shine. 'It's still going ahead regardless of the weather,' James said.



NOVEMBER SPECIAL

2 COURSE £17.50 | 3 COURSE £20

The Olive Garden

TABLE D'HOTE MENU

SOUP OF THE DAY
With home made bread

FRESH LOCAL LANGOUSTINE
With chimichurri sauce

WARM DUCK & BLACK PUDDING
Mixed leaves & raspberry dressing

TOPSIDE OF BEEF
Slowly cooked with baby onions, winter vegetables, red wine & tracle. served with a chive mash.

FILLET OF SOLE
Stuffed with baby spinach & salmon mousse. served with fennel croquettes & green beans.

SICILIAN VEGETABLE GATEAU (V)
Oven baked layers of fresh aubergine, spinach, red pepper & artichoke, with a white sauce and parmesan cheese. accompanied by a caprese salad.

CHEFS' STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING & VANILLA ICE CREAM
BANANNA CRÈME BRULÉE
With a shot of raspberry sorbet
CHEESE PLATE

01631 570 347
2 Railway Pier, Oban,
Argyll PA34 4LW
www.theolivegardenoban.co.uk

Bins chaos strikes Soroba again

OVERFLOWING bins are causing chaos in Soroba again, as residents fear that rats will plague the area, writes David McPhee.

The problem was raised at the Oban Community Council meeting this week.

'Soroba is a disgrace,' the community council's chairwoman, Marri Malloy, said. 'It is disgusting, to put it mildly.'

'Remember the kick-up last time?' said community councillor Andy Harper. 'We are back to that and potentially worse. Soroba is in a terrible state.'

Community councillor George Berry said: 'People are parking their cars not knowing the bin

lorries are coming that day. It is chaos. So many bins were not emptied because the lorries had to go away.'

'It's absolutely shocking. It's back to the way it was.'

'There have been a number of issues with overflowing rubbish bins and even rats in Soroba since Argyll and Bute Council moved from a fortnightly waste bins uplift to three-weekly collections in November last year.'

On one occasion a couple were left surprised after their dog captured a rat outside their close in Colonsay Terrace.

On another occasion, a mound of bin bags in Scalpay Terrace was ransacked by seagulls.

One concerned resident, who asked to remain anonymous, called *The Oban Times* to complain about the situation in Colonsay Terrace and McCaig Road. 'We are having to keep things in the house because the bins are full,' she said. 'It is beginning to smell.'

The woman said that if they put the bins outside the house, seagulls would open the bin bags apart spreading rubbish all over the road.

'People are holding on to some of their rubbish,' she added.

'[The bins] are overflowing and they are not picking them up for three weeks. 'We are going to get rats.'

'The day they were emptied they were filled again, and now we are waiting. Those bins have been full for a week now. They have been full more or less all of the time. It is squalid.'

'They are not putting in any extra bins to take account of the extended collection times.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The waste in this area has now been uplifted.'

'There was a delay in the most recent collection and we thank local residents for their patience.'

'We know it's important for everyone to have their communities waste-free and our teams will be working to ensure this is the case.'

NOREMAC ARGYLL LTD

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Unit 1, Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll
Covering the whole of Argyll and beyond

01546 606 991 01546 602 984 07717 437 501 07717 437 502

GENERAL BUILDING
DOORS & WINDOWS
TIMBER FRAME & DECKING
ROOF & CHIMNEY SERVICES
RENOVATIONS & EXTENSIONS
BUILDING MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS

www.noremacargyll.com

Gleaner

Heating Oil, Commercial & Agricultural Fuels

Fuelling Homes, Businesses & Farms for over 60 years

- Competitive pricing
- Reliable delivery service
- Independent & family owned
- Boiler maintenance service
- Shell Lubricants Authorised Distributor

Supplier of bulk fuels, including kerosene, Gas Oil, Marine Gas Oil, Diesel & LPG

Contact us today for a quotation or to place an order
Remember to quote 'Oban Times' when you contact us
01631 710389 www.gleaner.co.uk

Fish farm catches a whopper

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

SALMON farmers off Colonsay had an unexpected visitor when a three-metre, 47-stone Pacific blue fin tuna appeared in one of their pens.

After some initial head scratching, the salmon farmers worked out a way to safely move the fish back into open waters.

The Marine Harvest salmon farm at Colonsay opened in August 2015 and the team has become used to seeing a lot of marine wildlife, but as farm manager Ali Geddes explained, this was unusual.

'We'd noticed a lot of activity around the southern part of the farm. There seemed to be a real feeding frenzy going on with the

dolphins and porpoises. It's now clear they were chasing a tuna.

'These things can move at real speed – up to 50mph – and it seems to have burst through the foot of the pen like a torpedo.

'Thankfully, the tuna seems to be unhurt and none of our own fish has escaped.

'They are very small at this stage – the site has only recently been stocked with smolts which tend to swim towards the top of the pens away from the base.

'The hole the tuna made was more like a slash than a round hole and we called in divers who repaired it within a few hours.'

Atlantic blue fin tuna are common in Scottish waters, but Pacific blue fin tuna are incredibly rare as they prefer the warmer waters of the Pacific ocean.

The Colonsay team finally used a panel net to capture the tuna.

This type of net is normally used during harvesting as it allows smaller fish to swim through the gaps.

The landing craft crane was then used to lift the tuna into a large basket for transfer to the open sea, where it swam away.

Ben Hadfield, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, praised the team for releasing the tuna unscathed. He said: 'We believe it was a whacking 300 kilos, which is more than 47 stone.

'They're certainly skilled in handling fish but our salmon grow to about five kilos in size, so this was well beyond the norm.'



The 47-stone Pacific blue fin tuna is raised from the salmon pen.

TIMESLINE

Cash windfall for Lismore project

AN ISLAND community with big plans to transform phone boxes into vibrant tourist hubs is among 100 groups across Scotland sharing in £677,936 of National Lottery good cause cash.

The funding comes from National Lottery Awards for All Scotland which makes grants from £300 to £10,000 with funds raised by the National Lottery.

Thanks to an award of £8,960, Lismore Community Trust will transform two phone boxes on each end of the island into information kiosks.

Sebastian Tombs, chairman of Lismore Community Trust, said: 'Transforming our two red kiosks into information hubs at the arrival points on the island will be a real boost for us. Visitors will have all they need to make the most of their stay, whether it's maps to guide them, where to get refreshments or find out what events are happening.'

Call for study on island air service

NA H-EILEANAN AN IAR MP Angus Brendan MacNeil is asking the Scottish Government to instigate a study on the introduction of a Public Service Obligation (PSO) on the Benbecula to Glasgow air service.

Transport and Islands Minister Humza Yousaf recently stated there were no plans to introduce a PSO on the Benbecula to Glasgow air service. However, Mr MacNeil is calling on the minister to reconsider due to the service not being comprehensive each week of the year.

Two detained after violence

DURING the weekend of October 15, two incidents occurred on Islay which placed unprecedented demand on police officers.

First, a domestic violence incident in Port Ellen resulted in a man being arrested and detained for Campbelltown Sheriff Court. The man was a visitor to Islay.

Secondly, a woman from Maryhill in Glasgow was arrested in the Bowmore Hotel following an attack on nine people, including a serious assault. She was also detained in custody and both were taken from Islay the following morning.

Officers would like to thank all involved with this incident for their assistance, patience and understanding.

Concern voiced over Stornoway air service

CONCERNS have been raised about the Aberdeen to Stornoway air service and change of timetable to Eastern Airways' chief operating officer by Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan.

Mr Allan said there continued to be numerous complaints from regular users, especially those employed in the oil and gas sector, about the timing of flights.

Mr Allan said: 'This is an issue I have raised numerous times over the years. Regular service users are understandably upset about the state of the service on the Aberdeen route, particularly with the latest changes to the timetable, and this is something I

raised directly with the company.

'I was disappointed that the company was not prepared to have further meetings with those in the oil and gas sector who have been raising complaints.

'However, I understand there will be a public meeting coming up in the islands soon for customers and the company to exchange views.

'I also understand these issues will be discussed when Eastern Airways and Flybe meet the comhairle next month. At a time when the Western Isles are faced with worrying depopulation projections, we should all be seeking to ensure it is as easy as possible for people to live and work here.'

£13,000 needed for historic Mull path

THE Tobermory lighthouse path appeal needs help to plug a £13,000 shortfall to reinstate the historic route from the town to Rubha nan Gall lighthouse, built by David and Thomas Stevenson in 1857.

Access is by sea or a 1.3-mile footpath from Tobermory along the steep, wooded coastline. The path provides spectacular views over the Sound of Mull, Ardnarmurchan, Morvern and Bloody Bay, but its condition deteriorated over the years and, following a landslide in 2014, the council erected 'road closed' signs on it. Volunteers, aided by Mull and

Iona Community Trust, secured funding from Scottish Natural Heritage to cover the majority of the work, which is now almost complete.

However, the group said, there is still a funding shortfall. 'The grant is based on standard rates per square metre of path but doesn't allow for any additional costs incurred due to island locations, access to materials or difficult conditions.'

Donations can be made online at My Donate under Tobermory Lighthouse Path, or to Jan Dunlop on 01680 300640 or jan.dunlop@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.



The lifestyle lottery committee with the £3,015 cheque for community funds.

Western Isles cash in on local lottery

COMMUNITY groups from the Butt to Barra are to receive a further £3,015 from the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery for October.

The lottery committee is delighted to be returning such sums back to the community every month. In addition, £3,100 has been shared in cash prizes by winners across the Western Isles.

Five local businesses are now supporting the lottery, acknowledging the potential such

a fundraising scheme brings to the Western Isles. The latest two are Lewis Crofters and The Home Improvement Centre, which have funded November's bolt-on prizes.

Six local area projects have been approved and will receive proceeds until the end of December 2017, after which time the next six projects will be awarded the next period of funding.

A spokesperson said that 60p of each supporter's ticket

is returned to their own area using a postcode system. The level of funding returned to any given area is dependent upon the number of supporters in that area.

The area groups are urging all those in their respective areas to support their communities to raise as much funds as they possibly can for their winning projects. Cash prizes for their efforts can also be won, of course.

If the long-term target of

5,000 weekly tickets is met, that would mean a weekly prize pot of £1,000 with £3,000 each week being returned to the community. That adds up to a lot of funding for a lot of improvements.

Even if this current level is maintained, more than £40,000 over the first year of operation will be raised for the islands. Join in online at www.westernisleslottery.co.uk or call 0300 30 20 444 during office hours.

Scottish Field

DECEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

HARRY BENSON
The acclaimed photographer still belongs to Glasgow

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF HARRY LAUDER

Plus
CRIME WRITER DENISE MINA
PINE MARTENS GREEN SURVIVORS
GRUNNING BLACK ISLE GARDEN
YULETIDE MEDIEVAL BANQUET

25 Our unbeatable Christmas gift guide

COLD COMFORT - A top photographer's journey through Scotland's wild places in deep mid-Winter

HARRY BENSON STILL BELONGS TO GLASGOW

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF HARRY LAUDER

Pine Martens
A YULETIDE MEDIEVAL BANQUET
WIN A THREE-DAY WEST COAST CRUISE WORTH £2,500

25 page Christmas gift guide

COLD COMFORT

A top photographer's journey through Scotland's wild places in deep mid-Winter

www.scottishfield.co.uk

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Mòd successes

ILICH everywhere were delighted by the successes enjoyed by the island's competitors in a variety of competitions at the Royal National Mòd at Lochaber two weeks ago.

They shone particularly brightly in the learners' junior section with top honours going to those who showed their winning ways in the singing, verse speaking and choral music competitions.

More delight was experienced when 21-year-old Alasdair Currie from Ballygrant decisively won the men's gold medal after establishing a commanding lead over his fellow competitors in the run-up to the final.

Alasdair, who was runner-up in the same competition last year, is the son of Linda and Duncan Currie, smallholders at Ballachlaven in the Kilmeny district, and who also operate a coal merchant's business.

Linda is a member of a well-known local musical family and Duncan's father, the late Alastair Currie of Ardnahoe, was also a popular singer on the local concert and ceilidh scene.

He may have gone on to seek gold at national Mòd level but was tragically killed, along with his cousin, Archie Currie from Keills, in an explosives' accident on the isle of Jura in 1962. Both were involved in preparing the ground for the positioning of electric cable poles when the tragedy occurred.

The Ardnahoe singer's widow Isobel, nee MacCallum, lives in Bowmore and is a relative of the Mòd medallist George T MacCallum who died three years ago and had his golden success when the national Mòd visited Oban in 1962.

Happily, the current medallist's grandfather made a number of recordings of Gaelic songs for the

Alasdair Currie proudly shows off his Mòd gold medal. Dr Kate Pickering, however, is leaving Islay for Australia.

GP heads down under

COME next spring island GP Dr Kate Pickering will be heading for Australia where her renal specialist husband, Professor Allan Jardine, is taking up a new post in Brisbane, the state capital of Queensland.

She plans to continue her local medical practice duties until the end of the year and will then serve on a locum basis until the time of her

now be coming in thick and fast as Alasdair has now moved to Glasgow where he has started work as a process operator with the Clydeside Distillery.

The last time the men's Mòd gold medal came to Islay's shores was in 1984, when it was won by the late Robert Forrester in Inverness.

Another Ileach achieving gold medal success in Lochaber was Portnahaven singer Dugie Gillespie, who struck gold in Fort William 36 years ago.

departure.

Dr Pickering has been the principal GP at Bowmore for more than four years and is an enthusiastic and dedicated local doctor.

To ensure that the practice does not fall vacant, she will enter into a partnership with the GPs Dr Angus MacTaggart and Dr Matt Jackson, which should result in the Islay medical services continuing with the same staff and remaining doctors.

Dr Jackson will become responsible for the majority of Dr Pickering's case load and Dr MacTaggart will assume the role of clinical lead for both Islay and Jura.

Everyone wishes Dr Pickering well as she starts her new life in more temperate climes.

Cearcall Chalum

ISEABAIL Mactaggart, the Islay-born Mòd gold medallist and BBC Alba director of development and partnership, will deliver a Gaelic lecture, 'How free are we today?' in Edinburgh's Scottish Storytelling Centre tomorrow (Friday November 3) at 7pm.

This is part of the capital's 'Cearcall Chalum' events which commemorate Edinburgh Highlander and Gaelic activist Calum Cameron, who was a noted singer, actor, raconteur and broadcaster.

Of Skye and Soay parentage, he died aged 93 in January of this year in Jersey, where he spent his latter years.

I have many pleasing memories of this splendid Gael who worked tirelessly for the Gaelic cause in his adopted city.

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

Fears for firefighters' jobs from plan to close stations

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

A NUMBER of fire stations across Scotland are to be closed at the end of this financial year – with fears for firefighters' jobs. Leaked documents meant for senior Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) officials were seen by the BBC. The documents described the current model as not being able to last beyond the financial year. However, the SFRS said it was not about cuts, but was instead a 'transformation'. The stations that could close have not been revealed, but one local resident thinks the

Highlands and Islands will be affected. Community councillor and former firefighter George Berry said: 'Apparently the Highlands and Islands are going to be particularly hit. No-one knows when, or where, or who. It's really an amber alert for the future. The brigade is in tatters. It's in a dreadful state. It would be detrimental to the community. There was a plan put forward years ago to make sure rural communities were serviced. No community should be without a fire engine. 'Imagine the garage fire in Appin if that station had been closed. The situation is abso-

lutely grim. All it will take is one major incident – one road closure involving an HGV or a bus and we will have chaos. 'We talk about inviting more and more people to the West Coast, but if you want the people, you also need to have the coverage. Something has to be done.' A spokesperson for the Fire Brigades Union said: 'Firefighters were promised that the single SFRS would protect the front line but it absolutely has not. 'We have seen year-on-year real-terms budget cuts that have seen the loss of more than 700 front-line firefighters, the

closure of five operational fire control rooms and fire appliances lying idle in fire stations due to insufficient firefighters to crew them. 'Firefighters are sick to the back teeth of turning up for work to be told that there aren't enough firefighters to crew the appliance. 'The constant budget cuts are unsustainable and investment is crucial in order to protect our communities and deliver a world-class fire and rescue service.' A spokesperson for the SFRS said the service must change in order to meet 'new and emerging risks'.

'This is not about cuts,' he added. 'It is about the transformation of a delivery model that has served us well but was designed for the risks of more than 70 years ago. 'We need to ask ourselves how we can now deploy the combined resources of the world's fourth largest fire and rescue service in a more efficient and effective way. 'No decisions have been made. We want to enter into a conversation with our staff and the public to ensure they have a voice in a safe and planned transformation that will allow the service to do so much more for the people of Scotland.'

Appeal to find young tall ships adventurers

AN APPEAL has been made to find young people to go voyaging on tall ships. Bursaries to help fund the passage of disadvantaged or disabled youngsters for the adventure of a lifetime are not being taken up. Now Richard Leaman, chief executive of the Tall Ships Youth Trust (TSYT), has asked for help to find suitable people aged 12 to 25 who would benefit from the funding. Mr Leaman said: 'I need urgent help in finding disadvantaged, disabled and NEET [not in education, employment or training] young people aged 12 to 25 to join a voyage as we have bursary money which needs using. 'If we don't find these young-

sters, the money will have to be returned and this is something the charity [TSYT] simply cannot afford at the moment. We need you to help us, now, please.' The appeal was sent to Peter Twyman, proprietor of Backpackers Plus in Breadalbane Street, Oban, who passed it on to *The Oban Times*, saying: 'I forward below an email from my brother-in-law, Simon Lavington, who has been active in the Tall Ships Youth Trust. 'There are 45 bursaries available specifically for young people from Scotland to take part in voyages on tall ships but there are not enough takers.' Anyone interested should email Simon Lavington at lavis@essex.ac.uk.

May the force be with you: Oban's teenage police volunteers



A TEAM of young police volunteers could be out in force helping folk on Oban's streets in the New Year, after a launch in Oban High School last Thursday. Seventeen young people, aged 13 to 18, have signed up to become uniformed Police Scotland youth

volunteers (PSYV) after 12 weeks of training, which started this week. Constable Dario d'Andrea said the fast-growing programme expects to attract its 1,000th volunteer by 2018, across 40 areas including Campbeltown and Dumbarton. Oban High School depute headteach-

er Louise Lawson said it would help build confidence among the youngsters. She said: 'The children will get so much out of it. They have so much to give back to the community. They want to help others.' PC Claire Brown, PSYV's delighted co-ordinator in Oban, said: 'It has

taken a long time to get this up and running.' The teenagers, uniformed in grey or blue, will begin helping out at community events, such as the Argyllshire Gathering, Oban Winter Festival and Oban Live, after their passing out ceremony in 2018.

Second Jura whisky?

PLANS seem afoot to build the Isle of Jura's second whisky distillery. Viscount Astor may hope to set up a distillery on his 20,000-acre Tarbert Estate, which his family has owned for almost a century, but it is not yet known where he plans to house it. The 4th Viscount Astor, whose name is William Waldorf Astor III, has applied to trademark Astor Whisky, Corran Whisky and Corran River Whisky alongside his son James, a partner in Tarbert Estates. The Corran label is named after the river near Knockrome dividing Tarbert Estate to the north and the Vestey family's Jura Forest estate to the south, and Glenbatrick Whisky. Glenbatrick, the Astors' lodge

in the wilderness below the Paps of Jura on the shores of Loch Tarbert, is accessible only by boat or long walk, and became a holiday retreat for former Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha. Viscount Astor is married to Samantha Cameron's mother, Viscountess Annabel Astor. Jura is already home to one whisky manufacturer, the Jura Distillery in Craighouse, which has been producing single malt on and off for over 200 years. The Astors also trademarked the name Jura Jerky, signalling another new business venture in venison jerky, perhaps sourced from the island's 5,000 deer. No planning application has yet been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.

Oban Sheriff Court round-up

Man stole from pub
A 26-YEAR-OLD man has pleaded guilty to stealing £2,340 from a licensed premises in Oban. Sebastian Mateusz Kitowski, of 3 Pulpit Road, Oban, admitted stealing on two separate occasions from a safe in the stockroom. On September 3 of this year, he took £2,000 in cash, before stealing a further £340 on September 11. After being arrested, Kitowski paid back a lump sum and when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday October 25, Sheriff Patrick Hughes ordered him to pay back the remaining £1,800 in compensation. On top

of this, Sheriff Hughes also fined him £700.
Pay for damages
AN OBAN man has been ordered to repay almost £700 in damages and has been fined £200 after scratching a car. Martin Sutherland, 21, of 8A Millpark Terrace, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday October 25. Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This was a wicked thing to do. It should not have been done.' Sheriff Hughes ordered Sutherland to pay the £693.84 cost of the vandalism, as well as the £200 fine, within two months.



Left to right are Liz Deverill, Gillian Stewart and Nicky Murphy.

In the pink for charity afternoon tea

A PINK afternoon tea fundraising for Pink Ladies' Day took £510 at Oban's Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday. The Pink Ladies' Day, now in its fourth year, is designed for women in Argyll who have experienced breast cancer. The big day, held in Inveraray on Friday December 8, is all about pampering, beauty treat-

ments, delicious food, lots of fun and friendship, relaxation and meeting like-minded (and like-bodied) women. The organisers promise an army of makeup artists, hairdressers, massage therapists, reiki, yoga and beauty consultants, and cancer support specialists. Volunteers Nicky Murphy, her mum Liz Deverill and

Gillian Stewart served nearly 50 people. Gillian said: 'I feel very fortunate with my diagnosis that it was so early, and I want to give back.' Nicky thanked her 'amazing' team. Any woman who lives in Argyll, has experienced breast cancer and would like to join in, can call Nicky on 07786 861266 or email pinkladiesday@outlook.com.

Woman, 75, fell asleep at wheel

A 75-YEAR-OLD woman has pleaded guilty to careless driving after falling asleep at the wheel. Jennifer March, of Purton Cottage in Slough, Berkshire, received a £400 fine and her licence was endorsed with six penalty points. She was travelling along the

A816 near Kilmore on May 27 of this year when she dozed off. Her car then drifted onto the other side of the road, causing another vehicle to take evasive action. The 75-year-old then collided with a stone banking, before coming to a stop and blocking the road.

March appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday October 25. Her solicitor told the court that she was well rested and had an exemplary driving record, with this being her first incident in her 50 years of holding a licence. He called the incident a 'micro-sleep'.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Theft of outboard

BETWEEN October 13 and 16, a black Suzuki 6hp outboard motor was stolen from a dinghy at the slipway at Tobermory Harbour on Mull. Police are investigating.

Speeding motorist

AT ABOUT 8.35pm on Friday October 27 on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man aged 38, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Abusive behaviour

AT ABOUT 2.45am on Saturday October 28, following a report of a disturbance in Rhuvaal Road, Oban, a 38-year-old man was detained. The man was arrested and charged with assault and abusive behaviour. He was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Detained after assault

AT ABOUT 1.30pm on Saturday October 28, following a report of a man behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting another man at a house in Hynish Crescent, Oban, a 38-year-old man was detained. The man was also suspected of being in possession of a small amount of cannabis. He was arrested and charged with assault and abusive behaviour.

Arrested and held for court

AT ABOUT 1am on Sunday October 29, following a report of a man assaulting a woman at Pennyfuir, Oban, a 32-year-old man was detained. The man was arrested and charged with assault. He was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Vehicle damaged

BETWEEN 1am on Saturday October 28 and 11am on Sunday October 29, in Rhuvaal Road, Oban, a Ford Galaxy was damaged by having the bonnet scratched and dented. Police are investigating.

□ If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, they should call 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



MacLennan Motors Ltd
www.maclennanmotors.com

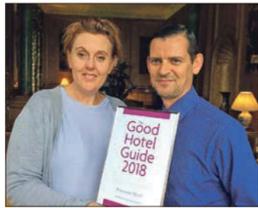
Freight

Oban - Glasgow delivery service

Now operating a weekly uplift service from Glasgow for delivery to Oban and beyond

For more information contact our team in Oban on 01631 566275

TIMESLINE



Argyll hotel is most romantic

A HOTEL on the banks of Loch Awe has been named the most romantic in Scotland for the second year in a row. Ardanaiseig, which sits in 120 acres of wooded grounds near Taynuilt, has been awarded the accolade by the UK Good Hotel Guide. It received the same award last year.

In its 2018 edition the Guide's editors praised its 'panoramic views across the loch to Ben Lui, dazzling array of ornaments and artworks, kitsch and caprice, and the stylish honeymoon suite in a converted boatshed almost lapped by the water'.

General manager Bronwyn Smith, pictured with manager David Bryce, said: 'Being named Scotland's best romantic hotel for two years in a row is a rare honour. We're looking forward to spreading the love even more in 2018.'

Chinese restaurant YuWu has closed

SURPRISED staff at Oban Chinese restaurant YuWu suddenly faced their last shifts last weekend, after being told it would close 'for good' on Sunday. Staff and customers of the popular Railway Pier restaurant were taken aback by the announcement, and The Oban Times understands no explanation for the closure was given at the time. YuWu declined to comment.

Taynuilt whist drive winners

THE WINNERS at the recent whist drive in Taynuilt were as follows: Ladies: 1 Marina MacInnes, 2 Margaret Forbes, booby-prize Mary Scott, travelling Katie Clayton. Gents: 1 Brenda MacLean, 2 Celia Keenan, booby-prize Rebecca MacPhee, travelling John McDougall. The card master was Jim Groat.

Clarification

IT WAS reported in last week's Oban Times that the Monzani Trio were to play in Oban's Corran Halls. In fact, the concert is at St John's Cathedral, Oban, on Sunday November 5 at 3pm. Tickets are £10 at the door for individuals but the event is free for under-18s.

Full house turns out for hit Oban concert

THE Audley Male Voice Choir (AMVC) from Staffordshire, a well-established and greatly admired group within the amateur musical industry, performed to a full house at St John's Cathedral last Friday evening.

The AMVC, who can claim the Royal Albert Hall as one of their many concert venues, chose Oban as a place to perform as part of a mini tour of Scotland, which included a visit to Iona.

Due to a friendship with a local Rotarian, the concert on Friday evening was organised by Oban Rotary Club, which arranged the venue, pre-event publicity including posters, programmes, tickets and liaising with The Oban Times and



Oban FM. This resulted in a full house, where the audience was treated to a cross-section of songs emanating from many countries with loud applause for the choir's rendition of Bonnie Mary of Argyll.

The AMVC were ably supported by North Lorn's Sequence ladies choir, members of

Katie Houston played the flute to much applause in support of the Audley Male Voice Choir.

of the bagpipes. The concert was unique in that AMVC, although choosing Oban as a venue, not only covered their own expenses but those of their traveling support, as 24 of their followers paid to get in.

All proceeds from the concert will be donated to Mary's Meals, one of Oban Rotary's favourite local charities.

It was generally agreed that this was a special event in Oban's calendar and it is to be hoped that the AMVC will come again.

The evening was brought to a close by a generous vote of thanks from Bill Clifford from Mary's Meals and Tommy McQuade, president of Oban Rotary Club.



New PhD students from all over the UK, Europe and Canada have arrived at SAMS to begin their studies.

Below the surface: all the news from SAMS

THE largest ever intake of postgraduate students arrived at SAMS UHI in October, as a cohort of 15 international Masters and PhD students began their studies.

Twelve of the postgraduate students have begun PhDs in topics as diverse as the Arctic, microplastics, and oil and gas industry decommissioning, representing the wide range of expertise at SAMS UHI. The other three will begin an MSc in Marine Science, focusing on algal biotechnology.

The arrivals, who hail from the UK, Europe and Canada, come just a month after SAMS UHI welcomed the largest undergraduate intake (38 students) to its BSc Marine Science degree.

Dr Bhavani Narayanaswamy, head of SAMS UHI Graduate

School, said: 'I think the numbers of postgraduate students we have taken in recently shows that SAMS has excellent researchers working in a range of exciting areas of marine science. This is reflected in the high number of applications we received for these PhDs - every student here was keen to work with scientists that excel in their area of research.'

Tomorrow (Friday November 3) SAMS UHI will host an open day for prospective students from 1pm to 4pm.

Visitors will have the chance to tour the facilities and meet staff and students but must register their attendance in advance via www.sams.ac.uk, as spaces are limited. SAMS UHI will also host the University of the

Highlands and Islands Research Student Conference next Tuesday and Wednesday (November 7-8), with postgraduate students coming from across the university partnership.

Students will be giving talks and presenting posters followed by the conference ceilidh on the evening of November 7.

AS PART of Oban Winter Festival, SAMS' Ocean Explorer Centre will be opening its doors on November 18 to welcome budding young marine scientists.

Between 11am and 4pm, students will be demonstrating a flow tank, a 'skate photo-booth', touchscreen habitat and treasure hunt, as well as offering advice and information about marine life.

SAMS is used to daily visitors but one such guest, who is more familiar than most, is former PhD student and staffer Dr Karen Alexander.

Dr Alexander, who hails from Kilchrenan, now works at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies in Hobart, Tasmania. She has been invited to SAMS UHI as a guest lecturer on the Aquaculture, Environment and Society (ACES) joint Masters degree, during which time she'll lecture in governance, management and knowledge exchange.

During her five-week homecoming, Dr Alexander will conduct fieldwork for a new project, SustainFish, which addresses a call by the Norwegian Research Council to explore the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability.



Shelling out for lifeboat

Tom Kennedy, right, of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Oban lifeboat received a cheque for £930 last week from Nick Lake, chief executive of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG), following a raffle at the organisation's annual conference at the Corran Halls, Oban. 'We are delighted that ASSG have supported our cause this year and are grateful for their support,' said Tom. Also at the conference, winners of the Best Scottish Shellfish 2017/18 competition were, below left to right, Richard Tate, Shetland Mussels Ltd (best mussels); Judith Vajk, Caledonian Oysters Ltd (best native oysters); and Craig Archibald, Islay Oysters (best gigas oysters).



Hats the way to do an Oban Winter Festival

GET your thinking caps on to design your hats ready for this year's Oban Winter Festival ... and to think how to surprise Santa with something special to make this year's festival even more about the spirit of the season.

Last year's theme was umbrellas and this year the shout has gone out to start making your hats for the grand finale parade.

To help inspiration rush to your head, bookings are now being taken for a hat workshop with Liz @ Heartfelt and the ladies from Mary's Meals. This will be on Wednesday November 22 and space is limited, so sign up soon.

The theme of this year's Christmas shop window competition is something old, something new, so you might want to take that theme and work it into your hats as well. It could be a fashion from days gone by or something futuristic.

And as for that special surprise for Santa? Why not take along a gift for him for a change?

At his winter woodland grotto at the Rockfield Centre, Oban,

on November 24 and 25, Santa is inviting people to bring along a gift for the shoebox appeal to make Christmas special for those less fortunate in our area, working with Mary's Meals and the Salvation Army. Please remember to write gender and age of recipient on the box.

This incredible festival, run by the community for the community, doesn't just provide a wee bit of fun - it has grown to become a brand ambassador for the town and a significant contributor to the local economy.

Last year more than 20,000 people attended the 34 free events and three exhibitions which resulted in £22,000 being raised for charity and an economic impact for the town of £1.9 million with increasing numbers of visitors coming from elsewhere in the UK and around the world.

The programme for the festival is now at the printers, so get ready to get your copy soon.

Next week: we will be looking at the food events, markets and competitions we can all join in at Oban Winter Festival 2017.

Make the right decision when CHOOSING YOUR NEW WINDOWS AND DOORS

We know that replacing your windows and doors can be one of the biggest decisions you'll ever need to make to improve your home. So it makes sense to choose a range that offers beautifully designed and perfectly matched doors and windows.

Cairngorm Group
 1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238 000
 Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
 6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956
 info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

Smooth operators

These primary school pupils enjoyed a ringside view of how Oban's hospital operates, at an open day showcasing its services on Saturday. Pictured, right to left: 10-year-old surgeon Megan Currie from Barcaldine, her assistant Lilly Robinson, eight, and nurse Aisling Duncan, 11, both from Taynuilt, perform a pretend appendectomy, overseen by real nurse Dawn Darling and sister Audrey Paterson.



Packed weekend of events in Oban

THERE'S still time to celebrate Hallowe'en and make the most of all those fabulous costumes before they get packed away for another year, writes Kay McDonald, Oban town ambassador.

It's Freaky Friday tomorrow at Atlantis, in partnership with BID4Oban, with mini-monsters from 1pm to 2.45pm for under-fives and their parents; petrifying primaries from 5pm to 6.30pm; and the truly terrifying teens from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Then we're straight in to bonfire night with lots of communities praying for a dry evening on Saturday and Sunday to enjoy their bonfires, fireworks and other delights - and not forgetting Oban's annual fireworks spectacular - another highlight of the BID4Oban calendar.

Be sure to get a good spot to enjoy the fireworks over the harbour from 7.30pm.

It's another busy weekend around the town musically, with Alan Frew playing in Markie

WHERE IS THIS?



Dan's, John the Box and the Lorne disco in the Lorne and a post-Mòd ceilidh in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls to relieve the joys of last month's Mòd in Fort William - and that's only on Friday.

On Saturday, there's the Ganavan parkrun at 9.30am which you could follow with a lovely holly tea in aid of the MS Therapy Centre in Glencruitten Church Hall between 2pm and 4pm.

On Sunday, an afternoon of wonderful music awaits, before

the fireworks, with the Monzani Trio in St John's Cathedral between 3pm and 5pm.

That's a lot to squeeze into a weekend - or you could just meander through the weekend leaving you refreshed and ready for another busy week. Whatever you decide, I hope you enjoy it.

Last week's photo was taken at the side of the old tourist office and church in Argyll Square.

This week's isn't too far away and just caught my eye as I strolled past.

Man fined £200 for drugs offence

AN OBAN man has pleaded guilty to intentionally obstructing police officers by swallowing an item believed to be controlled drugs.

Paul Nicol, of 2A Lynn Gardens, Oban, received a £200 fine when he appeared in front of Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday October 25.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that, while on patrol, two police officers were alerted by a member of the public that Nicol was in possession of heroin.

Once the 36-year-old was informed that he would be detained, Mr McGinty said: 'He put his left hand to his mouth and leaned forward and made a swallowing action.'

He was then taking to Oban hospital for his own safety and the officers reported him to the procurator fiscal.

Nicol's defence solicitor, Jane McLaren, said her client had since moved to Rosyth and the 'move has served him well', adding that his voluntary drug samples had been clean.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes opted to fine Nicol, saying: 'The progress that you are already making is progress that you want to make - it needs to be from you, not by a court order.'

Petition resists 300 new houses

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

DUNBEG Community Council has launched a petition to oppose any of a planned 300 affordable homes being built 'without proper infrastructure'.

A masterplan for 600 houses in the corridor between Dunbeg and Ganavan near Oban, submitted by social landlord Link Group, was approved in April by Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee, which also agreed to a pre-planning consultation process for 300 dwellings last month.

But Dunbeg community councillors started collecting signatures on Wednesday night

to oppose the plan, and have written to Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell for support.

In a letter, community councillor Bill Harvey explained: 'On August 7 we were told there would be 75 one-bed units, 105 two-beds, 26 three-beds and four four-beds, all for social rent and the remainder other tenure affordable housing.'

'Dunbeg village originally, five years ago, had 295 houses. It has Dunstaffnage Castle, SAMS, part of the University of the Highlands and the Islands, a nursery, the European Marine Science Park (the first of three buildings has opened), Dunbeg Primary School, a church, Jehovah hall, a shop, a hairdresser and

one playpark.

'We were given a plan five years ago to give much-needed housing. Knowing it was needed, there was no objection, but questions were raised about the infrastructure - would it be in place before building started?'

'This plan included two roads: the only existing entrance to Dunbeg, and near the Halfway House filling station on the road to Oban, a much-needed second entrance with a roundabout to the new housing and Dunstaffnage.'

'There would be playparks and an area for recreation and, most importantly, a school to accommodate the increased number of children.

'What has happened? Well, 79 new houses have been built with access along an unadopted road, in a bad state of repair, with no pavement or lighting between 75 of the new houses and Kirk Road.'

'It became clear to us that the council, planners, Link Group and West Highland Housing and Transport Scotland are not listening to Dunbeg's wishes.'

'We conducted a survey and, apart from two or three people, no-one was against much-needed housing, but not without proper infrastructure.'

'The position was that no more houses should be built until, first, the two roads in the original plan are built with a roundabout or roundabouts, and speed restric-

tion improvements be made on the A85. Secondly, provision of play and recreational areas, and, thirdly, proper provision is made for a new school in Dunbeg.'

'The existing school is not fit for purpose with 97 children and nursery, and cannot take in many more children.'

Link Group said it had now begun a consultation as part of the pre-application process.

A spokesperson said: 'Link's 300-home project has been instrumental in addressing the concerns the Dunbeg community has had around the safety of the Kirk Road, and the upgrade works planned to start in January 2018 can only be delivered with the housing commitment to fund

the infrastructure.'

'Link and representatives from West Highland HA, the council and Transport Scotland attended a Dunbeg Community Council event to hear and respond to the concerns from the community.'

'The planning permission sought at this stage is for the additional 300 homes accessed via Kirk Road and the timing is such that the Kirk Road upgrades will be complete before any new homes are completed.'

'The roundabout at the Halfway House will form part of a future submission for the commercial area and new housing developments in recognition that the Kirk Road upgrade will only service the planned 300 homes.'



Humza Yousaf and ferry skipper Roddy MacEachen.

Minister visits newest ferry

TRANSPORT Minister Humza Yousaf has visited the newest and smallest vessel in the CalMac Fleet, the 12-metre MV Carvorra, which operates on the Kerrera to Gallanach route.

CalMac took over the running of the service in July and the vessel, constructed for Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) by Shetland-based Malakoff Ltd, was formally handed over to the operator in August and entered service on the route shortly afterwards.

Mr Yousaf said: 'It's great to see the MV Carvorra and I hope she serves the residents of Kerrera well in the coming years. When I spoke to people on the island during a visit last year, I heard about the important role the ferry service plays in their day-to-day lives.'

'This new vessel underlines our continued commitment to ensuring this important transport link remains resilient and reliable, along with the Scottish Government's recent investment in upgraded berthing facilities and bringing the service into the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services network. By having the vessel manufactured at Shetland shipyard Malakoff Ltd, we also helped support the local economy of another important part of our island communities.'

Taynuilt mum Laura earns degree of success

TAYNUILT mum of four Laura Cumming was among 664 students who had their degrees conferred at the Open University (OU) degree ceremony at Edinburgh's Usher Hall on Saturday October 28.

Laura, 29, received her Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in psychology while raising four children and struggling with anxiety and depression.

Two of her pregnancies were during her degree. She chose the OU so she wouldn't have to leave home.

A psychologist working with her stepson inspired her to study the subject and she was spurred on by her family. Proud children Orrin and Orla also attended the ceremony with their mum.

Laura said: 'I wanted my children to understand that, fair enough, right now I can't go to work, but I wanted them to see mum was doing something, getting somewhere. It shows my children that no matter what life throws at you, you are always able to better yourself and the OU has really done that for me.'

'I had a caesarean with one of my babies and I actually took my books to

hospital with me. The staff were checking me through the night and I was reading my books. They were asking, "Are you not going to get some sleep?" and I was saying, "No, no, I need to do this".'

'When my youngest son Odinn was born, we found out he has a heart condition. We were in and out of Glasgow to the Sick Children's Hospital, and my tutors were absolutely brilliant with me. I am always recommending the OU to people. My husband is now studying with the OU, doing an IT course.'

Laura hopes to go on to study a Masters degree in psychology.

Susan Stewart, director of the OU in Scotland, added: 'Our students come from all kinds of backgrounds and from all over Scotland and they study for lots of different reasons, but what they all have in common is a fierce desire to fit learning into their busy lives.'

'Laura is a fantastic example of that commitment and dedication and I'm extremely proud of her and everyone else that graduated with the Open University in Scotland.'



Laura Cumming at the degree ceremony in Edinburgh's Usher Hall.

MP has tunnel vision for the islands

FORGET ferry crossings: Argyll should learn from the Faroes and build undersea tunnels to link up Hebridean islands, the region's MP has urged.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara praised the Danish archipelago's 'remarkable' road tunnel network connecting the outlying islands with the capital, Torshavn, and said Scotland and his constituency could learn a great deal from the success.

The SNP MP made the comments after a Westminster meeting with Uni Danielson, managing director of tunnelling company Nardoyatunnin, overseeing the Faroe's longest tunnel, two lanes running for

6.3km 150m below the Atlantic between the islands of Boröy and Eysturoy - an island which also claims a 'Bridge over the Atlantic', like the Isles of Seil and Great Bernera, to neighbouring Streymoy.

Mr O'Hara said: 'Tunnels are a vital part of the Faroese transportation network and has brought them huge economic benefits and, at a cost of £11 million per kilometre, I think this is worth exploring further.'

He intends to visit the Faroes next year, possibly with the Scottish Government's Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf, 'to see at first-hand how these tunnels are built and to see if such technology could be applied

here in Argyll and other parts of Scotland to connect some of our islands and more remote parts of the constituency to the mainland'.

The Faroe Islands is approximately 200 miles off the north-west of Scotland and lies between Norway and Iceland and has been building tunnels since the 1960s. There are around 18 tunnels connecting the various islands ranging from 0.5km to 6km.

Travelling by tunnel would be quicker than by ferry, and less likely to close in adverse weather, but they are more susceptible to earthquakes and are expensive to construct.

Distances and costs between Hebridean islands can vary

greatly: 1km tunnels connecting Mull and Iona or Islay and Jura come in cheapest costing £11 million apiece, slightly more than a 4km underground passage between Tayinloan and Gigha for £44 million, or £66 million to burrow 6km between Claonaig and Lochranza on Arran.

But dwarfing these would be digging a 15km tunnel between Oban and Craignure on Mull, costing £165 million, or tunneling 26km between the mainland and Islay at its closest point (under Gigha), and using Islay as a stepping-stone to bore 14km onto Colonsay, costing £440 million for the round trip.

CalMac said it had no view on the matter.

Nissen hut could be yours for £10,000



The dilapidated structure is now on the market.

A RUSTY Nissen hut in Fearnoch - with a tiny plot of land - could be yours for a whopping £10,000.

The 64-square-metre shed, built between 1935 and 1939 and owned the Forestry Commission, comes with just a two-metre border of land around it, according to the plans.

Oban estate agent Bell Ingram describes the crumbling prefab as a 'unique opportunity'. Earlier this year a Second World War Nissen hut once used as a light aircraft hangar in rural Essex was given a Grand Designs-style makeover into a five-bedroom home with sauna, gym and yoga room, and went on sale for £1.4 million.

The Nissen hut was designed during the First World War by

Major Peter Norman Nissen of the Royal Engineers to be constructed by six men in four hours, using a steel frame and corrugated sheeting. The world record for construction stands at one hour, 27 minutes.

The Nissen re-emerged during the Second World War when thousands were built by the British government across the country, used variously from bomb stores to the Italian Chapel built by Italian prisoners of war on Lamb Holm, Orkney.

Taynuilt Community Council was given the opportunity to buy the property but expressed no interest, but expressed a wish to see it used rather than being demolished.

The closing date is November 24.

Consultation opens on cuts to services

WITH savings of up to £33 million to be made over the next three years, Argyll and Bute Council will seek the views of residents in planning the future of its services, launching a consultation this month.

Leader of the council Councillor Aileen Morton said: 'Every day Argyll and Bute Council provides services that support our youngest, our oldest and our most vulnerable residents. We work year round to meet the needs of our communities and businesses to build the economic growth

that will bring the people and jobs on which the future of our area depends.'

'Achieving this has become increasingly difficult, given cuts to our funding over the past years. The scale of savings we expect to have to continue making in the years to come will mean more difficult choices and significant change in how we work with and for our communities.'

'At the moment, we don't know exactly what we are dealing with - our funding is expected to be confirmed by the

Scottish Government towards the end of the year for 2018-19. We do know, though, that change will have to happen. It is with the help of local people that we have already made choices that are transforming the work of the council.'

'With millions of pounds of more savings to make, we would like to involve people again in making the best use of the resources and I would encourage local people to get involved and make their views known.'

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, deputy leader and policy lead

for strategic finance, set out the scale of the challenge facing the council.

'The council's budget gap in 2018/19 is estimated to be between £0.9 million and £8.5 million, and between £11.1 million and £33.9 million over the next three years,' he said.

'Due to national requirements and changes to decision-making about social care, we can only make these savings from a budget of around £60 million a year.' The consultation will be available on the council's website from November 13.



inspire • connect • inform

ARGYLL ENTERPRISE WEEK
6 Nov - 10 Nov 2017

Last chance to book for Argyll Enterprise Week

With just a few days to go until the launch of Argyll Enterprise Week 2017, it's the last chance to book a place on one of the themed days aimed at supporting growing businesses.

Argyll Enterprise Week brings together industry experts and successful business owners to offer advice and informal networking opportunities on a range of leading sectors in Argyll and Bute.

From international trade to tourism, getting your business on line to food and drink, and creative industries to community-led development, there's a wide range of events and seminars to choose from.

Taking feedback from last year on board, this year's events will stretch from Oban in the north to Campbeltown in the south, taking in Helensburgh, Dunoon, Lochgilphead and Arrochar.

Speaking about last year's event, delegate Barbara Smith said: 'You can google to your heart's content, but you won't necessarily get a good grasp of what these people do and how it relates to you unless you speak to them.'

Jamie Delap, who also attended Argyll Enterprise Week 2016, said: 'It's all about trying to spark off from each other it's looking for interesting ideas that other people have got and thinking, that's a great idea, I can try that with my businesses. We found getting things done in Argyll and Bute is fantastically easy. You can meet the decision makers, build up a relationship build on some trust. It's a really easy place to do business.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, Leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'We have worked with industry partners to target what's most important to them, increased opportunities for informal networking and, most importantly, we'll be letting you hear from people who have made a real success of their business in Argyll and Bute. This is all about supporting our local businesses to grow and prosper.'

David Smart, HIE's head of special projects in Argyll and the Islands, said: 'These events are free to attend so please make sure you take this last opportunity to book your place. Argyll Enterprise Week will focus on areas of potential expansion and offer up some of the tools you need to help your business prosper.'

Argyll Enterprise Week is delivered in partnership by Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), and the business community. To book tickets for your preferred event go to Argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.co.uk.

Find out what is going on in your area and book your tickets

at www.argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com or call

Argyll and Bute Business Gateway team on **01546 604555**



OT

Western Isles

WESTERN Isles Development Trust wants more islanders to become board members.

Directors, other than those nominated, are elected from and by ordinary members.

The company is keen to increase its membership across the Western Isles before seeking to appoint additional directors.

Anyone interested in becoming a member and helping to distribute funds from renewable energy developments to help community projects should visit www.widt.co.uk or

email info@widt.co.uk for more information.

In the past 18 months, the company has invested more than £140,000 to promote its objectives. The most recent award was a £10,000 grant to Urras Sgìre Oighreachd Bharbhaig for the Barvas Local Energy Project.

The money will be used to help fund phase one of the project up to the construction phase of a wind turbine, including detailed design and a feasibility study, to provide power for a local business on the estate.

Mull



John and Carla Lamont. Photograph: Callum Mackay.

THE Ninth Wave restaurant, Bruach Mhor, Fionnphort, Mull, has been highly commended in the 2017 Seafood Restaurant of the Year competition.

The award, presented by Seafish and The Caterer, is designed to find the best restaurants cooking and serving seafood dishes. The competition, now in its third year, was launched to highlight the creative use of seafood and businesses' knowledge of often under-used species in all types of restaurants.

Recognised for its consistently high levels of customer service, Ninth Wave was praised by the judges for its innovative menu and strong focus on using locally-sourced ingredients.

A mystery Seafish diner scored Ninth Wave very

highly with regards to the staff's familiarity and knowledge of species served, with staff able to offer good advice and recommendations to diners regarding the fish and shellfish on offer.

Owners John and Carla Lamont showcase modern British cuisine with an eclectic twist with ingredients locally gathered from the Scottish isles.

John and Carla use home-grown produce from their croft, along with seafood caught by John and organic meats from Mull.

Competition judge Jose Souto said: 'The Ninth Wave is exactly what sustainable and responsible delivery of fish and shellfish should look like. The team on Mull have an incredible story to tell and tell it well.'

Kilbrandon

SPEAKER at the October meeting of Kilbrandon's branch of the Scottish Women's Institute was Gary Hart, senior outreach and engagement officer for parliament.

His job entails speaking to community groups to encourage people to get involved in the democratic

process. His presentation took the form of an informal quiz followed by a discussion about the Westminster parliament, its history and how it works.

Everyone learned something new and had a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

Glenorchy and Innishail

GLENORCHY and Innishail Community Council will meet in Lochawe Village Hall on Wednesday November 8 at 7pm.

Members of the public

and representatives of community groups and schools are welcome. The community council can help with funding for community groups.

Balloch



Bill Paterson on the *Maid of the Loch* with Aly Bain, left, and Phil Cunningham.

TV AND film star Bill Paterson and Celtic music legends Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain are getting behind a project to save the paddle steamer *Maid of the Loch*.

The trio appear in a short film promoting the launch of a crowdfunding campaign which it is hoped will see the ship set sail again on Loch

Lomond. Campaigners hope to raise £125,000 in six weeks to buy and install a special steam boiler to power the engine and restore the 'heart' of *Maid of the Loch*.

The stars of the film are encouraging people to share the film on social media through the hashtag #MaidtoSail. There is also a website, www.maidoftheloch.org, to help

get the word out. In the new film, Bill – whose roles range from new hits including *Outlander*, *Fleabag* and *Shetland* to cultural classics *Dad's Army*, *Truly, Madly Deeply* and *The Killing Fields* – brings his wonderful flair for story-telling to the tale of *Maid of the Loch*.

As Bill takes viewers on a tour of the ship, Phil Cun-

ningham and Aly Bain play a specially composed song about the *Maid* on the deck, with views of Loch Lomond behind them.

Remarkable archive footage and photography runs throughout the film, showing the *Maid* in her heyday, packed with passengers enjoying a day on Loch Lomond.

Helensburgh



Brendan O'Hara joins Rotary Club members wearing their sandwich boards.

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara joined Helensburgh Garelochside Rotary Club members on their Sandwich Board Walk last month to promote town businesses.

For £40, businesses could sponsor a board for the day and advertise on the Helensburgh Garelochside Rotary Club website for one year.

Arrochar

THE NEXT phase of landslip mitigation measures on the A83 through the Rest and Be Thankful is under way.

Work on the excavation of three catch-pits at the bottom of the slope started at the beginning of last week (October 23). The pits have been designed to catch any material from potential landslips to prevent the debris from reaching the road. The scheme will cost around £1.8 million.

Modelling work has been carried out to establish the best location for the catch-pits. Their design is endorsed by

the A83 Taskforce and members were given an update on the work at a meeting last week in Arrochar.

Transport minister Humza Yousaf said: 'The Scottish Government remains firmly committed to maintaining access to the A83.'

'More than £58 million has been invested in the route since 2007 to the end of the last financial year, including almost £10 million for landslip mitigation at the Rest and Be Thankful.'

'Once completed, these three pits will have the potential to hold upwards

of 15,000 tonnes of debris were this to be generated by a landslip. This provides additional resilience capacity.'

'The nets continue to prove their worth, having caught material from a small slip earlier this month.'

'We understand the community is concerned about a delay to the start of the catch-pit work but it was important we had the correct preparations in place and now work is under way we are looking forward to seeing it progressing to keep Argyll open for business.'

Appin

AN ARGYLL fèis group is calling for the support of local communities to help win funding as part of the Aviva Community Fund 2017.

Fèis na h-Apaine in Argyll is relying on public votes to increase its chances of winning funding of up to £1,000 in the Skills for Life category. Only projects with the most votes will become finalists, so additional support is vital.

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal chief executive, said: 'Fèisean provide a wealth of traditional arts opportunities in their communities and I would urge the public to support bids for Aviva Community Fund awards. Public support will be vital to reach the final round and gain funding and I wish Fèis na h-Apaine the very best of luck.'

To get behind the group, visit www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk and submit your votes before midday on Tuesday November 21.

THE APPIN branch of the Scottish Women's Institute was joined by visitors from Oban and Benderloch for an evening of entertainment in Appin Hall on Thursday October 19.

Janet Ferguson performed at the open night, as did Oban Community Choir. The choir's programme of songs, which featured Rock around the Clock to Mairi's Wedding, received the approval of the audience.

Solo performances, audience participation and a Laurel and Hardy duet all added to the fun and enjoyment.

Catriona MacKenzie thanked the choir for a super evening. Competition results: Poster for a celebration, Jessie MacKenzie, gold. Six white truffles, Brenda MacLeod, gold. Brenda also won the handcraft competition.

Ardfern



Ardfern's Jamie Spencer welcomes The Princess Royal to Madagascar.

HER ROYAL Highness The Princess Royal last week toured Madagascar, the home of the lemur and the fourth poorest country in the world.

One of the first places she visited was Scottish charity Feedback Madagascar, run by Jamie Spencer of Ardferrn. The charity's Wild Silk project has trained 650 local women to make and sell silk scarves across the world, at the same time as managing and growing the Tapia forests where the Malagasy wild silk moth thrives.

Stornoway

TO CELEBRATE the hard work and achievements of local performers during this year's Royal National Mòd, a post-Mòd cèilidh will be held at Stornoway Town Hall tomorrow (Friday November 3) at 7.30pm.

The event will be free of charge, although donations will be accepted at the door. There will be a raffle at the interval. All profits will be donated to An Comunn

Gàidhealach to help performers cover their costs for attending the Mòd.

The concert promises to be a great opportunity for musicians and singers to showcase their talents to a local audience and it is hoped there will be a good turnout.

For further information contact Mira Byrne on mbyrne1u@gnes.net or 01851 822850.



The perfect gift for friends and family ... or your kitchen!

SOUVENIR TEA TOWELS £6.95

Our beautifully illustrated maps of the towns, regions and islands of the west of Scotland have been transformed into keepsake, gift-quality tea-towels.

At just £6.95, this makes the perfect souvenir gift or special memento of beautiful Oban.

AVAILABLE NOW!

In Person: Oban and Lorn Tea-towels are available to buy in person from **The Oban Times office at Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.**

Mail Order: If you wish to order by telephone, please contact us on **01631 568000** For mail order, the total cost is £8.50 including postage and packaging.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

At Random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

Bring it on

IT HARDLY feels like that time of year yet, but excitement is already building about the prospect of Oban Live 2018.

This week we have a brilliant offer exclusively for readers of *The Oban Times* which discounts even early bird tickets by an extra 20 per cent.

That is a serious saving for what has become a highlight of the calendar in the Oban area. Indeed, Oban Live has established itself so successfully in such a short time that it is already attracting fans from all over the world, never mind just Oban or even Argyll and Scotland.

Sadly, I have no advance knowledge of who might be in the 2018 line-up of musical acts but if the past couple of years are anything to go by, we'll be in for a real treat.

Hopefully, the organisers will again do the well-received promotion introduced for this summer's event, Oban Unsigned, which gave *Oban Times* readers the chance to vote for an otherwise little known act to appear on the Friday night.

One of the highlights of this year's Oban Live for me was the performance of the Oban Unsigned act, K9 Kev (aka Kevin Irvine) and Rory O'B (O'Byrne), a couple of local rappers and hip-hop artists.

I was also pleasantly surprised as I would not have in a month of blue moons called myself a rap or hip-hop fan. But the two guys, with their backing band of somewhat more seasoned local musicians were stars.

I can't wait to hear who will be appearing at 2018 Oban Live. I only wish it were sooner.

Worthwhile cause

I WAS intrigued last week by the story we published about a young woman named Claire Gerrard, who has launched an initiative called Goth on the Croft to raise awareness of hate crime.

Claire, also known rather mystically as Spectra Vox, has put together a calendar featuring photos of herself and her goth friends posing on her croft on the isle of Lewis.

and choose to dress. We would not tolerate – indeed, we would rightly be outraged – if people were targeted because they wear the kilt.

I do not understand hate crime in any of its forms, so I wish Spectra Vox and her friends every success with their fundraising calendars.

Good for Laura

WASN'T is heart-warming to read last week that Laura MacIntyre, the Barra teenager so cruelly caught up in the Manchester Arena bombing earlier this year, has returned to school?

What happened to Laura and her best friend Eilidh MacLeod, who so tragically lost her life, remains beyond comprehension for the vast majority of us.

I can't begin to imagine what these families have been through. For Eilidh's nearest and dearest, there will never be an end to their suffering.

For Laura, I hope fervently that going back to school can be the next step on what I'm sure will be a very long road, but at least the journey has begun.

What do you think?

WRITE to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB.

K9 Kev and Rory O'B rock this year's Oban Live.



Charles Dunell Rudd, back row, centre, with the crew of the Mingary.

Magnificent yachts that vanished from the west

IAIN THORNER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

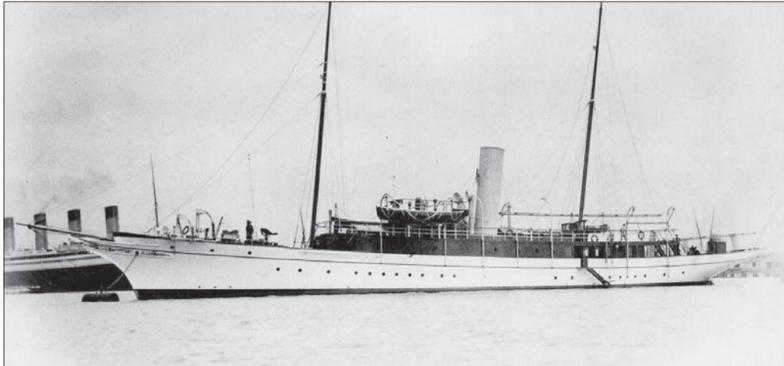
THE First World War, and the depression that followed, changed a landscape and a way of life along Scotland's West Coast forever.

Nowhere was this more in evidence than the almost total disappearance of a fleet of private yachts from virtually every sea loch and estuary between the Butt of Lewis and Wigton Bay.

For almost a century before the Great War, anyone who owned a coastal estate kept a boat for pleasure. Commissioned by some of the country's richest men, these stately yachts were symbols of wealth and power and provided much local employment, both afloat and ashore. Many were built along the lines of clipper ships, with ornate and old-fashioned cutwater prows topped off with bowsprits and terminating in attractive rising sterns. Generally, they were white and carried rigging with swept-back masts for show and naval tradition. Although these yachts were more than capable of undertaking long voyages, they generally stayed close to the coast except in late autumn when many of them followed the sun to the Baltic and the Mediterranean.

Most yacht owners north of the Clyde belonged to the prestigious Royal Highland Yacht Club, established in Oban in 1881. Every September, before turning south, sometimes upwards of 100 of these magnificent vessels would gather in Oban Bay where their owners partied as if they were already on the Riviera. During the day they took part in regattas in the Sound of Mull or attended the Argyllshire Gathering to listen to the pipes and to watch kilted supermen throw things up and down a field from the comfort of the heavily-tweed members' enclosure. And, as the sun sank behind the Morvern hills on a clear summer's evening, every yacht owner illuminated Oban Bay with a brilliant firework display before going ashore with their guests to attend the glittering Argyllshire Gathering and yacht club balls.

Of all these yachts, the Mingary, Sanda, Rannoch and Minona were among the most impressive privately owned vessels sailing the Hebrides. All four were designed and built to the highest standards and all carried Lloyd's



The Mingary with the Titanic in the background.

top 100A1 classification, which helped to maintain their high resale values and reduce insurance premiums as a well-found yacht was less risk.

The owner of the Mingary was Charles Dunell Rudd of Ardnamurchan, vice partner and co-founder of De Beers and Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd and vice commodore of the RHYC. The Mingary was designed by G L Watson & Co, of Glasgow, who produced some of the largest and most elegant steam yachts of all time for an international clientele which included most of the crowned heads of Europe.

Built in Troon in 1899, by the Ailsa Ship Building Co Ltd and named after a medieval castle on Rudd's 55,000-acre estate, the Mingary was 187ft long, 27ft broad and drew slightly less than 15ft. She had a steel hull and weighed 639 tons. Her captain was Daniel Mackinnon from Kylerhea on Skye with the crew almost all coming from the estate. The 1901 National Census shows seven crew members aboard her as she lay at her moorings in Salen Bay, Loch Sunart, ready to take the Rudds out at a moment's notice.

However, for a cruise to the Mediterranean in the spring of 1911, a further 18 were added, including two French chefs and a piper. Little wonder it was said that the yacht cost more to run than the rest of the estate put together.

In January 1915, Rudd leased the Mingary to the Admiralty. Her upper decks were armoured and two guns were fitted which enabled her to defend herself against a German submarine off the Yorkshire coast.

When the war ended in 1918

she was offered back to the family. As Charles Rudd had died in 1916, they declined and she was sold the following year.

She retained her name until December 1925 when new Turkish owners renamed her Sevintch. Two years later she collided with another vessel off Boz Burnu in the Aegean Sea and sank.

When George Herbert Strutt of Makeney, Derbyshire, whose family founded the cotton manufacturing industry in Great Britain, bought Kingairloch Estate near Ardgour in 1902, he inherited a small steam cutter called the Satellite (26 tons) from the previous owner. Too small for his requirements, he purchased the Maretanza and renamed her Sanda, after Glen Sanda on the estate.

The new steel-hulled Sanda was designed by P Isaac, a comparatively unknown maritime architect, and built in 1902 by J P Rennoldson & Sons of South Shields. She weighed 151 tons, was 152ft long, 22ft broad and 13ft deep. She had electric light and was used for deer stalking expeditions to Glensanda, collecting visitors in Oban, and cruising as far west as St Kilda to buy tweed for the Strutt family and their staff.

In the same year as Rudd leased Mingary to the Admiralty for the war effort, Strutt magnanimously loaned them Sanda and she was quickly converted into an armed escort. Nine months later, she was sunk by German gunfire off the Belgian coast with the loss of many lives.

After the Sanda came the Herga, the Galma and the Goolack. The Galma was built on Kerrera with an aft deck specially designed to allow the Strutts and

ty, financed on the proceeds of gin and wool and designed by Cox & King of London, which was especially known for its luxury steam and motor yachts.

The Rannoch was built in 1902 by Ramage & Ferguson, Leith – arguably one of the finest boat builders in the world at the time.

Named after a river on Ardtornish Estate, the Rannoch had a steel hull and was 184ft in length, 25ft broad and drew only 14ft to allow her to pass over the shallow bar at the entrance to Loch Aline. A three-cylinder, 124hp engine ensured a fast cruising speed and her interior, illuminated by electricity, was the ultimate in gracious living.

Smith died in 1906 and the Rannoch passed to his sister, Gertrude, and her son, Gerard Craig Sellar, who was Commodore of the RHYC from 1913 until his death in a railway carriage at Callander in 1929. The Rannoch's subsequent history is unknown but it is thought she too disappeared in the Great War.

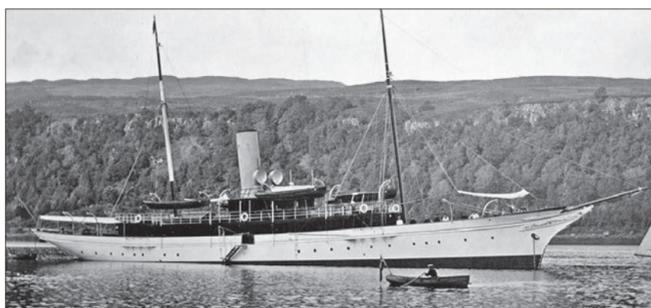
Robert Stewart of Ingliston was a prosperous Edinburgh businessman and a distinguished yachtsman. In 1882, he purchased Kinlochmoidart Estate at the head of Loch Moidart in West Inverness-shire, probably for its historical connection with Prince Charles Edward Stewart, who stayed there for several days before raising the Jacobite standard at Glenfinnan on August 19, 1745.

Land access was difficult so Messrs Ramage & Ferguson Ltd of Leith were commissioned to build the 250-ton Minona to the designs of G L Watson & Co. Launched in April 1900, her dimensions were 129ft in length by 21ft broad and 12ft deep and powered by a set of triple expansion engines. On Robert Stewart's death in 1909, the Minona was sold to George Coates, later Baron Glentanar, of the cotton thread dynasty from Paisley. Thereafter she passed through a string of owners, including Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and the flamboyant Peter de Savary, who used her as a floating headquarters for his 1983 America's Cup Challenge.

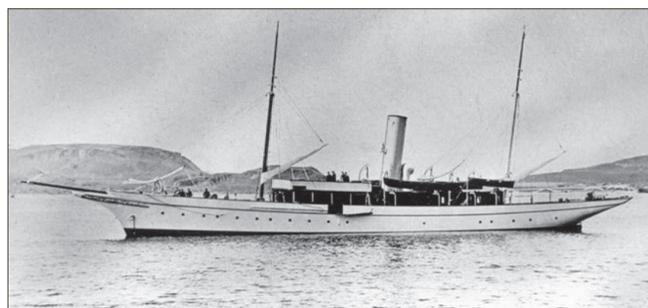
Renamed the Kalizma (after the Burtons' children Kate, Liza and Maria), the Minona was restored in 2006 and is one of the oldest and finest classic motor yachts afloat today.

The Rannoch's owner was Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardtornish Estate on the Morvern Peninsula and a trustee of the RHYC. She was a 550-ton beau-

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



The Rannoch, owned by Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardtornish.



The Sanda, belonging to George Herbert Strutt of Kingairloch.

Mike and Lisa are quite conservative that is until they see their new conservatory...



The new conservatory is my favourite room of the house Lisa



I know, and it will look so lovely when we join it up to our new kitchen. The workmen did a fantastic job.



They did, and don't forget it will be cool in the Summer and warm in the Winter as the snow falls outside.



1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU
Tel: 01463 238 000

Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY
Tel: 01343 545315

6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG
Tel: 01847 894956

Email: info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

f #MeetTheCairns

OUTDOORS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Hunted to extinction but wolves survive to this day

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

EVERY October, just before folk don werewolf costumes at Hallowe'en, Wolf Awareness Week is held.

It celebrates one of the world's most controversial species, historically vilified to extinction in Argyll, Lochaber and later Scotland as a whole, but now so ecologically valued there is talk of reintroducing them.

The Eurasian wolf, the world's largest wild canid and most widely distributed mammal, roamed freely across North America, most of Asia and Europe, including Scotland, until they were hunted to extinction by the 1740s.

Once the wolf was revered rather than feared. One of the earliest depictions in Scotland is the Ardrross wolf, an ornate carving on a Pictish stone of a wolf striding along with a leisurely gait, tongue lolling. Elsewhere, a genealogy of Anglo-Saxon dynasties records the East Anglian founder of a dynasty called 'Wuffa' and his tribe, who were known as 'Wuffings' (wolf people).

Evidence of wolves in Scotland turns up in surprising places. The word 'wolf' in Gaelic is 'lub', 'Mac Tire' ('Earth's son') and also 'madadh alluidh' ('wild dog'), found in many place names such as Lochmaddy on North Uist, and even Ulva, a Gaelic corruption of the Vikings' name Ullfur, or 'wolf island', in Old Norse.

One theory argues crannogs, or man-made islands with houses on top, were built between 500BC and AD1500 to keep families safe from wolves. The animals instilled such fear in Lochaber during Queen Mary's reign that the stretch between Blackwater and Rannoch was deemed unpassable, and refuges were erected for the safety of travellers elsewhere in the



Ruby and her octuplets go dooking for apples, though it is not standard wolf behaviour, and, below the Wolf Stone near Furnace.



Highlands, termed 'spittals' – hence the Spittal of Glenshee.

A 400-year-old medical compendium, compiled by the Beaton of Mull, contains a 'thread charm' against wolves, placed under the door or threshold. Given people's reliance on livestock, it is not surprising protection was

sought from the divine, such as this Gaelic prayer collected by the Lismore folklorist Alexander Carmichael:

*Lift our flocks to the hills,
Quell the wolf and the fox,
Ward from us spectre, giant,
fury,
And oppression.*

Wolves, it was said, when hungry, ransacked churchyards and feasted on newly buried corpses they unearthed. Burials were transferred to islands, such as Innishail in Loch Awe and Eilean Munda in Loch Leven near Ballachullish.

Calum Maclean, collecting folk memories in 1951, recorded Allan MacDonald from Bunroy, Brae Lochaber, saying: 'There's a place up in Glenroy which they call Achadh a' Mhadaidh [the wolf field]. There was a woman on the hill taking home a creel of peats.

'When she lifted her head to go there was a [she]-wolf with its mouth agape ready to lunge. She put her hand out to keep it at bay. She put her hand into its mouth and strangled it by thrusting her hand into it and choking it.'

Huge swathes of forest in Perthshire, Lochaber and Argyll were systematically

destroyed to deprive wolves of their habitat and, as time went by, sightings grew scarcer. The story is that the last wolf in Argyll – possibly the last in Scotland – was shot at the Wolf Stone, Clach a' Mhadaidh, near Furnace.

Lochaber's last wolf slayers include hunter-bard Dòmhnall MacFhionnlaigh nan Dàn (Donald MacKinlay of the Lays), Andrew MacGillivray or Anndra Mòr nam Madadh-al-laidh (Great Andrew of the Wolves), and John Dun Campbell, who killed the last wolf c.1663 at Achadh a' Mhadaidh (the wolf's field) in Glenroy.

However, most famously Sir Ewen Dubh Cameron of Lochiel is credited with shooting the last wild-living wolf in Great Britain, near Killikranksie in 1680. Apparently, an auction catalogue for a London museum in 1818 put this stuffed wolf up for sale, labelled: 'Wolf - a noble animal in a large case. The last wolf killed in Scotland by Sir Ewan Cameron.' Unfortunately, the whereabouts of this piece is now unknown.

SNH said there were no plans to reintroduce wolves into Scotland, but they were breeding in captivity. A pack of European grey wolves live at RZSS Highland Wildlife Park, which opened in 2010.

In May, Ruby, with the father Jax, gave birth to her second litter of cubs – octuplets composed of five females called Pollidh, Brora, Suie, Meagaidh and Sneachd and three males, Cuillin, Cairn and Torridon – pictured dooking for apples before Hallowe'en.

Douglas Richardson, head of Living Collections at RZSS Highland Wildlife Park, said: 'Although dooking for apples is not exactly standard wolf behaviour, because of the pups' natural curiosity, they were straight into the water chasing the apples.'

Capercaillie return to Highland Wildlife Park

TWO pairs of endangered capercaillie have made a flying return to RZSS Highland Wildlife Park.

The large native Scottish bird will now be on show so visitors will be able to see the largest members of the grouse family which can reach around 90cm in length and 14lbs in weight.

The capercaillie males are unmistakable with their slate grey plumage, blue sheen head and bright red eye ring. The females are smaller, with brown and chestnut-red feathers and fan-shaped tail.

It is hoped the newest additions will play their part in creating a strong captive population to potentially safeguard the future of the species in Scotland, which is still under threat from habitat destruction, predation, shifts in weather patterns and collision with fences.

Doug Richardson, from RZSS

Highland Wildlife Park, said: 'The population of the "horse of the forest", which is the Gaelic derivation of the capercaillie's name, is once again on a downward spiral for reasons that are not especially clear. The majority of the birds still found in Scotland are in Speyside.

'The species was reintroduced to the UK using birds from Scandinavia following the first extinction in the 18th century, so it is not inconceivable that a second reintroduction might be required at some point in the future, at least to augment existing pockets of capercaillie.'

The capercaillie became extinct in Britain in the late 18th century, but birds were reintroduced from Sweden starting in 1837. The main cause of its extinction within Britain was thought to be related to the catastrophic loss of its woodland habitat.



An artist's drawing of how the hostel will look.

Major upgrade under way at youth hostel

A MAJOR redevelopment is currently under way on the Glen Nevis Youth Hostel.

The hostel is currently closed for the renovation to take place and is scheduled to re-open in time for the peak season next year.

The proposed changes include upgraded rooms, a self-catering kitchen, and open plan living spaces with panoramic views of the Nevis mountain range.

SYHA Hostelling Scotland's

chief executive Margo Paterson said: 'I'm delighted that the project is now under way and we're looking forward to seeing the new youth hostel take shape over the coming months.'

The Glen Nevis project is part of SYHA's strategic plan to modernise its network of hostels. SYHA Scotland is a self-funding charitable organisation with 34 hostels in Scotland, which take in 400,000 guests every year.

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

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

Thursday November 2 Creag Bhan and Creag Dubh Lochalort

On the border between Morar and Moidart, these small but rough hills make an interesting walk with views across to the Small Isles.

Start just W of Arieniskill on

the A830 at NM785831. There is limited parking in the vicinity.

Pass under the railway and follow the path NE along the Allt na Criche. Fork left where it splits and continue N up to its highest point at NM793849. Head W up to the summit of Creag Bhan, 510m. Continue W down to a col at the head of Loch an lasgair and climb to the summit of Creag Dhubh. Cross the rocky undulating ground on top of Arnabol Hill, passing several lochans, to the W end of the plateau at Am Mama (ring contour 360m).

Head NW down two steep slopes, then descend W into Gleann Mama down the crest of the escarpment. Cross the Allt a' Mhama at the junction of the footpaths (stepping stones). Follow the path SW downstream to Glen Mama Farm and the A830. Transport required.

Grade: M+; Distance: 11km; Height to climb: 620m; Map(s): LR40, EX398. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 9am. Start of walk at 9.45am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

Saturday November 4 Sgorr na Ciche (Pap of Glencoe)

A prominent peak, just asking to be climbed. A well-known landmark for Glen Coe and a splendid viewpoint.

Start from the CP at the electricity sub-station at NN107587.

Head SE on a footpath parallel to the public road for about 400m. Pass through a gate and head NE up a steep track to a junction. Turn SE across the burn on a bridge. The track narrows to a path, horizontal at first, then zig-zags steeply up the slope, eventually turning N

to the col SE of Sgorr na Ciche. The path crosses the col and zig-zags up the steep and rocky SE flank of Sgorr na Ciche, finally approaching the summit from the E. Descend by the steep and slabby W ridge. When the angle lessens to a grassy slope, curve NW down to a path and join it just where it enters the forest at NN113598, about 170m alt.

Head SW down the path, cross the first forest road and continue on the path down to a second. Turn left here and follow the road down to the CP at the start.

Grade: M+; Distance: 8km; Height to climb: 730m; Map(s): LR41, EX384. Meet at Glencoe village car park at 11.20am. Start of walk at 11.30am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

Saturday November 4 Am Meall, Glen Coe

A small hill with a commanding view of Glen Coe, Ballachulish and Loch Leven, surrounded by a panorama of famous hills.

Start from Glencoe Village CP, NN098587. Cross the A82 and walk W along the old road through Tigh-phuir until it joins the main road. Follow the cycle track to the junction for Ballachulish village, then turn left to reach the entrance to the quarry. Inside the gate, turn immediately right and follow the path up around the rim of the quarry to a gate. Turn left, ENE, on a faint path between the rim of the quarry and the forest fence. At the corner of the forest, the path emerges on to the open hillside and climbs ESE up the hill to the communications mast at the summit of Am Meall, 414m. Cross the fence on a stile and head SW down the track to a junction with

a forest road. Turn left and walk E down the road as far as the rear entrance to the campsite at NN110578.

Turn NW on to a footpath and follow it parallel to the A82 until opposite the Henderson Stone at NN104586. Cross the A82, walk through the field and exit by a gate and short path that leads up to a monument. Pass the monument and turn left along Upper Carnoch to Glencoe Village main street and follow it down back to the CP.

Grade: M; Distance: 7km; Height to climb: 420m; Map(s): LR41, EX384. Meet at Glencoe village car park at 11.20am. Start of walk at 11.30am. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB
Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club

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

Saturday November 4 Creag Meagaidh, Loch Laggan

From the pull-in where Allt Coire Choille-rai meets the A86 (NN45840), follow the stream through the trees and into open countryside. Cross the stream and head up the SE ridge of Meall Coire Choille-rai and begin the clockwise circuit of Moy Corrie. (A deviation can be made to the summit of Creag Meagaidh if desired). From Puist Coire Ardair head E, SE and then S to rejoin Allt Coire Choille-rai.

Distance: 8km; Height to climb: 1000m.

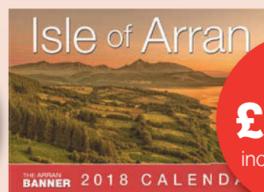
Suggested and coordinated by Toril Frantzen.

Scottish Calendars 2018

The ideal gift...



FROM
£7.95
including P&P



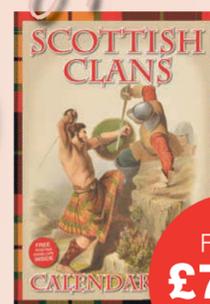
FROM
£7.95
including P&P



FROM
£11.95
including P&P



FROM
£7.95
including P&P



FROM
£7.95
including P&P

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. Featuring the breathtaking landscapes and diverse architecture from around Scotland. We also have a Scottish Clans Calendar, featuring illustrations by R.R. McIan. Our Scottish Calendars make the ideal gift. To see all the images from our 2018 range visit: www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

ORDER ONLINE AT www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on 01371 851 868

Call for West Highland Line rail contract to be terminated

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A CALL has been made for Abellio ScotRail to have its West Highland Line franchise contract terminated amid accusations it has failed to deliver on promises of more investment, leaving a service not fit for purpose when it comes to serving the passengers and communities of Lochaber.

The damning assessment of the Dutch-owned train operator came from the annual general meeting of Lochaber Transport Forum held in Fort William this week.

In his annual chairman's report, Brian Murphy told members this year had seen little headway made on rail transport issues in particular.

And Mr Murphy reserved his strongest condemnation for the performance of Abellio ScotRail. 'When the new rail franchise was awarded to Abellio, we were promised improved services, new rolling stock and integrated fares. We are still waiting,' he stated.

'At a meeting in Inverness on February 25, 2015, I asked the then chief executive officer if they had plans to introduce new services for the West Highland Line, given that there is sufficient slack in the timetable to allow this to happen. He replied they were very keen to look at that. In spite of repeated efforts to raise these and other issues, such as trains being cancelled because of a shortage of drivers, with ministers, Transport Scotland and Abellio, we are no further forward.

'It's my belief Abellio is failing to deliver and that the Transport

Lochaber Cameron Highlanders reunite for last time



Lochaber Cameron Highlanders held their last reunion lunch in Fort William on Saturday as committee members prepare to retire after 30 years.

Full story on page three. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Minister should look at terminating its contract.'

The forum agreed to write to Scottish Government Transport Minister Humza Yousaf, Economy Minister Keith Brown and all Highland MSPs asking that they intervene urgently.

After the meeting, Mr Murphy and Arthur Cowie, chairman of the Lochaber Disability Access Panel, who also sits on the Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance, and John Barnes,

vice-president of the Friends of the West Highland Line, visited the Lochaber Times' office in Fort William to underline their concerns.

'We're all fed up with the lack of action from Abellio ScotRail. They promised us all sorts of things when they took over the West Highland Line service but none of it has come to fruition,' said Mr Murphy.

'It's why we call the West Highland Line the "Cinderella

service". There has been nothing like the investment the company has pumped into other parts of the network. Abellio ScotRail seems like it is just not interested in this part of Scotland.'

Mr Cowie said the forum was in no way criticising train drivers and other frontline staff who, he said, worked extremely hard. 'If it wasn't for those staff, I think the service would collapse altogether,' he said.

Mr Cowie added: 'We are con-

stantly told the West Highland Line is one of the most iconic rail routes in the world, so how does it help attract tourists when there are so few services, frequent cancellations and poor quality of rolling stock?'

Responding to the criticism, a spokesperson for ScotRail Alliance – the joint working relationship between Abellio ScotRail and Network Rail Scotland – said: 'We're building the best railway this country has

ever had – and that applies to all of Scotland.

'Our £475 million train refurbishment programme will see 90 per cent of our fleet either new or refurbished and Class 158s operate the West Highland Line from December next year.

'These fully refurbished trains will be more suited to these scenic routes with the seats aligned to the windows, air-conditioning and more toilets and luggage space.'

Village to host world running event

KINLOCHLEVEN will play host to one of the biggest, and most extreme, endurance events in the world next year.

The International Skyrunning Federation (ISF) announced this week that the 2018 Skyrunning World Championships will be hosted by Skyline Scotland from September 13 to 15 in Kinlochleven.

This follows the Lochaber village hosting the 2017 Salomon Skyline Scotland event last month which has been recognised for its quality, and was confirmed as a finalist in Scotland's Highlands and Islands tourism awards.

The Ben Nevis Ultra – the most gruelling of the three events – will be re-designed from the 2017 version to fit the new skyrunning criteria, which includes a maximum course length of 66km and running time of 16 hours. Subject to testing, the new Ultra will be 65km, with a 4,000m vertical climb.

Chris O'Brien, destination manager at The Outdoor Capital of the UK, added: 'I'm delighted to hear Kinlochleven will be hosting the Skyrunning World Championships in 2018.'

'The number of world class events now taking place in the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Lochaber, is increasing all the time and we can't wait to assist the championships in any way we can.'

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Locals to get best ticket deal for Oban Live 2018

READERS of The Oban Times can, again, this week buy tickets to Argyll's largest music event, Oban Live 2018, at a heavily discounted rate before anyone else.

Thanks to this week's Oban Times, readers have 48 hours to take up an exclusive ticket offer, from 11am today (Thursday November 2) to 11am on Saturday November 4.

This is in advance of the 'early bird' tickets to the two-day, open-air music concert going on sale to the general public at noon on Saturday November 4.

In The Oban Times offer, readers will receive a further 20 per cent off the already discounted early bird ticket price. Prices in the offer start from as little as £20. Two-day standard adult tickets will cost just £48, instead of £60 in the general early bird offer.

Readers will be able to redeem the offer online via



Oban Live was a fan favourite last year with locals and visitors.

an exclusive website or in person at specified times at the BID4Oban office using a special coupon.

Readers are advised to get in quick with only 48 hours to redeem the offer while tickets last.

The Oban Times has con-

firmed it will continue to be media partner for the hugely popular event following its success in 2016 and 2017.

Oban Live has entertained almost 8,000 attendees each year (7,770 in 2016, 7,837 in 2017) with a mix of traditional Scottish and Celtic-rock artists

and international superstars such as KT Tunstall and Toploader.

Its impact over the weekend brings £1.1 million to the local economy.

Naomi Hoolahan, event director for Oban Live, said: 'We are incredibly excited to announce details of our special local Oban Live 2018 ticket offer.'

'Last year's audience brought so much energy to the event and we can't wait to welcome our 2018 audience to Mossfield Stadium next year.'

'A massive thanks to everyone in the area who has supported the event and for the warm welcome they have given visitors from all over the world. 2018 is sure to be another cracker!'

For more information, go to www.obanlive.com, Twitter @obanlive or www.facebook.com/obanlive

Oban's Rockfield rocks for SiMBA charity

THE Rockfield Centre is just one of the many local groups, schools and individuals to get involved in the charity event SiMBA's Sounds of the 80s, to be held in February at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban.

This will be an evening of family entertainment, dancing and fun to raise funds for and awareness of this charity, with local participation and the call is out to everyone to get involved.

Susan Simpson, SiMBA support group co-ordinator, explained: 'The exciting thing about this evening is that we are collating an assemblage of videos and performances from a wide range of local groups as well as national celebrities so our whole evening will be planned by those we have asked to take part.'

She added: 'We have been so encouraged by the response so far, including videos from musician Nik Kershaw, comedian Peter Kay, MP Brendan O'Hara, SiMBA patrons Grant Stott and Gillian Smith MBE, and SiMBA ambassa-



The Rockfield Centre team, singing part of the Proclaimers' song 500 miles, said: 'Yes, it was gruesome ... but fun!'

dor Lisa Hague as well as our local Spotlight musical theatre group performing on the night.

'We've also had generous donations of signed books from amazing authors like Anne Cleaves and Alexander McCall Smith.'

Permission has been given to SiMBA for the use of The Proclaimers song '500 Miles'.

Each group sings a verse and it will be edited together to give a tribute similar to '500

Miles' from the cast of Doctor Who.

The completed video will be shown on the evening.

The Rockfield Centre group were filmed inside and outside the main building of the centre singing the first verse of the song.

Susan said: 'Those who want to get involved will have the loan of a SiMBA T-shirt and hat and can be filmed miming to one verse or the chorus of

their song – along with their own choreographical interpretation of that section.'

'The concept behind this is to get as much community involvement as possible, highlighting the various businesses and groups we have in this area, and in doing so to raise awareness of the services and support SiMBA offers.'

Filming can be done on an iPad, smartphone or laptop and sent to Susan via Dropbox where local video gurus Stripty Straws DV Production have offered to edit it together along to the original track.

Susan said: 'This will be an amazing event with the added attraction of seeing all these local groups on video. The evening promises not only to be great fun but will raise the profile of what SiMBA offers across the board.'

Groups interested in taking part can contact Susan via e-mail simbahighland@gmail.com.

SiMBA supports anyone who has gone through the death of a baby at any stage of pregnancy or close to the time of birth.

OBAN LIVE 2018

EXCLUSIVE OBAN LIVE LOCAL TICKET OFFER

20% OFF*

EARLY BIRD TICKETS

QUICK! ONLY 48 HOURS TO CLAIM THIS OFFER

HOW TO BUY YOUR DISCOUNTED TICKETS:

For 48 hours only, from 11am, Thursday November 2 until 11am, Saturday November 4, 2017*, Oban Times readers have the exclusive opportunity to get their hands on **Oban Live** tickets before anyone else and with a further 20% off early bird ticket prices.

There are two ways you can get your discounted tickets to Argyll's largest live music event.

ONLINE - Access hidden Oban Times discounted tickets online by visiting www.obanlive.com/localticket18

IN PERSON - You can cut out this coupon and bring it along to **BID4Oban, 43 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA** between the following times
 Thursday November 2: 11am - 6:30pm
 Friday November 3: 9am - noon

*Hurry - limited number of local tickets available. While tickets last

*All tickets are subject to the Oban Live terms and conditions which can be found at www.obanlive.com/t&cs. Only available from 11am, November 2 until 11am, Saturday November 4, 2017 or until tickets sell out. Maximum of 4 of each ticket type per order. All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult with a valid ticket. VIP tickets are excluded from this offer. All tickets are digital and will be emailed to the purchaser directly. All tickets are non-refundable. Photocopied articles will not be accepted.

OT

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The Scottish Government's Transport Minister, Humza Yousaf, was one of a number of senior politicians who visited Oban this week as part of the Convention of the Highland and Islands.

Mr Yousaf, in his dual role as islands minister, also visited the new Kerrera ferry at Gallanach, which has recently been taken over by CalMac.

While there, Mr Yousaf took time out to meet Martin Laing, deputy editor of *The Oban Times*, to take receipt of the newspaper's petition calling for action to improve safety on the A85 between Oban and Connel. The

petition marks the culmination of a year-long campaign by this newspaper in light of the numerous serious accidents on the route.

Mr Yousaf was good enough to discuss the issue in a sympathetic and knowledgeable way, and to assure us that he is familiar with the problems that continue to blight this stretch of road.

Mr Yousaf said he has studies pending into what actions could be taken to help improve safety and that he hopes to have answers within months. We appreciate his concern and await his response with interest.



Days gone by – August 1997

A glimpse back to the Glenfinnan Games from August 1997 this week, featuring Fort William piper Anna Macdonald and the young dancers who competed in the local competitions.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



MYTHS and legends of the supernatural are not as common a part of life now as they once were in the Highlands and Islands.

However, at Hallowe'en – Oidhche Shamhna – the remains of many ancient customs and beliefs prevail.

October 31 was the day in the calendar on which it was believed that the barriers between the natural and supernatural worlds were most traversable.

The countless stories of the supernatural reflected not only the strength of belief that was held in such metaphysical realms but also that these tales were a staple in the home-spun entertainment that was such an important part of everyday life in these parts in years gone by.

Before the days of radio, television, internet and all the other means of entertainment we fall victim to these days, there were storytellers in every township and houses that would be visited for entertainment.

Along with music, song, poetry,

politics, witicism, rhyme and riddle, stories of the supernatural played an important role in the realm of the traditional taigh cèilidh.

One such tale that is common throughout Scotland and has versions in countries worldwide, is that of *The Piper's Cave*. On Tiree, the story is localised with certain turns and with specific local references. Even on Tiree there are many variants on the tale and the following version is merely one among many:

'Late on a cold winter's evening far back in the mists of time, there was a gathering in a well-known meeting house at the west end of Tiree. Music and songs were flowing and a pipe of whisky from a near-by illicit still was adding to the atmosphere and celebration. Dominating the gathering and delighting everyone with his music was a very fine and famous piper, many say the best that was ever heard on Tiree.

'As the night grew in energy and fellow-feeling, so too did the compliments being paid to the piper. As is common with those who like to perform, with every compliment received, the piper's head grew a little. It was certainly true that he

was a distinguished player, but with the combination of atmosphere, the praise with which he was being lauded and the enhancing effects of a fine dram, his sense of self-importance grew beyond all bounds.

'The rain and wind rattling the windows outside accentuated the warm glow of the fire and the company inside. This was certainly a night that all would remember as one of the best cèilidhs in living memory. That was until the fateful and final compliment was given to the piper. No-one can remember who it was who said it, but for many years there was speculation over whether the intention was innocent or given with the poisonous intention of harm borne of veiled jealousy. The fact was that someone at the back of the room, said to the piper, "You are not only the best piper among men, but you could out-play even the fairies themselves!" At this the piper cried, "You are correct and I will go right now to the Uaimh Mhòr, the Great Cave of Kenevara to challenge the fairies themselves to a contest to win their pot of fairy gold". At this the room fell suddenly silent and sober.'

To be continued.



Social media

There was a big response to the news that Country Wide Events had cancelled a planned concert in Oban's Corran Halls by a Bee Gees tribute band because of poor ticket sales. Only 80 had been sold. The promoter said anyone who had bought a ticket would get a refund if they took it back to the Corran Halls. Niall M Cameron asked: 'When was this set up and why no advertising? Not that I'm interested in the Bee Gees but hate to see a venue like this not being properly advertised. Social media is a wonderful thing; please feel free to advertise. Still I'm staying alive but it is such a tragedy.'

Douglas Miller posted: 'Typical Oban attitude towards anything that gets put on. Expect to rock up on the night and pay to get in. Flyers were distributed widely in town. Yet you lot complain nothing goes on in Oban.'

Pearl Turnbull wrote: 'Sorry to hear this has been cancelled. My husband

Frank and I saw them in Eden Court Inverness earlier this year and they were absolutely amazing, best night ever. We would definitely recommend them as they sound just like the real thing.'

John Newlands pondered: 'Can they not just pretend that 80 people are 200? They have some skills in that area after all.'

Margaret Menassa suggested: 'In this day and age you would think the Corran halls or promoter would advertise on social media. Wider audience.'

Lisa Aitkenhead complained: 'Not seen this advertised, I would have been up for this.'

John Hill said: 'I've not seen this advertised anywhere, no wonder the ticket sales are low.'

Jacqueline Cullen agreed: 'I didn't see it advertised either.'

Pamela Mcleish exclaimed: 'Omg! What a shame.'

Malcolm Crooks wrote: 'What a "tragedy". Everyone must have been struck

down by a "night fever" and are just "stayin alive".'

Laura Cook posted: 'Didn't know about it, or I'd have bought tickets.'

DT Gray commented: 'I've been to tonnes of gigs where the band would have been pleased to play to 80 people.'

Karen Anderson lamented: 'Didn't know about this. Needs better advertising in future!!!'

Angela Anderson said: 'Very sad to see this...'

Undine Achilles-Day wrote: 'I don't think these things get well advertised. They should have big billboards at the hall so people can see when they drive in what's going on!'

Catherine Farlow posted: 'What a shame.'

Fraser Macmillan said: 'You can't be serious ?????? Beejusus.'

Colin Macfarlane wrote: 'Typical Oban.'

Mary C MacLean added: 'Not seen any adverts either!'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Buy-out for Ulva would be a mistake

Sir,

Many crofters and hill farmers in Argyll must be following the North West Mull Community Woodland Company's bid for the 4,500-acre island of Ulva under the right-to-buy legislation, with scepticism and incredulity.

The question is not how the group will succeed in raising the £4.25 million and very likely more, but how they will be able to generate sufficient income to cover the annual running costs. They won't.

Basic transport costs to Mull from the mainland are notoriously high, let alone to one of its offshore islands, to name only one problem. Legislation, Brexit and keeping unproductive livestock will present others. Many have tried and failed and at the end of the day if the community bid goes through, Ulva will be a burden on the council taxpayers of Argyll and Bute for the foreseeable future.

Like it or loath it, land in remote areas has always needed constant injections of private wealth to sustain it.

The application leaves much to chance and the unknown. For example, the group lays great store on creating additional employment by building more houses, yet the current owners have been actively marketing two properties on the island for let at rents below local authority housing benefit levels for the past year and a half without finding tenants.

The disheartening thing about community buy-outs is the inference that private ownership is bad and that land owners fail to look after their property or employ more people. Some are more conscientious than others but on the whole it is a system which, with one or two exceptions, has worked reasonably well in the Highlands and Islands for the past 500 years without an alternative being found to please everyone.

The Howard family, who live on Ulva throughout the year and have shared in the daily joys and travails of the community there and on neighbouring Mull for three generations, have followed the fine adage that you never own an estate, it owns you, and with it comes a duty and a responsibility to those who depend on you.

In a week when Scotland's struggling NHS is bracing itself to make £445 million of cuts to balance the books and care homes are closing every week, is this the right time for the Scottish Government to be handing out a very large sum of public money to five people?

There is only one hope for Ulva and those who currently live there, and that is to allow market forces to prevail.

Iain Thornber,
Knock House, Morvern.

Thanks to the people of Fort William

Sir,

I would like, through your columns, to express my sincere thanks to the Fort William populace for the interest shown in my old MacBrayne's bus during Mòd week when it was parked on display in the High Street.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CHA BHIODH E na annas dhan mhòr-chuid a fhuair frithealadh bhuaithe gun do nochd sgrùdadh air Seirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte gum bheil daoine a' cur luach mhòr air an ìre aire a tha iad a' faotainn.

A dh'aindeoin gainnead ionmhais agus ionad thargaid a th' aige ri choileanadh, tha luchd-obrach na seirbheis a' cosnadh meas agus buidheachas a' mhòr-shluaigh. Gun teagamh thèid rudan ceàrr aig amannan mar a thachras ann am buidheann mòr sam bith, agus 's e fìor bhuidheann mhòr a tha seo le faisg air ceud agus ceathrad mìle luchd-obrach. Agus aig ceann cuise 's iad luchd-obrach na seirbheis a tha toirt an toraidh riarachaidh seo dhuinn uile. Gu ìre tha sin fìor anns a h-uile suidheachadh far am bheil brìgh na h-obrach na sgàthan air moit an neach-obrach na phroifeiseantachd fhèin.

Bha meas air cosnadh ann an seirbheis na slàinte bho thòisich e seachdadh bliadhna air ais ach tha e coltach nach eil dreuchdan a bha uair air am meas nan deagh chosnaidhean le inbhe anns na coimhearsnachdan cho tarraingeach a-nise. Chan ann an

It clearly evoked memories for townspeople of all ages whether you went to school, to the shops, or travelled further afield. Some of you who either maintained, conducted or drove MacBrayne's buses also introduced yourselves and came forward with fascinating stories from those times, the most recent of which are now nearly 50 years old.

I was personally humbled but delighted at the reception. It is so satisfying for me to own a small piece of local transport history that is, through the name on the side of the bus, still connected to our national ferry operator CalMac. To its local tour shop staff and all the officials who came from the south, I add my grateful thanks for their support.

This is a two-way process. CalMac's heritage may extend back by more than 150 years, but the company is still every bit as important to West Coast communities and businesses as ever. It is not only a major employer but is a vital culture and tourism facilitator and the existence of the tour shop in the centre of Fort William serves to promote not only the delights of Lochaber but also the central location from which to explore so much of the West Coast and the islands that can be reached from here.

CalMac's ongoing support for the Mòd, wherever it is hosted, is ample evidence of its cultural importance.

I must also extend my personal gratitude to David and his staff at Shiel Buses for accommodating and looking after my ancient piece of transport heritage as well as their commitment in the provision of free transport to and from Mòd venues.

Finally, to all those involved in the not inconsiderable business of catering in whatever way for the masses during the week, thanks and well done.

Lawrence Macduff,
Kilmarnock.

Striving to ensure care is of high quality

Sir,

In reply to Councillor George Freeman's letter (*The Oban Times*, October 19), I can reassure him that the Health and Social Care Partnership has been involved for some time in supporting McKenzie Care at the Lynn of Lorne care home.

This has been both in response to the latest and previous reports from the Care Inspectorate, as well as monitoring carried out by health and social care officers locally.

I share the disappointment many have expressed regarding the quality of care provided at this particular establishment. I wish to see all those requiring care being delivered that of the highest possible quality – whether from external providers or that delivered in-house. Where anyone feels that care has not met expectations, I would be more than happy to meet them and discuss any concerns they may have.

The Care Inspectorate, as the independent regulator of social care services across Scotland, has a responsibility to publicly report on the quality of care, and support and encourage the development of services.

In Argyll and Bute, independent

providers are responsible for many areas of service provision. They have the absolute freedom to run services in the way they feel is best to deliver quality person-centred care in a safe and secure environment.

However, when these services are then assessed and areas for improvement are identified, Argyll and Bute will work together with the Care Inspectorate to assist the provider in bringing the service up to expected standards.

As a point of clarity, I would also like to correct Councillor Freeman's assertion that I am the chairman of the Integration Joint Board – this position rotates between appointees of the council and NHS Highland, and Robin Creelman, as an NHS Highland non-executive board member, is currently chairman of the IJB while I serve as vice-chairman.

Kieron Green,
Councillor, Oban North and Lorn.

Make sure children wear car seatbelts

Sir,

I witnessed a child being transported at the rear of an Argyll and Bute Council school minibus without wearing a seatbelt.

The minibus was being driving down from the Oban Primary campus area on October 23 at approximately 3.30pm at the roundabout near the fire station on Soroba Road. The driver was obviously unaware.

It is crucial to ensure all children are safely strapped in.

Stephen Jones,
by email.

Smacking ban would be hypocritical

Sir,

The SNP wishes to outlaw the smacking of children and to criminalise parents in the legitimate exercise of administering chastisement to an unruly child, after saying in April 2017: 'We do not support a ban as we do not think that would be appropriate and effective.'

Can the Scottish Government explain to the people of Scotland why it views abortion as something worthy and commendable while banning smacking?

This is what happens when the godless rule. They know neither right from wrong nor good from evil. They legislate for whatever is politically expedient.

How can it possibly be acceptable for a mother to abort her baby but the thought of smacking an unruly child is horrific violence and unacceptable?

God is clear – 'Thou shalt not kill' (Exodus 20:13) – not the unborn, not the disabled, not the sick, not the elderly, not the unloved, not the depressed, not the suffering, not the dying. When one is consistent and looks to a higher authority for guidance, you will find further wisdom on the subject: 'He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes' (Proverbs 13:24).

The Scottish Government is in direct conflict with God in both these areas – as well as others.

Susan Wallace,
Corpach, Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

ar bhon fheadhainn a tha ag iarraidh Brexit mu na cothroman cosnaidh ùra a thig na lùib is luchd-obrach Eorpach eile air am bacadh bho bhith tighinn an seo a dh'obair.

Ach tha fhios gum bheil na h-obraichean sin ann dha Breatannaich an-dràsta, agus carson nach eil iad a' gabhail nan cothroman? Am bheil Brexit dol a dh'atharrachadh cultar na dùthcha seo? Bheil dùil gum fàs fèin-spèis an t-sluaigh agus gum bi a h-uile duine nas dicheallaiche agus nas easgaidhe às leth na dùthcha? Hmm!

MOST OF THOSE with experience of the health service will endorse the recent Audit Scotland report which commended staff care and commitment. Teachers are generally equally valued for their work, but both teaching and the health service are experiencing recruitment challenges. Local and national government must ensure that core services which affect the lives of the entire population should always be attractive career options.

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

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times,

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

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

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

BUSINESS NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

BID4Oban's next five-year plan

By **ANDREW SPENCE**
BID4Oban chief executive

FOLLOWING the successful ballot, businesses in Oban have provided BID4Oban with a resounding mandate to carry on for another five-year term.

Over its first term, the BID (Business Improvement District) has been involved in numerous projects to enhance Oban both environmentally and as a destination to visit by working in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, Oban and Lorn Tourism Association and Oban Live.

The BID is a not-for-profit organisation that represents the businesses in the town by

collecting a levy from eligible companies to ensure that events and other projects are financed and in return ensuring the town promotes a vibrant and sustainable place to undertake business and attract additional visitors.

Recently the BID has funded the painting of railings and bollards throughout the town. The response from this has been very positive with many comments made as to how good Argyll Square is looking. The project was extended to include bollards and railings throughout the town centre.

Along with the 200-plus hanging baskets that BID4Oban provides, this has a significant

visual impact for visitors and townfolk. The BID has also facilitated wifi in the town centre with plans to extend this in the near future.

BID4Oban is the envy of other towns and recently has had approaches from three similar sized burghs which want help and advice in setting up their own BID. Over the next five-year term, BID4Oban will continue to promote the town in partnership with numerous organisations. It will also take on additional responsibilities - for example, from 2018 it is likely it will be responsible for all Christmas lights in Oban. This will be achieved via grants from the council.

BID4Oban is working with the Port of Oban Cruise Group to ensure that the town benefits from the ever-increasing numbers of cruise ships visiting the bay. The key objective is to ensure we keep these visitors within the town visiting the various attractions.

BID4Oban ambassadors will continue to engage with the numerous visitors to the town, giving them a warm and informative welcome. Having a BID in the town ensures that all businesses, no matter what size, have a single point of contact in which to air their views, promote ideas and gain support in lobbying the authorities on issues that affect their operations. Among these

issues are parking, congestion, cleanliness and the ability of the town to attract new investors and employers.

The BID is working with external organisations to ensure we have a sustainable pool of labour that is fit for the future through the Developing Young Workforce initiative.

Over coming weeks, BID4Oban will publish its six-month operating plan aligned to its recently published business plan sent to all levy-payers. It is proposed to use the operating plan to ensure the BID communicates with its 500-plus levy-payers about what is happening in the town.

Having an operating plan

ensures the BID can adapt to various changes that face the town. Key to the success of the next term of the BID will be an enhanced communication strategy to ensure everyone in Oban knows what the BID is doing. This will involve an enhanced website with a business directory for levy-payers and greater use made of social media.

BID4Oban is keen to attract new board members to contribute new ideas and ways of working. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact BID4Oban in Stevenson Street. For more information, please visit the website www.bid4oban.co.uk or visit our Facebook page.

Highland Blast can help keep vessels shipshape

BOAT-OWNERS are starting to plan their winter lay-ups now as the 2017 season is coming to a close.

Many will be hoping for an Indian summer given that the main boating season has been very wet.

It's also time to think about any work needed on the boat, especially anti-fouling.

Pressure-washing the hull removes fouling and prepares the surface for new anti-fouling in the spring. The cleaned hull can be inspected for any damage and repairs can be carried out as required, depending on the weather and temperature.

This can be time-consuming and difficult to manage so it is time to call in the experts.

Highland Blast has a number of abrasive blasting services. Using only eco-friendly media, services include dry blasting, wet blasting, needle gunning and test patches. And the firm caters for domestic, commercial and industrial clients as no job is too big or too small.

Being a mobile abrasive blasting and coating service that comes to you also saves you the time, stress and cost of transportation.

Founded in 2013 by Dominic Dalgarno, after moving to North Sutherland, Dominic spotted a gap in the local service industry and Highland Blast was formed. Originally from Aberdeen, Dominic built up well over a decade of experience in the fabric maintenance industry both on and offshore. Now, four years on and centrally based in Drumnadrochit, Highland Blast has gained a very impressive portfolio and reputable client base.

For more information regarding Highland Blast services and to receive a no-obligation quote, please call 07717 487889 or email mail@highlandblast.co.uk.

like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes



The recently opened store on George Street, Oban.

New Oban shop opens for vapers

E-CIGARETTE specialist Vaporized has opened a new store on Oban's George Street.

Electronic cigarettes, e-cigs, green smokes, vaporizers and smokeless cigarettes are all part of the movement to help people switch from using harmful tobacco to electronic cigarettes, the company's website explains.

'In a standard e-cigarette, you get two components - a battery and a clearomizer/tank. You fill the clearomizer/tank with e-liquid, attach it to the battery and you're ready to go.'

'It works by forming a vapor that you inhale and feels very similar to when you inhale the smoke from a tobacco cigarette. It is, however, not smoke, it is a water-based vapor that transforms the moment you inhale. This happens due to a heating element in the clearomizer (also known as the cartomizer and atomizer) which, when the battery is activated, heats up the e-liquid and turns it into a vapor.'

'The battery is rechargeable and the e-liquid comes in many different flavours and nicotine strengths (including nicotine-free). The two main ingredients in e-liquid are vegetable glycerin (VG) and propylene glycol (PG). The main purpose of this is to deliver nicotine without any burning, smoke or inhaling the harmful chemicals usually associated with conventional cigarettes.'

Vaporized started in Edinburgh in 2012, beginning with 'the desire to stop smoking traditional tobacco cigarettes', the owners write.

'This, as we know from personal experience, is not an easy feat.'

'We had tried almost everything and nearly gave up when the revolutionary and innovative electronic cigarette came on the market. After many hours of research, we bought our first e-cig and became vapers rather than smokers.'

'Vaporized has specially selected electronic cigarettes that are easy to use.'

'They are battery operated and come with an extensive array of more than 300 varieties of e-liquid that will suit all tastes.'

'We have fully trained, knowledgeable staff, many of whom have switched to e-cigs thanks to Vaporized, who are happy to assist and advise you on which e-cig would suit your lifestyle, which flavours are the best (we have tried them all) and how to look after your e-cig to help you inhale the freedom.'

Oban's staff are on hand to guide people through the e-cigarette and e-liquid options, including flavours from vanilla custard to peanut butter and jelly.

The town's new Vaporized store at 8 George Street opens Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Connel firm is one of the best

A CONNELL-BASED business has been recognised as one of the best small contractors in Scotland.

Kenneth Ferguson Electrical and his team of 10 were highly commended in the category at the Select Industry Awards two weeks ago.

The Oban electricians had been shortlisted for Best Small Contractor and Best Delivery of Customer Service in the Select awards.

'At the end of the day, it's nice to be recognised,' Kenny said. 'It was a great night at the awards - just to be invited was a great experience.'

'It's nice to be recognised in the industry - we are a small organisation, delivering to a local customer base. We employ local people and we bring on apprentices.'

'We are very proud of that and it's a good achievement for the boys. It's they who are out there doing the work.'

'So it's nice to get a bit of recognition for the workforce,



Kenny Ferguson and his wife, Fiona, at the awards.

and the office staff, who do the day-to-day running of it.'

Kenny and his team, which includes three apprentices,

work all over Argyll, covering a 50-mile radius of Connel.

Kenny has been in business since 2006.

New restaurant for town centre

TAYNUILT'S Etive Restaurant is moving to Oban.

The new restaurant, which is a joint venture by chef John McNulty and sommelier David Lapsley, is set to open in December on the site of the old Light of India in Stevenson Street.

The Etive opened in Taynuilt at the start of 2017 and established itself as one of the area's leading restaurants winning a gold medal at the inaugural

Scottish Food Awards 2017. Its popularity with locals and visitors has meant it has outgrown its current location at the old coaching inn.

John and David will be bringing the ethos of the original restaurant 'where sea meets land' to the new site, which will remain a showcase of John's cooking, with affordable a la carte and tasting menus that concentrate on innovative cooking.

John said: 'We are delighted to be taking over the old Light of India site, which was Oban's first Indian restaurant and much loved in the area. We have worked really hard to establish the Etive so it is very exciting to be joining Oban's culinary scene and introduce what we do to an even wider audience.'

The Taynuilt is currently closed and undergoing a major refurbishment of its bedrooms. It will re-open in 2018.

OBAN WAS CALLING WE ANSWERED.

Vaporized
INHALE THE FREEDOM

OBAN WE'VE LANDED!

Vaporized are a national retailer of quality electronic cigarette and vaping merchandise, stocking a large range of e-liquids, hardware, accessories and more.

Pop in store for all you electronic cigarette needs.

OPENING TIMES
MONDAY - Friday 8:30am - 6:00pm
SATURDAY - 9:00am - 6:00pm
SUNDAY - 10:00am - 4:00pm

CONTACT US 8 George Street, Oban PA34 5SB 01631 358608

Personalised Calendars
promote your company all year round with your own personalised calendar

WYVEX MEDIA
YOUR DETAILS HERE
ARTWORK SIZE 177mm x 85mm
PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
01631 568 000

12 gloriously photographed months each displaying your company details and logo

- Great gift for clients
- Keeps your company in front of customers all year

Scottish Field
Appointment calendar also available

Call Fiona on 01631 568018 or email calendars@scottishfield.co.uk

HIGHLAND BLAST

Abrasive Blasting and Coatings services.

Covering the Scottish Highlands and Beyond

Domestic. Commercial. Industrial. Marine.

Tel: 07717 487 889

www.highlandblast.co.uk
highlandblastltd

Members of The Guild of Master Craftsmen

Arena

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

Rain and wind fail to deter MOJO crowd



Headliners Citizen 9 took to the stage delighting the dancing crowd.

DESPITE the remainder of Ophelia battering Ardfern last Saturday, a large crowd turned up to support some of Argyll's most talented musicians.

With acts including Peter McClardy, Andre van Well, Danny Carroll and Citizen 9, the Ardfern crowd were treated to a range of

different musical styles. First up onto the stage was Peter McClardy, who gave an endearing folk-style repertoire of his own life experiences and musings.

Next to step into the MOJO limelight was Andre Van Well, who set the tone for the night with some soulful acoustic tunes.

Danny Carroll then took to the stage with his sidekick Eric Dearie, performing a host of different styles of music including acoustic and rock, with a few ballads and harmonies in between.

Oban band Citizen 9 were next up as the event's headliners with a full on rock set with

the audience dancing to energetic songs produced by the group.

Rock lovers didn't allow the band to leave until they were all danced out, with several encore songs extending their performance.

A great night was had by many, with organisers wishing to thank

those who helped the event come together.

Lead organiser Dan Griffiths said: 'A huge thank you must go out to Matt Walsh, who treated the audience to fantastic lighting and sound.'

'I also want to thank volunteers Brian, Tristan, Jamie, Dan, Julie Lucy, Andre and

Matt, who kept the night flowing smoothly.

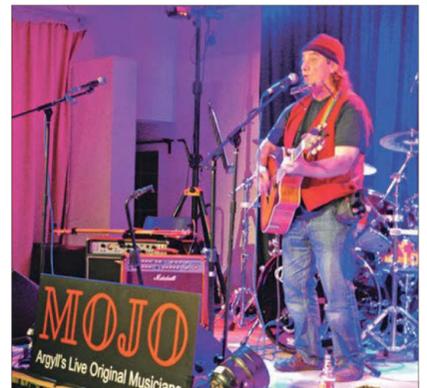
'A special thanks also must go to the supporters of the event. Lynn from McColls, Ardrishaig, for the drink supplies, Leslie at Dalriada signs, Tiziana and the Craignish Community Hall committee.

'And also to those



Danny Carroll and Eric Dearie perform at the first MOJO music event.

Andre Van Well was a crowd pleaser with a few acoustic tunes.



who helped sell tickets, including Oban Music Shop, Ardfern Stores, the Marmalade Deli and the Argyll Bookshop in Lochgilphead. 'Finally, thanks to the performers who entertained so massively and to all those who came. 'Make sure to look out for more MOJO in the future.'

Glasgow Letter

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



Lewis/Harris gathering

I am very much looking forward to sharing the stage with some fantastic performers at the 130th annual gathering of the Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association tomorrow (Friday November 3) in the Glasgow University Union.

Singers for the evening are the wonderful Kathleen Macinnes, Claire Macaulay (the 2016 Mòd traditional gold medal winner) and Ronnie Murray - with whom I enjoyed a few songs in the Crofter in Fort William at this year's Mòd - in preparation for

the gathering.

The instrumentalist will be Skipinnish piano player Alasdair Iain Paterson, and the Lewis/Harris Association Pipers will also be performing.

As usual, once the concert is over, about 10.30pm, the dance will begin. This year, the band are the Beinn Lee Cèilidh Band and they will play until 2am.

The Beinn Lee are having a busy weekend in Glasgow as they are also playing in the Park Bar the following two nights. I dare say there will be a few gathering stragglers looking for a curer or two on those evenings.

The complete gather-

ing actually begins the previous evening - with Thursday night's dinner in honour of the gathering chairman, Alasdair Fraser. Joan Morrison will give a few songs at the dinner among speeches, toasts, and some pipe tunes.

This will take place in the Pond Hotel, Great Western Road, and begins 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Tickets for the dinner are £27.50 and tickets for the concert and dance are £10 each. All tickets are available from committee members and also from the Park Bar.

It's going to be a good weekend. I am sure I have already

told the story in this column about my first visit to the Lewis/Harris Gathering when I was 17 and had only just moved down to Glasgow.

In my foolish naivety, and as the result of a wind-up, I wrongly expected that everyone in attendance had to be from Lewis or Harris - so I went round all night speaking in my best Leòdhasach accent.

This, of course, is not the case - everyone is welcome.

And I highly recommend heading along to what is always a busy night with some great music.

What's on

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

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

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

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

Thursday November 23: Comunn An Taobh An Iar haggis supper at 7.30pm in the Ellan-

gowan Social Club.

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

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

Pub scene

Islay Inn.

Friday November 3: The Keelies.

Saturday November 4: Deep River.

Park Bar.

Friday November 3: Scott Harvey.

Saturday November 4: Beinn Lee Cèilidh Band.

Sunday November 5: Beinn Lee Cèilidh Band.



Ronnie Murray is one of a great line-up of singers at this weekend's Lewis/Harris annual gathering.

OBANS ANNUAL FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

OBAN HARBOUR
Sunday 5th November 2017 | 7.15 for 7.30pm

BID4OBAN
OBAN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

BID4oban thanks - The Northern Lighthouse Board, HM Aux Coastguard & Argyll & Bute Council
Sponsored by BID4oban

Atlantis COMMUNITY CENTRE

FREAKY FRIDAY
3 MASSIVE PARTIES

MINI-MONSTERS 1PM - 2.45PM (UNDER 5'S WITH PARENTS)
PETRIFYING PRIMARY 5-6.30PM (PRIMARY AGE)
TERRIFYING TEENS 7.30PM-9.30PM (S1-S2)

DISCO (INCLUDING PARENTS!)

PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED

HALLOWEEN GAMES
HAUNTED HOUSE
LOTS OF SURPRISES

SUGGESTED DONATION OF £3.50
TOWARDS AN UPGRADE TO ATLANTIS FACILITIES AND CHANGING ROOMS.

AN ATLANTIS LEISURE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BID4OBAN EVENT

FLOORSHOP

SPECTACULAR NOVEMBER OFFERS

CARPETS, VINYL, LAMINATES, LVT AND MUCH MUCH MORE

FLOORING FROM AS LITTLE AS £3.99M2

NOVEMBER IS BED MONTH
ENTER OUR FREE PRIZE DRAW WHEN PLACING AN ORDER OVER £200 TO WIN A BRAND NEW DIVAN BED

CALL IN TODAY FOR A FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE

Telephone: 01546 602088 • Highbank Park Ind. Est, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NN
Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA



Argyll Festival of Performance_02_Location

New motorsport festival launched in Argyll

THE DUKE of Argyll was joined by car clubs and trade guests from across Scotland at his ancestral home of Inveraray Castle last Thursday to launch a new motorsport festival.

Designed to celebrate Scotland's rich heritage in motorsport, over the next three years the Argyll Festival of Performance will bring together significant cars and drivers from F1, Le Mans, Indy Cars, Touring Cars and International Stage Rallying, plus a whole host of unique vehicles never before seen in Scotland.

The event will take place in the stunning grounds of Inveraray Castle on Argyll's world-famous West Coast from June 2-3 2018.

The theme for the inaugural festival is Formula 1, and there will be no shortage of drivers and cars to celebrate as Scotland is the fifth most successful nation in the world for producing Formula One World Champions.

Event director Bill Telford, the driving force behind the project, said: 'Scotland has an enviable reputation in motorsport but, as yet, there has never been an event that celebrates this success.'

'The Argyll Festival of Performance has been created to do just that with a theme each year to really allow the stories to be told. In year one, it will be Formula 1, and Scotland boasts some of the biggest names in the sport from the legendary Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart, to multiple race winners like David Coulthard, and of course, local star,

Susie Wolff, who was the first female to be involved in a F1 weekend in 22 years at the British Grand Prix in 2014.

'It's not just drivers who have played their part, Scottish engineers, designers and manufacturers have also made a huge impact on the world of motorsport and we believe the time is right to celebrate all of those achievements.'

'We are delighted to have The Duke of Argyll as patron of the festival and can think of no better location to showcase Scottish motorsport and the beauty of Scotland than Inveraray Castle. We are also immensely proud and believe it is very fitting given the Formula 1 theme of our inaugural year, that the Jim Clark Trust will be our chosen charity for the festival in 2018.'

In the first of a series of exciting announcements about what visitors to the festival can expect, it has been confirmed that a series of iconic cars never before seen in Scotland will be at the event.

These include: A Lotus 18 raced by Innes Ireland, Scotland's first GP winner, and later raced by Jim Clark. A one-off Lotus 32B constructed by Jim Clark to race in the 65 Tasman Series. The Tyrrell 001, Ken Tyrrell's first racecar as campaigned by Jackie Stewart. A Porsche 917K, Cooper-Bristol and Tec Mec Maserati were also confirmed to be at the event and seen in Scotland for the first time.

To add to the spectacle, a World War II Supermarine Spitfire will perform an aerial display over the castle

on both days of the event. This much-loved British design classic reflects the vintage feel of the festival and will provide a fantastic addition to the exhibits on show.

Further announcements will be made in coming months on exceptional cars and drivers attending.

Only 55 miles from Glasgow International Airport, the route to the festival takes in Loch Lomond, Loch Long and the iconic Rest and Be Thankful, site of the legendary hill climb. The route also passes the former family home of 'The Flying Scotsman', Sir Jackie Stewart.

Among the attractions over the two days of the event will be demonstration runs of historic and significant cars, display paddocks featuring cars from all eras, a prestige car and memorabilia auction, Concours d'Elegance, vintage bus rally and 4x4 displays.

Chris Drewett, known to many for his commentary at Goodwood, will be the lead commentator for the event bringing a wealth of experience and a familiar voice to the proceedings. He will be joined in the commentary booth by Amanda Stretton, while car clubs from across Scotland have been invited to showcase their very best vehicles.

The Argyll Festival of Performance will be the only prestige motorsport festival of its kind in Scotland, celebrating both motorsport history and the exciting talents set to make their mark on the sport in the future.



Argyll Festival of Performance Inveraray Castle



Event director Bill Telford, left and patron Duke of Argyll.

Your local radio listings

OBAN Community Radio - your local radio station
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com

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

MONDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

TUESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

WEDNESDAY: 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drive time with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordons Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

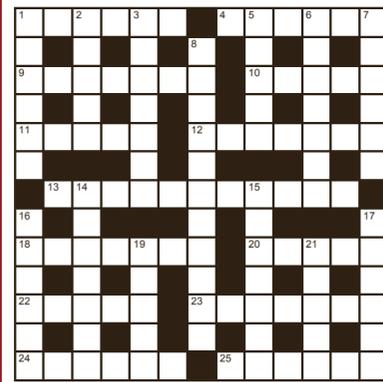
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drive time with Stephen, 17.00 Drive time with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drive time with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christines CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

SATURDAY: 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen, 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Kens Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- In alternative colours (6)
 - Crustacean with seven pairs of legs (6)
 - Restriction on commerce (7)
 - Wing it (2-3)
 - Last, in fats? (5)
 - Sound (7)
 - Alter a text (11)
 - Scope (7)
 - Figure of speech (5)
 - Howler (5)
 - Cheese dish served on toast (7)
 - Leaves of herbs in the family of mints (6)
 - Cheerful (6)
- Down**
- Unsaturated alcohol (6)
 - Currency of Moscow (5)
 - To receive a share in (7)
 - Loose talk (5)
 - Skunk (7)
 - Tool to make holes (6)
 - Those in command globally (5,6)
 - Bed, childrens or rhyme (7)
 - Precise (7)
 - Result (6)
 - State (6)
 - Annoyed (5)
 - Round trip? (5)



OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 December 2017. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

WIN A YEAR OF BIRLINN BOOKS

For 25 years Birlinn Limited has been publishing essential books about Scotland, and books by Scottish writers about the world. Each year we publish new works of history, biography, literary fiction, poetry, books for children and books about sport. Edinburgh-based, we are home to internationally bestselling author Alexander McCall Smith, whose novels delight readers around the world, and have been translated into 46 languages.

We also publish beautiful editions of classic books. To celebrate



Muriel Spark's centenary in February 2018, we will publish all 22 of her novels with new introductions by today's leading writers.

One lucky winner will receive a book each month for twelve months, starting in January 2018. Hardback, paperback, large and small, they are sure to be books to treasure.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: How many languages have Alexander McCall Smith's novels been translated into?

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

krisp print

For a hassle free service throughout Argyll call Krisp Print on 01631 568015

PO Box 1
Lochavullin Industrial Estate
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

email: sales@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

- Design
- Copy
- Print

Arena

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

Ceòlas hosts new Gaelic book festival

A NEW Gaelic literary festival takes place on South Uist at the end of this month during Book Week Scotland, capping off a successful year for the island's arts organisation, Ceòlas.

'The best song concert in the 21 years of the Ceòlas summer school', a £1m grant from the Scottish Government for the Cnoc Soilleir Development and an inaugural literary festival featuring the Uist-launch of Catriona Black's new book Forradh: Sly Cooking: Ceòlas Uibhist will celebrate its successes at this year's AGM on December 1.

This year has seen Ceòlas expand its core activity of events, including the addition of two festivals: Toradh/ Harvest in August and a forthcoming Gaelic literary festival, 'Às an Tobar', during Book Week Scotland 2017 in December.

The community charity, working together with LCC/UHI, has also seen rapid progress in the realisation of the Cnoc Soilleir centre, with the latest building plans for this exciting joint venture to be displayed at Ceòlas' AGM in early December. Since the start of the

year, four new members of staff have been welcomed to Ceòlas' team, based throughout Uist.

Liam Crouse, the Gaelic media and communications officer, began in April in a three-year post partly financed by the Scottish Government, the European Community LEADER Innse Gall 2014-2020 programme, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and HIE.

Sorcha Monk, of Benbecula, returned home from Glasgow to start as the dance development officer. She has been working with schools and older members of

the community in a post funded by NHS Eileanan Siar and the Robertson Trust.

Two new positions have been added to the Cnoc Soilleir development team, funded by the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and HIE. Following Dr Rebecca Rennell's maternity leave in July, Catherine Yeatman, has taken over as Project Manager for Cnoc Soilleir to oversee a critical phase in the development. Tony Vernon, the technical contracts coordinator, is due to start in December.

Catherine led a July consultation on the proposed plans for Cnoc Soilleir. Community input is central to the project, with upwards of 300 members of the community having taken part since 2014. Initial testing has been carried out on the site and, depending on funding decisions, work on site is planned to start in the new year.

In August, DFM John Swinney chaired a stakeholder meeting for the project during his visit to South Uist, and expressed his strong support for the project and its future benefits for the island, its culture, language and economy. Ceòlas has also re-



NO_T44_Ceòlas hosts new Gaelic book festival_01_Micheal Steele piping during Ceòlas community symposium 2017, (c) Liam Alastair Crouse



NO_T44_Ceòlas hosts new Gaelic book festival_02_Walk to Roisinis during Ceòlas summer school 2017, (c) Liam Alastair Crouse

cently announced the start of Gaelic classes throughout Uist, which will contribute to a key objective in sustaining the language as a community language. Gaelic has also proved to be a viable economic asset, with Ceòlas running several immersion courses for the nationally strategic Gaelic Immersion for Teachers (GIFT) programme.

A strong offering of community events continues to be the

mainstay of Ceòlas' activity. The youth music initiative, Buttons & Bows, has run for more than two years, offering free tuition in button box and fiddle to the next generation.

Ceòlas continues to seek further funding for this programme, as the previous support ended in May.

A new Gaelic literary festival will take place between November 30 to December 2 featuring local authors including

Marion Morrison, winner of the 2017 Gaelic New Writers Awards, and Seonag Monk, will take place in Kildonan Museum, dovetailing with Ceòlas' AGM.

The Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig will also hold public engagements to consult with local culture and heritage groups during this week, as part of the development of a cultural strategy for Scotland. Catriona Black will

launch her new book, Forradh: Sly Cooking, which reinvigorates Gaelic words collected by Fr Allan MacDonald over a century ago, on December 1. The event will be followed by a screening of 'Mgr Ailein agus na Faclan', a programme recorded in Uist by MacTV in the springtime.

It follows Catriona as she goes out in search of those words from her book which have survived in common usage.

A new website has been created to showcase the words, along with recordings and new artwork from the book (<http://www.slycooking.com/>).

The festival will be held in Gaelic and has been funded by the Scottish Book Trust, Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and HIE.

Full details are available on the Ceòlas website and social media.

Post-Mòd ceilidh puts on show of Oban talent

A POST-MÒD ceilidh is set to take place in Oban this Friday to raise money for a number of Gaelic projects and events.

Comann nam Parant and Rockfield Gaelic staff have organised the fundraiser, which will be held at The Argyllshire Gathering

Hall on November 3 from 7pm.

Proceeds from the event will go towards a number of projects for Gaelic classes and Gaelic-related events in the upcoming year.

'Not only will you enjoy entertainment from Mòd gold medalists Mary Catherine Mac-

Neil and Angus Smith,' said Clare Jordan, who teaches at Rockfield's Gaelic Unit, 'but also the Argyll Ceilidh Trail, Oban and Tainuilt Gaelic Choirs, piper Niall Jordan, Rockfield School Choir and Rockfield Mòd medalists to name just a few.

'Music for the evening will also be provided by talented local band Ceol an Aire.'

Tickets are £8 for an adult, £5 for a child (five-16 years) or £20 for a family ticket (two adults and two children).

Children under five are free.



Oban Gaelic Choir finished in second place in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield at this year's Mòd, and will be singing on Friday. 17_43MODdm08_fridaychoirs.

Rocking off the rough edges

'NEVER stop dreaming'. That's the motto of Rough Edges: the oldest new band in the West.

Comprising four 'oldies' in their late 60s, a nearly oldie of 63 and a 50-something rock chic, this rock and pop group are giving themselves a new lease of life and having a ball at the same time.

'We get an amazing buzz out of what we're doing,' said bass guitarist and vocalist Charlie 'Chopper' Rogers who, along with lead guitarist Malc 'Hip Hop' Knowlson, formed the band nearly two years ago after a chance meeting at the Old Inn pub at Appin.

'We may be getting on a bit,' said lead singer Chris 'Del Boy' Pearman, 'but once we are up there on stage we can rattle the rafters with the best of them!'

'You're never too old,' agrees 'Precious' Patricia, one time vocalist and now on keyboard, who hadn't played in donkeys'

years since taking her piano exams as a teenager.

'We're in it for the fun and it's a brilliant hobby,' says Jimmy 'Chunky' Martin from 'Pineapple House' Duror, 'but we take it seriously, practise a lot and don't take any prisoners so you have to keep focused and stay on the ball. It's hard work but we have some great laughs too.'

Vocalist Linda 'Sharkie' Knowlson, the baby of the group, adds: 'I was petrified the first time we went on stage and I still get a bit nervous but you also get a huge buzz which makes all the practising worthwhile.'

Soon to cut their own Demo Disc locally at St Mary's Space Recording Studios, Rough Edges play mainly '60s, '70s and '80s rock and pop classics with newer contemporary numbers being added to the playlist on an ongoing basis.

'St Mary's Space is a fantastic facility located at Fasnacloich on Loch Creran,' says lead gui-

tarist Malc Knowlson. 'Recording there is going to be a brilliant experience. They cater for all types of musicians and performing artists from traditional through classic to rock and pop and we are looking forward to our session in November.'

'Their ages won't be a problem,' jokes St Mary's Space co-owner Jamie Smith: 'We have an access ramp and a few zimmers, so they'll be fine.'

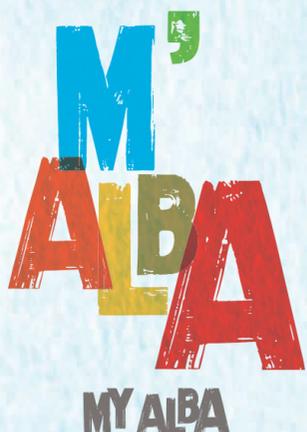
Rough Edges perform at local 'gigs' and the occasional community fundraising event and over the past year or so have helped raise funds for Appin, Ballachulish and Duror Community Halls.

Kentallen and Duror Community Hall chairperson Jan Gibson said: 'We really appreciate Rough Edges performing in aid of our hall funds. Their first concert for us in February 2016 was a sell-out and

we are hoping for a similar result from their gig at the hall on November 18.'

If anyone is looking for a fun night's entertainment then Rough Edges are playing Kentallen and Duror Hall on November 18 (tickets only) and at the newly refurbished Ben Cruachan Inn on November 24.

A final word from Rough Edges: 'You're never too old. Just get out there and go for it! You are only here once!'



DIARDAOIN 02 SAMHAIN
THURSDAY 02 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Ataireachd Bhuan – Stories from Fishermen's working lives at sea (rpt)
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÙR | NEW: Eòrpa
21.00 ÙR | NEW: Air an Rathad
22.00 Breabach Beò
22.25 ÙR | NEW: An Dèidh Hitler
23.15 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Bwani Junction (rpt)
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIHAOINE 03 SAMHAIN
FRIDAY 03 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Là
19.25 ÙR | NEW: Rugbaidh Beò
Pro 14 – Glasgow v Leinster

21.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
22.00 Seirm (rpt)
23.00 An Deidh Hitler (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 04 SAMHAIN
SATURDAY 04 NOVEMBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.55 Fraochay Bay (rpt)
19.00 De a-nis? (rpt)
19.30 Fuine/Cooking (rpt)
20.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)
20.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.30 Eorpa (rpt)
21.00 Na Worlds 2017 (rpt)
22.00 Leabhraichean-latha 'Chogaidh Mhoir' (rpt)
23.00 Cuirm @ Celtic – Julie Fowlis and RANT (rpt)
23.30 Canal a' phanama (rpt)
24.50 Dhan Uisge (Sanna) (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 05 SAMHAIN
SUNDAY 05 NOVEMBER

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.00 Search Là/News Review
18.00 ÙR | NEW: Scottish Premiership – Heart of Midlothian v Kilmarnock
20.00 ÙR | NEW: Alleluia
20.30 Prosaig (rpt)
21.00 Luther 500: An t-Strì Spioradail (rpt)
22.00 Na Worlds 2017 (rpt)
23.00 An Deidh Hitler (After Hitler) (rpt)
23:45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

DILUAIN 06 SAMHAIN
MONDAY 06 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÙR | NEW: Puirt-adhair
21.00 Trusadh – Balaich a' Bruidhinn (rpt)
22.00 Hòrò Gheallaidh (rpt)
22.30 Bruadar a' Bhaiss (rpt)
23.30 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Main Street Blues (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Sanna) (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 07 SAMHAIN
TUESDAY 07 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 ÙR | NEW: An Ataireachd Bhuan
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Fuine (rpt)

21.00 Bho Stalag Gu Gulag (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – Balaich a' Bruidhinn (rpt)
23.00 Na Ceiltich (rpt)
23.25 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 08 SAMHAIN
WEDNESDAY 08 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÙR | NEW: Prosaig
21.00 Ceum Air Cheum (rpt)
22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)
22.30 Hòrò Gheallaidh (rpt)
23.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 09 SAMHAIN
THURSDAY 09 NOVEMBER

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 An Ataireachd Bhuan (rpt)
19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 ÙR | NEW: Eòrpa
21.00 ÙR | NEW: Air an Rathad
22.00 Feis Chiùil Thiriodh – Sharon Shannon & Skerryvore (rpt)
22.25 ÙR | NEW: An Dèidh Hitler
23.15 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – Alabama 3 (rpt)
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

Jack Lee wins the 44th Glenfiddich Piping Championship

SATURDAY saw the 44th edition of the world's most prestigious solo piping competition, the Glenfiddich Piping Championship, at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, Perthshire.

This year's competition was won overall by Jack Lee from Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. To claim this year's title, he took first in the Piobaireachd and second in the March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR) events. Benderloch's Angus MacColl took second in the piobaireachd, coming third overall.

Speaking about his win Jack Lee said: 'Solo competitors are part of a close knit community where we often play and compete in events across the country. From this experience, we all know how tough competing in the Glenfiddich Championship is going to be, as it is performing at the highest level in piping. Each player has worked hard and won other events to earn their place here, so to win amongst such talent is an incredible honour.'

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to bring together the world's finest pipers and witness some of the finest renditions of the ancient and traditional piobaireachd or ceol mor (the great music) and light music or ceol beag (the



This year's competitors in the Glenfiddich Piping Championship.

little music).

The 10 competitors are invited to play as a result of having won prestigious accolades at other piping events during the last year. So all the competitors are already champions before coming to Blair Atholl, but competing at the Glenfiddich is seen as solo piping's

ultimate prize.

Presenting the prizes was Bill Gordon, eldest son of Sandy Grant Gordon, a driving force behind the event, who said: 'It's incredibly humbling that this event is so highly regarded by both the musicians and the thousands of piping enthusiasts who enjoy watching it every year.'

'It's a privilege to witness incredible piping talent in such a beautiful and historic setting like Blair Castle. My congratulations go to all who have taken part this year.'

The event was livestreamed to people across the world, including viewers in the US, Canada, Australia and South Africa.



Jack Lee, Canada, winner of this year's Glenfiddich Piping Championship

COMPETITORS

Callum Beaumont Bo'ness / Dollar, Scotland
Glenn Brown Glasgow, Scotland / Milton, Ontario
Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh, Scotland
Alasdair Henderson, Dunoon, Scotland
Jack Lee Surrey, British Columbia, Canada
Angus MacColl Oban, Scotland
Ian K MacDonald Toronto, Canada

Roddy MacLeod Glasgow, Scotland
Iain Speirs Edinburgh, Scotland
Craig Sutherland Crieff, Scotland

PIOBAIREACHD

5th Callum Beaumont
4th Glenn Brown
3rd Iain Speirs
2nd Angus MacColl
1st Jack Lee

FULL RESULTS

MSR

5th Cameron Drummond
4th Craig Sutherland
3rd Alasdair Henderson
2nd Jack Lee
1st Roddy MacLeod

OVERALL

3rd Angus MacColl
2nd Roddy MacLeod
1st Jack Lee

Jura moves to Glasgow for 125th gathering

THE WILD Hebridean island of Jura, despite its small population of 200 or so, next week celebrates the 125th birthday of one of the West Coast's longest running Glasgow gatherings.

Up to 150 Jurachs living on and off the island are expected to attend the 125th Jura Gathering and Ceilidh Dance at the St Vincent Bowling Club, Glasgow, next Friday, November 10.

'All the people who go have a love of Jura and have a close connection to the island,' said vice president Dr Alasdair Watson, who has attended since a wee boy in 1959. 'It's like transferring the Jura hall to Glasgow for an evening.'

The night will feature music from the past and present, lead singers of trad bands Tide Lines and Skippinish, Robert Robertson and Norrie

Maelvor, as well as fiddler Archie McAllister and David McDonald's Jura Ceilidh Band.

Scanning the records, the Jura Gathering has attracted many singers over its 125 years, including Calum Kennedy, Alasdair Gillies, the MacDonald Sisters, Kenneth Thomson, Murdo Ferguson, Ian Carmichael, Mary Ann Kennedy, and George Clavey, plus hundreds more.

The Glasgow Jura Association, founded in 1892, toured a variety of venues over the years, including the grand St Andrew's Halls before it was destroyed by fire in 1962, and then the Highlanders Institute when Jurachs would a queue around the street.

'Some associations have closed,' Dr Watson said, listing a few still surviving for the isles of Islay, Tiree and Skye.

'It dropped 10 years ago and we almost folded, and we have worked hard to get numbers back up. As numbers fall it is quite difficult to get a hall in Glasgow. The venue has changed, but the spirit lives on.'

The evening traditionally comprised a concert followed by a dance, but now this has turned into a ceilidh, with added birthday cake and buffet. The Isle of Jura Rugby Club, which formed 30 years ago and played its first game this summer, are also coming to beef up the party.

The great and good have also presided in the chair, currently held by Charles Renwick, such as the Campbelltown writer Angus MacVicar, the author of Salt in My Porridge and Songs of Praise presenter, as well as politicians Winnie Ewing and Ray Michie,

the former Scottish Secretary Michael Noble MP, and Iain MacCormick MP, a former Oban High School teacher.

The association's original aim was to bring together Jura's people, collect and preserve the island's traditions, tales and poetry, and afford relief to 'necessitous and deserving residents'.

The custom continues, with all profits paying for local causes, most recently picnic benches at Corran Sands beach and in Craighouse, and a new cooker and curtains in the village hall.

Dr Watson, whose son Fraser also helps organise the event, added: 'We would encourage younger people living in the area to come and support it. I have been a member for 40 years. It would be nice for some of the younger ones to pick up the mantle.'

Lochaber businesses gather to grow greener credentials

MISSED Highland Sustainable Business Week in Fort William? Don't miss out on free support.

Last week, Highland businesses gathered at the Nevis Centre in

Fort William to find out how to beat rising energy, water and waste costs – and grow more profitable, greener businesses.

Several leading local businesses took part in

the free 'business briefing' as part of Highland Sustainable Business Week.

Hosted by experts from Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Efficient Scotland

programme, the briefing introduced the Scottish Government and ERDF-funded support available to help small- and medium-sized enterprises cut costs and boost profit.

This includes expert consultancy advice; grants; and interest-free loans of between £1,000 and £100,000.

As well as finding out about free support, attendees were also treated to a gondola ride on the mountain of Aonach Mor.

If anyone missed the

event don't worry: Resource Efficient Scotland offers this support free, all year round.

Since 2015 the Resource Efficient Scotland programme has helped businesses across the country to identify more than £42 million worth of savings. That corresponds to 24 per cent energy saving per business on average.

For businesses to find out how to unlock these savings and boost their bottom line, contact enquires@resourceefficientscotland.com or call 0808 808 2268.



Business owners and managers got a great view of how to become more efficient with a mountain gondola ride at Aonach Mor with Resource Efficient Scotland advisors.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Don't miss our bumper Christmas special coming soon

Your essential guide to festive shopping, dining and entertainment

to discuss advertising requirements for your business please call us on 01631 568000

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

OVER THERE!
WW1 (Part 4 -1917)
LOCAL STORIES AND SONGS
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
Wed 8th Nov, 7pm. £6 (£5 Friends)
Refreshments

HOLLY TEA
Glencruitten Parish Church Hall
Saturday 4th November At 2.00pm
In aid of Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Oban
Donations at the door
Tea / Coffee - Hot Mince Pies - Shortbread
Also Home Baking stall, Bric-a-brac, books and lots more
Please give us your support today

OBAN U3A Monthly meeting
Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 10.30am
Studio Theatre and cafe area, Corran Halls, Oban
The speaker at this November meeting will be Dr James Fenton - 'Poles apart: Landscape and Wildlife of the Arctic and Antarctic.'

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM

Spectrum soft play area
Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk

Help your business beat rising energy, water and waste costs

Resource Efficient Scotland
Growth that doesn't cost the earth

Missed Highland Sustainable Business Week?

Don't worry, you can still get free Government-funded support to slash your bills, boost profits and grow a greener business.

- Over £42 million savings identified for Scottish organisations
- 24% average energy saving per business
- Interest-free, unsecured loans from the Scottish Government up to £100,000

Find out about the FREE support available by visiting www.resourceefficientscotland.com

Or call **0808 808 2268**

Highland Sustainable Business Week was organised for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) by Zero Waste Scotland's Resource Efficient Scotland programme with the support of The Highland Council

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

FARMING NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

'Lost' masterpiece of bull goes on sale

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A 'LOST' masterpiece of a champion Highland bull from Ardtornish Estate, compared to Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen*, is expected to fetch £185,000 at auction this month.

The whereabouts of *The Lord of the Isles*, an epic 76-inch by 50-inch painting by Surrey-born Margaret Collyer, done in 1901, was a mystery until recently.

The self-taught artist, a nurse who bred livestock in Kenya and survived attacks from two lions and a python, was commissioned by the estate's owners to paint his stock, and focused on a formidable bull, 'entirely black, with a magnificent spread of horns'.

The subject Victor VII of Ardtornish, born in 1891, had won first prize as a yearling at the Royal Highland Show in Inverness in 1892, and then first as a two-year-old and champion the following year in Edinburgh, shown by Mr T V Smith.

His sire was An-t-Iasgair (born 1882), number 13 in the first herd book, bred by the Earl of Dunmore, and his dam was the outstanding black cow, Proiseag Dhubh (born 1877), herd book number 783, who won first prize cow at the Royal

Highland Show in 1882, 1885 and 1889.

With the help of six to seven men, Victor VII was taken up every morning to high ground, where he stood on a rock silhouetted against the sky while Collyer captured him in paint. She was pleasantly surprised the bull never charged at her, and managed to keep him pliant by feeding him handfuls of salt throughout each day.

The auctioneer, Tom Rooth Fine Art, described the painting: 'Close to the sun, in lonely lands, Collyer's Highland bull stands astride a rock, his coat blustering in the wind, a stream of spittle emanating from his mouth.

'He is a vision of strength, dominance, vitality and masculinity; an untameable spirit, unchallengeable, unconquerable, and ruler of all he surveys.

'If Sir Edwin Landseer created *The Monarch of the Glen*, then surely this should be the Emperor.'

Landseer's magnificent depiction of a Highland stag, possibly painted near Glenorchy, was acquired by the National Galleries of Scotland for £4 million in March. *The Lord of the Isles* goes on sale this week at the London's Winter Art and Antiques Fair in Olympia in London.



The Lord of the Isles by Margaret Collyer depicts a Highland bull champion from Ardtornish Estate.

NFUS fights for right farming Brexit deal

NFU SCOTLAND says it remains fully committed to striking the right Brexit deal for Scotland's farmers and crofters.

At an autumn conference in Perthshire last week, president Andrew McCormick told delegates that withdrawal from both the EU and the CAP meant that change was coming. In the 18 months since the EU referendum, the union has been on the

front foot, both in terms of its political lobbying and member engagement, and that moves to the next level with a nationwide programme of Brexit roadshows for members next month.

In his opening address, Mr McCormick said that while there was a great deal of frustration over the lack of political progress on negotiations, the union had resolutely pursued

its three priorities of securing friction-free trade, access to skilled and competent labour, and a future support package for Scotland that was adequately funded, fairly allocated and will underpin a policy framework specifically designed for Scottish farming's future needs.

The event heard an update on Brexit from Lord Ian Duncan, parliamentary under-secretary

of state at the Scotland Office, and Michael Russell, Argyll and Bute MSP and Scotland's Brexit minister.

Tom Hind, chief strategy officer at the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board (AHDB), also spoke on its latest Brexit scenario-planning, which examined the potential impact of Brexit on a wide range of farm types.

Around the markets

OBAN - On Tuesday October 24, United Auctions held a special sale of suckled calves and all classes of breeding stock at Oban Livestock Centre when 607 head was sold. The centre experienced an extremely large attendance of buyers from across the country as well as a large following of local customers in pursuit of breeding stock resulting in all classes of quality bred stock being keenly bid for.

PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES
TOP PRICES PER HEAD
BULLOCKS:

AAx: £680 - 2 Cleat, Barra.
GAL: £600(4) - Erray Farm.
LIMx: £800 - Ballymeanach, Mull.
LUIx: £630 - 236 Bruernish, Barra.
SALx: £650(9) - 8 Vatersay, Barra.
SHx: £620(3) - 77 Borve, Barra.
SIMx: £660(5) - Scammadale Farm: £650 - Ballymeanach, Mull.
HEIFERS:
LUI: £720(2) - Ardlarach, Luig:
£600(2) - Clachan.
SALx: £680(3), £640(2) - 8 Vatersay, Barra.
SHx: £740(7), £720(3), £700(4) & £680(2) - Drumachar Farm: £660 - 77 Borve, Barra.
SIMx: £820(2) - Scammadale: £800 - Saulmore: £800(4) - Ardlarach Luig: £780(3) - Claid, Coll: £760 - Saulmore: £740 - Ardlarach, Luig: £720(2) & £700(2) - Saulmore: £700(2) - Claid, Coll.
BG: £700 - Resipole.

TOP PRICES PER KILO
BULLOCKS:

LIMx: 224p(2) - Auch Estate.
SHx: 235p & 233p - 77 Borve, Barra.
SIMx: 250p(6) - Barachander: 244p(5) - Scammadale: 243p(7) - Barachander: 242p(5) & 231p - Scammadale.
HEIFERS
AAx: 247p(2) - Ballymeanach, Mull.
BSHx: 223p - Achnacloch.
LIMx: 256p - Kengharair: 250p - Laggan, Lismore: 232p - Ballygrundle 2.

LUING: 282p(2) - Ardlarach, Luig: 269p(2), 266p(2) - Clachan: 251p(2) - Slaterich: 243p(2) - Clachan: 242p(3) - Ardlarach Luig.
SALx: 235p(3) - 8 Vatersay.
SHx: 342p(2), 307p(2), 296p(2), 292p(2), 290p(2) & 271p(3) - Drumachar: 253p(5) - Achnacloch: 250p - 77 Borve, Barra: 250p - Kengharair.
SIMx: 326p(4), 322p(3) & 310p(2)

- Claid, Coll: 299p - Saulmore: 297p(2) - Scammadale: 292p - Saulmore: 284p(4) & 283p(3) - Scammadale: 282p(2) - Saulmore: 282p(2) - Claid, Coll: 277p(2) - Scammadale: 274p(2) - Saulmore: 264p(2) - Claid Coll: 262p(2) - Saulmore: 261p(4) - Ardlarach Luig.
BG: 333p(2) & 308p(2) - Resipole.
BULLING HEIFERS:
AAx: £1050(2), £1000(5), £950 - Ballymeanach, Mull.
BSHx: £800, £780 & £690 - Fiart.
BRBx: £930 - Achadhbeag.
GAL: £900(2) & £850(2) - Drumachar.
HERx: £820 - Tirlfuir.
LIMx: £920 - Laggan: £850 - Baligrundle 2: £720 - Lochuisge: £700 - Laggan.

LUING:
£800 - Clachan: £800(2) - Slaterich.
SHx: £980 - Drumachar: £780 - Fiart: £780(4) - Auchnacraig.
SIMx: £1100, £1000 & £980 - Ballymeanach, Mull.
BG: £880 - Resipole.
IN-CALF HEIFERS:
LIMx: £1700 - Mid Farm: £1500 - Stroneskar: £1500, £1400 & £1350 - Mid Farm.
SIMx: £2000 - Mid Farm: £1500 - Stroneskar: £1450 - Invernahyle: £1450 & £1420 - Mid Farm: £1350 - Invernahyle, Stroneskar & Mid Farm.
BG: £1500, £1450, £1400 & £1350 - Stroneskar.

IN-CALF COWS:
BSHx: £1000 - Tirlfuir
BRBx: £950 - Tirlfuir
SIMx: £1080 & £940 - Achinriar.
COWS WITH CALVES
AAx: £820 - Glenfeochan Estate.
GAL: £820(2) - Ulva Farms.
LIMx: £1000 - Baligrundle 4: £800(3) - Ledcharrrie.
SIMx: £900 - Baligrundle 4: £850 & £800 - Ledcharrrie.
BRBx: £920 & £880 - Tirlfuir.
COWS RWB
GAL: £820(2) & £800(4) - Ulva Farms.

FORT WILLIAM - Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on October 23 sold 1,687 store sheep of all classes. Lambs (901) sold to £60 for a Suffolk cross from East Croft Roy, Newtonmore.
Ewes (721) sold to £68 for a pair of Texel crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan.
Feeding sheep (65) sold to £75 for

a Cheviot ram from Market Stance, Fort Augustus.

Other leading prices per head: Store lambs: Chev - East Croft Roy, £52, Loch Treig, Inverloch, £48, Moy Farm, Banavie, £46; BF - Wood Cottage Croft, Tobermory, £49, Greenfield, Invergarry, & Keil Farm, Ardour, £40; SuffX - East Croft Roy, £42.
Ewes: Chev - East Croft Roy, £49, Wood Cottage Croft, Tobermory, £49, Blargie Farm, £42, 4 Glebehill, Kilchoan, £38; TexX - Loch Treig, £49.

Feeding sheep: Chev ram - 4 Muirshairlich, Banavie, £55; Chev gnr - Ardtornish Farms, Oban, £50; BF ram - Market Stance, £50; BF gnr - Ardochy, Whitebridge, £40.

ISLAY - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Friday October 20 sold 192 head of cattle, and 186 sheep at their annual autumn sale on the Isle of Islay.

With regular buyers and five new customers to the island, this ensured a good trade throughout the day, and more could have been sold to sellers' advantage.

Top price of the day went to D McMillan, Ballulive for a Limousin Bullock at £840, purchased by Brian Gilvear, Graystale, Stirling. Heifers were also topped by Mr McMillan, again for a Limousin at £720 also purchased by Brian Gilvear.

Leading prices:-
Bullocks:
Lim: £830 & £810, Balliemartin
Lim: £800, Ardtalla Estates
Lim: £800 & £790, Balliemartin
Lim: £750, Ballulive
Char: £710, Ardtalla Estates
AA: £670 & £650, Daill.

Overall average for 104 bullocks sold £630 (+£6 on the year).
Heifers:
Lim: £660 Balliemartin
AA: £600 Daill
Char: £600 & £540 Ardtalla Estates
Lim: £560 Ballulive
Lim: £540 Ardtalla Estates
Lim: £520 Auchnacloch.
Overall average for 82 heifers sold £534 (+£27 on the year).
Lambs:
Tex X: £58 Balliemartin
Cross: £36 Persabus
BF: £30 Ballulive
Ewes:
Chev: £44 Balliemartin.

Farm Machinery

Zetor 6245
E reg, one owner from new, 6,000 hours, excellent order.

SKH 3 Metre levelling harrow

PZ Haybob

Boswell Turnip Harvester

More machinery available on request.
Telephone 0779 5054890

NEW ZETOR TRACTORS

MAJOR CL HS **PROXIMA CL GP HS** **FORTERRA CL HSX HD**

LOADERS TO SUIT ALL MODELS

MOST MODELS AVAILABLE EX STOCK
0% FINANCE AVAILABLE
12 MONTH WARRANTY ON MAJORS
24 MONTHS WARRANTY ON PROXIMA
24 MONTHS WARRANTY ON FORTERRA

Contact
Zetor (ASM Scotland) - Hamish Watson 07876 730719
Or
Kintyre Area - Andrew Smith & Son 01586 553173

More Information available at WWW.ZETOR.CO.UK

Tractor is Zetor. Since 1946.

S&S SERVICES
ALL ROADS LEAD TO S&S

ISUZU
THE PICK-UP PROFESSIONALS

ISUZU D-MAX 2017

SPECIAL OFFERS
ON THE 2.5 & 1.9 MODELS
Contact our sales team for a fully tailored quotation.
Supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years

The Largest Range of New & Used Subarus in the UK available for immediate delivery

S&S Services, 8 Old Bridge Road, Ayr KA8 9SX
Tel: 07831 808702 or 01292 880080

Making the most of your land - renewables, woodland and GAEC

SRDP Farm Advisory Service
National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

Date Thursday 9th November
Time 10.45am
Venue Danna Farm, Tayvallich Estate, PA31 8PQ

Speakers -
• John Farquhar, Senior Renewables Consultant, SAC Consulting
• Douglas Priest, Woodland Consultant, SAC Consulting

Demonstration of Machinery courtesy of Hamilton Brothers Ltd

To book your place, please phone or email the National Advice Hub, call your local office on 01586552502 or email helen.pickering@sac.co.uk

SAC CONSULTING
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
FARMING & WATER SCOTLAND

CHAROLLAIS TUPS FOR SALE
High index, MV accredited.
Tel: 01880 740222

Heard dispersal
Limousin and Lim-X cows in calf to Lim-Bull
Two Calves also available
Also
Whitebred Shot Horn Bull
Contact: C Leitch Tel: 01688 500245

NOW DELIVERING NEWS 7 DAYS A WEEK ONLINE
FROM 56p PER WEEK
www.obantimes.co.uk

FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER £125

WWW.FANEVALLEYSTORES.COM
ORDER BY PHONE: 028 9261 0477

Fane Valley Stores

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.

Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN
THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631
568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial
Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name,
address, postcode and phone number.



The SheepNet farmers' group at SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms.

Workshop aims to help boost sheep production

Ewen Campbell,
SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre
research farms manager

NOW that the dark evenings are upon us, I am glad we have managed to get some straw stored and that we managed to make a reasonable amount of decent silage.

Despite the wet summer, we have been very lucky that this year's crop was much better than last year with almost twice the dry matter value and good pH, protein and sugar levels. Just as well, since it looks like good quality hay will be pretty expensive, if you can find it.

The cows have just been scanned and all 24 are in-calf, with the calving pattern looking pretty tight. It's very satisfying to see them working so hard for us. However, I think we need to give a wee bit of credit to the boluses we gave to them pre-calving.

We had very little work from them at calving time and now

to see all cows in calf, despite calving some of them at two years old, proves that they are on the right track.

We have decided that now is the right time to increase the cattle numbers and to try a different breed but I will keep you in suspense until the next article to tell you what we have purchased.

As for the ewes, well, there is still plenty of grass around and we have just finished giving them their autumn MoT and service. We jab them with Cydectin to kill worms and external parasites and dose them with Fasinex to kill fluke.

As usual with our Kirkton research flock, our Lley and Scottish Blackface ewes will be tupped in single sire mating groups. It is a bit of a musical chair exercise, trying to fit all these ewes in different fields. This year, we will have 14 different groups. It will be a bit easier for the high hill Auchtertyre and Corrie flocks.

They will be split into five groups with a mixture of Blackface, Swale and Black Welsh Mountain tups. We will work out later on who the daddy is with the Zoetis parentage test.

The lamb sales are also in full swing at the moment. The finishing lambs are all in the shed. So far we have put 150 to Scotbeef and at the moment prices are not too bad.

We also hosted at Kirkton and Auchtertyre a farmers' workshop on innovation and providing solutions for improved sheep production. This was part of a European project called SheepNet, which we are part of. The project (www.sheepnet.network) brings together farmers, scientists and advisers from seven countries to target improved efficiency in lamb production.

The workshop at the farms was a great opportunity to discuss with peers and feed into this big project for research and knowledge transfer. Around 20

farmers from the Borders and north of England, led by Poppy Frater (SAC Consulting) came to the farms in the morning.

We showed them the latest technology and practices that are used here, such as drones to assess pasture condition, handling facilities to support sheep management practices such as target selective wormer treatment, and grazing and grass management in the hills.

The discussions were plentiful and very stimulating. The farmers were really pleased to have seen what we are up to here in this harsher environment.

In the afternoon, I joined them for the indoor part of the workshop, held at the Crianlarich hotel. Led by my colleague Claire Morgan-Davies, we all discussed solutions to issues linked to ewe reproduction, gestation and lambing mortality.

We had to identify eight solutions easily transferable to other farmers. These solutions will then

be presented at the next international workshop of this project, which will be held in Romania in November. I am part of the trip, and I am really looking forward to meeting other EU farmers and to compare notes. More on that when I come back.

The pupils from nearby Crianlarich Primary School also came for a visit this week. The children had been studying 'weather' and 'natural disasters' so they were particularly interested to learn from my colleague John Holland about the Met Office weather station at Kirkton and all about the local and global weather.

I then showed them the cows and lambs in the shed before giving them a sheepdog demonstration. They were undoubtedly the most enthusiastic visitors we have had for a long time with lots of pertinent questions.

It was great to hear how knowledgeable these youngsters were about both the weather and hill farming.

MSPs back call for CCTV in all abattoirs

MSPs have come out in support of a petition calling for mandatory CCTV to be introduced in all areas of Scotland's 38 slaughterhouses.

Alison Johnston, MSP for the Scottish Greens, hosted a briefing in the Scottish Parliament on the proposal for mandatory CCTV and how it can be implemented to ensure Scotland leads the UK in protecting the welfare of farm animals.

So far, more than 10,000 people have signed a petition from OneKind, Animal Aid and political activists which calls for the introduction of CCTV in all areas of all slaughterhouses in Scotland.

Last month, the Scottish Government announced a consultation on CCTV in slaughterhouses as part of the programme for government for 2017-18.

The Scottish Government, like the rest of the UK, currently recommends the installation of CCTV as best practice but it is on a voluntary basis and not required by legislation. The voluntary code also missed out some crucial details, including how clear the footage is, where the cameras are placed and who has the right to see the footage.

OneKind director Harry Huyton said: 'We believe it's essential that mandatory CCTV is introduced to all parts of all slaughterhouses in Scotland. It would be a cheap, simple and effective safeguard, helping to protect animals and workers.'

'We're delighted to see so many MSPs across the political spectrum supporting this campaign, and I hope many more members of the public will sign our petition before we hand it into the minister later this year.'

Ms Johnston said: 'One-third of the animal welfare incidents in slaughterhouses were caused by poor conditions during transport to abattoirs, with many animals having suffered broken bones, bruising and other injuries.'

'Vets can't be present around the clock and it's obvious that appalling cruelty isn't going to occur when it's known that CCTV is in operation.'

'It's essential that CCTV cameras are situated at sites of stunning and killing and not only in packing areas. Scotland prides itself on high quality produce and I doubt consumers would want to support businesses where animals have not been treated with care and respect.'

Government says CAP payments come early

THE Scottish Government has said the majority of farmers and crofters are receiving up to 90 per cent of their CAP basic payment support loan earlier than previously anticipated.

Loan payments were scheduled in the first week of November. However, more than 12,300 farmers and crofters are now receiving payments worth more than £292 million - earlier than ever before.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'In September I committed to making loan payments in the first week of November. I can now confirm

we have paid more than 10,600 farmers and crofters around £254 million, while a further 1,700 are receiving some £38 million in the coming days.'

'This means that by November 1, we will have paid more than 12,300 farmers and crofters over £292 million - £46 million more than last year - to 360 more businesses.'

'These payments have therefore been made earlier than previously announced and quicker than ever before, showing my absolute determination to support and provide security to the rural economy.'

The Farm Business Event

Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh 15 November 2017

Discover innovations
Speak to experts
Participate in seminars
Compare products, prices & services
See top dairy cattle on show
Learn from live demonstrations

Pre-register * NOW at
www.agriscot.co.uk

* Registration is a condition of entry - to avoid queues pre-registration is advised.

AgriScot to boost business performance

AGRISCOT, The Farm Business Event, with an emphasis on showcasing new products, new ideas and new thinking, is a must attend for forward thinking farmers, writes Iona farmer John MacInnes, who is also one of the event organisers.

Every square metre of indoor space in the Royal Highland Centre exhibition halls is set to be packed out on November 15, with almost 250 trade stands in attendance.

Our 2017 event will see an increased programme of livestock workshops - the Moredun Foundation will return to host an animal health focussed workshop, and new for 2017 will be a workshop examining how the lamb supply chain - from farm to retail - can be made more efficient.

AgriScot will also, once again, host a

Our 2017 event will see an increased programme of livestock workshops

John MacInnes

packed programme of business seminars, with the NFUS and cabinet secretary state-of-the-nation debate making a welcome return.

The AgriScot farm of the year awards, for Dairy Farm, Beef Farm and Sheep Farm will be presented on the day along with the new-for-2017 Scottish Arable Farm of the Year award.

Whilst AgriScot is designed to cater for all sectors of agriculture, and each year attracts 11,000 farming profession-



The beef cattle demonstration is always a popular AgriScot attraction.

als from across the country and across the sectors, there is still a strong dairy presence, with some of the best cows in Britain judged on the day for top awards including the coveted Super Cow title.

The 2017 Beef Cattle demonstration will focus on accurate weighing and weight monitoring to optimise performance.

Thanks to the continued support of trade stands and sponsors, AgriScot

is free to enter and has free parking, however, all visitors must register.

Registration on the day may mean having to queue, and therefore visitors are urged to register online, in advance, at

agriscot.co.uk We look forward to welcoming Oban Times' readers to AgriScot 2017 and showcasing new ideas, products, services and advice to boost the performance of every farm business.

West Coast **MOTORING TIMES**

DRIVETIMES
 SAILING TIMES
 GARAGES
 CAR DEALERSHIPS
 MOTORING NEWS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

SAAB 95 TDI DIESEL



2009, MoT April 2018, 102,000 miles, excellent condition, well maintained.
£2,200 or nearest reasonable offer

Tel 07769 273233/01866 844043

VAUXHALL ASTRA VAN 2013



1.7 diesel, 71000mils Mot till 04/18, White, 6 speed, Electric windows, New cylinder head/turbo, New timing belt, New front/rear brake discs/pads, 2 new tyres.
£3500 NO VAT

Contact 07500786612

NISSAN X TRAIL 2.2 DCI 4X4



06 plate, FSH plus over £1,000 spent recently, Good Condition, MOT to May 2018, 125,000 miles, Sat Nav Panoramic Sun Roof, Tow Bar
£1,900 ONO

01546 870235 or 07789695259

WANTED 4X4s FOR CASH

All 4x4 Vehicles, all makes and models wanted. Guaranteed best price, no hassle, free collection anywhere. Land Rover Defender, Discovery, Freelander Range Rover, Vauxhall Brava, Toyota Hilux, Land Cruiser, Mitsubishi, Shogun, L200, Pajero, Nissan Navara, Terrano, Patrol, X Trail, Isuzu Trooper, Rodeo. + All other 4x4 Vehicles, 4X4 Pickups, etc. Single Vehicles or fleet purchases. Any age nearly new or old, any conditions from perfect to written off, non runners, rotten, no MOT, high mileage, blown engine, overheating etc. Cash in hand, no hassle, best cash price guaranteed.

Call today on 0778 985 5381

NEW CAR INDEX



VAUXHALL
Autorisation
40 Harbour Road
Inverness
Tel. 01463 251500
www.scottishvauxhall.co.uk

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT T200 2005



114500 mls In very good order for year, fully lined interior and full roof rack system. MOT till May 2018
£1,800 ONO

Further details 07787351008

CARS WANTED

Preferably low mileage, quick decision, high mileage also considered, up to £10,000. Mercedes, BMW and Audi, other models also considered.

Telephone 07759054754

WANTED

All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Tel 0770 3490572 ask for Robert

MUNRO'S OF OBAN

MOTs • Servicing • Repairs
All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.

Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel: 01631 564463
Email: munrosoban@aol.com
Web: www.munrosoban.co.uk

SUZUKI

Gordon Motors
UK Dealer Of The Year 2014
Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire
PH7 4BQ
Tel. 01784 652125
Delivery throughout the West
www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonsmotors

WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

T: 07885 203020 or
E: gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

Telephone 07546 788945

SAILINGTIMES

TWO YEARS OLD ORKNEY LONGLINER 2



Cuddy & hull fully fendered, complete with console steering, tilt/trim 25hp Yamaha outboard and 2.5hp auxiliary outboard, chart plotter, DSC radio, many other extras.
£9000 OIRO

Telephone 01972 500239
email kingwohng@gmail.com for full specification.

FORT WILLIAM TYRE SERVICE

Contact: Alec
Mobile: 07702 433495 Tel: 01397 700277
Email: fort-tyres@hotmail.co.uk

TYRES FITTED BY OUR MOBILE VAN
at your work, your home or where's easiest.

CARS, VANS, LORRIES, TRACTORS
24hrs Commercial Tyre Breakdown Service

ISUZU

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440

DRIVETIMES NOW ONLY

£32.80

IF UNSOLD AFTER 1ST WEEK JUST CALL BEFORE TUESDAY 3PM TO GET YOUR SECOND WEEK FREE

Tel: 01631 568000

6.1 METRE RIB FOR SALE



75hp four stroke Mariner, Good tubes. VHF and nav lights. Excellent trailer.
£4,900

07709086934

54%
of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car

Regional Press
closer to home

Fin's Place

Free pickup from BELLACHULISH SOUTH

Timing belts, exhausts, brakes, Glutches, batteries, servicing, M.O.T, repairs, diagnostics

NO FIX - NO FEE
11 Old Tweedmill, Oban
01631 566220 01766 757013

Great Wall

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440

Subaru

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080/880440

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES
Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

W.D. SEMPLE RENAULT/DACIA

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER
Any of our pre registered or used stock can now be viewed in or around Campbeltown
Call for an appointment to view.

Approved Renault Dealer
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150 Fax: 01499 302281
Lochgilthead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767 Fax: 01546 606272
Car & Van Hire from both branches.



FIND US  IMAGE SHOWN *ALL NEW RENAULT MEGANE

New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

66 Renault Clio, 1.2 Dynamic, NAV, White, 11,000 miles.....	£9650
65 Dacia Duster Laureate, DCI, 4x2, Silver, 5,500 Miles.....	£11,495
15 Renault Scenic XMod DCI, White, 26,000 Miles.....	£12,450
15 Renault Clio Dyn 1.2 Nav. Grey, 2,000 Miles.....	£8,200
14 Renault Scenic DYN, 1.5 DCI, T/T, Black, 16,500 Miles.....	£10,950
14 Renault Captur, Dyn, TCE, Orange /Black 9,000 Miles.....	£9,500
14 Dacia Duster Laureate 4x4, Blue, 68,000 Miles.....	£7,250
14 Nissan Note 1.2 Accenta Premium, 5DR, Blue, 9,000 Miles.....	£8,950
14 Nissan Micra 1.2 Visia, White, 16,000 Miles.....	£5,950
14 Dacia Sandero 1.2, Red, 34,000 Miles.....	£4,350
64 Nissan Qashqai, Tekon DCI, 21,000 Miles.....	£15,500
64 Nissan Pulsar, Accenta Red, 5DR, H/B, 13,000 Miles.....	£8,950
64 Dacia Duster Amb DCI, 4x4, Grey, 24,000 Miles.....	£8,950
64 Dacia Sandero DCI LAU, Black, 1,900 Miles.....	£6,950
13 Renault Captur S-Nav DCI, Orange with Cream Roof, 22,500 Miles..	£9,600
13 Suzuki Swift, SZ3, Cream, 9,000 Miles.....	£6,150
11 Ford Kuga, 4WD, TDCI, White 58,000m Miles.....	£8,950

COMMERCIALS

66 Renault Kangoo, White, 7,000 Miles.....	£8,000+VAT
14 Renault Kangoo Van 67,000 miles. White.....	£5,500 inc VAT
63 Renault traffic, LL29, DCI, White, 10,200 Miles.....	£8,500+VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivara DCI Van.....	£6,750 +VAT

LOWER PRICE VEHICLES

Renault Scenic 1.6 Citroen Picasso Toyota Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Suzuki Swift Toyota Aygo Ford Fiesta Landrover Freelander Auris	
--	--

Low deposit and finance options available

EAGLESHAM GARAGE

2014/64 ISUZU D-MAX TD YUKON VISION DCB
AUTOMATIC, DIESEL, 2014, BLUE, 17,851 MILES£16,495+VAT

2015/15 Isuzu D-Max TD YUKON DCB
Automatic, Diesel, 2015, white, 13,927 miles.....£16,995+VAT

2012/62 Subaru XV I S
Manual, Petrol, 5 doors 2013, black, 35,250 miles.....£9,995

2015/65 Audi A3 TFSI SPORT NAV
Semi Auto, Petrol, 3 doors 2016, red, 9,965 miles.....£14,995

2012/12 BMW 1 Series 116i URBAN
Manual, Petrol, 5 doors 2012, orange, 79,552 miles.....£7,995

2016/16 Subaru Brz SE Lux
Silver Manual Leather/Alcantara seats only 5156 miles.....£18,995

2014/14 BMW 1 Series 116i M SPORT
Manual, Petrol, 5 doors 2014, white, 25,289 miles.....£13,395

2012/12 BMW X5 XDrive 30D SE
Automatic, Diesel, Leather Metallic Blue, 45069 miles.....£18,995

2015/15 BMW 4 Series 435D XDRIVE M SPORT
Automatic, Diesel, 2 doors 2015, blue, 15,236 miles.....£24,995

2014/14 Audi A5 TDI QUATTRO S LINE BLACK EDITION
S/S Automatic, Diesel, 2 doors 2014, red, 23,691 miles.....£20,495

2014/64 Audi A7 TDI QUATTRO S LINE BLACK EDITION
Semi Auto, Diesel, 5 doors 2014, white, 34,042 miles.....£26,995

2011/61 MINI Clubman COOPER HAMPTON
Manual, Petrol, 5 doors 2011, blue, 42,996 miles.....£8,995

2013/63 Audi A5 TDI S LINE SPECIAL EDITION
Manual, Diesel, 2 doors 2013, black, 47,417 miles.....£15,995

2014/14 Mitsubishi Shogun Di-D S63
Automatic, Diesel, 5 doors 2014, grey, 41,125 miles.....£18,995

2015/65 Subaru Forester D XC
Manual, Diesel, 5 doors 2015, silver, 17,201 miles.....£17,995

2015/65 Kia ceed PRO CEED GT
Manual, Petrol, 3 doors 2015, red, 10,519 miles.....£13,995

77 GILMOUR STREET EAGLESHAM
GLASGOW G76 0LH
T: 01355 302 685
www.eagleshamgarageld.co.uk

Slipway Autos Ltd

Unit 3a Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NB
Tel/fax - 01397 772404

MOT Testing (Classes 4, 5 & 7) Servicing / Repairs / Bodywork / Terraclean

Nissan Juke (Acenta Premium DCI) 15 - 1.5 Diesel 5 door h/back - 26,155 miles.....	£10,650
VW Tiguan Match Tdi Blue Motion Tech DSG 15 - 5 door - 20,700 miles.....	£17,595
Skoda Octavia SE Tdi 15 - 5 door h/back - 35,315 miles.....	£10,995
VW Polo SE 1.0 64 - 5 door h/back - 7,200 miles.....	£9,275
VW Polo 1.2 63 - 3 door h/back - 23,430 miles.....	£5,995
Renault Captur (Dynamique Medianav Energy TCE S/S) 63 - 5 door h/back - 9,272 miles.....	£9,475
Ford Focus Zetec (Auto) 63 - 5 door estate - 22,995 miles.....	£8,595
Nissan Note N-Tec 1.4 62 - 5 door h/back - 9,682 miles.....	£6,900
VX Astra Elite 1.6 13 - 5 door h/back - 13,000 miles.....	£7,900
Nissan Micra Visia 63 - 5 door hatchback - 20,781 miles.....	£5,300
Nissan Micra Acenta 64 - 5 door hatchback - 16,232 miles.....	£6,500
VX Corsa 1.4 Sri 64 - 3 door hatchback - 44,000 miles.....	£5,895
Audi A4 S Line Quattro 58 - 67,404 miles.....	£7,750
Ford Fiesta Van 1.6 diesel 61 - 50,900 miles.....	£3,495

NEW STOCK ARRIVING SOON

Mobile - 07873587908 (Martin - Salesman)

We can also source new and used cars to suit your requirements

All above vehicles come with warranty - Finance available on request



MOT DUE?



MOT TESTING, SERVICING & REPAIRS
TYRES & EXHAUSTS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF CARS, 4X4'S VANS

Your car is in good hands at...

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

S&S SERVICES USED CAR LIST

ALL ROADS LEAD TO S&S

2008 Isuzu Rodeo RODEO DENVER TD LWB D/C, 2.5I Diesel, Manual, Red, 87,776 Miles.....	£7,500+VAT
2012 Isuzu D-Max EIGER D/C INTERCOOLER TD, 2.5I Diesel, Manual, Blue, 68,694 Miles.....	£11,500+VAT Was £13,000+VAT
2014 Isuzu D-Max TD DCB, 2.5I Diesel, Manual, White, 31,384 Miles.....	£13,000+VAT
2014 Isuzu D-Max TD YUKON DCB, 2.5I Diesel, Manual, Green, 72,681 Miles.....	£13,250+VAT
2014 Isuzu D-Max HUNTER, 2.5I Diesel, Manual, Black, 86,000 Miles.....	£15,495+VAT
2015 Subaru XV D SE, 2I diesel, Manual, Blue, 21,000 Miles.....	£14,500
2015 Isuzu D-Max TD BLADE DCB, 2.5I Diesel, Manual, White, 28,000 Miles.....	£18,995+VAT
2017 Isuzu D-Max UTAH DCB, 1.9I Diesel, Automatic, Blue, 2,500 Miles.....	£23,995+VAT

Full stock list available on our website www.sandsservices.co.uk

Excellent finance packages available.

Tel: 07831 808702 or 01292 880080

RENAULT HEADS FOR THE COAST IN BONHAM'S LONDON TO BRIGHTON VETERAN CAR RUN 2017

- Renault UK is proud to, once again, be the official manufacturer partner of the Bonham's London to Brighton Veteran Car Run.
- A 1900 Renault Type C will join 500 other pre-1905 vehicles on the famous run to the South Coast.
- Type C is entered by Renault UK and driven by Renault Owners' Club Editor, Alasdair Worsley.
- The run begins at first light (07h03) from Hyde Park on Sunday November 5.

Renault UK proudly returns to the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run in 2017 as the official manufacturer partner. The partnership has run for more than 30 years. Renault will be entering its 1900 Type C into the long-standing heritage trial on November 5.

Alasdair Worsley, editor of the Renault Owners' Club, and expert of both the run and the Type C, will drive the recently-restored working piece of Renault's history the 60 miles from Hyde Park down to Madeira Drive in Brighton at first light. Jeremy Townsend, communications director, Groupe Renault UK, said: 'The London to Brighton Veteran Car Run is a staple of the British motoring calendar. 'After more than 30 years as the official manufacturer partner, we're looking forward to our Type C taking part in the run once more. 'The Type C is the epitome of the great resilience shown by Renault and a showcase of our long 119-year history, being one of the few motor manufacturers set up in the 19th century that is still going strong today. 'We wish Alasdair the very best for his adventure through London and the beautiful Sussex countryside, to the coast on Sunday.'

Commenting on taking part once more, Alasdair said: 'To be able to drive the Type C down to Brighton again this year will be an honour. 'The car was so innovative for its time thanks to its drive system - Louis Renault's design for the Type C was breathtakingly modern for the time. Obviously, compared to present-day Renaults, the Type C's pace is very leisurely. However, it's always a real thrill to have the chance to drive it! 'Seeing so many spectators watching the run and cheering us on as we pass through is fantastic - the support grows bigger every year so I'm looking forward to enjoying my day with the Type C and arriving on Madeira Drive.' The Renault Type C was first shown in April 1900 at the Vincennes Car Show as part of the world exhibition taking place in Paris. The vehicle was extremely advanced for its time, adopting an innovative cooling system using water.

This meant that the bonnet was, unusually for the period, square. Its chassis was designed in a similar way to its predecessors, the Renault Type A and Type B. However, it was longer and larger and also available in three forms - a convertible with removable back seats, a 'barrel' four-seater and a coupe with either two or three seats. This particular example of the Type C is owned by Renault UK as part of its heritage fleet that spans more than a hundred years, from the Type C of 1900 up to cars from the present day. This year's run marks 121 years since the 'Emancipation Run' from London to Brighton, which was held in November 1896. It marked the passing into law of the Locomotives on the Highway Act, which raised the speed limit for 'light locomotives' from 4mph to 14mph and abolished the need for the vehicles to be preceded by a man carrying a red flag.



West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

- LETTINGS
- COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
- SALE
- PROPERTY REVIEWS
- PROPERTY NEWS
- LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

View all of these properties on westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

TO LET

FLAT FOR RENT

Fully furnished One Bedroom Flat in centre of Lochgilphead, no DSS, own car parking space - £420.00/mth + C.Tax Available For Immediate Let Recently Refurbished Energy Rating C
Tel. 01546-870325
Landlord Reg. 69297/130/0240

TO LET / MAY SELL

89-91 George Street, Oban

Rarely available retail premises occupying corner position on prime parade.

- Ground floor comprising 836 sq ft (77.67 sq m).
- Open plan sales floor.
- Building has recently underwent extensive refurbishment, including new roof.
- Suitable for retail or Class 2, office use.
- Rarely available opportunity to purchase in Oban.

For more information or to arrange a viewing please contact Gordon Nicolson 0141 548 8064 gordon.nicolson@hsaretail.com

1 Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, Oban

2 bedroom house end terrace back and front garden, Valued at £135,000. Quiet location.

All reasonable offers considered
Tel: 07881696964, 01631 565377 after 6pm

HOMEOWNERS UNAWARE OF INTEREST RATE RISE IMPACT



that most homeowners do not seem to know that fixing their rates could save them money in the case of rates rising. TSB said an interest rate increase of just 0.25 per cent by the Bank of England could see those on variable rate mortgage products paying as much as £13 more per month than they do at the moment. It also said that those who fix their rates at present could eventually be saving themselves as much as £119 per month.

There has been speculation in the property market for some time that the Bank of England could soon have a significant impact on repayment prices as a result of growing interest rates. As some lenders start to withdraw their lowest rates, it would seem this is now closer to becoming a reality. However, even as we face rising interest rates at last, the vast majority of people who own homes across the UK seem to have little knowledge about what impact it will have on them. According to research from the TSB, as many as 68 per cent of people who own a home in the UK don't know how a base rate change would affect their monthly repayments. It also said

The lender said one of the biggest issues is that there has not been an interest rate rise in the UK for 10 years. In that period, as many as 2.6 million people have got onto the housing ladder, leaving a large number of owners who have never had to experience changes that could negatively affect them. 'We don't know when the Bank of England will change the base rate, but we do know that preparing early is the first step in helping homeowners to get ready for a rate rise. There's no need to panic and no-one is suggesting sudden large increases in the base rate but just a little planning now can make a big difference in the future,' said Ian Ramsden, director of mortgages at the TSB.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

ROWAN HOUSE, OBAN

- Spacious Detached House
- 5 bedrooms/4 Bathrooms
- Stunning views of Loch Etive
- Large private Garden
- Highly sought after area
- EPC - E 47

£480,000

Rowan House is a real treasure, nestled in a secluded spot on the shores of Loch Etive, enjoying far reaching views across the loch and Ben Cruachan. The property has been a much-loved family home, with five double bedrooms and plentiful reception space. Upon entering the house from the large parking area to the rear, the generous tiled porch leads in to a light and welcoming hallway. The spacious Pronorm kitchen with Corian worktop is perfect for the busy family home.

KONADISH BLACKCROFTS, OBAN

- Spacious Detached House
- 6 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms
- Lovely family home
- Popular location
- Bed & Breakfast potential
- EPC - C

£340,000

Konadish would make the ideal family home or potential B&B. The property is situated in North Connel, along side Loch Etive in a small residential area. The integral garage can be accessed through the utility room and from outside via and up and over door. Upstairs are five bright and spacious bedrooms, all of which are double rooms and the master benefits from an en-suite shower room. Viewing is a must to appreciate all this property has to offer. Book your viewing TODAY!

TARBAT HOUSE, BUNESSAN

- Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms
- Far reaching views
- Established Holiday Let
- Low maintenance garden
- EPC Rating - D68

OIRO £210,000

Tarbat House - a spacious 1 1/2 storey 4 bedroom detached house with far reaching views near the village of Bunessan. Built 12 years ago by the current owners, the property is currently run as a holiday let averaging 25 weeks per year. The ground floor accommodation comprises a small porch, hall, modern kitchen diner complete with gas hob, a bright lounge with patio doors to the garden, utility room and two double bedrooms (1 en-suite) both with built in storage.

CNOC MOR, BUNESSAN

- Spacious Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms
- Large Kitchen Diner & Lounge
- Situated in a generous plot
- Views of Ardmearach Peninsula
- EPC - C69

OIRO £205,000

Cnoc Mor is a spacious 4 bedroom house situated in Ardrun near the village of Bunessan on the Ross of Mull. The property sits within a generous plot in an elevated position overlooking the stunning Ardmearach peninsula. Built in 2004 the property comprises a small porch, light central hallway, spacious kitchen diner, utility room, separate dining room, large lounge with wood burning stove, 4 double bedrooms, family bathroom and upstairs shower room.

LOCHABER PLACE, FORT WILLIAM

- 3 Bed/1 Bath
- First Floor Flat
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: C (72)
- LL Registration - HIG-0097641-17
- Council Tax Band - C

PCM £600

Spacious bright well proportioned unfurnished first floor flat located in Upper Achintore, Fort William with views across Loch Linnhe. The property benefits from 3 good size bedrooms, lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen and bathroom. There is off street parking and communal garden. Deposit and references required.

FLAT 2C BURNBANK TERRACE, OBAN

- First Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC C (71)
- LL REG-149580/130/06310

PCM £560

A spacious, unfurnished flat located on Breadalbane Street in Oban town centre, just a moments walk to the main high street. The property comprises of 2 double bedrooms, WC, separate shower room with shower, kitchen with built in gas hob and dining area and large lounge with gas fire. Neutral décor and carpets throughout.

21 GLENFOOT TERRACE, OBAN

- 1st Floor Flat
- Unfurnished with White Goods
- 1 bedroom 1 bathroom
- Long Term Let
- EPC - C78
- LL Reg: Pending Approval ARG-0104934-17

PCM £460

Cosy one bedroom unfurnished flat. This first floor property is in Oban town centre with on street parking. The flat comprises of a kitchen with lounge, separate double bedroom and shower bathroom. There is plentiful storage within the flat and white goods will include a washing machine, oven/hob. Outside the property there is a shared back green with rotary drier. Deposit and full references required.

APARTMENT 4, STEVENSON ST, OBAN

- First Floor Flat
- 1 bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC B(84)
- LL REG: 342259/130/31461

PCM £455

1 bed studio apartment in Oban town centre located just a few minutes walk to the main street and supermarket. The property has generously sized kitchen/living area, double bedroom and modern bathroom with shower. The property is unfurnished with built in hob and oven and fridge-freezer only. This apartment is available from the last week in October. Deposit and full references required.

info@west-property.co.uk
www.west-property.co.uk
See our independent reviews on www.allagents.co.uk

- FREE Lettings Assessments
- FREE Valuations
- Professional Service
- Experienced Local Team
- Fast Results

9 Combie Street
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HN
Tel: 01631 569 466

North Road
Fort William PH33 6PP
Tel: 01397 747123

Call, email or visit us online to find out how we can get your property moving ... today.

CLA LAS Zoopla rightmove

RECRUITMENT

Visit hijobs.net IN ASSOCIATION WITH **HIJOBS**

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB. Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

Senior Reporter

A vacancy has arisen for an experienced, enthusiastic and highly motivated journalist to join us at our Oban office.

It is a great opportunity to join one of Scotland's leading independent news publishers. Excellent salary and conditions including private health care, enhanced pension, life assurance and financial assistance with relocation if appropriate.

A full, current driving licence is essential for this position.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 17th November

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland
Refusing to go with the flow

Vacancy: Assistant Freshwater Manager
Location: Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon
Details: Full Time, Permanent

The Company
Founded in 1985 in Canada, Cooke Aquaculture has grown from a small family business to the world's largest independent, fully-integrated producer of Atlantic salmon and related products. The company remains family owned with operations throughout Canada, USA, Chile, Spain and the UK.

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland is committed to responsible and sustainable production and the delivery of high quality products through a number of accreditations. Healthy vibrant families and our coastal communities are important to us and are the backbone of our success.

The Role
We are currently seeking candidates to take on the position of Assistant Freshwater Manager at our Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all.

The Requirements
The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years' experience in all aspects of Freshwater production. Candidates, in conjunction with the Freshwater Manager, must be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment by delivering the highest standard of operation. Candidates should be active, self-motivated, mature minded individuals with excellent team working and communication skills. Computer literacy and a technical aptitude would be advantageous, as is possession of a current driving licence.

The Terms
In return, we offer a highly competitive salary, employer pension contribution, company bonus scheme and salary sacrifice programmes.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position and contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your covering letter and CV to krystal.flett@cookeaqua.com by 1500 hours on 14 November 2017.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site address	Location of plans
17/02634/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Site South East Of Inverlussa Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
17/02540/PP	Erection of first floor balcony and realignment of external steps	Macgochan's Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NR	Tobermory Area Office
17/02731/PP	Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse	Wellbank Cottage Victoria Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PH	Tobermory Area Office
17/02710/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02205/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Plot 6 Carnduncan Guinart Isle OfIslay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bridgend
17/02735/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of 4 Newfield Terrace Achnacroish Isle Of Lismore Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Lismore

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

University of the Highlands and Islands
West Highland College | Ollthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean | Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Board of Management Vacancy
Dreuchd Bhàn air a' Bhòrd-stiùiridh

West Highland College UHI is a growing, dynamic and successful provider of higher and further education in the West Highlands and is currently recruiting for an additional Board of Management member.

We are seeking an individual to help guide the strategic direction of the College and foster an environment which enables the potential of learners to be maximised. You will bring your expertise and skills used in business and in the community to support the management and staff as they continue the development and work of the College. Individuals with strong business and financial skills would be especially welcome at this time.

Time commitment is c. 15-18 days annually. Most Board meetings take place in the late afternoon. Board members are not remunerated but out of pocket expenses will be paid.

Closing Date 9 November 2017 at 9am
Interviews 27 or 29 November 2017 (TBC) in Fort William

How to Apply
Application pack available at: www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/staff/vacancies
For further information, contact Secretary to the Board
Email: claire.wylie.whc@uhi.ac.uk Tel: 01397 874525

In line with our Equality and Diversity policy, West Highland College UHI is committed to ensuring that all candidates are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities, and that unfair and unlawful discrimination is eliminated. We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applications from women are especially encouraged since they are currently under-represented on the College Board.

West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)

Clerical Assistant (Full-Time, Temporary)
£15,293 - £16,187
Living Wage of £8.45 per hour applies to this post
☎ 01546 604334
Closing date: Friday 10 November 2017

To apply visit our website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

ACHA **Argyllhomes** FOR ALL

Director of Investment & Regeneration
Salary £62,033 - £72,980 per annum
35 hours per week
Location - preferably Lochgilphead, but will consider other areas of Argyll for the right candidate

To apply visit the recruitment section of our website at www.acha.co.uk

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

This post will be subject to a Basic Disclosure Scotland check. CVs are not accepted.

For more information, please contact Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive on 01546 605921 or email alastair.macgregor@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 17th November 2017
Interviews will be held in Helensburgh on Monday 4th December 2017

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
17/04787/FUL	Strathleven, 12B Glencoe, Ballachulish		Erection of 2 no extensions to house, erection of building to form cattery & erection of building to form dog kennels

Time period for comments is 14 days,
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Diocesan Secretary (£18,000 P/A)

The RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles is recruiting a Diocesan Secretary, based in the Diocesan Offices in Oban. This is an important full-time post (35 hrs), which will provide full secretarial support to the Bishop as well as admin and secretarial support to the Diocesan and Curia Offices. This role will also support Parishes across the Diocese and will be required to carry out all duties in accordance with the relevant aspects of the Code of Canon Law. The post holder will be responsible for various tasks including managing diaries and travel arrangements, general correspondence and telephone enquiries. The successful candidate will have excellent secretarial and IT skills. All applicants must be willing to work within a Christian framework and be sensitive to its ethos. An Application Form and detailed Job Description/Person Specification can be obtained by emailing the Vicar General at FrRoddyJohnston@aol.com.
Completed application forms should be returned by post to: Rev. Roddy Johnston VG, Our Holy Redeemer Church, 71 Kenneth Street, Stornoway, HS1 2DS. Closing date: 5pm, Friday 24 Nov. 2017. Interviews: 12 Dec. 2017.

We've made it even easier to find your next job in the perfect location.

Download our app for free at hijobs.co.uk/app

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

HIJOBS

North Argyll Eventide Home
Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

We have vacancies for:

House Keeping staff
Permanent positions
For an application form contact manager Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168
Email info@northargyllhouse.org

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Sheila Dykes has registered her croft, 9 & 10 Ballachulish, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 12th July 2018.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4500.

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 3rd November 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854

Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Lynch will be holding a surgery on Friday 10th November 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567893

Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on Friday 24th November 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567853

Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 17th November 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562444

Proposed Assignment of a Croft

Peter Alexander Sinclair is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Dalrannoch, Ardchattan & Muckairn to Peter Shaun Sinclair of Abernethy's, Connel, Argyll, PA37 1PA

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) can be submitted to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by 5th November 2017

BREEDON

Blast date:
Friday 3rd November 2017
Blast time: 12:00hrs - 14:00hrs
Banavie Quarry

First Registration of a Croft

Mr C P Barrington has registered their croft 7 Ardachy, Ardachy, Kilfinichen & Kilveckean 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 12 Jul 2018

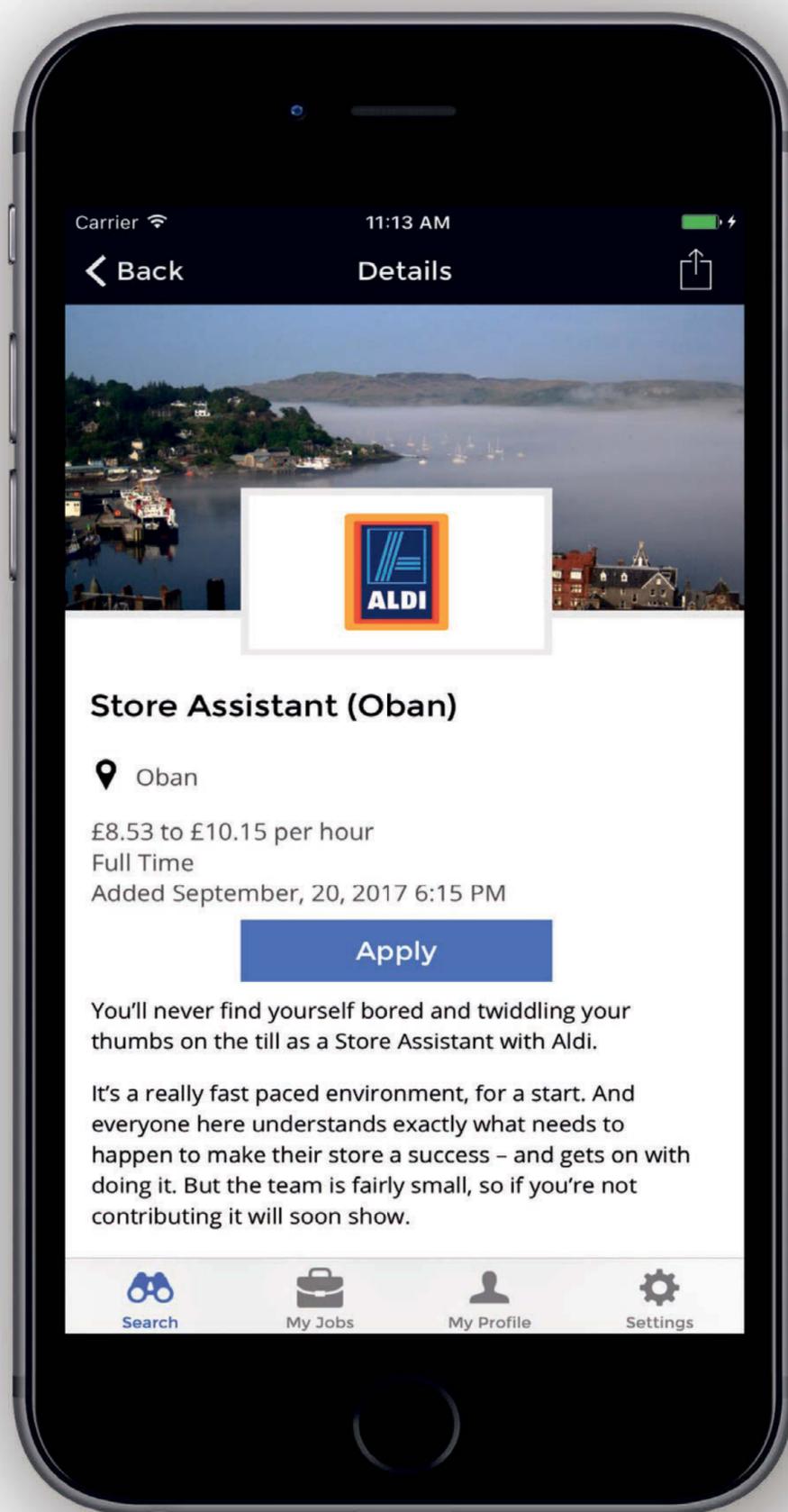
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4497

69% of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
closer to home

We've made it even easier to find your next job



in the perfect location.

Download our app for free at hijobs.co.uk/app



HIJOBS

West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

- BUY LOCAL
- SELL LOCAL
- TRADE LOCAL
- SWAP LOCAL

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568 000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631 568001

POST & IN PERSON: Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

LOCALSERVICES

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES

07834 640989

SWEEPING THROUGH ARGYLL!
www.argyllchimneyservices.co.uk

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?

- AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM
- OPEN FIRES - WOOD BURNING STOVES
- OIL & GAS FLUES
- AGA & RAYBURN
- BIOMASS FLUES
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

CHIMNEY SWEEPING THROUGHOUT ARGYLL, LORN AND THE ISLES

OBAN BLINDS

Oban-Blinds

Vertical Blinds • Roller Blinds
Blackout Blinds • Venetian Blinds
Free Measuring and Estimating Service

Vast range of Domestic and Commercial blinds
Telephone: Donald Cameron
07979 826614
Email: oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk

MOBILITY

TOWER MOBILITY

LOTS OF LIFT & RISE RECLINERS ON DISPLAY

SEE OUR RANGE OF SCOOTERS - WHEEL CHAIRS AND MOBILITY AIDS IN STORE

MATHESONS FURNISHINGS

Soroba Road Oban PA344HQ
01631 565195 info@mathesons.co.uk

CLEARANCES

HOUSE/OFFICE CLEARANCES

RESPECTFULLY CARRIED OUT FREE ESTIMATE

T 01397 701960
M 07391 021400

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage
Full range of packing materials
We store boats, caravans, trailers etc
Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848
www.macqueenbros.com

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gordon & Strathern Ltd HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Porches, Extensions, Roofline, Windows & Doors

TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk
www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk

VEHICLE HIRE AND SALES

KINTYRE HIRE

Vehicle Hire and Sales
Burnbank Street, Campbeltown Argyll, PA28 6JD
Tel: (01586) 554480 Fax: 01586 551414
Email: enquiries@kintyrehire.com
www.kintyrehire.com

Car, Van, Minibus, 4 X 4 and Trailer
Hire throughout Kintyre and Mid-Argyll

MOT TESTING
Finance is available on New and Used Cars

STATIONERY

Moving home?

Don't forget your change of address cards
01586 554975

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

Raise a few extra pennies for Xmas!

Sell your unwanted items under £100 for FREE in our west coast classifieds

It couldn't be easier!

Call 01631 568000 or visit www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk to place your ad.

UNDER £100 NOW FREE

BUY LOCAL

SELL LOCAL

TRADE LOCAL

SWAP LOCAL

FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

BABY EQUIPMENT

FISHER-PRICE precious planet 2 in 1 wind up mobile, suitable for cot or buggy, £20 Telephone 01631 562750.
HIGH CHAIR Child's folding high backed high chair incorporating tray, rarely used and in excellent condition. Yellow in colour, £15 Telephone 01631 562750.

BOOKS

CLIVE CUSSLER NOVELS Full collection of 54 Clive Cussler novels, 30 in h/b 24 p/b. Action adventure. Up to date to Jan 17, £55 Telephone 01546 810350.
WILBUR SMITH NOVELS Full collection of 42 Wilbur Smith novels up to date to Jan 2017. Read them all in order. 13 in hard back remainder paper/b, £35 Telephone 01546 810350.

BUILDING / DIY

HAVANA CONSERVATORY Ceiling Fan Light, 42", remote control, still boxed, £50 Telephone 01546 600045.
LOFT LADDER Lyte Easyloft Loft Ladder and sealed hatch. Brand new unopened. Requires access hole in ceiling of 560mm x 1250mm, £85 Telephone 01546 606655.
REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes

and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578.
YOUNGMANS 500 1 x three piece, 9 metre professional ladder, £99.99 Tel 07760 334367.

CDS, DVDS AND VIDEOS

THREE BOX SETS DVD'S Only fools and horses 13 dvds in set, £15, Keeping up appearances 3 dvds in set, £12, Allo Allo 3 dvds in set, £12. Never opened, unwanted gifts, Tel 07833 604038.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

TROUSER PRESS Morphy Richards electric trouser press. Hardly used, £15 Telephone 07966 435245.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ELECTRIC COOKER Beko, good condition, any reasonable offer Telephone 078250 38955 (Kennacraig).

FRIDGE FREEZER Bosch, good condition, £50 Telephone 07825 038955 (Kennacraig).

LEC FRIDGE Black under the counter fridge with small freezer compartment. Excellent condition. Taynuilt, £50 Telephone 01866 822713.

VAX VACUUM CLEANER Excellent condition, very little used. Calls evening, £35 Telephone 01852 300154.

WASHING MACHINE Zanussi, good condition, Telephone 07825 038955.

DOMESTIC PETS

LABRADOR CROSS COLLIE PUPS Born September 6 Ready Now, Tel 01700 503767/07778 329922.

SPANIEL PUPS FOR SALE



Both Sire and Bitch can be seen, both have a great steady and relaxed nature. Will be 8 weeks old on December 1st. Please Contact me for photos or for any more information. scottmuri2000@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone
01496820272 or
07909650611.

FURNITURE

DOUBLE AIR BED Perfect Condition, £70 Telephone 07827 676592 (Inveraray).

DOUBLE BED (base and mattress) good condition, 3 storage drawers, buyer uplifts, £20 Tel 01546 886355.

DOUBLE BED MATTRESS Silent Night, new condition, £90 Telephone 07827 676592 (Inveraray).

DOUBLE BEDS Two, any reasonable offer Telephone 07825 038955 (Kennacraig).

IKEA POANG CHAIR In beige and in very good condition, £20 Telephone 01631 563051.

READY BED Child's inflatable jungle ready bed, used twice and in excellent condition, £15 Telephone 01631 562750.

WHITE/TEAK BEDSIDE CHEST 2 drawers, boxed, £35 Telephone 01546 600045.

WOODEN KITCHEN TABLE Plus 4 chairs, any reasonable offer Telephone 07825 038955 (Kennacraig).

GARDEN

COMPOSTER Plastic composters. Top-in, harvest from the bottom. Brand new unused. 1 x 220l and 1 x 320l, £25 Telephone 01546 606655.

MOUNTFIELD QUIET SHREDDER 2200w powerful electric garden shredder. Will deal with twigs and branches. With auto change of direction and auto stop, £40 Telephone 01631 563051.

RAIN HOPPERS Victorian cast iron rain hoppers for replacements on older houses or these make nice garden planters, £25 each Telephone 01631 564578.

SHREDDER Shredder Bosch - very good condition, £80 Telephone 07934 491712.

SUN LOUNGERS Malibu black, set of two, 1 in excellent condition, 1 still in original wrap-

ping, cost £50, sell for £40 Telephone 01631 562750.

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30 Telephone 01631 564578.

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578.

WOODEN GARDEN SEAT for two, needs rubbing down and staining or painting. Can deliver, £30 Telephone 01631 564578.

HEATERS

1 SMALL DIMPLEX storage heater, £20 Telephone 07760 334367.

3 SMALL DIMPLEX panel heaters, £10 each Telephone 07760 334367.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

CUSHCRAFT R7000 8 BAND VERTICAL 10 to 80 meter. Transmit and receive. Half wave each band plus matching radials. 1500w handling power. Instruction book, £50 Telephone 01631 563051.

MAT MASTER SYSTEM Mat Master system 1260B, Bevel mount cutter guide rule 120cm. Excellent condition, brand new. Calls evening, £99.99 Telephone 01852 300154.

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD, white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print on Telephone 01586 554975.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SONY BRAVIA TV 37" flat screen, excellent condition, will deliver Campbeltown area, £95 Telephone 07593 797814.

HOME FURNISHINGS

PICTURE OF CARRADALE HARBOUR framed and glazed and in excellent condition. Overall size 13"X11". Can post for an extra £5, £10 Telephone 01631 564578.

HOME OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DESK Excellent condition, measures: L=150cm, W=75cm, H=75cm. 3drawers right, 1drawer + filing drawer left. Calls evening, £75 Telephone 01852 300154.

SMALL COMPUTER DESK Small computer desk, excellent condition. Calls evening, £40 Telephone 01852 300154.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

MARBLE ROLLING PIN, £20 Telephone 01546 600045.

MAXIM HOT/COLD 3 place server. 25" long X 15" wide, excellent con-

dition, £35 Telephone 01546 600045.

METAL JELLY PAN, £10 Telephone 01546 600045.

RUSSELL HOBBS Multi Cooker, hardly used, £15 Telephone 01546 600045.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

HOT STICKS by Babyliss, in carry case and in excellent condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562750.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Grentrool and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or telephone 01371 851868.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Fort William, Machrihanish, TARBILLIAM. Ideal for home offices or as a

gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or telephone 01371 851868.

MARINE

VOLVO PENTA MD2B starts, runs well Lying Morar. You collect. Free. Text 07774 065974.

YANMAR 12V STARTER MOTOR (Hitachi S114-817A). New, unused in box, £60 Telephone 01631 740228.

MISCELLANEOUS

WATER FEATURE bronze effect, mermaid on a shell pool with 3 glass lights, photo

available. Cost £350, sell for £99.99 Telephone 01631 562750.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL, market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print. Contact on Telephone 01586 554975.

THANK YOU CARDS new baby or wedding, with a photo of your new arrival or big day. Truly individual, a treasured keepsake. Call Krisp Print on Telephone 01586 554975.

Personalised Calendars

promote your company all year round with your own personalised calendar

12 gloriously photographed months each displaying your company details and logo

Great gift for clients
Keeps your company in front of customers all year

Call Fiona on 01631 568018 or email calendars@scottishfield.co.uk

DIAMOND WEDDING

BOYD - MACSPORRAN - At Tarbert Parish Church on November 2, 1957 by the late Rev. Dugald McKinnon, John MacInnes Boyd, Oban to Sheila MacSporrán, Tarbert. Congratulations and lots of love from all the family.

DEATHS

DOCHERTY - Peacefully at home in Tobermory on his 89th birthday, on October 31, 2017, John, dearest husband of Eileen and much loved dad of Elaine and Margaret, dear father-in-law to Stevie and the late George and loving 'Balmory' grampa and great-grampa to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Family flowers only.

HOWITT - David Scott: author, photographer, golfer, and the irrefutable beating heart of Glenforsa Airfield. Went to solve his last great mystery on Thursday October 26, aged 77. A service to celebrate his life will be held in Salen Church on Friday November 10 at 11am; retiring collection for Craignure Golf Club.

MACCORMICK - Peacefully at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, on Sunday October 8, Dinah, formerly of Sithean, Iona, aged 90 years. A much loved mum, granny and great-granny. A memorial service will be held in Iona Parish Church at 11.45 a.m. on Friday November 10, to which all are welcome.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at home on October 24, 2017 aged 86 years, Joan MacDonal, Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Wife of the late Iain, dearly loved mum of Ishbel and Colin, mother-in-law of Iain and Margaret. Loved and cherished nana of Stuart, David, Shona, Andrew and Claire and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral service was held at Kilmore Parish Church, Dervaig on Tuesday October 31, 2017 thereafter to Calgary Cemetery.

MACKECHNIE - It is with great sadness we confirm the sudden death of Donald Ewan, aged 50 years. Beloved son of Christine and the late John MacKechnie, dear brother of Allan and Graeme and brother-in-law of Yvonne and Nik, adored uncle of Christie, Alicia, Arik, Ella, Kian and Lennan. Greatly missed by extended family and a cherished friend to all who knew him. Taken too soon. Funeral service at Glenorchy Parish Church, Dalmally on Tuesday November 7 at 1pm. Family flowers only. Retiral collection for ABCD.

MACLURE - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on October 26, 2017, Neil MacInnes MacLure, aged 77 years, formerly of Killin, Perthshire and Drumfearn, Skye. Beloved father of Caroline, Karen and Louise, much loved grandpa, great papa, brother, uncle, father-in-law and dear friend to many.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BROCKIE - Hazel and family of the late Ted Brockie would like to thank all friends and neighbours for cards and kind expressions of sympathy at this sad time. Special thanks to all at Tobermory Parish Church and to all who contributed to the retiral offering in aid of R.N.I.B. which raised £384 on the day.

DOCHERTY - Fiona, Zoe and family would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, visits and phone calls following the sad passing of Stevie, taken far too soon. Special thanks to Dr Massie Tweeddale Medical Practice, Craig and the community nurses, Anna and Derek Macmillan nurses and all who attended Stevie's funeral at Caol Community Centre and Cardross Crematorium. Also to Mike McFall and Jamie for their help and professional care at this sad time.

HENDERSON - Dorothy (née Thorburn). The family wish to sincerely thank all family and friends for the cards, letters, flowers and many kind expressions of sympathy and support received in their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Reverend Gary J McIntyre for his pastoral support, uplifting words of comfort and moving tribute, to David McEwan for his reading of Scripture in Gaelic and wonderful musical arrangements, also to Ruairidh Wallace for his beautiful praise in Gaelic. Thanks to Kenneth and Rhys Blair, Funeral Directors, for their kind and caring attention and to Ardshiel Hotel for their fine hospitality. Grateful thanks to all who paid their respects at Highland Parish Church and Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbeltown and also to those who donated so generously in support of Christian Aid. Springbank House, Low Askomil, Campbeltown.

PELLING - The family of the late Sheena Pelling of Colonsay would like to thank everyone for their kind words following her death in September. Many thanks are due to the medical team on Colonsay, to Kevin Byrne for his uplifting services in the church and at the graveside, to John Bridges for driving her on her final journey, to George and Chris at the cemetery, to Hamish Hoey in Oban, to Ivan, Irina and their staff at the hotel for wonderful catering, to Gavin and Jamie for refreshments at the graveside and to Moreen Gracie for the beautiful flowers. Many thanks also to everyone who donated to Sheena's favoured charities for which over £1000 has been raised.

MEMORIAMS

CLARK - Treasured memories of a much loved mum Maureen, who died November 8, 2014. Always in our thoughts - Susan, Stephen and Michael.

COOK - In loving memory of Christine and the late John MacKechnie, dear brother of Allan and Graeme and brother-in-law of Yvonne and Nik, adored uncle of Christie, Alicia, Arik, Ella, Kian and Lennan. Greatly missed by extended family and a cherished friend to all who knew him. Taken too soon. Funeral service at Glenorchy Parish Church, Dalmally on Tuesday November 7 at 1pm. Family flowers only. Retiral collection for ABCD.

PARKER - In memory of my husband Malcom Parker, who died November 3, 2015. Gone but never forgotten, words we wished we'd said, memories I'll keep forever.

STURROCK - In loving memory of our Dad, Bill, who died on November 2, 2016. Much loved and sadly missed by sons Andrew and David, daughters Fiona and Wendy, and all the family. Always in our thoughts.

STURROCK - In loving memory of our Dad, Bill, who died on November 2, 2016. Much loved and sadly missed by sons Andrew and David, daughters Fiona and Wendy, and all the family. Always in our thoughts.

STURROCK - In loving memory of our Dad, Bill, who died on November 2, 2016. Much loved and sadly missed by sons Andrew and David, daughters Fiona and Wendy, and all the family. Always in our thoughts.

OBAN TIMES BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

MEMORIALS

OBAN MEMORIALS
A & D MacLean
Master Sculptors
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN MOST CEMETERIES
TEL: 01631563123 / 07765815982

CHARITY DONATIONS

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn
Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Marie Curie Care
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House
Station Road, Oban
01631 571009

Obituary – Coll MacDougall

COLL MacDougall could never go unnoticed or be under-estimated. With his stately gait and corporation well to the fore, he was a kenspeckle figure on the Oban scene and influential both locally and in the political and general life of Scotland.

His signature column *McCaig in The Oban Times* was widely read and its comments were sometimes feared, sometimes hated and most often a great pleasure to the general public. Hapless councillors, public figures and local or national policies came under scrutiny and felt the sharpness of his pen. Often, he wrote with compassion on local events tragic or comic and the column was, for many, the first thing people read each week.

Coll, a native Gaelic speaker, was an Argyll man with family roots which went far back in to its history. He was a pupil of Oban High School in the 1950s and went on to Edinburgh University although the subject and duration of his studies were often shrouded in mystery. What was known was that they gave Coll a basis on which to build a wide network of influential contacts whom he used ruthlessly and professionally to further any subject he espoused.

Always somewhat of a fantasist, one was never sure how many of Coll's tales about his contacts were true, but he professed close acquaintance with senior members of the legal profession and with politicians like Jack McConnell, Nicola Sturgeon and Alex Salmond and certainly attracted interesting interviewees to his Oban FM radio programmes and to the social events which he from time to time organised in

Oban and the surrounding area. Oban FM's Campbell Cameron recalled: 'Coll joined Oban FM and became the full-time volunteer news man, classic music and Sunday morning host and joint presenter of the Wednesday Drivetime.

'This led to many further adventures with visits to the emerging parliament in Edinburgh and interviews with all the top Scottish politicians. Oban FM battled well above its political weight as a result.'

Coll's first job was as an admin assistant with the company which laid the trans-Atlantic cable which terminated at Oban. In the late 1970s he founded Lorne Advertising, a design and advertising business based in Oban.

Until the tragic death of his mother in a house fire, he lived at home but later graduated to flats in Oban where he lived, surrounded by piles of newspapers and a certain bachelor disorder, but from which he emerged, immaculately dressed, when the occasion demanded. He never learned to drive, preferring to stride to and from his house at Gallanach in all weathers.

In his youth, Coll professed to be an expert yachtsman and often regaled his audience with his sea-tales as crew aboard the boats of the great and the good. Maybe that is where he got his taste for lunching and for good food and wine. His ability to organise a good meal or a Burns Night with all the trimmings were much appreciated by those whom he regarded as friends.

McCaig had talent and was a serious journalist who should have gone far. He was a shinty (and general) correspondent for The Times and had bylines elsewhere. He, however,

preferred the local to the national and was happy to be a rather large fish in a smaller West Highland pool.

By nature, he could be choleric and free with a whiplash retort when it was required but was also an amusing companion, titillating those in his company with amusing but scurrilous tales of local goings-on which he often threatened to publish posthumously. He said he knew where all the skeletons were buried.

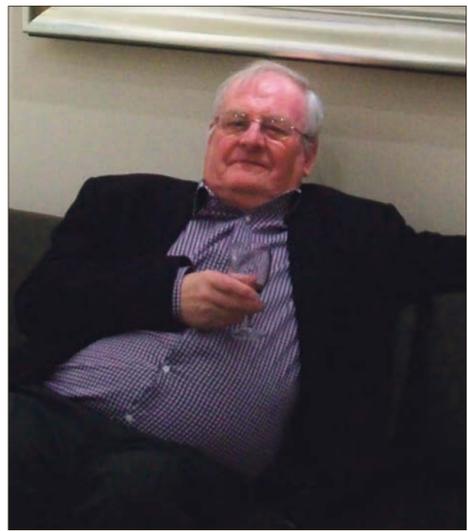
Joan Bennett of *The Oban Times* writes the following appreciation: 'Coll wrote his first column for *The Oban Times* under the nom de plume of McCaig on May 4, 1995. Initially there was general discussion amongst the readership querying who exactly was this McCaig.

'It was obviously someone who knew Oban and all that was happening in the town extremely well. Slowly it emerged that the new provocative writer was Coll and eventually people began to call him McCaig. 'Coll was very intelligent and always wrote extremely well in his own inimitable style.

'He spent hours reading over the old filed copies of *The Oban Times* checking on information about the days of yore. People would frequently buy the newspaper particularly to see what Coll had written.

'He was avidly interested in politics and was a staunch Conservative, although he knew many personalities across the wider political spectrum in Argyll and indeed the whole of Scotland. He wrote pertinently for the paper about politics and politicians.

'He also loved shinty and was very proud to write a shinty column for The Times of London, with which the shinty fraternity in the West



Highlands did not always agree. He produced copy for his *Oban Times* column on an antiquated floppy disk. He did not master the art of the advanced computer.

'He was an entertaining wit, and often annoyed those whose adventures he brought into the public arena.

'His column was invariably stimulating and frequently our editors had to deal with aggrieved personalities who thought that his views were those of the newspaper.

'He wrote his last column for our newspaper on October 20, 2011, after 16 years of week-in, week-out contribution, when ill health was beginning to take its toll. He was missed by the newspaper and its readers. *The Oban Times* really appreciated all that he wrote. He was an Oban character and Oban will miss him.'

Another friend, Patrick Baird, wrote: 'Although he immensely enjoyed the company of the great and the good, Coll was always ready to chat and share

a story with everyone he met. He had an immense memory and never forgot someone he had met or what they had talked about. He will be remembered fondly by a vast number of people in Argyll and Lochaber.'

In his latter years, Coll suffered from ill-health which curtailed his activities and lowered his profile 'on the radar'. He bore these reasonably philosophical, with the odd dark remark about the medical profession, with whom he was actually on good terms.

The end of his life was spent in the North Argyll Care Home on the Bealach an Rìgh overlooking Oban.

With his passing, Oban lost one of her enigmatic, loyal and influential figures but his legacy lives on in his journalistic output and in the hours of programmes where he cajoled, admonished and amused his listeners, played lots of music, classical and otherwise, and provided a valuable source of information to those whose radios were within the range of his transmitters.

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

- Senior reporter**
Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk
- Senior reporter**
Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk
- Reporter**
David McPhee
dmpcpee@obantimes.co.uk
- Reporter**
Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

- Director of Advertising**
Nicky Murphy
nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising supervisor**
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising executive**
Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising executive**
Stephanie Dunstaffnage
sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising executive**
Julie Baird
jbaird@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

- Fort William**
Tel 01397 703003
- Lochgilphead**
Tel 01546 602345
- Campbeltown**
Tel 01586 554646

find us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

follow us on
twitter
@obantimes

Thought for the week

'More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb' - Psalm 19:10

AT THIS time of year, many churches observe a Bible Sunday. In one sense, of course, every Sunday is a Bible Sunday – when did you ever go to church and not find the Bible at the centre of things?

Yet it can be good to stop and think about what the Bible is worth.

In the ancient world, nothing was as precious as gold and nothing as sweet as honey. Yet people concluded that in the Bible they had found something to be prized more highly than gold and something sweeter than honey.

This year in Europe we are remembering the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. Europe met a many-sided crisis in the 16th century and had to

regroup, at many levels. A key resource turned out to be the Bible. It was translated into the language of ordinary people.

Thanks to the newly-invented printing press, it could be published and distributed like never before. A fresh encounter with the Bible helped Europe to resolve its crisis.

It is stating the obvious to say that, 500 years later, Europe is once again meeting a profound and many-sided crisis. Marking Bible Sunday reminds us that we have a resource at our disposal that has proved its worth in such times. Might it be that in our crisis we will rediscover that it is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey?

Kenneth Ross, Parish minister, Netherlorn

WEDDINGS



MACPHEE - DIXON
On Thursday October 5, 2017 at Cromlix House, Dunblane.
Michael to Kirsty Clare.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

- Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part.
- The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
- Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

JOHN McLELLAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
DUDLEY ROAD • FORT WILLIAM • PH33 6JB
Tel. 01397 702128 www.johnmclellanfunerals.co.uk

Funeral Service
We pride ourselves on our professional and caring approach to every funeral.

Pre-paid Funeral Plans
We offer Golden Charter Funeral Plans to suit your requirements.

Memorial Stones
We offer a range of elegant and distinctive memorials.

FAS SCHEME

D&A MUNN LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est.1880
Breadalbane Street, Oban, PA34 5NZ

24 hour family run business
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and Son.

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

D & A Munn have been responding to the needs of the bereaved in Oban and the surrounding areas since 1880, a tradition we are very proud of.

Telephone: 01631 562562 Fax: 01631 562203
Email: ian@munns-oban.co.uk Website: www.munns-oban.co.uk

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
Fundraising Office
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ
Tel 0300 100 0200
In memory of Dawn Joyce

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn
Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Marie Curie Care
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House
Station Road, Oban
01631 571009

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Jack Tollan
Birch Hill
Achnacreebeag
North Connel, PA37 1RE

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Tel: (01631) 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk



Oban Madrid 2006s hosted a Soccer Saturday last weekend on the 3G pitch at Oban High School. Visiting teams included Irvine Meadow, Inverkeithing Utd, Kilpatrick, Campbeltown Pupils and Lochnell. The crowd of spectators were treated to a great afternoon of football from all the teams involved.



Oban High School turned in an impressive performance in the last 16 of the Under 16 National Bowl.

Oban High School turn on the style

Breadalbane Academy	10
Oban High School	45
National U-16 Bowl: Last 16	

OBAN High School's U16 rugby team made the relatively short trip to Kenmore last Wednesday to take on U16 National Bowl opponents Breadalbane Academy. The Oban U16 side have been impressive this season by winning all of their weekend

league matches to top the West Regional League and are also unbeaten in School Conference games.

Guided by coaches Murray MacCaskill, Greg Fairbairn and Tommy McQuade, Oban ran in seven tries to run out 45-10 winners in what was a close battle despite the scoreline. Winger Kyle Clark scored the outstanding try of the match following a mazy 40-metre run.

Other tries were scored by Blair MacFarlane (2), Kenni Gray (2), Ben Findlay and Tommy McQuade. Angus Neil continued his impressive record of kicks this season by scoring five conversions.

Oban have now progressed to the quarter final stage of the competition where they face Ardrossan Schools at home. This tie was due to be played on Tuesday October 31 or Wednesday

School rugby

day November 1.

Back in league action Stewartry U16s visit Oban for a top-of-the-table clash in the West Regional U16 League. Both teams have won all of their fixtures this season so far. The game will be played at North Connel or Glencruitten. Kick off to be confirmed.

Lorne lose to Cambuslang

Cambuslang	27
Oban Lorne	11
BT West Division One	

Oban scored through an Andy MacDougall try but trailed at the break 6-5 to the hosts. The visitors failed to produce

Rugby

the sort of performance that brought the Greenock of the previous Saturday to their knees and were up against a determined Cambuslang team who have obviously rallied together after recently failing to field a side away to Annan.

In the end Oban Lorne lost out 27-11 with the squad left extremely frustrated with their performance in a game they should have won.

The result means Oban slip to tenth place in the league above struggling Helensburgh and Irvine.

This Saturday the Green machine take on familiar rivals Carrick RFC at Glencruitten.

The visitors are sitting near the top of the league and will provide one of Oban's toughest tests so far this season.

Kick off is 2pm at Glencruitten or North Connel.



Oban Lorne player/coach Corrie Louw

Mid Argyll host mini rugby festival

MINI rugby clubs in Argyll have reached the halfway stage of their 2017/18 Dalriada season after Saturday's festival hosted by Mid Argyll RFC in Lochgilphead.

Saturday's meeting was the fifth festival so far this season with other clubs, Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Isle of Mull and Kintyre already hosting before the October holidays.

Attending the festival, held at the Ropework Park, were hosts Mid Argyll along with Oban Lorne, Kintyre and Highland visitors Lochaber RFC.

The scores from the festival were as follows: P4/5 - Mid Argyll 3, Oban Lorne 1; Lochaber 5, Kintyre 0; Lochaber 5, Mid Argyll 0; Oban Lorne 2, Loch-

aber 4; Mid Argyll 5, Kintyre 1; Kintyre 0, Oban Lorne 4.

P6/7 - Kintyre 5, Lochaber 4; Oban Lorne 5, Mid Argyll 2; Mid Argyll 5, Kintyre 6; Oban Lorne 4, Lochaber 1; Kintyre 3, Oban Lorne 3; Mid Argyll 2, Lochaber 1.

Mid Argyll and Lochaber also played out an entertaining S1/2 fixture at 12-a-side with the hosts running out narrow 10-9 winners.

Argyll and Bute Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright said: 'Saturday was a great day to finish off the first half of our season. I was delighted with the turnout of the teams in attendance and the standard of rugby on show was excellent despite the weather

Mini rugby

conditions. So far this season I have been particularly impressed with the improvements shown by Mid Argyll RFC who have fulfilled every fixture and it has also been great to see the development of the mini rugby section at Kintyre who are now becoming a welcome part of our programme.

'Many thanks must go to all the players, coaches and parents who have made all these festivals possible so far this season.'

The Dalriada season takes a break now over the winter months with the season restarting at the end of February.



Action from the highly competitive match between S1/2 teams from Mid Argyll and Lochaber. 06_a44rugby11



It was a day for ducks - not dogs! 06_a44rugby06



Oban Lorne's Hamish MacIntyre on the attack in the P4/5 competition.



In the P6/7 competition, Mid Argyll's Aileen Barr has a go with ball in hand. 06_a44rugby20



Oban Lorne and Mid Argyll played some entertaining rugby in 'dreich' weather conditions.

Primary 4/5 league table as of 28-10-2017

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Mid Argyll	11	6	1	4	24
2 Etive Vikings	7	6	1	0	19
3 Oban Lorne	10	4	0	7	18
4 Lochaber	3	3	0	0	9
5 Kintyre	4	0	0	4	4
6 Isle of Mull	3	0	0	0	3
7 Islay	0	0	0	0	0

Primary 6/7 league table as of 28-10-2017

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Mid Argyll	12	7	2	2	27
2 Oban Lorne	11	5	1	5	22
3 Etive Vikings	8	3	3	3	17
4 Isle of Mull	6	1	1	4	17
5 Kintyre	4	2	1	1	9
6 Lochaber	3	0	0	3	3
7 Islay	0	0	0	0	0

Saints get back on track with a good home win over Inverclyde

Oban Saints	4
Inverclyde	2
SAFL Premier Division	

OBAN Saints returned to winning ways in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division at Glencruitten last Saturday with a hard-fought win over an in-form and vastly experienced Inverclyde.

Injury meant Craig Campbell had to miss out and David McPhee was away for the weekend but the squad was bolstered by the return of Willie Gemmell, Keith Millar, Myles McAuley and Ally McKerracher.

Also returning to take the reins after a two-week holiday was manager Alex Craik who named himself on the bench alongside Fraser MacFarlane, Craig MacMillan, Mark Robertson and David Smith.

Desperate to atone for the previous week's aberration against league leaders Goldenhill, Saints produced a vastly-improved performance with a dominant first half performance laying the foundations for a hard-fought but ultimately deserved victory.

Returning after a six-week injury absence, Ally McKerracher linked up well on the left with Scott Maitland in the second minute setting up skipper Donald Campbell for a shot from 22 yards which Tom McKittrick did well to block on the 18-yard line.

Two minutes later at the other end Inverclyde central midfielder Jamie Docherty also tried his luck from distance sending a 25-yard effort wide of the junction of post and bar after Steven MacLeod had headed clear a Nick Jack long throw-in from the right.

In the sixth minute Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell played their way into the Inverclyde box on the left where, from the corner of the six-yard box, Donald Campbell shot across Clyde keeper Mark

Monk aiming for the far corner only to see Peter Cleisham get back to thump clear from just short of the goal line.

Mark Monk produced a terrific diving save to deny Saints in the 10th minute. Keith Millar burst forward from midfield sending Scott Maitland towards the bye-line on the left.

Millar continued his run into the box where he was denied a spectacular diving header when Monk dived full length to get finger tips to Maitland's cross.

Saints kept the pressure up with Craig MacEwan peeling wide and beating the Clyde offside trap. Cutting in from the left MacEwan drove into the box past right back Nick Jack where, from a tight angle, he was denied by the legs of keeper Mark Monk. From the resulting corner kick on the left Ally McKerracher's delivery was partially cleared by Neil McCole but only as far as Donald Campbell 12 yards out, who was once again denied by a goal line clearance from Peter Cleisham.

Clyde keeper Mark Monk showed excellent handling in the 13th minute making a clean catch from a Shaun MacIver cross from the corner of the 18-yard box with Ally McKerracher at the back post waiting to pounce.

Saints had the ball in the visitor's net in the 24th minute, however, referee Litster gave the benefit of an extremely close offside call to the visitors.

Myles McAuley made a good run forward and worked the ball along the edge of the Clyde box to Donald Campbell. Campbell helped the ball onto Shaun MacIver who beat Mark Monk at his near post with a good finish only to be denied by Mr Litster's whistle.

Saints kept knocking on the Clyde door with Keith Millar seeing a powerful shot from a Donald Campbell knock down blocked on the 18-yard line

Football

and Donald himself agonisingly unable to get the ball out of his feet after beating the visitor's offside trap allowing Jamie Docherty and Fraser Gunn to get back and clear the danger.

Docherty was covering a lot of ground for the visitors and Willie Gemmell did well to block his stinging 29th minute shot on the 18-yard line.

Craig MacEwan was taken out by a scything Fraser Gunn 40th-minute challenge 25 yards out, however, Willie Gemmell failed to test Mark Monk sending his free-kick high and wide of target.

Gemmell didn't have to wait too long for another dead-ball opportunity this time from 12 yards. Keith Millar made a 43rd-minute driving run into the Clyde box laying the ball off to Craig MacEwan.

Nick Jack cut off the possibility of a return pass to Millar and looked to have the situation under control before rashly sticking out a leg and tripping MacEwan. Mr Litster had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot from where Willie Gemmell fired the ball high into the net sending Mark Monk in the opposite direction in the process.

Gemmell's successful spot kick sent Saints into the half-time interval with a deserved lead which they would look to build on in the second half. But the visitors had other ideas and came racing out of the traps testing Graham Douglas within 30 seconds of the restart.

Saints slow start to the second half allowed Clyde to gain the upper hand in the crucial midfield battle where Saints were unable to rediscover their crisp first half passing.

The improved spell from Saints continued with Donald Campbell unlucky to see a 58th-minute goal-bound effort turned behind for a corner kick by a flying Greg Wilson block. From the corner on the left Campbell played the ball short to Ally McKerracher, who sent a shot from a tight angle into the side netting.

On the hour mark Mr Litster had strong words for Shaun MacIver for a late challenge on Michael McKittrick on the half-way line. The Saints defence struggled to cope with Jamie Docherty's free-kick which landed perfectly for McKittrick, who beat Graham Douglas but struck the base of the Saints keeper's left hand post.

Saints' second goal came in the 65th minute and was a stunning finish from the right boot of Shaun MacIver.

Previously denied by an offside decision there was no doubt about this one as MacIver controlled a Matthew Kelly pass and fired an unstoppable volley from 15 yards past a static Mark Monk.

Two minutes later Saints add-



Donald Campbell races past Inverclyde defender Greg Wilson. Photos and match report: Derek Black

ed a third with a classic counter attack from an Inverclyde corner kick. Willie Gemmell made an excellent sliding interception to turn a Ben Croucher cross behind for a corner. As the ball bounced around in the Saints box Gemmell made a telling clearance to Donald Campbell just inside the Saints half. Holding off the challenge of substitute Christopher McGivern, Campbell fed the overlapping Craig MacEwan on the left who bore down on goal and lifted the ball over the advancing Mark Monk and into the net.

Saints gaffer Alex Craik made his solitary change with 17 minutes remaining, replacing Ally McKerracher who had to come off with a shoulder injury with Mark Robertson.

Referee Jimmy Litster, who handled a good-natured encounter well, showed the only yellow card of the match to Neil McCole in the 77th minute for a late swipe at Myles McAuley born out of frustration.

Inverclyde replaced Steven Morris with James Buchanan, who would have a significant influence on proceedings during his short time on the field.

Within 60 seconds of joining the action Buchanan exploited a missed clearance by Matthew Kelly getting to the bye-line and sending a cut back to Michael McKittrick on the penalty spot who tucked away a neat finish beating Graham Douglas just inside his left hand post.

An ecstatic Clyde supporter



Shaun MacIver is congratulated by Keith Millar, Willie Gemmell, Steven MacLeod, Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell after netting his team's second goal.

dressed as Forrest Gump set off on a lap of honour only to come to grief at the second corner failing to negotiate the slippery Glencruitten surface in his white Fred Perry tennis shoes and ending up face down on the turf much to the hilarity of his traveling companions.

With five minutes of the 90 remaining Saints netted for a fourth time once again quickly turning defence into attack.

Matthew Kelly intercepted a James Buchanan throw-in and played the ball up to Shaun MacIver.

Hugging the right touchline, Craig MacEwan timed his run perfectly to meet MacIver's through ball leaving the re-

treating Clyde defence trailing in his wake.

Mark Monk advanced to narrow the angle but MacEwan had the presence of mind to square to Donald Campbell coming in at the far post who lifted the ball over Jamie Docherty who made a valiant attempt to get back on the goal line.

The scoring wasn't finished there, however, with the visitors grabbing a second in the 89th minute when James Buchanan repeated his earlier feat of picking out Michael McKittrick from the left wing. This time it was a near post run from McKittrick which beat the Saints defence and he doubled his tally for the afternoon with another good

finish from close range.

Disappointing as it was to lose two late goals there was no disguising the delight on the faces of the Saints contingent when Mr Litster blew his final whistle after four added minutes to confirm just a second league win of the season for Alex Craik and his charges.

The massive confidence boost comes at just the right time as Saints prepare for next Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup third round trip away to Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1A high fliers Falkirk Community.

The game will be held at St Margaret's Park, Polmont, kick-off 2pm. Referee Joe Todd.



Ally McKerracher returned for Saints after being out injured for six weeks but he had to leave the pitch again, this time with a shoulder injury.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2850

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

C Smith
Lunga Road
Oban

K Elder
Mossfield Ave.
Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.
If no correct entry is received, two "near miss" prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

..... Tel No.



SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Lovat finish third after narrow win against Oban Camanachd

LOVAT finished third in the Marine Harvest Premiership and Lochside Rovers extended their unbeaten run following the shinty action on Saturday October 28.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Oban Camanachd 1

Lovat 2
Lovat clinched third place in the Marine Harvest Premiership after they came from behind to beat Oban Camanachd 2-1 at Mossfield.

Both teams were without a number of first team regulars. Oban Camanachd boss Iain Hay was back on the touchline after missing his side's last two matches as he was on holiday. Gary McKerracher returned to the side and started up front. He played well, proving a handful for Lovat full back Drew Howie. Keeper Gavin Stobbart was unavailable so Cameron Sutherland was promoted from Lochside. David Lafferty was missing and Daniel Cameron was a late call-off with an arm injury. Craig MacDougall and Lennon Campbell were Oban Camanachd's only substitutes.

This was Lovat's final game of the season and boss Fraser Gallacher, who himself started the match, travelled with Rory Gallacher as his only substitute. Greg Matheson was suspended whilst Callum Cruden, Craig Mainland, Martin Mainland, Calum MacAulay, Lorne MacKay and Thomas Fraser were all unavailable. Only Stuart MacDonald, Drew Howie, Daniel Grieve, Ryan Ferguson and Lewis Tawse started from Lovat's Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup final team. Scott MacKenzie returned from injury to start at wing back, with Chris Johnston in the other wing back position.

Oban Camanachd came close to breaking the deadlock following a goalmouth scramble, but Willie Neilson was unable to knock the ball home.

Oban Camanachd took the lead a minute before half time. The ball broke to Andrew MacCuish following a corner and he gave Stuart MacDonald no chance with a waist-high shot from six yards out, beating the keeper on his left side.

Lovat replaced Jamie Buchan with Rory Gallacher at the interval, giving the youngster his first senior appearance.

The game turned on three second half minutes when Lovat punished some slack Oban Camanachd defending.

Lewis Tawse drew the Balgate side level on 64 minutes after a good passing move which started in midfield.

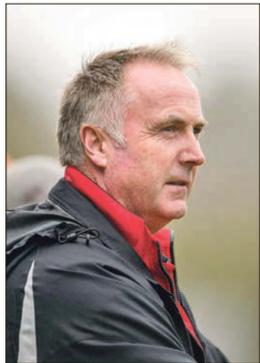
Marc MacLachlan tried to pick out Duncan Davidson with

a through ball and although the ball was partially cleared, it went to Lewis Tawse at the edge of the box and he had time to smash a shoulder-high shot past the keeper to make it 1-1.

Duncan Davidson put Lovat in front just a couple of minutes later. Marc MacLachlan saw his strike well saved by Cameron Sutherland but as the hosts tried to clear, Duncan Davidson reacted quickest to take the ball around the keeper and tap it into the net to make it 2-1.

Oban Camanachd pressed for a leveller and Gary McKerracher had a chance but lifted the ball over the bar from 15 yards out.

Both keepers dealt with everything that came their way. Cameron Sutherland kept out a couple of efforts from distance,



Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay.

whilst Stuart MacDonald made some excellent saves, the pick of which was a brilliant stop late in the game from a deflected Andrew MacCuish shot which was spinning towards the top corner of the net.

As well as Stuart MacDonald, Drew Howie and Daniel Grieve were excellent in an over-worked Lovat defence.

This is the third time this season Oban Camanachd have lost 2-1 to Lovat and manager Iain Hay was left scratching his head as to how his side took nothing from the game.

The Oban side complete their season this Saturday against Kilmallie at The Canal Parks.

The match is an 11.30am throw-up to allow the Oban squad to head for Invergarry afterwards to cheer on Oban Camanachd U17s in the London Shield Final against Kingussie U17.

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William P

Inveraray P

The crucial league meeting between Fort William and Inveraray was postponed on Saturday morning when An

Aird was ruled unplayable. The fixture has been rescheduled for this Saturday with a noon throw-up. Fort William go into the match knowing that nothing less than a 13 goal victory means Caberfeidh will pip them to the division's second promotion place to the Marine Harvest Premiership.

Inveraray's Allan MacDonald will miss out through suspension.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen University W/O

v Beaulieu

The Beaulieu seconds were again unable to raise a team for their trip to Balgowrie to play Aberdeen University so the students were awarded the points.

Aberdeen University travel to An Aird this Saturday to play the Fort William second team.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute 0

Lochside Rovers 0

Marine Harvest South Division 1 champions Lochside Rovers shared the points in a goal-less draw with Bute in their noon throw-up in a match moved to Scalpsay as The Meadows was unplayable.

Bute's Frank Devlin was free of suspension.

Lochside's Craig MacDougall was also free from his ban but he was called up by the Oban side's senior team. MacDougall was one of eight players unavailable to manager Gareth Evans who started on the bench as Lochside's only reserve, with assistant manager Brian MacCallum covering for Cameron Sutherland in goal.

Whilst there was steady rain throughout the match, it was the very strong wind that made it difficult for both sets of players.

Lochside started with the wind advantage, but Kevin Queen in the Bute goal was equal to their efforts.

When Bute did threaten they found Brian MacCallum just as able in the visiting goal.

Bute had the elements in the second half but whilst they were unable to break the deadlock.

Neil MacFarlane and Daniel Sloss were best for Lochside.

Bute host Aberdeen this Saturday, whilst Lochside have one match remaining, against Kilmory.

Ballachulish 2

Kilmory 2

Kilmory came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Ballachulish in their 1pm throw-up at The Jubilee Park.

Ballachulish made a great start to the match with Duncan MacDonald putting them ahead after 10 minutes. A corner from the left was played into the middle and although it was cleared by the Kilmory defence, it only went as far as Duncan MacDonald. MacDonald, facing away from goal, got the ball under control before turning and firing the ball into the net.

Things got even better for Ballachulish six minutes later. Pat MacLean played the ball forward from midfield to Lorne Brown. Brown's initial effort was blocked by the full back and the ball flew straight up in the air. Lorne Brown controlled the dropping ball with his chest and moved the ball into space before placing a shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Hal Jones started the Kilmory

fight-back when he pulled a goal back on 51 minutes. Alex Cunningham played the ball down the middle where Hal Jones gathered possession around 25 yards from goal. Jones got past his marker before hitting a low, hard shot into the bottom corner of the net to make it 2-1.

Kilmory drew level 15 minutes from time. The ball was driven down the wing to Hal Jones who crossed to the edge of the 'D' where Alister MacArthur took the ball past two defenders before tapping it past the keeper to make it 2-2.

Kilmory will be the happier with the point from this hard-fought game as Ballachulish hit the post three times and were also foiled by some great goalkeeping.

Kyles Athletic 1

Aberdour 4

The Kyles Athletic second team and Aberdour were scheduled to play at Tighnabruach.

However, it became clear during the week that the pitch would be unplayable so the match was switched to Silversands with a 1pm throw-up.

On a cool and blustery day, Aberdour fielded some younger players with John Martin Philips, Alec Mitchell and Craig Grant amongst their absentees.

Kyles included Innes MacDonald, Scott MacDonald and Ross MacRae in their side.

Aberdour opted to play against the wind and up the slope in the first half and took the lead after eight minutes when Roddy McColl finished off a good passing move.

The Aberdour defence did well to deal with periods of Kyles Athletic pressure during the first 45 minutes but there was little they could do when Innes MacDonald levelled five minutes before the break with a looping strike from midfield.

Aberdour took charge after the break, scoring three times in 15 minutes.

David MacKenzie put the hosts back in front five minutes after the restart and David MacDougall made it 3-1 three minutes later. Angus Thorburn added a fourth on 65 minutes following more good forward play.

Tom Bowerman in the Aberdour goal made some fine saves to keep Kyles at bay. The victory keeps second-placed Aberdour in front of third-placed Kilmory.

Aberdour head for The Meadows this Saturday to face Bute.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness P

Kilmallie P

The game between the Inverness colts and the Kilmallie colts at The Bught Park was called off late.

There was a booking mix-up meaning the field was unavailable.

The teams will play again this weekend at The Canal Parks.

Caberfeidh W/O

v Boleskine

The Caberfeidh reserves were given a walk-over when Boleskine were unable to field a team for their fixture at Castle Leod.

Lochcarron v Strathspey Camanachd W/O

The match between Lochcarron and Strathspey Camanachd was originally scheduled for Battery Park but was switched to Grantown Grammar School.

Strathspey Camanachd were eventually given a walk-over though when Lochcarron were unable to raise a team.



Oban Camanachd's Gary McKerracher and Lovat's Drew Howie in a tussle for the ball during last weekend's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Mossfield which Lovat won by the odd goal in three. Photographs: Neil Paterson.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute 4

Dunoon Camanachd 0

The Bute second team beat Dunoon Camanachd 4-0 in their 3pm throw-up.

Fifth-placed Bute were favourites going into this meeting against bottom side Dunoon and a Willie Boag double plus strikes from Scott Harvey and Andrew MacLachlan gave the Islanders a deserved victory.

This match completes the Marine Harvest South Division 2 programme.

WCA round-up

A limited number of Women's Camanachd Association fixtures were scheduled over the weekend.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Fort William 4

Badenoch & Strathspey 2

Fort William were 4-2 winners in their match against Badenoch.

On the scoresheet for Fort William were Elaine Wink (2) and Ashleigh Fraser (2).

Rona Stewart and Rhona McIntyre scored the Strathspey goals.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochaber P

Glenurquhart P

The match between Lochaber and Glenurquhart was postponed because of a bereavement.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Cowal & Bute P

Dunadd P

The match between Cowal & Bute and Dunadd didn't go ahead with the teams agreeing to share the points.

Development League winners - play-offs

The Women's Camanachd Association Development League play-off matches took place at The Dell on Saturday October 28.

Ardnamurchan, Badenoch & Strathspey, Skye Camanachd and Tayforth were the qualifying sides for this national development decider.

Eventual winners Tayforth came from a goal down to beat Badenoch & Strathspey 3-1 in their opening fixture and went through the tournament unbeaten. Badenoch beat Skye and Ardnamurchan to finish second.

Glenorchy unable to complete the season

Glenorchy Shinty Club has written to the Camanachd Association to confirm that due to work commitments and injuries they will be unable to fulfil their Marine Harvest South Division 1 fixtures for the remainder of the 2017 shinty season.

The Camanachd Association confirmed it received a letter from Glenorchy on October 16 and due to the timing of the notification, it has been agreed the points will be awarded to the clubs that Glenorchy were scheduled to play over the coming weeks. This season started

well for Glenorchy with a Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup win over Ballachulish and a league draw with Tainuill.

A run of league defeats followed and the Mart Park's side's only league victory was against Bute in June. A draw with Col Glen followed. They have been unable to raise a team in recent weeks though and will finish the season bottom of Marine Harvest South Division 1 and will be relegated.

Glenorchy have advised the Camanachd Association that they hope to compete in Marine Harvest South Division 2 next season.

London Shield Final

The 2017 London Shield Final between Kingussie U17 and Oban Camanachd U17 takes place at Craighard, Invergarry on Saturday November 4.

This should be a terrific encounter with many of the players having previously taken part in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final between the sides which was won by Lochside Rovers. Throw-up is at 2pm and Deek Cameron is the match referee.

Skye Camanachd bonfire and fireworks display

Skye Camanachd host their fourth annual bonfire and fireworks display at Paic nan Laoch, Portree, on Saturday November 4.

The fun starts at 6.30pm and there will be the usual refreshments and food available in the Skye Camanachd clubhouse.

Admission is £5 for adults and £3 for under 16s. Everyone welcome.



Young Oban Camanachd goalkeeper Cameron Sutherland makes a good save.

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



Ronald Ross reflects on another excellent display from Scotland

AFTER a hectic schedule in the lead-up to the Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international on Saturday October 21 and a frantic 80 minutes which culminated in Scotland's 18-15 win over Ireland, Scotland head coach Ronald Ross took time to look back on a fourth successive win on home soil.

Whilst the main focus is always on the game, it is worth reflecting on the detailed preparation which takes place before-hand.

'The players are required to make a huge commitment for this fixture,' said Ronald Ross. 'It's a huge ask for them and that shouldn't be forgotten.'

'As well as playing and training for their clubs every week, and doing training work on their own, we've asked them to attend five hard training sessions. The bottom line is for Scotland to be competitive and to be in with a chance of winning these international matches, this is the level of preparation required.'

'The process started with a trial match - shinty/hurling rules and goals - with 35 players invited to attend.'

'Following the trial match, we had four preparation sessions at An-Aird. The last session took place at the all-weather pitch. We also had a three-hour session the day before the international with all players in attendance and a fine tuning session on the morning of the game, refining tactics and practicing 65s and side-line cuts.'

Fitness sessions

'Additional midweek fitness sessions - four in total - were set up at the grass field at Inverness Sports Centre for the Inverness based players and the all-weather at Aviemore for the Badenoch players.'

'I came up with the idea when I first started working with the U21 team as we had been previously been on the wrong end of some big scores and we needed to close the gap and quickly.'

'Included in the preparation was a useful 45 minute game against Eoghan Stewart's Cholmcille shinty/hurling side. We were to play it at An Aird

but when the pitch was ruled unplayable, we switched to the astro pitch at Lochaber High School. The game allowed us to correct a few things we weren't doing properly so it was a good exercise.'

'It's all time away from their families for the players. The guys put so much effort into it, and you have to do that to succeed, so it was great to see them have their efforts rewarded.'

Ronald also gave an insight into what goes on at these sessions. 'The preparation sessions are focused on leaving ourselves best prepared for facing the very best Ireland team.'

'Each session started with a warm-up followed by an hour of fitness, including the trial match. The fitness element is crucial in this particular fixture. Players may think they are fit, but they are not shinty/hurling fit and that is the point we emphasise to all the players.'

'We also carry out fitness testing with the players about two weeks ahead of the international, and the tests go a long way to deciding the final 19 players. We simply can't afford to carry anyone.'

'When we plan the preparation sessions it is very difficult to get the right blend and mix that suits everyone. For example, players may have played the day before for their clubs and in most cases travelled many miles. Players can arrive carrying knocks and in other cases players may not have played because all their club fixtures are complete and that brings another problem in terms of match sharpness.'

'The preparation sessions also include many drills with the hurling sticks and we do our best to simulate the movement and style of a hurling player. We also talk to the players about hydration and nutrition and the importance of recovery from matches and training sessions.'

The preparation is clearly a key element. Ronald continued: 'We work separately with the defenders, the midfielders and the forwards and finish the sessions by playing the U21 team.'

We emphasise to the players that they need to get to the ball first as it's frenetic out there and there's no time and no space.'

'Communication is key and it's also very much 'your man - your responsibility'. It's then all about keeping the ball down and playing the ball wide, at the same time backing each other up. You have to focus all the time as simple things like playing the ball out for a corner unnecessarily leads to a point scoring opportunity for your opponent. You have to stick to the game plan and it is so important to remain disciplined, play smart and not be fouling and I must say the players did all of that during the game.'

Respect

At the end of it all, decisions have to be made and Ronald acknowledged this part of the job isn't easy. 'The hardest part of the process for me is telling players that they haven't made the final squad. These are not nice phone calls as I have the upmost respect for all the players. In most cases it comes down minute detail, versatility, physique, experience or fitness.'

'The more experienced guys will usually make the difference though. The new caps merited their places but you know what you are going to get from Finlay MacRae, Roddy MacDonald, John Barr, Glen MacKintosh, Rory Kennedy and Steven MacDonald.'

Attention now turns to the game itself and as almost 2,000 supporters gathered at The Bught Park, Inverness, one of shinty's iconic grounds, in anticipation of this unique encounter, the final preparations were being made behind the scenes.'

Ronald revealed: 'I don't announce the starting team until an hour before the game. It keeps everyone on their toes but even the guys who didn't start were terrific and all played their part. Daniel Cameron is a great example of what having a good attitude is all about.'

'He must have been disappointed not to start but he stayed focused and played his



Scotland manager Ronald Ross.

part when he came onto the pitch. That's all part of having and encouraging a good collective spirit within the squad and it makes a difference.'

When the team was announced, there was an interesting Newtonmore/Kinlochshiel axis in defence with the two clubs contributing all five starting defenders.'

It was no accident as the Scotland boss explained. 'We tried to set the team out with guys who know each other and who play together at their clubs every week. We especially did that in defence with the two clubs contributing all five starting defenders. The understanding these boys have developed over the seasons helps during the game and that's important in a fixture where any indecision is punished.'

'Rory Kennedy was a concern as he hadn't trained properly since the Camanachd Cup Final and he went over his ankle at training on the Friday before the game.'

'I got him treatment at Ross County on Saturday morning and the physio there worked on him right up until the last minute to get him ready to play. We wanted to give Rory every chance to play because, even if he's not fully fit, he still has so much to offer.'

Great start

Once the formalities had taken place, the game got under way. Ireland made a great start, a point acknowledged by Ronald. 'They won the toss and whilst there was little wind, there was an awkward sun to deal with so they had that at their backs. However, I was surprised how quickly they adapted to the rules. They had a number of new players in their squad and it normally takes them time to get up to speed.'

'That usually gives us a chance

to rack up a few points but that didn't happen and instead we found ourselves 4-1 down.'

Ireland's good start was all the more impressive given some pre-match difficulties. Ronald said: 'Ireland only managed a 30 minute hit-about on the Friday as their luggage was delayed and they didn't train on Saturday morning either. However, their manager Willie Maher told me afterwards they had three full training sessions before they flew to Glasgow on Thursday and they came up the road on Friday. It is more than they normally do and it showed. They didn't give away any cheap frees during the game and they were never out of it.'

Chances

Ronald continued: 'The game itself was back and forward throughout most of the 80 minutes. The goals both came at a good time for us.'

'Our game is about scoring goals, more than it is for them, and although we won last season, we didn't score any goals. We stressed that to the forwards in the team meeting the night before.'

'We'll always create chances but what makes the difference is taking these chances. You need to be on top of the keeper at all opportunities and the guys did that which was all very pleasing. We also hit the post twice.'

The Scotland substitutions were a talking point after the match and they worked well. 'John MacRae and Ryan Borthwick came off the bench and both made a real impact. You make changes to freshen things up and you could say we got lucky,' said Ronald modestly.'

Luck had little to do with it though when John MacRae shot goalwards with his first touch and Kevin Bartlett netted from the rebound. Similarly, John MacRae found Ryan Borthwick who showed good skills on the left ahead of Roddy MacDonald's goal and Ronald agreed

these were key moments. 'John MacRae and Ryan Borthwick made a big impact when they came on. Moving Finlay MacRae into the centre also paid off.'

'We put Andy King and Daniel Grieve on at the back and their fresh legs helped us when Ireland pressured us for the last few minutes. Daniel Cameron and Greg Matheson made their mark too. Everyone played their part and you have to remember that some of our players were playing against top class hurlers.'

Ireland pressed at the end and

Scotland goalie Stuart MacDonald further enhanced his reputation with a brilliant save which has become a hit online.'

'There are small margins in the game and Stuart MacDonald made a great save at the end. How he saved it, I don't know. There is no keeper who could make a save like that but that's what you get with Stuart MacDonald.'

'We were gritty, determined and we dug in and all the hard work at the practice sessions paid off. It was an exciting finish to the game and the folk I spoke to after the match really enjoyed it.'

Ireland showed frustration at being penalised for 'hand on the back' infringements which aren't allowed under the cross-codes rules.'

However Ross had praise for the referee. 'Calum Girvan implemented the rules and that's all you can ask. We certainly got one or two cheap two pointers for hands on the back. We could have had a penalty when their keeper caught the ball following Steven MacDonald's free-hit midway through the first half as he's not allowed to do that. However, Calum got most of the decisions right.'

Suggest

Whilst there were early indications that the 2018 international would take place in Ireland, reports now suggest it may again be hosted in Scotland. 'Wherever it's played, it will be interesting to see what happens,' said Ronald.'

The practice in recent years has been for the Irish to include four elite players and Ross concedes that could change. 'I think a few of the rules maybe need to be looked at and I said after the game on Saturday that we had raised the bar.'

'Anything is possible and the Camanachd Association and GAA will have their annual meeting early in the New Year and we'll watch with interest to see what happens but Ireland will want to break our winning run in Inverness, that's for sure.'

As far as the immediate future is concerned, Ronald Ross probably spoke for the whole squad and backroom team when he said, 'I'm now looking forward to a break.'

Fixtures

Saturday November 4

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kilmallie v Oban Camanachd
Calum Girvan - 11.30am

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William v Inveraray
Lachie Wood - Noon

Marine Harvest North Division One

Fort William v Aberdeen Uni
Des McNulty - 2.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute v Aberdeen
Robert Baxter - 2pm
Kyles Athletic v Tayforth
Graham Fisher - 2pm
Taynuilt v Colglen
Iain Kennedy - 2pm

Marine Harvest North Division Two

Kilmallie v Inverness
John Wood - 2.30pm
Strathspey v Caberfeidh
John Matheson - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest National Under-17 League

London Shield final
Kingussie v Oban Camanachd
at Craighard, Invergarry
Deek Cameron - 2pm

Results

Saturday October 28

Marine Harvest Premiership
Oban Camanachd 1 v 2 Lovat

Marine Harvest National Division

Fort William P v P Inveraray
Unplayable field

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Ballachulish 2 v 2 Kilmory
Bute 0 v 0 Lochside Rovers
Kyles Athletic 1 v 4 Aberdour
Tayforth P v P Glenorchy
Glenorchy withdrawn from league, points to Tayforth

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh P v P Boleskine
Boleskine unable to field a team, points to Caberfeidh
Inverness P v P Kilmallie
Unplayable field
Lochcarron P v P Strathspey
Lochcarron unable to field a team, points to Strathspey

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute 4 v 0 Dunoon



Lovat's Scott MacKenzie and Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacCuish in a race for the ball.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

McPhee fights to hard-earned fifth in Malaysia

JOHN McPhee was ready for the next challenge of the season, with the Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit last Sunday.

A long, technical and challenging track, Sepang has five left and 10 right-handed corners, with a longest straight of just under a kilometre. And there are two long straights connected by the final hairpin - always a stunning spectacle for Moto3.

Two races remain in 2017,

with McPhee in the fight for sixth in the standings.

McPhee made a solid start taking 11th overall on Friday after combined timesheets were decided by FP1 as the rain came down in the afternoon.

The Scot's fastest lap in the morning was a 2:14.236, just on the cusp of the top 10. In FP2 the Scot moved up the timesheets to go seventh - just a 10th off the top five in a tight fight near the top. McPhee suffered a crash at the end of

Moto 3

the session, but with no consequences.

Off to a good start, McPhee was looking to keep it rolling in qualifying on Saturday.

The Connel rider has been on the pace all weekend and qualifying was the best of the bunch as the Scot took a front row start ready for the race on Sunday

McPhee set a 2:12.816 as his fastest effort, one of only two riders to get within a second of the record-breaking pole lap, and hoped to be pushing to get away with the front group from the off. Then it will be a fight for the podium and points, with the Scot currently seventh in the standings but gunning to end the season on a high.

In the race itself McPhee converted a front row start into a top five finish - despite getting forced off the track during the race in order to avoid an incident ahead.

After a solid start to stay up with the front runners, McPhee wasn't quite able to stay with the lead trio but was fighting it out around the long, slip-



John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang. Photos; Bonnie Lane

stream-heavy Sepang circuit.

Then, a crash ahead saw McPhee have to head over the grass and onto the entry to pitlane before rejoining - and the Scot had a fight on his hands. Picking his moment to perfection at the end, the BTT rider

got the best of the group and crossed the line in fifth place.

After the race McPhee said: 'Overall it was a successful weekend. It was nice to be at the sharp end in every session and feeling so comfortable on the bike.'

'The target today was the podium so I'm disappointed not to achieve that but I'm also happy that I managed to claw my way back through the order after running off track to avoid the crash.'

'My bike felt great, so a big

thanks to my team for all their hard work all weekend.'

Next up is the final round in Valencia as the paddock returns to Europe for one last fanfare in 2017 - and the British Talent Team are looking to end the year on a high.



John is congratulated on his fine fifth place finish in Sepang.

Young Inveraray angler wins Inverawe Challenge

THIS year's Inverawe Challenge will be one that 12-year-old Archie MacColl-Smith will remember for a long, long, time.

The young fly-fisherman from Inveraray won the shield for the heaviest fish; was runner-up for the main prize of the heaviest catch of the day and then went on to win a day's fishing for two rods on the River Orchy.

The Lochgilphead High School pupil was taught to fish by his grandfather Donald, his uncle Colin and his mum Anne, all keen anglers themselves, and he spent most of the summer holidays fishing.

The annual fly-fishing competition is held at the popular Inverawe Smokehouses and Country Park, near Taynuilt.

Angling

Pegs were drawn at 9am for a day's fishing the weigh-in, hospitality, and the prize-giving ceremony at the Inverawe Smokehouse Tearoom, courtesy of the Campbell-Preston family.

John Logan, winner of the heaviest catch took the Inverawe Shield back home to Troon.

The event marks the end of the fishing season on the estate; the shop and tearoom are now closed but open from December 9 until December 24 for Christmas shopping.

Entry fees, plus raffle ticket sales raised £780 and all this goes to help pay the school fees of a talented young 14-year-old girl in Tanzania, whose education is financed by the Laura Campbell-Preston Trust.



John Logan, left, winner of the Inverawe Charity Shield for the heaviest catch and Archie MacColl-Smith, right, who won the Challenge Shield for heaviest fish. With Robert Campbell-Preston and Romano Capocci and runners-up, Roy Clark, left, and Archie Galbraith.



Gavin MacLeod, of Oban, not only competed but also donated three boxes of hand-tied flies as raffle prizes; this year he chose flies in the Galway and Orkney style.



John Duffy, of Oban, is an Inverawe regular.



The tranquility of Inverawe Loch.



The 'overseas competitor', Donald MacGregor, came from the Isle of Kerrera to compete.



Archie MacColl-Smith of Inveraray had the day of his young angling career when he won heaviest fish and the Inverawe Challenge Shield and came second in the Inverawe Charity Shield for heaviest catch. Then in the raffle afterwards he won fishing for two rods on the River Orchy.



Robert Campbell-Preston and Romano Capocci recording the day's catches at the weigh-in.

Scottish Amateur FL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints 4, Inverclyde 2; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils 1, Rossvale 2; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Port Glasgow OBU postponed; Millbeg 4, Lochgilphead Red Star 3; West of Scotland Cup, third round - East Kilbride Rolls Royce 2, Helensburgh 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, third round - Falkirk v Oban Saints; Bannockburn v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Easthall Star v Tarbert.

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Saturday: Scottish Cup - Under 13s 12, Symington Tinto 0. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (8), Cooper MacIntyre (2), Andrew Nicol and Ruairidh Buchanan. Sunday: DFDL - Under 13s 12, Broomhill SC 4. Saints goalscorers were Kyle Cooper (9), Ruairidh Buchanan (2) and Innes Jackson; Under 14s, no game; Dunoon 7, Under 15s 1; Scottish Cup - Muirston United 3, Under 16s 0; Under 17s, no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Saturday: Under 13s v Kerse United; Helensburgh v Under 16s; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 17s. Sunday: Under 13s v Campbeltown Pupils; Under 14s v Renton Craigandro; Under 15s v Summerston BC.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

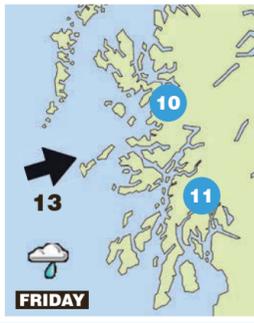
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
Winds light Westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

Friday Light rain
Winds moderate West South Westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers on Saturday
Sunny on Sunday
Winds moderate Westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 2, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	04.15 3.6 10.22 1.1 16.35 4.1 22.44 0.9	Ardrishaig -5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	04.46 3.9 10.59 0.8 17.09 4.2 23.21 0.7	Campbeltown -5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	05.18 4.0 11.38 0.6 17.44 4.3 23.59 0.5	Crinan -0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	05.52 4.1 12.20 0.6 18.21 4.3 **** **	Islay Port Ellen 2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	00.39 0.5 06.30 4.1 13.04 0.6 19.00 4.2	Lochboisdale +0.30		
Tues	01.22 0.5 07.11 4.0 13.52 0.7 19.42 3.9			
Wed	02.08 0.7 07.55 3.9 14.44 1.0 20.30 3.6			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

LOCHABER TIMES

& Oban Times

Established 1861 No 8379

Thursday 2 November, 2017

www.lochabertimes.co.uk

85 pence

WIN WIN WIN
A YEAR OF
BIRLINN BOOKS



See page 13



VOTE FOR YOUR TOP 100
See all the entries in our 20 page special **FREE INSIDE**



Call for West Highland Line rail contract to be terminated

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A CALL has been made for Abellio ScotRail to have its West Highland Line franchise contract terminated amid accusations it has failed to deliver on promises of more investment, leaving a service not fit for purpose when it comes to serving the passengers and communities of Lochaber.

The damning assessment of the Dutch-owned train operator came from the annual general meeting of Lochaber Transport Forum held in Fort William this week.

In his annual chairman's report, Brian Murphy told members this year had seen little headway made on rail transport issues in particular.

And Mr Murphy reserved his strongest condemnation for the performance of Abellio ScotRail. 'When the new rail franchise was awarded to Abellio, we were promised improved services, new rolling stock and integrated fares. We are still waiting,' he stated.

'At a meeting in Inverness on February 25, 2015, I asked the then chief executive officer if they had plans to introduce new services for the West Highland Line, given that there is sufficient slack in the timetable to allow this to happen. He replied they were very keen to look at that. In spite of repeated efforts to raise these and other issues, such as trains being cancelled because of a shortage of drivers, with ministers, Transport Scotland and Abellio, we are no further forward.

'It's my belief Abellio is failing to deliver and that the Transport

Lochaber Cameron Highlanders reunite for last time



Lochaber Cameron Highlanders held their last reunion lunch in Fort William on Saturday as committee members prepare to retire after 30 years. Full story on page three. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Minister should look at terminating its contract.'

The forum agreed to write to Scottish Government Transport Minister Humza Yousaf, Economy Minister Keith Brown and all Highland MSPs asking that they intervene urgently.

After the meeting, Mr Murphy and Arthur Cowie, chairman of the Lochaber Disability Access Panel, who also sits on the Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance, and John Barnes,

vice-president of the Friends of the West Highland Line, visited the Lochaber Times' office in Fort William to underline their concerns.

'We're all fed up with the lack of action from Abellio ScotRail. They promised us all sorts of things when they took over the West Highland Line service but none of it has come to fruition,' said Mr Murphy.

'It's why we call the West Highland Line the "Cinderella

service". There has been nothing like the investment the company has pumped into other parts of the network. Abellio ScotRail seems like it is just not interested in this part of Scotland.'

Mr Cowie said the forum was in no way criticising train drivers and other frontline staff who, he said, worked extremely hard. 'If it wasn't for those staff, I think the service would collapse altogether,' he said.

Mr Cowie added: 'We are con-

stantly told the West Highland Line is one of the most iconic rail routes in the world, so how does it help attract tourists when there are so few services, frequent cancellations and poor quality of rolling stock?'

Responding to the criticism, a spokesperson for ScotRail Alliance – the joint working relationship between Abellio ScotRail and Network Rail Scotland – said: 'We're building the best railway this country has

ever had – and that applies to all of Scotland.

'Our £475 million train refurbishment programme will see 90 per cent of our fleet either new or refurbished and Class 158s operate the West Highland Line from December next year.

'These fully refurbished trains will be more suited to these scenic routes with the seats aligned to the windows, air-conditioning and more toilets and luggage space.'

Village to host world running event

KINLOCHLEVEN will play host to one of the biggest, and most extreme, endurance events in the world next year.

The International Skyrunning Federation (ISF) announced this week that the 2018 Skyrunning World Championships will be hosted by Skyline Scotland from September 13 to 15 in Kinlochleven.

This follows the Lochaber village hosting the 2017 Salomon Skyline Scotland event last month which has been recognised for its quality, and was confirmed as a finalist in Scotland's Highlands and Islands tourism awards.

The Ben Nevis Ultra – the most gruelling of the three events – will be re-designed from the 2017 version to fit the new skyrunning criteria, which includes a maximum course length of 66km and running time of 16 hours. Subject to testing, the new Ultra will be 65km, with a 4,000m vertical climb.

Chris O'Brien, destination manager at The Outdoor Capital of the UK, added: 'I'm delighted to hear Kinlochleven will be hosting the Skyrunning World Championships in 2018.

'The number of world class events now taking place in the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Lochaber, is increasing all the time and we can't wait to assist the championships in any way we can.'



Interface
The knowledge connection for business

Want to create and develop new products, services or processes?

We can help with your business challenge wherever you are.

MATCHING YOUR BUSINESS TO THE RIGHT ACADEMIC EXPERTISE

Contact us to find out more:
lorraine.thomson@interface-online.org.uk
tel: 01463 245263
(for businesses in Argyll and the Isles)

or carol-ann.adams@interface-online.org.uk
tel: 01463 245262
(for businesses in Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross).

www.interface-online.org.uk

SEPA confirms probe into fly-tipping

THE SCOTTISH Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has confirmed it is investigating who is responsible for the recent fly-tipping of waste at Mount Alexander, near Banavie.

The issue was raised at last week's monthly meeting of Kilmallie Community Council, when community councillor Russell Leaper briefed fellow members on his recent meeting with staff from the agency on this problem.

Mr Leaper explained the hope was the ownership of the land in question will soon revert to the Crown, in which case the possibility of erecting new security fencing and a gate could be looked at.

'That would be the best way of stopping the dumping,' he added. 'The site has a couple of old cars and white goods

including washing machines, but the advice is that it is not worth disturbing this historic waste. There is nothing toxic from that stuff and disturbing it might not be the best thing,' he said.

'But if the current dumping can be stopped, then the recent waste can be cleaned up. This more recent stuff tends to be mainly building waste, fuel additives and empty paint tins.

'But no-one knows what is exactly there and the danger is that people could be tempted to dump more toxic things. However, SEPA is visiting the site weekly or fortnightly and we think that is having an effect with things generally getting better.'

Asked to comment, Jim Frame, unit manager for SEPA, said: 'We are aware

of recent and historic fly-tipping at Mount Alexander, near Banavie, and an investigation is ongoing into those responsible and the environmental impact of the waste. Our officers are in discussion with all parties involved with the site, to ensure that as far as possible waste deposits are removed from this location, safely, to licensed facilities for disposal. Everyone has a duty to ensure their waste is disposed of without harming the environment. In particular, householders and businesses are encouraged to check the credentials of independent waste operators when arranging for waste collection. Members of the public can also report fly-tipping activity anonymously, via the Dumb Dumpers hotline on 08452 304090.'

university open day
@ West Highland College UHI
Sat 4th November
in Fort William 11am-3pm

01397 874000
whc.uhi.ac.uk

Meet staff and learn about higher education opportunities: HNCs, HNDs and a wide range of degrees delivered through our partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands, including our 4 degrees with the School of Adventure Studies.

HIGHBRIDGE KENNELS & Cattery

www.highbridgekennels.com

We also offer doggie day care

Highbridge Kennels & Cattery provides luxury heated accommodation in a purpose built kennel and cattery, set in a beautiful rural location just 8 miles from Fort William.

Sally who runs the kennels and cattery is trained and experienced in the care of animals and you can be assured of the best care and personal attention for your pet.

We have an acre of totally safe and secure paddock with it's own paddling pool for the dogs to play in.

We accept dogs and cats for long or short term boarding and the quality of accommodation and high level of care makes it a particularly desirable location for longer stays.

Highbridge, Spean Bridge, Inverness-Shire PH34 4EX
Tel: 01397 712567
Email: highbridgekennelsenquiries@gmail.com

FW

Family's first 'IanFest' boosts mountain rescue team funds

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

JULIA Bell thought she might hate the sight of Ben Nevis when she returned to Scotland for the first time since her husband Ian died on the mountain's slopes in the late summer of 2015.

But speaking to the *Lochaber Times* this week from her home in Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, an emotional Mrs Bell said Britain's highest peak still struck her as being 'glorious' when she and her two grown sons gazed up at it during a visit last month to Fort William.

Mrs Bell, together with Oscar, 25, and Louie, 23, had made the long journey from their home in England to hand over a cheque for £850 to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, whose members spent a day searching for Ian after he failed to return from a walk on Ben Nevis's Carn Mòr Dearg trail in August 2015.

Sadly the team did not find experienced hill walker Ian alive, instead coming across the body of the 60-year-old West Herts College lecturer in a gully in Coire Eòghainn.

As well as handing over the cheque - the second donation the Bell family has made to the mountain rescue team - the visit also allowed Mrs Bell and her sons to personally thank mountain rescue team members for their efforts to find Ian.

Three months after Ian's death, the family had held a special film screening at a local cinema near their home which raised more than £1,000 for the rescue team.

“ I thought I might hate it, just hate the sight of it. But I didn't. The mountain was still glorious and it was easy to see why Ian loved being in the mountains so much. ”

Julia Bell

This latest donation, however, came from a special mini music festival entitled 'IanFest' which Mrs Bell, Oscar and Louie, held in the back garden of their home in September.

Together with around 100 other family members and friends, including professional musicians, they filled their garden with music and food in a poignant event now set to become an annual fundraiser for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

A total of £850 was raised for the 40-strong team and Mrs Bell said: 'I wanted to come to thank the mountain rescue team in person but couldn't face it until recently. But it seemed now would be a good time to do both - hand over the cheque from IanFest and say 'thank you' in person to these amazing people.'

'It was an emotional journey to meet the team, but they were fantastic. They were very welcoming and made us feel so at ease - and they were very sensitive and caring with us as

well. They made something that could've been very difficult a lot easier than I had feared it would be.

'Myself and the boys can never thank them all enough for the efforts they made to find Ian and we will be forever grateful to them and to their families, who give so much support to let the team do this vitally important work. Our family will never forget what they did for Ian and us.'

Mrs Bell said it was a very emotional trip, not just shaking the hands of those who had searched for Ian, but looking up at Ben Nevis.

'We took a car trip as close as we could get. I hadn't been sure how I would feel looking up at the mountain and towards where Ian died,' she said.

'I thought I might hate it, just hate the sight of it. But I didn't. The mountain was still glorious and it was easy to see why Ian loved being in the mountains so much.'

Mrs Bell and her sons say they

will continue raising money for Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team with the second staging of 'IanFest' already being planned for next year.

'The event in our garden was such a warm and loving event, not sad, and helped us honour Ian in a way he would have loved. Even before it was finished, people were saying it was such a nice way to pay tribute to Ian and raise money for such a great bunch of people that we need to do it all again next year.'

The horseshoe route between Carn Mòr Dearg and Ben Nevis via Carn Mòr Dearg Arête is a popular scrambling ascent route of the 1,344m (4,409ft) mountain.

But it can be treacherous, as proven by the fact that just days after Ian's death, the area claimed the life of a second walker, experienced mountaineer Steve Fogg, 56, from Aboyne, who slipped and fell 600 feet to his death from Carn Mòr Dearg Arête.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader John Stevenson said donations such as those from the Bell family were vital to keep the team going, although some obviously stem from unfortunate circumstances.

'Yes, we met with Julia and family; we had a chat about things and we took them up the glen to see the area of the Ben where Ian had his accident,' Mr Stevenson told the *Lochaber Times*. 'Donations from family members and the public keep rescue teams running. Under some circumstances it's quite sad, but we have to keep going.'



Julia Bell and sons, Oscar, left of the sign, and Louie, in the red jacket, with members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.



Ian with sons Oscar and Louie when the boys were younger on a trip to the Cairngorms.



One of the photos retrieved from Ian's mobile phone, taken during his final walk on Ben Nevis.



Ian with sons Oscar and Louie in happier times on the Klein Matterhorn in Switzerland.

Scottish Field DECEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

HARRY BENSON The acclaimed photographer still belongs to Glasgow

HARRY BENSON STILL BELONGS TO GLASGOW

25 Our unbeatable Christmas gift guide

COLD COMFORT A top photographer's journey through Scotland's wild places in deep mid-Winter

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF HARRY LAUDER

Pine Martens
A YULETIDE MEDIEVAL BANQUET
WIN A THREE-DAY WEST COAST CRUISE WORTH £2,500

25 page Christmas gift guide

COLD COMFORT
A top photographer's journey through Scotland's wild places in deep mid-Winter

www.scottishfield.co.uk

Ceilidh tribute to 'Mòd Father' raises £1,122



Mairi MacColl and son Calum and daughter Fiona with Clare Frances MacNeil, the winner of the new Mòd trophy awarded in memory of Charlie MacColl.

A SPECIAL ceilidh was held during this year's Royal National Mòd in Lochaber in memory of the late Charlie MacColl, known affectionately as 'The Mòd Father'.

During his time as convener of the Royal National Mòd, when it was held in Lochaber a decade ago, Mr MacColl ran a very successful 'Convener's Ceilidh' in the old Caol Community Centre.

Now, 10 years later and almost two years after Mr MacColl's death, a ceilidh was held in Kilmallie Community Centre on the same date - October 18 - as the event he organised in 2007.

Mr MacColl was a lifelong supporter of the Gaelic language and culture and spent more than 30 years fundraising for Mòds across Scotland.

The ceilidh was officially opened by Mr MacColl's son, well-known piper Calum, while Mr MacColl's widow, Mairi, gave a speech welcoming everyone to the event.

Chairperson for the evening was Margaret McLellan, of Taynuilt, while music for the night was provided by Andrew

Macdonald and Graeme MacEachan who were later accompanied by Robert Nairn, Alec Maclean and Ruairidh Gray.

Singers for the night, many of whom sang at Mr MacColl's Convener's Ceilidh, were Jimmy Cameron, Margaret Ford, Freddie MacKenzie, Norman MacKinnon, Morag Smith, Ewan Morrison, Ruairidh Gray, Alasdair Whyte and Griogair Labhruidh.

The winner of the new Charlie MacColl Memorial Trophy, Claire Frances MacNeil, also came along to sing her winning song.

A big 'thank you' went to Bobby and Jessie Henderson and Alec Maclean for their support in helping to organise the ceilidh with the family.

Those enjoying the evening included many who had made the journey from Oban, Uist, Campbeltown, Harris, Mull and Acharacle.

The event raised £1,122.20 which will be split between Kilmallie Community Centre funds and the local mod in Ardnamurchan.

View from the Chamber

SINCE Developing the Young Workforce West Highland started supporting the Highland Council with work experience throughout the area in April, opportunities have more than doubled.

The primary reason that employers turn away young job applicants is that they don't have meaningful or relevant work experience.

In response to this, as part of the national Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) agenda, along with the Highland Council, secondary schools and colleges, DYW West Highland is working to support and increase work-related learning opportunities for young people



through working with employers. Although this increase is a massive step forward, work experience remains a critical part of learning for young people and opportunities still need to be increased dramatically in a variety of sectors to meet the demands from education.

Feedback shows that some of the work placements that are most needed are in engineering, construction, rural skills, administration, aquaculture, tourism, hospitality, and health and social care.

If you run a business, you can help to make sure that young people are as ready as they can be for work.

Offering work experience to young people comes in various forms and there are many ways that employers can help schools and colleges in their local area.

Whether it is a work placement for a pupil at a time that suits you, providing mock interviews, sector talks in schools or site visits to

your business, employer engagement can help to increase young people's self-esteem and social confidence.

It also enhances awareness of what careers are available locally and teaches the skill sets required so that young people can contribute effectively when they begin work in their chosen industry.

For a free work placement assessment - or to find out about any other opportunities for positive PR for your business through education engagement - contact the DYW West Highland team on 01397 705 765 or by email to info@dywesthighland.org who will be happy to help you.

Lochaber MSP denounces sexual harassment in wake of probe

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

MSP KATE Forbes says while she has never been the victim of sexual harassment during her political career, it should be denounced wherever it is found. Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, made the statement to the *Lochaber Times* this week in the wake of news that her party, the SNP, had launched an internal investigation into complaints about inappropriate sexual behaviour. The party has said in a state-

ment that concerns were raised by two individuals and were unconnected.

And First Minister Nicola Sturgeon described claims of sexual harassment at the Scottish Parliament as 'unacceptable' and urged a zero tolerance approach.

Ms Sturgeon made her remarks during an interview for BBC Scotland after proposing cross-party talks to examine how best to tackle the issue.

The SNP has now promised a full investigation into any allegations of inappropriate conduct.

Ms Forbes, who informed the *Lochaber Times* she had never been personally subjected to this kind of harassment as a politician, said it was unacceptable.

'I'm aware of recent press coverage of sexual harassment, which should concern all of us but perhaps women most of all,' she said.

'I'm just very sad that anybody, men or women, might be objectified rather than valued for our contributions to public service.'

Scottish Labour, the Scottish Conservatives, the Scottish Lib-

eral Democrats and the Scottish Greens have been all reported as not having received any sexual harassment complaints.

The latest developments come after lawyer Aamer Anwar said he had been told of a 'catalogue of abuse' against women at Holyrood, while Labour leader Kezia Dugdale has said she was aware of several female MSPs who had been victims.

Quizzed about the allegations that had surfaced at Holyrood, Ms Sturgeon condemned behaviour of the nature being suggested and said it should not



I'm just very sad that anybody, men or women, might be objectified rather than valued for our contributions to public service - **Kate Forbes**

be tolerated. The Scottish Parliament says there are already 'robust procedures' in place to investigate and deal with any reports of sexual harassment.



Kate Forbes.

Memorial slate reunited with owner

THE MYSTERY of the memorial tablet pulled from the water at the lower falls in Glen Nevis by an Irish visitor last year has been solved and the poignant object returned to its owner.

Last week the *Lochaber Times* reported how Aaron Brennan, from Ireland, was in Lochaber in 2016 and had noticed something in the water at the lower falls in Glen Nevis.

Pulling it out from the river, Aaron, who had been working at a local campsite, discovered a dark slate memorial stone.

On it was carved a simple, heartfelt tribute to someone named 'Ruairidh'. Next to the message there was a heraldic emblem.

The words read: 'Ruairidh, Goodbyes are not forever, Are not the end, It simply means I will miss you. Until we meet again, forever and always, Eilidh and the boys Xxx.'

Aaron didn't have time last year to do anything about it, so kept the tablet and brought it with him when he came back to Scotland this year and handed it into the *Lochaber Times* office in Fort William in the hope a story in the paper might help reunite the tablet with the family concerned.

And this week we received a call and a visit from Fiona Mackinnon, of Fort William, who told us the tablet had been made for the grave of her son, in Glen Nevis Cemetery.

Ruairidh died in 2015, aged just 25, and his mother says she had no idea how the tablet ended up in the water.

'The tablet was placed on the grave, so how it ended up at the lower falls we just don't know,' Fiona said.

'Another marker was made to replace this one, but we will put the original back on the grave as well.'

'We are so pleased this was found and returned to us and I will contact Aaron to tell him how grateful we are for his efforts to return it.'

Got a story?
Call the
newsdesk on
01397 703003



Kyle Bruce.

Teenager killed in A82 crash

POLICE Scotland have confirmed the identity of the victim of a crash on the A82 in Lochaber last Wednesday as Kyle Bruce, 17, from Spean Bridge.

The incident happened between Letterfinlay and Invergloy on Wednesday October 25. Emergency services were called at 11.32am.

Mr Bruce was the driver and sole occupant of a blue Audi A3, which was the only vehicle involved.

Sergeant Alan Henderson from the road policing unit said: 'Our thoughts at this difficult time are with Kyle's family and friends.'

'The road was closed to allow an investigation to take place and I thank the public for their patience while we conducted these necessary inquiries.'

'I am appealing for anyone who saw the collision or saw the vehicle prior to the collision to contact us.'

BEAR struggles to sort Spean Bridge potholes

BEAR Scotland workers are being sent back to Spean Bridge to repair temporary patches to potholes which they only filled a fortnight ago.

John Fotheringham, chairman of the area community council, had complained earlier in October about the surface of the road breaking up at the junction of the A82 and A86.

His complaints came just a little over two years after BEAR had resurfaced this same stretch of road.

But last week Mr Fotheringham was forced to raise the issue yet again after temporary repairs to potholes were already failing after just a week.

Mr Fotheringham emailed Doreen Cockbill in BEAR Scotland's north-west unit with photographs of the reappearing potholes and told her he was shocked by how poor the repair



I do despair about the quality of the patch

John Fotheringham
Community council chairman

had been. 'One lump of tar has been inserted into the hole, but the surface that was cracked round it has now opened up - so the pothole is worse than ever,' Mr Fotheringham told the BEAR official.

'I do despair about the quality of the

patch and given BEAR's response last time, with winter approaching, I worry about the impact on surrounding properties.'

'We will be monitoring the situation daily. I trust your roads team will seal the whole defect soon.'

Contacted by the *Lochaber Times* this week and asked to comment on the continuing road problems at Spean Bridge, a BEAR Scotland spokesperson said: 'We're monitoring the area and a further temporary repair has been arranged. Investigations are still under way into the cause of the original defects and as soon as this is determined a full repair will be carried out.'

'We'll continue to liaise with the community council to keep them informed of our progress.'



BEAR Scotland is having to return to Spean Bridge to tackle reappearing potholes. (IF F44 Spean Bridge pothole02)

Bestselling author headlines Fort William bookshop event



Christopher Brookmyre.

BESTSELLING author Christopher Brookmyre is to headline a special event at Fort William's new independent bookshop.

In the latest in a series of author events at The Highland Bookshop, Christopher Brookmyre will be in town later this month to launch his latest book, *Places in the Darkness*.

With more than 20 novels to his name, Christopher

Brookmyre is a leading light in what has been termed 'Tartan Noir' and his work skilfully blends politics, comedy, action and social commentary.

He has recently revived his hugely popular investigative journalist protagonist Jack Parlabane but for *Places in the Darkness* he once again explores the sci-fi genre he mined so successfully in 2013's *Bedlam*.

No stranger to accolades, the Scottish writer won the prestigious Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year prize in July this year for *Black Widow*, which also took the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the year in 2016.

A veteran of book festivals and an accomplished and entertaining speaker, Christopher Brookmyre is much in demand on the Scottish

and international literary scenes. The event will take place upstairs in The Highland Bookshop, 60 High Street, on Friday November 17 at 7pm.

Tickets are priced £5 which includes a glass of wine and £2 off a copy of *Places in the Darkness*.

For inquiries and to reserve tickets, contact 01397 705931 or email bookshop@highlandbookshop.com



Lochaber members at the Cameron Highlanders' reunion, left to right, Duncan MacDonald, Dennis Muir, John MacCallum, Bill Gibbens, Simon Anderson, Jimmy Smith, Rory MacDonald and Ian MacGregor. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Marion MacDonald cuts the celebration cake with her husband Rory, right, and Kenneth MacKenzie to mark the 30th reunion of the Cameron Highlanders, in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Lochaber Cameron Highlanders hold final reunion after 30 years

AFTER 30 years, Lochaber Cameron Highlanders held its annual reunion lunch in Fort William for the last time on Saturday.

Forty-one guests from around the country came together in the Alexandra Hotel for the final Lochaber reunion lunch of the Cameron Highlanders as the committee gets set for retirement.

Lochaber committee chairman Rory MacDonald and his wife Marion welcomed friends to the special Lochaber reunion lunch on Saturday October 28 on the year of the committee's 30th anniversary.

Mr MacDonald's guests included Angus Fairrie, James MacIntosh Walker, Mr and Mrs DD Muir and P Gordon Duff Pennington, who were welcomed to the reunion lunch with

the sound of pipes, courtesy of John MacCallum from Ballachulish.

Also present at the reunion were Lochaber members Duncan MacDonald, now residing in Maryburgh, and Donny MacDougall, now in Dalmally. Chairman of the Cameron Highlanders' Highland branch Hamish Sutherland was also in attendance.

From further afield, present at the reunion, as every year, were members from Carlisle, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Inverness, Glencoe and Bearsden, who all made the trip to Lochaber to meet with the regiment.

As guests sat down for their lunch, grace was said by Dennis Muir, while James MacIntosh Walker toasted fallen comrades. The royal toast was delivered by Jimmy Smith and

Charlie Miller led the toast to the regiment.

The afternoon lunch was the final time the Cameron Highlanders will meet in Fort William, owing to the retirement of the committee. After three decades of organising these reunions, a combination of old age and decreasing numbers has meant the committee will no longer be holding the event.

Jimmy Smith, secretary of the Lochaber committee, said: 'It went very well. There was a few unexpected cancellations at the last minute but there was a total of 41 of us. We're all old friends and Cameron Highlanders, some of us serving back in 1950.'

Although this was the last meeting in Lochaber, the group will still have the opportunity to meet up as the

Cameron Highlanders' branch of the Regimental Association will still be meeting in Inverness.

'Thanks to the Alexandra Hotel for their support over the years we have been there,' Jimmy continued. 'A special thanks to Val, as well as the previous manager Brian Hume. Special thanks also go to Tanya Warner for the cake on the day which was well appreciated by all members. Thanks also for the donations from Colin Ross at the Ben Nevis Distillery over the years.'

The lunch was especially significant for Jimmy, who has served as secretary of the committee for the full 30 years.

He added: 'It's 30 years coming to an end. I can't quite believe I've been doing the job for all these years.'



Freight

Oban - Glasgow
delivery service

Now operating a weekly
uplift service from
Glasgow for delivery
to Oban and beyond

For more information
contact our team in Oban
on 01631 566275

FW

Call for Skye civic awards entries

COMMUNITIES across Skye and Raasay have until November 29 to get their entries in for the 2017 Eilean a' Cheò Civic Awards.

This is the seventh year of the awards, which are organised by the Ward 10 Highland councillors to recognise people from all age groups and walks of life who have contributed to the success and well-being of their local communities.

This year's award categories are: Sports, Arts/Music, Environment, Community, Enterprise and Young People.

All nominees must be resident on the Isle of Skye or Raasay and be able to demonstrate their actions or activities have resulted in a significant benefit and deserve recognition.

Councillors will then consider all applications received and awards will be presented at a ceremony held in Portree at the Ward Forum on December 18.

Chairman of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee, councillor John Gordon is encouraging people to put forward nominations.

He said: 'We're inviting people to forward the name of someone or a community group who they feel deserves recognition for the work they do and the contribution to the lives of others that they make.'

'Often such people work quietly behind the scenes without a fuss. These Civic Awards are the ideal opportunity for their efforts to be officially recognised and for us to show our appreciation.'

Nomination forms are now available on the Eilean A' Cheò page of The Highland Council's website http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/772/politicians_elections_and_democracy/463/council_ward_information/10

Completed forms should be returned to the Ward Manager Willie MacKinnon by November 29 at willie.mackinnon@highland.gov.uk



find us on
facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

More than 300 islanders protest for Portree hospital

IAN BLACKFORD MP and Kate Forbes MSP joined more than 300 islanders in Portree on Saturday to highlight concerns about the retention of local accident and emergency services.

And the two politicians are now welcoming news that NHS Highland is to launch an external review of urgent care, minor injuries and A&E provision for north Skye.

Whilst both Mr Blackford and Ms Forbes are firmly behind plans for a new hospital in Broadford, they have also long campaigned for the retention of A&E service and beds in Portree to complement the new hospital.

They each spoke in support of the review at last Saturday's rally in Portree. Mr Blackford said there were legitimate concerns as to the future of A&E provision and that he was delighted these would be addressed through the establishment of an external review of the arrangements of urgent care, minor injuries and access to A&E.

'While this announcement by NHS Highland is an important



Skye MP Ian Blackford joins protestors in Portree at Saturday's health care rally. 1F F44 Skye healthcare protest02

step forward and creates the opportunity to consider the complementary nature of services in Portree with the new hospital in Broadford, I will continue to

press for early meetings with clinicians to confirm terms of reference and a timescale for the external input,' he said.

'It is clear to me the case for the

retention of A&E is irrefutable and I fully expect the external review will conclude the effectiveness of past A&E delivery and the continuing need for pa-

tients to access services within the golden hour, demonstrating why services must be retained on a 24/7 basis in Portree.'

Ms Forbes commented: 'There was a real show of strength and solidarity in Portree as more than 300 people turned up for the march and speeches.'

'After my last meeting with Save Portree Hospital campaigners, I wrote to the cabinet secretary for health and NHS Highland to make two points.'

'Firstly, that there was a gulf between reassurances being given about the future of Portree Hospital and people's experiences on the ground. In answer to that, there will be an independent, external review of the services provided in Portree Hospital. Secondly, that the people of north and west Skye need a way of shaping the future of Portree Hospital.'

'The cabinet secretary's means of answering that is to establish a forum for sharing information and taking forward actions.'

'I believe progress is being made and it is to the credit of the campaigners for not giving up.'

Stornoway surgery improves appointment service

GROUP Medical Practice's Stornoway surgery in the town's Springfield Road has recently introduced an automated telephone service to help patients book their appointments out-with opening hours.

Practice manager Jennifer Ellis said the new service, available on 01851 703145, meant patients would not have to wait until the practice opens at 8.30am or wait in a queue to speak to a receptionist to book their appointment.

'The automated service will also help us to release extra appointments in the evening and early in the morning, making it even easier for patients to obtain an appointment more suited to them,' she said.

However, the practice has stressed that for patients preferring to speak to a receptionist, they will continue to be available from Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5.30pm on the same number (01851 703145).

Complaints over island air service

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has voiced user concerns about the Aberdeen-Stornoway air service and change of timetable in a conference call with Eastern Airways' chief operating officer.

There continues to be numerous complaints from regular users, especially those employed in the oil and gas sector, about the timing of flights and the difficulties this presents for anyone in the islands working in the oil industry.

Mr Allan said he had raised this issue numerous times over the years.

'I was disappointed that the company was not prepared to have further meetings with those in the oil and gas sector who have been raising complaints,' he said.

'However, I understand there will be a public meeting coming up in the islands soon for customers and the company to exchange views. I also understand these issues will be discussed when Eastern Airways and Flybe meet with the comhairle next month.'

'At a time when the Western Isles is faced with worrying depopulation projections, we should all be seeking to ensure it is as easy as possible for people to live and work here. At the moment, this does not seem to be the case for those who live in the islands but work offshore.'

Seafarers survey

CORNWALL Rural Community Charity (CRCC) is working with Seafarers UK to understand the problems experienced by fishermen and their families across the UK.

The CRCC is visiting ports throughout Scotland and Highlands, speaking with groups and individuals directly, but would like to hear from as many fishermen, active and retired, and fishing family members to take part as possible.

An online survey has been set up and for those who prefer, paper copies or phone interviews can be arranged.

For more information visit www.cornwallrcc.org.uk/take-part-in-a-national-survey-to-give-a-voice-to-uk-fishing-communities/

Portree woman's leap of faith for charity

FEARLESS Portree resident Mary MacDougall expects to raise more than £1,300 from her recent abseil from the iconic Forth Bridge, writes Mark Entwistle.

The event took place on October 15, when Mary joined nearly 600 other participants from all over Scotland to take a leap of faith from the iconic red bridge, raising an incredible total of £124,000 for Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS).

To date Mary has raised £1,300 for the charity, with more money still coming in.

'It was a fantastic experience and was so well organised. I loved every minute of the descent and would encourage others to take part in this unique fundraising event,' said Mary after her feet had finally touched down on terra firma.

'I'm very grateful to all those who donated and I'm delighted to have raised more than £1,300 for the charity.'

All the money raised from the event will help to improve the quality of life for people in Scotland after a stroke or diagnosis of a chest or heart condition ensuring they get



Mary MacDougall and husband, Douglas, celebrate after her successful charity abseil from the Forth Rail Bridge.

the support and services they badly need. Mary took part in support of her husband Douglas who was at the bridge cheering

her on. Douglas works for CHSS as the remote link worker for Skye and Lochalsh. His job is to co-ordinate CHSS's rehabilita-

tion support services which offer advice, support and practical help to people to get their lives back on track after a stroke and

to ensure that those affected across Skye and Lochalsh are receiving the support they need.

Make the right decision when CHOOSING YOUR NEW WINDOWS AND DOORS



We know that replacing your windows and doors can be one of the biggest decisions you'll ever need to make to improve your home. So it makes sense to choose a range that offers beautifully designed and perfectly matched doors and windows.



1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238 000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

Western Isles hosts its first Wave of Light event

THE first 'Wave of Light' event to be held in the Western Isles took place recently at the Caberfeidh Hotel in Stornoway and was well attended by local families and friends.

The event, organised by NHS Western Isles' Sèimh group, was part of a national annual event to support bereaved parents and remember their precious babies who had died during pregnancy or close to the time of birth.

Sèimh co-ordinators, Joanne Murray-Stewart, midwifery department, and Helen Gallacher, spiritual care department, said: 'This was the first Wave of Light to be held within the Western Isles.'

'We would like to thank Essence of Harris which kindly provided us with specially-made candles that families were able to use during the event.'



Candles provide a wave of memories for those attending the event.

One family member commented: 'It was such a powerful and emotional evening. Taking time out and seeing all the lit candles really made me feel so privileged to be a part of this amazing group, which no-one ever wants to become a part of.'

Another added: 'The evening was very peaceful and tranquil, all with their own thoughts and

feelings. It was amazing to see everyone light a candle in remembrance of their little ones.'

Funds raised during the evening will further the work of Sèimh, which supports bereaved parents whose baby has died at any stage of pregnancy or close to the time of birth as well as supporting those who are planning or going through a new pregnancy.

Sèimh (Gaelic for gentle peace) meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Chaplaincy Quiet Room at Western Isles Hospital and is facilitated by Mrs Murray-Stewart and Mrs Gallacher.

The meetings are also bilingual, for those who may feel more comfortable talking in Gaelic.

For more information on the group, call 01851 704704.

Council's 'disappointment' over axing of geese controls

THE DISCONTINUATION of management schemes to control geese from damaging croft lands has been met with disappointment by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar because, it claims, there is no firm sustainable plans to tackle the problem for the future.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the Crofting Joint Consultative Committee, said the continuing increase in the

population of geese was a real threat to the future of crofting and expressed disappointment at Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Rosanna Cunningham MSP's response to an earlier letter that raised the concerns of the Crofting JCC.

Mr Crichton said: 'The minister's response is disappointing and gives no firm plans to tackle this problem in a consistent and

sustainable way to build on the work of the pilot schemes that had a positive impact on controlling the goose population.'

'We need an increase in funding to help the goose management pilot areas transition to long term sustainable management arrangements.'

'It is unfortunate that the £10,000 challenge funding identified by Scottish Natural Heritage cannot be increased.

This will not go far to assist local groups from as far as Orkney to Tiree to set up self-financing schemes.' He welcomed Ms Cunningham's announcement that the EU commission had indicated that it intends to authorise the licensed sale of wild goose carcasses until March 2019, but added the deadline would not allow for businesses to plan and invest to develop marketing and sales.

Drivers warned to look out for deer

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

WITH clocks turning back last weekend, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has warned motorists, including those using Lochaber roads, that collisions between deer and vehicles peak at this time of year.

With night falling earlier, the peak commuting time coincides with deer coming out to feed on grass verges near roadsides.

Because of this, SNH, in conjunction with Transport Scotland and Traffic Scotland, is placing warning messages on electronic road signs.

From Monday until November 20, the signs will warn motorists at key locations on the main trunk roads. These messages will be seen on signs on the A9, A87, A82, A85 and the A835.

A report released earlier this year commissioned by SNH and Transport Scotland revealed collisions between vehicles and deer have increased by 10 per cent in Scotland since previous figures were collated.

The report showed that from January 2013 to December 2015 more than 4,600 recorded collisions between vehicles and deer on Scottish roads were submitted. However, taking into account the many incidents which go unreported, the report estimates the true figure could be as high as 9,000 per year, resulting in 50 to 100 human injuries.

The highest number of collisions occurs in early evening through to midnight, with a slightly lower peak from 6am to 9am.

Over the past 50 years, the number and range of wild deer



Road collisions between deer and vehicles peak at this time of year. Photograph: Langbein Wildlife.

in Scotland have increased, while the volume of road traffic has almost doubled in the same period. This combination has led to higher deer-vehicle collision rates across the country, with the greatest increase in Aberdeenshire, Fife and the central belt.

This corresponds with the rise in the populations of roe deer, which are highly adaptable to lowland habitats.

Red deer are regularly involved in a significant proportion of reported deer-to-vehicle collisions in five council areas, especially Highland and Argyll and Bute.

Jamie Hammond, SNH deer

management officer, explained: 'From October to December, there's a higher risk of deer on the road as deer move down to lower ground for food and shelter.'

'The highest risk is from sunset to midnight and shortly before and after sunrise. Particularly in these peak times, we advise motorists to slow down and watch for deer crossing roads.'

'Be aware that if you're driving near woods, deer can suddenly appear before you have time to brake. If you do hit a deer, report it to the police even if you're uninjured and your car isn't damaged, as the deer may be fatally injured and suffering.'

Dr Jochen Langbein, who oversees the Deer Vehicle Collisions Project, added: 'In Scotland, as in the rest of the UK and many other European countries, wild deer numbers have increased significantly over recent decades.'

'When traffic volume is taken into consideration, the risk of a collision with a deer is about twice as high per vehicle-mile driven in Scotland compared with England.'

'Many people think most accidents with deer and vehicles occur on more remote Highland roads but in Scotland at least 40 per cent occur on A-class trunk roads or motorways.'

Motorists face lengthy A82 detour

MOTORISTS on the A82 face lengthy daytime detours as major roadworks on the Loch Lomond-side stretch of the road begin on Monday morning.

The A82 between Tarbet and Crianlarich will be closed from Monday November 6 to Tuesday November 21 between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

The closures mean road users will have to take a detour through Inveraray and Dalmally, adding 35 miles to some journeys.

Multiple projects are being carried out throughout the closure period involving more than 50 workers, at numerous locations. These will involve some 'static' sites, however, many of the operations are mobile meaning there is the possibility of encountering workmen at any point within the site limits. Local access will be maintained for properties and businesses within the closure area. Residents and business users should be prepared to give their destination address on arrival at Tarbet or Crianlarich closure points.



Whitehouse Restaurant chefs Mike Burgoyne and Lee Myers with the award.

Lochaline restaurant best in Scotland

THE WHITEHOUSE Restaurant in Lochaline won the prestigious Restaurant of the Year title at the recent Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards 2017.

The glittering awards ceremony, hosted by Jay Rayner, award-winning writer, journalist and broadcaster, was held in the Kingsmill Hotel, in Inverness.

Judges praised the Whitehouse for championing the produce on its doorstep including wild venison, beef and lamb from an estate a few miles away, fish from local suppliers and vegetables grown behind the restaurant.

'The head chef is clearly passionate about putting

local produce on his plates in the form of inventive recipes that are bold, accomplished and, of course, seasonal,' they added, saying even the menu was a joy to read, singing as it did with quirky descriptions of culinary creations that showcase the skill at play in the kitchen and the wonderful local produce at its disposal.

Head chef Mike Burgoyne said: 'It means a lot to have this recognition from the Highlands and Islands Food and Drinks Awards.'

'They do a fantastic job spotlighting the incredible producers, products and places to eat in the Highlands and we are delighted to have won.'

Kyle of Lochalsh lifeboat crew finds walker in coastal woodland

VOLUNTEER crew from Kyle of Lochalsh lifeboat were called out late on Saturday night after a lone female walker became lost in the dark whilst walking in the Kinloch area of Skye.

Kyle lifeboat Spirit of Fred Olsen launched at 9pm at the request of the UK Coastguard after the walker called Police Scotland when she became disorientated whilst walking on the Kinloch coast.

The lifeboat arrived on scene at 9.20pm and began searching. Crew set off a flare to light up the area and found the woman who was signalling with a torch from dense woodland a short distance from the shoreline.

A crew member was put ashore by the lifeboat and they began walking towards the casualty's location, however,



The Kyle lifeboat which was called out on Saturday night after a walker became lost.

because of the very dense vegetation this took some time.

By the time the crew member reached the casualty and confirmed she was uninjured, coastguard teams had arrived on scene and the lifeboat crew member walked the casualty to meet them.

Once the casualty was handed over to the coastguard and Police Scotland teams at 10.10pm, the lifeboat returned to Kyle where she was refuelled and made ready for service by 10.50pm.

A Kyle RNLB spokesperson said: 'The walker knew the

area where she was walking well and was equipped with a torch. When she became disorientated in an area of very thick woodland and realised she was lost and her mobile phone battery was almost flat, she did the correct thing and called the emergency services.'

THE NEXT meeting of the Fort William branch of the Scottish Women's Institute will be held on Monday November 6 in the Montrose Centre, Inverlochy, at 7.15pm.

BALLACHULISH Community Company will hold its annual general meeting on Thursday November 9, starting at 7pm, in the village's Jubilee Pavilion. Members and residents are welcome to attend.

WOMEN'S Aid will be hosting its annual general meeting at 5.30pm on Wednesday November 15 at Voluntary Action Lochaber's offices, An Drochaid.

The meeting will be an opportunity to find out about the group's work over the past year and their hopes and plans for a future free from domestic abuse. Refreshments will be served. To attend, phone Lochaber Women's Aid on 01397 705734.

AN AFTERNOON of workshops, live music and shopping with small local businesses and artists will be held at the Railway Social Club, Inverlochy, on Saturday November 18. Tickets £5/under-16s free.

LOCHABER Camanachd Club will now hold its annual general meeting in the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge, on Friday December 1 at 7.30pm.

This is a change of date from previously advertised.

What's On in Lochaber

THERE will be an open day at West Highland College UHI on Saturday November 4, from 11am-3pm, offering people the chance to meet staff and learn about higher education opportunities.

LOCHABER Phoenix boxers will be in action this Saturday, November 4, when the club hosts its latest show at the Nevis Centre. Boxers from all over Scotland will be taking part with European medallists, GB champions, Scottish champions and internationalists all featuring.

Bouts start at 8pm with doors open at 6.30pm.

Tickets are available from the Nevis Centre or anyone connected to the club.

The club is also holding an open day at its gym at Ben Nevis Industrial Estate on Saturday November 11 from 12.30pm until 4pm. The event will take the form of an inter-club boxing and sparring session.

The open day, including a raffle, will help raise funds for Fort William man Gary Campbell to receive stem cell treatment in his battle against MS. Treatment for Gary is only available in Mexico and will be self-funded. For more details call 07747 196765.

A BUTTONS and Bows Concert will be held in Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, on Saturday November 4, at 7.30pm.

Tickets £7. Tea and coffee will be served.

Contact any of the hall committee or Bobby on 01397 700268 for tickets.

NETHER Lochaber Community Association is holding a community event on Sunday November 5.

The association is developing a new picnic site and view point at the side of Gleaner Oil's fuel stop in North Ballachulish. Permissions and funding are in place and the next priority is clearing the overgrowth and levelling the site, ahead of surfacing the area. Meet at Gleaner Oils, Onich, at 10am. Folk can join the event for the day or just an hour or two. Contact netherlochaber-ca@btinternet.com

FORT William Accordion and Fiddle Club is holding a musical evening on Tuesday November 7, at 7.30pm, in the Railway Club, Inverlochy. Guest artists are Gemma Donald and Alan Small. Everyone welcome. Admission £5. Tea and raffle extra.

STAFF and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will visit Mallaig on Tuesday November 7. From 2-3pm, representatives will be based at Mallaig Medical Centre to offer help and advice to anyone with a hearing or sight loss. The team will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries, re-tune the hearing aids and help with any other difficulties. No appointment required.



inspire • connect • inform

ARGYLL ENTERPRISE WEEK
6 Nov - 10 Nov 2017

Last chance to book for Argyll Enterprise Week

With just a few days to go until the launch of Argyll Enterprise Week 2017, it's the last chance to book a place on one of the themed days aimed at supporting growing businesses.

Argyll Enterprise Week brings together industry experts and successful business owners to offer advice and informal networking opportunities on a range of leading sectors in Argyll and Bute.

From international trade to tourism, getting your business on line to food and drink, and creative industries to community-led development, there's a wide range of events and seminars to choose from.

Taking feedback from last year on board, this year's events will stretch from Oban in the north to Campbeltown in the south, taking in Helensburgh, Dunoon, Lochgilphead and Arrochar.

Speaking about last year's event, delegate Barbara Smith said: 'You can google to your heart's content, but you won't necessarily get a good grasp of what these people do and how it relates to you unless you speak to them.'

Jamie Delap, who also attended Argyll Enterprise Week 2016, said: 'It's all about trying to spark off from each other it's looking for interesting ideas that other people have got and thinking, that's a great idea, I can try that with my businesses. We found getting things done in Argyll and Bute is fantastically easy. You can meet the decision makers, build up a relationship build on some trust. It's a really easy place to do business.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, Leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'We have worked with industry partners to target what's most important to them, increased opportunities for informal networking and, most importantly, we'll be letting you hear from people who have made a real success of their business in Argyll and Bute. This is all about supporting our local businesses to grow and prosper.'

David Smart, HIE's head of special projects in Argyll and the Islands, said: 'These events are free to attend so please make sure you take this last opportunity to book your place. Argyll Enterprise Week will focus on areas of potential expansion and offer up some of the tools you need to help your business prosper.'

Argyll Enterprise Week is delivered in partnership by Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), and the business community. To book tickets for your preferred event go to Argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.co.uk.

Find out what is going on in your area and book your tickets

at www.argyllenterpriseweek2017.eventbrite.com or call

Argyll and Bute Business Gateway team on **01546 604555**

FW

Moidart

MOIDART History Group – Comann Eachdraidh Mùideart – is looking for more local members to join its friendly, informal group.

Started by Gordon Barr in 2000, the group has a small local membership and a large supporting membership from around the world, especially in Australia and Canada.

From September to May it holds monthly meetings, open to everyone, which include illustrated talks on topics of local or wider Scottish historical interest, archaeology and genealogy. During late spring and summer, the group runs the Moidart History House, based in Glenuig.

Over the years members have acquired an ever expanding archive of stories, anecdotes, data, maps and photographs about the history of Moidart.

This easy-to-use archive is held in the group's History House, now sited by the Glenuig Community Shop, and is open from Easter to the end of September.

At the moment it opens once a week during the main season and twice

a week in July and August. Admission is free.

The group is happy to open the History House by appointment outwith normal opening times. It is aware local people cannot always come during the week and opening on Sundays, along with more frequent opening times, are being considered.

The group needs more helpers, not experts, to open more often, especially at weekends.

The only qualification is to like talking to people; the rest is easy.

The website www.moidart.org.uk has a wealth of information on every aspect of local history. The website is updated regularly and includes information on the winter programme and the opening times of the History House.

Membership of the group is £5 per year - £6 if you join through the website.

Email ariel@moidart.org.uk or call 01687 470254 or 01687 470268 if you would like to know more about the group, get involved or make an appointment to see the History House.

Arisaig

ARISAIG branch of the Scottish Women's Institute held its first meeting of the 2017-2018 session on Friday October 20.

Guest speakers were Silvia and John Arnold who entertained with tales of their exploits in their camper van searching all over Europe for wild flowers. The photos were varied and stunning.

The speakers were followed by the branch's

business agenda for the year. The tea hostesses were Rosie MacEachen and Anne Cameron.

Competitions: A wild flower/seed head posy - 1 June Cairns; 2 Yvonne MacDonald; 3 Helen Lamb. A holiday snap - 1 Anne Cameron; 2 Helen Lamb; 3 June Cairns.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 16, in the Astley Hall at 2.30pm.

Ballachulish

AN INTERNATIONAL charity with more than 20 years' experience of bringing the benefits of music therapy to people around the world has been working in a Lochaber care home.

Music as Therapy International has been training staff at the Abbeyfield care home in Ballachulish, a nursing and residential care home for elderly people with dementia.

The project aims to give staff the skills to use music therapy techniques with the residents, giving them the chance to make music together, build stronger relationships and form a new way to communicate their feelings.

The project has been run by local music therapist Clare Reynolds, who first volunteered for the charity

in 1999, delivering a six-week skill-sharing project in Romania.

It is just one of the charity's many projects in its 'Bringing It All Back Home' initiative launched last year. Other similar projects have taken place around the UK.

Clare, one of only three qualified music therapists in the Highlands, is delighted with the success of the project and how receptive and enthusiastic the staff at Abbeyfield have been.

There have been some wonderful sessions, both individual and group, that have seen some positive responses from residents and Clare is confident the newly-trained staff will go from strength to strength in delivering music sessions.



The Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge will be the focus for a Remembrance Day ceremony.

Remembrance Day arrangements confirmed

ARRANGEMENTS for this year's Remembrance Day parades at Fort William and the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge have been confirmed.

Remembrance Day this year is Sunday November 12. The event in Fort William will see units taking part meeting in Viewforth car park at 10.30am.

The colour party will

march on and halt in front of the Royal British Legion at 10.39am. The parade will then march off at 10.40am, led by Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, and head for the war memorial.

Roll calls will be read out for the First World War, Second World War and other conflicts, starting at 10.52am.

The Last Post will be

sounded at 10.58am ahead of a two-minute silence at 11am. The Royal Marines trumpeter will then sound Reveille and a piper will play Flowers o' the Forest. There will be readings and prayers after the silence, followed by the laying of wreaths.

The colour party will march off parade at 11.14am. The church ser-

vice will follow afterwards.

There will also be the traditional service at the Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge, at 3pm on Remembrance Sunday.

Organisations will muster at 2.45pm at the lay-by on the south side of the memorial and at 2.50pm will march northwards to the memorial using the old Gairloch Road.

Caol



Kilmallie Free Church in Caol was the venue for a successful Highland Senior Citizens Network and Age Scotland networking/information day.

Fort William

Some of the winners from the highland dancing competition staged at Lochaber High School. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan.



A LARGE number of entries made the recent Nevis Highland Dancing Festival in Fort William a fantastic event for competitors and spectators.

Staged at Lochaber High School on Saturday October 21, the festival included some fantastic displays of dance.

For a full list of first, second and third places, visit the *Lochaber Times* website at www.oban-times.co.uk

Corpach



From left: Pdraig McNeil, Nico Scally, Ruairidh Mills and Stuart Matheson who work at BSW Timber Group's Fort William sawmill. Photograph: Rebecca Lee Photography.

BSW Timber shortlisted for award

BSW TIMBER Group, which operates Kilmallie Sawmill at Corpach, has reached the finals of the Scottish Apprenticeship Awards, organised by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) in partnership with Arnold Clark.

BSW Timber Group is hoping to take the honours in the large employer category, sponsored by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, at the awards in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum and gallery next month.

Tony Lockey, group learning and development

manager with the company, which has its headquarters in the Scottish Borders, believes apprenticeships brings local communities into BSW Timber Group's workplaces, such as its sawmill operation at Corpach.

He said: 'We are training our own 'ready built' people. 'We offer good quality jobs, which are sometimes challenging to find in rural areas.'

The family-owned company has 510 employees and 19 apprentices in Scotland, including Scotland's first female saw doctor. Saw

doctors change, sharpen and service saws and carry out quality checks.

SDS chief executive Damien Yeates added: 'This year we had a record number of entries for the awards and the calibre of the finalists is outstanding.'

'Employers like BSW Timber Group are tremendous examples of the success of apprenticeship training and it is great to see its personal and professional commitment to work-based learning being recognised in this way.'

'I wish them all the very best for the awards.'

RETRO
Roamer

More 'Roamerisms' from the late 1980s

I was reading the *Lochaber News* from November 1934, printed and published by D Stewart, Tweeddale Gardens.

There was a story about more than 100,000 gallons of water being lost in Lochaber every day.

Following a town council meeting, it was announced the burgh surveyor was to get an electric stethoscope to detect where the leaks were occurring.

There wasn't exactly a daily flood warning, you understand, but almost a million gallons of Lochaber water disappearing every week was of great concern to the Provost.

At that particular time, the *Lochaber News* featured two local characters, Sandy and Jock. They often appeared in topical cartoons and, on this occasion, were featured with Sandy saying: 'I see the burgh surveyor is going to get a stethoscope to find out where the leaks are.' That brought a reply from Jock: 'Does he no' think that, with so many on the dole and whisky and beer so dear, local people are drinking a lot more water nowadays?'

John Steel was making 'a crisis out of a dram' on Monday morning. A case of whisky fell off a shelf, hit John on the shoulder and landed on the shop floor. Glass and Black Label fumes everywhere. It wasn't just the whisky that was fuming, for John was giving it some black looks, I can tell you. In between some very deep breaths John declared: 'That's got to be the most expensive carpet tile shampoo in the world. And I'd just signed the delivery note for it.' Typical John, he certainly turned it into a famous grouse.

Then I met Norman. He, too, was feeling a bit sore about something. And 'bit' was the operative word. 'A damn dog bit me,' he complained. 'Whereabouts, Norman?' asked I, trying to commiserate and be considerate. 'Up the Plantation,' replied Norman. Says I: 'Aye, but whereabouts?' Back came Norman with: 'In Kennedy Road.' Altering tack, I queried: 'But where on your body did it bite you?'

Norman rolled up his trouser leg and showed me two fang marks. 'There!' he pointed. So Norman is going to the council, his employers, to make it known that all local dogs should be kept on the lead and not on his leg.

A secret session of that very council appears to have had the members agog as to whether the A82 bypass through An Aird will get the go-ahead. Readers may recall that six months ago the mooted extension from the transport centre to the kennels was due to be re-named 'The White Elephant Cul-de-sac disconnected to the Road to Nowhere'.

Meanwhile, a lot of people have been sympathising with me because I keep getting left out in the cold at these private/secret district council meetings. So I anticipate a few more words of condolence this week because, having presented myself at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday for the historic first sheriff court/district court hearings there, I discovered the cases were being taken in camera.

It was certainly 'something completely different' in legal circles, with the court officials first of all having to perfect the art of knocking loudly enough on the Masonic Hall's massive door for the bar officer to let them in. Aye, first it was Maryburgh Court, then Victoria Court and now Masonic Court.

Have you noted the ScotRail specials this week? Not trains, you understand, but red buses. Glenfinnan Viaduct isn't taking the strain at the moment as it is being refurbished. So rail passengers are having to take to the A830. Hence the red bus destination panels are carrying the description 'ScotRail special'.

The house stocks of coal were rapidly diminishing. So Mr Cameron phoned, and phoned again, with no response. So he stopped the lorry next day and was promised a delivery. It didn't materialise. Mrs Cameron had a go at her man, creating about what he was going to do about it. Eventually Mr Cameron elicited an unconditional response from the merchant that the coal would arrive last Thursday. 'I'll believe it when I see it,' said his missus. Ah, but then Mr Cameron played his trump card. 'They'd better come,' said he. 'But I've left a notice in the coal shed just in case.' The message? It read: 'Coalman. If you don't deliver today don't bother coming back.'



Upper Achintore, Fort William, 1928.

Roamer 1957 style - 30 years ago. During the Monday Fast Day holiday, the High Street was congested with traffic for long periods. What changes? The cause? The 'Waiting this side today' and 'No waiting this side today' pole signs had not been swapped over. The town shopkeepers, aware that Monday was a 'Park on the Alister McDonald side of the street' day, did just that. But visitors followed the signs and parked on the Mairi Macintyre side. Traffic chaos ensued.

You may recall a wee bit in this column a few weeks back about Dougie Grant and his dietary difficulties when he was away working 'in the country'.

He got so much fish and fish fingers at his Mallaig digs that, when a knock came to the door while he was eating, he observed to his landlady, 'I hope it's the b--- butcher!'

I'm indebted to Skeegan for the next culinary chapter. He tells me Dougie had been in Mallaig on a plastering contract and every night for a week he had kippers, salt herring or fishcakes for his tea from the Seagull City landlady.

The following Monday morning, prior to heading for Mallaig again, Dougie went to MacDonald and Forbes and bought two pounds of sausages before catching the train. On arrival he went straight to his digs, hands the bangers to herself, and said: 'Could you make these for my tea tonight, please?' Landlady was a bit popped, but agreed.

After a hard day, Dougie sat down to his tea - a plate of potatoes, peas and six blackened sausage skins. 'What's this?', Dougie demanded, understandably as he looked, mesmerised, at the burnt offering.

'Oh,' replied the landlady. 'There's not much left in them when you've gutted them.'

The perfect gift for friends and family ... or your kitchen!



Our beautifully illustrated maps of the towns, regions and islands of the west of Scotland have been transformed into keepsake, gift-quality tea-towels.

At just £6.95, these make the perfect souvenir gift or special memento of beautiful Fort William and Lochaber AVAILABLE NOW!

In Person: Fort William and Lochaber Tea-Towels are available to buy in person from the Oban Times office at 22 High St, Fort William PH33 6AT

Mail Order: If you wish to order by telephone, please contact us on 01397 703003 For mail order, the total cost is £8.50 including postage and packaging.

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

Roads minister pledges to examine safety on the A85

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

TRANSPORT Minister Humza Yousaf has pledged to look into the measures being called for by *The Oban Times* in our campaign to improve safety on the A85.

Mr Yousaf said he is having surveys and reports prepared on the issue as he accepted a petition, signed by almost 300 people, from *Oban Times* deputy editor Martin Laing.

The petition – both online and printed in the newspaper since the beginning of this year – was signed by a total of 290 readers.

Appearing sympathetic to the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign, Mr Yousaf said on Monday during a visit to Oban: 'We have a number of reports being prepared at the moment and I will look into them when they are ready, but there are no overnight solutions.'

'I was looking at the possibility of double white lines and that is not an unreasonable request which I will give serious consideration to. And we are having speed reduction surveys done which are taking place right now and they will report back to me before the end of the financial year.'

'But even before that, I should be able to get draft initial assessments of what the impact might be. When you reduce speed limits there is absolutely a potential safety positive.'

The campaign and petition were launched this year as a result of a number of very serious accidents, several of them causing fatalities.

Mr Yousaf also visited the Kerrera ferry at Gallanach to see the new vessel there for himself and to meet CalMac staff who



Humza Yousaf accepts the petition from Martin Laing.

STAY Alive on the A85

have taken over the operation of the route.

He said: 'I am really delighted CalMac has taken over this service. There are some teething issues regarding the ramps, but these are being attended to. This is going to help us stop the trajectory of decline on our islands.'

Mr Yousaf was in Oban as part of the Convention of the Highlands and Islands, which saw Scottish Government ministers gather at the Corran Halls to discuss a number of issues, including digital connectivity, Brexit and the integration of health and social care.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing also outlined plans to begin work to identify Scotland's first aquaculture innovation sites.

CoHI was chaired by Deputy First Minister John Swinney, and also involved Scotland's Brexit Minister Michael Russell, who is Argyll and Bute's MSP, and

Mr Yousaf, who is also Islands Minister.

Mr Ewing said: 'Scottish ministers are attending the CoHI to listen to our rural communities, exchange ideas and strengthen the relationship between national and local government, stakeholders and local people.'

'It is always a pleasure to be in Oban, the gateway to many of our island communities and a key hub for much of our seafood trade on the West Coast. It is, therefore, a fitting location to announce that we are now commencing work towards identifying a range of aquaculture innovation sites around Scotland.'

'Fish and shellfish farming contribute £620 million to the national economy annually. Atlantic salmon production accounts for 90 per cent of the economic impact, supporting more than 10,000 jobs. Much of this is concentrated in our rural and island economies and it is important that we support the sector to explore new approaches which will allow sustainable and productive growth.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'We are delighted to host the Convention of the Highland and Islands, and to welcome colleagues to Oban to discuss topics of real importance to our rural and island communities.'

'Holding the convention in Oban also gives us a chance to highlight the significant regeneration work that has taken place in the town, and the development of the North Pier pontoons which are helping to bring more people to the area and contributing to a thriving rural economy.'

□ Dunbeg fights 300 homes because of road problem, page five.

It was all fright on the night!



Soroba Community Centre's first Halloween party was a major success. The Oban centre was crawling with creepy creatures, skeletons, zombies and superheroes, as well as petrifying princesses such as Gracie, three, and Sophia, two, above. 'What a fabulous turn-out and amazing costumes,' the organisers said. 'We hope you all had as much fun as we did and we hope you've all had a spooktacular Halloween.' Donations went towards a new Oban Community Centre.

Fireworks nights are set to be a real blast

HUNDREDS of fireworks will be sent shooting into the sky in Oban and Dunbeg this weekend.

Oban's annual fireworks spectacular, which is sponsored by BID4Oban, takes place this Sunday November 5 from 7.30pm at Oban harbour.

People will be able to watch from the bay as the display explodes over the water.

Oban is infamous for its fireworks due to a technical glitch in 2011 that resulted in all of them being released within a minute.

The video, which was posted onto *The Oban Times*' YouTube page, has been viewed more than 1.6 million times and has appeared on numerous prime-time television shows.

However, this isn't the only event taking place in Oban and Lorn. The Dunbeg community has rallied together and organised a fireworks display and bonfire on Saturday November 4.

The bonfire will be lit at 7.30pm at Lochnell Road car park. The organisers have asked everyone to leave their sparklers at home in order to keep children safe, but will have glow-sticks on sale as a substitute.

There will also be burgers, hot dogs, various other stalls and raffles on the night, with all proceeds going towards Oban High School Pipe Band.

James MacDonald and other volunteers will finish building the bonfire on the day, come rain or shine. 'It's still going ahead regardless of the weather,' James said.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Lochaber Ideas Week

November 13-17, 2017



Lochaber Ideas Week Dinner 2017

Inspiring creativity through collaboration in partnership with West Highland College UHI



worth over £30million covering frozen and ready meals, drinks and cookery books. Levi puts his success down to hard work (starting at 8am, home by midnight); believing in yourself, and not letting anybody get in the way; and finding a new spin on an old idea, rather than re-inventing the wheel.

As a celebration of the fantastic local produce we have in Lochaber the menu for the night will be made up of local produce including Great Glen Charcuterie who specialise in producing charcuterie using only wild Scottish venison.

The Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Ideas Week Dinner 2017 is in sponsored by

Twin Deer Law, who are delighted to continue their substantial support for Ideas Week over the last few years.

Twin Deer provide a niche and flexible specialist legal service to businesses and business people in every industry sector throughout Scotland.

Tickets can be purchased individually or in tables of 8. If you would prefer to receive an invoice for your booking, please contact the Chamber Office on membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk or by phone on 01397 705765 to arrange this.

Success comes down to hard work, believing in yourself, and not letting anybody get in the way

Levi Roots



After dinner speaker Levi Roots



Are you looking for new and exciting ways to creatively promote your business?

Come along to a panel discussion moderated by West Highland College UHI, on how to creatively promote your business in partnership with Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday 15th November at the Moorings Hotel at 9.30am

The panel will consist of Chris O'Brien (Destination Manager, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce), Frazer Coupland (No Fuss Events), John Sutherland (Steall Media), Heckie Cormack (Digital Marketing Officer & Lecturer in Computer Science at West Highland College UHI)

This event is in partnership with West Highland College UHI who offer a wide variety of courses from evening and leisure classes to BA (Hons). West Highland College UHI is situated in the heart of Fort William.

To find out more about West Highland College UHI please visit www.whc.uhi.ac.uk

FREE Tickets for all this event are available on Eventbrite or contact the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce office on 01397 705765 for more information!



Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lochaberchamber>



Lochaber Chamber of Commerce on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LochaberChamber>

FW

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There are few more vital services for a rural and remote area than good transport links. Being able to travel to and from the West Highlands is crucial for people's lives and our economic prosperity.

So it is with considerable concern that we report today on the strident complaints from Lochaber Transport Forum (LTF) about the performance of Abellio ScotRail, the Dutch-owned company charged with providing rail services into and out of the area.

As the LTF chairman Brian Murphy said: 'When the new rail franchise was awarded to Abellio, we were

promised improved services, new rolling stock and integrated fares. We are still waiting. It's why I call the West Highland Line the 'Cinderella Service'. Abellio ScotRail seems like it is just not interested in this part of Scotland.'

We share the frustration and disappointment expressed by Mr Murphy and other members of LTF.

Frankly, Abellio ScotRail has failed to deliver on its promises for Lochaber. Now our government ministers must act to force the company to improve as our economic and social wellbeing depend upon it.



Days gone by – August 1997

A glimpse back to the Glenfinnan Games from August 1997 this week, featuring Fort William piper Anna Macdonald and the young dancers who competed in the local competitions.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



MYTHS and legends of the supernatural are not as common a part of life now as they once were in the Highlands and Islands.

However, at Hallowe'en – Oidhche Shamhna – the remains of many ancient customs and beliefs prevail.

October 31 was the day in the calendar on which it was believed that the barriers between the natural and supernatural worlds were most traversable.

The countless stories of the supernatural reflected not only the strength of belief that was held in such metaphysical realms but also that these tales were a staple in the home-spun entertainment that was such an important part of everyday life in these parts in years gone by.

Before the days of radio, television, internet and all the other means of entertainment we fall victim to these days, there were storytellers in every township and houses that would be visited for entertainment.

Along with music, song, poetry,

politics, witicism, rhyme and riddle, stories of the supernatural played an important role in the realm of the traditional taigh cèilidh.

One such tale that is common throughout Scotland and has versions in countries worldwide, is that of *The Piper's Cave*. On Tiree, the story is localised with certain turns and with specific local references. Even on Tiree there are many variants on the tale and the following version is merely one among many:

'Late on a cold winter's evening far back in the mists of time, there was a gathering in a well-known meeting house at the west end of Tiree. Music and songs were flowing and a pipe of whisky from a near-by illicit still was adding to the atmosphere and celebration. Dominating the gathering and delighting everyone with his music was a very fine and famous piper, many say the best that was ever heard on Tiree.

'As the night grew in energy and fellow-feeling, so too did the compliments being paid to the piper. As is common with those who like to perform, with every compliment received, the piper's head grew a little. It was certainly true that he

was a distinguished player, but with the combination of atmosphere, the praise with which he was being lauded and the enhancing effects of a fine dram, his sense of self-importance grew beyond all bounds.

'The rain and wind rattling the windows outside accentuated the warm glow of the fire and the company inside. This was certainly a night that all would remember as one of the best cèilidhs in living memory. That was until the fateful and final compliment was given to the piper. No-one can remember who it was who said it, but for many years there was speculation over whether the intention was innocent or given with the poisonous intention of harm borne of veiled jealousy. The fact was that someone at the back of the room, said to the piper, "You are not only the best piper among men, but you could out-play even the fairies themselves!" At this the piper cried, "You are correct and I will go right now to the Uaimh Mhòr, the Great Cave of Kenevara to challenge the fairies themselves to a contest to win their pot of fairy gold". At this the room fell suddenly silent and sober.'

To be continued.



Social media

There was a big response to the news that Country Wide Events had cancelled a planned concert in Oban's Corran Halls by a Bee Gees tribute band because of poor ticket sales. Only 80 had been sold. The promoter said anyone who had bought a ticket would get a refund if they took it back to the Corran Halls. Niall M Cameron asked: 'When was this set up and why no advertising? Not that I'm interested in the Bee Gees but hate to see a venue like this not being properly advertised. Social media is a wonderful thing; please feel free to advertise. Still I'm staying alive but it is such a tragedy.'

Douglas Miller posted: 'Typical Oban attitude towards anything that gets put on. Expect to rock up on the night and pay to get in. Flyers were distributed widely in town. Yet you lot complain nothing goes on in Oban.'

Pearl Turnbull wrote: 'Sorry to hear this has been cancelled. My husband

Frank and I saw them in Eden Court Inverness earlier this year and they were absolutely amazing, best night ever. We would definitely recommend them as they sound just like the real thing.'

John Newlands pondered: 'Can they not just pretend that 80 people are 200? They have some skills in that area after all.'

Margaret Menassa suggested: 'In this day and age you would think the Corran halls or promoter would advertise on social media. Wider audience.'

Lisa Aitkenhead complained: 'Not seen this advertised, I would have been up for this.'

John Hill said: 'I've not seen this advertised anywhere, no wonder the ticket sales are low.'

Jacqueline Cullen agreed: 'I didn't see it advertised either.'

Pamela Mcleish exclaimed: 'Omg! What a shame.'

Malcolm Crooks wrote: 'What a "tragedy". Everyone must have been struck

down by a "night fever" and are just "staying alive".'

Laura Cook posted: 'Didn't know about it, or I'd have bought tickets.'

DT Gray commented: 'I've been to tonnes of gigs where the band would have been pleased to play to 80 people.'

Karen Anderson lamented: 'Didn't know about this. Needs better advertising in future!!!'

Angela Anderson said: 'Very sad to see this...'

Undine Achilles-Day wrote: 'I don't think these things get well advertised. They should have big billboards at the hall so people can see when they drive in what's going on!'

Catherine Farlow posted: 'What a shame.'

Fraser Macmillan said: 'You can't be serious ?????? Beejusus.'

Colin Macfarlane wrote: 'Typical Oban.'

Mary C MacLellan added: 'Not seen any adverts either!'

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Buy-out for Ulva would be a mistake

Sir,

Many crofters and hill farmers in Argyll must be following the North West Mull Community Woodland Company's bid for the 4,500-acre island of Ulva under the right-to-buy legislation, with scepticism and incredulity.

The question is not how the group will succeed in raising the £4.25 million and very likely more, but how they will be able to generate sufficient income to cover the annual running costs. They won't.

Basic transport costs to Mull from the mainland are notoriously high, let alone to one of its offshore islands, to name only one problem. Legislation, Brexit and keeping unproductive livestock will present others. Many have tried and failed and at the end of the day if the community bid goes through, Ulva will be a burden on the council taxpayers of Argyll and Bute for the foreseeable future.

Like it or loath it, land in remote areas has always needed constant injections of private wealth to sustain it.

The application leaves much to chance and the unknown. For example, the group lays great store on creating additional employment by building more houses, yet the current owners have been actively marketing two properties on the island for let at rents below local authority housing benefit levels for the past year and a half without finding tenants.

The disheartening thing about community buy-outs is the inference that private ownership is bad and that land owners fail to look after their property or employ more people. Some are more conscientious than others but on the whole it is a system which, with one or two exceptions, has worked reasonably well in the Highlands and Islands for the past 500 years without an alternative being found to please everyone.

The Howard family, who live on Ulva throughout the year and have shared in the daily joys and travails of the community there and on neighbouring Mull for three generations, have followed the fine adage that you never own an estate, it owns you, and with it comes a duty and a responsibility to those who depend on you.

In a week when Scotland's struggling NHS is bracing itself to make £445 million of cuts to balance the books and care homes are closing every week, is this the right time for the Scottish Government to be handing out a very large sum of public money to five people?

There is only one hope for Ulva and those who currently live there, and that is to allow market forces to prevail.

Iain Thornber,
Knock House, Morvern.

Thanks to the people of Fort William

Sir,

I would like, through your columns, to express my sincere thanks to the Fort William populace for the interest shown in my old MacBrayne's bus during Mòd week when it was parked on display in the High Street.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CHA BHIODH E na annas dhan mhòr-chuid a fhuair frithealadh bhuaite gun do nochd sgrùdadh air Seirbheis Nàiseanta na Slàinte gum bheil daoine a' cur luach mhòr air an ìre aire a tha iad a' faotainn.

A dh'aindeoin gainnead ionmhais agus iomadh targaid a th' aige ri choileanadh, tha luchd-obrach na seirbheis a' cosnadh meas agus buidheachas a' mhòr-shluaigh. Gun teagamh thèid rudan ceàrr aig amannan mar a thachras ann am buidheann mòr sam bith, agus 's e fìor bhuidheann mhòr a tha seo le faisg air ceud agus ceathrad mìle luchd-obrach. Agus aig ceann cuise 's iad luchd-obrach na seirbheis a tha toirt an toraidh riarachaidh seo dhuinn uile. Gu ìre tha sin fìor anns a h-uile suidheachadh far am bheil brìgh na h-obrach na sgàthan air moit an neach-obrach na phroifeiseantachd fhèin.

Bha meas air cosnadh ann an seirbheis na slàinte bho thòisich e seachdadh bliadhna air ais ach tha e coltach nach eil dreuchdan a bha uair air am meas nan deagh chosnaidhean le ìnne anns na coimhearsnachdan cho tarraingeach a-nise. Chan ann an

It clearly evoked memories for townspeople of all ages whether you went to school, to the shops, or travelled further afield. Some of you who either maintained, conducted or drove MacBrayne's buses also introduced yourselves and came forward with fascinating stories from those times, the most recent of which are now nearly 50 years old.

I was personally humbled but delighted at the reception. It is so satisfying for me to own a small piece of local transport history that is, through the name on the side of the bus, still connected to our national ferry operator CalMac. To its local tour shop staff and all the officials who came from the south, I add my grateful thanks for their support.

This is a two-way process. CalMac's heritage may extend back by more than 150 years, but the company is still every bit as important to West Coast communities and businesses as ever. It is not only a major employer but is a vital culture and tourism facilitator and the existence of the tour shop in the centre of Fort William serves to promote not only the delights of Lochaber but also the central location from which to explore so much of the West Coast and the islands that can be reached from here.

CalMac's ongoing support for the Mòd, wherever it is hosted, is ample evidence of its cultural importance.

I must also extend my personal gratitude to David and his staff at Shiel Buses for accommodating and looking after my ancient piece of transport heritage as well as their commitment in the provision of free transport to and from Mòd venues.

Finally, to all those involved in the not inconsiderable business of catering in whatever way for the masses during the week, thanks and well done.

Lawrence Macduff,
Kilmarnock.

Striving to ensure care is of high quality

Sir,

In reply to Councillor George Freeman's letter (*The Oban Times*, October 19), I can reassure him that the Health and Social Care Partnership has been involved for some time in supporting McKenzie Care at the Lynn of Lorne care home.

This has been both in response to the latest and previous reports from the Care Inspectorate, as well as monitoring carried out by health and social care officers locally.

I share the disappointment many have expressed regarding the quality of care provided at this particular establishment. I wish to see all those requiring care being delivered that of the highest possible quality – whether from external providers or that delivered in-house. Where anyone feels that care has not met expectations, I would be more than happy to meet them and discuss any concerns they may have.

The Care Inspectorate, as the independent regulator of social care services across Scotland, has a responsibility to publicly report on the quality of care, and support and encourage the development of services.

In Argyll and Bute, independent

providers are responsible for many areas of service provision. They have the absolute freedom to run services in the way they feel is best to deliver quality person-centred care in a safe and secure environment.

However, when these services are then assessed and areas for improvement are identified, Argyll and Bute will work together with the Care Inspectorate to assist the provider in bringing the service up to expected standards.

As a point of clarity, I would also like to correct Councillor Freeman's assertion that I am the chairman of the Integration Joint Board – this position rotates between appointees of the council and NHS Highland, and Robin Creelman, as an NHS Highland non-executive board member, is currently chairman of the IJB while I serve as vice-chairman.

Kieron Green,
Councillor, Oban North and Lorn.

Make sure children wear car seatbelts

Sir,

I witnessed a child being transported at the rear of an Argyll and Bute Council school minibus without wearing a seatbelt.

The minibus was being driving down from the Oban Primary campus area on October 23 at approximately 3.30pm at the roundabout near the fire station on Soroba Road. The driver was obviously unaware.

It is crucial to ensure all children are safely strapped in.

Stephen Jones,
by email.

Smacking ban would be hypocritical

Sir,

The SNP wishes to outlaw the smacking of children and to criminalise parents in the legitimate exercise of administering chastisement to an unruly child, after saying in April 2017: 'We do not support a ban as we do not think that would be appropriate and effective.'

Can the Scottish Government explain to the people of Scotland why it views abortion as something worthy and commendable while banning smacking?

This is what happens when the godless rule. They know neither right from wrong nor good from evil. They legislate for whatever is politically expedient.

How can it possibly be acceptable for a mother to abort her baby but the thought of smacking an unruly child is horrific violence and unacceptable?

God is clear – 'Thou shalt not kill' (Exodus 20:13) – not the unborn, not the disabled, not the sick, not the elderly, not the unloved, not the depressed, not the suffering, not the dying. When one is consistent and looks to a higher authority for guidance, you will find further wisdom on the subject: 'He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes' (Proverbs 13:24).

The Scottish Government is in direct conflict with God in both these areas – as well as others.

Susan Wallace,
Corpach, Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

ar bhon fheadhainn a tha ag iarraidh Brexit mu na cothroman cosnaidh ùra a thig na lùib is luchd-obrach Eorpach eile air am bacadh bho bhith tighinn an seo a dh'obair.

Ach tha fhios gum bheil na h-obraichean sin ann dha Breatannaich an-dràsta, agus carson nach eil iad a' gabhail nan cothroman? Am bheil Brexit dol a dh'atharrachadh cultar na dùthcha seo? Bheil dùil gum fàs fèin-spèis an t-sluaigh agus gum bi a h-uile duine nas dicheallaiche agus nas easgaidhe às leth na dùthcha? Hmm!

MOST OF THOSE with experience of the health service will endorse the recent Audit Scotland report which commended staff care and commitment. Teachers are generally equally valued for their work, but both teaching and the health service are experiencing recruitment challenges. Local and national government must ensure that core services which affect the lives of the entire population should always be attractive career options.

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

Press policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times,

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

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

be printed.

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



Young riders Daniel Parfitt and Cory Muir are joined by the slightly older Andy Rogers, on the right, at the start of the race.

Alex Dent dominates in West Highland Wheelers race

Cycling

A TOTAL of 25 riders took part in this year's annual West Highland Wheelers race from Fort Augustus to Fort William. The weather conditions were very favourable with light winds, no rain and even a little bit of sunshine which all meant that the autumnal views were almost as spectacular as the racing, staged at the end of last month.

Once again the race was won by a member of the Dent family – last year it was Stephen, this year it was his younger brother Alex, who finished the race in a time of 1 hr 48 mins (three and a half minutes ahead of the next rider).

There was a fierce race for second place, with Ed Daynes and Jamie Gall matching each other neck and neck until the final straight when Ed's sprint finish just pipped Jamie to the line.

Marie Meldrum was the first woman home in a time of 1 hr 59 mins and was fourth overall. It was great to see three youngsters (Cory Muir, Finlay Dempster and Daniel Parfitt) from the Wheelers kids' club attempting the race for the first time and putting in very respectable times.

Thanks were given to everyone who helped with the race organisation, in particular Ben, Jacqui, Dave and Evelyn.

Special thanks also went to Nevis Range for allowing the club to use its pick-up truck as a sweeper vehicle.

Entry fees from the race are being donated to mountain rescue.

The full results are as follows: 1 Alex Dent 01:48:21; 2 Ed Daynes 01:52:08; 3 Jamie Gall 01:52:15; 4 Marie Meldrum 01:59:01; 5 Cory Muir 02:05:14 (winner of the under 14 e-bike category); 6 Roddy Wells 02:06:46; 7 Charlie Munro 02:07:20; 8 Stephen Cant 02:14:05; 9 Alan Dent 02:16:20 (had a snapped chain and took a slightly alternative route); 10 Hannah Barnes 02:21:05; 11 Fiona Thompson 02:29:15; 12 Graham Ward 02:32:35; 13 Nix Forster 02:36:20; 14 Andy Rogers 02:40:32; 15 Gavin Power 02:41:16; 16 Stephen MacLeod 02:42:22; 17 Finlay Dempster 02:43:25; 18 Calum Maclean 02:45:06; 19 George Maitland 02:50:05; 20 Catriona Maitland 02:50:08; 21 Marian Austin 02:51:13; 22 Daniel Parfitt 02:59:48; 23 Diana Moffitt 04:09:53; 24 Linda Poll 04:20:09; 25 Clare Harley 04:20:19

Lochaber fall just short against league leaders

Lochaber	21
Glasgow Uni Medics	27
BT West Division 3	

DESPITE taking the lead in the second half, Lochaber Rugby Club couldn't quite overcome the league leaders from Glasgow on Saturday.

A brave performance from the Lochaber pack wasn't quite enough for the Banavie side to overcome the medics in what was a league and cup double header, with the result counting for the league and the semi-final of the bowl. Lochaber were due to travel to Glasgow University Medics, however, the fixture was reversed and the game played at Banavie as the medics' pitch was unplayable.

Lochaber were looking to put their poor performance from two weeks ago behind them as they took on the undefeated league leaders. And they started the game well with good pressure from the kick-off led to a Lochaber penalty being awarded. Jonathan McCook duly converted to give Lochaber an early lead.

Their lead didn't last long as the medics scored their own penalty. Lochaber were next to get some points on the board after Finlay Ireland fought his way across the line to get the

ball down in the corner. The medics then started to take control of the game, scoring three tries of their own. Two from the forwards picking and going around the ruck area eventually finding a hole in the Lochaber defence after sustained pressure on the line. The third came from an overlap out wide.

Lochaber ended the first half with McCook scoring his second penalty as Lochaber were starting to come back into the game. The sides went in at half time with the score at 11-20 to the visitors. Lochaber started the second half well but were struggling in the scrum after captain Callum MacDonald had gone off injured.

After some good Lochaber pressure, McCook narrowed the gap with another penalty. Lochaber were now growing back into the game and were awarded for their efforts when Findlay Ireland got his second try of the game and fifth of the season from seven games. With McCook converting, Lochaber had taken the lead 21-20.

But the medics weren't done and got their fourth try and a bonus point with another pick and go from the ruck. With time running out, Lochaber had possession in the medics' 22. They had several penalties but were



Euan Larter feels the full force of a tackle from the Glasgow University Medics defence.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

pushing for the converted try they needed to win the game.

In the last play of the game they did get the ball over the line just to the right of the posts and the players celebrated thinking they had won the game but then

the referee ruled that the ball had been held up over the line after one of the medics players got their hand under the ball.

With that the game ended 21-27 and Lochaber would have to settle for a losing bonus point.

Rugby

They are still fourth in the league and will take on Hyndland next Saturday at Banavie at 2pm.

Fort William Shinty Club celebrate end of season

THE ANNUAL end of season dinner was a special night for Fort William Shinty Club, in particular for retiring players Niall MacPhee and Bobby MacMillan,

who were gifted with trophies to mark their long service and dedication to the club over their playing careers. James Tangney was award player of the

year for the first team, while John Forbes was named player of the year for the second team. The ladies also marked the end of a successful season. Senior player's

player of the year was Shannon Wilson, most improved player went to Kayleigh Woods and Lexie Lopez scooped the junior player's player of the year.



Fort William Shinty Club award winners, left to right: long service and retiring player Niall MacPhee; most improved player (first and second team) Connor MacRae; first team player of the year James Tangney; long service, retiring player and joint second team player of the year; joint second team players of the year, Bobby MacMillan and John Forbes. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Ladies' shinty award winners with members of the development league team. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Boxers bow out of national championships

IT WAS a disappointing weekend for Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club as both of their two remaining representatives in the Scottish Novice Championships were eliminated in the semi-finals on points decisions.

Fifteen-year-old Eryk Wrobel lost by the tightest possible margin to Glasgow City's Darius Bavarsad on the Saturday. Eryk won the opening round by utilising his jab and straight backhand, making Darius fall short with his punches.

The next round saw Bavarsad come storming back into the contest as he closed the gap by

negating Wrobel's footwork that caused him trouble in the previous round. Everything hinged on the last round, as the boxers stood toe to toe and drove their punches out. The judges' 3-2 verdict to Bavarsad highlighted just how close the contest was.

On the Sunday, senior welterweight Dawid Jarzab faced another Glasgow City opponent in Essin Khan.

Whilst Jarzab possessed the heavier hands, Khan was the busier and outworked Jarzab on the inside. Each round was extremely hard fought with both boxers landing heavy shots to

send spray flying around the ring. Jarzab left everything in the ring and at times it looked like he might just overwhelm the Glaswegian but every time Khan came roaring back with big hits. The two fighters were exhausted when the final bell rang but it was Khan who progressed to the final.

Lochaber Phoenix boxers will be in action this Saturday when the club hosts its latest show at the Nevis Centre. Boxers from all over Scotland will be taking part with European medalists, GB champions, Scottish champions and internationalists all

Boxing

featuring. Tickets are available from the venue or anyone connected to the club.

The following Saturday, November 11, the club is holding an open day at its own gym at Ben Nevis Industrial Estate from 12.30pm until 4pm to help raise funds for local man Gary Campbell to receive stem cell treatment to aid his battle against MS. This is a good chance to see what is involved in the training of a boxer and to enjoy some sparring. Entry is free.

Hat-trick of wins for SLT Football

St Thomas	3
South Lochaber Thistle	5
Greater Glasgow AFL	

DESPITE being held up in traffic and forced into changing their line up with four players turning up mid way through the first half the Jags made it nine points out of nine in Glasgow on Saturday.

SLT dominated proceedings but didn't manage to fully convert their chances and that was the story of the game until around 80 mins. The match was at 2-2 when Munro finally converted with a low shot into the bottom corner.

St Thomas equalised soon after with a wind assisted 40-yard free kick over the hands of debut keeper Jamie Moan.

The game looked to be heading for a draw when Munro was put through on goal twice and finished both times to put the game to bed in stoppage time and round off a classic South Lochaber away win.

Lochaber clubs' lottery numbers

THE NUMBERS drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 10, 14 and 16. There were no winners this week. There will now be a jackpot for £200 for next Thursday's draw.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 5, 6 and 8. Two lucky Ballachulish men shared the £1,600 on offer – Ronnie Whyte and Willie Sutherland. Next week's draw will revert to a modest £200.

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 1, 4 and 6. There were no winners this week. There will now be £1,00 in the pot for next week's draw on Thursday, November 2.

Fort William FC game postponed

FORT William Football Club's match against Wick Academy in the Highland League on Saturday was postponed.

The Fort will be in action this Saturday, November 4, when they take on defending Highland League champions Buckie Thistle. The match is at Claggan Park with a 3pm kick off.

Fort William remain bottom of the Highland league with just one point so far this season. They lie two points behind second bottom Strathspey Thistle but with two games in hand.

Indoor winter league results

LATEST results from week two of Sammy's Indoor Winter League: Bor Fortmund 7, Expected Toulouse 1; Doghouse Thistle 7, Fiorentina Turner 1; HW Energy 1, Balla 4; Gozoz 6, Young Team 1; Portowcy 22, Arse N All 2; Snorting Lisbon 4, The Goon Squad 6.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
 DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
 T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
 Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Sunny
 Winds light Westerly
 Temperatures 8°C to 10°C.

Friday Light rain
 Winds moderate West South Westerly
 Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

Weekend Sunshine and showers on Saturday
 Sunny on Sunday
 Winds moderate Westerly
 Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 2, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	04.15	3.6	10.22	1.1	16.35	4.1	22.44	0.9
Fri	04.46	3.9	10.59	0.8	17.09	4.2	23.21	0.7
Sat	05.18	4.0	11.38	0.6	17.44	4.3	23.59	0.5
Sun	05.52	4.1	12.20	0.6	18.21	4.3	***	**
Mon	00.39	0.5	06.30	4.1	13.04	0.6	19.00	4.2
Tues	01.22	0.5	07.11	4.0	13.52	0.7	19.42	3.9
Wed	02.08	0.7	07.55	3.9	14.44	1.0	20.30	3.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

FRIDAY