

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Medic flights disrupted by fuel dispute

EMERGENCY AIR AMBULANCES CAN'T REFUEL IN OBAN AT NIGHT

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AN ARGUMENT over a light switch is preventing emergency helicopters refuelling in Oban.

Scottish Ambulance Service's 'Helimed' medical evacuation operation and police flights can no longer refuel after 5pm at Oban airport, due to a dispute between council airport staff and its refuelling contractor.

Now a senior paramedic manager and a former firefighter believe lives may be put at risk if the wrangle is not resolved quickly.

Paul Keegan, managing director of refuelling contractor Total Logistic Concepts, says the current layout of the airport makes it almost impossible for him to safely refuel helicopters without 'someone coming in to turn on the airport lights.'

He said the positioning of a

container some months ago has blocked his clear view of the airport runway - a problem he said can be solved by someone flicking a light switch in the control tower.

But a spokesman for Argyll and Bute council, which runs Oban airport, said it was aware of the issue and is planning to place refuelling barrels in Coll and Colonsay instead.

Former fireman and Oban community councillor George Berry, who raised the issue, said he had fought in the past for a full-time fire command at the airport, and is disappointed that the matter is not yet resolved.

He said: 'Someone will die before these people stop fighting. The councillors need to knock heads together.'

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I want to say how disappointed I am that this has arisen. I have raised the matter with the council and I hope the matter will be resolved as soon as possible.'

For 17 years, Total Logistics Concepts has refuelled helicopters for both police and ambulances, mountain rescue and for military operations from its base near to Oban Airport.

Paul Keegan said over the years the company has developed a working procedure, which is 'both safe and robust'. He continued: 'This involves keeping close radio and visual contact with the helicopter at both the landing and departure stage.'

Senior Scottish Ambulance Service staff have tried to negotiate with both parties in order that a compromise can be reached, but since August they have not been able to refuel at the airport after 5pm. Instead, the emergency staff are having to re-route to Tiree, or elsewhere, to refuel.

Paramedic manager Rob Dalziel for Scottish Ambulance Service told the council he was 'disappointed' with the lack of emergency fuel at the airport.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We have a lease in place until 2017 with a private company to be the sole supplier of aviation fuel at Oban Airport. The business hours that company wishes to operate are a matter for them.'

'We are aware of this issue and are working closely with the Scottish Ambulance Service to assist them to develop contingencies, one of which may involve the storage of barrels of fuel at our airports on Coll and Colonsay.'

A Scottish Ambulance Service spokesman said: 'We have been in ongoing discussions about the provision of night-time refuelling at Oban airport in the hope that they can come to an agreement as soon as possible.'

'In the meantime, we have made arrangements for extra fuel supplies at Tiree and Islay to refuel our helicopters at night, which ensures that air ambulance operations are continuing as usual in the Western Isles.'

The Fashionistas!



THE OBAN Times proved it is not just any old rag when it was awarded the Fasanta Design Award for 2014.

Staff members (left to right) reporter Louise Lee, reporter Steven Rae and production assistant Eilidh Orr modelled outfits on the festival's Community Catwalk on Saturday night.

The outfits were made by the models themselves, with a

little extra help from work colleagues and family members.

Each item was made from Oban Times newspapers and was either woven, pleated, decoupage, crumpled and tulle into shape.

The three outfits were made from special editions of the newspaper: Louise's from her favourite edition - The Royal

National Mod; Steven's outfit

was made from his lead stories and Eilidh from her work in layout and design.

There was even a barcode bra for Louise, a McCaig's Tower crown for Eilidh and a mast-head sporran for Steven.

Judge Amanda Millen said she was impressed by the number of techniques the team had put into designing their outfits.

Full Fasanta report on page 13

No Christmas visit for Connel seaman

INDIAN bureaucrats look to have put an end to Connel seaman Billy Irving's wish for a Christmas reunion with his pregnant girlfriend.

Former soldier Billy was arrested along with fellow crewmen off the Indian coast on October 12 last year for alleged weapons offences. The charges were quashed but are under appeal, so Billy now awaits the outcome of a Supreme Court hearing in December. Billy's girlfriend, Yvonne MacHugh, said: 'There's no legal reason why Billy is being held there. It is just bad administration from the Indian Police.'

Port Appin doctors prepare to opt out

ONE of the last remaining GP practices offering 24-hour medical cover has announced it is to opt out of the service.

Port Appin surgery has given three months' notice of the change, meaning the opt-out will come into force on February 1 next year.

NHS Highland has arranged drop-in events to discuss future arrangements on November 26 from 1pm - 3pm in Lismore Hall and from 5pm - 7pm in Appin Village Hall.

Mossfield match is 'safe' for children

A RISK assessment has been carried out ahead of Oban Camanachd's rescheduled match against Fort William at Mossfield this Saturday to make sure children will be safe at the game.

In a statement on facebook, Fort William chairman Duncan MacPhee said security arrangements had been made in response to concerns raised by his club's travelling support.

The match, a National Division title decider, was abandoned on September 27 after the referee was injured, sparking debates and disagreements on the pitch. Preview - page 25



WRANGLE: Oban airport

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Crisis talks on population

'WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR A HANDOUT, WE WANT A HAND UP', SAYS DEPUTY LEADER

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TWO SCOTTISH political heavyweights have given their backing to Argyll and Bute council as it begins to tackle an impending population crisis.

Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Carmichael, MP, and Scottish finance secretary, John Swinney, MSP, were speaking at the Argyll and Bute Economic Summit last Wednesday in Dunoon's Queens Hall.

The summit was called in response to alarming demograph-

ic projections showing Argyll and Bute's population will drop by 13.5 per cent by 2037.

The ominous statistics pointed to a major drop in the working age population and an increase of 73 per cent in the number of people aged 75 and over.

John Swinney said the Scottish government would be 'a willing participant' in Argyll and Bute's efforts to address population decline, while Mr Carmichael, a native of Islay, told the 150 delegates: 'Do what you do today, be strategic, and when you have your "ask", come back

to me, because I want to hear from you.'

Impressive presentations were made by Dunstaffnage-based marine consultancy SRSL, Bute Fabrics Ltd and Loch Fyne Oysters.

The council's deputy leader, Ellen Morton, gave a rousing speech in which she said: 'Today must not be a talking shop. It's not enough simply to say we need to work together - we actually do have to come together, in a structured way, and find ways to make things happen.'

'It will work if we want it to

work. It's up to all of us to make it happen. We are not looking for a government hand out, we want a hand up.'

Delegates also heard from Alex Paterson, chief executive of Highland and Islands Enterprise, who was one of the few speakers to offer up solutions.

Among those were making Oban a university town, creating a new road link between Lochgilphead and Dunoon and making the University of the Highlands and Islands the 'go-to' university for students from Argyll and Bute.



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More passengers for island airports

AIR PASSENGER numbers to island destinations have increased across the board for the past three months, with Barra seeing almost a quarter more passengers compared to 2013.

Figures released by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL), show that its airports in Barra, Tiree, Islay, Campbeltown, Benbecula, Stornoway and Sumburgh saw an increase in passenger movements, while Dundee, Inverness, Kirkwall and Wick have recorded a decrease.

In total, 398,353 passengers used the 11 airports between July and September this year, a small drop of 0.5 per cent on the same point last year.

At Tiree, passenger numbers rose by 16.8 per cent as a result of increased demand on the Oban and Glasgow routes, with Campbeltown benefiting from an upturn in demand on the Glasgow route and private commercial flights, recording an 11.6 per cent increase.

Barra was the strongest performer in percentage terms, with numbers up 22.4 per cent, while Wick's numbers have dropped 27.4 per cent.

'Yes' campaigners line up for council

SIX members of Oban's 'Yes' campaign have signalled their intention to join Oban community council, sparking the first elections for posts in a number of years.

Confirmation on whether an election for the six vacant seats will take place was due to be made public by Argyll and Bute Council this week, although the deadline for nominations passed a fortnight ago.

But The Oban Times understands at least eight people have put their names forward, of whom six had campaigned for a 'Yes' vote during the referendum.

One in four to miss out on wage rise

THE LIVING wage will rise to £7.85 an hour this month, but almost one in four Argyll workers will miss out.

The living wage, which is almost £1.35 more than the minimum wage of £6.50, is a voluntary scheme.

Figures suggest that 22 per cent of workers will not receive the pay increase because some Argyll employers do not recognise the living wage scheme.

Satellite tracking 'almost useless'

SATELLITES to keep track of offenders have been described as 'almost useless' by a police source. Police are considering the use of a global positioning system (GPS), but the source says Argyll's terrain would render the service 'very patchy'.

Police get a whiff of something else

AN 18-year-old woman has been reported for misuse of drugs after her Oban address was visited by police officers for an unrelated matter last month.

During the course of their visit, police detected a strong smell of drugs.



DRIVING FORCE: Lismore Community Transport chairman Julian Wormleighton (left) receives a cheque from Glensanda quarry's David Lamb as islanders welcome the new granny bus 15_145lismore01

'Granny bus' provides vital lifeline for plucky islanders

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A 'LIFELINE' community bus service on an Argyll island has been given a jump-start after taking delivery of a brand new vehicle, capable of carrying seven passengers at a time, and Oban North and Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson was on hand to declare the vehicle ready for service at the island's village hall.

The bus was paid for by a £12,000 contribution from the LCT and a £18,565 grant from

the Scottish government's Community Transport Vehicle Fund.

And there was further good news when David Lamb, quarry operations manager at Aggregate Industries' nearby Glensanda Quarry, dropped off a cheque from the company for £1,500 to cover maintenance and running costs for a year.

One granny bus user, islander Mary Macfadyen, said: 'The bus is an absolute lifeline. I haven't been driving for two years, so I don't know what I would do without it.'

'It takes me to my bridge club in the village hall, it takes me to the doctor and to Oban twice a month for shopping or to go to the hairdressers.'

'The drivers are so good giving up their time for nothing and they even carry your parcels into the house for you.'

'If it wasn't for the granny bus, I would never get out of the house.'

At the launch event last Thursday, islanders gathered to mark the occasion, with the two oldest residents, 94-year-olds Margerie McDonald and Chris Small,

cutting a celebratory cake baked especially for the event.

LCT chairman Julian Wormleighton thanked everyone involved with the project, including the 20 volunteer drivers, and read out a statement from Holyrood transport minister Keith Brown.

Mr Brown, who had been invited to attend but was unavailable, said he was aware of the importance of the bus, adding: 'The volunteers are to be applauded for all their time and hard work put in to provide it.'

'I hope those using it will enjoy the larger, more comfortable new vehicle and that it will allow the service to grow from strength to strength in providing this vital transport link that is so important to the island.'

Councillor Robertson also praised the islanders' endeavours, saying: 'Julian and the other trustees have done a fantastic job. I have huge respect and affection for this island and even by coming together today we have new ideas.'

'The island is flourishing and it takes you all to do that.'



KEY PLAYERS: Lismore's oldest residents Chris Small and Margerie McDonald look forward to using the new granny bus 15_145lismore02

Ferry van 'no go' ends in no dough

ISLANDERS on Islay were left without any bread after the regular delivery van was left behind on the jetty on the mainland.

Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has said it is looking at the case for vehicles carrying perishable food being a priority when allocating spaces on the ferry.

Lack of bread on an island where there is no bakery is a big problem, as Campbeltown's Argyll Bakeries manager Alex Russell explained: 'The bread lorry is booked on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Last Monday, we were in the queue at Kennacraig at 5am as usual. The ferry had to carry out a sea test due to some problem or other, and instead of coming back to port, it went straight on to Islay.'

'That meant we were left behind. When the next ferry docked, we were put into the standby queue and, of course, it turned out there was no space on

the ferry. Eventually the driver got to the island at 5pm.'

Mr Russell continued: 'I can understand that people on the island are angry. Bread is part of most people's staple diet.'

The bread was not delivered to shops until after they were closed

on Monday - meaning that there was a gap between Friday and Tuesday for people getting bread.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'The combination of technical issues and bad weather which prevent us running sea trials and getting ships back into service as

quickly as possible can be hugely frustrating for all concerned and we are grateful for the patience of customers when this occurs.'

'Dealing with the back log of traffic can also be a challenge, especially when it comes to prioritising who should travel.'

'This is normally not an issue when delays are short and there is adequate free space which can be used to accommodate extra traffic. However, when there are a significant number of vehicles, all with a legitimate right to travel, deciding that one customer has a greater need than another can be problematic.'

'We do accept, however, that there is a case for perishable foods like bread being given a degree of priority and are looking into the circumstances of this situation to understand what happened and to see what lessons might be learnt for the future.'



NO CRUMBS OF COMFORT: Alastair Redman's shelves lie bare as he waits in vain for a bread delivery to his Portnahaven store

MULL lines



ISLANDS YOMP: Wayne Hamilton and AJ MacLeod

Duo's yomp to remember

FORMER Royal Marines and Mull residents Wayne Hamilton and AJ MacLeod began a 'big yomp' the length and breadth of Mull and surrounding islands to place Remembrance crosses on all the war graves and memorials on the islands.

The two men began their week-long yomp - a term used by the Marines for covering long distances carrying heavy packs - last Saturday.

Wayne, a veteran of the Falklands conflict, said: 'It's an ideal time to do it in the run-up to Remembrance Sunday and particularly poignant to us, as it is the 350th anniversary of the Royal Marines this month. It's great to be doing the Mull Big Yomp.'

The duo started on Iona, and plan to march along the Southern coast of Mull before reaching Lochbuie. They will head north from Craignure, up to Salen, Ulva and Gometra, Dervaig and finish in Tobermory.

AJ, who served in Afghanistan, said: 'We wanted to do something to raise money and awareness for Poppy Scotland which is why we organised 'Mull Big Yomp'.'

'A portion of the money we raise locally is going toward the Old Folk's Christmas parties around the island as well. We have been astounded by the feedback and donations so far and are really grateful for everyone who has donated on our Virgin money site and on locations around the island. We are hoping for some bad weather so everyone gets their money's worth out of our suffering.' More information can be found on the men's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mull-Big-Yomp-2014/1460853550871175>



ROOM WITH A VIEW: the new hide at Fishnish

The glories of bay watch

A WILDLIFE hide has opened at the Forestry Commission Scotland's picnic site at Fishnish.

The hide offers views across the Sound of Mull and gives visitors the chance to watch seals, otters, sea eagles, dolphins and porpoises.

At an event to mark the opening Jan Dunlop, for Forestry Commission Scotland, said: 'The new hide should prove popular throughout the year, especially on wet and windy days like today. The hide provides visitors with a little protection from the weather, hopefully allowing families to get outside on rainy days to enjoy our fantastic scenery.'

Lorraine falls for charity

A BANK employee from Mull successfully abseiled off the Forth rail bridge to raise more than £1,100 for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

Lorraine McDonald, 52, branch manager of the Clydesdale Bank in Tobermory, completed the 165ft-abseil, alongside colleagues from other branches. Lorraine said: 'It was a tough but enjoyable and very rewarding experience.'

Helen Page, of Clydesdale Bank, said: 'We are very proud to support Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance and it's great our employees have completed this abseiling challenge to raise funds for the charity. Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance makes a vital contribution to communities right across Scotland.'

Trust members in the pink

STAFF and directors of Mull and Iona Community Trust were in the pink recently when they organised a get-together to discuss the progress of various island projects.

The group opted for a 'Wear it Pink theme' for the catch-up and raised £63 for Breast Cancer Research. Some interesting clothing from Castaways helped to break the ice.

Lensman snaps up award

A MULL amateur photographer has snapped up a prestigious national newspapers award for his pictures of insects.

Martin Jones of Dervaig won The Daily Mail wildlife photography competition 2014 - insect section.

TV presenter and naturalist Chris Packham was the judge and Martin says he was 'honoured to have been selected by him'.

Martin is a member of the community camera club 'Mull Through The Lens'.

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Oban house prices rise above average

THE AVERAGE cost of an Oban home has risen by six per cent between July and September, while the national average is five per cent - a Registers of Scotland report has shown.

Oban, with an overall average price of £145,605 was more expensive than Inveraray (£133,445) and Lochgilphead (£114,015), while Tobermory was (£178,493).

Oban's sold prices were still 52 per cent down on 2006 when the average price was £302,019.

Blackouts will not be a problem - MP

BLACKOUTS may be a regular occurrence this winter as the National Grid reaches saturation point in deep mid-winter, says Professor John Loughhead of the Royal Academy of Engineering. But energy secretary Ed Davey MP pledged: 'There will be no blackouts. Period.'

Still on track, says police chief

CONCERNS THAT NEWLY-FORMED 24-HOUR ROAD POLICING COVER IS UNDER THREAT FROM BUDGET CUTS IS DISMISSED BY TOP OFFICER WHO IS DRIVING ARGYLL'S UNIT

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ROUND-the-clock policing units in Argyll may face the axe in budget cuts, a former police officer and now Holyrood politician has claimed.

But Argyll's senior police officer, area commander Marlene Baillie, said there were no changes proposed for the county.

John Finnie, Independent list MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has attacked proposals to scrap 24-hour specialist road policing units cover for non-motorway roads, and to run the operations exclusively in Scotland's central belt.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Scottish government's justice committee, Mr Finnie asked questions about insider information he had received that from the beginning of next year, the only round-the-clock road policing units would be based in Glasgow, Motherwell and Edinburgh and tasked with serving the motorway network.

Mr Finnie called for 24-hour specialist policing of the Highlands' trunk road network to continue, and urged Police Scotland to devolve more power to local officers, restoring the

community policing ethos and avoiding the 'mistakes caused by centralised policy-making'.

Mr Finnie said: 'If correct, and I have no reason to doubt the veracity of the information given to me, then this would be another example of a decision made in and on behalf of central Scotland which disregards the rest of the country.'

'Any reduced coverage either in terms of time or geography will clearly impact on that undertaking. A major deterrent to would-be law breakers is the possibility of detection.'

'This is particularly the case with travelling criminals who must be intercepted on our road network before visiting crime sprees on remote and rural communities.'

'Whilst clearly the onus for that prevention does not lie exclusively with the road policing unit, any reduction in visibility has the potential to negatively impact on the prevention of crime.'

'I call on Police Scotland to rethink not only this decision which clearly impacts on local policing, but also to end the central policy-making which ignores local needs and that can best be achieved by devolving decision-making to local level and



DRIVING FORCE: Area Commander Marlene Baillie with her road policing team in Oban during the summer 16_145police01

returning to community-based policing in the Highlands and islands as soon as possible.'

Commander Baillie moved to reassure the Argyll public: 'There is no proposed changes to the current road policing structure that was successfully

introduced in Argyll and Bute in July this year.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, acknowledged the work of local police patrolling the roads: 'Of course there must be visible, active road policing in Argyll and Bute and as the local

MSP, I expect Police Scotland to deliver that.'

'However, if Mr Finnie lived in Argyll, he would be aware that this strong, visible presence is already on the ground, with patrols and other activity across the area.'

'I will continue to support Police Scotland and local police commanders in their work to ensure that our roads remain safe and, in particular, that the new drink drive limit is enforced, given what a strong contribution it will make to saving lives.'

Patrols are stepped up as second unit is hit by thieves

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TWO MORE industrial units at Oban's Glegallan Industrial Estate have been raided by thieves, exactly one week after a similar crime on the site.

Police in Oban described the pattern of thefts over consecutive weekends as 'a huge concern' and responded by issuing a warning to business owners and increasing patrols in the area.

Between Saturday and Sunday, thieves targeted the BEAR Scotland depot and Strathclyde Scaffolding Yard, stealing fuel and power tools.

Over the same time period the previous week, the storage yard at MacQueen Bros Removals and Storage was targeted and diesel, scrap metal and power tools taken from containers without high security locks.

The business has since improved its security measures

and given every customer a high security lock.

Owner Graham MacQueen issued his own warning to fellow business owners in the estate in particular and the county in general, adding: 'We are checking our CCTV but maybe we needed something like this to realise that Argyll is not the place it was.'

'You get people wandering into the area, breaking into things.'

'We are strengthening security but everyone must realise Argyll

is as vulnerable as anywhere now.'

Oban police CID confirmed two businesses at Glegallan had been broken into last weekend but stopped short of confirming incidents over both weekends were linked.

Asked if thieves considered Oban to be an easy target, acting detective sergeant Stuart McNae rejected the 'soft touch' description, saying: 'The town has 24-hour policing and CCTV, so

I wouldn't say it was a soft touch. 'But two weekends in a row is a huge concern and we are doing everything we can to address this.'

He added: 'There are a number of lines of enquiry that we are following up at the moment, but I would urge businesses to make sure things are locked away at night.'

'If anyone believes they would benefit from a crime prevention survey, be it for a commercial or

residential premises, then get in touch on 101.'

Oban police sergeant Mike Wood said: 'The thieves must have used a large vehicle, at least the size of a van.'

'If anyone has seen any suspicious activity in the area then please get in touch.'

'We are increasing patrols in the area and, as part of our direct policing plan, we will be giving all retail units in the area extra attention.'

The Christmas spirit is alive and well in Oban primary school, despite rumours

CONCERNS that Christmas had been cancelled at Oban's Rockfield primary school this year are 'wrong', an Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman reassured children and parents.

Some parents and teachers had reported that festive arrangements at the school were changing and there would be no traditional 'Nativity play' in the lead up to Christmas.

One member of staff, who did not want to be named, said:

'We were told that there were no learning outcomes to be had from the school's annual Christmas activities and this year some of them were not going ahead.'

However, a spokeswoman for the council issued a 'bah Humbug!' to the rumours: 'This is wrong. Rockfield primary school is planning a Nativity play, Christmas parties, a holly tea fundraiser and traditional church services.'

New charity will provide additional help to combat scourge of addiction

A SPECIALIST drugs and alcohol treatment charity has been awarded contracts to provide services to individuals in Argyll and Bute for the next three years.

Called 'Addaction Scotland', the charity will provide addiction recovery services for men and women across the county, the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership ADP announced on Tuesday.

As part of its contract, Addaction Scotland will offer employment opportunities, where it considers it the appropriate course of action, to employees of the current service providers.

Andrew Horne, director of Addaction Scotland, said: 'Our aim, in Argyll and Bute, is to create a recovery service that is accessible to all people who require and will benefit from our services.'

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Show the love for the town with retail voucher scheme

SHOPPING locally this Christmas is one of the surest ways of supporting the local economy.

One of the best ways to do it is by buying local gift vouchers such as the Love Oban vouchers, says business improvement company BID4Oban. With new outlets starting to sell the Oban vouchers, it is good news for both business and customers.

BID4Oban chairman Graeme Bass said: 'Love Oban is a very straightforward voucher scheme introduced by BID4Oban in 2013 to encourage local

people to support local businesses by giving gift vouchers that can only be spent in Oban.'

'Shoppers buy £5, £10 or £20 vouchers from a single location in town and give them as gifts for birthdays, weddings, Christmas and anniversaries. The recipients will then be able to redeem their vouchers as full or part payment for goods or services in any of the participating businesses in the town.'

The vouchers are sold in The Sports Shop in Argyll Square and Webster of Oban Photographic Centre at the top of George Street.

Ceilidh will set high note to raise funds for school's trip

MUSICIANS from Oban high school are ready to play for their supper as they host a fundraising ceilidh to help pay for their attendance at New York's Tartan Week.

In April next year, the music department will take 40 children to the parade, a group that represents the school's pipe band, traditional school of music and choir.

They will play in venues such as Times Square and Central Park.

But in an effort to offset some of the costs of the trip - the group

needs thousands of pounds just to transport instruments and equipment - they are holding a ceilidh in Skipinnish Ceilidh House tomorrow (Friday).

There have already been a number of generous donations to the cause: the venue and the band, Ceol an Aire, are free of charge and acts such as Skerryvore, Julie Fowllis and Eddi Reader have donated prizes to a raffle and auction.

All three Oban high school groups will perform, as will the popular high school Highland dancers.

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EUAN PATERSON REPORTS ON THE COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT THAT ASKED THE BIG QUESTIONS AND PROVIDED SOME THOUGHT-PROVOKING ANSWERS

Money pledge to stem brain drain

DAVID MacBrayne's managing director says the ferry company is willing to commit 'significant spend' in education to help prevent a brain drain of Argyll's engineering talent.

Martin Dorchester has made the commitment following the Argyll economic summit, where he explained to *The Oban Times* that the average age of a chief engineer within the company was 57.

He said: 'In the next decade we are facing a severe demographic challenge, which is exacerbated by higher wages being offered in the North Sea and the oil industry which is very attractive to our younger chiefs and masters.'

'David MacBrayne sees education and vocational training as a key ingredient and as such would be happy to commit significant spend with local colleges that offered vocational maritime/engineering training and courses.'

A hard-working and generous lot

PEOPLE in the west Highlands are among the most industrious in Scotland.

Figures published by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) show that Argyll, particularly the Hebridean islands, has among the highest rate of self-employed people in the country.

Some islands and coastal communities in the county have as much as 26 - 33 per cent of the economically active population in self-employment.

And people in Argyll work more hours than most. At least 20 per cent of residents work more than 49 hours per week, rising to between 28 - 32 per cent in some areas.

A most 38 per cent of people from Argyll, the Highlands and Western Isles have volunteered at least once a year between 2009 - 2010.



THE YOUNG ONES: Mark Stephen (far right) interviews the youth panel, Ewan Macdonald, Alana Mathers and Stewart MacLennan

Give us something to come back to, say young people

MORE of Argyll's young talent would remain in the area if more jobs and housing were available - and the future of schools was more secure.

That was the message delivered to Argyll and Bute's economic summit when chairman of the event, broadcaster Mark Stephen, interviewed three young people who currently work in the county.

Tiree's Stewart MacLennan, 32, who helps to run the family haulage business MacLennan Motors; Ewan Macdonald, 21, a development worker with project management firm Gregor Cameron Consultancy; and Alana Mathers, 23, development and marketing officer with The Walking Theatre Company were all asked how Argyll and Bute could hold on to its young people.

The issue had been addressed by Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Carmichael, who said Argyll should not try to

hold on to school leavers but give them the incentive to return. He said: 'There is a fundamental interconnection between economy and growth and population mass.'

'You won't keep that critical mass in your community if you don't have economic growth to keep them there. At the same time, you won't grow economies without that critical mass.'

Explaining he wanted to leave his home on Islay in order to become a solicitor, he said: 'When I was 17 on Islay there was no way you could call me a "reluctant leaver".'

'If we've got young people good enough to go and compete in the top academic institutions, then we should be doing everything we can to encourage them to take these opportunities, then give them something to come back to when the time is right for them.'

Stewart MacLennan told the summit how he and his wife moved back to his native Tiree

to raise their family but insisted his years away were the best of his life.

He said: 'All through university I was never going back to Tiree.'

'But the fact I've gone back there to live shows that over a period of time you appreciate how special a place it is.'

'My wife is a teacher and had a good job in Glasgow but we thought we would try Tiree for a year.'

'Fifteen couples had children at the same time on the island, so there was a whole niche of people our age with children and we fell in love with the lifestyle.'

'The quality of life for our four-year-old girl, compared with friends of ours with children the same age, is so different.'

'But she is starting school next year and we don't know what's going to happen with the school on Tiree in five or six years' time. We just take it a year at a time.'

'On Tiree, one of the main reasons people move back is the

school.' Ewan Macdonald said a broader range of housing and job creation were key to attracting a younger population. He said: 'It is in the nature of young people, especially growing up in a small environment where they think there are no opportunities, to go and try Edinburgh or Glasgow but they soon realise home wasn't so bad.'

'Lots of young people do want to come back but lots of my pals move back and get a job on a supermarket checkout because they can't do anything else.'

Stewart, a co-organiser of the award-winning Tiree Music Festival, added: 'Around 50 per cent of the homes on Tiree are buy-to-let or second homes.'

'It took us two years to find a home in Tiree and that was my late grandmother's house.'

'Homes are very expensive and if one comes up they go to rich people from down south. The only way for people coming back to get a house is through inheritance.'

It was put to the young panel that the lack of broadband was a factor in failing to attract younger people.

Alana and Ewan said despite the image of today's youth being 'plugged in to six devices at once', they could live without Facebook for a few days. However, they agreed a good broadband connection was essential in business.

Alana, who works in Glendaruel, said: 'At one point we had four different connections in our office. For video conferencing (VC) we needed to make sure other people in the area were not using the internet because we needed the full band width for the VC.'

Lochgilhead to Dunoon road is a positive story

BUSINESS support agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has pledged more resources to its Argyll and the Islands office in a bid to address worrying population trends.

The business community is worried by population projections indicating Argyll and Bute's working age population will drop by 22 per cent by 2037.

But Alex Paterson, chief executive of HIE, said he was determined to support the county's businesses and at last week's economic summit announced that he would create a new senior post at the Argyll and the Islands office of HIE.

Laying down the gauntlet to other agencies supporting the region, he said: 'You can't parachute in the solution. Working with businesses trying to grow in Argyll and Bute is at the heart of what we do.'

'We are going to increase resources in Argyll and the Islands team, not by putting more money into it, because I don't think that's the solution, but creating an extra senior post for Douglas Cowan and his team, so that our contribution to this agenda is as big and positive as it can be.'

'It is about saying to other partners: put your cards on the table and get resources into

declined from 2008-2009 onwards.'

He said there were many things on which the region could build, including HIE's graduate programme, which has brought 35 graduate placements and 24 summer placements back to Argyll and the Isles since 2010.

He also outlined the Next Generation Broadband project, which will bring fibre-optic broadband to 84 per cent of homes and businesses in the Highlands and Islands by the end of 2016, a development he described as 'fundamental'.

Mr Paterson also outlined proposals, some of which he conceded were 'a bit left field', that could aid the economic development of Argyll and Bute.

He called on agencies to work together to make Oban a university town and develop the University of the Highlands and Islands to attract more young people to the area.

He said the uptake of broadband, following the implementation of the Next Generation Broadband project, would be 'a game changer', reducing Argyll and Bute's geographic challenges and making education 'more deliverable'.

But his final proposal was the most radical: constructing a road between Lochgilhead



POSITIVE POSITION: HIE chief executive Alex Paterson

this,' Mr Paterson admitted all businesses suffered from challenges in housing and transport but had a positive message for delegates.

He said: 'The population projection is only what will happen assuming nothing will be done but there are things we can do.'

'We need to balance what can be a negative story with a positive. If you look at 2001 - 2011 and the depopulation of it is still happening. But the outflow of young people has actually

and Dunoon in order to reduce travel time within the county.'

He told delegates: 'All road routes in Argyll and Bute seem to go north to south but what about putting one across the way, Dunoon to Lochgilhead.'

'If we do it, it would reduce by more than 50 per cent the distance and the time taken to travel between the two towns.'

'Clearly that's a benefit to the north but it would make Mid Argyll and South Argyll more accessible and give Mid Argyll better access to the central belt.'

Don't fear RET, urges tourism supremo

THE CHAIRMAN of Visit Scotland has told Mull residents not to fear the anticipated explosion in the number of visitors to the island when Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) comes into effect.

The discounted ferry fare scheme, which will be introduced on the Oban to Craignure crossing from October 2015, would see the cost of a return car journey to Mull drop from £67 to as little as £27, prompting an anticipated surge in visitor numbers - as many as 250,000 more people and 65,000 more cars per year.

Mull community council told *The Oban Times* last month that it was concerned that Mull could not cope with the dramatic increase in traffic.

Community councillor Fiona Brown put the concerns to Dr Mike Cantlay at the forum, adding: 'Ninety per cent of our roads are single track, the pier and access ramps only fit one boat and there is only ever one ambulance and one paramedic available. What can be done to tackle these problems.'

Dr Cantlay said more visitors would lead to 'more investment, more jobs and greater prosperity' in the wake of a successful tourist season in 2014.

He added: 'I can't see Scottish tourism being in a better position than it is now - so go and get them.'

He added that it was a 'one-off opportunity' that should be used to full effect and not looked back on as a missed chance.



OPPORTUNITY: Dr Mike Cantlay

Oban should have that degree of success

OBAN should become a university town in a bid to attract more young people to the area.

That was the bold claim by politicians and education and business representatives, who believe the 'world class' educational resources at the Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) should be used to greater effect and the number of courses available through the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) increased.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) chief executive Alex Paterson listed the option among a five-point action plan to address problems around economic growth and depopulation.

The summit had earlier heard from Dr Tracy Shimmield of SRSI, a marine consultancy

that works closely with SAMS at Dunstaffnage but is a global leader in its field and the model for a similar business starting up in Abu Dhabi.

Mr Paterson said: 'We have research facilities that are world class, teaching facilities that are world class, "grow on" facilities that are world class to the point where Abu Dhabi are trying to copy us.'

'If you have a hub with expertise like SAMS, there is a chance to use that expertise academically... there is a global research centre there, a unique asset in the UK.'

He added that UHI should become the 'go-to' university for school leavers in Argyll and Bute. Mr Paterson's call received the backing of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee chair-

man, councillor Roddy McCuish and the Argyll and Bute council's deputy leader Ellen Morton.

During her summit speech, councillor Morton said: 'It is important we aspire for Oban to be a university town. SAMS is a magnet for people to come and live in Argyll.'

Andrew Campbell, chairman of Argyll College, who has long promoted the cause of Oban as a university town, said the organisation was trying to develop more higher education courses.

He agreed with Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Carmichael, that the area couldn't stop young Argylls leaving, but it could attract young people from outwith the county.

He added: 'We have aspirations to bring more people into the area.'

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| | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|
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| Tarbert | Charity Shop | 12.00 - 12.15 |
| Lochgilhead | Lorne Lorry Park | 13.15 - 14.15 |
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Stop messing our playground

PRIMARY PUPILS CALL ON DOG WALKERS TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT AS JANITOR IS FACED WITH DAILY TASK OF REMOVING DIRT

STEVEN RAE
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PUPILS at an Oban primary school are calling foul on an issue that regularly rears its ugly head in the community.

Children at Park primary school in Dunollie are fed up with people walking their dogs in the school grounds and letting them foul on the grassy areas, leaving janitor Ronnie Guthrie to clean up the mess every morning.

The school has asked *The Oban Times* to highlight the issue, in the hope dog walkers will take responsibility and clean up after their pets.

On Monday morning, Mr Guthrie had marked out 27 areas where he had to remove dog dirt from the school grounds.

Primary five pupil Matthew Pollock, 9, who is part of the school's Eco group, said: 'The mess is bad every day but especially on a Monday morning.'

'There are plenty of other places to walk dogs around here so they don't need to come through the school.'

Nicola MacNiven, 8, who is also part of the Eco group, said: 'It's OK if people are picking up after

their dogs but lots of people seem to leave it behind and lots of us are stepping in it.'

The school has contacted Stuart Greenway, dog warden for Argyll and Bute council, who is organising signs to be put up warning dog walkers to be responsible for their pets. He will also patrol the area.

The new warning signs are due to be in place within the next few weeks.

The school also has CCTV and will be monitoring it to identify dog walkers and their pets, and pass any relevant information to the police.

The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 makes it an offence for the person in charge of a dog to fail to pick up and dispose of any faeces, and those guilty face a fine of up to £500.

Irene Bisset, who is deputy headteacher at the school, added: 'We've had kids in every class coming in with the dirt on their shoes and it has gotten worse over the past few months.'

'We don't have a problem with people coming through the school grounds with dogs as long as they are picking up afterwards, but clearly many people aren't.'



FOUL PLAY: Park primary school janitor Ronnie Guthrie with pupils Matthew Pollock and Nicola MacNiven. The sticks show just some of the 27 places Mr Guthrie had to pick up dog dirt on Monday morning before the school day started 16_t45park01

Tapestry van's unfolding tale of misery

LOUISE LEE
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A PARKING ticket was last Saturday slapped on the van carrying Scotland's 'Bayeux tapestry' to Oban.

The prestigious 'Battle of Prestonpans 1745' tapestry was being unloaded into Oban Distillery when a council amenity warden swooped to deliver a parking charge notice (PCN).

The van was parked in one of two disabled spaces on the street outside the distillery.

The tapestry was one of the main exhibits for the town's Fasanta Textile and Fashion Festival taking place last weekend.

But the trust volunteer in charge of bringing the famous artwork to the town, said the unpacking of the tapestry was a time-consuming, painstaking process which could take hours.

She explained there were at least 106 panels separately wrapped in tissue and contained in individual boxes.

She continued: 'The parking in Stafford Street next to the distillery is very limited and there was only one space near the door.'

'It was a disabled parking space, but we felt it was important to get the tapestry into the building as safely and as quickly as possible.'

'The trust volunteer acknowledged the van was parked illegally, but said: 'It was a one-off. We needed somewhere to park - we are not in the business of breaking the law.'

An Argyll and Bute spokesman said: 'The Highway Code states that: "You must not park in parking spaces reserved for specific

users, such as Blue Badge holders, residents or motorcycles, unless entitled to do so'.

'If you are caught parking in a disabled space without a valid permit you will be issued with a PCN. We aim to protect disabled spaces for those who need them.'

'Ultimately, it is the driver's responsibility to ensure that they park correctly.'

PARKING PROBLEM: The van was parked close to the distillery to unload the valuable tapestry



Widow's praise for doctors and nurses

LOUISE LEE
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A WIDOW has given her heartfelt praise to nurses and doctors on Mull and Oban after the death of her husband.

Well-known bus operator, publican and farmer Jim Bowman died last month after a battle with cancer.

His last few days of life were spent on the island - despite initially being told he should stay at Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban.

Jess Bowman said she wanted people to know how important it was for her late husband to be at 'home' on Mull before his death.

Jess said: 'I would like to express my extreme gratitude to all

the members of the NHS staff who were involved in the care of my husband in his last few weeks.'

'From visits to the accident and emergency on Mull and his short stay on ward B in Oban, he received the very best of care and a great deal of kindness.'

'Jim's determination to be at home for his last few days was kindly facilitated by (nurse manager) Hilary Brown.'

'This caused considerable extra work, at short notice, for the island-based doctors and district nurses.'

'Their kindness and professionalism went well beyond the call of duty, with a number of evening, late night and weekend visits.'



POPULAR: Jim Bowman

'In particular, I would like to thank Dr Frank Teunisse of the Salen surgery and district nurse Mhari MacAdam, who gave considerable support to Jim and myself during this difficult time.'

'Without doubt the service we received was everything that everyone would hope to experience and which hopefully will continue to be part and parcel of all our lives on our beautiful island.'

'Since Jim's death, I have been overwhelmed by the support of so many friends, island and mainland, whose lives have been touched - one way or another - over the years by one of the island's 'characters'.'

'He will be sadly missed.'

Jim, a larger-than-life character

from an influential Mull family, was one of 11 children, who was brought to the island as a 'babe in arms'.

His mother and father, who came from Dumfries, had taken a job with the Forestry Commission in order to provide wood for pit props to be used in the mining industry.

At that time, bringing the wood out the forest was carried out by horse.

The family then became tenant farmers at Killiechronan in the mid-1950s.

Some years later when the family began its bus service, the island was beginning to open up to tourists on a grand scale.

Many visitors were making their way between Craignure and

Iona to visit the world famous abbey and onwards to Fingal's Cave.

Jim moved back to Craignure from Pennyghael about 15 years ago to take over the running of the family bus business, after his brother Andy became too ill to manage the service.

Jim was a popular figure and, despite moving to London to work in his youth, never lost his love of Mull. He met his second wife Jess when they worked at the Clansman (now the Pennyghael Hotel) welcoming day visitors 'when the roads were terrible and people needed to go to the loo'.

It was only natural that when Jim took seriously ill he longed to be back on the island he knew and loved.

Social enterprises up for rural award

TWO ARGYLL social enterprises are in the running for a top award as the inaugural Scottish Rural Parliament brings around 400 people to the county today (Thursday).

Oban will host the three-day event, which will welcome a speech by Richard Lochhead, cabinet secretary for rural affairs and environment and will also see the winner of the Rural Innovator Award announced.

In the running for the prize are Oban-based outdoor enterprise Stramash, which has already won the Argyll and Bute award, and the Isle of Jura Community Shop, which has already been given the rural business and employment award.

The Scottish Rural Parliament will take part in visits to Mull and Lismore, as well as around Oban, and events will be centred around the Corran Halls and Atlantis Leisure.

Recycling group grabs cash boost

THE GRAB Trust has won a cash award of £10,000 in Santander's Social Enterprise Development Awards (SEDA).

They are given to social enterprises and trading charities looking to grow their business and improve their local community.

The GRAB Trust, which addresses waste and recycling issues in north Argyll and Bute, is one of 146 social enterprises from across the UK given SEDA awards this year.

Winners receive between £5,000 and £20,000 to fund a specific growth project.

Remembrance mass at cathedral

A MOTHER who lost her son in a road traffic accident in Italy is holding a World Remembrance Day mass in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

Margaret Mannerling is inviting people to remember friends and family, who have died in road accidents, on November 16 at 10.30am.

She said: 'There was some comfort in the knowledge that although there was nothing I could do for him in life, I can still, with all the love that a parent has for a child, do something positive for him in death.'

Lochawe speeder caught by police

DRIVERS continue to break the speed limit through the village of Lochawe, say Police Scotland road policing officers, despite a number of speed traps set up in the village.

The most recent offender was a 63-year-old driver who was clocked travelling at 46mph in the 30mph zone on the A85 through the village.

The incident happened at 9pm on Sunday.

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Tiree

TIREE high school has provided every secondary pupil with a laptop computer to assist them with their work. The technology has been invaluable to those who find writing difficult and has also enabled pupils to gain access to materials and support, copies of work sheets and texts and to type up and create presentations of their work that would be impossible without the technology. The computers are not able to access the internet when away from school premises, to protect the school's system and to ensure the facility is used specifically for schoolwork. Parents are being urged by the school to speak to their children about homework and encourage them to use their laptop to help. The school is also reminding pupils that they have to look after the equipment and can use this to learn about trust and responsibility.

TIREE high school has allocated time every day to pupils called 'on-track time' when they spend with coaches to talk individually about their learning.

Other children are given tasks and challenges to promote their thinking, problem-solving and social skills, with secondary pupils setting up Skillsbook profiles which monitor their learning.

The time allocated is designed so pupils can think about ways to improve, and make their efforts to learn more effective.

Appin

THE 1st Appin Rainbow and Brownie Unit has held its first sleepover after recently reforming.

All the girls had a fantastic time playing games, making structures with fake snow and making their own food - even managing to get some sleep.

The girls involved were from Appin and Duror: Grace Williamson, Marsaill Colthart, Charlie Johnston, Iona Dunlop, Ealasaid MacLean and Jess Williamson.

Lochaber

LOCHABER Historical Society will be joined by a retired surgeon at tonight's meeting (Thursday).

The group will gather in the Ben Nevis Hotel at 8pm to hear from Professor Alasdair Munro as he discusses 'Highland medical kindreds' of the past including the Beatons, Bethunes and MacBeths of Skye. Everyone is welcome.

Kilmallie

THE KILMALLIE community centre committee will be holding its annual general meeting later this month.

Anyone wishing to join the group can pick up a membership form at the event on November 20 and members have urged all Kilmallie residents to attend. The meeting will begin at 7pm in the community hall.

Islay and Jura

MEMBERS of the Port Mòr Lunch club on Islay embarked on their fourth outing of the year recently taking a ferry to meet the Jura lunch club.

A warm welcome was extended on October 27 by Christine Darroch at the Jura care home, before a three-course lunch along with lively and interesting conversation. After the meal, a group of musicians entertained the guests, with Angela Dunbar playing guitar, John Stewart on the banjo, and Bob Rolston and Davy MacIntosh both playing the accordion.

Jura lunch club member Iain Cameron, a well-known face from local musical events, was invited up to sing.

Guests from Port Mòr reported that the raffle was one of the most generous they had seen for a long time, and would like to thank Christine and her team for a great day.



GET TOGETHER: members of Port Mòr Lunch club, who met with their Jura counterparts recently for a three-course meal followed by musical entertainment



Dunbeg primary school's primary seven pupils, who visited The Oban Times with articles for their news page, The Dunbeg Daily Data 16_145dunbeg01

Dunbeg pupils keep up with the times

THE OBAN Times welcomed a group of fledgling reporters to the office recently for an insight into newspaper production - part of a school project, having visited The Oban Times in August to see old issues of the paper and meet some of the staff. On their return visit on last Thursday the pupils had pictures and articles

ready to be subbed by the editorial staff and laid out on a page in the production department. Titled 'The Dunbeg Daily Data', the children produced articles on school fundraising activities, a trip to Loch Etive, and an insight into a typical school day, as well as a look back at the Scottish independence referendum.

The Oban Times is looking forward to printing the page in an edition of the paper later in the year.



Fort hosts annual Cameron Highlanders reunion

Former servicemen and territorial army personnel gathered in Fort William for the 27th annual Cameron Highlanders reunion. The Lochaber branch of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders hosted the event in the Alexandra Hotel last Saturday, which included a lunch, raffle and toasts to fallen comrades.

Small boats to the rescue after ferry breakdown

A TINY motor boat and a fishing vessel came to the rescue of stranded islanders on Raasay after a new state-of-the-art, dual-fuel ferry broke down following a computer fault.

Several holidaymakers and locals were trapped at both Sconser and Raasay for several hours on October 17 before Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) found a vessel to replace the stricken MV Hallaig.

Even then many motorists had to leave their vehicles at the other side until a new car ferry arrived the following day. A nearby fishing boat

was able to transport four passengers early in the afternoon shortly after the Hallaig's failure, before the Brigadoon - a small cruise boat used for wildlife-watching trips - was hired by CalMac for the last few sailings of the day. CalMac then had to use the Brigadoon for most of the next day, until car ferry MV Loch Bhrusda was available to take over early in the evening.

One wheelchair-bound islander had been stranded in Sconser for around three and a half hours that day, because they couldn't board the

Brigadoon and many people had to return to retrieve their vehicles once the car ferry arrived.

Despite these problems, Raasay development trust officer Lloyd Gudgeon said the new MV Hallaig had been a revelation for residents.

He added: 'All ferries have their off days. The Hallaig had never let us down yet - it's big, it's quiet and it doesn't get battered by the weather.'

The ship remains out of use, as it was already due its annual refit at the end of the month, and the Loch Bhrusda is being used in the meantime.

MORVERN lines

Well paid doctors

Doctors' salaries are in the news at the moment. According to evidence submitted to the annual NHS pay review body, the number of family GPs earning more than £100,000 a year has quadrupled in less than 10 years. Official documents show that more than 16,000 GPs are being paid six-figure sums.

No such fortune awaited the Morvern doctor in 1870 as the following advertisement in a local newspaper shows: 'Medical Officer wanted for the Parish of Morvern. Salary, exclusive of private practice, £60 (a year). Applications, with certificates of character and professional qualifications, to be lodged with H A Fraser, Inspector of Poor, Morvern, by Fort William, on or before the 21st October next. A knowledge of Gaelic indispensable. Lochaline, Morvern. 1st September 1870.'

No doubt what seems a meagre salary today would be well augmented by dinner invitations from the big house and gifts of salmon, grouse, pheasants, venison, lamb and more delicacies from other grateful patients - and nothing wrong with the barter system!

A little over 50 years ago it was well known that when a certain GP in Morvern, long since deceased, wanted a hind for the pot he would drop the district nurse at the door of the estate mansion house to keep the laird occupied while he motored off to do the necessary. But who knows, perhaps there was an unspoken understanding between them which his tell-tale accomplice was not privy to!

Killer seals

SEALS are having their young at the moment and our newspapers are full of photographs of cute and cuddly looking pups.

But beware these creatures are not as friendly as they may seem.

Not long ago a friend was shooting near the mouth of the River Dee in Aberdeenshire and brought down a wild duck. He sent his black Labrador into the sea to retrieve it and on the way back to the shore a seal lunged at it and tried to pull it under the water. So intense was the attack and so horrendous were the wounds inflicted, the poor dog had to be put down there and then.



BEWARE: Seals are not the friendly creatures they may seem

Swimming foxes

LAST week I wrote about deer swimming and a collie dog taking to Loch Sunart in an effort to reach its home in Ardnarmurchan.

An account has since come my way of a fox swimming across to the Island of Carna at the mouth of Loch Teacuis in February 1928 and killing 10 to 12 ewes. Apparently the fox had been seen several times but it had not been possible to capture or shoot it. As there were around 100 sheep on the island at the time further losses were feared. I have never seen a fox in the water but I don't doubt they would take the plunge if pursued or if they were starving and saw an injured bird within reach.

A gamekeeper told me many years ago that when old foxes want to rid themselves of fleas they hold a twig in their mouth and slowly back into the water. The fleas eventually move forward and congregate on the twig and at that point the fox lets it go and swims ashore leaving the fleas to their fate. I may have been having my leg pulled but on the other hand gamekeepers and stalkers of old not only had more time on their hands than those of today but, more importantly, they were excellent and observant naturalists.

There is a bay in Applecross which used to be known as 'Ob 'mhadaidh Ruaidh' (the bay of the red fox) because it was alleged that a hungry fox prowling on the shore for food one day found a large mussel attached to a rock. It tried to eat the flesh but the shell closed on its tongue and held it while the tide rose and drowned the fox.

Highland games and a rare book

LOOKING at the prizes awarded in today's Highland games I can't help thinking they were pretty unimaginative compared with a century or so ago.

For example when Lt Col Greenhill Gardyne held his games in the grounds of Glenforsa House, Mull, on Thursday 17 August 1871, they were worth competing in.

Throwing the 14lb hammer, 1st, five yards of cloth; 2nd, either a knife or a pair of hose. Running high leap, 1st, 10 shillings (£40 today); 2nd, a pair of hose. Married men's race, 150 yards, a dress for wife. Hurdle race, 1st, 5 yards of cloth; 2nd, ten shillings; 3rd, a pair of hose. Putting the light stone, 1st, ten shillings; 2nd, waistcoat cloth. Best singer of Gaelic song, 1st, book 'Sar Obair nam Bard'. Playing 'Pibroch', quick step and reels, £1 each. Lt Col Greenhill Gardyne (1831-1923) the, highly popular, Gaelic speaking laird of Glenforsa, wrote several books. His best was 'Records of a Quiet Life - 1831 to 1912' which was published by The Oban Times in 1915. It contains some fascinating insights of life on Mull and is now one of the rarest books in the Highlands. Happily plans are afoot to republish it.

Iain Thornber
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PRIZE GARDENERS: Highland councillor Allan Henderson, back, second left, with winners of this year's Caol in Bloom awards

Glenpane streets ahead in awards

RESIDENTS of Glenpane Street were applauded at this year's Caol in Bloom awards when they won the prize for best street.

Thirteen houses in the village were highly commended by judge Morag McKell with a further 18 commended.

Results: Hanging baskets 1 Mrs and Mrs I Houston; 2 Mr J Mathers; 3 Mrs E

MacLean. Best ornamental garden Mrs and Mrs Taylor. Best vegetable garden 1 Mrs and Mrs J Banks; 2 Mr Alan Smith; 3 Mrs D Ball; Best easy care 1 Mrs and Mrs M MacLeod; 2 Mrs and Mrs J Gray; 3 Mrs Gillespie. Best commercial premises 1 Ben View; 2 Blar Mhor; 3 Lonalva. Best overall garden 1 Mrs and Mrs Houston; 2 Mrs and Mrs Taylor; 3 Mr Alan Wilson.

Fun and games for children at Salen SWRI fancy dress party

SALEN Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) held its annual children's fancy dress party on September 25.

After the parades and games, tea and cakes were served by SWRI ladies and their helpers.

The institute thanks everyone who helped at the party, including MC Rhoda MacRae, judges Helen Morrison and Susan Skeates, Elizabeth Jack who kept the music going all evening and Janice who decorated the hall.

Winners: Under-fives: Original: 1 Angus Schmidt-Gorthy and Ruaraidh MacLean (ro-

bots), 2 Fiona Calum and Elizabeth Paterson (Shrek) and 3 Holly Schmidt-Gorthy (toddler).

Humorous: 1 Mia Proud, Ben Proud, Theo Forster and Katy Paterson (turtles), 2 Kyla Chariler (Pebbles), 3 Sophie Paterson (wee devil). Topical: 1 Liliana MacAulay (spider princess), 2 Joe Velaise (Dracula), 3 Katy Roberts (witch). Five to eight-year-olds: Original: 1 Iona Mathieson (skeleton keys), 2 Erin Mathieson (rag and bone man). Humorous: 1 Ellen and Gemma MacRae (cowboy and horse), 2 Robin Stanley-Wright (Buzz Lightyear). Topical: 1

Dominic Hill (zombie), 2 Matthew Heyman (rock star), 3 Cameron MacVicar (skeleton).

Nine to 13-year-olds: Original: 1 Cameron MacVicar (skeleton), 2 Emma Noble (ladybird), 3 Tanica Heyman (devil ladybird). Humorous: 1 Nicola Noble (ninja), 2 Ewan MacVicar (zombie footballer), 3 Sophie Ralston (pirate). Topical: 1 Bailey Wild (clown), 2 Owen Wild (old father time), 3 Donald MacVicar and Gabriel Stanley-Wright (top hat and Captain America).

Pumpkins: 1 - Bailey Wild, 2 - Katy Paterson, 3 - Cailie MacFadyen.

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GP appointment changes on isles

THE NUMBER of doctors' appointments is to be reduced on one of the Small Isles to make more available on the other three.

Two dedicated doctors based on Skye will travel across to Eigg as little as one day a week - previously five days a week - and once every two weeks to Muck, Rum and Canna to spread appointments more evenly between the four islands.

From November 18, doctors Clare Whitney and Angus Venters will lead a new community team, seeing patients on Eigg on Tuesdays and alternate Thursdays from 11am to 3pm and on Muck, Rum and Canna on alternate Thursdays from 11am to 3pm depending on location.

Using the resident Skye GPs will mean less of a reliance on locum doctors, who currently travel from Mallaig to Eigg.

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, believes the move will serve the greater good.

He said: 'It is not sustainable to have a locum doctor all the time and probably not necessary to have a doctor in Eigg five days a week. It is more important that the doctor can be mobile and cover all four islands and the islanders understand this is a sustainable model.'

Gill McVicar, director of operations for NHS Highland's north and west, said: 'The idea is to provide cover where and when it is needed.'

Major cash boost for arts centre

STORNOWAY arts centre An Lanntair is to receive a £1.21 million grant over three years from Creative Scotland.

Home to a cinema, art gallery and restaurant, the new funding will help the An Lanntair group achieve its three-year business plan.

An Lanntair's chairman David Green said: 'This funding presents a fantastic opportunity for An Lanntair to work with the local community and its diverse partnerships to create a truly inspirational future programme.'

CAMPAIGN GROUP'S STARK WARNING OVER PROPOSED PLAN TO SLASH SPENDING BY £64M IN FIVE YEARS

Don't drive youngsters out with ferry fare hike

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

YOUNG people could be driven out of remote Lochaber communities if the local authority carries out proposed budget plans.

This is the stark warning from one campaign group following Highland Council's announcement that ferry fares could rise again as part of plans to slash spending by £64 million over the next five years.

The current single-trip fare across Loch Linnhe between Corran and Ardgor is £7.90 but council officials are considering raising the cost by four per cent per year over four years, which could see travellers charged £9.25 per trip, which campaign group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran) chairman Tony Boyd called 'unsustainable'.

There is a slight discount when buying a book of 30 tickets but the cost of this, currently £69.50, would also rise if the plans go ahead.

Corran Ferry is used by communities in the Ardnamurchan and Morvern peninsulas, as well as people on Mull. Mr Boyd said: 'It's got to the stage where I'm lost for words, it's not sustainable.'

'We met with Steve Barron [Highland Council chief executive] recently and said they can't keep putting the extra cost on the customers, they need to find another way of saving money.'

'The price has already gone up three times in a year and it's going to get to the point our young people will leave the area because they can't afford to get over the crossing to get to work. If the young people leave that will have a major impact on local shops, schools, everything. We can't go on like this, people



WARNING: FC Corran members campaigning to abolish fares on the Corran Ferry 20_145ferry01

are always talking about rural deprivation but then we keep being charged more and more just to get to work.'

A 'tourism tax' across the Highlands is another aspect of the budget proving unpopular, which could see all visitors to the area hit with a surcharge for their stay in a hotel, guest house or bed and breakfast.

Lesley Benfield of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce 'strongly urged' Highland Council to drop the suggestion. She

added: 'Lochaber Chamber of Commerce does not support the introduction of new taxes on tourists. Tourism is vital to the Lochaber economy and a tax like this will result in increased prices for visitors.'

Norry MacLean, owner of Berkeley Guest House, Fort William, said the proposal should be scrapped. He added: 'The council is under pressure and has to save money somewhere but hitting the tourists is unacceptable. A lot of the

accommodation here is family-run and they will all suffer from this. There's obviously a problem here but this is definitely not the way to fix it.'

Other issues being considered by Highland Council include shortening classroom hours, a loss of up to 1,000 council jobs including teaching posts and a reduction of council services such as bin collections, grass cutting and leisure centres.

On announcing the proposed cuts, Highland Council budget

leader, Maxine Smith, said: 'These are very difficult times for public services and we are not alone in facing very difficult decisions along with other councils across Scotland. The scale of the savings required means that we must now look at changing the way we provide some services and reducing others. This will mean a reduction in the number of staff we employ and the number of buildings we use, and will impact on the services we provide.'

Healthcare team in running for top award

LOCHABER'S healthcare team will find out tonight (Thursday) if it has won a national award.

The district group for NHS Highland was shortlisted in the 'integrated care for older people' category of the Scottish Healthcare Awards and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh tonight.

Nominated by retired Lochaber GP Michael Foxley and a doctor from Raigmore hospital in Inverness, the team was picked for its work integrating health and social care.

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

'This team has taken the unique opportunity to really put the person at the heart of service delivery.'

'They have been able to deliver the care and support to service users when they needed it most and where they wanted it most. And they have had the courage to shine a light where there has been a lack of care and taken decisive action.'

NHS Highland chief executive Elaine Mead said: 'The Lochaber district team deserves credit for its energy, commitment and drive and I wish it well.'

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

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

What a bad example

No amount of money can compensate Ronnie Guthrie for the disgusting task he has to perform most days for the well-being of young children.

Mr Guthrie is the janitor at Park primary school in Oban and each morning has to remove dog dirt from the school grounds.

On Monday, there were 27 such uninviting deposits left for him to deal with before lessons began.

Such is Mr Guthrie's plight that two young pupils from the Dunollie school have called on dog walkers - through the columns of this newspaper - to behave like adults and clean up their act.

Talk about setting a bad example. It's high time dog walkers show the same degree of maturity and sense of social responsibility as these children.

Glasgow Letter

Post Mod ceilidh

THERE was an excellent turnout at this year's post Mod ceilidh, held at the West of Scotland Cricket Club in Partick.

As well as the entertainment there was an extensive buffet provided by members of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (GG) who were in excellent form having been this year's winners of the coveted Lovat and Tullibardine Shield.

All the prescribed choral songs were performed by the combined choirs and it was pleasing that this year there was representation from Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir. Father and daughter John and Emma Deans sang a duet and the other singing contributions were from Calum Ross, his daughter Fiona, Joy Dunlop, Janet Campbell, Kenneth Thomson, Iain MacLean, Ruaridh MacIntyre, Donald Iain Brown, Jane Morrison, Willie McKee, Catriona MacNeil and Gordon McKee, singing as the soloist in the GG's male voice winning choir.

With such an abundance of singers, a successful evening should be guaranteed but the role of the few a taighe is still crucial. Alasdair MacMillan proved, yet again, with his humour and friendly approach that this is a task to which he is well suited.

Iomain Cholmille 7

THE SEVENTH international shinty hurling competition for Gaelic speakers will take place this year at Lochinch playing fields at 1.30pm on Saturday November 8.

It will be preceded by a youth shinty tournament involving local Gaelic education schools from 11am until 1pm.

This year's Irish representatives will be Fir Uladh who are expected to provide strong opposition to a Scottish team, managed by Aonghas MacDonald from Skye, with players selected from various parts of the country. Players and officials of both sides will attend a post match meal in Maryhill Burgh Halls where, at 9pm, the public are invited to join them for a ceilidh dance with music provided by the legendary Fergie MacDonald.

Marag supper

SUPPORTERS of the Glasgow Skye Association recently enjoyed a successful marag supper in Crawford Hall when the men of the committee took on the responsibility of ensuring that the first class marags, from Stornoway of course, were cooked to perfection.

Margaret Elder, president, was in charge of proceedings which included musical entertainment from James and Rebecca MacPherson.

Press Policy

WEAT *The Oban Times* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications. The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Oban Times* are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

from Oban but with strong Skye connections, playing accordion and fiddle as well as singing Gaelic songs and from popular singer Gordon McKeeve.

Christmas sale

THE GUILD of St Columba's Church, St Vincent Street, has brought forward its annual Christmas sale by a week so that it will now take place on Saturday November 15 from 11am to 1pm.

Ann Michie

IT IS with great sadness I have to record that Ann Michie (nee Campbell) passed away recently in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Brought up in Greepe, Skye, Ann and her husband Alasdair, former detective chief superintendent, Strathclyde Police, were strong supporters of all things Gaelic-related in the city of Glasgow.

In 1973 Ann won the Traditional Gold Medal at the National Mod in Ayr and, as well as being a chorister with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and latterly Inverness Gaelic Choir, she was a member of the Gaelic Folk Group Na h-Eilthirich.

On retirement she and Alasdair lived in Camustianavaig, Braes, Skye, and some years ago Ann moved to Inverness where her daughter, Maggie and family stayed. Our sympathy is extended to Maggie and the extended family.

Diary dates

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

Saturday November 8: Glasgow Skye Association's Post Mod Children's Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Patick, 7.30pm.

Tuesday November 11: Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a Waterloo Street, 8pm, Bruce Molsky.

Thursday November 13: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, Annual Dinner, Glasgow Pond Hotel, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Friday November 14: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Annual Concert and Dance, Glasgow University Union, 7.30pm. Dance to follow concert.

Saturday November 15: Christmas sale - see above

Pub scene

Crooked Reel will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday with Ragals there on Saturday. This weekend in the Park Bar will differ somewhat from the usual as Sunday is an Accordion Day. Nicky McMichan will be providing the music there on Friday with Eriskay Lilt on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilfmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



Kinderspiel 'Rosa Lee', Oban, 1936

This week's flashback photograph, by H M Scrivens, The Studio, Oban, was submitted by Mrs J Darling of Oban. It shows Oban children on stage in 1936 after their production of the kinderspiel 'Rosa Lee'. Prints or emails of flashback photos sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk should be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Time for permanent solution

Sir, Yet another landslide and closure of the A83 at The Rest and be Thankful.

This time it also blocked the much-vaunted diversion route the Old Military Road (OMR) which runs below the trunk road at the steepest and longest slope of the A83.

I dislike using the term 'I told you so' but sadly this is the case.

I have argued strenuously to cut a 400m flow-over canopy on the most hazardous and regular site of the main slides.

I have been fobbed off by the transport minister and his department that this would cause a visual and environmental intrusion - a great deal less than the present acres of netting - and difficult to implement without road closures. This is nonsense as Transport Scotland cut into the hillside at the site with only one lane closure.

We have endured many years, yes years, of traffic lights on the Rest. The sooner the minister and his officials accept the proposal, thus removing 400m of the most dangerous section from the equation, the better. This is Argyll's M8. It is time for action and a permanent solution.

Donald Clark, The George Hotel, Inveraray.

More major flooding on the way

Sir, Last December's flooding of Oban's sea front and the town's monsoon will sadly be the start of 50 years of major problems.

The UN started warning us 20 years ago and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency spells out the massive costs and disruption if climate change problems are not addressed.

Throughout 2014, the Met Office held seminars for local authorities and business to show how to minimise damage. When I say 'local authorities', this does not include Argyll and Bute as the planning department is still living on 'planet council' and no-one bothered to seek out this expert help.

Properties are already regularly flooded on Pulpit Hill, Gallanach Road and other areas of Oban.

The council must stop squandering the tens of thousands it wastes each month and in addition prioritise expenditure to support council tax payers and businesses.

To keep costs down, the council must ensure all replacement and new drains in Oban can handle the huge deluges we get. Drains

which have been covered over during the last 30 years must be freed.

Roads must be resurfaced so that the water flows into drains or down the hill and not into people's gardens.

Prevention is needed as well as cure and the felling of trees to build new 'MackMansions', the overlarge houses on small plots, must end. More trees should be planted with more shrubs to slow down the water runoff and, above all, we must find a prince to awaken the sleeping beauties at the council.

Mike Foster, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Care and kindness above and beyond call of duty

Sir, I write with reference to recent debates regarding the NHS service on the Isle of Mull and in particular the out of hours' service.

I would like through your columns to express my extreme gratitude to all the members of the NHS staff who were involved in the care of my husband in his last few weeks.

From visits to the accident and emergency department on Mull and his short stay on ward B in Oban, he received the very best of care and a great deal of kindness.

Jim's determination to be at home for his last few days was kindly facilitated by Hilary.

This caused considerable extra work, at short notice, for the island-based doctors and district nurses. Their kindness and professionalism went well beyond the call of duty, with a number of evening, late night and weekend visits.

In particular I would like to thank Dr Frank of the Salen surgery and district nurse Mhari MacAdam, who gave considerable support to Jim and myself during this difficult time.

Without doubt the service we received was everything that everyone would hope to experience and which hopefully will continue to be part and parcel of all our lives on our beautiful island.

Since Jim's death I have been overwhelmed by the support of so many friends, island and mainland, whose lives have been touched - one way or another - over the years by one of the islands 'characters'; he will be sadly missed.

Many thanks to everyone. **Jess Bowman, Craignure, Isle of Mull.**

Dedicated and professional

Sir, I would like to pay tribute to the late Keith Brimelow who died last week, after more than 30 years working as an osteopath in Oban.

Keith was a quiet, kind man who worked tirelessly to aid anyone, at any time, who went to him for help.

He was dedicated and professional and his many friends and those of us who depended on him for help, will miss him greatly.

Mary Brown, Taynuilt.

Translation would help Gaelic learners

Sir, Further to the letter from Iain Wilkie in Strachur, *The Oban Times* October 30, I would like to add my support to his plea for a complete translation of Allan Campbell's Gaelic column.

It would be advantageous to have the everyday spoken Gaelic language with its English translation for Gaelic learners to appreciate and hopefully understand better.

Bill Thomson, Islay.

Helping people find jobs

Sir, Under Labour, the number of households with no-one in work rocketed.

Families were left on benefits, out of work, with no stability or prospects.

We in the Unionist and Conservative party have introduced measures that will help the residents of Argyll and Bute find jobs and give security for them and their families.

But while Labour was happy to write these families off, we weren't.

We set about changing the welfare system so that it encourages and rewards work - and we backed businesses so they could create the jobs and opportunities people needed.

The Unionist and Conservative party are getting families off benefits and into work giving them the security of a pay packet.

As a result, the number of households where no-one works is at the lowest level since records began falling by a massive 670,940.

We have made huge progress but there is still more to do, but our long-term economic plan is working and securing a better future for families across Argyll and Bute and the whole of Britain.

Alastair Redman, Unionist and Conservative candidate, Argyll and Bute.

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

Common sense needed over coach parking

Sir, I was interested in the article entitled 'Coach boss says wardens are driving away tourists' in *The Oban Times* edition of October 30. I have a degree of sympathy for the driver of the coach owned by W & H Motors.

He was only doing the decent thing by taking the time to disembark elderly and infirm passengers at the bus stop opposite the Regent Hotel.

He would have had no practical alternative and for Argyll and Bute council to adopt a policy of issuing a parking ticket in such circumstances is utterly inexcusable.

What sort of example does that set, for visitors? The council needs to examine its warden training and ensure that common sense is applied in any such circumstance.

However, it is wholly inexcusable and totally unprofessional behaviour for any coach driver to leave a coach parked at a bus stop as a matter of 'convenience' for the driver.

These stops are for the use of passengers using local and long distance services.

It's unacceptable for a local service bus driver to find he is denied access to a stop to board and let passengers alight. He is forced to stop on the roadway instead, block traffic and cause potential hazard to the vehicle and his passengers.

It's not good enough to justify the practice as acceptable just because other coaches have been left at bus stops. There is a properly signed coach park in Oban; any coach driver or owner deserves to be charged for such misuse.

Finally, the council needs to use a bit of common sense as well.

Coach companies are bringing visitors to the town who will spend money in the shops and hopefully enjoy their visit. Charging for parking coaches overnight at the coach park is simply unreasonable and hardly enhances the reputation of the council which should use some gumption, do something positive for business in Oban, and drop this policy.

L J Macduff, Irvine Road, Kilmarnock.

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA SINN UILE eòlach air a bhith a' cluinntinn luchd-poileataigs is eile a' cur sìos air cosgaisean anns na roinnean poblach, ach tha tìr cuideachd ag innse dhuinn nach fhuing sporan sam bith fàsghadh leantainneach gun bhuaidh a bhith aig sin air comas maoineachaidh. Chaidh càineadh nach beag a dhèanamh air Riaghaltas na Co-Bhanntachd airson nan gearraidhean a tha iadsan air a thoirt air ionmhas poblach thar nan ceithir bliadhna a dh' fhalbh, agus tha e follaiseach an dà chuid, nach eil làn bhuaidh nan caomhnaidhean sin air bualadh gu tur fhathast agus gum bheil tuilleadh ghearraidhean san amharc.

Ged a chaidh co-dhùnach an reifreann le luchd-taice an aonaidh, dhearbhan an tomhas bheachd gu math soilleir gum bheil faisg air leth de shluagh Alba ag iarraidh barrachd smachd a bhith againn air ar cuid riaghlaidh fhèin. Bidh cumhne gun deach mòran den ùine deasbad air neo-eisimeileachd a chaitheamh le luchd-poileataigs bho gach taobh a' slaicheadh a chèile, seach a bhith a' mineachadh carson a bu chòir an cuid stiùir a ghabhail. Tha cumhne cuideachd air gealladh bho luchd-taice an aonaidh aig a' mhionaid mu dheireadh airson tuilleadh cumhachd dha Pàrlamaid na h-Albann. Tha buidheann-obrach a' Mhorair Mac a' Ghobhainn Kelvin ag obair gu dìcheallach gus aonta fhaotainn airson na gaallaidhean sin a chòileanadh. Fhad 's a tha an deasbad seo a' tachairt agus a dh'aindeoin 's ged nach deach an reifreann leotha, tha cùisean a' coimhead iongantach soirbheachail dha na partaidhean a bha a' sìradh neo-eisimeileachd.

Ach saoilidh mise gum bheil ceistean cruaidh aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba ri fhreagairt gu math sgiobalta cuideachd. Ged a tha deagh adhbhar aige ann a bhith a' cur sìos air droch bhuaidh nan gearraidhean a tha Riaghaltas Co-Bhanntachd Lunnainn a' dèanamh 's iad Riaghaltas na h-Alba fhèin a th' air Cis Comhairle a ghleidheadh aig an aon ìre, a' fàsghadh maoin poblach gach bliadhna. Gun teagamh 's dòcha gun robh caomhnaidhean a ghabhadh dèanamh, ach saoil nach eil an t-am aig Iain Swinney innsè cuin a tha an Riaghaltas den bheachd a bhios cùisean cho teann 's a ghabhas an dèanamh. Mar eisimpleir, dh'fhaodadh gum bi seirbheisean coimhearsnachd air Ghàidhealtachd nas miosa ann an dà bhliadhna eile na bha iad bho chionn ginealach! Dìleab bhochd dhan dùthaich ùr air am bheil ear ag amas!

LORD Smith of Kelvin's Scotland Devolution Commission is due to publish an agreed package of new devolved powers for the Scottish Parliament on Saint Andrew's Day, just over three weeks from now.

This will be historic for a variety of reasons and not least for the speed at which the process will have been driven, and it will demonstrate the true value of the famous pro-unionist 'vow' delivered immediately prior to the Scottish independence referendum. Many will hope this might lead to easing pressure on public services in Scotland, where the latest cuts being proposed by some councils could set some community service provision back 30 years. Hardly a brave new world.

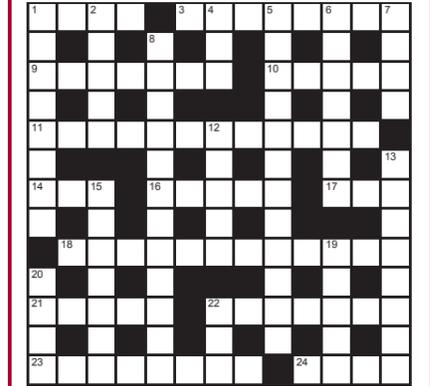
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New call to bring back emergency Minch tug

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP David Stewart has backed demands by Highland councillors for proper protection of the Minch's coastline.

Highland Council leader Drew Hendry has called for the backing of politicians to reintroduce an emergency towing vessel (ETV) in the Minches, as a rescue measure for ships that run into trouble.

At a council meeting in Inverness last Thursday, Mr Hendry was supported by fellow councillors, who will now lobby the UK government on the matter.

It comes after an incident on October 8 when MV Parida - a ship carrying radioactive material - caught fire and drifted towards an oil rig in the Moray Firth.

David Stewart MSP said: 'Three years ago I made my concerns known about the removal of one of the two emergency tugs which covered north and west coast waters.'

'Westminster's transport committee questioned how one ETV, stationed in Orkney, could adequately cover the west coast.'

'The coalition government must therefore listen to the ongoing concerns of communities throughout the Highlands and islands and reinstate the second tug as a matter of urgency.'

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is proposing to ship nuclear waste from Dounreay to Sellafield in Cumbria in the near future and - should the same incident occur in the west - the nearest ETV would be in Kirkwall, several hours' journey away.

Mr Hendry said: 'The west coast simply doesn't have the protection it should have. The two vessels [in the north] are absolutely essential for the kind of protection we require.'

'I hope we can publicise this call and make sure MPs and MSPs are clear in this message.'



NEW SPONSOR: Stewart Borland (centre) presented a new drum featuring both Lochaber pipe band and Highland Title logos at the band ceilidh on Saturday night 20_145band01

Band beats out new two-year sponsorship deal

LOCHABER Pipe Band celebrated a new, two-year sponsorship at its annual ceilidh.

Iain Robertson, band secretary, announced the partnership with conservation project Highland Titles, at the event in the

Alexandra Hotel on Saturday night. The sponsorship, worth around £2,400, will be paid monthly to boost funds, raised by band members, for teaching, uniforms and travelling costs.

Mr Robertson said: 'We are delighted to welcome Highland Titles as the band's new principal partner.'

'The contribution has provided us with a very good start to our fundraising efforts and we are very much indebted to them

and look forward to a successful partnership.'

Stewart Borland of Highland Titles added: 'We are delighted to be the major sponsor for Lochaber Pipe Band. We hope it will give it the stability that

regular income brings and let it continue the fabulous work it does for both players of all ages, young and old, and also for the whole Lochaber area.'

'The band is an amazing asset to the region.'

Group pledges forest plan will bring in more visitors

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW £25 million tourism complex in Lochaber will not be in competition with local business, one of the organisations behind the plan has promised.

The first public consultation for the 'masterplan' at Leanachan Forest, which could include a five-star hotel, lodges and camping pods, was held at Nevis

Range on Tuesday, when the people behind the group pledged the proposal will boost the Lochaber economy, not hinder it.

But Robin Morgan, who owns holiday accommodation just south of Fort William, told Robert Grant of Forestry Commission Scotland, one of the groups behind the proposal,

'the pie is only so big' and tourists would flock to the new complex instead of current accommodation in Lochaber.

He said: 'You're offering all different types of places to stay here. You'll have the big hotel, the lodges and the camping facilities so you're literally covering every accommodation market local people already offer.'

'It'll end up people will only stay in the other local places when all your places are full. It's direct competition with the current market.'

But Mr Grant pledged a full impact assessment will be carried

out and the aim was to bring more people to the area, not just attract the visitors already coming.

He added: 'We want to enhance what Lochaber already has to offer. We're in no way trying to compete with local businesses.'

'We're hoping to attract a completely new market who may not have visited before.'

Concerns were also raised about potential light pollution at the forest and the possibility

of new buildings blocking the scenic views of Ben Nevis from surrounding areas but Alistair Scott, the architect behind the designs, pledged the complex will 'complement and add to' the forest and surrounding landscape.

Consultation on the proposal will continue until December this year, before being passed to Highland council's planning committee for consideration but it could take up to 20 years until the complex is built.



SUCCESS: Dorota Palicka, centre, with Kelsey Grant, left, and Kamila Wszelaka, who were praised at the professional beauty awards 20_145nails01

Girls nail awards praise

NAIL technicians from Fort William have been celebrating their success at a national awards ceremony.

Two artists from Ibiza Sun travelled to Manchester for the Professional Beauty Nail Championships and their boss Dorota Palicka went with them to judge at the event.

Kelsey Grant picked up second place in the showcase nail art category and her colleague, Kamila Wszelaka, came fifth in the one stroke section, after

just seven months' experience in nail art. These are just two of numerous awards won for Ibiza Sun since Ms Palicka opened the salon in 2010 and she is delighted with the progress of 'her girls'.

She said: 'They've both done so well and I'm so happy with how they did. I'm proud of both of them but I'm so happy for Kamila because she only started doing nails this year. She's obviously a talented young girl and I can't wait to see how she does next year.'



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NHS numbers don't add up

'POOR financial management' of NHS Highland has been brought to the attention of the Scottish Parliament.

Politicians heard that NHS Highland kept board members in the dark about concerns over its financial position.

A report from Audit Scotland said weaknesses in financial management were a major factor in the board requiring £2.5 million from the Scottish government to break even.

NHS Highland's total revenue budget for 2013/14 was £724.6 million which included £617.9 million from the Scottish government and £87.5 million from Highland Council for the costs of adult health and social care integration.

The auditor said the authority was forecasting a 'break-even position' as late as March 2014 and failed to report to its own board or the Scottish government problems that were unable to be addressed by 'management planned actions'.

The report details financial pressures on the authority included financial pressure from almost £4 million costs for agency staff.

NHS Highland used agency staff to fill vacant positions but also claimed there was continued pressures in recruiting senior staff in rural areas.

The report concludes: 'NHS Highland continues to place a high reliance on non-recurring savings which may not be sustainable in the longer term.'

NHS Highland has given an assurance that it is acting on issues raised in the report. NHS Highland chief executive Gary Coultts said: 'We accept that the board should have been formally notified of the situation earlier. The report pointed out that officers updated board members about the extent of the financial challenges at informal board development meetings. It is a recognised part of good governance that it is sometimes entirely appropriate for the board to have in-committee sessions and have private briefings.'

'We are confident that the hospital's new management team is working assiduously to address budget management issues there with - as the report points out - training being organised for all budget holders and our establishment of a Delivering Financial Balance Programme Board, which includes two non-executive directors, to address the delivery of savings.'

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BBC Children in Need - Friday 14th November 2014

Oban's Park primary fives help Children in Need

BBC Children in Need has raised more than £600 million to help the lives of young people and disabled children around the UK since it started in 1980.

And each year The Oban Times asks a local school to nominate a class to draw pictures of local businesses which feature on our Children in Need page, with 20 per cent of the advertising proceeds donated to the charity event. This year the primary five class in Oban's Park Primary School drew the fantastic pictures below and we would like to thank them and the businesses featured for supporting Children in Need.



For the third consecutive year BBC Children in Need is asking people to take part in its BearFaced campaign.

The charity is asking women across the UK to join them in having a #BearFaced moment to raise money for BBC Children in Need, simply by swapping their makeup for a Pawprint.

This year's stellar BearFaced line-up includes three-times BAFTA TV Award winner, Olivia Colman; singer and presenter Rochelle Humes; TV favourites Lorraine Kelly and Michelle Keegan; singer and model Sophie Ellis-Bextor; singers Laura Mvula and Ella Eyre; and renowned beauty blogger Tanya Burr.

All have gone BearFaced in a make-up-free photo-shoot by world renowned photographer Rankin to encourage women across the UK to come together to do the same.

The campaign encourages women across the UK to share a make-up free moment anytime in the run up to appeal day on Friday November 14; all they need to do is swap their make-up for a Pawprint.

The Pudsey Pawprints as seen on the BearFaced line-up are available exclusively at Boots UK.

Boots have been a key partner to the charity for 11 years, with its customers and colleagues donating, fundraising, to support the projects the charity funds.

This year, for the first time since the campaign began, celebrities are also being joined by women from across the UK who work in, or have been supported by, the projects BBC Children in Need fund.

They hail from all corners of the UK and work in projects that make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

The eight women have become advocates of the campaign, having seen first-hand the difference that the money raised makes to young lives right here in the UK.

Also joining the campaign are two colleagues from Boots UK, both of whom are long-time supporters of BBC Children in Need, supporting local projects and leading fundraising in their areas.

Singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor said: 'I'm delighted to be joining the 2014 BearFaced campaign alongside so many phenomenal women, from Olivia Colman, to BBC Children in Need project workers, the people who are out there, making a difference to young lives.'

'It is a campaign that brings women together from across the UK, and is something I am very proud to be a part of.'

'So I am asking for women across the UK to pop to Boots, pick up a Pawprint and have a #BearFaced moment today, a simple act that will go on to help change young lives.'

Actress Olivia Coleman said: 'Please join me in showing your support for BBC Children in Need by having a #BearFaced moment this year. Whether it is a five-minute moment or a one-hour moment, I want to see your beautiful bare faces across the UK, but don't forget your Pawprint.'

Presenter Michelle Keegan said: 'I am calling on women from across the UK to take some time this week and have a #BearFaced moment, all you need to do is swap your makeup for a Pawprint, this one small act will go on to make a huge difference.'

Participants are encouraged to share their BearFaced moment at bbc.co.uk/pudsey and be a part of the Big BearFaced Selfie. Sarah Monteith, director of marketing and fundraising BBC Children in Need, said: 'BBC Children in Need is proud to be bringing back BearFaced for its third consecutive year and we are delighted that our project workers have got involved this year as well.'

'It's a great initiative that always proves successful - it's such a simple way for women across the UK to get involved and raise money for those that need it most.'

ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

ALIenergy would like to wish Pudsey a warm, energy efficient day. ALIenergy are rolling out a number of new energy projects for 2014/15. Watch this space! 01631 565183 / www.alienergy.org.uk

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Thanks - car gone in a day after eight-month wait

A DUNBEG man driven mad by an abandoned car outside his house has thanked the police and *The Oban Times* for getting it removed.

The green Ford Mondeo was left outside James Ditchfield's home on Meadow Road in February and hadn't moved since, with online checks revealing the vehicle had no tax or MOT and therefore no valid insurance.

James had tried in vain to have the car removed, contacting the police, Argyll and Bute council and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) to no avail.

James, an engineer with Caledonian MacBrayne, said: 'The article was printed in *The Oban Times* on Thursday, October 23, then the next day the car was gone. My wife went to work in the morning and it was still there, but when she came home for her lunch it had disappeared.'

'The police had visited us and said they would try and get it moved by the weekend. I came home from work on Friday and our own car was parked outside our house which was a bit of a novelty - my wife was chuffed.'

Inspector Julie McLeish from Oban police office said: 'Following checks on the vehicle including the tax, MOT and registered keeper, traffic officers had a local contractor remove it and it is now in police storage.'



THANKS: James Ditchfield 16_144james01

Chaos prompts Scottish Water flood review vow

STEVEN RAE srae@obantimes.co.uk

SCOTTISH Water is to carry out a flood review after last week's heavy rainfall submerged an Oban street.

Exceptionally heavy, persistent rain caused the Black Lynn burn to burst its banks, flooding Lochavullin road and car park.

The road closure marooned stores in the industrial estate, while submerged vehicles floated into each other during the flood on October 28.

Argyll and Bute council was forced to bring in additional vehicles from Campbeltown and Helensburgh to assist with the clear up after the flood, which was completed by October 30.

Ewan Begg, 39, was visiting Oban for a two-day break from his home in Glenalmond, Perth and Kinross, when the heavy rain submerged his Citroen C1 in the Lochavullin car park while he was staying in the Ranald Hotel.

He said the council and Scottish Water needed to take measures to ensure flooding on that scale didn't happen again.

'I came down on the Tuesday and the car had floated across the car park a bit and the water was up the side of the bonnet,' he said.

'Some of the cars had floated



ACTION CALL: Ewan Begg, whose car was submerged during the flooding in the Lochavullin car park leading to engine damage 16_145floodcar01

into each other and caused damage but I don't have any actual bodywork damage - it's the engine that's knackered and I imagine there'll be others in the same boat.

'The council and Scottish Water need to look into these things

so they don't happen again.' A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The burn is tidal; when the tide is in the water stops flowing out and builds up, and last week's excessive flow rates have not been seen in more than 10 years.'

'Fifteen pumps were used to pump water back into the Black Lynn on Tuesday October 28, with Lochavullin road being reopened to traffic that evening.'

'All water had gone from the car park by Wednesday, October 29, with the debris being cleared

from the road, car park and drainage gullies that day.'

A spokeswoman for Scottish Water said it would be working with Argyll and Bute council to carry out a flood review of the area.

She said: 'All Scottish Water assets (Oban waste water treatment works and associated pumping stations) were fully operational during the flooding and in no way related to the flooding incident.'

'It is our understanding that the flooding at Oban was due to the river bursting its banks following the heavy rainfall and flooding the car park.'

'This area is within a natural flood plain, which can suffer especially where high river flows coincide with a high tide.'

'Scottish Water is working with Argyll and Bute council to support it as the lead authority in respect of surface water management planning under the Flood Risk Management Act and the area affected by last week's flooding is one of the agreed priority flooding locations being reviewed.'

As well as the street and car park, a house in Soroba road, which sits at ground level adjacent to the burn, also took in eight inches of water during the flooding.

Five-year plan to improve university

UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is to provide more opportunities to 'home-grown' students in coming years, according to the principle.

Professor Clive Mulholland revealed a five-year plan for three key strategies - a better student learning experience, more focused research and more input from future employers.

The university currently has 13 college campuses and more than 70 local learning centres in the Highlands and islands and professor Mulholland also wants to expand to areas outside of the region.

He said: 'I want us to be able to 'grow our own' in health and social care. We need to provide more opportunities for youngsters in our region but we also need to be attractive to others further south and to international students.'

'It is difficult to attract people here but we want to make our university a destination that people want to come to.'

Charity asks care plan questions

A HIGHLAND charity is appealing for answers from adults who need day-to-day help and their carers to find out how their lives can be made easier.

Volunteers at Health and Happiness in the Highlands have asked parents and carers in the area to fill out a survey explaining concerns they have about the future. A similar questionnaire is available for adults with learning disabilities or other issues which mean they require a carer.

Both surveys can remain anonymous and will help both the charity and NHS Highland address areas for improvement and find out how to help people live more independently.

The forms are available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/7L59T5N or a paper copy can be sent by calling 01667 404548 or texting 07590777 996.

Frozen meals on menu for pensioners

FROZEN meals are to be provided to some pensioners in the Western Isles, under a new scheme by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The pre-prepared lunch or dinner will be delivered to users of the care in the community service and will replace homecare staff making meals. Members of the Western Isles council health and social care committee believe this will free up carers' time. Meals will come from MacLean's Bakery, Benbecula,

and mainland provider Apetito and will start with Uist and Barra this month, before continuing in Lewis and Harris early next year.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the health and social care committee, said: 'The introduction of this meal service will re-distribute the time taken to prepare meals to enable other tasks and care time to be provided. We are committed to providing the best possible care for our older folk, including providing tasty, nutritious meals.'

A83 re-opens after latest landslip closure



EFFORTS to clear debris from an Argyll road have been successful, following a closure due to a landslide.

The A83, at the Rest and Be Thankful, was closed for five days after rocks blocked the road on October 28. Traffic was diverted via the Old Military Road.

Specialist teams got to the top of the hill on October 30 to break up boulders that had been deposited there, with the road re-opening on Sunday.

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Hallowe'en Madness

THERE were various ghostly gatherings on Friday, as children haunted the West Highlands for Hallowe'en.

From classic costumes such as witches, skeletons and vampires, to a Lochside Primary school child dressed as a JCB digger, the imaginative outfits brought colour to the parties throughout the area.

Around 40 Hallowe'en horrors made the trip to Uig Community Hall in fancy dress for their party on Skye.

Trick-or-treaters gathered at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, on Friday night for an evening of fun, with prizes for the best costumes.

A werewolf, gorilla and an evil clown were among the guests at Lochside primary school for its meeting of monsters.

Glen Nevis held a 'spooky trail' event for some outdoor fun, with prizes for the best costumes and decorated pumpkins.

Inverlochry nursery held a ghostly gathering in its Hallowe'en den, with costumes including Postman Pat, Batman and three Spidermen.

Caol community council managed to round up some of the locals for an evening of fun including dooking for apples in the community centre.

Ailsa and Shona Scholes, seven and four, were less than impressed with the company at the Glen Nevis 'spooky trail' event 20_145glen01



Six-year-old Cailean MacQueen cuts a frightening figure as Dracula at the Oban Atlantis Leisure Hallowe'en party.



The children's Hallowe'en party in Uig Community Hall, Skye. Photo Sam Nicolson



Lily and Danielle Evans-Lauder, aged three-and-a-half, had a great time at the Atlantis Leisure Hallowe'en party in Oban



Lochaber's Lochside RC primary school pupils competed for best dressed 20_145lochside01



Fun fundraisers at Oban Tesco raised cash for Diabetes UK last Saturday 17_145tesco01



Lochaber's Inverlochry nursery pupils (above) dressed up to play in their Hallowe'en den 20_145nursery01

Some Caol youngsters enjoyed a Hallowe'en party, arranged by the Lochaber village's community council 20_145caol01





TING TING: Last year's design competition winner designer Ting Ting from China showed off her Japanese inspired use of Dunollie tartan

CAPE: Designer Liz Gaffney designed this bespoke piece (right) with Dunollie tartan for a friend to model at the Corran Halls

FRIGHTENING: Using volunteer models, Rutherford's hairdressers in Oban produced some amazing creations (the theme was Dare to Scare) at the community catwalk event in the Corran Halls on Saturday evening

FASANTA

Festival of Textiles & Fashion



DANCING: Ballet West was simply amazing as one of the performers at the community catwalk event

THE FASANTA (Gaelic for fashionable) Festival held over two days last weekend was a successful, inspiring event for fashionistas from all over the UK.

The event was planned and inspired by staff at Dunollie House, Oban. It saw a programme of activities and events that brought some renowned fabric and beading specialists from the UK to the town.

The real beauty of the event was the practical workshops sitting alongside some of the most interesting fabrics from Dunollie House and indeed from contemporary textile artists with people such as Dalmally weaver Louise Oppenheimer and textile felter Liz Gaffney from Kilmichael Glassary in Mid Argyll.

Workshops were attended by people who wanted to both pick up a skill and develop their own talents.

One woman, who attended, told The Oban Times: 'It was quite amazing to attend a workshop in the morning led by an expert in needlecraft and stitching from Hampton Court's Royal School of Needlework and an afternoon spent in the company of the person who led one of the biggest volunteer efforts in Scotland in the Prestonpans 1745 Tapestry.

'The event was outstanding and I still think there is much work to be done to explore more of the importance and nature of fabric for the community.'

Another group had made its way from Aberdeenshire to the event especially for two of the workshops. Angus Haddow, a textile enthusiast, said he had brought his wife and two friends to visit the exhibition.

He was especially interested in the Prestonpans Tapestry and the Tیره Tapestry, which were both hanging in the town over the weekend.

He said: 'I am delighted to be here and to get such good access to the workshops and the tapestries.'

Exhibitor of polymer clay designs, Sally Weaser said the event allowed her to meet the contacts she needs to succeed.

After last year's event she managed to find new outlets for her products including the production of a new heritage range of tartans.

Based in Oban, Sally is meticulous in creating authentic tartan designs. Her work is sold in 10 outlets in Oban and throughout the country.

Louise Oppenheimer was exhibiting for the first time at the event, and had a wide range of woven art and a collection of post cards and cards.

Louise's weavings and drawings are inspired by the landscape of Mid Argyll.

The workshops, talks and classes ranged from Tambour (Jacobean) beading to felting and tapestry techniques.

This was a number of community events that allowed the work of people from Oban and the wider area to be displayed.

Project organisers were keen that this was not seen as something for 'other people' but was very much a project to strike at the ingenuity and creativity of the local community.

That ethos was played out by the large numbers of people who took part in the community catwalk event in the Corran Halls and in the children's event at Atlantis Leisure Centre.

This saw the unveiling of the Oban and Lorn Schools Tapestry - which is not quite finished, but which will remain in Atlantis for people to see for some time.

'Fìghe' an evening with award winning singer and songwriter, Rachel Walker, brought the Spean Bridge-based musician back to the festival this time to play her second specially composed piece for the event.

Fìghe (Gaelic for knitting) was inspired by the rhythm, written information and poetry surrounding looms, mills and tapestries, paying particular attention to the Prestonpans 1745 Tapestry.

Rachel was joined by an array of accomplished singers, musicians and dancers and gave what was described as 'an outstanding performance, whose resonance will live on in the psyche'.



DESIGNER: Polymer Clay designer Sally Weaser shows off her collection of tartan products that can take weeks to make due to the intricate nature of the work 17_t45fasanta3



JUDGES: The panel deliberates on who the winners are of the community catwalk competition



TIREE TAPESTRY: Angus Haddow of Aberdeen points out the detail of a fishing boat on the Tیره Tapestry 17_t45fasanta2



WEAVING: Louise Oppenheimer shows off the art of weaving and some of her drawings 17_t45fasanta1



CHILDREN: The panel workings of the Oban and Lorn Schools Tapestry



PRESTONPANS: The 1745 Preston Tapestry filled the upstairs of Oban Distillery with its 104 panels. The tapestry was popular with visitors and tourists and many were keen to tell their own family stories of Bonnie Prince Charlie's connections with the west coast of Scotland 17_t45fasanta6



GO HOME: The detail of the tapestry with panel number nine - 'But the Prince receives a lukewarm welcome'. No one had imagined that he would dare come alone. 'Go home,' begs MacDonald of Boisdale. 'I am home,' replies the Prince 17_t45fasanta7

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

- THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER**
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm
Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club, Monthly club night, Royal Hotel, Oban, 7.30pm
Becoming Julie Book Launch, Waterstones, Oban, 6.30-8.30pm
Trail West at Markie Dans, Corran Esplanade, Oban, 9.30pm
- FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER**
Keep the Home Fires Burning, Musical Evening, St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, 7pm
New York Fundraising Ceilidh with Ceol an Aire, Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban, 7.30pm
Lorn Historical Society AGM & Photos, St Columba's Cathedral Hall, Oban, 7.30pm
Edinburgh Choreographic Project, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, 7.30pm
- SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER**
Coffee Morning & Open Day, Lochmell Primary, Benderloch, 10.30am-12.30pm
Oban Bach Choir & Orchestra in concert, St John's Cathedral, Oban, 7.30pm
Winter Ceilidh, Taynult Village Hall, 7.30pm
- SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER**
Crafter & Producers Market, Great Western Hotel, Oban, 11am-4pm
- MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER**
Oban Camera Club, Regent Hotel, Oban, Text Alex 07799 353140 for more info, Every Monday, 7.30pm
- WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER**
Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club, Argyll Hotel, Inveraray, 8pm
- Email details of your event titled 'What's On' to whatson@obantimes.co.uk

Country singer confirmed for Oban Hogmanay Party



HOGMANAY: Country singer Brian Hughes and his band will be appearing at Oban's Hogmanay Party - alongside the ever popular Oban band The Works

THE LINE-UP for Oban's Hogmanay Party will rock the town into 2015 with some of the best bands on the west coast. This year organisers have secured a singer songwriter who comes with years of experience and some amazing accolades to his name - Brian

Hughes and his band. Brian, who has collected silverware from the British Country Music Awards in 2006 and 2011, has released numerous albums as a solo artist and with his former band The Lone Sharks. Brian said: 'I am both delighted and honoured

to have been invited to play at the Oban Hogmanay celebrations, and the band and I are really looking forward to performing on the night. 'Having played similar festival celebrations throughout Europe, it will be special to be in Scotland for the New Year.'



Meet the artist Ellis Mhairi Cameron

ELLIS Mhairi Cameron, 22, grew up in Benderloch, Oban. She moved to Glasgow in 2009, studying firstly at Cardonald College on its Portfolio Preparation Course (NO). From there she studied for four years at The Glasgow School of Art graduating in June 2014 from its (BA Hons) Silversmithing and Jewellery course with a First Class Honours Degree. Since graduating she has shown her work in galleries across the UK and Europe. She is currently stocked in both @Work Gallery, in London as well as in Oresome Gallery in Hull. She has taken her work to several design fairs in London and will be exhibiting at Craft 2015.

ideas of removal, abstraction, presence and absence. I focus on subjective worth, through exclusively combining silver with 'non-precious' found elements, such as slate and stone. My collection deliberates the complexities of time in relation to the self. It acts both as a study of personal thought and as a visual development of acceptance. Through investigating what was, I seek to develop an understanding of what now remains.

How do you manage your huge workload?

I am keen to balance the business side of the Ellis Mhairi Cameron brand with the jewellery collection itself. I think it is really important to keep applying for exhibitions, funding, trade fairs and other ways in which to showcase and sell work.

So what have you been doing since you graduated?

Over the summer, I undertook two month-long artist residencies; one at the Gullkistan Studios, in Laugarvatn, Iceland and one at The Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The Gullkistan residency was a chance to react to a new landscape; I focused on creating a breadth of research and imagery. The Scottish Sculpture Workshops residency permitted me to further my technical skills. By broadening my knowledge of other workshop skills, this shaped how I, in turn, approach constructing my own sculptural jewellery.

What are your influences and inspirations?

My jewellery is concerned with the natural landscape's ability to trigger memory and emotion. I gather visual imagery from my home environment of Benderloch, sketching and painting from my source. I consider the connotations of home, shelter and dwelling, using the form of water as my main source. I see it as a metaphor for transience and change. Water holds a sense of duality; it dies and is constantly reborn. It is a mediator between being and gone; it encompasses many layers and states of presence. From my sketches I create paper and copper models, to test out forms and shapes, before finalising forms in silver. I utilise metal work processes such as forging, casting and chasing to mark make onto metal. I explore a monochrome colour palette to suggest

Who encouraged you to work in the creative industries?

Scotland is a great creative hub for contemporary jewellery design, and design in general. I received a great deal of advice and support from my family and friends, and of course from my lecturers while studying.

The silversmithing and jewellery department at the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) is a fantastic department, which I am extremely proud to have graduated from.

I was thrilled to be asked to return as an Artist in Residence 2014/15 to the Silversmithing and Jewellery department.

I am currently teaching First Year students alongside developing work for my new collection, Uisge/Water.

Where do you work best?

For research I work best out in the natural environment; recording and sketching. The GSA Jewellery workshop is where I function best for making; I love being in a busy, productive environment.

What do you want to do in the future?

I hope to have completed further study on a Master of Arts course, exploring the concepts of my jewellery as far as possible. I feel that my work so far is only really the beginning of the explorations of my themes and ideas. I also wish to continue building my business; selling work to galleries, attending trade fairs and generally showcasing my work.

Who has inspired you?

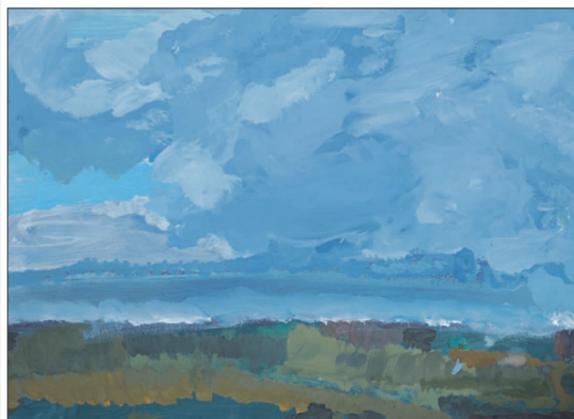
I take inspiration from sculptural artists such as Eva Hesse, Louise Bourgeois and Giuseppe Penone. The materials, forms and concepts which these artists deal with I can really relate to. The annual jewellery show, Schmuck, in Germany is also very inspiring as well. I love seeing how other jewellers make, think and create. I am very fortunate to be part of a discipline which is constantly developing and changing. I am hugely passionate about my profession. I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to do something which I truly love.

High school pupils invited to enter art competition

SECONDARY school pupils from across Argyll are being invited to compete for one of the country's most prestigious art awards. The Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy's Schools Art Award 2015 includes a new prize for senior pupils instigated by Rosemary Woodroffe, chairman of the Friends of the RSA. The chairman's challenge carries a prize of £300. There are also prizes of £250, £150 and

£100 awarded to the top three entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories respectively. Schools entering the competition for the first time also have the chance to win £250. Additionally, every school participating in the Schools Art Award 2015 will have the opportunity to win the chance to visit the major exhibition, RSA New Contemporaries in Edinburgh or a free half-day workshop deliv-

ered by one of the most exciting young artists working in Scotland today, Gemma Coyle. Prize winners will see their work showcased in an exhibition in the Royal Scottish Academy Friends' Room in March 2015. For further information on how to enter the competition, which closes on February 6 2015, please visit the Friends of the RSA's new website: www.schoolsartaward.com



ART: One of last year's winners, Jacob Davies came from one of Scotland's smallest schools, Sanday Community School in Orkney. Jacob travelled to Edinburgh with his parents to pick up his prize at a ceremony in the RSA and attended the private view of the exhibition

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Oban to Stirling Thistles - £150 return

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Reaching More Customers

Craft Business Development Workshop

Business Gateway will be running a FREE workshop aimed at helping small craft businesses develop and reach more customers profitably. The workshop will include understanding your market and competitors; pricing; choosing where to sell; using social media; networks and collaborating with other craft businesses; making an impact at craft fairs.

Thursday, 20 November 2014 - Tarbert
Wednesday, 26 November 2014 - Oban
Wednesday, 3 December 2014 - Strachur

Places are limited so please book your place early to avoid disappointment. Call 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk to book your place.

Business Gateway - Argyll and Bute

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Work to start on Isle of Bute's historic mausoleum

A MAJOR conservation project has started on one of the Isle of Bute's most important historical buildings. Work began on the Bute Family Mausoleum at Rothesay High Kirk on October 27 and is expected to last around six weeks. The mausoleum's historical significance stretches far beyond the shores of Bute. The fact that it is the final resting place of the 3rd Earl of Bute - the first Scottish Prime Minister of the United Kingdom - makes it of national importance. John Stuart, who lived from 1713 to 1792, served as Prime Minister under George III from 1762 to 1763. He was the first Scottish Prime Minister following the Acts of Union in 1707.

The mausoleum was built for the Bute family, however, following the construction of Mount Stuart the family (Shore) chapel superseded the mausoleum as the final resting place of the Butes. It is intended that the chapel will undergo a similar restoration programme in the very near future. Alistair McIntyre of the Mount Stuart Trust said: 'This late 18th century building has long been recognised as being of national historical significance, and this comprehensive programme of works will ensure that it is preserved for the foreseeable future. 'The extensive conservation and stabilisation works to be undertaken over the next few weeks will include stone,

render and roof repairs, with the specialist conservation contractors and local sub contractors paying particular attention to the original architecture and detailing throughout the structure. 'The mausoleum has for some time been the subject of restoration proposals, and after extensive consultation with conservation architect Brian Park of Page Park, Mount Stuart Trust is very pleased to embark upon this important conservation project.' Glasgow architect Page Park is also responsible for the design of Mount Stuart Trust's master plan Phase Two. Once the project has been completed, the mausoleum will be removed from Historic Scotland's Buildings at Risk register.

Neil's up for a dram

Tob pub in the running for top award



DRAM TASTIC: Neil Morrison and MacGochans bar in Tobermory have been selected for one of Scotland's most prestigious bar prizes.

MACGOCHANS bar in Tobermory is going from strength to strength with a potential win this evening. (Thursday) putting them in the top three independent bars in Scotland.

The Dram awards uses a vigorous application and judging programme to select the best independent bars in Scotland - the Tobermory bar has reached the final with two Edinburgh estab-

lishments. Leading the charge for Tobermory to win is publican Neil Morrison who has been at the helm of the Ledaig bar and restaurant for more than eight years. Neil said: 'We are

delighted to be in the top three, it's great that we are being recognised at a national level.' The awards are held at the Hilton, Glasgow, and hosted by comedian Kevin Bridges.

Gaelic writer up for book award

ACCLAIMED Gaelic writer and storyteller, Martin MacIntyre, is one of the authors in contention for the Saltire Society Book of the Year Award. His new collection of short stories Cala Bendita's a Bheannachdan (Cala Bendita and its Blessings) will feature next week at the annual Saltire Society Literary Awards. Cala Bendita's a Bheannachdan was launched by Acair at the Edinburgh International Book festival earlier this year and is the fourth book to be released as part of the new Gaelic fiction series, Aiteal. The stories follow the lives of Simon, Jenny

and their family in settings from Benbecula to Mallorca, and readers are introduced to a host of characters who impact upon their lives, from Brits abroad to a Basque family. Talking about the awards, Martin MacIntyre said: 'I am delighted that Cala Bendita's a Bheannachdan has been shortlisted for this award. Writing for me is mostly a solitary pursuit and it's thus hugely encouraging when ideas, characters and stories - living for months in the mind - excite the minds and hearts of others. I'm looking forward very much to November 11 whatever the outcome.'

UHI extends access to education with online courses

THE UNIVERSITY of the Highlands and Islands has announced its partnership with Open Educational Resources Universitas (OERu), an international network of recognised institutions from five continents providing free top-quality online courses to students everywhere. The concept of the OERu is to use the power of digital distribution

to widen access to more affordable higher education using open education approaches, especially for learners excluded from the formal sector. The University of the Highlands and Islands is the first Scottish university to participate in the online learning initiative and is only the fifth institution in Europe to join.

Jolomo's charity calendar

ONE OF Scotland's most popular artists has launched a luxury calendar to raise money to help restore Glasgow School of Art's iconic Mackintosh building. Argyll-based John Lowrie Morrison OBE, known as Jolomo, will donate all royalties from the deluxe limited edition 2015 Jolomo Calendar to the Mackintosh Appeal, set up after the building was badly damaged by fire in May. John, who was a student at Glasgow School of Art from 1967-72 working in the Mackintosh Building, says he hopes the calendar will help to keep the appeal in the public eye throughout 2015. He said: 'At first, everyone remembered the fire, but people have short memories and the world forgets. The calendar will be on people's walls for a

year. I hope it will act as a conversation starter and will help to keep the appeal alive in people's minds.' He said he chose images for the calendar from what he considers the best of his recent work, including a striking painting of Venice, which he painted for the first time last year, alongside seascapes and sunsets from Mull, Iona, Islay and Gigha. He said: 'I picked the paintings I really like. They are quite abstract, quite moody. They show the direction my work is taking after being to Venice.' The Mackintosh Appeal, which is administered by Glasgow School of Art Development Trust with Brad Pitt and Peter Capaldi as patrons, is aiming to raise £20million towards the restoration of the Mackintosh Building, which was badly damaged by the fire on May 23.

Seven days

Thursday 6

WHAT Book Launch WHERE Waterstones, Oban WHEN 6.30 - 8.30pm COST Free Julie Clarke is a phenomenal woman who has a beautiful story to tell. Her journey to becoming a women was featured in *The Oban Times* last month. Julie was born in Callander and now lives on the island of Coll, off the west coast of Scotland. She lives alone with her beloved cat Lotti and works for Caledonian MacBrayne.

Friday 7

WHAT Archaeological Club and Historical Society AGM and Photos WHERE St Columba's Cathedral Hall, Oban WHEN 7.30pm COST Members free, non-members £2.50 This fantastic club is holding its annual AGM, and anyone who is not enticed enough by that is being offered a chance to see the wonderful photos of old Oban shown by the veritable Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond. Should be a great night.



Saturday 8

WHAT First World War Centenary Concert WHERE St John's Cathedral, Oban WHEN 7.30pm COST £8/ £6 An evening with Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra performing Schubert: Unfinished Symphony and Cherubini: Requiem in memory of all who have died as a result of war. This will be an outstanding performance in evocative surroundings.



Sunday 9

WHAT Action Group WHERE Oban WHEN 7.30pm COST Free Oban Concern for Palestine monthly meeting for more details contact Graeme on 01631 563737.

Monday 10

WHAT Talk WHERE Alexandra Hotel - Nevis Suite, Fort William WHEN 7.30pm COST Membership £15 per year or £4 meeting, children free Drifting, hitching and losing your way - how to get to Lochaber if you're a fish. The first lecture of the new season is by Diane Baum of the Lochaber Fisheries Trust and she will be talking about how the area arrived at the current distribution of fish in Highland Scotland and how this might change in the future.



Tuesday 11

WHAT Looking at World War One WHERE Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow WHEN 10am -5pm COST Free A small display of paintings and sculpture looking at WWI, now on in the Looking at Art gallery on the ground floor of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Pictures and sculpture can sometimes convey feeling and emotion more powerfully than words. This was recognised in WWI by the British government which set up a picture department in 1916 as part of its Propaganda Bureau in order to influence public opinion about the war and promote Britain's war effort. The artists in this display had different feelings about the war and its consequences. Through their choice of colour, texture and shape they encourage reflection on issues such as power and sacrifice, conscientious objection and immigration. Looking at WWI offers the opportunity to pause and reflect at this time of national and international WWI centenary commemorations.

Wednesday 12

WHAT Oban Bridge Club WHERE Cathedral Hall, Esplanade, Oban WHEN 7pm Oban Bridge Club meets every Monday and Wednesday - anyone wishing to attend should contact davidwpollard@btinternet.com, or Neilcfraser@aol.com.



| | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Oban Phoenix Cinema | Gene Girl | Fri 7th 17.00, 20.15 Sun 9th 18.30 Tues 11th 17.00, 20.15 Thurs 13th 17.00, 20.15 | Sat 8th 17.00, 20.15 Mon 10th 17.00, 20.15 Wed 12th 17.00, 20.15 |
| | Fury | Thurs 6th 17.45, 20.15 Sat 8th 20.30 Mon 10th 17.30 Wed 12th 20.30 | Fri 7th 20.30 Sun 9th 18.50 Tues 11th 20.30 Thurs 13th 20.30 |
| | What We Did On Our Holidays | Thurs 6th 16.00, 18.10 Sat 8th 16.15, 18.20 Mon 10th 15.15 Wed 12th 16.00 | Fri 7th 18.20 Sun 9th 16.40 Tues 11th 16.00 Thurs 13th 18.20 |
| | Annabelle | Thurs 6th 20.20 | |
| | Northern Soul | Mon 10th 20.30 Wed 12th 18.15 | Tues 11th 18.15 |
| | Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day | Sat 8th 12.20, 14.30 Sun 9th 14.30 | Sun 9th 14.30 |
| | The Book of Life | Sat 8th 12.30, 14.40 3D Thurs 13th 16.00 | Sun 9th 14.10, 16.20 3D |

Gene Girl (18) Ben Affleck is suspected of murdering his wife in this dark, complex thriller. When Amy Dunne disappears on her fifth wedding anniversary, her adoring husband Nick (Ben Affleck) is naturally distraught. Adopting a high public profile, he launches a massive search for his 'Amazing Amy'. But under intense media and police scrutiny, cracks begin to appear in Nick's portrayal of the perfect marriage. As his lies unravel, he finds himself cast as the prime suspect!

Fury (15) Brad Pitt leads a tank crew on a deadly mission at the end of WWII in this gritty, action-packed war movie. April 1945. Hardened tank commander Don 'Wardaddy' Collier (Brad Pitt) has seen action all the way from Africa to Germany. He has always sworn to protect the crew of Fury, his Sherman tank. Their latest mission is a vital but positively suicidal one, striking at the heart of Nazi Germany behind enemy lines. As if being outnumbered and heavily outnumbered wasn't bad enough, Wardaddy has also been assigned wet-behind-the-ears assistant driver Norman Ellison (Logan Lerman).

What We Did On Our Holidays (12A) Rosamund Pike, David Tennant and Billy Connolly star in a heart-warming comedy about an eventful family holiday. Doug and Abi are going through a painful divorce. Doug's father birthday party couldn't have come at a more inconvenient time. Heading off for the Scottish Highlands, the bickering couple issue their three young children with strict instructions to keep the divorce a secret. However, this is more easily said than done.

Annabelle (15) Mia and John Gordon are terrorised by supernatural forces when John thinks he has found the perfect gift for his wife and unborn child, a rare vintage doll dressed in a white wedding dress named Annabelle. The family's joy however is abruptly ended when they are invaded and attacked in their home by members of a satanic cult. The terror of that night is nothing compared to what follows as the cult conjure an entity which takes over Annabelle and transforms her into a malevolent force of evil.

Northern Soul (15) 'Northern Soul' is the story of a youth culture in the 1970s which changed a generation. It tells the tale of a nightclub based movement which developed in Northern England. The film is an authentic and uplifting account of two young boys whose horizons are opened up by the discovery of black American soul music. No longer satisfied with the prospect of a small town life and a factory production line, they dream of going to America to discover super rare records which will help them become the best DJs on the Northern Soul scene. The difficult journey forces the two best friends to confront rivalry, violence and drug abuse as their friendship and loyalties are tested to the limit.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG) 11-year-old Alexander experiences the most terrible and horrible day of his young life. A day that begins with gum stuck in his hair, followed by one calamity after another. But when he tells his upbeat family about the misadventures of his disastrous day, he finds little sympathy and begins to wonder if bad things only happen to him. He soon learns that he's not alone.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

NEW YORK FUNDRAISING CEILIDH
Friday 7th November
Skipinnish Ceilidh House
7.30pm
Ceol an Aire
Tickets £10 from Oban Music Shop or Craffy Ewe
Raffle and Auction on the night

INVERARAY & DISTRICT ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 12th
November at 8.00pm
Guest Artists
From Blairgowrie
Nicol MacLaren Trio
Supporting players most welcome

An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain (Cruachan Branch)
Second Winter Ceilidh
Taynuilt Village Hall
Saturday 8th November 2014 (change of date) at 7.30pm
Fear an Taigh: Donny (maroo) MacLeod, Piper: Gordon Rowan
Singers: Neil Macritchie, Rebecca MacDonald, Ruairidh Cormack (2014 Traditional Mod Gold Medalist)
Musicians: Ann Barlow - Fiddle, Kyle Rowan - Accordion, Allan Rowan - Keyboard
The Isla Sinclair Dancers
Admission: £4 (£3 for members and £2 for children)
Tea and raffle. All welcome

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

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail - An t-Òban 2015
Post-Mòd Cèilidh
Skipinnish Ceilidh House
George Street, Oban
Saturday 15th November 2014 at 7.30pm
£6 admission (Children Free)
Artistes: Ruairidh Cormack, Eilidh Cormack, Donna Dugdale, Hector MacKechnie, Ross MacPherson, Alastair MacLellan
Bean an taigh: Margaret MacLellan

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

Oban FM Community Radio, 132 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John MacLackie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 Americano Show with Michelle & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight
WEDNESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len
Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn
SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
SUNDAY:
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Alan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

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Farming Focus
Lucy Sumsion, NFU Scotland
Regional Manager covering
Argyll & the Islands, including
Arran, gives an overview of
current issues in the region

Crucial time for new basic payment scheme

COMMON Agricultural Policy (CAP) discussions seem to have dominated so much of what the union has done over the last two-three years, but as we near the end of 2014 the final details are emerging.

Scottish agriculture is about to enter a new and complex world of area-based payments from January 2015.

All farmers and crofters who submitted a Single Application Form (SAF) 2014 should last week have received a letter from the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID).

This letter set out how the new Basic Payment Scheme, which replaces the Single Farm Payment Scheme (SFPS), will be paid on an area basis. To reflect the variation in land across Scotland, it will be based on traditional land quality.

As many of you will be aware there will be three payment regions, but this letter from RPID will be the first time that claimants have seen what a change to an area-based payment is actually going to mean on their farm or croft.

The payment regions are set out as follows:

Payment region one: This includes better quality agricultural land that has been used for arable cropping, temporary grass and permanent grass.

Payment region two: This includes rough grazing with a Less Favoured Areas (LFA) grazing category of B, C, D or non-LFA.

Payment region three: This includes rough grazing with an LFA grazing category A.

The letter from RPID lists all the land parcels you, or your seasonal tenant, claimed under the SFPS on the SAF 2014.

For each land parcel it shows

the gross area, whether it is LFA or NLFA, the region RPID provisionally believe it to be in, and its grazing category for payment regions two and three (if it has one).

It is vital that everyone checks and double checks this list to ensure that RPID have all your field parcels listed.

You then need to check what payment region each field parcel has been allocated to. If you think RPID's provisional assessment is wrong you must contact your local RPID office for more information.

Importantly, if after this you are not satisfied with their decision, you will need to write to them within 60 days of the date of the letter.

You will need to tell them why you think their provisional assessment is wrong and provide evidence which supports this. This is a once-only opportunity to make sure your land is classified in the right payment region.

Once RPID set these there will be no mechanism to change them during the duration of this CAP.

Over the next couple of weeks NFU Scotland is holding a number of CAP roadshow meetings across the country.

There are two meetings to be held in Argyll both on Friday November 14.

The first will be in Tarbert Village Hall at 1pm followed by an evening meeting in the Corran Halls, Oban at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome - it is vital that farmers and crofters understand what the implications of the new CAP proposals are going to have on their business and NFU Scotland will be doing all it can to make sure that members have the information under that they need and are aware of how it is going to affect them.

Dairy co-op to pay farmers less for milk

THE PRICE paid to farmers for milk by dairy co-operative First Milk is to fall at the beginning of December to 22.7 pence per litre (ppl) for its liquid pool and 24 pence per litre for its manufacturing pool.

This is a cut in price of 1.4 ppl and 1.8 ppl respectively.

First Milk, which produces Mull of Kintyre Cheddar and runs the Torrylinn Creamery which produces Isle of Arran cheese, as well as Scottish Pride cheese and butter, says it has had to make this decision because of a fall in returns for both liquid and cheese over the last month.

Chairman Sir Jim Paice MP said: 'With cheese specifically, this impacts not only on what we are selling now, but on the price



that we can sell our cheese stocks in the future.

'Additionally, we have been processing the majority of surplus milk supplied this year into skimmed milk powder.

'Returns from this market have declined further over the last month.

'This is due to the fact that so companies, in mainland Europe, have increased stocks.

'The harsh reality is that prices are continuing to fall for dairy products everywhere in the world.

'As a board we have to balance the interests of individual farm businesses with the interest of the business owned by the same farmers.

'We have to set prices which

reflect what we can achieve for the eventual product. We will continue to take whatever steps we can to reduce the impact of these negative market conditions, and ensure that the business is in the best possible shape when the market turns.'

First Milk is the UK's only major dairy company, 100 per cent owned by British farmers.

It supplies a wide range of dairy products and dairy ingredients to customers in both national and international markets including block cheeses, soft cheeses, raw milk, butter, skimmed milk powder, whey proteins and sports nutrition brands.

It is headquartered in Glasgow with seven manufacturing sites in England, Scotland and Wales.

Skye meeting to tackle major sheep diseases

A FREE meeting to help farmers tackle two diseases, which can have a major effect on the health and welfare of sheep, is to be held in Portree, Skye.

Toxoplasmosis is a major cause of sheep abortion in the UK whilst OPA, a fatal lung disease of sheep, is raising increasing concern among sheep breeders.

The meeting at Skye Camanachd Shinty Club on November 27 is designed to help farmers and vets achieve more effective control of the diseases.

Organised by Moredun, a world leader in research into the health and welfare of livestock, the meeting is also part of a National Livestock Health Roadshow.

Lee Innes and Chris Couzens, from Moredun, will outline what is known about the diseases, from biology to diagnosis.

They will then go on to describe how both toxoplasmosis and OPA can be controlled on the farm and the measures farmers can take to protect their livestock from these infections.

The meeting, which is also a registered Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority (AMTRA) accredited (12 points) event for suitably qualified persons (SOPs), will begin at 7.30pm and is open to anyone.

Hebrides identified as last stand for rare hen harriers

THE HEBRIDES has been identified as the last stand for one of Britain's most endangered bird species.

Dwindling numbers of hen harriers across the UK have prompted a European-backed conservation project in order to save the species.

The European Union supported project, Hen Harrier LIFE+, has been launched by the RSPB to establish seven special protection areas (SPAs) across the UK.

But of the areas identified, not one will cover the west Highlands and islands, which has a stable population of hen harriers.

Project manager Blánaid Denman explained that a national survey last year showed populations in the Hebrides has remained stable from 2004 - 2010, while elsewhere in Scotland, the population has plummeted by as much as 42 per cent in the north Highlands.

Ms Denman said: 'The main issue is hen harriers often come into conflict with management for grouse shooting and there is not that conflict on the islands.

'But they are breeding on the islands, producing young and going to other parts of the country and that is where they



RARE: the hen harrier is endangered across the UK but the population is stable in the west Highlands and islands of Scotland. Photo: Mark Hamblin (rspbimages.com)

the bulk of the UK breeding population of this species, mostly on Orkney, the Hebrides and parts of the western mainland.

The hen harrier used to be a widespread and familiar bird in the uplands of Britain. However by 1900, Victorian persecution by game preservers and skin and egg collectors had pushed this bird of prey to extinction as a breeding species on the British mainland.

Ms Denman said: 'Hen harriers are in dire straits. Numbers are declining dramatically and urgent action is needed, which is why this European Union-funded project is both welcome and timely.

'The cross-border project provides a huge boost to our efforts to monitor and protect hen harriers.

'Working together with volunteers and other organisations, we'll have more eyes and ears on the hills than ever before, using satellite tagging, winter roost monitoring and nest protection to deter persecution, identify the important areas for these birds and highlight where they're most at risk.'

Between 2004 and 2010 there was a 20 per cent decline in hen harriers across Scotland.

Candidates sought for NUFs presidency

WITH Nigel Miller stepping down as president of the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) after four years, vice presidents Allan Bowie and Rob Livesey have confirmed they will stand for election to the post.

Nominations, for both president and vice-president can be made until 5pm on Friday December 12 and the full list of candidates will be announced on December 16.

Members of NFUS's council - the body made up from representatives of each of the union's 71 branches - will select the successful candidates on February 10 2015 at the union's council meeting in St Andrews. This follows the start of the union's AGM and annual dinner the previous day.

Those wishing to stand should contact NFUS chief executive Scott Walker to obtain a proposal form.

Any NFUS member can be nominated for election, providing they are proposed and seconded by fellow NFUS members.

The presidential position is held for two years while vice presidents are currently elected annually.

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Market report: Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 2,871 store lambs, breeding and feeding sheep on October 28 in Oban.

A total of 1,507 store lambs sold to £64 for a pen of Texels from Ewan McLeod, Pulpit, Oban; 1,058 feeding ewes sold to £74 for Texels from J Wilson, Drimvore, Lochgilphead; 58 correct ewes sold to £60 for Blackface from Clachan Farms, Kilniver; 203 riggs sold to £50 for Cheviots from R & A Forrester, Ardnacross, Mule and 55 gimmers sold to £72 for Beltex's from Sheila MacCallum, Ach-Bheinn, Lochgilphead.

Leading Prices: Texel Lambs: £62 - Homestead; £59 - Scammadale; £58 - Homestead & Tyree £57 - Pulpit Rock, Suffolk Lambs; £62 - Poltalloch; £59 - Creag-A-Mhadaidh; £58 - Acha-Bheinn £56 - Frackersaig. Cross Lambs: £62 & £59 - Drumvore; £54 - Homestead & Inshaig; £53 - Poltalloch; £48 - Tyree. Cheviot Lambs: £47 - Quinish; £46 - Ardnacross; £44 - Brulin

£41 - Tirluir. Blackface Lambs: £48 - Scriob-Ruadh; £47 - Homestead; £46 - Newcrofts, Turnault, Carnassarie & Creag-A-Mhadh; £44 - Ballimore (Kerrera). Feeding Ewes: Mule: £60 - Baligarve & Acha-Bheinn; £55 - Balnagown; £54 - Balure; £52 - Pulpit Rock & Ballimackillchan. Texel: £68 - Slaterich; £60 - Barcardine Home Farm & Drumvore; £58 - Inshaig. Blackface: £42 - Clachan; £40 - Turnault, Laggan & Killiechroanan.



A unique, one-day goat keeping course will be held at Lochaline this month

Crofter to lead second goat-keeping course

A GOAT-KEEPING course will run for the second time in the West Highlands, following the success of the first session.

Crofter Tom Bryson will be teaching in Lochaline on November 22, explaining how to feed, breed and rear goats, with the help of his animal assistants Pia, Acorn and Hebe.

The one-day course has been arranged by West Highland College following the success of the first event in Kilchoan earlier this year.

Mr Bryson said: 'Goats are delightful animals to keep, full of individuality and character.

'They can be kept on land where most cows would starve. The milk production of a goat is just about right to meet the needs of the average family, it needs less space than a cow, costs less to buy and requires less equipment time to look after.

'There will be a chance to milk, weigh the goats and trim their feet.'

Attendees have to bring overalls, waterproofs and wellies.

To book a place on the course contact Pat Glenday of West Highland College on 01397 874260 or patglenday.whc@uhi.ac.uk.

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ISSUES affecting farmers across the Highlands and islands will be brought to the fore at this month's AgriScot, the farm business event.

The premier event of its type in the UK, AgriScot will attract more than 12,000 people to The Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston on Wednesday, November 19.

Backing the event is Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, convener of the Scottish Parliament's cross party group on crofting, who has called on topics such as the price of sheep and Europe's agricultural policy to be debated.

Mr McGrigor, who lives in Ardconnel, Lochaweside, said: 'AgriScot is an important event in the Scottish agricultural calendar and a vibrant showcase for new machinery and some of our world-class livestock.'

'Last year it attracted some 11,500 visitors and I am sure it will prove even more popular this year.'

'It is also a great opportunity for farmers and crofters across the Highlands and islands to meet and discuss some of the challenges facing the industry, not least concerns about the recent fall in sheep prices and the significant changes in support which begin next year through the new Common Agricultural Policy system.'

'Farming and crofting remain key primary industries and are very significant part of the economy of the Highland and Islands and I support any event like AgriScot which helps to raise the profile of the industry.'

AgriScot is the place for those seeking answers to the myriad of questions on their own circumstances.

Scotland's Farm Business Event is where the best commercial and technical advice is on offer.

The Lowland Machinery Hall is the country's largest winter display of machinery where visitors will be able to view the latest developments in farm hardware and technology, from the latest tractors to equipment for both arable and livestock farms.

And this year the Upland Hall is introduced with more trade stands increasing the size and scale of the event.

Add in competitions for aspiring young agricultural professionals, silage and new products, business seminars, technical demonstrations and more than 250 trade stands exhibiting a wide variety of products, services and advice covering every aspect of agriculture and it's easy to see that AgriScot is the place to be if you are in the business of farming.

Entry is free, as is car parking at the centre.

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Look out for a copy of Argyll and Bute Council's winter weather ready leaflet or find information online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-weather-ready

Tips for winter driving

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Slow down, steer gently and use the highest gear you can. If you have to brake don't do it sharply. Look out for other skid hazards like frost and wet leaves. Always be aware that there could be 'black ice'. This is a thin coating of ice on the road and while not truly black it is transparent, so you will be able to see the road through it.

Snow
If your tyres won't grip, there may be a salt heap or grit bin nearby. Spread salt or grit in front of your driving wheels and set off in the highest gear you can. If you are caught in heavy snow, wrap up warm and stay inside your vehicle if possible.

Fog
Use dipped headlights, keep your windscreen clear and drive so you can stop in the distance you can see. Use rear fog lights if visibility is less than 100 metres.

Rain
Use dipped headlights, keep your speed down and keep well back from the vehicle in front. If you come to a flood, slow right down but keep your revs high.

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Construction workloads reach seven-year high in Scotland

RICS UK Q3 Construction Market Survey, September 2014
Levels of private housing and private commercial activity increase in strength during Q3 2014.

Private and public housing and private commercial construction activity drove a record workload in Q3 - the highest recorded since 2007 - according to the RICS UK Construction Market Survey.

Despite skills shortage concerns for quantity surveyors rising for the second consecutive quarter (now standing at a net balance of 42 per cent) commercial workloads continue to make a strong recovery throughout Scotland, with 39 per cent more surveyors reporting a rise in activity (up from a net balance of 26 per cent in Q2). This compares to a workload decline over the same quarter in 2012 (net balance of -9 per cent).

In Scotland, there were positive signs for workloads in the public housing sector, with a net balance of 22 per cent of surveyors reporting a growth in construction activity during Q3, the sharpest increase since 2005. Workloads in the private housing sector also grew robustly across all parts of the UK with the London/South East region seeing the strongest growth.

However, while still positive, workloads in infrastructure saw much more balanced growth with 27 per cent more surveyors seeing activity levels

rise across Scotland. Significantly for Northern Ireland, for the fourth consecutive quarter, infrastructure and private industrial sector growth in Northern Ireland remained flat (0 per cent net balance).

Across the whole of the UK, the main factors which were found to be limiting building activity were a shortage of labour, followed by concerns over finance and shortage of materials (both a net balance of 58 per cent) followed by planning and regulation factors (a net balance of 51 per cent).

In particular, demand for brick layers grew significantly on the previous quarter, with a net balance of 71 per cent of respondents now saying that they are in great demand (compared to 59 per cent in Q2 2014). However, despite the concerns, the strength and breadth of the growth that is being reported across Scotland is promising and feeding expectations for further growth over the coming year.

As a result, 43 per cent more surveyors expect to see profits increase, rather than decrease, and 38 per cent of respondents expect to take on more people in response to the rising workloads during the next 12 months.

Unprecedented housing demand and the bounce back from a very deep

recession are translating into prominent growth in workloads throughout Scotland.

With a lack of housing supply identified in the recent Scottish Housing Commission reports, it is encouraging to see a growth in construction activity across housing sectors.

Sarah Speirs director RICS Scotland said: 'Of course factors impacting construction activity, such as skill shortages and material shortages, must be addressed if we are to avoid capacity constraints, but it is equally important that the underlying framework for effective planning and delivery of projects is in place to ensure long-term construction growth that is evenly spread across the country.'

Despite the positive figures, caution remains within the industry as the recovery begins to take hold.

David Taylor FRICS, CBA QS Ltd, Glasgow, commented: 'There is an ever-increasing air of confidence but market participants still seem reluctant to commit to some of the larger projects. We are sensing caution on funding even though the uncertainty which was present before the referendum has dissipated.'

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E: david.higgins@christie.com
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£115,000.
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ICBA NFOPP NAEA

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3 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, electric heating, small garden. Landlord reg no 336909-270-07471, ECP pending, £450 pcm.
Telephone 01671 403117.

TO LET
Spacious 2 bedroom cottage Rural setting in own grounds & parking at Ariogan, Lerags 2 miles south of Oban. Both bedrooms en-suite. Large lounge with wood burning stove, fitted kitchen with dining area, conservatory. Part furnished. Suite couple, no dss, references required.
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HOUSE FOR RENT Fully furnished, 2 bedroom house in Oban
Available for long term let. No DSS/No Pets, references required. £550.00 per calendar month with £550.00 deposit + Council Tax and Utilities.
Available from end of November.
Please contact:
linda@stevensonkenedy.co.uk
01631 562317

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Two bedroom flat, Oban Esplanade, one week up until 5 months, big discounts. Also Los Gigantes, Tenerife, up market resort from £190 weekly.
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ricky13yates@yahoo.co.uk

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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

**TEAM MANAGER
(PROJECTS)**

OBAN LNG PLANT
£29,300 - £36,700

(DEPENDENT ON SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE PLUS SIGNIFICANT EXTRA STANDBY PAYMENTS)

Operating throughout Scotland and in the south and south-east of England, SGN is the UK's second largest gas distribution business. Our primary focus is to maintain the safe, reliable and efficient delivery of gas to customers in 5.8 million homes and businesses. We currently have an opportunity for the post of Team Manager.

This is a key operational post within the Scottish Independent Undertaking team, reporting to the SIU Project Manager.

Key responsibilities will include:

- Co-ordinate and manage SIU project works, ensure adequate contract and local resource is available and manage day to day aspects of on the ground construction.
- Liaise with external contractors and different parts of SGN.
- Manage and control G17 aspects of construction works.
- Plan and manage team workload to ensure that H.S.E. legislation, Standards of Service, policies and procedures are complied with.
- Prepare, plan and authorise operations in accordance with the Safe Control of Operations procedures.
- Be prepared to learn and be deemed competent in core SIU activities.
- Participate in a high frequency standby rota.

Qualifications, competencies, experience and other requirements:

Prefer degree level education in a relevant engineering subject, however applications from exceptional candidates who are educated to HND/HNC level with appropriate experience will be considered. You will also have sound technical experience and a broad technical knowledge in your existing field, along with knowledge of appropriate legislation, policy, procedures and relevant codes of practice. You will have effective communication and sound decision making skills, and will require to be flexible, self-motivated and resourceful. A Company car will be provided making a valid driving licence essential.

To apply, please download an application form from our website, www.sgn.co.uk or request one from jobs@sgn.co.uk Completed forms should be emailed to jobs@sgn.co.uk or returned by post to the address shown on the top of the application form. All applications must quote reference number 14209EXT.

Applications must be received by close of business on Thursday 13 November 2014.

SGN is an equal opportunities employer



The Scottish Salmon Company

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

Marine Operatives AGD Team
Ref: Stronachullin MO/10/14
Ref: Murray Toward MO/10/14
Salary £16,935 Plus Overtime

We are seeking Marine Operative's for AGD team within our Stronachullin and Murray Toward sites. Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications. A full clean driving licence is essential for both positions as travelling may be involved.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme.

For an application form and job description contact:
Angela Gibson, HR Assistant
The Scottish Salmon Company
Ardkinglas Estate
Cairndow, Argyll PA26 8BH
Tel 01499 600 430
Email angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date: Friday 21st Nov 2014
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

Argyll Voluntary Action

Argyll Voluntary Action seeks to recruit an organised and motivated individual to become our 'Third Sector and Volunteering Support Officer' for the Oban, Lorn & the Isles area.

This post sits within the core functions of Argyll Voluntary Action and encompasses support to third sector organisations at all levels and support to volunteer involving organisations. Working in partnership with third sector and public sector agencies is key to its success. Initially, this is a 2 year post, 20 hours per week, with potential to develop.

Salary: £11.00 per hour.
Annual Leave: 32 days pro rata inclusive of public holidays.
Location: Oban based.

For job description and application form:
Email: kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk or telephone 01631 564839
Closing date 20th November 2014

Argyll voluntary Action is a Scottish Charity SC029947 & Company Ltd by guarantee 277345

Argyll Resources Group

West Highland Gas Ltd
Customer Service Agent/
Delivery Driver

Based at our Fort William Depot
Responsible for delivery of bottled Gas,
LGV or able to drive 7.5 ton vehicles.

ADR required although training can be provided. Excellent customer care skills, basic computer literacy and a conscientious, self motivated approach to work. There is a possibility that this role could be extended to include crane operation if applicants are interested and suitably skilled.

Download application form: www.argyllresources.co.uk under people and vacancies section and either email graham.greenlees@argyllresources.co.uk or post to: Argyll Resources Group, Torrarrangorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4PL. Tel 01631 566370

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The Gem Box

Retail Assistant Manager
& Sales Consultant
OBAN

An opportunity has arisen for a talented individual to assist in the development of our Oban branch.

The Company
Shipton & Co. are family owned, established in 1870, specialising in uniquely designed gemstone jewellery. We are proud of our tradition and customer values, with branches across the UK.

The Job
Reporting to the Branch Manager, the successful applicant along with the Branch Manager will have complete branch responsibility for the development of its sales potential and for building a local reputation for the values, expertise, service and above all our unique jewellery.

The Candidates
Experienced Assistant Manager and Sales Consultant in the jewellery or related fashion industry with a passion for customer service seeking a new and exciting challenge within an environment where they can develop and excel.

The Offer
Competitive salary, bonus and incentive scheme, generous staff discount, 28 days holiday per year
To Apply please email a copy of your cv to Matthew Raynor, Retail Operations Manager matt.raynor@shiptonia.co.uk
You can also post it or hand it in to the shop at 1-2 Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5PT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

MEARS

Mears Care Supported Living Opportunities - Oban & Rothesay

We have exciting opportunities to support service for people who have learning disabilities, mental health difficulties or physical disabilities in their own homes and wider community.

Do you think you can help make a positive difference to our service user's lives?
We are currently looking to recruit:
Supported Living Supervisor Full Time, £8.00 per hour, plus on-call allowance - To supervise & support care staff & review and devise support plans.
For more information or to apply please contact Lorraine on 01436 679 311 or send your CV to lorraine.scullion@mearsgroup.co.uk

SHEPHERD REQUIRED

We have a vacancy for an experienced shepherd to look after 2 hirsels of blackface sheep.

Must be prepared to work as part of the estate team, have good dogs and should be able to clip. You can expect to assist in bringing out tups and ewes for sale. Good family house provided with adjoining kennels. Apply with written CV and references to James Duncan Millar, Remony Estate Partnership, Remony, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2HR
01887 830209 or email james@remonyestate.co.uk

Part Time Crew

required for Creel Fishing Boat

Training provided, Lochgilphead area
Tel 07788 788559

Assistant Social Care Worker (Permanent)
£19,002 - £20,179 pro rata Isle of Tiree Ref: CMA00737
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Assistant Cook (Permanent)
£15,433 - £16,340 Isle of Mull Ref: CMA00770
This post is for 35 hours per week

Modern Apprenticeship (SVQ2 Business & Administration)
£6,552 Lochgilphead Ref: CT100255
This is an opportunity to gain valuable paid work experience, together with the ability to study for a qualification in Business & Administration SVQ Level 2.

Local Tax Assistant (Temporary)
£15,968 - £17,428 pro rata Campbeltown Ref: CTC00183
This post is for 17.5 hours per week

Classroom Assistant (Temporary)
£14,599 - £15,457 pro rata Carradale Primary School Ref: CME36394
This post is for 15 hours per week
01546 604334

Closing date for all posts:
21 November 2014.
To apply visit our website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

BritishRedCross

Independent Living Service Co-ordinator

Salary: £18,024 pa pro rata / Hours: 15 per week / Location: Lochgilphead

Refusing to ignore people in crisis
The independent living services co-ordinator is part of a team that is responsible for managing and developing independent living services, in line with UK services strategy. The independent living services co-ordinator will assist the independent living services manager with the day-to-day delivery of independent living services in Argyll and Bute and support the area administration manager with delivery of local administration tasks associated with the Lochgilphead office.

In addition you will provide support, information and advice to Red Cross volunteers whilst sharing a range of administration responsibilities associated with services management. The post may require travel throughout West Scotland and occasionally elsewhere in the UK. The post is currently based in Lochgilphead. You will be educated to standard grade / GCSE level or equivalent by experience and hold a D1 driving license.

To apply for this post please visit www.redcross.org.uk
Please email us at wrk4us@redcross.org.uk quoting the job title and location for any queries. Please note that we do not accept CVs for any of our positions.
Closing date: Friday 14 November 2014.

We are committed to welcoming people from the widest possible diversity of background, culture and experience.

As the post holder will be carrying out regulated work with protected adults they will be required to become a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme as established by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.

The British Red Cross, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949) and Scotland (SC037738).

Lynn of Lorne CARE HOME

We are currently recruiting Nurses to compliment our existing highly skilled team

You must have a flexible approach to shift pattern and be able to work nights and weekends.

Advanced skill training can be given to successful candidates.

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We also require care assistants to enhance our skilled team.

Flexible approach to working required
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Professional qualifications on offer to successful candidates.

Please contact the Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278 for application or for further information

McFADYENS CONTRACTORS

are recruiting for

Experienced Groundworker Ganger

Must hold relevant CPCs, CSCS tickets and valid Driving Licence

Please apply in writing or by e-mail stating previous experience to:
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Glebe Street, Campbeltown, PA28 6LR
E-mail: info@mcfadenscontractors.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Argyllshire advertiser

Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

Reporter

An enthusiastic, multi-skilled Reporter is required to join weekly newspaper, the Argyllshire Advertiser, part of the award-winning Oban Times newspaper group.

Joining the team at the Lochgilphead office, Mid Argyll, the successful candidate will have a solid foundation in journalism, good leadership qualities, excellent communication skills, a great deal of energy and at least two years experience. A full driving licence is essential.

This is an exciting opportunity with excellent salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send a covering letter of application with CV by email to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

Unstinting voluntary work sees Tiree stalwart receive MBE honour as reward

A 'PILLAR of the community' on the Isle of Tiree has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM).

Rosemary Omand, a retired bank manager on the island, was nominated for the medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her services to the voluntary sector on Tiree.

But she opted to receive the medal in Argyll and Bute and was presented with the award at Argyll and Bute council's municipal buildings in Oban by the Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart.

Miss Omand worked in the bank for 42 years and worked with An Talla, the community centre on the island.

Now she sits on the committees of the island's agricultural show, Vaul Golf Club, the Glasgow Tiree Association and Tiree community council.

She is also working on the 'a' Bhuain project, the Tiree homecoming planned for May 2016, and has been busy recently helping to organise the children's Christmas party on the island.

Organising the Christmas party involves buying 130 presents for all island children up to the age of 14 and Miss Omand is one of the volunteers helping to buy the presents - she recently returned from a trip to Glasgow with 80 presents in her car.

After being named a BEM recipient earlier this year, Miss Omand said: 'When I got the letter it was a big shock.'



PROUD: Rosemary Omand displays her BEM after it was presented by Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart

Remembrance garden at Oban front re-dedicated

THE DEDICATION of a Remembrance Garden in the centre of Oban saw a great number of locals and tourists stop to reflect on those who have been lost in combat around the world.

The Oban garden was re-dedicated last Saturday afternoon after being moved from Stafford Street to a raised bed opposite the New Look store on George Street.

Leading the dedication were Deputy Lord Lieutenant Graham MacQueen OBE, the Reverend Ken Hunter, a colour

party and Iain Blair-Simmonds who is the chairman of the Royal British Legion Scotland (Oban Branch).

Taking part were the Air and Sea Cadets, who were tasked with placing crosses into the new garden.

The short service attracted a large number of passersby to stop for a moment and reflect on the huge loss of men and women during wars and conflicts around the world.

Mr MacQueen told the

gathered crowd: 'This garden allows everyone to have a place to remember those people who have been lost as they go about their daily life.'

This Sunday, November 9, 2014 will see the Remembrance service take place at the War Memorial on Oban's Esplanade.

The parade will assemble at the Corran Halls park opposite the Memorial Cairn as directed by the parade master.

The parade will be led by Oban Pipe Band. For the march to the

memorial on the Esplanade.

Mr Blair-Simmonds will open the proceedings and call for two minutes' silence in memory of the fallen. Wreaths will then be laid by various groups and individuals.

Officiating clergyman the Rev Iain M McFarlane will conclude the service with a final prayer and Benediction.

For those who are unable to march a bus will leave the Corran Halls at 10.15am before the main parade starts.



REMEMBRANCE: A dedication service was held for the re-positioning of the Remembrance Garden in Oban. The garden has been moved due to the pedestrianisation of Stafford Street where the garden was previously located

Modern studies pupils moved to send letters of sympathy

PUPILS FROM Oban high school have received a letter of thanks after sending condolences to the family of a man who was violently murdered.

The elective modern studies class, made up of second and third year pupils, had been learning about terrorism around the time that Alan Henning, an Englishman on an aid mission in Syria, was reported to have been beheaded by Islamic State militants (ISIS).

Saddened by Mr Henning's death on October 4 the pupils in Miss Shona Penfold's class decided to send letters and cards of condolence for his family to

Barbara Keeley, MP of his home constituency of Worsley and Eccles South.

Miss Penfold explained: 'The children were really learning in depth about terrorism in the unit so the news was very real to them.'

'The story broke that Mr Henning had been murdered and a few in the class were quite upset, so that day instead of teaching we just wrote letters of condolence.'

'It was nice to get a response from the MP. We realise it's unlikely the family will manage to get in touch because they've probably received condolences from all over the country.'

'Every pupil wrote a letter or card and I'm really proud of them.'

The class received a letter back last week from Mrs Keeley to say the letters and cards had been passed on to Mr Henning's family, and thanked them for thinking of the family at this difficult time.

She said: 'The cards from Oban high school were the only ones I received from Scotland, although others may have been sent to the Henning family via other routes.'

'Since we received the cards, the Henning family attended a memorial service in Perth

for murdered hostage, David Haines. The Henning family paid their respects to the Scottish aid worker at the church service.'

Mr Haines and Mrs Henning said they had been "overwhelmed" by messages of support from within the UK and around the world.

Mrs Keeley added: 'As the constituency MP for Alan Henning and the Henning family, I was very grateful that pupils at Oban high school took the time to make and send cards of sympathy. I would like to thank the pupils and teachers at Oban high school for their kindness.'



Teacher Shona Penfold and her modern studies class with the letter they received from Barbara Keeley MP, thanking them for their condolences to the family of murdered man Alan Henning.

public notices

PROPOSED LET OF A GRAZINGS SHARE(S)
Lochiel Estate is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the grazing share(s) pertaining to the croft at 4 & 5 Dirmarben, Kilmallie, to Ian Cameron McColl, of Corrie Vullin, Blarmafoldach, PH33 6BZ.
If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information inquiry. Frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable comments cannot be accepted.

PROPOSED LET OF A CROFT
THOMAS LORNE NELSON is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Number 1 Achaleven Croft, Muckkairn to NEIL JOHN MACLEAN of Achaleven Farm House, Connel.
If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED
Mrs E McArthur, Conisby, Bruichladdich, Kilmochan, 0.15 ha - Croft house site and garden ground 4.85.50329 Conditions: 3a, 4, 8
Conditions
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:
(a) the date of the direction
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
(8) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Ross MacLennan and Caroline Rachel MacLennan have registered their croft at 3 Kirkapoll, Kirkapoll, Isle Of Tiree on the Crofting Register held by the Registers Of Scotland.
Any Person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 23 June 2015.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C578

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

| Ref No | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|-------------|---|--|------------------------|
| 14/01947/PP | Change of use of summerhouse to retail unit selling whisky and providing cultural, heritage and general information | 1A West Hynish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA27 6UF | Tiree Area Office |
| 14/02332/PP | Alterations to existing facility including erection of extension and ice plant and relocation of dispatch office | Scottish Sea Farms South Shian Connel Argyll And Bute PA37 1SB | Sub Post Office Ledaig |

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 -17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

| Ref No | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|-------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 14/02486/PP | Installation of air source heat pump (retrospective) | Cala Seimh Shore Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TR | Sub Post Office Port Charlotte |

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

| Reference Number | Development Address | Proposal Description |
|------------------|---|--|
| 14/02455/FUL | Aspen House, Roshven, Glenluig, Lochailort | Existing workshop adjacent Aspen house converted into a single apartment |
| 14/03893/FUL | Land 100m SE of Ivy Cottage, Laggan Locks, North Laggan | Amendment to permission 13/02876/FUL |

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (PULPIT ROCK IMPROVEMENT) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND OVERTAKING AND SPEED RESTRICTION) (NO.2) ORDER 2014
THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 14(1)(a) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 temporarily prohibiting traffic, overtaking and restricting the speed to 30mph on the following length of road:
That length of the A82 Dalnottar-Inverness Trunk Road from a point 120 metres or thereby northwest of The Pulpit Rock Monument to a point 524 metres or thereby southeast of The Pulpit Rock Monument, a distance of 644 metres or thereby.
The Order also prohibits overtaking and restricts speed to 30mph on the following lengths of road:
That length of the southbound A82 Dalnottar-Inverness Trunk Road from a point 103 metres or thereby northwest of the access to Stuckendroin Farm, to a point 120 metres or thereby northwest of The Pulpit Rock Monument, in a southwards direction of travel, a distance of 1000 metres or thereby.
That length of the northbound A82 Dalnottar-Inverness Trunk Road from a point 120 metres northwest of The Pulpit Rock Monument to a point 245 metres southeast of the access to Stuckendroin Farm, in a northwards direction of travel, a distance of 650 metres.
The Order, which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the said length of road to allow construction work to take place, will be in force from 11 November 2014 until 30 April 2015 and will only have effect in relation to such length of the road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in connection with the works. The prohibition on overtaking does not apply to emergency vehicles. Alternative routes for the traffic during the prohibition will be signposted.
A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road-and-traffic-orders>
For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk
A MCLAUGHLIN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
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69%
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Regional Press
CLOSER TO HOME

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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CONTACT William Clarke
T. 0800 0467323
M. 07789 488805
HOME IMPROVEMENTS info@cruachanhome.co.uk
Exceeding expectations www.cruachanhome.co.uk

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TWO TYRES Highlander King Pin mud/snow tyres, 7.5 x 16, suit Landrover etc, £30 each Telephone 01583 431770.

U shaped Gucci buckle, £99 Telephone 07828730964.

GUCCI HANDBAG small square Gucci Chestnut handbag across body or shoulder with U Gucci buckle, £99 Telephone 07828 730964.

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MENS BROWN/BLACK Groundwork Walking Boots, size 9, unused gift, £15 Telephone 01546 602950.

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BEAUFORT FREEZER 620 capacity 6h x 28" w x 32" d, £60ono Telephone 01397 772345.

CREDA TOPLINE ELECTRIC COOKER ceramic hob, twin oven, with grill in upper oven and fan assisted oven below. Digital timer, 60cm wide, white. Barcaldine, £80 Telephone 01631 720751.

HOTPOINT 6KG WASHING MACHINE Hotpoint Aquarius WML520 Washing Machine, bought in 2012, good condition, white. Comes with instruction manual, £70 Telephone 07818 254016.

LG FRIDGE white fridge with small freezer compartment. 48cm wide, 85cm tall. Good working order. Barcaldine, £40 Telephone 01631 720751.

RUSSELL HOBBS JUICER "You are what you eat" by Russell Hobbs, centrifugal juice extractor. Good working order. Barcaldine, £10 Telephone 01631 720751.

TEBO ELECTRIC COOKER 4 hobs, single oven with grill. Good working order, 50cm wide. Barcaldine, £40 Telephone 01631 720751.

TUMBLE DRYER Hotpoint Aquarius 7kg Condenser Dryer in excellent condition. Little used. Located in Campbeltown area, £99 Telephone 07920 487939.

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SHERIDAN SINGLE DUVET SET new, cream with pale blue border and flowers, filled, cost £42 sell for, £10 Telephone 07934 381942 Oban.

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NICKY CLARKE HEATED HAIR Styling Set, heated bendy rod hair styling system, model number NCF1. Rods are heated in the case which has lights and a mirror, £15 Telephone 01631 720751.

WALKING/HIKING STICK "Trailwise" photo-shoot hill walking/hiking stick, £7075 seamless/extends from 30" to 51"/strap and felt handgrip/(Campbeltown), £25 Telephone 01586 554537.

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ICE SKATES Ladies Ice skates, white immaculate condition, size 3, £40 Telephone 07963 651004.

LADIES SNOWBOARD BOOTS F22 Salomon, size 4, EU36.5. Immaculate condition, worn once! White with a rainbow across the boots, £99 Telephone 07963 651004.

PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTAVADIE OIL RIG framed photo of only oil-rig built at Portavadie Loch Fyne, 31" x 23", £80 Telephone 01546 606612.

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HANDY MANNY 10" tall, talking Handy Manny, with 7 tools and toolbox. Good condition, £5 Telephone 01631 571069.

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CAR WANTED looking for a pre war sports car for restoration. If you know where I could find one that might be for sale lying in a dry shed or barn, preferably complete, not necessarily running, will pay reward £150 for info leading to purchase email ranald.su@btinternet.com. Telephone 01687 450367.

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TOY STORY CHARACTERS Woody, Buzz and Jessie. All talking and at least 12" tall, in good condition. Price is for all 3, £20 Telephone 01631 571069.

Thank you

I would like to thank my sister Joan for arranging a surprise party for my 80th birthday in the Fourseasons.

Thanks also to all relations and friends who made it such a great evening. Special mention must be made to the beautiful buffet provided.

Morag MacIntosh

BIRTHS

BECK - Muireann (Barbara Helen MacDonald) was born in Raigmore Hospital on October 21, 2014. Her parents, Deirdre (daughter of Helen and the late Alistair MacDonald, Roy Bridge) and Dougie (son of James and the late Barbara Beck, Ullapool) are over the moon, and would like to thank the heroes in Belford and Raigmore Hospitals for their fantastic care.

ENGAGEMENTS

THORNTON O'SULLIVAN - Both families are delighted to announce the recent engagement of Jack, elder son of Seonaid and Edward Thornton, North Connell and Caoimhe, younger daughter of Angela and Michael O'Sullivan of Hollywood, Co Down.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CRAIGIE - PEARSON - At Old Oban Parish Manse, on November 10, 1964, Helen M. to David D. - Present address: 7a Dalintart Drive, Oban.

DEATHS

BLACK - Jean M.C. Black at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy on October 28, 2014. Beloved mum, nana and great-gran. Sadly missed by all her family. RIP wee Jean.

ROSS - Peacefully at Ashgrove Care Home (Dunoon) on Sunday, November 2, 2014, Kathleen (Kath) née Mackay, wife of the late James Ross (Police Inspector), loving mum of Douglas, Stuart and Kenneth and granny to Andrew, David, Alistair and Michael. Sadly missed. A Cremation service will be held on Tuesday, November 11, in Greenock Crematorium at 11am and thereafter to The High Kirk, (Dunoon) for a Memorial Service at 1pm, to which all are respectfully invited.

TAPPLY - Peacefully on November 3, 2014, in Oban, aged 79 years, Elizabeth Gillian Hawkshaw (Jill). Beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral service at Bunessan Parish Church, Isle of Mull at 12 noon on Tuesday, November 11, 2014.

WATT - Peter McCall. Retired Police Sergeant, Glasgow, formerly of Oban, suddenly, after a short illness at Gartnavel General Hospital, on October 29, 2014. Peter, beloved husband of the late Dorothy, much loved father of Mairead, Alison and Peter, a proud grandfather, great-grandfather and dear brother. Funeral service was held in Glasgow on Wednesday November 5, 2014.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DALGETTY - Diana would like to send heartfelt thanks to our wonderful neighbours and friends for all the support and kindness following the sudden passing of Ross at Oban Hospital. The nurses on Ward B will never be forgotten for their warmth and comfort. A special recognition to Mr.

Donald MacKinnon who led a service that beautifully reflected the generous and gentle man we knew Ross to be. Ian MacInnes, D & A Munn, compassionately provided the funeral arrangements. It is with deep gratitude to all who attended the funeral and also gave so generously to the Oban Lifeboat: £485.44. You took us in and embraced us. We were home.

GIBSON - Margaret, James, Iain, Gordon and families would like to thank everyone for their love and support during the loss of their dad Jimmy. Thank you to all the wonderfully caring staff at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital for their kindness during Dad's final week and to the local doctors and nurses for their dedicated care over the last two years. Thank you to the wonderful staff of the Macmillan Day Unit where he spent many hours. Special thanks to the Rev John Shedd for his heartfelt service and to Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for his professionalism and help. Thank you to Glenorchy Lodge for refreshments. Thank you to all who attended Dad's funeral at the church and graveside and to all those who gave so generously to Diabetes UK.

MACCALLUM - Stewart and family would like to thank everyone for their support following the death of his mum Katie. A special thanks to the staff at Invernevis for caring for Katie. Jamie Manson and Mike from McFall Funeral directors for their help and excellent services. Rev. Norman MacCallum and Rev. Archie Speirs and Onich Hotel. Collection for Invernevis House raised £175.00.

MACDONALD - May and all the family thank everyone for their kindness and support following the death of Malcolm. Special thanks to all the staff at Lorn and Islands hospital and Connell surgery for their care of Malcolm; Rev. Jeff McCormick for his fitting funeral service, to all who attended and to those who have written, phoned and sent flowers. Thanks also to D & A Munn Funeral Directors and the staff at the Falls of Lora Hotel.

MACLEAN - The family of the late Ina MacLean would like to thank all relatives and friends for their support, cards and attendance at the funeral. Thanks also to Rev McCorkindale for the lovely service, Mike McFall and his staff for efficient funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Dr's Massie and Douglas. Thanks also to Fiona and all the nursing team at Strontian and Annmarie from Homecare. The sum of £810.56 was raised and will be split between Macmillan Nurses at Belford Hospital and Ardnarmurchan Community Nursing Equipment Fund.

MOSSMAN - Anne, David, Eileen and family would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and Enable carers, in particular,

Patricia, Wendy, Jeanie and all the other carers who attended to Caroline. Thanks also to doctors and nurses. Special thanks to Rev. C. Fulcher for a comforting service. Thanks to Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for his professional, efficient services. Also the Royal Hotel for a lovely buffet. A retail collection of £233.40 was raised for Enable.

MEMORIALS

BLACK - 25th anniversary. In loving memory of Joyce, dear wife and mother who died November 6, 1989. Quietly remembered each day.

- Henry and Derek
CAMERON - Our mother Lizzie, November 3, 2013. Gone but never forgotten. - Sandra, Cindy, John, and David and all our families with love.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day.

- MacKechnie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balfour.

DRUMMOND - In loving memory of my daughter Mary McGhee, who died November 9, 2012. Sorely missed. - Dad and Jane.

DUNCAN - Precious memories of my darling husband (Howard), called to rest on November 12, 2001. The tears I shed are wiped away but the ache in my heart is there to stay. Love always - Chrissie x

LOVE - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa Bob, who passed away November 10, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Anne Elizabeth and family.

MACDOWALL - In loving memory of Rena, a much loved wife, mother and grandmother, who died on November 9, 2010. A special person, a special face. Someone we loved and can't replace. Never selfish, always kind. These are the memories you left behind. Rest in peace. - Your loving husband Andrew and family.

PROSSER - In loving memory of James, a dear brother and uncle, who died on November 1, 2007. Always remembered with love and sadly missed by us all. - Betty and family xx

WHITEHEAD - In loving memory of our beloved dad Walter Whitehead, died November 8, 2006. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. Loved and missed every day. - Christine, Alistair, Elizabeth, Michael, Fiona and families.

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GRADUATION

Ruaraidh MacIntyre graduated with a Master of Arts in Gaelic, with Honours of the First Class, with Distinction in Spoken Gaelic, from the University of Glasgow.
Ruaraidh is the son of Angus and Marybell MacIntyre, Bornish, South Uist and grandson of the late Iain and Mary MacIntyre of 4 South Locheynort, South Uist and the late Calum and Morag Campbell of 28 Balivanich, Benbecula. Ruaraidh will soon be taking up the post of Gaelic Plan Officer with the Scottish Government.

John sets off on charity challenge



BON VOYAGE: John Forteith sets off on his fundraising mission for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Centre in Oban. 17_145john1

A FUNDRAISING mission featuring more than 14 countries will see Oban's Multiple Sclerosis (MS) centre benefit. Businessman John Forteith started his mammoth three week challenge on Sunday - friends from the MS Centre were on hand to

wave him off and wish him well. John's son lives with MS and therefore the charity is one which is very close to his heart.

Readers on Facebook can follow John as he travels through Scotland, England, Ireland, Eire, Wales, France

and so on through the alps and back to Oban in three weeks' time.

Every single penny donated will go to the MS Centre in Oban.

To donate drop money into the centre or pledge online at mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/johnforteith



Three members of the congregation of Dalavich church have been ordained as church elders. The Rev. Robert Brookes carried out the proceedings on October 26 at a Sunday Service. The three new elders, pictured with Rev. Brookes are Mari McPhie, Loch Avich; Adrienne Watson, Dalavich and Marilyn Henderson, Kilchrenan.

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2. Argyll Animal Aid

November is Will Aid's Make a Will month

WILL Aid is a charity scheme which runs each year for the month of November. The scheme is designed to remind people of the importance of making a will, to provide an affordable method of doing so and to raise much needed funds for nine charities that carry out life-changing work here in the UK and around the world, including Age UK,

British Red Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC and Save the Children. Since the scheme's inception, more than 275,000 people have made a will via Will Aid, protecting their families and raising more than £15 million in donations for the participating charities. More than half of UK adults (52 per cent) don't have a will and so have not

made any legally valid provision for what they would like to happen after their death to their belongings or their loved ones. Even worse, around one third of people who die each year do so without a will and their estate is therefore distributed according to a set of rules which can lead to a great deal of stress and uncertainty, as

well as financial hardship, for those left behind. Will Aid's Make A Will Month is the perfect opportunity to gain the peace of mind that comes from knowing your affairs are in order and that your wishes will be carried out after your death. All that is asked in return is that clients consider making a voluntary donation to Will Aid.



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Saints head south to take on North in Scottish Cup replay

Oban Saints 3
Giffnock North 3
Scottish Amateur Cup - 3rd round

GIFFNOCK North were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Scottish Amateur Cup third round tie and both teams should take a great deal of credit for serving up a real cracker of a game.

Saints started strongly attacking the railway end and in the first minute Paul Kerr had a shot from the edge of the box blocked after good work down the right by Lewis Cameron.

The game had only gone two minutes when Roy McLuckie had a coming together with Giffnock striker David Devine just inside the Saints box. With Roy down injured and Saints claiming a free kick referee Peter Laing pointed to the penalty spot much to the bemusement of the assembled Saints faithful. It looked a very harsh decision as the players seemed to run into each other accidentally.

However, Daniel Cassells made a great save launching himself to his right to save Eugene Forde's spot kick before the ball was forced behind for a corner.

After this let-off Saints took the upper hand and had a decent shout for a penalty themselves when Allan MacKay was bundled over in the box. Once again the referee favoured the visitors and decided the infringement had taken place outside the box. Allan took the free kick himself but his curling right foot effort struck

the top of the wall and bounced to safety.

Saints fell behind in the 18th minute when Giffnock midfielder David Kneale was allowed time and space to measure a precise long range shot which beat Daniel Cassells low down to his right.

Despite this setback the home side continued to take the game to Giffnock and Scott Maitland was unlucky to see a 22nd minute left foot shot curl wide of the keeper's right hand post and in the 28th minute the same player made a great run forward to get on the end of a Lewis Cameron pass but his shot was well saved by Giffnock keeper Craig Marshall.

In the 33rd minute Saints were unlucky not to score when Craig MacEwan met a Lewis Cameron corner with a towering header which sailed over the crossbar.

Just two minutes later Saints found themselves two goals in arrears when again they were slow to close down in their own half

and another excellently struck long range shot from David Devine beat Daniel Cassells this time to his left.

The home side came close once again in the 40th minute when Allan MacKay headed a pinpoint Ross Maitland free kick inches over the crossbar.

Down 2-0 at half time was extremely harsh on Saints who had produced arguably their best 45 minutes of the season to date.

The home side began the second half in determined mood against the vastly experienced visitors and Craig MacEwan forced the Giffnock netminder into a smart save within a minute of the restart.

Saints continued to probe and Allan MacKay started a frantic 14-minute spell when he forced a fine diving save from the Giffnock keeper with a curling right foot shot in the 57th minute.

Just one minute later Saints got the goal their play deserved. Lewis Cameron's shot from the edge of the box was parried by the keeper into the path of Ross Maitland who bundled the ball over the line from six yards.

Lewis Cameron was posing all manner of problems for the North defence and after winning a corner in the 62nd minute curled his flag kick cross straight onto the head of Allan MacKay who headed back across the keeper into the top left corner of the net to make the score 2-2.

Four minutes later the Oban side completed the turnaround

Football

when Lewis Cameron once again carved his way through the Giffnock defence before cutting the ball back from the by-line for Craig MacEwan to put Saints 3-2 ahead with a well-placed header.

A minute later Craig almost made it four but his powerful header from an excellent run and cross by Myles McAuley was well saved.

However, in the 71st minute Saints were again punished for their own slackness when a speculative effort from Brendon McGurk beat Daniel Cassells far too easily at his near post. The big keeper will be disappointed that he didn't do better on this occasion. This set-back seemed to knock the stuffing out of the home side for a few minutes but thankfully they regained their composure and took the game to Giffnock.

After that frenetic spell the game understandably settled down and the closest either team came to a winner was when the Giffnock keeper failed to hold a dipping Lewis Cameron free kick. Craig MacEwan was quickest to react and desperately unlucky to see his left foot shot hit the outside of the keeper's right hand post. At the other end the visitors came close but Stephen Fitzpatrick failed to control the ball while clear in the box.

Saints made late changes with Dougal Graham, David Beaton



IN CONTROL: Saints' striker Allan MacKay shields the ball from Giffnock North's Mark Shanta during last Saturday's Scottish Cup tie at Glencruitten. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

and Dean Smith replacing Craig MacEwan, Lewis Cameron and Allan MacKay respectively but there was insufficient time for the replacements to influence the final outcome.

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'I was disappointed at the manner

of the goals we conceded but I thought we played some good football against a top class team.'

'The workrate and commitment of the players was first class and I thought we were the better team on the day and should have won the game.'

Saints now travel to take on North in the replay this Saturday. The game will take place at Northholm Park with a 1.30pm kick-off with extra time and penalties, if required, to see who goes through to the fourth round. Referee in charge is James Cotton.

“ We played some good football against a top class team ”

IAIN JACKSON



The winners from Taynuilt Golf Club's annual prizegiving. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

Diggory breaks Howie dominance in Taynuilt gents' championship

TAYNUILT'S Andrew Diggory has won his first gents' championship at the village's golf club, ending the dominance of David Howie in the process.

Howie won his 20th championship in 21 years in 2013 but Diggory's solid golf all year saw him take his maiden title.

He also won the club's handicap title, making it a successful year for the 31 year old.

Meanwhile, Mairead Sim, a

Golf

familiar name on the women's championship trophy secured the title yet again in 2014.

Both received their awards at the club's annual prizegiving last week.

CHAMPIONS: Taynuilt Golf Club's championship winners Mairead Sim and Andrew Diggory



Oban Lorne Ladies turn on the style to top the league

Royal Dick Veterinary College 10
Oban Lorne Ladies 64
BT Women's National League Division Two

OBAN Lorne Ladies climbed to the summit of the National Division following their demolition of the Royal Dick Veterinary College (RDVC) in yet another away match for Oban.

From the kick-off Oban dominated the field, setting the pace despite only having 13 players against an opposition with 19 players to call upon.

Camilla Leslie started the point scoring, followed quickly by Rebecca Sims, both in true forwards' fashion, crashing their way over the defence to touch down.

Audrey Barr orchestrated the next two tries, both times making the breakthrough for Leslie's second try and Emma Roxburgh.

And Oban were on easy street as Kerry Colthart kicked into space for Ailsa MacLachlan to chase and offload to Sheila McGregor, who crossed the tryline with three opponents hanging off her in an attempt to take her down.

In the final minutes of the first half RDVC fought back and secured themselves a try, sprinting around Oban's defence on the wing.

RDVC opened the scoring in the second half too, touching down their second try, again catching

Women's Rugby

Oban unawares. Oban made a tactical switch to shore up the wide defence and regained their attacking impetus and McGregor secured her second try of the match, again driving through the defence as they struggled to take her down.

Oban's momentum was again knocked when Kirsty Smith was taken off the park after an illegal tackle - but the offending player went unpunished.

This spurred Oban on further and a quick tap penalty from Barr allowed Leslie to cross the try line for the third time in the match.

Kirsty Sinclair then made a break and was tackled just short of the try line, but she was able to offload to Katie Ritchie to complete the try.

Oban rounded off the scoring through further tries from Sims and Sinclair.

Despite suffering an injury early on in the match, Colthart managed to kick seven out of the 10 conversions and her tactical kicking led to a number of tries.

But player of the match went to Katie Ritchie, who was playing her first match in second row.

The ladies are excited to host the second home match of the year at Glencruitten this Sunday at 2pm.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

LAST weekend's results; Under 13s 2, Milngavie BC 2. Scoring for Saints were Aaron McKay and Cameron Clark. Under 14s 4, Bo'ness United 0. On target for Saints were Cameron Kerr (2), Scott Mossman and

Cameron Laird Under 15s 2, Stenhousemuir 3. Saints scorers were Lewis Buchanan and Martin Rennie. Under 16s no game; Under 19s no game. This weekend's fixtures: Kilpatrick v Under 13s; Under

Youth Football

14s v Broomhill SC; Dumbarton United v Under 15s; Drumchapel United v Under 16s; Under 19s v Baljaffray.

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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- R Shaw, Acharonich, Barbreck

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



No backlash expected at rescheduled fixture

THEIR previous meeting ended in chaos, with players, coaches and officials from both sides involved in debate and disagreement as the match was abandoned because of a particularly painful injury to the referee.

But managers of both Oban Camanachd and Fort William expect no backlash when they meet for the rescheduled fixture at Mossfield this Saturday.

On September 27 the rivals were playing for the National Division title. Oban Camanachd, who needed to win the game, were 1-0 up when referee Robert Baxter was hit with the ball in a sensitive part of the groin and was unable to continue.

With Fort William exercising their right to abandon the game, there was confusion and frustration all round.

This Saturday was the first date available for the replay and

Shinty

both managers say they have been working hard to keep their players match-sharp but one central character in September's drama will be absent; referee Robert Baxter is not yet back to full fitness and the game will be overseen by David Mitchell.

Oban Camanachd manager Gussie Campbell said: 'I know it is a league game but it feels like a different game, like a final you have been waiting to play.'

Camanachd were boosted by a successful appeal against the suspension of defender James MacMillan, whose ban would have been the result of a booking picked up in the abandoned match.

Must-win

Campbell said: 'James coming back in has perked everyone up a bit but I would say Fort are favourites because they only need a draw to win the league. For us, it's a must-win.'

'There is a lot at stake but if we show the hunger we did the last time and the boys do what is asked of them things could go our way. I'll probably have a full head of grey hair by the final whistle but I am expecting a great game.'

Campbell insisted there was no 'bad blood' between the two sides, adding: 'It was an unfortunate scenario that the game was



CONCERN: Players show their concern as referee Robert Baxter hits the turf after being hit with the ball

abandoned but win, lose or draw we need this chapter closed.'

Fort boss Victor Smith agreed. 'I wouldn't imagine there will be any backlash from Oban,' he said. 'I have been playing there for 20 years and never had any trouble.'

'I'll tell you what I do expect, a cracking game of shinty.' Fort William have been training twice a week, taking advantage

of the new 3G astroturf pitch at Lochaber high school.

Smith said: 'We have been going through the normal training to keep the boys in shape. Of course, this is a big game but you can't let the boys get too nervous ahead of a match like this.'

'In the first match we were chasing the game, so I would like to get an early goal if we can.'

Refuting Campbell's claim that Fort were favourites, Smith added: 'You don't play for a draw in shinty, even if it's just for the pride in your town, so I don't think you could say we were favourites because we only need a point.'

Throw up is 1.30pm and admission is free, with donations taken for a local charity.

I would say Fort are favourites as they only need a draw

GUSSIE CAMPBELL

Iomain Cholmcille takes place on Saturday

IOMAIN Cholmcille, the international shinty/hurling series for Gaelic speakers, will be held at Lochinch Park on the southside of Glasgow on Saturday.

This will be the seventh running of the series and it will be held in Glasgow for the first time. A large crowd is expected for this event which has grown radically in the last few years.

The Corn Cholmcille international game will throw-in at 1.30pm between Alba, representing Scottish Gaelic, and Fir Uladh, who will be representing Irish Gaelic.

Unfortunately, the current holders, Micheál Breathnach GAA are unable to take part this year, but Fir Uladh have competed in the last two tournaments and they hope to lift the title for the first time.

Teams of youngsters in Gaelic Medium Education will be competing beforehand in youth competitions from 11am until 1pm and there will be informal fringe events.

In the evening, the Gaels from each country will unite for a special meal in Maryhill Burgh Halls before Fergie Macdonald plays at

a Gaelic ceilidh which is open to the public from 9pm.

Overall, there will be at least 100 Gaelic-speaking shinty players involved and it will bring a great year for sport in Glasgow to a fine Gaelic end.

Iomain Cholmcille (Alba) co-ordinator Eòghan Stewart stated: 'We are delighted to be holding Iomain Cholmcille in Glasgow, on this, it's seventh running. The competition has gone from strength to strength since it began in Oban in 2007.'

'The support of Colmcille is vital to this unique event in world

sport. There are not many events of its kind which give such an importance to language. The players from each country gain confidence from training and playing through the medium of their own Gaelic language. The links between the Gaels, whether they are in the same country or living in the two different nations, are strengthened greatly by this event.'

'We are also grateful to the University of Glasgow, Comann Oiseanach Oilthigh Ghlaschu, An Lòchran, Gaels le Chèile, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu,

Shinty/hurling

Glasgow Gaels Shinty Club, Comann na Gàidhlig and Skye Camanachd for their support.

'In particular, we would like to thank the university's Gaelic officer Fiona Dunn for her work in helping Iomain Cholmcille take place.'

Iomain Cholmcille receives support from Colmcille, the body which aims to develop and strengthen links between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland.



OLD PLAYERS: The 1937 Oban Celtic team

Oban Celtic team of 1937 identified

LAST week *The Oban Times*' Flashback image of the 1937 Camanachd Cup winning Oban Celtic team was submitted by Allan Macintyre, seeking names of the victorious line-up.

Answered

Oban sports historian Alan Hill, Benderloch, answered the call and has given the full line-up, save for one name that he is unsure about.

Back row, left to right: John Stewart, Eddie Mitchell (Captain), Alex MacTaggart (Navaho),

Donald Macinnes, Donnie MacKinnon (Mirrets), Walter Paterson (?) Donald Turnbull (Curly).

Front row, left to right: Bill MacDonald, Donald Clark, Ronnie MacLennan, Joseph Dewar Black (Marconi), Ian Clark.

Alan said: 'The photograph looks like it was taken at the Bught Park Inverness on the occasion of the Camanachd Cup Final versus Newtonmore. The match ended 2-2 and Oban Celtic won the replay at Keppoch Lochaber (Roybridge) 2-1.'

Skye promoted to National Division

SKYE gained promotion to the Marine Harvest national division with a 5-0 victory over Ballachulish last Saturday, in the division one play off at Drumadrochit.

It was a fine end to the 2014 season for Skye, with three first half goals from Jordan Murchison, Shockie MacLennan and Danny Morrison ending the match as a contest early on.

Second half strikes from Will Cowie and a Jordan Murchison penalty ended Ballachulish's in disappointment for the visitors.

Skye coach John MacLeod said he was 'delighted' by his players' performance: 'We started really brightly, coming off the blocks really quickly and our fitness preparations paid off. It's now all about consolidation next year [in the national division], to finish as high up as we can.'

After some early pressure from Ballachulish, Skye opened the scoring after 12 minutes through Murchison, before two quick goals in the 27th and 28th minutes from MacLennan and Morrison respectively.

Skye's superior fitness levels were clear to see in the second period with some flowing play and a Cowie strike made it 4-0.

Murchison's penalty made it five, though Ballachulish goalkeeper Cameron Sutherland was unlucky not to save.

Ballachulish chairman Iain Brown said: 'This ends what has been a good season on a slightly

Shinty

disappointing note, but the club have to be reasonably satisfied with the level of performance and now look to build on it for the 2015 season.'

Ballachulish will still gain a place in the national division if the Camanachd Association's league restruct proposals are approved at the AGM on November 28.

BATTLE FOR THE BALL: Ballachulish's David Campbell battles with Steven Morrison of Skye



OUCH: Skye's Kenny Campbell feels the full weight of a John Macdonald challenge Photos: Neil Paterson



Goon Squad top Ali Young Indoor League

Indoor football

THE GOON Squad retained their place at the top of Lochaber's Ali Young indoor football league after thrashing Harlem Globe Stoters 13-0 on Sunday night.

Portowcy remain undefeated as they jumped to second place with a 8-1 victory over Barowcy while Lochaber Leisure's 3-3 draw with HWE made them slip to third place.

Further down the table, Barcelochy won 3-2 against Outer Milan, The Volley beat Fiorentina Turner 4-1 and Ali Young went down 12-5 to MHB.

Nevis Range and Inverloch had the second draw of the night with three goals each.

Fixtures

Saturday 8 November
Marine Harvest National Division
Oban Camanachd v Fort William
David Mitchell - 1.30pm

Results

Saturday 1 November
Marine Harvest Division 1 Play Off
Ballachulish 0 v 5 Skye

Youth result
Marine Harvest Under 17 League - London Shield - Final
Kingussie 3 v 3 Newtonmore
Kingussie won 3-2 on penalties

Wheelers back in winter league action

THE FIRST round of this year's West Highland Wheelers winter league saw more than 40 riders enjoy a fine course at Leanachan forest.

Cycling

Brych Hensman-Martin showed continuing improvement coming first of the juniors and seventh overall with a time of 48 minutes and 38 seconds.

Top five finishers: 1 Joe Barnes 37:43; 2 Liam Moynihan 39:02; 3 Ewan Thorburn 40:02; 4 James Shirley 42:22; 5 Donald Paterson 44:20.



WINNER: Joe Barnes raced through Leanachan to take first place in the first round of West Highland Wheelers' winter league

| The Orion Group Premiership | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Newtonmore | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 37 | 17 | 22 |
| Lovat | 14 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 20 | 19 |
| Glenurquhart | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 25 | 16 | 18 |
| Kingussie | 14 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 31 | 29 | 16 |
| Kyles Athletic | 14 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 25 | 20 | 14 |
| Inveraray | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 18 | 29 | 10 |
| Kinlochshiel | 14 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 21 | 34 | 7 |
| Lochaber | 14 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 18 | 42 | 4 |

| Marine Harvest North Division 1 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Skye | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 53 | 7 | 27 |
| Newtonmore | 14 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 42 | 16 | 19 |
| Strathglass | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 38 | 32 | 15 |
| Beaully | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 31 | 36 | 14 |
| Glenurquhart | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 33 | 13 |
| Kingussie | 14 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 35 | 48 | 9 |
| Lovat | 14 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 30 | 48 | 8 |
| Inverness | 14 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 21 | 58 | 5 |

| Marine Harvest North Division 2 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Fort William | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 55 | 20 | 23 |
| Lochcarron | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 38 | 46 | 18 |
| Glenarry | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 25 | 31 | 17 |
| Lochaber | 14 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 50 | 39 | 13 |
| Kinlochshiel | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 27 | 33 | 11 |
| Boleskine | 14 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 29 | 48 | 10 |
| Skye | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 38 | 35 | 9 |
| Aberdeen Uni | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 29 | 39 | 9 |

| Marine Harvest North Division 3 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Caberfeidh | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 52 | 17 | 22 |
| Kilmallie | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 51 | 28 | 14 |
| Lewis | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 29 | 30 | 14 |
| Strathspey | 14 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 28 | 44 | 12 |
| Lochbroom | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 36 | 9 |
| Inverness | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 24 | 48 | 8 |

| Marine Harvest National Division | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Fort William | 13 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 70 | 10 | 24 |
| Oban Camanachd | 13 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 46 | 12 | 23 |
| Kilmallie | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 54 | 22 | 21 |
| Beaully | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 37 | 29 | 15 |
| Caberfeidh | 14 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 31 | 39 | 11 |
| Glasgow MA | 14 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 25 | 47 | 8 |
| Glenorchy | 14 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 12 | 57 | 5 |
| Bute | 14 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 67 | 1 |

| Marine Harvest South Division 1 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Ballachulish | 14 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 39 | 15 | 23 |
| Kyles Athletic | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 47 | 19 | 20 |
| Oban Celtic | 14 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 27 | 16 |
| Aberdour | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 32 | 31 | 15 |
| Lochside Rovers | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 32 | 34 | 15 |
| Strachur | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 33 | 9 |
| Taynuilt | 14 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 32 | 46 | 8 |
| Kilmory | 14 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 16 | 31 | 6 |

| Marine Harvest South Division 2 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
| Inveraray | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 66 | 7 | 26 |
| Tayforth | 14 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 51 | 10 | 25 |
| Glasgow MA | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 46 | 29 | 15 |
| Bute | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 25 | 37 | 11 |
| Col Glen | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 36 | 36 | 10 |
| Ballachulish | 14 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 28 | 43 | 10 |
| Glenorchy | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 20 | 40 | 6 |
| Aberdour | 14 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 14 | 84 | 3 |

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Bradbury's dream comes true as he turns out for Edinburgh

Only passport office plea allows Magnus to travel to Ireland

A FORMER Oban Lorne player has achieved his dream of playing professional rugby after starting for Edinburgh against one of Europe's top teams.

Magnus Bradbury was a shock call-up for the team's Pro12 league match at defending champions Leinster in the RDS Arena in Dublin last Friday.

In fact, the 19-year-old's selection was such a surprise that he almost couldn't travel, as he had lost his passport. Only a personal plea at the passport office in Glasgow and an email from Edinburgh team manager Alan Solomons secured a new passport ready in time for the trip.

But despite Magnus's hectic preparation, he impressed during his 60 minutes of the 33-8 defeat, most notably making three trademark rampaging runs, and he has high hopes of securing a full-time professional contract with Edinburgh next season.

'I was over the moon to get the call,' said the teenager from Bonawe, who is 18 months into a two-year Elite Development Programme (EDP) youth contract with Edinburgh Rugby.

'Once the initial excitement wore off I started to realise that I was about to play professional rugby against one of the best teams in the league.'

Magnus's inclusion in the back row at number six was down to an injury crisis at Edinburgh but he did not look out of place alongside international stars such as Tim Visser and David Denton, who played in Magnus's preferred number eight role.

'I wasn't worried about playing but I was a bit nervous about coming into the team because I haven't had that exposure to how their tactics work out on the field,' said the Scottish under-20 international.

'The coach asked me to just do the basics well and the players

Rugby

told me to do what I do in training.

'I had a nervy first 10 minutes and was just trying to find my feet but after that it all seemed to click. I really enjoyed myself.'

Proud mother Dee Bradbury, who is also president of Oban Lorne RFC, said: 'From a club perspective it is a testament to Magnus's coaching here but from a mum's point of view I know why he has chosen this path and how hard he has worked to get there.'

'I thought he played well. I was confident he could step up to that level but I was nervous for him at the same time.'

'When I saw him come out onto the pitch I felt complete and utter pride.'

Magnus began playing at the age of seven at Oban Lorne's mini rugby sessions before representing Argyll at under-15 through to under-18 level, as well as regional representative matches.

He won a scholarship to Merchiston school in Edinburgh where he was scouted for Edinburgh's Elite Development Programme.

He has praised the grounding he received in Oban and paid particular gratitude to his mother and his father, Nick.

Magnus said: 'My progression is all due to Oban Lorne because that is where I played rugby and they pushed me on to get onto the Glasgow pathway programmes and eventually into regional games.'

'But I couldn't have done it without my mum and dad, who drove me to Glasgow twice a week for training and games.'

Magnus will find out whether he will be offered a professional contract when the current season ends at the beginning of next summer.



ON THE CHARGE: Magnus Bradbury made an impressive debut last Friday evening for Edinburgh in a Pro12 league match against Leinster in the RDS Arena, Dublin

Oban Pool league back in action

Pool

OBAN Pool League has ended its summer break as fixtures began last week.

The Gluepot sit top of the table with two wins out of two, following up their crushing defeat of The Outreach in week one and a comeback victory over Markie Dan's 'B'.

The Connel outfit rolled over too easily when they fell behind last season, but a new-found confidence seems to be oozing from their players after countless practise sessions throughout the summer.

Markie Dan's 'B' had also headed into the clash on the back of a win after narrowly defeating The Lochavullin and points may be hard to come by for Markie's junior side in the forthcoming weeks with The Rugby Club and their own senior side their next league games.

The Lancaster 'B' and The Rugby Club (formerly The Cellar) are both tucked in behind the unlikely leaders after resounding victories over The Lochavullin and The Outreach respectively.

The Lancaster 'B', who had their opening derby clash postponed due to a family bereavement involving both Lancaster teams, will be delighted with the manner in which they eased to the two points.

The concluding fixture of week two saw title contenders Markie Dan's 'A' face The Lochnell who have recruited during pre-season and a depleted Markie's side was simply no match for their well drilled and practised opponents.

Results (week two): Lochnell 7-3 Markie Dan's A; Outreach 1-9 Rugby Club; Markie Dan's B 4-6 Gluepot; Lancaster B 9-1 Lochavullin; Lancaster A had no fixture.

Fixtures today (Thursday): Lancaster A v Lochnell; Outreach v Markie Dan's A; Rugby Club v Markie Dan's B; Gluepot v Lochavullin; Lancaster B have no fixture.

Brendon is junior Scottish champion

Pool

OBAN pool player Brandon Ferris has become Scottish junior champion after winning the title in Kirkcaldy.

The 17-year-old from Oban will now join up with the Scottish junior squad for 2015 and is looking for sponsorship in preparation for travelling to international events.

Fellow Oban junior Damien Williamson reached the semi-final of the tournament.

Oban's adult players are also on form; Kerry Munro has her sights set on making the 2015 Scotland Women's Squad along with Laura Ann Sneddon, who has already secured her squad place as the 2014 Scotland Ladies Tour number one.

In the men's section Brian Edwards secured the regional place on the Scotland squad.

All players are now focusing on the 2015 European Championships in Malta in February.

November medal at Islay Golf Club

Golf

NOVEMBER Medal played Sunday November 2. 1 A Woodman 85-8=77; 2 K MacDonald 85-7=78; 3 R MacLean 95-17=78 Css 74.



TACKLED: Oban Lorne's Cameron Smith is tackled round the neck during last Saturday's match against Paisley Photo Kevin McGlynn

Green Machine back on track

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Oban Lorne | 42 |
| Paisley | 10 |
| BT West Division Two | |

OBAN Lorne returned to form and got their title charge back on track with a convincing victory over Paisley at Glencruitten - managing to keep all 15 players on the park in the process.

Having suffered from ill-discipline that was partly to blame for consecutive defeats in the previous two weeks, the Green Machine looked a more cohesive unit as they secured a comfortable win in their first outing in their new MacQueen Bros-sponsored strips.

The return to form has come just in time as Lorne prepare to host old foes Garnock, now playing their trade in West Division One, in the quarter final of the Regional Shield this Saturday.

The win last Saturday means that Oban remain in second place in West Division Two, one point

off leaders Cambuslang, who had a big win against McLaren.

Last weekend it was the visitors who made the better start to the game and were ahead after only five minutes.

But Oban settled and had the majority of the ball; the Oban back three of Richard MacKay, Plato Moisiadis and Kieran Johnson were being tested with some clever kicking but were returning the ball well and pegging the visitors back into their own half.

The steady boot of stand off Andrew Abraham helped Oban Lorne gain a deserved 9-5 lead after 25 minutes.

The lead was extended soon after when centre Craig Wright intercepted a stray Paisley pass and took the ball up to halfway, where he offloaded to support players and the ball was worked to Struan Smith to finish off under the posts.

The visitors fought their way back into the game in the second

half but the setback failed to dent Oban's confidence and the Green Machine continued to pile on the points, extending their lead through Struan's twin brother, Cameron.

Oban assistant coach Aaron Collins made some changes to the team midway through the half, most notably with Calum MacLachlan at centre and Vasco Borisov entering the field at scrum half.

Aided by some great positional kicking and some great runs by Calum MacLachlan, Oban Lorne finished the game off by running in three further tries with a brace from Borisov and a further score from back row Struan Smith.

Kick off this Saturday is 1.30pm at Glencruitten with the club looking for a big home crowd to cheer the team on.

Meanwhile Oban U14s are away to McLaren this Saturday following a postponed fixture last weekend against Lochaber.

Rugby

However, the U16s recorded an impressive 40-17 win against Cartha/Cumnock at North Connel on Sunday. The team are away to Dalziel this week.

Serious injury causes game to be abandoned

ARGYLL and Bute RFC's home match against Police Scotland RFC last Saturday had to be abandoned following a serious injury to one of the Police players.

The game was called off after 30 minutes as Argyll were leading 26-0.

This week the team are away to Cowal RFC in Dunoon. Anyone over the age of 18 who would like to play should contact Tommy Sutherland or Connor Ferris.

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WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain
Winds strong south easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 8°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook
Light rain on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, November 6, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right.

| Date | am | | | pm | | |
|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Thur | 04.50 | 3.9 | 11.15 | 0.7 | 17.13 | 4.2 |
| Fri | 05.25 | 4.1 | 11.58 | 0.7 | 17.49 | 4.2 |
| Sat | 00.08 | 0.7 | 06.01 | 4.1 | 12.40 | 0.8 |
| Sun | 00.47 | 0.8 | 06.37 | 4.1 | 13.20 | 1.0 |
| Mon | 01.25 | 0.9 | 07.12 | 4.0 | 14.00 | 1.2 |
| Tues | 02.05 | 1.1 | 07.48 | 3.8 | 14.41 | 1.5 |
| Wed | 02.48 | 1.3 | 08.27 | 3.6 | 15.25 | 1.7 |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Ardrishaig | -5.35 | Mallaig | +0.25 |
| Campbeltown | -5.30 | Portree | +0.55 |
| Crinan | -0.47 | Tobermory | +0.16 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00 | Dover | +5.30 |
| Lochboisdale | +0.30 | | |

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Oban to Barra/South Uist | Moderate |
| Oban to Coll/Tiree | Moderate |
| Kennacraig to Islay | Moderate |



GP appointment changes on isles

THE NUMBER of doctors' appointments is to be reduced on one of the Small Isles to make more available on the other three.

Two dedicated doctors based on Skye will travel across to Eigg as little as one day a week - previously five days a week - and once every two weeks to Muck, Rum and Canna to spread appointments more evenly between the four islands.

From November 18, doctors Clare Whitney and Angus Venters will lead a new community team, seeing patients on Eigg on Tuesdays and alternate Thursdays from 11am to 3pm and on Muck, Rum and Canna on alternate Thursdays from 11am to 3pm depending on location.

Using the resident Skye GPs will mean less of a reliance on locum doctors, who currently travel from Mallaig to Eigg.

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig, believes the move will serve the greater good.

He said: 'It is not sustainable to have a locum doctor all the time and probably not necessary to have a doctor in Eigg five days a week. It is more important that the doctor can be mobile and cover all four islands and the islanders understand this is a sustainable model.'

Gill McVicar, director of operations for NHS Highland's north and west, said: 'The idea is to provide cover where and when it is needed.'

Major cash boost for arts centre

STORNOWAY arts centre An Lanntair is to receive a £1.21 million grant over three years from Creative Scotland.

Home to a cinema, art gallery and restaurant, the new funding will help the An Lanntair group achieve its three-year business plan.

An Lanntair's chairman David Green said: 'This funding presents a fantastic opportunity for An Lanntair to work with the local community and its diverse partnerships to create a truly inspirational future programme.'

CAMPAIGN GROUP'S STARK WARNING OVER PROPOSED PLAN TO SLASH SPENDING BY £64M IN FIVE YEARS

Don't drive youngsters out with ferry fare hike

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

YOUNG people could be driven out of remote Lochaber communities if the local authority carries out proposed budget plans.

This is the stark warning from one campaign group following Highland Council's announcement that ferry fares could rise again as part of plans to slash spending by £64 million over the next five years.

The current single-trip fare across Loch Linnhe between Corran and Ardgour is £7.90 but council officials are considering raising the cost by four per cent per year over four years, which could see travellers charged £9.25 per trip, which campaign group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran) chairman Tony Boyd called 'unsustainable'.

There is a slight discount when buying a book of 30 tickets but the cost of this, currently £69.50, would also rise if the plans go ahead.

Corran Ferry is used by communities in the Ardnamurchan and Morvern peninsulas, as well as people on Mull. Mr Boyd said: 'It's got to the stage where I'm lost for words, it's not sustainable.'

'We met with Steve Barron [Highland Council chief executive] recently and said they can't keep putting the extra cost on the customers, they need to find another way of saving money.'

'The price has already gone up three times in a year and it's going to get to the point our young people will leave the area because they can't afford to get over the crossing to get to work. If the young people leave that will have a major impact on local shops, schools, everything. We can't go on like this, people



WARNING: FC Corran members campaigning to abolish fares on the Corran Ferry 20_145ferry01

are always talking about rural deprivation but then we keep being charged more and more just to get to work.'

A 'tourism tax' across the Highlands is another aspect of the budget proving unpopular, which could see all visitors to the area hit with a surcharge for their stay in a hotel, guest house or bed and breakfast.

Lesley Benfield of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce 'strongly urged' Highland Council to 'drop the suggestion. She

added: 'Lochaber Chamber of Commerce does not support the introduction of new taxes on tourists. Tourism is vital to the Lochaber economy and a tax like this will result in increased prices for visitors.'

Norry MacLean, owner of Berkeley Guest House, Fort William, said the proposal should be scrapped. He added: 'The council is under pressure and has to save money somewhere but hitting the tourists is unacceptable. A lot of the

accommodation here is family-run and they will all suffer from this. There's obviously a problem here but this is definitely not the way to fix it.'

Other issues being considered by Highland Council include shortening classroom hours, a loss of up to 1,000 council jobs including teaching posts and a reduction of council services such as bin collections, grass cutting and leisure centres.

On announcing the proposed cuts, Highland Council budget

leader, Maxine Smith, said: 'These are very difficult times for public services and we are not alone in facing very difficult decisions along with other councils across Scotland. The scale of the savings required means that we must now look at changing the way we provide some services and reducing others. This will mean a reduction in the number of staff we employ and the number of buildings we use, and will impact on the services we provide.'

Healthcare team in running for top award

LOCHABER'S healthcare team will find out tonight (Thursday) if it has won a national award.

The district group for NHS Highland was shortlisted in the 'integrated care for older people' category of the Scottish Healthcare Awards and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh tonight.

Nominated by retired Lochaber GP Michael Foxley and a doctor from Raigmore hospital in Inverness, the team was picked for its work integrating health and social care.

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

'This team has taken the unique opportunity to really put the person at the heart of service delivery.'

'They have been able to deliver the care and support to service users when they needed it most and where they wanted it most. And they have had the courage to shine a light where there has been a lack of care and taken decisive action.'

NHS Highland chief executive Elaine Mead said: 'The Lochaber district team deserves credit for its energy, commitment and drive and I wish it well.'

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

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Landslips not caused by roadside tree felling, claims forestry chief

LANDSLIPS which closed Lochaber's trunk road for more than 24 hours were not caused by roadside tree felling, according to Forestry Commission staff.

The Glasgow to Inverness A82 descended into chaos last week when two landslips half a mile apart closed the road at Corrychurachan, five miles south of Fort William.

Almost 60 people were trapped and drivers faced a diversion of 161 miles, sparking concerns tree felling at the steep bank on Glen Righ had contributed to the slips, along with torrential rain over the previous weekend.

Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart brought the matter to the Scottish parliament, asking transport minister Keith Brown if Forestry Commission Scotland had considered the impact of felling near the trunk road. He said: 'I am concerned that it appears some landslips were not only caused by heavy rain and wind but potentially also due to poor planning by the Forestry Commission which has been carrying out extensive tree felling along the A82 over the past number of weeks, which may increase the likelihood of landslips occurring.'

But Michael Hymers, Lochaber district

manager for the Forestry Commission, insisted felling was not the cause and the recent work had prevented the situation becoming 'far worse'.

He said: 'The quantity and intensity of recent rainfall experienced in days caused a series of landslips, which in turn led to an unprecedented amount of mud and debris being cascaded down the hill side. At lower levels on the hill, the presence of tree stumps, root systems binding the soils and standing trees acted as a buffer, intercepting the debris flow and reducing its impact. This ensured this unforeseeable event did not end up being much worse.'

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New call to bring back emergency Minch tug

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP David Stewart has backed demands by Highland councillors for proper protection of the Minch's coastline.

Highland Council leader Drew Hendry had called for the backing of politicians to reintroduce an emergency towing vessel (ETV) in the Minches, as a rescue measure for ships that run into trouble.

At a council meeting in Inverness last Thursday, Mr Hendry was supported by fellow councillors, who will now lobby the UK government on the matter.

It comes after an incident on October 8 when MV Parida - a ship carrying radioactive material - caught fire and drifted towards an oil rig in the Moray Firth.

David Stewart MSP said: 'Three years ago I made my concerns known about the removal of one of the two emergency tugs which covered north and west coast waters.'

'Westminster's transport committee questioned how one ETV, stationed in Orkney, could adequately cover the west coast.'

'The coalition government must therefore listen to the ongoing concerns of communities throughout the Highlands and islands and reinstate the second tug as a matter of urgency.'

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is proposing to ship nuclear waste from Dounreay to Sellafield in Cumbria in the near future and - should the same incident occur in the west - the nearest ETV would be in Kirkwall, several hours' journey away.

Mr Hendry said: 'The west coast simply doesn't have the protection it should have. The two vessels [in the north] are absolutely essential for the kind of protection we require.'

'I hope we can publicise this call and make sure MPs and MSPs are clear in this message.'



NEW SPONSOR: Stewart Borland (centre) presented a new drum featuring both Lochaber pipe band and Highland Title logos at the band ceilidh on Saturday night 20_145band01

Band beats out new two-year sponsorship deal

LOCHABER Pipe Band celebrated a new, two-year sponsorship at its annual ceilidh. Iain Robertson, band secretary, announced the partnership with conservation project Highland Titles, at the event in the

Alexandra Hotel on Saturday night. The sponsorship, worth around £2,400, will be paid monthly to boost funds, raised by band members, for teaching, uniforms and travelling costs. Mr Robertson said: 'We are

delighted to welcome Highland Titles as the band's new principal partner.

'The contribution has provided us with a very good start to our fundraising efforts and we are very much indebted to them

and look forward to a successful partnership.'

Stewart Borland of Highland Titles added: 'We are delighted to be the major sponsor for Lochaber Pipe Band. We hope it will give it the stability that

regular income brings and let it continue the fabulous work it does for both players of all ages, young and old, and also for the whole Lochaber area.'

'The band is an amazing asset to the region.'

Group pledges forest plan will bring in more visitors

EMMA CRICHTON
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A NEW £25 million tourism complex in Lochaber will not be in competition with local business, one of the organisations behind the plan has promised.

The first public consultation for the 'masterplan' at Leanachan Forest, which could include a five-star hotel, lodges and camping pods, was held at Nevis

Range on Tuesday, when the people behind the group pledged the proposal will boost the Lochaber economy, not hinder it.

But Robin Morgan, who owns holiday accommodation just south of Fort William, told Robert Grant of Forestry Commission Scotland, one of the groups behind the proposal,

'the pie is only so big' and tourists would flock to the new complex instead of current accommodation in Lochaber.

He said: 'You're offering all different types of places to stay here. You'll have the big hotel, the lodges and the camping facilities so you're literally covering every accommodation market local people already offer.'

'It'll end up people will only stay in the other local places when all your places are full. It's direct competition with the current market.'

But Mr Grant pledged a full impact assessment will be carried

out and the aim was to bring more people to the area, not just attract the visitors already coming.

He added: 'We want to enhance what Lochaber already has to offer. We're in no way trying to compete with local businesses.'

'We're hoping to attract a completely new market who may not have visited before.'

Concerns were also raised about potential light pollution at the forest and the possibility

of new buildings blocking the scenic views of Ben Nevis from surrounding areas but Alistair Scott, the architect behind the designs, pledged the complex will 'complement and add to' the forest and surrounding landscape.

Consultation on the proposal will continue until December this year, before being passed to Highland council's planning committee for consideration but it could take up to 20 years until the complex is built.



SUCCESS: Dorota Palicka, centre, with Kelsey Grant, left, and Kamila Wszelaka, who were praised at the professional beauty awards 20_145nails01

Girls nail awards praise

NAIL technicians from Fort William have been celebrating their success at a national awards ceremony.

Two artists from Ibiza Sun travelled to Manchester for the Professional Beauty Nail Championships and their boss Dorota Palicka went with them to judge at the event.

Kelsey Grant picked up second place in the showcase nail art category and her colleague, Kamila Wszelaka, came fifth in the one stroke section, after

just seven months' experience in nail art. These are just two of numerous awards won for Ibiza Sun since Ms Palicka opened the salon in 2010 and she is delighted with the progress of 'her girls'.

She said: 'They've both done so well and I'm so happy with how they did. I'm proud of both of them but I'm so happy for Kamila because she only started doing nails this year. She's obviously a talented young girl and I can't wait to see how she does next year.'

NHS numbers don't add up

'POOR financial management' of NHS Highland has been brought to the attention of the Scottish Parliament.

Politicians heard that NHS Highland kept board members in the dark about concerns over its financial position.

A report from Audit Scotland said weaknesses in financial management were a major factor in the board requiring £2.5 million from the Scottish government to break even.

NHS Highland's total revenue budget for 2013/14 was £724.6 million which included £617.9 million from the Scottish government and £87.5 million from Highland Council for the costs of adult health and social care integration.

The auditor said the authority was forecasting a 'break-even position' as late as March 2014 and failed to report to its own board or the Scottish government problems that were unable to be addressed by 'management planned actions'.

The report details financial pressures on the authority included financial pressure from almost £4 million costs for agency staff.

NHS Highland used agency staff to fill vacant positions but also claimed there was continued pressures in recruiting senior staff in rural areas.

The report concludes: 'NHS Highland continues to place a high reliance on non-recurring savings which may not be sustainable in the longer term.'

NHS Highland has given an assurance that it is acting on issues raised in the report. NHS Highland chief executive Gary Coultts said: 'We accept that the board should have been formally notified of the situation earlier. The report pointed out that officers updated board members about the extent of the financial challenges at informal board development meetings. It is a recognised part of good governance that it is sometimes entirely appropriate for the board to have in-committee sessions and have private briefings.'

'We are confident that the hospital's new management team is working assiduously to address budget management issues there with - as the report points out - training being organised for all budget holders and our establishment of a Delivering Financial Balance Programme Board, which includes two non-executive directors, to address the delivery of savings.'

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Medic flights disrupted by fuel dispute

EMERGENCY AIR AMBULANCES CAN'T REFUEL IN OBAN AT NIGHT

LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk

AN ARGUMENT over a light switch is preventing emergency helicopters refuelling in Oban. Scottish Ambulance Service's 'Helimed' medical evacuation operation and police flights can no longer refuel after 5pm at Oban airport, due to a dispute between council airport staff and its refuelling contractor. Now a senior paramedic manager and a former firefighter believe lives may be put at risk if the wrangle is not resolved quickly. Paul Keegan, managing director of refuelling contractor Total Logistic Concepts, says the current layout of the airport makes it almost impossible for him to safely refuel helicopters without 'someone coming in to turn on the airport lights.'



WRANGLE: Oban airport

He said the positioning of a container some months ago has blocked his clear view of the airport runway - a problem he said can be solved by someone flicking a light switch in the control tower. But a spokesman for Argyll and Bute council, which runs Oban airport, said it was aware of the issue and is planning to place refuelling barrels in Coll and Colonsay instead. Former fireman and Oban community councillor George Berry, who raised the issue, said he had fought in the past for a full-time fire command at the airport, and is disappointed that the matter is not yet resolved. He said: 'Someone will die before these people stop fighting. The councillors need to knock heads together.' Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I want to say how disappointed I am that this has arisen. I have raised the matter with the council and I hope the matter will be resolved as soon as possible.'

For 17 years, Total Logistics Concepts has refuelled helicopters for both police and ambulances, mountain rescue and for military operations from its base near to Oban Airport. Paul Keegan said over the years the company has developed a working procedure, which is 'both safe and robust'. He continued: 'This involves keeping close radio and visual contact with the helicopter at both the landing and departure stage.'

Senior Scottish Ambulance Service staff have tried to negotiate with both parties in order that a compromise can be reached, but since August they have not been able to refuel at the airport after 5pm. Instead, the emergency staff are having to re-route to Tiree, or elsewhere, to refuel. Paramedic manager Rob Dalziel for Scottish Ambulance Service told the council he was 'disappointed' with the lack of emergency fuel at the airport. A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We have a lease in place until 2017 with a private company to be the sole supplier of aviation fuel at Oban Airport. The business hours that company wishes to operate are a matter for them. 'We are aware of this issue and are working closely with the Scottish Ambulance Service to assist them to develop contingencies, one of which may involve the storage of barrels of fuel at our airports on Coll and Colonsay.'

A Scottish Ambulance Service spokesman said: 'We have been in ongoing discussions about the provision of night-time refuelling at Oban airport in the hope that they can come to an agreement as soon as possible. 'In the meantime, we have made arrangements for extra fuel supplies at Tiree and Islay to refuel our helicopters at night, which ensures that air ambulance operations are continuing as usual in the Western Isles.'



The Fashionistas!

THE OBAN Times proved it is not just any old rag when it was awarded the Fasanta Design Award for 2014. Staff members (left to right) reporter Louise Lee, production assistant Eilidh Orr and reporter Steven Rae modelled outfits on the festival's Community Catwalk on Saturday night. The outfits were made by the models themselves, with a

little extra help from work colleagues and family members. Each item was made from Oban Times newspapers and was either woven, pleated, decoupaged, scrunched and tuiled into shape. The three outfits were made from special editions of the newspaper: Louise's from her favourite edition - The Royal National Mod; Steven's outfit

was made from his lead stories and Eilidh from her work in layout and design. There was even a barcode bra for Louise, a McCaig's Tower crown for Eilidh and a mast-head sporran for Steven. Judge Amanda Millen said she was impressed by the number of techniques the team had put into designing their outfits. Full Fasanta report on page 13

No Christmas visit for Connel seaman

INDIAN bureaucrats look to have put an end to Connel seaman Billy Irving's wish for a Christmas reunion with his pregnant girlfriend. Former soldier Billy was arrested along with fellow crewmen off the Indian coast on October 12 last year for alleged weapons offences. The charges were quashed but are under appeal, so Billy now awaits the outcome of a Supreme Court hearing in December. Billy's girlfriend, Yvonne MacHugh, said: 'There's no legal reason why Billy is being held there. It is just bad administration from the Indian Police.'

Port Appin doctors prepare to opt out

ONE of the last remaining GP practices offering 24-hour medical cover has announced it is to opt out of the service. Port Appin surgery has given three months' notice of the change, meaning the opt-out will come into force on February 1 next year. NHS Highland has arranged drop-in events to discuss future arrangements on November 26 from 1pm - 3pm in Lismore Hall and from 5pm - 7pm in Appin Village Hall.

Mossfield match is 'safe' for children

A RISK assessment has been carried out ahead of Oban Camanachd's rescheduled match against Fort William at Mossfield this Saturday to make sure children will be safe at the game. In a statement on facebook, Fort William chairman Duncan MacPhee said security arrangements had been made in response to concerns raised by his club's travelling support. The match, a National Division title decider, was abandoned on September 27 after the referee was injured, sparking debates and disagreements on the pitch. Preview - page 25



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Still on track, says police chief

CONCERNS THAT NEWLY-FORMED 24-HOUR ROAD POLICING COVER IS UNDER THREAT FROM BUDGET CUTS IS DISMISSED BY TOP OFFICER WHO IS DRIVING ARGYLL'S UNIT

LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk

ROUND-the-clock policing units in Argyll may face the axe in budget cuts, a former police officer and now Holyrood politician has claimed.

But Argyll's senior police officer, area commander Marlene Baillie, said there were no changes proposed for the county.

John Finnie, Independent list MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has attacked proposals to scrap 24-hour specialist road policing units cover for non-motorway roads, and to run the operations exclusively in Scotland's central belt.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Scottish government's justice committee, Mr Finnie asked questions about insider information he had received that from the beginning of next year, the only round-the-clock road policing units would be based in Glasgow, Motherwell and Edinburgh and tasked with serving the motorway network.

Mr Finnie called for 24-hour specialist policing of the Highlands' trunk road network to continue, and urged Police Scotland to devolve more power to local officers, restoring the

community policing ethos and avoiding the 'mistakes caused by centralised policy-making'.

Mr Finnie said: 'If correct, and I have no reason to doubt the veracity of the information given to me, then this would be another example of a decision made in and on behalf of central Scotland which disregards the rest of the country.'

'Any reduced coverage either in terms of time or geography will clearly impact on that undertaking. A major deterrent to would-be law breakers is the possibility of detection.'

'This is particularly the case with travelling criminals who must be intercepted on our road network before visiting crime sprees on remote and rural communities.'

'Whilst clearly the onus for that prevention does not lie exclusively with the road policing unit, any reduction in visibility has the potential to negatively impact on the prevention of crime.'

'I call on Police Scotland to rethink not only this decision which clearly impacts on local policing, but also to end the central policy-making which ignores local needs and that can best be achieved by devolving decision-making to local level and



DRIVING FORCE: Area Commander Marlene Baillie with her road policing team in Oban during the summer 16_t45police01

returning to community-based policing in the Highlands and islands as soon as possible.'

Commander Baillie moved to reassure the Argyll public: 'There is no proposed changes to the current road policing structure that was successfully

introduced in Argyll and Bute in July this year.'

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, acknowledged the work of local police patrolling the roads: 'Of course there must be visible, active road policing in Argyll and Bute and as the local

MSP, I expect Police Scotland to deliver that.'

'However, if Mr Finnie lived in Argyll, he would be aware that this strong, visible presence is already on the ground, with patrols and other activity across the area.'

'I will continue to support Police Scotland and local police commanders in their work to ensure that our roads remain safe and, in particular, that the new drink drive limit is enforced, given what a strong contribution it will make to saving lives.'

Patrols are stepped up as second unit is hit by thieves

EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

TWO MORE industrial units at Oban's Glegallan Industrial Estate have been raided by thieves, exactly one week after a similar crime on the site.

Police in Oban described the pattern of thefts over consecutive weekends as 'a huge concern' and responded by issuing a warning to business owners and increasing patrols in the area.

Between Saturday and Sunday, thieves targeted the BEAR Scotland depot and Strathclyde Scaffolding Yard, stealing fuel and power tools.

Over the same time period the previous week, the storage yard at MacQueen Bros Removals and Storage was targeted and diesel, scrap metal and power tools taken from containers without high security locks.

The business has since improved its security measures

and given every customer a high security lock.

Owner Graham MacQueen issued his own warning to fellow business owners in the estate in particular and the county in general, adding: 'We are checking our CCTV but maybe we needed something like this to realise that Argyll is not the place it was.'

'You get people wandering into the area, breaking into things.'

'We are strengthening security but everyone must realise Argyll

is as vulnerable as anywhere now.'

Oban police CID confirmed two businesses at Glegallan had been broken into last weekend but stopped short of confirming incidents over both weekends were linked.

Asked if thieves considered Oban to be an easy target, acting detective sergeant Stuart McNae rejected the 'soft touch' description, saying: 'The town has 24-hour policing and CCTV, so

I wouldn't say it was a soft touch. 'But two weekends in a row is a huge concern and we are doing everything we can to address this.'

He added: 'There are a number of lines of enquiry that we are following up at the moment, but I would urge businesses to make sure things are locked away at night.'

'If anyone believes they would benefit from a crime prevention survey, be it for a commercial or

residential premises, then get in touch on 101.'

Oban police sergeant Mike Wood said: 'The thieves must have used a large vehicle, at least the size of a van.'

'If anyone has seen any suspicious activity in the area then please get in touch.'

'We are increasing patrols in the area and, as part of our direct policing plan, we will be giving all retail units in the area extra attention.'

The Christmas spirit is alive and well in Oban primary school, despite rumours

CONCERNS that Christmas had been cancelled at Oban's Rockfield primary school this year are 'wrong', an Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman reassured children and parents.

Some parents and teachers had reported that festive arrangements at the school were changing and there would be no traditional 'Nativity play' in the lead up to Christmas.

One member of staff, who did not want to be named, said:

'We were told that there were no learning outcomes to be had from the school's annual Christmas activities and this year some of them were not going ahead.'

However, a spokeswoman for the council issued a 'bah Humbug!' to the rumours: 'This is wrong. Rockfield primary school is planning a Nativity play, Christmas parties, a holly tea fundraiser and traditional church services.'

New charity will provide additional help to combat scourge of addiction

A SPECIALIST drugs and alcohol treatment charity has been awarded contracts to provide services to individuals in Argyll and Bute for the next three years.

Called 'Addaction Scotland', the charity will provide addiction recovery services for men and women across the county, the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership ADP announced on Tuesday.

As part of its contract, Addaction Scotland will offer employment opportunities, where it considers it the appropriate course of action, to employees of the current service providers.

Andrew Horne, director of Addaction Scotland, said: 'Our aim, in Argyll and Bute, is to create a recovery service that is accessible to all people who require and will benefit from our services.'



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Show the love for the town with retail voucher scheme

SHOPPING locally this Christmas is one of the surest ways of supporting the local economy.

One of the best ways to do it is by buying local gift vouchers such as the Love Oban vouchers, says business improvement company BID4Oban. With new outlets starting to sell the Oban vouchers, it is good news for both business and customers.

BID4Oban chairman Graeme Bass said: 'Love Oban is a very straightforward voucher scheme introduced by BID4Oban in 2013 to encourage local

people to support local businesses by giving gift vouchers that can only be spent in Oban.'

'Shoppers buy £5, £10 or £20 vouchers from a single location in town and give them as gifts for birthdays, weddings, Christmas and anniversaries. The recipients will then be able to redeem their vouchers as full or part payment for goods or services in any of the participating businesses in the town.'

The vouchers are sold in The Sports Shop in Argyll Square and Webster of Oban Photographic Centre at the top of George Street.

Ceilidh will set high note to raise funds for school's trip

MUSICIANS from Oban high school are ready to play for their supper as they host a fundraising ceilidh to help pay for their attendance at New York's Tartan Week.

In April next year, the music department will take 40 children to the parade, a group that represents the school's pipe band, traditional school of music and choir.

They will play in venues such as Times Square and Central Park.

But in an effort to offset some of the costs of the trip - the group

needs thousands of pounds just to transport instruments and equipment - they are holding a ceilidh in Skipinnish Ceilidh House tomorrow (Friday).

There have already been a number of generous donations to the cause: the venue and the band, Ceol an Aire, are free of charge and acts such as Skerryvore, Julie Fowllis and Eddi Reader have donated prizes to a raffle and auction.

All three Oban high school groups will perform, as will the popular high school Highland dancers.

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30 PAGE XMAS GIFT GUIDE

Relief for workers as Lidl agrees to payout package

CO-OP STAFF members have been given some positive news following weeks of uncertainty about redundancy payouts.

Staff have been told by German retail giant Lidl, which took on the Co-op workforce when it purchased the store on Soroba Road in September, that every employee is to receive a payment in December.

One worker at the store, who asked not to be named, said: 'Everyone is delighted, obviously, because there was a bit of uncertainty last week when we were told we were getting individual meetings to discuss our redundancy.'

'The staff are actually getting more than we expected, and we're getting it on December 22, so in time for Christmas.'

'At least now there's a line drawn under this.'

The employee also confirmed that Lidl is planning to take on three part-time members of staff, to work alongside the existing workforce who are transferring from the current Lidl store in the Lochavullin industrial estate.

'The jobs are only for 20 hours a week which is obviously no use for someone who needs full-time hours but three jobs are still better than nothing,' added the worker.

'We've also been told we will get redundancy money even if we are taken on by Lidl at the new store, they've been very fair about it all.'

Webster case to be re-examined

FORMER Oban nurse and convicted murderer Malcolm Webster has successfully applied to have his case re-examined under the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission (SCCRC)

Webster, who worked at Lorn and Islands hospital, applied to have his 30-year sentence, for murdering his first wife and attempting to murder his second, re-examined earlier this year.

The SCCRC said it would review the conviction and sentence over the coming months.

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Phoenix boxing show proves a big hit



DEBUT WIN: Mark Gillespie (left) of Lochaber takes on Stuart Grant of Noble Art, Glasgow

'Our shows are now regarded as one of the best in Scotland'

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club hosted an explosive home show at the weekend, with victories from both juniors and seniors.

Cameron Whyte, 12, kicked off the Nevis Centre event on Saturday night but the two-time Scottish champion was beaten by a boxer his own age for the first time.

Kieron Yardley of Duries Boxing Club, Glasgow, edged a split decision after a hard-fought contest in which one then the other would have the ascendancy.

Thirteen-year-old Kein Johnstone boxed an exhibition with Durie's Chris Brown, who is Scottish champion, two divisions above Johnstone. Kein showed some facets of his game previously unseen as he circumnavigated the edge of the ring changing direction sharply and trying to draw Brown onto shots.

Dan Nixon, also 13, boxed against old adversary James McKool of Aberdeen's Kincorth

Boxing

club. McKool had won a decision at their previous meeting but Nixon showed he had learnt from mistakes in the past and dominated every round working behind a strong jab and looking to land the right hand via crosses or hooks depending on where the opportunity presented itself to win the decision.

Unanimous

Lochaber's Robert MacDonald won a unanimous decision following his bout with Scottish champion Matthew Traynor of Duries which also gained him the young boxer of the night trophy.

Kevin Aitchison returned to the ring after nearly two years absence against Stirling's 1314 club's Tommy Coyle. The 15-year-old looked like he had never been away, dominating behind a sharp jab and nullifying Coyle when he got in close. As the bout progressed Aitchison's footwork got



CREAM OF THE CROP: Lochaber Phoenix Boxers before this year's home show

better and better and he ran away with every round.

Robbie Hall is fast turning into one of Scotland's premier 15-year-olds at his weight and continued to show how well he's progressing against Durie's vastly more experienced Richard Neilson. After an opening round in which the poise and precision in favour of the endeavour and workrate of Neilson the second and third stanza saw Hall go through the gears and he clearly outlanded his older adversary as his attacks became more intense and numerous.

Not to be outdone by the juniors, senior middleweight Mark

Gillespie won the decision in his debut against Stuart Grant of the Noble Art Club, Glasgow and recently-crowned Scottish Novice middleweight champion Adam Watson took a slight step up in class in his win against Renton's Jordan Fenwick.

Top of the bill saw Igor Sliwinski dominated his fight against 1314's Martin Buchanan in Sliwinski's first senior contest and also went on to win senior boxer of the night.

Delighted

A Lochaber Phoenix spokesman said on the night: 'We're obviously delighted with our boxers' performance but would love to thank the huge number of

people who came to support our club. Everyone's enthusiasm in cheering our boxers on and supporting them really creates a great atmosphere. 'Added to that, the fact that

everyone treats the visiting boxers so well and are always so respectful to them means that our shows are now regarded as one of the best in Scotland. I'd also like to mention the tremendous

backing given to us by Caley Timber Building Supplies. Their sponsorship has been invaluable in helping us at the gym and getting our boxers experience during training camps and such.'



LEARNING CURVE: Dan Nixon (right) against James McKool of Aberdeen's Kincorth club



SPLASHING TIME: The field set off in from a waterlogged An Aird, despite heavy rain

Rain fails to dampen the spirits

THE RAIN lashing down on Fort William didn't dampen the spirits of the 144 runners who took on Eddie's Half Marathon at the weekend.

Jon Gay was the first Lochaber Athletic Club member back to the finish line at An Aird, his time of 1:25:01 putting him in 12th place overall while his team mate Amanda Blackhall was first of the Lochaber ladies home in 1:34:06.

It was visiting Mark Walsh of Dumbarton who

Half marathon

took first place, taking on the winding route round Fort William in 1:17:54.

The race is in memory of Fort taxi driver Eddie Campbell, who completed the Ben Race no fewer than 44 times from 1952, winning three times, until his life was cut short by cancer in 1996.

Cove come calling at Claggan

FORT WILLIAM went down 3-0 to Wick Academy on Saturday but manager Calum MacLean said there are positives to be taken from the match.

Wick went top of the Highland league table after the victory and Fort manager Calum MacLean said his side acquitted themselves well.

He added: 'Wick are a very good side at home. In the first half we were the better team, but they got a goal against the run of play.'

'Maybe 3-0 flattered them a bit.' James Whyte had a good chance to give Fort William a first half lead, but was denied by a great save from Wick goalkeeper James More.

Richard MacAdie gave the home side the lead on 24 minutes, before second half strikes from James Pickles and Sam MacKay, though it could have been more had it not been for some tremendous shot-stopping by Fort goalkeeper Robin Harvey.

The Claggan men will dust themselves down for this Saturday's home tie against Cove Rangers and boss MacLean hopes his side can pick up some elusive points.

He said: 'We will have a full squad, weather-permitting of

course. But Cove are a very good side and it will be a hard game.'

Fort William players also had the chance to try out new tracksuits this week when Alan

Football

Sutherland, of sponsors Marine Harvest, presented them at Claggan Park on Tuesday.



LOOKING GOOD: Alan Sutherland, left, presents new tracksuits to Fort's Darren Quigg on behalf of Marine Harvest 20_145Football01

Tight at the top of Lochaber 10 pin bowling league

Ten pin bowling

THERE ARE now only two teams fighting for the top spot in the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league as both Rotavators and 3=1 have the maximum 20 points in the scratch division.

After week four in the Nevis Centre, Rotavators are the only team in the handicap division with the maximum 20 points although Alleycats are a close second with 17.

The top scratch individual game this week came from Dave Cameron of Council who rolled 168. Dave also had the top handicap game with 224 and the top two game handicap series of 436. John Weller of Alleycats rolled the top two game scratch series of 328.

Alleycats secured both the top scratch game of the week with 562 and the top two game team scratch series of 1,108.

Of the handicap team games, Ardtoe/Nevis Radio had the top handicap single game of 765 while Council had the best two-game score with 1,492.

Kayak challenge to be annual event

A FUNDRAISING kayak challenge in Lochaber was so successful last year it is set to become an annual event.

The Loch Shiel Viking Challenge, Glenfinnan, raised £4,304 for Macmillan Cancer Support and a similar sea kayaking race is to be held at Glenuig, Moidart next summer.

Alaisair Wallace, chairman of the Loch Shiel Viking Challenge committee, said: 'We could not have raised the sum without the donations from business sponsors and by all those who gave time and equipment both during the day and for the concert in the evening.'

'There really are too many peo-

Kayaking

ple involved to list individually but you know who you are - a big thank you.

'We are now working on the next Viking challenge which we are taking to the coast and will appeal more to sea kayakers.'

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| WEATHER | | TIDAL INFORMATION | |
|------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Thursday | Heavy rain Winds strong south easterly Temperatures 7°C to 8°C. | Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, November 6, 2014 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. | |
| Friday | Heavy rain showers Winds moderate south westerly Temperatures 7°C to 10°C. | Date | am |
| Weekend Outlook | Light rain on Saturday Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate south easterly Temperatures 7°C to 9°C. | Thur | pm |
| | | Fri | Ardrishraig |
| | | Sat | Campbeltown |
| | | Sun | Crinan |
| | | Mon | Islay Port Ellen |
| | | Tues | Lochboisdale |
| | | Wed | Ferry Crossings/Sea States |
| | | | Oban to Barra/South Uist |
| | | | Oban to Coll/Tiree |
| | | | Kennacraig to Islay |
| | | | Mallaig |
| | | | Portree |
| | | | Tobermory |
| | | | Dover |
| | | | Moderate |
| | | | Moderate |
| | | | Moderate |