

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Bring Billy home Mr Cameron

Heartfelt plea from young mum made to Prime Minister



Oban remembers

Town pays tribute to fallen soldiers - full story on page 11



Deprived children not making it to university

NOT ONE single child from a deprived background in Argyll and Bute got the necessary grades to go to university, a national statistics document has revealed.

Figures gathered by the Conservative Party this week show that children from the area's poorest families did not achieve the three A-grades required for automatic acceptance at university in 2014.

The region was one of four councils in Scotland to record the poor level of academic achievement for those from deprived backgrounds.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'It is important to look at attainment in full.'

'The table [of grades] shows only a single measure of one qualification and one year group. Picking out one measure is misleading.'

'Argyll and Bute has a relatively low number of young people who sat Highers in 2014 and who came from the lowest two Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) indicators.'

'With such small numbers, the percentage is not statistically valid. Looking at the full picture, Argyll and Bute compares favourably in comparison with a range of other authorities and also has a wide range of alternative qualifications that help our young people secure a positive destination.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is committed to ensuring that all children have the same opportunities and the best possible chances in life.'

Records show that of the young people who left school in 2013/2014, 40 per cent went on to higher education - the highest percentage recorded in Argyll and Bute.

A further 172 chose to continue studies at further education colleges, and 255 went into employment.

The overall percentage of school leavers in Argyll and Bute entering a positive destination for 2013/14 was 91 per cent.

Proposals to save healthcare will see total service revamp

Rural community hubs being considered in radical plans to overhaul NHS

LOUISE GLEN
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RADICAL plans by the Scottish Government could see healthcare on the West Coast and islands completely transformed over the next 15 years, says health minister Shona Robison.

But critics from Argyll say it will still mean patients have little access to lifesaving medicines when they are needed most, not least because of lack of staff and poor broadband services.

Plans are being considered for rural healthcare hubs, which would see rural health care hubs based around GP surgeries.

While a team of experts would be involved in the care of patients, they may not attend

I want to transform our approach.

Shona Robison
Health Minister

in person but virtually, down a secure internet connection.

Multi-disciplinary teams would be based in local community hubs, with regional or national centres of expertise for some acute services.

This Ms Robison argues would address concerns such as poor patterns of health and health inequalities, a rapidly ageing population, high levels of preventable diseases and tight finances.

In answer to sustained questioning by medical professionals and healthcare advocates, Ms Robison told a packed hall at Atlantis Leisure Centre earlier in the autumn that primary care services were stretched and 'communities rightly have higher expectations'.

She continued: 'So I want to transform our approach to ensure that people see the right professionals more quickly.'

Ms Robison wants to 'support communities to innovate so that services are available where

people need them', adding that rural hospitals in places such as Oban and Mull were likely to continue to have recruitment concerns.

At present there are vacancies filled by locums in more than 10 locations. Fees for specialist consultants are upwards of £100 per hour, with nurses from Ireland making up staffing shortfalls on some wards.

Speaking after the recent cabinet meeting in Oban, Ms Robison said: 'The NHS of the future must be very different from the past. Maintaining the status quo in health and social care is not an option. And we need to start discussing and planning for change now.'

'I want to seek consensus on how to make more progress in

improving the health of the population, and on how our NHS and social care systems should change by 2030 to continue supporting everyone to live well.'

'I'm seeking views on new models of care, including those which might be delivered by multi-disciplinary teams in local community hubs, with regional or national centres of expertise for some acute services, focused on high-quality care and improved health outcomes.'

'We must maximise the contribution of all healthcare professions - not just doctors and nurses, but allied health professionals, pharmacists, healthcare scientists, social workers and healthcare support workers too - working to the top of their professional capability.'

TIMESLINE

Oban council to discuss cuts

TWO public meetings organised by Argyll and Bute Parents Against Cuts and Oban Community Council will discuss the proposals to cut more than 140 council services.

The first meeting, to be held in the Corran Halls at 7pm on Wednesday November 18, will deal with cuts to classroom assistants. Another meeting focusing on all proposed cuts will be held at the church hall, Glencruitten Road at 7pm on Friday November 20.

Community councillor Kieron Green said: 'While it is Oban Community Council that has organised these meetings, we have decided to extend the invitation to members of the public across the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area in case some community councils have not had the opportunity to arrange similar meetings of their own.'

'At the two meetings the public will have the opportunity to put forward their views about the proposals, and we will then use these to help formulate our response to the public consultation about service choices which is currently under way.'

'We would strongly encourage everyone, whether or not they are planning on attending the meetings to inform themselves of the proposals and respond to the consultation.'

Winter warning for motorists

POLICE are warning motorists to drive to the road conditions this winter in a bid to reduce the high number of vehicles coming off the road.

Sergeant Alan Moore of Oban Police Station said: 'Drivers are reminded to reduce their speed or wait until a storm has passed.'

'It is better to get to a destination safe and sound than be stuck in a ditch or worse.'

Caring Pauline is named Nurse of the Year

THE NURSE of the year 2015 belongs to Oban: but that won't surprise to anyone who has come into contact with Pauline Jespersen during her 37 years of service.

Modest as ever, Pauline says the award is not for her, but for the team of people she has worked with during her 26 years at Lorn Medical Centre in Oban.

Speaking at the Scottish Health Awards in Edinburgh, she said: 'Winning the award has been a great privilege and people have been so kind.' She told the audience that her job was one of the most interesting, based in the most amazing town and working with wonderful people.

Mrs Jespersen is a practice nurse partner (one of only a few nurses in this position in Scotland) and integrated team leader who has supported and trained numerous community nurses and practice staff.

Her award recognises her work to redesign services for patients. She was also recognised for running a high-performing medical practice.



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Is 94-year-old from Dalmally the Oban Times' longest subscriber?

A CHALLENGE has been set to find the person who has subscribed to the Oban Times for the most number of years.

Setting the bar at a high level is Iain Campbell, 94, from Cluny Lodge nursing home in Edinburgh, who has subscribed to the newspaper for many years.

His son-in-law, Dr Neil Dewhurst thinks he is likely to be the 'oldest subscriber' having taken a subscription that has followed Mr Campbell all over the world.

Neil said: 'Last Friday we



Mr Campbell with a copy of the newspaper.

read together your most recent issue and found the short piece on the 150th anniversary of the Belford Hospital.

'This brought back many memories of the current hospital. As the consultant surgeon and physician, my father-in-law was instrumental in all aspects of its planning.'

'His home was the family shop in Dalmally, where the Oban Times was sold.'

'As a boy growing up in the 1930s and '40s he went to school at Oban High prior to medical school. He then spent

his consultant career at the Belford in Fort William.

'You may have records of when he started getting the Oban Times, but I think it was sent down to Edinburgh where he was a surgical trainee [in the 1940-50s].'

'In fact, he had the newspaper posted out to the Far East during his medical service in the Second World War, where it was avidly read on arrival by all members of the Officers' Mess. In addition to India and Singapore, the paper also found its way to Burma.'

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Council defends position on island proofing

COUNCIL leaders say they are not being left out of major talks to future proof island communities – yet Argyll and Bute Council, with 23 inhabited islands, does not have a seat at the table.

The Island Areas Ministerial Working Group in the Scottish Parliament has members from Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, but Argyll and Bute and North Ayrshire have not been invited to join.

Policy Lead for Island Affairs, and chairman of Argyll and Bute Council's islands task force, Provost Len Scoullar, defended the situation in the council, saying: 'Argyll and Bute Council is taking positive action to support our island communities and to work with other island authorities and the Scottish Islands Federation (SIF) to make the most of the opportunities available.

'We have already had a very positive conversation with Derek Mackay MSP, the minister responsible for islands, who indicated that he would be working to ensure all islands were treated in the same way.

'We have invited the leaders of the three island councils to a future meeting of our island taskforce, as well as exploring the opportunity of collaboration on areas of shared interest with North Ayrshire and Highland councils.

'We are also taking steps to island-proof our Single Outcome Agreement, promoting a positive vision for the future of our 23 inhabited islands, as well as closely examining all new legislation (European Union, UK and Scottish governments) that has relevance to and could have an impact on our islands.

'A number of exciting infrastructure projects have also progressed, from the completion of £1.1million of improvements at Iona Pier to the Fionnphort Village to Community Hall link – a £100,000 project between Argyll and Bute Council and The Mull and Iona Community Trust to deliver an off-road path linking the village with the local village hall.

'Funding this financial year will be spent on taking forward detailed design and land negotiation.

'These are important projects which support our island communities, keeping them connected.

'The council is committed to helping our islands to realise their potential.'

A spokesman for the Scottish Government said the three island councils involved in the group would future proof all island communities.

He confirmed that Islands Minister Derek Mackay MSP had committed to deliver commitments to all island communities.



MILESTONE: Fish landing values increased this year by nearly 20 per cent. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography

Quota advice set to see West Coast prawns rise by 15%

NEXT year will prove a milestone for the fishing industry with the launch of a ban on discards of white fish and prawn stocks, Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead said last Friday.

As the industry prepares for this landmark change, most stocks are in good shape with growing abundance to be found across many key North Sea species.

This year, fish landing values have increased by nearly 20 per cent, with revenues worth more than £500 million, and the scientific advice that will inform quotas for next year is positive across many key stocks – North Sea cod sees a recommended increase of 15 per cent, haddock is set to increase by at least 30 per cent, monkfish is to rise by 20 per cent, megrim is expected to increase by 26 per cent, Rockall haddock is advised to rise by 25 per cent,

while West Coast Nephrops (prawns) are recommended to rise by 15 per cent.

To help Scottish fleets adapt to the introduction of the white fish and prawn discard ban in 2016, extra quota will be allocated to reflect the unique challenges the ban will bring.

Speaking at the Scottish Fisherman's Federation annual dinner in Edinburgh, Mr Lochhead said: 'The fishing industry is very important to Scotland's economy and contributes more than £500 million in revenues a year.

'It supports a lot of jobs in Scotland. It's great to hear that the fishing has been good over the last year, with a growing abundance of key commercial stocks promising to keep businesses buoyant.

'At the same time, I'm also alive to the challenges in some stocks, such as North Sea Nephrops and whiting, and where

necessary we'll be seeking to mitigate these in the forthcoming negotiations.

'Increasing stocks bring confidence and increasingly I am hearing about thriving businesses, about plans to invest, and young skippers coming through.

'However, we know there is more to do, which is why the Scottish Government will continue to support our fishing industry and their communities as they seek to overcome a variety of challenges.

'The discard ban is foremost among these. No-one wants to see dead fish being thrown back into the sea – least of all our fishermen.

'This is why I've consistently supported the ban.

'For me it's a no-brainer if we're to be serious about managing our natural resources, conserving fish stocks, and playing a meaningful role in improving

global food security. That's why we are working closely with the industry to ensure the discard ban is implemented effectively and proportionately in Scotland, and to help make sure fishermen are fully prepared.

'To help fishermen adapt to the challenges of the discard ban we will provide additional quota for those stocks coming under the ban next year.

'That will mean a double boost for haddock, for example, with an additional top-up over and above the advised 30 per cent increase, resulting in a potential bumper increase of 56 per cent.

'This quota will be allocated once the relevant industry groups have submitted a discard ban management plan outlining how they will encourage fishermen to make positive changes to their fishing practises.'

Tobermory RNLI fundraisers celebrate another successful year

TOBERMORY RNLI's fledgling fundraising branch will mark a successful second year at the branch AGM on Monday November 16.

It won't all be business, however, as the branch plans to have cheese and wine available and everyone is welcome at the lifeboat station to help celebrate the volunteers' hard work.

As well as a hugely successful Lifeboat Day in August, which raised £5,500 towards the charity's lifesaving work, the fundraising volunteers also organised events on SOS

Day at the end of January, raising just under £400, and also Mayday where local residents, local schools and visitors raised more than £1,100. In between, street collections in Tobermory have raised more than £500.

The AGM will take place at Tobermory lifeboat station, with cheese and wine available from 7pm.

For more details, branch chairman Carolyn McHaffie can be contacted on carolyn100@live.co.uk, call the lifeboat station on 01688 302143 or simply come along on the night of the AGM.



MULL lines

Turn over a new Leaf and enjoy eco test drive

ISLANDERS are being invited to test drive an electric car and join a local lift-share group.

Mull and Iona Community Trust has recently secured its own Nissan Leaf – an all electric, four-door hatchback community electric vehicle and wants to share it with the community. So the vehicle is now available for free test drives.

This month [November] the vehicle will be at the RNLI Christmas Sale in Pennyghael Hall, 11am on November 7 (viewing only); Charities Fair in Salen, 2-4pm on Saturday 14; Community Café and RNLI Christmas Sale at Bunessan Hall, 11-4pm Monday 16; the pre-Christmas Market at Deravig Hall, 2.30-4pm on Sunday 22; and the Christmas Market at Craignure Hall, 2-4pm on Sunday 29. A full driving licence is required to take a test drive. Anyone interested should bring both parts.



ELECTRIC: A Nissan Leaf comes to Mull.

Lift-share launched

ISLANDERS have launched the Mull and Iona Lift-Share Facebook page, with more than 300 members having already joined in the first few days.

This is a closed group for residents of Mull and Iona, offering lift-sharing both on and off the islands to anyone

who needs or can offer a lift. To become a member simply search for 'Mull and Iona Lift-Share' on Facebook and ask to join.

Members will be sent information about how the group works via messenger or email, and following this requests will be accepted.

Mull school is put on education world map

AN ARGYLL and Bute school is one of just 15 from around the world featured in a new book written by one of the most influential and respected education academics of recent times.

Tobermory High School, on Mull, ensures pupils are routinely engaged in planning their own lessons with teachers, and it is this learning approach that is featured in Professor John Hattie's book Visible Learning into Action, which came out of research he had previously carried out.

The teaching method has been credited with helping to improve outcomes for pupils at the school since it was adopted in 2013 and has changed the mindset of some pupils who previously had an over-reliance on their teachers.

The school, which has 230 pupils from under-fives to sixth year, has lead learners in S1-3 who assist with planning pieces of work with teachers, write learning outcomes for lessons, observe in class and

provide feedback to teachers. Head teacher at Tobermory High Craig Biddick said: 'We are honoured to be featured in Professor Hattie's publication. 'At first some of the staff were unsure about how we could put the method into practice.

'However, the new teaching approach has helped us to identify clear areas for focus and improvement, and has been one of the main drivers behind change in the school.

'We found that after primary some students become less engaged, and for a number of pupils learning is often too passive and is something done to them – not something they actively engage themselves in. We wanted to change this.

'Not only does Visible Learning give pupils more responsibility, it also enables them to take more control of their future, assess their own performance and makes learning more enjoyable. There is a greater focus on partnership between teachers and learners.'

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Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

Island remembers its fallen soldiers

Special services were held in churches throughout the island on Remembrance Sunday to honour the memory of those who lost their lives in the two world wars and other conflicts.

Following the traditional acts of worship, attended by representatives of voluntary and uniformed organisations, wreaths were laid at the war memorials in the various island parishes.

A special Armistice Day service was conducted by parish minister Reverend Valerie Watson at the military cemetery at Kilchoman.

Among those buried at Kilchoman are 75 of the 431 American servicemen and crew who perished when the HMS Otranto sank off the nearby Machir Bay following a collision with another vessel when on convoy duty on October 6, 1918. It also marks the last resting place of the ship's captain Ernest Davidson.

Good season for museum

The Museum of Islay Life at Port Charlotte has completed another successful season and

reports visitor numbers are up by 10 per cent on previous years. Those using the facility include a number of overseas visitors seeking information on forebears whose roots were decidedly Heach.

Amongst the points of interest to both locals and visitors was a First World War exhibition and a display devoted to the life and career of local war hero Rev Dr Donald Caskie, a former minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris who earned the sobriquet 'The Tartan Pimpernel' for his role in arranging an escape route for allied troops from German-occupied France.

Recently, the museum was pleased to receive artefacts from the estate of the late Betsy West, as well as copies from her extensive photograph collection. While there was much to celebrate, the museum trustees were greatly saddened by the death of Gina McAuslan, a secretary and minute secretary who made a valued contribution to the smooth running of the facility.

Thanks to funding from the Schröder Foundation and other sources salary provision for two staff members will continue over the winter months and beyond. Amongst the task to be

undertaken by the retained staff will be the scanning of more than 3,000 black-and-white photographs and postcards, as well as the library object contents. Plans are also afoot to digitise the vast collection in the museum archives, including letters, pamphlets, reports and press cuttings.

The island museum is housed in a former Free Church of Scotland property, with the collection held on behalf of the people of Islay. The extra funding will ensure that the contents are kept in the best possible conditions and, as much as possible, will be readily available to both visitors and locals.

Top gun

Building contractor and local RNLI branch station manager Islay MacEachern was the top shot at the eighth annual clay pigeon shoot held at Ballard on Jura in memory of Calum Bell of Port Ellen.

Islay's perfect 50/50 score secured him the commemorative quaiach, while the ladies' championship went to Christy MacFarlane. Awarded the highest scoring junior shot prize was Angus MacMillan, the youngest



Islay MacEachern received his quaiach from Maggie Bell.

winner to date in this section. The trophies were presented by Calum's mother Maggie Bell and a later auction raised £1,000, for the Les Hoye MBE DreamMaker Foundation, a charity that supports children with life-threatening illnesses.

Among those benefiting from this charity is local couple Margaret and Russell Aitken's young daughter Isla. The Bell family thanked all who supported the 30-bird shoot and praised the organisational skills of Willie MacDonald.

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

Dunbeg man admits sexual assault

A MAN who pestered a teenage girl has been placed on the Sex Offenders' Register.

Thomas John Barr, 55, of Meadow Road, Dunbeg, admitted part way through a trial at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday that on September 19 he sexually assaulted the girl by touching her on her bottom and attempting to kiss her.

Giving evidence, the girl had said Barr would hug her and make comments about her appearance – and that on these occasions he was often drunk.

She said: 'I was scared that if I told him not to hug me he might turn on me.'

'He smelled of drink, ciggies and BO,' she said, 'his speech was slurred and he staggered.'

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence until December 23 for criminal justice and social work reports to be prepared on Barr and made an interim order placing him on the Sex Offenders' Register.

Dog in car led to fatality

AN UNRESTRAINED dog in a car contributed to a fatal road collision, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday.

Gwyneth Neal, 68, of 55 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention by failing to secure a dog within her vehicle.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that the dog jumped onto the dashboard of Neal's car whilst she was driving. While she attempted to move the dog, Neal caused her car to swerve into the path of a car coming in the opposite direction.

The crash on May 30 last year on the A85 near Dunbeg left the other woman severely injured and she later died.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence until December 8 for a social work report to be prepared.

Santa Claus is coming to town

FATHER Christmas and his reindeer enjoyed their visit to Oban so much last year they have decided to return for the town's Winter Festival.

While Santa is here on November 21, community business company BID4Oban is planning a Christmas Lights switch-on in Station Square.

Oban Pipe Band will lead the march through the town from the Corran Halls from 5pm.

Winners of a primary school Christmas Card Competition organised by the Rotary Club of Oban will accompany Santa in the procession and assist in switching on the lights.

Cast members from Puss in Boots, this year's town pantomime from Spotlight Musical Theatre Group, will be taking part in the parade. The panto runs from December 2-5.

BID4Oban is sponsoring and organising the event aided by the Rotary Club of Oban and Oban and Lorn Lions Club.

Other attractions in Station Square on Saturday include a Victorian market and fairground rides.

Oban musicians unite to raise cash for refugees

A NUMBER of Oban's talented musicians are joining forces this month to raise money for the Scottish Refugee Council.

Oban Winter Warmup will see eight different acts, spanning a variety of genres, perform live at the Argyllshire Gathering Hall on Saturday November 21.

All money raised from the event will go to support the Scottish Refugee Council's work with asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland.

The idea for the Winter Warmup was sparked by the harrowing images of drowned children being washed up on the beaches of Turkey and Greece earlier this year, having fled conflict and crisis in their home countries.

Two local musicians, Jack MacGregor of Antics and Duncan Monteith-Hodge of Citizen9, decided to take action.

Bring Billy home, Mr Cameron

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A HEARTFELT plea by a young mum to get her partner home for Christmas has received messages of support from more than 150,000 people across the globe.

Connel man Billy Irving, 34, has been in India since October 2013 after he and fellow MV Seaman Guard Ohio crew members were accused of carrying illegal weapons when they entered Indian waters as part of anti-piracy operations and arrested. All charges against him and his colleagues were later dropped and court dates promised to resolve the situation.

But two years on, the men are still stranded in India.

Now Billy's partner Yvonne Machugh has appealed to Prime Minister David Cameron to discuss the case with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he meets him this week for high level talks.

Ms Machugh, the mother of Billy's child, said: 'It breaks my heart to say that more than two years later those six men remain in India and the British Government still have not helped them.'

'These men are our brothers, sons and partners. They have risked their lives serving our country in the British Army, and now need the British Government's help to be returned home to their family and friends in order to be able to live again.'

'The men spent six months in an Indian prison and faced horrific conditions – poor sanitation, under nourishment and illness. They were cut off from family and had no contact with them. Then in April 2014 they were finally released on bail.'

Yvonne continued: 'I was there to meet Billy outside Puzhal Prison gates on the day he and the other men were released. It was a huge relief for all the men and their families to finally be out of prison, but they still had a



Billy Irving has only met his son once, now his partner Yvonne Machugh is fighting to bring him home in time for Christmas.

long way to go.

'Bail conditions meant the men had to attend the police station twice a day to show they were present. They were unable to leave India. They were receiving no wages from their employer and without a visa they were unable to work.'

'So you can imagine the elation when all charges were dropped in July 2014. Everyone celebrated and we all looked forward to the home coming. I returned home to Scotland to discover I was expecting our first child, and for once it seemed like everything would be OK. This wasn't the case. On August 26 an appeal against the quashing of charges was filed.'

'The men had asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the British government for help to get the relevant documents and their belongings back from the Indian police and to return home.'

But help was not forthcoming.

On April 28, eight months after the appeal had been submitted the supreme court finally heard the case. On the July 1 this year, the Supreme Court ruled that the case had to be sent back to the original court where the trial took place – to be heard in full.

Now Yvonne is hoping David Cameron will step in to help.

She said: 'The Indian Prime Minister Mr Modi will be in the UK tomorrow [November 13]. The families have pleaded with David Cameron to raise this case with him. Downing Street has replied, 'it is on the agenda but we cannot guarantee it will be raised.'

A spokesperson for Mr Cameron confirmed the matter was on the agenda, but would not confirm whether it would be discussed.

A funding page to help with the men's accommodation, legal fees and survival in India can be found at <http://gogetfunding.com/bring-our-lads-home/>



The Macmillan support service will offer advice to people affected by cancer, their family and friends.

Oban cancer resource centre launched

MACMILLAN Cancer Care launched its resource centre in Oban Library on Tuesday afternoon.

The advice area is for people affected by cancer and their families and friends, and provides many answers to questions that people have about the illness.

The group is currently recruiting volunteers to assist

in providing a weekly drop-in session.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or wants to find out more information, they can contact Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service in Argyll by calling 01586 555932, or emailing macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

For more information also see next week's Oban Times.



The Ballimore Estate near Taynuilt.

Argyll baroness loses court battle

THE OWNER of a Scots estate has lost a legal battle to preserve a small 45-year-old chalet that had been built on her land.

Baroness Miranda Van Lynden wanted judge Lord Philip to rule in her favour during proceedings at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

The landowner is in charge of the Ballimore Estate in Argyll and the house is located within its grounds.

She had taken the chalet's current resident Colin Gilchrist to the court after he indicated that he wanted to pull the property down. Mr Gilchrist claimed he had the legal right to remove it.

Baroness Van Lynden claimed that Mr Gilchrist didn't have the right to do that as she was the actual owner of the chalet. She asked the court for an order to stop Mr Gilchrist from carrying out his plan.

However, Lord Philip ruled in Mr Gilchrist's favour after studying legal documents.

The judge concluded that these documents showed the resident had the right to determine what happened to the chalet.

In a written judgement issued by the court last Thursday, Lord Philip wrote: 'In these circumstances, I shall sustain the pleas in law for the defender and repel the pursuer's pleas in laws in their entirety.'

Road safety initiative aims to cut deaths

AHEAD of an emotional Oban service in memory of all those who have died on the roads, a high-powered industry coalition will unveil its first major initiative to reduce the incidence of road traffic deaths worldwide.

The 11-company coalition, which calls itself Together for Safer Roads, will outline specific actions the private sector can take to help achieve a goal set by the United Nations to reduce by half the number of worldwide deaths from road traffic collisions.

Road crashes will be the fifth leading cause of death worldwide by 2030 unless steps are taken to reverse the trend, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The panel is headed by Dr. Kenneth P Moritsugu, a former acting US surgeon general, and consists of officials from academia, public health, and international organisations.

Organiser of Sunday's service at St Columba's Cathedral Margaret Mannering welcomed the news and said: 'Every single death on the road is preventable.'

Firemen's island visit



IONA Primary School children had a visit from Scottish Fire and Rescue fire safety officers ahead of Bonfire Night. Every-

one had lots of fun at the event, but there was also a serious message about the children keeping themselves, and others, safe.

ADVERTORIAL

Local homeowners have their say

Barcaldine based company, Renewables Now, took to the streets of Oban and Fort William in October to ask local homeowners how they currently heat their homes and which heating technology they would choose in the future. The survey provided an insight into how the public feel about renewable heating and delivered some surprising results.

With the future of renewable energy often dominating the headlines, not to mention the fast approach of the Scottish Government's 2020 bid to reduce carbon emissions, it's no wonder that 91% of people surveyed in Oban were aware of renewable heating and renewable energy. The survey revealed that over a third of the homeowners living in Oban and almost half of those in Fort William who currently have electric heating were unhappy and expressed a strong desire to change to a 'less expensive' method of heating. Of these, 39% were considering a switch to a renewable form of heating, however, over half of the homeowners were unsure of how to source further information when considering a renewable heating installation.

Of the homeowners who had a clear idea of how to select a supplier, the majority declared the need to find a well-established local company capable of providing advice for a range of options and a company who could deliver a bespoke service before, during and after installation.

Renewables Now are one of Scotland's longest established renewable energy advisors and have helped homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes for a number of years. Whether it be introducing smart heating zones throughout the home, installing a smart energy monitor or by replacing a fossil fuel heating system with a more efficient renewable one, there is always a more sustainable, affordable and controllable solution for everyone. Call the Renewables Now team on 01631720587 to find out more or arrange to view one of their many renewable heating installations near you.



Get control of your heating bills

With smart heating controls you can heat only the rooms you want when you want. Gain full control of individual room time and temperatures, anytime, anywhere.

Smart heating controls = Lower bills + more comfort

Call now and make your home

more controllable

Telephone 01631 720587

Renewables Now are one of Scotland's longest established renewable energy system installers.

LORN
lines

Obanites show their support for Holly Tea

OBAN turned out in force on Saturday afternoon to support the Holly Tea, to raise funds for the Oban Multiple Sclerosis Centre.

Manager of the centre, Sandra Owens, thanked everyone for their support. She said: 'The centre has running costs of £30,000 a year and we always have maintenance which needs to be done or repairs to the chamber. We are refurbishing the physiotherapy room at present.'



TIME FOR TEA: Laura Sage-Gibbons, Janice Alcorn, Sandra Owens and Linda Robb help out at the fundraiser.

Band's fundraising lunch is piping hot

OBAN Pipe Band Major Euan Dewar and his dad Alistair lent a hand on Saturday at one of the band's popular soup lunches, which they host regularly at the Band Hall on Shore Street.

One of the biggest single costs facing the pipe band is the cost of transport to events and competitions. The cash raised at lunches such as the one at the weekend helps to pay the travel bill.



SOUPEER: Euan Dewar and his dad Alistair at the soup lunch.

Play park group appeals for community help

FRIENDS of Oban Community Play Park has been busy completing phase one of its exciting adventure area at Atlantis Leisure. At the same time it is writing the tender for phase two, in the Millennium Garden.

Group organisers say they have still a long way

to go before embarking on phase three, which is for the under fives. The group has a target of £160,000 and has about £25,000 of the money required. It is still looking for help from the community in organising fundraising events to help it get closer to its goal.

The Power of Okay

A SPECIAL advert to be shown in Oban Phoenix Cinema will encourage employers to change their culture.

See Me, the national programme to end mental health discrimination, is launching a new campaign,

working with employers to improve mental health, so people feel safe to speak out if they are struggling.

The Power of Okay will run in cinemas, as well as online and on radio through November and December.

Expanded support service for vulnerable adults is huge success

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

RESPONSE times to help vulnerable adults in need of communication support during police investigations have been cut.

Victims, witnesses, suspects and accused people who suffer from 'mental disorders' are being supported by the Appropriate Adult Service through the police interview process.

Although the service has always been available to people in Argyll and Bute, it was previously provided by Dumbarton. However, it

has now been set up in the region and is managed from Oban, cutting the response time from six hours to one across the area.

The national service provides people with conditions such as learning disabilities, mental health illness and dementia the support of an independent person to ensure they are not disadvantaged by their condition, ensuring the process is fair and understood. The locally provided service also allows interviews to be concluded in a more timely manner for the individual and the police.

The move means that appropri-

ate adults, who would have originally travelled from Glasgow, are now trained and based in Argyll.

Carr Gomm, a charity which helps individuals and communities, has partnered with Police Scotland, the local social work department and the health service to create the initiative. The Appropriate Adult Service now has six staff based in Mid Argyll, six in Oban and three are in Campbeltown.

Christine Nicol is the service manager based in Oban and is overseeing the initiative for Argyll and Bute. She said: 'Previously, the nearest Appropriate

Adult for Argyll and Bute was based in Dumbarton and it was proving difficult to get an appropriate adult to a police interview within a reasonable time scale.

'The service has been a positive experience for all involved and I think that it has been such a success because of the support from our partners. We have good communication between one another and have regular meetings to monitor the development of the service.'

'In the past response has taken up to six hours. Since we started, in June 2015, an appropriate adult can respond within an hour.'

'And having people based around Argyll means that if we don't have someone available in the specific locality required, police and the service users will still not wait as long as they could have done in the past. This service is accessible and responsive 24 hours per day.'

'Being based locally has made a real difference to the service and we have seen an expected increase in the number of referrals and have been able to support more people. Having people who know the area and have the relevant skills and experience has been making a big difference.'

Riverside boost to famous falls



WALK THIS WAY: The new path is nearing completion at Glen Orchy.

A PATH along a well-used part of the River Orchy is nearing completion.

The 1,400 metre walkway, built by Forest Enterprise Scotland, will give improved access to river users along a section upstream from the famous Eas Urchaidh waterfall.

An added boost is that a new car park at the waterfall is also set to be built.

Sport Scotland, the Andy Jackson Trust and the Scottish Rafting Association have all given financial backing and support for the developments at the River Orchy.

Forest Enterprise Scotland's Donald MacDougall said: 'The Orchy is a majestic river and very popular with walkers, kayakers, fishermen and rafters.'

'Parts of the riverbank above the famous Eas Urchaidh waterfalls have been used regularly over the past years but there has never been a proper path. Parking has also been limited. So by working in partnership we are changing this for the better and improving access.'

'Our aim for the new path and car parking is to create a recreational hub for all the outdoor activities in Glen Orchy.'

'Not only will the path be good news for the water sports users and fishermen, but it will provide a new link route for walkers on the Argyll and Bute core path network.'

'We plan to start work on the new car parking soon and will be installing interpretation panels and stone wall features to help visitors find out a bit more about Glen Orchy.'

Boundary proposals attract major response from Argyll residents

STAFF REPORTER
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CONTROVERSIAL and unpopular plans to redraw council boundaries have prompted a significant reaction from the people of Argyll and Bute.

Figures released by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland reveal a public consultation attracted four times the level of response from the region, compared to the rest of Scotland.

The proposed new council boundaries would move Ardrishaig, Tayvallich and the rest of Knapdale into Kintyre, while lumping Lochgilphead in with

Dalmally and Bridge of Orchy in a new Mid Argyll ward. Other changes include the abolition of the Cowal ward and merging areas as dispersed as villages near Helensburgh with others in Cowal.

Argyll and Bute would lose three councillors from the current complement of 36, while one council ward would go.

A three-month public consultation, which closed last month, attracted around 4,000 responses nationally. Of that number, 300 were from Argyll and Bute, which equates to a response rate four times greater than the overall national figure.

When the single responses of community councils are considered, the number of people represented within the 300 respondents grows further still.

Opponents of the plans were delighted to hear the news.

'One critic, Mid Argyll councillor Douglas Philand, said: 'I can only hope the Scottish ministers take cognisance of the strength of feelings associated with the responses and allow the democratic will of the residents of Argyll and Bute to prevail.'

Fellow Mid Argyll councillors Sandy Taylor and Donnie MacMillan were in full agreement.

'I am personally pleased to see that level of response as someone who has promoted the need

for community awareness and response to the consultation,' said councillor Taylor. 'Knowing how communities in South Oban, Bute and Cowal feel, this exceptional response comes as no surprise to me.'

Councillor MacMillan added: 'At present the proposals are not satisfactory for Mid Argyll. I hope the commission responds to what the people are saying.'

A spokesperson for the commission said: 'We will consider all responses to the consultation at meetings in November and December.'

Final recommendations will be submitted to Scottish ministers by May 2016.

Fatal crash by Inveraray

A YOUNG driver has died in a head-on collision on the A83 close to Inveraray.

Police and emergency services responded to the two-vehicle crash shortly after 4pm on Friday November 6. The incident involved two Renault Clio vehicles.

One driver, a 24-year-old man, died at the scene of the incident. The driver and the passenger of the second vehicle were uninjured.

Sergeant Archie McGuire, from the Divisional Road Policing Unit, said: 'This is a serious road collision which has resulted in the death of a young man. I would appeal to any witnesses to please contact the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Divisional Road Policing Unit via the 101 number.'

ScotRail fined

SCOTRAIL has been fined more than £250,000 for failing to meet strict quality standards in the first test of Abellio's performance as the new franchise-holder.

Inspectors fined ScotRail £265,282 for falling short in a number of areas during July and September, including toilets, litter, shelters, CCTV and security. Since April, all fines collected by Transport Scotland are reinvested in the rail network.

The levy compares to an average of £144,000 per quarter during the final year under previous franchise holder, First.

Resurfacing work on A83

MOTORISTS using the A83 between Glenbarr and Killegruon on the Kintyre peninsula should expect disruptions during improvements and resurfacing works being carried out throughout November to Mid-December.

As well as a new surface, the road will be widened to help improve safety.

The work, which began on Tuesday November 10, is likely to take up to five weeks to complete, and will be carried out between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday, with no works planned at weekends.



winter weather ready

Are we ready to deal with the problems that snow, ice, storms and floods can bring?

To hear an automated version of our service disruptions call 01546 604040

Which roads do we treat?

For our winter maintenance programme, including a full list of priority roads and pavements please visit our website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/winter-weather-ready

Almost the entire road network in Argyll and Bute is looked after by the council. BEAR Scotland looks after the trunk roads in the area on behalf of Transport Scotland, the national transport body. BEAR Scotland is responsible for the A82, A85, A828, and the A83.

Where can you report a road problem?

You can report your problem online anytime by visiting our website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/road-faults

By telephone during office hours: (Monday - Friday 09:00 - 17:00)
Argyll and Bute Council: Customer Service Centre Tel. 01546 605522

If you have a problem with the A82, A85, A828 or the A83 contact BEAR Scotland/Traffic Customer Care Line on 0800 028 1414.

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

Be prepared for severe weather by packing a few essential items to take with you. **Your emergency kit should include**

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first-aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map for any unplanned diversions
- A fully charged mobile phone

Before travelling in bad weather you should

- Check the weather forecast and road conditions
- Decide if your journey is really necessary
- If it is - allow extra time
- Tell someone your destination and when you expect to arrive

Tips for winter driving

Ice

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

Snow

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

Fog

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

Rain

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

Hail

Slow down and use dipped headlights. Beware of slush on the road after a hail storm.



High hopes for housing team

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Empty Homes team face a tense wait to hear if they have become one of Scotland's 2015 empty homes champions.

The team is a finalist in the Outstanding Project category in the Howdens Scottish Empty Homes Champion of the Year Awards for its work to make the most effective use of existing stock to help address housing need and help regenerate and support sustainable communities.

Winners will be announced next week at the Annual Scottish Empty Homes Conference in Edinburgh, on November 17.

Susan humbled by nomination

A COMMUNITY champion from Oban has been nominated as Volunteer of the Year at a national competition.

Susan Simpson volunteers with SIMBA, (Simpson's Memory Box Appeal) and is tireless in the support she gives to parents who have lost a baby.

Susan said: 'SIMBA has been supplying Oban with Memory Boxes since 2012. We set up a monthly support group in 2013 and have hosted an annual butterfly release for two years.'

'SIMBA is delighted to have made it to the final of Charity Champions in four categories - I am personally humbled to have been put forward for the final as Volunteer of the Year.'

SIMBA are running a Frozen Sing-a-long on November 28 at Oban Phoenix Cinema.

Oban councillor to step down

POPULAR community councillor Shauna Mackenzie who won an election last November is stepping down.

One of the youngest community council members in Oban, it was seen as a positive move that she had joined the group.

But due to a change of address, Shauna will no longer live in the boundaries of the community council and therefore cannot remain in her seat.

Shauna said: 'Thank you to everyone who voted for me. It has been a great experience. Although I won't be on the council anymore I will still be active in the community.'

A house divided, but parties unite on call for more cash

Elected members agree to work together to argue for extra funding for region

LOUISE GLEN
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AGREEMENT between Argyll and Bute Council and the area's parliamentarians was short lived this week when, despite positive noises, fundamental issues on council cuts were left unresolved.

However, all parties put aside their differences to pull together a strong case for more funding from the Scottish and UK parliaments, and the meeting, held in Kilmory Castle last Friday, was described as 'constructive' by the leadership of Argyll and Bute Council.

Council leader Councillor Dick Walsh, along with Depute Leader Ellen Morton and Councillor Gary Mulvaney, met with MSPs Michael Russell and Mike McKenzie, and Brendan O'Hara MP to discuss concerns over the proposed budget cuts.

Councillor Walsh said after the meeting: 'Of course there remain areas where we agree to disagree, but the most important outcome from today is that we are absolutely in agreement about what we can and will do together.'

'Consensus like this is invaluable in these challenging times. What is also very welcome

is their support on some of the significant issues that can really make a difference to our communities, such as improved mobile connectivity, continuity of access through the lifeline A82 and A83 routes and reinforcing to everyone that Argyll and Bute is very much open for business.'

'We have said many times that the key priorities of growing Argyll and Bute's economy and population are challenges in which everyone has a part to play, and it is heartening that our local MSPs and MPs are committed to doing what they can to work together and offer their support. This will be welcomed

wholeheartedly by Argyll and Bute Council.'

While the SNP parliamentarians issued a similar statement, Mr Russell concluded: 'We expressed our continued and complete opposition to the cuts proposals issued by the council.'

'These will harm some of the most vulnerable in Argyll and Bute, and the process that has produced them has failed to address the key issues, including continued depopulation and lack of planning for the present financial problems.'

'The SNP gave notice that it will continue to bring forward alternatives and has asked

the council to provide further financial information to allow it to develop its own plans. The council leader has undertaken to consider providing that information to the SNP.'

MP for Argyll and Bute, Mr O'Hara said: 'This was in the end a positive meeting and though the SNP remains firmly opposed to what is taking place in Kilmory, we do recognise the council needs some degree of extra assistance, given some of the particular problems it is facing, including depopulation.'

'We will do our best to help the administration express these problems clearly to Government.'

Obanite lucky to be alive after 120ft fall



Steven Hill fell more than 120 feet and now has to wear a halo to keep his body's many broken bones in place.

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A FORMER Oban painter and decorator says he has pushed 'the reset button on life' after he fell more than 120 feet from the cliff side at Gallanach.

Steven Hill lay badly injured and hidden from sight for many hours following the incident in late September before passing cyclists finally heard his cries for help and phoned for an ambulance - saving his life.

The 42-year-old had returned to Oban for a short holiday to take stock of his life, and an ancient maple tree on the hillside at Gallanach is one of his favourite spots, so he went there looking to find some peace.

Mr Hill said: 'It was about 2.20am on a Sunday morning and I got out of my tent to go for a stretch. I tried to roll a cigarette, I then fell asleep outside the tent.'

'The next thing I felt [some three hours later] was slipping off the hillside and falling through the air. It was a very strange feeling. Somehow I

managed to fall in a foetal position.'

'The same words were going over and over in my head: 'from now on Steven you really need to realise that there is one thing important in life, and that is love. That's the last thing I remember.'

'When I regained consciousness many hours later I realised very quickly that I needed help. I couldn't stand up and I was in excruciating pain.'

'I tried as hard as I could to try to pull myself nearer the roadside to call for help. The first couple of people who saw me just tried to ignore me. I think they probably thought I was drunk.'

'I started to believe that I was going to die there by the roadside and no one would ever come to my rescue.'

'Some time later I called to two cyclists to help and they seemed to just cycle by. But in fact they phoned for an ambulance. I cannot thank them enough. I was very fearful when the ambulance arrived.'

'I went to Lorn and Islands

hospital, and later in the day I was transferred to the spinal ward in Glasgow where I spent more than four weeks in recovery.'

'I had broken more than 120 bones in my body, including a broken neck, multiple broken vertebrae, injury to internal organs and a head injury.'

Mr Hill's condition is improving but for now he has to wear a carbon fibre multi-metallurgical alloy halo with titanium plates alongside various plates and screws holding his body together.

Simon Glen, from Headway Glasgow - a charity working with people with acquired head injuries, said: 'Quite often someone who has suffered a head injury will appear to be drunk or under the influence of drugs. So we often hear that people have been ignored when they really need some help.'

'I would urge people to not pass by people on the roadside or near hills as the likelihood is that they may have had an injury and urgent medical help is crucial in a patient's recovery.'

Stand-off leads to supervision for Connel teenager

'BEHAVE' or 'face the trip down the road in the white prison van' was the stark warning to an 18-year-old man at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Dylan Restrick, of Greenacres, Connel, admitted brandishing broken bottles along with challenging others to fight him on January 15.

Teenager Restrick had made comments about a young man's mother resulting in a late night stand-off between a group of men and the accused in a supermarket car park.

'Restrick smashed two bottles and brandished them at those who got out of the car,' said Eoin McGinty procurator fiscal.

In the ensuing clash Restrick broke the handle off a shopping trolley and brandished it at the men.

At an earlier hearing, Restrick also admitted threatening and abusive behaviour toward a woman on the South Pier, and in the town's police station on March 24.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'Alcohol is the cause of both incidents and he has very little recollection, which is not to his credit.'

He added that Restrick was now seeking help for his drink problems.

In sentencing Restrick for both cases, Sheriff John Herald said it was a good report from social workers that saved the man from prison.

Sheriff Herald ordered Restrick to a community payback order of 100 hours of community service to be completed in 12 months and put the man under an 18-month supervision order.

The sheriff warned Restrick: 'You have had a good education and if you continue to associate with some of these people you are going into the white van and down the road.'

New era at Oban Times

WYVEX Media has appointed senior managers to lead its publications including The Oban Times and The Scottish Field into a new era.

Keith McIntyre joins the company as the Group Operations Director, Nicky Murphy has joined the company as Advertising Director Designate and company accountant George Graham has been named as Group Finance Director.

Wyvex Media Managing Director Alister Bennett welcomed the new management team: 'We are delighted to have people of the calibre of Keith and Nicky joining to assist in the companies future development.'

'We have also promoted two long-serving members of staff with George's well-deserved promotion and in Fiona's new role within the company.'

'These appointments will further strengthen the position of Wyvex Media within the Scottish publishing industry.'

Keith has a background in senior management roles at a number of publishers including managing director at Tweeddale Press and the Scottish marketing director at Johnston Press. Most recently Keith was worked for Romanes Publishing with roles as Publishing Director and Managing Director of a number of the groups titles.

Nicky has 'come home' to Oban after developing a number of successful projects in both Argyll and throughout Scotland. Nicky was previously head of advertising for Wyvex Media.

George Graham has been promoted to the role of Group Finance Director and takes up his role with immediate effect. George has been with the company for more than 18 years.

Fiona Bennett worked in nursing for a number of years before relocating to Oban to work with Wyvex Media. She has worked with the company for six years in the various departments that she will now offer strategic HR and personnel support too.

The Scottish-based publishers employs more than 80 members of staff in its west coast and Edinburgh offices.

It publishes upwards of 100 different products annually and has recently expanded its business-to-business, magazine and tourism departments.



PICTURE PERFECT: Youngsters get creative at Rockfield.

Creative festival is big draw at Rockfield Centre

LOUISE GLEN
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THE FIRST Big Draw event to be staged at the Rockfield Centre huts was a great success, with more than 40 people taking part.

The Big Draw is the world's biggest drawing festival, with thousands of activities connecting people of all ages with museums, outdoor spaces, artists, designers, illustrators - and each other.

This year Oban took part through Oban Communities Trust (OCT) at the Rockfield Centre.

Designed to get anyone of any age to draw, the event was organised and overseen by Val Hamilton, former head of art and design at Oban High School. The theme for this year's Big Draw was Every Picture Tells A Story.

Participants were asked to use their Rockfield memories or hopes for the future as an

inspiration for their drawing. Or they could simply doodle within the drawing template provided.

Each completed drawing was then arranged so that it could link with another drawing, creating a huge interconnected picture.

Drawings were created in a variety of sizes, from post-it notes to large sheets of paper, using a range of colourful drawing materials. The theme was widely interpreted but recurring images included reference to family, community and Oban past and present.

Val Hamilton said: 'The day was fantastic with not only individuals but many young families engaging in drawing.'

'So often parents can become the spectators but the Big Draw provided an opportunity for different generations to become engrossed in the same task.'

'We had some lovely material produced which is currently

up on display and can be seen at future events.'

Val's team of art helpers included Val Leckie, George Hamilton, Jack Degnan, Stephanie Power, Rowan Acey and Sheila Macgregor. Other OCT volunteers were also on hand to provide refreshments and general support.

Prior to The Big Draw, the Rockfield Centre Huts were heavily booked as a practice venue for choirs competing in the recent Royal National Mod. As well as drawing, space activities and competitions were on offer for children, all of which were well received.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Communities Trust, said: 'We have been able to help provide space and activities such as The Big Draw at the Rockfield Centre and The Big Draw is an example of how we want to promote the arts to the community.'

/hydroPD @hydroPD

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my Daddy makes
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Arisaig

ARISAIG women's institute kicked off its first meeting of the season with a talk from Tim Robinson on herbalism. Ten members and one visitor enjoyed the presentation and the refreshments afterwards. This month's raffle winner was June Cairns. Margaret MacEachern took first place in the posy of herbs contest, followed by Vera MacDonald in second and Ann Lamont in third. It was a double whammy for Margaret who also took first in the competition for a recipe using herbs. Again she was followed by Vera MacDonald and Yvonne MacDonald took third.

ARISAIG residents enjoyed another warm and dry month in October, according to amateur meteorologist Randal Coyne. Less than four inches of rain fell in the village last month, well below average for this time of year. Despite this, rainfall for the year so far is still higher than usual, at 48 inches, due to the wet summer. The daily temperature ranged from 8°C to 17.8°C, both warmer than usual. The coldest night was a mild 4°C and the hottest day was 24°C, a scorcher for October. Randal added that few of the trees had lost their leaves and many flowers were still in bloom, which was unusual for this time of year.

Plockton



PRESENTATION: Highland Council ward manager Robbie Bain presents Plockton Community Council secretary and treasurer Gill James with flowers as she steps down after 24 years.

THE DEDICATION of two long-serving members of Plockton Community Council was recognised when they stepped down last week. Chairman Charlie MacRae retired from his duties at the final meeting in Plockton hall on October 27, after 40 years on the council, including 26 at the top of the table. Gill James, who served as secretary and treasurer for 24 years, will also step down.



BEST WISHES: Charlie MacRae, centre, chairman of Plockton Community Council for 26 years, receives gifts from fellow members Joy MacKenna and George Glasgow on his retirement.

Ballachulish

RESIDENTS, staff, family and friends raised more than £300 for Macmillan cancer support from a coffee morning at the village care home, Abbeyfield. The homebaking on offer was enjoyed by everyone and staff thanked everyone involved in raising the £330.



PEDAL POWER: Lochnell Primary School pupils, Daisy Navayanan and Elaine Robertson open the new cycle route next to the Sealife Centre.

Lochnell pupils on their bikes to officially open new cycle path

A NEW cycle path between the Sea Life Centre in Barcaldine and Ferlochlan was officially opened recently by Lochnell Primary School pupils. The three-mile path forms part of the National Cycle Network Route 78, the Caledonia Way, which stretches from Campbeltown to Inverness. The path was constructed by the Scottish Government, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and Sustrans Scotland, a charity which encourages people to walk, cycle and use public transport to help both their health and the environment.

Deputy director of Sustrans Scotland Daisy Narayanan, who attended the opening, said: 'We're delighted to launch this great new section of route today and to have the opportunity to thank the local communities who have been so supportive throughout its construction. 'The project is the result of years of partnership working between Sustrans Scotland, Transport Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and, crucially, local people. It's great to see that it's already being well used by visitors and locals.' Elaine Robertson, councillor for Oban North and Lorn, has been supporting the creation of the Caledonia Way for the past 12 years. She said: 'The route connects our communities in a sustainable way. It's allowing children to get to school safely, and it's well used by families out walking, people on horses, and local residents cycling between local villages. It's wonderful to see how it's progressed in recent years and I'm delighted that it's been so warmly welcomed by local people and community councils.'

Mystery surrounds washed up kayak

A BLACK kayak washed up at Earadale Point, south of Machrihanish, may have belonged to an Irish man who vanished in September. Police have released details of the black plastic craft discovered last month near Earadale Point by a Kintyre man. It is almost identical to the kayak missing Carrickfergus man Robert Hanna, 47, was paddling

off the coast of Islanndmagee on the afternoon of Monday September 28. A Campbeltown police spokesman said: 'When it was found a police helicopter from Glasgow was scrambled and made a search two miles north and south of where the kayak was found.' On the day he disappeared, Mr Hanna was not reported missing for

some hours until he failed to collect one of his children from school. A Police Service of Northern Ireland superintendent Ryan Henderson said: 'A kayak was found in the Campbeltown area on October 18. We believe it belongs to Robert Hanna. The investigation is on-going as we try to establish what happened to Mr Hanna.'

Inveraray

IT WAS almost a full house for the opening night of the Inveraray and District Accordion Club at the Inveraray Inn. Roddy MacDiarmid deputised for chairman Niall Iain MacLean, who was recovering in hospital from a knee operation. Fyne Folk got the evening under way in the usual manner with Nick MacFarlane on accordion, Jake MacKay and Alex John MacLeod on fiddle and Agnes Liddell on keyboard. Other supporting players were: James MacArthur on melodeon; Charlie Soane on fiddle; Johnny Fisher on accordion; Jimmy MacDonald on keyboard and Jake MacKay on 'moothie' and all their selections

were much enjoyed. Guests were the Matthew MacLennan Trio with Matthew, originally from Kiltarlity but now living in Edinburgh, on accordion, Duncan Black on keyboard and Nicky McMichan on drums. They treated the audience to around 20 sets with many of them taken from Matthew's debut CD, Traditionally Inspired, which was voted Best CD of the Year at the recent National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Club awards. Matthew's roots in the north were reflected in his playing, with many of his favourite pipe marches included in the programme. A vote of thanks was recorded to all the artistes.



IN TUNE: the Matthew MacLennan Trio with Matthew, originally from Kiltarlity but now living in Edinburgh, on accordion, Duncan Black on keyboard and Nicky McMichan on drums.

MORVERN lines

Damage to public roads

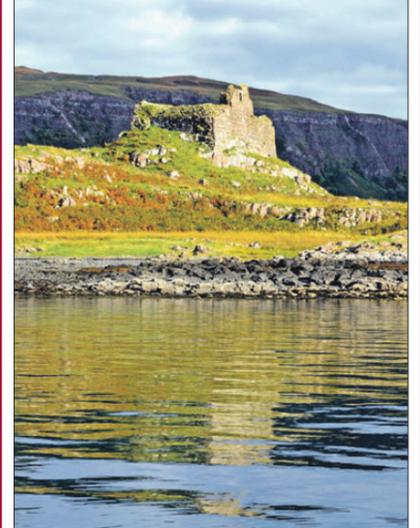
I DOUBT if anyone would argue that the public roads in the Highlands and islands are in an appalling state. Many in remote areas, including Morvern, Sunart and Ardnamurchan, where there are fewer inhabitants to complain and no alternatives, are the worst. There is a reason for this. In the last few years they have been subject to an unprecedented number of contractors' trucks carrying huge quantities of heavy building material destined for hydro electric schemes. In 2014 the government introduced a road user levy for heavy goods vehicles of 12 tonnes or more. The aim of the levy is to ensure these vehicles make a contribution to the wear and tear of the road network. Judging by the state of the roads which local councils say they have insufficient funds to repair and maintain, the levy is either insufficient or it is not being properly apportioned. Under the Road (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 96, roads authorities have legislation at their disposal to remedy this. It reads, in parliamentary jargon, 'Where as respects any public road it appears to the roads authority that having regard to the average expense of maintaining the road, or other similar roads in their area, extraordinary expenses have been, or will be, incurred by them in maintaining the road by reason of damage caused to it by excessively heavy, or other extraordinary, vehicles or traffic, they may recover from any person so much of the expenses of maintenance as is, or is likely to be, attributable to that damage'. Do Highland or Argyll and Bute councils not exercise these powers on our behalf - if not, why not? All hydro schemes eventually produce enormous incomes. It is surely only right that having contributed towards the parlous state of the roads on which the travelling public are now forced to put up with, those that build the schemes should be accountable.

The National Trust for Scotland

I HAVE not always been a great supporter of the National Trust for Scotland, especially on its conservation policies and deer management, but I have some sympathy for its attempt to register the names of two of the Highland's most historical locations as trademarks in order to protect the sites against commercial exploitation which has taken a bit of a hit in the media recently. These are Glencoe and Glenfinnan. It has to be said that as the trust, which already holds trademarks for The Battle of Bannockburn, the Soldier's Leap at Killiecrankie and Culloden, has been involved as land owners in Glencoe and at Glenfinnan for more than 70 years, it is not looking for anything unreasonable. Its publicity machine has done much on the international stage for both communities in a way no one else could. Of course it has benefited but so too have many other local businesses in Glenfinnan and Glencoe who use these names to promote their businesses. And why not? A trust spokesman said: 'In recent years, practice in the trademark registries affecting Scotland has changed and it has become apparent to us that other parties, often based outwith Scotland, have registered trademarks over place names for some of the key heritage locations owned by the trust. The alternative is to risk these rights being acquired by commercial organisations with interests that may not align with those of the trust's nor with the wellbeing of local residents and businesses.'

Home rule for the Highlands

THERE is a proposal afoot by the MP and MSP for the West Highlands to break up the Highland Council's huge administrative area and to establish a new authority to cover Skye, Lochalsh and Lochaber. With some careful thought and not too much consultation, this has merit provided it is given a realistic budget, sticks to an achievable agenda and can rise above community council-like parochialism. The truth is that the Highlands and islands would be far better off if they were devolved from Edinburgh. Historically folk in the central belt have not always understood the Gaelic culture or the way of life which still exists in rural communities west of Perth and Loch Lomond. This has resulted in a certain wariness at times, one well expressed by Lord Macleod of Finlay, founder of the Iona Community and latterly domiciled in Edinburgh, who, shortly before his death in 1991, counselled his eldest son never to do business north of Criarlarich!



ARDTORNISH CASTLE: home of the Lords of the Isles.

Generations before, the MacDonald Lords of the Isles sitting in Ardtornish Castle overlooking the Sound of Mull, believed they were kings in their own right, heading up an independent state. One of them, John of Islay (1434-1503), ignored the Scottish Government in Edinburgh and did business directly with Westminster. On being invited on one of his visits to London to dine at a banquet given by the Lord Mayor who, to his horror realised he had wrongly placed MacDonald at the foot of the table and sent a footman to make amends, was told, 'Tell the Lord Mayor not to worry, wherever MacDonald is sitting that is the head of the table'. One can only but admire the man's independent spirit. **Iain Thornber** iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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WELCOME: the second bench at Kinlochleven's war memorial.

Kinlochleven

A NEW bench is in place beside Kinlochleven's war memorial, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the village Co-op shop staff. The employees completed a sponsored walk from the store to the Blackwater dam for the final money needed for the bench. Marion Smith, development officer for Kinlochleven Community Trust, thanked those who installed the seat and plaque. She added: 'Kinlochleven now has two beautiful benches beside the war memorial thanks to all the volunteers who have fundraised tirelessly over the years.'

Cairnbaan

CANAL users had the chance to meet officials from Scottish Canals, as the organisation held its latest customer forum last Saturday. Local manager Joe Murphy outlined recent works around the Crinan Canal, including canal and towpath maintenance and improvement, better signs, a lighthouse upgrade and the installation of traffic calming at towpaths. Looking ahead, Mr Murphy told the audience of around 30 people at the Cairnbaan Hotel that more towpath improvements were planned, along with vegetation control, lock upgrades and the replacement of Bellanoch jetty with a wharf.

Taynuilt

MEMBERS of Taynuilt SWI met on October 14 in the village hall. President Jessie Servant welcomed everyone back after the summer break. Speakers for the evening were Linda McLeod and Alison McQuorquada, who showed members how to make cards and felt flowers. Thirteen members took part and enjoyed creating their own designs. A vote of thanks was given by Celia Keenan and a lovely tea was provided by Alice Campbell and Ann MacCallum. Competitions: Best wrapped Christmas parcel: 1 Tracey Sage; 2 Alice Campbell; 3 Ann Sutherland. Treacle scones: 1 Ann Sutherland; 2 Alice Campbell; 3 Tracey Sage.

Fort William

THE LADIES of Fort William Scottish Women's Institute were entertained by Mr David Sedgwick at their October meeting. The retired surgeon of Belford Hospital told tales of his experiences as a 'Viking Surgeon', a club formed more than 40 years ago to form links between surgeons practicing in rural locations in Scotland, Scandinavia and Iceland. Edythe Knowles won the competition for the best treacle scones.

Phil's buzzing as he prepares for Children in Need hair-raiser

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

IT WILL be hair today and gone tomorrow for a Lochaber Leisure Centre employee as he prepares to cut off a massive 25 inches of curls this weekend. Supervisor Phil Hughes agreed to go for the chop as part of a Children In Need fundraising family fun night organised by gym staff, and has already raised £950 so far. The 48-year-old from Fort William, who has not had a hair cut for more than 20 years, said he isn't nervous about the chop tomorrow night (Friday) and joked that it was to get out of paying for a hair cut.

He said: 'Other staff asked me to do it as part of the fundraising and I thought it was a good idea but I didn't expect the level of support and interest it has attracted. It's only hair, it's painless and it's for a good cause. I don't fancy a shaved head though, I'll stick to a short back and sides. That's what I had all those years ago before I started growing my hair.'

The highest donation so far



FOR THE CHOP: Phil Hughes, centre, is preparing to have 25 inches of hair cut off for Children In Need. He is pictured with highest donor Grant Wallace and Lochaber Leisure Centre manager Gary Davidson.

came from Grant Wallace, on behalf of Kando Construction, who offered up £50 for the cause.

As well as the hair cut, there will be a children's disco,

bucking bronco, bouncy castle, homebaking and taster exercise classes on offer, all kicking off from 6pm in Lochaber High School's sport department. Children are invited to dress

up in their pyjamas or as their favourite superhero for the disco.

Another leisure centre supervisor, Stevie Martin, has also agreed to have his back waxed

“ I didn't expect this interest ”

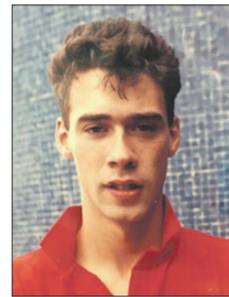
Phil Hughes
Lochaber Leisure Centre

in a bid to boost the fund while his friend, Mikey MacKinnon, will be having his head and beard shaved.

Leisure centre manager Gary Davidson said: 'It will all be good fun. We're trying to get some more of the male staff to get their legs waxed and anyone who wants to take part will be helping us, it's all for a good cause.'

Once barber John Wilson has worked his magic on Phil, the 25 inches of hair will be donated to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair through illness.

Leisure centre staff are appealing to the people of



SHORT-HAIRED: Phil, more than 20 years ago. t46phl2no

Lochaber to help with the fundraising and have asked for donations of homebaking and raffle prizes, as well as people to take part in sponsored events. Anyone who can help is asked to contact the centre's reception or hand in donations.

Anyone who would like to donate to Phil's haircut can do so via www.justgiving.com/lochaberleisurecentre or via a sponsor form which is available at the leisure centre.

TIMESLINE

Three year ban for drink driver

A DRUNK driver who crashed into a car carrying two young children has been banned for three years.

Mary MacDonald of Fort William was six and a half times over the drink drive limit when she collided with a car stopped at traffic lights in Spean Bridge on the afternoon of July 27.

At Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, the 42-year-old, who gave her address as care of a guest house in the town, was sentenced to 180 hours of unpaid work in the community as well as the three-year driving ban.

MacDonald pleaded guilty to driving with 145 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath and driving without due care and attention at a previous hearing.

Sheriff David Young heard nobody was seriously hurt in the incident, which occurred after MacDonald attempted to drive home from her friend's house after an afternoon of drinking.

Police probe town centre path attack

POLICE are appealing for information after a couple were reportedly attacked in the town.

The man and woman were walking on the path behind Lochaber Leisure Centre, leading to Alma Road, at 10.45pm last Monday (November 2) when they were assaulted, say police.

The man required hospital treatment for a hand injury. A description of the attacker is not available but police have asked anyone who saw or heard anything suspicious in the area to contact them on 101 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Driver was four times over the limit

A MAN who drank a bottle of whisky in his car then slept overnight in it has been banned for driving for a year.

William Doherty, of Achnasaul, Achnacarry, was driving to the house he is staying in while working in the area when he realised the single-track road leading there had been closed for the night.

When he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday, the 49-year-old admitted driving with 82 microgrammes of alcohol

in 100 millilitres of breath on August 15, almost four times the legal limit of 22 microgrammes in the same amount of breath.

Fiscal deputy Ross Carvel said police discovered the joiner shortly before 6am 'in a deep sleep and smelling strongly of alcohol'.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Doherty had received news of a friend passing away which led him to drink. Sheriff David Young banned Doherty for 12 months and fined him £300.

Teenager spared jail after threats

A TEENAGER who threatened to slit the throats of police officers and their families has learned his lesson after eight weeks in prison, Fort William Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday.

Dejan Watson, of Inverlochry Court in Fort William, went on a 'bizarre' drunken rampage through the town's High Street, swinging his belt, shouting at members of the public and flailing his arms around just one day after being put on a supervision order for another offence.

When arrested after the incident on September 15 the 19-year-old began calling police offensive names and threatening to kill them and their relatives.

Fiscal deputy Ross Carvel said the abuse included, 'If I find you or any of your family I will slit your throats' and 'You are a waste of space. One chance to get to kill any of your family and I'm taking it'.

Watson was remanded in custody as the incident broke his supervision order and admitted the charge last month,

but sentencing was deferred until Tuesday for background reports.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell said Watson had been drinking in High Street pubs with friends before the incident. She added: 'It appears to be when he drinks that he gets into trouble.'

'He accepts these are horrendous threats to make to police. He has been in custody for almost eight weeks now and this has shown him that he needs to change his behaviour.'

to release Watson and sentenced him to a 12-month supervision order and 235 hours of unpaid work in the community.

He said: 'This would have been distressing for the public and the way you were swinging your belt must have been very alarming.'

'The threats of violence to police and their families I find particularly terrible.'

'I'm going to give you an opportunity to show you don't want to go back into custody in the future.'

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Published on 10th December
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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING OUR FUTURE – HAVE YOUR SAY
A significant drop in Argyll and Bute Council's grant funding means we must transform how we work, grow our income, reduce or stop services.
We need to make choices about the work we do. We need to identify what is most important now, and for our future prosperity.
Please give us your views in planning council services and building a prosperous future for Argyll and Bute.
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Please take the time to have your say and get involved in planning our future together.

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Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

This week India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a visit to Britain for high-level talks with David Cameron. An ideal opportunity then to discuss the plight of Connel father Billy Irving, who has been stranded in India since October 2013. His partner Yvonne Machugh has appealed to Mr Cameron to raise the issue in the hope that the young family might finally be reunited this Christmas.

It beggars belief that Billy has been stuck in limbo for the last two years, unable to leave the country or work so he can pay for bed and board and our government has not pulled out all the stops to bring him home despite all charges against him being dropped in July 2014. Let's remind Mr Cameron of his duty of care towards Billy and his colleagues. Tweet him about raising Billy's plight with Narendra Modi at @David_Cameron



Days gone by – sailing to Staffa, 1911

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by a reader from Crinan Harbour and is a scenic shot of Staffa dating back to 1911. Digital versions of flashback photos for the *Oban Times* can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, the *Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Let's remember the Cruachan fallen

Sir, Thanks for the interesting and informative articles about Cruachan. I visited the complex a couple of years ago for work reasons and while waiting for my escort to come out and meet me had a wander around outside the main office. I came across a small stone monument which had been placed there as a memorial and judging by its size assumed that one or two workers had been lost during construction. I was later shocked to discover more than 30 men had lost their lives during that time. I immediately thought they should have something a little grander, with the victims named on a role of honour and on a memorial located in the visitors centre where the general public can see it. These people died terrible and untimely deaths and they should not remain anonymous.

A few months back I mentioned this to a power engineer working on replacing over-head lines. He told me his project had been stopped for a whole day because a colleague of his had broken his finger.

Name and address supplied.

Happy memories of film-making on Mull

Sir, A recent Mull Lines article evoked some very happy memories. I can vividly remember as a 12-year-old boy, the excitement the filming of the movie I Know Where I Am Go-

ing generated for me and for many others in 1945. More particularly for me because my aunt, the late Mrs Helen D T McKenzie, nee MacLean, known locally as Daisy, was an 'extra' during the filming of some of the wet weather scenes.

I remember being told at the time that Daisy doubled for Miss Wendy Hillier who played the Joan Webster part. I noted with interest that Roger Livesey, the leading male star, never set foot on Mull and I am wondering if likewise Miss Hillier also didn't appear on the island during filming. Incidentally, Daisy was the youngest daughter of Captain Alexander MacLean who skippered a number of MacBraynes vessels during the 1920s and I am his eldest grandson.

Iain Scott Rae, Edzell, Angus.

Remarkable amnesia on austerity agenda

Sir, Alan Reid and the Lib Dems were soundly rejected by the Scottish electorate last May.

However, I must assume from the proliferation of his contributions to the *Oban Times* letters page that he will soon seek re-election, this time to the Holyrood Parliament.

Mr Reid displays remarkable amnesia with regards to his complicity in underpinning the austerity agenda emanating from Westminster, which has resulted in extreme cuts to the budget received by the Scottish Government, and the consequential cuts to local government funding. The SNP group in Kilmory is not currently large enough to decide

budget outcomes, and is therefore confined to opposing and mitigating the grossly unfair proposals and cuts being advanced by the current Tory/Lib Dem/Independent administration, under the guise of 'public consultation'.

To pretend otherwise would be dishonest.

Dot Macdonald, Crannag A Mhinisteir, Oban.

A wonderful display of fireworks in Oban

Sir, Oban has just enjoyed a truly wonderful display of fireworks – very much enjoyed from Kerrera.

The event was the best ever. Perhaps more folk in Oban would appreciate them more if they were set off from Kerrera?

John and Jo Grange, Kerrera.

Rural Scotland needs better broadband now

Sir, Steven Paterson MP is right to highlight the importance of bringing superfast broadband to rural areas.

I raised this many times when I was an MP. However, it's not just the UK government that Mr Paterson should be criticising.

In Scotland, the SNP government is responsible for funding the roll-out and it is proceeding painfully slowly. This roll-out must be speeded up. Rural Scotland can't wait any longer for this vital service.

Alan Reid, Lib Dem candidate for Argyll and Bute, Dunoon.

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

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

Glasgow Letter

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

Glasgow Lewis and Harris gathering

THE LEWIS Harris gathering last Friday seems to have been a topper - and ended with a sell-out dance.

This success is encouraging considering that the general trend of association gatherings in recent years has been perceived as a downward one.

I didn't manage to make it along because I was playing in the Park Bar and then leaving Glasgow first thing in the morning.

The crowd that had assembled in the Park before heading up the road to the gathering was considerable so it was clear the Glasgow University Union was in for some night.

It took all my will power not to go up and pop my head in, but I knew fine well that that would finish up with me dancing a strip the willow at three in the morning!

Donald 'Maroot' MacLeod was awarded the gathering's Cuach.

According to the gathering programme 'the Cuach is awarded every year to the person or persons who have brought honour to themselves and the Long Island by their actions from which others do benefit'.

That description pretty much sums up Donnie, who has raised £30,000 for hospices in the Western Isles with profits from his joke books and organised more than 70 ceilidhs in care homes across the country.

I have written about Donnie a number of times in this column and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Cuach.

It is my hope that, after the success of this year's Lewis/Harris, 2015/16 will be the season when the gathering dances will all be sold out once again.

The Tìree gathering is approaching later this month and, at the end of the year, the Glasgow Skye is celebrating its 150th Gathering.

After hearing of the big turn-out at the first association dance of the season, I am looking forward to all the other gatherings with even greater excitement than usual.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

CHAN eil ach beagan is sia mìosan bhon a bha mi a' togail beachd air an dùbhlain leantainneach a th' aig Comhairlean agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba ri linn staid rathaidean feadh na dùthcha.

Bha mi ag ràdh gun robh an suidheachadh seo agus dìth inleachd cheart gus cùisean a leasachadh, a' dol an aghaidh gach iomairt leasachaidh eaconamach agus sòisealta a th' aig an Riaghaltas.

Tha còmh-dhail rathaid deatamach dhan a' mhòr-chuid den t-sluagh ach tha rathaidean air a bhith a' crìonadh às a chèile fad bhliadhnaichean gun dad subsainteach ga dhèanamh gus seo a leasachadh.

Ann an 2004 mhol an aithisg A' Cumail Suas Rathaidean Alba bho Àrd-neach-sgrùdaidh Alba agus Coimisean nan Cunntasan, gum bu chòir dhan Riaghaltas agus dha Comhairlean dèanamh cinnteach gum biodh an cuid obair-leasachaidh air rathaidean a' cur ri àrainneachd agus seasmhachd na dùthcha.

Ach cha tàinig cus atharrachaidh thar nam bliadhnaichean agus tha an tuairmse a thahas a' dèanamh airson nan rathaidean a thoirt air ais gu ìre a sior dhòl am meud.

A-nise tha aithisg ùr air bun-structair na dùthcha bho Institiud nan Inneleadairean Chatharra a' togail air ìre an dùbhlain seo a tha iadsan ag ràdh a chosgadh co-dhiù dà bhillean not a leasachadh.

Tha an aithisg a' nochdadh gur e beachd àrd-oifigearan còmh-dhail Chomhairlean na dùthcha gum bheil trian de na rathaidean fo ìre iomchaidh.

A rèir na h-aithisg cuideachd tha dà cheud gu leth mìlean not ga chosg gach bliadhna a' gleidheadh chùisean mar a tha iad.

B' fhiach beachdachadh air cisean rathaid a chur air còmh-dhail gus cuideachadh a' coinneachadh ris a' chosgais seo, gu h-àraid far am bheil an tachdadh trafaig as mìosa agus roghainn aig daoine air còmh-dhail eile, tha an Institiud a' moladh!

Ged a tha dràibhearain agus gnìomhachasan còmh-dhail Bhreatainn air a bhith a' pàigheadh cisean rathaid agus cisean mòra connaidh fad iomadh bliadhna, tha a' mhòr-chuid aca den bheachd nach deach cus den ionmhas sin a thasgadh ann an cumail suas rathaidean na dùthcha.

Mar sin shaoilinn nach eil

115th annual Tìree Gathering

THE SUCCESS of the Lewis/Harris gathering dance bodes well for the Tìree Association whose gathering concert is on Thursday November 19; and whose dance is on Friday November 20.

Gunna Sound are playing for the gathering dance in the Glasgow University Union this year, starting at 9pm.

I have played at this dance with Skipinnish for the last two years and it's always been a thoroughly enjoyable gig.

The Tìree Association dance seems to attract a particularly large, young audience. This is surely, in part, because of the vibrancy surrounding the music of the island.

This vibrancy is a result of the number of accordionists to come from the island thanks to the tutorage of Gordon Connel; the calibre of bands to hail from the island; and, of course, the famous Tìree Music Festival. Tickets can be bought from the Park Bar, or by messaging the association Facebook page.

Clydebank cèilidh

THIS Friday, November 13, the Napier Hall in Old Kilpatrick will host a Clydebank Highlanders cèilidh at 7.30pm.

The evening will be chaired by the Rev Fred Booth. Linda MacCallum, Calum Ross and Colin Fisher will be singing. Willie Scott will be playing the accordion and Robert Wood will be piping. The accompanist for the evening will be Kirsteen Grant.

Comunn an Taobh an Iar Haggis Supper

COMUNN an Taobh an Iar is holding a haggis supper followed by a cèilidh on Thursday November 26 in Ellangowan Social Club, Douglas Street, Milngavie, from 7.30pm to 11.30pm.

I am looking forward to singing

at this because those cèilidhs are always great nights. The evening will be chaired by Peter Macdonald who will introduce Carissa Bowwill, John Gillies on the pipes, Kirsteen Grant as the accompanist and a group from the Bearsden fiddlers.

There will be a raffle and a licensed bar and everyone is welcome. Tickets are £18 and are available by pre-order only. They must be applied for by Monday November 16 to arrange catering. Applications to 0141 942 4495.

What's on

Friday November 13: Clydebank Highlanders' cèilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday November 14: Gaels Le Chèile, Taigh Cèilidh (house cèilidh) in St Peter's Church Hall.

Thursday November 19: An Comunn Tìrisdeach (The Tìree Association) Annual Gathering Concert, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm.

Friday November 20: An Comunn Tìrisdeach (The Tìree Association) Annual Gathering Dance, Glasgow University Union.

Tuesday November 24: Open Meeting: Mòd Ghlaschu 2019, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic School), 7pm.

Thursday November 26: Comunn-an-taobh-an-iar Haggis Supper, Ellangowan Social Club, 7.30pm.

Friday November 27: Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir celebration dinner, Hillhead Sports Club.

Friday November 27: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association annual reunion dinner dance, Glynhill Hotel.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday November 12: Session. Friday November 13: The Beinn Lee Cèilidh Band. Saturday November 14: Andrew MacDonald. Sunday November 15: The Beinn Lee Cèilidh Band.

Islay Inn: Friday November 13: Penny Dogs. Saturday November 14: Twist of Fate. Wednesday November 18: quiz night.

Ailean Caimbeul

dràibhearain dol a chur cus taic ri molaidhean nan Inneleadairean Chatharra agus gum feum an Riaghaltas inleachd eile a lorg airson rathaidean na dùthcha a thilleadh gu slàinte!

Theaganh nach eil e na annas gum bheil Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a ràdh nach eil dad a bheachd aige leithid seo de chisean a stèidheachadh, ach aig an aon àm cha ghabh a' cheist seachnadh agus chan urrainn dhan Riaghaltas cùl a chur ri trioblaid a tha a sior bhagairt beatha làitheil agus gnìomhachas na dùthcha.

LATEST estimated for bringing Scotland's roads back to acceptable standards equal £2 billion according to the Institute of Civil Engineers, but suggestion that tolls be introduced to help fund this will find little favour with vehicle operators whose road fund and massive fuel taxes have not ensured a vital road network.

Scottish Government has no plans to introduce tolls but it cannot ignore crumbling infra-structure and detailed planning and action is urgently required!

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

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, 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.

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11	12			13	
15		16		17	18
20				21	22
23				24	

- Across
- 7 Common (6)
 - 8 Inadequate (6)
 - 9 Axlike tool (4)
 - 10 Giving knowledge (8)
 - 11 Geometric figure (7)
 - 13 English exam story (5)
 - 15 Toast (5)
 - 17 Small rhizome (7)
 - 20 Conclusion (8)
 - 21 After-bath wear (4)
 - 23 Artemis's twin (6)
 - 24 Put money into (6)
- Down
- 1 Four wheeled bike (4)
 - 2 Radiant (6)
 - 3 Put down account (5,2)
 - 4 Spread thinly (5)
 - 5 Triteness (6)
 - 6 Pots and pans (8)
 - 12 Music played by a reed instrument (8)
 - 14 Syrup made from these (7)
 - 16 Madly (6)
 - 18 Flourish (6)
 - 19 Burning (5)
 - 22 Low in pitch (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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Pupils shine bright thanks to quarry's vest donation

CHILDREN from south Lochaber will be easily spotted this winter thanks to a generous donation of high visibility vests. Pupils from St Brides and Ballachulish primary schools received the bright gear from Glensanda Quarry, Morvern.



EASILY SPOTTED: Duncan MacInnes, back left, and Donald MacInnes, who both have children at Ballachulish, donated the vests on behalf of employers Glensanda Quarry.



SAFETY FIRST: David Lamb of Glensanda Quarry hands over high visibility vests to St Brides primary sevens Kai Malcolm and Grave Livingston as fellow pupils and head teacher Susan Kemp look on. 21_46stbrides01

TIMESLINE

Woman assaulted in drunken fight

A FORT William man slapped a 56-year-old woman twice in a drunken argument.

Igor Volonovs, of Polmona, Claggan, admitted striking the woman on the head on August 29 this year, when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the 29-year-old Latvian had acted under provocation after the woman insulted his partner.

Sheriff David Young accepted Volonovs had been provoked and gave him a reduced fine of £180, saying: 'However you look at it this was an assault of a 56-year-old woman. I know there had been an argument but this doesn't justify what you did.'

Police probe thefts and vandalism

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about acts of theft and vandalism in the area.

Some time between 10pm on November 6 and 8am the following day, paint was poured over a car parked in Kilmallie Road, Caol.

On November 1, damage was caused to a wooden bench near Pine Grove path in Plantation, Fort William.

Some time between October 31 and November 2, two mountain bikes were stolen from a layby on the A830 at Polish.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101, Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

New gritters hit Highland roads

FOUR new road gritters have arrived in the Highlands ahead of the first winter freeze.

The vehicles arrived at Highland Council last week with another 21 due to be delivered over the next six weeks.

Green light for old school plans

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

PLANNING permission to develop a former Fort William school campus, described as an 'eyesore' by elected members, has been granted by Highland Council.

The decision to renovate the former Fort William Secondary School, on Achintore Road, was made by councillors at the South Planning Applications Committee meeting in Inverness on Tuesday, with the decision passed by 15 votes to two.

The development will be partly funded by a grant of £270,000 from Historic Environment Scotland (formerly known as Historic Scotland).

The plans are to demolish the existing dining hall building at

the front of the site and the two primary school buildings at the rear. Part of the stone wall is to be removed along the front to build a new central access point, and there are changes within the former secondary school to rearrange the internal layout.

The existing former secondary school, a Category B listed building, is to be repaired and re-roofed. It is proposed to erect a two-storey extension onto the side and rear of the former secondary school.

Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor Andrew Baxter, of the Highland Alliance, proposed a motion that permission be refused, mainly based on the size and scale of the development and how it would look compared to adjacent buildings. He was

seconded by fellow Highland Alliance councillor, Donnie Kerr.

Fort William Community Council had raised objections over the proposals on a number of issues, including the impact on privacy to the adjacent Lime Tree hotel.

It was also felt the design of the extension would 'diminish the significance and aesthetic appearance of the listed building'.

Jimmy Gray, chairman of the South Planning Applications Committee, said at the meeting: 'What we have here is a planning application. It might not be what we would all have liked to have but it is what is in front of us. The site has long needed development. It hasn't been used in 40 years.'

While he noted that the

planned construction may be seen as 'contemporary' and create a mix of old and new styles of architecture, he added: 'on balance, we should be saying 'yes'.'

Councillor Baxter thanked planning officer Susan MacMillan for her 'fair and balanced' report on the application, noting there had been a lot of interest in the renovation from people in Fort William.

He said: 'Like all other Lochaber councillors, I supported in principal the site being reconstructed, as it is seen as an eyesore as an entrance to the town. Fort William Community Council also supported it at the time.'

However, he said he felt the plans should be reconsidered, claiming that reassurance had not been made that the aes-

thetics and scale of the development would be fitting with the context of the surrounding site.

Supporting him, fellow Highland Alliance councillor Donnie Kerr, who is based in Inverness Central, said: 'It is always good to see a derelict building come into productive use. However, I feel we could have done better and can see where Fort William Community Council's objection has come from, so I've decided to second Andrew's [Baxter] motion. He has the local knowledge.'

Thomas MacLennan, chairman of the Lochaber Area Committee, disagreed with his fellow Highland Alliance members. 'For 40 years, the building has been an eyesore at the gateway to Fort William,'

Car parking income is falling short

INCREASING car parking charges may not be helping to balance Highland Council's books, according to a Lochaber councillor.

At the local authority's community services committee meeting last Thursday, (November 5), Andrew Baxter, member for Fort William and Ardnarmurchan, raised concerns that the projected earnings from increasing car parking charges has been lower than expected every year since financial year 2010/11.

He said: 'We didn't manage to reach the income we had budgeted for this year. In fact,



CONCERNS: Andrew Baxter.

we haven't been able to reach the income in car parking we had budgeted for since financial year 2010/11 and yet every year since then we have increased fees.

'In view of the fact we are considering putting up car parking charges again, I would say is this really sensible? It may be an easy option but that is smoke and mirrors if we haven't actually been able to achieve it since 2010. I'm concerned if we continue like that it will begin to have a detrimental effect on our communities without actually any benefit to the council's budget.'

Councillor Baxter also called for a review of the car park charging policy as part of Highland Council's budget reviews.

The local authority is expected to have a shortfall of £250,000 on estimated income for car park charges this financial year.

William Gilfillan, director of community services, said the funding gap is a result of previous 'pressures' being carried into this year's budget.

He added: 'The team worked out what we could charge and put those into the budget and we're confident those figures will materialise.'

Town team lands grant

FORT William Town Team is delighted to announce that its application to the Big Lottery Awards For All fund has been successful.

The application for nearly £3,000 is to fund street performers from Edinburgh-based Circus Alba to take part in this year's High Street Christmas Gathering, which will take place on Friday November 27, between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

The funding includes the hire of the Duncansburgh Halls as a venue to run circus skills workshops and some radio advertising.

Town Team treasurer, Jackie Clifford, said: 'We are thrilled that we have been successful in obtaining this funding, which has enabled us to bring such exciting circus performers to entertain the Fort William community at our High Street Gathering.'

The performers, who include several winter-themed stilt walkers, a magician, a contact juggler and a glow juggler, will be entertaining the public in the High Street between 6pm and 8pm on November 27.

As part of the funding package, Circus Alba will be running a free workshop for young people, from 9am to 10.30am the following day in the Duncansburgh Halls.

Youngsters taking part in this workshop will have the opportunity to exhibit their newly acquired skills by joining the Rotary parade in the High Street at 11.00am the same day. To book a place on the workshop, email Karen Dean on: stay@lochview.co.uk.

Improve road, don't cut speed limit

A GROUP campaigning for the upgrading of a Highland section of a trunk road is challenging the Scottish government to commit to improving it, rather than reduce the speed limit.

The A82 partnership, which describes itself as an umbrella organisation supporting the upgrading of the road, has voiced concerns over the reduction of the speed limit to 50mph between Onich and Fort William. In its response, Transport Scotland admits that, at present, there is no timetable and resources have not been identified

for upgrading this length of road. Transport Scotland claims that £66 million has been spent on the A82 over the last eight years, equating to £0.4 million per mile. However, Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor, Brian Murphy, said: 'Commitments have been made by the Scottish Government to dualling the A9 at a cost of £3 billion, or £21.4 million per mile, a New Forth Bridge at £1.4 billion, Edinburgh Trams at £1 billion, together with numerous Central Belt infrastructure improvement projects and a £5 billion investment in

the rail network. To me, £66 million spent on the A82 over the last eight years does not appear to be a material investment in this economic lifeline.'

This is the third section of the A82 to be downgraded to 50mph, with Tarbet to Inverarnan and Glengloy to Letterfinlay also proposed to have speed limits reduced to lower than the national standard.

The A82 Partnership is presently lobbying all major Scottish political parties to include specific A82 upgrade works in their manifestos for the 2016 Holyrood elections.

Cash boost for Fort marina group

A GROUP campaigning for cruise ship pontoons to be installed in Fort William has had a huge boost after an application for funding has been recommended.

The Fort William Marina and Shoreline Association (FWMSA) received confirmation on Tuesday that a grant for £163,042 had been recommended by the Town Centre Communities Capital Fund. The money could see a landing stage built at the north end of the West End car park by March next year.

Sarah Kennedy, secretary of FWMSA said: 'I am

delighted to announce that we have received confirmation that we have had our application for funding recommended for the pontoons at the West End car park in Fort William. It's really exciting news for the town.'

Aspokesman for the funding body said the FWMSA would receive correspondence confirming its panel's recommendation, which would provide an offer of a grant and guidance on how to respond.

A formal announcement of the successful projects and details will be made

public once all offers have been confirmed.

Norrie MacLean, a member of the association, said: 'Everyone can see that this is what the town is missing. It's definitely going to happen, it's just a matter of time and funding. If we don't get this funding we'll find another way.'

Lochaber area leader, councillor Thomas MacLennan, said: 'This is fantastic news for the west end of Fort William and the whole area of Lochaber. To get more cruise and liner traffic in the town will be great for the whole area.'

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Smiles and song at Oban Mòd



Northern German choir, Kantorei Hasleau, which learned Gaelic songs to sing at this year's Mòd, has a vast repertoire in various languages, and members range from 19-81 years old. The choir is led by Michael Horn-Antoni. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



Flòraidh MacPhail, left, is the new Bàrd of An Comunn. Flòraidh who becomes the Mòd's 55th Bàrd, is well-known in the Gaelic community and is the mother of Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish Ceilidh Band. She replaces outgoing bard Lewis MacKinnon, an accomplished Gaelic poet whose ancestors moved to Nova Scotia in 1791. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



Christina Mackenzie was named Gaelic Learner of the Year. She is an administrator at Pròiseact nan Ealan (National Gaelic Arts Agency) in Stornoway. The award, sponsored by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, recognises a Gaelic learner who has made significant steps to fluency.



Raibert MacCallum, a fine Argyll man and living legend, giving his all at the Massed Choirs. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



Oban Pipe Band at the massed choirs. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



Oban Gaelic Choir conductor Sileas Sinclair leads the Massed Choirs, and below, the choir looking very fresh at the massed choirs event. Photographs: Graham Hood Photography



Mull at the massed choir event. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



Lochaber Gaelic Choir. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



Oban share the 'Lovat'. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography



Mull Gaelic Choir before the results. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography

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Glasgow to host 2019 Royal National Mòd

GLASGOW will host The Royal National Mòd in 2019 - 29 years since the festival was last held in the city.

Preparations are already under way for 2016's Royal National Mòd, which will take place in the Western Isles.

John Morrison, chief executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach said: 'We're thrilled to announce that Glasgow will host The Royal National Mòd in 2019 and we look forward to bringing our celebrations to Scotland's biggest city. Oban has been an incredibly welcoming town and the calibre of talent competing this year has been incredible. We are excited to start our planning for The Mòd Western Isles 2016 and look forward to seeing many familiar faces there next year.'

DI Brown, chair of the Glasgow 2019 Local Organising Committee, said: 'The Local Organising Committee (LOC) is delighted that An Comunn thought our bid was strong enough to secure the Mòd in Glasgow. The LOC believes Glasgow is an excellent location to host the Mòd and is sure it will deliver an excellent Mòd for both Mòd-goers and Glaswegians alike in 2019.'



The Mull contingent were in fine voice at this year's event. Photograph: Graham Hood Photography

Mull singers all smiles after hitting top notes in Oban

MANY Mull folk were successful in the Royal National Mòd in Oban this year, and several trophies were brought home on the ferry.

Mull Gaelic Choir brought home five pieces of silverware from the rural choirs competitions, scoring extremely high

marks in the competition.

They were delighted to win, for the second year running, the rural choirs' Sheriff Mac-Master-Campbell Memorial Quach, the Selma Shield for Gaelic and the Grace Robertson Memorial Baton for the highest music marks.

They came second in the Puirt a Beul competition by only one mark and won the Calum Robertson Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in this competition.

The Mull choir also won a new trophy, the John Lockie Trophy, for highest aggregate

Gaelic marks over their three competitions.

Carol MacLean from Tobermory won the Sarah Weir Memorial Trophy in the Mull and Iona Song competition, and Donna Dugdale was placed second in the Traditional Singing Competition.

It rained in the trenches and it rained on Oban's remembrance parade



OBAN paid its respects to the war dead on Sunday during one of the wettest Remembrance Day ceremonies anyone can remember. Despite that, there was an impressive turnout from across the community as ex-servicemen and women, representatives of public and

local organisations and others gathered in front of the Corran Halls to march along the Esplanade to the memorial behind Oban Pipe Band. While some of the youth organisations cancelled their participation because of the weather conditions, the march went ahead as planned and

the service was conducted by the Reverend Ian McFarlane of Oban Baptist Church, who is also chaplain to the town's branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL). Wreaths were laid at the memorial on behalf of a number of organisations and later at the Highland Division me-

morial in front of the Corran Halls and at Ganavan's RAF memorial. Parade organiser Ian Blair-Simmonds of the RBL told the Oban Times: 'I'd like to thank everyone who turned out on parade. They were fantastic. It rained in the trenches and no one seemed to think

that the weather should stop them today (Sunday). 'We've all been wet before, we'll all be wet again - we live in Oban!' The Oban branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland also gathered at the Garden of Remembrance in George Street at 11am on November

11 to mark the actual date of the Armistice. Remembrance ceremonies took place around Argyll and from Lochawe to Lochgilphead and Campbeltown to Tainui, with each recognising a two-minute silence echoed around the whole country at 11am.



Oban Pipe Band lead the parade to the war memorial. 17_T46rememb01



Pipe Major Euan Dewar, far left, leads the Oban Pipe Band members through the rain storm to the memorial for the service of remembrance. 17_T46rememb02



Standard bearers Ross Manson, left, and Archie MacCulloch had to fight to keep the flags steady in the high winds. 17_T46rememb04



Elder Miles laid the wreath on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. 17_T46rememb09



Lesley Blair-Simmonds, who chairs the Oban branch of Royal British Legion Scotland. 17_T46rememb07



The Oban RNLI lifeboat took up its traditional position in Oban Bay, as the crew paid their respects. 17_T46rememb05



Angus MacColl, from Benderloch, who this year won the Glenfiddich Piping Championships for the fourth time, played the lament. 17_T46rememb08



Queen's Colours bearer Archie MacCulloch, left, and Oban branch Royal British Legion Scotland standard bearer Ross Manson, bring the parade to a halt at the memorial. 17_T46rememb03



The location of Oban's war memorial was chosen because it could be seen from across Oban Bay, but this means it is exposed to the elements. Rev Ian McFarlane conducted the service in the teeth of the gale. 17_T46rememb10



Graham MacQueen, depute Lord Lieutenant, placed the first wreath on the memorial, followed by the civic, military, public service and community wreaths. 17_T46rememb06

BUSINESSpeople

New Highlands air link with London welcomed

A NEW air link between the Highlands and London has been welcomed. British Airways announced last week it would be introducing a new service between Inverness and Heathrow, 18 years after the airline terminated flights between the two cities. The daily flight joins the current EasyJet service between Inverness and Gatwick. David Stewart, Highlands and Islands MSP and Scottish spokesman for transport, said: 'Better connectivity is badly needed across the Highlands and Islands. In particular, we needed better

connectivity with London. There is no doubt if we can provide and sustain more frequent flights to London we can benefit from an increase in the tourism industry, business connections will be improved and there will be much-improved trade routes, not to mention the positive effect for those wishing to pursue leisure experiences.' Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson also welcomed the plans: 'This is excellent news for the economy of the Highlands. It gives the signal out to the rest of the world that it is easy to get to the Highlands.'

Women key to business

WOMEN'S employment minister Annabelle Ewing says women are key to increasing business. More women should be encouraged to set up their own business with a possible network of more than £7.6 billion. Launching support for women in business Ms Ewing said: 'Female self-employment has gone up more than 25 per cent in the last five years, compared to fewer than eight per cent

for men. Last year women-led businesses contributed around £5 billion to the economy. 'If we had as many female-run businesses as male we could expect that figure to grow to £7.6 billion. 'Much of the work we have to do in encouraging more women to start their own companies is to ensure they properly recognise the value of their talents and skills and just how sought after they are.'

Oban carpet fitters expand their expertise into tiling



BUSINESS SUCCESS: Donald Campbell of D and G Flooring and Tiling in the show-room. 17.146dandg1

TWO 'BOYS' from Oban who decided to go it alone are thriving in the carpet fitting industry and are now expanding into the tiling business. Donald Campbell and Garry McIvor, both from Oban, started carpet fitting at the age of 15 and have gone from strength to strength with D and G Flooring and Tiling. Now in their late 20s, the men have made a real name for themselves in Argyll and the islands for a professional job in any setting. Donald said: 'We are happy to go anywhere to work. From town centre Oban, to the outlying areas and to the islands we have built up our business meeting the high demands of our customers. 'It has also allowed us to see some really interesting places like Iona, Mull and Colonsay.' Already providing an excellent job in carpet fitting, the men decided to set up a warehouse showing a range of carpets and vinyls on Nursery Lane in Oban - which is open Monday to Friday 9am until 5.30pm - and the newest addition to the business, tiling, fits in nicely. Donald added: 'We are expanding the business to include tiling. We are getting higher and higher demand for tiling both walls and floors, so we have brought the skills into the business to deliver another excellent service to our customers. 'Between Gary and myself we have almost 30 years of experience. I would like to thank everyone who has supported us so far and we look forward to carpet fitting or tiling for you again soon.'



Money Matters
with Iain Cairns



Stay on Top of rising interest rates

Higher interest rates may be welcomed by savers but they spell bad news for borrowers. Any rate increase will drive up monthly repayments for those mortgage holders who do not have a fixed mortgage rate and, while those who have fixed their mortgages will not feel the initial impact of a rate rise, when their fixed period comes to an end, remortgaging is likely to result in a significant increase in monthly repayments. Lower interest rates - and, more specifically, lower gilt yields - have ensured mortgage rates have remained relatively depressed for some time now but they have dropped even further in the years since the financial crisis. While no-one is predicting a speedy spike in interest rates - there is still too much debt around and economic growth remains fragile - bond markets will anticipate interest rate rises ahead of the event and, by the time they have risen, it may be too late to lock in lower yields. Anyone taking out a mortgage should always assess not only whether they can afford their repayments now, but also whether they would be able to afford them in an environment of higher interest rates. Although rates are not expected to rise as far or as quickly as before the financial crisis, even a relatively small increase could have a relatively substantial effect on your monthly repayments. If the terms of your mortgage allow, it may be worth considering overpaying on

your mortgage while rates remain low. It may also be worth negotiating a new mortgage now - perhaps moving from a standard variable rate to a fixed rate. That said, mortgage lenders are already poised to implement a rate increase once it takes effect and are therefore likely to take account of this when offering another deal. Make sure you check the terms of your current deal - you could incur penalties from your current lender if you switch to a new one - and, above all, do take expert advice. Argyll Financial Services limited help many individuals and businesses throughout Argyll on a wide range of mortgage and financial planning needs. Contact us on 01369706198 or info@argyllfinancial.co.uk to help us secure your financial future. The purpose of this article is to provide technical and generic guidance and should not be interpreted as a personal recommendation. It represents our interpretation of current and proposed legislation and HMRC practice as at the date of publication. These may change in future. Argyll Financial Services Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Buy to Let Mortgages are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. There may be a fee for mortgage advice. Typically this will be £199. REMEMBER - YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

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Kerry crafts out on new venture

A SCIENCE graduate with a childhood love of art has set up her own business making jewellery and crafts. Kerry MacKay, 24, from Oban set up Selkie Crafts www.facebook.com/selkiecrafts earlier this year after graduating with a Masters in Ecology in 2013. Through working in a local craft shop, she rediscovered her love of drawing and began creating her own jewellery which was a hit with customers. With advice from Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway, Kerry decided to set up her own craft business selling on websites Etsy, Folksy and at various markets throughout the region. Kerry said: 'I have always loved art and design and although it was my favourite and best subject at school, when it came to choosing a career I picked a science degree as I felt there would be more job opportunities. But having limited luck in finding an ecology-related job, I began working in a local shop, Crafty Ewe, where my love for crafts was reignited. 'Now, I'm making a variety of crafts but I particularly enjoy making jewellery with wire and beads and handmade dream catchers. I have a range of products on sale in Crafty Ewe and I also sell through various craft websites. The support I've had from Crafty Ewe has been fantastic and the feedback from customers has been such a confidence boost.' Kerry designs and creates earrings, brace-

lets, necklaces, dream catchers and various other crafts and has already begun work on her Christmas decoration ideas. With appearances already booked at the Oban Winter Festival craft market and Argyll Animal Aid Christmas market, she is hoping to increase her customer base and get her products known to a wider audience. She added: 'My aim is to establish Selkie Crafts as a friendly, local business and that everyone who receives one of my creations feels like they have something special. I first approached Business Gateway on the advice of my boss at Crafty Ewe and I tentatively attended a business planning workshop last summer. 'After mulling over my plans I decided to set up the business and since then Business Gateway have continued to support and advise me. As well as having an experienced adviser to discuss my ideas with, I have attended more workshops which have all been a great help.' Angela Vernel, the Business Gateway adviser who supported Kerry said: 'Kerry is an ambitious young business owner with her heart firmly in this area. She recognises the opportunities that the region can provide and with our support she has created an enterprise that offers a fantastic range of locally produced crafts.' To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business call 01546 808 363 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute



Kerry MacKay, 24, from Oban set up Selkie Crafts www.facebook.com/selkiecrafts earlier this year.

CLAIRE BRINGS HER BUSINESS BACK CLOSER TO HOME AFTER CLOSURE OF TWO KEY STOCKISTS

Jewellery designer hopes online shop will attract new customers

A JEWELLERY designer who has created collections for some of Europe's most prestigious museums and galleries is to bring her work closer to home with the launch of a new online shop. Claire Hartley, based on the Isle of Seil, has sold her silver jewellery all over the continent in renowned international visitor attractions. Inspired by famous artists and paintings, she has produced work for the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid and London's National Gallery among others. Now she is offering her designs directly to anyone with an eye for beautiful jewellery after her two closest stockists - Kranenburg and Fowler Gallery in Oban and the Hebridean



GOING ONLINE: Claire Hartley, based on Seil, has sold her silver jewellery all over Europe.

Jewellery shop in Fort William - closed. 'I would often see people wearing my jewellery locally and if we got talking, the women always said how sorry they were that they could no longer buy my designs locally. They asked if I sold directly to the public so it seemed the obvious step to launch the website and connect with my customers,' said Claire. Claire studied at Glasgow School of Art and began selling jewellery nearly 30 years ago. Her design ethos has always been simple - to make pieces that look stunning when worn and make women feel good. 'I love wearing quality jewellery that people will comment on and I design with that aim in mind. 'I create different collections ranging from classical simple

looks to bolder elegant pieces and I have something to suit every pocket. 'Ultimately I want the customer to really love wearing the jewellery and for other people to admire it.' Claire's work is influenced by nature and reflects the stunning colours and light surrounding her coastal home. 'I'm very fortunate to be able to live in this beautiful place. I'm out in all weathers walking my dog and it gives me a real sense of the changing seasons and landscape. I go back into the office and use all of that - colours, the shapes of flowers, leaves - in my work.' She is also a keen traveller and has been inspired by trips to Africa, Australia and India as well as annual trips to the Yukon.

Many of Claire's designs contain elements of both the vivid jewel brightness of the equator and the beauty of the northern lights. Fine quality semi-precious stones are the key to Claire's work. She selects gems personally and designs pieces to show the stones off to their best. She hopes the website will be a good source of information for anyone interested in finding out more about birthstone properties and how to care for and clean jewellery. 'I'm really excited about this move. I love my work and now I'm hopefully reaching new customers I can build a relationship with over the years. Jewellery can mark some really special, wonderful moments in people's lives and it's always a privilege to be part of that.'

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Fasanta 2015 - a wild success



Wow! Brilliant, amazing, very special; words from a delighted Fasanta reveler as she left Corran Halls after a weekend immersed in another successful three day festival of textiles and fashion presented by Oban's Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds.

Fasanta 2015 opened on Friday with 70 children from Park, Dunbeg, Achaleven and Taynuilt primary schools learning to make embellishments to adorn costumes for the Fasanta Community Catwalk event that evening - the bejewelled collaboration won the Fasanta Budding Designer Award.

Many creative contributions from around Oban and Lorn's communities were modelled on the catwalk that night. Winners were A'Nead from the Isle of Eigg who walked away with the Professional Textile Creator Award. Jenny Robertson, creator of hand-knitted cobweb lace, said: 'This has been a wonderful chance for me to see my work on the catwalk - living on Eigg it's difficult to get good networking opportunities like this.'

Hair by Rutherford took the audience with their beautifully executed jewels of history show including the recreated Brooch of Lorne as a magnificent hair piece.

The Audience Choice Award went to North Argyll Young Carers for their wonderful collection, hand-made by the youngsters.

Funds raised by the 'dollar vote' went to Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled. The audience was entertained by story tellers Paul Hunter and Sarah Crone, illustrating the progression of Scottish jewels through history.

A vibrant textile market was brought by talented artisan creators from as far away as Lochinver in the north, Chesters in the borders, the islands and all over Argyll.

Plenty of folk were in shopping, having a go at felt mak-

ing or spinning. All day children streamed in and out sporting brooches they'd made at the drop-in children's workshop.

Hazel Ewart-Mills of Hazel-madeit said: 'It has been really nice being at an event where everything is of such high quality, meeting like-minded people who 'get' what we're all doing with textiles.'

Textile skills workshops led by professional tutors provided for more serious learners with a variety of classes from advanced weaving design to sewing for the terrified, draping, bead weaving, peg loom weaving and upcycling.

An exhibition of the replica brooch went along-side entries for the Fasanta Design Award - a textile interpretation inspired by the brooch. This was won by Jennifer Shaw, with the junior prize going to Abbie Cato for her t-shirt design. A talk by expert Catherine Gillies gave a keen audience the background history of the brooch.

The festival was rounded up on Sunday with a well-attended discussion on current making and selling of textiles in Scotland led by Breege Smyth.

The shuttle bus loaded up every hour at Corran halls for those wanting to enjoy a rare exhibition of ancient gentlemen's attire at Dunollie House and to visit the Weaving Cottage for a live weaving demonstration.

On Saturday evening Rachel Walker's new composition Suedan was received by a delighted audience. Rachel has been nominated for the Scots Trad Music Awards 2015 'Best Composer' and this piece commissioned by Fasanta illustrated her talent; telling the story of the iconic Brooch of Lorne in song, music and dance - what a performance from Rachel and friends.

Throughout the weekend Dunollie's pop-up Kettle café provided a hub for folk to gather and enjoy celebrating Scotland's rich textile culture over tea and cake or a delicious soup and sandwich lunch.

The Raven Hair Styling 'tribe' stunned everyone at Friday night's show with their hair, make-up, costumes and choreography. Salon owner Leeanne Rush brought together family, friends, staff and models to create their spectacular show. They then caused a sensation when they went in full hair, make-up and costumes for a post-show party at Markie Dans in Oban. 17_T46fasan13



Jenna Greensmith, right, of Arizona, by way of Fife, was teaching rag-rug weaving during a workshop and Fiona Kincaid of Oban took part. 17_T46fasan18



Dunollie had a wide range of its own bags, fabrics, tartans and badges for sale. Jayne Mulqueen was one of the many volunteers who helped to run its stall. 17_T46fasan16



Jayne Mulqueen, right, of North Connel makes fabulous hats, modelled by her son Daniel, Aaliyah Malla and Natalie Whiteford. 17_T46fasan07



Hair by Rutherford took the Brooch of Lorne, the honours of Scotland, Scottish gems, and Mary, Queen of Scots as the inspiration for their catwalk hairstyles. Models Sophie Green, Leyla Williams, Natalia Boyarska, Katie McGowan, and David Nicholson and Andy Macdonald with Hayley Edwards and Allan McKechnie. 17_T46fasan10



The theme of the work North Argyll Young Carers did for the festival was 'junk to jewels'. Iona Dunlop, aged 10, and MaxAllen are seen here getting ready in the dressing rooms for their spot on the catwalk on Friday night. 17_T46fasan04



Sheila Quillin from Kilmore, left, took part in Saturday's workshop run by Carol Hamilton of Bonnie Stitches. 17_T46fasan19



Alice Campbell 3-D beading showcased this beautiful poppy necklace which was so appropriate for Remembrance weekend. It was worn on the catwalk on Friday by Vikki Robertson of Dunollie. 17_T46fasan03



During the story-telling times, Robert the Bruce and his Queen Elizabeth de Burgh (Paul Hunter and Sarah Crone) held court. Wee Zoe Gordon, aged two, from Oban was one of many children who were given golden (chocolate) coins by the king. 17_T46fasan17



Katie McGowan, Leyla Williams, Natalia Boyarska and Sophie Green were the models for Hair by Rutherford, along with David Nicholson and Andy Macdonald. The hair designs were inspired by the Brooch of Lorn, the honours of Scotland, Scottish gems, and Mary, Queen of Scots. 17_T46fasan08



Stephanie Ritchie's stunningly exotic hair and make-up by Leeanne Rush for Raven Hair Styling captured the 'junk to jewels' theme. 17_T46fasan01



CROP PHOTO: Robert the Bruce and his Queen Elizabeth de Burgh (Paul Hunter and Sarah Crone) presided over Friday night's catwalk show. 17_T46fasan06



Jenny Roberts of Eigg arrived at Fasanta with a collection of cobwebs woven from silk and North Ronaldsay Sheep fleece. Jenny spins the thread herself after carding the wool and raw silk together and then makes Shetland-style shawls and mittens. Her business, Anead, sells all round the world via the internet and a full-length wedding shawl can cost £1,700. Jenny is seen here with her models Sheila MacGregor, of Easdale, left, and Chloe Moran of Taynuilt. 17_T46fasan12

BID 4 Oban proudly presents
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LIVE MUSIC + OBAN PIPE BAND
THE OBAN COMMUNITY SINGERS
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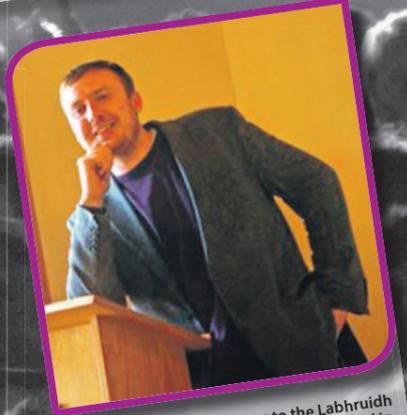
Time to vote for outstanding west coast musicians



Guitarist, singer, songwriter Sorren MacLean from Mull is an outstanding musician. From playing in his local pub to international music venues this man is not to be missed.



Lau is a British folk band from both Scotland and England, formed in 2005. Named after an Orcadian word meaning "natural light", the band is composed of Kris Drever (guitar, vocals), Martin Green (accordion, piano, electronics) and Aidan O'Rourke (fiddle).



Griogair Labruidh belongs to the Labruidh family of Ballachulish who were renowned in Scotland for Highland music.

THE MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards 2015 feature some of the best musicians from the West Coast of Scotland.

Lau, Skipinnish, Rachel Walker, Sorren MacLean are amongst the outstanding performances that have been recognised by the annual ceremony.

Voting for the competition has opened and the finalists all need support to win at the music awards event on Sunday December 5, at the Caird Hall Dundee. The ceremony is organised by Hands up for Trad and will see sixteen

awards handed out to the best Trad talent from across Scotland.

It is an unmissable night of live music with Peatbog Faeries, Duncan Chrisholm and Cathy Ann MacPhee and Claire Hastings - BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician 2015 - all confirmed to perform.

The Album of the Year (sponsored by Birnam CD), is a strong category with ten deserving shortlisted nominees, including Peatbog Faeries from Skye.

Skerryvore's ten year anniversary concert,

DECADE is in the running for Event of the Year category (sponsored by VisitScotland). The gig, held in Oban, was one of the outstanding memories of the summer.

Skipinnish are short-listed in the Live Act of the Year category, sponsored by Greentrax, while the League of Highland Gentlemen is on the Up and Coming Artist of the Year (sponsored by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) shortlist.

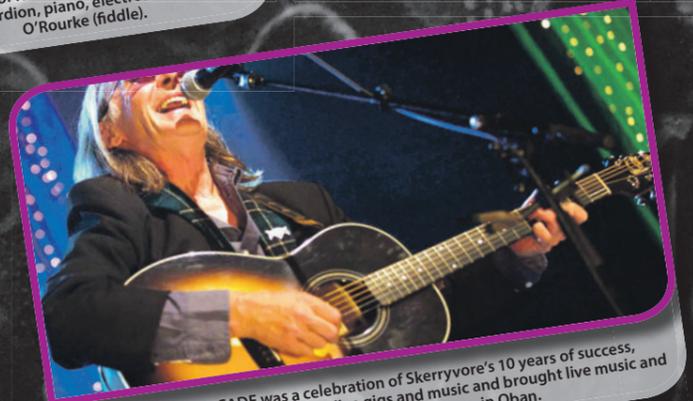
Donald Campbell, Chief Executive of MG ALBA said: "The mix

of nominees and the geographical spread across the various categories demonstrate that Traditional music is alive and well throughout Scotland and we look forward very much to the Trads taking place in Dundee for the first time on Saturday 5th December."

Voting for the short listed acts is open until Friday November at <https://projects.handsupfortrad.scot/scotstrad-musicawards/voting/>. Tickets for the ceremony are available from 01382 434 940 or www.dundeebox.co.uk.



Take a group of the hottest contemporary fiddle players from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, mix with some wonderfully sympathetic piano and guitar arrangements and the result is the award winning Blazin' Fiddles.



SKERRYVORE DECADE was a celebration of Skerryvore's 10 years of success, including Dougie MacLean pictured, live gigs and music and brought live music and musicians on a scale never before seen in Oban.

The Taste for Tourism conference was organised by Food from Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC). It had an international audience supported by all the major players in the Scottish tourism industry.

Taste for Tourism



SCOTTISH experts and business owners gathered in Oban to debate the question: 'Has Scotland got what it takes to be a global food tourism destination?'

The culmination of more than a year of detailed planning - it was an event not to be missed, and even the journey to the event packed in a learning experience.

Flavour tours were arranged for the day before the main conference to bring delegates to Oban via food tourism businesses.

One tour travelled from Glasgow via the Glengoyne Distillery,

Fyne Ales, Loch Fyne Oysters, Inveraray Castle and Corrie Cook School.

Another tour was themed on food and drink on the move and travelled from Stirling via the Woodhouse Café near Kippen, Mhor 84 on the A84, The Real Food Café and then by train from Tyndrum to Oban.

Food at the event in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls was provided by Cal Mac Food from Argyll and the team from Loch Melfort Hotel.

Produce was sourced and supplied by producers, mainly from Argyll, who provided invaluable

support for the event. Several of the producers attended the event and were able to get first hand feedback from the very enthusiastic delegates.

The feedback from the conference has been overwhelmingly positive and conversation during the Wednesday night dinner were filled with ideas and plans.

Highlights of the day included presentations from two Argyll primary schools, Isle of Ulva and Strone, on food projects they have been working on.

The Ulva pupils brought a Food Map of Mull and Iona with

them which was much admired. Strone pupils made, packaged and sold home baking to delegates at the breaks. Everyone acknowledged that getting the younger generation motivated to work in Food Tourism was crucial to its development.

Rebecca Mackenzie from the Ontario Culinary Alliance provided a wealth of ideas and inspiration while encouraging everyone with her enthusiasm for what is currently on offer in Scotland.

Donald Reid from The List and Cate Devine from The Herald pro-

vided insights into the role of food journalism in an open debate that provided good advice.

Tom Lewis, from restaurant and rooms Monachyle Mhor, entertained everyone at the dinner telling the story of how his family businesses had built up over the years and the blood, sweat and tears it took to achieve what they had now.

Stuart Hendry of Glengoyne, who treated delegates to a personal blending experience on the flavour tour, encouraged everyone at the dinner to enjoy two drams, one suited to the cheese course and the

other to the petit fours.

With this inaugural event bringing two food and drink and tourism sectors into the same room, key phrases emerged to capture the essence of the debate including:

Co-optation - combining competition and co-operation between businesses to achieve a common goal.

Those who work alone can travel fast, but those who work together can travel far.

Anyone with a customer facing business in Scotland is in the tourism sector - tourism is everyone's business.



A gala dinner held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls used fresh local produce that wowed more than 150 people. The chef, Michael Knowles, took on a task many thought beyond the most accomplished cook and excelled.



Rachel Walker was brought up in the small village of Kinlochewe in Wester Ross, where she was introduced to Gaelic song as a young child. A popular performer at ceilidhs and events from the age of 10, she quickly fell in love with the songs and culture of the Highlands of Scotland and has become a much-loved ambassador of the culture.



SEALL brings around 45 amazing acts from traditional and classical music, to jazz, blues, opera and folk; from contemporary dance to ballet, from ceilidhs to theatre to stand-up comedy and literature to the Isle of Skye.



Ainsley Hamill's love of Gaelic and Scots song was nurtured whilst studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she obtained a First Class Honours Degree in Scottish Music, with Gaelic Songs as her Principal Study.



Mairi Campbell is an influential Scottish musician whose songs and soundings reflect Scotland's dynamic energy.



The League of Highland Gentlemen: Ross Wilson; Seonaidh MacIntyre; Ewen Henderson and Alec Dalgligh plan to uphold the values of true Highland gentlemanliness whilst continuing to experiment with 'ceòl-dealain' (lightning music) bedecked in tweed, regardless of temperature.



Skipinnish say they can't get over being nominated again for Live Act of the Year at the MG Alba Scots Trad Awards. But anyone who has heard this outstanding ceilidh fusion band will be delighted to see them make the list.



The Peatbog Faeries from Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye, Scotland have many styles and influences, including folk, electronica, rock and jazz, but their main influence is traditional celtic music.

Delegates were invited to pair these delicious 21 (the darker glass) and 15 year-old malts from Glengoyne with Argyll cheese from Mull and Campbeltown.

Entertainment Guide

Cinema

- Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com
- 13 NOVEMBER 2015 - 19 NOVEMBER 2015**
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 - 109 MIN (PG)
Fri: 10:45; Sat, Sun: 11:30
- KIDS CLUB: LOONEY TUNES - BACK IN ACTION**
88 min (PG) Sat: 11:00
- NT LIVE: OF MICE AND MEN - 140 MIN (12A)**
Thu: 19:00
- PAN - 131 MIN (PG)**
Fri: 12:00; Sat: 13:30; Sun: 11:00; Mon, Tue, Wed: 16:15; Thu: 16:30
- SPECTRE - 170 MIN (12A)**
Fri: 14:45, 20:30; Sat: 16:15, 18:00, 22:00; Sun: 13:45, 19:30; Mon, Tue, Wed: 19:00; Thu: 18:50
- SUFFRAGETTE - 126 MIN (12A)**
Fri: 15:15; Sat, Sun: 13:30
- THE LADY IN THE VAN - 124 MIN (12A)**
Fri: 17:45, 18:00; Sat: 15:45, 19:30; Sun: 15:45, 17:00; Mon, Tue, Wed: 16:30, 21:00; Thu: 16:30
- THE PROGRAM - 123 MIN (12A)**
Fri: 20:15; Sat: 21:00; Sun: 18:00; Mon, Tue, Wed: 18:45

COMING SOON
LEGEND - 151 MIN (18)
20/11/2015 The film tells the story of the identical twin gangsters Reggie and Ronnie Kray, two of the most notorious criminals in British history, and their organised crime empire in the East End of London during the 1960s.

THE LAST MAN IN EUROPE: NORMAN BISSELL
143 min - 23/11/2015 A talk and readings from the novel The Last Man in Europe by Norman Bissell about the last years in the life of George Orwell on Java and elsewhere. He will talk about Orwell's love of nature and tell the dramatic story of his near drowning in the Cor.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
130 min (12A) - 25/11/2015 The Royal Albert Hall is screening The Rocky Horror Picture Show broadcast to Cinemas around the world all in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Richard O'Brien's sinfully twisted salute to horror, sci-fi, B-movies and rock music. Join us in a 'sen'...

THE WINTER'S TALE - 210 MIN
26/11/2015 Shakespeare's timeless tragedy of obsession and redemption is reimagined in a new production co-directed by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh, following their triumphant staging of Macbeth in Manchester and Manhattan. Judi Dench will play Paulina, K...

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 - 109MINS
The Drac pack is back for an all-new monster comedy adventure in Sony Pictures Animation's Hotel Transylvania 2! Everything seems to be changing for the better at Hotel Transylvania... Dracula's rigid monster-only hotel policy has finally relaxed, opening up its doors to human guests. But behind closed coffins, Drac is worried that his adorable half-human, half-vampire grandson, Dennis, isn't showing signs of being a vampire. So while Mavis is busy visiting her human in-laws with Johnny - and in for a major cultural shock of her own - "Yampa" Drac enlists his friends Frank, Murray, Wayne and Griffin to put Dennis through a "monster-in-training" boot camp. But little do they know that Drac's grumpy and very old, old school dad Vlad is about to pay a family visit to the hotel. And when Vlad finds out that his great-grandson is not a pure blood - and humans are now welcome at Hotel Transylvania - things are going to get batty!

KIDS CLUB: LOONEY TUNES - BACK IN ACTION
88mins - Fed up with all the attention going to Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck quits Hollywood, teams up with recently-fired stuntman Bobby Delmont (Brendan Fraser) and embarks on a round-the-world adventure that will take them from Hollywood to Las Vegas, from Paris to the jungles of Africa. But soon they're reluctantly teamed up with Bugs and a studio exec in order to track down the mythical Blue Monkey Diamond before the nefarious Chairman of the ACME corporation can get it for himself. Combined cartoon and live-action fun for all the family.

NT LIVE: OF MICE AND MEN
140mins - The hit Broadway production of Mice and Men, filmed on stage in New York by National Theatre Live, comes to UK cinemas. Golden Globe® winner and Academy Award® nominee James Franco (127 Hours, Milk) and Tony Award® nominee Chris O'Dowd (Bridesmaids, Girls) star in the highly-anticipated screenings of this 'swelling, powerful production' (Independent). This landmark revival of Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck's play is a powerful portrait of the American spirit and a heartbreaking testament to the bonds of friendship. Of Mice and Men is directed by Tony Award®, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle award winner Anna D. Shapiro (Broadway's August: Osage County) and features Leighton Meester (Country Strong, Gossip Girl) and Tony Award® winner Jim Norton (The Seafarer).

PAN - 131MINS
The story of an orphan who is spirited away to the magical Neverland. There, he finds both fun and dangers, and ultimately discovers his destiny -- to become the hero who will be forever known as Peter Pan.

SPECTRE - 170MINS
A cryptic message from Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization. While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind SPECTRE.

SUFFRAGETTE
126mins - A drama that tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State. These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes, they were working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing. Radicalized and turning to violence as the only route to change, they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality - their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives. Maud was one such foot soldier. The story of her fight for dignity is as gripping and visceral as any thriller, it is also heart-breaking and inspirational.

THE LADY IN THE VAN
124mins. A man forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her car that's parked in his driveway.

THE PROGRAM
123mins. An Irish sports journalist becomes convinced that Lance Armstrong's performances during the Tour de France victories are fueled by banned substances. With this conviction, he starts hunting for evidence that will expose Armstrong.

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- THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS**
- MONDAY:**
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen
- TUESDAY:**
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey
- WEDNESDAY:**
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
- THURSDAY:**
0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight
- FRIDAY:**
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lann
- SATURDAY:**
0900 Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowscher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
- SUNDAY:**
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott



Food to go lunch being served by Sally Swinbanks and in foreground speaker Camille Chamard professor and director of the Pau-Bayonn Institute for Business Management.



Scotland's Natural Larder served up the finest of tastes at a reception prior to the gala dinner. Gary Goldie (brown Apron), of Taynuilt, finds foods and matches them perfectly with foraged products.



Rebecca MacKenzie from Ottawa was full of fun and ideas during the whole event. Delivering an inspiring speech she said Scotland had still to reach its full potential.



A table of delights, these Argyll youngsters look delighted to see the treats on offer from the Oban Chocolate Factory.



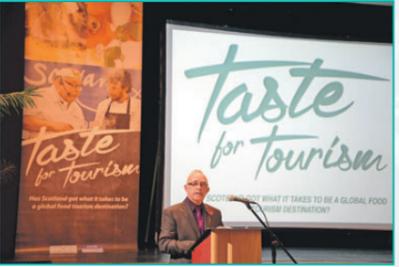
Maggie Macguire, UK Tourism Manager at CalMac talks about Scotland's year-round product and partnership working.



Caroline Millar extols the virtues of Go Rural when looking at a food offering at one of the break out sessions at the conference.



Enjoying a sweet treat from Bumble desserts.



Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh gives an opening address at the conference.



Lunchtime delegates enjoying Island Pork from Isle of Mull.

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Where's Our Wean? – new book for kids designed in Oban

OBAN mum and a children's book illustrator Lorna Freytag has branched out into something new and exciting. Lorna and graphic designer husband Daniel have started up their own premium personalised children's book publishing company called HeyWow! based in Oban.

They have created a personalised picture book for kids (illustrated by Lorna) featuring the child's name and photograph on every page. Their first book 'In the City' is an exciting seek and find, 'Where's-Wally' adventure where children aged under six search for themselves within 12 busy city scenes.

To populate the scenes in the book Lorna photographed more than 40 Oban children during a crazy one day photo shoot at Oban's First Steps Nursery back in March. Lorna and Daniel launched a Kickstarter campaign which ends on November 26 to help get

the project off the ground and will be officially launching the book to the public in early 2016. To get an advanced copy of the book and find out more about the project see: www.kickstarter.com/projects/39150986/an-amazing-personalised-picture-book-for-kids.



In the City is an exciting seek and find, Where's-Wally adventure where children under six search for themselves within 12 busy city scenes.

Accordion and fiddle club celebrates 40 years

Oban's Accordion and Fiddle Club celebrated its 40th anniversary with a bang in the Royal Hotel last Thursday. The Charlie Kilpatrick Trio had the honour of entertaining the audience on the night and secretary, Anne McFadyen, had the responsibility of cutting the cake in to more than 100 pieces to ensure everybody received a slice.



PIECE OF CAKE: The committee standing in front of their 40th anniversary cake. 15_146accordion01

Anne said: 'I've been in the committee for 20 years. My husband and son play in the accordion club. It's good to keep the music alive and it's somewhere for the younger musicians to start and gives them confidence.'



GROUP: A group of musicians entertain the audience and get the evening underway. 15_146accordion02

The club, which gets together on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm at the Royal Hotel, unveiled a new keyboard that it was able to buy due to a £500 donation from Morven MacLeod whose dad was a founding member. Chairman of the committee, Michael Garvin said: 'This event is very important. There's always a good turnout and it's great to see so many young players.'



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Lest We Forget

In this Remembrance Week, thoughts turn to the horrors of war. Man's inhumanity to his fellow men knows no boundaries. Yet, despite all the carnage, or more probably because of all the carnage, major technological and medical advances happen in times of conflict. In the Great War knowledge of neuro-anatomy and brain function increased exponentially following on from the huge numbers of head wounds. In the Second World War plastic and reconstructive surgery took giant strides forward. More recently, major advances in the rehabilitation of brain injured service personnel have occurred. The foundation of our knowledge of visual function is based on studies of these badly injured service men and women. Having the optics of our eyes fully functioning is a prerequisite of an efficient visual system. But vision is not just the ability to see clearly. It is how our brains process and interpret the information

falling on our retinas. One of the greatest recent advances in knowledge of brain function is the concept of "neuro-plasticity". When I trained many years ago we were indoctrinated with the idea that the visual system stopped developing at around the age of six years. Hence little effort was made to help older children and adults with squints and amblyopic "lazy" eyes. Following on from treating brain injured war veterans we now know the brain never ceases to adapt. The concept of "plasticity" of the visual system has enabled treatment regimes for patients with longstanding squints and "lazy" eyes to be developed. It is now possible for older patients with no depth perception to develop stereopsis (3D vision). It is even possible to train patients with squints to voluntarily straighten their eyes without the need for surgery. We are truly living in exciting times. Our debt to our service personnel is huge.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists
 The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

Child safety in winter - be bright at night

Competition

A CAMPAIGN for child safety is being launched this week thanks to a partnership between Oban Phoenix Cinema, the Oban Times and Scottish Fire and Rescue Scotland. Goodies such as free cinema tickets for all the family and unique reflector key rings are up for grabs in a poster competition, launched today (Thursday). Additionally, SFRS has an on-going Home Fire safety Visit (HFSV) campaign, but to encourage increased uptake of this valuable service during Oban Winter Festival, Oban Phoenix Cinema has agreed to provide a free family pass ticket for a Saturday morning showing for all HFSV's arranged and carried out from November 20-29, 2015. Oban community fire station manager Derek Wilson said: 'Both the poster competition and the Home Fire safety Visit campaign are



excellent opportunities to improve the safety of children and households. 'The role children can play in encouraging their parents/guardians to consider safety cannot be underestimated and I am very appreciative of both the Oban Times and Oban Phoenix Cinema in helping to promote these valuable initiatives at this time of year. 'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is committed to reducing injuries, fatalities and the economic impact and disruption resulting from fires and other emergencies. 'During the winter months children can be less visible to drivers especially during the morning and late afternoon walk to and from school. The reflective Fire Engine can be attached to children's school bags or clothing to increase their visibility through the winter months, thereby

making them more visible to drivers and improving their safety. 'The 2014/15 winter season saw an 11 per cent increase in the number of accidental dwelling fires in comparison to other seasons. Increasing public awareness and uptake of the free Home Fire Safety Visit service which the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service provides helps to minimise risk and improve safety and early warning of fire in the home. 'Members of the public can request local firefighters to come to their homes to carry out fire safety checks, identify fire safety issues and other hazards, and to provide friendly advice. They will even provide and fit a free 10 year life smoke detector if required. 'To raise awareness of our continuous Home Fire Safety Visit campaign through the upcoming Oban Winter

Festival; and to encourage uptake by those who have not already benefited from one, Oban Phoenix Cinema has kindly agreed to provide a free family pass ticket for a Saturday morning showing until December 19 for any households who request, and have completed, a HFSV during Oban Winter Festival. The Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) cinema ticket campaign is only open to new HFSV requests made and carried out during Oban Winter Festival 20-29 November. 'Those who wish to benefit from a Home Fire Safety Visit should contact Oban Community Fire Station on 01631 569 996.' Cinema passes will be issued by Oban Community Fire Station personnel only upon completion of the Home Fire Safety Visit. In order to maintain the Home Fire Safety message following

Oban Winter Festival, Oban Phoenix Cinema will be screening a 'fire safety in the home' advert before the performance of each film during December. Further information on fire safety in the home can be found on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service website at www.firescotland.gov.uk. The website also provides details of how a

HFSV can be arranged at any time of the year by either contacting your local Community Fire Station, calling 0800 0731 999, texting 'FIRE' to 80800 or completing the online

will win four family VIP tickets to a film of their choice at the community run Oban Phoenix Cinema, with winners being selected on Thursday November 19 by representatives from the Oban Times.

Design a Poster Competition



Name

Age School.....

Contact Details

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday November 16.

Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Nepal - A Walk into Thin Air:
 Les and Izzy Silkowski
 Saturday 21 November
 Port Appin Hall 2.30pm
 Voluntary collection in aid of Community Action Nepal
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Friends of Oban Hospice Ladies Fashion Show & Shopping Event
 Saturday 14th November 2015, 7pm
 Corran Halls, Esplanade, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AB/ Tickets: £5
 Charity raffle: Prizes include a £50 clothing voucher to spend on the night
 please contact:
Corran Halls booking office - 01631 567333
Joyce 01631 566111 Margaret 01631 563523

Cancer Research Committee & Friends of Oban Hospice
Black Friday Quiz Night
 Masonic Hall
 Albany Street
 Fri 13th Nov
 7.00 for 7.30pm
 Quiz Master - Tony Cave
 Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd
 Max 6 per team
 £3.00 per person at the door

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS SALE
 Saturday 14 November
 10am - 3pm
 St John's Cathedral,
 George Street
 (opposite the Hydro Shop)

Children in Need SOUP LUNCH
 Connel Church Hall
 Saturday 14th November
 12.00 to 2.00pm
 Soup, rolls, home baking
 Tea & Coffee
 Please give generously
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Fair Trade & Christmas Themed Market
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MILESTONE: Rena and Tom Baillie, Fraser Horn, James Kennedy and Alastair Ritchie cut the wigwam cake to celebrate Strathfillan Wigwams' 21st anniversary.

Celebrations as ensuite wigwam marks 21 years at Strathfillan

RENA and Tom Baillie have run Strathfillan Wigwams for 21 years and, along with their staff, are celebrating their success, as well as the launch of their new ensuite wigwam, with the cutting of a wigwam cake.

Strathfillan Wigwams was developed in 1994 on Scottish Agricultural College's Auchtertyre Farm in Tyndrum as a farm diversification project. Rena explained: 'The farm had lost the income from the suckler cow herd when all the cattle were sold off the farm, and we had to source a project that would equal the income from the cattle. We made the decision to invest capital providing low cost budget tourist accommodation.'

They started with two basic wooden wigwams, but as demand for them grew, they purchased additional units, as well as three other sites. Out of this venture grew the Wigwam@ Holiday Network franchise, and the Wigwam@ brand was born, creating the innovative concept of a 'glamping holiday'. 'Our wigwams have improved in design over the years and we now have a new ensuite deluxe wigwam that has been

added to our existing Big Chief wigwams,' Rena said. 'They have created an absolutely fun outdoor holiday, where you can sit around your campfire, cook our exotic meat (which we sell in our shop) and best of all, relax, chill out and sit under the stars.'

Strathfillan Wigwam Village now boasts five deluxe lodges, 23 wigwams and a yurt, all situated on a working farm in the picturesque Trossachs National Park.

'It is great fun for all the family, being adventurous in the great outdoors,' Rena said. 'Our wigwams have changed the lives of many, offering low cost accommodation for short breaks and providing access to the great outdoors.'

The Strathfillan Wigwam Village is the longest established 'glamping' Wigwam@ site in the UK, which now extends to more than 70 stunning destinations throughout the UK and Ireland – and it all started in the hills of Tyndrum.

For more information or to book, visit them at wigwamholidays.com/Strathfillan_Wigwam_Village or ring them at 01838 400298.



WINNERS: Roy Bridge-based Great Glen Charcuterie won Best Marketing Initiative at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards. From left: Event host Fred MacAulay, charcuterie owners Jan Jacob and Anja Baak and award presenter Steve Barron.

Butcher the best at marketing

A LOCHABER butcher has been named a winner at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

Roy Bridge-based Great Glen Charcuterie won Best Marketing Initiative at the event in Inverness on October 23.

The 12-year-old business was recognised for what judges called 'strong and clear focus, objectives and implementation' and staying true to values.

Anja Baak, the charcuterie's marketing and sales manager, said: 'We are immensely proud

and honoured to receive this award. We are a small team and do our marketing in house on a small budget. We have been learning along the way and to be recognised by the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards is a huge pat on the back for us.'

Gateway team and development chief host series of Argyll meetings and workshops

FERGUS Murray, Argyll and Bute Council's Head of Economic Development and Strategic Transportation, is hosting a series of informal business briefings across the area, including a business breakfast at the Corran Halls on Tuesday November 17 from 8.30am to 10am.

Fergus will be outlining the council's approach to encouraging more people to live, work and invest in Argyll and Bute. The sessions are an opportunity for small and medium-sized business owners to put their questions to Fergus, raise any issues that impact their business and to network with other businesses in the area.

The Business Gateway team will also be on hand to talk about the support it offers. Anyone wanting to attend should email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 604 555. Sessions will also run in Campbelltown, Inveraray, Dunoon and Helensburgh.

New workshops and new trainers

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway is mid way through its autumn workshop schedule, with

free business skills workshops being held in Oban as well as across Argyll and Bute.

Any small business owner looking to boost their skills should book now to ensure they get a place.

'Business Gateway has increased the range of workshop topics available based on feedback from local businesses,' confirmed Councillor Aileen Morton, Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for sustainable economic growth.

'All the workshops are free of charge and I would encourage any small business owner to get in touch to find out how they could benefit. Last year there were more than 800 attendees across more than 100 Business Gateway workshops delivered in this area and the programme of support will be even more varied this year.'

The Better Business Websites workshop running in Oban on November 25 is a half-day workshop for businesses already online but looking to get more from their website.

It examines how to make a website better through design, content, ease of use and search engine optimisation.

This new workshop is being delivered for Business Gateway by

Gary Ennis, founder of NS Design Ltd, an award-winning digital agency. Gary has delivered hundreds of digital workshops for Business Gateway across Scotland and is a former Digital Technology Awards Chief Executive of the Year.

The Introduction to Trading Online workshop has been updated and will focus on the basics required for businesses wanting to sell products online. The workshop covers how to trade online, including the various tools, payment options and online marketplaces available such as eBay, Amazon and Etsy. This workshop will run in Inveraray on December 1, also delivered by Gary Ennis.

The Managing and Developing Staff workshop running in Inveraray on December 10 will help business owners recruit, manage and develop staff in a way that helps their business grow. It will focus on the skills and processes required to help get the best out of staff, rather than the legal aspects.

It is being delivered for Business Gateway by Karen Morrill of Morrill PMC Ltd.

Karen is qualified through the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and has extensive business and people management

experience. As well as the new workshops, other established topics are back by popular demand.

Anyone thinking about starting their own business should join the Business Start-up workshop in Oban on December 2 and 3 to help develop their ideas into a practical and effective plan. The 'Practical Basic Book-keeping' workshops will run on Mull on November 25 and in Oban on December 10.

Those new to business and with little or no formal training in book-keeping will benefit from this workshop, which provides the starting point for good record keeping and understanding financial information.

Lastly, businesses wanting to find out more about becoming a supplier to the public sector can join the Supplier Development Programme's What the Buyer looks for in your Tender workshop in Lochgilphead on November 24.

This provides an insight into buyers' needs and expectations and can help in getting the highest score possible in a tender process.

To book a place or to find out more about the full range of workshops, contact the Business Gateway team on 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Top tips on managing business finances



MONEY MATTERS: Business Gateway adviser Ann Scott

AT BUSINESS Gateway, Argyll and Bute, its team of advisers can help with a range of issues. Here, adviser Ann Scott shares her top tips on how to manage your finances:

'Controlling and properly managing your finances is an essential business discipline that will ultimately support your long term growth and development.'

'You may have turned your hobby or passion into a business which is great, but you also need to earn money. This should never be forgotten so don't be shy when discussing prices and payment terms, preferably in advance.'

'Nothing kills your cash flow quicker than not getting round to invoicing. Payments made for work carried out is the lifeblood of your business and late invoices can cause delays and

increased bank charges so make sure you invoice on time, every time.'

'A mistake that many people make is confusing turnover with profit. Separating business and personal finances is crucial so you're never tempted to think you're richer than you are. By creating different pots you'll find this easier to manage and will keep things in perspective.'

'Ultimately, being financially stable involves a number of elements. It means keeping accurate financial records which is not only important for the overall management of your business, but is key to submitting annual accounts. It's also good to remember that while an up-to-date balance sheet has to be submitted to Companies House, HMRC and shareholders, it can also be used as a tool to help you

analyse and improve your business. Some key points to keep in mind:

'There are always great deals to be had if you are prepared to negotiate and shop around on a regular basis.'

'Run a tight ship by knowing exactly how much is coming in and going out. If your business is small, you should be able to say on a day-by-day basis how much the business has received.'

'It's important to choose the right bank for your business. Make sure you know the bank's interest rates, charges and fees and what facilities are on offer.'

'Looking after your finances also means deciding whether you need funding, where you can find it and how much you might need. We can help you find the right funding avenue for your needs.'

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AGRI SCOT THE FARM BUSINESS EVENT

Wednesday 18 November 2015



AGRISCOT, one of the premier events in UK agriculture, continues to develop its appeal to all sectors of the industry, both to the trade and a wide cross section of farmers eager to seek out products, services, advice and information for their farming businesses.

The 2015 event, which takes place on November 18, will feature more than 250 trade stands, competitions for aspiring young agricultural professionals, new products, business seminars and technical demonstrations for a variety of products and services covering every aspect of agriculture.

BEST COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL ADVICE

Those seeking answers to the myriad of questions on their own circumstances will find them at Scotland's Farm Business Event, where the best commercial and technical advice is on offer.

AgriScot started out as a specialist event for dairy farmers, and over the years has grown in size and scope to become the

leading business and networking event for the entire agricultural industry. The one-day exhibition attracts farmers and agricultural professionals from across Scotland, and, thanks to its proximity to Edinburgh Airport, from all over Britain and beyond. The footprint of AgriScot has expanded and it now makes full use of all the massive exhibition halls at the Royal Highland Centre, Inverleith.

AgriScot Chairman, Andrew Moir, said: 'AgriScot continues to go from strength to strength, and 2014 was our best year yet with a record number of visitors and exhibitors. The fact we have been shortlisted for the Scottish Event Awards is testament to the success and popularity of the exhibition, which exists to promote best practice and excellence in the farming sector.'

LIVE STREAMED ON THE INTERNET

The dairy cattle judging at AgriScot 2015 is set to take place before a worldwide audience. For the first time this year, the judging of the dairy cattle in the HSBC Show Ring at AgriScot will be live streamed on the internet.

AgriScot's Martin Dare explains: 'We have been encouraged in recent years by comments from our judges and other leading figures affirming that AgriScot now hosts the premier show of dairy cattle anywhere in the British Isles. The decision to showcase these exceptional animals to a world-wide audience is a natural next step.'

A NEW SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

A new sponsorship package has been established with Anpario plc to support the filming and live streaming of the entire day's programme direct from the show ring. Anpario plc are best known in the UK for their Optivite range of high performing natural feed additives for livestock.

Hayley Verney from Anpario stated: 'We thought that the revolutionary idea of filming and streaming the day's events was a sponsorship opportunity not to be missed. It's very exciting to be involved with the very first web streaming of such a prestigious industry event and I feel honoured to be presenting an award in the ring on the day.'

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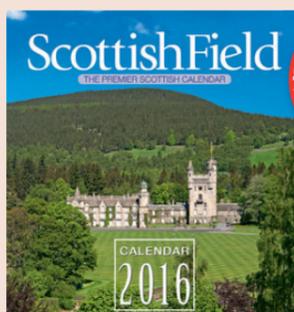
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Sirloin steaks sold out as beef returns to Argyll Country Market



Ann Norrie with a wide selection of beef from William Taverner's stall.

A KINTYRE farmer is very pleased with buoyant beef sales in his first venture at direct selling. William Taverner, who farms 30 Galloway cattle at Gobagrennan near Campbelltown, sold three quarters of a 300kg carcass as beef cuts at Argyll Country Market. Mr Taverner said: 'We had a great turnout considering it was such a wet day and sold out of sirloin steaks. My son Nathan thoroughly enjoyed himself on the stall. 'A German lady has given us five stars for the sausages, which is praise indeed. We have just sent the beast away for the December sale, when due to customer demand we will have rib eye steaks. 'It has been very exciting, although it is always nerve-racking taking on a new venture.'

Kintyre farmer exceeds estimates on sale of prized herd

A KINTYRE dairy farmer's need to buy pints of milk is just one of the more mundane consequences of his decision to sell a prized herd of Ayrshires. Archie Millar, 52, of Ballygreggan Farm near Drumlembie, jokingly said that it is strange learning which coloured cap milk to buy and after a lifetime on a dairy farm, founded by his grand father, he has also found himself struggling to adapt to not needing to be up at 5.30am.

RAY OF SUNSHINE

At the Pedigree Ayrshire Cattle-national Society Show and Sale at Borderway Mart Carlisle last Wednesday November 4 there was one ray of sunshine for Mr Millar when he won a rosette for the show champion, which was the mother of this year's Kintyre Show champion. Mr Millar averaged 1444 guineas for his herd comprising 70 cows and heifers in milk, eight in calf heifers and one bull with a couple of animals coming back to Kintyre. Mr Millar said: 'Anything over 1,000 guineas was a bonus for us. To get that average for older cows and in calf heifers was great. 'I was more than delighted with the price, they travelled well despite my pre-sale concerns, and the three men employed by the market did a great job of turning them out. 'My dad came to the sale and I think in the end he was pleased with the price. He said you will be glad you Pedigreed them because that made them eligible for this sale.'



The sign on Mr Millar's Ballygreggan Farm gatepost.



Archie Millar at this year's Kintyre Show with the overall Ayrshire Champion.

Two weeks ago, when Mr Millar spoke about his decision to sell before the sale, he cited a

combination reasons, including the then current milk price of 18 pence per litre (ppl) in Kintyre, his health and a lack of a successor. Mr Millar said: 'Everyone I spoke to at Carlisle told me

they were getting at least 24ppl. I spoke to a Marks and Spencer direct supplier who lives right next to the motorway in England who gets 30.5ppl - we cannot compete with that in Kintyre.' Mr Millar's best sale price for

an individual animal was 4,000 guineas to A and S Lawrie at Kinross, Fife.

DEMAND FROM OTHER AREAS

The largest number of cattle, nine and at the higher end of prices, were bought by A and R Paton of Easter Greenhill in Falkirk, a number went to Wigtonshire, Dumfriesshire, Peeblesshire and Aberdeenshire proving a demand from other areas of Scotland. In England, the highest proportion of buyers was from Cumbria, as to be expected with the location of the sale, with one in Clitheroe and another in Huddersfield. One even went to Askham Bryan Agricultural College in North Yorkshire. This was the first sale to disperse the milking portion of Mr Millar's herd with a further sale due in spring 2016. Mr Millar said: 'It is a weird feeling going out and finding no cattle in the shed. After 30 years it is not something I ever thought I would experience.'

BEST OF HIS GENERATION

'We have 212 acres of fields and I shall aim to rent them out.' In his youth Mr Millar was a fine football player with Campbelltown Pupils, reputed to be the best of his generation, although he always found it difficult to fit in with dairying life. Mr Millar, who owns Wee Toon Sports shop in the town, said: 'I am a keen Hibs supporter and now I might have some time to get out and follow my team.'

Cattle sale prices marginally down on year

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd sold 616 suckled calves, store cattle and breeding OTM cattle on Tuesday October 20.

Bullock calves averaged 239p per kg, down 2p per kg on the year selling to 305p per kg from Rossal Estate, Mull and £670 for a British Blue from I McKinnon, Achadhbeag, Tobermory. Heifers averaged 238p per kg, down 10p per kg on the year, selling to 367p per kg from Ardencaple and Scammadale on to £820 from the same farm. In-calf heifers averaged £1,225, down £32 on the year, selling to £1,700 for a Simmental from A McNair and Son, Stroneskar, Ford. Cows with calves averaged £1,340, selling to £1,850 for a Limousin from L Dawson, Rossal, Mull. Bulling heifers averaged £692, selling to £980 for Simmentals from MD and SA Clarke, Williamwood, Kirtlebridge. **Leading Prices**
Heifer calves
Sim Luig: £820, £810, £800 and £720 Ardencaple and Scammadale
Sim: £680 Saulmore
Luig: £680 and £640 Ardlarach
Shorthorn X: £820 Killundine, £720 Glenturret and Killundine
AA: £620 Carloonan
Bullock calves
AA: £600 Ballymeanach
Sim: £600 Arisaig
Lim: £610 Rossal
Shorthorn: £600 Meggernie Estates
Whitebred: £590 Conaglen & Glenturret
In calf heifers (spring calves)
Shorthorn: £1,650 Invernahyle
Sim: £1,600 Mid
Cross: £1,550 Stroneskar & Mid
Whitebred: £1,500 Invernahyle and Mid
Blue Grey: £1,350 Stroneskar
Lim: £1,450 Ensay
Bulling heifers
Sim: £880 Williamwood
Lim: £850 and £840 Ensay

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Government aims to make subsidy payments by end of year



Rural affairs secretary, Richard Lochhead.

THE SCOTTISH Government is working towards a target of making farm subsidy payments by the end of the year, despite fears that it will miss this target. Rural affairs secretary, Richard Lochhead, said: 'I would like to reassure farmers and crofters that the Scottish Government's aim is still to begin making basic payments by the end of the year. Our position has not changed, and we continue to work flat out to try to make this happen. 'We are implementing the biggest CAP reform in a generation, which is considerably more complex than the former policy, and at the same time moving to area-based payments as required by the EU. 'As NFUS President Allan Bowie has acknowledged, the NFUS made

clear during the CAP negotiations that we had to get the policy decisions right even if that meant more complexity and an impact on timing in the first year. 'This means we now have around four million one-hectare payment entitlements to issue - covering around 400,000 fields - and around 21,000 Single Application Form applications to process, as well as 1,300 farms to inspect. Like many other administrations across Europe that are in a similar position, the scale of the challenge we are facing here in Scotland is clearly formidable, but the Scottish Government continues to pull out all the stops to be able to make payments as soon as possible.' He continued: 'I said in June that we were exploring options,

including making payments in two instalments, as the EU regulations permit and as was done at the start of the last CAP reform. That option is very much on the table. The Scottish Government also continues to press the EU Commission for flexibility on the inspection requirements for payments to be made in the normal payment window after December 1, although time is running out for this to be of any benefit. The minister's words did little to reassure NFUS Scotland's chief executive, Scott Walker, who said: 'There is nothing new in this statement by Richard Lochhead. This provides no reassurance to farmers about when they will get paid or how much they will receive.' Mr Lochhead plans to meet with

farming leaders next week, as he explained: 'I recognise and am sensitive to the cash flow issues facing Scottish agriculture, and so I intend to meet industry representatives on the November 17, where I will update them on the latest situation.' Mr Walker replied: 'Our members want clarity and openness from the cabinet secretary on what is the situation regarding payments. Calling a meeting for November 17 means more uncertainty for farmers and those who service our industry before we receive more news.' The EU payment window runs from 1 December to June. Just over 21,000 Single Application Forms were received by the Scottish Government, of which around 19,160 include claims for the Basic and Greening payments.

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The post can be based either in Lochgilphead, Argyll or Glasgow. However extensive travel across the region and Scotland will be required, together with some overnight stays away from home.

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JOB REFERENCE: 508

CLOSING DATE: 24th November 2015 at 5pm

INTERVIEWS TO BE HELD: in Lochgilphead on 8th December

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Please reply with CV to ali@obantimes.co.uk

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Please contact Nancy on 01631 565062 between 10am - 2pm

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Application forms can be found on Enable Scotland's website or collected from our local office at Unit 3, Macleod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban.

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How to make sure your home sells during the winter

NAEA offers advice for sellers putting their property on the market in winter

DURING the winter, the housing market is renowned for being slower, with many people holding off on selling their property until the spring. However, by incorporating a few simple tips, sellers can make their properties look and feel more attractive, increasing the chance of receiving an offer during the winter, says the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA).

Martyn Baum, president of National Association of Estate Agents, said: "Traditionally, properties

are harder to sell during the winter. It's dark and cold and while homes don't look as attractive, we're less inclined to be proactive and search for a property - and this can leave sellers feeling in a stalemate position, waiting for the spring to kick in. Your estate agent should be well equipped to adapt to selling homes in these quieter periods but you can start by making changes as small as turning on a light or clearing out clutter."

The NAEA's top tips for those looking to sell their property during winter are as follows:

First impressions count:

The first seconds upon arriving at a property really impact the buyer's decisions, so clear your front entrance of any winter weather damage. Winter can make the front garden and paths look dull and dirty, so ensuring these are clean and clear of leaves will improve the attractiveness of the property.

Bright and beautiful:

Ensure your home is well lit, this means simply checking all the bulbs are working prior to a

viewing and switching them on, including any outdoor lighting. You'll know which lighting looks best in your home so work with this, especially when viewings run into the evening. During the day you can make the most of natural light by ensuring all blinds and curtains are fully open and clutter is moved out of the way.

Warm and friendly:

It's important to make your house feel warm and homely; it will encourage potential buyers to stay longer and to be able to visualise themselves living at home. Smell is also important and each home smells different, so in order to not risk putting buyers off, freshen up your home. Open the windows prior to the viewing to let some fresh air circulate - unless it's freezing - and display some freshly cut flowers. The old cliché of fresh bread or roasting coffee really does work as well. It is also advisable to accentuate any features that are particularly important in the winter such as a fireplace, which can be a real selling point of a home.

Araneigh, Skipness

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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

FOR LEASE

PORTACABIN, MIDDLE PIER, ARINAGOUR, ISLE OF COLL

Offers of rent are invited.

Closing date on Friday 15th January 2016.

For further information contact:
The Estates Office, Facility Services, Blairvadach, Shandon G84 8ND.
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Price On Application

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The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (STONEFIELD TO CONNELL EAST) (50MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 50 mph speed limit on that length of the A85 Tyndrum-Oban Trunk Road, from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 195471, 733199) at Stonefield, 334 metres or thereby east of its junction with the extended centre line of Rhunacarn Road (Achnacloch Station), generally northwesterly, to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 192494, 734252) at Connel, 62 metres or thereby east of its junction with the extended centre line of the access to the property known as Dunfuinary, a distance of 3.918 kilometres or thereby.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from Thursday 12th November 2015 until 10th December 2015 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF; and The Post Office, Taynuilt, PA35 1JE and Connel Village Stores and Post Office, Connel, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PA.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Karl McAreevey, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A85/KMC by 10th December 2015.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/traffic-orders

G EDMOND
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Notice is hereby given that Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited, company registration number 09800322, whose registered office is situated at Unicorn House, Russell Street, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 3AX has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate a wind farm on land in Upper Sonachan Forest, located between the A819 and B840, near Portsonachan, Ardbreckish and Cladich, approximately 9.5km north of Inveraray. (Central Grid Reference: NN065188). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be up to 64.6 MW, comprising 19 turbines with a maximum overall ground to blade tip height of 136.5 metres.

Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Oban Library	Monday and Wednesday – 10:00am – 1:00pm, 2:00pm – 7:00pm Thursday – 10:00am – 1:00pm, 2:00 – 6:00pm Friday – 10:00am – 1:00pm, 2:00pm – 5:00pm Saturday – 10:00am – 1:00pm	77 Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL
Argyll and Bute Council Offices	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9:00am – 12:30pm, 1:30pm – 5:00pm Wednesday – 10:00am – 12:30pm, 1:30pm to 5:00pm	Municipal Building, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW

The Environmental Statement can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. Copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained from Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited (tel: 01453 790152) at a charge of £500 hard copy and £10 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application should be made by email to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at Representations_Mailbox@gov.scot or by post to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation, not later than Monday 21st December.

Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

When initial comments from statutory consultees are received further public notices will give advice on how this information may be viewed by members of the public, and how representations may be made to Scottish Ministers. During the consideration of the proposal, Scottish Ministers may formally request further information to supplement the Environmental Statement and this will also be advertised in such a manner.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following receipt of all views and representations, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government Local Energy & Consents processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. When making an email or paper representation you will automatically be opted in to its publication unless you choose to mark it as confidential. We may share your personal data with DPEA and local Planning Authorities but will not publish your personal data (e.g. your name and address) as this is removed beforehand in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Should you choose not to provide your personal data then your representation will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and not be shared for consideration with any other party. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: Energy_Consents@gov.scot or write to Local Energy & Consents, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02340/PP	Change of use from class 4 (business) to sui generis (incorporating retail outlet, tool and plant hire and repairs) – retrospective	Unit 2 Lochavullin Drive Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4BW	Oban Area Office
15/02607/MFF	Modification of fish farm from 10 No. 80m circumference cages to 12 No. 80m circumference cages including increase in extent of mooring area (no increase in biomass)	Sailean Ruadh (Etive 6) Loch Etive Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/02783/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land East Of Ardteatle Cottage Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
15/02784/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land East Of Ardteatle Cottage Dalmally Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
15/02811/PP	Erection of replacement 25 metre high lattice tower with associated antenna	SSE Taynuilt Substation Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/02865/PP	Erection of replacement water treatment works buildings	Tullich Water Treatment Works Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SB	Oban Area Office
15/02912/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Claddagh Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
15/02926/PP	Erection of a dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Port East Of Waterside Lodge Park Appin Argyll	Sub Post Office Connel
15/02947/PP	Erection of wind turbine (31.44 metres to blade tip)	Land South East Of Heylipoll Parish Church Heylipoll Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
15/02962/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Timbertops Barcalaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 15G	Sub Post Office Connel

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02948/PP	Erection of wind turbine (31.44 metres to blade tip)	Land North West Of Gott Marise Scarinish Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgiphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02279/LUB	Removal, repair and re-instatement of belote	Colonsay Parish Church Colonsay Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7W	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL
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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A CORE PATHS PLAN

Notice is hereby given under section 18(8)(a) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the Act"), that on 25th June 2015, Argyll and Bute Council ("the Local Authority") adopted the Argyll & Bute Core Paths Plan, drawn up under section 17(1) of the Act in respect of the Local Authority area ("the Plan"), in accordance with the direction, dated 18 March 2015, given to the Local Authority by Scottish Ministers under section 18(3) of the Act.

The Plan provides the public with a system of paths which is sufficient for the purposes of giving reasonable access throughout the area of the Local Authority. A list of core paths relating to the Plan has been compiled by the Local Authority in accordance with section 18(8)(b) of the Act.

The Plan consisting of a map and a list of Core Paths is available to view on the Argyll and Bute Council webpage <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/core-paths>, if you need assistance please ask your Local Library or Council Service Point. A full copy of the Core Paths Plan can be purchased from the Access Team at the address below. Please contact the Access Team if you require a printed extract from the map of Core Paths. The Access Team can be contacted at: 1a Manse Brae, Lochgiphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD, Telephone 01546 604 119.

OBAN AA GROUPS
Are Hosting an

ALCOHOL AWARENESS OPEN MEETING
Wednesday 18th November 2015
2.00 – 4.00pm
in LECTURE THEATRE
Lorn & Islands Hospital, OBAN
Information for you, or anyone you know might have a problem with alcohol
All Welcome

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Sandra Ann Cameron Teo has registered their Croft: 132 Kilmory, Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 21 July, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is AO252

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 Private Mooring, Oban Bay, Oban, Argyll

Notice is hereby given that Mr Ronnie Dalgleish has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a private mooring at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Oban Bay, Oban Argyll	56°24.73'N	5°28.97'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL. Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk quoting reference: **MCMS/05699**
Mr Ronnie Dalgleish

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Vincent Bohn has registered their croft 10 Blaich (Apportionment and Share), on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 29 July, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1438.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Inveroy Common Grazings, Kilmornaig
Registration Number: CG195

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

RECTIFICATION OF FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have submitted a rectification since the registration of the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Shielfoot Common Grazings, Ardnamurchan & Sunart
Registration Number: CG140

Reason for rectification: To include Shielbridge Estate as landlord and to amend the boundary to exclude a number of properties previously included in error.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

DECROFTING APPLICATION

R G Cameron
Uisken (3, 4 & 5), Kilfinichen & Kilwickieon
0.34 ha – Site for 2 dwelling houses
4.86.60169

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Applications marked with an asterisk - interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the croft subject to the application.

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

D Cowan
Croft-In-Tuime, Glenorchy & Innishail
0.133 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
4.85.59935
Conditions: 3a, 4
G J Muir
37 Tomonie, Kilmallie
0.115 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.59547
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4
D H Brown
4 Vaul, Tiree
0.15 ha - Amenity ground
4.86.54497
Conditions: 3b, 4

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgiphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02279/LUB	Removal, repair and re-instatement of belote	Colonsay Parish Church Colonsay Isle Of Colonsay Argyll And Bute PA61 7W	Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2015
NOTICE OF APPLICATION UNDER REGULATION 6, 7 OR 8

An application for hazardous substances consent together with plans and other documents has been submitted by:

Reference: 15/03043/HZCON
Applicant: The Bruichladdich Distillery
Agent: Blyth And Blyth

Proposal: Application for Hazard Substances Consent to permit the storage of liquid Ethanol (in relation to the consented Bruichladdich Bonded Warehouses)

Address: Land North Of Couthorsay Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN

May be inspected at: Planning and Regulatory Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgiphead PA31 8RD or at the Sub Post Office Port Charlotte during normal opening times. Plans can also be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Between the hours of: 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm Monday to Friday, On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am.

Written representations (including comments or questions) may be submitted to Planning and Regulatory Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgiphead PA31 8RD by 03.12.2015.

The application may be granted (either unconditionally or subject to conditions) or refused.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (SPECIAL EVENT)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

On Monday 9th November 2015, 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 16B (6) 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 2200 hours on Saturday 21st November, 2015.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgiphead, PA31 8RD

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obantimes.co.uk/digital

First Registration of a Croft

Mr John Livingstone has registered the croft Glasdrum, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 2nd August 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1889.

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Lachlan MacKinnon and Mr Iain A MacKinnon have registered the croft 37 Balephetrish, Tiree on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 20/07/2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The Croft registration number is C1817

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

D Cowan
Croft-In-Tuime, Glenorchy & Innishail
0.133 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
4.85.59935
Conditions: 3a, 4
G J Muir
37 Tomonie, Kilmallie
0.115 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.59547
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4
D H Brown
4 Vaul, Tiree
0.15 ha - Amenity ground
4.86.54497
Conditions: 3b, 4

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
15/03802/PIP	Land at Croft 4 (Plot C)	Sanna, Kilchoan	Erection of house
15/03940/PIP	Plot 4 Land 660M South East of Moss of Keppoch, Arisaig		Erection of House (renewal of 11/03107/PIP)
15/03941/PIP	Plot 5 Land 720M South East of Moss of Keppoch, Arisaig		Erection of house (renewal of 11/03106/PIP)
15/04023/FUL	Land 160M NW of 5 Duisky Fort William		Erection of new house
15/04053/FUL	Ben Nevis Inn Achintee, Fort William		Erection of 2no. holiday chalets (renewal of planning permission 12/03657/FUL)
15/04060/FUL	Land 165M NE of Kilchoan Public Toilets, Pier Road, Kilchoan		Proposed shorebase building and pontoon

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

West Coast **MOTURING TIMES**

✔ DRIVETIMES ✔ SAILING TIMES ✔ GARAGES ✔ CAR DEALERSHIPS ✔ MOTURING NEWS

Renault announces upgrades to Clio and Captur

Renault has announced free-of-charge specification upgrades to its Clio and Captur models. DAB radio is now standard equipment on Clio and Captur models fitted with either the MediaNav or R-Link infotainment systems meaning that all, apart from entry level versions, now come with DAB as standard. The introduction of the DAB radio means passengers now have

access to have even more radio stations whilst on the move. Both MediaNav and R-Link have also been upgraded, with the newly-redesigned MediaNav gaining Bluetooth™ streaming, TMC traffic information and SIRI "Eyes-Free" for compatible iPhones. The updated R-Link system has a new, clearer and more sensitive screen, allowing multi-touch gestures such as 'pinch to zoom'.



The Clio Expression+ trim level has been re-named as Clio 'Play' to bring the B-segment supermini into line with its smaller city car sibling, Twingo. Meanwhile, the Dynamique S Nav gets a new-look leather steering wheel and grey upholstery. The Clio is available in five trim levels and with a

range of two petrol and one diesel efficient engines and is priced from £11,145. Despite the specification upgrades, the Clio is still available with numerous personalisation options such as the GT Line look pack, coloured 16" and 17" alloy wheels, exterior and interior coloured touch packs. Accessory packs such as the carbon-look styling pack, a sporty spoiler pack, a protection pack to include parking sensors and a Touring Pack with quick-release tow bar are all also still available. The Captur is available in four trim levels and with a range of two petrol and two diesel engines and is priced from £14,295. Captur is the best-selling compact crossover in Europe year-to-date in 2015 and, as of the end of August this year, had sold more than 416,000 vehicles globally since launch in 2013.



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64 Dacia Logan Laureate DCi estate, black, delivery mileage.....	£10,850
14 Dacia Duster Laureate DCi 4x2, grey, 3100 miles.....	£11,995
14 Renault Scenic Dyn, Energy DCi, 1.5, T/tom, Black, 15,250 miles.....	£12,950
14 Ford Ka, Plain Red, 6600 miles.....	£6,400
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles.....	£13,750
13 Dacia Sandero Ambiance DCi H/b, 5dr, Blue, 18,000 Miles.....	£6,950
62/13 Renault Megane dyn, 1.6, coupe, silver, 13,000 miles.....	£9,450
12 Renault Clio Exp +, 1.2, 3dr White, 18,250 miles.....	£5,750
61 Renault Megan GTLine, T/T, DCi, 5 Dr Blue, 29,000 Miles.....	£7,250
61 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.2, T/tom, 3Dr, Black, 17,350 miles.....	£5,995
61 Renault Wind roadster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles.....	£5,750
11 Renault Clio DYN, T/tom DCi Est 1.5, Blue, 52,500 miles.....	£6,500
11 Peugeot 308 Access SW HDi Est, 1.5, Black, 46000 Miles.....	£6,500
60 Ford Focus Zetec, 1.6 Est, Grey, 20,000 Miles.....	£6,500
09 Renault Clio DYN DCi 106, 3dr Blue 57,000 miles.....	£3,950
56 Citroen Picasso 1.6DCi, silver, 44,000 miles.....	£3,000

COMMERCIALS

12 Renault Kangoo in White, Choice of 2.....	POA
11 Vauxhall Combo 1700 cdti, white, 61,000 miles.....	£4,650+VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivara DCI Van.....	£7,000 plus VAT
08 Renault Master SWB, White.....	£6,000+VAT

DRIVETIMES

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VIBRO Body Shaper, excellent condition, can deliver locally, offers over £40 Telephone 07990 830064.

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DIMPLEX CLUB STOVE black electric heater (Cairnbaan), £40 Telephone 01546 606085.

NIGHT STORAGE HEATER Dimplex 18x70x32cm newish good condition hardly used, £10 Telephone 01546 602546.

QUALITY BRAND DIMPLEX FIRE convector blower type with fully selectable heat & blower levels, has an economy setting & moving coal fire flame effect, £40 Telephone 07999 680085.

STORAGE HEATER, £40 Telephone 07917 167477.

DOMESTIC PETS

BUDGIES 2 budgies, 3 months old, yellow and green, settled and friendly. Sale includes medium Vision bird cage, food and accessories., £60 Telephone 07969 101049.

HIGHLAND DRESS

KILT OUTFIT Day/Evening wear. McGregor Tartan, full Byard 16/17 oz kilt in 100% pure wool worsted, kilt pin, all wool Barathra Argyll black kilt jacket, white hose, garter flashes, £150 Telephone 01880 730326.

KILT OUTFIT Day/Evening wear, Davidson tartan, full Byard 16/17oz kilt in 100% pure wool worsted. clan crest kilt pin, skene dhus, all wool Barathra Argyll green kilt jacket, Davidson tie, leather sporran and chainstrap, leather kilt belt, Davidson buckle, green hose, garter flashes, long laod ghillie shoes size 6, full kilt carrying multi pocketed hanging case, £250 Telephone 01880 730326.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

SEWING MACHINE Singer Futura CE250 Embroidery and sewing machine. All accessories and tuition manual included. In good working order, £99 Telephone 01436 810079.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SKY BOX standard grey sky box. Whoever buys can also have the remote however some buttons do not work, £20 Telephone 07950 253281.

HOME FURNISHINGS

CEILING LIGHT grey bar with four spot lights, £10 Telephone 01586 552787.

CURTAINS fruit pattern. Length 43 inches. Width 78 inches. Connel, £10 Telephone 01631 710569.

FITTED CARPET DRIFTWOOD BEIGE size 14.5ft X 9.1ft (4.4mtr X 2.5mtr), only down for 6 months no marks, stains or damage. Delivery locally around Campbelltown, £50 Telephone 07999 680085.

LAMP bed side lamps globe shape white lamp a good size ex condition, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

LAMP up lighter lamp black in colour nice condition no longer needed moving home, £15 Telephone 01631565241.

MATERIAL Red and Gold. 5 metres x 20 cm. Connel, £40 Telephone 01631 710569.

MIRROR 65 x 50in wooden surround about 3 in wide, good condition, £8 Telephone 01631 565241.

POANG CHAIR CUSHION natural cotton and colour seat cushion for Ikea POANG adult

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

COMPLETE OAK KITCHEN

Solid oak kitchen for sale, 22 doors various sizes, wine rack, 3 glass display units, 2 shelved units.
£1,500.00
Telephone 01397 704658

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

BETO PUMP double action for air beds, with some stuff, no longer needed, £10 Telephone 01631 565241.

COOL BOX colour blue good size with ice packs as new, £5 Telephone 01631 565241.

MARINE UNDER £250

HONDA 2HP Engine, £99.99 Telephone 01852 500765 or 07709 086934.

MISCELLANEOUS

GARAGE SALE
Saturday 14th November, from 10am at Stratholm, Clachan. Many worthwhile items (gardening, household, DIY, books, office) 50% to new village hall fund.

MOBILITY

COMPANION STAIRLIFT left side stair, length 10 stairs, upholstered in sand colour, includes 2 hand held remote controls, £550 Telephone 01546 810197.

MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT

MOTOR BIKE JACKET male small, £10 Telephone 01631 570955.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

10 WATT practice amp, £15 Telephone 01631 570955.

HONNER MORINO VN Accordion, 11 + 5 Couplers, very good condition, £2,300 on Telephone 01546 603537.

DIGITAL CLAVINOVA PIANO

CLP280, first class condition, hardly used, transpose-usb-midi-multi layer recording, full specification and pictures on request,
£999
Telephone 01586 550367.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

DEMAND VALVE Mares, £50 Telephone 01852 500765 or 07709 086934.

DIVE CYLINDER Back Pack, £40 Telephone 01852 500765 or 07709 086934.

DIVING CYLINDER 7 litre, excellent condition, test certificate, as new, £99 Telephone 01852 500765 or 07709 086934.

PERSONAL NOTICES

WANTED

COPPER, BRASS, LEAD batteries etc. Cars uplifted for a fee. Garage clearances. Telephone 07435 589701.

SLEEPING BAG down filled lightweight green colour in great condition, £30 Telephone 01631 565241.

GOLDEN WEDDING THANKS

Malcolm and Flora MacMillan would like to thank family and friends for presents, flowers and cards, to The Glen and staff for the lovely buffet and a well organised night, and to Forbes, Duncan, Eric and Harry for wonderful entertainment. £500 was raised for our chosen charities. Thanks to our family for organising the celebrations.

Thank you

We would like to thank everybody who gave so generously at the recent concert "Echoes of War". A massive total of £810 was raised and donated to Help Our Wounded. Special thanks go to Erik Spence and Kathreen Hunter. - Dorothy, David and Jean MacPherson

CONGRATULATIONS Mrs Ivy Martin MacDougall

Who celebrated her 90th birthday on 2 November 2015 surrounded by her family and friends. A great night enjoyed by all. Special thanks to George Noble Disco, Neil Angus accordion, the caterer and staff of Lynn Court, Oban.

Oban Times Oban Times PRIVATE CLASSIFIED PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

TIMESLINE

Brown bin break till next spring

WITH the approach of winter, householders are reminded garden waste collections will stop for three months from the end of November.

There will be no brown bin collections in December, January or February, with the final collection day of 2015 Friday November 27. Collections will start again on Monday February 29, 2016.

Councillor Allan Henderson praised householders for the significant improvement in the quality of the material collected in brown bins this year.

He said: 'All compostable material collected by us must meet a specific quality standard to ensure it's suitable for use. Recent changes to the standard mean that testing for items such as stones and plastic has become more stringent so it is important we avoid contamination of this kind.'

Householders are reminded not to use their brown bin for general waste over winter as in previous years there have been contamination issues with the first bins lifted in the following March.

Over the winter period, householders with garden material to dispose of are encouraged make use of the garden waste skip at their local recycling centre.

Visit www.highland.gov.uk/ recycle to check availability, or call 01349 886 603.

Free animation courses on Skye

ANIMATORS behind many children's television characters are offering free workshops on Skye.

King Rollo Films, creators of Spot, Maisy, Mama, Mirabelle, Humf and Poppy Cat, normally charges £500 per week for the courses at its Devon base and asks for a showreel from any prospective clients, but the firm is offering a free course in the hope of building a workforce on the island, amid plans to develop a series there.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise and XpoNorth are backing the scheme, with workshops due to be held in December and January in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI.

Have your say on Lochaber's future

THE FUTURE of Lochaber is to be discussed at a 'market place' in Fort William this Monday (November 16).

Lochaber Community Planning Partnership has invited the public to a drop-in session in council chambers to meet with partners of Lochaber District Health, Social Care and Community Planning Partnership and Lochaber Economic Development and Employability Forum.

Members of the groups will take questions and ideas about areas of development in the region from 1.30pm until 2.30pm. The public is also invited to attend the partnership's AGM which will be held at 1pm.

Agencies and organisations attending include Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police Scotland, Scottish Canals, High Life Highland, Lochaber Housing Association, Forestry Commission Scotland, Voluntary Action Lochaber and the West Highland College UHI.

HUNDREDS PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO THE WAR DEAD AT CEREMONIES

Lochaber remembers



Commemorations were held on Sunday afternoon at Spean Bridge Commando Memorial.

Lochaber Senior Pipe Band lead the Fort William remembrance march in torrential rain.



Hundreds turned out to pay their respects despite the terrible weather.



Lochaber High School hosted a concert of remembrance for members of the Commando Veterans' Association, their families and other guests.



OPPORTUNITY: Staffin Community Trust hopes to create a visitor centre at Skye landmark, the Old Man of Storr.

Visitor centre planned at famous island landmark

ONE OF Skye's most famous landmarks could soon have a visitor centre to increase its already huge profile.

The Staffin Community Trust has been in talks with Highland Council to create an off-road car park, toilets, information and refreshments at the Old Man of Storr in the north east of the island.

The rocky hill has regularly featured in films, including Prometheus and Macbeth, as well as television programmes, adverts and magazines, and

the community trust hopes to buy or lease land near the Storr to create the centre.

Donald MacDonald, chairman of Staffin Community Trust, said: 'There is an opportunity here to provide a fantastic, much needed, facility that will be able to support the increasing numbers of visitors that visit this iconic attraction.'

The trust will issue questionnaires to every household in Staffin as part of a major consultation on the plans.

LIFE lines

The nameless deterrent

WE AWAIT the final decision on renewing Trident, the UK nuclear defence system that replaced Polaris in the 1990s. Last year estimates for the cost of such a system, which comprises submarines, missiles and warheads varied from £20 billion to £100 billion depending on who you listened to. The most recent independent estimate calculates the cost to be in the region of £167 billion based on the lifetime cost of the replacement system between 2028 and 2060.

The Cold War policy of invisible submarine patrols providing the ultimate deterrent against nuclear attack seems obsolete in the 21st century, since the primary military threat from the eastern-bloc was all but dismantled in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Supporters argue that more recent Russian military aggression and unknown capability warrants a new defence system based on mutually assured destruction; and others consider militarisation and instability in the Middle East, and the unpredictability of terror attacks justifications for such measures to protect the UK's security. The nuclear defence industry employs as many as 15,000 people in the UK, and many community economies depend on it.

Of course, nuclear weapons don't actually have to exist to work as a deterrent. The world has witnessed the terrifying power of them, so the technical capability is acknowledged - but that doesn't mean every, or any missile has to have a nuclear warhead. If nuclear weapons can't ever be used, then they don't need to exist to make the threat real. It is as impossible to imagine such an expensive deception as it is nuclear war. Hopefully we'll never know.

Johnston Adams.

Thought for the week

LUKE 22:19 'Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

When we come to the communion, we remember Jesus saying 'Do this in remembrance of me'. We think of all he did dying on the cross, dying for our sins, in our place. When we come to know him as Lord and Saviour we are promised eternal life. This passage has been a source of inspiration and renewal for many down through the years. As we met on Armistice Sunday many of us were remembering what so many of the forces who fell or were wounded in action did so that we may have our freedom. That Bible passage always touches my heart as I remember my Dad who was killed in action on 1 November 1944. As I stand at the service at Spean Bridge Commando Memorial you can always picture the many who fell or have died since. In the silence you can almost hear them asking 'Will you remember what we did?' We will remember them REMEMBER THEM."

Bill Harvey, Commando Veterans Association.

Obituary

Dr Sukumar 'Su' Sen MBE, Fort William

DR SUKUMAR 'Su' Sen, 83, died on Sunday November 1 at home following a stroke.

He leaves his wife of 53 years, Shirley; his daughter Sheila, Ardour; twin sons David, Munich, and Robin, Grenoble; grandchildren Max, Marianne, Francoise and Natalie; a sister and brother in Bihar and West Bengal, India, and many other family members and close friends.

Born and raised in Bihar and West Bengal in the north east of India, the son of a steelworker, Su was the second youngest of seven children.

His mother died of TB when he was young and Su contracted malaria, which led to him missing out on some of his formal schooling. He was home educated by his uncle with whom he lived in quarantine.

Su's uncle was responsible for registering him with the local education authority and, not being quite certain of his facts, registered him as being born in 1935 - making him two years younger than he actually was.

In later years, this mistake meant Su's government pension was delayed by two years!

After surviving malaria, Su was the least robust of the seven Sen children and in later years he felt this was responsible for him being very self-sufficient and able to produce results with minimum resources - a skill that later served him well in his voluntary work.

After leaving school, Su attended the University of Calcutta and, at the age of 25, graduated with a BSc in Medicine.

Keen to further his medical skills, particularly in surgery, Su came to the UK in 1958 with the intention of staying for two years.

He took up a post in Louth Hospital, Lincolnshire, where he met Shirley, a qualified staff nurse, and they married.

The couple lived in Finsbury Park, London, and Welwyn Garden City before moving to Fort William in 1965.

Mixed race marriages were not readily accepted in the 1960s and, not yet having UK citizenship, Su was reluctant to return to India lest it jeopardized his return or their marriage.

In 1965, Su, Shirley and Sheila - along with their VW Beetlecar - arrived in Fort William.

Su took up a post in the town's Belford Hospital as senior surgical registrar, working with Consultant Surgeon Mr Iain Campbell, and with the anaesthetic service provided by local GP Dr Charles Connochie who became a close family friend.

Su had just taken up this post when Iain Campbell went off on a much delayed break leaving Su in complete charge of all surgical work in the hospital.

The family lived originally at Dalnahaine on Belford Road, then Chenderoh at Seafield Gardens, Blar Mor Road in Caol and, since the early 70s, on Achintore Road.

Sons Robin and David arrived two years later.

It's the normal practice for the wife to tell the husband that she is 'with child' but in the Sen household it was the opposite way round - in his clinical role,

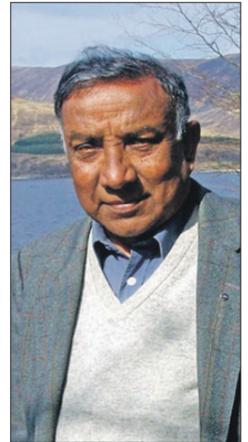
Su had the proud task of examining the pregnancy test and phoning Shirley to tell her that it was positive!

Su had lots of hobbies: photography, gardening, watching cricket, football, tennis, cooking and, at the invitation of Charles Connochie, he joined the local Rotary Club in 1970.

He participated earnestly in many community projects and locals will recall seeing him 'bag packing' for charity at the local supermarket.

In the early 1970s, Su went into general practice with his great friend Dr Roy Innes, eventually becoming senior partner in 'Sen, Robinson and Gibb', the forerunner of the High Street Surgery, now Glenmhor Medical Practice.

Sheila worked as a journalist and is now a painter and writer. David is a consultant software technician in Munich and Robin



RESPECTED: many tributes have been paid to former GP Dr Sukumar Sen.

teaches English language for engineering students in Grenoble. Sheila has a son Max. Robin has three daughters in France.

In recent years, Su attended evening classes to learn French - he was always interested in learning more.

During his working life Su continually and willingly got involved in staff support roles. He founded the original Lochaber Medical Society and the Lochaber Nurses Society.

He set up the first local endoscopy service in the mid 1970s and started the Belford Hospital's first medical library.

After retiring from general practice in 1995, Su immersed himself in a huge range of community work.

He founded Lochaber Council on Alcohol and served as a counsellor until 2012. He was a director of the Citizens' Advice Bureau, a founder member and chairman for 10 years of Lochaber Disability Access Panel and he set up and chaired Lochaber Action on Disability.

He also worked on countless local community projects including Kilmallie Gardens, Claggan Greenfingers, Caol in Bloom, Corpach Marina and Caol Regeneration Group, to name but a few.

He also gave his time and skills to the local Red Cross, the St John Ambulance Service, Lochaber Deaf Care and many sporting events including the Lochaber Marathon.

His substantial community work was recognised with the award of an MBE and, earlier this year, by the Rotary Club with the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship - its highest international award given for excellence in service to the community.

In its 65 years of existence, the club has awarded less than a dozen Paul Harris Fellowships.

On being presented with the Fellowship Medal, a surprised and modest Rotarian Su responded by saying he was 'speechless'.

Su was a Hindu and a man of genuine compassion. He did so much for people and for the community.

The Rotary Club Facebook page announcement of his passing received more than 500 'likes', 252 tributes and 244 'shares' - no other Rotary announcement has generated even one tenth of that amount of interest.

Su believed that to die was to release the spirit from the body - after the body had ceased to work well. He was content and settled in himself. He believed the time of death is a time of enlightenment and expressly wished that none of us be sad at his passing but that we share his values of helping one another.

A funeral service will be held today, Thursday November 12, at 2pm at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church. Family flowers only. A collection for charity will be taken.

A private cremation will be held afterwards by invitation only from Mrs Shirley Sen.

KJ

Arisaig student takes the helm at campus opening

A STUDENT from Arisaig joined First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and City of Glasgow College principal Paul Little to unveil the new £66m Riverside Campus on the banks of the River Clyde.

Liam Dyer, a former pupil of Mallaig High School, conducted part of the First Minister's tour of the new campus last week, which represents the first phase of City of Glasgow College's new £228m twin-site super campus.

Eighteen-year-old Liam, studying for a Scottish Professional Diploma in Nautical Science, assisted the First Minister as she steered a super tanker through Sydney Harbour within the new state-of-the-art simulation suite at Riverside Campus.

Liam said: 'The new Riverside Campus has completely revolutionised our learning. The layout of the place is all open and it makes for a great atmosphere.'

'For me, it's like a home from home.'

City of Glasgow College's Riverside Campus was officially opened by the First Minister, who described the state-of-the-art facility as 'world-class' before meeting college staff and students during a tour of the campus.



ON COURSE: student Liam Dyer gives an explanation to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Two new elders ordained at Muckairn Church, Taynuilt

TWO NEW elders, Lorna MacLennan and Shona Neil, were ordained during the morning service in Muckairn Church, Taynuilt, on Sunday November 1.

A bring and share lunch was enjoyed after the service.

A meeting of Muckairn Church Guild took place on Monday November 2. Led by

Stella Huntingford, there was a reading of John Chapter 14 by Marlene Stanners and a talk by Keryn Banks from Christian Aid. Keryn spoke on 'Caring for mother earth in Bolivia', a guild project for this session.

Christian Aid works in 40 different countries. Their humanitarian and advocacy work is long term. Climate change is a

serious issue now and Christian Aid help people adapt to it.

In Bolivia cocoa beans are now made into dark, bitter chocolate instead of being exported as raw beans. Solar ovens are used, which saves fuel. They use the sun's rays to heat the oven, which acts like a hay box or slow cooker, and cost £120. Women are still suffering. Despite ac-

counting for half of the population, they are doing two thirds of the hours and work for one tenth of the pay. The hymn 'Be thou my Vision' closed the meeting. The next meeting will be the annual Candle Light Supper with Christmas readings, music and songs in Taynuilt Village Hall at 7.30pm on December 3. Everyone welcome.

BIRTHS

McLEOD - Martin and Arlene (née MacLean) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Finn McNeil, on Saturday October 24, 2015. A wee brother for Esme. Grateful thanks to all at Oban Maternity Unit and Princess Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow, especially Ward 68 and Paediatric Team. Thanks also to all those who sent their good wishes.

TILLY - Johnathan and Jennifer (née Macnab) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Jay Cameron on October 19, 2015. A first grandchild for Neil and Islay Macnab, (Taynuilt) and Byron and Trisha Tilly, (Stirling).

ENGAGEMENTS

DAUNORAVICIUTE - KENNEDY - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Simona, daughter of Birute and Arturas Daunoraviciute, Hamilton to Neil, son of Colin Kennedy, Isle of Coll and Marjorie Kennedy, Oban.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully at Lom and Islands hospital, Oban on Saturday November 7, 2015, aged 51, Christine Cameron (née Carmichael), much loved wife of Ian, devoted mum to Daniel, Jamie and Lewis and a beloved daughter and sister.

CRAWFORD - Suddenly but peacefully, on November 5, 2015, Catherine (Cathy) Crawford, aged 81 years, of Myrtlecrest, Kilduskland Road, Ardrishaig, beloved wife of the late Don Crawford and much loved mother of Archie, Donald and Karen. Adored Nana of Holly, John, Kelly and Ryan and a much respected mother-in-law of Julie. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, on Friday, November 13 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only or donations, if desired, to Alzheimer Scotland. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

EWEN - Peacefully at Ardfenaig Care Home, on October 22, 2015, Catherine (Ena) Ewen, in her

95th year, beloved wife of the late Charlie Ewen, much loved mother of Rosemary, Barbara, Shirley and the late Jean, much loved granny, great-granny and dear aunt to the family. Funeral service was held at Kilmichael Glassary Parish Church, on October 28, cremation thereafter at Cardross Crematorium.

McLEAN (née McNiven), Annie - Peacefully but suddenly on November 5, 2015 at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. Annie McLean (aged 84) much loved wife of Ken for 61 years, beloved mother of Kenny, Lachlan and Flora and a much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. A funeral service will be held at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar on Tuesday November 17, 2015 at 10.30am. Family flowers only, donations will be accepted for Alzheimer's Scotland.

THOM - Peacefully, at home Acaarsaid, Old Town, Onich on Wednesday November 4, 2015, Derek (Roddy) Thom, aged 78 years. A loving husband of Maria devoted dad to Maureen, the late Gillian and Neil. Also a much loved grandad of Alistair. Funeral Service will be held on Thursday November 19, 2015 at 1.30pm in Nether Lochaber Parish Church; thereafter a private committal at Inverness Crematorium. Family flowers only please donations if desired to RNLi can be given at the church door or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William PH33 6JB.

WADE - Theresa, veterinary surgeon to the Isles of Mull and Iona. Service to take place at 12.00 noon on Thursday November 12, at the Bunesan Village Hall, followed by interment at Suidhe cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations on behalf of the RNLi and the Cats Protection League.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BAIN - Myra, Andrew, and family would like to thank family and friends for the support shown to them following the sad loss of their mother Evelyn (Evie). Thank you to all who attended the church and graveside. Many thanks to Mr Donald MacKinnon for his

warm and comforting service, D & A Munn for their caring funeral arrangements, Angela for her beautiful flowers and The Rowan Tree. Special thanks to Cara and all of mum's carers for the kindness shown over the years and to the staff of Ward 1, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital. The retreatal collection for the Oban Hospice raised £156.35. She is now at peace.

CAMERON - Mary's nephews, nieces and their families wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind support and sympathy following her passing. Thank you to Rev. Christopher MacRae for his service proclaiming the gospel of love and peace in knowing Jesus Christ and to Rev. Sandy Sutherland for his tribute and prayer. Many thanks to Laura for providing the music. Grateful thanks to Scott A. Greenlees and colleagues at John McLellans for their professional funeral arrangements and the kindness shown to the family. Also to McDonald Brothers for the beautiful flowers. Special thanks to the staff at Inverness House for all that they have done for Mary in the past year - in meeting all of her needs and to the staff at Belford Hospital for the wonderful care they gave their Aunt and also their thoughtfulness to the family. Sincere thanks to Dr. John Wallace for his attentiveness to Mary. Finally, thanks to all who attended the church and graveside and who generously donated £329.60 which will be divided between the Scottish Bible Society and Inverness House.

CRAWFORD - Daughters Letty, Phyllis and Sharon and son-in-laws Hamish and Billy would like to say a very big thank you to all their families, friends, neighbours and colleagues for their calls, cards and visits on the sad passing of dear dad Eddie. A special thank you to all the paramedic crews, A&E dept and wards in the Belford Hospital, all doctors and staff in Craig Nevis, especially Dr Wallace, who all cared for Eddie over the years, carers Shona and Fiona and a very special thank you to Libby and all the staff in Moss Park who looked after dad so well these last few months. Thanks also to Mike, Beth and Stewart for their undertaking duties, Colin, Shona and Serena

for the flowers, Philip and staff of the Moorings Hotel for the catering and the Rev Richard Corbett for his comfort, advice and lovely service. The sum of £470 was collected for the residents fund in Moss Park. Yours gratefully and sincerely, all the family.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie, who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmaleu. Deep are the memories And precious they stay No passing of time Will ever take them away. - Your loving family Allan, Catherine and Frank, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla

CAMERON - In loving memory of Louie, a dear sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt who passed away at Kilmaleu on November 10, 2000. Sadly missed along life's way Quietly remembered every day. - MacKechnie family at Fort William, Oban, Killin and Balfour

DRUMMOND - In loving memory of my daughter Mary McGhee, who died on November 9, 2012. So sorely missed, never forgotten. - Dad and Jane

DUNCAN - Precious memories of my beloved husband Howard, who was called to rest on November 12, 2001. If memories bring us closer we are never far apart For you're always in my thoughts and forever in my heart. - Love always Chrissie x

EMSLIE - In remembrance of my beloved wife Anne, who was taken away on November 16, 2002. We never part from those we love No distance can divide In memory's garden day by day We still walk by your side - Hamish

EMSLIE - Remembering with love and gratitude our mother, mother-in-law and granny Anne, who passed on November 16, 2002. A light is from our household gone A voice we loved is stilled A place is vacant in our home Which never can be filled - Your family

LOVE - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa Bob, who passed away November 10, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Anne, Elizabeth and family

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dearly loved husband, a loving dad and grandad, Domhnall Domhnallach, who died November 13, 1988. RIP. When thoughts go back As they often do We treasure the memories We have of you. Gad caoidh 'sgadiondrainn. - Inserted by Christine and family, Fort William

MACINTYRE - Betty, died November 9, 2003. Ewan, Erin and Albert join the extended family this year to remember your fortitude and unswerving love. - Angus, Lorn, Eric and the whole family

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear parents Bertie, a dear father, father-in-law and granda, who died on November 11, 1989 and Agnes, a dear mother, mother-in-law and granny, who died January 29, 2011. Forever in our thoughts. Also remembering uncle Jack, who died November 17, 1993. - Families Oban and Lochgilphead

MITCHELL - Precious memories of a special wife, mum and granny. If you could have a lifetime wish, a dream that would come true We pray to God with all our hearts, for yesterdays anew A thousand words can't bring you back, we know because we've tried 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 - In loving memory of my dear husband Arthur (Scouse) Taken from me on November 12, 1990. 25 years ago today, I had to part from the one I loved with all my heart. - Your loving wife Jean and family X

PARKINSON - Treasured memories of a dear dad and pop Arthur (Scouse) who passed away

on November 12, 1990. 25 years today. When someone becomes a memory The memory becomes a treasure Today, tomorrow, and always we will remember. - Peggy, Alistair and family X

PEARSON - Precious memories of our devoted son Garry, taken from us so tragically on November 13, 1999, aged 22 years. Precious are those memories And we have quite a few We'll treasure them forever Garry Because they are of you Those special years will not return When we were all together But the love you left within our hearts You'll walk with us forever. Forever in our hearts. - Mum, Dad and all your loving family x

SORLEY - In loving memory of our dear dad Bob, who passed away November 15, 1990. Loved and remembered always. - Andrew, Lorna, Ronald and families

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WEDDING



ROBERTSON / CRAWFORD
Niall Stuart Robertson formerly of Montrose and Jane Emilee Rosa Crawford formerly of Carnoustie were married at Guthrie Castle, Forfar, Angus on Saturday 25th July 2015. Niall is the youngest son of Andrew and June, Montrose, and the youngest grandson of the late Anabel and Sandy MacLennan, formerly "Cnocnasith, Connel. Jane is the youngest daughter of David and Maureen, Carnoustie.

CHARITY DONATIONS

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Coping with bereavement

LOSS happens to everyone at some time. Most people expect this to happen later on in life, perhaps to an elderly relative, and loved ones have an idea that they are going to be faced with loss. But even though they know a loved one is dying, when it happens it comes as a great shock, and they are overwhelmed by unexpected feelings. And sometimes the loss of a loved one is sudden and unexpected.

Research has shown that in order to grieve in a healthy way, those suffering bereavement need to spend time grieving for the person and somehow continue to live and to function. If a person spends all of his time grieving and not engaging with life, or all his time pushing the grief away, he may have trouble moving forward and recovering.

Experts give several tips for those undergoing the bereavement process.

Talking to close family and friends, especially those who understand, can help feelings of loneliness by recounting memories and sharing stories that summed up the character of the person no longer with them. Such discussions remind everyone why the person was so loved in the first place.

In a similar vein, some may consider making a tribute of some kind to help pay their respects in a symbolic way. Finding ways to continue the bond with the deceased person can help ease grief, such as engaging in activities they used to do, or participating in an event they would have liked, for example, a charity walk.

Going back to work too soon can hamper the bereavement process,



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Golden Charter
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Pupils come and park the bus but Saints still take all three points

'We played some excellent football today, passing the ball out from the back which meant we kept possession for long periods in the game'

Oban Saints	2
Campbeltown Pupils	0
SAFL Premier Division	

PATIENCE was the name of the game at Glencruitten last Saturday as Saints were made to work hard to break down a determined and well-drilled Campbeltown Pupils defensive set-up in the first Argyll derby of the season.

The visitors came with caution very much in mind and set Saints a difficult task to find a way through their solid five-man defence.

Willie Gemmell had Saints' first effort on goal with a long range shot from the edge of the centre circle which flew high and wide, posing no threat to the Campbeltown goal.

Saints' midfield triumvirate of Willie Gemmell, Paul Kerr and Donald Campbell were getting plenty of the ball in the centre of the park but, faced with a wall of red shirts, were finding it hard to thread the passes through to the front three of Ross Maitland,

Dean Smith and Craig MacEwan. Willie Gemmell was first to find the key to unlock the Pupils defence when he clipped a delightful cross from the right picking out Donald Campbell's late run into the box. Donald won a good looping header against Keith Mitchell which the back peddling Reid Anderson did well to tip over his cross bar for a corner kick.

Just one minute later Donald Campbell threaded a terrific pass through to Ross Maitland, who timed his run well to get in behind the Pupils defence. Reid Anderson was quickly off his line to narrow the angle and made a good save diving to his left to parry Maitland's curling shot to safety.

A cheaply-conceded free kick by Dene Cassells on the edge of his own box led to a scare for Saints in the 19th minute. Willie Gemmell headed the free kick wide for a throw in from which Pupils forced a corner kick on their right. John McCallum

Football

glanced a header from the six yard line towards the top corner which Thomas McCulloch, at full stretch, managed to claw onto the post and behind for another corner.

Saints cleared the danger from the second corner and broke up the left wing with Scott Maitland delivering a low cross to Ross Maitland 12 yards out and directly in front of goal. Ross didn't connect as well as he would have liked with his left foot but nonetheless Reid Anderson produced another excellent save to foil the wee man for the second time.

Anderson was in action again in the 26th-minute acrobatically tipping over a dipping David McArthur volley from the edge of the box after Pupils had failed to fully clear their lines from a Ross Maitland corner.

David was first to the second corner but his downward header under little pressure bounced



OWN GOAL: In attempting to clear Ross Maitland's corner Fraser Wylie can only help the ball into his own net which gave Saints a 2-0 lead in the Argyll derby played at Glencruitten Park last Saturday. Picture and match report: Derek Black

high and wide of target. As the first half drew to a close the relatively untroubled Saints central defensive pairing of Dene Cassells and Jamie Graham got themselves into a fankle and gifted an opportunity to lone Pupils striker John McCallum.

Fortunately for Saints, Thomas McCulloch was equal to McCallum's shot on goal and produced a good save diving full length to his right.

Saints manager Alex Craik sent out the same 11 to start the second half advising them to keep playing their passing game and the scoring opportunities would come.

Saints first attack of the second half was a rare galloping Willie Gemmell run from deep inside his own half. Unfortunately Willie didn't quite have the pace to outstrip the chasing pack and was dispossessed by a sliding interception by Grant Grant who recovered his ground well.

The long-awaited breakthrough finally came in the 56th-minute and owed much to a powerful run from the back by Dene Cassells. He made good progress through the midfield but was stopped 25 yards out by a perfectly-executed sliding challenge from John McCallum. Paul Kerr picked up

the loose ball and played the ball to Donald Campbell on the edge of the box, who turned well and cut into the box only to be faced by the advancing Reid Anderson.

Anderson spread himself well forcing Donald wide where, from the tightest of angles, he tucked the ball, left-footed, inside the near post beating the despairing lunge of Lorne Robertson on the goal line.

Terrific ball

Saints' second came six minutes later after the impressive Reid Anderson had made another good save to deny Donald Campbell following a terrific ball over the top of the Pupils defence from Willie Gemmell.

Anderson forced the ball behind for a corner kick on the Saints' left from which Ross Maitland curled a wicked in-swinging towards the postage stamp corner that Fraser Wylie, guarding the far post, could only head into the roof of his own net, possibly from behind his own goal-line. The cross from Ross may also have taken a nick off a Campbeltown defender's head en-route to goal but the wee man will certainly be claiming the goal for himself.

Saints were well on top now and went in search of a third and were denied by another terrific save

from Anderson diving to his left to fingertip a Dean Smith shot onto the post with Keith Mitchell recovering to clear the danger.

Anderson produced more heroics in the 73rd minute to deny Dean Smith at close range after Smith had chested down well in the box but didn't quite make the connection he was hoping for giving Anderson the chance to make the save.

Saints survived a major scare in the 76th minute when Willie Gemmell was caught in possession on the edge of his own box by Pupils substitute Ellis Robertson. Robertson broke into the box, rounded the advancing Thomas McCulloch, but much to the relief of Willie and the Saints faithful, just as he was about to stroke the ball into the unguarded net, he lost his footing and the ball broke loose and into the grateful arms of the Saints keeper.

The final opportunity of the match came for Pupils in the closing minutes when Keith Mitchell outpaced David McArthur on the left wing and cut inside where he was stopped in his tracks by a heavy Dene Cassells challenge.

Mitchell and Ryan Deans both hovered over the ball and it was Deans who elected to strike, curling the ball high and wide of

target. Referee Litster brought to an end an entertaining derby match which he had handled well without the need to produce a card sending the good crowd of spectators home happy. The win sees Saints extend their winning streak to six games in all competitions with the added bonus of a first clean sheet since the opening day of the season.

Manager Alex Craik was delighted with the performance of his team. He said: 'We played some excellent football today, passing the ball out from the back which meant we kept possession for long periods in the game.'

'Pupils made it very difficult for us to break them down with their defensive set-up but in the end we got what we deserved. We were the better team and fully deserved all three points.'

This Saturday Saints are at home again in the third round of the West of Scotland Cup against Lanarkshire Premier Division side Springhill.

The game is scheduled for Glencruitten with a 1.30pm kick-off but as the weather forecast is not good for the weekend the game could be transferred to the 3G pitch with a 3pm kick-off.



SAVE: Campbeltown Pupils keeper Reid Anderson pulled off a string of great saves during the game, this one from Ross Maitland. 15_146saints01

Over 300 hundred entries for Glen Ogle Ultra

THIS year's Glen Ogle 33 Ultra Marathon saw a record number of 334 starters. Runners began the race in the Breadalbane Park, Killin, before ascending up to Glen Ogle and crossing the famous viaduct on their way down past Lochearnhead towards Balquhider. From here they headed to Strathyre, over to the forest road before returning to Killin.

The men's race was hotly contested but winner Robert Turner led from the start and set a new course record, taking nearly 10 minutes off the previous best.

Robert covered the 32.5 miles in an amazing time of 3hrs 36 minutes.

Rugby

Coming in second was Rob Sinclair, running his first ultra marathon and doing it in a time which was only a minute slower than the previous course record, at 3hrs 44 minutes.

In third place was James Stewart, who finished in 3 hrs 46 minutes. James has had a great season, including winning the Glenmore 24 Trail Race in September where he managed to run 144 miles in 24 hours.

The women's race was a close-run thing with only a couple of minutes separating first and second place.

Charlotte Black was the first woman home in 4 hrs 17 minutes. Only two minutes behind her was Jillian Gordon, who took second, with Kristin Lowrie in third, finishing in 4 hours 23 minutes.

After the race lunch was served by the ladies of The Killin Cancer Committee and in the evening there was a ceilidh in the MacLaren Hall.

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Paisley potter Geo Adams wins latest tour event



TOP MAN: Geo Adams takes back the No 1 spot after winning the latest Regional tour event

CONGRATULATIONS to the Paisley potter Geo Adams on winning the latest Regional tour event and taking back the number one spot to secure his 2016 squad place.

Geo had been the only region five player since to automatically qualify for the Men's Scotland team until Brian Edwards of Benderloch managed to take it last year. Geo, who is being sponsored by Kebabish is delighted to be back at the top of an ever-growing array of talent.

John Telfer, Brian Edwards, John Kinvig, Drew Thomson, Andrew Chapman, Chris Anton, Andrew Duncan and Lochgilphead player Mark Ellis have earned themselves the chance to compete in the 2016 Scotland squad trials to be held in Edinburgh on Sunday, where they will be fighting to join Geo.

Barry Clark has become the first winner of the Oban Singles premier league with Chris Anton winning the first division.

Junior Section - With the junior players only half way through their league season, 11-year-old Sean Sneddon is sitting in pole

position with 13-year-old Brandon Petrie chasing his tail.

Outreach Section - Having just competed in their first international event, five players from Oban returned home with silverware.

In the team section Sandy Galbraith and Rab Marshall joined Dundee player Michael



SILVERWARE: The successful Oban Outreach Pool team

Pool

Hitchen to scoop first place while Gary Gemmell, Paul McKenzie and the only female player Kerry Maclean came runner up. In the singles competition Gary Gemmell was runner up after losing only one match.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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



Please tape your £1 coin here

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Bute are Marine Harvest South Division One champions



...but Lochside Rovers push them all the way

Oban Celtic	0
Bute	6
Marine Harvest South Div 1	

BUTE won the Marine Harvest South Division One championship last Saturday after a 6-0 victory over Oban Celtic at Mossfield Stadium.

The islanders, who only dropped four points in their 18 games, won the title by virtue of a superior goal difference from Lochside Rovers.

The destination of the league

Lochside Rovers	4
Glenorchy	1
Marine Harvest South Div 1	

LOCHSIDE Rovers completed their league programme with a 4-0 victory over Glenorchy at Ganavan to finish in second place in South Division One on goal difference.

Although disappointed to finish runners-up, Lochside can be well satisfied by the form shown by their youthful team over the season in a league made up of first team clubs and reserve sides.

They lost only two games in the league and were the only team to beat Bute, winning convincingly 3-0 at home.

In their last league game two goals by the ever-green Brian MacCallum and a brace from young Daniel MacVicar ensured victory, although Glenorchy made them work hard for the win. Once again Jordan Kerr was outstanding for Lochside and continues to develop into a top class player.

With six players all playing at under 17 level, Lochside can look forward to next season with optimism.

title was all sewn up by half time as Bute took a 5-0 lead into the half time break thanks to goals from Robert Walker, Duncan Davidson, Gordon MacMillan and a double from Craig MacKay. Celtic came more into the game in the second half but another strike from Robert Walker made the final score 6-0.

The Marine Harvest South Division 1 trophy was handed over to Bute captain Paddy Queen by Camanachd Association president Jim Barr.

Asked about his thoughts on the season past, team manager Gareth Evans said: 'David MacCuish and I are delighted with the progress made by the team over the season on three counts: we won the SC Trophy; reached the final of the Sutherland Cup; and finished in runner-up position in the league and provided valuable back-up for our first team Oban Camanachd, which I am sure manager Ian Hay will agree helped the team to overcome long-term injuries to key players thus ensuring that Camanachd will play in the top flight of shinty.'

Asked about his own position as team manager he said there would be a period of reflection but he was delighted to win Manager of the Year for South Division 1. This award reflected how well the team has done over the season.

A club spokesman said: 'We have our AGM in December and all issues for season 2016 will be decided then although there is no doubt the club is in a good place at all levels highlighted by the success of our Under 14s and Under 17s not always recognised as was the case at the recent Marine Harvest Awards.'



CHAMPIONS: Bute with the Marine Harvest South Division One trophy. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bute	18	15	2	1	78	10	32
Lochside Rovers	18	16	0	2	72	21	32
Oban Celtic	18	11	1	6	53	34	23
Inveraray	18	10	2	6	40	33	22
Kyles Athletic	18	8	1	9	37	52	17
Aberdour	18	7	1	10	27	38	15
Taynuilt	18	6	2	10	31	49	14
Glenorchy	18	4	3	11	21	60	9*
Stachur	18	3	3	12	26	43	5*
Kilmory	18	1	3	14	17	51	3*

*points adjustment



RACE: Glenorchy's Keegan McPhee and Lochside's Jordan Kerr in a race for the ball. Photo: Stephen Lawson

London Shield under 17 final will take place at Mossfield Stadium this Saturday

THE Marine Harvest London Shield under 17 final between Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore will take place at Mossfield Stadium at 11.30am on Saturday Prior to Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore, who will play their premiership fixture at 1.30pm.

Camanachd under 17s, on route to the final, beat Kilmallie 9-1 then Kingussie 5-1 and Ballachulish 3-0. The only reverse was a 2-1 defeat to Saturday's opponents Newtonmore at the Eilean, where having a late goal ruled out prevented them earning a draw.

However, with two teams quali-

fyng from the league section Camanachd defeated Fort William 2-0 in the semi final played at Spean to progress to the final.

A keenly-contested final is anticipated between the two teams with both showing impressive form on route to the show piece game at this level.

Camanachd coaches David MacCuish and Scott Buchanan will have a full squad to choose from, having put together a team fit for the occasion. The referee is Lachie Wood and, with home advantage, Oban Camanachd will approach the game in a confident mood.

Premiership

OBAN CAMANACHD will play their penultimate league game of the season when they play host to champions NEWTONMORE at Mossfield on Saturday.

With only pride at stake, this could turn out to be a cracking match as long as the weather holds up. The throw up will be 1.30pm, after the London Shield final, with referee Deek Cameron in charge

Fixtures

Saturday November 14
Marine Harvest Premiership
 Oban Caman v Newtonmore
 Deek Cameron - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest London Shield Under 17 Final
 Oban Caman v Newtonmore
 Mossfield Stadium, Oban
 Lachie Wood - 11.30am

Results

Saturday November 7
Marine Harvest Premiership
 Kyles Athletic v Oban Caman
 Postponed - unplayable field

Marine Harvest South Division One
 Glenorchy 0 v 4 Lochside Rovers
 Oban Celtic 0 v 6 Bute

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Ballachulish v Aberdour
 Postponed - unplayable field

Results from

Glenfinnan

Gun Club

Shooting

RESULTS from Glenfinnan Gun Club shoot, Saturday November 7.

There was a good turnout of 38 guns in mild and dry weather.

The John MacLeod Memorial Shield, was won by Peter Davidson, the Duncan Stoddart Memorial Quaich went to Fred Lockwood and the David MacDonald 'local' Shield was won by Finlay Dempster.

The Joe MacLeod Cup for high gun for the day went to Peter Davidson while the junior prize was won by Michael MacPherson.



Oban Lorne to hold past players gathering

OBAN LORNE RFC has been in operation for 53 years and this season the 1st XV are competing in West Division 1, the highest competitive level in their history.

This is only one division below National competition. None of this would have been possible if the former players, committee, members, friends and associates had not started the club 53 years ago.

'Many former players and members still live in the town and the idea was to get them back up to

the club,' said Murray Hamilton, current vice president of Oban Lorne RFC. This idea, like most, was discussed over a beer after a successful win for Oban Lorne at Glenelg last year. It was agreed that it was nice to see so many former players in attendance at the game, but chatting to them, the club became aware that there were so many more that didn't come along.

'We needed to address this, and like all sports clubs everyone is a volunteer and has their own

jobs and careers and family to look after. But the rugby club is supposed to be a family and it seemed a good plan to have a get together of all former players, with the aim of re-engaging them with the rugby club.

'After all, it was their hard work and efforts that have built this club to what it is, and the current success would not be possible without their earlier efforts.

'So, on Saturday November 28, we have arranged a dinner and some local guest speakers to talk about the old days and hope that as many former players, friends, associates of Oban Lorne as possible will attend.

'There are lots of guys from across Argyll, and indeed across the country now, who have played for Oban over the years. Lots of players represented Oban and Mull at the start, and going back to the old county system there are team mates scattered across Argyll. We hope that they will all manage to get together on the 28th for a meal and drink or two to catch up. Sport is a wonderful thing that creates lifelong friendships. I think that we should strive to keep our sports clubs as healthy as possible and the best

Rugby

way to do that, in my opinion, is to work hard to keep everyone involved and make sure they all feel a part of the family.'

Saturday November 28 is a busy day for the club. It starts with the U18 team playing Cumbernauld (1pm ko) followed by a West Division 1 fixture of Oban Lorne V Cambuslang (2pm ko). The evening event starts at 7pm; tickets cost £15pp and the money will be collected on the night. There are some tickets available at the clubhouse and the sports shop in Oban, alternatively sign up so the club has an idea of numbers.

There is a sign-up sheet in the sports shop. For any further information contact Murray Hamilton (murray.hamilton@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or phone 07786655202.

The club hope that this will become a regular event and in the future former players from all over the country, and indeed the world, come back to the club. All players attending are encouraged to bring any club memorabilia they may have. There will be a table set up on the night to display 'artefacts' from the club's history.

Lochaber swimmers pick up the medals at schools swimming gala

YOUNG swimmers in Lochaber have quickly become some of the best in the Highlands, seeing vast improvements over the last two years.

Forty-two members of Lochaber Leisure Centre swim team travelled to Inverness for the Highland Schools Swimming Gala on November 4 and came back with a fantastic 10 medals.

This comes after the team's fastest swimmer was still 10 seconds short of the qualifying time when the group first considered applying in 2013.

But this year delighted coach Stevie Martin brought home two gold medal winners, five silvers and three bronze but said all 42 were winners to him.

Eleven-year-old Poppy Valentine picked up a gold in the 50-metre backstroke, allowing her to qualify for the Scottish Schools competition in January.

This is Lochaber's first gold in the event, which has run for more than 20 years.

The second gold came from Jenna MacLean, also 11, who completed the 50-metre front crawl in 31 seconds. This saw her break the 18-year record set by coach Martin's son, also Stevie,

when he was 12 years old. Jenna has also qualified for next year's nationals.

Silver medals came from William Cann for 200-metre back crawl, Aimee MacKay for 200-metre breast stroke, Evan Atkinson for 200-metre front crawl, Siobhan Gordon, also for 200-metre front crawl, and a relay team made up of Jude

Swimming

Kyle, Connie MacLennan, Eva Derbrnov and Evie Jay Clark, for the 4x50-metre front crawl.

Bronze medals were won by Dora Shepherd for 100-metre butterfly stroke, Evan Atkinson for 100-metre front crawl and Connor Cann for 200-metre front crawl.



FIRST GOLD: Proud coach Stevie with gold medalists Jenna MacLean, left, and Poppy Valentine.

Waterlogged pitch problem rears its ugly head - again

WINTER has arrived in Lochaber meaning another backlog of games for Fort William Football Club.

The club's long-running problems with a waterlogged pitch have returned with a vengeance this season as the last three Saturdays have seen home games postponed.

The Fort managed to play Cove Rangers in a Scottish Cup game last Monday but haven't played a league game

at Claggan since they took on Formartine United on October 17.

Ally Ewen's men were due to travel to take on Turiff United last night (Wednesday) but this was postponed as the funeral of Fort coach John Matheson was on the same day.

Their next fixture is at Strathspey Thistle this Saturday before the Fort welcome Forres Mechanics on November 21.

Youth rugby round-up

Cumbernauld U18 5-17 Oban U18

OBAN LORNE U18 team travelled to Cumbernauld on Saturday to play their first fixture of the season. The team numbers were boosted with three players from Campbeltown who made the long journey to Cumbernauld.

With a bare 15 players, the game started with uncontested scrums but this did not prevent an entertaining game of rugby. Oban started strong and were quick to return the kick off into Cumbernauld territory.

Strong running from Daniel Speirs and Steven Povey set up good rucks for Xvava Rush to crash over for the first try.

Oban continued to play quick rugby despite some thundering tackles from the Cumbernauld players. Xvava Rush was once again responsible for breaking the gain line and causing problems for Cumbernauld.

Ruairidh Lister-Campbell and Steven Povey worked hard at the breakdown to secure possession and a succession of pick and go resulted in Rush taking another short ball at pace, and proving to strong to stop. Oban led 10-0 after two unsuccessful conversions. Cumbernauld started to come back into

the game towards the end of the half and strong defence from the Oban wingers held them out. Eventually the cracks appeared in a tired Oban defence and allowed Cumbernauld to crash over the line after a successful series of rucks.

Owen Pickering started to spread the ball wide for Oban and giving the backs some space to run resulted in Daniel Speirs making the break and finishing the half with a try and successful conversion.

The second half had no scores but both teams played exciting rugby and credit is due to those players who were competing in their first game: Nat Petre and Phillip Schmolzer

The next game for the U18s is on November 21 away to Cartha Queens Park. Training is on a Thursday after school on the 3g pitch.

Under 16s

OBAN U16s had no league game on Sunday due to Newton Stewart struggling to field a team. The U16s are away to Kilmarnock RFC this Sunday in their next league game.

T4 Schools Conference

OBAN High School will be taking part in

their latest T4 Schools Fixture on Wednesday November 11, away to Hyndland Academy in Glasgow. Games will be played at S1 and S2/3. Oban high has one remaining fixture meeting left away to Shawlands Academy before taking part in the play offs.

Girls' rugby

OBAN'S rugby girls at U15 and U18 will be taking part in a Scottish Cup Qualifier Festival in Glasgow this Wednesday.

The festival, held for all teams in the West Region, will determine which teams will progress to the 2015/16 Scottish Cup.

Oban will be helped out with players from Campbeltown and Tobermory.

Mini rugby

SUNDAYS Dalriada Festival, hosted by Mid Argyll RFC in Lochgilhead, was cancelled due to the weekend's weather conditions. The festival will be rearranged for a later date.

Oban Lorne Minis will continue to train over the winter every Wednesday evening in Atlantis Leisure from 6-7pm. Sessions are open for all P4-7 pupils.



MEDALS: Lochaber swim team medal winners with coach Stevie Martin.

Susie Wolff decides to hang up her helmet

'I dared to be different, I want to inspire others to do the same'

OBAN'S Susie Wolff has said it is time to explore new challenges following her shock decision last week to quit Formula 1.

Susie, 32, was appointed development driver for Williams F1 in 2012, after racing for seven years in the German Touring Car Championships. She was promoted to official test driver in 2015.

First woman
This culminated in her driving at the British and German Grand Prix alongside team mate Felipe Massa, becoming the first woman driver to do so since 1992.

Motor racing

Williams deputy team principal Claire Williams said: 'It has been a pleasure to work with Susie over the years and see her develop as a driver within the team.'

'Her feedback and knowledge of the car has been an important part of our recent development and we will be sorry to see her go.'

Susie will take part in what will be her last race on November 20 and 21 for the Race of



OFF TO THE RACES: Susie standing next to her Williams F1 racing car.



FAMILY: Susie (second from the right), with her mum Sally, brother David and dad John.

Champions in London's Olympic stadium, where she will race for Scotland with former F1 driver and BBC F1 commentator David Coulthard.

Writing for the Huffington Post, the Obanite, who now lives in Switzerland with her husband Toto Wolff, who is head of world champion Mercedes F1 team, said: 'My gut feeling tells me it is time to move on. It's time to

explore new challenges and push myself in new environments.

'As a sports person it is always difficult to know when to stop, but for me, this journey has come to an end.'

Susie started racing karts at the age of eight with the encouragement of her family, who own motorcycle business Stoddarts of Oban.

She continued: 'I was brought

up by brilliant parents who never once made me think motor sport was rather for boys, that I was choosing a path unusual for a girl.

'They instilled in me the belief that I could achieve anything if I was determined and worked hard enough.'

Susie says she wants to try to help the next generation of women make it in motorsport.

'I want to give something back,'

she said, as she prepares to link up with the Motor Sports Association, the UK motorsport authority.

'We will launch a new initiative aimed at celebrating the woman succeeding in motorsport on and off the track now, plus highlighting to the next generation that motorsport is an option for them.'

'I dared to be different, I want to inspire others to do the same.'

Heavy defeat for Green Machine in Maybole

Carrick	51
Oban Lorne	5
BT West Division 1	

OBAN LORNE travelled to Maybole in Ayrshire on Saturday to take on second placed Carrick RFC. The Green Machine have never lost to Carrick and have had some fantastic games with the Ayrshire men over the last few years with Carrick failing to score a try against Oban in the last three meetings.

A threadbare Oban squad of 17 players travelled for the match with the squad missing some key players due to work commitments and injury. Finlay Carmichael returned at stand off while Vasil Borisov made his first start on the wing.

Carrick went ahead early on scoring from a catch and drive at the lineout to lead 7-0 in some very poor weather conditions.

Oban were struggling to cope with the quick game plan from the hosts and found themselves 12-0 down conceding another try. Carrick extended their lead with two penalties before scoring their third try of the day shortly before halftime for a 23-0 lead.

Carrick secured the bonus point shortly after halftime to lead convincingly 30-0.

Oban improved into the latter stages of the game but conceded three further tries, the result of some poor individual errors. The Green Machine did hit back with a consolation try from Robin MacQueen late on but fell to a

very disappointing 51-5 defeat. This is Oban Lorne's heaviest defeat in over four years of league rugby. The result means they sit in fifth place in the table with three wins out of five matches.

The team will be hoping to get back to winning ways on Saturday with the visit of Garnock RFC to Glencruitten. Garnock sit seventh in the table and will provide a tough test for the home side. Kick off is 2pm.

Cowal	33
Argyll and Bute	16
BT West Division 4	

ARGYLL and Bute RFC put in a spirited display against Argyll rivals Cowal RFC in Dunoon last Saturday despite a 33-16 loss.

Argyll managed to field an 18-man squad despite missing almost all of last week's backline that played against Police Scotland.

Niall MacFarlane played his first game at stand off while several other players were forced to play out of position.

Cowal made a good start to the game and went 7-0 with an early try. Argyll hit back with two Niall MacFarlane penalties to narrow the gap to 7-6.

Argyll were dealt a blow after 20 minutes when a Cowal prop left the field with a 'mystery' injury. With the hosts having no available front row replacements, the teams were forced to play uncontested scrums for the remainder of the game, much to the

frustration of the Argyll pack.

The hosts extended their lead before halftime with a penalty kick and a second try from some poor Argyll tackling. Second row Ross Anderson was sinbinned shortly before halftime for a late tackle.

Just as the game was looking to go out of Argyll's sight, the team hit back with a fantastic try scored in the corner by Mid Argyll's Mark Charlton. Cowal led 15-11 at halftime.

Argyll were happy with their first half display despite letting the hosts in for two soft tries.

The confidence in the Argyll team was short-lived as Cowal scored straight into the second half, again due to some poor tackling, to lead 22-11.

Argyll managed to get themselves back into the game with a fantastic score from a driving maul by Vladi Mihov, 22-16.

The Argyll team were now looking the stronger side but were undone with some poor discipline throughout the rest of the second half. First when Argyll were looking likely to score another try, back row Rory Tait was carded for stamping on a Cowal player in the rolling maul.

Several penalties conceded at the breakdown from Argyll resulted in the hosts dominating the remainder of the game by scoring another try and two further penalties. Argyll's try scorer Vladi Mihov was the third player to be sinbinned late on due to a high tackle.

Despite an improved performance, Argyll eventually went down 33-16.

Next week Argyll and Bute host Shawlands RFC at Glencruitten. Kick off 2pm.

Lorne Ladies	0
Stewartry	57
BT National League Div 1	

AFTER a lot of rain and a few venue changes, Oban Lorne Ladies took on Stewartry at home with a squad of 14 players - one more than the travelling team! Player matching ensued and the game kicked off at 13 apiece.

Sitting third in the table, one place below the Green Army, Stewartry have had mixed form this season and are 5-5 to Oban's 8-2 record.

The first score of the game came in eight minutes. The Stewartry number nine, with a steady boot, converted the try making the score 0-7.

Oban kicked off again and put immediate pressure on the away team keeping them in their own half. Some excellent tackles from the Oban centres resulted in a knock-on and Oban scrum. Stewartry were then penalised for wheeling the scrum and Oban made best use of the penalty with a crash ball to Alana MacKenzie who made good gains towards the Stewartry 22.

Yet another exchange of knock-ons resulted in five more scrums and another Stewartry attack put Oban under pressure with the

ball grounded under the posts for the second Stewartry try which was again converted (0-14 at 22 minutes).

Another good phase by Oban saw great tackles and hand offs. Audrey Barr gathered the ball and off loaded to Laura MacCormack who then made a driving run in to the Stewartry half.

Knock-ons were definitely the theme of the game with many more scrums in to the second half. This was the case for both teams, with Stewartry capitalising right on half time to make the score 0-19 after they missed the conversion.

The Oban Ladies were solid in the line out and Veronica Speirs collected the ball no problem and a good series of passes saw the ball to Kerry Colthart, who kicked to relieve pressure on the defence.

Stewartry pressed on the wing as a result and a great tackle from Audrey Barr halted play for a line out. After a good phase of play and an away team offside, the Oban penalty didn't quite find touch and a Stewartry breakaway resulted in another try two minutes into the second half which was again converted by their (0-26).

Stewartry backed up their score on four minutes with another good run from their forwards and a few missed tackles from the Oban Ladies (0-33).

More handling errors followed from the Oban Ladies resulting in a further try eight minutes

into the second half. A good effort again from the Stewartry number nine saw the ball just wide for the conversion to make the score 0-38. Again Stewartry had a quick answer to their last score and put another one straight under the posts just two minutes later with a converted try to make it 0-45.

The Stewartry ladies were on a roll and fired over another score two minutes later with a conversion to make the score 0-52.

The wet conditions were taking their toll on the Oban Ladies who lacked their usual spark. With just 15 minutes played in the second half, Stewartry had scored again for a 0-57 lead.

Oban rallied and enjoyed a great phase of play after some ping pong rugby, spearheaded by a driving run from Camilla Leslie.

A good run from Kirsty Smith made space to re-set with the ball moved out wide to Colthart.

Unfortunately, simultaneous injuries in the Oban team saw the game called early, with a final score of 0-57 with Stewartry on top. Overall a valiant effort from all of the Oban Ladies in terrible conditions up against a fit Stewartry side. The Green Army will now re-group for their match next Sunday (November 15) away to Ayr.

The ladies train every Wednesday at 6pm at Oban Rugby Club, with no previous experience necessary and beginners extremely welcome.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's fixtures:
Premier Division - Oban Saints 2, Campbeltown Pupils 0;
Premier Division One - Kings Park Rangers v Lochgilhead Red Star, postponed;
Premier Division Two - Bridgewater 7, Tarbert 2; Division One - Dunoon Athletic 4, FC Argyll 2; Centenary Cup - Dunoon v Ferguslie Star, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures:
West of Scotland Cup, third round - Campbeltown Pupils v Auchinnairn Star; Dunoon v Haldane; Maryhill Thistle v Tarbert; Oban Saints v Springhill; Premier Division One - Lochgilhead Red Star v Busby; Division One - Rossvale v Dunoon Athletic.

Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's fixtures:
Grahamston 0, Under 13s 19. Scoring for Saints were James Beaton (4), Neil Russell (4), Lee Harris (3), Garry McIvor (2), Euan Morgan (2), Connor Moore (2), Lennon MacKechnie and Struan MacDonald. Stirling Albion JC 0, Under 14s 7. Saints goalscorers were Aaron McKay (4), Aidan MacPhee, Euan Finlay and Cameron Clark. Under 15s v Whitecraigs, postponed; Under 16s 2, Mossend 1. On target for Saints were Lewis MacPhee and Stewart McAllister; Milngavie v Under 19s, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures:
Under 13s no game; Westerton v Under 14s; Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game; Under 19s v Westerton.

Donnie in Scotland squad for game against Airdrie

Football



Donnie Campbell

OBAN Saints captain Donnie Campbell was picked for the Scottish Amateur Select squad who played Airdrieonians in a challenge match at the Excelsior Stadium, Airdrie on Wednesday night.

Donnie has been asked to train with the Scotland squad this season, his last session being held in Motherwell on Sunday.

Scotland boss Bruce McNaught has been impressed by the Saints midfielder and had no hesitation in calling him into the squad for the game against Airdrie.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds strong westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 9°C to 12°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 12, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.52 4.0 12.03 1.1	18.00 4.0 ** **
Fri	00.27 1.1 06.22 4.0	12.37 1.1 18.29 4.0
Sat	00.58 1.1 06.52 3.9	13.10 1.2 18.59 3.9
Sun	01.28 1.2 07.24 3.9	13.45 1.3 19.32 3.7
Mon	02.01 1.3 08.01 3.7	14.24 1.4 20.10 3.5
Tues	02.40 1.4 08.44 3.6	15.14 1.6 20.56 3.3
Wed	03.31 1.5 09.39 3.4	16.18 1.7 21.54 3.1

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

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Pupils shine bright thanks to quarry's vest donation



Fort William remembers

Town pays tribute to fallen soldiers - full story on page 24



Phil's buzzing as he prepares for Children in Need hair-raiser

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

IT WILL be hair today and gone tomorrow for a Lochaber Leisure Centre employee as he prepares to cut off a massive 25 inches of curls this weekend. Supervisor Phil Hughes agreed to go for the chop as part of a Children In Need fundraising family fun night organised by gym staff, and has already raised £950 so far. The 48-year-old from Fort William, who has not had a hair cut for more than 20 years, said he isn't nervous about the chop tomorrow night (Friday) and joked that it was to get out of paying for a hair cut. He said: 'Other staff asked me to do it as part of the fundraising and I thought it was a good idea but I didn't expect the level of support and interest it has attracted. It's only hair, it's painless and it's for a good cause. I don't fancy a shaved head though, I'll stick to a short back and sides. That's what I had all those years ago before I started growing my hair.'



FOR THE CHOP: Phil Hughes, centre, is preparing to have 25 inches of hair cut off for Children In Need. He is pictured with highest donator Grant Wallace and Lochaber Leisure Centre manager Gary Davidson. 21_146phil101

came from Grant Wallace, on behalf of Kando Construction, who offered up £50 for the cause. As well as the hair cut, there will be a children's disco,

bucking bronco, bouncy castle, homebaking and taster exercise classes on offer, all kicking off from 6pm in Lochaber High School's sport department. Children are invited to dress

up in their pyjamas or as their favourite superhero for the disco. Another leisure centre supervisor, Stevie Martin, has also agreed to have his back

“ I didn't expect this interest ”

Phil Hughes
Lochaber Leisure Centre

waxed in a bid to boost the fund, while his friend, Mikey MacKinnon, will be having his head and beard shaved.

Leisure centre manager Gary Davidson said: 'It will all be good fun. We're trying to get some more of the male staff to get their legs waxed and anyone who wants to take part will be helping us, it's all for a good cause.'

Once barber John Wilson has worked his magic on Phil, the 25 inches of hair will be donated to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair through illness.

Leisure centre staff are appealing to the people of Lochaber to help with the



SHORT-HAIRED: Phil, more than 20 years ago. 146phil2no

fundraising and have asked for donations of homebaking and raffle prizes, as well as people to take part in sponsored events. Anyone who can help is asked to contact the centre's reception or hand in donations. Anyone who would like to donate to Phil's haircut can do so via www.justgiving.com/lochaberleisurecentre or via a sponsor form which is available at the leisure centre.

TIMESLINE

Three year ban for drink driver

A DRUNK driver who crashed into a car carrying two young children has been banned for three years.

Mary MacDonald of Fort William was six and a half times over the drink drive limit when she collided with a car stopped at traffic lights in Spean Bridge on the afternoon of July 27.

At Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, the 42-year-old, who gave her address as care of a guest house in the town, was sentenced to 180 hours of unpaid work in the community as well as the three-year driving ban.

MacDonald pleaded guilty to driving with 145 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath and driving without due care and attention at a previous hearing.

Sheriff David Young heard nobody was seriously hurt in the incident, which occurred after MacDonald attempted to drive home from her friend's house after an afternoon of drinking.

Police probe town centre path attack

POLICE are appealing for information after a couple were reportedly attacked in the town.

The man and woman were walking on the path behind Lochaber Leisure Centre, leading to Alma Road, at 10.45pm last Monday (November 2) when they were assaulted, say police. The man required hospital treatment for a hand injury.

A description of the attacker is not available but police have asked anyone who saw or heard anything suspicious in the area to contact them on 0800 555111.



Driver was four times over the limit

A MAN who drank a bottle of whisky in his car then slept overnight in it has been banned for driving for a year.

William Doherty, of Achnasaul, Achnacarry, was driving to the house he is staying in while working in the area when he realised the single-track road leading there had been closed for the night.

When he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday, the 49-year-old admitted driving with 82 microgrammes of alcohol

in 100 millilitres of breath on August 15, almost four times the legal limit of 22 microgrammes in the same amount of breath.

Fiscal deputy Ross Carvel said police discovered the joiner shortly before 6am 'in a deep sleep and smelling strongly of alcohol'.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said Doherty had received news of a friend passing away which led him to drink. Sheriff David Young banned Doherty for 12 months and fined him £300.

Teenager spared jail after threats

A TEENAGER who threatened to slit the throats of police officers and their families has learned his lesson after eight weeks in prison, Fort William Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday.

Dejan Watson, of Inverlochty Court in Fort William, went on a 'bizarre' drunken rampage through the town's High Street, swinging his belt, shouting at members of the public and flailing his arms around just one day after being put on a supervision order for another offence.

When arrested after the incident on September 15 the 19-year-old began calling police offensive names and threatening to kill them and their relatives.

Fiscal deputy Ross Carvel said the abuse included, 'If I find you or any of your family I will slit your throats' and 'You are a waste of space. One chance to get to kill any of your family and I'm taking it'.

Watson was remanded in custody as the incident broke his supervision order and admitted the charge last month,

but sentencing was deferred until Tuesday for background reports.

Defending solicitor Clare Russell said Watson had been drinking in High Street pubs with friends before the incident. She added: 'It appears to be when he drinks that he gets into trouble.'

'He accepts these are horrendous threats to make to police. He has been in custody for almost eight weeks now and this has shown him that he needs to change his behaviour.'

Sheriff David Young sentenced Watson to a 12-month supervision order and 235 hours of unpaid work in the community.

He said: 'This would have been distressing for the public and the way you were swinging your belt must have been very alarming.'

'The threats of violence to police and their families I find particularly terrible.'

'I'm going to give you an opportunity to show you don't want to go back into custody in the future.'

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Charity match kicks off for Liam

A FUNDRAISING football game is to be held in memory of a young man from Mallaig who died earlier this year.

The match is in honour of 18-year-old Liam Brown who was killed when his car went off the road on the A830 near Arisaig on Saturday June 27.

His mum, Claire Whitton, has organised the event to raise money for road safety charity Brake. It will kick off just two days before the first anniversary of the apprentice bricklayer's death.

Claire said: 'I wanted to do something in Liam's memory and Brake gave my family



TAKEN TOO YOUNG: Liam Brown.

and I a lot of support, so I thought a fundraiser would be the best bet. Liam was the most amazing young man. He made us proud every day. He was taken at just 18, heart-breakingly too young and it has changed our lives forever. If this money can go towards helping families like us and hopefully make sure less and less folk have to go through this hell, then every single penny is worth it.'

The fundraiser has received 'overwhelming' support already, with more than 500 people liking the Facebook page and smashing the £400

fundraising target in less than a week.

Claire added: 'It really has been overwhelming. We've had loads of people wanting to play or donate, and local businesses have donated something for our raffle.'

Liam's charity match will be held at Mallaig football pitch on June 25, followed by a disco in Mallaig hall, run by one Liam's friend, Jayne Eddie.

To donate go to www.justgiving.com/Broony1997. Anyone wishing to donate a raffle prize should contact Claire via the Facebook page - Broony's Charity Match.



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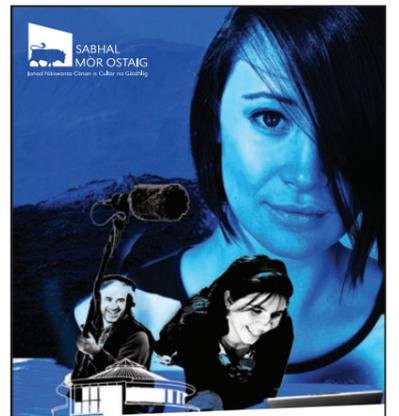
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Pupils shine bright thanks to quarry's vest donation

CHILDREN from south Lochaber will be easily spotted this winter thanks to a generous donation of high visibility vests. Pupils from St Brides and Ballachulish primary schools received the bright gear from Glensanda Quarry, Morvern.



EASILY SPOTTED: Duncan MacInnes, back left, and Donald MacInnes, who both have children at Ballachulish, donated the vests on behalf of employers Glensanda Quarry.



SAFETY FIRST: David Lamb of Glensanda Quarry hands over high visibility vests to St Brides primary sevens Kai Malcolm and Grave Livingston as fellow pupils and head teacher Susan Kemp look on. 21_46stbrides01

TIMESLINE

Woman assaulted in drunken fight

A FORT William man slapped a 56-year-old woman twice in a drunken argument.

Igors Volonovs, of Polmona, Claggan, admitted striking the woman on the head on August 29 this year, when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

Defence solicitor Hamish Melrose said the 29-year-old Latvian had acted under provocation after the woman insulted his partner.

Sheriff David Young accepted Volonovs had been provoked and gave him a reduced fine of £180, saying: 'However you look at it this was an assault of a 56-year-old woman. I know there had been an argument but this doesn't justify what you did.'

Police probe thefts and vandalism

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about acts of theft and vandalism in the area.

Some time between 10pm on November 6 and 8am the following day, paint was poured over a car parked in Kilmallie Road, Caol.

On November 1, damage was caused to a wooden bench near Pine Grove path in Plantation, Fort William.

Some time between October 31 and November 2, two mountain bikes were stolen from a layby on the A830 at Polish.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101, Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

New gritters hit Highland roads

FOUR new road gritters have arrived in the Highlands ahead of the first winter freeze.

The vehicles arrived at Highland Council last week with another 21 due to be delivered over the next six weeks.

Green light for old school plans

STEVEN RAE
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PLANNING permission to develop a former Fort William school campus, described as an 'eyesore' by elected members, has been granted by Highland Council.

The decision to renovate the former Fort William Secondary School, on Achintore Road, was made by councillors at the South Planning Applications Committee meeting in Inverness on Tuesday, with the decision passed by 15 votes to two.

The development will be partly funded by a grant of £270,000 from Historic Environment Scotland (formerly known as Historic Scotland).

The plans are to demolish the existing dining hall building at

the front of the site and the two primary school buildings at the rear. Part of the stone wall is to be removed along the front to build a new central access point, and there are changes within the former secondary school to rearrange the internal layout.

The existing former secondary school, a Category B listed building, is to be repaired and re-roofed. It is proposed to erect a two-storey extension onto the side and rear of the former secondary school.

Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor Andrew Baxter, of the Highland Alliance, proposed a motion that permission be refused, mainly based on the size and scale of the development and how it would look compared to adjacent buildings. He was

seconded by fellow Highland Alliance councillor, Donnie Kerr.

Fort William Community Council had raised objections over the proposals on a number of issues, including the impact on privacy to the adjacent Lime Tree hotel.

It was also felt the design of the extension would 'diminish the significance and aesthetic appearance of the listed building'.

Jimmy Gray, chairman of the South Planning Applications Committee, said at the meeting: 'What we have here is a planning application. It might not be what we would all have liked to have but it is what is in front of us. The site has long needed development. It hasn't been used in 40 years.'

While he noted that the

planned construction may be seen as 'contemporary' and create a mix of old and new styles of architecture, he added: 'on balance, we should be saying 'yes!'

Councillor Baxter thanked planning officer Susan MacMillan for her 'fair and balanced' report on the application, noting there had been a lot of interest in the renovation from people in Fort William.

He said: 'Like all other Lochaber councillors, I supported in principal the site being reconstructed, as it is seen as an eyesore as an entrance to the town. Fort William Community Council also supported it at the time.'

However, he said he felt the plans should be reconsidered, claiming that reassurance had not been made that the aes-

thetics and scale of the development would be fitting with the context of the surrounding site.

Supporting him, fellow Highland Alliance councillor Donnie Kerr, who is based in Inverness Central, said: 'It is always good to see a derelict building come into productive use. However, I feel we could have done better and can see where Fort William Community Council's objection has come from, so I've decided to second Andrew's [Baxter] motion. He has the local knowledge.'

Thomas MacLennan, chairman of the Lochaber Area Committee, disagreed with his fellow Highland Alliance members. 'For 40 years, the building has been an eyesore at the gateway to Fort William,'

Car parking income is falling short

INCREASING car parking charges may not be helping to balance Highland Council's books, according to a Lochaber councillor.

At the local authority's community services committee meeting last Thursday, (November 5), Andrew Baxter, member for Fort William and Ardnarmurchan, raised concerns that the projected earnings from increasing car parking charges has been lower than expected every year since financial year 2010/11.

He said: 'We didn't manage to reach the income we had budgeted for this year. In fact,



CONCERNS: Andrew Baxter.

we haven't been able to reach the income in car parking we had budgeted for since financial year 2010/11 and yet every year since then we have increased fees.

'In view of the fact we are considering putting up car parking charges again, I would say is this really sensible? It may be an easy option but that is smoke and mirrors if we haven't actually been able to achieve it since 2010. I'm concerned if we continue like that it will begin to have a detrimental effect on our communities without actually any benefit to the council's budget.'

Councillor Baxter also called for a review of the car park charging policy as part of Highland Council's budget reviews.

The local authority is expected to have a shortfall of £250,000 on estimated income for car park charges this financial year.

William Gilfillan, director of community services, said the funding gap is a result of previous 'pressures' being carried into this year's budget.

He added: 'The team worked out what we could charge and put those into the budget and we're confident those figures will materialise.'

Town team lands grant

FORT William Town Team is delighted to announce that its application to the Big Lottery Awards For All fund has been successful.

The application for nearly £3,000 is to fund street performers from Edinburgh-based Circus Alba to take part in this year's High Street Christmas Gathering, which will take place on Friday November 27, between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

The funding includes the hire of the Duncansburgh Halls as a venue to run circus skills workshops and some radio advertising.

Town Team treasurer, Jackie Clifford, said: 'We are thrilled that we have been successful in obtaining this funding, which has enabled us to bring such exciting circus performers to entertain the Fort William community at our High Street Gathering.'

The performers, who include several winter-themed stilt walkers, a magician, a contact juggler and a glow juggler, will be entertaining the public in the High Street between 6pm and 8pm on November 27.

As part of the funding package, Circus Alba will be running a free workshop for young people, from 9am to 10.30am the following day in the Duncansburgh Halls.

Youngsters taking part in this workshop will have the opportunity to exhibit their newly acquired skills by joining the Rotary parade in the High Street at 11.00am the same day. To book a place on the workshop, email Karen Dean on: stay@lochview.co.uk.

Improve road, don't cut speed limit

A GROUP campaigning for the upgrading of a trunk road section of a Highland road is challenging the Scottish government to commit to improving it, rather than reduce the speed limit.

The A82 partnership, which describes itself as an umbrella organisation supporting the upgrading of the road, has voiced concerns over the reduction of the speed limit to 50mph between Onich and Fort William. In its response, Transport Scotland admits that, at present, there is no timetable and resources have not been identified

for upgrading this length of road. Transport Scotland claims that £66 million has been spent on the A82 over the last eight years, equating to £0.4 million per mile. However, Fort William and Ardnarmurchan councillor, Brian Murphy, said: 'Commitments have been made by the Scottish Government to dualling the A9 at a cost of £3 billion, or £21.4 million per mile, a New Forth Bridge at £1.4 billion, Edinburgh Trams at £1 billion, together with numerous Central Belt infrastructure improvement projects and a £5 billion investment in

the rail network. To me, £66 million spent on the A82 over the last eight years does not appear to be a material investment in this economic lifeline.'

This is the third section of the A82 to be downgraded to 50mph, with Tarbet to Inverarnan and Glenloy to Letterfinlay also proposed to have speed limits reduced to lower than the national standard.

The A82 Partnership is presently lobbying all major Scottish political parties to include specific A82 upgrade works in their manifestos for the 2016 Holyrood elections.

Cash boost for Fort marina group

A GROUP campaigning for cruise ship pontoons to be installed in Fort William has had a huge boost after an application for funding has been recommended.

The Fort William Marina and Shoreline Association (FWMSA) received confirmation on Tuesday that a grant for £163,042 had been recommended by the Town Centre Communities Capital Fund. The money could see a landing stage built at the north end of the West End car park by March next year.

Sarah Kennedy, secretary of FWMSA said: 'I am

delighted to announce that we have received confirmation that we have had our application for funding recommended for the pontoons at the West End car park in Fort William. It's really exciting news for the town.'

Aspokesman for the funding body said the FWMSA would receive correspondence confirming its panel's recommendation, which would provide an offer of a grant and guidance on how to respond.

A formal announcement of the successful projects and details will be made

public once all offers have been confirmed.

Norrie MacLean, a member of the association, said: 'Everyone can see that this is what the town is missing. It's definitely going to happen, it's just a matter of time and funding. If we don't get this funding we'll find another way.'

Lochaber area leader, councillor Thomas MacLennan, said: 'This is fantastic news for the west end of Fort William and the whole area of Lochaber. To get more cruise and liner traffic in the town will be great for the whole area.'

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Deprived children not making it to university

NOT ONE single child from a deprived background in Argyll and Bute got the necessary grades to go to university, a national statistics document has revealed.

Figures gathered by the Conservative Party this week show that children from the area's poorest families did not achieve the three A-grades required for automatic acceptance at university in 2014.

The region was one of four councils in Scotland to record the poor level of academic achievement for those from deprived backgrounds.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'It is important to look at attainment in full.'

'The table [of grades] shows only a single measure of one qualification and one year group. Picking out one measure is misleading.'

'Argyll and Bute has a relatively low number of young people who sat Highers in 2014 and who came from the lowest two Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) indicators.'

'With such small numbers, the percentage is not statistically valid. Looking at the full picture, Argyll and Bute compares favourably in comparison with a range of other authorities and also has a wide range of alternative qualifications that help our young people secure a positive destination.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is committed to ensuring that all children have the same opportunities and the best possible chances in life.'

Records show that of the young people who left school in 2013/2014, 40 per cent went on to higher education - the highest percentage recorded in Argyll and Bute.

A further 172 chose to continue studies at further education colleges, and 255 went into employment.

The overall percentage of school leavers in Argyll and Bute entering a positive destination for 2013/14 was 91 per cent.

Proposals to save healthcare will see total service revamp

Rural community hubs being considered in radical plans to overhaul NHS

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

RADICAL plans by the Scottish Government could see healthcare on the West Coast and islands completely transformed over the next 15 years, says health minister Shona Robison.

But critics from Argyll say it will still mean patients have little access to lifesaving medicines when they are needed most, not least because of lack of staff and poor broadband services.

Plans are being considered for rural healthcare hubs, which would see rural health care hubs based around GP surgeries.

While a team of experts would be involved in the care of patients, they may not attend

I want to transform our approach.

Shona Robison
Health Minister

in person but virtually, down a secure internet connection.

Multi-disciplinary teams would be based in local community hubs, with regional or national centres of expertise for some acute services.

This Ms Robison argues would address concerns such as poor patterns of health and health inequalities, a rapidly ageing population, high levels of preventable diseases and tight finances.

In answer to sustained questioning by medical professionals and healthcare advocates, Ms Robison told a packed hall at Atlantis Leisure Centre earlier in the autumn that primary care services were stretched and 'communities rightly have higher expectations'.

She continued: 'So I want to transform our approach to ensure that people see the right professionals more quickly.'

Ms Robison wants to 'support communities to innovate so that services are available where

people need them', adding that rural hospitals in places such as Oban and Mull were likely to continue to have recruitment concerns.

At present there are vacancies filled by locums in more than 10 locations. Fees for specialist consultants are upwards of £100 per hour, with nurses from Ireland making up staffing shortfalls on some wards.

Speaking after the recent cabinet meeting in Oban, Ms Robison said: 'The NHS of the future must be very different from the past. Maintaining the status quo in health and social care is not an option. And we need to start discussing and planning for change now.'

'I want to seek consensus on how to make more progress in

improving the health of the population, and on how our NHS and social care systems should change by 2030 to continue supporting everyone to live well.'

'I'm seeking views on new models of care, including those which might be delivered by multi-disciplinary teams in local community hubs, with regional or national centres of expertise for some acute services, focused on high-quality care and improved health outcomes.'

'We must maximise the contribution of all healthcare professions - not just doctors and nurses, but allied health professionals, pharmacists, healthcare scientists, social workers and healthcare support workers too - working to the top of their professional capability.'

TIMESLINE

Oban council to discuss cuts

TWO public meetings organised by Argyll and Bute Parents Against Cuts and Oban Community Council will discuss the proposals to cut more than 140 council services.

The first meeting, to be held in the Corran Halls at 7pm on Wednesday November 18, will deal with cuts to classroom assistants. Another meeting focusing on all proposed cuts will be held at the church hall, Glencruitten Road at 7pm on Friday November 20.

Community councillor Kieron Green said: 'While it is Oban Community Council that has organised these meetings, we have decided to extend the invitation to members of the public across the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area in case some community councils have not had the opportunity to arrange similar meetings of their own.'

'At the two meetings the public will have the opportunity to put forward their views about the proposals, and we will then use these to help formulate our response to the public consultation about service choices which is currently under way.'

'We would strongly encourage everyone, whether or not they are planning on attending the meetings to inform themselves of the proposals and respond to the consultation.'

Winter warning for motorists

POLICE are warning motorists to drive to the road conditions this winter in a bid to reduce the high number of vehicles coming off the road.

Sergeant Alan Moore of Oban Police Station said: 'Drivers are reminded to reduce their speed or wait until a storm has passed.'

'It is better to get to a destination safe and sound than be stuck in a ditch or worse.'

Caring Pauline is named Nurse of the Year

THE NURSE of the year 2015 belongs to Oban: but that won't surprise to anyone who has come into contact with Pauline Jespersen during her 37 years of service.

Modest as ever, Pauline says the award is not for her, but for the team of people she has worked with during her 26 years at Lorn Medical Centre in Oban.

Speaking at the Scottish Health Awards in Edinburgh, she said: 'Winning the award has been a great privilege and people have been so kind.' She told the audience that her job was one of the most interesting, based in the most amazing town and working with wonderful people.

Mrs Jespersen is a practice nurse partner (one of only a few nurses in this position in Scotland) and integrated team leader who has supported and trained numerous community nurses and practice staff.

Her award recognises her work to redesign services for patients. She was also recognised for running a high-performing medical practice.



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Please take the time to have your say and get involved in planning our future together.

Dunbeg man admits sexual assault

A MAN who pestered a teenage girl has been placed on the Sex Offenders' Register.

Thomas John Barr, 55, of Meadow Road, Dunbeg, admitted part way through a trial at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday that on September 19 he sexually assaulted the girl by touching her on her bottom and attempting to kiss her.

Giving evidence, the girl had said Barr would hug her and make comments about her appearance – and that on these occasions he was often drunk.

She said: 'I was scared that if I told him not to hug me he might turn on me.'

'He smelled of drink, ciggies and BO,' she said, 'his speech was slurred and he staggered.'

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence until December 23 for criminal justice and social work reports to be prepared on Barr and made an interim order placing him on the Sex Offenders' Register.

Dog in car led to fatality

AN UNRESTRAINED dog in a car contributed to a fatal road collision, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Tuesday.

Gwyneth Neal, 68, of 55 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention by failing to secure a dog within her vehicle.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that the dog jumped onto the dashboard of Neal's car whilst she was driving. While she attempted to move the dog, Neal caused her car to swerve into the path of a car coming in the opposite direction.

The crash on May 30 last year on the A85 near Dunbeg left the other woman severely injured and she later died.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence until December 8 for a social work report to be prepared.

Santa Claus is coming to town

FATHER Christmas and his reindeer enjoyed their visit to Oban so much last year they have decided to return for the town's Winter Festival.

While Santa is here on November 21, community business company BID4Oban is planning a Christmas Lights switch-on in Station Square.

Oban Pipe Band will lead the march through the town from the Corran Halls from 5pm.

Winners of a primary school Christmas Card Competition organised by the Rotary Club of Oban will accompany Santa in the procession and assist in switching on the lights.

Cast members from Puss in Boots, this year's town pantomime from Spotlight Musical Theatre Group, will be taking part in the parade. The panto runs from December 2-5.

BID4Oban is sponsoring and organising the event aided by the Rotary Club of Oban and Oban and Lorn Lions Club.

Other attractions in Station Square on Saturday include a Victorian market and fairground rides.

Oban musicians unite to raise cash for refugees

A NUMBER of Oban's talented musicians are joining forces this month to raise money for the Scottish Refugee Council.

Oban Winter Warmup will see eight different acts, spanning a variety of genres, perform live at the Argyllshire Gathering Hall on Saturday November 21.

All money raised from the event will go to support the Scottish Refugee Council's work with asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland.

The idea for the Winter Warmup was sparked by the harrowing images of drowned children being washed up on the beaches of Turkey and Greece earlier this year, having fled conflict and crisis in their home countries.

Two local musicians, Jack MacGregor of Antics and Duncan Monteith-Hodge of Citizen9, decided to take action.

Bring Billy home, Mr Cameron

LOUISE GLEN
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A HEARTFELT plea by a young mum to get her partner home for Christmas has received messages of support from more than 150,000 people across the globe.

Connel man Billy Irving, 34, has been in India since October 2013 after he and fellow MV Seaman Guard Ohio crew members were accused of carrying illegal weapons when they entered Indian waters as part of anti-piracy operations and arrested. All charges against him and his colleagues were later dropped and court dates promised to resolve the situation.

But two years on, the men are still stranded in India.

Now Billy's partner Yvonne Machugh has appealed to Prime Minister David Cameron to discuss the case with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he meets him this week for high level talks.

Ms Machugh, the mother of Billy's child, said: 'It breaks my heart to say that more than two years later those six men remain in India and the British Government still have not helped them.'

'These men are our brothers, sons and partners. They have risked their lives serving our country in the British Army, and now need the British Government's help to be returned home to their family and friends in order to be able to live again.'

'The men spent six months in an Indian prison and faced horrific conditions – poor sanitation, under nourishment and illness. They were cut off from family and had no contact with them. Then in April 2014 they were finally released on bail.'

Yvonne continued: 'I was there to meet Billy outside Puzhal Prison gates on the day he and the other men were released. It was a huge relief for all the men and their families to finally be out of prison, but they still had a



Billy Irving has only met his son once, now his partner Yvonne Machugh is fighting to bring him home in time for Christmas.

long way to go.

'Bail conditions meant the men had to attend the police station twice a day to show they were present. They were unable to leave India. They were receiving no wages from their employer and without a visa they were unable to work.'

'So you can imagine the elation when all charges were dropped in July 2014. Everyone celebrated and we all looked forward to the home coming. I returned home to Scotland to discover I was expecting our first child, and for once it seemed like everything would be OK. This wasn't the case. On August 26 an appeal against the quashing of charges was filed.'

'The men had asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the British government for help to get the relevant documents and their belongings back from the Indian police and to return home.'

But help was not forthcoming.

On April 28, eight months after the appeal had been submitted the supreme court finally heard the case. On the July 1 this year, the Supreme Court ruled that the case had to be sent back to the original court where the trial took place – to be heard in full.

Now Yvonne is hoping David Cameron will step in to help.

She said: 'The Indian Prime Minister Mr Modi will be in the UK tomorrow [November 13]. The families have pleaded with David Cameron to raise this case with him. Downing Street has replied, 'it is on the agenda but we cannot guarantee it will be raised.'

A spokesperson for Mr Cameron confirmed the matter was on the agenda, but would not confirm whether it would be discussed.

A funding page to help with the men's accommodation, legal fees and survival in India can be found at <http://gogetfunding.com/bring-our-lads-home/>

Firemen's island visit



IONA Primary School children had a visit from Scottish Fire and Rescue fire safety officers ahead of Bonfire Night. Every-

one had lots of fun at the event, but there was also a serious message about the children keeping themselves, and others, safe.

ADVERTISEMENT

Local homeowners have their say

Barcaldine based company, Renewables Now, took to the streets of Oban and Fort William in October to ask local homeowners how they currently heat their homes and which heating technology they would choose in the future. The survey provided an insight into how the public feel about renewable heating and delivered some surprising results.

With the future of renewable energy often dominating the headlines, not to mention the fast approach of the Scottish Government's 2020 bid to reduce carbon emissions, it's no wonder that 91% of people surveyed in Oban were aware of renewable heating and renewable energy. The survey revealed that over a third of the homeowners living in Oban and almost half of those in Fort William who currently have electric heating were unhappy and expressed a strong desire to change to a 'less expensive' method of heating. Of these, 39% were considering a switch to a renewable form of heating, however, over half of the homeowners were unsure of how to source further information when considering a renewable heating installation.

Of the homeowners who had a clear idea of how to select a supplier, the majority declared the need to find a well-established local company capable of providing advice for a range of options and a company who could deliver a bespoke service before, during and after installation.

Renewables Now are one of Scotland's longest established renewable energy advisors and have helped homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes for a number of years. Whether it be introducing smart heating zones throughout the home, installing a smart energy monitor or by replacing a fossil fuel heating system with a more efficient renewable one, there is always a more sustainable, affordable and controllable solution for everyone. Call the Renewables Now team on 01631720587 to find out more or arrange to view one of their many renewable heating installations near you.



The Macmillan support service will offer advice to people affected by cancer, their family and friends.

Oban cancer resource centre launched

MACMILLAN Cancer Care launched its resource centre in Oban Library on Tuesday afternoon.

The advice area is for people affected by cancer and their families and friends, and provides many answers to questions that people have about the illness.

The group is currently recruiting volunteers to assist

in providing a weekly drop-in session.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or wants to find out more information, they can contact Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service in Argyll by calling 01586 555932, or emailing macmillan@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

For more information also see next week's Oban Times.



The Ballimore Estate near Tainuil.

Argyll baroness loses court battle

THE OWNER of a Scots estate has lost a legal battle to preserve a small 45-year-old chalet that had been built on her land.

Baroness Miranda Van Lynden wanted judge Lord Philip to rule in her favour during proceedings at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

The landowner is in charge of the Ballimore Estate in Argyll and the house is located within its grounds.

She had taken the chalet's current resident Colin Gilchrist to the court after he indicated that he wanted to pull the property down. Mr Gilchrist claimed he had the legal right to remove it.

Baroness Van Lynden claimed that Mr Gilchrist didn't have the right to do that as she was the actual owner of the chalet. She asked the court for an order to stop Mr Gilchrist from carrying out his plan.

However, Lord Philip ruled in Mr Gilchrist's favour after studying legal documents.

The judge concluded that these documents showed the resident had the right to determine what happened to the chalet.

In a written judgement issued by the court last Thursday, Lord Philip wrote: 'In these circumstances, I shall sustain the pleas in law for the defender and repel the pursuer's pleas in laws in their entirety.'

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TIMESLINE

Police praise for vigilant villager

THE VIGILANCE of those living in south Lochaber has been praised by police after reports of suspicious behaviour in Ballachulish.

During the evening of Wednesday November 4, a local resident reported a vehicle with three occupants acting suspiciously around properties in the village. Officers were able to trace and stop a vehicle.

Following this, a 34-year-old man has been reported to the procurator fiscal and will appear in court at a later date.

This comes after a spate of thefts and break ins around south Lochaber in recent months.

Colin Gough, south Highland area commander, said: 'This is another excellent example of vigilance and swiftly sharing information with police and this has allowed officers to trace the vehicle and potentially prevent further crimes being committed in the Highlands.'

Commander Gough also reminded residents to keep their homes and vehicles secure.

Highlanders heed bonfire advice

THE MOST senior fire officer in the north has praised Highlanders for their care during Guy Fawkes night.

There was just three unauthorised bonfires in the Highlands on November 5, in Inverness, Ainess and Tain, and five 'secondary' fires. There were no incidents in the Western Isles.

Andy Coueslant, head of service delivery, said: 'Although it was a steady night for our operations centres and crews, I am pleased bonfire night passed without serious incident and injury.'

'We urged the public to attend organised events due to the fact they are much safer and on the whole people seem to have taken that advice on board.'

Landlords asked to house refugees

PRIVATE landlords have been asked to come forward to help house Syrian refugees, as Highland Council prepares to take in around 30 families.

The first are due to arrive early next year, as part of the UK government's refugee resettlement programme.

The local authority has made an appeal to private landlords and people who own vacant properties to come forward with offers of housing.

Council leader Margaret Davidson said: 'Ideally we are interested in property that is available for longer-term rentals. We will have to match up available housing with other essential services, so we might not be able to use every property offered, but we would be pleased to hear from you.'

Glencoe ghouls and Caol clowns make it a Hallowe'en to remember

Medical practice on the move after fire

THE MEDICAL practice at Fort Augustus has been temporarily relocated to the village's Telford Centre after a fire ripped through the previous building.

Doctors will work upstairs in the centre until a permanent solution is found, following the blaze on October 25.

This comes after staff spent a week working from the Church of Scotland manse in Fort Augustus.

Dr Jill Skeoch, a GP at the practice, said: 'I'm very grateful to Reverend Tabea Baader for her hospitality and allowing us to use the manse. It was a very generous gesture and allowed us to still care for our patients while we looked for a more permanent solution.'

'I'm delighted that we're able to use upstairs in the Telford Centre and would like to thank everyone involved who has made this possible and for everyone's help since the fire at the practice.'

The temporary surgery has lift access for those unable to use the stairs.

Reverend Baader said she was sad to see her 'angels in disguise' leave: 'The medical centre staff deserve the greatest respect as they have maintained their services in the most unfortunate of circumstances.'

'Although I am glad to have some privacy again, I am sad to see them go and if I had a choice I wouldn't mind them staying on because I feel that I have hosted angels in disguise.'

The practice phone number remains the same (01320 366216) but patients are asked to request repeat prescriptions by calling the pharmacy on 01320 366813.

FROM school fancy dress days to community discos and even a book sale, Lochaber was the place to be this Hallowe'en. Whether it was ghouls in Glencoe or clowns at Caol youngsters from across the region turned out in their costumes for a whole weekend of events.



The Rotary Club of Lochaber raised more than £1,000 for local charities with a book sale on Hallowe'en.



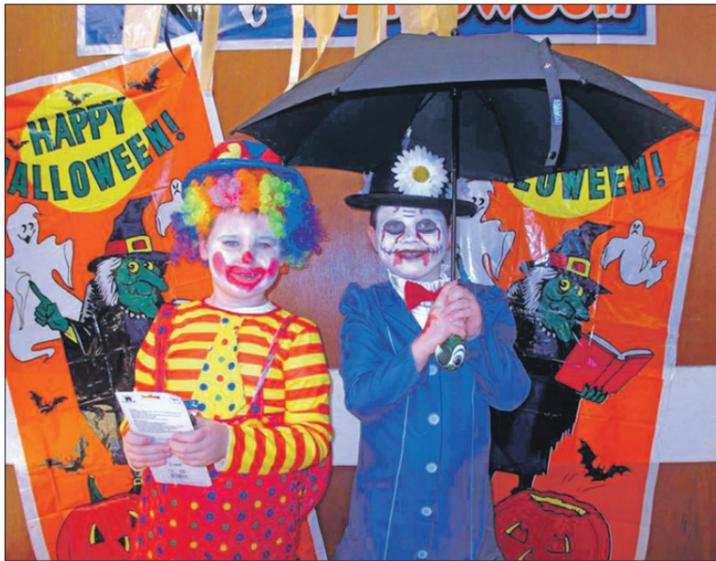
Lochside RC nursery pupils enjoyed their Hallowe'en party.



Winners of Lochside RC Primary School's costume competition.



Ardnamurchan High School pupils raised more than £100 for their Christmas dance by paying £2 each to dress up.



Romeo Simpson and Caira McKelvie, both primary 3, loved dressing up at Caol primary.



North Skye youngsters enjoyed a Hallowe'en disco at Uig village hall. Photograph by Sam Harrild Nicolson.

Disco fun for north Skye youngsters

CHILDREN from Uig and the surrounding areas came together for a Hallowe'en disco at the weekend.

The north Skye youngsters dooked for apples

and pinned eyes on a pumpkin, all in fancy dress, on Saturday.

The event raised £102 to be used for the community's Christmas party.



Fifty children enjoyed the 13th annual Hallowe'en party in Glencoe Village Hall.

Ballachulish powers ahead with hydro plan

WORK to create a hydro electric scheme in Ballachulish continues as the village community company has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme to lease an area of woodland.

Ballachulish Community Company hopes to use Breklet Forest, near the village, to create a power source on the River Laroch to generate income for community projects and good causes.

Anyone who wishes to comment on the plan can do so until November 26 by emailing malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or writing to Malcolm Wield, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Conservancy, 'Woodlands', Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB.

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BRIGHT FUTURE: Lyall Morris, Ben Gregg and Innes Ferguson's model wind turbine earned them a prize from members of the Mitie Foundation, who visited Ardnamurchan High School as part of a course on employment.

Helping school pupils into jobs

PUPILS at Ardnamurchan High School gained their first experience of the world of work thanks to visitors last week.

Members of the Mitie Foundation, which focuses on creating employment opportunities for everyone, taught S2 and S3 students how to realise their potential, raise aspirations and create job opportunities.

The pupils then took part in a team-building challenge, encouraging time management and innovation, to build a working model wind turbine

from recyclable materials.

Ben Gregg, Innes Ferguson and Lyall Morris won the prize for best model, while Anna Jackson, Ella Christian, Niamh MacLellan and Eden Stewart were awarded most enthusiastic group with the most elegant design.

Jacqueline Millar-Craig, organiser and faculty principal, said: 'I am delighted with all pupils' excellent attitude to the project, with some even giving up their break to make sure their model was finished on time.'

Widespread disapproval of bin collection cuts

A SUGGESTION to cut bin collections in the Highlands to once every three weeks has been met by widespread disapproval.

More than 1,200 people took part in the second of a series of Facebook consultations on the Highland Council budget which centred around how the local authority can save money while protecting frontline services.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the community services committee, and

William Gilfillan, director of community services, asked a number of questions and were on hand to answer them too.

Participants were asked: 'Should green bins move to three-weekly collections to save money for other essential services?'

Of the 1,231 people who responded, 1,153 (93.66 per cent) said no to this idea while just 71 (5.77 per cent) said yes and seven (0.57 per cent) weren't sure.

Some people even raised concerns about health and safety if this plan was to go ahead, as well as worrying about the smell of rubbish such as babies' nappies being left for three weeks.

In response to this feedback, participants were then given a list of services and asked what area the council should look to save money. Ninety-five people (56.21 per cent) suggested grass cutting, 42 (24.85 per cent) thought car park charges

should be increased, 13 (7.69 per cent) said public toilets, 12 (7.10 per cent) said play parks and four (2.37 per cent) said recycling. The least popular area to cut was gritting, with just three people (1.78 per cent) supporting this idea.

People were also asked if they would be willing to do more in their community to protect services, such as grass cutting, gritting and path clearing.

Of the 298 respondents, 163 (54.7 per cent) said they

wouldn't, 43 (14.43 per cent) said they would and 92 (30.87 per cent) said they would need more information.

Councillor Henderson said: 'We are currently looking at a wide range of proposals and ideas to save money and increase income, whilst protecting the most essential of services as far as possible.'

'I would like to thank everyone who took part in the chat. It was very useful and very interesting to see the terrific response.'

Fort William Shinty Club hands out the prizes



ANOTHER successful season for all Fort William Shinty Club teams was celebrated with the club's dinner dance on Friday night.

The event at the Moorings Hotel kicked off with award presentations to a number of recipients.

James Tangney and recently retired Gordie MacKinnon were joint winners of the first team player of the year award, whilst the reserve team equivalent went

to Jamie Savage and Seamas Gall was crowned most improved player. Grant Disher scooped the under 17s trophy and Ryan Boyle collected the under 14s prize, to add to his Marine Harvest national player of the year award he won last month.

And, for the first time, awards were given out for players of Fort William ladies' team, which formed less than a year ago. Emma Rodger was picked as the inaugural ladies' players'



TOP: Prizewinners at Fort William Shinty Club's annual dinner dance. 21_146fortshinty01



Joint players of the year James Tangney, left, and recently retired Gordie MacKinnon, who also received a framed Fort shirt. 21_146fortshinty03

player of the year while managers' players of the year went jointly to Sophie Clark and Katherine Ann Gall. Ella Martin was crowned young ladies player of the year and Kayleigh Woods won most improved.

Club chairman Duncan MacPhee outlined the many successes over the last year: '2015 was a unique year, on and off the pitch. After 122 years of male only shinty, Fort William decided to start a ladies' team, who in their first year won the National Development League and we now have two ladies' teams and a junior ladies' team.

'Also 2015 saw the first ever lady to play in the Premier Division, Zoe Smith of Fort William.

'Our first team achieved their objective of defending and consolidating our 2014 return to the Premier Division and our second

Shinty

team won the North Division 1 league, having won North 2 and gained promotion to North 1 only last year.

'Our under 14s swept the boards and under 14s captain, Ryan Boyle, won the National Player of the year and both Ali Clark and Victor Smith won under 14s' coaches of the year. There have been many other successes, including Fort William man Deek Cameron, who won referee of the year.

'Off the pitch, we also enjoyed a very good year, finally taking over An Aird pitch from the council on a 20-year lease. Our grounds staff are to be congratulated on an immediate improvement in the playing surface. We now hope to hold the 2016 Camanachd Cup final at Fort William.'

Cameron reaches quarter finals in Russia

Boxing

TEENAGE boxer Cameron Whyte proved he has a massive future in the sport when he reached the quarter finals of the European Schoolboy Championships in Russia while representing Scotland.

The 13-year-old from Spean Bridge started the contest in spectacular form against Ivan Simanets, champion of Belarus, using a high guard and clever footwork to land attack after attack on his opponent to see him win a unanimous decision from judges.

Whyte, who fights for Lochaber Phoenix, was then up against Irish champion Steven Cairns in the quarter final, when both boys were vying for ring centre and neither in the mood for taking a step back. After three closely-fought rounds the decision was given in favour of the Irish teen but both boxers left the ring to rapturous applause from the neutral Russian audience.

Lochaber Phoenix coach Charlie Anderson said: 'Not only has Cameron proven he is one of the best schoolboy boxers in Europe but he has actually got another year at this age group which his opponents in this championships do not. If he carries on with the same dedication he has shown so far then this is just the start. To be rated in the top eight in Europe isn't too shabby to be going on with.'

Fighting closer to home was young Joshua Buchanan who travelled to Dunfermline to face the host town's Ryan Preston. Joshua was gunning for revenge after Preston won a close decision when the pair met last month.

The first round was a battle of the jabs in the main but Preston was quicker with his backhand and took the round. Buchanan began the second brighter but was so intent on looking for openings he neglected his own defence and left himself open to counters. In the third round both boys left it all in the ring but the effort wasn't enough for Joshua and the decision went against him.

Anderson said of Joshua: 'While he has shown a marked improvement in training recently this contest highlighted some of the improvements we still need to see. So we'll go back to the gym and work hard and see if we can get Joshua into the win column for his next bout.'

This Saturday Lochaber Phoenix will travel to Aberdeen where Dan Nixon, Kevin Aitchison and Lee Bruce are all in action.



Cameron Whyte, 13, made it to the quarter finals of the European Schoolboy Boxing Championships.

Strong arm tactics in Lochaber

LOCHABER'S strongmen welcomed fellow weight lifters from all over the country for a fundraising competition at the weekend, in memory of Mark Haldenby who died in September.

Organiser Stuart Whyte and his team mate Jeremy Vickers joined another Fort William team, Gary Robertson and Greg MacLean, to compete against strongmen from Shetland to Edinburgh.

Weightlifting

It was Ewan Massie and Ryan Reid from the capital city who picked up the top prize in the Nevis Centre on Saturday, after competing in Viking press, atlas stones, dead lifts, tyre flips and carrying sand bags, but Stuart and Jeremy came a close second.

This was also the first time a strong woman event has taken place in Fort William, won by Karen Sutherland from the Black Isle, Scotland's strongest woman.

She was followed by Shaunagh Brown from London while Cara Price from Glasgow took third.

The event was a fundraiser for former strongman Mark's three daughters after he lost his battle with cancer.

It is hoped the event will take place every year to raise money for different families in Lochaber who have been affected by the illness.



FIRST: The first strong woman event to be held in Fort William was won by Karen Sutherland (middle). Shaunagh Brown, left, was second and Cara Price third 21_146strongman02



Fun day hosted by Kilmallie Shinty Club enjoyed by all

Budding young shinty stars had their first taste of the sport on Saturday at a fun day hosted by Kilmallie. The Caol club offered training sessions to youngsters, as well as a bouncy castle and face painting, at their fun day. Organisers reported a great turnout and thanked all volunteers for helping on the day. Prizes for a penalty competition were won by Jack Niland, Arran Stephen and Jack Stephen. 21_146kilmallie01

Alleycats prove to be top dogs

ALLEYCATS have inched ahead in the scratch division of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 Pin Bowling League, bringing their score to 18 points after week four.

They are followed by The Creeps and British Legion Fort William who are neck and neck with 15 points.

But British Legion continue to lead the handicap division with 17 points, followed by The Creeps on 13 points and Mis Fits

and Rotavators on 12. Individually, the best games of the week came from Brian Weller of the Creeps and Tim Attack of Ardtoe and Co who both rolled 159.

Lyn Donald (Mis Fits) had the top handicap game with 234 and John Weller had both the best two-game scratch series with 315 and two-game handicap series with 421.

Alleycats achieved the best team scores of the week with a scratch game of 569 and two-

Ten pin bowling

game scratch series of 1,143. Ardtoe and Co had the highest handicap game of 806 and Rotavators had the best two-game handicap series with 1,584.

The top scratch average is held by Pam Weller of Alleycats on 161, followed by Tim Attack on 148. Ben Weller and Tony Whitelocke, both Alleycats, are joint third on 146.



MEMORY: Lochaber strongmen came together for a fundraiser in memory of Mark Haldenby. From left: Jeremy Vickers, Stuart Whyte, Gary Robertson and Greg MacLean 21_146strongman01

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds strong southerly
Temperatures 6°C to 12°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers
Winds strong westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 9°C to 12°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 12, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.52 4.0 12.03 1.1 18.00 4.0 ** **	** **
Fri	00.27 1.1 06.22 4.0 12.37 1.1 18.29 4.0	
Sat	00.58 1.1 06.52 3.9 13.10 1.2 18.59 3.9	
Sun	01.28 1.2 07.24 3.9 13.45 1.3 19.32 3.7	
Mon	02.01 1.3 08.01 3.7 14.24 1.4 20.10 3.5	
Tues	02.40 1.4 08.44 3.6 15.14 1.6 20.56 3.3	
Wed	03.31 1.5 09.39 3.4 16.18 1.7 21.54 3.1	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Port	Difference	Port	Difference
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

Route	Sea State
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate