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Oban woman is seriously injured in US hit-and-run

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A 55-YEAR-OLD Oban woman has been seriously injured and has had a series of operations after being struck by a hit-and-run driver last week while on holiday in the United States.

Agnes MacKechnie was sent '25 feet' into the air when she was hit by a Ford pick-up truck at around 9.45pm in Wyandotte Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Agnes was in the United States visiting her brother, who moved there around 15 years ago.

This week, Agnes's daughter Karen said: 'Our mother is still having on-going treatment but is making excellent progress thanks to the care of everyone at St Luke's Hospital.'

'There are currently no new developments on finding the driver of the hit-and-run vehicle.'

'Agnes's family would also like to express their deepest thanks and gratitude to all the well-wishers and support that we have received from their friends and work colleagues.'

Immediately after the accident, her sister, Sharon Bratton, said: 'She was involved in a hit-and-run last night and has a fractured skull, broken leg and wrist, broken ribs and a torn liver.'

'She was with my brother and her husband. They were out at a Halloween party and were just crossing the road to go back to his flat when a truck came out of nowhere and sent her into the air.'

Sharon added subsequently, following an initial surgical procedure: 'She has been taken off the ventilator and is more alert. And the surgeons are on stand by



Agnes MacKechnie was hit by this pick-up truck.



in case of any complications. So far she has had a blood transfusion and is on blood thinners. She has had surgery on her left wrist they have put pins in it.

'She will be overwhelmed by the amount of people who know and care about her.'

There was a huge response from well-wishers on social media after Sharon contacted *The Oban Times* soon after the accident injured Agnes, who had her 55th birthday on Sunday.

Family friend and well-known Oban publican Aulay Dunn spoke to Agnes's husband, David, at the weekend.

Oban and Dunbeg sparkle for fireworks



Mickey and Minnie Mouse were the star attractions – along with Oban High school Pipe Band – at Dunbeg's bonfire night celebrations on Saturday. And thousands turned out the following night to see the spectacular fireworks display over Oban bay (inset). Full story and more pictures on page five.

Aulay said: 'David told me it was a bit of a nightmare and that Agnes has had operations on her leg and her arm, which are broken. And he said there is a problem with her liver.'

'He said he was with her at the time she was hit and saw her go up in the air. David said he thought she was gone. But he said she is reasonably stable in the hospital.'

'He is staying about 15 minutes away from the hospital which is good because otherwise he would have to relocate. And I'm sure it will not be just a couple of weeks until she comes back.'

'David has been sorting through the insurance as well, and that's all okay, as far as I can gather.'

'He's obviously pretty upset about what's happened.'

'This is terrible. They were away on holiday looking forward to having a good time. You just don't expect that sort of thing to happen. It's not nice at all.'

Meanwhile, police in Bethlehem have issued an appeal for help from the public to identify the driver who knocked down Agnes.

Police issued pictures from

CCTV cameras of a dark blue Ford pick-up truck. The city's police department said: 'The vehicle has stickers on the left and right lower corners of the rear window. The truck also has a significant amount of debris in the truck bed. The truck should have some front-end damage. The truck appears to have an extended cab.'

Billy Irving is back in Indian court

CONNEL man Billy Irving appeared in front of an Indian court on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The facts of his appeal were heard and he and others will reappear next week for the outcome.

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, is hoping to get him back for Christmas.

Billy and five other British ex-servicemen were sentenced to five years in an Indian prison in January 2016. The men, known as the Chennai Six, were working as armed guards protecting ships from Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

Authorities arrested the crew of the MV Seaman Guard Ohio for straying into Indian waters with unlicensed weapons.

Yvonne recently filmed her two-year-old son William telling her what he wants for Christmas - his daddy back. 'I try to film as much of William as possible,' she said. 'From special occasions to everyday things.'

'Billy has missed out on so much of the two years William has been with us. So when Billy is home and free he can sit down to watch them and see how much his little boy has grown. Tonight I decided to video him writing his letter to Santa, and I am so glad I did.' The 18-second clip ends with William saying: 'I miss him, mummy,' and Yvonne replies: 'I miss him too, darling.'

The Chennai Six also received the support from best-selling novelist and former SAS sergeant Andy McNab, who has signed a copy of his latest book for the Chennai Six, which will be making its way to the prison in India next week.



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Broken street lights spark outrage

A DUNOLLIE man who is awaiting a hip replacement has spoken out about broken street lights after falling in the dark, writes David McPhee.

Peter Howe, 28, has been complaining about the lack of light in Corran Brae since the beginning of August.

Peter's partner starts work in the early hours of the morning, but at that time 'you can't see where you're going', he said. 'It's not safe.'

'I have to stay up to drive her to work then drive home again. It's the same when I walk the dog - I can't see a thing. I need a hip replacement and if I fall, which I have done, it could damage me

more. It was a stone on the pavement. I just went over it because I couldn't see.'

'I would just like to say if they are going to cut services and make people pay council tax, then people should be able to use the road and the pavement, especially when old people live there. Could you imagine someone aged 80? It's daunting enough for me. It's ridiculous.'

Peter has been in contact with councillor for Oban North and Lorn, Julie McKenzie.

Councillor McKenzie said: 'I raised a case on behalf of Dunollie residents on this issue in August and I have been seriously disappointed by the

misinformation, contradiction, lack of action and answers since.'

'I raised the issue with SSE publicly on Twitter and have now been advised that the council has responsibility to complete the work.'

'This has been a public safety issue from the start and the failure to complete the work and lack of communication with residents from both the council and SSE is simply not good enough.'

'I'm now waiting on a timescale for completion of the job from council officers and have asked for an apology for the residents of Dunollie.'

A spokesman for the Scottish and Southern Electricity Net-

works said: 'SSEN was notified by Argyll and Bute Council on August 8, 2017, about an issue with the street lights.'

'SSEN engineers attended the site and identified an underground cable fault that had occurred on the network. Works were carried out to repair the fault and reinforce the street lighting network. This work was completed by October 24.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Now that SSE has restored the supply, we are able to complete the final stage of the work, and this is scheduled to be done by the weekend.'

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OT

Anger as books are left to rot

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ARGYLL and Bute Council is facing anger for dumping books left to rot in Mull mobile library after axing the service more than a year ago.

Many books were in such a bad state, due to mould and water damage, that they had to be thrown into landfill rather than

being given to charity. A Tobermory resident who regularly used the island's mobile library, Mull Museum secretary Olive Brown, said: 'They took the library van off the road and they took away the librarian about 18 months ago. The moment the van went off the road, the books were all in a perfect condition. Nobody could see the books were there. 'The contents sat in the van for

a year and a half. They just let them moulder away. Some were in such a bad condition they could not even be given to charity. Argyll and Bute Council let things deteriorate until they were not worth anything.

'It is a sheer waste of the assets. There were really interesting Gaelic books. They could have taken the van back to the council headquarters. It is a

wasted opportunity, in a world where we are told to recycle and read and learn. The council was not setting a good example.'

The loss of the island's mobile library service was 'a big miss to people who live in remote parts of Mull', she said.

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'When Mull mobile library was withdrawn from service in June last year, the

majority of stock was relocated to the new library in Tobermory.

'However, a small number of books had become damaged from mould and water due to being stored in the mobile library. Unfortunately, these books had to be disposed of.'

'The council usually gives all its unwanted stock to a national charity but these particular books were in such a poor con-

dition that the charity would not have been able to accept them.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'Inevitably, some books would have been unsaleable or too damaged to pass on, but given that the community on Mull was and is very opposed to library cuts, any suggestion that usable books were being dumped simply adds insult to injury.'

TIMESLINE

Mixed fortunes for the economy

OCTOBER has been a mixed month for the Highlands and Islands economy, with both positive and negative developments.

According to the Highlands and Islands monthly economic report, the positive side included a fall of 355 in the number of people unemployed; £35 million investments by Diageo in reopening two whisky distilleries in Brora and Port Ellen; and a 9.7 per cent rise in passenger numbers at the regional airports.

The bad news included VisitScotland's plans to close 14 local tourist information centres; the collapse of the Daviot Group with 31 job losses; and another fall in the number of school pupils studying Gaelic.

VisitScotland hit at over closures

VISITSCOTLAND has been accused of 'relinquishing its responsibilities to rural areas' following the announcement that tourist information offices in Lochmaddy and Castlebay are to close.

This follows on from last year's closure of the Lochboisdale office and means that there is now no VisitScotland presence on Uist and Barra.

Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil said: 'I am very disappointed at VisitScotland's decision.'

'At a time when tourism is increasing and the season is extending, this seems a strange decision and suggests VisitScotland is relinquishing responsibility to rural areas.'

'I wrote to Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for tourism, and asked her to intervene following closure of the Lochboisdale office and I have again written to her following the latest closures.'

MSP welcomes living wage rate

MORE employers throughout the Western Isles are being encouraged to sign up as accredited living wage employers.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan this week welcomed the new Scottish living wage rate of £8.75 per hour.

The MSP visited Lewis Builders this week to congratulate the firm on becoming one of the latest island firms to sign up to the living wage.

The living wage is reviewed every year based on living standards. Mr Allan is an accredited living wage employer.



Andrew Morrison, sales director with sponsor Maxxium UK, Shirley Spear, Jimmy Carr and Scottish Licensed Trade News editor Gillian McKenzie.



Left to right, Will Madden, Susie Simister, Jodie Bramall and John Whyte pick up the HITA award on behalf of Portavadie.

Awards galore for Highlands and Islands hospitality sector

A NUMBER of Highlands and Islands businesses have won coveted trophies at this year's Scottish Licensed Trade News (SLTN) awards.

Shirley Spear of the The Three Chimneys on Skye won the Industry Achievement Award, sponsored by Maxxium UK.

Neil Morrison, owner of Macgochans in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, The Lochside in Bowmore on Islay and

The Benleva in Drumnadrochit, was named Entrepreneur of the Year, and Macgochans won Independent Pub/Bar of the Year.

Other winners included The Crofter in Fort William, which took the trophy for Best Soft Drinks Offer.

Comedian Jimmy Carr was master of ceremonies at the 2017 SLTN awards, presenting more than 20 coveted corkscrew trophies to Scotland's top pubs,

clubs, restaurants, staff and operators in front of an audience of 700.

Meanwhile, just days after scooping two awards at the Scottish Outdoor and Leisure Awards (SOLA), the Portavadie team travelled to the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) in Inverness on Friday evening November 3 and were rewarded by winning the Best Accommodation Provider category.

The Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards cover 16 categories ranging from food and drink to accommodation and visitor attractions.

This is the first time Portavadie has won one of the coveted trophies and for general manager Iain Jurgensen it is another endorsement for the destination.

He said: 'This has been a phenomenal few days for Portavadie.'

'I'm thrilled the judges recognise the hard work and passion we all put into Portavadie and I am humbled that they believe we are the best accommodation provider in the region.'

Portavadie now goes forward as the Highlands and Islands representative in the Best Accommodation Provider category to the national Scottish Thistle Awards, which will be held next year.

Owner of Ulva supports buy-out Mull welcomes its new doctor

THE community of Ulva has raised more than £10,000 towards the purchase of the island.

However, the five residents will have to raise a lot more if they are to buy Ulva, which has a price tag of £4.5 million.

On October 9, the North West Mull Community Woodland Company was granted the right to buy. This gives them an eight-month period in which to develop a business plan and raise money.

'We have approached Highlands and Islands Enterprise

and the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for assistance in developing our plans,' the organisation said. 'We have already carried out a feasibility study which is now in late draft stage.'

'The purchase price is certain to be above the normal maximum of £1 million for SLF support. Substantial additional funding will be required if we hope to convince the SLF to go beyond its normal limit. The deadline for raising the money and concluding the purchase is June 9, 2018.'

The island is owned by the

Howard family, who have been the 'privileged custodian' of Ulva for around 70 years.

Jamie Howard said: 'Our only wish now is that whoever the future owners/custodians turn out to be, this island will continue to be the magical and unspoiled remote Hebridean beauty it is today and that it may remain open to all who wish to visit to explore this unique treasure.'

'Jamie Howard will continue his support of this community for the near future and wishes the North West Mull Community Woodland Company well.'

NORTH Mull has gained a new doctor who will replace the departing GP.

And he has said he hopes to 'build a sustainable model of general practice in very difficult times'.

This month Dr Brian Prendergast will replace Dr Adrian Ward, who joined the Tobermory and Salen surgeries in May after leaving Lochgilphead Medical Practice.

An NHS Highland spokesperson said: 'We are very pleased to confirm that Dr Brian Prendergast will join us on November

27. Brian is currently working as a GP on Bute and plans to make Mull his home until he retires. He will be moving to the island with his wife Mandy. He joins the surgeries with a view to build and provide a sustainable model of general practice in very difficult times.'

'Brian brings with him a wealth of medical experience. Having trained in Liverpool, he worked as a cardiothoracic surgeon before moving into general practice where he worked as a GP in St Helens before moving to Bute which was his first taste

of rural GP work, an area he is passionate about. In his spare time, Brian enjoys sailing, skiing and walking.'

Iain Campbell, chairman of the North Mull patient participation group, said: 'On behalf of the communities of Tobermory and Dervaig, I am delighted to welcome Dr Brian Prendergast and his wife Amanda to Mull.'

'At a meet-your-doctor coffee morning held in the surgery in Tobermory recently, the community turned out in force to welcome him and offer their full support as their new GP.'

MORE employers throughout the Western Isles are being encouraged to sign up as accredited living wage employers.

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Luig lands £150,000 windfall

THE Isle of Luig Community Trust has been awarded £148,980 from the Big Lottery Fund.

The funding will enable the trust to employ two staff, a development manager and a community engagement officer, to provide an activity programme including talks, walks and crafts, as well as paying for finance and admin support.

The Robertson Trust has also committed £7,000 towards the first year of the development manager post, and other applications are in development to ensure the work is fully supported for the next three years.

Recruitment is underway via HJOBS, with a deadline for applications set for November 27. The work will be based at the Atlantic Islands Centre in Cullipool.

Alastair Fleming of the Luig Community Trust said: 'The trust is extremely pleased to have secured this investment which will help us ensure that the Atlantic Islands Centre is well used, both as a tourist attraction, and vitally as a community building, providing opportunities and services through the winter months for our community.'

'We must thank the Lorn Islands Partnership and the Scottish Government's Strengthening Communities Programme for playing an important part in achieving this success.'



Graham Bruce Richards with his painting Child's Play (girl in pink dress), which has been selected for the exhibition.

Mull artist wins top competition accolade

GRAHAM Bruce Richards from Mull has been selected from almost 2,000 artists across Europe to have his work shown in the 2018 Columbia Threadneedle Prize: Figurative Art Today.

The Columbia Threadneedle Prize is Europe's leading open competition for figurative and representational art and, at £20,000, is one of the most valuable art prizes in the United Kingdom.

The winner is also awarded their own solo exhibition in the Threadneedle Space at Mall Galleries in London (valued at £10,000).

The 2018 winner will be announced on January 30. Visitors to the London exhibition will also decide the Visitors' Choice Award, worth an additional £10,000.

Votes can be cast for Graham in the Visitors' Choice Award when visiting

the exhibition at Mall Galleries between January 31 and February 17.

Graham was one of 96 artists who had their work selected from more than 4,000 entries viewed by the panel of selectors Jennifer McRae, portrait artist; Pippa Stockdale, managing director, Fine Art Society; Helen Pheby, senior curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Lewis McNaught (panel chairman), and director of Mall Galleries.

First road is to be built on Hebridean isle

A SMALL island in the Inner Hebrides is on track to have its first road built.

Sanday, which is connected to Canna via a bridge, is campaigning to raise £31,428 to build a 'life-changing' road.

The Isle of Canna Community Development Trust has already accumulated £17,200 towards the costs from various organisations. And it has raised a fur-

ther £5,090 through an online crowdfunding campaign.

'Creating this track will be life-changing for residents of Sanday and vital to encourage new people to settle on the island,' the crowdfunding page reads. 'Canna and Sanday are two adjoining islands connected by a bridge that can take vehicles but there is no

road on Sanday. The track will stretch from the Canna bridge to St Edwards Church, approximately 1.5 miles, and will use locally sourced materials.'

As it stands, when the tide is out people use the bridge and the 'rocky and uneven track'. However, when the tide is in, the surface is covered and access is only available on foot or quad bike.

Man jailed for attack on former girlfriend

AN EAST Lothian man was jailed for five months on Tuesday for assaulting his ex-partner in an Oban hotel, before threatening to throw himself off a pier, wasting hours of the emergency services' time.

Ryan Gillies, 20, of 41 Muirfield Gardens, Gullane, pleaded guilty to behaving in a threatening or aggressive manner at the Oban hotel on September 20, 2017, by shouting and swearing at his former partner, calling her derogatory names, ripping her shirt, punching a wall, threatening to harm himself, preventing her from leaving and of assaulting her by pushing her onto a bed and repeatedly slapping her.

He also admitted then repeatedly threatening to jump from the pier, shouting and swearing, and causing the attendance of the fire, ambulance and police services and the Coastguard while negotiations continued for a prolonged period, all while he was on bail.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court that Gillies sat on the pier with his legs dangling off the edge and said, 'I have 12 cans in this bag and I will go down like an anchor'.

'The police sat for two and a half hours in negotiation,' Mr McGinty added. 'He was less than cooperative.'

Defence agent Angela Craig said: 'He had consumed far, far too much to drink. There is quite a lot of pressure on him to show he has learned from his previous mistakes.'

Sheriff John Herald said Gillies's 'fairly substantial' record was 'appalling for someone aged 20'. 'How you have avoided a custodial sentence until now, I do not know,' he said, 'You will not avoid it today.'

Sheriff Herald sentenced Gillies to three months each for the first and second charges, and five months for wasting the emergency services' time. 'For over two hours they would not have been available for any other incident,' he said.

The sentences are to run concurrently.

Van driver is banned for a year

A MAN has been banned from driving for one year after refusing to give a sample of breath.

Lazar Caldaras, 31, c/o The Regent Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban, admitted driving a van without insurance on the A85 at Taynuilt on August 27, and failing to provide two specimens of breath without reasonable excuse.

Oban Sheriff Court heard the van was spotted braking randomly, veering across the carriageway, and, when stopped, police detected a strong smell of alcohol.

Sheriff John Herald fined Caldaras £165 for the first offence, and £500 for the second, before disqualifying him from driving for 12 months.

Oban man is sentenced to one year for sex offences

AN OBAN sex offender has been imprisoned for a year for possessing child pornography.

David Muir, 34, of 6D Alma Crescent, pleaded guilty in October to possessing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children between October 1 and November 28, 2016.

The court heard Muir had been convicted twice for similar offences, served a long prison sentence and been placed on the sex offenders' register indefinitely.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday that police officers last year had searched Muir's mobile phone and found 'the accused had been accessing indecent images of children, namely boys'.

Mr McGinty added a forensic examination of Muir's laptop found one image in category A (the most serious), 10 images in category B and 32 images in category C.

Defence agent Graeme Wright said: 'There is a deep-rooted

problem. His brain is wired in a different way. He is attracted to young men. It is not a victimless crime.'

'It seems over the past 15 years he has changed his behaviour, but not enough. He hates himself because of this. He is realistic today. He has brought two bags with him.'

Sheriff John Herald, referring to the criminal justice social work report, said: 'It is quite clear everything has been tried. They have all reached the same conclusion: there is not much

they can do.' He sentenced Muir to 12 months in jail.

A spokesman for NSPCC Scotland, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, said: 'Muir accessed and stored a number of depraved pictures. Behind every one was a real child suffering appalling abuse and his actions have only fuelled the demand for this sickening material to be produced.'

'To tackle the spiralling problem of online abuse images, the NSPCC is calling on govern-

ment, law enforcement and web providers to share information and expertise to reduce its easy availability.

'We welcome the actions of the police and justice system in ensuring that Muir now faces a prison term – reinforcing the vital message that possessing images of child abuse will not be tolerated.'

Anyone concerned about a child can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000, while young people can contact Childline 24/7 on 0800 1111.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Offensive weapon

AT ABOUT 3.15am on Tuesday October 31, in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, a man aged 24 was detained for allegedly smashing a window in a house there, abusive behaviour, damaging several cars with a baseball bat, attempting to steal a car and setting fire to a car.

The fire was quickly extinguished and the man was later arrested and charged with the offences and held for court. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Vehicles damaged

BETWEEN 5pm on Wednesday November 1 and 7.45am on Thursday November 2, a grey Ford Transit Connect van and a red Toyota Auris car, parked in Argyll Terrace, Tobermory, were damaged by having the bodywork scratched.

Police are investigating the incidents and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Car vandalised

BETWEEN 4.20pm and 5.20pm on Wednesday November 1, within the Tesco car park in Oban, a white Volkswagen Beetle was damaged by having the bonnet dented and scratched. Police are appealing for any witnesses.

Dangerous driving

AT ABOUT 10am on Thursday November 2, on the A85 in Taynuilt, a motorist was stopped for dangerous driving by exceeding the 30mph speed limit. The driver, a man aged 64, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drug search

AT ABOUT 4pm on Friday November 3, a flat in Corran Brae, Oban, was searched by police. A 37-year-old man allegedly obstructed the search and was found to be in possession of heroin.

The man was arrested and charged with obstruction and being concerned in the supply of drugs. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Abusive behaviour

AT ABOUT 3pm on Saturday November 4, following a report of a man behaving in an abusive manner and assaulting a woman at a flat in Corran Esplanade, Oban, a 20-year-old man was detained. The man was later arrested and charged with assault and abusive behaviour.

He was held in custody for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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

Dalmally youngsters take home St Conan's Cup for art



Pupils from Dalmally Primary School were the overall winners of the St Conan's Cup for Art. Children from Dalmally's primary one, two and three classes collaborated and created a work of art that was showcased in the Lochawe church. Now in its fourth year, the St Conan's Cup is a competition organised by the Friends of St Conan's Kirk. The friends help to maintain and restore the renowned building by using it as a hub for education, heritage and culture. 'The St Conan's Cup competition brings together these themes,' the friends said.

GigaPlus Argyll founders as company winds up

ATTEMPTS have failed to save Mull's 'groundbreaking' £1 million project to bring superfast broadband to 1,600 homes in Argyll's remote blackspots after its contractor went bust in May.

The four-year-old scheme, aiming to bring superfast broadband to Mull, Iona, Lismore, Colonsay, Luing, Islay, Jura and the Craignish peninsula, was granted £988,000 from Community Broadband Scotland (CBS), with £700,000 spent so far.

GigaPlus Argyll's (GPA)

chosen contractor, AB Internet, went into voluntary administration in May, burdening GPA with eight masts on Mull it could not use, after only two houses were ever connected.

GPA's board of volunteer directors, despite last-ditch meetings with CBS and the Scottish Government, said they had now 'exhausted every possible avenue for progress, all of which have foundered on the restrictions imposed by the state-aid regulations surrounding the

funding received from CBS. Unless there is a sudden change of policy or some new initiative, they should consider winding up GPA and awaiting the delivery of R100. R100 is the Scottish Government's "Reaching 100 per cent" scheme due for delivery by 2021.'

The board added 'with great regret' that 'unless some greater flexibility is shown by government and its officials in a very short timescale', they intend to wind up the company.

'During recent discussions with the Scottish Government, the board of GPA has tried to advocate a change of philosophy such that the most difficult to reach premises are viewed as the first mile and not the last mile when specifying the R100 tender documents. Unfortunately, this plea has fallen on deaf ears.'

'Despite our scepticism, the GPA board sincerely hopes that the R100 programme will reach all of the premises that

were previously within the remit of GPA, and we wish the R100 programme every success in its endeavours.'

The directors thanked Mull and Iona Community Trust, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, CBS which 'worked hard to seek a way around the toxic state aid regulations', and 'all who shared our vision for a community-led solution, and hope that their, and our, vision of 100 per cent coverage can be achieved by the R100 project'.

Death of Oban inmate could have been avoided, rules FAI

THE death of an Oban man who was murdered by his cellmate in 2014 could have been prevented, a fatal accident inquiry (FAI) has determined.

Colin Penrose, 22, was in Barlinnie Prison for sexual offences, when his cellmate John Clark, strangled him in the early hours of March 20.

Clark, 22, was serving time

for assault and robbery with a knife.

However, Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull, who carried out the FAI, said that if a 'bullying marker' had been added to Clark's 'risks and conditions' record, the death could have been avoided.

Sheriff Turnbull said: 'A reasonable precaution, whereby the

death of Colin Donald Penrose might have been avoided, would have been for a bullying marker to have been added to John Clark's risks and conditions.'

He added: 'Prior to his death, no adequate guidance or training was available to SPS [Scottish Prison Service] staff in relation to the recording of entries within a prisoner's risks and conditions on

the SPS PR2 system. SPS did not act in relation to those failures prior to the death.'

In his conclusion, Sheriff Turnbull wrote: 'The tragic events of the evening of March 19/20, 2014, while not unique in recent times, are, thankfully, extremely rare, there being only one recorded homicide in a Scottish prison since 2005. That

that is the case is in no small part down to the diligence and professionalism of those who work within Scotland's prisons.'

'Cell sharing is an unavoidable part of the current system. That is unlikely to change without either the building of more prisons or a material change in Scotland's approach to custodial sentences.'

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OT
TIMESLINE



Oliver Clark from Oban hands over his piggy bank to Marie Rowan, manager of Mary's Meals in Oban.

Eight-year-old has gift for charity

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD boy from Oban has donated the contents of his piggy bank to charity Mary's Meals – for a second time. Oliver Clarke, who was described as a 'really kind and thoughtful wee lad' by his dad Patrick Steeman, has now donated £165 to the Dalmally-based charity.

Last year his Christmas list included 'everyone in Africa to have a meal'. The eight-year-old wanted to donate the money in his piggy bank after saying: 'They need it more than me.'

Oliver has also designed posters aimed at getting pupils to donate old clothes to those less fortunate.

Council thanks for public patience

ARGYLL and Bute Council's roads staff in Oban say they are extremely grateful to the public for their patience while essential roadworks were carried out recently in the Soroba Road area.

The surfaces in Soroba Road, Lynn Road and Miller Road had been deteriorating for some time and a permanent solution was necessary.

Two projects are up for awards

TWO Argyll and Bute projects feature among the finalists in a national awards ceremony to recognise the work being done to bring privately-owned empty homes back into use.

The project to transform a former police station in Port Ellen on Islay into affordable housing for young people has been shortlisted in the Outstanding Project category at the Howdens Scottish Empty Homes Champion of the Year Awards 2017.

And Argyll and Bute Council's empty homes officer Kelly Ferns and housing improvement officer Karen Cox have been shortlisted in the Best Before and After Photographs category for images of work done to upgrade private flats in George Street, Oban.

Overflowing bins in Soroba are blasted

DAVID MCPHEE
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OVERFLOWING bins are yet again causing problems in Soroba – one week after they were emptied.

Last week *The Oban Times* reported a build-up of bags outside communal bins in Scalpay and Colonsay Terrace. However, shortly after they were emptied, the bins were once again full and surrounded by mounds of rubbish.

After publishing a photograph on Facebook, *The Oban Times* received an influx of comments. Bridget Buick said: 'They emptied the bins yesterday and just left all the rubbish sitting there.'

Caroline Tollan said: 'I was up there right after the bins were

emptied and they left all the black bags behind; where's the logic in that?'

David MacLennan said: 'If the council just fired up another couple of big bins it would help the problem.' And Helen Reid agreed, saying: 'That would make a difference.'

TJ Telfer said: 'I've witnessed the bins up Soroba getting filled with old beds, prams and other large objects that fill the bin with no room for the domestic waste.'

'Those large objects should get disposed of some other way. Don't know if anyone agrees.'

Ashley Strang said: 'Plenty people recycle. Not enough bins or collection days. Not so nice when there are young kids out playing near this. Disgusting.'

James Strang said: 'Wait until the further cuts come in this

just the beginning.'

Diane Maxwell Graham Kirkham said: 'There's only one blue bin for three blocks of flats. That's 24 houses to use one blue bin.'

Danielle Hay-West said: 'Just wait till Christmas...it will be twice as high with packaging.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Like all councils, we have had to change the way we do things because of the financial challenges we all face.'

'We need to cut the amount of waste that goes to landfill because it costs more than £70 in tax for every tonne. We also have Scottish Government targets to meet for our recycling rates.'

'This change has led to an increase in the amount of waste

being recycled and we'd like to thank people for supporting the efforts to reduce waste and recycle more.

'We are aware of the problems being experienced in areas of Soroba that use communal bins and are continuing to work with our partners at ACHA to provide more recycling facilities.'

'We have been collecting general waste more often as a result of residents' concerns. A recent additional collection was late which led to additional waste building up. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this. We'd like to encourage those who use communal bins to make use of all the bins available in their area where possible as space is often available in bins that are not the nearest to their property.'



Skerryvore's Alec Dalgleish, left, and Craig Espie give top tips to Rufus Hughes, Rose MacInnes and Eilidh Holton.

Skerryvore launches Oban Live 2018

SKERRYVORE might be used to touring the world, but last Wednesday the band made their way round various venues in Oban to launch next year's Oban Live event.

The boys visited Oban Airport, Tesco Oban, Bun Sgoil Achadh na Creige/Rockfield Primary School, CalMac's Oban ferry terminal and the town's train station.

They ended the day with a ticket giveaway, in which five pairs of tickets and two VIP tickets were given to random winners. This came as an exclusive ticket offer was featured in last week's *Oban Times*.

Readers were able to make the most of a 48-hour local ticket offer, which sold out in record time, saving 36 per cent on full-price tickets.

Speaking on Wednesday night, Skerryvore accordion player and organiser of Oban Live Daniel Gillespie said: 'It's great

to get round the town again and visit all the businesses.'

'Hopefully, we will have another successful event. It's been amazing so far and we have been lucky with the weather. A big thing for us is to develop Mossfield and hold more events.'

Discounted early bird tickets for Argyll's largest live music event have sold out in record breaking time.

Pauline Clifford from Oban Live said: 'Details on the next batch of ticket sales will be released very soon. Stay tuned for this and exciting announcements about Oban Live 2018 artists.'

'The Oban Live team had a fantastic day touring around Oban with Skerryvore on November 1 which finished off with the launch of Oban Live 2018 in Station Square. Thanks to everyone who made it along and well done to all the winners of the first tickets.'



Pool gains blow-up assault course

Atlantis Leisure's swimming pool has launched its new inflatable assault course costing £4,200, thanks to donations from local fundraisers. Lyndsay Elliott, of the Otters Swimming Club, which gave £500, said: 'Anything that encourages children into a swimming pool needs to be supported.'

At least two other groups donated £500, and gathered at the pool to see the new attraction inflated. From left to right, back row, Lyndsay Elliott and Alison Carré of Otters Swimming Club, Atlantis Leisure's general manager Nick Wesley, Iain MacIntyre of the Rotary Club of Oban, and Gordon McNab of the Lifesaving Swimming Club with, below, Joan Reynolds and Francesca Richard.

Behind the scenes at Atlantis Leisure

Staff and volunteers

ELIZABETH Kennedy has just joined the reception team and Coll MacKenzie and Natasha Bryan are new leisure attendants. They all come with leisure experience and new sports skills to replace staff who have left for university.

Mike Faulkner has also joined as a volunteer director and has a wide range of experience, including in the third sector, and who also runs a B&B in Oban.

Staff training

KIRSTY, who leads the gymnastic sessions, is progressing to a level three

instructor and Stewart Twort is taking his level one qualification.

The team this month was also joined by a very experienced gymnast from Italy, Francesca, who is studying at SAMS. She will be volunteering and making sure the children get to try some rhythmic gymnastics.

The team plans to visit Lochaber gymnastics club later this month to get tips and hints how to run a really successful club.

Soft play repairs

THE soft play area has just had a range of repairs as, after four years of heavy use, some parts were worn out and run down.

Sports hall

IT IS three years since we replaced the sports hall floor following the flood, so in December it will get a revamp with sanding, floor seal and relining.

This will mean the hall being closed for a week but will leave it in top condition for all those sports competitions in the New Year.

Just completed

NEW soft seating for the café and soft play area.

New hairdryers and hand dryers in the pool changing rooms.

Oban looks for new walking tour guides

AFTER a positive tourist season for 2017, Oban is looking ahead with a view to build on its growing reputation and offer more high quality authentic experiences.

Whether it is cruise ships or coach tours, customers are demanding the opportunity to exercise and learn. Where better to do this than a walking tour through the streets of Oban.

A plan is now in place to provide training and qualify locally recruited guides who are best placed to tell the story of Oban with knowledge and flare.

To spur this on and build capability locally, BID4Oban is helping to support the running of a high quality tourist guide training course, run by the Scottish Tour Guides Association in Oban.

Anyone who has an interest in the history and heritage of Oban and wants to take up something new, might find this the opportunity for them.

The Scottish Tour Guides Association runs a SCQF level 5 'yellow badge' training course, which runs from January to April 2018, and includes eight days of formal training and requires some personal study time.

The theoretical and practical content of the course will allow attendees to achieve the Scottish Tour Guides Association 'yellow badge'.

The proposed training course is being supported by BID4Oban and so can be offered at a discounted price of around £300.

There is also an opportunity to reduce the amount further if individual circumstances make anyone eligible for Skills Development Scotland funding.

Anyone interested in finding out more about this training course or potentially enrolling can email tourguidetrainingoban@gmail.com by Friday November 16.

Time to recuperate before the big ho ho ho

WELL, now that Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes are over we can officially start looking forward to Christmas, writes *Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald*.

The sparkle and colour of all the Christmas shop windows makes the dark winter nights a bit more bearable, as well as looking forward to Oban Winter Festival and all the delights it has to offer.

It's a bit quieter than usual at the moment but maybe that's no bad thing as it gives us time to recuperate before the festive season hits us full on.

There are still things to do if you want to be out and about, including a weekly pub quiz in

the Lorne on a Wednesday and the first fortnightly quiz in the Oban Inn tonight (Thursday). It's certainly stuff to get your brain cells buzzing, and mine could do with some help at this time of year.

As always, Oban Phoenix Cinema has a whole host of films to appeal to all tastes and it's a lovely cosy place to spend a winter afternoon or evening.

Oban Town Diary is the place to post events and make sure they don't clash with other things or have a wee look to see what's on.

For those of you already thinking of next year and looking for something different to try, why

not think of a new qualification? Port of Oban Welcome Group with support from BID4Oban, will be facilitating a course for yellow badge tour guides for Oban.

It looks like an interesting course with more details elsewhere on this page or email tourguidetrainingoban@gmail.com for further information and an application form.

Last week's photo was taken as I walked between the visitor centre and the Columba Hotel, where old closes have some beautiful tiles in them.

This week's picture is on a street you may not normally venture down ... to tease you a bit.

WHERE IS THIS?



Oban Sea Cadets win swim gold and silver

OBAN Sea Cadets had a resounding result at the northern area Sea Cadets swimming championships on Sunday November 5 at MOD Caledonia Royal Navy Reserve Base, Rosyth.

The northern area for Sea Cadets championships included participants from – Clyde North, Clyde South, Edinburgh, Fife and Tayside, Grampian, Highland, Northern Ireland, Northumberland, Teeside and Tyne South.

Three entrants from Oban joined Inverness, Moray, Thurso and Fort William to represent Highland district. They were Cadet Callum Neil, 1st Class Junior Cadet Lauren Roberson and Junior Cadet



Left to right: Lauren Roberson, Callum Neil and Marc Robertson.

Marc Robertson, and team manager and Petty Officer Rab Neil.

The swimming arena at MOD Caledonia was buzzing with loads of competitors and team

managers jostling for the best position to sit and view the events in anticipation of success.

Marc competed in two events, winning gold in the backstroke and silver in the breast stroke.

Next was Lauren who competed in two events, breast stroke (not her favourite) in which she won silver, and freestyle in which she won gold easily.

Last was Callum who entered freestyle, gaining fourth place and only narrowly missing out on a medal.

All three were congratulated from the event organisers for their outstanding performances.

These three young athletes from Oban ultimately helped to decide the outcome resulting in Highland district winning trophies for overall best juniors and best seniors.

Anyone wishing to be part of this organisation can contact Rab Neil on 07876 697415.

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Sexual harassment alleged at council

SANDY NEIL
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A FEMALE councillor from Oban has accused fellow Argyll and Bute councillors of 'low-level sexual harassment' at work, and 'inappropriately touching' members of staff.

Julie McKenzie, SNP councillor for Oban North and Lorn, said since being elected in 2016 she had been subjected to 'inappropriate comments' from councillors, including being called a 'hot blonde' and 'a distraction in the council chamber', and called for the culture to change.

Ms McKenzie made the claims in an open letter to the council's leader and chief executive, Councillor Aileen Morton and Cleland Sneddon respectively, to raise the 'topical issue of

workplace sexual harassment', adding her experiences were just 'the tip of the iceberg'.

'We as a council have much work to do in this area,' Ms McKenzie wrote. 'From the start I would like you both to know that I have not found this letter easy to compose.'

'This letter is not designed to be a witch-hunt or an exercise in pointing the finger at anyone. It's a plea for some collective responsibility, in not just talking about bringing about a cultural shift at Argyll and Bute Council but actually making it happen.'

'Since joining the council I have been incredibly disturbed, disappointed and often offended by the culture I find myself immersed in. A culture where some male elected members appear to think nothing of making inappropriate comments to me

as a female councillor and to female members of staff.'

'I can give many examples of the comments I have been subjected to, from being told by a male councillor that he "finds me a distraction in the council chamber" to being called a "hot blonde" and being told that I "should be kept on a leash".'

'While all at the lower end of the harassment spectrum, these comments are offensive and the excuses for them are like nothing I've heard in any other workplace. It's almost as though it's accepted by some as an integral part of working in a political environment.'

'I've also had it explained to me as a "generational thing" which, while that may be true, doesn't make it any less unacceptable. I find it horrifying that I have actually now reached

a point where I fully expect sexually motivated comments from some male councillors.'

Ms McKenzie added she had also witnessed inappropriate comments from male councillors to female members of staff, either being made directly to them or in conversation with other male councillors. The comments are always based on how female members of staff are dressed, their physicality or their looks.

'This is totally unacceptable. Not only does it place staff in an impossible position but it also upsets, completely undermines and demoralises them. How do I know how female staff feel? I know because some of them have had the courage to speak to me in confidence about it.'

'They have also told me about incidents of inappropriate

touching by male councillors and that many staff are fearful of speaking out for all the usual reasons women don't come forward, but also worryingly because there is a perception within the council that elected members can do what they want with no repercussions.'

'It has prompted me to have a look for our policies on workplace harassment and in particular sexual harassment. It concerns me greatly that I cannot find policy or procedure for taking forward a complaint. While it may well exist, it should be easy for anyone to find.'

'It appears that as current policy stands a councillor involved in an inappropriate relationship with a staff member would not face reprisals, while a staff member would be disciplined and possibly face dismissal. The

power imbalance in this just doesn't sit right with me.'

'Sweeping it under the carpet or, worse still, being accepting of it is no longer an option. Women at Argyll and Bute Council deserve to be treated with dignity and total respect.'

A spokesperson for the council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council is committed to creating a work environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We do not tolerate harassment of any kind in the workplace and have a range of policies and procedures which sets out the standards of behaviour expected from everyone at the council and supports anyone who wishes to raise a complaint.'

'We would take any allegation of harassment extremely seriously. We are not dealing with any other complaints.'

TIMESLINE

Tribute band concert cancelled

A BEE GEES tribute band concert planned for the Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday November 11 has been cancelled owing to extremely low ticket sales.

The organiser, Country Wide Events, said only 80 had been sold but that all those who had purchased tickets would receive a full refund by returning their tickets to the Corran Halls.

Youth survey on travel problems

SCOTTISH Rural Action is reaching out to young Scots to find out how the cost of travel affects them in their work, studies and personal lives.

Travel affects young people differently in rural areas where public transport is often irregular, unreliable and expensive.

The information collected in the survey will be used to inform Scottish Rural Action's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on free bus travel for older people and modern apprentices. The survey can be found at www.sra.scot.

Boost for Argyll business sector

THE Scottish Government's Small Business Bonus scheme has helped to support 4,967 of businesses in Argyll and Bute this year, according to SNP MSP Michael Russell.

The new figures showed the Scottish Government's commitment to local jobs and communities, the MSP for Argyll and Bute said.

Across Argyll and Bute, the number of firms benefiting from this policy has risen from 3,152 in 2008 to 4,967 in 2017/18, with £7.4 million being spent across Argyll and Bute to support local businesses this year.

Consultation starts on police closures

POLICE Scotland has launched a three-month consultation on the future of its 53 premises due to be disposed of, including Taynuilt, Inveraray and Tarbert police stations.

Police Scotland has 375 premises. The 53 identified as surplus account for 14 per cent of the estate. Deputy chief officer David Page said: 'The vast majority of them are empty.'

The consultation runs until January 31.

760 new homes are to be built

MORE than 760 new affordable homes are planned by Argyll and Bute Council over the next five years.

Proposals are being put to the Scottish Government to deliver the 'much-needed' new properties, as part of the council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).

These homes are in addition to the 154 affordable homes already being built this year (2017/18) as part of the SHIP process, the council said.

Investment of £50 million has been approved by the government to support the programme in its first three years.

The council is contributing almost £9 million from its Strategic Housing Fund and a further £1.9 million a year over the next four years.

Councillor Robin Currie said: 'Access to good quality, affordable housing is a major priority for us.'

'We aim to deliver on this ambitious development programme with our partners to ensure a positive future for our communities.'

'We hope it will bring a host of benefits to Argyll and Bute. These include generating investment, boosting the local economy, creating additional jobs, including new apprenticeships, stimulating community regeneration, and attracting and retaining residents and employees for local businesses.'

'Our target as set out in the SHIP is 550 but we are confident we can expand on that, which is why we are aiming for more.'

Windfall for creative idea

A TOTAL of £360,000 of funding has been awarded to Argyll and Bute Council on behalf of the Argyll and the Isles Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly (CHARTS) to deliver the Place Partnership Project to strengthen and grow the sector in Argyll and Bute.

The National Lottery has awarded £200,000 through Creative Scotland's Place Partnership Funding scheme, and a further £160,000 has been secured from the Argyll and the Islands LEADER programme.

CHARTS will work with practitioners, events, venues and volunteers to grow local creative opportunities and establish strong economic sustainability.

Free tickets to historic sites

HISTORIC Environment Scotland (HES) is set to roll out the red carpet to visitors on St Andrew's Day weekend with tickets to iconic heritage sites across Argyll and Bute up for grabs.

As part of the celebrations for Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, thousands of free tickets – valid for the St Andrew's Day weekend of Saturday and Sunday, November 25 and 26 – will be released online.

Members of the public have until 5pm on Friday November 24 to register online at www.ticketgiveaway.co.uk for free tickets to historic sites, including Dunstaffnage Castle and Iona Abbey.

For a full list of participating sites and to apply for tickets, visit www.ticketgiveaway.co.uk.



Oban High School Pipe Band entertained the crowds at Dunbeg on Saturday, and thousands turned out for the Oban fireworks display. For more pictures, go to www.obantimes.co.uk.



Spectacular fireworks light up skies over Oban and Dunbeg

EXACTLY 412 years to the day since Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James VI and I, the skies lit up with fireworks across the West Coast at the weekend.

Dunbeg's bonfire night and spectacular fireworks display on Saturday was accompanied by Oban High School Pipe Band, while on Sunday thousands of Obanites gave up an evening by the fire to watch the BID4Oban annual fireworks display across Oban Bay. Spectators were stretched along the Esplanade from Station Square, George Street and as far as

the war memorial. The weather was more than favourable, cold and crisp with no wind or rain.

Fireworx Scotland Ltd delivered another inspiring display lasting about 20 minutes with music provided by Macnetic Events throughout the evening.

BID4Oban's chief executive Andrew Spence said: 'It was great to see so many spectators out and about throughout the evening with businesses and bars reporting a roaring trade. It was good to see Oban and Lorn Shinty Club selling flashing hats etc to raise funds for the club.'

The annual Oban fireworks display has become synonymous with the famous 'Obang' when all the fireworks ignited and burned out in one minute.

Mr Spence said: 'BID4Oban could not have organised this event without the support of the key emergency services, namely HM Coastguard, police and fire service. Northern Lighthouse Board has facilitated its pier as a safe area for the fireworks to be set off from.'

'Without this support, BID4Oban could not have organised the event. Thanks also to MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust for the use of the caravan,

the Argyll and Bute Team and not forgetting our local sound and lighting gurus, Fergie and Louie.'

The Dunbeg event raised £2,500 for the Oban High School Pipe Band.

Organiser James MacDonald said: 'It was absolutely outstanding and the fireworks were apparently brilliant – I couldn't see because I was underneath them. Mickey and Minnie Mouse went down a storm. You couldn't park in Dunbeg there were so many people there. We didn't have one complaint.'

James confirmed the event will be on next year, but the venue might change.

Winter Fest gears up for fun

'HAGGIS of distinction' from across the nation will be entered in the coveted Golden Haggis Award at Oban's Winter Festival 2017.

Work up an appetite for this year's Winter Festival because there is wonderful food and drink on sale – as well as in competitions.

Oban Distillery will have produce markets on Saturdays November 18 and 25 and on Sunday 26 will host the Golden Haggis Award at the haggis fest.

This event has now assumed national importance and is run in association with the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders as 'a competition to find haggis of distinction'.

As the community-run Winter Festival has grown, so has the reputation of its markets for showcasing the best produce in Argyll and the West Highlands – and that reputation is now growing nationwide.

Sunday November 19 sees the market at the Corran Halls and among the great selection of stalls there will be music from Muckairn Handbell Ringers and the Melfort Ukulele Band and two great competitions



The Victorian market will be popular again this year.

for Scottish food icons, cloutie dumpling and shortbread.

The cloutie dumpling is an open event, from home-made locally to retail and national; shortbread is for local entries only; entry forms are available from West Coast Motors.

The distillery markets have an incredible array of food and drink and the distillery also runs a whisky fest. After the golden haggis is awarded, the competition haggis will be served on a first-come basis with neeps and tatties donated by the Oban Spit Roast Company. Watch out for the glorious chaos produced by the Absurdist Pipe Band, the only

three-man, one-man band in the world.

Non-food competitions this year include best hat in the final parade, a design for a sail for primary school pupils, in two age groups, the tartan dash for runners and haggis hurling.

Amid all this frantic activity there is an oasis of calm – at the Perle Hotel, Oban, on Saturday November 18 there will be a Victorian market where the management and staff cordially invite folk to take tea in a nostalgic style while perusing a fine array of hand-made goods and gifts. Looks like another great year all round from the Winter Festival.

Positive report for housing group

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has published its 2016/17 landlord report.

The landlord report gives details of ACHA's performance in terms of quality and value of the service that should be provided against the standards set out by the Scottish Social Housing Charter, introduced by the Scottish Government in 2012.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA

chief executive, said: 'I am pleased to be able to report that there has been good improvement in a number of areas over 2016/17.'

'This year we are showing an increase in overall satisfaction from tenants surveyed of 90 per cent, compared with 84 per cent in the previous year.'

'This puts us on a par with the Scottish average for overall tenant satisfaction. I can also report that the average time

to deal with emergency repairs reduced significantly this year to 3.87 hours compared with 8.59 hours in 2015/16. Also during 2016/17 tenants' satisfaction with the management of the area they live in has increased from 85 per cent to 88 per cent. The Scottish average is 87 per cent.'

The report can be found at <https://www.acha.co.uk/resources/Landlord-Report-2016-17.pdf>



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OT

Benderloch

A GROUP in Benderloch has been established to help people change their lives. Awakening in Benderloch was set up by Mairi Stones to provide a 'safe place' for people to get together. 'Switch off the TV, get off the sofa and come and join in,' says Mairi. The group often hosts film screenings, as well as discussions and workshops. Mairi describes the group as 'a space to connect with each other and with our joy and sadness as we make this transition and find a

way forward in our own community here on the West Coast of Scotland'. She added: 'It will provide a place to learn, to share and to support each other as we awaken even more to the truth of our times, and to come together to create new positive responses to the mess we're in. 'All are welcome to attend, bring your ideas, energy and enthusiasm - we need all of them.' To find out more visit www.changeisalwaysspossible.com.

Lismore



Ian Henry of Glensanda presents a cheque for £1,500 to Gilly Dixon-Spain, with Mairi Smith, Margaret MacDonald, Carol Wormleighton and Barbara MacDougall.

PEOPLE on Lismore are 'delighted' after receiving a £1,500 cheque from Yeoman Glensanda to go towards the running of a minibus that is used to transport those with limited mobility. The vehicle, or 'granny bus' as it is known, is there to ensure people can attend doctor and hospital appointments. It is also used to take elderly residents to the island shop twice a week, and also occasional runs off the island to Oban, and even further afield for their annual Christmas shopping trip.

And once a week the bus becomes the 'glamour wagon' making a run to the hairdresser. With many elderly residents on the island, the vehicle provides a vital lifeline for those no longer able to drive and helps bring the community together for social events in the village hall and café. The financial support being given will allow the service to continue, and help cover the ongoing maintenance and running costs, as well as allowing the transport committee to plan ahead.

Kilbrandon

STUDENTS from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) will be hosting science-themed activities as part of the Oban Winter Festival. The 'Ocean Winter Wonderland' will take place in the Ocean Explorer Centre

in Dunbeg on November 18 from 11am. There will be a tour of the flow tank, as well as games such as match the skate, a photobooth, touchscreen habitat, treasure hunt, meet the suspect alien invader, and stranded dolphin.

Connel

THE next Connel Community Council meeting will take place on Tuesday November 7 from 7.30pm.

The meeting will be held in Connel hall and will cover topics such as planning and policing issues.

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Oban



Some of those who attended the Oban Bridge Club beginners' class.

AFTER a quiet summer, Oban Bridge Club's Friday afternoon meetings are back in action. Recent weeks have seen between eight and 10 pairs. The Friday Bridge Club is more informal and relaxed than the club's other weekly meetings and is an ideal setting for beginners and newcomers to cut their teeth against vigorous but always friendly opposition. The beginners' class on Tuesday evenings, under the teaching of David Marshall assisted by Catherine MacGregor, is also in full

swing with 12 new learners. Three of these were recruited from the recent Get into Bridge night at Dalnally Golf Club. Another spin-off of the Dalnally Bridge night is an occasional Thursday afternoon game for experienced players and beginners, held in the golf club. The Argyll Vintners trophy was played for in September in Inveraray. This is an annual competition and is open to members of all bridge clubs in Argyll. There was a good turnout for the event with players

from Helensburgh, Oban, Dunoon and Kilmichael Glassary. The 2017 competition was won by Robert White and Donald Gillies and the day concluded with a buffet supper in the Inveraray Inn. SBU British autumn pairs: North-South 1 Carol MacDougall and Romano Capocci 53.87 per cent; East-West 1 John Raymond and Margo McIntyre 64.88 per cent. Donald Johnson Trophy: 1 Nina Graham, Anne Kunz, David Pollard and Jack Suchodolski, John Raymond, Kieron Green,

Allistair Duff and David Pender, 3 Carol MacDougall, Romano Capocci, Alison Dunn and Neil Fraser. SBU simultaneous pairs: North-South 1 Neil Fraser and Alison Dunn 61.31 per cent; East-West 1 John Raymond and Keiron Green 66.07 per cent. Congratulations to John and Keiron who came fifth and Sandy Murray and Margo McIntyre who came sixth out of all the competing Scottish teams. Upcoming events: Children in Need charity night November 13; Celtic sim pairs December 6.

Ardentiny, Innellan, Benmore and Kilmun



The award winners proudly show off their certificates.

ENVIRONMENTAL charity Keep Scotland Beautiful last week presented three groups from Argyll and Bute with an It's Your Neighbourhood accolade. The awards celebrate their continued community participation, commitment to their environment and local gardening achievements. The accolades were presented at a ceremony in Stirling attended by more than 200 people, where groups were recognised for their efforts in cleaning up and making their home community more beautiful. The 2017 It's Your

Neighbourhood initiative supported 142 projects from across Scotland, 33 of which were new entrants, and 32 entrants received the prestigious Certificate of Distinction. The recipients from Argyll and Bute were Ardentiny Conservation and Heritage Group, Benmore and Kilmun Community Trust, and Innellan Wildlife Watch Group (Certificate of Distinction). Dr Lindsay Montgomery, chairman of the board of charity trustees at Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: 'I would like to congratulate all

of the 2017 It's Your Neighbourhood participants. Their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment has helped to improve local environments Scotland-wide, and for which I thank them on behalf of the charity. 'Keep Scotland Beautiful recently reported that local environmental quality standards across Scotland have reached their lowest point in a decade. Local action, such as the hard work of It's Your Neighbourhood volunteers, goes a long way in helping to tackle the problem. 'These awards celebrate community efforts to

improve environments throughout Scotland. 'Every volunteer has helped towards creating more vibrant communities and protecting our precious local spaces - making a significant difference to neighbourhoods the length and breadth of the country.' The It's Your Neighbourhood campaign is run by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society. It's Your Neighbourhood is a non-competitive initiative that places particular emphasis on community participation.

Islay

ARGYLL and Bute Council is considering closing the public toilets on Islay in a bid to save money. The issue of the condition of the facilities was raised at the Islay Community Council, which resulted in Councillor Robin Currie revealing the proposed closures. Councillor Currie previously raised the subject with the council and was told that the toilets in Port Ellen were among 36 in Argyll and Bute that could be closed. If 36 toilets in the region were to close this would save the council £80,000 by 2020-2021.

published at the age of 89. Mary Knowles has released The Flora of Laphroaig - a pocket book filled with more than 100 original paintings of plants, alongside descriptions of each. Speaking to The Ilaech online magazine, Mary said: 'I was born in Bolton, Lancashire, in 1928, an only child who suffered polio and had very little schooling until the age of eight. 'Much of my time was spent in the company of my maternal grandfather, a retired wheelwright whose knowledge of wild plants was the start of a career and a lifelong interest.' The book costs £7.50 and is available from shops on Islay or by emailing peter-knowles@gmail.com

A WOMAN living on Islay has had her first book

Kilmore



People in Kilmore try their hand at carpet bowls.

THERE was a good turnout on Saturday for the Kilmore Village Hall family fun night when young and not so young, guided by the more experienced players, had the opportunity to try their hand at carpet bowls. There was a buffet supper

and raffle, with all proceeds going towards the new extension and kitchen. The next major fundraising event will be a ceilidh dance in January, when local group Ceol An Aire will be providing the entertainment.

Rothesay

PUPILS and staff at Rothesay Joint Campus on Bute are joining the campaign to make Scotland a healthier nation, Inch by Inch. They will take part in a series of activities including the hula-hoop challenge and making their own smoothies by tackling the smoothie bike. Inch by Inch for Scotland is the campaign aimed at reducing obesity by creating positive food, health and fitness challenges aimed at teenagers and their families, encouraging them to take part in exercise or in preparing a healthier diet. THE Rothesay Pavilion restoration project is to receive a further £1 million boost from Scottish Government and EU. The £1.06 million funding from the European Regional Development Fund will help set up affordable space for small-to-medium-sized

businesses to operate and grow their operations. Around 16 jobs are expected to be created and retained through the investment. THE Rothesay-based charity Calum's Cabin has received a £3,996 donation from four TSB branches. The money was raised by the Rothesay, Dunoon, Largs and Greenock branches, and it will be used to provide care and holidays for children with cancer and their families. Caroline Spiers, founder of Calum's Cabin, said: 'It's been great to work in partnership with TSB. 'The team's support has had a really positive impact on our charity and the work we do. 'I would like to say thank you to all the branches for all their hard work and a fantastic year of fundraising.'

At Random

MARTIN LAING
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Rubbish service

YET again the issue of refuse collection has reared its ugly head. And yet again it is the good people of Soroba who are up in arms at the appalling lack of service provided for them. The concern was raised last week when we were contacted by a lady who asked to remain anonymous. The woman, who lives in Soroba, complained about rubbish piling up on the streets because the three-weekly collection system simply cannot cope. When we posted a bit about the problem on our Facebook page, we were deluged by comments from furious residents of the area venting their spleens. Some of those comments are published on our letters page. Admittedly, one or two readers said that part of the problem is down to the area's residents not embracing recycling properly, but that suggestion was scoffed at by the majority of people. One reader, Alistair Reid, posted a photograph he took of bags and bags of rubbish piled up beside the bins in Shuna Terrace. I'm told that the bin men are not allowed to pick up the bags but are only able to empty the communal wheelie bins. Now, I don't in any way criticise the bin men, who, after all, are working hard to do their best but are effectively shackled by health and safety regulations.



Alistair Reid's picture shows the problem of the bins in Soroba.

The problem is that the issue is a never-ending cycle: there are not enough bins and the collection is too infrequent so people pile up their rubbish bags beside the bins. The bin men can't take away the rubbish bags so the bins are almost immediately filled again, so people pile up their rubbish bags beside ... you get the point. I've been a fierce critic of the three-weekly collection system as it simply has not worked in some areas, particularly Soroba and other places where there are high-rise flats and multiple occupancies. Surely it is not beyond the wit of the council to find a solution to this persistent problem.

Fascinating story

I WAS intrigued to read the feature on the facing page speculating on whether Adolf Hitler visited Tobermory, in 1936 to attend a wedding. I have to confess that I had never heard this rumour previously but it illustrates perfectly the fascinating history of this part of the world. Written by the ever erudite Iain Thornber, the story chronicles the life and times of the Mitford family, ardent followers of the fascist movement in the 1930s and later. Iain answers the critics who question how Hitler could have

travelled to the island of Inch Kenneth with the reasonable suggestion that he could have been brought by U-boat. But I won't repeat it here. Read the page opposite.

Worrying issue

AS WE report this week, allegations have been made about a culture of sexual harassment among male councillors in Argyll and Bute. Councillor Julie McKenzie has said in an open letter that she has been on the receiving end of 'low-level' inappropriate behaviour on a number of occasions and has knowledge of female council staff members who have similar experiences. Ms McKenzie raises a very important and topical issue. She declines to name the men involved but they know who they are. And they should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. Ms McKenzie's letter was addressed to the council's chief executive, Cleland Sneddon and elected leader, Aileen Morton. They must act urgently to stop this type of behaviour.

What do you think?

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



Inch Kenneth House, farm, chapel and graveyard. Photograph: Iain Thornber

Did Hitler visit Argyll?

MORVERN LINES
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THERE is a story which surfaces from time to time about Hitler visiting Argyll or, more specifically, the island of Inch Kenneth and attending, incognito, a wedding in Tobermory in 1938.

The suggestion appears ridiculous, yet I have heard these tales from so many different sources, that I am beginning to wonder if somewhere among rumour and speculation they may contain a grain of truth.

Inch Kenneth, named after St Kenneth, a contemporary of St Columba, who died around AD600, lies at the entrance to Loch na Keal between Gribun and the Isle of Ulva. It is a fertile place, less than 150 acres in extent. It comprises a 19th-century three-storey mansion, a farm house, the ruins of a 700-year-old chapel and a tall medieval Celtic cross.

During their famous tour of the Hebrides, Boswell and Johnson were entertained here in 1773 by Sir Alan Maclean, 22nd chief of Duart. Later it was owned by Sir Harold Boulton, composer of the Skye Boat Song.

If Hitler set foot on Inch Kenneth, it can only have been to visit Unity, the daughter of David and Sydney Mitford (Lord and Lady Redesdale), who bought the island in 1938. The Mitford family were followers of the fascist movement and among Hitler's greatest admirers in the UK.

Unity had five sisters, one



Inch Kenneth, home to Unity Mitford. Photograph: Iain Thornber

of whom, Diana, married Sir Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British fascists and one-time Labour MP.

Unity (born 1914) was present at the 1933 Nuremberg Rally and, according to her diary, was with Hitler on at least 140 different occasions between 1935 and 1939. She and the Fuhrer were so close it was rumoured that she bore him a child.

When Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939, Unity, who had been living in Berlin to be near Hitler, shot herself in the head with a bullet from a tiny silver revolver which he had given her. She was brought back to Britain by her family to convalesce and to keep her out of the war.

Thinking that Inch Kenneth would be a more suitable place for her recuperation than London, her family made plans to

travel north but were banned from doing so until 1944 on account of their connections with the Nazi party and because much of the West Coast, including Mull and its satellite islands, lay within a protected military zone.

Unity's physical health appeared to improve. In 1948, she left Inch Kenneth for a short time to visit friends in the south of England but a few weeks after her return she became seriously ill and was transferred to the West Highland Cottage Hospital in Oban on May 27. She died the following day from meningitis caused by an infection from her head wound.

Although the war had ended three years earlier, so concerned were the authorities about what military information she might still be holding, a policeman stood outside her room to prevent anyone other

than her family from visiting her.

There are a number of questions one might ask here.

Wouldn't Hitler have been too busy planning his aggressive expansion policies to leave Germany in 1938 and how would he have travelled to Inch Kenneth? It would be idle to speculate on the first, but the second is easily answered - by U-boat, of course. Many German submarines were sent to sea in pre-emptive moves before war broke out to enable them to gather intelligence and to engage enemy vessels as soon as the conflict began.

I have already written in these columns of submarines being sighted off Jura and in the Sound of Mull.

Less well known perhaps is the number of high-ranking German officers and their friends who travelled with

ease between Germany and Scotland to enjoy fishing and stalking prior to the war.

Arthur Nall-Cain, the 2nd Lord Brocket, bought the 62,000-acre Knoydart estate in the 1930s where he entertained members of the Anglo-German Fellowship. So close was he to the German cause that he was invited to Hitler's 50th birthday party.

After the outbreak of war, Brocket attempted to negotiate a peace settlement with Hitler through Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe, who was also a keen hunter.

Another top Nazi who made regular visits to Scotland to shoot deer, was Joachim von Ribbentrop, ambassador to the Court of St James in 1936, and then Foreign Minister of Germany in February 1938. He stayed in a house in Perthshire where his firearms were stored at the end of the stag stalking season.

He happened to be there when war broke out but, in his haste to return to Berlin, they were left behind. Perhaps he thought he would return the conquering hero. Instead he was tried and convicted for his role in starting the Second World War in Europe and sentenced to death by hanging. I understand his rifles were still there until quite recently.

Argyll has an unexpected history. It would not surprise me if one day a sheaf of documents emerge confirming that Hitler had indeed gazed on Ben More.

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



The new conservatory is my favourite room of the house Lisa



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

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



Victims of sinking washed up on Small Isles

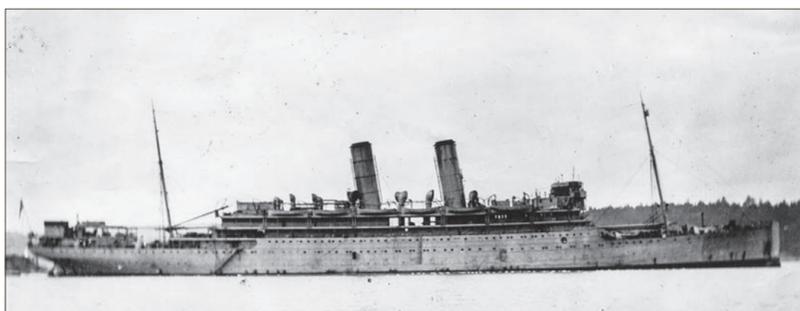
MARTIN LAING
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WE PUBLISHED two weeks ago (*The Oban Times*, October 26) an account of the sinking of the SS Otranto off Islay during the First World War, which resulted in the deaths of 315 American soldiers.

Martin Briscoe from Fort William wrote to say: 'I was reading your article on the HMS Otranto. Did you realise that two of the bodies were found on the Small Isles?'

'I came across some details when looking up the deaths of two of the Royal Engineers working on the Caledonian Canal during WWI in the police Register of Accidents, Sudden Deaths and Bodies Found in Lochaber Archive.

'One was an American soldier found at Cambusmore on the Isle of Muck on November 3, 1918, and was wearing an identification disc which gave his name, PFC Tom L Davies of the 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division. He was buried temporarily on Muck then



The SS Otranto sank off Islay in 1918.

later repatriated and buried in Savannah, Georgia.

'The other was found on Castle Island, Eigg on November 11, 1918. The body was also badly decomposed and described as "apparently an American soldier". He was also temporarily buried on the island. But the death register names him as Thomas Battersby but again has "supposed to be an American soldier". It does not say where the name came from, it is signed by the procurator fiscal.

'I looked up the name and the only person on board with that name was Corporal Thomas Battersby of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. His name is on the Chatham Naval Memorial, ie, no known grave.'

'I passed the information to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

'I managed to find a relative of his through Ancestry and contacted her. She thought he had been lost on the ship and was interested to know where

he was buried so I suggested she contact the CWGC with the details I supplied. I suspected he might have been buried with the Americans at Brookwood Military Cemetery but I had this reply from his relative last year.

'"Thank you for remembering my search!

'"After many emails to the CWGC I was sadly informed that they do not know the exact whereabouts of Thomas, as no war grave is registered. The

only info I gained was the entry of his body and identifying number registered by someone in Islay.

'"The good news is, I managed to raise the funds needed, gain council permission and had an unveiling of the new war memorial replacing the lost/damaged original on November 11, 2015, in Thomas's home town of Salford. It was a very sad but also proud day for me. If you google Greengate War Memorial you should see links to pictures on the Manchester Evening News. We arranged a full ceremony with the last post, prayers and poems.

'"I'm hoping to get to Islay in the summer to have a look at the cemetery, and pay my respects."

'I bought a copy of Neil Scott's book, I notice there is one mistake. He quotes Lord Robertson as saying there is the grave of an Unknown Negro from the Otranto in Kilchoman Military Cemetery but I think he mistook that for a grave like that in Kilnaughton Military Cemetery but he was from the Tuscania.'



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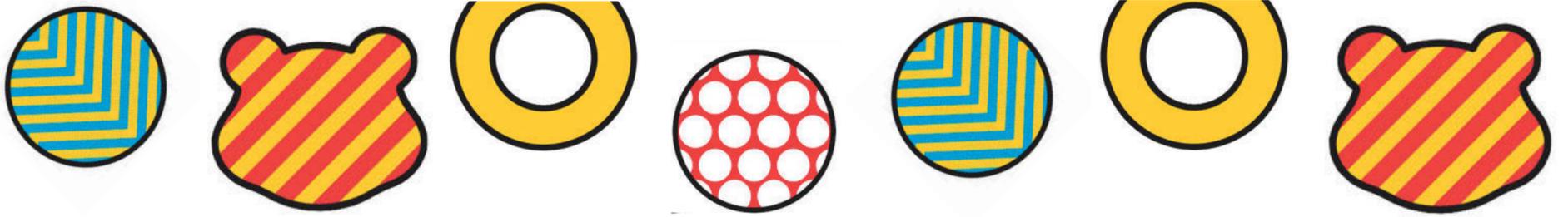
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BBC Children in Need



Everything you need to know about this year's BBC Children in Need

AFTER A RECORD-BREAKING amount of money was raised last year, Children in Need will once again grace our television screens.

More than £60 million was raised from the 2016 fundraising efforts, and organisers are hoping to surpass that amount this year.

The 2017 programme will be on air on November 17 from 7.30pm on BBC One.

The on-the-night total last year was £46.6 million and this total grew to £60 million as money from across the UK was donated in subsequent months.

This was up from 2015, when the charity raised a total of £56.9 million.

To date, Children in Need has raised more than £909 million.

The charity currently supports 2,400 projects in communities across the UK that are helping children and young people facing a range of disadvantages such as living in poverty, being disabled or ill, or experiencing distress, neglect or trauma.

In the last year alone, BBC Children in Need has been able to make a difference to 480,000 young lives in communities the length and breadth of the UK.

Speaking about last year's record



Children In Need Lochnell Primary School

breaking total, Simon Antrobus, chief executive of BBC Children in Need, said: 'The impact this incredible amount of money will have on some of the most disadvantaged children and young people is hard to put into words; it really will go on to change the lives of young people across the UK who need it most.'

'To our supporters who made this possible: thank you, we simply couldn't

have done it without you.'

Every year schools, organisations and individuals do their bit by not only donating money in the millions, but by taking part in a particular challenge and raising funds in the process.

It could be a dress up, down or dress fancy themed day, a sponsored silence,

a tech detox, a dinner party, a sponsored walk, run, cycle or any type of challenge.

Simon Antrobus added: 'BBC Children in Need is calling on people across the UK to once again come together to make a lasting, positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people.'

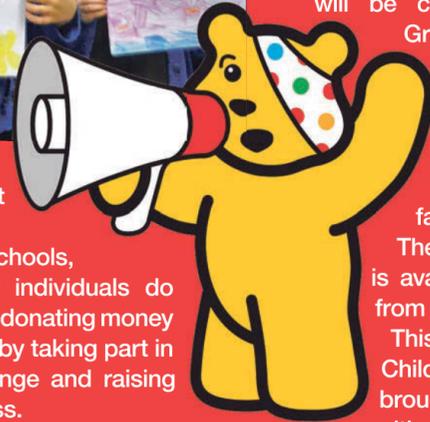
'Whether you love baking or fancy dress, or fancy taking on a once-in-a-lifetime challenge, you can use your passions to help change young lives.'

The man who will be in charge of keeping us up to date with the on-the-night total will be comedian and presenter Graham Norton.

However, he won't be alone. Children in Need's mascot Pudsey will be in action on the night, as will many other famous faces.

The official fundraising pack is available for download now from www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

This year's Oban Times Children in Need special is brought to you in conjunction with Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch.



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Developer urges community to celebrate Glencoe hotel plans

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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THE FAMILY behind the £10 million redevelopment of the Kings House Hotel at Glencoe has spoken of its disappointment at the negative comments from objectors to their planning application, as they submit revised plans to the Highland Council for permission.

The owners said that the objections to their original application will cause much delay to the opening of the new hotel, and will be to the detriment of the local community.

James Allan, surveyor with managing agent Bidwells, said on behalf of the Kings House owners: 'Considering that a basic renovation of the existing hotel would have been impossible and unsatisfactory because of the very bad condition of the building, poor layout and substandard facilities, a new building was the only valid option. Over recent years, the King's House Hotel was not well known for its comfort, food offering or overall customer rating.'

Four formal objections have been lodged against the original planning application, which was submitted to the Highland Council in August. These include objections from leading conservation organisations the John Muir Trust, the National Trust for Scotland and Mountaineering Scotland, which urged the council to reject the plans on the grounds that the designs are not in keeping with the surrounding area.

Mr Allan explained that the developers have taken heed of the objections and made alterations to the plans, even though

the official landscape and visual impact assessment concluded that the original proposal 'will not have any significant impact on the surrounding landscape'.

'We have considered the objections and liaised closely with the planning team at Highland Council and can confirm that we lodged amended plans last week which propose a lowered roof-line for the extension,' he said.

'We are very hopeful that the planning application will be successful and that the community can celebrate what is a superb development.'

The original 17th-century droving inn, owned by Black Corries Estate Ltd, has been closed since November ahead of the proposals to build a three-storey, 60-bedroom hotel on the landmark site in Glencoe. Work on the £10 million project got under way this week, with parts of the existing building being demolished.

Andy Meldrum, owner of the nearby Glencoe Mountain Resort, has shown his support for the plans, saying: 'Glencoe Mountain Resort is delighted to hear of the plans to bring new accommodation to the area. During both summer and winter there is a lack of accommodation in the area so all new beds are highly welcome. From the 3D image we have seen, the new hotel looks like it will be a great asset to the area.'

A public information forum will take place on Saturday November 18, at the St Mary's Church Hall, Glencoe. This will be a drop-in meeting for those wishing to find out more about the development and will run from noon to 4pm, with a short presentation starting at 3pm.

First winter snow falls at Aonach Mor



NEVIS Range welcomed the first snow of winter at the weekend as the ski resort hopes for a bumper season.

Staff at the Fort William ski resort turned up to work on Saturday morning to find a

light dusting of snow covering the 750 metres of Aonach Mor. Another heavy snow shower overnight turned that into a more generous covering on Sunday, reaching right down past the top gondola station.

After a poor winter season and last year, the ski resort will be hoping this November snow is a sign of things to come and it continues to fall.

Pictured are Nevis Range employees Laura Jackson,

20, from Helensburgh, and George James Henderson, 23, from Invergarry, as they enjoy the first snow fall.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image, IF F45 Nevis Snow 01

Firm to consult on wind farm

LOCAL residents have been invited to two public events this month to learn about plans for a Highland wind farm designed to support factories across Scotland, writes Mark Entwistle.

SIMEC Energy, whose sister company Liberty British Aluminium is currently planning a new alloy wheels factory next door to its smelter at Fort William, wants to get the input of local people on its proposals for a 40-turbine wind farm in the Glenshero area near Laggan.

The proposed £150 million wind farm will contribute energy for industrial developments across Scotland and SIMEC is preparing to submit a planning application for the development early next year.

The original proposal for 54 turbines has already been revised following preliminary discussions between developers and statutory consultees, and after initial site investigation work.

SIMEC and Liberty British Aluminium are part of the GFG Alliance, which says that the wind farm at Glenshero is part of a wider vision to develop the Lochaber estate lands. Duncan Mackison, chief executive of JAHAMA Highland Estates, the GFG division which manages and develops the estate lands, said: 'We hope as many people as possible will come along to the public events at Laggan and Fort Augustus, so we can share details of these exciting proposals and hear local views.'

Details of the 40-turbine wind farm will be outlined by SIMEC Energy representatives during information events at Laggan Village Hall on Monday November 20 and Fort Augustus Village Hall on Tuesday November 21.

Both events will be open between 3pm and 7.30pm for visitors to drop in.

Trees bloom for Remembrance Day

A PROJECT is hoping to restore Glencruitten's Cathedral of Trees, planted to honour the fallen of the Great War.

As Remembrance Sunday approaches this weekend, one project is planning to restore the Cathedral of Trees, the only living tree cathedral in Scotland.

The Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees was planted in the 1920s by Alexander Mackay, who bought the land exactly 100 years ago in 1917. His granddaughter, the Rev Nicola Moll, who started the Cathedral of Trees Restoration Project, said Alexander wished to create a war memorial as well as rebuild life and the town after the war, modelled the layout on St Andrews Cathedral.

'A man who plants trees has an eye on eternity', Mrs Moll said, but nearly a century on the cathedral of trees needs urgent work to fix the drains, re-establish the path, and restore its natural and spiritual beauty.

The project's website explains: 'Alexander Mackay was a Dundee businessman who made his fortune in the USA and moved his family to Glencruitten House in Argyll after his house in Broughty Ferry burned down. 'Although in his sixties when he bought the house, he was a man of huge energy and soon began a programme of forestation over much of the estate. He saw this as an important contribution towards the replacement of trees which had been lost to the nation through the demand for timber during the Great War. 'Forestry work and the build-



The memorial stones at the Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees in Oban.

ing of tracks and woodland paths also gave employment to local people - many of them former soldiers returning home from the trenches.

'As the years passed, he noticed the trees in one valley - a beautiful spot that looked towards Ben Cruachan - failed to flourish. Rather than abandon the area, he decided to redeem it and create a Cathedral of Trees, his memorial to the First World War and a celebration of both his love of trees and his strong faith.

'To our knowledge, it is the only living cathedral of its kind in Scotland. In 2016, three of Alexander's relatives decided to take on the restoration of this site so the local community and anyone who is searching for quiet spot for reflection would be able to enjoy it.

'We hope that once the site is back to its former glory, many people will benefit from it for their own enjoyment as well as for the benefit of the wider public including schools, community groups and pilgrims.'

There will be a remembrance service in Oban on Sunday to honour those who have died in the line of duty.

A parade will depart from the Corran Halls to the War Memorial at 10.45am and a two minutes' silence will commence at 11am.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gleaner Oils will be displaying poppies across its fleet of commercial vehicles to show support for the Remembrance Day.



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OT

Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There has been a widespread sense of shock felt across the Oban area at the news of the dreadful accident which seriously injured an Oban woman on holiday in the United States.

What should have been an evening of pleasure for Agnes MacKechnie and her husband David ended up with the 55-year-old suffering multiple injuries.

Agnes and David were in the city of Bethlehem in Pennsylvania to visit her brother, who has lived there for around 15 years.

According to reports, they had been out to celebrate at

a Halloween party when the hit-and-run pick-up truck ploughed into Agnes, propelling her 25 feet into the air.

Since we first broke the news after being contacted by Agnes's sister, Sharon Bratton, there has been a surge of concern and good wishes expressed by her many friends.

As we went to press, the City of Bethlehem Police Department were still hunting for the driver who committed this heinous act. We hope they catch him soon.

In the meantime, we share the concern expressed by Agnes's family and friends, and wish her a speedy recovery and return home to Oban.



Days gone by – 1996

Celebrating Halloween back in 1996 at Dalavich school were Lauren Todd from primary four and Martin Copeland of primary six, along with head teacher Mrs Offord and clerical assistant Mrs Twigg.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

The Piper's Cave/Cave of Gold (continued)

'... The piper boldly burst out through the door of the warm house and into the dark storm with the movement of a man on a righteous mission. He was followed without question by his faithful dog and he held his pipes like an instrument of war.

'From outside, he called to those in the crowded house, "Who among you will come with me? Who will witness the great piping contest with the king of the fairies at the Great Cave of Kenevara?"

'At first, no-one moved, as they were terrified of the evil mischief that the fairies could inflict upon them. All were rooted to the spot in fear, but a brave, wise and aged bodach from Balephuill said: "For the sake of our fellow man we must go after the piper and dissuade him from this foolish and doomed endeavour."

'So out they went in pursuit and by the time they caught up with him he was half way across Traigh Bhi. Followed still by his ever loyal dog, he was marching with vigour and his pipes were skirling above the wind and rain and with the beat of

a great drum the sea was crashing like thunder on the shore. At the end of the beach he eventually cut the tune and put the pipes down, thus giving his companions a chance to reason with him and to counsel against his intended course of action.

'Nothing they could say could dampen his blind determination to make for the Uaimh Mhòr on the far side of the hill. Even the wise words of the aged bodach, telling of the wicked and powerful ways of the fairies, could not convince him to change his course.

'The party, who were now frantically pleading with him, hurried alongside and in circles as he climbed up the hill. On reaching the summit, a strange stillness suddenly came on the night. The wind dropped, the rained stopped, the clouds cleared and the light of the bright full moon brought land and sea alive in the lunar glow. "This is a sign," said the piper. "Even the moon and stars are out to watch me win the pot of fairy gold!"

'He set forth with no fear down the western side of Kenevara and made the perilous descent to the mouth of the Great Cave. After climbing nimbly over the large bolder that guards the mouth when then jumping the final gully, he landed at the entrance of the cave, pipes in hand and dog at his side.

'By this time his companions had

given up hope of persuading him otherwise and gathered as near as they could safely get to the cave in the hope that he would return. To his friends, the piper gave a proud wave delivered with the confidence of assured victory.

'With that, he struck up his pipes, tuned his drones, turned and marched forth into the dark depths of the cave, dog at heel. Out of the cave and across the calm sea the booming sound of the pipes echoed beautifully. As the time passed the music grew fainter and fainter until at last not a note could be heard.

'Those waiting did not see the piper reappear that night, nor in the morning nor in the days to come. However, some days later at the top of Dùn Mòr a' Chaoilais, at the other end of the island, from a hole in the ground, there appeared the piper's faithful dog with not a hair left on his body.

'The piper was never seen again, and lore tells that he was so fine a player that when the fairy king heard his music, a spell was cast upon him that meant for eternity he was cursed to play the bagpipes and never again to see the light of day.

'On quiet moonlit nights, at certain times of the year, it is said that if you listen carefully, the piper can still be heard playing, forever wandering in the deep tunnels beneath Tìree, still under the curse of the fairy king.'



Social media

Our story last week about the chaotic bins situation at Soroba prompted a vociferous response, with residents complaining of bags of rubbish everywhere.

Bridget Buick posted: 'They emptied the bins yesterday and just left all the rubbish sitting there.'

Helen Reid agreed: 'Oh they did...I have the photographic evidence to support it. I am constantly photographing the bins as evidence.'

David MacLennan suggested: 'If the council just fired up another couple of big bins it would help the problem.'

Kuba Maciaszek said: 'The problem is that people don't use recycling bins.'

Murdo MacKenzie countered: 'That isn't the problem, the recycling bins in this particular area are well used.'

Diane Maxwell Graham Kirkham

wrote: 'There's only one blue bin for three blocks of flats. That's 24 houses to use one blue bin.'

John McDermott commented: 'I did use recycle bins for green waste. But they were never emptied! Flies ended up in house etc. Told them to remove bin or I was contacting environmental health.'

Caroline Tollan complained: 'I was up there right after the bins were emptied and they left all the black bags behind; where's the logic in that?'

Samantha Smith posted: 'People are always placing their rubbish at that bit because they're too lazy to walk up to the last bin which is always empty.'

Paul Graham said: 'I noticed on the latest calendar that our recycling day and dates have been changed; should be picked up today and still no sign

of them. They did pick up the green bins that were meant to be lifted on Tuesday though.'

Ashley Strang wrote: 'Plenty people recycle. Not enough bins or collection days. Not so nice when there are young kids out playing near this!! Disgusting.'

Heidi MacColl commented: 'We just got our new bin collection calendar... they have jumped a week.. so rather than three blue bin collections this month there are now two.'

Michelle Mac posted: 'It's atrocious, we're always overflowing. Green bin pick-ups need to go back to normal asap.'

Danielle Hay-West said: 'Just wait till Christmas... it will be twice as high with packaging.'

James Strang warned: 'Wait until the further cuts come in, this is just the beginning.'

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Parliament boundary plan is horrendous

Sir,

I had known for some time of the proposed boundary changes to Argyll and Bute but Martin Laing's column At Random (*The Oban Times*, October 26) really brought it home to me how horrendous it would be.

When I first came to live in this place it was known as Argyllshire or Argyll. It was, at the time, a large enough county, one of the biggest in the UK.

Later, in 1983, the boundaries were changed and enlarged to take in Bute, an act of gerrymandering from the powers-that-be. Bute was already a good-sized county in its own right. The two former counties were lumped together and renamed Argyll and Bute.

It was to become a challenge to any single MP to represent the whole place. It is not just the sheer land mass that poses problems and the journey times, it is also the sea between all the islands.

Ferries are often stopped in bad weather and the roads are not so good either, often being single-track, full of twists and turns, and full of pot holes. The railway only serves a small part of it.

As if this is not bad enough, Westminster is threatening to enlarge the boundary area still further to take in Lochaber. This will make an already challenging job for any MP almost impossible.

I quite agree with Martin Laing that it is the bloated House of Lords that seriously needs to be slimmed down.

Sarah Swain-Nisbet,
Dalintart Drive, Oban.

Up to 500 enthusiastic voices in massed choir

Sir,

I refer to Angus MacPhail's remarks about choral singing at the Mòd (*The Oban Times*, October 26).

He has very obviously never attended the Saturday morning massed choir concert, at which he will not only hear Sine Bhan but also Glenn Bhaile Chaoil and Cearcall a Chuan among others sung to simple but effective settings, by a choir of 400 to 500 enthusiastic voices.

Raibeart McCallum,
Campbeltown.

Plea for anglers to be more careful

Sir,

While walking my dog on the Kilchoan Pier on Saturday morning, I came across this fish hook with meat attached and a small length of line attached just lying on the ground at the end of the pier.

I had seen two people fishing there the previous day. Those fishing must be asked to be more careful when they are doing so in areas that others use for leisure activities.

Luckily, my dog had been distracted

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

BHA MI AIG DÀ CHRUI-NEACHADH bhliadhnaid air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, agus chòrd iad fìor mhath rium. Ged a tha tomhas de dh'eadar-dhealachadh eadar Comunn Leòdhais is na Hearadh Ghlaschu (CLHG) agus Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis (CGI), tha iad le chèile air a bhith nan seòrsa de thèarmainn dha Gàidheil anns na bailtean sin fad iomadh bliadhna.

Nach math an naidheachd gum bheil fàilte bhàth agus furan roimh chiochraig sam bith a thadhlas air gin de na cruinneachaidhean aca, agus gum bheil sin gu sònraichte fìor dha Gàidheil a nochdas. Nochd CGI ann an 1871 agus CLHG sia bliadhna deug an deidh sin ann an 1887, an dà bhuidheann aig àm a bha gu math riaslach agus doirbh dha mòran de shluagh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eileanan.

A' sealltainn air ais air suidheachadh chroitearan thar bhliadhnaichean an dàrna leth den naidheamh linn deug, cha robh e na iongnadh gum dh'èirich na daoine an aghaidh brùdealachd agus ana-ceartas nan uachdaran agus nam bàillidhean a bh' orra.

Ach ged a bha ceannardan calma aig

by other smells and I reached the hook before he did or he may have got to it before me and then who knows what the final outcome may have been – death or a large outlay of money for treatment.

To all those who fish, here and in other areas, please be aware of what you are leaving lying around as the consequences for others could be devastating.

Ricky Clark,
Kilchoan.

Appeal for help to trace family member

Sir,

I am researching my family history and have come across the name Maria Nudds (maiden surname Peacock). I think she stays in Oban.

She is related to my husband's family through her mother, Elizabeth Maxwell Pratt. If she is interested and would like to contact me by email it would be much appreciated.

W McLauchlan,
Ayr.
w.mclauchlan471@btinternet.com

Deeply concerned over toilet closures

Sir,

I am deeply concerned and angered by the proposed public toilet closures across Islay. Clearly this idea has not been thought through as this would have a huge detrimental effect on Islay, our local residents and our growing tourism industry.

We, as a council, should be doing all that we can to encourage visitors to come to Argyll and Bute, and having well maintained and available public toilets are a large part of that.

Expecting local business to fill the gaps left by any potential closures is just not a suitable solution. Keep in mind many of our businesses are not open all hours and some are only open on a seasonal basis. Also, having their toilets open to the public may have an effect on their insurance costs.

I would implore the administration to heed the anger they are justifiably receiving from Ieachs now this proposal has gone out to consultation.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Frightful waste of a good food resource

Sir,

Has anyone given thought to the frightful amount of pumpkins going to waste every year purely for decoration and for a festival that has horror themes to promote?

In a time when austerity and food banks are the subject of society's political concerns, and when other developing countries hardly have enough crops to feed their populace, surely it is a disgrace for our farmers to devote so much energy, land and expertise into growing pumpkins for the sole purpose of Halloween. Some

people may try to make pumpkin soup or a pumpkin pie, but most are made into 'Jack-o'-lanterns' then discarded. Surely this is a sign of a decadent society.

I am not a fan of Halloween for its devilish themes anyhow as the Bible warns not to have anything to do with the 'works of darkness' (Ephesians 5:11), but rather reprove them and 'walk as children of light'. That is a healthier message for children – to hear about God rather than the devil. The Bible also talks about a time when people will call evil good and good evil.

Perhaps we are in such times with all the decorations in homes and shops to celebrate themes of darkness, evil, spells, witches, demons and the like, all forbidden by God in scripture. Even the word 'wicked' has changed into meaning good.

The saddest thing of all is hearing of even churches having Halloween parties bringing dark themes into the house of God. God preserve us. No wonder Halloween gives me the creeps.

Colin Nevin,
Bangor, County Down.

Be prepared for judgement day

Sir,

There are many people sceptical of God, who foolishly think that the Lord's Day, or Sunday, is not really a very important day and can do with it, and every other day, just as they like.

The story is told of a farmer, a proud atheist, who once wrote to the editor of a newspaper: 'Sir, I have been trying an experiment. I have a field of corn which I ploughed on Sunday, I planted it on Sunday, I did the cultivating on Sunday, I gathered the crop on Sunday, and on Sunday I hauled it into my barn. And I find that I have more corn per acre than has been gathered by any of my neighbours during this October.'

The farmer's sneer was obvious. By deliberately choosing to do all the work connected with his cornfield on the Lord's Day, he had challenged God to express disapproval by giving him a disappointing result. Instead, he had reaped an exceptionally good crop.

The editor of the newspaper drew attention to one very important overlooked fact in a footnote: 'God does not always settle His accounts in October.'

No, as the Bible reminds us, God's 'reckoning day' lies in the future. The scriptures give repeated testimony that a judgment day is coming when 'God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil' (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Every seeming injustice will then be set right.

How important it is to prepare for the last 'settling day' which is fast looming round the corner, that will bring history to a close. God tells us that He 'hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness' (Acts 17:31) He also says: 'Be ye ready.'

Donald J Morrison,
Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.

Ailean Caimbeul

idhnean eile le ceanglaichean Gàidhealach taic làidir agus luachmhor dha na croitearan, agus bha Rannachadh a' Mhorair Napier ann an 1883 agus a' chaid Achd Croitearachd ann an 1886 nan dearbhadh air èifeachdas na taice sin.

Nach math gum bheil iad ann fhathast, agus ged a tha an saoghal air ionnadh car a chur bho thòisich iad, chan eil teagamh nach eil trioblaidhean is dùbhlain gu leòr aig Gàidheil agus eile fhathast air am faodadh iad cuimseachadh gu leasachaidhean a shireadh! Càite an tòisich sinn?

ATTENDING the annual dinners of Glasgow's Lewis and Harris Association and the Gaelic Society of Inverness last week, I was reflecting on the vital support which these and other similar organisations had given over many years to securing justice and improved conditions for the people of the Highlands and Islands. Such intervention and support is still required to resolve ongoing challenges. Where to start?

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

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

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Gamekeepers seek talks over 'unsustainable vandalism'

THE Scottish Gamekeepers' Association (SGA) is to seek discussions with police and government ministers over an escalation of vandalism and interference with legal traps by activists and the public.

Members of the gamekeepers' representative body are reporting increasing incidences of intentional damage to predator control traps and snares operated as part of their employment.

In recent weeks, legal Fenn traps have been vandalised, rail traps smashed, wires cut and traps left in the open air in Tayside, Perthshire, Angus, Speyside, Grampian, Tomatin

and the Great Glen area. In one incident in Angus, 22 traps, approved for legal predator control by Scottish Natural Heritage, were damaged in one afternoon.

The SGA, which represents 5,300 members, believes the number of incidents is becoming unsustainable and that lawful businesses are being targeted. It feels specific offences need to be worded to tighten up a soft approach to vandalism and interference, and is seeking discussions with Scottish Government and Police Scotland.

Licences to control predators legally are subject to regulation

by Scottish Natural Heritage and gamekeepers are trained to operate traps and snares legally, using approved equipment.

Predator control has been scientifically proven to benefit ground-nesting game species and threatened birds such as the red-listed curlew.

SGA chairman Alex Hogg said: 'Members are extremely worried. The situation can't go on like this. The biggest problem is the law, as written, and the lack of a specific offence.'

'Every time damage or interference is reported, police say no crime has been committed. Yet, if a trap was interfered with

by a member of the public and a non-target animal was caught in that trap, a gamekeeper could lose his licence and charges would be brought yet the law wouldn't touch the person committing the interference. That surely cannot be allowed to continue.'

'The police have given some members explanations as to why they cannot act, which we welcome, but it seems their hands are tied as well.'

'Some people might not agree with some things, and predator control might be one of those things, but that doesn't legitimise people vandalising

people's work tools or, worse, rendering them illegal.

'If a gamekeeper's snares are tied up or someone has smashed a boulder through a Larsen trap, that gamekeeper cannot perform his duties.'

'It would be like a bus driver expecting to drive a bus with the tyres removed.'

Gamekeeper and SGA member Andy Smith provided video recordings to the police of a member of the public releasing a call bird from a Larsen trap on a farm, leaving the trap vulnerable to catching a non-target species, which itself could lead to a charge against the operator.



A section of restored upland path on Ben Lomond.

Campaign continues to fight golf course proposal

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

A COALITION of Scotland's leading conservation charities is asking the public to support its objections to the Highland Council on a proposed destruction of Coul Links – an important part of Scotland's natural heritage.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB Scotland, Buglife Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Butterfly Conservation Scotland and the Marine Conservation Society are campaigning against an application to construct a golf course that has been submitted to Highland Council on behalf of Mike Keiser, a billionaire American investor.

Coul Links hosts a dune ecosystem of national and international importance and is protected by multiple conservation designations.

It is home to a wide range of plants, birds, insects and other wildlife. Many of these species – such as curlew, whinchat and Fonseca's seed fly, unique to this part of Sutherland – are rare or in severe decline elsewhere in the UK and are unlikely to remain following damage to the dune environment.

Davie Black of Plantlife said: 'The proposed destruction of



Coul Links in winter when the dune slacks are flooded providing important habitat for over-wintering birds. Picture: Alison Searl/RSPB Scotland

Coul Links, one of Scotland's last remaining coastal dune systems, would be a disaster and must be wholeheartedly opposed by all those who care about nature and heritage.

'Coastal dune systems are threatened ecosystems across the UK and no more must be

bulldozed to make way for sterilised fairways – already too many irreplaceable Scottish habitats have been carved up to make way for golf courses.'

'The fragmentation of the dune environment which would occur if development is permitted would further imperil rare

plants such as sea centuary, purple milk-vetch, moonwort and frog orchid, and the insects and other animals and birds that they support. It is essential for nature that Coul Links remains undisturbed.'

Jonathan Hughes, chief executive of the Scottish Wild-

life Trust and a former local resident, said: 'We would urge anyone who is concerned about the fate of Scotland's wildlife and natural landscapes to make their voices heard by writing to the Highland Council.'

'Coul Links is a truly exceptional stretch of wild, unspoiled coast, valued for its natural beauty by locals and visitors alike. It seems extraordinary that this internationally important dune system is under threat from yet another golf course proposal and it's vital we protect it for future generations to enjoy.'

'Almost a decade after the approval of the environmentally damaging Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeenshire, it is unthinkable that we could lose yet another irreplaceable duneland to a development which is clearly not needed.'

To make your views known, visit the Highland Council website directly at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/wam/>, click on planning applications and search for (17/04601/FUL) and follow the instructions in order to make a comment. Visit <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/our-work/our-positions-and-casework/casework/coul-links/> for more information on how to make your voice heard.

National park is given a facelift

WITH more than four million visitors a year, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is often referred to as Scotland's playground.

From its breathtaking mountains and glens to the vast tranquil beauty of its lochs – and with extensive outdoor recreation opportunities on offer throughout the park – it's an accolade that is well deserved and one that is protected.

But these vast numbers of visitors, coupled with the Scottish weather, come at an expensive cost with many mountain paths being eroded and left scarred and damaged.

So now the national park authority is welcoming The Mountains and The People, a five-year project specifically to preserve, improve and restore access to the unique upland habitats. Led by the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland and supported by both of Scotland's national park authorities, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and Heritage Lottery Fund, the project is well on its way to making a huge difference to everyone who uses Scotland's playground. Over the past two years, work has been carried out on nearly 21,425km of paths, upgrading the trails on some of the best loved mountains in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, including Ben Ledi, Ben A'an, Ben Venue and Scotland's most

southerly Munro, Ben Lomond.

With more than 30,000 visitors per year, Ben Lomond is one of the most popular Munros in Scotland, rewarding those who make it to the top with fantastic views of Loch Lomond and beyond. With such large numbers of people walking the 12km to its 3,000ft summit, the trail had suffered over the years and so was one of the first priority routes to be upgraded.

Now described as a 'well defined path', those who fancy the Ben Lomond experience, can head to Rowardennan car park half way up the eastern shore of Loch Lomond, don their responsible hiking gear and enjoy an unhindered walk to the summit.

Simon Jones, director of conservation and visitor operations at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, said: 'The iconic mountains of the national park attract people from all over the world as well as many walkers from closer to home.'

'With their stunning views and opportunity to get out and enjoy nature, it's easy to see why.'

'But the volume of people walking these paths does have an impact on their condition. The Mountains and The People is a fantastic project and the improvements made to these popular routes will mean that people can enjoy them for many years to come.'

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

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

Thursday November 9 Meall Ghaordaidh, Glen Lochay

An isolated Munro between

Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon. A relatively short day for an S walk may leave time to look for some of the many antiquities mapped in the area. Park 100m NW of the bridge over the Allt Dhuin Croisg at NN526363. Head NE across fields and up 1.5 km to a sheepfold and old shielings. Climb NW on grass and heather directly up to the summit of Meall Ghaordaidh, 1039m. Turn W down to a col with some small lochs at 774m and continue W up to the Corbett Top of Meall, Na Cnap-laraich, 846m. Descend S to an almost level spur at 777m alt, then SE down an uneven ridge to some old shielings on the Allt Ghaordaidh. Turn S down to the

road and follow it SE by the River Lochay back to the start.

Grade: S; Distance: 11km; Height to climb: 970m; Map(s): LR51, EX378. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 8.25am or Glencoe village car park at 8.40am. Start of walk at 9.45am. Leader: Graham Innes 01631 562290 or 07767 714503.

Saturday November 11 Gleann Mama and Druim Fiaclach, Beasdale

A walk visiting a quiet glen with native woodland and a traverse along an intriguing rugged ridge with splendid views to Ardnurchan and the Small Isles.

Start 300m E of the railway

viaduct at NM731840, where limited parking is available. Take the track NE past Glen Mama farm. Turn right on to the footpath and follow it up Gleann Mama through deciduous woodland. In this section, some diversions may be required if the river is in flood. The path continues to the twin lochs. Just past the foot of the first loch, at NM752853, climb N up the steep slope on rough ground to reach the watershed where there are several small lochs at about 370m alt. Contour SW to the Bealach a' Mhama at NM745856. An undulating and twisting ridge extends WSW from here for about 3km. Stay on or near its crest and follow it

over Druim Fiaclach. Pass over the railway tunnel to reach the A830 at NM714848. Transport required. Alternatively, return to the start along the A830.

Grade: M; Distance: 12km; Height to climb: 400m; Map(s): LR40, EX398. Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill at 8.15am. Start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Andrew Gilbert 07808 924722.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club.

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

Sunday November 12 Stob Ghabhar, Stob a'Choire Odhair

Start from the car park at NN270418, 300m before Victoria Bridge. Follow a short path NE to rejoin the road, cross Victoria Bridge and turn left at Forest Lodge. Follow the track W by the Abhainn Shira to a small building at NN256425. Turn N on to the path that follows the Allt Toaig. After about 2km, cross the Allt Toaig NN2511243958 to gain access to the spur of Aonach Eagach. A faint path may be found. Head NW up the spur which narrows to a crest and follow it to a summit, 991m. The ridge curves W around the

rim of the magnificent Coirein Lochain leading to the summit of Stob Ghabhar. Return to the 991m summit, just E of which at NN2370945398 a footpath leads N down the Couloir Buttress. Follow it, curving E to reach a col at 668m. Either return by descending SE into Coire Toaig by the path or continue E up to the summit of Stob a'Choire Odhair and descend SW at first on bouldery ground and locate a good stalkers' path which leads S and zigzags down to the Allt Toaig path at NN253446. Head down S and return by the outward route.

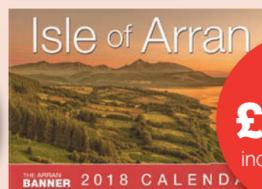
Distance: 18km; Height to climb: 1200m. Suggested and coordinated by Gerry Gilbert.

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Arena

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

'Oban the Perfect Destination'

'Oban the Perfect Destination' is the title of Strontian writer Sylvia Hehir's short story which beat more than 60 others to win at Tarbert Book Festival.

Before collecting her prize of a residential week at Scotland's creative writing centre, Moniack Mhor, Ms Hehir had the daunting task of reading her story to an audience which included BBC travel presenter Paul Murton.

Ms Hehir's 'Sea Change' was also short-listed for this year's Caledonia Novel Award.

The presentation at Loch Fyne Gallery with master of ceremonies Anne Hamilton, from Lothian Life, saw an international assembly of writers make the fifth festival's shortlist of six.

Simon Cowdroy from Melbourne Australia, started the readings with his thrilling 'Click,' followed by Dollar's

Kate Donne with 'Frae a Haggis'. Linlithgow's Mary Easson's 'Who Do We Think We Are,' was followed by Ms Hehir and her full story is reproduced below. Mike Hunter, from Nova Scotia was unable to attend and his 'Barbie and Me' was read out from a Kindle. Mid-Argyll author Sue Stubbs from Kilmichael Glassary finished with her tale: 'The Mad Crone of Comriach.'

'Oban the Perfect Destination' by Sylvia Hehir:

'Duncan angled mother's chair at the dining table. She liked to be able to see the bird table through the bay window, although this blustery morning the only visitors were the resident blackbirds and the ubiquitous chaffinches.

'In the kitchen, Duncan filled the kettle before turning on the gas, striking a match

and placing the kettle amongst the blue flickering flames. 'Coffee or tea for the flask,' he called, but any answer was drowned out by the spitting of the bacon in the frying pan. It was an unnecessary question anyway. When had mother wanted anything other than tea? Still the day might come, he considered, when he would have a say.

'He turned round suddenly; a shadow had passed behind him. And was that the smell of mother's Gardenia perfume? He chastised himself, knowing full well that mother couldn't get out of her chair by herself.

'He watched a jay fly past the kitchen window and counted out loud, but there was just the one. He disliked their unnecessary noise and their tawdry colours were decidedly out of place around here. Still, they were preferable

to those magpies. He wondered if there was a superstition attached to the number of jays seen. He hoped it wasn't the same as for magpies. One was not a good number to see, not today of all days. But as he recited the rhyme in his head, no other number seemed appropriate either. He was thankful, at least, that he'd not seen two.

'They had decided on Oban for today. They'd tried Mallaig first – the fish and chips there were the finest in all of Scotland, mother had always commented when they'd been there for family holidays – but the wind had been far too strong. And at Kilchoan – another favourite holiday destination – the waves had been thrashing the rocks. So, Oban it would be.

'After clearing away the breakfast things, Duncan selected ap-



From left: Moniack Mhor's Richmond Clements with short story short-listed writers: Simon Cowdroy from Melbourne, Australia, Sue Stubbs, Mary Easson, winner Sylvia Hehir, and Kate Donne. Missing is Nova Scotia author Mike Hunter.

propriate outerwear. Pushing aside his anorak, he opted for his father's old overcoat, hoping the weather wouldn't get too warm as the day drew on. Then gathering up his backpack, they set out

for their bus. He'd been right. Oban was the perfect place. A gentle ruffling onshore breeze caused him to push his hat on more securely as he settled mother into a secluded spot behind the seafront wall. Un-

used to such an action at his age, he spread out the overcoat and sat down beside her on the rounded pebbles.

'The lid was a bit stiff, the thread sticking as he unscrewed it. But in a few turns the

contents of the ornate jar could be seen. He upturned the jar gently and tipped mother out onto pebbles at his side, letting her mingle with the sand and the tiny empty crab shells. A seagull squawked

at him. That was all right too – you expect seagulls at Oban.

'He took out the flask from the backpack and poured out the weak tea.

'He could have coffee another time.'

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Great night at the Lewis/Harris Gathering

I had great fun singing to an appreciative and large audience last Friday November 3 at the Lewis and Harris Association annual gathering.

As the last note of Soraidh Leibh was sung to end the night, all the performers (Kathleen Macinnes, Ronnie Murray, Alasdair Paterson and Ross Mackay) were of the opinion that it had been a very enjoyable night indeed.

Alasdair Fraser perhaps set the tone of the evening early on by introducing me onto the stage as 'the housewives'

favourite'. I can't decide whether the roar of laughter this comment received confirms its truth or otherwise.

Claire MacAulay, who was due to sing, unfortunately couldn't manage because of a virus and I wish her a speedy recovery. While she was obviously missed at the concert, the Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic choir proved to be able replacements and our two soloists from the choir (Rebecca and Rhianna Boyle) delighted the audience in the second half.

They are both really excellent up-and-coming singers and definitely worth looking out for in the future. They are also very nice girls who are totally passionate

about Gaelic singing.

I left the gathering as soon as the concert was finished as I had an early start the following morning but I have it on good authority that the dance was a cracker and that the Beinn Lee Ceilidh Band had the floor filled all evening.

Tiree Gathering

Not long now until the Tiree Association holds its annual gathering on Thursday November 16 at 7.30pm in the Partick Burgh Halls.

The concert will be chaired by Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish and will be opened by association piper, Gordon Rowan. Myself, Kim Carnie, and Norman

MacKinnon will all be singing and the young Rowan brothers, Alan and Kyle, will play a few sets on the accordion and piano.

Kathryn Callander, conductor of the Govan Gaelic Choir, is the accompanist for the evening.

The dance will be held the following evening in the Glasgow University Union - starting at 9pm.

Peter MacDonald

Peter MacDonald, president of Comunn An Taobh An Iar haggis supper at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club. Friday November 24: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance at 8pm in the Commodore Hotel.

speedy recovery. He'll no doubt be back entertaining with his stories and jokes at the comunn evenings very shortly.

What's on

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

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

Thursday November 23: Comunn An Taobh An Iar haggis supper at 7.30pm in the Ellangowan Social Club.

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

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

Pub scene

Islay Inn: Friday November 10: Mooka.

Saturday November 11: The Raggaeals. Park Bar: Friday November 10: Trail West.

Saturday November 11: Dodgy Ground. Sunday November 12: Morino Day. Park Bar: Friday November 3: Scott Harvey.

Saturday November 4: Beinn Lee Cèilidh Band. Sunday November 5: Beinn Lee Cèilidh.



Lewis and Harris Association president Calum Smith with members of the Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir on Friday night. Left to right: Calum Smith, Anna Smith, Sam McCourt, Rebecca Boyle, Cylina Porch, Leonie Johnstone and Coinneach Combe.

malt OF THE month

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Early island home brews

New whisky distilleries on the Isles of Islay, Arran, Raasay, and even possibly on Jura have fired up a curiosity into the history of the art in the Hebrides.

Aqua vitae was distilled by religious establishments as early as 1494, but the Highlander either drank the fresh burn water, or milk, buttermilk and whey. Ale was drunk in the Lowlands,

and wine was brewed from native fruits and plants.

Heavy duties were imposed on imports of French wine, but to compensate for this a clause in the law allowed families to distill sufficient whisky in their own homes for the need of the household.

The surplus barley would be malted and turned into uisge-beatha (Gaelic for 'water of life') in a pot still

over a peat fire.

Rougher whiskies were flavoured by bitter or astringent plants, such as juniper, wild raspberries, bird cherries, juniper, rowan berries and sloes – the last two Thomas Pennant in his Voyage To The Hebrides (1772) saw fermented and distilled into spirits of their own.

John Lightfoot in Flora Scotica, published in 1777,

noted that 18th century Scots stirred blaeberry jelly into whisky 'to give it relish to strangers'.

On the Isles of Colonsay and Oronsay they used roasted sweet, liquoricey bitter vetch tubers, which wrote Martin Martin in his Description of the Western Isles of Scotland, gave 'a good relish to all liquors, milk only excepted. It is aromatic and the natives

prefer it to spice for brewing aquavite'.

Clansmen would carry scallop shells with them to use as tumblers for their whisky. Dr Johnson's biographer James Boswell, dining at Grishpoll on the Isle of Coll during their tour to the Hebrides, recorded: 'We had whisky in a clam-shell, according to the ancient Highland custom. Mr Johnson drank a little water out of it.'

Dr Johnson – a teetotaler not usually given to kind words about the Scots – grudgingly gave the Scottish breakfast his own three Michelin stars: 'If an epicure could remove by a wish, in quest of sensual gratifications, wherever he had supped, he would breakfast in Scotland.'

One part of this breakfast of champions was the morning dram, which Johnson

observed on his visit to Skye in September 1773: 'Not long after the dram, may be expected the breakfast, a meal in which the Scots, whether of the Lowlands or mountains, must be confessed to excel us.'

We are told there is still the Gaelic word 'glomach', meaning: 'The first dram of the day, before you get out of bed'. All the usual health warnings apply.



THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

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December 2nd at 6pm
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JOIN US AT THE BIGGEST AND BEST HOGMANAY SHOW IN THE NEVIS CENTRE

Hogmanay at the Nevis Centre is as much a Lochaber tradition as bringing in the New Year with the bells and Auld Lang Syne – except this year it is going to be very much better!

Doors will be open from 8.00pm on December 31st, with entertainment from award winning local band 'Wonderland' starting at 9.00pm. Then at 10.30pm the world-renowned Fergie Macdonald takes the stage to see you through the bells and into 2018 with his own brand of rip-roaring ceilidh music. With 'Wonderland' coming back on stage at 12.30am to take us through until the close of the night.

Tickets are £25 each with tables of 8 available. Tickets can be bought over the phone with a card or pop in and see us.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Mallaig to host book festival

This year's Mallaig's Book Festival, A Write Highland Hoolie, will include Scottish Book Trust Live Literature events with, among others, Mairi Hedderwick, Bernard MacLaverty, Ray Perman and Andrew Greig, all appearing this weekend, November 10 to 12.

Each author will present an hour-long illustrated talk that will include questions and answers, followed by a book signing.

Mairi Hedderwick has two events, one on her travel books and the second all about Katie Morag.

The Live Literature part of the event, at the West Highland Hotel, Mallaig, is joint funded by A Write Highland Hoolie and Creative Scotland's Live Literature funding, which is managed by Scottish Book Trust.

The fund exists to bring the work of Scottish fiction writers, playwrights, poets and storytellers to every corner of Scottish society including schools, libraries, writers' groups, additional support needs organisations, community groups and literary organisations.

The scheme subsidises up to 1,200 writer events around the country each year, reaching an average annual audience of more than 50,000 people.

Polly Pullar, one of the organisers, said: 'We are delighted that we have these wonderful authors coming to Mallaig to inspire and enthuse the festival audience.'

'Live Literature funding is a very valuable

resource for A Write Highland Hoolie as it enables us to increase people's ability, confidence and enjoyment in reading and writing and encourage them to extend their reading choices to include a diverse range of authors.'

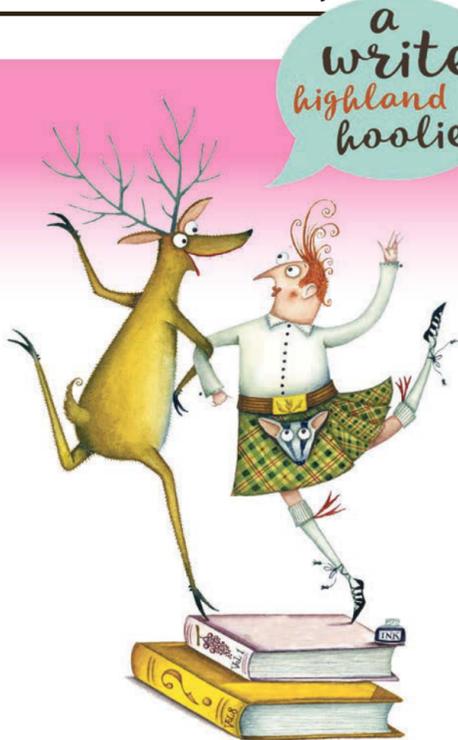
Caitrin Armstrong, head of writer development at the Scottish Book Trust, said: 'By subsidising events featuring writers, illustrators and storytellers throughout Scotland, Live Literature funding encourages organisations of all kinds to include authors in their programmes.'

'The scheme also widens the audience for contemporary writers and storytelling by increasing the amount of literary activity and by providing financial support in such a way that groups pay the same per session whether they are based in Orkney or Edinburgh.'

Other authors who will be at the Mallaig Book Festival are Colin Speedie, Cameron McNeish, Kenneth Steven, Polly Pullar and Alasdair Roberts. All will give an hour-long talk with questions and book signings.

There will also be a feature writing workshop with award-winning editor of the Scots Magazine, Robert Wight, and Bookbug will make appearances to entertain pre-school children.

For full details of the festival, visit www.a-write-highland-hoolie.com. Tickets are on sale at www.eventbrite.co.uk.



Nordic Fiddlers Bloc

Three fiddle players from three very distinctive Nordic fiddle regions make an appearance at the Sunart Centre in Strontian on Saturday November 11.

The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc comprise Olav Mjelva (Norway), Anders Hall (Sweden) and Kevin Henderson (Shetland).

Norway, Sweden and Shetland have three of the richest fiddle traditions in the world, with

documented historical links going back hundreds of years. 'Nordic Fiddlers Bloc' seeks to bring those historical links and traditions alive and present them in an exciting new fashion, while also remaining faithful to the roots of each tradition.

The trio's agent said: 'Individually they are regarded as three of the finest young fiddle players currently working in the international

folk music scene, while collectively they are now finding themselves increasingly in demand across the world due to their unique collaboration, on-stage sense of humour and inter-band banter.

'While blending the individual styles together, they allow each distinctive flavour to unfold into a combined sound that's unique, meaningful, intense and invigorating.'



Your local radio listings

OBAN FM Community Radio - your local radio station
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For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OFFERS & competitions

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

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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 7th December

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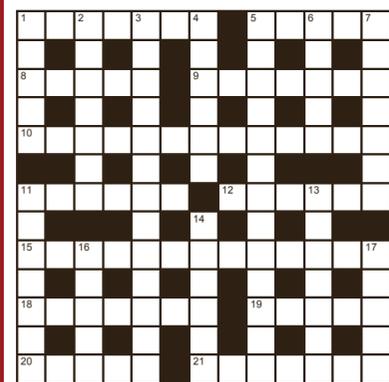
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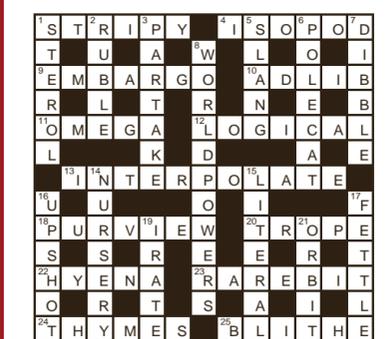
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THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Gather together (7)
 - Kind of nut (5)
 - Horn (5)
 - Allowance obtained (7)
 - Business person (13)
 - Saw (6)
 - Plant of the mint family, which attracts family pets (6)
 - Where to go when wanting to be on target (8,5)
 - Collected works (7)
 - Impromptu remark (2-3)
 - Weird (5)
 - Made ready (7)

- Down**
- Head of a synagogue... (5)
 - ...not accepting of religion (7)
 - Where to apply make-up (8,5)
 - Slight (6)
 - Sermon for Universities? (13)
 - World-weariness (5)
 - Sediment seen when walking? (7)
 - Part of a heartbeat (7)
 - Puzzle completely (7)
 - Fresh (6)
 - Title holder (5)
 - Put in (5)



Pet Idol

It's time to vote for your favourite pet for Round One of Pet Idol!
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The pets can be viewed at www.wyvxmedia.co.uk/petidol
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*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet photograph.
Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.
You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.
Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 13th November, 2017

Arena

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



Eye to eye
with John Wallace

Seeing In The Dark

It's official. The clocks have gone back and winter is well on its way. You will probably be travelling to and from work in the dark. The human eye is amazingly adaptive and can cope with most light levels. However, your eyes don't work as well at night as they do in daylight.

Our retinas have two forms of light receptors... rods and cones. Rods work in low light situations and cones, which give us colour vision, in daylight. Cones tend to be densely packed together at the fovea (the centre of our retina). That's why we have high definition vision in daylight. It's also why we need the lights on at night if we want to read or see clearly when driving. In low light levels cones switch off and the rods kick in. Rods are spread across the retina but are densest slightly off from the fovea. Have you ever noticed when looking at stars in the night sky you don't see them if you look straight at them but if you look slightly off to one side they become visible? That's because you are using your rods which are very sensitive in low light conditions. Cones only function in high light conditions. If you drive you have probably noticed at dusk you really cannot see very well. That's because it's too bright for rods and too dark for cones.

When we drive we use our central vision (cones) for HD vision and our peripheral retina is more for peripheral awareness and motion detection. As we age cataracts develop. These cause problems with glare from car headlights. Some of us will develop macular degeneration which reduces the clarity of our vision and our eyes take much longer to recover from being dazzled by oncoming bright lights.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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Islay Sessions

This year's Islay Sessions kicks off from November 17-19, with Tannara, Joy Dunlop, Jenn Butterworth and Laura-Beth Salter lined up to play at the Saturday night concert.

Scottish four-piece Tannara play contemporary Scottish folk music: considered, complex, arrangements that surround original tunes, modern tunes and traditional ballads. Nominated Up and Coming Artist at the 2016 Scots Trad Music Awards, the band's debut album Trig was produced by BBC Radio Folk Award winner Rachel Newton, and released in 2016.

Crowned Traditional Singer of the Year and Traditional Dance Champion at the 2015

Pan Celtic Festival, Joy Dunlop is a Gaelic singer and step-dancer from Argyll. Her singing career is the result of a life-long fascination with Scotland's traditional music and has led her all over the world, from major Celtic festivals to touring the UK, Europe, Canada and New Zealand.

Through her singing, she showcases Gaelic music and song in a contemporary way that always remains true to its roots. Nominated as Gaelic Singer of the Year 2016, 2011 and 2010, she has also won both the coveted Royal National Mòd Gold Medal and the Oban Times Gold Medal.

Jenn and Laura-Beth have each been a pres-

ence on the UK folk scene for a number of years and released their debut album Bound in 2016. They were brought together by the close-knit and progressive Glasgow folk music community, spending lots of their time jamming an eclectic mix of folk music from across the globe, particularly the UK, Scandinavia and America.

Following the Islay Sessions' successful Concerts in the Conservatory in 2016, this year's festival will kick off with an intimate acoustic gig in Port Charlotte Hotel's conservatory with Adam Sutherland and Marc Clement.

Adam hails from Errogie on the south shores of Loch Ness, and is one of Scotland's most



Gaelic singer Joy Dunlop from Connell.

exciting fiddle players and composers. Joined on this occasion by fellow Session A9 member Marc Clement, Adam will showcase his fine talent with music from his debut solo album Squall and his upcoming second album.

Sunday's Conservatory

Concert will give listeners a rare chance to see multi-instrumentalist Innes Watson perform solo. Innes has carved himself a deep groove in the face of contemporary and traditional folk music of Scotland, which led to him being awarded Instrumentalist of the

Year at the 2009 Scots Trad Music Awards.

Alongside these concerts will be informal folk sessions in the Port Charlotte Hotel bar, including a 'slow session' for beginners and improvers of all ages on Saturday afternoon. A whisky tour of Islay will

also be running over the weekend.

Workshops for musicians of all ages will take place on Saturday morning, and the participants of this will also gain a performance opportunity with the band at the night time concert in Bruichladdich.



Scottish four-piece Tannara.



Musicians Jenn Butterworth and Laura-Beth Salter.

Our friends, supporters, partners, past and present, are warmly invited to call in to look around the newly opened Dove Centre and meet the staff.

OPEN DAYS
Monday, 13th and Tuesday, 14th November between 10.00am-7.00pm.

The Dove Centre is based upon the work of the Maggie's Centres which provide forms of support for people with life limiting conditions, such as cancer.

oban WINTER FESTIVAL

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ST ANDREW'S DAY EVENTS - OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL HAGGISFEST

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Public tasting and voting from 1.00pm - 3pm. Admission £2

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M'ALBA MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 09 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 09 NOVEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 An Ataireachd Bhuan (rpt)
- 19.35 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 ÙR | NEW: Eòrpa
- 21.00 ÙR | NEW: Air an Rathad
- 22.00 Fèis Chiuil Thiriodh - Sharon Shannon & Skerryvore (rpt)
- 22.25 ÙR | NEW: An Dèidh Hitler
- 23.15 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Alabama 3 (rpt)
- 23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIHAOINE 10 SAMHAIN RIDAY 10 NOVEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 An Là - News
- 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 19.30 Na Ceiltich (rpt)
- 19.55 Togaidh Sinn Fonn (rpt)
- 20.25 Earrann Eachdraidh

DIARDAOIN 16 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Tàthadh - Auchinleck (rpt)
- 19.25 Binneas - Na Trads - Kathleen MacInnes & Sineag MacIntyre (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 ÙR | NEW: Eòrpa
- 21.00 Gillean Grinn (rpt)
- 22.00 Fèis Chiuil Thiriodh - Red Hot Chili Pipers (rpt)
- 22.30 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra (rpt)
- 23.15 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber
- 23.25 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 12 SAMHAIN SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's Programming
- 18.30 Seachd Là/News Review
- 19.30 ÙR | NEW: Alleluia
- 20.00 Fuine (rpt)
- 20.30 Prosaig (rpt)
- 21.00 Bho Stalag Gu Gulag (rpt)
- 22.00 Na Worlds 2017 (rpt)
- 23:10 An Dèidh Hitler (rpt)
- 23.55 Binneas - Na Trads (Malinky) (rpt)

DILUAIN 13 SAMHAIN MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 14 SAMHAIN TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Tàthadh - Auchinleck (rpt)
- 19.25 Binneas - Na Trads - Kathleen MacInnes & Sineag MacIntyre (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 Fuine (rpt)
- 21.00 ÙR | NEW: Opry an Iùir
- 21.55 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)
- 22.00 Trusadh - Acair @ 40

DICIADAIN 15 SAMHAIN WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming
- 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
- 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
- 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
- 20.00 An Là - News
- 20.30 ÙR | NEW: Prosaig
- 21.00 Cunnart (rpt)
- 22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)
- 22.30 Horò Gheallaidh (rpt)
- 23.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 09 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 09 NOVEMBER

- 20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)
- 21.00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhòir (rpt)
- 22.00 Na Worlds 2017 (rpt)
- 23.00 An Dèidh Hitler (rpt)
- 23.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Alabama 3

DISATHAIRNE 11 SAMHAIN SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

- 17.05 ÙR | NEW: SPFL Challenge Cup - Inverness Caledonian Thistle v Falkirk
- 19.20 Foadail (rpt)
- 19.30 Clann a' Chogaidh Mhòir (rpt)
- 19.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
- 20.00 Na Ceiltich (rpt)
- 20.25 Binneas - Na Trads - Kathleen MacInnes & Sineag MacIntyre (rpt)
- 20.30 Eòrpa (rpt)
- 21.00 ÙR | NEW: Na Worlds 2017

22.10 The Rolling Stones (rpt)

22.55 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhòir (rpt)

24.00 An Drochaid (rpt)

20.00 An Là - News

20.30 ÙR | NEW: Puirt-adhair

21.00 ÙR | NEW: Trusadh - Acair @ 40

22.00 Horò Gheallaidh (rpt)

22.30 Ceum air Cheum (rpt)

23.30 Fèis Chiuil Thiriodh - Sharon Shannon & Skerryvore (rpt)

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Introducing Birl-esqe



Birl-esqe, a new album inspired on the morning ferry commute to Skye, launches this month after touring Glencoe, Acharacle and Kilmelford, writes Euan Carr.

Birl-esqe, named after the Scots verb 'birl' meaning 'to revolve rapidly, whirl round, dance' and a 'rapid movement of the fiddle bow', is the first duo album from two of Scotland's most prolific traditional musicians, Eilidh Shaw on fiddles and vocals, and guitarist Ross Martin.

Both best known for their work with top

traditional bands in the Scottish music scene, Eilidh with The Poozies and Ross with Daimh, the duo decided that after 15 years of living together and playing together, it was now time to make an album together.

From there Birl-esqe was born.

Birl-esqe was recorded in studio Ostaig at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college in Skye. They travelled from the village of Morar to get the ferry in Mallaig for the 40-minute crossing to Armadale on Skye.

The album material is a mixture of music Eilidh and Ross have played at concerts and sessions over the years, plus tunes that came to mind when going to the studio on the morning ferry.

Ross said: 'The album was nearly called 'Amber Alert', as anyone who has used the Cal-Mac service between Mallaig and Armadale over the last year or so will be familiar with – the scenario of never being quite sure if the return sailing will go ahead or not!'

The album features two special guests in The Bracadale Rhythm Gentlemen.

This illusive pair have recorded on almost all albums of note that have been made on Skye for the last 80 years, often sneaking into the studio at night and laying down subtle bass and drum parts, whether invited to or not, asking only for a dram and an oatcake to be left out for them in return.

The new album will be officially released on Monday November 27.

Nominations are in for Scots Trad Music Awards

Shortlisted nominations for the MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards 2017 were announced on Tuesday November 7.

Heralded as the most prestigious awards ceremony in the traditional music calendar, the winners will be revealed during a glitzy ceremony on Saturday December 2, at Lagoon Centre in Paisley, which is bidding to be the UK City of Culture 2021.

Organising body

Hands Up for Trad unveiled the shortlist via Facebook live, and will hand out a total of 16 awards to the best trad talent throughout Scotland.

Voting for the shortlisted acts will be open until November 24 and votes can be cast online via www.scotstradmusicawards.com.

The night will be jam-packed with live performances from The Shee Big Band, who are roping in

honorary Shees from throughout their 11 years to join them on stage, as well as performances from nominees Elephant Sessions and Siobhan Miller. Tickets are available now, and can be purchased by calling 0300 300 1210 or visiting <http://www.paisley2021.co.uk/events/> or directly from Paisley Arts Centre.

The Album of the Year (sponsored by Birmam CD) is one of

the most sought-after awards and competition is stiff this year, with 10 nominees all vying for the top spot including Elephant Sessions, Mánran and Ímar, alongside Ryan Young who last year won the Up and Coming Artist.

Oban Live and the Killin Music Festival are among the nominees for the Event of the Year category (sponsored by VisitScotland), while Community Project of

the Year (sponsored by Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust) nods to Tíree Songbook and EPL Events, among others.

Tide Lines and Skipinnish are on the shortlist for Live Act of the Year (sponsored by Greentrax), and Gnos, Hò-rò, Heron Valley, Inyal and Brighde Chaimbeul all compete for the Up and Coming Artist (sponsored by the Royal Scottish Conservatoire) category.

Fred Morrison's tour stops by Oban

Fred Morrison's Scottish winter tour comes to Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Hall on Thursday December 12, after performances on North Uist, South Uist and Barra.

The musician, who recently won the inter-celtic trophy in Brittany for the ninth time, will play the Highland, uilleann and Reel pipes and whistle, and will be including many new pieces in his concert set, which will be featured in his forthcoming album due in 2018.

Fred's mix of heart-warming music and engaging stories make for a perfect recipe for a winter's evening, his promoter said.

He will be performing at the Carinish Hall in North Uist on Friday November 17, St Peter's Hall on South Uist on Saturday November 18 and Castlebay in Barra on Sunday November 19.





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Club Night
(featuring members of Oban High School Pipe Band and Oban Pipe Band)
Wednesday 15th November 2017
Argyllshire Gathering Halls at 7.30pm
Entry: Adults £3: Children Free

An Comunn Gàidhealach Meur Chruachain
Taynuilt Winter Ceilidh
Clare Jordan
Coisir Òg Dhailriata
Plus Full supporting programme
Saturday 18th November
Taynuilt Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tea and Raffle
Adults - £4 Children £2

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11am to 4pm
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Norwegian farming model has lessons we should learn

Brexit has become top of the agenda on the NFUS priority list, but can we learn from others' experience, asks vice-president
MARTIN KENNEDY

THERE'S no doubt we are heading into a territory that has been unfamiliar to us for more than 40 years.

Although there are obvious risks involved with this imminent change, there are also huge opportunities to try to develop an agricultural policy that will best suit Scotland, that will help drive productivity, make businesses more profitable and, as important, deliver for our precious environment.

One thing we must do is look at how other countries fare that are not part of the EU, but who also trade with them. One country that operates this way is Norway.

Along with our environment and land use committee chairman Angus McFadyen and deputy director of policy Andrew Bauer, we opted to go to Norway and look at the much-discussed Norwegian model.

From the outset, this visit was the most informative, enlightening and interesting visit I have been on yet.

There are many key differences between Norway and ourselves, ranging from regulation,



Martin Kennedy, left, and Angus McFadyen visit a sheep farm north of Trondheim.

the amount of available budget, agricultural policy and issues with predation right through to infrastructure.

Agricultural policy and budget in Norway are sorted out on an annual basis between the government and the farming unions, of which there are two, the Norwegian NFU and the

Small Farmers' Union. The former is the largest with 63,000 members, and recognised by the government as being an official party in annual negotiations.

The average age of a farmer in Norway is 54 and almost one-third of farmers are women. This has probably been driven by the regulation change in the

1970s where the farm could no longer be only handed down to the oldest son, but now must go to the oldest child. Eventually, through natural progress, half of farmers in Norway will be women.

When it comes to regulations, there are many in Norway, but when you speak to farmers, they

see regulation that's implemented there as something which benefits their agriculture and way of life.

For example, if you ever sell a farm or hand on a farm to the next generation (which is the clear majority), you cannot carve it up by either selling the house or by selling part of the land to someone else.

This has seen farming units stay the same in size for generations and leads to much more co-operation between them.

Indeed, prices for products are set by the co-ops.

If you inherit or buy a farm, you also must live on it. There's no such thing as an absentee landlord – they simply don't exist.

On the rare occasion where a farm does come on the open market, there is a top price limit set by the government, which recognises the future ability to make that return from the investment.

The Norwegian government's backing for agriculture and recognition for what it does for their environment is hugely important in farmers' minds.

Hence the reason that the 120 full-time staff at Norway's NFU are continually trying to engage with not only their politicians, but also their consumers, as it is the electorate who will influence decisions.

Farmers beware as bluetongue is found

FARMERS in Scotland should remain watchful for signs of bluetongue virus following the detection of the condition in post-import checks in a number of cattle from France.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) successfully picked up the infected animals through the post-import testing regime.

The Scottish Government said action was being taken to ensure there was no spread of the disease. A spokesperson said: 'APHA is working closely with the livestock keepers affected to ensure that swift action is taken to prevent spread of the disease, with movement restrictions at affected premises, targeted surveillance and the humane culling of animals where necessary.'

Chief veterinary officer for Scotland Sheila Voas said: 'Bluetongue does not pose a threat to human health or food safety, but can have a severe impact on affected farms.'

'A total of 10 animals were imported from the same assembly centre in France – an area where multiple cases of bluetongue have been confirmed in recent times – and we are working closely with affected farms and stakeholders to contain the virus.'

'While I am pleased that our

robust disease surveillance procedures have worked, the identification offers a timely reminder to farmers for the need to remain vigilant and of the risks of importing animals from disease-affected areas into their herds.'

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick added: 'The discovery of bluetongue in imported cattle is a real concern for Scottish livestock keepers and underlines the need for vigilance, responsible sourcing and appropriate support and resources being directed to our veterinary surveillance system to monitor and stamp out the disease as soon as possible.'

'BTV8 virus has been spreading in France for some time. It was unlikely that the midge-borne infection would reach Scotland this year and that importation always presented the greatest risk. In that regard, our surveillance systems have proven robust but the reality is that infected animals arrived in the country.'

'Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and I remind all Scottish livestock keepers to seek veterinary advice on the disease and that suspected cases must be reported immediately to the divisional veterinary manager at the local Animal and Plant Health Office.'

Union calls for clear labelling on meat in supermarkets

NFU Scotland's latest shelf-watch, looking at almost 35,000 packs of pork, bacon and gammon in 47 supermarket stores, has found consumers often struggle to identify where the meat has come from.

Marks & Spencer, Co-op and Waitrose were the only supermarkets found to offer 100 per cent British pork, bacon and gammon. All other supermarkets were found to be stocking fresh and processed pork, bacon and gammon products from a wide range of different countries of origin, including

the UK, Denmark, Holland, Germany and Ireland.

Some own-label and branded products were labelled with more than one country of origin such as 'Germany and Holland' or even as broadly labelled as just 'EU'. All too often, packs had no clear indication of where the meat had actually come from.

NFU Scotland said it will be working with supermarkets to encourage them to take the lead from Marks & Spencer, Waitrose and the Co-op when it comes to country of origin

labelling. It makes sense for a business to be transparent with its consumers and offer them the choice they deserve.

NFU Scotland's food chain policy manager Lindsey Macdonald said: 'The lack of transparency found on some products, particularly processed goods, is alarming and is indicative of how little care is shown to label meat that is considered anything other than fresh meat.'

'It is a hard fact that the "last point of processing" oval on meat packaging does not tell customers where their meat

has actually come from. NFUS is calling on supermarkets and brands to clearly label the origin of all their pork, bacon and gammon products in order to help their customers make informed decisions without having to find the small print somewhere on the back of a pack of bacon. It should never be a guessing game or an assumption to establish where your meat has come from.'

'The shelfwatch survey also showed that fake farm branding remains a huge problem and contributes to confusion. As

an example, pig meat products bearing the Woodside Farm brand at Tesco were, when examined, found to be from various countries around the EU and not one single source.'

'I intend to work closely with the supermarkets falling short to help establish better transparency for customers and to celebrate those leading the way on provenance. I will also be liaising with other bodies to establish whether any breaches in labelling have occurred. NFUS continues to lobby for better country of origin labelling following Brexit.'

Pesticide use revealed

NINETY-EIGHT per cent of arable crops were treated with pesticide last year, with a combined weight of 1,490 tonnes, a new government survey into pesticide usage has revealed.

The figures were disclosed in three reports published by Scotland's chief statistician: pesticide use on arable crops and potato stores in 2016, pesticide use on soft fruit crops in 2016 and rodenticides on arable farms 2016.

Fungicides were the most frequently used pesticides on arable crops, followed by herbicides and insecticides. Overall, pesticide application was very similar to that reported in the previous survey in 2014.

For the first time information was collected about grower adoption of integrated pest

management (IPM) measures in relation to risk management, pest monitoring and pest control. In relation to pesticide use on stored potatoes, 47 per cent of seed potatoes and 11 per cent of ware potatoes were treated with a pesticide in 2016. These proportions are the same as reported in 2014.

Ninety four per cent of soft fruit crops in Scotland were treated with pesticides, with a total combined weight of 14.7 tonnes. Insecticides/acaricides and fungicides were the main pesticide types encountered.

Overall pesticide application was 32 per cent lower in 2016 than reported in 2014. Growers were using a variety of IPM methods in relation to risk management, pest monitoring and pest control.

Around the markets

DALMALLY – On Friday November 3 at Dalmailly Auction Mart, United Auctions sold 2,016 head of all classes lambs and sheep. A good turnout of buyers were in attendance resulting in the lambs averaging £28.24 (-£3.87 per head on the year). The entry of lambs consisted mainly of hill blackface lambs weighing 20 to 28 kilos. Breeding ewes were in keen demand.

Feeding ewes sold at levels comparing favourably to other principal mainland centres. Principal lots and prices: Top prices per head: Lambs: Suffix: £43.50 – Couston Farm. Rougex: £55.00 – Curacao. Texx: £57.50 – Drumachar. Chev: £55.00 – Ballard, Coll: £40.00 – Lochdochart. Cross: £52.00 – Glenshero : £51.00 – Curacao.

Mule: £50.00 – Ormsary. BF: £60.00 – Ormsary: £50.00 – Achnaba: £41.00 – Corrylorn; £40.50 – Fearnock; £40 – Brenachaille; £39 – Dunans; £35 – Glenfeochan. Ewes: Texx: £39.00 – Tombuie. Chev: £47.00 & £43.00 – Ardsheal : £42.00 – Ballard, Coll. Cross: £38.00 – Lochdochart & Duallin. BF: £47.00 & £45.00 – Auchreoch : £41.00 – Boreland Farms.

There was a good offering of quality stock in varying ages on offer which sold to a good following of mainland buyers. All classes of breeding and feeding cows sold well. Principal lots and prices: Top prices per head: Bulls: AAx: £1100 – Whitehouse (D Hayes): £1050 – Croish: £1000 – Whitehouse: £980 – Whitehouse(D Hayes): £910 – 6 Barrapol. BSHx: £850(2) – Croish. BRBx: £730 – Ruaig. Charx: £1100 – Braeside: £1060 – Drumaglea: £1030, £980(3), £960(2), £950(2), £920 – Heylipol Farm: £900 – Sandaig, Heylipol Farm(3) & Salum(3). Herx: £790 – Skipinnis. Limx: £1120 – Parkhouse: £1110 – Salum: £1070 – 7 Balinoo : £1050 – Parkhouse : £1040 – 9 Barrapol: £1030 – 6 Barrapol: £1000(2) – Salum: £990 – Hillcrest: £980 & £970 – Salum: £970 – Druimasaidh, Salum: £950 – Heylipol Farm & Parkhouse: £940 – Heylipol Farm: £930 – Lochphuil : £920 – Hillcrest: £910 – Heylipol Farm. Salx: £1080 – 6 Crossapol: £990 & £910 – Drumaglea: £900 – 6 Crossapol. Simx: £950(3) – Middleton Farm. Heifers: AAx: £950, £890 & £880 – Whitehouse (D Hayes): £880 – White-

house. BSHx: £1040 (2) – Croish. Charx: £970 – Drumaglea: £930 – Garaphail: £890(6) – Heylipol Farm: £870(2) – Salum. Herx: £740 – Whitehouse. Limx: £1000 – Parkhouse: £980 – Salum: £970 – 6 Barrapol: £960(2) – Salum: £920 – Parkhouse : £910 – Braeside: £900 – Druimasaidh. Salx: £990 – Parkhouse: £980 & £880(2) – Drumaglea. Simx: £900 – Lochphuil : £840 – 9 Barrapol. Cast cows: £1150, £1050 & £1000 – Heylipol Farm: £980 – Parkhouse: £970 – 6 Barrapol: £920 – Whitehouse : £900 – Parkhouse. In-calf cows: £1180 – Drumaglea : £1070 – Benview. Top prices per kilo: Bulls: AAx: £250p(6) & £238p – Scarinish Farm : 237p(5) – Whitehouse. BRBx: £260p & £237p – Ruaig. Charx: £288p, £274p(3) & £262p(2) – Heylipol Farm: £259p – Garaphail: £258p(5) & £254p – Heylipol Farm: £253p(2) – Garaphail: £252p – Heylipol Farm: £249p(2) – Garaphail : £247p(3) – Salum. Limx: £276p – 1 Kilkenneth: £274p – Heylipol Farm: £266p – Garaphail: £265p – 1 Kilkenneth: £262p – Vault: £261p – 1 Kilkenneth & Ruaig:

260p(4) – Heylipol Farm: £258p Hillcrest(5), Heylipol Farm & Mainroad: £255p – Vault(2) & Mainroad: £254p – Heylipol Farm: £253p – Hillcrest, Heylipol Farm(4), Mannal & Mainroad: £251p – Hillcrest(3) & 1 Kilkenneth: £250p(3) – 5 Balevullin: £250p – Salx: £257p(2) – 6 Crossapol: £253p(4) – 5 Balevullin: £250p – Lochside. Simx: £262p & £244p(2) – Ruaig. Heifers: AAx: £228p – 6 Balevullin. BSHx: £212p – Croish. BRBx: £264p – 2 Heylipol. Charx: £296p – Garaphail: £258p(12) & £254p(2) – Heylipol Farm: £252p(2) – Salum: £247p(3), £246p(4) & £243p(2) – Heylipol Farm. Limx: £299p – Mannal : £260p – Salum: £253p(7) – Parkhouse: £251p – Ruaig : £250p(2) – Heylipol Farm: £247p – Mannal: £245p(2) & £243p – Hillcrest. Salx: £250p(5) – 10 Balevullin: £243p(3) – 6 Crossapol: £238p(3) – Lochside. Simx: £269p(2) & £258p – Ruaig. Cast cows: £39p – Parkhouse: £36p – Braeside: £32p – Whitehouse: £32p, £31p & £28p – Heylipol Farm: £23p – Parkhouse: £21p & 1 Kilkenneth: £21p – Heylipol Farm: £20p – Benview.

Soil, Muck and Money

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Event supported by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

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Bring your own soil for analysis at a hands on session.

Speakers: Charlie Morgan, GrassMaster and Liz Stockdale, NIAB.

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Booking is required.

Call Jane on 0131 666 2474 or email jdingwall@soilassociation.org



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Protect your pipes before cold weather this winter



SCOTTISH Water and STV weather forecaster Sean Batty are urging homeowners and businesses to make sure they are winter-ready by protecting properties against freezing temperatures.

The water cycle can be kept running this winter by following a simple code to protect pipes, and prevent them becoming frozen during any cold spells.

Scottish Water's winter campaign is launched today and focuses on reminding property owners that water pipes can be at risk if the temperature falls below freezing. A three-step guide can prevent the misery, inconvenience and cost of frozen pipes.

The Scottish Water Winter Code advises anyone with a home, holiday home or business premises to take action to heat, insulate and protect their properties, whether the property is old or new, ahead of any cold weather.

The campaign is again supported by weather presenter Sean Batty who said: 'Recent experience tells us that we must be prepared for all the elements that can be thrown at us during the winter months. It's important that sensible and simple actions are taken to protect our homes and businesses against Mother Nature.'

'The winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11 were characterised by cold, snowy conditions, which brought numerous problems across the country. Since then, we have avoided really cold conditions but instead we've had milder and stormier weather which, of course, brings its own issues.'

'In our most recent winters, we've had more storm and flood damage as opposed to ice and snow. From summer 2016 to summer 2017 only 131 weather warnings in total were issued by the Met Office for Scotland, but in the previous year there were 338 issued over the same period.'

'In 2016/17 there were six amber warnings issued compared to 34 in 2015/16. So, in the last eight years we've had some quiet years, severe cold and ice and severe storms and floods.'

Scottish Water's Chief Operating Officer Peter Farrer, said: 'Anyone who has returned to their house or work to find everything ankle deep in freezing water with carpets, furniture and equipment all ruined, will know only too well of the misery a burst pipe in winter can cause.'

'But by taking action to heat, insulate and protect properties, customers can avoid the considerable headache and heartache caused by burst pipes. We want to work with our customers to ensure we are all prepared for whatever winter weather we get.'

'Preventing frozen pipes also means we all play a part in ensuring the water cycle never stops. Water is a precious resource and Scottish Water puts a lot of work into keeping it that way. Water pouring straight back into the drains as a result of a burst pipe that could have been prevented costs us all money.'

The key advice in our winter code is: Heat: Warmth offers the best protection against frozen pipes, so when temperatures are low leave your heating on a low setting, or set it to come on a couple of times a day.

Insulate: Pipes don't like the cold - whether they are outdoor or indoor, metal or plastic, new or old. Making sure pipes and water tanks are properly insulated is one of the simplest, and cheapest, things which can be done to help protect properties from the cold. Make sure that there are no gaps at bends, valves or fitting, and that you use a suitable insulation material.

Protect: If you are going away, make sure you have someone who can check regularly for any problems. Dripping water increases the risk of freezing, so have any drips or leaks at taps or valves repaired as soon as you discover them, and reduce draughts by fitting draught excluders to doors and windows. If the property is going to be vacant over winter, turn off the water

supply and drain the system.

Even when your home or property is winter ready sometimes damages can happen, so make sure you have adequate buildings and contents insurance.

As property owners prepare to close up their cottages and cabins for winter, Scottish Water is also urging holiday home owners to follow the winter code. If your home or property is going to be vacant over the winter months, turn off your water supply and drain the system - a licensed plumber will be able to give advice about this.

Other important winter advice includes tips on finding and using your stop valve, keeping a small emergency pack handy, and be a good neighbour and keep an eye out for your neighbours including the elderly and those who might need additional support.

VisitScotland is backing Scottish Water's advice to holiday home owners.

Riddell Graham, director of partnerships for VisitScotland, said: 'With its beautiful landscapes, world-class attractions and wide array of events throughout the year, Scotland is a fantastic holiday destination regardless of the season. It is imperative that visitors stay in quality accommodation which meets their requirements.'

'Therefore, during the colder months, holiday home owners must be prepared for a sudden change in temperature to help prevent any unwelcome surprises when visitors arrive at their properties. Scotland in winter is a wonderful

time of year and we want everyone to be able to experience it in the best way possible. Property owners need to do what they can to not only meet visitor expectations, but exceed them.'

Scottish Water is also offering a free quick reminder stop valve sticker, where you can write the name and contact number of your local licensed plumber so that it is handy in case of an emergency.

As one of the largest businesses in Scotland, Scottish Water is also taking steps across its operation to ensure it is well equipped to continue delivering the best service it can in the event of a severe winter. Its employees work around the clock to maintain drinking water supplies to 2.5 million households and 156,000 business premises.

Visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter for more winter information, advice and films.

For the free stop valve sticker: Email customermarketing@scottishwater.co.uk, or write to Customer Marketing, Free Stop Valve Sticker, PO Box 8855, Edinburgh EH10 6YQ

Follow Scottish Water on Twitter @scottish_water and Facebook [facebook.com/scottishwater](https://www.facebook.com/scottishwater) and use hashtag #SWwinter

Customers can also sign up to receive free texts (SMS)* to keep up to date about its work or service updates, such as having no water supply, in your area - please text 'Update' with your postcode to 82228. * For more info and T&Cs visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/textterms.

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IT IS NOW MORE THAN A DECADE SINCE THE LAST RISE IN INTEREST RATES. THAT OCCURRED IN JULY 2007.

last summer a bonus, having factored in the benefits of a 0.5 per cent rate that had been constant for more than seven years.

For those who have taken out a buy-to-let mortgage since the 0.25 per cent rate was set, the thinking may be very different. In this case, the rise may well have to be passed on, not least because the original rationale for the cut last year - that the economy would perform poorly after the vote and thus hold inflation down - turned out to be incorrect. Some would have taken out the buy-to-let mortgage in the expectation that 0.25 per cent would be a longer-term 'normal' in the way that 0.5 per cent had been.

Higher rates also mean mortgages for owner-occupiers will be more expensive, and that may just deter some first-time buyers, ensuring they either remain in the rental properties they are already living in, or choose to rent.

Landlords and potential home-buyers will want to plan for the future with some idea of how the situation might unfold. The lesson of recent history has been that two very different scenarios are possible - either rapid change as happened when rates plunged in the crisis of 2007-08, or a long period of status quo, as with the seven-year spell of 0.5 per cent.

However, neither of these extremes is likely to characterise the near future. In its statement, the Bank of England said: 'All members agree that any future increases in bank rate would be expected to be at a gradual pace and to a limited extent.'

The base rate actually stayed at five per cent through the first year of the credit crunch, but it was swiftly cut after the crisis deepened in the autumn of 2008 with the fall of Lehman Brothers and the emergency nationalisation of banks all over the western world. By March 2009 the base rate was cut to 0.5 per cent, where it stayed until a further reduction to 0.25 per cent last August in the wake of the Brexit vote.

A consequence of long-term low interest rates has been a cheaper cost of borrowing. This has been beneficial to those with mortgages, including landlords. The increase in rates announced last week (on Thursday November 2) means many of mortgages will now cost more.

For landlords, the question is whether to pass that extra cost on to tenants. Part of that decision may be linked to whether they simply considered the lower rate after

PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

BURNBANK HOUSE & COTTAGE, ISLE OF MULL

- Large Detached House
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms/1 WC
- Separate Holiday Let Cottage
- Spectacular Sea Views
- Newly Upgraded Roof & Gutters
- EPC Rating: E43

OIRO £350,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a large detached house and modern cottage the heart of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Burnbank House and Burnbank Cottage are centrally located on the historic Breadalbane Street in the pretty town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. These properties offer a unique opportunity with a sizeable family home with the addition of a manageable holiday let close by. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this property!

THE KNOLL, OBAN

- Detached Victorian Villa
- 3 Bedrooms/ 2 Bathrooms
- Elevated situation above Oban Bay
- Large docking with views across Oban Bay
- Extensively renovated throughout
- EPC Rating: D

OIRO £340,000

A beautiful detached Victorian villa with stunning views across Oban Bay. The property retains many of its original features and has been renovated to a high standard by the current owner. On the ground floor, the generous reception rooms to the front are bright spaces, bathed in natural light owing to the large sash windows and high ceilings. The bay window in the lounge is a delightful place to sit and enjoy the views towards Oban Bay and the islands of Kerrera and Mull.

GLENELG, TOBERMORY

- Mid Terraced House
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms
- Detached Workshop
- Central location
- Walking distance to amenities
- EPC Rating: F(5)

OIRO £230,000

A deceptively spacious 5 bedroom mid-terrace house in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. The property comprises a small porch which leads to a spacious lounge dining room on the ground floor with the kitchen and family bathroom at the rear. Upstairs there are 5 bedrooms with 1 ensuite shower room. This property benefits from having a sizeable detached workshop at the rear of the garden which could be used as a studio or large home office.

BURNSIDE, APPIN

- Detached Bungalow
- 6 Bedrooms/2 shower rooms
- Stunning views across loch to Castle Stalker
- Private situation with sizeable garden
- In need of modernisation
- EPC Rating: F

OIRO £225,000

A well-proportioned detached bungalow situated in a sizeable garden and enjoying far reaching views across Appin towards Castle Stalker. In need of modernisation the property offers six double bedrooms, two shower rooms, a large open reception room with lounge area with a large window, where far reaching sea views can be enjoyed. The kitchen offers plentiful storage cupboards and a dining area. Heating and hot water is provided via an LPG fired boiler located in the kitchen with large external storage tank located within the boundary.

FLAT 2C BURNBANK TERRACE, OBAN

- First Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: C (71)
- LL REG: 149590/130/06310

PCM £560

A spacious, unfurnished flat located on Breadalbane Street in Oban Town centre, just a moments walk to the main high street. The property comprises of 2 double bedrooms, WC, separate shower room with shower, kitchen with built in gas hob and dining area and large lounge with gas fire. Neutral decor and carpets throughout. Deposit and Full references required. Available January 2018.

42 COMBIE STREET, OBAN

- Ground Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Part Furnished B
- Long Term Let
- EPC E (52)
- LL Reg: 290857/130/18421

PCM £550

Spacious, 2 bedroom flat in Oban Town centre. This part furnished property is located on the ground floor and comprises two sizeable double bedrooms, generous living room, bathroom with built in shower and kitchen with white goods. Perfect for professionals, couples or small family. Available now. Deposit and full references required.

21 GLENFOOT TERRACE, OBAN

- 1st Floor Flat
- Unfurnished with White Goods
- 1 bedroom 1 bathroom
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: C/B
- LL Reg: Pending Approval ARG-0104934-17

PCM £460

Cosy one bedroom unfurnished flat. This first floor property is in Oban town centre with on street parking. The flat comprises of a kitchen open plan with lounge, separate double bedroom and shower bathroom. There is plentiful storage within the flat and white goods will include a washing machine, oven/hob. Outside the property there is a shared back green with rotary drive. Deposit and full references required. Available now.

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PCM £455

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- 14/14 Kia Sportage 2 ISG** £11,995
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- 14/14 Skoda Yeti Outdoor Elegance TDI CR** £11,495
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- 14/14 Peugeot Partner Teepee Outdoor HDI** £8,995
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- 14/14 Vauxhall Corsa SRI** £7,495
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- 14/14 Vauxhall Corsa Limited Edition** £6,995
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- 12/12 Vauxhall Antara SE CDTI 4X4**..... £7,795
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- 07/57 Volkswagen Golf GT Sport TSI 170** £3,995
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- 15/65 Vauxhall Vivaro 2900 L1H1 CDTI Sportive** £10,795+vat
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- 14/64 Renault Kangoo ML19 DCI** £5,495+vat
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Closing date: Friday 17th November

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There's the real opportunity to develop your career, plus excellent benefits including pension and online discounts on a range of corporate products.

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Cooke Aquaculture Scotland

Refusing to go with the flow

Vacancy: Assistant Freshwater Manager

Location: Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon
Details: Full Time, Permanent

The Company
Founded in 1985 in Canada, Cooke Aquaculture has grown from a small family business to the world's largest independent, fully-integrated producer of Atlantic salmon and related products. The company remains family owned with operations throughout Canada, USA, Chile, Spain and the UK.

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland is committed to responsible and sustainable production and the delivery of high quality products through a number of accreditations. Healthy vibrant families and our coastal communities are important to us and are the backbone of our success.

The Role
We are currently seeking candidates to take on the position of Assistant Freshwater Manager at our Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all.

The Requirements
The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years' experience in all aspects of Freshwater production. Candidates, in conjunction with the Freshwater Manager, must be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment by delivering the highest standard of operation. Candidates should be active, self-motivated, mature minded individuals with excellent team working and communication skills. Computer literacy and a technical aptitude would be advantageous, as is possession of a current driving licence.

The Terms
In return, we offer a highly competitive salary, employer pension contribution, company bonus scheme and salary sacrifice programmes.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position and contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your covering letter and CV to krystal.flett@cookeaqua.com by 1500 hours on 14 November 2017.

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Lochgilthead Ref: DVR00966

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Closing date: Friday 17 November 2017

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If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

This post will be subject to a Basic Disclosure Scotland check. CVs are not accepted.

For more information, please contact Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive on 01546 605921 or email alastair.macgregor@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 17th November 2017

Interviews will be held in Helensburgh on Monday 4th December 2017

Forestry Commission Scotland

Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Woodland Officer, Oban

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Diocesan Secretary (£18,000 P/A)

The RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles is recruiting a Diocesan Secretary, based in the Diocesan Offices in Oban. This is an important full-time post (35 hrs), which will provide full secretarial support to the Bishop as well as admin and secretarial support to the Diocesan and Curia Offices. This role will also support Parishes across the Diocese and will be required to carry out all duties in accordance with the relevant aspects of the Code of Canon Law. The post holder will be responsible for various tasks including managing diaries and travel arrangements, general correspondence and telephone enquiries. The successful candidate will have excellent secretarial and IT skills. All applicants must be willing to work within a Christian framework and be sensitive to its ethos. An Application Form and detailed Job Description/Person Specification can be obtained by emailing the Vicar General at FrRoddyJohnston@aol.com.

Completed application forms should be returned by post to: Rev. Roddy Johnston VG, Our Holy Redeemer Church, 71 Kenneth Street, Stornoway. HS1 2DS. Closing date: 5pm, Friday 24 Nov. 2017. Interviews: 12 Dec. 2017.

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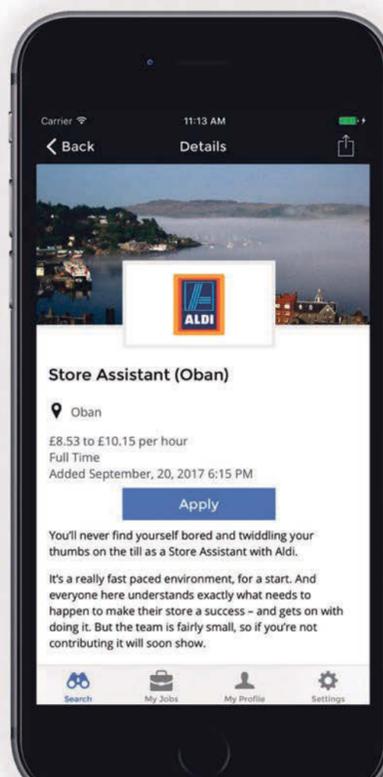
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Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share(s)

Joan MacGillivray is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazings share(s) pertaining to the croft at 56, 58 and 59 Banavie (share) to Donna MacGillivray of Arkaig Cottage, Banavie, Fort William. If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email 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.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr Alexander John MacKay Campbell has registered the Croft 1/2 117 Banavie, Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 9th August 2018 and by contacting McIntyre & Co, Solicitors, 38 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AT. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1999.

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
INSTALLATION OF FINFISH FARM, ISLE OF RUM**

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the installation of a new finfish farm at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Isle of Rum	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
57° 2.56 N	-6° 16.39 W	
57° 2.58 N	-6° 16.37 W	
57° 2.68 N	-6° 16.71 W	
57° 2.45 N	-6° 15.96 W	
57° 2.70 N	-6° 15.72 W	
57° 2.91 N	-6° 16.46 W	
57° 2.57 N	-6° 16.34 W	
57° 2.55 N	-6° 16.36 W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected from the 6th November 2017 at The Post Office and Spar, Mallaig, Inverness-shire, PH41 4PU (Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri - 09:00-17:30 & Wed & Sat - 09:00-13:00) and The Isle of Rum Shop, Isle of Rum.

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference:

MCMS No. 06424

Applicant: Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (ARDACHY) (TEMPORARY VEHICLE WIDTH RESTRICTION) ORDER 2017

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 on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point 150 metres or thereby southwest of the junction with the Ardachy access road in a generally southwestwardly direction to a point about 1.1 kilometres or thereby southwestwards of that junction, a distance of 950 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate works on that length of trunk road, will be in operation from 13th November 2017 until 25th November 2017 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to a vehicle while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes or to a vehicle being used for carrying out the works.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The alternative routes for traffic during the prohibition will be signposted. Detailed descriptions can also be obtained at BEAR Scotland Limited, BEAR House, Inverlismond Road, Inverlismond Industrial Estate, Perth PH1 3TW.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

F BROWN

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.



Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02635/PP	Formation of black bee project, erection of dwellinghouse and workshop (Class 4), formation of vehicular access and installation of private drainage system	Land North Of Ballard Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
17/02744/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 25 metres high lattice tower and formation of access track	Land North East Of Catnish (Off The B8074) Glen Orchy Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/02742/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of ground mounted solar array and conversion of existing steading for use as a domestic store/workshop	Steadings North East Of Sheepknowe House Bunnassan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
17/02580/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse to form additional dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and change of use of vacant land to form parking area	An Caladh Bavevullin Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XD	Tiree Area Office
17/02639/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of access.	Tromlee Plot 1 Ballimore Estate Kilchrenan Argyll	Sub Post Office Taynult
17/02583/PP	Renovation of thatched terrace to form additional dwellinghouse	Cnoc Bhiosta Kilmaluig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XB	Tiree Area Office
17/02581/LIB	Renovation of thatched terrace to form additional dwellinghouse	Cnoc Bhiosta Kilmaluig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XB	Tiree Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

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Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
17/05015/PIP	Camus Na Gualainn, Roshven, Glenuig,Lochalort		Erection of house, installation of treatment plant and soakaway
17/03703/FUL	Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Alterations & extension of Hotel, Landscaping and upgrade of drainage system (Amended Design)
17/05038/FUL	Scottish Whisky & Craft Centre, 137-139 High Street, Fort William		Demolition of existing Scottish Whisky and Craft Centre and Erection of 12 self-contained flats with shared circulation area and associated car parking (amended design to 16/03947/FUL)
17/04960/FUL	Site 90M North West of 13 Old Golf Course, Kilchoan		Erection of house
17/04937/FUL	Glencoe Independent Hostel, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Installation of bulk LPG tanks
17/05103/S42	Ben View Hotel, Strontian, Acharacle		Removal of Condition 1 of Planning Consent LO/1994/0518 to allow use of cottages as dwellings
17/04974/FUL	Signal Rock Cottage, Torren, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Erection of extension to form self contained unit (amended design to 16/04746/FUL)
17/05104/FUL	Old Boathouse, Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge		Erection of house and demolition of boat house
17/03923/FUL	Salen Hotel, Salen, Acharacle		Alterations to provide two letting bedrooms with associated fire escape stair, alterations to Fraser's Cottage and replacement of existing chalet with new letting accommodation

Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/05038/FUL is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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**The Misses Nisbet Educational Trust -
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The above is a Charitable Trust established by the late Kenneth Nisbet Mure QC of Glasgow and the Isle of Tiree. The Trust purpose is the advancement of education, and that for the benefit of residents, of the Isle of Tiree, and in particular those who have attended school in Tiree, and such other persons who, in the opinion of the Trustees, have a substantial, personal or family connection with Tiree.

The Trustees now invite applications from any person who considers that he or she may have eligibility to a grant or interest fee loan from the Trust in the pursuit of higher or further education. Application forms may be obtained by contacting Murdoch C Beaton of Low Beaton Richmond LLP, Solicitors, 20 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 5AP - 0141 221 8931 - murdoch@lbr-law.co.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (SPECIAL EVENT)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

On Monday 6th November 2017, Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 16(A) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers under Section 16(B)(6)(b) of the said Act, made the above named Order, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period it will be unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the switching on of the Christmas lights on or near those roads.

The Order, which is necessary to facilitate the holding of the event, shall have effect when indicated by signs between 1400 hours and 2000 hours on Saturday 18th November 2017.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services,
1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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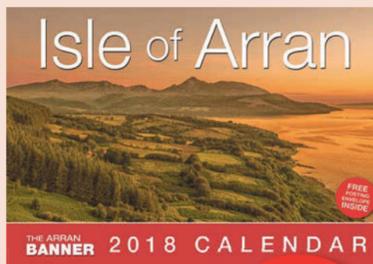
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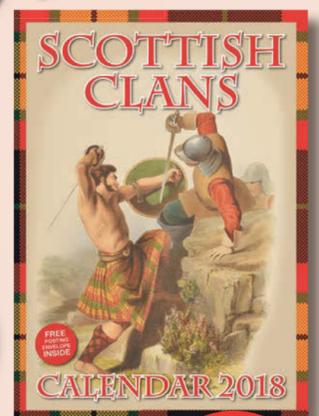
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HIGH CHAIR Child's folding high backed high chair incorporating tray, rarely used and in excellent condition. Yellow in colour, £15 Tel 01631 562750².

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CHRISTMAS

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DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

DYSON DC24 light-weight ball, good working order, £60 Telephone 01499 500621 or 07881 674301.

HALOGEN OVEN with recipe book, plus halogen extension ring, £50 Telephone 01499 500621 or 07881 674301.

S/H NILFISK "HENRY" SIZE & T quality item, stainless steel finish. Commercial grade now surplus to requirements. View and collect from Bellochantuy, Campbeltown, £18 Telephone 01583 421025.

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FURNITURE

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3 PIECE LOUNGE SUITE 3 seater settee and armchairs. "Cottage" type with floral tapestry type covers. Clean condition. Located Bellochantuy, Campbeltown, £75 Telephone 01583 421025.

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Happy 60th Birthday

Roddy MacIsaac
Love and Best Wishes
From Tootsy and the family

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully in an East Lothian Care Home on November 1, 2017 aged 96, wonderfully independent and courageous to the last, Dugald McLarty Campbell beloved husband of the late Elizabeth (Betty) MacSwan, dear father of Diarmid and Evelyn, a much loved grandad to five and great-grandad to three.

FRASER - Anne. Beloved daughter of Jessie Fraser, Oban and the late Archie Fraser. Peacefully at home on October 31. Cherished always by Stewart, Catriona, Bill and her nieces and nephews. Now enjoying freedom in a better place.

MACKINNON - Peacefully at home on October 31, 2017, surrounded by his family, Willie, dear husband of the late Mary and much loved dad to Fiona, Robert and Janet, a dear father-in-law to Ronnie, Shona and Duncan and adored grampa to Alan, Julie, Robbie, Mairi, Jamie and Karina, a dear brother-in-law to Meg and Jessie. Uncle to the family.

MACLACHLAN - Peacefully, at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on November 5, 2017, Anne MacLachlan, née MacNab, former Sister at Ward 2, Gartnavel Royal Hospital, Glasgow, and much respected nurse at Argyll and Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead, in her 79th year, beloved wife of the late John MacLachlan, dearly loved daughter of the late John and Mary MacNab, much loved sister of James and the late John and Archie, and a wonderful aunt to all the family. Funeral service at Tarbert Free Church, on Thursday, November 9, at 11.00am, interment thereafter at Achnabreac Cemetery, Lochgilphead, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Tarbert Free Church, MS Centre, Mid Argyll and Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead.

HENRY - (Strathpeffer) Peacefully at home on November 3, 2017, Stewart Henry, aged 72 years, RIP, formerly of Kent, beloved husband of Angela, loving son of the late Archibald and Beatrice Henry of Lochaline, also a dear brother-in-law and uncle. Funeral service on Monday November 13, at 12.30pm in St Lawrence R C Church, Dingwall to which all friends are respectfully invited; thereafter cremation private. Mourners are invited to dress informally. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the Renal Unit, Raigmore Hospital may be given at the service or forwarded to the Funeral Directors, John Fraser & Son, Lovat House, High Street, Dingwall, IV15 9TF.

MACFARLANE - Donald. Formerly of Spean Bridge. Peacefully at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester on November 2, 2017, aged 91. Loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. A Requiem Mass will be held on November 13, at The Sacred Heart Church Loughborough and memorial service to celebrate his life will be arranged locally early in the New Year.

MACKENZIE - (Scotsburn). So very sadly, after a long and incredibly brave battle against her illness, Kathleen MacKenzie (nee Batchen) passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday November 1, 2017. A dearly loved wife of William (Billy/Willie) MacKenzie of Lamington, Invergornton, a wonderful mother of Sandy, Colin, Kenneth and Morven and an adored granny to Eilidh,

Morven, Caitlin, William, Callum, Logan, Ruairidh, Mairead, Mhairi, Tegan and Jenny. Funeral service will be held in Inshes Church of Scotland, Inverness on Thursday, November 16, 2017, commencing at 11.30 a.m., thereafter to Foyers Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but a donation, if so desired, can be made at the service to Raigmore Hospital Oncology and Heamatology departments. Enquiries to Mairi Russell Funeral Services. Tel: 01349 880901

McVEY - Flora (Morven) Edinburgh/Lochaline. At Strachan House Care Home, Edinburgh, on November 2, 2017, Morven, beloved wife of the late William, mother of Aline and Donnie, grandmother of Nathan, sister of the late Allan Robertson, aunt of Lindsay and Donna. There will be a Thanksgiving Service at Davidsons Mains Parish Church, on Tuesday, November 14 at 11am and interment thereafter at Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban on Wednesday November 15 at 11am. Oidhche Mhath and beannaich dia thu

SCOTT - Suddenly but peacefully at the Q.E.U Hospital in Glasgow on November 4, 2017, Alexandra Ray née Robertson (Sandra). Darling wife to Kevin, devoted and loving mummy to Oran and Carla, dear sister to Janice, caring auntie and friend to many.

WILSON - Suddenly at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on November 5, 2017, Joe Wilson, aged 71 years, 23 Lochiel Road, Inverness, a much loved father, grandfather, brother, brother in law and uncle. Retired Janitor at St John's Primary School, Caol. Funeral Service on Tuesday, November 14, at 11am at Inverness Crematorium. All welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland. A reception will be held in Caol Community Centre at 2pm. Arrangements by D. Chisholm & Sons.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

GOODBRAND - Ann and family, Anne, Sandy and family, would like to thank all extended family friends and neighbours for all their kindness and support during the sudden loss of Campbell. A special thanks to the emergency services, Rev D Cameron, Monsignor J MacNeil, Hamish Hoey, The Argyllshire Gatherings and finally to Campbell's close friends. A retail collection raised £742 which will be donated to the British Heart Foundation.

DIXON - Sheila, Alastair, Karen, Mairi and their families would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and associates for their many kinds expressions of sympathy, support, flowers, cards, phone calls, visits and offers of help received following the recent sad loss of Bruce. Special thanks to ambulance staff, doctors, along with the staff of Dalmally Mart, for their valiant efforts to help Bruce. Our thanks are also extended to Belinda Braithwaite for a personal and appropriate service; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for dignified funeral arrangements; to Graham Brown for his attendance and assistance; and to the Kilmartin Hotel for providing all catering and staff, particularly given the large numbers in attendance. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at church, marquee and graveside, in such large numbers, to pay their respects to Bruce and the family. Your

support has been greatly appreciated. The retail collection has raised over £1,600 for the Mid Argyll Show and RSABI.

MULLANAY - Rita along with the Toal and Mullaney families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for cards, mass cards, flowers and many kind expressions of sympathy and support following the sad passing of John. Special thanks to medical and nursing staff ward 7C Raigmore for their care and attention to John. To Bishop Joe, Father Danny Convery and Deacon Vincent for spiritual support and an uplifting Requiem Mass. To Margaret and the choir, Sean for piping and Charlie for attending to the grave. To Mike McFall and staff for their kind and professional care. Finally to all who came and paid their last respects especially those that travelled from Ireland, Canada and London. The sum of £600 was donated to the upkeep of Cille Choirill Cemetery.

MEMORIAMS

CAMERON - In loving memory of Christine, November 7, 2015, a loving wife to Ian, a loving mother to Daniel, Jamie and Lewis and a great friend to everyone who knew her. Love forever.

CAMERON - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day. No longer in our life to share, But in our hearts, she's always there.

- Your loving family: Allan, Catherine, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who passed away at Kilmalieu on November 10, 2000. Sadly missed MacKechnie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balfron

DICKSON - In loving memory of Annabel who died November 13, 2016, a devoted wife to Hugh, a loving mother to John, Norman and Alison and a lovely gran to Ainsley, Karen, Euan and Lucy. Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Hugh, John, Norman, Alison and grandchildren.

DRUMMOND - In loving memory of my daughter Mary McGhee, who died November 9, 2012. Sorely missed, never forgotten. - Dad and Jane.

DUFF - In loving memory of Caroline, a dearly loved wife and mum, who died November 7, 2016. My heart is full of memories With pride I speak your name Though life goes on without you It will never be the same - Your loving husband Ian.

DUNCAN - Treasured memories of my beloved husband Howard, who was called to rest on November 12, 2001. This day I shall always remember with heartache tears and regret It's the day you were taken from me, how could I ever forget - Love always Chrissie x

GRANT - John Duncan (Iain). Treasured memories of our much loved brother, who passed on November 4, 2008. You are in our thoughts every day and we miss you x - Love Margaret, Neil and families

LOVE - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grampa Bob, who passed away on November 12, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Anne, Elizabeth and family.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear parents Bertie, who died on November 11, 1989 and Agnes, who died on January 29, 2011. Always in our thoughts. Also remembering Uncle Jack who died on November 17, 1993. - The MacKay families, Oban and Gillies family, Lochgilphead.

MITCHELL - November 13, 2014. Precious memories of a special wife, mum and granny. If we could have a lifetime wish A dream that would come true We'd pray to God with all our hearts For yesterday and you

A thousand words cant bring you back We know because we've tried And neither will a thousand tears We know because we've cried You left behind our broken hearts And happy memories too But we never wanted memories we only wanted you. Forever in our thoughts Love and miss you always - Your loving family Stewart, Diane, Greig and Tracy.

PARKINSON - Treasured memories of a dear dad and pop Arthur (Scouse) who passed away November 12, 1990. To lose someone so special Has caused us so much pain We knew our lives from that day on, would never be the same - Peggy, Alistair and family x

PEARSON - Proud and precious memories of our Garry, much loved Dada, son and brother taken from us so tragically on November 13, 1999, aged 22 years. The laughs we shared, the giggles we had Times when good, times when bad Hold onto memories, don't let them fade We'll treasure you for all our days. In our thoughts now and forever. - All the family.

WHITEHEAD - In loving memory of our beloved dad Walter Whitehead, died November 8, 2006. You gave us many things in life Gifts both great and small But most of all you gave us love The greatest gift of all Love and missed always. - Christine, Alistair, Elizabeth, Michael, Fiona and family.



GRADUATION



INNES NEIL MACQUEEN Graduated from Sabhal mòr Ostaig, Island of Skye with a BA in Gaelic and Development. Innes is the son of Neil and Julie MacQueen, Cullipool, Luig. Only grandson of Hugh and Ann MacQueen, Cullipool, Luig and the younger grandson of Christina and the late Ronald Chapman, Oban. Innes is furthering his education at Strathclyde University, Glasgow where he is studying a PGDE in Gaelic Primary Education.

Nominate an inspirational Argyll young person



DO YOU know a young person in Argyll and Bute, aged between 11 and 26 years, who is truly inspirational?

Now is your chance to let them know how great they are by nominating them for an Argyll and Bute Award. These awards celebrate the achievements of the area's young people and nominating someone couldn't be easier. All you have to do is visit <https://form.jotformeu.com/RoannaC/ab-award-nomination-form>. If you require help completing the form, or would like a paper copy, call 01546 604752. Nominations close at midnight on Friday November 17.

The award categories are as follows: Unsung hero award: Do you know a young person who goes the extra mile every day but never asks for any recognition or reward? Someone who has overcome difficult circumstances or risen to a challenge? Or have they achieved something in the face of adversity? We are calling on you to nominate a young person or group who deserves this award.

Youth entrepreneur award: This award category is for young people who have demonstrated entrepreneurial and business skills in the commercial or third sector. Tell us how they have built up knowledge and skills and used them to shine in the workplace.

Youth volunteering award: A volunteer is someone who gives up their time and energy free of charge to help others - proving a little bit of effort can make a huge difference to many causes.

Health and wellbeing award: Can you think of a young person, or group, involved in tackling issues such as smoking, alcohol or mental health? If you know someone who has helped and encouraged others to lead a healthier lifestyle, nominate them now. Youth citizenship award: This award celebrates the work accomplished by a young person, or group, who improves the lives of people within their community. Your nominee may have demonstrated good citizenship by influencing decision-making at local government level, participated in local action which has made a huge difference for others in their community.

Youth arts award: Passionate about sculpture,

the theatre, opera, photography or film? This is your opportunity to celebrate a love of culture. Who has made a difference to their local community by sharing their time or creations? Sporting award: Do you know someone who through their hard efforts and determination has achieved extraordinary sporting achievements? Or perhaps someone who spends their free time training others in a sport they love? Leader of Argyll and Bute Council Aileen Morton said: '2018 is the Year of Young People and what better way to kick it off than by holding our annual youth awards? 'There are hundreds of young people across Argyll and Bute who deserve recognition for their achievements and for the valuable contributions that they make to their local communities. 'These awards will showcase the finest young talents that Argyll and Bute has to offer and I would urge people to get nominating now.'

The awards ceremony will take place on January 31, 2018, in the Victoria Halls, Helensburgh.

Thought for the week

Remembrance is the theme of the month of November.

THE SECULAR acts of Remembrance at cenotaphs throughout the country, 'remember' those who have given their lives in the cause of peace and justice in armed conflicts, especially in two world wars.

These acts of Remembrance take up the Christian theme of All Saints and All Souls which have dominated this month throughout the Christian era. Indeed, our concept of Remembrance is based on the Hebrew ideal of the Old Testament that we put

back together the elements of our story, to recognise today where we have come from. To recognise the truth of who and what we are and to recognise the presence of the God who is love, in our story. Jesus lived and died and rose again to prove God is with us in the love we share in the joy of affection and warmth, which helps us makes sense of the cross of anger, guilt, regret and the tomb of disappointment. The reason the centenary of the First World War is

so important is that it is only at this distance that we can actually face the truth of the suffering of that and all wars. There must be no amnesia or sentimentality. Only when we truly remember can we forgive in love. Love, which recognises that forgiveness means giving up hope of changing the past.

The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

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MacCrone delighted with 10th place finish in Wales Rally GB

MULL'S John MacCrone bagged a top 10 finish in what was acknowledged as the strongest WRC2 field to tackle the Wales Rally GB. The 28-year-old, returning to rally action in the forest stages for the first time in 14 months, was delighted with his performance.

'I'm definitely happy,' said MacCrone, partnered by US-based Australian co-driver Rhianon Gelsomino through the 21 stages and 190 competitive miles in their Ford Fiesta R5, prepared by Kelso's Dom Buckley RSC.

'It's difficult, having not been in a rally car — or even a rally environment — for more than a year, to just jump in a four-

Rallying

wheel drive rally car and be on the pace. Plus I hadn't even sat in a left-hand drive car for more than a year.

'But we achieved our targets, and there were a number of big names, and guys who had done the full WRC2 or British Rally Championship, that finished behind us.

'If we'd just had a little more seat time, I know I would have made a significant jump forward. Considering all that, we were fast. I'm pretty happy.'

Backed by a group of Scottish-owned companies, including Clík Software, Watermans, ScotPhone, Asset Alliance, plus Gray & Adams, MacCrone stuck diligently to his plan of bedding himself into the event and gradually increasing his pace.

After the opening three forest stages at Myherin, Sweet Lamb and Hafren on the morning of Day 1, the Scot was 29th overall, and 16th in his class of 36 WRC2 competitors.

But in the afternoon, MacCrone moved up a gear, building on the confidence and speed he'd demonstrated earlier in the day.

He was 23.4s faster than his morning run through the 12.6-mile test at Myherin: the gap to class leader and stage



Mull's John MacCrone in action during the Wales Rally GB. Photo: Nick Bradshaw

winner — WRC 2 champion, Swede Pontus Tidemand's Skoda Fabia R5 — also closed from 34.5s in the morning, to just 18.8s.

The improvements continued through Sweet Lamb. MacCrone's time of 3mins 06secs in the 2.63-mile test was exactly two seconds faster than in the morning: the gap to stage winner Tidemand dropping from 9.6s to 9.4s.

In the day's final stage, the repeat of the 21.83 miles through Hafren, MacCrone improved by 2.4s on his morning run, and closed the gap to WRC2 stage winner, Finn Teemu Suninen's Fiesta R5, from 36.5s in the morning, to 29.9s.

'We stuck to our plan,' MacCrone explained. 'It would have been easy to get frustrated and push a bit harder early on. But that's how mistakes happen,

and I was very conscious I had to keep the desire to go too quick, too early, under control.

Small mistakes

'Sure I made a few small mistakes, but that was simply down to rustiness: not getting my braking quite right, and sliding wide here and there. That cost me the odd few seconds.

'But I feel I've definitely learned a lot, and it would be nice to try and implement what

we learned in Wales at a later date.'

Day 2 saw MacCrone step up the pace again, overcoming a misfire in the engine of his Fiesta R5, then catching a rival Ford which had started ahead of him on the stage.

Frustratingly, the Scot then suffered on the first night-time stage, when a dense bank of fog rolled in and sat over the 8.64-mile stage at Aberhynant.

'It was an absolute nightmare,' MacCrone admitted. 'The fog was rolling in and out, but I'm not joking when I say we were in a bank of thick cloud the whole way through the stage, which was about nine miles. Visibility was almost non-existent.'

'That made it tough, and we dropped a bit of time there, but it was important we stayed on the road and got through the stage.'

After safely negotiating the final five stages on Day 3, MacCrone was delighted to finish 10th in WRC2, just over two minutes outside the top five, and 21st overall.

'The strength-in-depth of the WRC2 class was serious,' he continued. 'To be honest, at this level we're pretty much novices, having not been in the car for so long, so to be as close as we were at the end of the rally is testament to all the hard work we've done.'

And MacCrone admitted he was now hungry to return to do a full competitive rally season in 2018.

'Having been back in the car, I just want to do more,' he smiled. 'We stuck to our plan and got the car, undamaged, to the end.'

'Hopefully that will help generate the interest and support to allow us to put something in place for a full campaign in 2018.'

To be as close as we were at the end of the rally is testament to all the hard work we've done.

John MacCrone



Alasdair Currie dominated his class at the Wales GB Rally and finished 16th overall.

Currie comes out tops in Wales

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Tobermory rally driver Alasdair Currie dominated his class on the Wales Rally GB National rally. Alasdair was guided through the high speed forest tracks by his co-driver, Lochaber GP Steven Brown. The duo scored a dominant class win and a superb 16th overall.

Alasdair competed in the Castrol-backed Ford Fiesta R2 as a prize drive for coming second in this year's DMACK Fiesta ST Championship. This car was new to him for the event and a step-up in technology compared to the more basic Fiesta ST he has previously used. Currie and Brown competed on eight world rally championship stages, and set

eight fastest stage times in the red hot 1.6 litre class storming to a class win of over four-and-a-half minutes. An impressive finish to Alasdair's first season competing on gravel.

'This is the best result of my career so far, and only a taste of what's to come. I drove with a sensible head and took no risks to make sure I completed the event.'

'Once I tweaked the car set-up on Saturday's stages I was feeling confident for Sunday. My stage times all weekend were consistent and that's a very important thing in the sport.'

'My whole team has worked hard to make this year happen. We have had some great results, and not damaged a car all year.

I need to step up another level for next year and moving into a R2 class car is the best way to go.

'This is the natural route any driver has to take to progress in the sport. The British Rally Championship is ideally where I want to be. I'm confident we can get results if given the opportunity.'

'I can't thank my sponsors enough for their support, the car looked great and it was a real credit to all involved.'

The iconic Castrol livery was supported with various local companies such as Inverlussa Marine Services, Mull Hire, Tobermory Campsite, Ross Kirsop Builders and the Pier Café Tobermory.

Kerr coaches Kenyan League winners

FORMER Argyll and Bute football development officer Dylan Kerr now coaching in Kenya won the Kenyan Premier League with Nairobi club Gor Mahia after overseeing an eight-game run without defeat, seven of them victories, that has taken them 19 points clear at the top of the table.

Kerr has coached successfully on four continents but jobs in Scotland have remained elusive,

despite references on his CV that include Gordon Strachan, his former team-mate at Leeds United and Elland Road boss Howard Wilkinson.

The managerial merry-go-round in the SPFL may have failed to offer him a job, but there are few as well qualified and experienced - and only a handful as brave.

Kerr began his career at Sheffield Wednesday before

signing for Leeds United in 1989. In 1993 he moved to Reading where he made 89 appearances.

In 1996 he signed for Kilmarnock where he made 61 appearances in a four-year stint winning the Scottish Cup in his first season.

After retiring he took up a coaching role in America before returning to Scotland and worked as Argyll and Bute

Council's football development officer between 2005 and 2009.

In 2009 he signed a contract as assistant manager at South African club Mpumalanga Black Aces then in 2011 he became academy director and assistant coach for Khataco Nha Trang in Vietnam as well as being part of the Vietnamese national team.

In 2013 Kerr became head coach of Hai Phong leading

Football

them to FA Cup success in his first season.

In 2015 he joined Tanzanian giants Simba FC guiding them to a top-three finish. The following year he returned to the UK to become the under-18 academy coach at Chesterfield then in July 2017 took up his present post as head coach of Gor Mahia.



Former Argyll and Bute football development officer Dylan Kerr.

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Saturday; Under 13s 2, Kerse United 4. Saints goal scorers were Kyle Cooper and Ewan McTavish. Helensburgh v Under 16s, postponed; Dumbarton Riverside 1 Under 17s 8. Scoring for Saints were Cameron Kerr (4), Keir MacLean, Ben Smith, Rory Dowd and Sol Smith. Sunday; Under 13s 5, Campbeltown Pupils 3. On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (3), Innes Jackson and Ewan McTavish. Under 14s v Renton Craigandro postponed; Under 15s 1, Summerston BC 3. Saints' marksman was Connor Moore. This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Dunoon; Lochgilphead Red Star v Under 14s; Rossvale v Under 15s. Westerton United v Under 16s; Under 17s v Dunoon.



Oban Saints Under 13s in their new playing kit kindly sponsored by Gordon Grant of Staffa Tours. It certainly seemed to pay dividends for the youngsters as they defeated Argyll rivals Campbeltown Pupils 5-3 last Sunday. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Bob makes qualifying final

OBAN golf star Robert MacIntyre has progressed to the final of the European Tour Qualifying School at a second-stage event.

The Glencruitten club 21-year-old passed the stern test with flying colours at Desert Springs after posting a brilliant six-under-par 66 for a total of 279.

Left-hander Robert, who only turned pro a few weeks ago, has had a stunning start to his

Golf

career after winning on the MENA Tour in Kuwait in his second competition in the paid ranks, and finishing a highly creditable third in his opening tournament.

Robert will be hoping to continue his sparkling form when he goes on to the gruelling six-round final examination this weekend.



Robert MacIntyre

MARTIAL ARTS

WITH IAIN RODGER

Kyokushinkai Karate
CALEDONIA Kyokushin held its annual junior tournament on November 4 in the Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead – the medal winners will be announced in the next article. The tournament was well attended by members from IKKU Oban, IKKU Lochgilphead, IKKU Perth, Senshi Do Oban, Argyll Martial Arts, Oban and Argyll

Martial Arts Inveraray. The club members are working towards their next grading tests in mid-December when Darryl McLaughlin will attempt his black belt test. The next intake of new members will be in January 2018. Anyone requiring more information on this traditional style of karate should contact Iain Rodger on: 07584 166542



Noah (The flying dragon) Hwang kicking the bag held by Angus Files.



Senshi Do Kick Boxing club held its annual Hallowe'en fancy dress session followed by a party for the juniors.

or iain@ikku.co.uk.

Kickboxing
SENSHI Do Kick Boxing had its annual Hallowe'en sponsored fancy dress session followed by a party for the juniors on Wednesday October 25. As usual the children had a great time, with Hollie Cormack and Logan Galbraith winning the girls' and boys' best costume, Melody Hwang and Callan

respectively in musical statues, while Sara MacIntyre and Billy Bratton won the girls' and boys' wall stands. There were also goody bags for all the youngsters to take home with them. The money raised was enough to buy two new six-foot punch bags and two sets of body pads. Club coach Wullie Rodger said: 'A huge thank you to Sharon Dickison, Kerrie Galbraith and

Kaitlyne MacLeod for all the help in setting up and running the session.'

For more information on classes contact Wullie Rodger on: 07588 513618 or shihan-will@gmail.com

BJJ
OBAN BJJ classes continue as normal in the new venue. Anyone looking for more information about BJJ and

MMA classes should contact club coach Iain (Coogie) Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Shukokai Karate
CLUB grading tests are taking place over this week and results should be posted in the next article.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances in the community centre, the Dalmally classes are postponed

until November 21. All the other classes are running as normal.

The clubs had several entrants in the junior tournament in Lochgilphead last Saturday and a full write-up will be in the next article.

Beginners are always welcome at the clubs and anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com.

Oban Lorne defeated by the weather

BT West Division 1
Oban Lorne P
Carrick P
OBAN Lorne's West Division 1 fixture at home to Carrick was postponed on Saturday due to a waterlogged pitch at both Glencruitten and at North Connel. This was the first postponed fixture for the team due to weather this season and may become a familiar outcome due to the continuing wet weather causing problems to playing surfaces throughout the west regional leagues.

so far this season Oban Lorne sit a lowly 11th place in the league despite significant improvement over recent games that have brought wins over former National Division sides Greenock Wanderers and Irvine.

The game versus Helensburgh on the December 2 will have a lasting effect on both sides for the rest of the season with Oban's Argyll rivals occupying last place in the league.

Training for Oban Lorne's men's section continues every Tuesday from 6-7pm on the astro pitch at Oban High School. All beginners welcome to come along.

Oban U14s 38
Cumbernauld 17
OBAN'S U14 team took on Cumbernauld at home on Sun-

day in the Mitsubishi Motors West U14 Conference. The home side recorded a convincing 38-17 win scoring 10 tries in the process. In the true spirit of rugby Oban also loaned Cumbernauld four players for the match so that a 14-aside contest could go ahead.

Oban U14s are back in action this Sunday along with the U13 team as they both take part in home matches against Ardrossan RFC.

Mitsubishi Motors West U16 League
Oban U16 0
Stewartry 42
NORTH Connel hosted a top-of-the-table clash between unbeaten Oban Lorne U16s and Stewartry on Saturday with both sides boasting 100 per cent winning records this season.

Despite the 1st XV fixture in Oban not going ahead, the U16 game had to be played due to the visitors staying the night before in Oban.

The Oban side, who have recorded some big results in recent club and school fixtures, were left stunned on Saturday as an impressive and well drilled Stewartry side dominated in a 42-0 away win that ultimately hands them the U16 League title.

Oban did have chances to get into the game but were undone with poor handling and decision making near the tryline allowing the hosts to break clear and score against the run of play on a couple of occasions.

The Oban side have one remaining league game on November 19 at home to Kilmarnock RFC.

Mitsubishi Motors West U18 League
Ardrossan 5
Oban Lorne U18s 46
OBAN'S U18 side made the trip to North Ayrshire on Saturday to take on Ardrossan RFC. The Oban U18s had played five league fixtures going into Saturday's game with no wins despite some promising performances.

A rusty start to Saturday's game was made by Oban with no scoring or play of note in the opening 15 minutes or so.

As the first half went on Oban grew into the game and cut out some mistakes as they went into half-time with a 12-5 lead. The confidence gained from their half-time lead grew as they blew the hosts away in the second half by running out convincing 46-5 winners.

Coach Gordon Shearer was left very impressed with his side's efforts particularly some

of the play in the backline and was also pleased to see some of the forwards step up in their performance with talismanic Lorne Sinclair missing.

Oban U18s look to continue their good form with a home match against Kilmarnock RFC this Saturday.

Helensburgh Women 0
Oban Lorne Ladies 105
SUNNY, dry conditions were perfect for the ladies' match on Sunday away to Helensburgh, although the pitch was boggy in places from all the recent rain.

Upon arriving, the team were informed that Helensburgh had recently suffered some bad luck losing their coach and captain, meaning this was their first fulfilled fixture of the season, and they had only 11 players meaning uncontested scrums from the start. Both teams also agreed to a 60-minute match from the start, but agreed it was best to just get some match time for both teams.

Oban started the game as they meant to go on, with try after try as the minutes played out. All credit to Helensburgh for staying stuck in until the very final whistle and they hopefully managed to clear a few cobwebs as the season will continue to unfold.

The first try came for fly half Lucy Stewart, also Oban's kicker, which was quickly followed by a try for Erika Skofca, playing out of position at number eight, and two more tries for Stewart, affording her a hat-trick in the opening quarter of the match.

Skofca then scored the fifth try of the game shortly after, shrugging off tackles to sprint towards the line. Tries six and seven were scored by winger Ellen Barlow, who also managed a hat-trick before the half time



Lorne Ladies' Erica Skofca barges her way through the Helensburgh defence during last Sunday's game. It was Erica's birthday the day before. Photo: Stephen Lawson

whistle blew. Try number eight was touched down by scrum half Audrey Barr, up the right wing of the pitch, after running through the muddiest patches.

Try nine was scored by inside centre Kirsty Sinclair. This brought the half-time score to 0-62 to the visiting team after 35 minutes of play.

It was agreed the second half would be 25 minutes' play, and Oban utilised their subs to get fresh energy on the pitch.

Tries in this half continued to come thick and fast, with another two from Barr, giving her a hat-trick for the match also. Barlow scored her fourth try of the game before substitute winger Rachel MacDonald scored her opener for the game.

Captain of the day Veronica Speirs then scored a convincing individual try after running up the pitch through Helensburgh's defensive line.

Try number 16 of the game came for recently returned player Claire MacPherson following some great supportive

Rugby

play up the left wing. The last try of the match was afforded to substitute fly half Rebecca Weeks, bringing the final score after 60 minutes to 0-105.

Despite the scoreline, and given that they are a recently established team, Oban ladies were impressed by Helensburgh's commitment throughout the game and their comradery was encouraging to see.

Oban Ladies now have an impressive 404 points to their name for the season thus far; and perhaps more impressively 0 points against them.

They travel next Sunday to Ardrossan for their opening bowl game following defeat by Glasgow University in the opening round of the cup a couple of months ago. The ladies train on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7pm, with more details available on their Facebook page.

Nine-hour round trip ends in defeat for Mull

Wigtownshire	44
Isle of Mull	7

BT West Division Three
MULL'S first away match would prove to be their furthest, with a trip to Stranraer to face one of the league favourites - Wigtownshire.

The team sheet had a family flavour - with Craig O'Donnell playing alongside his uncles Stuart O'Donnell and James Gibbons, as well as brothers Angus and Murdo MacLennan.

Well-drilled
A nine-hour journey wasn't ideal preparation for the team and this showed in the early stages of the match, with Mull conceding 19 points in as many

minutes against a strong and well-drilled Wigtownshire.

The situation wasn't helped with the islanders going down to 14 men. Stuart O'Donnell came off early doors with a knee injury in what was turning out to be an extremely bruising encounter in Burns country. Mull managed to regroup and keep 'the Shire' at bay - the first half finishing 19-0.

The second half saw the boys in black and white facing both the wind and a low winter sun. The home side continued their pressure and soon saw them score several more tries.

Mull managed a piece of magic, however, from deep in their half - instigated by full back

Rugby

and captain Sean Black. Some great inter-passing by Mull's backs was finished off by top try scorer Murdo MacLennan, literally dancing through the Shire defence to score.

Last moments
Some valiant defending on the try line prevented Wigtownshire scoring again until the very last moments when the home side scored - final score 44-7.

Man of the match was Kilchonan's on-form Ross Rankin.

Mull are on the road again this Saturday, facing Bishopton who currently lie second in BT West Division 3.

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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
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Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Red and blacks pay the penalty as Kingussie win London Shield

CABERFEIDH were promoted to the Marine Harvest Premiership, Bute go third in Marine Harvest South Division 1 and Kingussie U17 lifted the London Shield following the shinty action on Saturday November 4, 2017.

London Shield final

**Kingussie U17 4
Oban Camanachd U17 4**
(Kingussie won 1-0 on penalties after extra time)

Kingussie U17 won the London Shield after eventually edging out Oban Camanachd U17 on penalties following their 4-4 draw in what was a thrilling encounter at The Dell.

The final was originally scheduled for Craighard, Invergarry, but it was ruled unplayable so, on the toss of a coin, the venue was switched to Kingussie's The Dell rather than Oban Camanachd's Mossfield.

Both teams were able to field players with Marine Harvest Premiership experience, with Ruaridh Anderson, Roddy Young and Alexander Michie in Kingussie colours, while Daniel MacCuish, Daniel Sloss, Lewis Buchanan and Craig Easton have all played for Oban Camanachd this season.

The Oban side were dealt a blow in the lead up to the final, with Craig MacMillan and Robbie Brown both unavailable. Ross Campbell and Blair MacFarlane were given starting roles in their place.

This was Oban Camanachd's third successive London Shield final and they went into the game as holders having beaten Skye at The Eilan in 2016.

It was a final of fine margins and Oban Camanachd got off to a great start, opening up a two-goal advantage before the 10-minute mark.

Ross Campbell put them in front on five minutes with the 14-year-old forcing the ball low into the net from an acute angle.

Things got even better for the Oban side just four minutes later. Lennon Campbell's shot was saved by Kingussie keeper George Taylor-Ramsay but Lewis Buchanan knocked the rebound home to make it 2-0.

The next goal was always going to be crucial. A third Oban Camanachd goal could have killed Kingussie off but instead it was Roddy Young who got his side back into the game.

As the Kings went forward,

Young and his marker collided, both falling to the ground. Young was quickly back on his feet and he beat another player before slotting the ball past keeper Cameron Sutherland and into the far post side-netting to make it 2-1.

Ruaridh Anderson drew Kingussie level on 46 minutes with the goal coming after a corner. Anderson touched the ball down through the Oban defence and into the D, and he ran on to flick the ball past the keeper into the corner of the net.

Kingussie took the lead for the first time on 67 minutes, with Young collecting a free-hit, chipped over the Oban defence towards him, and he turned back into three defenders, taking the ball through them before shooting into the bottom corner of the net to bag his second goal of the game.

However Oban Camanachd fought back and Lennon Campbell equalised on 76 minutes. This time Lewis Buchanan saw his shot saved, but Campbell got in ahead of a defender to make it 3-3.

Both keepers – 12-year-old George Taylor-Ramsay for Kingussie and Scotland U17 goalie Cameron Sutherland for Oban Camanachd – made great saves during the match and were helpless for the goals.

At the end of an exciting 80 minutes, referee Deek Cameron took the final into extra-time.

Kingussie made an explosive start to the extra-time period and Ruaridh Anderson put them back in front. Joe Donald's initial shot was saved by Cameron Sutherland but Anderson ran in and flicked the ball around the keeper and into the net for his second goal of the afternoon to make it 4-3.

With the clock counting down, Oban Camanachd pushed players forward and, with five minutes remaining, they were awarded a penalty after referee Cameron spotted a 'kick' inside the D. Kingussie swapped keepers for the spot-hit with Alexander Michie replacing George Taylor-Ramsay between the sticks but it made no difference as Lewis Buchanan got his second, with his well-struck penalty going low and hard into the net to make it 4-4.

George Taylor-Ramsay returned to goal, although he was replaced again just before the end of extra-time by half back Dylan Borthwick.

The switch paid dividends as Borthwick saved all five Oban



The victorious Kingussie team. Photographs: Neil Paterson

Camanachd penalties. The penalty that made the difference was the Kings' fifth spot hit when Kieran MacPherson thumped the ball home to give Kingussie a 1-0 shoot-out win.

The pick of the players probably came in the middle of the park where the captains – Kingussie's Ruaridh Anderson and Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacCuish – were superb.

Kingussie captain Ruaridh Anderson lifted the London Shield, rounding off what has been a successful youth season for the club.

After the game, Oban Camanachd youth coach David MacCuish said: 'It was a cracking final and although we're disappointed to lose, you have to recognise the talent on show, so credit to both clubs for that. Our big players like Craig Easton, Daniel Sloss and Daniel MacCuish did very well, but Kingussie are a strong team, with Ruaridh Anderson and Roddy Young particularly good.'

'What also impressed me was how well the players on both sides, who haven't yet played much second team shinty, did in the final. They were all terrific. 'The final was end to end and could have gone either way just as the scoring suggests. If we could have got a third goal at 2-0 up then it could well have been a different outcome but that's just the way it goes. It's a shame to lose out in a penalty shoot-out

but the way the players have performed augers well for the future.'

David MacCuish continued: 'One thing I would add is that I feel we should be playing the London Shield final a bit earlier in the season when more of the neutral venues for the final would be available. It's been seven weeks since we played our semi-final, so an earlier final is something which should certainly be looked at.'

The next step for several of the Oban Camanachd youngsters will be to move into the Lochside Rovers side where a number of them already feature.

'Gareth Evans is doing a fantastic job with Lochside,' said MacCuish. 'He has already introduced a lot of the younger players into the side and what he has achieved this season, considering he often loses players to the seniors, is quite remarkable.'

'We've seen Daniel MacCuish, Lewis Buchanan, Craig Easton and Daniel Sloss take another step up to play for Oban Camanachd in the Premiership this year, so the pathway is there.'

The final marks a last match in charge for Oban Camanachd youth coaches David MacCuish, Scott Buchanan and George Easton. They have coached the U17s for the last three seasons following spells with the U14s and Rockfield Primary School, winning many trophies along the way.

MacCuish added: 'We've had a lot of good times and it's been really enjoyable seeing promising youngsters develop into first team players. I certainly won't be walking away altogether as I'll always be on hand to help out, but it's time to pass the baton on to someone else.'

The club will meet soon to discuss their youth coaching arrangements for next season – David MacCuish, Scott Buchanan and George Easton will be hard acts to follow.

Marine Harvest Premiership

**Kilmallie P
Oban Camanachd P**

The 11.30am throw-up between Kilmallie and Oban Camanachd at The Canal Parks was postponed on Friday evening as the pitch was unplayable.

With league positions unaffected, the sides agreed with the Camanachd Association that the points be shared so the match will not be scheduled.

Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson would have been



Ian Johnstone of Marine Harvest presents the London Shield to Kingussie captain Ruaridh Anderson.

without suspended trio Michael Rodger, Martin Stewart and Craig MacIsaac for this game, but there is at least some good news as the points sharing arrangement means the game will count against each player's suspension. Rodger and MacIsaac will still miss the first two games of next season, but Stewart will just miss the 2018 opening day match.

Kilmallie return to the Marine Harvest National Division next season after 12 months in shinty's top flight.

The Oban Camanachd squad end the season in a comfortable sixth position in the league.

This match completes the 2017 Marine Harvest Premiership programme.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Fort William 2
Inveraray 0**

Fort William will play Marine Harvest National Division shinty again next season following their 2-0 win over Inveraray at An Aird.

It would have taken a winning margin of 13 goals for the Fort to pip Caberfeidh to the division's second promotion spot, but this always looked an unrealistic target.

The wet weather in the lead up to the game led to a Saturday morning inspection when the pitch was ruled unplayable.

Fort William were without Bryan Simpson and Sean Cameron.

Inveraray's Allan MacDonald was suspended for this one as

he started a five-match ban, which will stretch well into next season, although he did travel with the squad. Ally Munro, Ally MacDonald, Grant Griffin, Garry MacPherson and youngster Ruaridh Graham were also missing for the visitors but Nicholas Crawford, starting at full centre, was back in the side after injury. Douglas Dando also started.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw up following the sad passing of former Lochaber U14 player Kyle Bruce.

Fort William knew they had to go for goals and the game was only 15 seconds old when Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan saved first with his stick and then with his feet.

Fort William took the lead after eight minutes when Alexander MacMillan's shot took a slight deflection off John Kennedy's stick and ended up in the back of the net.

Another good Fort William move saw an effort hit the side-netting on 11 minutes.

Allan Cameron hit Inveraray's only effort at goal during the early exchanges.

Arran MacPhee and Calum Shepherd were dominant in the Fort William midfield and Alexander MacMillan had the ball in the net on 23 minutes but the effort was ruled out for offside by referee Archie Ritchie.

Indeed it was one of three efforts Fort William had disallowed for offside.

Had it not been for some great goalkeeping from Inveraray's Scott MacLachlan, and for some over-elaborate forward play, it could well have been a more

interesting second half with Fort William targeting a big win.

As it was, the second half fell flat although Calum Shepherd, pushed forward after starting at wing centre, added a second, sending the ball low into the bottom corner of the net just 30 seconds after the restart.

The heavy pitch didn't suit Fort William and there was no further scoring.

Lachie Shaw really impressed for the Fort who were better than the 2-0 win suggests and their young side may well benefit from another season in shinty's second tier in the long run.

The match completes the 2017 Marine Harvest National Division league programme and Caberfeidh, along with champions Skye Camanachd, will be promoted to the Marine Harvest Premiership.

Inverness end the season bottom of the table. However it is unlikely that there will be promotion hopefuls from either North one or South one, so the Highland Capital side should have the option of continuing to play in shinty's second tier.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Fort William P
Aberdeen University P**

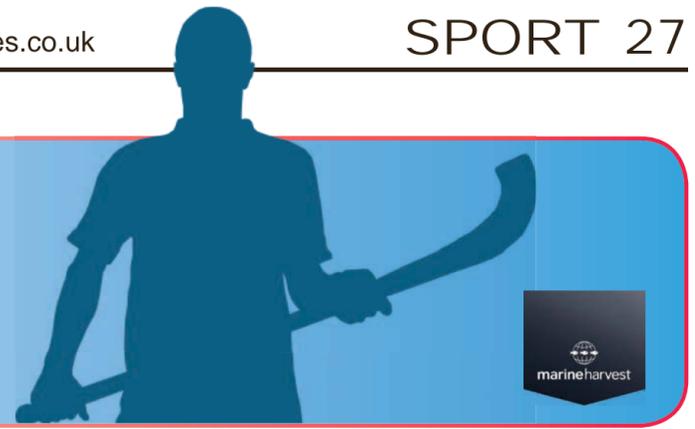
The clash between the Fort William second team and Aberdeen University was called off on Friday afternoon as An Aird could not take two games and the Marine Harvest National Division meeting between Fort William and Inveraray took precedent.



Oban Camanachd's Ruaridh Horne and Dylan Borthwick in a tussle for the ball.

**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**



The sides shared the points. Aberdeen University finish the season in second position, while the Fort William colts complete their league campaign in fifth spot.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Bute 2
Aberdour 0**
Bute go third in Marine Harvest South Division 1 following their 2-0 home victory over second placed Aberdour.

A late player call-off meant Aberdour had to play the whole match with just 11 players.

Bute started with a cold wind in their favour and, after an even opening spell; they took the lead through a very good Robert Walker goal on 35 minutes although visiting keeper Kevin Latimer did get his hand to Walker's shot.

The Aberdour players put in a great shift but and it took some stout defending to restrict Bute to a single goal interval lead with Aberdour restricted to just a few chances.

The second half continued in the same vein and Ian McDonald made it 2-0 on 59 minutes.

It was a last appearance for Aberdour marksman Roddy McColl. The former Kyles player has only missed one game in the last two seasons and that was when his son Murdo was born. His contribution, especially his goals, will be difficult to replace next season.

This was Aberdour's final match of the season and they are currently in a creditable second place in the division. Bute could overtake them on goal difference if they beat Kilmory at MacRae Park this Saturday. However Kilmory themselves, with three matches remaining, can still snatch a second place finish.

**Kyles Athletic P
Tayforth P**

With Tighnabraich still unplayable, the clash between the Kyles Athletic seconds and Tayforth was switched to Yoker with a 3pm throw up.

However the game was called off on Saturday morning following a bereavement.

**Taynuilt P
Col Glen P**

The meeting between Taynuilt and Col Glen was called off when the Taynuilt sports field failed a pitch inspection.

The teams agreed to share the points.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Kilmallie P
Inverness P**

The match between the Kilmallie seconds and the Inverness seconds was postponed when it became clear the Canal Parks could not take two games.

The match has been rescheduled for this coming Saturday.

**Strathspey Camanachd 2
Caberfeidh 1**

Strathspey Camanachd beat the Caberfeidh second team 2-1 in their 1.30pm throw up at Grantown Grammar School.

The match was rescheduled from Sunday October 5.

Arron MacBean gave Strathspey the lead on just five minutes, while Struan Ross made it 2-0 on 25 minutes.

Ruaridh McCreddie pulled a goal back five minutes from time but Strathspey stayed in front to take the points.

WCA Round Up

The Women's Camanachd Association season is reaching a conclusion.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

**Skye Camanachd P
Lochaber P**

The crucial league match between Skye Camanachd and Lochaber at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree has been rescheduled for Saturday (November 11).



Some fancy stickwork from Oban Camanachd's Lewis Buchanan as he's closed down by Kingussie's Alexander Michie

The match was originally scheduled for Saturday November 4, but Lochaber requested a postponement so their squad could attend the funeral of former Lochaber U14 player Kyle Bruce in Fort William that same day.

**Fort William P
Lochaber P**

The 3pm throw up between Fort William and Lochaber on Sunday November 5 was postponed as An Aird was unplayable.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

**Lochaber 1
Glenurquhart 2**

The Lochaber second team knew that a win over Glenurquhart in their noon throw up at Spean Bridge on Sunday November 5 would give them the Marine Harvest North Division Two title.

However it proved to be a frustrating afternoon for the home side as the Glen ran out 2-1 winners.

Caitlin MacDonald got the Lochaber goal but strikes from Jenny Service and Hazel Hunter gave Glenurquhart victory and they finish third.

There will now be a play-off between Lochaber and Strathspey, with the date yet to be confirmed, to decide the title destination.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Cowal & Bute 2
Glasgow Mid Argyll 0**

A Fay Robertson double gave Cowal and Bute a 2-0 win over the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team.

Kingussie win Wade Cup

Kingussie High School lifted the 2017 Wade Cup, beating Lochaber High School 9-4 at The Dell on Thursday November 2.

On a day bathed in sparkling sunshine, Lochaber went into the match as holders of this senior school trophy having beaten Kingussie 1-0 in the 2016 final courtesy of a Lewis Clark goal.

Both teams were able to include players with Marine Harvest Premiership experience and it was Kingussie who made the best possible start to this year's contest when Liam Borthwick's back-hand strike gave them an opening minute lead.

Kingussie forwards Liam Borthwick, Roddy Young and Bradley Harvie combined to set up a chance for Ruaridh Anderson and he made no mistake, netting to make it 2-0 with 10 minutes on the clock.

Lochaber were finding it difficult playing into the bright sun

and Roddy Young made it 3-0 shortly after.

Victor Smith looked to be Lochaber's best chance of a counter and he pulled a goal back to make it 3-1.

Lochaber were finding it difficult to contain Roddy Young and he scored three more times in a devastating spell to make it 6-1 at half-time.

Lachie Shaw was playing well in the Lochaber centre line although Kingussie duo Kieran MacPherson and Alexander Michie were dominating the middle of the park.

The second half was only four minutes old when Liam Borthwick got his second to give Kingussie what looked like an unassailable 7-1 advantage.

However Lochaber pulled a goal back when Victor Smith notched his second.

Lachie Shaw continued the fight-back before Victor Smith completed his hat-trick to make it 7-4 with Lochaber now very much in the game.

However Kingussie captain Alexander Michie blasted the ball home from the penalty spot on 54 minutes to put the Kings back in control before good wing play from Jordan Reid and substitute Joe Donald set up a chance for Roddy Young who needed no second invitation to knock home his fifth goal of the afternoon.

Match referee Roald Ross blew for time and Kingussie's overall performance made them deserved 9-4 winners.

After the match, Kingussie captain Alexander Michie stepped up to receive the Wade Cup.

This Saturday's shinty action

As the 2017 shinty season draws to a close, there are some fixtures scheduled for this coming weekend.

The Kinlochshiel and Beaulie second teams are scheduled to meet at Kirkton in the final Marine Harvest North Division 1 fixture of the season.

There is also a Marine Harvest South Division 1 encounter between fourth placed Kilmory and third placed Bute at MacRae Park.

The Kilmallie and Inverness second teams try again this Saturday as their Marine Harvest North Division 2 encounter, which was postponed last Saturday, has been rescheduled.

The big match in the Women's Camanachd Association National Division 1 is the league decider between Skye Camanachd and Lochaber at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree.

This will be the third time the sides have met this season with Skye winning the league encounter at Spean Bridge 5-0 as well as coming out on top 6-1 when the sides met in the

Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup.

Reigning champions Skye currently lead Lochaber by two points so Lochaber need to win to force a title play-off.

Shinty referee Ross ready to hit the heights

Shinty referee Ross Brown will later this month undertake a challenging endurance trek to raise funds for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

The former Lochcarron player and manager was named Marine Harvest Camanachd Association Emerging Referee of the Year in 2016.

It was an eventful year as Ross and his partner Anna also became parents to Harris in June 2016.

However, after picking up a virus later that year, Harris was found to have issues regulating his blood sugar levels, and was admitted to hospital.

What followed was an eight-month stay in the Glasgow Children's Hospital where endless tests were carried out, with no definitive diagnosis, and finally, to allow them to go home, an operation took place to allow Harris to be fed via a tube into his stomach.

Ross and Anna will take Harris to Manchester in January 2018 where he will undergo further tests.

Ross, a technician with the Scottish Ambulance Service, said: 'During his time on Ward 3A of the hospital, Harris received the most fantastic care and attention from the dedicated nursing and play assistants. He was fortunate to have access to a play room, sensory room, cinema and to have one-to-one sessions for body painting and other activities, all of which is funded by the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.'

To help enable the charity to continue to offer these fantastic opportunities and experiences to sick children while in hospital, Ross decided to undertake the challenge of trekking to Everest Base Camp and an altitude of 5,664 meters when climbing to the top of the nearby Kala Patthar.

The trek takes place from next Thursday (November 16) and Sunday December 3.

Ross added: 'I'm very much looking forward to the challenge but it will be hard being away from home for over two weeks. Friends, family and colleagues have been amazing in helping me reach over £4,000 in fundraising so far.'

All donations are gratefully received for this undoubtedly worthy cause.

Please follow the link below if you would like to donate:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ross-brown14>

As an added bonus, a £5 donation will secure entry into a raffle for Runrig's farewell concert in Stirling. Anyone wishing to enter the raffle should leave their name and email address when making a donation to the just giving site.

Iomain Cholmille X

Iomain Cholmille X took place in Fort William recently. The day's matches were originally scheduled for An Aird but the rain on Friday, with more forecast, led to a switch of venue to the Lochaber High School astro pitch.

The International Shinty / Hurling Festival for Gaelic speakers marked 10 years with its biggest event yet at Mòd Lochaber.

With the game taking place on the smaller astro pitch, the rules were changed to make a really intense spectacle with shinty goals and smaller sides meaning there were no points over the bar.

Fans were treated to a great but heated hurling playoff between Cumann Micheál Breathnach and Fir Uladh in the morning. Fir Uladh won through to the final 4-3 with goals from Naoise O Caireallain agus Frankie O Ceallaigh cancelling out the goals by Maidhc and Breandan O Conghaile.

Then it was the youths turn, with Alba Òg taking on Gaelcholaiste Dhoire for the Cupa Bhòrd na Gàidhlig. This was an entertaining game 3-1 to the young Scottish Gaels who were managed by GMA and Uist's Angus MacInnes.

Goals from Jamie MacLeod and Hamish Shaw were the difference. It is hope this

fixture will lead to a touring Alba Òg side. Jamie Gillies of Skye Camanachd was captain, and Calum Gillies and William Sutherland also played important roles.

Alba Head Coach, Doneil MacLeod was delighted when his men got off to a good start with a comprehensive 5-1 warm up win against Micheal Breathnach. Local Fort William boys Jack Fraser, Mark Fraser and Lachie Shaw were joined on the score sheet by Skye's Ally MacDonald.

The Alba women were beaten 4-0 but not disgraced against Cois Fharracha, who won the Corn Sgáthaich trophy for the second year running. Sorcha Ni Fhrighil had the pick of the four goals and also won the player of the day, Lochaber's Claire Delaney was awarded Alba's player of the day. Caitlin MacLean was also excellent, playing alongside Skye team-mates Kathryn Dibble, Sara Jane Ferguson and Izzy Law.

The men's Corn Cholmille match was a fantastic spectacle in which Fir Uladh defended stoutly, but also where Alba, in particular young superstar Shaw, was denied by the posts on several occasions.

However, Alba's player of the day and winner of "Sàr-chluicheadair an Latha" Jack Fraser broke the deadlock, then his brother Mark made it three and then Uist and Beaulie's Ewen Campbell added a fourth. Sean MacLeod finished the game on the park, one of only three Alba players to have played at the first Iomain Cholmille in 2007 and the 10th anniversary tournament.

Alba's captain Graham Black, from North Uist, currently playing for Aberdeen University, lifted the trophy, presented by Allan Campbell, President of An Comunn Gàidhealach. Allan was also joined in the very entertained crowd, by Shona MacLennan of Bòrd na Gàidhlig who presented Corn Sgáthaich agus Cupa Bhòrd na Gàidhlig. They both talked of how encouraged they were by the work that Iomain Cholmille has done over the last decade to encourage Gaelic speaking in sport and to hear the young men and women using it all day as they played.

Eòghan Stiùbhart, co-ordinator of Iomain Cholmille for the last 10 years said, 'We are very thankful to An Comunn for allowing us to hold Iomain Cholmille as part of Mòd Loch Abar in our special tenth year and we'd also like to thank Colmille for their support every year. It was an incredible day and we were very happy to show how team sports should be at the heart of developing Gaelic.'

Results from Iomain Cholmille - Gaelic Shinty / Hurling Internationals

Hurling Play-off - Fir Uladh 4, Micheál Breathnach 3. Cupa Bhòrd na Gàidhlig - Alba Òg 3 Gaelcholaiste Dhoire 1. Shinty / Hurling exhibition - Alba 5 Micheál Breathnach 1. Corn Sgáthaich - Shinty / Camogie - Cois Fharracha 4 Alba 0. Corn Cholmille, Alba 4 Fir Uladh 0.

Kilmallie annual dinner dance and awards night

Kilmallie's annual dinner dance and awards night takes place at The Moorings Hotel, Banavie on Saturday November 18.

The club's annual player of the year winners will be announced and there will be music from the Ballochmyle Band.

It is a 7pm for a 7.30pm start and tickets are £25, with £15 for juveniles.

Tickets can be purchased from Cath MacKay, Ann MacDougall, Linda Campbell, Mark MacPherson and Ryan Stewart.

Craig Morrison six-a-sides

Glenurquhart won the 2017 Craig Morrison Memorial Sixes in Stornoway on Saturday October 14.

Five teams competed in this year's event - three Lewis sides along with Glenurquhart and "Stromeferry - No Ferry".

Glenurquhart, who included James MacPherson, Stuart Reid and David Smart in a strong squad, were convincing winners and after the round-robin event, they beat the Lewis Blacks 8-0 in the final.

Craig Morrison passed away tragically in 2009, aged only 20 and he is fondly remembered by all at Lewis Camanachd.



Fixtures

Saturday November 11

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Kilmory v Bute
Iain Kennedy

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kinlochshiel v Beaulie
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Kilmallie v Inverness
John Wood

All throw-ups 2pm



Results

Saturday November 4

Marine Harvest Premiership
Kilmallie P v P Oban Caman
Unplayable field, points shared

Marine Harvest National Division
Fort William 2 v 0 Inveraray

Marine Harvest North Division One
Fort William P v P Ab'deen Uni
Unplayable field, points shared

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Bute 2 v 0 Aberdour
Kyles Athletic P v P Tayforth
Unplayable field, points shared
Taynuilt P v P Colglen
Unplayable field, points shared

Marine Harvest North Division Two
Kilmallie P v P Inverness
Unplayable field
Strathspey v Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest National Under-17 League London Shield final
Kingussie 4 v 4 Oban Caman
Kingussie won 1-0 on penalties



The Iain 'Parrot' MacMillan Memorial Sixes took place at Mossfield last Sunday, with Taynuilt winning both the A and B leagues. Player of the tournament was Calum MacMillan from Park, with the girl player of the tournament being Sasha MacCallum also from Park primary. The Most Endeavour Quich was won by Matthew Sloss from Taynuilt.

Falkirk's late equaliser denies Saints Scottish Cup victory

Big crowd expected for replay at Glencruitten on Saturday

Falkirk Community 3
Oban Saints 3
Scottish Amateur Cup - 3rd Round

OBAN Saints and Falkirk Community will reconvene at Glencruitten this Saturday afternoon after a pulsating 90-plus minutes of end-to-end action at Alva Academy failed to separate the two evenly-matched sides.

The keenly-contested Scottish Amateur Cup third round tie ebbed and flowed throughout the afternoon with the home side snatching a dramatic stoppage time equaliser to force a replay.

Saints Manager Alex Craik's selection problems deepened with four players dropping out from the squad which defeated Inverclyde on league duty the previous Saturday, so much so that Marc MacCallum interrupted his sabbatical to partner the Gaffer at the heart of the defence.

With Falkirk FC playing at home, the Falkirk Stadium was unavailable to the Community team therefore the tie was switched some 20 miles away to Alva Academy, a venue slightly more in keeping with the Scottish Amateur Cup.

The home side kicked off playing into the bright low sun with lightning quick right winger Grant Plenderleith posting early notice of the threat his pace would pose accelerating away from Scott Maitland in the first minute and sending in a deep cross which Steven MacLeod hooked clear.

Scottish sprint champion Plenderleith was through again in the fifth minute sending a shot with the outside of his right boot wide of the right-hand post of Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

Saints weathered the early pressure from the hosts and threatened for the first time in the ninth minute. Shaun MacIver won a free kick on the edge of the centre circle from where Willie Gemmell found Donald

Campbell on the edge of the box. Campbell held the ball up well and slipped it through to Craig MacEwan who shaved the outside of the right hand post of Falkirk keeper Campbell Geddes.

Shaun MacIver fired wide of the same post two minutes later after linking up well with Donald Campbell in a move started by a Marc MacCallum interception of the half-way line.

Saints were left appealing in vain in the 13th minute when referee Joseph Todd gave the benefit of an extremely tight off-side decision against Craig MacEwan in favour of the home side.



Marc MacCallum made a return to help out a Saints squad who were down to the bare bones.

Falkirk Skipper Jack Stickler didn't wait around to debate the matter and sent a long ball up to James Stevenson to which Alex Craik reacted quickly to snuff out the danger and head the ball back to Graham Douglas.

The home side took the lead in the 20th minute from a passage of play typical of the end-to-end nature of the match.

Craig MacEwan was harshly penalised for a challenge on Robert Duncan just inside the Saints half. Marc MacCallum

Football

climbed above Callan Kerr to head the free-kick clear, launching a counter attack which saw Shaun MacIver and Donald Campbell combine well for Campbell to draw a smart save from Campbell Geddes low down to his right.

Falkirk immediately turned defence into attack with Robert Duncan sending speedster Grant Plenderleith in behind a high Saints back line. Alex Craik read the danger well to get across, unfortunately, these days his brain moves a lot faster than his legs and Plenderleith switched on the afterburners to race away and fire a shot across Graham Douglas and into the bottom corner.

Back at the other end Keith Millar and Scott Maitland worked an opening on the left with Maitland's cross being headed out by Scott Wright to Steven MacLeod, who thumped a right foot shot from 25 yards just over the junction of post and bar.

In the 26th minute Shaun MacIver dropped deep to take the ball from Steven MacLeod and tossed in a tempting cross to the far post which Campbell Geddes did well to punch away under pressure from Craig MacEwan.

In between times Grant Plenderleith raced away again on the right and sent a cut-back to Callan Kerr who, from 10 yards, beat the left hand of Graham Douglas but, fortunately for Saints, also the outside of the post.

Saints drew level in the 29th minute after Scott Wright halted a promising Craig MacEwan run 28 yards from goal. Campbell Geddes in the Falkirk goal got down well to turn Willie Gemmell's free-kick round his left hand post for a corner kick.

Shaun MacIver's delivery from the right was met perfectly by



Craig MacEwan heads home to make the score 1-1. Match report and photos: Dereke Black

Craig MacEwan who got across Robert Duncan on the six-yard line to power a header past Geddes and into the net.

Steven MacLeod was the unlucky recipient of the game's first yellow card for his protestations at a hotly disputed corner kick awarded to the home side.

Calm was restored when Ryan Donnelly sent the corner from the left straight behind for a goal kick.

Donnelly fared better in the 41st minute getting to the byeline and picking out Paul McCarthy on the corner of the box who shot wide of the far post.

Having come close earlier Steven MacLeod joined the attack again in the 42nd minute and had another shooting opportunity cutting in from the right which again narrowly failed to hit the target.

Downpour

As Mr Todd blew the half-time whistle the previously sunny afternoon gave way to a hail downpour when an ominous looking black cloud opened up sending both camps scampering for the shelter of the changing rooms.

The timing of the half-time interval was perfect as the heavy shower passed over for the bright low sun to return for the start of the second half.

Saints made an encouraging start to the second 45 forcing a corner on the left in the first minute through Donald Campbell and Scott Maitland.

Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell both had half chances snuffed out before Falkirk responded winning their first corner kick of the second half in the 52nd minute.

Central defender Scott Wright climbed above Alex Craik to send a header wide of Graham Douglas and his right hand upright.

The home side once again used their pace in the wide areas to good advantage in the 54th minute with Ryan Donnelly sending in a deep cross from the left which Grant Plenderleith

on the full volley sliced out for a throw-in. On the hour mark Donald Campbell had his heels clipped by Callan Kerr 10 yards inside the Falkirk half. Willie Gemmell played the free-kick up to Campbell on the edge of the box who found space for a shot which fizzed across the face of goal and wide of the right hand post of Campbell Geddes.

Two minutes later the Saints front three linked up well playing their way up to the edge of the Falkirk box where Scott Wright unfairly halted Craig MacEwan's progress earning himself a yellow card in the process. From the free-kick Willie Gemmell looked to test the keeper again unfortunately his effort over the wall from 19 yards wouldn't come down quickly enough and cleared the crossbar by some distance.

Saints kept up the pressure with Campbell Geddes having to slide out to deny Donald Campbell with his legs and Craig MacEwan reacting first to the loose ball but sending it over the crossbar under pressure from Jack Stickler.

Whether the return of Marc MacCallum after a 10-week absence proves to be any more than a temporary arrangement remains to be seen, however, the value of his presence alongside the Gaffer in central defence was never more evident than in the 66th minute when a sliding last ditch tackle foiled Grant Plenderleith when in behind Scott Maitland.

Unfortunately there was to be no saving tackle two minutes later when Plenderleith pounced on a misplaced pass and sent James Stevenson racing into the area to slam a low shot past Graham Douglas and restore the lead for the home side.

Saints set about redressing the balance for a second time with Craig MacEwan back-heading a Willie Gemmell cross over the cross bar and Shaun MacIver finding himself crowded out on the edge of the box when attempting to force his way



Willie Gemmell pushes forward tracked by Callan Kerr.

through the middle of the Falkirk defence. The second Saints equaliser came in the 74th minute with Willie Gemmell claiming the assist with a precision through ball to open up the Falkirk defence. Donald Campbell timed his run onto Gemmell's pass to perfection and from 10 yards slotted the ball under the left arm of Campbell Geddes and into the net.

With 15 minutes remaining Falkirk made the only change of the match introducing Blair Lockhart to replace Callan Kerr in attack.

Saints took the lead for the first time in the 78th minute with a move started deep in his own half by Alex Craik. The Gaffer picked out Keith Millar in the centre circle who, supported by Myles McAuley, raced forward holding off several challenges before feeding Craig MacEwan 25 yards out. With a pass and finish almost identical to the second goal, MacEwan split the Falkirk defence for Donald Campbell to slot the ball underneath the keeper and put Saints into pole position.

Shaun MacIver and Scott Maitland both found their way into Mr Todd's notebook for mistimed challenges on Falkirk full back Brayden Docherty as the home side pressed hard for

an equaliser. Saints were happy to see Scott Wright and Blair Lockhart headers fly over the crossbar as Grant Plenderleith tossed dangerous crosses onto the six-yard line.

The sense of relief, however, turned to despair as Plenderleith snatched a draw in the second of four minutes added on by referee Todd. The speedy right winger sent in another cross from the corner of the 18-yard box this time into the 'corridor of uncertainty' between defenders and goalkeeper. The cross eluded Alex Craik and Blair Lockhart and bounced past a stranded Graham Douglas into the unguarded net ensuring that both teams go into the hat for Wednesday's fourth round draw.

Manager Alex Craik said: 'It was a terrific game, Falkirk are a good side. We would have taken a draw before the game but to lose the equaliser in added on time was a sickener.

'However, we have home advantage now and hopefully we'll get a good crowd of supporters and have a few more players available.

'We haven't had a settled squad all season, being forced to make changes every week which is no good at this level of football - you must have continuity.'



Donald Campbell slots the ball past Campbell Geddes to make it 3-2 for Saints.

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Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 9, 2017** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25						
Thur	02.59	0.9	08.45	3.6	15.43	1.2	21.25	3.3	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Fri	03.57	1.2	09.46	3.4	16.51	1.5	22.45	3.0	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sat	05.02	1.4	11.15	3.2	18.13	1.6	** **	1.6	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Sun	00.55	2.9	06.16	1.5	13.22	3.2	19.49	1.6	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mon	02.17	3.0	07.33	1.5	14.34	3.4	20.59	1.5	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Tues	03.12	3.2	08.42	1.3	15.18	3.5	21.48	1.4	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
Wed	03.48	3.4	09.36	1.2	15.51	3.7	22.26	1.2	Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)									Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	



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Developer urges community to celebrate Glencoe hotel plans

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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THE FAMILY behind the £10 million redevelopment of the Kings House Hotel at Glencoe has spoken of its disappointment at the negative comments from objectors to their planning application, as they submit revised plans to the Highland Council for permission.

The owners said that the objections to their original application will cause much delay to the opening of the new hotel, and will be to the detriment of the local community.

James Allan, surveyor with managing agent Bidwells, said on behalf of the Kings House owners: 'Considering that a basic renovation of the existing hotel would have been impossible and unsatisfactory because of the very bad condition of the building, poor layout and substandard facilities, a new building was the only valid option. Over recent years, the King's House Hotel was not well known for its comfort, food offering or overall customer rating.'

Four formal objections have been lodged against the original planning application, which was submitted to the Highland Council in August. These include objections from leading conservation organisations the John Muir Trust, the National Trust for Scotland and Mountaineering Scotland, which urged the council to reject the plans on the grounds that the designs are not in keeping with the surrounding area.

Mr Allan explained that the developers have taken heed of the objections and made alterations to the plans, even though

the official landscape and visual impact assessment concluded that the original proposal 'will not have any significant impact on the surrounding landscape'.

'We have considered the objections and liaised closely with the planning team at Highland Council and can confirm that we lodged amended plans last week which propose a lowered roof-line for the extension,' he said.

'We are very hopeful that the planning application will be successful and that the community can celebrate what is a superb development.'

The original 17th-century droving inn, owned by Black Corries Estate Ltd, has been closed since November ahead of the proposals to build a three-storey, 60-bedroom hotel on the landmark site in Glencoe. Work on the £10 million project got under way this week, with parts of the existing building being demolished.

Andy Meldrum, owner of the nearby Glencoe Mountain Resort, has shown his support for the plans, saying: 'Glencoe Mountain Resort is delighted to hear of the plans to bring new accommodation to the area. During both summer and winter there is a lack of accommodation in the area so all new beds are highly welcome. From the 3D image we have seen, the new hotel looks like it will be a great asset to the area.'

A public information forum will take place on Saturday November 18, at the St Mary's Church Hall, Glencoe. This will be a drop-in meeting for those wishing to find out more about the development and will run from noon to 4pm, with a short presentation starting at 3pm.

First winter snow falls at Aonach Mor



NEVIS Range welcomed the first snow of winter at the weekend as the ski resort hopes for a bumper season.

Staff at the Fort William ski resort turned up to work on Saturday morning to find a

light dusting of snow covering the 750 metres of Aonach Mor. Another heavy snow shower overnight turned that into a more generous covering on Sunday, reaching right down past the top gondola station.

After a poor winter season last year, the ski resort will be hoping this November snow is a sign of things to come and it continues to fall.

Pictured are Nevis Range employees Laura Jackson,

20, from Helensburgh, and George James Henderson, 23, from Invergarry, as they enjoy the first snow fall.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image, IF F45 Nevis Snow 01

INSIDE YOUR LOCHABER TIMES THIS WEEK

Top of the class

A FORMER pupil of Banavie Primary and Lochaber High schools was heaped with praise after narrowly missing out on the coveted UK School Librarian of the Year award. Full story – page two.

Sad farewell

MORE than 400 mourners gathered at a special ceremony in Fort William on Sunday to pay their last respects to a popular Lochaber teenager who was tragically killed in a car crash last week. Full story – page three.

Taskforce plan

THE Isle of Skye is to have its own tourism taskforce similar to that of the North Coast 500 in a bid to secure a 'successful and sustainable future' for the industry on the island. Full story – page four.

Fab fireworks

A BUMPER crowd braved the cold on Saturday night to witness a fantastic fireworks' display, courtesy of Stramash. Full story – page five.

Boxing clever

FORT William hosted a big night of boxing last Saturday as Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club boxers had the chance to put their training to the test in front of a large crowd as they took on opponents from across the country. Full report – page 32.



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Energy company to consult on 40-turbine Laggan wind farm

LOCAL residents have been invited to two public events this month to learn about plans for a Highland wind farm designed to support factories across Scotland, writes Mark Entwistle.

SIMEC Energy, whose sister company Liberty British Aluminium is currently planning a new alloy wheels factory next door to its smelter at Fort William, wants to get the input of local people on its proposals for a 40-turbine wind farm in the Glenshero area near Laggan.

The proposed £150 million wind farm will contribute ener-

gy for industrial developments across Scotland and SIMEC is preparing to submit a planning application for the development early next year.

The original proposal for 54 turbines has already been revised following preliminary discussions between developers and statutory consultees, and after initial site investigation work.

SIMEC and Liberty British Aluminium are part of the GFG Alliance, which says that the wind farm at Glenshero is part of a wider vision to devel-

op the Lochaber estate lands. Duncan Mackison, chief executive of JAHAMA Highland Estates, the GFG division which manages and develops the estate lands, said: 'We hope as many people as possible will come along to the public events at Laggan and Fort Augustus, so we can share details of these exciting proposals and hear local views.'

'We've already had initial conversations with key stakeholders and these meetings are a valuable opportunity to take that to the next stage and

involve local residents in the process of developing a scheme which promises to bring extensive benefits to the area.'

Details of the 40-turbine wind farm will be outlined by SIMEC Energy representatives during information events at Laggan Village Hall on Monday November 20 and Fort Augustus Village Hall on Tuesday November 21.

Both events will be open between 3pm and 7.30pm for visitors to drop in to see initial plans, hear briefings and share their views.

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FW



Shelagh Toonen, left, receives her certificate, at the recent school librarian awards.

Shelagh's a winner despite narrowly missing award

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THE TERM 'school librarian' tends to conjure up an image of someone blowing dust off old copies of Hamlet and telling unruly pupils to keep quiet.

But nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to Shelagh Toonen's role as Elgin Academy librarian.

A former pupil of Banavie Primary and Lochaber High schools, Shelagh was just recently pipped for the coveted UK School Librarian of the Year award.

The award is the School Librarian Association's top honour and highlights the best practice of those whose work is deemed outstanding.

Shelagh was one of only

three finalists from across the country - and the only Scottish one. Although she missed out on the top prize, her work with pupils was singled out as exemplary by judges.

'I was thrilled to be part of the 2017 award and to have my work in Elgin Academy recognised and celebrated,' she said.

'I whole-heartedly thank all in the school community for their support - my headteacher, David Barnett, my colleagues, our pupils, their parents and Moray Council.'

Multi-award winning author and illustrator Chris Riddell, president of the SLA, presented the awards at the ceremony held in Worcester last month.

He told the audience he enjoyed the film made by Moray Council to support the judging,

which he felt conveyed the energy and passion found within Elgin Academy school library.

Pupils, colleagues and others took part in the film to show the wide range of activities Shelagh creates within the library.

He went on to say that every school should have pupils like Jamie and Daniel (featured in the film) and that listening to, supporting and following up on pupils' ideas is a highly commendable 'madness'.

Elgin Academy head teacher David Barnett travelled to the ceremony with Shelagh and some pupils.

After the ceremony, he said: 'Shelagh is a winner in every way. She didn't win today but is a wonderful librarian with a great accolade.'

'She's still the best librarian in Scotland. And some!'

Shelagh has an infectious love of books and reading, and is a passionate believer in the power of literacy to change people's lives and open more doors to opportunities for youngsters.

After local primary and secondary education, she headed for Aberdeen University, followed by employment in schools in Aberdeenshire, then Buckie and now Elgin Academy.

'Being a school librarian is about working with people. I always wanted to work with young people and have had a lifelong love of books,' Shelagh told the *Lochaber Times*.

'School libraries have a pivotal role in helping develop

literacy skills and developing a love of reading. There's also a critical role in school libraries helping more vulnerable children, who have no access to reading, to develop into readers.'

All this is just the tip of the iceberg of Shelagh's work at Elgin Academy, which also involves co-ordinating peer reading groups where sixth-year students work with first year pupils on reading skills; pupils working on their own novel and over-seeing three school book clubs.

And she added: 'The kids at Elgin Academy love their library and the ethos is that it is very much their library. They have total ownership of it and it really is the beating heart of the school.'

Western Isles reports largest rise in quitters

THE Western Isles has reported the highest percentage increase in the number of people being supported to quit smoking between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The percentage of successful quit attempts at 12 weeks in the Western Isles was 55 per cent, significantly higher than the overall Scottish figure. The performance of each health board against their individual standard also showed a significant performance of 136 per cent in the Western Isles.

Colin Gilmour, head of health improvement, was delighted with NHS West-

ern Isles Board's success: 'We have a team of advisors who are dedicated to helping smokers who want to quit.'

'Each quitter has their own reason and the service aims to provide them with a high quality, sensitive and tailored package of support.'

Joanne O'Donnell, smoking cessation coordinator, added: 'Smokefree Hebrides is committed to supporting smokers to quit. Our service offers an open-door policy to all those who would like to receive support to quit smoking.'

'We provide free, confidential advice, help, and support across the islands and can offer face-to-face contact, telephone, texting and email services.'

'It is our intention to introduce an 'attend anywhere' remote access facility and further detail on this can be provided by contacting any of our advisors.'

People can contact Smokefree Hebrides on 01851 701623 or email smokefreehebrides@nhs.net The direct line is accessible to Smokefree Hebrides advisors across the Western Isles at all times.

WHAT'S ON

BALLACHULISH Community Company will hold its annual general meeting tonight, Thursday November 9, starting at 7pm in the village's Jubilee Pavilion. Members and local residents are welcome to attend.

THE UK premiere of Warren Miller's 68th annual snowsports film, Line of Descent, visits Fort William this weekend with two showings at the Snowgoose Bar and Restaurant at Nevis Range. On Saturday, November 11, the gondola opens at 6.45pm for uphill travel for a welcome reception at 7pm. The film showing begins at 7.30pm and the last gondola down is at 10pm. There will be prize draws and other entertainment on the night. Adults are £19.50 and juniors are £15. On the following Sunday afternoon, the film's family premiere will be at 5pm. Catch the gondola up to the top station between 4.15pm and 4.45pm and allow a minimum of 15 minutes for the gondola journey. Tickets are £14 for adults, £10 concessions and £39 for a family ticket. More information on warrenmiller.co.uk

THE Sunart Centre in Strontian will be hosting the Nordic Fiddlers Bloc on Saturday November 11. The concert features three award-winning fiddle players from different Nordic fiddle regions - Olav Mjelva (Norway), Anders Hall (Sweden) and Kevin Henderson (Shetland). The concert begins at 8pm, and tickets can be bought locally and online £14/£12/£8.

THE 2nd Fort William Boys' Brigade are having a soup and sandwich lunch on Saturday November 11 in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church new hall from 11am to 3pm. Everyone is welcome.

LOCHABER Natural History Society is hosting a talk tonight, Thursday November 9. Loch Arkaig Pinewoods by Steve Morris of the Woodland Trust covers the recent acquisition of the woods south of Loch Arkaig which were also bought for the local community. Lewis Pate will also be talking about raptors around Loch Arkaig. The meeting takes place at 7.30pm in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William. Entry is £4 or £15 for the season and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club is holding an open day at its gym at Ben Nevis Industrial Estate on Saturday November 11 from 12.30pm until 4pm. The event will take the form of an inter-club boxing and sparring session. The open day, including a raffle, will help raise funds for Fort William man Gary Campbell to receive stem cell treatment in his battle against MS. Treatment for Gary is only available in Mexico and has to be self-funded. For more details, call 07747 196765.

STAFF and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support are paying an outreach visit to Acharacle on Monday November 13. From 10.30am until 11.30am the LSC representatives will be based at Acharacle medical practice to offer help and advice to anyone with hearing or sight loss.

The team will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries, retube the hearing aids and assist with any difficulties. No appointment is required.

THE next meeting of the Fort William Photographic Society is on Tuesday November 14 at 7pm in the Salvation Army hall. Seil island photographer Trevor Davies will show his amazing underwater photos and explain how he takes them. Non-members welcome.

WOMEN'S Aid will be hosting its annual general meeting at 5.30pm on Wednesday November 15 at Voluntary Action Lochaber's offices, An Drochaid. The meeting will be an opportunity to find out about the group's work over the past year and their hopes and plans for a future free from domestic abuse. Refreshments will be served. Anyone intending to go along should please phone Lochaber Women's Aid on 01397 705734.

ORGANISERS behind the Kilmallie Christmas Lights Fund are hosting a switch-on ceremony on Friday November 17 and are inviting everyone along. The event begins at 7pm outside the Kilmallie Community Centre. Teas, coffee and home baking will also be on offer in the centre. The fund is supported by STAR for Harris.

AN AFTERNOON of workshops, live music and shopping with small local businesses and artists will be held at the Railway Social Club, Inverloch, on Saturday November 18. Tickets are £5, with under-16s free.

KILMALLIE Community Centre's committee is appealing for volunteers to help with the restoration of Kilmallie Community Gardens on Saturday November 18 from 10am to 1pm. Contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040 for more information.

FRIENDS of Nevis's autumn litter pick and curling ponds tidy up takes place on Sunday November 19. Meet at the Ben Nevis Highland Centre (woollen mill) at 10.30am. Peepoles are invited to go along for a couple of hours or whatever time they can spare before the finish at 3.30pm. Coffee, lunch and all equipment will be provided. Please wear appropriate clothing. Register beforehand if possible via friendsofnevis.co.uk or contact Susan at info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or on 701088, or call Joy on 772459.

WEST Highland College UHI is hosting a lecture on Scottish whaling on Wednesday November 22. Arctic expert Eric MacVicar presents The Inuit and the Whalers, a lecture discussing the effects of 160 years of Scottish whalers in the Arctic waters around Greenland and Eastern Canada. This will be followed by a short film, The Silent Snow. The lecture will start at 6.45pm and will finish at 8.15pm. Tickets are £7. To book, contact 01397 874874 or business.whc@uhi.ac.uk.

A CRAFT fair will take place on Saturday November 25 from 10am to 4pm in Nether Lochaber Hall, Onich. Cakes and jams, handmade cards, knitted and crocheted crafts and other wares will be available. Contact Berit for more information on 01397 705539.

LOCHABER Camanachd Club will hold its annual general meeting in the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge, on Friday December 1 at 7.30pm. This is a change of date from previously advertised.

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View from the Chamber

LOCHABER Ideas Week is just around the corner and we'd like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to attend the free Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture on Friday November 17 at 5.30pm in Lochaber High School.

This year's lecture will be delivered by Lord Thurso, a lifelong Liberal Democrat and current chairman of VisitScotland. He was honoured to be asked to present this year's lecture in memory of his friend and colleague Charles Kennedy.

Lord Thurso is passionate about business in the Highlands, particularly the hospitality industry and the importance of creating an economic environment that will attract and keep young people here.

Born and brought up in Thurso,



the then-Hon John Sinclair trained in hotel management at the Savoy Group in London, and went on to work at Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Savoy before becoming Europe's youngest manager of a five-star hotel (the Lancaster in Paris) at just 27.

Lord Thurso continued to have an incredibly successful career in top-end hospitality, before moving into politics.

In 2001, he was elected MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, a seat he held until 2015. He has been, at various times, a member of the Liberal Democrat shadow cabinet, covering Scotland, transport and business.

In 2016, Lord Thurso was appointed chairman of VisitScotland, a role he relishes as 'it combines my twin passions for service - the hospitality industry is about looking after people's leisure - and public service helping promote Scotland'.

The Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture is presented in partnership with HWEnergy. It is free of charge and open to everyone.

Book a place at www.lochaberchamber.co.uk/events, or call us on 01397 705765.



Lord Thurso will deliver lecture.

Hundreds pay respects to Kyle

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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MORE than 400 mourners gathered at a special ceremony in Fort William on Saturday to pay their respects to a Lochaber teenager who was tragically killed in a car crash last week.

Kyle Bruce, 17, from Spean Bridge, was alone in his parents' Audi A3 when it crashed on the A82 on October 25. It is believed the car skidded on a wet road surface and went down an embankment.

Kyle's family have been left devastated by his loss and described him as a 'beloved cheeky and happy son' and 'best pal and hero' to his brother Lee.

In the touching funeral service, family and friends gathered at the Nevis Centre to celebrate the life of the talented engineering student.

The family were determined to fulfil Kyle's wish to get into the boxing ring with his talented boxer brother and decided to hold the ceremony in the boxing ring at the Nevis Centre.

Kyle's parents Andrea and Kevin said: 'We dearly wanted to give Kyle the best send off. He always promised to get into the boxing ring and do a friendly knock-about with Lee.

'Holding his funeral in the ring was the best way to recognise the close bond between our boys.

'The ceremony was planned to reflect Kyle's life. We wanted it to be a celebration of everything that brought him joy.



Kyle Bruce makes his last journey through Fort William High Street followed by a procession of cars.

All photographs: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

'We have lost a wonderful son and brother, and miss him more than words can say.'

Kyle's brother Lee, 19, a member of the Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club, added: 'Kyle always encouraged me to do things and in his memory I will make sure that I can keep going knowing he will always be with me every step of the way.'

'I will do my brother proud throughout life's challenges as that's what he would have wanted me to do. I will miss you Kyle and I am proud to call you my brother.'

Police escorted a motorcade

of more than 100 cars from his home in Spean Bridge to the Nevis Centre, passing through Fort William High Street, as family and friends came to show their support.

Kyle's father Kevin said: 'As Kyle's family, we have witnessed one of our worst tragedies in our lives. Like everyone here, we are struggling to understand what happened that day. We are trying to cope with what happened and find a way forward.

'We have only lived in this area for five years and would just like to thank Lochaber

for the huge support and overwhelming generosity shown to us at this heartbreaking time.'

Kyle had only passed his driving test six months earlier and it was his ambition to become a highly skilled mechanical engineer after passing exams at Inverness College.

The former Lochaber High School pupil's coffin was custom-made to reflect his love of cars, with his two favourite models - the Ford ST and RS - incorporated in the design of the casket.

Family funeral director Scott Greenlees said: 'Kyle's family



Kyle's coffin is carried from the Nevis Centre passed a shinty guard of honour.



Leading the cortege was a Blue Ford RS, Kyle's dream car, followed by nearly 100 other cars, mainly Fords, which included family friends and kind-hearted Ford owners who came to show their support.

were determined to make this a perfect service for him.

'He always joked with his brother Lee that he could take him on in the ring. Sadly, Kyle did not live to have that friendly knock-about.

'So the family have done everything possible to pay trib-

ute to his enjoyment for life and love of cars. They did not want people to mourn but instead celebrate Kyle's life.'

At the ceremony, tributes were paid from his mum Andrea, his dad Kevin, his brother Lee, his girlfriend Lily and best friend Philip.

Fort cannabis grower did it to 'keep out of trouble'

A FORT William man who started growing his own cannabis as a way of keeping out of trouble was ordered to do 133 hours of unpaid community work by a sheriff this week.

Malcolm Watson, 31, of the town's Lochaber Road, appeared for sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court this week having previously pleaded guilty to charges of possessing about 5.5g of herbal cannabis and eight cannabis plants at his home on October 11, last year.

The drugs and plants were found during a search by police officers and Fiscal Depute Robert Weir told Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald that Watson had co-operated with police and had

told them that the items were for his personal use only.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose told the court that although he had a 'substantial record', he had not been convicted of any misuse of drugs-related offences since 2009/10, adding: 'He thought growing cannabis was one way of keeping himself out of trouble, of the sort caused previously by drinking.'

Sentencing Watson to 133 hours of unpaid work in the community, Sheriff MacDonald warned him this was a direct alternative to custody.

She also ordered that all the drugs paraphernalia seized by the police from Watson's home be forfeited.

Kinlochleven man fined for racist jibes

A KINLOCHLEVEN man was fined £320 at Fort William Sheriff Court this week after admitting making racist comments about Syrians.

The court heard there were several Syrian families living in the Kinlochleven area, and two of these residents were in the village's Tailrace pub on the night of June 9 this year when the offence took place.

Fiscal Depute Robert Weir told the court that pub staff had overheard John May, 41, who was in the company of a group of people, making comments, including those accusing Syrians in the UK of 'sponging off the government' and that they should all 'p**s off back to their own country'.

Mr Weir added: 'The comments continued in that vein - comments about them all bombing each other and so on.'

Mr Weir said May, of the village's Glendale Road, was later traced by police, cautioned and charged in connection with the incident.

'It's fair to say that the accused did not co-operate with the police, later saying it was a lot of 'bull crap', added Mr Weir.

May was subsequently charged with - and pleaded guilty to - behaving in a threatening or abusive manner likely to cause fear or alarm to a reasonable person by making the racist remarks.

May's defence solicitor Hamish Melrose told Sheriff

Eilidh MacDonald that his client had lived in Kinlochleven for about the last two years but had not worked for most of that time following injuries sustained in a gas explosion.

Mr Melrose said on the night in question his client had entered the pub and got into company with some of the other patrons.

'One person ask him if he was working yet and specifically referred to my client as being a 'benefit bum', and that seems to be what triggered these comments about Syrians.

'I think there are one or two Syrian families rehoused in the Kinlochleven area. There were two Syrian gentlemen also in the pub at the time, although

they were sitting away from the company and said nothing.

'I don't think they understood what was being said due to a lack of English.'

Mr Melrose said his client had never made racist comments before and that he was sure May would learn from this experience of ending up in court as a result.

Fining May £320, Sheriff MacDonald told him: 'I am told you made comments about these people who had not done anything to you, that you didn't know them.'

Sheriff MacDonald added that, in sentencing May, she took account of what his solicitor had said and of his low level of income.

Musicians up for trad awards

SEVERAL Lochaber musicians have been nominated for prizes at this year's MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards to be held in Paisley next month.

Torlundy musician Robert Robertson is up for Gaelic Singer of the Year along with Mary Anne Kennedy, while Gary Innes is in the final for Instrumentalist of the Year.

It is a good showing for Lochaber bands, with Mánran shortlisted for Album of the Year, and Robertson's band Tide Lines in the running for Live Act of the Year.

The awards ceremony takes place on Saturday December 2, at Paisley's Lagoon Centre.

Sensory care moves back to Caol

STAFF and volunteers have finally moved back into the Lochaber sensory centre in Caol this week after flood damage forced it to close for six weeks.

The charitable organisation, which provides a free service for sight and hearing support, moved out of the premises after flood water damaged the building in August.

Repairs were more problematic than first thought as centre manager Esther Briens explained: 'Our fantastic volunteers persevered in giving the best service they could from the least damaged part of the sensory centre. However due to the age of the building, asbestos was found, which meant we had to move out.'

Caol Community Centre offered LSC a room so staff could continue to provide hearing aid maintenance, but checks found that some of the walls had been water damaged too, delaying the renovations further.

After weeks of setbacks, all staff and volunteers returned to the centre at the beginning of the month.

Esther continued: 'Lochaber Sensory Care would like to thank our landlord for assisting us with the insurance claims and repairs, and to Caol Community Centre for helping us to continue providing our crucial service. Also a thank you to all the service users who offered their support and kind donations to help us through this difficult period. We are extremely grateful for your patience and support.'

Lochaber boxers set to put on a show for Gary

BOXERS in Lochaber are coming together to show their support and raise money to help multiple sclerosis (MS) sufferer Gary Campbell receive ground-breaking treatment, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

As part of a push to raise £45,000 to send Gary Campbell to Mexico for stem cell treatment for his MS, Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club will be holding an open day this Saturday at their gym at Ben Nevis Industrial Estate.

The event is being organised by Gary's cousin Ryan Watson and Lochaber Phoenix boxing coach Niall Clark, who are hoping to boost the fundraising total and raise awareness for Gary's cause.

Gary, 29, was diagnosed with primary progressive MS three months ago and his friends and family have since launched a fundraising campaign so he can receive Hematopoietic Stem Cell Treatment (HSCT), which aims to combat MS.

The campaign has already raised almost £30,000 towards the treatment, which is only available in Mexico. Friends and family of Gary have also organised a shinty fundraiser, sponsored Ben Nevis hikes and bake sales to boost his fund.

Ryan, who is originally from Fort William but now lives in Inverness, said: 'Gary's my cousin, best mate and is going to be my best man at my wedding next year.'

'So I want to help as much as I can and I hope he gets the



Above, Gary Campbell with his partner Leanne Crawford. His cousin Ryan Watson and boxing coach Niall Clark have organised the fundraising event.

treatment as soon as possible.

'Niall is arranging for boxers from different clubs across the country to come to Fort William for sparring sessions, which will involve plenty of local boxers. It should be a really good selection of boxers at the session.'

The open day will be an opportunity for people to see what is involved in the training of a boxer and to enjoy some sparring. Ryan is hoping to make the fundraiser more of a family affair and encourages families to come along.

'It's a bit different from usual

boxing events as it's during the day but we hope that children, parents, grandparents all come along,' he added.

The open day will be held on November 11 at Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club gym, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate from 12.30pm until 4pm. All money raised at the open day will go towards Gary's treatment fund.

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New round of LEADER funding for Hebrides

THE Outer Hebrides LEADER 2014-2020 programme has announced another funding round with a closing date for applications of February 14, 2018.

Ideally projects should have match funding in place by the application submission deadline and must demonstrate innovative solutions to support community and economic development of the Outer Hebrides.

Projects must not have started, show they will benefit the local community, be completely different to what the enterprise is already offering and not displace other existing businesses. LEADER can support both capital and revenue projects including new products and services, initiatives and creating new networking opportunities.

Previously supported projects include the Harris Marina Hub which is developing marinas in Tarbert and Scalpay; the Huisinis Gateway project; Trix Pix Multimedia Studio and Marketing Campaign and the Polycrub Project operated by Hebridean Castle Trading.

Projects which aim to develop networking opportunities and learn new skills from their counterparts in other LEADER areas in Scotland, UK, Europe or further afield can also be considered and separate funding is available to support these. Co-operation projects can focus on any sector and will attract a higher intervention rate if assisted.

Prospective applicants should initially submit an expression of interest through the LEADER website at www.outerhebridesleader.co.uk, where further information can also be found, and a LEADER officer will then contact them to discuss their proposal, its eligibility and the next steps.

Businesses benefit

NEW figures show the Scottish Government's Small Business Bonus scheme has provided a record level of £1.8 million-worth of support to small businesses in the Western Isles this year.

Across Scotland, the scheme paid out more than £226 million in 2017-18, supporting more than 103,000 firms by reducing their rates liability and taking some firms out of business rates altogether. 'To have more than a thousand businesses in the isles and more than 103,000 across Scotland benefitting from this policy is good for jobs and good for communities,' said Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan.

Minister promises Skye will get tourism task force

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THE Isle of Skye is to have its own tourism task force similar to that of the North Coast 500, the Scottish Government has announced.

At a tourism summit on Friday November 3, arranged by Skye's constituency MSP Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism Fiona Hyslop told 130 delegates that the new strategic group would aim to secure a 'successful and sustainable future' for the industry.

The tourism task force will be led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise representatives, and will also include officials from VisitScotland and Police Scotland as well as representa-



Fiona Hyslop MSP

tives from local businesses and communities.

The need for a co-ordinated approach to tourism management has become increasingly

evident this summer, with some of the roads and facilities around the island's major attractions coming under significant strain with a six-fold increase in the population during peak months.

Ms Forbes, who invited Ms Hyslop to visit the island on a fact-finding mission, welcomed the news.

The constituency MSP for Skye said: 'I'm very pleased to see the Scottish Government is listening to our concerns, and while the implementation of this task force doesn't immediately solve all of our problems, it is a step forward.

'The problems of congestion, lack of toilets and conservation of our fantastic natural environment are well documented,

and we need to be as ready as possible for next summer.'

She added: 'I firmly believe Skye is the jewel in the crown of Highland tourism - as evidenced by the huge growth in visitor numbers.

'The cabinet secretary has recognised the pressures on the island's infrastructure, and the need to make the visitor experience excellent so that they return.'

Ms Hyslop commented: 'The new strategic task force's priority will be to assess the impact of tourism on Skye and to take action to ensure it benefits communities and businesses while providing the best possible visitor experience.

'I am pleased the group will include key public sector inter-

ests, alongside representatives from the industry and community.

'I am sure this collaboration and partnership working will help ensure a successful and sustainable future for tourism.

'We recognise the recent surge in interest seen by some of our tourism sites, particularly in rural locations. That is why we recently announced a new £6 million Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

'Alongside the Skye strategic group, the Scottish Government will continue to do all we can to support sustainable growth in tourism, working in partnership with local communities - in Skye, throughout the Highlands and Islands and across Scotland.'

Fairy Pools plan given welcome boost



Jack Mackay, community and visitor services manager, Inverness and Skye Forest District, Forest Enterprise Scotland; Cabinet Secretary for Tourism Fiona Hyslop and Kate Forbes MSP, on a visit to Skye's iconic Fairy Pools on Friday.

PLANS to help alleviate congestion at one of Scotland's most iconic tourist attractions have moved a step closer after the Scottish Government announced the community asset transfer request at the Fairy Pools will go ahead on favourable terms, writes Mark Entwistle.

The Minginish Community Halls Association has secured the land from Forestry Enterprise Scotland for £2,500,

a discount of £27,500 on the market value. With more than 108,000 visitors last year, the existing 35-space car park has been struggling to cope during the peak season - but under its proposals the community hopes to accommodate 137 cars and approximately 20 mini-buses and camper vans.

On Friday November 3, Skye MSP Kate Forbes went to see the Fairy Pools site along with Cabinet Secretary for Tourism

Fiona Hyslop - who was visiting Skye on a fact-finding mission.

Ms Forbes said: 'I am absolutely delighted to see us move one step closer to a vastly improved car park for the Fairy Pools - and it's a testament to all the time and effort that the project group has put into this.

'The situation at the Fairy Pools has really become too much to bear for local residents, who just want to

go about their daily lives. The single track road is far too narrow for the volume of traffic parked at the Fairy Pools. We've reached a point where enough is enough and I'm pleased the Scottish Government is facilitating the community asset transfer at the Fairy Pools.'

The entire project - which will also see improvements to nearby roads and toilet facilities - has been estimated

at £500,000. The Minginish Community Halls Association recently secured £100,000 from Highland Council.

The series of waterfalls and pools in Glen Brittle have become one of Scotland's must-see tourist attractions on Trip Advisor. This year it was called the nation's best place for a picnic by the organisers of National Picnic Week, and the best place for wild swimming by Wunderlust travel guide.

Kate Forbes nominated for 'rising star' award

KATE FORBES, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, is one of four Holyrood backbenchers in the running for the rising star award at the annual Scottish Politician of the Year awards.

Ms Forbes, who is serving her first term as a politician after the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections, is a finalist in the 'One to Watch' category - which organisers say is 'an award that recognises the MSP demonstrating the most potential to rise through the ranks of their party and/or in Parliament.'

She is the only Highland politician from any party to be nominated for an award at the annual ceremony, which takes place in Edinburgh on November 17.

The recognition for Ms Forbes at a national level has been



MSP Kate Forbes has been nominated for a major award.

welcomed by Dave Thompson, her predecessor for the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch seat.

Mr Thompson commented: 'Kate is a Gaelic speaking, young Highland woman with a strong faith and a passion

for Scotland, particularly, the Highlands and Islands.

'She has a good head on her shoulders and a superb grasp of the issues, and I am delighted that she has been nominated as 'one to watch'.

'The people of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch are fortunate, indeed, to have her as their MSP.'

Ms Forbes added: 'I'm honoured to be nominated for this award - although I wonder if they've got the right person!

'Particularly as a young Highlander, I hope that this demonstrates to young people across the Highlands that you can do and achieve whatever you set your mind on.

'My primary objective is to represent the Highlands, with all of its potential to be the most entrepreneurial, community-based area of Scotland.'

Services to remember Armed Services and our fallen

PARADES and services to mark Armistice Day, Saturday November 11, and Remembrance Sunday, November 12, will be taking place throughout the Highlands, including Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross.

The Portree service is on Sunday November 12, leaving from the Skye Gathering Hall at 10.40am.

The Lochalsh Branch of Legion Scotland will be holding a Remembrance Day parade at the Balmacara War Memorial on Sunday November 12 - the march to the memorial starts at 10.50 with a short service at 10.58am.

This is followed by a service in Glenelg, Kintail and Lochalsh Parish Church of Scotland in Kyle of Lochalsh.

The community of Glenelg and Arnisdale will hold a remembrance service on Sunday November 12 at 1.30pm at the war memorial.

There will be a remembrance service at the Lochcarron War Memorial on Sunday November 12 at 11am.

There is a remembrance service at the Poolewe War Memorial on Saturday 11 November at 10.45am. This is followed by a service at the Russian Arctic Convoy Memorial Stone at the Sasan at Cove.

On Sunday November 12 there will be remembrance services at Aulbea at 10.45am and at Gairloch at noon.

Public dental events in Uists

THE WESTERN Isles Integration Joint Board (IJB), which is responsible for the planning of a range of health and social care services, is hosting three public engagement events this month as part of a consultation on how the new model for dental care will be provided in the Uists.

There has already been engagement with staff, stakeholders and community representatives to discuss proposed changes, and following a detailed options appraisal process, the IJB deciding that its preferred model for the delivery of dental care in the Uists is to have a single service operating from a renovated Uist and Barra Hospital.

This will involve the closure of the existing clinics in Lochmaddy and Linciate (the clinic in Lochboisdale has already closed due to concerns about the building) and relocating all dental staff into a central hub within Uist and Barra Hospital.

The IJB believes this will result in a higher quality clinical environment and a more sustainable service.

Ron Cully, chief officer of the IJB, said: 'Recognising that we are moving to a single site, we would operate an outreach service to disabled people and frail older people, thereby offering a more responsive arrangement for people with mobility problems by providing home visits.

'We believe that there are numerous additional benefits to this model, and we want to use this engagement process to describe those to the public.

'We are also mindful that some people may be unsure of the new model and want to understand people's views as we move through this process.

'A key point we want to get across is that these changes will enable our existing clinical services at Uist and Barra Hospital to be substantially improved.'

Members of the public can respond to the consultation document available to view/download at www.ijbwesternisles.scot - or by participating at one of three public engagement sessions.

The engagement sessions will be held on Tuesday, November 21 - Eriskay Community Hall, Isle of Eriskay, from 7pm-9pm; Thursday, November 23 - Dark Island Hotel, Isle of Benbecula, from 1pm-3pm; and Thursday, November 23 - Carinish Hall, Isle of North Uist, from 7-9pm.



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SEALL opens new office

SKYE MSP Kate Forbes joined the Cabinet Secretary for Culture Fiona Hyslop in opening a new office on Skye for the largest rural touring arts organisation in the Highlands.

SEALL - Skye Events for All - promotes around 80 high quality touring events each year, such as the Skye Festival in July and August, and the Skye Swing Jazz Festival in late

October. It recently moved into a new office in the old courtyard of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, which SEALL is developing as a cultural hub for south Skye.

Chairperson Eileen Armstrong and artistic director Duncan MacInnes welcomed Ms Hyslop and Ms Forbes to officially open the new office on Friday, November 3.

Since being established in

1991, SEALL has been responsible for putting on 1,800 events.

SEALL was founded as a small rural touring promoting group in May 1991.

Since then it has grown into a social enterprise with charitable status, offering the most extensive programme of any arts event business in the Highlands and Islands.

Lochaber MSP supports calls to improve West Highland Line

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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LOCHABER MSP Kate Forbes has said she agrees that the West Highland Line from Crianlarich to Mallaig 'falls far short of its potential'.

Last week members of the Lochaber Transport Forum condemned Abellio ScotRail's management of the West Highland Line franchise and called for its contract to be terminated. Members said the company had failed to deliver on promises of more investment, leaving a service not fit for purpose when it comes to serving the passengers and communities of Lochaber.

Ms Forbes has said she agrees with the forum over the quality of the rail service and that more should be done to improve the famous route.

Ms Forbes said: 'I agree with Brian Murphy in so far as the



West Highland Line falls far short of its potential.

'I recently met with the new

chief executive of ScotRail, Alex Hynes, and put the point to him that the West Highland

Line is not fully catering to either local residents or to tourists.'

The West Highland Line attracts thousands of visitors every year and was voted the most scenic journey in the UK by travel magazine Wanderlust.

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

At a recent meeting the forum also agreed to write to Scottish Government Transport Minister Humza Yousaf, Economy Minister Keith Brown and all Highland MSPs asking that they intervene urgently.

Ms Forbes was sympathetic to the group's frustration, adding: 'We want to get people out

of their cars and onto public transport because it saves on fuel costs and reduces congestion and carbon emissions.

'However, that will continue to be almost impossible if people cannot depend on a frequent service, with basic provisions of coffee, wifi and plug points on board.'

The West Highland Line is one of the most famous railways in the world, and attracts thousands of visitors every year, with the 164-mile journey from Glasgow to Mallaig recently voted the most scenic journey in the UK by travel magazine Wanderlust.

Ms Forbes continued: 'For tourists, too, there is enormous potential to get people off the road.'

'This is a stunning route and surely many visitors would like to enjoy the stunning scenery, stress-free, from the comfort of a railway carriage?'



Newly-promoted Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Mackinnon.

Spean soldier promoted to ministry of defence role

A BRITISH Army officer from Spean Bridge has earned a promotion to the position of lieutenant colonel at the ministry of defence in London.

Duncan Mackinnon, 37, is currently serving in Kabul on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan and will return later this year to begin his new role as a staff officer at the ministry of defence.

The lieutenant colonel rank is superior to major but subordinate to colonel.

Duncan was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2002 after attending Kilmonivaig Primary and Lochaber High School. He was commissioned into the 1st Battalion The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons).

He served with them in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq before moving to become the adjutant of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Bn Royal Regiment of Scotland (2 SCOTS), subsequently serving in Afghanistan.

More recently, Duncan has been an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and, on promotion to major, a company commander with 2 SCOTS based in Edinburgh.

He is currently serving on Operation TORAL, the UK's support to the NATO mission in Afghanistan and is based in Kabul, where the UK form part of the Kabul Security Force.

Duncan and his team are tasked with providing security for the mentors who train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces and support to them when requested. The UK currently has around 450 troops deployed in and around Kabul providing mentors and force protection. Lieutenant Colonel Mackinnon is the son of Duncan and the late Mary Mackinnon of Roy Bridge.

Stramash light up the sky in bonfire night spectacular

A BUMPER crowd braved the cold to witness a fantastic fireworks' display on Saturday night, courtesy of Stramash outdoor nursery in Fort William.

More than 300 children and parents gathered at the BA playing fields and watched in awe as the staff orchestrated a fireworks' display in the grounds of the nursery lighting up the night sky.

Meanwhile a roaring bonfire kept the crowd warm on the chilly November night.

The outdoor learning centre was recently hit with a spate of vandalism and the management team was delighted to see so many people turn out to support them.

Team leader Cameron Sprague commented after the evening: 'When parents sign up for Stramash we tell them we want them to sign up for a community. Events like bonfire night show that vision coming to fruition. It's a chance for us to touch base not only with the children who currently attend, but also reconnect with those families who have gone off to school.'

'This nursery event wouldn't happen without the hard work and generosity of many people and we are very grateful to every single person who contributed.'

'We are also thankful that the rain cleared, there was a full moon out and the snow-covered Ben came out for the display.'



More than 300 people watched the display. JP F45 Stramash fireworks 02. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



Lochaber children turned out in force to enjoy the bonfire and see the spectacular fireworks' display. JP F45 Stramash fireworks 01. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Collapsed Knoydart road to be repaired

WORK has begun to repair a collapsed section of road at Soldiers Rock on the Knoydart peninsula, following a landslip in late October.

A full inspection of the affected road has been carried out and a Highland Council engineer was on site on Wednesday this week to start preliminary work before detailed survey work is carried out on Friday.

Due to the physical constraints and the challenging terrain, the engineers are looking at an option of bypassing the slipped section by making a new road,

approximately 300m long, to connect the bottom and top road.

The council will wait for the detailed survey work to be completed before discussing preferred design solutions with the local community. In the meantime preparation work for transporting materials to the site is continuing.

Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson thanked the community for its patience and understanding as the council works to repair the road.

The route is a lifeline for the

communities beyond the slip which include Airor, Doune and Sandaig. Since the landslip, the community has been operating a road shuttle arrangement and plans are in place to erect a 30-metre scaffolding pedestrian bridge as soon as possible.

Lochaber Times
01397 703003



The collapsed stretch of road on the Knoydart peninsula.

Tourism firms take top prizes

LOCHABER tourism companies enjoyed success at the annual Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) which enjoyed another record-breaking year.

Two Lochaber businesses were among the winners in 16 categories, overcoming unprecedented competition to be crowned the best in the region and scooped the piper trophies.

The Best Sporting Event title went to the Fort William UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.

Judges said the event was a 'roaring success', adding: 'With an economic contribution of more than £3 million, every aspect of the

event is aimed at giving visitors a memorable experience.'

In the Best Accommodation Provider category, Cuil Moss Cottage, Ardgor, by Fort William, was awarded a judges' commendation.

The judges said the business stood out for its deep understanding of the needs and expectations of its guests.

In all, 232 businesses and individuals – 14 per cent more than last year – were put forward for honours and 55 finalists were vying for the awards, which celebrate and recognise the best places to eat, drink and enjoy the area's scenery, hospitality, wildlife, history and culture.

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Fort William

BEFORE a large audience in Fort William's Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church on October 25, Audley Male Voice Choir presented a wonderful evening of music and song on a night organised by the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

This 55-strong choir, founded in the mid-1950s, decided Fort William was the place to host their first performance of their 2017 Scottish tour – quite some distance from their base in Audley, a rural village near to Stoke-on-Trent in England.

The audience was treated to an impressive and varied programme comprising traditional, classical and modern pieces and which included soloists by choir members and the choir accompanist on the organ.

The musical director is Sue Hallam and Ian Riddle was the accompanist.

Having previously performed at the Royal Albert Hall and in Glasgow Cathedral, the choir has an enviable fundraising reputation and a long association with rotary.

One of the high points of the evening was when the audience joined with the choir in singing

'Amazing Grace'.

A total of £680.83 was raised which will be given to the rotary club's benevolent fund.

In his vote of thanks, rotary club president Donald McCorkindale thanked the choir for a wonderful evening. Thanks were also given to everyone who contributed in any way, including the splendid interval buffet, but very special thanks were reserved for Sheana Fraser who pulled the whole evening together.

THE Crofting Commission has gone out on the road in search of assessors. The Crofting Commission will be appointing a new panel of assessors in spring 2018.

Anyone who is part of a crofting community and wants to be more involved, can join them at a crofting roadshow to find out more about the role of assessors and general update on commission activities.

The roadshow is visiting the West Highlands this month and will be at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on November 30.

All meetings take place from 7.30pm to 9pm.

For more information go to the Crofting Commission website.

Fort William



There were plenty of laughs and a lot of fun at last week's joint Halloween party and disco for the P1-3 infants from Caol and St Columba's RC primary schools in Fort William.

And there are more than 30 fantastic photographs capturing the youngsters having a great time at Caol Campus, in the special slide show at www.obantimes.co.uk.



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Calum, left, and his crew with representatives from the charities at the cheque presentation.

Plockton skipper donates tips to charity

A GENEROUS Plockton boat skipper has donated all of his hard-earned tips this year to charity.

Calum Mackenzie, who runs seal trips from Plockton on his boat Sula Mhor, decided against pocketing any tips received from

satisfied customers this year and has instead kindly given them all to local charities.

After an especially busy summer season this year, the tips jar on board the Sula Mhor was bursting and once the affable Lochalsh

skipper had totted up the collections, he had £2,400 worth of tips to decide what to do with.

On Saturday October 28, Calum presented cheques to MacMillan Cancer, Marie Curie and Highland Hospice, with each charity

receiving a cheque for £800.

Calum's Seal Trips has been operating boat tours around the waters of Plockton for decades, and Calum has been giving his tips to charity for the past 17 years, raising almost £50,000 in that time.

Caol



Pupils spreading the message that reading is 'so Caol!'.

Pupils discover reading is 'so Caol!'

CAOL Primary School pupils have discovered their love of reading this term after taking part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge.

As part of an effort to get children into reading more books, Caol Primary School's campaign has been so successful it has taken over the community.

Last week the school hosted its own show on Nevis Radio and a blog published on the First Minister's

Reading Challenge website, all about the reading challenge work.

Kerry Lamont, literacy coordinator at the Lochaber school, described how the whole school and community had got behind their efforts.

She said: 'Although there was perhaps some room for improvement and the opportunity to have a little more fun with reading, we were on the right tracks and our challenge entry would

be quite subdued and simple, or so I thought.

'Never did I think that in the space of a few short weeks our view of reading and relationships with our wider community would be so completely transformed.'

Kerry said that the whole community had been swept up in a wave of reading fever, thanks to the enthusiastic staff, pupils and parents. Local author Barry Hutchison gave an excellent talk to the pupils

about reading and books, while parents were invited to open sessions to learn about how the school is developing the children's reading abilities.

Kerry added: 'Now that we have been bitten by the reading bug, and with the support of the community and our parents too, we think our project will go from strength to strength.'

'We certainly hope so as we are having so much fun we never want it to end.'

Fort William



Road policing officers carrying out safety checks at the West End car park in Fort William.

Road safety operation held in town

ROAD policing officers based in Fort William have carried out a multi-agency safety initiative aimed at ensuring vehicles are in a safe condition for use on the roads.

The multi-agency event last week involved officers from the trunk road patrol group based in Lochaber, along with partners from the Driver Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

The initiative was aimed at ensuring drivers are

adhering to the regulations regarding the safe use of their vehicles and the standards relating to the carrying of waste materials.

A total of 65 vehicles were stopped and checked during the operation held at the West End car park in Fort William, resulting in a number of offences being identified and warnings issued.

Constable Russell Macmorran of the trunk road patrol group said: 'The majority of the issues identified related to vehicle faults

and licence offences.

'It is vitally important that vehicles are kept in good condition so they are safe for use on our roads.'

'I'm grateful to our partners for their assistance and expertise during this operation which has helped highlight faults with a number of vehicles, which will help make our roads that bit safer.'

'We would also like to thank motorists and members of the public for their co-operation during this initiative.'

RETRO Roamer

More Roamerisms from the 1980s

It was ceilidh time in the Small Isles as the directors and officials of Lochaber Limited, our local enterprise company, went to work – on Eigg. Overseas, aboard the Shearwater. The novel twist for their meeting and workshopping with the islanders of Eigg and Muck was that the business was being conducted aboard the Shearwater itself. The Small Isles cognoscenti among you will know that the vessel also doubles – and, in some cases, trebles – as the Eigg pub. The Shearwater is licensed and the locals troop down to the pier when it arrives to have a chat, a dram and a beer. So the Lochaber Limited 'Boarding Party' went with a real swing, with the islanders appreciating the efforts of the company in taking time out to sail across to meet them.

After working on seven consecutive nights, the Magnificent Seven from C Shift went to the Volley for a hard-earned pint. Led by Jimmy, they trooped in – much to the delight of their host, Sammy Ball. Sammy pulled four pints of lager and three of heavy. But Jimmy had been telling his mates all week that, much as he looked forward to having a pint at the end of constant night shift, the first one always tasted 'horrible'. So 'Cheers!' cried the lads, before each one of them, solemnly, leaned over the bar, and poured his pint down Sammy's sink. Sammy, whom you'd think had seen it all in his catering career, was amazed. 'Why the hell did you do that?' he asked, totally flummoxed. 'Well,' responded Morry, 'Jimmy here's always going on about the first pint after constant night shift tasting horrible, so we're starting this night out with the second pint instead. Same again, please, Sammy!' (Not since the Sunday when Sammy, in the long black raincoat, black suit and Homburg hat was heading into town, was greeted at the town park by two elderly ladies who said in unison, 'Good Morning, Father' has Sammy been so lost for words.)

The five cash prizes in the Eagle Club draw were won by – five Macs. Three MacDonalDs, a MacKinnon and a MacLean

Architectural corner one. Now they've cleared away the scaffolding from outside the Bank of Scotland the building is looking quite pristine. But why did the architects have to spoil it all by siting the monumental, monolithic, marbled 'money take-out machine' alongside the bank's portals? Architectural corner two. Quite a few locals had a good look at the cleared area of the Parade, and recognised the once-familiar red brick foundations of the Garrison Theatre, which once stood there, and also stood in as our school canteen.

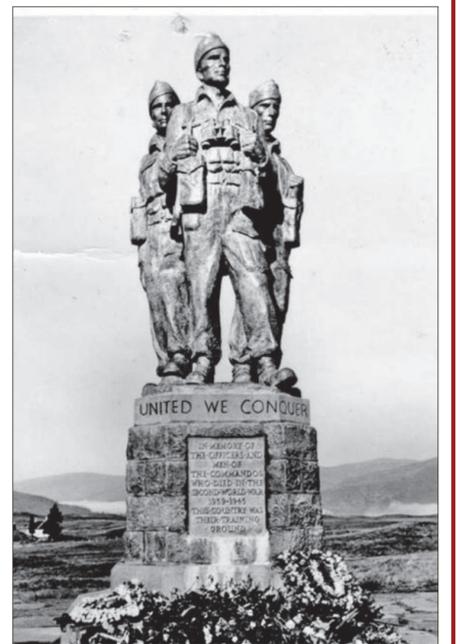
Willie Anderson was pushing the boat out at the Old Forge pub at Inverie at the weekend. Literally, I might add. And, no, he wasn't standing his hand at the Knoydart hostelry. Willie was going fishing with a couple of colleagues from Lochaber Mountaineering Club, or was it Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team? Well, it might have been less expensive if Willie HAD stood his hand. For his brand new fishing rod is now at the bottom of Knoydart Bay, despite the valiant attempts by his mates to rescue it. This included the efforts of two of them who actually dived into the briny to try to reel it in – ken!

The clerical hostelry was receiving the treatment in a Lochaber hostelry. Somehow, however, the wine ordered by a local clergyman had been chilled. As he pointed out, quite reasonably, red wine should be served at room temperature. So the offending claret was whisked away and given a degree or two more – in the microwave! It emerged nearer its preferred condition. But I don't know whether the Reverent gentleman blew hot or cold over the final delivery.

Out they stepped for the final tug o' war competition of the season. On Island Park, Kinlochleven. With the SPPM All Stars as the 'crowd puller'. The brand new rope was paraded. It had been cut to length, or, as it turned out, half-length. So, when the first two teams tried to take the strain they discovered they were becoming more friendly with one another than the rules allow – for the rope was just about long enough for one team to grasp.

'Next item concerns the 'Scottish Assembly', announced madam chairman of the council's resources and general purposes committee. This drew much mirth from the Lochaber House Labour benches, in particular. On the agenda, in fact, was the 'Scottish Ensemble', and it referred to a forthcoming visit to Fort William by the musicians who play under that title.

Ex-Commando Jack Lewington from Didcot had an interesting tale to tell at the weekend. For it is on Jack that the central figure of the Commando Memorial is modelled. As he told me: 'It was quite an experience when I first came face to face with myself at Spean Bridge.'



The Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge.

FW

DO YOUR THING

BBC Children in Need



This year's Lochaber Times Children in Need special is brought to you in conjunction with Mallaig Primary School.



All artwork courtesy of Mallaig Primary School's P5, P6 and P7 classes.

Everything you need to know about this year's BBC Children in Need

After a record-breaking amount of money was raised last year, Children in Need will once again grace our television screens.

More than £60 million was raised from the 2016 fundraising efforts, and organisers are hoping to surpass that amount this year.

The 2017 programme will be on air on November 17 from 7.30pm on BBC One.

The on-the-night total last year was £46.6 million and this total grew to £60 million as money from across the UK was donated in subsequent months.

This was up from 2015, when the charity raised a total of £56.9 million.

To date, Children in Need has raised more than £909 million.

The charity currently supports 2,400 projects in communities across the UK that are helping children and young people facing a range of disadvantages such as living in poverty, being disabled or ill, or experiencing distress, neglect or trauma.

In the last year alone, BBC Children in Need has been able to make a difference to 480,000 young lives in communities the length and breadth of the UK.

Speaking about last year's record breaking total, Simon Antrobus, chief executive of BBC Children in Need, said: 'The impact this incredible amount of money will have on some of the most disadvantaged children and young people is hard

to put into words; it really will go on to change the lives of young people across the UK who need it most.

'To our supporters who made this possible: thank you, we simply couldn't have done it without you.'

Every year schools, organisations and individuals do their bit by not only donating money in the millions, but by taking part in a particular challenge and raising funds in the process.

It could be a dress up, down or dress fancy themed day, a sponsored silence, a tech detox, a dinner party, a sponsored walk, run, cycle or any type of challenge.

Simon Antrobus added: 'BBC Children in

Need is calling on people across the UK to once again come together to make a lasting, positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people.

'Whether you love baking or fancy dress, or fancy taking on a once in a lifetime challenge, you can use your passions to help change young lives.'

The man who will be in charge of keeping us up-to-date with the on-the-night total will be comedian and presenter Graham Norton.

However, he won't be alone. Children in Need's mascot Pudsey will be in action on the night, as will many other famous faces.

The official fundraising pack is available for download now from www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey



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Oban woman is seriously injured in US hit-and-run

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

A 55-YEAR-OLD Oban woman has been seriously injured and has had a series of operations after being struck by a hit-and-run driver last week while on holiday in the United States.

Agnes MacKechnie was sent '25 feet' into the air when she was hit by a Ford pick-up truck at around 9.45pm in Wyandotte Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Agnes was in the United States visiting her brother, who moved there around 15 years ago.

This week, Agnes's daughter Karen said: 'Our mother is still having on-going treatment but is making excellent progress thanks to the care of everyone at St Luke's Hospital.'

'There are currently no new developments on finding the driver of the hit-and-run vehicle.'

'Agnes's family would also like to express their deepest thanks and gratitude to all the well-wishers and support that we have received from their friends and work colleagues.'

Immediately after the accident, her sister, Sharon Bratton, said: 'She was involved in a hit-and-run last night and has a fractured skull, broken leg and wrist, broken ribs and a torn liver.'

'She was with my brother and her husband. They were out at a Halloween party and were just crossing the road to go back to his flat when a truck came out of nowhere and sent her into the air.'

Sharon added subsequently, following an initial surgical procedure: 'She has been taken off the ventilator and is more alert. And the surgeons are on stand by



Agnes MacKechnie was hit by this pick-up truck.



in case of any complications. So far she has had a blood transfusion and is on blood thinners. She has had surgery on her left wrist they have put pins in it.

'She will be overwhelmed by the amount of people who know and care about her.'

There was a huge response from well-wishers on social media after Sharon contacted *The Oban Times* soon after the accident injured Agnes, who had her 55th birthday on Sunday.

Family friend and well-known Oban publican Aulay Dunn spoke to Agnes's husband, David, at the weekend.

Aulay said: 'David told me it

Oban and Dunbeg sparkle for fireworks



Mickey and Minnie Mouse were the star attractions – along with Oban High school Pipe Band – at Dunbeg's bonfire night celebrations on Saturday. And thousands turned out the following night to see the spectacular fireworks display over Oban bay (inset). Full story and more pictures on page five.

was a bit of a nightmare and that Agnes has had operations on her leg and her arm, which are broken. And he said there is a problem with her liver.

'He said he was with her at the time she was hit and saw her go up in the air. David said he thought she was gone. But he said she is reasonably stable in the hospital.'

'He is staying about 15 minutes away from the hospital which is good because otherwise he would have to relocate. And I'm sure it will not be just a couple of weeks until she comes back.'

'David has been sorting through the insurance as well, and that's all okay, as far as I can gather.'

'He's obviously pretty upset about what's happened.'

'This is terrible. They were away on holiday looking forward to having a good time. You just don't expect that sort of thing to happen. It's not nice at all.'

Meanwhile, police in Bethlehem have issued an appeal for help from the public to identify the driver who knocked down Agnes.

Police issued pictures from

CCTV cameras of a dark blue Ford pick-up truck. The city's police department said: 'The vehicle has stickers on the left and right lower corners of the rear window. The truck also has a significant amount of debris in the truck bed. The truck should have some front-end damage. The truck appears to have an extended cab.'

Billy Irving is back in Indian court

CONNEL man Billy Irving appeared in front of an Indian court on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The facts of his appeal were heard and he and others will reappear next week for the outcome.

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, is hoping to get him back for Christmas.

Billy and five other British ex-servicemen were sentenced to five years in an Indian prison in January 2016. The men, known as the Chennai Six, were working as armed guards protecting ships from Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

Authorities arrested the crew of the MV Seaman Guard Ohio for straying into Indian waters with unlicensed weapons.

Yvonne recently filmed their two-year-old son William telling her what he wants for Christmas - his daddy back. 'I try to film as much of William as possible,' she said. 'From special occasions to everyday things.'

'Billy has missed out on so much of the two years William has been with us. So when Billy is home and free he can sit down to watch them and see how much his little boy has grown. Tonight I decided to video him writing his letter to Santa, and I am so glad I did.' The 18-second clip ends with William saying: 'I miss him, mummy,' and Yvonne replies: 'I miss him too, darling.'

The Chennai Six also received the support from best-selling novelist and former SAS sergeant Andy McNab, who has signed a copy of his latest book for the Chennai Six, which will be making its way to the prison in India next week.

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Trees bloom for Remembrance Day

A PROJECT is hoping to restore Glencruitten's Cathedral of Trees, planted to honour the fallen of the Great War.

As Remembrance Sunday approaches this weekend, one project is planning to restore the Cathedral of Trees, the only living tree cathedral in Scotland.

The Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees was planted in the 1920s by Alexander Mackay, who bought the land exactly 100 years ago in 1917. His granddaughter, the Rev Nicola Moll, who started the Cathedral of Trees Restoration Project, said Alexander wished to create a war memorial as well as rebuild life and the town after the war, modelled the layout on St Andrews Cathedral.

'A man who plants trees has an eye on eternity', Mrs Moll said, but nearly a century on the cathedral of trees needs urgent work to fix the drains, re-establish the path, and restore its natural and spiritual beauty.

The project's website explains: 'Alexander Mackay was a Dundee businessman who made his fortune in the USA and moved his family to Glencruitten House in Argyll after his house in Broughty Ferry burned down. 'Although in his sixties when he bought the house, he was a man of huge energy and soon began a programme of forestation over much of the estate. He saw this as an important contribution towards the replacement of trees which had been lost to the nation through the demand for timber during the Great War. 'Forestry work and the build-



The memorial stones at the Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees in Oban.

ing of tracks and woodland paths also gave employment to local people – many of them former soldiers returning home from the trenches.

'As the years passed, he noticed the trees in one valley – a beautiful spot that looked towards Ben Cruachan – failed to flourish. Rather than abandon the area, he decided to redeem it and create a Cathedral of Trees, his memorial to the First World War and a celebration of both his love of trees and his strong faith.'

'To our knowledge, it is the only living cathedral of its kind in Scotland. In 2016, three of Alexander's relatives decided to take on the restoration of this site so the local community and anyone who is searching for quiet spot for reflection would be able to enjoy it.'

'We hope that once the site is back to its former glory, many people will benefit from it for their own enjoyment as well as for the benefit of the wider public including schools, community groups and pilgrims.'

There will be a remembrance service in Oban on Sunday to honour those who have died in the line of duty.

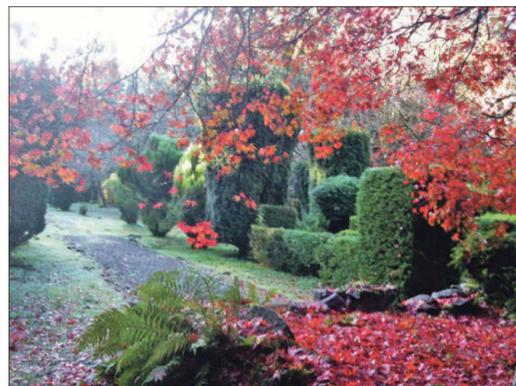
A parade will depart from the Corran Halls to the War Memorial at 10.45am and a two minutes' silence will commence at 11am.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gleaner Oils will be displaying poppies across its fleet of commercial vehicles to show support for the Remembrance Day.



Gleaner Oils is supporting Remembrance Day with poppies.



The stunning Cathedral of Trees requires restoration.

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Viewpoint



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LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

This week Shelagh Toonen, a former pupil of Banavie Primary and Lochaber High schools, narrowly missed out on winning the coveted UK School Librarian of the Year award.

The award is the School Library Association's top honour and highlights the best practice of those whose work is deemed outstanding.

Shelagh is the librarian at Elgin Academy, and by all accounts is the driving force behind the school library's energy and passion for its pupils, literacy and reading, having created wide range of activities for the students

within the library. Her head teacher said regardless of her missing out on the top prize: 'She's still the best librarian in Scotland. And some!'

At a time when many councils are being forced to close libraries, and with levels of literacy being the cause of concern, the fact that this former Fort William woman is doing so much to instill a love of reading and books in the school's pupils is to be commended.

Shelagh's role, and that of every other librarian across the country, is not a luxury – it is a necessity if we want our children to be the best they can possibly be.



Days gone by – 1996

Celebrating Hallowe'en back in 1996 at Dalavich school were Lauren Todd from primary four and Martin Copeland of primary six, along with head teacher Mrs Offord and clerical assistant Mrs Twigg.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk

The Piper's Cave/Cave of Gold (continued)

'... The piper boldly burst out through the door of the warm house and into the dark storm with the movement of a man on a righteous mission. He was followed without question by his faithful dog and he held his pipes like an instrument of war.

'From outside, he called to those in the crowded house, "Who among you will come with me? Who will witness the great piping contest with the king of the fairies at the Great Cave of Kenevara?"

'At first, no-one moved, as they were terrified of the evil mischief that the fairies could inflict upon them. All were rooted to the spot in fear, but a brave, wise and aged bodach from Balephuill said: "For the sake of our fellow man we must go after the piper and dissuade him from this foolish and doomed endeavour."

'So out they went in pursuit and by the time they caught up with him he was half way across Traigh Bhi. Followed still by his ever loyal dog, he was marching with vigour and his pipes were skirling above the wind and rain and with the beat of

a great drum the sea was crashing like thunder on the shore. At the end of the beach he eventually cut the tune and put the pipes down, thus giving his companions a chance to reason with him and to counsel against his intended course of action.

'Nothing they could say could dampen his blind determination to make for the Uaimh Mhòr on the far side of the hill. Even the wise words of the aged bodach, telling of the wicked and powerful ways of the fairies, could not convince him to change his course.

'The party, who were now frantically pleading with him, hurried alongside and in circles as he climbed up the hill. On reaching the summit, a strange stillness suddenly came on the night. The wind dropped, the rained stopped, the clouds cleared and the light of the bright full moon brought land and sea alive in the lunar glow. "This is a sign," said the piper. "Even the moon and stars are out to watch me win the pot of fairy gold!"

'He set forth with no fear down the western side of Kenevara and made the perilous descent to the mouth of the Great Cave. After climbing nimbly over the large bolder that guards the mouth when then jumping the final gully, he landed at the entrance of the cave, pipes in hand and dog at his side.

'By this time his companions had

given up hope of persuading him otherwise and gathered as near as they could safely get to the cave in the hope that he would return. To his friends, the piper gave a proud wave delivered with the confidence of assured victory.

'With that, he struck up his pipes, tuned his drones, turned and marched forth into the dark depths of the cave, dog at heel. Out of the cave and across the calm sea the booming sound of the pipes echoed beautifully. As the time passed the music grew fainter and fainter until at last not a note could be heard.

'Those waiting did not see the piper reappear that night, nor in the morning nor in the days to come. However, some days later at the top of Dùn Mòr a' Chaoilais, at the other end of the island, from a hole in the ground, there appeared the piper's faithful dog with not a hair left on his body.

'The piper was never seen again, and lore tells that he was so fine a player that when the fairy king heard his music, a spell was cast upon him that meant for eternity he was cursed to play the bagpipes and never again to see the light of day.

'On quiet moonlit nights, at certain times of the year, it is said that if you listen carefully, the piper can still be heard playing, forever wandering in the deep tunnels beneath Tìree, still under the curse of the fairy king.'



Social media

Our story last week about the chaotic bins situation at Soroba prompted a vociferous response, with residents complaining of bags of rubbish everywhere.

Bridget Buick posted: 'They emptied the bins yesterday and just left all the rubbish sitting there.'

Helen Reid agreed: 'Oh they did...I have the photographic evidence to support it. I am constantly photographing the bins as evidence.'

David MacLennan suggested: 'If the council just fired up another couple of big bins it would help the problem.'

Kuba Maciaszek said: 'The problem is that people don't use recycling bins.'

Murdo MacKenzie countered: 'That isn't the problem, the recycling bins in this particular area are well used.'

Diane Maxwell Graham Kirkham

wrote: 'There's only one blue bin for three blocks of flats. That's 24 houses to use one blue bin.'

John McDermott commented: 'I did use recycle bins for green waste. But they were never emptied! Flies ended up in house etc. Told them to remove bin or I was contacting environmental health.'

Caroline Tollan complained: 'I was up there right after the bins were emptied and they left all the black bags behind; where's the logic in that?'

Samantha Smith posted: 'People are always placing their rubbish at that bit because they're too lazy to walk up to the last bin which is always empty.'

Paul Graham said: 'I noticed on the latest calendar that our recycling day and dates have been changed; should be picked up today and still no sign

of them. They did pick up the green bins that were meant to be lifted on Tuesday though.'

Ashley Strang wrote: 'Plenty people recycle. Not enough bins or collection days. Not so nice when there are young kids out playing near this!! Disgusting.'

Heidi MacColl commented: 'We just got our new bin collection calendar... they have jumped a week.. so rather than three blue bin collections this month there are now two.'

Michelle Mac posted: 'It's atrocious, we're always overflowing. Green bin pick-ups need to go back to normal asap.'

Danielle Hay-West said: 'Just wait till Christmas... It will be twice as high with packaging.'

James Strang warned: 'Wait until the further cuts come in, this is just the beginning.'

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

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Parliament boundary plan is horrendous

Sir,

I had known for some time of the proposed boundary changes to Argyll and Bute but Martin Laing's column At Random (*The Oban Times*, October 26) really brought it home to me how horrendous it would be.

When I first came to live in this place it was known as Argyllshire or Argyll. It was, at the time, a large enough county, one of the biggest in the UK.

Later, in 1983, the boundaries were changed and enlarged to take in Bute, an act of gerrymandering from the powers-that-be. Bute was already a good-sized county in its own right. The two former counties were lumped together and renamed Argyll and Bute.

It was to become a challenge to any single MP to represent the whole place. It is not just the sheer land mass that poses problems and the journey times, it is also the sea between all the islands.

Ferries are often stopped in bad weather and the roads are not so good either, often being single-track, full of twists and turns, and full of pot holes. The railway only serves a small part of it.

As if this is not bad enough, Westminster is threatening to enlarge the boundary area still further to take in Lochaber. This will make an already challenging job for any MP almost impossible.

I quite agree with Martin Laing that it is the bloated House of Lords that seriously needs to be slimmed down.

Sarah Swain-Nisbet,
Dalintart Drive, Oban.

Up to 500 enthusiastic voices in massed choir

Sir,

I refer to Angus MacPhail's remarks about choral singing at the Mòd (*The Oban Times*, October 26).

He has very obviously never attended the Saturday morning massed choir concert, at which he will not only hear Sine Bhan but also Glenn Bhaile Chaoil and Cearcall a Chuan among others sung to simple but effective settings, by a choir of 400 to 500 enthusiastic voices.

Raibeart McCallum,
Campbeltown.

Plea for anglers to be more careful

Sir,

While walking my dog on the Kilchoan Pier on Saturday morning, I came across this fish hook with meat attached and a small length of line attached just lying on the ground at the end of the pier.

I had seen two people fishing there the previous day. Those fishing must be asked to be more careful when they are doing so in areas that others use for leisure activities.

Luckily, my dog had been distracted

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

BHA MI AIG DÀ CHRUI-NEACHADH bhliadhnaid air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, agus chòrd iad fìor mhath rium. Ged a tha tomhas de dh'eadar-dhealachadh eadar Comunn Leòdhais is na Hearadh Ghlaschu (CLHG) agus Comunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis (CGI), tha iad le chèile air a bhith nan seòrsa de thèarmainn dha Gàidheil anns na bailtean sin fad iomadh bliadhna.

Nach math an naidheachd gum bheil fàilte bhàth agus furan roimh chiochraig sam bith a thadhlas air gin de na cruinneachaidhean aca, agus gum bheil sin gu sònraichte fìor dha Gàidheil a nochdas. Nochd CGI ann an 1871 agus CLHG sia bliadhna deug an deidh sin ann an 1887, an dà bhuidheann aig àm a bha gu math riaslach agus doirbh dha mòran de shluagh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eileanan.

A' sealltainn air ais air suidheachadh chroitearan thar bhliadhnaichean an dàrna leth den naidheamh linn deug, cha robh e na iongnadh gum dh'èirich na daoine an aghaidh brùdealachd agus ana-ceartas nan uachdaran agus nam bàillidhean a bh' orra.

Ach ged a bha ceannardan calma aig

by other smells and I reached the hook before he did or he may have got to it before me and then who knows what the final outcome may have been – death or a large outlay of money for treatment.

To all those who fish, here and in other areas, please be aware of what you are leaving lying around as the consequences for others could be devastating.

Ricky Clark,
Kilchoan.

Appeal for help to trace family member

Sir,

I am researching my family history and have come across the name Maria Nudds (maiden surname Peacock). I think she stays in Oban.

She is related to my husband's family through her mother, Elizabeth Maxwell Pratt. If she is interested and would like to contact me by email it would be much appreciated.

W McLauchlan,
Ayr.
w.mclauchlan471@btinternet.com

Deeply concerned over toilet closures

Sir,

I am deeply concerned and angered by the proposed public toilet closures across Islay. Clearly this idea has not been thought through as this would have a huge detrimental effect on Islay, our local residents and our growing tourism industry.

We, as a council, should be doing all that we can to encourage visitors to come to Argyll and Bute, and having well maintained and available public toilets are a large part of that.

Expecting local business to fill the gaps left by any potential closures is just not a suitable solution. Keep in mind many of our businesses are not open all hours and some are only open on a seasonal basis. Also, having their toilets open to the public may have an effect on their insurance costs.

I would implore the administration to heed the anger they are justifiably receiving from Ieachs now this proposal has gone out to consultation.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Frightful waste of a good food resource

Sir,

Has anyone given thought to the frightful amount of pumpkins going to waste every year purely for decoration and for a festival that has horror themes to promote?

In a time when austerity and food banks are the subject of society's political concerns, and when other developing countries hardly have enough crops to feed their populace, surely it is a disgrace for our farmers to devote so much energy, land and expertise into growing pumpkins for the sole purpose of Hallowe'en. Some

people may try to make pumpkin soup or a pumpkin pie, but most are made into 'Jack-o'-lanterns' then discarded. Surely this is a sign of a decadent society.

I am not a fan of Hallowe'en for its devilish themes anyhow as the Bible warns not to have anything to do with the 'works of darkness' (Ephesians 5:11), but rather prove them and 'walk as children of light'. That is a healthier message for children – to hear about God rather than the devil. The Bible also talks about a time when people will call evil good and good evil.

Perhaps we are in such times with all the decorations in homes and shops to celebrate themes of darkness, evil, spells, witches, demons and the like, all forbidden by God in scripture. Even the word 'wicked' has changed into meaning good.

The saddest thing of all is hearing of even churches having Hallowe'en parties bringing dark themes into the house of God. God preserve us. No wonder Hallowe'en gives me the creeps.

Colin Nevin,
Bangor, County Down.

Be prepared for judgement day

Sir,

There are many people sceptical of God, who foolishly think that the Lord's Day, or Sunday, is not really a very important day and can do with it, and every other day, just as they like.

The story is told of a farmer, a proud atheist, who once wrote to the editor of a newspaper: 'Sir, I have been trying an experiment. I have a field of corn which I ploughed on Sunday, I planted it on Sunday, I did the cultivating on Sunday, I gathered the crop on Sunday, and on Sunday I hauled it into my barn. And I find that I have more corn per acre than has been gathered by any of my neighbours during this October.'

The farmer's sneer was obvious. By deliberately choosing to do all the work connected with his cornfield on the Lord's Day, he had challenged God to express disapproval by giving him a disappointing result. Instead, he had reaped an exceptionally good crop.

The editor of the newspaper drew attention to one very important overlooked fact in a footnote: 'God does not always settle His accounts in October.'

No, as the Bible reminds us, God's 'reckoning day' lies in the future. The scriptures give repeated testimony that a judgement day is coming when 'God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil' (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Every seeming injustice will then be set right.

How important it is to prepare for the last 'settling day' which is fast looming round the corner, that will bring history to a close. God tells us that He 'hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness' (Acts 17:31) He also says: 'Be ye ready.'

Donald J Morrison,
Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.

Ailean Caimbeul

idhnean eile le ceanglaichean Gàidhealach taic làidir agus luachmhor dha na croitearan, agus bha Rannachadh a' Mhorair Napier ann an 1883 agus a' chaid Achd Croitearachd ann an 1886 nan dearbhadh air èifeachdas na taice sin.

Nach math gum bheil iad ann fhathast, agus ged a tha an saoghal air iomadh car a chur bhò thòisich iad, chan eil teagamh nach eil trioblaidhean is dùbhlain gu leòr aig Gàidheil agus eile fhathast air am faodadh iad cuimseachadh gu leasachaidhean a shireadh! Càite an tòisich sinn?

ATTENDING the annual dinners of Glasgow's Lewis and Harris Association and the Gaelic Society of Inverness last week, I was reflecting on the vital support which these and other similar organisations had given over many years to securing justice and improved conditions for the people of the Highlands and Islands. Such intervention and support is still required to resolve ongoing challenges. Where to start?

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

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

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

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

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

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

be printed.

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



Coach Lewis Gibson led a busy training session last week on a cold, wet night at Lochaber High School.
Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Players look to resurrect Lochaber Hockey Club

A GROUP of keen hockey players in Lochaber are giving people in the area the chance to try out the sport in an attempt to resurrect a hockey club. Several years after Lochaber last had a hockey club, a pair of committed players have taken it upon themselves to get people playing the sport again. Ruth MacCallum and Sarah Callander are looking to set up a new community hockey team for all abilities, even those who have never held a hockey stick before.

Ruth says that the club will have a view to play competitively again in the future and perhaps enter a league for regular matches. But for now, she is happy to get more people playing the sport in Lochaber in a friendly and fun environment. Former Scotland junior player Lewis Gibson, from Glenfinnan, will be using his expertise to lead the coaching sessions.

Lewis was part of the historic Lochaber High School hockey team that won the Scottish Schoolboys' Hockey Cup - the first time a Highland school, and only the second time a state school, had won the tournament. The new weekly mixed adults hockey sessions take place at the all-weather pitch at Lochaber High School on Friday nights from 6pm until 8pm. Sticks and balls will be supplied.

Shankland proves to be a big shot Shooting

THE GLENFINNAN Gun Club shoot took place on Saturday November 4.

The weather was bright with heavy showers. This wasn't enough to put competitors off as there was a good turnout of 30 guns.

Results: John MacLeod Memorial Shield - Gordon Shankland; Duncan Stoddart Memorial Quaich - Gordon Shankland; Joe MacLeod Cup, high gun for the day: Gordon Shankland (perfect score).

Indoor winter league results Indoor football

LATEST results from week three of Sammy's Indoor Winter League: HWE 6, Expected Toulouse 8; Fortmund 2, Fiorentina Turner 6; Goon Squad 6, Gozols 1; Arse N All 4, Young Team 14; Snorting Lisbon 0, Balla 3; Portowcy 4, Doghouse Thistle 6.

Lochaber boxers shine in front of huge home crowd

FORT William played host to a big night of boxing last Saturday as Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club hosted another captivating show.

Boxers had the chance to put their training to the test in front of a big crowd in the Nevis Centre where 10 bouts took place, featuring five boxers from Fort William taking on opponents from across the country.

Top of the bill was comeback king and light heavyweight fighter Nathan McDade, who faced Bannockburn's Ryan Malcolm. Malcolm was a very aggressive southpaw but McDade showed great maturity to use good lateral movement and peppered the oncoming Malcolm with jabs and straight backhands.

After winning the opening round McDade began to force Malcolm onto the back foot, picking on his opponent's weaknesses. Utilising clever punch picking, McDade overpowered Malcolm and forced the referee to halt the contest after inflicting two counts on his opponent.

In a highly anticipated fight, 15-year-old multi-titled Cameron Whyte took on a fighter one year his senior, Alec Mac-

Boxing

Donald from Forgewood, in a contest that gripped the crowd at the Nevis Centre.

This bout could have taken place in a phone box as both boxers stood and relentlessly traded blows for all three rounds. Whyte landed the more powerful, eye-catching blows which was the reason the decision went in his favour.

Another 15-year-old fighter, Eryk Wrobel, had a superb first round win against Rhys Duncan of St Francis, dictating the pace and range of the contest. The next two rounds became a war of attrition but the young local boxer did enough to claim a deserved victory.

Kayden MacLean took part in his debut against Norman Hughes of Fair City but on this occasion things didn't go the way the home club had hoped. But 10-year-old MacLean will learn from the experience and look to make improvements for his next contest.

Another local 10-year-old to enter the ring was Josh Dieguron, who took on an excellent opponent in Forgewood's Lloyd



Lochaber boxers before taking to the ring in front of a home crowd. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Delaney. This was a fantastic showing from Dieguron, however, Delaney was just a small step ahead and took the decision.

At the end of the show Eryk

Wrobel was awarded best young boxer of the night, while Cameron Whyte won boxer of the night and also best bout of the night.

Nine-year-old Josh Hunter was awarded a prize for his efforts in a training session which took place in the ring before the boxing started.

Lochaber overpower Hyndland in second-half comeback

Lochaber	20
Hyndland	14
BT West Division 3	

LOCHABER fought back from being four points down at

half-time to secure their fourth win of the season thanks to a dominant scrummaging performance.

Although Hyndland had only won their first game of the sea-

son last weekend, the Glasgow side have been scoring freely this season so Lochaber knew they would be in for a tough game.

This was evident from the first whistle as Hyndland were able to recover the ball from the kick off and immediately started to test the Lochaber defence with their big ball carriers.

Lochaber's defence held strong and after winning the ball back made their way up the pitch and were awarded with a penalty which Callum Boyd scored to give Lochaber an early lead.

From the first scrum of the game it was clear Lochaber were going to have a lot of joy when it came to scrum time after driving Hyndland back considerably. Line-outs were fairly even but after switching their front jumper Lochaber were able to put Hyndland under pressure and actually steal a few line-outs.

The first try of the game came from Hyndland. After a line-out in Lochaber's 22, they managed to get the ball within inches of the try line and a quick pick and drive got them across the line to make it 3-7.

In the second half Hyndland got their second try of the match after a clearance kick in Lochaber's dead ball area was charged down. A Hyndland player reacted fastest, bringing the score to 3-14 to the visitors.

Unsurprisingly, Lochaber got their first try of the game through their scrum. Hyndland had the put-in but with the dominance of the Lochaber scrum, Lochaber won the ball back. Now it was Lochaber's put in and with the ball under control, they pushed Hyndland back from the five-metre line to give number eight Matthew Bradley an easy try touching the ball down at the back of the scrum. Centre Callum Boyd

Rugby

added the conversion to bring the score to 10-14.

The come-back continued with Findlay Ireland crossing the white wash yet again after Lochaber eventually managed to find a way through Hyndland's defence, which had hitherto been strong, to make the score 15-14. And just before full time Lochaber were able to get their third try of the game.

After hitting up through the forwards on the right hand side, the ball was shipped out to John Jones on the left wing who crossed the line to increase the home side's advantage.

The two sides saw out the remaining minutes and the full time score finished Lochaber 20-14 Hyndland.

Lochaber's next game is away to Lanark on Saturday November 25 for a 12.30pm kick off.

Caol Primary School unveil new shinty strips

YOUNG shinty players at Caol Primary School were presented with a new set of kit last week.

The new blue strips are sponsored by BSW Timber, based in Corpach, and were presented to the Caol team by mill manager Olly Stevens. On hand to oversee the presentation was team coach Martin Stewart - a stalwart of the Kimallie Shinty Club first team, continuing the strong connection between the school and the club.

The strips were used for the first time at a primaries'

School shinty

tournament which took place at Lochaber High School last Friday. Martin was delighted with both teams on Friday when they played at the local shinty tournament.

Olly Stevens, left, BSW mill manager presents the new strips to Martin Stewart, coach of the Caol Primary School shinty team.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Game-changing tactics secure fourth win in a row for Jags

Football

Busby	4
South Lochaber Thistle	6
Greater Glasgow AFL	

A HALF-TIME tactical change helped turn the match around and seal three points for South Lochaber Thistle in their tie against Busby on Saturday.

Due to the wet and heavy park in Clarkston this match was a never going to be a classic but South Lochaber Thistle were again involved in another high scoring, end-to-end contest.

The first half was grim watching for SLT having been at one point 3-1 down, with individual errors once again dogging their game.

By half time Busby were 4-2 up and looking good for their lead. A half time change which saw Martin Munro go up front changed the Jags' fortunes with the more direct long ball service giving SLT a bigger attacking threat on the heavy surface.

A nasty head knock to Darren Duncan gave the management team cause for concern but after being patched up he went back on to finish the game. He has since had eight staples in the head wound and will be out for up to 10 days.

With 15 minutes to go SLT found themselves 5-4 to the good. Munro eventually got his second goal of the match to make it 6-4, which put the game to bed for the Lochaber side.

Lochaber clubs' lottery numbers

THIS WEEK'S Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 3, 7 and 10. There were no winners this week. There will now be £1,200 available for the lotto drawn on Thursday, November 9.

The numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 3, 4 and 10. There were no winning tickets this week. There will now be a jackpot of £300 for next Thursday's draw.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week are 11, 15 and 19. There were no winners this week meaning that next week's total returns to £400.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 16, 18 and 20. There were no winning tickets this week so there is a £400 jackpot up for grabs next week.

Claggan Park fails pitch inspection

LAST Saturday's Highland League game between Fort William and Buckie Thistle was called off after heavy rain made Claggan Park unplayable.

The Fort were due to travel to Inverness to take on Clach last night (Wednesday). The game was due to be played in Fort William but in an effort to ensure the match went ahead Fort William agreed to switch the game to Grant Street Park.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunny with rain later in the day Winds moderate West North Westerly Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.
Friday	Heavy rain showers Winds moderate West South Westerly Temperatures 8°C to 12°C.
Weekend	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds strong West North Westerly Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 9, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	02.59	0.9	08.45	3.6	15.43	1.2	21.25	3.3
Fri	03.57	1.2	09.46	3.4	16.51	1.5	22.45	3.0
Sat	05.02	1.4	11.15	3.2	18.13	1.6	**,**	1.6
Sun	00.55	2.9	06.16	1.5	13.22	3.2	19.49	1.6
Mon	02.17	3.0	07.33	1.5	14.34	3.4	20.59	1.5
Tues	03.12	3.2	08.42	1.3	15.18	3.5	21.48	1.4
Wed	03.48	3.4	09.36	1.2	15.51	3.7	22.26	1.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate