

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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New hope for Connel man Billy in Indian prison hell

DAVID MCPHEE

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CONNEL ex-para Billy Irving is expecting to hear within 14 days whether he will be released from an Indian prison in time for Christmas.

The Supreme Court of India indicated that it wanted to accelerate the Chennai Six's appeal process, where the High Court judge will have a fortnight to come to a decision.

Billy and five other British ex-servicemen were sentenced to five years in an Indian prison in January 2016.

The men, known as the Chennai Six, were working as armed guards protecting ships from Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

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

Including the Chennai Six, 35 men in total were arrested - 14 Estonians, 12 Indians, and three Ukrainians.

The Ukrainian captain has terminal cancer and it was his case that was being heard in front of the Supreme Court of India this week.

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh surprised him with a visit this week. Speaking about the news in a video, Yvonne said: 'It's really exciting. I have been on such a high all day.'

'There have been a lot of lows while we have been here. It's obviously very exhausting, but at the same time to get this news while we're here and to be able to have the privilege and the honour of going in tomorrow and telling the men themselves and seeing how happy they will be about it.'

Argyll and the Isles march to remember the fallen



Oban Pipe Band led the march from the Corran Halls to the war memorial on Sunday as the town and surrounding areas paid tribute to those who died in the two world wars and other conflicts on Remembrance Sunday. Picture special and full report on pages 10 and 11. Picture: Stephen Day/T46_Pipe band

'It's just going to give them such a lift. I think it fills us all with hope that we will get our Christmas wish and we could have the men home, so fingers crossed everyone.'

Stephen Askins, of London marine solicitors Tatham Macinnes, said: 'The matter went forward to the Supreme Court to try to get the captain out.'

The captain's case will reappear tomorrow (Friday November 17). 'The Supreme Court indicated they wanted the appeal, which we have been waiting for, to be expedited,' Mr Askins added. 'They expect him to issue his judgement within 14 days.'

'This puts [the judge] under pressure, but it does give some encouragement that the Supreme Court have decided enough is enough on this. It's good news that the families have been waiting for for 11 months. 'We just need a judgement so we can move things forward. We don't know how things will go, but it does finally seem like there's a little bit of momentum.'

Russell said: 'It is long past time Billy and the others were home. Yvonne and her fellow campaigners have done wonders but the UK Government needs to up the ante now and make it clear that whatever the initial problems, the delays, confusions and contradictions of the courts in India are completely unacceptable and contrary to the basic principles of justice. 'The Scottish Government takes that view and I know my Westminster colleague Brendan O'Hara has been doing his best

to get a response from the UK Government that matches the seriousness of the situation. 'Those efforts need to continue, backed by the campaign of the families and the whole of Argyll and Scotland. The Chennai Six and their colleagues must be released without any more delay.' Mr O'Hara, MP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'Earlier this month I went to Downing Street with Billy's family to plead with the UK Government to do more to secure his release from jail. This visit followed shortly after

my seventh meeting with my third Foreign Office minister in just two years. 'With very recent events now clearing the path for a diplomatic intervention, the UK Government needs to pull its finger out. 'I am in regular contact with Yvonne but the fact this has been ongoing since I first became Billy's MP in 2015 smacks of diplomatic inertia. 'I've promised Yvonne that I will continue to do whatever I can as his MP to secure his release as quickly as possible.'

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Girl is a citizen

THE UK Home Office has confirmed that it has granted British citizenship to a Western Isles teenager who had been left 'stateless' because of a bureaucratic mix-up. Full story - page two.

'Intimidation' claim

A CLAIM of 'intimidation' has been made against Argyll and Bute Council's most senior official by the female councillor at the centre of a campaign against sexual harassment. Full story - page three.

Centre opens

OBAN Hospice's new Dove Centre in Stevenson Street became operational for the first time this week after two open days. Full story - page four.

Winter fest is here

OBAN Winter Festival arrives tomorrow - and everyone can be involved by voting for their favourite best-dressed shop window in the town. Full story - page five.

Wonderfully weird

EVER heard the Gaelic word for the noise a cow makes in a potato stuck in its throat? Now you can. Full story - page seven.

Saints alive

OBAN Saints are through to the next round of the Scottish Cup thanks to a narrow replay victory. Full story - pages 29.



Do You Suffer From Sore, Gritty or Red Eyes? Yes No

Are Your Eyelids Crusty or Inflamed?

Do Your Eyes Feel Dry or Uncomfortable Using A Computer?

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Injured Oban woman 'looking better'

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Agnes MacKechnie.

THE daughter of the Oban woman injured in a hit-and-run accident in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Agnes MacKechnie, says her mother is 'looking a lot better' in hospital.

Karen MacKechnie flew to the United States on Sunday November 12 to be at her mum's bedside in St Luke's Hospital.

After visiting Agnes, Karen messaged her aunt, Sharon Bratton, who passed on the Facebook post to *The Oban Times*.

In her message, Karen says: 'That's me arrived last night safe and sound. She's looking a lot

better than I thought she would. She is due to go for surgery today. They discovered a small tear near the aorta and will be putting in a stent. Will let you all know how it goes.'

Following the procedure, Karen messaged *The Oban Times* to say: 'My mum's surgery today was a success and she is currently recovering from anaesthesia. Hopefully, we will get to speak to her soon.'

Sharon, Agnes's sister, said this week that Agnes, who suffered severe injuries in the incident on Halloween, was continuing to make progress after a number of operations.

Sharon told *The Oban Times*: 'She is improving and is still getting regular scans. She has fractured both legs and wrists.'

'She has sat up for the first time but still in a lot of pain. 'The drugs make her sleepy so

can only manage to speak for a short time.'

Sharon added that there was no word on when she might be able to return home.

Meanwhile, police in Bethlehem are continuing with their attempt to identify the driver who knocked down Agnes.

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

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OT

TIMESLINE

Man charged with serious assault

AT ABOUT 2.30am on Wednesday November 8, in a hotel in Port Ellen on Islay, a man aged 40 allegedly seriously assaulted one man and attacked another man.

Both men were taken to hospital in Bowmore, with the first man subsequently airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow where he is in a serious but stable condition.

At about noon the same day, at Kennacraig ferry terminal, the alleged attacker, aged 40, was detained by police. The man was later arrested and charged with the offences, was held in custody for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Three held after Mull disturbance

AT ABOUT 12.55am on Saturday November 11, police attended a report of a disturbance outside a pub in Main Street, Tobermory. Subsequently three men were charged with abusive behaviour with a further two still to be traced and charged. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Woman arrested for drink driving

AT ABOUT 6.30pm on Friday November 10 on the B8065 on Tiree, a minor collision occurred between two cars.

Police were notified and subsequently a woman aged 30 was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Geese remain a problem on crofts

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has expressed disappointment that the management schemes to control the population of geese from damaging croft lands are being discontinued with no sustainable plans to tackle the problem in the future.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the Crofting Joint Consultative Committee, said a continuing increase in the population of geese was a real threat to the future of crofting and expressed disappointment at Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham's response to an earlier letter that raised the concerns of the Crofting JCC.

'Stateless' schoolgirl is now British citizen

DAVID MCPHEE
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A WESTERN Isles schoolgirl, who was previously described as stateless, has been confirmed as a British citizen.

The 14-year-old, who was born in Scotland, was denied a passport because she couldn't find her mother's birth certificate.

The Home Office refused her passport application, stating that it was unable to confirm she was a citizen.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil raised the issue in Westminster, after describing the case as the 'most callous' he had experienced in his time as an MP.

His office explained that in 2005 the schoolgirl's mother left her in the care of her father and paternal grandparents.

In 2015, the girl's father died, and she is now cared for by her paternal grandparents, who have parental rights and responsibilities.

However, they were not in possession of her mother's birth certificate.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I am absolutely delighted that the Home Office has confirmed that this island schoolgirl is a British citizen.'

'When I raised this with Brandon Lewis MP, the Immigration Minister, he told me that he was looking at this case per-

sonally and he has kept to his word.

'The family are now in the process of completing the passport application and they remain in contact with the Home Office, which is continuing to assist them with this process.'

The girl's grandparents said: 'This has been a very long and stressful experience for us all.'

'We are delighted that our MP Angus MacNeil intervened on our behalf and continued to keep pressure on the Home Office and we want to publicly thank Mr MacNeil for all of his assistance.'

Mr MacNeil had previously expressed his 'utter disbelief' that a girl born in Scotland was

asked to apply to become a British citizen. 'If the Home Office can't confirm she is a British citizen,' he had said, 'then what is she? Stateless?'

Speaking at the time, a Home Office spokesman said: 'Her Majesty's Passport Office must be satisfied of an applicant's nationality and identity before a passport will be issued.'

'In more complex cases, UK Visas and Immigration will provide further advice to help applicants either supply the evidence that will satisfy these checks or apply to register as a British citizen.'

'We have been in touch with the family to discuss the available options.'



Martin Dorchester congratulates the apprentices on graduating.

Youngsters set course for new career at sea

THE first intake on a new hospitality modern apprenticeship aimed at the merchant marine industry are about to embark on their new careers.

A partnership between City of Glasgow College and CalMac will see the nine successful apprentices take up full-time roles as stewards with the company.

The year-long MA Hospitality with Maritime Enhancements involved classroom learning mixed with time aboard some of CalMac's 32 vessels.

CalMac managing director Martin Dorchester said: 'Although many elements of the hospitality industry are the same whether on land or afloat, our stewards need to do more than just look after our passengers' comfort. They need to be trained in firefighting, first aid, rescue boat operations

and other tasks vital for keeping passengers safe.

'This new MA, the first of its kind in the UK, ensures our crews get the best, most relevant training.'

The apprentices are now qualified in hospitality (SCQF Level 5), maritime studies (SQA Level 2) and elementary food hygiene (Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland Level 2).

Last year CalMac carried more than five million passengers to 26 islands and remote mainland locations across the west coast.

Apprentice Lisa Marie Parkinson, from Oban, said: 'A modern apprenticeship gives the best of both worlds - on the job training and college qualifications. That's what attracted me to it. It's a great first step towards building a career.'

Islay school is up for prestigious Rolls-Royce award



Port Ellen Primary children impressed Neil Chattle from Rolls-Royce with their knowledge.

PORT Ellen Primary School on Islay has been shortlisted as a finalist in this year's prestigious Rolls-Royce Science Prize.

The children received a special merit for their initial submission before going on to be chosen as one of only six projects to be supported by Rolls-Royce over the next academic year.

The project has been developed to build children's understanding and experience of engineering, specifically around renewable energy.

Islay was home to the Limpet Wave Station and the island's

first community wind turbine is now up and running.

The project aims to build children's understanding of renewable energy and how engineering can address environmental problems. Engineering is an area the school would like to develop and teachers have already started to encourage Engineering Habits of Mind.

As a cluster science mentor, Maggie Harrison, who is leading the project, is also hoping to involve other cluster schools in the project and work with the Islay Energy Trust.

Maureen MacDonald, head

teacher of Port Ellen, said: 'It is important that we equip our children with skills for learning, life and work.'

'Through our work in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), we have created a culture and environment that enables our learners to apply their thinking in real world applications.'

'When children are interested and engaged to this level, it not only helps to raise attainment and achievement, it also harnesses the enthusiasm of our parents, partners and community, creating a STEM

domino effect. To have reached the final of the Rolls-Royce Science Prize is testament to the hard work of the staff and the ambitious ethos in the school.'

Neil Chattle, STEM ambassador from Rolls-Royce, visited the school last week to meet the children and the team involved in the project.

Neil said: 'This year, as part of my STEM activities, I am mentoring Port Ellen Primary School as a finalist of the Rolls-Royce (RR) Science Prize. The engagement and knowledge of all children was wonderful to see during my recent visit.'

Preparations begin to mark disaster at sea

PREPARATIONS are continuing for a series of events for the centenary commemoration of the Iolaire disaster in the Western Isles.

A total of 201 island sailors, returning from the First World War, died in the early hours of January 1, 1919, when the Iolaire sank after running aground on the rocks off Holm on the east coast of Lewis. It remains the worst maritime disaster during peacetime in the UK.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has agreed to host a community event on the evening of December 31, 2018, and a formal civic event on January 1, 2019.

In addition, there will be participation by schools throughout the islands and many other community-orientated events.

The centenary commemoration events are being overseen

by the Iolaire Working Party comprised of representatives of the comhairle, Comunn Eachraidh, Sandwick Community Council, Stornoway Historical Society and Museum nan Eilean. The comhairle is also liaising with the Royal Navy and Scottish Commemorations Panel.

A new Facebook page has been launched which will provide updates over the coming months on the events being planned. The page can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/AnIolaire>

A Community Remembers, the community event to be held on December 31, 2018, is at an early stage but plans include a lecture, military and school band performances, poetry readings and songs, drama and a spiritual element.

Workshops

BETTER BUSINESS WEBSITES

What makes a good website? What does the design say about your business? Is your website content appropriate for your audience? Can people find it? These are some of the questions covered in this workshop. You will examine how to make your existing website better through its' design, content, usability and Search Engine Optimisation.

10.00am - 3.00pm, 21st November 2017, Ardrishaig

TWITTER AND HOOTSUITE

A workshop for businesses already using Twitter that wish to produce more engaging content and reach a wider audience. Also learn the features of Hootsuite and how to work more efficiently.

1.00 - 4.00pm, 21st November 2017, Oban

LINKEDIN FOR BUSINESS

Learn how you can boost your business with LinkedIn? This workshop will show you how to market your products and promote your brand and show how LinkedIn can be a powerful and profitable business tool.

9.30am - 12.30pm, 22nd November 2017, Oban

BUSINESS START-UP

A one and a half day workshop incorporating business planning, finance marketing and market research.

29th & 30th November 2017, Oban

PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING

A workshop showing how book-keeping is used to generate the financial information needed for Income Tax, VAT, PAYE and National Insurance contributions.

9.30am - 12.30pm, 7th December 2017, Lochgilphead

To book on a workshop call 01546 604030 or email bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Dunyvaig Castle

A GROUP of distinguished archaeologists and historians from some of our leading universities were joined by representatives from Historic Environment Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries at academic workshops hosted by Islay Heritage, the recently formed and community-based organisation tasked to furthering knowledge of the island's past.

Also participating in the workshops, held at Lagavulin Distillery and the St Columba Gaelic Centre, were local historians and heritage trustees who were given an insight into the Dunyvaig Project which will focus on Dùn Naomhaig Castle, once the naval fortress for the powerful MacDonalds, Lords of the Isles.

The ruined castle, overlooking Lagavulin Bay on the north-east coast of the island, has had a checkered history and aspects of this sometimes turbulent past are under scrutiny by the project members.

Should permission be granted, and it must be borne in mind that the castle is a scheduled monument, it is hoped that some excavations could be carried out at the site and surrounding area. These would likely take place in the summer of next year and will be regarded as a major research project in which participation by both locals and visitors to the island will be encouraged.

The workshops and future Dunyvaig plans have been made possible thanks to a generous donation to the Islay Heritage body by the Lagavulin Distillery 200th anniversary fund.

It is also planned that a collection of images, stories, poems and songs connected to the historic site will be collated as part of the project. One of the best known Gaelic songs featuring one aspect of the castle's history is 'Birlinn Cholla Chioataich', penned



Dunyvaig Castle is a crumbling ruin today.

by local bard Duncan Johnston, who spent his boyhood at nearby Druim an Torrain.

Although Dùn Naomhaig is today a slowly crumbling ruin, it was once the scene of much bloodshed, intrigue and treachery.

It was often attacked and besieged and was subjected to many changes of ownership. It was even owned for a time by the Covenanters before it became the property of Sir Hugh Campbell of Cawdor. He was the last owner to occupy the castle as in 1677 he vacated the premises to take up residence at Islay House, his imposing mansion house at Bridgend and now a luxury hotel.

for the island, received rave reviews from those who attended the five-day whisky symposium, which attracted enthusiasts from as far afield as South America and Eastern Europe.

Directing the operations was Rachel MacNeill, who ensured that the 20-strong core group in attendance was fully engaged in a varied and imaginative programme.

Visits to six of the island's eight distilleries gave the participants a hands-on experience of the industry, and one of the highlights was a whisky master class from Jim MacEwan, formerly master distiller at Bruichladdich and now production director at the island's latest distillery at Ardnahoe.

Extolling the virtues of barley was Dr Steve Hoad, of Scotland's Rural College, and the benefits of peat

Rave reviews

ISLAY'S Theatre of Drama, a first

use in whisky making was botanist James Donaldson's subject.

The cooper's art and skill was the focus of the talk by Speyside Coopers' manager Andrew Russell, and this event included a visit to Warehouse No 1 at Bowmore Distillery, followed by a special dinner at the Bridgend Hotel.

The company manufacturing and installing the stills at the Ardnahoe development spoke on their construction methods, and no whisky event would be complete without a nosing and tasting session.

This was masterminded by John Lamond, who sharpened the taste buds of those attending the dinner dance at Bowmore which brought the curtain down on a highly successful symposium.

Tune book launch

THE tune book compiled in memory of and as a tribute to local musician and composer Fraser Shaw, who died in 2015, will be officially launched on Saturday at a gig at the Bruichladdich hall, which will feature performers taking part in the 2017 Islay Sessions.

Entitled 'MacIe - the Music of Fraser Shaw', it contains 30 original compositions, along with pipe settings, anecdotes, tributes and photographs.

Proceeds from the book sales will go to the MS Therapy Centre at Lochgilphead as it was multiple sclerosis, leading to progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, that tragically cut short the life of this talented and personable musician who was among the founding members of the Islay Sessions.

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

New claim of council 'intimidation'

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AN OBAN councillor has accused Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive of making her feel 'intimidated, threatened and effectively silenced', after she spoke out about a culture of low-level sexual harassment at the council.

In an earlier open letter to the council's leader and chief executive on her online blog called 'The Edge of the Parapet', Oban North and Lorn SNP councillor Julie McKenzie raised the issue of sexual harassment within the council as a 'catalyst' for 'open dialogue', claiming a 'seismic shift [is] required within the current culture'.

She emphasised she had not and would not pursue any complaints

against any elected member in reference to this, stating that her open letter was 'not designed to be a witch-hunt'.

However, last week, in a second open letter to fellow councillors, Ms McKenzie said she was 'deeply concerned' by the 'content and tone' of a subsequent telephone call from chief executive Cleland Sneddon and a council officer.

She said: 'I was given no warning that this was to be a formal call in which I'd be pressurised into invoking disciplinary procedure. I quite clearly stated that I did not want to pursue a complaints process. However, my wishes were completely disregarded.'

'The call lasted 18 minutes and during this time I felt intimidated, threatened and effectively silenced.'

'Had I known this was going to

be the route taken by our most senior officials, I would have absolutely not have taken this call alone.'

'The chief executive was quite clear in his disapproval of my use of open letter and social media. I should have taken this to him quietly or given him a heads up about what I was about to do.'

'I find it incredibly ironic that I found myself having to explain to the most senior male in our council why I, as a female councillor, would have felt incredibly uncomfortable having quiet conversations with male officers, or indeed male councillors about this issue.'

She claimed the approach and lack of empathy shown by the council's most senior male officers was 'symptomatic of the whole culture within the council

that I wish to see change'. She added: 'If I do as I'm told and pursue the complaints process as instructed, I have no doubt of the outcome. A number of complaints against elected members will be investigated internally, behind closed doors, by the book and it will become a case of my word against a collective of male administration councillors and ex-councillors. They will close ranks against me.'

'How can I be so sure? Because recently I took forward a complaint internally about the behaviour of a male councillor and it was investigated. The outcome was that the councillor involved wrote to me saying he was "sorry that I took any offence" at his behaviour. Instead of apologising for the fact that he'd made me feel intimidated, he put the onus

for how his behaviour affected me, directly onto me!'

Councillor McKenzie welcomed council leader Aileen Morton's response to her original letter, in which she said: 'We need men to step up and take ownership of these issues; it's not acceptable to put the burden for solutions on women.' Councillor Morton added that 'harassment is totally unacceptable'.

Councillor McKenzie added: 'I steadfastly refuse to be press-ganged into making complaints so that attention is turned on me rather than focused on the bigger picture. I also refuse to be threatened, bullied or silenced on this issue. I hope this is a line-in-the-sand time for all of us. We have a choice. We can take the usual bunker-style defensive approach or we can be brave and bold;

positioning ourselves at the forefront of this issue in order to seek ground-breaking ways to address it. I appeal to all of you to support me in calling for a review of Argyll and Bute Council policy and procedure on sexual harassment in the workplace as a matter of urgency.'

Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We commend Councillor McKenzie for raising the issue. Argyll and Bute Council has a zero tolerance approach to this kind of behaviour. If a concern is raised, the priority of the chief executive and council as a whole is to take action to address it fully in order to put an end to it. Given public focus on this situation, actions taken have included issuing reminders to all councillors and staff of options and support for ending harassment.'

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Racial abuse

AT ABOUT 11pm on Sunday November 5, in a pub in Oban, a man and a woman allegedly behaved in a disorderly way and the man also acted in a racially abusive manner.

Following police inquiries, on Tuesday November 7, a man aged 24 and a woman aged 25 were detained. Both were later arrested and charged with the offences.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Window smashed

AT ABOUT 10.40pm on Friday November 10, a flat in Corran Brae, Oban, had a window pane smashed.

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

Motoring offences

AT ABOUT 12.50pm on Friday November 10 on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, a car was stopped for failing to comply with solid white line markings.

The vehicle was then allegedly found to have a tyre which was below the minimum tread depth. The driver, a man aged 45, was charged with the offences and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

□ If anyone has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact local police on telephone number 101, or anonymously to Crime-stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Oban High youngsters earn Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver awards



Oban High School pupils received their Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver awards last week. A total of 33 bronze and 12 silver awards were presented at the ceremony on November 7. Oban High School said it put forward around 40 per cent of all Duke of Edinburgh awards across the whole of Argyll and Bute. The bronze award winners are pictured right, while the silver award winners are above.



TIMESLINE

Kirk is all set for tree festival

THERE are just over two weeks to go until the St Conan's Christmas tree festival.

The eagerly anticipated festival takes place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 1, 2 and 3, from 1.30pm to 6pm but with an earlier 10am opening on the Saturday.

Those exhibiting all manner of decorated or home-created trees can set them up on Thursday November 30 between 1pm and 7pm and the Friday between 9am and noon. Name cards should be no bigger than A4 and short advertising or information notes may be included.

Trees can be taken away from 9am on Monday December 4 onwards.

Airline's baggage allowance change

LOGANAIR has announced change to its baggage policy, switching the checked baggage allowance from a single bag up to 20kgs to two bags weighing up to 20kgs combined without any extra charge.

The new policy takes effect from December 1.

Driver fined for 'nudge' with car

A 53-YEAR-OLD man has pleaded guilty to careless driving after 'nudging' someone with his car.

Barry Adamson, of Corrie House in Craobh Haven, was fined £100 and his licence was endorsed with three penalty points for the offence. He appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday November 9.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that the victim was standing on a roadway when Adamson drove slowly towards him and nudged his hip.

Mr McGinty added: 'It falls under the lack of consideration for road users.'

Sheriff John Herald said: 'The way I have to deal with it is the standard of driving and here we have a simple, straightforward nudge. As far as I am concerned, it's at the bottom level.'

Adamson's fine was reduced from £150 to £100 given his plea.

Community council resists new housing without infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURE in Dunbeg was the main topic of conversation at the village's community council meeting on Monday this week, writes David McPhee.

Dunbeg Community Council has already launched a petition opposing plans to build 300 affordable homes in the village without proper infrastructure being put in place.

Members of the community council are in the process of going door-to-door to ask members of the public for their opinions.

An application was submitted in April of this year to extend the village. Link Group plans to build 600 houses between Dunbeg and Ganavan.

Before this is done, the petition is asking for new access into the village such as a roundabout to be put in place on the A85 junction, a new school, as well as play parks and recreational areas or community facilities.

Court is told of man biting ear

A MAN who bit another's ear in a fight and then acted aggressively in Oban's hospital has been ordered to pay £1,000 in compensation and carry out 260 hours of unpaid work.

An August trial found Darren Reid, 28, of 5 Downcraig Grove, Glasgow, guilty of assaulting the man at an Oban hotel on October 7 last year, when Reid engaged him in a stand-up fight and bit him on the ear to his severe injury and disfigurement.

Reid had admitted assaulting, obstructing or hindering a doctor and clerical officer at



Councillor Elaine Robertson.

reational areas or community facilities.

Speaking about the 300 dwellings that would be built in Dunbeg, community council chairman Sean MacIntyre asked if Dunbeg primary school could accommodate an extra 300 houses.

However, Argyll and Bute Councillor Kieron Green said he would wait for a report to be issued at the parent council before he could answer.

Community councillor

Marion Power mentioned the school, the junction, and a lack of community facilities as being issues. She added: 'We have one shop, one hairdresser, one play park, and you are doubling the size of the village - that's not good.'

Another issue highlighted at the meeting was the lack of lighting on the main road bus stop. Ms Power said: 'It's tragic for someone to be crying because they are scared to cross the road. I think it's time we were trying to do something - it's pitch black. It just needs a light - that's all it needs.'

Argyll and Bute Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'This is really quite distressing because it's been reported in the past.'

Councillor Kieron Green said he would ask the council to carry out a risk assessment of the area. If problems were found, the council could flag them up to Transport Scotland.

Roll up for Oban's Got Talent

A CHARITY Oban's Got Talent contest hopes to find a star next month with contenders invited to sign up.

The competition, run by the Dunstaffnage hotel and restaurant The Wide Mouthed Frog, boasts a first prize of a two-hour recording session in a Glasgow studio, with all travel and accommodation provided. The judges will come from STV, The Oban Times and Oban FM.

Last year The Wide Mouthed Frog held a charity event for Alzheimer's Research UK and raised £1,800, but this year the Dunstaffnage business is throwing its efforts into fund-raising for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Co-owner Rick Gothard said: 'We hope to find a star with Oban's Got Talent. However, we do need entrants to take part.'

'Spaces are limited to 20

competitors, because it is a one-night-only event.

'Although we love the wee ones, unfortunately we have to put an age restriction of 18 years as the minimum age to enter.'

'A full professional PA and lighting system is being used for this event.'

'Entry and entrance is free, but we will be running raffles throughout the night, with all proceeds going to Macmillan.'

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OT
ACHA
opens eight
Oban homes
worth £1.2m

THE KEYS to eight new affordable family homes on Oban's Sunderland Drive will be handed to their new tenants tomorrow (Friday November 17).

The four three-bedroom and four two-bedroom social houses, built by MacLeod Construction with a contract cost of £1.2 million, will be officially opened by Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for housing at Argyll and Bute Council. The new tenants will be piped in by Angus MacColl.

The homes will be rented at affordable rates through Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA). The eight homes are part of a 122-unit programme to meet housing need throughout Argyll and Bute. ACHA also plans to build another 230 in the lifetime of the current Scottish Parliament.

Last month ACHA also opened its first new-build homes on the island of Coll. The two-unit development comprises two- and three-bedroom family accommodation. The two new homes will complement the nine existing ACHA properties on the island which were built in the 1960s.

The development was built by MacLeod Construction of Lochgilphead with funding from Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA to an overall project value of £505,000.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said it was a milestone for ACHA as 'the first homes we have built on Coll since the stock transfer over 10 years ago. It is part of ACHA's ongoing commitment to provide housing for our island communities. At the present time we have housing on 12 of Argyll's islands.

'It is my hope that these homes will play a crucial part in meeting housing need on Coll and help us keep families on the island.'

Councillor Currie added: 'In recent years the number of houses available for let on the Isle of Coll has been very limited, so the addition of two quality new-build houses is great and makes an important contribution to the general health and wellbeing of local residents.'

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Oban Times
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01631 568000

The Dove Centre opens in Oban



Volunteers and centre users enjoy a cup of tea at the new facility on Stevenson Street, Oban, which is open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

FRIENDS of Oban Hospice were delighted to open the new Dove Centre on Stevenson Street on Wednesday following many years of fundraising.

The new venture is based on the work of the Maggie's Centres, which provide support for people with life-limiting conditions such as cancer.

The Dove Centre coordinator, Peter Darling, said they had been inundated with people wanting to help decorate the building. 'There is so much goodwill. Volunteers have been giving up a lot of their spare time,' he said. 'So many people have been coming forward.'

Local companies, including electricians, floorers, plumbers and painters, had donated staff time to renovate the interior of the building, formerly the offices of Argyll Training before it closed last year. One director, Anne May, said: 'It has a great warm feeling of welcome.'

Chairman David Entwistle added: 'Oban Hospice wants to extend a big thank you to all the local people, individuals, tradespeople and businesses who have supported Oban Hospice Ltd and the Friends of Oban Hospice in the past and who continue to support us.'

'The number of tradespeople who have given their time and

sometimes their materials free of charge to completely refurbish the Dove Centre has been overwhelming. The list is too long to name them all here, but Oban Hospice and

the Dove Centre are deeply grateful to them.'

The centre will offer practical and emotional support and information. It will also provide access to community services, advocacy and benefits advice. Complementary therapies, specialist massage for people with cancer and group activities will be on offer, too.

Added to this, family and bereavement support will be available. People can also drop in for a cup of tea and a blether at any time, and the Dove Centre will be open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday from today (Thursday November 16). Contact the centre on 01631 561315.



The therapy room at the new centre.

Local companies, including electricians, floorers, plumbers and painters, had donated staff time to renovate the interior of the building, formerly the offices of Argyll Training before it closed last year. One director, Anne May, said: 'It has a great warm feeling of welcome.'

Benderloch's Joy spreads a little birthday cheer in aid of Hope Kitchen foodbank

A BENDERLOCH woman celebrated her 60th birthday by asking guests to donate to an Oban food bank.

Instead of buying her presents, Joy Cameron asked her friends and family to help out Hope Kitchen.

Joy said: 'I have everything I could ever need, so as my cousin, Beth Campbell, works at Hope Kitchen, we hatched a plan to support their work in making Christmas a little more enjoyable for some vulnerable people in Benderloch and its surrounds.'

'The 100-plus party-goers didn't need any encouragement and brought a vast range of biscuits, toiletries, hats and scarves, and other extras to make sure that no-one in our area is forgotten at this time of year.'

Hope Kitchen, which moved premises

a couple of months ago, is looking to add another member of staff.

'We are keen to develop the work we are doing,' manager Lorraine King said. 'For this, we need more staff.'

'We are asking if you could please vote for us in the Aviva Community Fund to help us.'

'It only takes a minute to register with them and then you have 10 votes to use. We would really appreciate any of your votes.'

To vote for Hope, visit www.community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-5115

Joy Cameron, left, asked friends to donate items to Hope Kitchen in lieu of birthday presents.



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Call for people to donate foreign coins for charity

AN OBAN mother is seeking old and foreign coins in aid of a charity that helps children suffering from cancer, writes David McPhee.

Margaret Ayling is raising money on behalf of CLIC Sargent - a charity that is very close to her heart - by collecting unused currency.

'My son is a cancer survivor,' she told *The Oban Times* when she brought in the buckets that weighed a total of 35 kilograms to our office on Wednesday. 'He went through it 14 years ago and was very ill.'

'To mark 10 years of being

cancer free, he cycled to Paris from London and raised £5,500.'

Margaret is now seeking the unused coins that are lying under the couch or in drawers.

'If anyone has old or foreign coins,' she said, 'we as a charity can take them from you. The foreign coins go to a company who only take them from charities.'

'It's something that is free money for charities. So if you have old or foreign coins, let us take them off you.'

If you have old coins, phone Margaret on 07796 333876.



Margaret Ayling.

Excitement builds for Oban Winter Festival

I DON'T know about anyone else but I can't wait for Saturday, writes Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald.

Santa's coming, and he's bringing his reindeer. The BID4Oban reindeer parade always marks the start of the build up to Christmas for me and the fabulous Oban Winter Festival is the icing on the cake.

There is always a quandary trying to fit in all the fantastic things to do and I never quite manage to do it all but maybe this year I will.

I've got my programme today and I'll sit happily tonight

going through and highlighting all the events that catch my eye.

The atmosphere in the town during the festival is great too. It seems to bring a warm, happy buzz.

If you've not got your event guide yet, then they're in the tourist office as well as a selection of shops around the town including the BID4Oban offices.

As well as all the fabulous events for the winter festival there are a few other things going on in the town that shouldn't be overlooked in all the excitement.

On Friday there's a quiz for

Cancer Research in the Masonic Lodge and on Saturday they have a race night to raise funds for the Beatson Cancer Charity. Also on Saturday from 10.30am, St John's Cathedral will be hosting a coffee morning to raise funds for Homestart and St John's.

As usual all this and more are included in the town diary so have a wee look and make sure you're not missing out.

Last week's photo was at the Royal Mail depot on Shore Street, so well done those of you who managed to identify it. For this week, you need to look down.

Locating Lorne

OBAN'S Rockfield Centre will host three weekly events called Locating Lorne.

The first, Finding Gaelic, on Saturday November 18, explores how people are learning Gaelic and what's needed to get more people involved.

The event will be introduced by Bernadette O'Rourke of Heriot-Watt University and Wilson McLeod of Edinburgh University, who will present new research into how and why people choose to learn the Gaelic language, followed by audience discussion and stories about learning Gaelic in Scotland.

The discussion is part of the Languages Lost and Found series at this year's 'Being Human' Festival of the Humanities, which is including Oban for the first time.

The other events, titled Contemporary Visual Art in Lorne running from 10am to 4pm on November 25 and December 2, will 'explore how artists, architects, planners, curators, publishers and others have used visual imagery to frame their ideas about Lorne in the past'.

These will be led by Deirdre MacKenna, who originally hails from Oban.

Summit success

DELEGATES from China were given a tour of Oban as part of Argyll Enterprise Week.

The China Business Summit saw events take place last week in both Oban and Campbeltown, where businesses came together to explore export opportunities.

They discussed the complexities of exporting to China, debunking some of the myths that surround it.

'The China business summits have been an overwhelming success,' Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said.

In the space of two days, we held three events at which more than 70 businesses in Argyll and Bute took part.

'We have a great story to tell here in Argyll and Bute and we have wonderful products and services to sell.'

Some of the 70 businesses that were involved included salmon producers, marine science, gin distillers and dairy farmers.

Stay healthy on the run

THE saying 'growing old doesn't come itself' will ring true for many. But the chances are that whatever fears getting older holds for you, many of the physical concerns are avoidable.

And one man who has proved that is Wilf Laidler, father of Derek Laidler, physiotherapy team lead at Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Wilf did his first parkrun in Oban at Ganavan Sands in October 2016, when he was aged 76, because he wanted to improve his health. He had undergone a triple bypass aged 71 following a heart attack.

Wilf will return to Oban on Saturday November 18 to take part in his 50th parkrun.

Why not join him on Saturday morning to meet like-minded people of all abilities, because age should be no barrier to keeping fit and healthy?

For more details of the parkrun, visit www.parkrun.org.uk/ganavands/

To read more on what you can do to stay healthy as you get older, read Derek's full feature on the subject at www.obantimes.co.uk

WHERE IS THIS?



TIMESLINE

TV shows Argyll is picture perfect

THE scenery and people of Argyll and Bute have received glowing reviews following the BBC Scotland series, *The Country Council*.

Viewing figures have been high, with each episode drawing in an average of 24 per cent of viewers across the television network. This figure does not take into account the people who watch the programme through catch-up TV.

Social media and word-of-mouth feedback has recognised the appeal of the area and the dedication of the people working to support communities.

The series followed staff from Argyll and Bute Council and its partner agencies as they went about their daily duties.

Museums' Gaelic Plan is published

THE National Museums of Scotland's Scots Gaelic Plan has been published.

The five-year plan designed after public consultation is complete and has been approved by the Board of Scots Gaelic and Scottish Parliament. The new plan will support the National Museums to contribute to preserving the Scots Gaelic.

Public to have a say on funding

ARGYLL and Bute Council officially launched its Supporting Communities Fund on Monday November 13, with a distinctly digital change.

The fund is open to community groups and third sector organisations, including community councils and parent councils. Members of the public will have the final say on which projects receive funding through a vote in April 2018.

A website has been created specifically for the fund: www.abpb.co.uk. Groups can apply for up to £2,500 per project and details of what can be funded are available on the website.

Workshops mark language culture

A SERIES of events celebrating languages and cultures across Scotland will take place simultaneously on Saturday November 18 in locations across the country, including Oban, as part of the UK's annual Being Human Festival.

These events aim to make visible the hidden richness and diversity of languages and cultures in Scottish society. Events include local workshops, exhibitions, readings, storytelling, film-screenings and demonstrations.

<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/humanities/events/details/17-11-18-languages-lost-and-found-being-human-2017.php>.

New-look service to bring benefits

CHANGES to an Argyll and Bute Council service hope to deliver benefits and improvements to residents. Housing is now part of Planning and Regulatory Services and means major plans for housing will be developed and delivered alongside planning strategies, such as the Local Development Plan, which sets out a vision for the next 20 years.

Oban Winter Festival begins

JOANNE SIMMS
editor@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN Winter Festival – a fantastic, award-winning 10-days of fun to get everyone in the mood for Christmas – begins tomorrow and runs until November 26.

There is so much to see and do, join in, take the young ones along to, buy, taste, with the chance to give to a good cause or two along the way.

What better way can there be to get into the festive spirit ahead of Christmas?

All the winter festival events are run by the community for the community, and people from all aspects of life in the town get together to make it a success. See full details and listings

of the winter festival and much more in our Christmas Guide with this week's paper. Or pick up a copy of the festival programme which is available from VisitScotland and at venues throughout the town.

And again this year, *The Oban Times* invites you to vote for the best-dressed Christmas shop window in Oban.

Simply fill in the coupon on this page and send it to Shop Windows, *The Oban Times*, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB. And why not send a photo of your favourite to our Facebook page?

Visitors to this year's Oban Winter Festival will be able to park free of charge in the town's pay-and-display car parks.

Argyll and Bute Council is waiving charges from November

17 to 26. The council said it is part of its commitment to supporting the local economy.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'This is a great festive boost for the town.'

'By allowing people to use our off-street car parks free of charge again this year, we showing our support for the local community and the local economy.'

'From November 17 to 26, people can come to Oban, park free of charge in the pay-and-display car parks and enjoy everything the winter festival has to offer, as well as socialise and shop.'

'Winter festivals in our main towns are big draws and we're committed to doing what we can to support them. Obviously to keep our roads and car parks

in good condition we have to charge for parking but we are happy to waive charges to support local events.'

'It's a tough financial time for many, especially in the run-up to Christmas, so we're happy to make it as easy as possible for people to come into the town and take advantage of everything that's on offer. Please come and enjoy Oban's festive delights.'

Parking machines in the off-street car parks will be covered on November 16 for the duration of the festival. Signs will be put up to let people know. Charges will still apply to on-street parking.

This arrangement will be replicated in other towns to support their winter festivals.

Vote for the 2017 Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

Win a luxury box of chocolates from the Oban Chocolate Company

This year the Oban Times has teamed up with the Winter Festival and we are giving readers the opportunity to win a luxury box of chocolates from the Oban Chocolate Company

Vote for the 2017 Winter Festival best-dressed shop window
Post entries to Best Dressed Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
Entries must be submitted by Monday November 27, 2017

Your winner for this years Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

Name

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Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

Youth project to continue this year

A YOUTH exchange programme between Argyll and Bute and Germany has proved such a success, it is to continue.

Young people from Bute and Oban will travel to Bavaria next year to spend a week with a group of German teenagers.

It follows a revival of youth exchanges between Argyll and Bute and Amberg-Sulzbach, which are twinned.

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'In 2016, when a group of local youngsters visited Germany on the first leg of an exchange, it was the first time in 20 years such a visit had taken place.'

'It went brilliantly and when we hosted the return visit to Rothesay and Oban at Easter this year, it became clear that everyone involved wanted it to become a fixture.'

'I'm delighted that's been confirmed and a trip to Bavaria is in the offing for 2018.'

'Our young people have been the perfect ambassadors for Argyll and Bute and I know they will be again.'

'That view is shared by our friends in Germany, who are thrilled the exchange has been re-established and everyone is getting so much out of it.'

'Congratulations to everyone who's worked



The young people prepare to go gorge-walking back in April.

hard to get this exchange partnership off the ground and make it the real success story that it is.'

Young people from both countries have stayed in touch and two young women from Argyll and Bute have already travelled to stay with friends they met through the exchange.

The group is also working towards a bronze or silver Youth Achievement Award, an SOA-accredited award from Youth Scotland, for their involvement in the exchange.

Among the activities the hosts and their visitors

took part in April included a mini Highland Games, ceilidh with musicians from Argyll Ceilidh Trust, gorge walking and the chance to try bagpipes and drums courtesy of Rothesay and District Pipe Band. Staff from Argyll and Bute Council's Youth Services team organises and supports the exchange project.

Both the Rothesay and Oban groups were full of praise for the programme.

Participant Gene Palmer of Oban said: 'On both the German and Scottish legs of the exchange we all learned a lot more about the

health and wellbeing topic at hand. We learned the difference in culture and various vocabulary that created a strong bond between the two groups, who will stay in contact online.'

Funding for the project came from Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and Bute Trust, Foundation Scotland, Argyll and Bute and Wellbeing Network, Bute Drugs and Alcohol Forum, Bute Common Good Fund, For Bute and Rothesay Rotary Club. In-kind support was provided by Historic Scotland and Mount Stuart Educational Trust.



Mull and Iona Community Trust gathered to celebrate its 20th birthday in Craignure.

Trust celebrates 20th birthday

MULL and Iona Community Trust (MICT) gathered to celebrate its 20th birthday at An Roth on Monday.

The organisation was formed in 1997 to lead developments and improve the quality of life for the residents of Mull and Iona. A birthday presentation looked back at 'MICT through the years' and highlighted projects MICT has been involved in.

MICT has distributed around £50,000 to other island community groups through the MESS funds, with profits generated by the three Island Castaways charity shops. Mull Eagle Watch has also donated

around £55,000 to local causes and another MICT project, Garmony Hydro, has provided £57,000 to the Waterfall Fund to support transformational projects.

Ranger Jan Dunlop spoke about the Mull and Iona Ranger Service's many partnerships, including Friends of Calgary Bay and the National Trust for Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage which, since 2011, has allowed a second ranger to be employed on the islands.

General manager Moray Finch said: 'The tremendous achievements of the past 20 years would not have been

possible without the determination and efforts of so many volunteers, directors and staff over that time. We face many challenges on the islands but we are confident that even more can be achieved in the next 20 years.'

Current projects include a childcare facility, purchase of a 200-hectare forest, more affordable housing, a pontoon facilities building at Ulva Ferry, Tobermory Light Industrial Park, long-distance paths, expansion of the network of public access defibrillators and it is hoped to take on new tourism infrastructure projects in 2018.

All the dates for the Christmas switch-ons

FESTIVE lights to make Christmas sparkle are going up across Argyll and Bute.

The switch-on dates have now been set and the first lights will herald the Christmas countdown from later this month.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'Nothing says Christmas is coming for our communities like the switching on of the Christmas lights. Whether it's lighting in streets and on buildings, and festive trees put up specially for the occasion in our bigger towns, or existing trees dressed up in smaller communities, there will be sparkle.'

The Christmas lights switch-on programme is: Oban: Switch-on Saturday November 18, 6pm. Tobermory: Friday November 24, 6pm. Lochgilphead: Friday December 1, 7.30pm. Camp-

beltown: Friday November 24, 7.30pm. Ardrishaig: Saturday December 2, 5.30pm. Bowmore: Friday December 1, 4pm. Furnace: Saturday December 2. Jura: Saturday November 25, Tarbert: Friday December 1, 5.30pm. Port Ellen: Monday December 4. Dunoon: Saturday November 25, 5pm. Innellan: Sunday December 3, 6pm. Port Bannatyne: Saturday December 2. Rothesay: Wednesday December 6, 4-4.30pm. Sandbank: Saturday December 2. Helensburgh: Friday November 24. Arrochar: Friday November 24. Cardross: Friday November 24. Garelochhead: Friday November 24. Kilcreggan: Friday November 24. Rhu: Friday November 24. Rosneath: Friday November 24. Times for some smaller events are unavailable.

Argyll tops table for workplace injuries

ARGYLL and Bute has the highest rate of workplace injuries in Scotland, new figures reveal. Some 545 injuries for every 100,000 workers in the area were reported to the Health and Safety Executive in 2016/17.

In Britain overall, 263 injuries were reported for every 100,000 workers in 2016/17. Argyll and Bute ranks 10th out of 381 British local authorities for workplace injuries.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing result in the most workplace injuries, followed by construction. The waste and recycling industry has the highest rate of deaths.

An NFU Scotland spokesperson said: 'Farming often involves a lot of working with heavy machinery and with

animals, both of which can be very dangerous. When working with machinery, it is important to have the best possible training and the proper safety equipment.'

'Animals can be volatile and unpredictable, no matter how experienced someone is in handling them. The best precautions that can be taken are to receive the best possible training and to carefully plan out any work beforehand.'

'Farm safety is very important to NFU Scotland and through our joint initiative with NFU Mutual, Scottish Government and Health and Safety Executive, we look to educate and inform as many farmers as possible about the different risks and the ways to reduce them.'

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OT

Killin

KILLIN SWI held its monthly meeting in the McLaren Hall and everyone was thoroughly entertained with an insight into the operation of local company Later Life Training.

The company is based in Killin and the speaker for the evening was Professor Dawn Skelton, whose father was the main founder of the business.

Dawn gave an excellent talk on the company's journey and had all of the ladies up doing some gentle

exercise. She explained how exercise can improve daily living for most people who may need a little encouragement to move around with more ease.

The next meeting will be on Thursday December 7 in the Courie Inn.

Michael Crowe will be providing canapés which the ladies will enjoy, perhaps accompanied by a festive drink.

Present and new members will be welcomed at the meeting.

Dalmally



More than one million children are fed and learning at school thanks to the Dalmally charity Mary's Meals.

DALMALLY-based charity Mary's Meals has launched a new campaign that will see all donations made in November and December doubled.

The Double The Love campaign aims to build on the charity's successful programme that provides more than 1.2 million children across four continents with a daily meal.

Donations received in this time period will be doubled, up to a maximum of £1.9 million.

This comes as the charity recently served its one billionth meal, which was enjoyed by 12-year-old Mohsin at an informal education centre in Noida, India.

Daniel Adams, executive director of Mary's Meals, said: 'As a result of the good

deeds of our many, many supporters, thousands of children - who would otherwise be working or begging for their next meal - are instead sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, learning how to read and write.

'Our supporters are at the very heart of this campaign, driven by the shared belief that every child in this world of plenty should receive a meal in school each day. With 61 million children still out of school and thousands more in need of daily meals, this work is just beginning.'

'We very much rely on grassroots donations from individuals and groups, so to have all gifts from across the UK doubled for the next two months is just amazing.'

To donate, visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

Kilbrandon

THE ladies of Kilbrandon SWI welcomed guest speaker Fiona McFee to their November meeting held in Seil Island Hall.

Fiona gave a demonstration on how to make gift boxes for Christmas or for other occasions.

From templates that Fiona had brought, each member

made two boxes which could then be filled with chocolates and decorated.

Fiona also brought along a fantastic selection of boxes she had made and donated them as raffle prizes.

'We all had good fun,' Tricia McDicken said. 'A very successful evening all round.'

Taynuilt



Left to right are Maisie Shaw from Taynuilt Primary School; Michael Halleron, Granton Primary School; Alex Ferguson, St Paul's High School; and Gary Cameron, Alexandra Parade Primary School, with Paul Wedgwood.

PUPILS in Taynuilt Primary School were treated to an award-winning 'scabby fruit crumble' recipe that was created by two of its students.

Maisie Shaw and Aisling Duncan were successful in a Halloween-themed 'Don't be afraid of your leftovers' competition.

The girls were selected as one of four winners from across Scotland.

The judges were particularly impressed with the thought both girls had given to why it is important to save food from the bin and the care they had shown in understanding the issues raised.

The Food for Thought-funded schools were tasked with developing a recipe that used leftover ingredients in a creative way, had a hint of Halloween about it, and would work in practice.

The girls' scabby fruit



Aidan Lawrie.

crumble is now available on the Love Food Hate Waste website, with the inclusion of caramel waffle biscuits to add extra crunch.

Maisie and Aisling were invited to a celebrations event in Edinburgh where top chef Paul Wedgwood of Wedgwood the Restaurant gave a cooking demonstration and presented the winners with their certificates and specially-made aprons.

Other activities included a bike-powered smoothie and even eating bugs such



Aisling Duncan and Maisie Shaw with Paul Wedgwood.

as crickets and meal worms.

A PUPIL from Taynuilt Primary School was successful in this year's St Conan's Cup for Art.

Aidan Lawrie's painting was one of the winners of this year's event.

Now in its fourth year, the St Conan's Cup is a competition organised by the Friends of St Conan's Kirk.

The friends help to maintain and restore the renowned building by using it as a hub for education, heritage and culture.



The handover last month by Railway Heritage Designation Advisory Board chairman Lord Faulkner to SRPS chairman Vic Michel with some of the board's advisers looking on.

THE old Taynuilt railway crest has found a new home. It was recently presented to the Scottish Railway Preservation Society to be displayed in a museum

at Bo'ness. Train stations along the Oban and Callander railway line used to have their own unique crests, but by the year 2000, only Taynuilt's had

survived. When the Taynuilt station burned down, the crest was elsewhere for safe keeping and for the past 10 years has been with CalMac.

However, due to a lack of space, the crest was passed on to the Railway Heritage Designation Advisory Board, which decided to display it in the museum.

Stornoway

TWO Highland schools have reached the semi-final of a national Gaelic debating competition.

The e-Sgoil building in Stornoway was the setting for the first two rounds of the National Gaelic Schools' Debate which took place last week.

The four teams who have reached the semi-final stages of this year's competition are the Nicolson Institute A, Gairloch High School, Lochaber High School and Glasgow Gaelic School.

The first semi-final draw sees Glasgow Gaelic School battle against Lochaber High School with their

topic being the motion that 'Too much recognition is given to sport in this country'.

In the second debate of the evening, the Nicolson Institute A will face Gairloch High School to debate 'We have to assume that detailed information about us keeps us safe and healthy in today's world'.

The semi-final will take place in the Pacific Quay building in Glasgow on November 28 at 6.30pm.

The final will be held the following evening in the Scottish Parliament and will be broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal.

Isle of Lewis

A FORMER primary school teacher from the Hebrides is calling for additional guidance to be given to teachers in how to teach children to read.

Anne Glennie from the Isle of Lewis gave evidence at the Scottish Parliament last Thursday.

Anne, who has trained more than 10,000 teachers in all aspects of literacy across Scotland, said it was 'deeply shocking' that teachers in training were not being taught how to teach children to read.

She is campaigning for the Scottish Government to include the Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) system in the curriculum.

'Scottish classrooms are



Anne Glennie.

suffocating in mixed methods,' Anne said. 'We need to use a methodology that works for every child, not just for some. We should be aiming for 100 per cent of our children reading in Scotland - and using research-informed methods - we should expect to get very close.'

Dunoon

PRIMARY five pupils from Kirn Primary School had the honour of opening a 61-year-old time capsule that was rediscovered during refurbishment works at the Queen's Hall.

Those who watched the third and final episode of *The Country Council* on BBC 1 Scotland, will have seen footage of the time capsule being opened by the children.

Inside the capsule was a variety of items including a miniature bottle of Old

Mull Scotch Whisky, a selection of bank notes, a Burgh of Dunoon Year Book from 1957-1958, and business cards from Provost E F Wyatt and town clerk Alex F Dobie. The capsule also contained copies of four local newspapers.

The time capsule was buried when Dunoon Pavilion was being built in 1905 and was later unearthed and re-buried with additional items after the pavilion was demolished due to a fire on April 3, 1949.

Argyll

FLAVOURS of Argyll and Bute have featured on the Good Food Show.

The best of Argyll and Bute's food and drink was showcased at the BBC Good Food Show in Glasgow last week.

Flying the flag for the area were Butebrew, CocoaMo, Islay Ales, Loch Fyne Whiskies, Lochnell Oysters, Sheffield Farm, Skipness Smokehouse, the Puffer Food Company and Wee Isle Dairy.

These companies offer a wide range of food and drink including craft beer, chocolate, whisky, gin,

preserves, oysters, beef, salmon, whole milk and ice-cream to customers all over the world.

Leader of Argyll and Bute Council Aileen Morton said: 'The food and drink industry is an extremely important sector for Argyll and Bute.'

'Locally, the sector generates in the region of £340 million turnover every year for the local economy with Argyll and Bute having an abundance of whisky, salmon and beer producers, which are the UK's biggest food and drink exports.'



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at Bo'ness. Train stations along the Oban and Callander railway line used to have their own unique crests, but by the year 2000, only Taynuilt's had

survived. When the Taynuilt station burned down, the crest was elsewhere for safe keeping and for the past 10 years has been with CalMac.

However, due to a lack of space, the crest was passed on to the Railway Heritage Designation Advisory Board, which decided to display it in the museum.

At Random

Unjustified price rise for parking

I WENT along to Argyll and Bute Council's offices in Albany Street last week to renew my annual resident's parking permit.

First, let me stress that the staff could not have been more helpful or pleasant, and processed my application quickly and without any fuss.

But I was in for a nasty shock. Last year's cost of £80 for the year has rocketed up to £95.

By my calculations, that is getting on for a 20 per cent surge in price.

How does the council justify that? Has the parking provision improved so drastically that it is now worth 20 per cent more?

I can assure you it has not. In fact, during the high tourist season - which these days stretches for months and well beyond the traditional school holiday period - it can be impossible to find a space anywhere near where I live.

And, by the way, paying up front in advance does not guarantee a space at all. Nor does it include any off-street car parks. It is purely for a on-street spaces in a limited number of streets as the permits are zoned.

I wouldn't mind paying extra if I was sure of getting space but I'm very far from sure I'll get parked at all.



On-street parking permits have rocketed in price.

Danger on the road

I KNOW I'm not alone in being concerned about the amount of standing water on the A85 alongside Loch Awe.

This stretch of road always has a number dangerous floods every time there is a spell of wet weather - which is hardly a rare occurrence in these parts.

Indeed, I was given a resounding ear-bashing recently by a friend who had just travelled back to Oban from Glasgow and traversed the route heading west from the village of Lochawe on a thoroughly wet day.

Allan said he hit standing water in several places and at times it was so deep it threw his car off the straight line it should have

taken. And, he assures me, he had slowed down to a measured speed because of the water.

I've had the same experience on many occasions and it can be very frightening.

Allan said he fears it is only a matter of time until the flooding on this stretch causes a serious accident. I agree.

It can't be beyond the wit of the relevant authority to put better drainage in place at these flooding black-spots to prevent a major accident on this main road.

Go Knoydart

ONE highlight of the year is always the MG Alba Trad Music Awards.

And this year has thrown up

what was, for me at least, one surprise - though very welcome - nomination.

Accessible only by boat or an 18-mile hike over the hills sits the whitewashed 1950s brick-built, steel-windowed Knoydart Community Hall which has been shortlisted in the Venue of the Year category.

David Newton, project manager for the Knoydart Community Hall, admits that this is an exciting nomination and a validation of tons of volunteer effort. He said: 'Small communities can be socially isolated but the music events we put on at the hall help bring conviviality and culture to the heart of the community.'

Knoydart hall has become popular with trad fans and last year it live-streamed the awards. This year will see a bit of Knoydart travel to the trads, being held in Paisley on December 2, as they join three other contenders for the title of Venue of the Year.

It is a remarkable achievement - whether it wins or not - for such a remote venue to have earned such high plaudits. I sincerely hope Knoydart gets the nod - for overcoming such enormous geographical isolation, if nothing else.

What do you think?

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

MARTIN LAING miaing@obantimes.co.uk



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Artist Catriona NicilleDhuibh's book revives 42 weird and wonderful Gaelic words collected by 19th-century priest, poet and folklorist Fr Allan McDonald.

Weird, wonderful words

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

EVER need the word for the choking groan made by a cow with a potato in its throat?

Well, now you have it – ròmhàn – and many other strange, forgotten Gaelic words collected by Father Allan McDonald, priest, poet and folklorist on the islands of South Uist and Eriskay from 1884 to 1905.

These include a word for the little bits of dust you see in a ray of sunlight, squeezing a big thing into a small hole and the noise made by women when they get together.

In 1958, folklore scholar John Lorne Campbell organised 2,900 of those words and published them as an intriguing dictionary, Gaelic Expressions from South Uist and Eriskay. Now a new book revives 42 of these weird and wonderful Gaelic words, titled Forradh, meaning 'sly work about food, cooking slyly'.

For example, if a person came into a house and saw a person at the fireside trying to hide what she was cooking, he might ask: 'Dé 'm forradh a th'agad a

sin?' (What are you sly cooking there?).

Artist Catriona NicilleDhuibh breathes new life into this quirky selection with hand-printed linocuts illustrating every word. 'I love the humour which runs through the dictionary,' she said. 'There's a real sense of human interaction and an ever-present gentle mockery, both of which I got used to when in South Uist and Eriskay doing my research.

'I love the attention to small things and to tiny nuances, and the imaginative, but very concrete, interaction with the otherworld.'

Other gems include a bàsadair: 'a hole in soft ground (covered by moss) with water underneath, where sheep and cattle are often lost'.

'Bàsadairean are still well understood in South Uist and Eriskay,' Catriona explains. 'One person in Eriskay described them to me as "a really wet place. Ground where the sheep would go through. It was a bit dangerous, a bàsadair. You'd need to be careful not to go through it. You'd go down. It was dangerous for man and

beast. They're up high in the mountain. There weren't many but there were a few. There was one place down behind the mountain called Bàsadair Point'.

'Calum Laing tells the story of how a bàsadair at Waterloo spelled the end of Bonaparte's reign: "Bonaparte was putting his faith in the cavalry on that bloody day. 'We stood,' Ronald would say, 'in a long line facing the edge of a hidden channel that reminded me of the Drimsdale ditch, every one of us boldly ready, waiting with a shining bayonet on our guns. They tumbled towards us wildly; they didn't see the marshy bàsadair until they were fatally stuck in it. Those of the great French army who remained alive dispersed and fled. The world was left in peace.'

Mabladh, the 'awkward chewing such as a toothless old man would make', can also mean hacking or maiming, used by Angus Campbell in Suathadh Ri Iomadh Rubha. 'Our beautiful language, the music and birdsong of our infancy, heart and soul of all that was

delightful in our history and lore, has been mabladh'ed and torn asunder by a generation of Gaels without respect, without pride in their birthright and their language.'

You can learn more Gaelic words and their pronunciations at the book's website www.slycooking.com, including these:

□ BILEAGACH: said of a person who must taste and sip every food or drink she sees. For example: Nach i Oighrig dhubb tha bileagach seach aon té eile 's tir? (Doesn't dark Effie go in for tasting more than any other woman in the place?)

□ CEASAD, grumbling for lack of a thing.

□ COILLEAG or CAOIBHLEAG, the little rings that form on the surface of fat soup.

□ CINNICH, tidying one's dress and one's person with nervous gesticulations.

□ FEADARRAICH, when the fire was being smooored and the lights put out, to terrify children a person would draw the tongs through the ashes, and the greenish red light from the embers were said to be the feadarraich coming for children who would not sleep quietly.

□ FORAGRADH, disturbance of an uncanny nature heard in a house.

□ GLAIGEIL: loud talk as of garrulous females, all talking together.

□ GRÙDACH, searching for a lost object in a muddy pool or well with the hands.

□ MABLADH, awkward chewing such as a toothless old man would make. [Messing a thing up. J.M.]

□ MIONAGADANAN, the atoms seen in a ray of sunlight coming into a house. [Stress on first syllable, A.J.]

□ SEANRAIGEACH, gille seanraigeach, said of a lad who passes his working hours without doing much, frittering and pottering.

□ SGIONC, forcing an object into an aperture less than the object itself, eg putting a large cork into a narrow-necked bottle.

□ STORRADH, to importune a person to take a thing as food when not inclined to take it. Forcing, urging strongly, pressing. Bha 'ad 'ga storradh orm ge b'oil leam. [they were forcing it on me in spite of me].

□ www.slycooking.com

Fascinating history of Argyll caves

MORVERN LINES
IAN THORNER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

AS WE top up our heating oil tanks or order another ton of wood or coal to see us through the coming winter, it is perhaps as good a time as any to wonder what our ancestors did to keep warm when they lived in less comfortable surroundings.

Of course it is easy to say they didn't know any better, but living along the west coast of Argyll a few thousand years ago – even although the climate was drier than it is today – life must have been pretty miserable.

Our forefathers did not live only in caves, for cave life was the exception rather than the rule, but they are the only sure places where they may have lived. Caves are generally not comfortable places, but they have been used since man first arrived in Argyll more than 10,000 years ago, down to the present day.

At one end of the range they were occupied by skin-clad hunter-gatherers foraging along the shores and rocky pools for shellfish and in the adjacent woods and hills for animals and plants. At the other, by sheep-stealers, poachers, smugglers, fugitives from justice and vague folk living on the edge of the society of their times.

When the great European ice sheets melted, the land mass rose and then slumped, leaving behind old raised beaches. Among these, which stand well above the present high-water



Ian Mackinnon knows the unwritten history of Jura, which is spectacular with its many caves.



mark, there are caves and rock shelters with middens full of shellfish remains and human rubbish. This phase of life is referred to by Scottish archaeologists as the Obanian culture because some of its best known sites were found in caves at the foot of the cliff behind the Oban Distillery and elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

The MacArthur cave, which was discovered towards the end of 1894 by quarrymen and excavated the following year, produced dozens of bone and flint implements. It also yielded the remains of at least four humans from a later period who were accompanied by items placed with them for use in the next world.

Caves are formed and developed by various geologic processes and can vary in size. These may involve a combination of chemical processes, erosion from water, tectonic forces,

micro-organisms, pressure and atmospheric influences. Morvern has very few caves, mainly due to constant geological movement over a long period.

I know of fewer than a dozen suitable for human occupation although there may have been others which are now hidden by undergrowth and fallen debris. One gives its name to Beinn na h-Uamh, a mountain above the northern shores of Loch Arianas. It means the hill of the cave and must have been of some significance as its walls contain incised carvings thought to be medieval in date.

Less well known is another near Torr na Con (Gaelic, the hill of the dog) called Samuel's cave. It lies well hidden near the entrance to Loch Driumbuidhe on the south shores of Loch Sunart. The story behind the name is this. A man called Samuel, but calling himself Martin to disguise his real name, which was

possibly MacPherson, was on the run from the police in Kintail and is thought to have had something to do with an arson case. He, and another man, came down to Morvern in a small ketch by way of Loch Linnhe in the late 1800s. They called at Lochaline where Samuel purchased some groceries at the shop near the old pier and, having no money, left a gold watch as security. They crossed over to Salen, Mull, where they busied themselves gathering whelks.

The companion disappeared. Samuel is believed to have drowned him, but this was never proven. Samuel returned to the shop in Lochaline, redeemed his watch and sailed up to Auliston Point on the Morvern side where he lived in a tent before taking up residence in his cave below Torr na Con.

Here he remained for 15 years collecting and selling whelks, until the Gordons, who owned

Drimmin estate, gave him work mending the sheep fank at Driumbuidhe. Samuel moved from the cave to a ruined cottage near the shore which he repaired and re-roofed, before ending up at Glasdrum below Drimmin House, where he died.

The finest caves in Argyll are to be found along the west coast of Jura between the Gulf of Corryvreckan and Loch Tarbert. Those lying round the shores of Corpach Bay and Ruantallain, show traces of human activity. Some have been walled at their mouth and have stone platforms inside.

According to local tradition, funeral parties on their way with coffins from Jura to Craignish, Iona or Oronsay, used them for shelter when the weather prevented them from reaching their destination.

An early traveller recorded one of the Corpach caves having an altar in it and pieces of petrified substance hanging from the roof.

To find these many caves and learn about the fascinating Jura coastline, you will need a knowledgeable local guide. Look no further than Ian Mackinnon, who is a man you don't meet every day. He was born and brought up on Jura and now lives at Kilmelford.

There cannot be many left who know more of the unwritten history and folklore of their native isle.

Iain Thorner
iain.thorner@btinternet.com

Mike and Lisa are cooking up a storm in their new kitchen...



I know and we've done so much, this new kitchen is just magic.



Now if we could work on your cooking skills, then I would be truly happy.



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OT

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

It is a sad fact of life that we continue to live in dangerous times and rely still on our brave military men and women to keep us safe from those who would harm us and our way of life.

So it should come as little surprise that huge numbers of people turned out in Oban and across Argyll and the Isles to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars and numerous other conflicts.

In what were very poignant and moving ceremonies, armed services veterans, current serving personnel, local dignitaries and the uniformed youth organisations,

as well as others, came together over the weekend to honour the memory of those who have died in defence of our country.

Despite international treaties and dialogue between nations, there are still ongoing tensions and belligerence from those who threaten us.

It is a sobering reminder that we continue to depend on the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force to protect us. Yet, as the weekend turnout illustrated only too clearly, the vast majority of people still hold our armed forces in the highest regard.



Days gone by – 2001/2002

There were plenty of goodies on offer at this PTA raffle, but we are unsure of the year and which school were they helping. Pictured are Margaret Kennedy (chairman), Nicola O'Brien, 12, Karen McPhee (PTA), Stephanie Munro, Ina Dawson (PTA), Nicola Gemell and Fiona Stephen (PTA).

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



FOR Highlanders and islanders living in Glasgow, November and the beginning of December is busy time of year in their social calendar with the various annual gatherings of many of these homeland's respective associations taking place.

Although there is a scattering of these events during other times of the year, there is a pronounced concentration in the early winter months.

The Lewis and Harris, Jura, Tiree, Uist and Barra, Coll, and Skye gatherings all take place within a few weeks of each other and, with much crossover of attendees, this kicks the winter off in a lively fashion for exiled Gaels.

Taking the form of concerts and dances and with much accompanying fringe activity, these events and the associations that run them have played an important role in the lives of urban Gaels for more than 100 years.

Set up mainly in the late 1800s and early 1900s, these societies were formed predominantly to bring to-

gether the many hundreds of people who had left their island homes to find work in the city.

It is a natural human desire when far from home to want to join together with others with the same geographic and cultural background, and back in the days when travel and communications were much more limited, it allowed people to keep in touch practically and emotionally with the homes they had left.

A very important role of these groups in earlier times and a strong factor leading their formation was their role as a provider of financial assistance to those who found themselves in poverty.

This was many years before the introduction of the welfare state, and the prospects for those in poverty, far from home, in a strange city, were not good.

Receiving practical, moral and financial support from fellow islanders would have been a lifeline for many in these harsh times.

Over the past week, I have been looking over old programmes from the Tiree Association and I was surprised by how important a part

this took in the work of the group and it shows much foresight, caring and humanity in the intentions of those involved in the setting up and running of these organisations.

As well as this role as a helping hand to individuals, the associations would also help financially with many other projects and causes relating to their areas.

With the recent solemn occasion of Remembrance Sunday, when we pay our respects to those who sacrificed their lives in war, it is interesting and relevant to note that it was the Tiree Association, ably supported by local initiatives on the island, which set up the fund for the erection of Tiree's war memorial.

From the publication of Na Bàird Thirisdeach in 1932 right up to the present day, when next weekend will be launched The Tiree Songbook, the association has played a key role in preserving and promoting the island's history, culture and heritage.

All other of the island societies of this kind played similarly important roles and their work should be recognised as a very significant part in the history and evolution of these islands.



Moira Cameron said: 'Such a beautiful spot and a lovely idea.'

Colline Mackiggan commented: 'Happy memories of childhood Sunday walks.'

There was an outpouring of concern for the welfare of Agnes MacKechnie, the Oban woman seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on Halloween.

Danielle Hay-West posted: 'Wishing a speedy recovery. Hope they have caught the driver responsible.'

Lauren Thomson said: 'Fingers crossed for a speedy recovery.'

Audrey Hunter wrote: 'Our lovely neighbours. Thoughts and prayers from Ken and I.'

Iain Macdonald commented: 'Hoping your recovery continues.'

Julie McKay posted: 'Hope to see you home soon Agnes.'

Claire Evans said: 'Hope she is on the mend soon. A lovely lady.'

Beth Campbell wrote: 'Awful news. Agnes is one of the best people I know. Sending every positive vibe I can and hope to hear good news soon. Lots of love.'

Mogie Gallagher posted: 'So sorry to hear this Agnes. Hope you're ok and recover quickly. Sending out thoughts to you, David and all the family.'

Karen MacKechnie, Agnes's daughter, replied: 'Thanks, it means a lot to us that everyone is thinking of my mum.'

Sharon Bratton, Agnes's sister, commented: 'I am sure when she gets to see this she will be overwhelmed with all you lovely people who are worried about her.'

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.

How to put a stop to sexual harassment

Sir,
With regard to Councillor Julie McKenzie's comments (*The Oban Times*, November 9), I sympathise absolutely with her and others who have been sexually harassed and bullied while at work.

Complaining to your employers leads only to attempts at appeasement or fudged efforts to play it down.

In my long working life, I have, like many others, signed employment contracts, rules of conduct and the Official Secrets Act. In not one of these was there a clause which stated that I may sexually harass a colleague or anyone else.

Therefore, anyone who is harassed is right, at the moment of the offence, to tell the offender (whether in company or not) to desist as they are in breach of contract and facing dismissal.

Saying nothing gives only the impression that the remarks or touch are acceptable, which puts the victim in breach of contract.

If attention is unwelcome outwith the workplace, you would go straight to the police.

My best advice is to stop the offender before he gets a chance to start. Most sex offenders and bullies start with 'a wee bit of banter' which is then allowed to continue.

George Doyle,
Ellenabeich, Easdale.

China offers economic boost for Argyll

Sir,
Last week BID4Oban attended Argyll Enterprise Week at the Tourism Building on Success day.

There was some fantastic information shared on how Oban and Argyll is being marketed and the various opportunities that are coming our way for next year.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative hosted the event.

The highly successful Mark Beaumont, of cycling around the world in 80 days – or, in his case, 78 days – campaign promoting Wild About Argyll, has raised the profile of the area and we can look forward to even more visitors next year, in particular from the cycling community.

The most inspiring presentation was from Gordon Campbell Gray of Campbell Gray Hotels. He spoke passionately about his worldwide experience and observations from his various businesses. He is currently involved in building a new hotel, The Machrie on Islay. He concentrated on providing exceptional levels of customer service and recruitment in the current climate where many businesses are suffering staff shortages during the busy season.

Those businesses that attended will have come away with some food for thought in terms of retention of staff and ideas to recruit in a difficult market.

Following on from the tourism day, we attended the China business summit at the Corran Halls which was hosted by Brendan O' Hara, Argyll

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
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DÈ CHANAS TU A-NISE? Bidh cuimhne aig a mhòr-chuid againn air a' cheist sin bho àm ar n-òige is pàrantan agus inbhich eile a' cur nar cuimhne taing a thoirt airson rud a chaidh a thoirt dhuinn.

'S neònach mura robh mòran agabhb, mar mise, ag èisteachd agus a' coimhead seirbheis cuimhneachaidh croich a' Chogaidh Mhòir air telebhisean Latha na Sàbaid seo chaidh, agus sinn uile mothachail air an uamhas a bha gabhail àite anns an Roinn Eòrpa ceud bliadhna air ais. Sgrìos do-chreidsinneach anns an robh milleanan a' call am beatha agus mìltean de Ghàidheil òga nam measg. Chaidh na h-athraichean againne a ghleidheadh chun na h-ìre 's gum bheil sinn ann agus abair adhbhar dhuinn a bhith taingeil agus usal às na h-uile dam b' fheudar blàr fhulang, agus sinn gu sònraichte cuimhneachail air an fheadhainn nach do thill.

Bhiodh càirdean aig mòran agabhb ann an cogadh agus a bha fortanach gu leòr faotainn dhachaigh gun leòn.

Ach cuiridh mi geall gur e glè bheag a chuala a' chuid as motha de chàirdean

and Bute MP. This was primarily aimed at producers who want to do business in the Chinese markets.

You may wonder what BID4Oban was doing there. Well, in the coming years the growth of Chinese tourism for our area could be immense. It is a growing market with many younger people visiting from this far-off land.

In attendance were the China-Britain Business Council, Scottish Development International and Bank of China (UK) Ltd.

There was an entertaining presentation from Ewan MacKintosh of Scottish Sea Farms (SSF) where he shared his business's experiences in exporting to China. SSF sends in excess of 600 tonnes of salmon every year to China directly from their site at Shian near Oban.

BID4Oban will now be investigating various ways in how we can help and support AITC build links with the Chinese tourist market to ensure Oban and Lorn are well represented.

Andrew Spence,
Chief executive, BID4Oban.

Scotland's poor record on breastfeeding

Sir,
I wrote to Tesco in Oban about the large aisle sign hanging from the ceiling which said 'Baby Milk' as a locator for infant formula feed.

I asked Tesco if it would re-word this dominant misleading sign to 'Artificial Baby Milk' because that is exactly what it is. Baby milk is human breast milk, not formula, and Tesco is thus contributing to the normalisation of artificially feeding infants which sadly runs throughout the UK.

In fact, we have just about the worst rate of breastfeeding in the world and Scotland is no exception. Oban Tesco failed to respond so I wrote to the customer services manager in Dundee who replied that the term 'baby milk' is within the bounds of its policies.

I daresay it is as it suits its profits but where are its ethics? Tesco also sent me a £10 voucher, probably to try to silence me, but I returned it unused.

The BBC announced last week that the UK had the highest obesity rate in Europe and this is no wonder with the highest rate of artificially feeding our infants, certainly a proven contributing factor.

Yes, we do need more professional and peer support to help mothers to breastfeed for longer (and to want to start in the first place) but also community support and curtailing misleading advertising would go a long way too.

In this season of the BBC's Children in Need, perhaps we may also think about all the children in need of breastfeeding.

Valerie Cleave,
Lochgilphead.

Cathedral of Trees has air of tranquillity

Sir,
Following your excellent article 'Trees bloom for Remembrance Day' (*The Oban Times*, November 9), my grand-

son and I followed up attending the Remembrance Day parade with a visit to the Cathedral of Trees.

It is many years since I was there last. At that time it was looking sad and overgrown.

I was delighted to see how much care and attention it has obviously received recently. Despite grandson and Labrador having a boisterous game of hide and seek among the hedged aisles, the place has a wonderful air of tranquillity.

I would encourage Oban folk to go back and visit again – and leave a pebble in the pot to show support.

Mike Robertson,
Oban.

Unfair costs for single-parent families

Sir,
As I try to decide whether to purchase a Nevis Range season pass for myself, I have once again become aware of how comparatively more expensive life can be as a single parent. I have one son.

If we do not bother with discounts, our combined passes will cost £349 (£248 for me plus £101 for my son). A two-parent family costs £547 (£248 per adult plus £51 for the first child).

The same happens with HighLife Highland. Or maybe even worse. A single membership is £20 a month, a family membership is £30 per month. Some families have up to two adults and four children on their pass. I have one adult and one child.

I understand the need to encourage family membership and that it is expensive to take part in activities with so many children. However, just at these times, I feel hard done by.

Rona Yard,
by email.

Opposition MSPs excluded from talks

Sir,
It is extremely disappointing that the Scottish Government chose not to invite any opposition politicians to attend the Convention of the Highlands and Islands held in Oban last month.

While apparently being open to the public, there was no information advertising the event on the Scottish Government website, which instead only carried the details of last year's event in Inverness.

The whole thing smacks of the type of closed-shop exercise that we have all come to expect from this centralised SNP government, which is clearly only interested in parroting party political messages rather than having a genuine, cross-party conversation about the future for the Highlands and Islands.

I have written to the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Keith Brown MSP, to make my concerns clear. Perhaps if the Scottish Government is keen to engage with local groups, then next time it will extend an invitation to local politicians from all parties to join in the conversation.

Donald Cameron,
MSP, Highlands and Islands.

Ailean Caimbeul

Social media

Our story last week about the project which is aiming to have Oban's Cathedral of Trees, at Glencruitten, restored prompted a response from readers.

Jessie Keymel wrote: 'Thank you for showing this I have often wondered if there was still a Cathedral of Trees. I left Oban in 1954.'

Janet Booth asked: 'Where is this?'
Kerry-anne Wallace responded: 'Up past the golf course turn left at junction up to Mackays pond then you see a place called Grass Roots just down from there you see a building plot next to houses park, there and head into forest. Would love to see this fully restored was up last week and was very sad to see it so neglected. Remember many childhood walks and wanting to sit in the pews.'

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

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

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

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

Lochaber turns out in hundreds to pay tribute to fallen



The remembrance service at the Commando Memorial was well attended as Fort William and the surrounding areas paid tribute to those who died in the two world wars and other conflicts on Remembrance Sunday. Full report and picture special on pages 2, 10 and 11. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image, IF F46 Remembrance Spean 01.

Liberty submit Fort plans

LOCHABER'S economy could be bolstered by more than £50 million a year if plans to build a new aluminium plant are approved by Highland councillors.

Liberty British Aluminium hopes to get the go-ahead to build a car wheels factory in Fort William as more than 130 documents were submitted to the Highland Council's planning department for consideration last week.

New figures released show that the company has projected a £54.1 million GVA (gross value added) boost to the Lochaber economy each year once production begins, as well as the creation of a total of 679 jobs – 400 directly and 279 indirectly.

A spokesperson for Liberty said: 'Our team has compiled a very detailed submission after extensive studies. We are grateful for the input of local people and really pleased with the numbers at the two consultation events, as well as the interest and support we experienced.'

Local MP Ian Blackford said: 'I am delighted that planning permission has been applied for. The development is a major boost for the Lochaber economy and is a step towards the re-industrialisation of the Highlands as a whole.'

'Hundreds of new jobs will be created onsite and this will also benefit the wider Lochaber community, with new housing, investment in infrastructure and new skills being required in the area.'

Bosses of the multi-national giant behind the plans said that, if planning permission is granted, they see no major obstacles to the plant being up and running by 2020.

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes added: 'This expansion will have a phenomenal impact, with Lochaber leading the industrial comeback in Scotland.'

Strontian care home to close

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS will not be returning to Dail Mhor Care Home in Strontian, NHS Highland and Highland Council have said, confirming families' worst fears.

Emotions were running high at a meeting on Thursday November 9, as around 80 members of the public packed into Strontian Village Hall, including many members of care home staff, to hear that Dail Mhor Care Home is to remain closed to residents.

The six-bed care home in Strontian, owned by the Highland Council and managed by NHS Highland since 2012, closed in August this year in order to conduct urgent plumb-

ing repair work, with residents forced to relocate.

Representatives from the estates teams of both the Highland Council and NHS Highland told locals that repairs to the 45-year-old building – initially expected to be completed by the end of October – had uncovered asbestos in the heating system control room. Due to these delays, the council has said that work will be complete by December.

However, deputy director of operations for north and west NHS Highland, Tracy Ligema, revealed at the meeting last Thursday that the NHS will not be investing in the building due to its age and the fact that six-bed care facilities are no longer regarded as viable options.

Ms Ligema said: 'We advised, on the recommendation of NHS Highland's estates department, that there is further work required to make the Dail Mhor building fit for purpose beyond the plumbing repairs which the council is in the process of completing.'

'This is significant work and we advised that, given the constraints of the current premises, it would be better to invest in solutions which would provide longer term sustainability than could be achieved with the current building.'

Following its temporary closure, five residents were moved out of Dail Mhor at the end of August – three being transferred to Invernevis House in Fort Wil-

liam, one to the Mackintosh Centre in Mallaig and one to Moss Park care home in Caol – leaving relatives with lengthy journeys to visit their loved ones.

Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter, speaking to the *Lochaber Times* after the meeting, said: 'Despite council officers saying works would be complete before Christmas and the building handed back to the NHS, no residents will be returning.'

'This is effectively a closure by stealth. The NHS attempted to wind down the use of Dail Mhor a few years ago by encouraging families to place their loved ones elsewhere. They didn't succeed because of local opposition.'

At the meeting, Ms Ligema identified the need for a more

significant care 'footprint' in Strontian and intimated that NHS Highland is keen to work in partnership with the community to ensure investment is directed towards the area. She also described a variety of options for elderly care within the community without the need for a care home.

Mr Baxter was unconvinced with NHS Highland's promises to improve healthcare in the area, however, adding: 'We heard lots of vague promises at the community meeting from NHS managers, including talk of working with the community. However, there was no firm commitment or funding allocated to back up those promises.'

Denise Anderson, chairperson of Sunart Community Council

(SCC), said: 'It's a very worrying time for the affected families and the staff, who have been desperately waiting for news about the future of this critical facility.'

'I'm saddened to hear NHS Highland does not consider the building fit to re-open in the short term but welcome the commitment from NHS Highland to find a way for us to open the building as a community resource – at least in the daytime – and her [Ms Ligema] longer term commitment to investment in Strontian for the benefit of the whole peninsula.'

The meeting closed with an agreement to form a local task force, convened by SCC. Twenty residents put their names down to assist or to be involved.

coming soon...

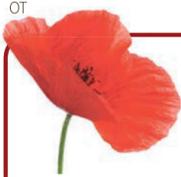
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Argyll bows in silence



The standard bearers flank the war memorial in Oban. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday10

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

HUNDREDS of people from across Argyll attended services throughout the region to pay their respects for those who have lost their lives in war.

Remembrance Sunday events were held in towns and villages alike, with Oban boasting a 'great turnout'.

This was down to the superb job done by the Oban branch of the British Legion, with Iain and Lesley Simmonds at the helm.

This year's ceremony differed to the previous two years, as people were able to leave their umbrellas at home.

Mr Simmonds said: 'It was a great turnout. The day went absolutely brilliantly. Every year it

seems to get a better and better turnout.'

Oban Pipe Band fronted the parade, led by Sergeant Major Frank McKenna, from the Corran Halls at 10.45am on Sunday November 12.

They made their way to the war memorial, followed by uniformed organisations, emergency services and members of the public.

At 11am the standard-bearers lowered the flags and everyone took part in two minutes' silence.

Wreaths were then placed by members of the emergency services, Argyll and Bute Council, and youth organisations as well as the head boy and girl from Oban High School, Ruairidh Horne and Mila Bicanova.

Oban North and Lorn Coun-

cillor Jim Lynch was given the opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of the local authority.

'It was a big honour on a day like this,' he said. 'There was an incredible turnout. It was a proud day.'

Following this service, Oban Sea Cadets made their way to the CalMac ferry terminal to host a ceremony of their own.

This was done in the upper area next to a plaque on the wall which pays respect to both members of the Royal Navy and CalMac who died in battle.

Peter Park, chaplain of Oban Sea Cadets, said: 'It went very well. The cadets were well behaved and observed the silence and they all enjoyed the experience. I am very proud of them.'

'CalMac was part of the merchant navy and during the war

this was an important place for convoys.'

He told the cadets that even though it might be hard to envision now, during the war, Oban Bay was filled with vessels.

McCaig's Tower also played a part in remembering the fallen as, after being out of action for many months, the lights surrounding the monument were fixed just in time to illuminate the structure in red. Every year the tower is lit up red for Remembrance Day.

If anyone would like to get involved in next year's service, the Oban branch of the British Legion is looking for members. Mr Simmonds said they were struggling to recruit. If anyone would like to get involved, can contact him via Oban FM on 01631 570057.



Oban High School's head girl and boy Mila Bicanova and Ruairidh Horne prepare to lay a wreath. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday09



Iain and Lesley Simmonds helped to organise Oban's remembrance service. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday12



The Oban High School Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday03



Jodi Anderson lays a wreath on behalf of Oban Sea Cadets. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday08

Oban High School musicians and choristers from Argyll lead tributes at St Conan's



The First World War evening marking the 8th Battalion Argylls 100 years ago. A mix of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, Iain Macintyre and Oban High School musicians, recreation of a war concert in Lochawe by the Three Crows, Colin Paterson of Connel reading his father's letters from the Western Front from 1917 and poetry, and songs of 1917 with the Taynuilt and Dalmally school choirs. Hosted and written by the Friends of St Conan's Kirk.



to remember the fallen



Oban Pipe Band played from the Corran Halls to the war memorial. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday04



The colours are lowered as the two minutes' silence commences. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday05



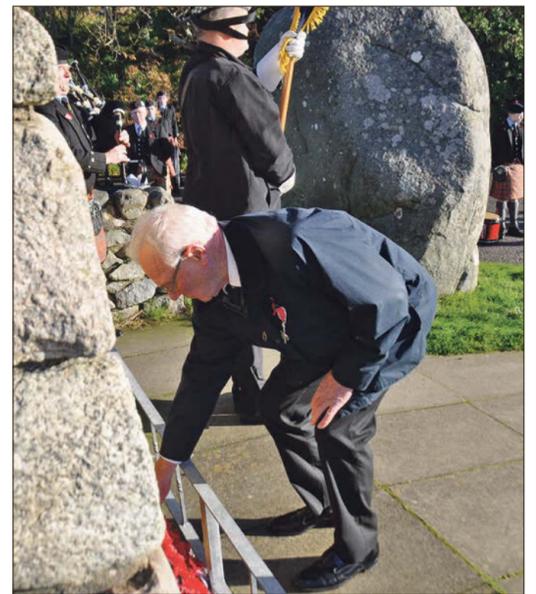
Sergeant Major Frank McKenna leads the march. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday01



Argyll and Bute Councillor Jim Lynch places a wreath on behalf of the local authority. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday07



Oban Sea Cadets during the march. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday02



Graham MacQueen lays a wreath in honour of those who have fallen. 17_T46_RemembranceSunday06

Villagers pay tribute in Killin to the casualties from conflicts around the world



Youth organisations joined dignitaries in Killin at the war memorial.



A piper plays the lament watched by a large crowd of people in Killin.

Arena

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

WHATS ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary bid4oban.co.uk



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Thursday
16th November</p> <p>Oban War and Peace Museum
We are open from 10am - 4pm daily including Sunday during the Winter Festival.</p> <p>Bookbug Sessions
Oban Library, every Thursday during term time, 9.30am & 11am</p> <p>Oban Health Walks
Start Oban Congregational Church, 10am-12pm</p> <p>Oban Lorne Strathspey & Reel Society Practice Night
Oban Guide Hall, 7.30pm-9.30pm</p> <p>Friday
17th November</p> <p>Toy Cupboard
Glencruitten Church, 10am-12pm</p> <p>Boys Brigade
Oban Congregational Church, 6pm-9pm</p> <p>Ballet West Winter Wonderland
Corran Halls, 6.30pm-8.45pm</p> <p>Lorn Archaeological & Historical Society
St Columba's Cathedral Hall, 7pm-9pm</p> <p>Quiz Night
Masonic Lodge, 7.30pm-10.30pm</p> <p>MY GAELIC - Film Screenings
The Rockfield Centre 11am-7pm</p> <p>Charity Fashion Show
M & Co, Station Square, 6.30pm</p> <p>Cancer Research Committee Oban Branch
Quiz Night, Masonic Hall, 7pm</p> <p>Saturday
18th November</p> <p>Ganavan Sands parkrun
9.30am-11am</p> <p>Oban Winter Festival Victorian Market
The Perle Hotel 10am-4pm</p> <p>Oban Winter Festival Food & Craft Market
Oban Distillery 10am-4pm</p> <p>Gaelic Bookbug
Corran Halls 10:30am</p> <p>Coolio's Coastal Clean-up
Esplanade 11am-2pm</p> <p>Argyll Animal Aid Craft Fayre
Corran Halls 11am-3pm</p> <p>MY GAELIC - Film Screenings
The Rockfield Centre 11am-7pm</p> <p>Black Mount Hill Walk
Tyndrum, All day</p> <p>Coffee Morning, St Johns Cathedral
10.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>Oban Winter Wonderland
Ocean Explore Centre, 11am-4pm</p> | <p>Saturday
18th November</p> <p>Fair Trade & Christmas Market
Kilmartin Museum Cafe, 11am-4pm</p> <p>Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)
Furan Gaelic Centre, 12pm-1.30pm</p> <p>My Gaelic Discussion
The Rockfield Centre 2pm</p> <p>Pool Inflation Lessons
Atlantis Leisure 1pm-1.45pm, 2pm-2.45pm, 3pm-3.45pm</p> <p>Love Oban Reindeer
Parade with special guest - Santa Station Square, 5pm-6.15pm</p> <p>Race Night
Oban Commercial Lodge, 7.30pm</p> <p>Taynuilt Winter Ceilidh
Taynuilt Village Hall, 7.30pm</p> <p>Sunday
19th November</p> <p>Clootie Dumping Competition
Corran Halls 10am-4pm</p> <p>Fair Trade & Christmas Market
Kilmartin Museum Cafe, 11am-4pm</p> <p>MY GAELIC - Film Screenings
The Rockfield Centre 11am-7pm</p> <p>Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration
Argyllshire Gathering Halls, 2pm-4pm</p> <p>Roller Disco
Atlantis Leisure 2.30pm-3.30pm, 3.45pm-4.45pm</p> <p>Easdale Island Christmas Craft Fair
Easdale Island Community Hall, 11am to 4pm</p> <p>Monday
20th November</p> <p>Christmas Cake Topper Workshop
Oban High School 7pm-9pm</p> <p>Oban Gaelic Choir
Skipinnish, 7.30pm</p> <p>Tuesday
21st November</p> <p>Gaelic Toy Cupboard
Undercroft Church Centre, 1.30pm-3.30pm</p> <p>Irish Dancing Classes
St Columba's Cathedral Hall, 4.15pm-5.45pm</p> <p>Wednesday
22nd November</p> <p>Accessorize - Hat Tastic
The Rockfield Centre</p> <p>Toy Cupboard
Undercroft Church Centre, 10am-12pm</p> <p>Beach Clean with Hope Kitchen
HOPE Kitchen, 10.30am-12pm</p> <p>Cancer Support Services - Drop in Wednesday
Oban Library, 2.15pm-4.15pm</p> |
|--|--|

TV star Elaine tours Highlands and Islands

A brand new series of Elaine C Smith's *Burdz Eye View* - starting on STV tomorrow (Friday November 17) - sees the much-loved actress and comedian continuing her travels around Scotland as she takes her one-woman stand-up tour across the length and breadth of the country.

The new six-part series, which airs at 8pm, follows the entertainer as she visits the Highlands and Islands, exploring the region and getting to know the people who live, work and laugh there.

This third series features Elaine sailing up the Great Glen on a barge to Fort William before travelling on in her campervan to some of Scotland's most stunning islands.

She enrolls in a Gaelic beginners' class on the Isle of Skye, tries her hand at black pudding making and weaving during her first visit to Lewis and Harris, goes pony trekking on the Isle of Mull and flies to Barra beach to join an all-female waulking/singing group.

Elaine C Smith's *Burdz Eye View* offers viewers an entertaining journey of discovery from Elaine's unique

and personal perspective. From the scenic splendour of the natural landscapes she travels to by a variety of transport types, to the varied and fun pursuits she gets involved in as she meets the people of Scotland, Elaine provides an informative, insightful and humorous commentary - delivered in her signature style with wit and warmth.

Elaine said: 'I had the pleasure of visiting Lewis and Harris for the first time and I'm confident I'll be back. This series is full of fun and discovery and I hope the audience enjoys the chance to see this stunning part of Scotland through my eyes.'

Episode 1: Inverness - Elaine joins a craft group for older gentlemen, participates in a laughter yoga class and visits the historical and moving site of the Battle of Culloden before performing her gig at the Eden Court Theatre.

Episode 2: Fort William - Elaine travels on a barge to the Highland garrison town to join a roller-skating group then takes a trip on the Jacobite steam train over the famous



Elaine C Smith plays an emotional gig on Barra. Picture Sophie Stephenson

Glenfinnan Viaduct. She revisits the moment when Bonnie Prince Charles raised the Scottish standard then returns to Fort William to perform her sell-out show.

Episode 3: Skye - Elaine takes her campervan to the

island where she visits Scotland's only Gaelic college to enrol in a beginners' class, and enjoys a morning coffee with Lord and Lady MacDonald before trying her hand at some axe throwing.

Episode 4: Lewis and Harris - Elaine travels

to the Outer Hebrides and helps out on a traditional croft, makes some black pudding and has a go at weaving before heading back to Stornoway to perform.

Episode 5: Mull and Iona - Elaine tries her hand at glass-making in Tobermory, goes pony

trekking up the hills and then takes a trip on a 1930s sailing boat to the iconic pilgrimage destination of Iona accompanied by a group of local musicians.

Episode 6: Barra - In the final episode, Elaine visits the jewel of the Hebrides,

arriving by plane on the island's world-famous beach runway to explore historical sites, join an all-female waulking/singing group and round off her tour by performing an emotional gig in Castlebay.

Glasgow Letter

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



Modus smash their debut gig

There's a new band on the trad scene who fuse folk music with electronic dance - a genre they call 'underground trad'.

On Sunday November 12, Modus played their first public gig in the Hug and Pint on Great Western Road. I may be biased in that the piper, Ewan Duncan, is my flat-mate but I can genuinely say I was taken aback by the quality of sound and the musical togetherness of a band making only their first appearance.

Modus consists of Ewan on pipes, Siobhan Anderson on fiddle, Jo McDowell on drums

and Tim Mills on keyboard. They are well worth hearing as soon as you can.

Tiree Gathering approaches

Tonight, Thursday November 16, is going to be a cracker in the Partick Burgh Halls.

Myself, Norman MacKinnon, Kim Carnie and Gordon, Alan and Kyle Rowan, will all be taking to the stage under the chairmanship of my fellow *Oban Times* columnist Angus MacPhail.

The sold-out dance will be held the following evening at 9pm in the Glasgow University Union - to the music of Trail West.

Glasgow Skye Association dinner

Anyone attending the Glasgow Skye Association dinner (on Thursday November 30 at 7pm in the Glasgow University Union) should contact the association secretary, Karen Campbell, on 01786 832278 before Monday November 27 at the latest in order to place meal choices.

What's on

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

Saturday November 18: Glasgow Islay Association quiz night at

7.30pm in the Partickhill Bowling Club.

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

Thursday November 23: Farpais Phiobaireachd (piping competition) in the Park Bar hosted by Glasgow University's Ossianic Society at 8pm.

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

Friday November 24: Glasgow Uist and Barra annual dinner and dance in the Glynnhill Hotel at 7.30pm.

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

Tuesday November 28:



Modus, left to right, are Ewan Duncan, Siobhan Anderson, Jo McDowell and Tim Mills.

Glasgow Skye Association special meeting at 7.30pm in the Woodside Halls.

Thursday November 30: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner at 7pm in the Glasgow University Union.

Friday December 1: Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering concert in the Glasgow University Union at

7.30pm and dance at 10.30pm

Friday December 8: Clydebank and District Highland Association ceilidh in the Napier Hall at 7.30pm.

Saturday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association children's party at 2.30pm in the Rensfield Centre, Blythwood Hall.

Pub scene

- Islay Inn.
- Friday November 17: Crooked Reel.
- Saturday November 18: Parting Glass.
- Park Bar.
- Friday November 17: Robert Robertson.
- Saturday November 18: Gunna Sound.
- Sunday November 19: Gunna Sound.

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**



THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

Oban's Got Talent

First prize 2 hours recording studio time in Glasgow
Travel costs and accommodation included!

Charity event in aid of **Macmillan cancer relief**

December 2nd at 6pm
Entrance for ages 18 and over
Call to enter: 01631 567005

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM

Spectrum soft play area
Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk

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Regional Press
CLOSE TO HOME



Kilmartin Museum to host Christmas fair

Looking for unusual Christmas gifts this year?

Kilmartin Museum is hosting a Christmas-themed market which will showcase an eclectic range of crafts from Fairtrade projects around the world.

Buying Fairtrade products helps to support communities and improve people's

lives, providing dignity and self-respect as well as an income.

The Fairtrade logo means each product has been produced by small-scale organisations or groups that meet social, economic and environmental standards.

The Development Group based in Milngavie (the trading arm of the charity

The Balmore Trust) will be offering crafts, clothes, musical instruments, soaps, nativity figures and foodstuffs from Malawi, South Africa, Ghana, India, South America, Palestine, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Profits made by the Balmore Trust are used to support projects concerned with

health, education and poverty relief overseas and around the Glasgow area.

Other sellers who will be attending are Feedback Madagascar - a well-respected organisation that aims to alleviate poverty through an integrated approach, recognising the inter-relationship between poverty, environmental degrada-

tion and poor health.

Its focus encourages the people of Madagascar to identify their problems and needs, helping them to create their own solutions. It will be selling silk scarves and colourful baskets from Madagascar and an array of other goodies.

Fiona Fraser from Bollywood in

Oban will be selling hand-crafted Indian jewellery and fabrics. Each piece is uniquely hand crafted by the masters of their art and made with love and care.

Kilmartin Museum shop will be offering Fairtrade goods from various projects worldwide including Nepal, India and Vietnam. Many of

these goods also use recycled materials so they are good for the environment as well as the artisans who make them.

Open on November 18 and 19 from 11am to 4pm at Kilmartin Museum, this is a chance to buy unusual presents knowing that every purchase will make a difference to the producer.

Oban writing group is seeking submissions

An Oban writing group is seeking submissions for its new project that will be turned into a book and theatre show.

Wurdplay, which recently sold out of its latest poetry book, is creating a stage production titled Living Cells.

'We want short scripts for the stage,' Jamie Livingstone explains.

'Here are the vague

guidelines: The writing has to be made up of interview and monologue.

'It can be fiction or non-fiction. It could be a police interview, one at the job centre or with a journalist.

'It could be an archaeologist interviewing a drug dealer or an archaeologist who is

interviewed by a police

man who wants to be an archaeologist. Anything you can think of. Play about.

'As long as it is made up of interview and monologue then it's fine. Use any language you see fit. Oh and make it short. Eight pages maximum please.

'Work that is accepted will be produced for the stage. People of your

choice can be the actors or we can help find actors for your piece.'

Send writing to: wurdplaywriting@gmail.com.

The deadline for submissions is January 21 2018.

The Wurdplay writing group is on from 2.30-4pm in the Hope Kitchen. Everyone is welcome.

Jamie Livingstone with his debut poetry book. 15_144JamiePoet01



Morrison continues Highland tour before playing Oban on December 7

Fred Morrison's Scottish winter tour comes to Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Hall on Thursday December 7, not December 12 as we reported incorrectly last week.

Our apologies for this mistake.

This week the Scottish musician will be performing on the Highland, uilleann and reel pipes and whistle at Carinish Hall, North

Uist on Friday November 17, St Peter's Hall, South Uist on Saturday November 18, Castlebay School, Barra on Sunday November 19, and then next week at Crafts and Things in Ballachulish on November 22.

Tickets are available in advance from www.fredmorrisonpipes.com/ tickets and on the door. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/fredmorrisonmusic



OFFERS & competitions

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

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

Your local radio listings

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

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

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

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

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

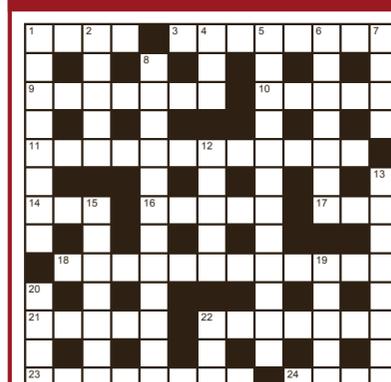
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00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

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

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

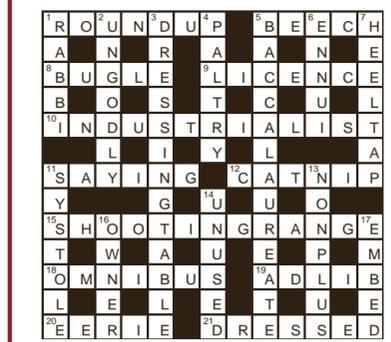
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Take note of (4)
 - 3 Used in ear examination (8)
 - 9 Superior in position (7)
 - 10 Surgical instrument (5)
 - 11 Horse footfalls (8-4)
 - 14 Plague (3)
 - 16 Young fowl (5)
 - 17 Age (3)
 - 18 A bulge (12)
 - 21 Adage (5)
 - 22 Seeds used in Autumnal game (7)
 - 23 Fanatical (8)
 - 24 Song of praise (4)

- Down**
- 1 Back-up for data (4,4)
 - 2 Apathy (5)
 - 4 Yank (3)
 - 5 Stay where you may cook your own meals on holiday (4-8)
 - 6 Not at sea (7)
 - 7 Take in (4)
 - 8 Large wallowing beast (12)
 - 12 Rule of this is normal (5)
 - 13 New Jersey city (8)
 - 15 Machine copies (7)
 - 19 Wanting (5)
 - 20 Rounds (4)
 - 22 Hint used in pool? (3)



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 7th December

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<p>Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year</p> <p>to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS</p> <p>to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban</p>	<p>JOHN AND JANE SMITH, OBAN</p> <p>would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a merry Christmas</p>

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Fraser Shaw tunebook released to aid MS care

The Fraser Shaw Trust is delighted to announce that Fraser's much-anticipated tune book will be launched at Islay Sessions, a festival which he played an integral role in setting up.

Mac Ìle: The Music of Fraser Shaw will contain 30 original compositions with chords, 10 pipe settings, stories, tributes and photographs.

The Fraser Shaw Trust was set up in memory of 'a much-loved guy and wonderful musician' from Islay who passed away in May 2015 after battling with MS and eventually PML, a viral disease which destroys brain tissue.

A few years prior to this, Fraser had it in mind to release a book of his own compositions, the proceeds of which would go towards the MS Care Centre in

Lochilphhead, Scotland. Unfortunately, due to his health, this never came to fruition.

After Fraser's death in May 2015, a group of friends and family started a trust in his honour.

The trust will raise funds for MS charities, particularly in Argyll, through a range of projects celebrating Fraser and his music including festivals, concerts, recordings, whisky tastings, and the release of his tunebook. Proceeds of the tunebook go directly towards the MS Care Centre in Lochilphhead.

Lori and Innes Watson have been hard at work putting it all together, and can't wait to share it with the world.

They said: 'We'd like to thank everyone involved in bringing the book to completion: for your advice, images, contributions, stories,



Fraser Shaw and Innes Watson, playing in times past.

revisions, proofreading, and encouragement. 'This has been a very



The cover of Mac Ìle: The Music of Fraser Shaw

important project for us: both wonderful and painful in equal measure as we listened to recordings of Fraser playing his tunes for hours to finish the job we started together.

'We are very proud of him and his brilliant music and hope you

enjoy learning and sharing his tunes, and the photos and stories too.

'Fraser wanted to make this book to raise funds for the Lochilphhead MS Therapy Centre, so please support them by getting your copy and spreading the word to music players and learn-

ers, and appreciators of Fraser Shaw.'

Musician Fred Morrison said: 'The tunes in this collection have a style of their own - a real identity - the hallmark of any great tunesmith. 'The tunes range from emotive and plaintive to rhythmical and driving, and they will be a joy to play for any instrumentalist.

'This is a wonderful legacy of Fraser - piper, musician and true gentleman.'

The launch will take place in Bruichladdich Hall, November 18, 8pm at the big Saturday night Islay Sessions concert. A special thanks is given to Creative Scotland's Tasgadh fund administered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal for supporting this project.

Best of the Bàrdachd

The oldest choir in Gaeldom, Oban Gaelic Choir, launches a CD recording of its summer Stòras concert, featuring the forgotten songs of Argyll's Gaelic bards, at Skippinish Ceilidh House on Monday.

The song collection will be released during the 125th anniversary of the choir, which has had an uninterrupted history since 1892.

Stòras has been several years in the preparation by conductor of 14 years, musician and composer Sileas Sinclair, who arranged 10 traditional locally-composed songs for the four-part choir performance.

Sileas's arrangements, full of beautiful choral harmonies and

lively rhythms, put the work of Argyll's Gaelic bards in a modern setting, while letting their traditional origins shine through.

The Stòras (Gaelic: 'Riches') repertoire covers a wide range of forms and emotions, from the adoring love of A' Dhòmhnail nan Dòmhnall to the poignant and utterly lovelorn Gur tu mo Bhean Chomain.

The programme included the individual tragedy of Mairghdean Loch nan Eala, the wider laments for lost community of Cumha Cruachainn and Tabobh Loch Obha, the rousing battle-song Oran do Bhonaparte and the haunting piobaireachd-based Colla mo Rùn, the Piper's

Warning to his Master.

Interspersed with these varied pieces are a sprinkling of up-tempo puirt-a-beul and waulking songs, and a range of individual performances by some of the choir's talented soloists, including Mary Catherine MacLean's solo Alasdair a Laoigh Mo Chèille written by Diorbhail Nic a' Briuthainn, Luing, around 1643.

The evening was conducted by Sileas Sinclair, and accompanied by local musicians Finlay Wells, Archie MacAllister, Lorne MacDougall and Angus MacColl.

Oban Gaelic Choir's ceilidh and CD launch begins at 7.30pm on Monday November 20, with entry by donation.

Killin Music Festival

The line-up for the third Killin Music Festival has been announced, with headline acts Blazin' Fiddles, Peatbog Faeries and Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham.

Killin Music Festival is a three-day annual event which takes place the third weekend in

June each year, featuring traditional and folk music alongside emerging artists.

The weekend of June 15-17 is centred round the Perthshire village's McLaren Hall, with free events in the session tent, kids' crafts, a pipe band parade and an open stage for

emerging talent hosted by Liz Clark.

The event is quickly gaining a reputation for itself and is nominated for Event of the Year at the 2017 MG Alba Trad Awards, which take place in Paisley on December 2 to aid its nomination as City of Culture 2021.

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Friday 24th November

The Buddy Holly Story

Caol Community Centre

Doors open 7pm

Tickets £10 (conc £8)

National singing star **Raymond Emmanuel** in association with Nevis Radio sings a tribute to **BUDDY HOLLY** and many more

Tickets available from Caol Community Centre and Nevis Radio or pay at the door

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<p>O.L.D.S Club - Oban & Lorn District Seniors Club</p> <p>Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Funded by Crear Hotel Trust & Rotary Club of Oban</p> <p>Monday 11th December 2017, 12 noon for 1pm Oban Bay Hotel</p> <p>Booking from Thursday 16th November 2017</p> <p>To book your place, please call Oban 564848 (Office Hours) with your Name, address and telephone number.</p> <p>Music by Michael Garvin, Tom Adams, Neil MacKay plus guests.</p> <p>Transport HOME will be provided by Rotary Club Members for everyone. For those who are unable to make their own way along to the lunch please telephone Oban 564848 to book assistance</p>	<p>An Comunn Gàidhealach</p> <p>Meur Chruachain</p> <p>Taynuilt Winter Ceilidh</p> <p>Clare Jordan</p> <p>Coisir Og Dhailriata</p> <p>Plus Full supporting programme</p> <p>Saturday 18th November</p> <p>Taynuilt Village Hall, 7.30pm</p> <p>Tea and Raffle</p> <p>Adults - £4 Children £2</p>	<p>Argyll Animal Aid</p> <p>Registered Charity since 1991: SC013211</p> <p>Christmas Fayre</p> <p>Saturday 18th November</p> <p>Corran Halls, Oban</p> <p>11 - 3pm</p> <p>38 Craft & Gift Stalls</p> <p>Tea & Coffee</p> <p>Home Baking</p>
<p>EASDALE ISLAND CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR</p> <p>EASDALE ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL</p> <p>Sunday 19 November</p> <p>11am to 4pm</p> <p>Find that unique Christmas gift</p> <p>Tea, coffee, cakes and soup will be available</p> <p>contact Lynn for details eadalemuseum@btconnect.com</p>	<p>Macmillan Cancer Support COFFEE MORNING</p> <p>Saturday 25 November</p> <p>10am - 12pm</p> <p>at Glenclruitten Church Centre</p> <p>Entry £3</p>	<p>Cancer Research Committee Oban Branch</p> <p>Quiz Night</p> <p>in the Masonic Hall, Albany Street on Friday 17th November 2017</p> <p>At 7.00 for 7.30pm</p> <p>Quiz Master: Tony Cave</p> <p>Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd</p> <p>Maximum 6 per team</p> <p>Refreshments available</p> <p>Admission £3.00 per person</p> <p>Pay at the door</p>
<p>DIARDAOIN 16 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 Tathadh - Auchinleck (rpt)</p> <p>19.25 Binneas - Na Trads - Kathleen MacInnes & Sineag MacIntyre (rpt)</p> <p>19.30 Speaking our language (rpt)</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh - history shorts (rpt)</p> <p>20.00 An Là - News</p> <p>20.30 UR NEW: Eòrpa</p> <p>21.00 Gilleann Grinn - the effect of WW1 on Uist (rpt)</p> <p>22.00 Féis Chiùil Thiriodh - Red Hot Chillii Pipers (rpt)</p> <p>22.30 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - the story of the president John F Kennedy (rpt)</p> <p>23.15 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber - Mischa MacPherson Trio (rpt)</p> <p>23.25 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p> <p>DIARDAOIN 17 SAMHAIN FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 An Là - News</p> <p>19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)</p> <p>19.35 Na Ceiltich (rpt)</p> <p>20.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn - a selection of Scotland's best musicians and singers (rpt)</p> <p>20.25 Binneas - Na Trads - Kathleen MacInnes & Sineag MacIntyre (rpt)</p> <p>20.30 Puirt-adhair (rpt)</p> <p>21.00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chògaidh Mhòir (rpt)</p> <p>22.00 Na Worlds 2017 (rpt)</p> <p>23.00 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - the story of the president John F Kennedy (rpt)</p> <p>DISATHAIRNE 18 SAMHAIN SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER</p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming</p> <p>17.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)</p> <p>18.00 UR NEW: Scottish Premiership - Hibernian v St Johnstone</p> <p>20.00 Aibisidh/Quiz Show (rpt)</p> <p>20.30 Eòrpa (rpt)</p> <p>21.00 UR NEW: Skippinish aig Barrowland</p> <p>22.00 Ceòl, Camanachd is Cogadh - a tribute concert to shinty heroes (rpt)</p> <p>22.55 Scottish Premiership - Hibernian v St Johnstone (rpt)</p> <p>DIDÒMHNACH 19 SAMHAIN SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER</p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's Programming</p> <p>18.30 Seachd Là - News Review</p> <p>19.30 UR NEW: Alleluia</p> <p>20.00 Fuine/Cooking - cooking on a busy day (rpt)</p> <p>20.30 Prosbaig (rpt)</p> <p>21.00 Opry an Iùir (rpt)</p> <p>21.55 Skippinish aig Barrowland (rpt)</p> <p>23:00 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - the story of the president John F Kennedy (rpt)</p> <p>23.45 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber - Dougie MacLean (rpt)</p> <p>DILUAIN 20 SAMHAIN MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)</p> <p>19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh - history shorts (rpt)</p> <p>20.00 An Là - News</p> <p>20.30 Kerry's Kirsty: Rothan gu Robhanais (rpt)</p> <p>21.00 Trusadh - Caraidhean Ceithir Chasach - the special bond between man and dog (rpt)</p> <p>22.00 Horò Gheallaidh (rpt)</p> <p>22.30 Cunnart - Disposing of landmines and bombs around the world (rpt)</p> <p>23.30 Féis Chiùil Thiriodh - Red Hot Chillii Pipers (rpt)</p> <p>DIMÀIRT 21 SAMHAIN TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 Tathadh - Glenquithel (rpt)</p> <p>19.25 Binneas - Na Trads - N.E. Folk Collective (rpt)</p> <p>19.30 Speaking our language (rpt)</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh - history shorts (rpt)</p> <p>20.00 An Là - News</p> <p>20.30 UR NEW: Prosbaig</p> <p>21.00 UR NEW: Cùm Grèim - the rope access industry in Scotland (rpt)</p> <p>22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p> <p>22.30 Horò Gheallaidh (rpt)</p> <p>23.00 Gilleann Grinn - documentary examining effect of WW1 on Uist (rpt)</p> <p>party (rpt)</p> <p>21.00 UR NEW: Opry an Iùir</p> <p>21.55 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)</p> <p>22.00 Trusadh - Caraidhean Ceithir Chasach - the special bond between man and dog (rpt)</p> <p>23.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn - a selection of Scotland's best musicians and singers (rpt)</p> <p>23.25 Alleluia (rpt)</p> <p>DICIADAIN 22 SAMHAIN WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)</p> <p>19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh - history shorts (rpt)</p> <p>20.00 An Là - News</p> <p>20.30 UR NEW: Prosbaig</p> <p>21.00 UR NEW: Cùm Grèim - the rope access industry in Scotland (rpt)</p> <p>22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p> <p>22.30 Horò Gheallaidh (rpt)</p> <p>23.00 Gilleann Grinn - documentary examining effect of WW1 on Uist (rpt)</p> <p>DIARDAOIN 23 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER</p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne - Children's programming</p> <p>19.00 Tathadh - Glenquithel (rpt)</p> <p>19.25 Binneas - Na Trads - N.E. Folk Collective (rpt)</p> <p>19.30 Speaking our language (rpt)</p> <p>19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh - history shorts (rpt)</p> <p>20.00 An Là - News</p> <p>20.30 UR NEW: Eòrpa</p> <p>21.00 Calleagan a' Chògaidh Mhòir - The First World War story of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (rpt)</p> <p>22.00 Féis Chiùil Thiriodh - Blazin' Fiddles (rpt)</p> <p>22.30 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - the story of the president John F Kennedy (rpt)</p> <p>23.15 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Gruff Rhys (rpt)</p> <p>23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)</p>		

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Tibetan and Gaelic music fuse as monks tour Argyll and Lochaber

Audiences can experience the sacred, traditional music of Tibetan chanting from the Dalai Lama's world famous Gyuto monks in a one-off collaboration with Gaelic singer and piper Griogair Labhruidh of Ballachulish, as they tour Argyll and Lochaber next month.

Scientists from NASA and MIT have studied the monks and concluded that they can produce the lowest sounds capable of a human being. Their sound has been compared to the resonance of a drum or didgeridoo, and is believed to have a transformative effect on the listener.

Regarded as masters of rites and rituals within Tibetan Buddhism, the Gyuto monks are famous around the world for their mastery of the tantric arts, which includes their especially unique form of deep harmonic chanting, sand mandalas and painting.

The monks will be singing Gaelic songs with Griogair Labhruidh is a performer on the Great Highland bagpipes and smallpipes, a traditional Gaelic singer, storyteller and a Gaelic poet with a huge interest in world music.

The UK tour is raising funds for the order's monastery in India, which holds more than 500

Tibetan refugee monks.

The Gyuto order was originally based in Lhasa, Tibet. In 1950 the Chinese invaded Tibet and massacred thousands of monks. Fifty-nine of the Gyuto Monks managed to escape across the Himalayas with His Holiness Dalai Lama into India. These 59 monks founded the Gyuto Monastery in Dharamsala. There are now more than 500 monks living there as refugees with ages from four up to 94.

Gyuto's monks are known for their unique tradition of overtone singing (also known as 'chordal chanting') which is said to have been transmitted by their founder, in a tradition dating back more than 600 years.

The Gyuto monks are masters of Tibetan Buddhist tantric ritual and their lives are dedicated to practicing tantric ideals.

One hundred years after the Tibetan Declaration of Independence, the Gyuto monks made more headlines by visiting the UK for the first time in 40 years to perform in the Green Fields at Glastonbury 2013 and then again in 2016, performing at the opening ceremony of the festival to an audience of 100,000 people.

Organiser Jean-Paul Mertinez said: 'I am honoured to be

welcoming His Holiness's Gyuto Monks of Tibet back to the UK; they are very special people. To witness their culture and chanting concerts in community settings is to be transported and connected to a 600-year-old living musical tradition that I'm sure is as powerful and profound today as it was way back then.'

The Gyuto monks will perform at St Columba's Cathedral Hall in Oban on Thursday December 14 at 7pm, then the Abbey on the Isle of Iona at 2pm on Friday December 15, Ballachulish Village Hall on Saturday December 16 at 7.30pm, and finally Ardgour's Watercolour Studios on Sunday December 17 at 3pm.



Delight as Dove Centre opens



Oban Hospice Ltd were delighted to open the new Dove Centre on Stevenson Street on Wednesday, after many years of fundraising.

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

The Dove Centre coordinator Peter Darling said the building had taken six months rather than six weeks to decorate because 'there is so much good will'. 'Volunteers have been giving up a lot of their spare time,' he said. 'So many people have been coming forward.'

Local companies, including electricians, fitters, plumbers and painters, had donated staff time to renovate the interior of the building, formerly the offices of Argyll Training before it closed last year. Director Anne May said: 'It has a great warm feeling of welcome.'

Chairman David Entwistle added: 'Oban Hospice wants to extend a big thank you to all the local people, individuals, tradespeople and busi-

nesses who have supported Oban Hospice Ltd and the Friends of Oban Hospice in the past and who continue to support us. The number of tradespeople who have given their time and sometimes their materials free of charge to completely refurbish the Dove Centre has been overwhelming. Their list is too long to name them all here, but Oban Hospice and the Dove Centre are deeply grateful to them.'

The centre will offer practical and emotional support and information. It will also provide access to community services, advocacy and benefits advice. Complementary therapies, specialist massage for people with cancer and group activities will be on offer too.

Furthermore family and bereavement support will be available. People can also drop in for a cup of tea and a bletcher at any time and the Dove Centre will be open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday from today, Thursday November 16. It can be contacted on 01631 561 315.

OBAN HOSPICE SERVICES

Oban Hospice Ltd essentially supports three groups of people:-

- Those with a new diagnosis
- Those with an existing diagnosis who need advice or assistance at a particular point in their lives
- Those with diagnosis whose condition has deteriorated and who need advice or assistance.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Practical support and information
- Emotional support
- Access to advocacy
- Alternative therapies
- Group activities
- Family support
- Specialist massage for people with cancer
- Bereavement support

OBAN HOSPICE DOVE CENTRE & COMMUNITY SERVICES CAN BE ACCESSED BY:

- Drop in/self-referral
- Referral by a health practitioner

Contact details

Oban Hospice Dove Centre
24 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA
Tel: 01631 561315
Email: enquiries@obanhospice.org.uk

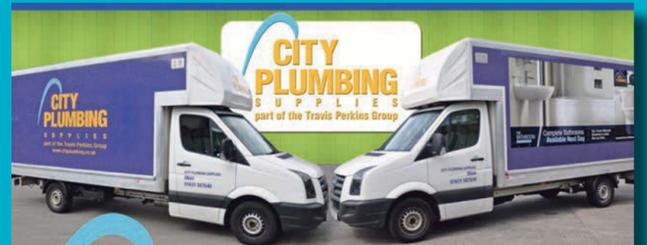


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MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

CORNCRAKES, one of Scotland's rarest breeding birds, are becoming increasingly vulnerable following a fall in their numbers for the third year running, RSPB Scotland has warned.

In 2017, only 866 calling males were recorded during RSPB Scotland's annual survey. This is a drop of 17 per cent from 2016, and down 33 per cent from the 2014 high of 1,289 males.

In the Argyll islands, which hold 55 per cent of the UK's corncrake population, the situation was varied between islands, but overall, only 493 calling males were recorded, an 18 per cent decline from last year.

Coll reported the biggest decrease of 45 per cent, to just 49 birds, while Iona was down by

a similar percentage. Colonsay and Oronsay were down 30 per cent, and on Ilay the population fell by around 10 per cent.

Three also recorded a 10 per cent drop to 315 calling males, which is around a third of the UK population. This makes Three one of the most important islands for this species in Scotland. The sharp decline has prompted concern from RSPB Scotland that the long-term survival of these birds as a breeding species is now under threat.

The organisation is calling for renewed action to ensure that the Scottish Government and the conservation community do all they can to work with landowners and crofters to protect corncrakes. Numbers have not been this low since 2003 when only 836 males were recorded.

Corncrakes are shy, land dwelling relatives of coots and



Argyll's islands are crucial for corncrake numbers.

moorhens. Every year these small chestnut coloured birds migrate from their wintering grounds in Africa to breed in a few isolated pockets in Scotland, mostly on islands and the north-west coast on crofts or farmland.

Once widespread across

the UK, they suffered from a reduction in both range and population in the 19th and 20th centuries, becoming confined to these Scottish areas by the early 1990s. At that time, faced with the prospect of corncrakes disappearing from Scotland altogether within 20 years,

agri-environment schemes were introduced to turn their fortunes around. These schemes led to an increase in numbers to 2014's high point.

While there may be several reasons behind the declines, including problems related to their wintering grounds or during migration, there is concern that recent changes to these schemes could be contributing to the declines. The gap between the old Scottish Rural Development Programme Rural Priorities Scheme (SRDPRP) ending and new Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) starting has seen fewer areas being managed to benefit corncrakes. The uptake in AECS so far is considerably lower than in SRDPRP, though there is a chance this may improve in later years of the scheme.

In addition, payment rates

provided by government to delay mowing are now lower, which may reduce the incentive to mow later in the year and could lead to fewer corncrake chicks surviving. As corncrakes are naturally short-lived it's crucial that large numbers of chicks are successfully reared each year.

Paul Walton, head of habitats and species at RSPB Scotland, said: 'The crex crex call of the corncrake is unmistakable but in recent years has become something even fewer of us are likely to hear. In just three years Scotland has lost a third of its calling male population. While some areas have seen an increase in numbers this third successive annual fall in numbers is incredibly worrying.'

'For many years, the increases in corncrake numbers have been rightly celebrated as one of the great successes of

agri-environment schemes, and a fine example of what can be achieved by crofters, farmers, government and conservationists working together.

'However, the gains made for this rare species now face being unravelled and lost, and their future is once again looking increasingly uncertain in Scotland unless action is taken.'

RSPB Scotland is calling for the Scottish Government to work with it to ensure the long-term survival of breeding corncrakes. It's vital that the upcoming application window for AECS in 2018 is adequately promoted with application support provided to encourage as much uptake as possible in these areas. Additionally, robust advice must be provided to all land managers on supporting threatened species and the wider environment.

Now you can buy Ben Nevis ... for £25 an acre

ACRES of Scotland's largest mountains are up for adoption by the John Muir Trust.

Land on Schiehallion, Bla Bheinn on Skye, Ladhar Bheinn in Knoydart and even Scotland's tallest mountain, Ben Nevis, can be offered as Christmas gifts for outdoors enthusiasts and conservationists.

Daisy Clark of the John Muir Trust said each purchase would help care for an acre of wild mountain landscape for a year by maintaining footpaths, enhancing the landscape and protecting wildlife habitats.

She added: 'It is ideally suited for anyone who loves nature and the outdoors, whether seasoned climbers and Munro-baggers, walkers, wildlife enthusiasts or those who appreciate Scotland's magnificent mountain scenery.'

The cost of adopting one acre for a year is £25.

Ben Nevis – or Beinn Nibheis in Gaelic – loosely translates as 'mountain with its head in the clouds'. The highest mountain in the British Isles, it soars to 4,411ft high, and attracts 100,000 visitors every year.



Spectacular Ladhar Bheinn in Knoydart can now be yours for a modest sum. Picture: Chris Townsend

Schiehallion in Highland Perthshire derives from the Gaelic name Sidh Chailleann – 'Fairy Hill of the Caledonians'. It stands 3,553ft tall and was the site of a famous 18th-century

experiment in weighing the world which led to the invention of contour lines.

Bla Bheinn (or Blaven) is an eastern outlier of the Black Cuillin on the Isle of Skye,

reaching 3,044ft at the highest point. Its name is believed to be a combination of Norse and Gaelic, perhaps meaning 'blue mountain' or 'sunny mountain'. Ladhar Bheinn is Scotland's

most westerly mainland Munro, reaching 1,020ft, deep in the heart of the Knoydart Peninsula. Its name (pronounced 'laar-vinn') means hill of the hoof or claw.

Holyrood urged to back pesticide ban

THE Scottish Wildlife Trust is urging the Scottish Government to reconsider its decision not to support a ban on the use of three neonicotinoid insecticides (neonics) due to their harmful effects on bees and other wild pollinators.

While UK Environment Secretary Michael Gove announced last Thursday he supports further restrictions on the use of these pesticides, Holyrood's Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy Fergus Ewing has called for further evidence before any decision is made.

Jonny Hughes, chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said Mr Ewing's statement, in response to Mr Gove's 'welcome announcement', was 'disappointing given the overwhelming and increasing amount of evidence showing the harm this class of pesticides cause to pollinators'.

'This evidence includes a comprehensive study of neonics, carried out by the IUCN Task Force on Systemic Pesticides, which looked at 1,121 studies which concluded that there are significant unintended nega-

tive ecological consequences of large-scale use of insecticides.

'The Scottish Government has been sitting on the fence on this issue for too many years. Scotland now needs to get off the fence and show some leadership to protect our pollinators.'

'Equally, while we welcome Michael Gove's announcement that the UK will back further restrictions on the use of these damaging chemicals within the European Union, it's important to realise this would stop short of the outright ban that the Scottish Wildlife Trust is calling for.'

Andrew Bauer, NFU Scotland deputy director of policy, said: 'We have noted Mr Gove's comments on what is now the latest chapter in a long debate on neonicotinoids and will look for further information from DEFRA in the coming days.'

'What is key for the farming community now is that we have clarity for the future and that, no matter the outcome or decision, our members have access to safe and effective plant protective products which are vital to the industry.'

THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk.

Thursday November 16 Toad of Lorn and House of Trousers, Kilniver

This little hill, which resembles

a toad, makes a short but interesting walk with views of an intricate coastline, and across the Firth of Lorn to Mull. Some parts of the walk are off track. Finish at Thomas Telford's famous bridge and refresh at the Tigh an Truith Inn. Start on the B844 at the forest entrance just SW of Loch Seil, NM800199. Head N to reach the historical Duachy standing stones, NM801205. Return to the track, head N past the sheepfold and search for St Brendan's seat at about NM797208. Head NE on a muddy track and climb the gully, aiming for NM801214, then on to Losgann Lornach, the Toad

of Lorn. Cross NW to the edge of the escarpment. Continue to the summit of Beinn Mhor, 194m for a spectacular panorama. Descend SW for 350m to a path that leads to a track. Turn right on to the track which winds downhill to reach the B844 just before it passes over the Clachan Bridge. Cross the bridge to reach the Tigh an Truith Inn. Transport required opposite the Inn at NM784196.

Grade: L; Distance: 7km; Height to climb: 200m; Map(s): LR49/55, EX359. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 10am. Start of walk at 10.30am. Leader: John Nicol 01852 300360.

Sunday November 19 Stob Coire a'Chearcaill Cona Glen

The best feature of this hidden hill, a craggy east-facing corrie, can be seen across the loch from a point about 2km S of Fort William on the A82. Start from the A861 at Inbhir Scaddail where parking is near the end of a track at NN022686. Follow this track NW into Cona Glen for about 2km until past some fenced woodland (Doire Driseach). Leave the track at NN004700 and head NE up the slope, following the fence to the N corner of the plantation. Continue NE to gain

the crest of the SE ridge of Sgurr an Iubhair and climb it steeply to the summit, 722m. Turn NE and head for the summit of Stob Coire a'Chearcaill, 770m. Follow the rim of Coire a' Chearcaill SSE for about 1km, then turn S down the slope to about the 400m contour. Turn W and continue to the N corner of the Doire Driseach plantation. Rejoin the outward route and follow it back the start. Grade: S; Distance: 14km; Height to climb: 836m; Map(s): LR41, EX391. Meet at Corran Ferry slip for 9.15am sailing. Start of walk at 9.35am. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

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

Saturday November 18

Beinn Oss, Beinn Dubhchraig

Could be some difficult stream crossings and boggy ground so come prepared. Take the track that crosses the West Highland Way, the bridge over River Fillan and then the railway. Follow a boggy track along Allt Gleann Auchroch and look for a suitable

place to cross. Once across, you are in a pinewood known as Coille Coire-Chuic – follow Allt Coire Dubhchraig (boggy again). Continue to join the NW ridge of Beinn Dubhchraig. Optionally, climb this and return or, turn right to Bealach Buidhe. Head W to the 941 top then on to Ben Oss. Return via the outward route or, from the 941 top head NW down steep ground and cross two streams to join the track to Cononish and back to Dalrigh.

Distance: 17-19km; Height to climb: 1,150m. Suggested by Ken Stevenson and Chris Tracey; coordinated by Suzanne Theobald.

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Pet Idol

Time to vote for your **TOP 50!**

003

 Indie Irish Setter
 Craignure, Isle of Mull

013

 Misty Miniature Shetland Collie
 Caol, Fort William

014

 Angus Cat
 Dunstaffnage, Oban

018

 Elvis Dog
 Tobermory, Isle of Mull

019

 Ivy Jack Russell Chihuahua cross
 Campbeltown

020

 Rosie Lhasa Apso
 Campbeltown

021

 Cheddar Cat
 Oban

023

 Bess Dog
 Campbeltown

024

 Molly Lhasa Apso
 Oban

029

 Marni Jack Russell Terrier
 Caol, Fort William

032

 Garfield Cat
 Oban

036

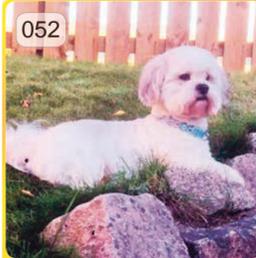
 Oscar Spaniel
 Mallaig

037

 Max Cat
 Lochgilphead

038

 Scooby-Doo Dog
 Inveraray

052

 Baxter Shichon
 Appin

053

 Gyp Collie
 Furnace

060

 Max Lhasa Apso
 Oban

065

 Teddy Shih Tzu Lhasa Apso cross
 Oban

068

 Mr Bigglez Staffordshire Bull Terrier
 Bowmore, Isle of Islay

071

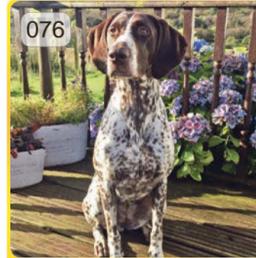
 Rusty Cocker Spaniel
 Oban

072

 Daniel Goldfish
 Lochgilphead

073

 Ozzy Dog
 Oban

076

 Breeze German Shorthaired Pointer
 Saddell, Campbeltown

077

 Remi Dog
 Campbeltown

084

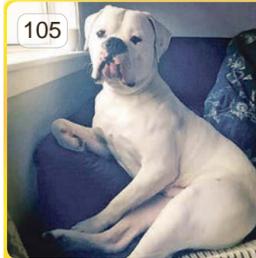
 Duke Jackahauhua
 Lochgilphead

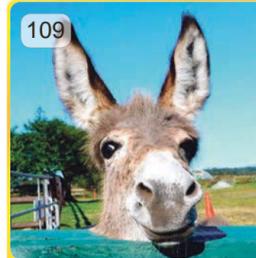
089

 Darcey Cocker Spaniel
 Achaphubuil, Fort William

090

 Lennox Dog
 Oban

105

 Buster American Bulldog
 Oban

109

 Marjorie Donkey
 Benderloch

111

 Meg Dog
 Kilmichael Glassary, Lochgilphead

Pet Idol

113

Frisa Schnauzer/Poodle cross (Schnoodle)
Oban

114

Malty Bond
Sprocker
Kilmartin

120

Candy
Rough Coated Jack Russell
Campbeltown

123

Barney
Goldendoodle
Benderloch

124

Ginger
Hen
Acharacle

125

Cooper
Cavachon
Oban

127

Bracken
Boxer
Fort William

128

Finley
Cat
Campbeltown

130

Rocky
Collie cross
Lochgilthead

134

Leo
Shih Tzu
Hunters Quay, Argyll

141

Perry
Cocker Spaniel
North Connel

148

Feusagach
Bearded collie
Carradale by Campbeltown

157

Bramble
Border Terrier
Clachan Seil

167

Venture
Rough Collie
Campbeltown

178

Caponata, Ginger and Turuleta
Ex-battery hens
Acharacle

183

Harley
Cat
Campbeltown

184

Charlie
Border Collie
Ardishaig

191

Rowan
Jack Russell Terrier
Campbeltown

203

Henry
Cat
Campbeltown

205

Dell
Border Collie
Roy Bridge, Inverness-shire

207

Max
Cheviot tup lamb
Oban

210

Toby
Springer Spaniel
Oban

212

Oreo
Mini Lop rabbit
Oban

216

Ozzy
Cat
Killin

218

Monty
English Pointer
Dunbeg, Oban

220

Archie
Lhasa Apso
Oban

235

Luna
Welsh Terrier
Lochgilthead

243

Zac
Border Collie
Taynuilt

245

Leo
Cat
Oban

246

Cooper
Working Cocker Spaniel
Dunbeg, Oban

259

Bramble
Border Collie
Fort William

267

Chase Turner
Dog
Fort William

270

Grayson
Siberian kitten
Lochgilthead

275

Maisie
Cat
Tobermory, Isle of Mull

276

Norman
Rabbit
Clachan Seil

277

Bear
Dog
North Connel

279

George
Cat
Campbeltown

280

Hamish
Cockapoo
Tarbert

282

Keira
Boxer/Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross
Oban

283

Murrin
Jack Russell Terrier
Ardishaig

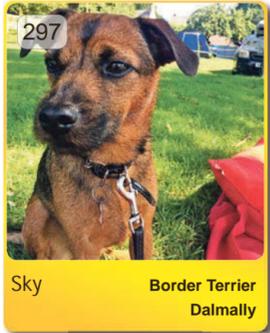
284

Harris
Springer Spaniel
Ardishaig

287

Cilla
Patterdale Terrier
Appin

Vote for your TOP 50!



It's time to vote for your favourite pet for Round Two of Pet Idol!
Simply fill in the form and follow the instructions.
The pets can be viewed at www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol
Good luck!



It is fair to say that you have all gone completely barking mad over Pet Idol. We have received almost a thousand votes so far and you can now feast your eyes on these fantastic furry and feathered friends that make up our top 100.

You now have the incredibly difficult task of voting for your top 50. You can vote by simply completing the voting coupon provided and send it to Wyvex Media, Pet idol Vote PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB.

Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 27th November.

You can vote for as many pets as many times as you like. Only one pet can be voted for on each voting form. Just make sure you use the number quoted on the pet's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We will also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to our top 100.

VOTING COUPON

Round 2

I would like to vote for:

Pet number*:.....

Pet's name:

Please post to Wyvex Media, Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or votes can also be handed in to our offices in Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet photograph.
Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.
You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.
Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 27th November, 2017

FARMING NEWS

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Lochaber farm is to focus on cattle wintering options

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

THE exceptionally wet summer is posing a real winter challenge for livestock farmers around the country with straw and quality winter forage in short supply.

The steps farmers can take to manage their cattle through the winter, in light of these additional challenges, will be top of the agenda at the next Lochaber Monitor Farm meeting today, Thursday November 16.

Strone Farm, a 1,200-hectare hill farm located in the Great Glen, is run by Chris Cameron in partnership with his father Malcolm and mother Eileen. As well as a flock of 500 Cheviot ewes, the family have a herd of 40 pedigree Limousin cows, which produce store calves.

The meeting, which begins at 11am and includes lunch, will discuss the issues faced by both in-wintering and out-wintering systems and alternative feeding strategies will be considered.

With specialist input from Derek Hanton of SAC Consulting, John Smith, nutritionist with Harbro, and Mairi Thom from Crown vets, the existing wintering system and future plans for the various management groups of cattle at Strone will be examined and critiqued.

'I'm keen to hear from the speakers and to look at



Chris Cameron with some of his pedigree Limousin cows.

identifying potential improvements in the way we go about over-wintering our cattle here at Strone. I am sure our business can benefit from changes to optimise cow condition and performance,' said Chris, who is looking forward to the meeting.

Livestock farmers in the west have struggled to produce good quality silage due to the

poor summer this year. Silage from the monitor farm and other farms in the area has been analysed to assess this year's quality.

Niall Campbell, of SAC Consulting Oban, one of the facilitators of the Lochaber monitor farm, believes all suckler cow producers in the area would benefit from attending

the forthcoming meeting. 'This meeting aims to address how farmers can deal with the lack of supply of good quality silage as a result of this summer's poor weather,' said Mr Campbell.

'Our three speakers will suggest a step-by-step approach to deal with the effect of the poor summer on forage quality. 'We will also explore silage

yield and highlight the essential minerals for cattle.'

Speakers at the meeting will also suggest how best to manage the health and nutrition of stock bulls.

As the Strone cattle are in-wintered, those attending the meeting will have an opportunity to view the cows' condition at the start of winter and see this year's crop of calves.

The Lochaber monitor farm is one of nine monitor farms established around Scotland in a joint initiative by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and AHDB Cereals and Oilseeds. The aim of the programme, which is funded by Scottish Government, is to help improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Scottish farm businesses.

The meetings are open and free for all farmers to attend. Attendees will also have an input into topics covered, speakers invited to meetings and visits to other enterprises and businesses.

To book attendance (and lunch), contact Niall Campbell or Morven MacArthur on 01631 563093 or email fbsoban@sac.co.uk.

For more information about the monitor farm programme across Scotland, visit www.qmsscotland.co.uk or cereals.ahdb.org.uk.

Around the markets

FORT WILLIAM - Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on November 10 sold 69 weaned calves and store cattle, eight breeding cattle and 15 OTM cattle.

Bullocks (26) averaged 229.7p and sold to 290.9p per kg for a 165kg Shorthorn cross from Laggan Ulva, Isle of Mull, and £610 gross (twice) for a 390kg Luig cross from Scallastle Farm, Isle of Mull and for a 305kg Luig cross from Wood Cottage Croft, Tobermory.

Heifers (23) averaged 244.0p and sold to 323.1p per kg for a 130kg Shorthorn cross from Dunlichity Farm, Farr and £720 gross for a 380kg Simmental cross from Market Stance, Fort Augustus. Breeding cattle (8) sold to £950 gross for a Luig cross cow with a male calf at foot from Arisaig Farms, Arisaig.

OTM cattle (15) sold to 118.1p per kilo for a 525kg Limousin cross from 9, 10 & 11 Inverroy, Roy Bridge and £800 gross for a 735kg Luig cross from Wood Cottage Croft.

Other leading prices per head and per kg: Bullocks up to 200kg - Laggan Ulva, £490, 251.3p; 201-250kg - Laggan Ulva, £600, 272.7p; 251-300kg - Scallastle Farm, £590, Market Stance, 219.2p. Heifers up to 200kg - Dunlichity Farm, £460, 296.8p; 251-300kg - Fersit, Roy Bridge, £690, 260.4p.

ISLAY - United Auctions on November 10 held a special sale of all classes lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart.

A good show of quality bred sheep sold well and easily maintained values currently prevailing at mainland markets.

A total of 1,730 was sold which exceeded the numbers sold at the corresponding sale last year. Principal lots and prices: Lambs, per head: Suffolk cross: No6 Church Way - £68; Kilchiaran - £64.50; Kintra - £64.50; Ballachlaven - £64.50; Sannaigmore - £62; Ardbeg - £61.50; Starchmill - £61; Ballachlaven - £60; Duich Farm - £53.50.

Texel cross: Ballimartin - £62.50; Coille Farm - £57; Ardbeg - £56.50.

Cheviot cross: Aoradh - £64.50

Cross: Coille Farm - £68; Starchmill - £57; Balachlaven - £55.50; Kintra - £54.50.

Blackface: Kilchiaran - £56.50; Kinnabus - £50; Portantruan - £49.50; Ceannacroic - £47.50; Duich - £44.50; Kinnabus - £42; Keppols - £40.50; Islay Estates - £40.

Rams to £72 - Aoradh. Wedders to £54.50 - Portantruan.

Ewes: Suffolk cross: Coille Farm - £46

Cheviot cross: 44 Stanalane - £46.50.

Cross: Portantruan - £52; Duich - £40.50.

Blackface: Coillabus - £41.50; Mid Craggabus - £32; Kilchiaran - £27.

Lambs pence per kilo: Suffolk cross: Sannaigmore - 167; Starchmill - 164; Islay Estates - 163; Ardbeg - 158.

Texel cross: Ardbeg - 156. Cheviot cross: Aoradh - 144.

Cross: Kintra = 158 & 151; Smaladh - 153; Ballachlaven - 147; Sannaigmore - 147; Starchmill - 146.

Blackface: Kinnabus - 140; Keppols - 139; Ceannacroic - 137; Kinnabus - 135; Duich - 131;

Kilchiaran - 128; Kintra - 126; Leorin - 126; Portantruan - 124; Ceannacroic - 122.

OBAN - United Auctions on November 7 sold 1,105 lambs and sheep at their end of season sale of all classes sheep at Oban Livestock Centre.

All classes sold well with most categories proving a sharper trade on the previous sale. Principal lots and prices: Lambs:

Suffolk cross: Upper Largie - £54; Kilbride Farm - £54; Scammadale Farm - £54; Thorblaren - £54; Ballimackillichan - £51.

Beltex cross: Upper Largie - £48

Texel cross: Bruiland - £53.50; Strongorm - £53; Barndromin - £50.

Cheviot cross: Quinish Estate - £49 and £46.

Cross: Ardachy - £44.50.

Blackface: Achalic - £40; Upper Largie - £40; Slaterich - £40

Wedders: Upper Largie - £46. Ewes:

Texel Cross: Barcaldine HF - £52. Cheviot cross: Slaterich - £41.

Blackface: Rhugarb - £34. Rams: Barcaldine HF - £72.

STIRLING - On October 28 the Luig Cattle Society held its 44th autumn sale at Stirling.

Judging was carried out by Robert and Sophie McCarrie, Wester Hassackrigg Farm, Harthill, Shotts.

The results were: Sim-Luing In-calf Heifers:

1 Colin Little, East Bracklinn; 2 nd Robert McNeer Ltd, Benhar.

Luig Bulling Heifers:

1 R & H McNeer, Finlary 2 Robert McNeer Ltd, Benhar.

Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers:

1 M.G. Halligan and A.C. Burke, Stewarton, 2 John Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd, Tillyrie.

Golden Jubilee Cup - Best overall pair of heifers

M.G. Halligan and A.C. Burke, Stewarton.

With a strong show of cattle the 44th sale got underway with the Luings coming forward first.

Luig in-calf heifers started the sale with an average of £1,037 to top 1,150gns from C C MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie going to D Hamilton, Allanton Farming, Darvel, Ayrshire.

Luig bulling heifers averaged £1,477 for 119 and peaked at an impressive 2,350gns for a pair from W Graham & Son, Craigharroch to Procter's Farm Ltd. Fifteen went on to average £1,880.

Robert McNeer Ltd, Benhar sold 12 to average £2,148, R & H McNeer, Finlary sold five to average £1,628, B Renwick, Blackhouse sold 17 to average £1,575, C C MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie sold 21 to average £1,563 and Chris Young, Balintore sold 11 to average £1,460.

Luig cows sold with nine sold to average £1,065 with a top price of 2,000gns from Messrs Beattie, Auchentaggart selling to Mr M Heron, Hope Farm, Morpeth.

Twenty-four Sim-Luing in-calf heifers followed averaging £2,010 topping at 2,600gns for a pair from Robert McNeer Ltd, Benhar going to M Linkleter, West Farm, Kirkheaton.

Sim-Luing bulling heifers averaged £1,065. Top price of 1,850gns came from John Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd who sold four heifers averaging £1,667 and M.G. Halligan & A.C. Burke, Stewarton sold to 1,800gns to giving an average of £1,608 for six.

Free soil event for farmers at Balloch

THIS month, Soil Association Scotland in conjunction with Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), is running a free hands-on soil event for farmers and land managers in Balloch.

The event will be led by soil experts Charlie Morgan, Grass-Master, and Liz Stockdale, head of farming systems at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB).

Participants can expect a practical and informative day covering how to manage and best utilise inputs and get the optimum productivity from the most valuable asset on farm: the soil.

One participant at the Soil, Muck and Money event in Oban last month remarked that the session was 'very informative and brought to life through demonstrating economic reality and working through clear examples'.

Sessions are open to all farmers and will look at principles and options for managing soil health and structure, managing inputs to support crop, soil and animal health, and will give advice on how to improve the quality and productivity of soil,

as well as give answers to all soil-related questions.

The sessions will include a 'bring your own soil' for physical assessment session offering farmers an opportunity to get a diagnosis on those fields that are just not performing so well and what possible remedial action could be taken to get them thriving again.

Liz Stockdale said: 'Soil and nutrients may be complex but, managed well, they can provide a good return on investment. I'm looking forward to getting my hands dirty and discussing how to best manage soil health, particularly in our changing climate.'

Soil, Muck and Money will run from 10am to 3pm on Tuesday November 21 at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park offices in Balloch.

The event is free for all farmers and land managers (£40 plus VAT for others).

Booking is essential as numbers are limited so to reserve a place book online or contact Jane at the Soil Association Scotland on 0131 666 2474 or by email to jdingwall@soilassociation.org.

NFUS is 'disappointed' at EU failure over herbicide decision

THE EU committee of member state representatives' vote on the five-year re-licensing of herbicide glyphosate has failed to reach a qualified majority and will be postponed until a further date.

NFU Scotland said it was disappointed following a further delay to the re-authorization of a product which has been deemed safe by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) among others. The decision will now be made by an appeals committee at the end of the month.

The NFUS said that the 'science is clear that glyphosate is a safe and environmentally friendly product and NFU Scotland believes that any decision

made on its re-authorization should be based on science rather than politics.'

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick wrote to the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and two commissioners, Vytenis Andriukaitis and Phil Hogan. This was as well as sending two delegates to conduct meetings with UK and Scottish Government representatives in Brussels, and Copa Cogeca.

Following the outcome, NFUS will continue to make the case for glyphosate's re-authorization and encourage any of its members who feel strongly to contact the European Commission and constructively let it know their point of view.

Union campaigns for best Brexit deal

NFU SCOTLAND remains fully committed to striking the right Brexit deal for Scotland's farmers and crofters.

At its autumn conference last month, NFUS president Andrew McCornick told delegates that withdrawal from both the EU and the CAP meant change

was coming. In the 18 months since the EU referendum, the union said it had been on the front foot, both in terms of its political lobbying and member engagement, and that moves to the next level with a nationwide programme of Brexit roadshows for members this month.

Mr McCornick said the union had pursued its three priorities: access to skilled and competent labour and a future support package for Scotland that is adequately funded, fairly allocated and will underpin a policy framework specifically designed for Scottish farming.

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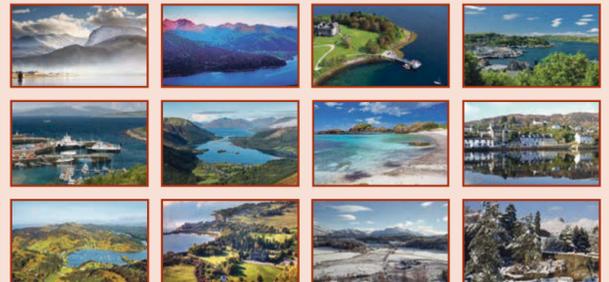


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New housing sector practice guide launched to support people with dementia



A NEW practice guide has been launched to help housing practitioners offer suitable support to people affected by dementia.

The guide is one of the outputs from a larger research study on housing's role in dementia carried out for CIH Scotland by housing consultancy Arneil Johnston. It provides recommendations covering four separate pathways, each representing one of four key stages in a typical dementia journey, namely:

- assisting and supporting early diagnosis;
- early assessment of the suitability of the home of someone living with dementia;
- enabling a person with dementia to remain at or return home quickly; and
- ensuring holistic consideration of assistance and support as dementia progresses.

For each pathway, the guide considers the role of housing within that stage, provides examples of emerging practice from the sector and a checklist of what housing practitioners should know and do, before concluding with a series of practical recommendations for how housing practitioners in Scotland can make a real difference to people affected by dementia, their families and carers.

The recommendations include:

- accepting that the scale of dementia as a major societal challenge requires a higher level of strategic and frontline priority from housing organisations;
- understanding the nature and extent of the housing role in dementia care and developing the knowledge and skills required to successfully fulfil this role;
- using a housing options approach to facilitate independent living;

- developing effective partnership working arrangements with colleagues across housing services and other organisations to maximise the quality of outcomes; and
- promoting housing's wider role in enabling independence beyond the physical and home environments to partner organisations.

The key findings from the research were previously released at CIH Scotland's annual conference in March 2017 and underlined the critical role the housing sector has to play in meeting the needs of people living with dementia at a time when the number of newly diagnosed cases is expected to increase by 17 per cent from 16,172 in 2014 to 19,473 in 2020.

Kevin Stewart MSP, minister for local government and housing, said: 'Dementia remains one of our foremost health and social care challenges. Scotland's third National Dementia Strategy was published earlier this year to ensure people with dementia get the support they need, including better services, assistance and housing.'

'Ensuring those who work in housing are equipped to recognise and support those diagnosed with dementia is a positive step to ensuring people can continue to live independently within their own communities.'

Commenting on the release of the new practice guide, CIH Scotland Chair Amanda Britain said: 'This practice guide is important for everyone working with people living with dementia.'

'Where we live and call home matters hugely to our health and wellbeing. The activities of housing organisations influence people's everyday lives and the places they live. As housing practitioners, we therefore have a responsibility to learn from this practice guide and challenge and question whether existing policies and procedures, and staff awareness and skills are as good as they can be.'

'The guide should not only improve housing sector practice but can also help to promote a more integrated and coordinated approach to care planning and delivery in partnership with Scotland's health and social care sectors. By implementing its recommendations, I hope that we can help more people with dementia live independently and well at home.'

MP urges households to 'keep a step ahead of winter'

NEW research has highlighted that having no heating or hot water would be the number one disaster for households in Scotland this winter. Even so, many people in Argyll and Bute have not taken action to ensure their homes are winter-ready.

Despite the autumn chill, a national survey* shows that more than a third of households (35 per cent) in Scotland have not checked that their central heating is working and nearly four in 10 have not prepared their home for winter by getting their boiler serviced. Having an annual boiler service carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer is crucial as it detects problems with the boiler and controls, including whether it is leaking poisonous carbon monoxide.

Brendan O'Hara MP for Argyll and Bute said: 'Winter can be a challenging time for households, but there are some practical steps that you can take to make sure that you are prepared, such as contacting your supplier to make sure you are on the right tariff, put an end to estimated bills by installing a



smart meter, get your boiler serviced and very importantly keep safe by fitting a carbon monoxide alarm.

He added: 'I want everyone in Argyll and Bute to understand what help is available to them, and for their family and friends. Being energy efficient and keeping bills under control is

really important.' Independent advice can be found at www.britishenergytrust.org.uk

* The research was undertaken by Atomik Research on behalf of Scottish Gas between 29th September -4th October 2017, on a sample of 3006 respondents with gas appliances in accordance with MRS guidelines and regulations.



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STEADY RENTAL YIELDS IN SCOTLAND SET TO CONTINUE



the £576 seen in September 2016.

The next highest growth was recorded in Edinburgh and the Lothians, where the average rent rose by 4.5 per cent in the past year to reach £669 a month, which is the highest average rent price in Scotland.

Glasgow and Clyde was the only region to witness a year-on-year rent price drop, with the average value down by six per cent to £541 in September, from £579 in the same month last year.

Rental yields achieved by Scottish landlords remain competitive when compared to other asset classes, according to the latest index from Your Move Scotland.

The average rent north of the border reached £574 per month in September, which is broadly in line with the price recorded in August and in the same month last year.

Four of the five Scottish regions experienced rent price growth in the 12 months to September, led by increases in the Highlands and Islands, where prices are 5.6 per cent higher than last year, hitting an average of £610 a month, which is significantly higher than

According to Your Move, Scottish landlords achieved an average rental yield of 4.8 per cent in September, which, although down slightly from the 4.9 per cent recorded in August, is a significantly higher return than the majority of properties in England and Wales achieve, which is an average of 4.4 per cent.

Lettings director of Your Move Scotland Brian Moran said: 'With four of the five regions of Scotland showing price growth in the past 12 months, things are looking up for Scottish landlords.'

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- Spacious Detached House
- 4 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms
- Open plan lounge, kitchen and dining area
- Large garden
- Integrated double garage and private parking
- EPC Rating: C70

OIRO £440,000

Kintore: A modern 4 bedroom detached house in a popular residential area close to the village of Benderloch. Built in 2006, Kintore is a bright and spacious house enjoying a rural position and views across fields and hills to the North. A small porch leads to the main open plan lounge/dining area which overlooks the front lawn and enjoys plentiful natural light from the floor-to-ceiling windows and patio doors and for those chilly nights there is a wood-burning stove.

BURNBANK TERRACE, OBAN



- First Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: C (71)
- LL REG: 149580/130/06310

PCM £560

A spacious, unfurnished flat located on Broadalbane Street in Oban town centre, just a moments walk to the main high street. The property comprises of 2 double bedrooms, WC, separate shower room with shower, kitchen with built in gas hob and dining area and large lounge with gas fire. Neutral décor and carpets throughout. Deposit and Full references required. Available January 2018.

AVONMHOR, TOBERMORY



- Detached bungalow
- 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom/1 WC
- Fantastic views
- Attached garage & basement
- Perfect family home
- EPC Rating: E42

OIRO £225,000

Avonmhor is a SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM BUNGALOW located in a desirable residential area in Tobermory, Isle of Mull. On entering this property, there is a handy vestibule before going into the spacious hallway. To the left, is a large bright lounge which boasts fantastic views over the town and down to the bay. Complete with a cosy fireplace, this room is warm and welcoming and has dining space to the rear. There are large windows allowing plentiful natural light into the room, which accentuate the stunning surroundings.

42 COMBIE STREET, OBAN



- Ground Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Part Furnished B
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: E (52)
- LL REG: 290857/130/18421

PCM £550

Spacious, 2 bedroom flat in Oban town centre. This part furnished property is located on the ground floor and comprises two sizeable double bedrooms, generous living room, bathroom with built in shower and kitchen with white goods. Perfect for professionals, couples or small family. Available now. Deposit and full references required. Available Now

FAIRHAVEN, GLENCRUITTEN ROAD, OBAN



- Link detached House
- 4 Bedroom/2 Bathroom
- Easy walking distance to the town
- Off road parking
- Large Conservatory
- EPC Rating: F

Guide Price £175,000

Fair Haven is a well-proportioned family home located only a short walk from all of Oban's amenities. The ground floor comprises a large conservatory which is currently used as a bright lounge area which benefits from patio doors which lead out to the garden area. There is also a large dining room, well-appointed kitchen and double bedroom on the ground floor. Upstairs there are a further three double bedrooms (1 ensuite) and a family bathroom. The property benefits from double glazing throughout with heating and hot water provided via a mains gas boiler.

APARTMENT 3, STEVENSON ST, OBAN



- Studio Flat
- 1 bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: B(84)
- LL REG: 342259/130/31461

PCM £445

1 bed studio apartment in Oban town centre located just a few minutes walk to the main street and supermarket. The property has generously sized kitchen/living area, double bedroom and modern bathroom with shower. The property is unfurnished with built in hob and oven and fridge-freezer only.

FIRST FLOOR FLAT MAIN STREET, TOBERMORY



- First floor flat
- 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom
- Unfurnished
- Stunning sea views
- Popular location
- Wood-burning stove
- EPC Rating: E

OIRO £155,000

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APARTMENT 10, STEVENSON ST, OBAN



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- 1 bed/1 bath
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: B(84)
- LL REG: 342259/130/31461

PCM £445

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SUBARU FORESTER GETS EVEN SAFER WITH EYESIGHT

SUBARU FORESTER has been updated in time for winter with the addition of EyeSight, Subaru's advanced driver assist technology, fitted as standard equipment.

EyeSight acts as a second pair of eyes for the driver and, depending on the vehicle's speed, can completely avoid and significantly reduce the severity of accidents at high speed.

With safety one of the main objectives, EyeSight was also

developed to lower carbon emissions by reducing incident congestion and subsequently lower the economic effects of sitting in traffic.

EyeSight has two stereo cameras, mounted on each side of the rear-view mirror, and they use image recognition to capture three-dimensional colour images with clinical precision. The technology can distinguish vehicles, motorbikes, bicycles,

pedestrians, lane markings and road furniture and can differentiate between these and determine the general traffic conditions.

With an emphasis on real-world tests and evaluations, EyeSight has been developed to correspond exclusively to the individual country's traffic conditions.

In total EyeSight uses six technologies to maximise safety including Adaptive Cruise Control, Pre-Collision Braking, Pre-

Collision Throttle Management, Lane Departure and Sway Warning, Lane Keep Assist and Lead Vehicle Start Alert.

The institute for Traffic Accident Research and Data Analysis in Japan produced a study of Subaru vehicles involved in accidents between 2010 and 2014. It found that there were 61 per cent fewer accidents involving EyeSight-equipped cars compared to those without.

Globally, the milestone of one million EyeSight-equipped vehicles on the road was hit back in 2016.

In the UK, Forester is the third model in the range to be fitted with EyeSight. Subaru vehicles are already among the safest on the road today; with all three vehicles in the SUV range receiving the maximum 5*Euro NCAP rating.

To find out more, see John from S&S Services at Tesco, Oban this Saturday and Sunday.



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It is a great opportunity to join one of Scotland's leading independent news publishers. Excellent salary and conditions including private health care, enhanced pension, life assurance and financial assistance with relocation if appropriate.

A full, current driving licence is essential for this position.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

THE MAJESTIC LINE ARGYLL COAST CRUISES

The Majestic Line

The Majestic Line is an innovative small cruise company sailing out of Oban on the West Coast of Scotland. The vessels 'Glen Massan' and 'Glen Tarsan' are traditional wooden 85ft fishing boats which have been converted to provide a very high standard of hospitality for up to 11 guests. The 'Glen Etive' is a purpose built vessel providing accommodation for up to 12 guests. We are currently recruiting for 2018 season commencing April until the end of October.

We invite applications for experienced:

- Skippers
- Marine Engineers
- Chefs
- Bosuns/ Steward(ess)

Applicants should have the required experience and be willing to provide excellent standards of customer care for our guests.

For further details please apply to info@themajesticline.co.uk or telephone Neil on 01369 707951

Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service



Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service has been working hard to strengthen the voice of people who use health and community care services since 2000. We are now seeking to recruit two:

Independent Advocacy Workers (2 posts)

Both posts are part-time (17.5 hours per week) and are based in Lochgilphead

Salary Scale AP3: £21,457 to £23,546 (pro-rata) initially funded until March 2019

For a recruitment pack please telephone: (01389) 726543 or email: admin@laas.org.uk

Closing date for return of applications 1st December 2017.

Visit our website at www.laas.org.uk

Retreat House Warden

BISHOP'S HOUSE

ISLE OF IONA

The board of Island Retreats Limited seeks a warden to run the retreat house on the Isle of Iona in Argyll, part of the Scottish Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and The Isles. For recruitment pack visit:

<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/home/vacancy/>

Closing date 16 December 2017

Registered Charity No: SC023281 Registered Company No: SC225528

Hazelbank Motors Ltd

Oban

Require a full time, Time Served Mechanic for expanding workshop.

Please apply in writing only to: **Iain Coates, Hazelbank Motors Ltd, Lynn Road, Oban PA34 4PL**

KILMARTIN AUTO REPAIRS

require a

Full Time Experienced Car Mechanic

Full driving licence essential
Hourly rate dependant on experience
Please send enquiries to William Beattie:- kilmartinautos@yahoo.co.uk



Senior Husbandry - with Critical Equipment Specialisation Loch Nevis, Mallaig

Earnings Potential for this Role: (£29,000 - £32,500) + Bonus

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

A unique role designed to undertake planned preventative maintenance of site equipment including generators, vessel engines, outboards, small plant, net cleaners, feed systems, incinerators forklifts etc. Showing leadership in health and safety and working with site staff to keep critical equipment in optimal condition.

Would be ideal for an aspiring engineer keen to become involved in Scotland's highly successful aquaculture industry. Specialist training will be provided. Applicants to be dynamic, meticulous and excellent communicators.

Candidates will be Day Skipper qualified (or equivalent) and ambitious enough to pursue a Yacht-Master coastal. Relocation package will be available for the right candidate.

Working a 40-hour week, Monday to Friday with 1:3 weekend working required on a rota system.

In return we will offer an attractive salary dependant on experience along with additional payments on completion of specific training, crop bonus, discretionary company bonus, pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

A current driving licence is essential.

If you would like to be considered for this vacancy, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing date for applications: Friday 1st December 2017

Maintenance Opportunities



Glensanda, Oban Attractive salary & benefits package

Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day, year-round and has a staff of nearly 200 people.

We have two vacancies within the Maintenance department: a Fixed Plant Fitter and an Industrial Electrician. As a member of the Engineering team, you'll carry out a range of maintenance and troubleshooting tasks on the wide range of mechanical or electrical equipment used in our operational process.

As a time-served Fitter or Electrician, you'll have an ONC (or equivalent) qualification and be able to adhere to the company Health & Safety standards. A good understanding of reliability maintenance practices would be advantageous.

There's the real opportunity to develop your career, plus excellent benefits including pension and online discounts on a range of corporate products.

To apply, please email your CV quoting Ref 8056 and 8172 to hr.deptuk@aggregate.com

We believe in Equal Opportunities for all employees.

Social Worker (Permanent)

£32,775 - £35,841

Lochgilphead Ref: HAW00891

01546 604334

Closing date: Friday 1st December 2017
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Cultural Co-ordinator (Temporary)

£22,410 - £24,417

Location Negotiable

Ref: CME00491

01546 604334

Closing date: Friday, 1 December 2017
To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT HIJOBS HIJOBS HIJOBS



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(Competitive salary depending on qualifications and experience)

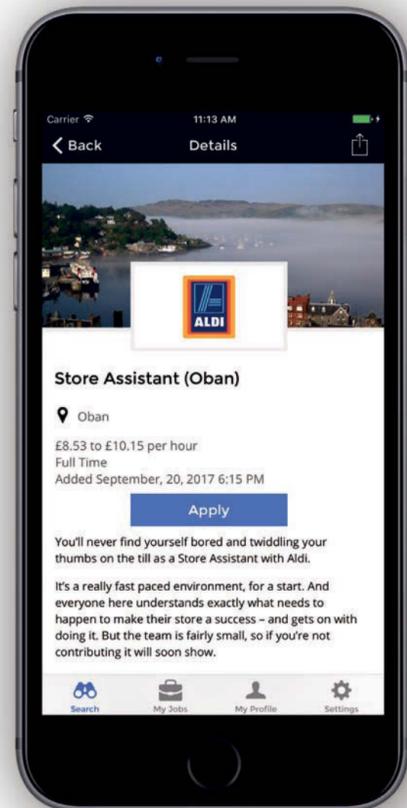
We require a bookkeeper/office administrator to join our busy marina, boatyard and chandlery office near Lochgilphead in Mid Argyll. The ideal candidate will have a strong accounts background and must be familiar with all aspects of daily and monthly bookkeeping routines.

Reporting to the general manager and a director, you will be familiar with processing purchase and sales invoices, bank reconciliation and VAT returns, as well as being able to undertake general office duties and effectively manage customer relations.

Experience using accountancy software such as Sage and the Microsoft Office package (particularly Excel), is critical to the role.

Please apply for an application form and full job description to Mark Cameron, Ardfearn Yacht Centre Ltd, Ardfearn, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN. Tel: 01852 500247 or via email to mark@ardfern yacht.co.uk before the closing date of Friday 1st December 2017.

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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2017

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A85 Tyndrum-Oban Trunk Road from its junction with Corran Esplanade at the access road to Corran Halls, Oban in a generally north easterly direction to the roundabout where it meets Dunollie Road, Oban then in a generally southwards direction along Dunollie Road and George Street, Oban to its junction with Queens Park Place, Oban, a distance of 750 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Oban Reindeer Parade - being held on Saturday 18th November 2017, and the Oban Winter Festival Parade - being held on Sunday 26th November 2017, and to enable members of the public to participate in these events. The Order will be in operation from 18th November 2017 until 27th November 2017 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route for traffic during the prohibitions is not required. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

F BROWN

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Vento Ludens Limited for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with the Garaich Ghualaich and Greenfield Burn hydro schemes, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2.65 metres in height	Allt Garaich Ghualaich	NN 1528 9674
Abstraction of 54,864 m ³ per day of water	Allt Garaich Ghualaich	NN 1528 9674
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.5 metres in height	Allt Lon Glas Bheinn	NN 1297 9627
Abstraction of 38,016 m ³ per day of water	Allt Lon Glas Bheinn	NN 1297 9627
Return of abstracted water approximately 4.2 km downstream of the main abstraction point	Allt Lon Glas Bheinn	NN 1562 9879
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 3 metres in height	Allt Coire na Saobhaidh	NN 1833 9779
Abstraction of 35,338 m ³ per day of water	Allt Coire na Saobhaidh	NN 1833 9779
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1 metres in height	Allt Doir an Daimh	NN 1706 9778
Abstraction of 13,824 m ³ per day of water	Allt Doir an Daimh	NN 1706 9778
Return of abstracted water approximately 3.8 km downstream of the main abstraction point	Allt Coire na Saobhaidh / Greenfield Burn	NH 1997 0057

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9:30am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to registrydwgwall@sepa.org.uk or to the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1160458 (Garaich Ghualaich) or CAR/L/1160460 (Greenfield Burn):

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which has been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:-

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02290/PP	Erection of building for use as house in multiple occupation	Land North East Of Bridge Of Orchy Hotel Bridge Of Orchy Argyll And Bute PA36 4AB	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/02755/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land At Poll A'Chapuill 3 Claddach Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 75Y	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
17/02815/PPP	Site for proposed residential development	Site At Lonan Drive Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/02854/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with attached holiday letting accommodation and installation of septic tank	Land South West Of Craignis Balnake Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
17/02825/PP	Alteration to form one and a half storey dwelling. Increase in height of roof, formation of dormers and construction of first floor over existing rear extension	Atlantic View 59 Main Street Port Wemyss Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 75R	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
17/02810/PP	Erection of replacement porch	Lochview Cottage Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TL	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/02606/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of treatment plant and partial soakaway and formation of vehicular access	29 Achnahard Land To The East Of Seileach Ardun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DH	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle Of Mull
17/02811/LIB	Erection of replacement porch	Lochview Cottage Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TL	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr Alexander John MacKay Campbell has registered the Croft 1/2 117 Banavie, Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 9th August 2018 and by contacting McIntyre & Co, Solicitors, 38 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AT.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1999.

Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (LAUREL ROAD AND DUNCRAGGAN ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

On Monday 13th November 2017, Argyll and Bute Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 62 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, made the above named Order which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle on the entire length of Duncraggan Road, and the section of Laurel Road between its junction with Ardeconnel Road and Duncraggan Road, Oban. The restrictions imposed by this Order, which are desirable because of considerations of public safety and convenience during the Winter Festival Fireworks Display, will be in operation when indicated by signs between 1845 and 1915 hours on the 26th November 2017.

Contravention of the Order, which may be inspected at the Argyll & Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, could result in a penalty of up to £500.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenities Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



AGM

Oban Communities Trust/The Rockfield Centre

Wednesday 29th November 7pm
Community Hut
Guest Speaker - James Hilder
Reg Charity SC045503

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

HIGHLAND FUELS LTD of Affric House, Beechwood Park, Inverness, Inverness-shire IV2 3BW, is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers at Argyll Commercial, Glenshellach Road, Oban PA34 4ER. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be effected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners office.

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www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
17/04838/FUL	Knoydart Lodge Guest House, Inverie, Knoydart, Mallaig		Change of use of workshop and attic to garage and attic accommodation
17/05062/FUL	Glencoe Mountain Resort, Kingshouse, Glencoe		Formation of level concrete plinth 12.5 x 25m, for snow factory self contained container, inclusive of temporary location at Ski Centre base level
17/05109/FUL	104 High Street, Fort William		Extend external seating area to include an additional 1no table and 2no chairs
17/05126/FUL	Land 170M NE of Schoolhouse Isle of Rum		Construction of shore base facility
17/05202/FUL	Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Ltd, North Road, Fort William		Alloy wheel manufacturing facility, alterations and improvements to existing secondary plant access and associated access arrangements, hard standing, landscaping, car parking, and ancillary development

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR AN ALLOY WHEEL MANUFACTURING FACILITY, ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SECONDARY PLANT ENTRANCE AND ASSOCIATED ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS, HARD STANDING, LANDSCAPING,

CAR PARKING AND ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT

AT LIBERTY ALUMINIUM LOCHABER LTD NORTH ROAD FORT WILLIAM PH33 6TH

The Council has received an application from Liberty Lochaber Aluminium Ltd for an aluminium alloy wheel manufacturing plant at Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Ltd, North Road Fort William PH33 6TH (application number 17/05202/FUL). The application is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The application and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report are available for public inspection between the hours of 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday at the following location

1. Highland Council Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William PH33 6EL

They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 17/05202/FUL)

Printed copies of the complete Environmental Impact Assessment Report can be purchased from Golder Associates (UK) Ltd, Sirius Building, The Clocktower, South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9LB, TEL: 0131 314 5900, at a cost of £150. The Non Technical Summary and DVD can be obtained free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5N. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

J. Stuart Black

Director of Planning and Development



Scottish Government
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A87 TRUNK ROAD (DUNVEGAN ROAD, PORTREE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF SPECIFIED TURNS) (NO. 2) ORDER 2017

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A87 Invergarry - Kyle of Lochalsh - Borve - Uig Trunk Road known as Dunvegan Road, Portree from a point about 180 metres or thereby northwest of its junction with the A855 Bridge Road, Portree north westwards to its junction with Broom Place, Portree, a distance of 1.2 kilometres or thereby.

The Order temporarily prohibits all left and right turns to and from the length of road referred to above.

The Order, which is required to facilitate works on that length of Trunk Road, will be in operation from 18th November until 23rd November 2017 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard, purposes or a vehicle being used for carrying out the works.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Alternative routes for traffic in relation to the length of road affected by the Order during the prohibition will be as signposted. Detailed descriptions can be obtained at BEAR Scotland Ltd, Bear House, Inveralmond Road, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth PH1 3TW
A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

S P DAVIES

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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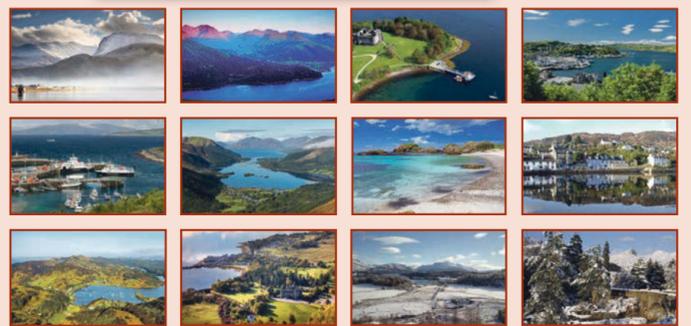
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DEATHS

BRUCE - Irene. Peacefully at Cowal Community Hospital, on November 13, 2017. Beloved mum of David and Lynn, mother-in-law to Bill and Lorraine, treasured granny to Alistair and Kyle, and a much loved wife of the late John Turnbull Bruce. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place on Friday November 17, 2017 at Greenock Crematorium at 11:00 a.m.

GRAY - Peacefully at home on November 14, 2017 surrounded by her family, Dolina (Dolly), beloved wife of the late Alasdair and much loved mother to James, Rachel and Gerrard, mother-in-law to Lee and Eileen, loving grandmother to Eren, Lara and Jamie. Fois agus sith gu brath.

JOHNSON - Peacefully at his home, Duntroon, 9 Fernoch Park, Lochgilhead, on November 12, 2017, Alistair Johnson, aged 76 years, beloved husband of Elizabeth, much loved dad of Donald, and adored papa of Beth, Hannah and Cailean. Dear brother of Kathleen and cousin of Moira. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilhead Parish Church, on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at 12:00 noon, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Glenaray Ward and Macmillan Suite, Mid Argyll Hospital.

KERR - Elizabeth (Livingston). Peacefully on Friday November 3, 2017, Elsie, beloved wife of the late Kenneth, much loved mum of Lorna and Colin and daughter-in-law Anne. Devoted gran to Stephen and David. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

MACINTYRE - On November 7, 2017 after a brave battle, Andrew (Bunnocks), much loved husband of Maureen, 7 Millpark Avenue, Oban, loved father to Lynne and Andrew and special Papa to Keri, Abby and Mathew. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday, November 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only.

MACNIVEN - Peacefully, on November 8, 2017, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, aged 82 years, Dolina (Dolly), 20 Achaleven Cottages, Connel, partner to the late Peter MacDonald. Funeral will take place at W. G. Catto Funeral Home, Elgin, on Friday, November 17, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. Thereafter to Elgin North Cemetery. R.I.P.

MACPHERSON - With great sadness we announce the death at the Western Isles Hospital, Stornoway on November 5, 2017 of Iain Alexander MacPherson, aged 42. Dearly loved son of Moira MacPherson and the late David MacPherson, much loved brother of Paula and Alan and a dear nephew and cousin. Interred at Broadford, Isle of Skye. 'Suisnish', Tong Road, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0JF.

MCINTYRE - James (Jaz) died peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital on Wednesday November 8. Sheena, Nick and Margaret invite friends and family to join them for a celebration of his life at The Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday November 17 at 11:00 am and thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLACK - The family of the late John Black would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Rev Chris MacRae for his warm service, to Scott Greenlees at John McLellan's for his funeral guidance and friendship over what can only be described as a very difficult few months for the family and to Glen Nevis Restaurant for the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who came to pay their last respects at the church and cemetery and who generously donated towards Gary Campbell's Stem Cell Treatment Fund, raising £463.28.

BRADSHAW - Andy and family would like to thank all neighbours, friends and relatives for the support and care shown to them since the sudden passing of Ann. Special thanks to the emergency services for their compassion. Thanks also to Scott Greenlees of John McLellan Funeral Directors for his support and kindness. Finally, thanks to those who attended the funeral ceremony in Burnley.

BRUCE - Kevin, Andrea and Lee would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy and help given to them since the sudden passing of Kyle William Charles Bruce. Heartfelt thanks to The Nevis Centre, Phoenix Boxing Club, Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance services, and the man who found Kyle. Special thanks to Mr Alan Smurthwaite for his uplifting and comforting ceremony. Grateful thanks to our funeral directors John McLellan's, for the efficient and comforting way they carried out the funeral arrangements, especially Scott for personalising Kyle's last party just perfectly. Thanks also to all the staff at Ford Garage and to Ross for the use of his RS to lead Kyle from his home to his party. Finally, thanks to all who came to pay their last respects and to those who donated to local sports clubs.

DOCHERTY - Eileen, Elaine, Margaret and families would like to thank everyone for all the many cards, flowers, home baking, visits and phone calls following the sad loss of John. Special thanks to Dr Ward and Dr Elliot, the community nurses, Marie Curie nurses and the carers for all the care and loving support. To the Rev. Paton for his friendly comforting visits and personal caring service, Mrs Jack for musical accompaniment, Douglas McNeilage for help and kindness, Billy

McClymont for his caring and professional service, Park Lodge Hotel for refreshments and a special thanks to Moira and George for their continuing thoughtfulness and kindness. To everyone who contributed to the retail collection for Marie Curie which totalled £576.

GRANT - Chrissie and family would like to convey their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their very sad loss of Robert. Sincere thanks to Rev Edgar Ogston and Rev Geoffrey Andow for their most comforting service, to John McLellan Funeral Directors their professional handling of the funeral arrangements. Finally, thanks to all those who came to pay their last respects to Robert and generously donated £186 to the British Heart Foundation.

MACKECHNIE - Christine and family would like to thank family and friends for all their love, support, expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers, following the sudden death of Donald Ewan MacKechnie. Heartfelt thanks to Rev W T Hogg for making the journey to deliver a very personal, moving and apt service. Thanks also to Ian MacInnes from D & A Munn for his invaluable help and guidance. To the elders of Dalmally Parish Church, Alasdair MacDonald for his music during the service and Iain MacIntyre for the pipes and to The Flower Basket and Dalmally Community Hall Committee. The sum of £1590.28 has been donated to ABCD in Donald's memory.

MACKINNON - Fiona, Robert, Janet and families would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for their flowers, cards, phone calls and offers of help following the sad loss of Willie. A special thanks to Ian MacInnes and staff at D&A Munn for funeral arrangements, to Rev. D Cameron for a fitting service, to Moreen Gracie and Angela Guy for the flowers and to the Royal Hotel for refreshments. Thanks also to doctors, community nurses, Macmillan nurses, Marie Curie nurses and Carr Gomm. A special thanks to all the girls from ECCT for all their help during Willie's illness. The retail collection raised £431.19 and was donated between the Macmillan Day Care Unit at Lorn and Islands Hospital and Marie Curie Cancer Care (local branch).

MACPHAIL - The family of the late Margaret 'Eilidh' MacPhail would like to thank you for all support and care shown since the sad passing. Heartfelt thanks to Invernevis House for the care and support shown to Eilidh especially Lucille for her care and friendship. Thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. Thank you to Billy Stott of John McLellan Funeral Directors for his guidance and support.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In loving memory of Angus Cameron, a very dear husband, father and grandpa died November 18, 1994. Forever in our thoughts. Also loved ones gone before. - Rosemary and family.

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.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of our parents, Flora (née MacDonald), who died November 14, 1977 and Kenneth, died 25 May 25 1999 and of our sister Ruth Mary, who passed away on October 3, 2014. - Sadly missed by Carol, Barbara and all the family.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Christine, dearly loved wife, mother and nana, who died November 18, 2006. Always in our thoughts. - Donnie, Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families.

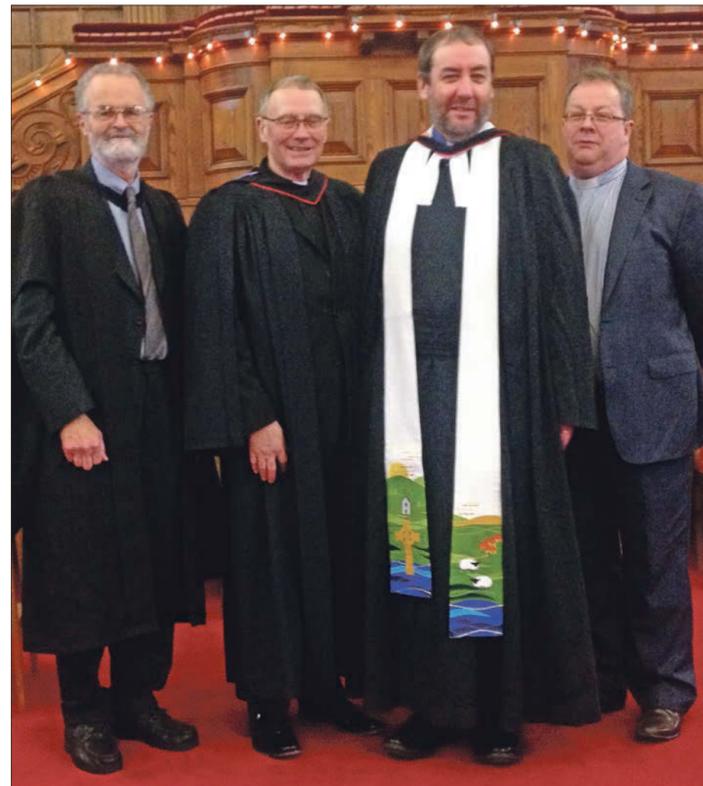
MACNICOL - In loving memory of Ishbel M MacNicol, November 14, 2013. No longer in our lives to share. But in our hearts, you are always there. - Love Hamish and family.

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Ardchattan's Rev McCormick prepares for move to Callander



Jeffrey McCormick, second right, was ordained as Moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll in Campbelltown in 2014.

AFTER 33 years the Reverend Jeffrey McCormick is leaving his ministry of Ardchattan parish churches for pastures new.

Mr McCormick, who arrived from Glasgow with his wife Fiona to take up his first charge in Argyll in 1984, is now moving closer to their homelands at Callander Kirk in Stirlingshire.

'I am an ecclesiastical crofter. In a rural parish there is not a complete job,' he said. 'I always had a desire to work in the country. I did not think I would spend quite so long. Maybe as I go into the last 20 per cent of my ministry, I should do something different. I prayerfully considered it, and I thought maybe there is something here.'

The Ardchattan parish churches serve the communities of Benderloch, Bonawe, Barcaldine, North Connel and surrounding areas. A part of the Church of Scotland, there are two churches in the parish: Ardchattan Kirk on the shores of Loch Etive, and St Modan's Church in Benderloch. 'I am the fourth minister in 100 years,'

Mr McCormick recalled. 'There have been two McCormicks and two MacDonalds. The role has changed, but the core responsibility has stayed the same: holding the Sunday service and standing with people on days of celebration and sadness.'

'The community here has changed quite significantly,' he said. 'When I came here the road was very quiet at nights. People did not move about. There used to be six people in North Connel who were not related. That was a lesson for ministers: whatever you say is going to be about some of their relations. That has broken down. There are more dormitory commuters. Folk do not know each other in the same way.'

'What I do in Ardchattan has very little resemblance to what I was doing 30 years ago. My predecessor went to meetings in a horse and cart. In Ardchattan, you spend a lot of time in the car. I routinely travel 40 to 50 miles for a meeting. I shall not miss the long roads around almost unending Argyll lochs.'

In Ardchattan, I do not have any colleagues.'

Callander, he said, is a bigger place with a number of different churches.

'It is more of a hub for Stirlingshire,' he explained. 'There will be more people in church on a Sunday, which will be a bit easier. A small group of people can take things personally.' It is very difficult for a congregation of four people not to think the minister is speaking to them directly, he added.

Mr McCormick and his wife - a teacher at Rockfield Primary School - raised their three boys at their Argyll home, and he said he will miss the area 'so much'.

'I will miss all the wonderful skies, and the people of all ages. In Argyll, it is just possible to speak your mind and people will accept it. I have always found the people in Argyll honest and positive. They have a great sense of humour.'

'I shall miss most the many people who over the years have been supportive and encouraging. It has been a tremendous blessing for me to be here.'

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Oban High School U13s



Oban High School U15 girls.

Rugby round-up . . . rugby round-up . . .

Oban Lorne 1st XV
OBAN Lorne had a weekend off from league duty with no scheduled fixture on Saturday due to Scotland's Autumn International Test against Samoa at BT Murrayfield.

The men in green are not back in action until the end of the autumn test series where they will face Argyll rivals and fellow West Division 1 strugglers Helensburgh on Saturday December 2.

It has been a disappointing season so far for Oban Lorne who currently occupy 11th place in the league but could jump into mid table with a much-needed win.

A combination of injuries and a loss of several key players has left coach Corrie Louw with a much smaller squad to choose from than in recent seasons.

The team were buoyed this week with a coaching session on Tuesday evening with former SRU Coach Chris Reid who led a very enjoyable session for both the men's and ladies' 1st XV.

Oban Lorne RFC will be showing Scotland's two remaining autumn test matches versus New Zealand and Australia live on the clubhouse big screen - everyone is welcome.

Mitsubishi Motors West U18 Conference
Oban Lorne U18s P
Kilmarnock U18s P

Saturday's U18 clash was postponed as league leaders Kilmarnock failed to raise a team for the journey to Oban. The late call-off came as much frustration to the Oban players and coaches with the team having their strongest squad of the season available.

Oban have been given the league points for the game which propels them into fourth place in the U18 conference.

The team will be hoping to continue their good form from recent games as they travel to Glasgow this Saturday to face fellow mid table side Camusbanslang RFC.

Saturday's hosts won a close 21-12 fixture at Glencruitten earlier in the year and the same is expected on Saturday.

U17 Friendly Festival at Lochaber postponed

Sunday's U17 10-a-side festival hosted by Lochaber RFC in Fort William was postponed due to an unplayable pitch at Lochaber's Banavie ground.

This was a blow for Oban who had a strong squad of young U18s and older U16 squad players to form a formidable team.

Hopefully this festival can be rearranged for a date later in the season.

Mitsubishi Motors West U13 and U14 Conference
Oban U13s & U14s P
Ardrossan P

In keeping with the general theme of the weekend, Oban Lorne's U13 and U14 teams were left without a game as Ardrossan failed to travel for the fixtures.

With two squads of players ready for the games, both players and coaches were left disappointed at the outcome given the glorious weather conditions on Sunday meant the games could have gone ahead.

These fixtures can hopefully be rearranged for later in the season.

Oban's U13 and U14 teams are away to Kilmarnock this Sunday.

Mitsubishi Motors West U16 League
Oban Lorne U16s v
Kilmarnock

Oban's U16 team play their last fixture of the league season on Sunday at home to Kilmarnock.

A win would secure second place in the league for Oban who have won every game

apart from last week's 42-0 loss against league leaders Stewartry.

West Girls Conference
East Kilbride 15
Oban Lorne U15 Girls 21

Oban Lorne U15 girls continued their busy run of fixtures as they traveled with a large squad of 14 players to take on East Kilbride on Sunday. Despite going three tries down early in the game Oban raced back to win 21-15 with Jordan MacIntyre and Poppy McKillop among the try scorers.

The U15 girls' side have improved with every fixture this season taking on some formidable opponents.

This Sunday the U15 girls host Highland at Glencruitten for the first meeting between the two sides.

T4 Schools Conference
Eastwood High School v
Oban High School

OBAN High School played their latest T4 Schools Conference fixture last week where they faced teams from Eastwood High School in Newton Mearns. The fixtures were played in the playing grounds of Whitecraigs RFC.

Fixtures were played at U13 and U14 boys along with the

U15 Girls.

Oban came out on top in the U13 boys' fixture by five tries to three with Louie MacFarlane, Gregor Warnock and Fergus Taylor all impressing in the team's first win of the season.

There was also success in the girls' U15 fixture where Oban ran out comfortable winners by 21 tries to 8.

The U14s failed to recover from two scores down at half-time as they were beaten four tries to two despite a better second half showing.

Chris Paterson holds CPD
kicking session

OBAN Lorne RFC were fortunate enough to host one of Scottish Rugby's pro coach master classes with former Scotland fullback, captain and record points holder Chris Paterson travelling west to deliver a CPD session in kicking to a group of enthusiastic coaches and players.

The event was well attended with around 15 coaches in attendance from Oban Lorne RFC, Mid Argyll RFC & Etive Vikings RFC along with a group of young players from Oban High School.

The club would like to thank Chris for a fantastic course.



Chris Paterson along with Oban U18 players Kieron Morrison and Andrew Ritchie.

Heath team out in front with one round to go

THE PENULTIMATE round of the Glensanda Mini Squash Team League competition was held recently at Atlantis Leisure. Thanks were made to all the teams who took part and for giving everyone great matches to watch; also to those who helped with the refereeing. The final matches will be

Squash

played on Saturday December 2.

The results were as follows Paul's Nickers beat The Hot Shots 12-7; Kelly's Heroes beat The Magnificent 6 13-12; and The Martin Heath Team beat Norfolk-in-Chance 14-5.

LEAGUE TABLE

	F	A	Diff	Joker	Pts
Martin Heath Team	75	32	+43	Yes	75
The Hot Shots	64	54	+10	No	64
Paul's Nickers	62	48	+14	Yes	62
Norfolk-in-Chance	59	51	+8	Yes	59
Kelly's Heroes	54	52	+2	Yes	54
Jackie's Ballbreakers	46	67	-21	Yes	46
The Magnificent 6	39	76	-37	Yes	39



Prizewinners at Dalmally golf club.

Dalmally golf club hands out the prizes

THE DALMALLY Golf Club annual prizegiving took place on Sunday November 12.

Prior to the formal prizegiving, an excellent turnout of members took part in a fun Texas scramble in lovely, cold, dry weather

with snow on the surrounding hills.

The major prize-winners were: Gents: Club Champion - Graeme MacKechnie; Club Handicap Champion - Graeme MacKechnie; Gold Medal Winner - William Dougal; Silver Medal Winner - Tony

Graham; Order of Merit - William Dougal.

Ladies: Club Champion - Ann McLaren; Club Handicap Champion - Ann Hay; Matchplay Champion - Ann McLaren; Silver Medal Winner - Lily McKay; Bronze Medal Winner - Ann Hay.

Kintyre descendant is a world cup winner

A TEENAGE England footballer who recently lifted the U17s world cup in India says he was mentored by his Campbelltown Hearts grandfather.

George McEachran, 17, ran round the park kissing the trophy, after he helped his team beat Spain 5-2 in the final at Kolkata's sold-out Salt Lake stadium.

George, who plays for English Premiership side Chelsea, is one of a quartet of brothers - Josh, Zach and William - from the McEachran family who have glittering football careers.

They all say that their grandfather, John 'Jonah' McEachran, 81, whose nickname would usually herald bad luck, has been their major influence in the beautiful game.

Jonah, now from Long Hanborough in Oxfordshire, was on cloud nine as he saw his midfield-playing grandson in

the final and the media storm which has accompanied the win, including appearances on all the major television channels.

Jonah said: 'I met George's grandmother Diana through playing football for Brigstock, which at that time was in the Kettering amateur league.'

Teach
'I played football with the boys when they were young. One time we were in Wales and a Chelsea coach was there, the boys were knocking about and the coaches saw them and said we could not teach them that - it all went from there really.'

George has 18 caps for England U17s and last year signed a professional contract with Chelsea where he started when he was eight.

Jonah, who was born in Park Square, Campbelltown and attended Dalintober, Millknowe

Football

and Campbelltown Grammar schools, played football for Campbelltown Hearts in the 1950s until he was 18.

In 1954, he received call-up papers for National Service and left the Wee Toon for Shoeburyness in Essex and stayed in England for two years in the Royal Artillery.

Like many Campbelltonians in the 1950s he moved to Corby and even worked for a few weeks in the steel plants. This was followed by the Forestry Commission for a spell until he settled to life in the prison service for 30 years.

Jonah said: 'We have not been back to Kintyre for years but hope to get there for a day next year. I have cousins Jimmy Donnegan and Kathleen Thomson in the town.'

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results:

Under 13s 13, Dunoon 1; On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (5), Andrew Nicil (3), Ruairidh Buchanan, Craig Rankin, Jack Reid, Mathew Pollock, and Morgan Gemmill. Lochgilhead Red Star 5, Under 14s 4; Saints goalscorers were Ross Higgins (2), Innes MacDonald and Louie McCann. Rossvale v Under 15s. Westerton United 2, Under 16s 11; Scoring for Saints were Lennon Campbell (4), Gavin Forgive (2), Jude Bain (2), Craig Millar, Kenni Gray and Aaron McKay; Under 17s 7, Dunoon 2. Saints goalscorers were Cameron Kerr (2), Scott Mossman, Jamie Anderson, Joe Harper and Rory Dowd.

This weekend's fixtures: Scottish Cup - Under 13s v Bayside; League games - Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Dunoon; Under 16s v Under 17s.

Scots athletes train at Loch Fyne

AN ARGYLL spa resort became the temporary training base for two international athletes in October.

Scotland and Team GB athletes Lynsey Sharp and Andrew Butchart decided to come to Argyll to enjoy a peaceful break while taking advantage of quiet roads for training.

The couple visited Portavadie, where they were able to make use of the resort's training facilities while relaxing and having fun.



Lynsey and Andrew training in the gym of Portavadie's spa and leisure centre.

Athletics

Scottish record holder Lynsey, aged 27, won 800m gold in the 2012 European Championships. The Dumfries-born athlete is the daughter of former Scottish sprint star Cameron Sharp, while mum Carol was herself an international-class 800m runner.

Long distance runner Andrew, from Dunblane, is the current Scottish record holder at 3,000m and 5,000 metres.

Scottish Amateur FL results/fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, third round replay Oban Saints 3, Falkirk 2; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Lochgilhead Red Star 5, Tarbert 0.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, fourth round - Red Star Glasgow v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Claremont v Campbeltown Pupils; Neilston v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Lochgilhead Red Star v Paisley; Tarbert v Millbeg.

The draw for the Jimmy Marshall Cup was made at a recent meeting of the SAFL executive committee with the pairings involving Argyll teams as follows - Alba Thistle v Tarbert; Campbeltown Pupils v Rosehill Star, Dunoon v Claremont and Oban Saints v Lochgilhead Red Star.



George McEachran, right, kisses the U17s world cup in India with team-mate Morgan Gibbs.

Photo by: Saikat Paul/Zuma Press.



Referee Tony McCann along with Saints and Falkirk players held a minute's silence for Armistice Day of remembrance before their Scottish Amateur Cup replay at Glencruitten last Saturday. Match report and photos: Derek Black

All smiles for Myles as he scores the winner in Scottish Cup replay

Oban Saints	3
Falkirk Community	2
Scottish Cup - 3rd round replay	

A COLLECTOR'S item Myles McAuley goal eventually proved the difference between Oban Saints and Falkirk Community at Glencruitten last Saturday. After an epic 180-plus minutes Scottish Amateur Cup struggle, McAuley's second-half strike finally separated the sides earning Saints a fourth round trip to old rivals Greenock High School Former Pupils.

Saints manager Alex Craik was yet again forced to ring the changes as Graham Douglas, Shaun MacIver and David Smith all dropped out of the squad that had shared six goals with Falkirk Community at Alva Academy just seven days previously. Craig Campbell and Paul Carmichael returned after spells in the treatment room while Thomas McCulloch and veteran Ross Maitland answered the call to bolster the depleted squad numbers.

After an impeccably observed Armistice Day silence of remembrance, visitors Falkirk Community kicked off attacking the Mossfield end on a remarkably good Glencruitten surface considering the recent heavy rain.

Saints were quickly onto the attack with skipper Donald Campbell driving into the Falkirk box only to be dispossessed before he could get a shot away by the combined efforts of Brayden Docherty and opposite number Scott Wright.

Falkirk gave an early warning of the threat they would pose on the break from recent signing from Sauchie Juniors Stuart

MacFarlane's measured clearance. Callan Kerr flicked on MacFarlane's clearance on the half-way line to strike partner James Stevenson who raced away from Willie Gemmell and fired in a shot which Thomas McCulloch held well low down to his right.

From McCulloch's clearance Saints were on the attack again with Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell combining in the box to pick out a good overlapping run from Myles McAuley.

McCulloch's cut back from the left found Paul Carmichael, who rattled the crossbar from 12 yards with goalkeeper Stephen McKinnon rooted to the spot.

The early Saints pressure continued forcing a series of corner kicks on the left which the Falkirk defence successfully repelled before Paul Carmichael again narrowly failed to find the target. Craig MacEwan and Myles McAuley were again heavily involved before Donald Campbell held off the challenge of Scott Wright to set up Carmichael for a shot from 18 yards which flew inches over the crossbar.

In the 12th minute Paul Carmichael had a surging run from midfield halted on the edge of the box by Falkirk right fullback Brayden Docherty.

From the left and level with the penalty spot, Willie Gemmell rolled his free-kick back to Ross Maitland who placed a low shot 12 inches wide of keeper McKinnon's right hand post.

Saints maintained their earlier dominance but still had to be wary of Falkirk who continued

to look dangerous on the break. The home side deservedly got their noses in front in the 26th minute from a passage of play started by the game's principal protagonist Myles McAuley.

Keith Millar fed McAuley in the centre circle who strode forward and fired in a shot from 25 yards which took a slight deflection on the way through



Paul Carmichael shields the ball from Brayden Docherty.

and struck the foot of Stephen McKinnon's left hand post. Donald Campbell returned the loose ball which McKinnon could only parry into the path of Craig MacEwan 12 yards out, who calmly side footed the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Over elaboration in front of goal prevented Saints from testing Falkirk keeper McKinnon further which was to prove costly as the first half neared an end. Another stray pass in midfield allowed Falkirk to run at the Saints defence once again with Willie Gemmell producing an excellent sliding interception to halt James Stevenson 20 yards from goal.



Craig MacEwan, No 8, opens the scoring for Saints

Football

Saints failure to capitalise on their first-half superiority was severely punished two minutes before the interval.

From a disputed throw-in on the Falkirk right, level with the Saints penalty spot, even more Saints protests erupted when what appeared to be a foul throw went unpunished. Falkirk worked the ball into the box where Myles McAuley scuffed an attempted clearance straight to James Stevenson who didn't need a second invitation to slam the ball past Thomas McCulloch and bring the Bairns level.

An incensed Marc Maccallum continued his protests into the half-time interval where, after a heated exchange of words, calm was eventually restored.

The equaliser reinvigorated the visitors who began the second half strongly, refusing to allow Saints to settle back into their first-half rhythm.

Thomas McCulloch produced the save of the match in the 54th minute diving high to his right to finger tip a James Stevenson net bound effort out for a throw-in.

First half roles appeared to be fully reversed with Falkirk dominating possession and Saints now reduced to hitting on the counter-attack. Cutting in from the left Paul Carmichael flashed a shot across Stephen McKinnon but wide of his left hand post before narrowly failing to get on the end of a Ross Maitland cross from the right which the veteran winger sent fractionally too deep.

Coming out of retirement to help his beleaguered former team mates Ross Maitland put in an excellent shift on the right of the front three but was again too heavy with a right wing cross on the hour mark which drifted harmlessly behind Donald Campbell at the far post.

Both sides received injury blows in the 64th minute. Speedy Falkirk winger Grant Plenderleith pulled up with a hamstring injury while Saints lost the services of Paul Carmichael to a calf strain. Falkirk made a straight swap with club vice captain Joe Clark taking Plenderleith's place on the right



Myles McAuley is congratulated by his teammates after his goal which proved to be the winner.

wing while Saints moved Willie Gemmell forward into midfield with Alex Craik coming on to join Marc Maccallum at the heart of the defence.

The movement of Falkirk strike pairing James Stevenson and Callan Kerr continued to pose problems for the Saints defence and it took a perfectly timed 71st minute Steven MacLeod challenge on the 18-yard line to deny James Stevenson a one-on-one with Thomas McCulloch.

Falkirk hit the front with 15 minutes remaining thanks to an audacious strike from substitute Joe Clark. With Saints defending a throw-in on the right and seemingly little danger the diminutive winger picked up the ball on the corner of the 18-yard box and curled a delightful finish into the top corner past a helpless Thomas McCulloch.

Saints picked themselves up immediately and were back on terms just two minutes later. Craig MacEwan won a throw-in eight yards from the bye-line on the left. Willie Gemmell looked for MacEwan's head with the throw but keeper Stephen McKinnon climbed above MacEwan to punch the ball towards the corner flag. Just as Brayden Docherty was about to clear, MacEwan nicked the ball away and was clattered by Docherty's follow-through with referee McCann having

no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Despite guessing correctly, keeper McKinnon couldn't reach Willie Gemmell's perfectly placed strike from 12 yards which beat his right hand and nestled in the bottom corner.

With the momentum now swinging back in Saints' favour the lead changed hands for the fifth and final time in the 80th minute with the goal coming from the unlikeliest of sources.

A devastating move on the left wing involving Donald Campbell and Craig MacEwan was started and finished by Myles McAuley who atoned for his first half error with a calm side foot finish past the despairing right hand of Stephen McKinnon to put Saints back in front.

Having found the net in stoppage time seven days earlier, Falkirk were desperate for another late equaliser to force extra time. The Bairns threw everything they could muster at the Saints defence which this time remained defiant with Thomas McCulloch barely troubled.

At the other end Donald Campbell passed up a good opportunity on the break to put the tie to bed. Racing through the middle on the end of a 93rd-minute Ross Maitland pass Campbell uncharacteristically missed the target to leave the Saints bench and large crowd of spectators still looking

nervously at their watches.

As everyone wondered if Mr McCann's watched had stopped, Saints received another injury blow when Craig MacEwan and Falkirk man-of-the-match Stuart MacFarlane collided on the right touchline midway inside the Falkirk half. A badly shaken MacEwan came off worse nursing a suspected cracked rib and was replaced by Craig Campbell.

Eventually after six added minutes Mr McCann, who had a good game, blew for full time sending Saints through to a hard-fought fourth round tie against two-time Scottish Amateur Cup winners Greenock High School Former Pupils. This game is due to be played on December 2.

Manager Alex Craik said: 'This was another cracking game between two evenly matched teams. We played some great football at times, especially in the first half. We were disappointed to lose the equaliser in added-on time the week before but I thought the boys worked really hard and we got the result our play deserved.'

Saints have another big cup tie this Saturday when they travel to take on Red Star of the Glasgow Saturday Morning League in the fourth round of the West of Scotland Cup. The game will take place at Lochend Sports Centre with a 1.30pm kick-off.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2950

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

J Muir
Burnbank Terrace
Ardrihaig

P Coull
Kings Way
Mallaig

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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.
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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



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Another successful shinty season draws to a close

SKYE Camanachd Ladies were crowned Marine Harvest National Division 1 champions and the men's fixtures for the season drew to a close following the shinty action on Saturday November 11.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kinlochshiel P

Beauly P

The match between the Kinlochshiel second team and the Beauly second team was postponed on Saturday morning as 'Shiel's Kirkton pitch was waterlogged.

This had been billed as potentially a final competitive match on the Kirkton pitch for Kinlochshiel, who hope to move to their new Balmacara ground for the start of next season.

In the end, the sides agreed to a share of the points.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory P

Bute P

The game between Kilmory and Bute was postponed as MacRae Park was unplayable.

The teams agreed to share the points.

With Kilmory also sharing the points from their final league matches away to the Kyles Athletic second team and at home to Lochside Rovers, they finished third in the division, a point ahead of fourth placed Bute.

Bute were deducted eight points at the start of the season following their late request to drop down from the Marine Harvest National Division. However, even with the addition of these eight points, they would still have finished behind champions Lochside Rovers.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Kilmallie P

Inverness P

The meeting between the Kilmallie colts and the Inverness colts was postponed as The Canal Parks was unplayable.

After failing to play their home and away league fixtures over the last three weekends, the clubs agreed to share the points from the two matches.

WCA Round Up

Skye Camanachd were confirmed as Marine Harvest National Division 1 winners for the second successive season.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Skye Camanachd W/O

v Lochaber

Skye Camanachd were given a walk-over when Lochaber were unable to raise a team for their title-decider at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree on Saturday November 11.

The match was originally scheduled for Saturday November 4 but Lochaber requested a postponement so their squad could attend the funeral in Fort William that same day of former Lochaber U14 player Kyle Bruce.

However, the Spean Bridge side, who needed to win the

match to force a title play-off, were unable to fulfil the rescheduled fixture.

Skye had won both previous meetings between the sides this season; 5-0 in the league at Spean Bridge and 6-1 in the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Cup Final at An Aird.

Marine Harvest Business Support manager Steve Bracken travelled to Portree last weekend to present Skye captain Lorna MacRae, recently named Marine Harvest national player of the year, with the league trophy at a specially arranged event.

This was Skye's second successive title success and Head Coach Robbie Gordon said: 'We're delighted to win the league again this season. The girls have worked so hard this year and they deserve the success.'

'Although we won the league in 2016, there was disappointment that we failed to lift the Valerie Fraser Cup that year but the squad used that disappointment to bounce back this year and win both the league and cup.'

Robbie, 2017 Marine Harvest manager of the year, who has been persuaded to stay in post for at least another season, agreed that there was more to come from his side.

'We have around 30 school-age players attending shinty sessions at Portree High School each week and some of them have already gained valuable experience playing for our development side, which will continue next year.'

'We are also seriously looking into the possibility of introducing a reserve side into Marine Harvest North Division 2 next season.'

'It would be a big step for the club - both in terms of commitment and cost - but the interest is there so we'll do all we can to let the players develop.'

'Don't forget we also have a relatively young first team pool of 16 players so there is no reason why this can't be the beginning of a very successful period for Skye Camanachd Ladies.'

Brian Davis, shinty referee

SHINTY lost one of its refereeing stalwarts when Brian Davis passed away on Friday November 10.

Brian Davis was a much-respected match official who took up refereeing in the 1980s. At that time, Ballachulish were playing their home games in Kinlochleven, where Brian lived, as the famous Jubilee Park was under reconstruction.

Brian - an excellent football referee - was a regular spectator at Ballachulish matches and the late Willie MacDonald, Ballachulish, a patron of the Camanachd Association, who was also a member of both the Camanachd Association's Disciplinary Committee and the Camanachd Referees' Association for many years, approached him to see if he would be interested in refereeing shinty matches.

Willie MacDonald's son, Camanachd Association Director Willie MacDonald, takes up the story: 'My father approached Brian about refereeing shinty matches at work in the BA factory as they were looking for shinty referees at the time.'

'Brian asked my dad for a rule book and accepted the challenge soon after.'



Oban Camanachd reached the final of the Celtic Cup and semi-finals of the Macaulay and Scottish Cups. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Iain Hay reflects on Oban Camanachd's season

OBAN Camanachd first team manager Iain Hay took time out to reflect on his side's highs and lows during the 2017 shinty season.

Iain Hay took over as Oban Camanachd first team manager from Gussie Campbell in July 2015 and an immediate upturn in fortunes saw the side move out of the Marine Harvest Premiership relegation zone to finish the season in sixth position.

Further improvements followed in 2016 with Oban Camanachd only trailing league runners-up Kyles Athletic on goal difference whilst also losing 1-0 to Newtonmore in the Camanachd Cup Final.

Many expected the side to kick on this season but it didn't quite work out that way. Speaking just ahead of a short golfing break in Malaga with assistant manager Chris Eccleston, former Oban boss Gussie Campbell and former referee Billy Witherspoon, Hay said: 'It's been a long season. We started training in early January and we were set to play Kilmallie on the first Saturday of November so everyone needs a break to recharge the batteries.'

'The margins are small in top flight shinty and we started the season losing 3-2 to eventual champions Kinlochshiel with Keith MacRae getting the winner in the last minute. We then beat Lochaber and reigning champions Newtonmore before losing 4-3 to Kyles Athletic, with the winner again coming late in the game, and then beating Glenurquhart. So after our first five league

matches, we had narrowly lost against the sides who would take the title race to the last day of the season.'

'We then lost two silly games; 2-1 to Lovat with Greg Matheson scoring twice in a couple of minutes in a match we should have won, followed by Roddy Young's last minute goal which gave Kingussie a 1-0 victory against us at The Dell. These defeats were hard to take and they cost us dear.'

'We progressed to the Celtic Society Cup Final and through to the Camanachd Cup semi-finals, beating Kinlochshiel along the way, and also to the Macaulay semis. However we just never turned up in the first half of the Celtic Society Final or against Kyles in the Macaulay whilst the Camanachd semi against Lovat was another huge disappointment. The manner of the defeat was tough. We were ahead in the game but both the sending off and the last minute winner were hard to take. No disrespect to Newtonmore but we would have had a real chance in the final had we got through. We're not far away but we've just not been killing teams off when we've had the chance.'

'I think the boys subconsciously dropped down a gear after losing the semi-final to Newtonmore. We just couldn't pick it up and we went on to lose a number of games towards the end of the season. The 2-1 league defeat to Lovat was a typical example. It was a game in which we were all over them but still lost the game.'

Oban Camanachd eventually finished sixth in the league, a drop of three places from the season before and Hay notes

training and player availability as being two key factors which hampered their progress.

'Training has been fragmented this year and we haven't been able to do the things we've wanted to. Several of our players have been working away and at training, we'd look for Alec MacVicar to do a bit with the defenders, I'd work with the midfield and Fraser Inglis and Chris Eccle-



Oban Camanachd manager Iain Hay.

ston would work the forwards. But you just can't do that if half a dozen guys are missing each week. It just becomes disjointed.'

'Every team has injuries and suspensions but we seem to have been particularly badly hit this year. Garry Lord broke his leg pre-season, Scott MacKillop, who has been an important player since he joined us, has been out since the Camanachd Cup semi and Daniel MacVicar, with a shoulder injury, have all missed chunks of the season whilst we also lost our 2016 captain James MacMillan at the start of the season when he moved abroad.'

Lochaber begins managers search

Lochaber are on the hunt for new first and second team managers. The first team manager will take over from Ally Ferguson, who led the team to Marine Harvest Premiership safety last season. The Lochaber second team play in Marine Harvest North Division 2 and were managed by John Fraser. Any interested parties should contact Lochaber chairman Michael Oliver or club secretary Dawn Callison. Lochaber's annual general meeting takes place at the Bridge Café, Spean Bridge on Friday December 1 with a 7.30pm start.

John Robertson honoured

Kingussie stalwart John Robertson was honoured at the SportsScotland awards evening in

'Add in Ross MacMillan, Robert Alexander and Connor Howe moving on and it's been quite a turnover of players. We started the season with a small squad and we were never able to field the same team twice and ended up raiding the Lochside squad most weeks.'

However, this created opportunities for some of the club's youngsters as Hay explained: 'Our injuries and suspensions meant we have relied on several of the Lochside boys in games but the positive from that is that these youngsters did well and they have gained experience which will stand them in good stead for next year.'

'When you look at the squad, Daniel MacVicar came in previously and he is now an established first team player. Daniel MacCuish followed that path during last season and he is now a senior player. There are others knocking on the door. The likes of Lewis Buchanan, Evan MacLellan, Craig Easton and Daniel Sloss have all got a taste of first team shinty this year and we'll look for them to kick on next season.'

Hay is clear to what is required for the club to reach the next level. 'Oban Camanachd need to win some silverware. That would be the next step for the club and it might just be that we need a break which would help us get there but we need to establish a winning mentality.'

'We've not performed in semi-finals so we need to break that duck. You can see how Kinlochshiel kicked on from winning the Macaulay in 2016. They are big strong lads and, like us, they don't have a big

squad but they stepped up after their Macaulay success and look at them now. We need to progress in the same way as they did.'

Hay is very clear about what needs to happen next. 'We have an AGM coming up and we'll then have a meeting, as we always do, where we'll speak to the boys and see if we are all on the same page. The players need to want the same things as we do.'

'The break will do everyone good though and we'll then make a fresh start. New players coming on board is also something that we are open to. If new players come along, and they are good enough, then they will come into the squad.'

'Looking further ahead, I think we need to get a settled forward line next season as we ended up mixing up positions this year. We have a young squad. Aidan MacIntyre and Andrew MacCuish are older but most of the squad are in their early to mid-twenties so there is so much more to come from them and there are some cracking younger players just waiting for a run in the team.'

'We need to get the younger ones into the seniors' way of training and the seniors' way of playing. The message is this; we will recharge our batteries, make a fresh start, commence training in early January, introduce more youngsters into the squad and make a good start to the new season.'

If the players adopt the manager's undoubted desire then, with a few bit more luck on their side, 2018 could be a big season for Oban Camanachd.

Volunteer of the Year award at the High Life Highland Coaching Awards in Dingwall.

Emma Gordon, a regular in the Skye Camanachd Ladies' side and a Scottish international, volunteers with Active Schools, running after-school girls' shinty sessions, as well as games at primary 1-3 age level.

Lochside Rovers trophy presentation

Lochside Rovers will be presented with the Marine Harvest South Division 1 trophy immediately following Oban Camanachd's inaugural end of season sixes which take place at Mossfield on Saturday November 18.

Lochside's final match of the season against Kilmory had been scheduled for Saturday November 25 but, with a number of recent postponements

Stirling on Wednesday November 8. He was the recipient of the National Volunteer of the Year Award having recently won the Highland Volunteer of the Year accolade. He was selected for the national honour, beating competition from a host of other sports. John has been a committee member with Kingussie since he stopped playing around 20 years ago. Included in his many achievements over the years are the new developments which have taken place at The Dell; with the introduction of a café, toilet facilities, improved car parking and a stand area.

John was also the catalyst for a book of photographs, marking the history of the club.

Emma Gordon collects award

Skye Camanachd's Emma Gordon collected the Young



**Camanachd Cup
Macaulay Cup
MacTavish Cup
Celtic Society Cup**

**Sutherland Cup
Balliemore Cup
Strathdearn Cup
Bullough Cup**

final league tables . . . final league tables . . . final league tables . . . final league tables . . .

Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kinlochshiel	18	13	4	1	49	17	30
Kyles Athletic	18	13	2	3	56	28	28
Lovat	18	12	1	5	37	31	25
Newtonmore	18	10	4	4	43	20	24
Kingussie	18	9	3	6	32	27	21
Oban Camanachd	18	8	1	8	44	30	18*
Glenurquhart	18	3	4	11	28	49	10
Lochaber	18	4	2	12	22	52	10
Kilmallie	18	3	1	13	19	48	8*
Glasgow MA	18	2	2	14	21	49	6

*points adjustments

Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	11	2	1	61	14	24
Aberdeen Un1	14	9	1	2	53	27	22*
Kingussie	14	8	2	4	49	28	18
Skye	14	5	3	6	27	23	13
Fort William	14	3	4	6	30	44	11*
Kinlochshiel	14	4	0	9	13	36	9*
Glenurquhart	14	2	3	9	16	42	7
Beaully	14	3	1	8	16	51	2*

*points adjustment

Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glengarry	20	14	0	2	101	19	36*
Lochaber	20	12	0	3	83	24	32*
Caberfeidh	20	12	1	5	59	30	29*
Kilmallie	20	11	0	4	56	32	26*
Strathspey	20	9	2	6	42	40	26*
Lochcarron	20	9	1	8	46	46	19
Lovat	20	7	1	8	49	43	17*
Strathglass	20	5	1	13	31	83	13*
Inverness	20	4	0	9	18	47	10*
Lewis	20	0	1	16	11	95	7*
Boleskine	20	2	1	11	19	56	5

*points adjustment

Marine Harvest National Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	14	12	2	0	50	9	26
Caberfeidh	14	9	2	3	47	18	20
Fort William	14	9	2	3	40	22	20
Inveraray	14	6	1	7	32	26	13
Beaully	14	5	3	6	29	41	13
Oban Celtic	14	4	2	8	30	44	10
Strathglass	14	2	4	8	21	35	8
Inverness	14	0	2	12	14	68	2

Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochside Rovers	18	13	3	1	74	12	30*
Aberdour	18	9	4	5	50	35	22
Kilmory	18	7	3	4	44	31	22*
Bute	18	11	4	1	52	16	21*
Tayforth	18	7	2	7	30	44	19*
Ballachulish	18	4	5	8	27	47	15*
Kyles Athletic	18	4	2	9	27	54	14*
Taynuilt	18	4	4	9	30	37	13*
Col Glen	18	2	5	9	18	40	12*
Glenorchy	18	1	3	9	17	54	2*

*points adjustment

Marine Harvest South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	12	10	0	2	45	2	22
Strachur	12	7	1	3	35	15	17*
Oban Lorn	12	4	2	2	14	10	14*
Glasgow MA	12	6	0	5	28	21	12
Bute	12	2	5	4	13	29	11*
Aberdour	12	1	2	8	11	41	6*
Dunoon	12	0	2	8	2	30	2

*points adjustment



The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

best for shinty news and views and photographs

because of unplayable pitches, the clubs have agreed to share the points.
Lochside add the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title to the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup won earlier in the season, rounding off a terrific season for Gareth Evans' side.
The red and blacks are running an end-of-season sixes tournament which is a fun day for all associated with the club. There are still some places available and anyone interested should contact Gareth Evans or Aidan MacIntyre.
The teams entered so far are:
Islay from: Andrew MacCuish (captain), David MacCuish, Daniel MacCuish, Hannah MacDonald, Lorne Robertson, Johnny Will, Brian Logan, Brian Logan (junior), Euan Logan;
Coll from: Scott MacMillan (captain), Evan MacLellan, Gareth Evans, Jordan Kerr, Lennon Campbell, Johnny Campbell, Ross Campbell, Duncan Gibson, Josh Rippon;
Colonsay from: Gavin Stobart (captain), Malcolm Clark, Malcolm Kerr, Callum Kirsop, Willie Neilson, David Devine, Chris Eccleston, Ruairidh Horne, Kieran Lopez;
Jura from: Lorne Dickie (captain), Steven Sloss, Daniel Sloss, Stephen Campbell, Drew Walker, Brian MacCallum, Lennon MacKechnie, Dougie MacDonald;
Mull from: Daniel Cameron (captain), Cameron Sutherland, Craig MacDougall, Alec MacVicar, Iain Hay, Craig Easton, George Easton, Murray McKay;
Tiree from: Michael MacQueen (captain), Daniel MacVicar, Alison MacVicar, David MacMillan, Innes MacMillan, Diarmid MacMillan, Andrew Pearson, Kieran Pearson;
Iona from: Gary McKerracher (captain), Iain MacMillan, Neil MacFarlane, Scott Robertson, Ian Campbell, Gregor MacDonald, Lewis Buchanan, Scott Buchanan;
Barra from: Garry Lord (captain), Keith Burnett, Fraser Inglis, Robert Alexander, Ryan Barkley, Innes Jackson, Gavin Blainey, Duncan Blainey.
The action starts a 1.30pm.
After the tournament, and Marine Harvest South Division 1 trophy presentation, the club's player of the year awards will take place at an end of season buffet and dance at the Glencruitten Golf Course Clubhouse.
Tickets at £5 each are available from Gareth Evans or Aidan MacIntyre.

to remember two people very special to the Oban club.
There will be new silver salvers on display as the Oban Camanachd first team player of the year award is named after Nonny MacInnes with Nonny's wife Karen in attendance to make the presentation.
The Lochside Rovers player of the year has been named after Jamie Kerr and Jamie's father John and his brother Jordan will make the presentation.

Oban Camanachd Club AGM

Oban Camanachd's annual general meeting takes place on Friday December 1.
The AGM will be in the Rockfield Centre with a 7pm start. All welcome.

Skye Camanachd 125th year celebrations

Skye Camanachd will mark their 125th season with a celebration dinner/dance at the Portree Community Centre on Saturday November 18.
Around 250 players, former players, and club supporters will attend the event where the club's 2017 player of the year awards will be presented.

Lovat reveal cycle fund raiser total

There were celebrations at Lovat Shinty Club when it was confirmed that a 400-mile fund-raising cycle around all 10 Marine Harvest Premiership shinty clubs earlier this year raised £14,000.
The fund-raising effort smashed an original £10,000 target with two great causes due to benefit as the proceeds are split equally between the Lovat Shinty Club New Community Clubhouse Fund and Highland Hospice.
Lovat cyclists and first team players Stuart MacDonald, Drew Howie, Daniel Grieve, Callum Cruden, Greg Matheson and first team manager Fraser Gallacher began the journey, which involved a 16,000ft climb, at Glasgow Mid Argyll's Yoker pitch at the end of July 2017. From there, the players made their way to Oban Camanachd's Mossfield Stadium via a stop-off at Kyles Athletic's Tighnabruach ground.
The following day, the group headed up the A82 to visit Kilmallie at The Canal Parks before branching off to Lochaber's Spean Bridge ground and then finishing the day at The Eilan, Newtonmore and Kingussie's The Dell.
The team then journeyed west to Kinlochshiel's Kirkton home before setting off the following morning to Glenurquhart's Blairbeg pitch at Drumnadrochit.
The party were greeted at the near-by Belladrum Music Festival main stage once they completed the challenge on

their home turf at Balgate.
The players held a penalty shoot-out at each pitch.
As well as providing a home for the Lovat first and second teams and the club's ladies' and junior sides, the Lovat Shinty Club New Community Clubhouse will also provide significant benefit to the wider community with plans including a treatment room for the use of physiotherapists (including the potential use by NHS staff for outreach clinics) and a large

social area for the local school and other constituted groups which will help alleviate the high demand for an additional community facility.
Callum Cruden from Lovat Shinty Club said: 'The cycle was harder than any of us anticipated and the horrendous weather didn't help matters, however, it was an amazing experience and we were truly humbled by the response from everyone especially the shinty community and the clubs we visited.'

'We had secretly hoped to raise £10,000 in total and we have exceeded expectations with an amazing total of £14,000.
'Thank you to everyone who donated and with the exciting news that the rest of the funding has been secured we can really look forward to our new community pavilion becoming a reality.'
Highland Hospice Fundraiser Katie Gibb added: 'We are really grateful to Lovat Shinty Club

for their continued support and for choosing to split their fundraising with Highland Hospice. 'Seven thousand pounds is such a boost to the hospice and we can't thank the team enough for everything they have done.'

Youth Shinty

A number of the youth leagues have been decided.
Kingussie U14 added the Marine Harvest North Division 1

title to the MacMaster Cup won earlier in the season.
The Kings were confirmed champions following their 4-0 victory over Fort William U14.
Lochaber U14 became Marine Harvest North Division 2 champions where nearest challengers Skye Camanachd U14 drew their final match 3-3 against Beaully U14.
Dunoon U14 secured the South of Scotland League Champions following their 5-1 win over Bute.



Oban Saints Under-14 team in their new playing kit kindly sponsored by Morrison Construction, the main contractors building the new Oban High School.

Oban come out on top in seven-goal thriller

Oban	4
Hillhead	3
West District Division 4	

BELEAGUED player-manager Alistair Burton survived another week as Oban returned to form.
Oban hockey club men's team travelled to Helensburgh on Saturday to play Hillhead in a 'home' fixture. Waterlogged pitches in Oban have resulted in Oban's recent home games being played on the artificial surface at Lomond school in Helensburgh.
The squad have shown good dedication in travelling south every weekend but the side had lost the last two games and pressure was mounting on Oban to secure the win.
In their first ever league season Oban have so far scored first in every game and Saturday was no exception. The game started at a quick tempo with Oban pressing high and forcing errors from the Hillhead defence. Only three minutes into the first half Alistair Burton capitalised on a poor pass driving to the edge

of the circle and scoring with a good back hand strike.
Hillhead are an experienced side and going a goal down did not appear to unsettle them. With the ball back in play Hillhead succeeded in slowing the tempo and gradually increasing the pressure on the less experienced Oban midfield and defence.
Mounting pressure from the youthful Hillhead attackers exposed cracks in the Oban defence. In an all-too-familiar pattern Oban conceded three goals in quick succession going 3-1 down inside 20 minutes.
In previous games Oban have struggled to turn losing score lines around but vocal leadership from Alistair Burton and Tristan Le Carré in defence galvanised Oban who regained composure for the final 15 minutes of the first half. Gradually Oban started to deliver on some of the promise shown on the training ground. Hard work in mid field from George Gauley and the Sanders' brothers led to two excellent goals from 11-year-old striker Jack Johnston. The teams went into half time with



Action from Oban's fine 4-3 win over Hillhead

the score at three-apiece.
The second half was grittier than the first with both teams determined not to concede. Superior strength and fitness allowed Oban to exert long

periods of pressure on Hillhead and eventually Zef Petit took Oban back into the lead skilfully diverting an aerial cross-field pass beyond the Hillhead keeper. Oban played out a tense final

few minutes to win 4-3.
Oban travel to Helensburgh next Saturday for another 'home' game against Ayr.

Oban Camanachd rename Player of the Year awards

Oban Camanachd have renamed their first team and Lochside Rovers player of the year awards.
The awards, which will be announced at an end of season buffet and dance at the Glencruitten Golf Course Clubhouse on Saturday have been renamed

Impressive comeback for McPhee in Valencia

JOHN McPhee was ready for his swan song with the British Talent Team at the Valencia GP last Sunday with the Scot currently seventh in the standings and gunning to take over in sixth before the season ended. With a solid race at Sepang to come home in the top five from the front row, McPhee was looking to end the season on a high.

The Circuit Ricardo Tormo in Valencia is 4km long, with nine right and five left-handed corners set in an amphitheatre layout making for incredible fan viewing.

McPhee has been in the top 10 before at the track, and was looking to repeat that as a minimum in his final race with the British Talent Team. The Connel rider was also on pole at the venue in 2015.

Incredible

McPhee had a difficult qualifying day at the Circuit Ricardo Tormo in Valencia, but the British Talent Team rider put in an incredible turnaround on race day to take eighth place from 22nd on the grid.

The Scot moved up slightly

off the line but was left with a mountain yet to climb, slicing his way up to just outside the top 10 before bridging the gap and continuing his march forward.

The British Talent Team took P8 at the flag and another solid haul of points in his final race for the team.

That's the season now over and the British Talent Team's swan song sung, with three podiums, 131 points and seventh in the standings wrapped up.

After the race John said: 'It was nice to finish the season off with a race-long battle in the group fighting for the podium.'

'I had a lot of work to do coming from 22nd on the grid but I'm satisfied with the progress made. Of course we're always looking for more but today I feel like we've done a good job to finish eighth.'

'I need to thank my team for all their hard work this year and to all my sponsors and fans for their continued support. Roll on 2018.'

McPhee is leaving the British Talent Team and will be lining up with Centre International

Moto3

de Pilotage (CIP) in the Moto3 World Championship in 2018, riding a KTM in the squad alongside rookie Makar Yurchenko.

After a year that has seen the Scot take a number of podiums and fight in the top five in the standings with the British Talent Team, John will be looking to make another assault on the top in 2018.

Delighted

CIP team manager Alain Bronec said: 'We're delighted to welcome an experienced rider like John McPhee to the team. Since the start of the season, he has been fighting at the front. We're convinced that alongside his experience, it will allow CIP to attain our aspirations.'

'With Makar alongside him and with the arrival of KTM, we hope to have in place everything we need to write a new chapter for the team on the world stage. We're already looking forward to beginning this new and promising adventure.'



John McPhee does a wheelie after his impressive eighth-place finish in Valencia. Photo: Bonnie Lane



Gordon is pictured at Oban High School where he was presented with his award by Councillors Roddy McCuish and Elaine Robertson.

Gordon wins Argyll and Bute community coach award

GORDON Shearer was presented with the award for Community Coach of the Year at a training session at Oban High School by councillors Elaine Robertson and Roddy McCuish after being nominated in the recent Argyll and Bute Sports Awards 2017.

Gordon has been heavily involved in the coaching of mini and youth rugby at Etive Vikings RFC, Oban Lorne RFC and Oban High School for more than 10 years. Gordon has more recently become a huge part of the coaching set-up for the U16 boys' and U15/U18 girls' teams at both Oban High School and Oban RFC. His commitment and professionalism to coaching sessions

has seen him build up a fantastic relationship with the players at both the school and the club helping them gain both individual and team success on and off the pitch. A number of players who Gordon has worked with over the years have progressed on to regional selection whilst others have turned out at senior level for Oban Lorne RFC.

The Argyll and Bute Sports Awards are supported by both Argyll and Bute Council and LiveArgyll and are aimed at celebrating the huge dedication and commitment of volunteers and coaches who turn out every week to provide the opportunity for everyone to participate in sport - Gordon is an

Rugby

excellent example of this. Gordon can often be found coaching three-four times a week as well as driving minibuses and coaching teams on weekend games, at times involving long trips away.

Gordon has been an inspiration to the young players he has worked with and he is well respected by both players and fellow coaches. His work with the rugby clubs has enhanced the developments of the School of Rugby Programme at Oban High School and the on-going development work at Oban Lorne RFC.

Robert aims for Euro qualifier

GLENCRUITTEN Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre had his hopes of qualifying for the European Tour hanging by a thread as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Robert is one of 152 golfers currently playing in the final qualifying school of the European Tour at Lumine golf club in Tarragona, Spain. The six-round event is cut to 70 and ties after the fourth round.

On going to press, Robert had completed four rounds, scoring an impressive four-under par 67 in his first round, including four birdies, and sitting at a total of six under after his fourth round. That left him in 36th place with only the top 25 guaranteed a tour card but with two rounds to play.

In round two he carded three bogeys, two birdies and an impressive eagle on the 11th for a 71. The third round saw the 21-year-old left hander card four birdies and three bogeys for another round of 71 to leave him six under par for the three rounds to qualify for the final three rounds.

Since 1976, the European Tour qualifying school has been held at the end of each season

to establish which players, not otherwise exempt, will gain their playing privileges on the tour for the following season through a qualifying competition.

It's a tough school for one of golf's most coveted prizes, namely membership of the European Tour and a place among the golfing elite. Along the way, dreams are made and hopes dashed in equal measure.

The qualifying school is held in three stages - dependent on the individual's status - at a series of venues in the UK and Continental Europe.

Golf

In the region of 1,000 competitors enter the qualifying school each year, all aiming for a European Tour card, awarded to the top 25 and ties following the final stage. A player progressing through all three stages will have to play 252 holes under the most intense pressure.

The leading 25 players (plus those tied for 25th place) will earn category 16 membership of the European Tour for the following season.



Glencruitten Golf Club's Robert MacIntyre.

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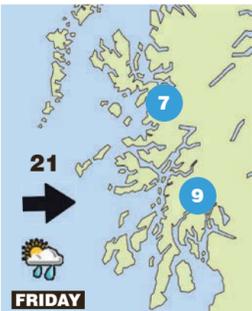
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WEATHER

Thursday	Heavy rain then sunshine and showers Winds strong Westerly Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.
Friday	Heavy rain showers then persistent rain Winds strong Westerly Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Sunny on Sunday Winds moderate West North Westerly Temperatures 4°C to 9°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 16, 2017** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thu	04.17	3.6	10.22	1.1	16.23	3.8	23.00	1.2	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	04.48	3.8	11.02	1.0	16.55	3.9	23.31	1.1	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	05.21	4.0	11.39	1.0	17.27	4.0	** **	1.6	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	00.02	1.1	05.52	4.0	12.15	1.1	17.59	4.0	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	00.35	1.1	06.24	4.1	12.49	1.2	18.32	4.0	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	01.10	1.2	06.57	4.0	13.24	1.4	19.05	3.9				
Wed	01.45	1.3	07.31	3.9	14.00	1.5	19.38	3.7				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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Lochaber turns out in hundreds to pay tribute to fallen



The remembrance service at the Commando Memorial was well attended as Fort William and the surrounding areas paid tribute to those who died in the two world wars and other conflicts on Remembrance Sunday. Full report and picture special on pages 2, 10 and 11. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image, IF F46 Remembrance Spean 01.

INSIDE YOUR LOCHABER TIMES THIS WEEK

New partnership

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce and the University of the Highlands and Islands this week announced a new European Commission-funded partnership. Full story – page two.

Back in court

EX-POLICE officer Thomas Kirsop was back in court last week, when he was found guilty of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner towards a local primary school head teacher. Full story – page three.

Call for action

THE MP for Skye has hit out at the state of one of the island's main primary schools and is urging Highland Council to act. Full story – page four.

Walkers warned

HILLWALKERS and climbers are being urged to stay safe as they prepare to enjoy what for many is the most rewarding season. Full story – page five.

Wonderfully weird

EVER heard the Gaelic word for the noise a cow makes with a potato stuck in its throat? Now you can. Full story – page seven.

Strongman event

FORT William is staging the annual Scotland's Strongest Team strongman event. Full report – page 32.



Strontian care home to close

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
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RESIDENTS will not be returning to Dail Mhor Care Home in Strontian, NHS Highland and Highland Council have said, confirming families' worst fears.

Emotions were running high at a meeting on Thursday November 9, as around 80 members of the public packed into Strontian Village Hall, including many members of care home staff, to hear that Dail Mhor Care Home is to remain closed to residents.

The six-bed care home in Strontian, owned by the Highland Council and managed by NHS Highland since 2012, closed in August this year in order to conduct urgent plumbing

repair work, with residents forced to relocate.

Representatives from the estates teams of both the Highland Council and NHS Highland told locals that repairs to the 45-year-old building – initially expected to be completed by the end of October – had uncovered asbestos in the heating system control room. Due to these delays, the council has said that work will be complete by December.

However, deputy director of operations for north and west NHS Highland, Tracy Ligema, revealed at the meeting last Thursday that the NHS will not be investing in the building due to its age and the fact that six-bed care facilities are no longer regarded as viable options.

Ms Ligema said: 'We advised, on the recommendation of NHS Highland's estates department, that there is further work required to make the Dail Mhor building fit for purpose beyond the plumbing repairs which the council is in the process of completing.

'This is significant work and we advised that, given the constraints of the current premises, it would be better to invest in solutions which would provide longer term sustainability than could be achieved with the current building.'

Following its temporary closure, five residents were moved out of Dail Mhor at the end of August – three being transferred to Invernevis House in Fort Wil-

liam, one to the Mackintosh Centre in Mallaig and one to Moss Park care home in Caol – leaving relatives with lengthy journeys to visit their loved ones.

Lochaber councillor Andrew Baxter, speaking to the *Lochaber Times* after the meeting, said: 'Despite council officers saying works would be complete before Christmas and the building handed back to the NHS, no residents will be returning.

'This is effectively a closure by stealth. The NHS attempted to wind down the use of Dail Mhor a few years ago by encouraging families to place their loved ones elsewhere. They didn't succeed because of local opposition.'

At the meeting, Ms Ligema identified the need for a more

significant care 'footprint' in Strontian and intimated that NHS Highland is keen to work in partnership with the community to ensure investment is directed towards the area. She also described a variety of options for elderly care within the community without the need for a care home.

Mr Baxter was unconvinced with NHS Highland's promises to improve healthcare in the area, however, adding: 'We heard lots of vague promises at the community meeting from NHS managers, including talk of working with the community. However, there was no firm commitment or funding allocated to back up those promises.'

Denise Anderson, chairperson of Sunart Community Council

(SCC), said: 'It's a very worrying time for the affected families and the staff, who have been desperately waiting for news about the future of this critical facility.'

'I'm saddened to hear NHS Highland does not consider the building fit to re-open in the short term but welcome the commitment from NHS Highland to find a way for us to open the building as a community resource – at least in the daytime – and her [Ms Ligema] longer term commitment to investment in Strontian for the benefit of the whole peninsula.'

The meeting closed with an agreement to form a local task force, convened by SCC. Twenty residents put their names down to assist or to be involved.

Liberty submit Fort factory plans

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LOCHABER'S economy could be bolstered by more than £50 million a year if plans to build a new aluminium plant are approved by Highland councillors.

Liberty British Aluminium hopes to get the go-ahead to build a car wheels factory in Fort William as more than 130 documents were submitted to the Highland Council's planning department for consideration last week.

New figures released show that the company has projected a £54.1 million GVA (gross

value added) boost to the Lochaber economy each year once production begins, as well as the creation of a total of 679 jobs – 400 directly and 279 indirectly.

A spokesperson for Liberty said: 'Our team has compiled a very detailed submission after extensive studies. We are grateful for the input of local people and really pleased with the numbers at the two consultation events, as well as the interest and support we experienced.'

Local MP Ian Blackford said: 'I am delighted that planning permission has been applied for. The development is a

major boost for the Lochaber economy and is a step towards the re-industrialisation of the Highlands as a whole.

'Hundreds of new jobs will be created onsite and this will also benefit the wider Lochaber community, with new housing, investment in infrastructure and new skills being required in the area.'

Bosses of the multi-national giant behind the plans said that, if planning permission is granted, they see no major obstacles to the plant being up and running by 2020.

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes added: 'Liberty are certainly not hanging about in driving

forward their plans to expand operations at the smelter. This expansion will have a phenomenal impact, with Lochaber leading the industrial comeback in Scotland.'

'My hope is that this brings new families into the area and, of course, we need to be ready with housing, better roads and training facilities. There are many Lochaber businesses doing a power of work and I hope that Liberty's arrival will benefit other employers by acting as a catalyst for the new STEM centre, new housing and new investment in infrastructure.'

A decision on the application is expected by spring 2018.

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WHAT'S ON

■ The people behind the Kilmallie Christmas Lights Fund are hosting a switch-on ceremony on Friday November 17 and are inviting everyone along to watch the lights. The switch-on begins at 7pm outside the Kilmallie Community Centre. Teas, coffee and homebaking will also be on offer in the centre. The fund is supported by STAR for Harris.

■ Gary Innes and his band play Astley Hall in Arisaig on Saturday November 18 as part of his tour marking his new album Era. The evening starts at 7.30pm and there will be a full bar. Tickets are £10 for adults, £5 for under-14s and under-10s go free.

■ Invergarry's annual Christmas craft fair will be held on Saturday November 18 in Glengarry Community Hall from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Craft producers from up and down the Great Glen area will be selling cakes, jewellery, wooden crafts, cards, candles, coffee and more. The café will be open for refreshments from 10am. For further information telephone 01809 501246.

■ An afternoon of workshops, live music and shopping with small local businesses and artists will be held at the Railway Social Club, Inverloch, on Saturday November 18. Tickets are £5, with under-16s free.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre's committee is appealing for volunteers to help with the restoration of Kilmallie Community Gardens on Saturday November 18 from 10am to 1pm. Contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040 for more information.

■ Lochaber Rotary Club is launching an illustrated book of children's bedtime stories based in the Highlands. The book will be officially launched at 3pm on Saturday November 18 in the Highland Bookshop and David will be there to sign and dedicate copies from 2.30pm. Phone 01397 705931 for more information.

■ Friends of Nevis' autumn litter pick and curling ponds tidy up takes place on Sunday November 19. Meet at the Ben Nevis Highland Centre (Woollen Mill) at 10.30am. Come for a couple of hours or whatever time you can spare before the finish at 3.30pm. Coffee, lunch and all equipment will be provided. Please wear appropriate clothing. Register beforehand if possible via friends@nevis.co.uk or contact Susan at info@friends@nevis.co.uk or on 01397 701088, or call Joy on 01397 772459.

■ Staff and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will be visiting Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish on Monday November 20. From 10.30am until 12.30pm the Caol-based team will offer help and advice to residents and

members of the local public who suffer from hearing loss or sight loss. The LSC representatives will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries and retube and maintain the hearing aids. No appointment is required.

■ Lochaber Piping Society will hold its AGM in the Alexandra Hotel on Wednesday November 22 at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

■ West Highland College UHI is hosting a lecture on Scottish whaling on Wednesday November 22. Arctic expert Eric MacVicar presents 'The Inuit and the Whalers', a lecture discussing the effects of 160 years of Scottish whalers in the Arctic waters around Greenland and Eastern Canada. This will be followed by a short film, 'The Silent Snow'. The lecture will start at 6.45pm and will finish at 8.15pm. Tickets are £7. To book, contact 01397 874874 or business.whc@uhi.ac.uk.

■ The Lochaber branch of Dyslexia Scotland will hold its next meeting on November 23 in the Kilmallie Free Church at 7pm. The meeting comes after the branch helped to mark Dyslexia Awareness Week, which ran from November 6 to 11.

■ A beetle drive in aid of Lochaber Senior Citizens will take place on Friday November 24 at 7pm in the Nether Lochaber Village Hall. Tea, coffee and home baking will be on offer and there will be a raffle on the night.

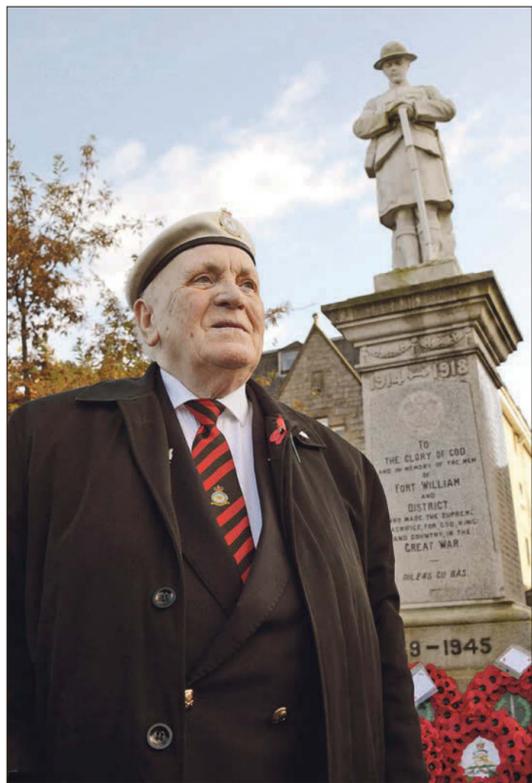
■ Nether Lochaber Hall, Onich, hosts a craft fair on Saturday November 25 from 10am to 4pm. Cakes and jams, handmade cards, knitted and crocheted crafts and other wares will be available.

Contact Berit for more information on 01397 705539.

■ Lochaber Environmental Group is holding its annual general meeting on Tuesday November 28 at Voluntary Action Lochaber, An Drochaid, Claggan, Fort William. The meeting will be at 7pm. This is an opportunity for members and non-members to come along for a chat with the board and staff and hear about unusual local food developments. There will be tea, coffee and home-made cake available. The meeting will also feature talks on local food developments. Any questions, contact 01397 700090 or info@lochaberenvironment.org.uk.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre will hold its AGM on Wednesday November 29, at the Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, at 6.30pm.

■ Lochaber Camanachd Club will hold its annual general meeting in the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge, on Friday December 1 at 7.30pm. This is a change of date from previously advertised.



Mark McCann of the legion marked his 50th Remembrance day Parade in Fort William on Sunday. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



John Monks, left, of the Royal Engineers Association and Captain Stefan Siemieniuch RE of 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers unveil the first plaque to recognise those Army Commando Engineers who lost their lives in the Falklands War. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Lochaber remembers

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

HUNDREDS of people attended services in Lochaber at the weekend to commemorate Remembrance Sunday.

A huge crowd gathered on a cold, crisp November morning for the remembrance parade in Fort William.

The Lochaber Schools Pipe Band led the procession along the High Street and past the saluting platform, where the salute was taken by the lord lieutenant, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, and the Highland Council's area leader, Councillor Andrew Baxter.

The parade continued on to the war memorial in the Parade where a number of wreaths were laid. Local organisations, such as the Sea Cadets, Boys Brigade, The Red Cross and Police Scotland, were all in attendance, as well as representatives of the Lochaber branch of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who laid a wreath for the first time in more than 20 years.

The parade finished at the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church where the service took



place. Later on Sunday, veterans and members of the public were joined by 50 Royal Marines from Clyde-based 43 Commando Fleet Protection Group at the Commando Memorial, near Spean Bridge, for this year's service.

Marching to the monument, set against the backdrop of the Nevis range, the Royal Marines were joined by Lochaber Schools

Pipe Band, the Royal British Legion Scotland and members of the Commando Veterans Association.

Leading the service were reverends Richard Baxter and Morag Muirhead, who read from Psalm 45. There was also a reading of the Commando Prayer of St Ignatius, which was used by the Special Service Group war.

Laying a wreath on behalf of

43 Commando was commanding officer of the unit, Colonel Tony de Reya, while regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer 1 Al Sullivan read from the Role of Honour.

Also attending were Commandos from the Second World War, including 95-year-old Jack Lamb who served with 3 Commando during the D-Day landings and Ted Owen, 95, who served

Snow on the hills above the Commando Memorial provided a stunning backdrop to the service. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

with 46 Commando. A new plaque was also unveiled at the Commando Memorial, the first to recognise Army Commando Engineers who lost their lives in the Falklands War in 1983, with five individuals from the Royal Engineers who died in the conflict named on the subscription.

The Commando Monument is situated on the training ground of the early Commandos near Achnacarry estate, dedicated to the men of the original British Commando Forces raised during the Second World War.

Unveiled in 1953 by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the Category A listed bronze sculpture, designed by Scott Sutherland, overlooks the training areas of the Commando Training Depot established in 1942 at Achnacarry Castle.

Turn to pages 10&11 for more from services around the region.

More photos available online
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Workshops

BETTER BUSINESS WEBSITES

What makes a good website? What does the design say about your business? Is your website content appropriate for your audience? Can people find it? These are some of the questions covered in this workshop. You will examine how to make your existing website better through its' design, content, usability and Search Engine Optimisation.
10.00am - 3.00pm, 21st November 2017, Ardrishaig

TWITTER AND HOOTSUITE

A workshop for businesses already using Twitter that wish to produce more engaging content and reach a wider audience. Also learn the features of Hootsuite and how to work more efficiently.
1.00 - 4.00pm, 21st November 2017, Oban

LINKEDIN FOR BUSINESS

Learn how you can boost your business with LinkedIn? This workshop will show you how to market your products and promote your brand and show how LinkedIn can be a powerful and profitable business tool.
9.30am - 12.30pm, 22nd November 2017, Oban

BUSINESS START-UP

A one and a half day workshop incorporating business planning, finance marketing and market research.
29th & 30th November 2017, Oban

PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING

A workshop showing how book-keeping is used to generate the financial information needed for Income Tax, VAT, PAYE and National Insurance contributions.
9.30am - 12.30pm, 7th December 2017, Lochgilhead

To book on a workshop call 01546 604030
or email bg@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Veterans at the Commando Memorial take a quick selfie. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Fort chamber part of European plan for up-skilling adventure tourism sector

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce and the University of the Highlands and Islands this week announced a new European Commission-funded partnership that will help improve the skills of people working in the adventure tourism sector in the Highland region and in Estonia, Bulgaria, Ireland and Denmark.

From 2018 The Adventure Tourism Innovation Partnerships (AVIP) project, which includes the chamber, the university – which is lead partner – Tallinn University

(Estonia), Varna Chamber of Tourism (Bulgaria), Momentum (Ireland) and the European E-learning Institute (Denmark), will develop education and training programmes to strengthen the skills of young tourism workers, particularly in economies disadvantaged by remoteness.

Responding to skills gaps in adventure tourism, the AVIP project has been set up to deliver quality, relevant, flexible, innovative and transferable learning pathways to students, entrepreneurs,

employees and others. These vocational and academic pathways will not only meet the industry requirement for enhanced digital competencies and entrepreneurial capabilities, they will also focus on giving individuals and organisations the skills to respond to and capitalise on the growing opportunities within the sector.

Adventure tourism is widely recognised as a powerful way to promote sustainable development in rural and economically marginal areas, generating smart employ-

ment and jobs growth, as well as providing strong incentives for conserving the natural environment.

Dr Steve Taylor, the head of the University of the Highlands and Islands' centre for recreation and tourism research, said: 'This is a great opportunity for Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and West Highland College UHI to help bring cutting-edge training to tourism businesses in the region. We look forward to collaborating with our international partners, and working with businesses

and tourism organisations in Lochaber and the wider Highlands region to develop meaningful and instructive training courses to this increasingly important sub-sector of the Scottish economy.'

The project was announced as Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's Lochaber ideas Week, November 13-17, got under way. The week is a celebration of business, education and community through a gathering of exceptional talks, workshops, competitions, discussion and networking opportunities.

Belford issues
Norovirus warning

MANAGEMENT at the Belford Hospital are asking people who have had symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting to stay away from the hospital to prevent norovirus spreading to patients and staff.

People are being asked to only visit the Fort William hospital if absolutely necessary due to a high prevalence of norovirus in the local community.

Anne Boyd-Mackay, rural general hospital manager, said: 'We know norovirus is circulating in the community so we are taking every precaution and asking people who have had symptoms, or have been in close contact with anyone with symptoms, to restrict visiting unless absolutely necessary. We are requesting that visiting is strictly limited to emergency only but our staff will be more than happy to talk to visitors by phone.'

Norovirus, which causes diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting, can spread in the air and is extremely difficult to contain.

There is no specific treatment for a norovirus infection and it is not usually necessary to visit a doctor. The best course of action is to stay at home, take paracetamol to relieve symptoms of any fever and to drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration.

The public can help to minimise the spread by following some simple rules:

- Do not visit a hospital if you or someone you live with has symptoms. If you have a hospital appointment, please get in touch and, where appropriate, your appointment can be rescheduled.

- Wait until you have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours, as you may still be contagious, even if you feel well.

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and before eating.

- If you visit someone in hospital, don't sit on their bed and keep the number of visitors to a minimum at any one time.

- Never touch dressings, drips, or any other equipment around the bed.

For more information about hand hygiene visit the Scottish National Hand Hygiene Campaign website www.washyourhandsofthem.com

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Ex-cop Kirsop returns to Fort court over behaviour

EX-POLICE officer Thomas Kirsop was back in court last week, when he was found guilty of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner towards a local primary school headteacher.

Kirsop, 77, of North Ballachulish, had stood in a road way near his home, which is just along from the local school, and had adopted an intimidating and confrontational stance, staring directly at the woman when she arrived at the school for the second day of the new term on August 16 this year.

The woman told the court she had arrived for work on the day in question shortly before 9am and had spotted Kirsop standing on the white line in the middle of the road,

diagonally opposite the school, saying: 'He was pacing up and down and his stance and body language really concerned me. His hands were clenched by his sides and he had adopted a very intimidating and aggressive stance,' she told Fiscal Depute Robert Weir.

'His gaze was focused on me and I was afraid of what he intended to do. He is the very last person I thought would be there on the second day of term. I felt afraid and intimidated.'

A local off-duty police officer who had been outside the school at the time, described Kirsop's behaviour to the court on the day in question as 'strange'.

Giving evidence earlier, the police officer told how he had

also spotted Kirsop standing in the road way, describing the accused 'as if he was trying to make himself look big, standing tall, with his chest puffed out and arms by his side as if he was carrying two heavy shopping bags'.

The officer added: 'I thought at 8.50am in the morning, it was a strange place for him to be standing and he was looking towards the school.'

When the woman had pulled her car level with the officer's car and rolled down the window, the officer described her complexion as 'chalk white'.

'She was terrified, absolutely terrified. It looked as if she was going to be sick and her hands were shaking,' he told the court.

Defence agent John MacCall had made a submission that his client had no case to answer on any of the charges, arguing that on the first charge - of which Kirsop was ultimately found guilty - there was no corroborative evidence that his client had committed a criminal act.

'I submit that his conduct quite simply does not amount to conduct that would place a reasonable person in a state of fear or alarm,' said Mr MacCall.

But finding Kirsop guilty on the first charge after a three-hour trial at Fort William Sheriff Court last week, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald said she had found the evidence of the teacher credible and reliable.

On one of the other three

charges he faced, Kirsop was found not guilty of approaching or contacting the teacher while he was on a bail order with a condition banning him from approaching or contacting her, as the sheriff was unconvinced by the evidence.

On two other charges of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner at the same location on September 4 and September 9, both while on bail, Kirsop's defence agent successfully argued that there was no case to answer on either complaint.

Sentence on the first charge for which Kirsop was found guilty was deferred until December 5 for a criminal justice social work report.

Crackdown on poaching

WILDLIFE crime officers in the Highlands and Islands have been carrying out anti-deer poaching patrols across the region to clampdown on illegal activity.

Operation Moon is ongoing and will include dedicated patrols in hot-spot areas of known deer poaching, visits to game dealers and targeting out of season and unauthorised shooting of deer.

It follows on from successful initiatives during the summer which resulted in one individual being charged and reported to the procurator fiscal for shooting deer out of season.

Deer poaching is usually committed during the night and poachers will often trespass on private land to get to the deer.

Police Scotland wildlife crime officer Constable Daniel Sutherland said: 'Deer poaching is a national wildlife crime priority for Police Scotland.'

'Those involved are often involved in other areas of criminality and this is another avenue to target criminals and disrupt their activities.'

Any information relating to deer poaching can be passed to Police Scotland on 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Theft

POLICE are appealing for information after a number of high value power tools were stolen from a vehicle and a garden shed in Spean Bridge.

The items were stolen sometime between 3.30pm on Sunday November 13 and 7.30am the following morning in the West Trindish area.

Among the items stolen were chainsaws, cordless drills, electric drills, nail guns, a generator and a Dumpy site level.

Anyone with information or who has been offered any tools for sale is asked to contact police in Fort William on 101, using reference number NP10439/17.

Weather station returns to Nevis

RESEARCH scientists scaled Ben Nevis last week to install a weather station that will record conditions on the summit for the first time in more than a century.

Last Tuesday (November 8), a group of scientists from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) hiked to the top of the UK's highest mountain in the hope of being able to record weather readings after 113 years without data from the top of the mountain.

The expedition is the latest stage of Operation Weather Rescue: Ben Nevis, which launched in September.

The campaign is appealing to the public to help digitise two million 'lost' weather measurements taken by a group of Victorian volunteers known as the 'Weathermen of Ben Nevis' by hand, every hour on the hour, each day of the year, from 1883 to 1904.

Since September, more than 3,500 volunteers have digitised more than 1.25 million weather observations.

Dr Barbara Brooks and her team from NERC's National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) were joined by guides from the John Muir Trust to install the temporary, automatic weather station.

The station will record wind

speed and direction, pressure, temperature, precipitation and humidity, relying on 3G coverage to transmit weather data. From next week the data will be available for the public to view in real time on the NCAS website.

Dr Brooks said: 'This is a temporary weather station, which for four weeks will do the same work as the Victorian weathermen all those years ago. Thankfully, technology has moved on so there's no need for our team to be stationed on the summit over the winter months.'

'If we can prove that the technology works and the data is robust, we're hopeful this could lead to a new, permanent weather station on the summit, which would be invaluable for meteorologists.'

NERC-funded climate scientist Professor Hawkins, who is leading the project, said: 'Unearthing this type of data feeds into the bigger picture; helping international researchers understand climatic changes and ensure better forecasts for the future.'

Dr Brooks hopes the new, temporary weather station will produce comprehensive weather data that can be compared to the Victorian records. The team aims to have initial com-



The team at the summit of Ben Nevis with the new weather station. Photograph: National Centre for Atmospheric Science.

parisons on show at NERC's free interactive showcase event, UnEarthed, at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh over the weekend, opening tomorrow (November 17 to 19).

'The Ben Nevis weather data will tell us more about extreme rainfall which is thought to be becoming more common in the UK.'

To help complete the digitisation of 'lost' data, visit www.weatherrescue.org to find out how.



Top table guests at the West Highland Museum charity dinner and auction, backrow from left: Alan Henderson, Kathleen MacLennan, Coleen Barker, John Hutchison. Front row: Sandra Henderson, Hugh Dan MacLennan and Christine Hutchison.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image, IF F46 WHM Dinner 01.

Charity dinner raises £11,000 for West Highland Museum in Fort

ALMOST 100 guests gathered in the Moorings Hotel to celebrate and support the West Highland Museum in Fort William on Saturday evening.

The charity evening was hosted by Councillor Allan Henderson, who introduced Hugh Dan MacLennan, the self-confessed 'Caol dude' who reflected on his early years at school in Fort William. He lauded the prowess of Lochaber in producing sportsmen and politicians on the national

stage - and how these professions seem to have been substituted by musical excellence in more recent years.

This was underlined when a musical ensemble from Lochaber High School - pupils Johnny Soe-Paing, Jennifer MacKenna, Ayla Barr Moir, Mairi Bell, Freddy Fulford and staff member, Jen MacNeil - played a wonderful selection of traditional music.

A raffle of donated prizes and an auction overseen by

local auctioneer Ian Peter 'peeps' MacDonald, raised an incredible total of £11,000 for the museum.

While the last five years has seen the West Highland Museum's footfall increase from 9,000 to 52,000 (so far this year), finances remain fragile. Without an entry charge, the museum is completely dependent on the generosity of visitors, the support of local volunteers and the energy of its few paid employees - Colleen

Barker, Sonja McLachlan and curator Fiona Marwick.

Colleen said: 'On Saturday night a cohort of local supporters dug deep to secure the museum for the immediate future. Thanks are due to all our supporters, donors, the speakers, artists and Stewart Leitch of the Moorings Hotel whose generosity and encouragement made the evening possible.'

'If you haven't been lately come and visit us in Cameron Square.'

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FW



MSP Kate Forbes

Skye health petition hearing postponed

A SCOTTISH Parliament committee that was expected to consider a petition seeking an independent review into the redesign of healthcare services by NHS Highland in Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross, will now do so at a later date, writes Mark Entwistle.

Due to a full agenda, the cross-party Public Petitions Committee decided to give the petition more time and deferred the item for a future meeting.

Although not a member of the committee, Skye MSP Kate Forbes attended the meeting and intended to represent the concerns of her constituents.

Speaking afterwards, Ms Forbes said the committee made the right call in deferring the petition to a future business meeting.

'The future of healthcare provision on Skye is a massive subject and certainly not one that a committee can do justice to in a mere four minutes,' she said.

'I will continue to follow the petition at Holyrood and hope to attend the next meeting.'

The petition was first considered in December 2015, and over seven Holyrood hearings the committee wrote to both NHS Highland and the Scottish Government on multiple occasions.

Electricity consultation

SCOTTISH and Southern Electricity Networks welcomed members of the public to its drop-in events about the Fort Augustus-Skye Project earlier this week.

The energy firm presented its preferred route alignment for a new overhead line which will connect Fort Augustus, Broadford, Edinbane and Dunvegan substations.

The aim of the project is to increase electrical capacity in Skye in order to enable the connection of new renewable generation located in the north of the island whilst also ensuring security of supply.

Blackford calls for urgent replacement Skye school

NEILL BO FINLAYSON
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

THE MP for Skye has hit out at the state of one of the island's main primary schools and is urging Highland Council to act.

Ian Blackford MP has called for the 'urgent' replacement of Broadford Primary School after a recent visit to the village school highlighted the poor state of the present building.

After being invited for a tour of the school by the parent council, he said he was 'dismayed' at the damp conditions that pupils and staff had to work in every day.

The MP has now written to leader of the Highland Council Margaret Davidson asking that building of the planned replacement be accelerated.

He wrote: 'I was dismayed to see the deterioration of the building, and the advent of time in our climate will only exacerbate the problem.'

'Pupils and staff working in a damp environment is clearly not



Ian Blackford, second left, on his visit to Broadford Primary School with new head teacher Stephen Atkins, left, parent council treasurer Catriona Lates, parent council member Tansy Grigor-Taylor, and former acting head teacher Iain Murray.

acceptable. It was put to me that the incidence of asthma-related illness is a cause for concern. I am sure like me you will recognise the sense of urgency in responding to the need for a new school.

'I would ask the council to make it an absolute priority that Broadford Primary School is replaced as soon as possible.'

Broadford Primary School was opened in 1975, originally to accommodate children from the

wider area of Strath. The building itself has four classrooms in the main school building and a unit within the school perimeter has another two classrooms.

Mr Blackford added in a later statement after the visit: 'I am

aware that Highland Council has a replacement school for Broadford in its capital plan. I would suggest that the deterioration of the building means this is a matter of some urgency.

'While I was visiting [the school], there was also a visit from a pest control firm that advised that due to the wetness of the walls they could not proceed and take the action that they had been invited to do. Having seen around the buildings it is clear there are multiple areas of water ingress and much of the construction is rotting.'

In response to Mr Blackford's visit, a Highland Council spokesperson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The council is currently reviewing its capital programme, the outcome of which should confirm a capital investment plan for the next 10 years. Investment in Broadford (and other Highland schools) is being considered as part of that process. We expect there to be a decision on schools' capital investment early in 2018.'



MSP Maree Todd has been appointed childcare minister.

Highland MSP appointed childcare minister

HIGHLAND MSP Maree Todd, originally from Ullapool, has been named as the Scottish Government's new minister for childcare and early years this week.

Ms Todd, a former pupil at Ullapool Primary School and Ullapool High School, worked as a pharmacist in NHS Highland for 20 years before being elected as a regional list MSP for the Highlands and Islands in May 2016.

She said: 'I am honoured to be asked to carry out this important role. The early years are so crucial in shaping Scotland's next generation.'

'A lot of great work has already been done and I am really looking forward to continuing to take forward policies such as the baby box, the commitment to almost doubling entitlement to free early learning and childcare hours, and leading celebrations for the Year of Young People 2018.'

'I am relishing getting started and helping make a difference to the lives of all children in Scotland.'

After growing up in the West Highlands, Ms Todd studied pharmacy and prescribing at Robert Gordon's and Strathclyde universities, as well as taking an ante-natal teaching diploma at the University of Bedfordshire, all by distance learning.

She replaces Mark McDonald, who stepped down from the role.

Lewis literacy consultant petitions parliament

A FORMER primary teacher from the Outer Hebrides gave evidence at the Scottish Parliament last Thursday as the public petitions committee considered her call to provide national guidance and professional learning for teachers in how to teach children to read.

Anne Glennie from the Isle of Lewis, who has worked as a literacy consultant for the last seven years, has become increasingly concerned about the decline in literacy standards in Scotland and the lack of knowledge within the teaching profession about current international research on reading instruction.

Anne, who has trained more than 10,000 teachers in all aspects of literacy across Scotland, said it was 'deeply shocking' that teachers in training were not being taught how to teach children to read - and is campaigning for the Scottish Government to include the Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) system in the curriculum.

The SSP method teaches children the knowledge of the letters and sounds, Anne explains, which they then learn to sound out and blend these letter sounds together.

Explaining why she peti-



Anne Glennie has trained thousands of teachers in all aspects of literacy across Scotland.

tioned the Parliament, Anne said: 'It is a surprising and deeply shocking fact that many teachers working in primary or secondary schools in Scotland today have had no formal input or training

on 'how to teach children to read', either as part of their degree, post-graduate teaching qualification or career-long professional learning.'

She continued: 'There is no reference to the alphabet, the

alphabetic code, (the very basis of our reading and writing system), all-through-the-word sounding out and blending, oral segmenting (or identifying the sounds in words) for all-through-the-word spelling.'

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Mary Flora's youngest son, Lee, is pictured trying out the 'Smartseat'.

Western Isles nurses given long service awards

TWO Western Isles community nurses, who have collectively worked the equivalent of 45 years as nurses for NHS Western Isles, have received long service awards from the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS).

Joan Macarthur, senior charge nurse, Eastside Team, and Ann Fraser, retired community nurse, were both presented with their awards on November 7 at Carloway Surgery in front of past and present nursing colleagues to mark their long service for the NHS.

Awards are presented by QNIS to community nurses who have worked for more than 21 years. Joan has already worked 24 years and Ann worked for 21 years before retiring in 2016.

Chris Anne Campbell, NHS Western Isles nurse director, who presented the awards, said: 'I was delighted to have been invited to present the long service awards to Joan and Ann for their unflinching dedication to their roles as community nurses. Their awards were very well deserved.'

NHS Western Isles chief executive Gordon Jamieson added: 'Community nurses provide a steadfast and crucial role; caring for people in their own homes and providing support to patients and their families. Community nurses also have a teaching role, working with patients to enable them to care



Joan Macarthur, senior charge nurse, Eastside Team, and Ann Fraser, retired community nurse.

for themselves, or with family members, teaching them how to give care to their relatives.

'In addition to this, community nurses play a vital role in keeping hospital admissions and readmissions to a minimum, supporting patients to safely return to their own homes as soon as possible.'

'I would like to congratulate Joan and Ann, and also thank

them sincerely, on behalf of the board, for collectively delivering decades of care to patients.'

'The dedication and commitment shown by these nurses is inspirational and both NHS Western Isles and local patients are extremely fortunate to have such experienced nurses providing care and support across the communities of the Western Isles.'

Uist family's donation in memory of Mary Flora

NHS Western Isles recently received a recliner chair through a community donation raised in memory of Mary Flora MacDougall, Claddach Carinish, North Uist.

Mary Flora's family had expressed a wish for monies raised to be used to buy a recliner chair which would provide comfort for Uists' patients in need of palliative care at home.

The 'Smartseat' is a highly specialised chair with features and functions which enhances patient care and comfort.

Donald Alick MacDougall, Mary Flora's husband, said: 'I would sincerely like to thank everyone who donated so generously to Mary Flora's funeral collection. We were overwhelmed at raising a total of £2,324.'

Fiona Creighton, Western Isles Macmillan nurse specialist, said: 'The Macmillan nursing team in Uist and Barra consider this very generous gesture by Mary Flora's family and friends to be a fitting legacy to her memory.'

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Fort teen admonished over row with ex

A FORT William man who had never been in trouble with the law previously, was admonished by a sheriff after pleading guilty to a charge of threatening and abusive behaviour outside an Indian restaurant.

Fort William Sheriff Court last week heard how Cameron Jordan, 18, of the town's Kincardine Place, had committed the offence on July 28 this year, outside the restaurant in the town's High Street.

Fiscal Depute Robert Weir told Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald that both Jordan and his then-girlfriend had been drinking prior to getting into a row which was eventually reported to the police.

When officers detained Jordan, said Mr Weir, he had been co-operative and admitted his conduct straight away.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said his client, who works in a restaurant, was a young man with no previous convictions and that this was his first time in court.

'He has never been involved with the police before,' said Mr Kennedy, who explained that while his client had been drinking in a local pub with his partner, he had become involved in some verbal abuse with another patron.

'My client chose to leave the pub at that point to get away from the situation.

'His now ex-girlfriend also left and the two walked along the street and it was at a point just outside the restaurant that an argument developed between them, with both shouting and swearing.'

However, Mr Kennedy said sometime later the same evening, the couple had gone back to Jordan's home where they spent the night together.

'But the relationship came to an end shortly after this.

'My client is now in a new relationship - that previous relationship is very much over,' said Mr Kennedy, adding that Jordan's ex-girlfriend had only lodged a complaint about his behaviour one month after the incident had occurred.

Sheriff MacDonald told Jordan: 'Having heard the circumstances and taking into account what Mr Kennedy has said on your behalf, and that you appear here as a first offender, you are admonished.'

Caol man admits drugs offence

A CAOL man had sentence deferred for background reports at Fort William Sheriff Court last week after pleading guilty to supplying diamorphine.

Mark McManus, 40, of Patience Way, Caol, admitted that on May 9 this year at MacFarlane Way, Fort William, he had been concerned in the supply of heroin, a class A drug.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald said she would defer sentence until December 5 for a criminal justice social work report due to the 'serious nature of the offence' and because of the number and type of McManus' previous offences.

Talk to us
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Fort woman to be of good behaviour for six months

A WOMAN, who claimed she only went to the home of an ex-partner who was barred from making contact with her to retrieve her bank card, was told by a sheriff she would likely be treated leniently if she was of good behaviour for the next six months.

Gemma Kane, 22, of Shaw Place, Fort William, had admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing when she had gone to the home of her former boyfriend on August 16 this year.

Kane's pleas of not guilty to further charges of assaulting

him and throwing an ashtray at one of his friends, which was said to have struck him on the head, on the same day, were accepted by the Crown.

Fiscal Depute Robert Weir told the court Kane had gone to her ex-boyfriend's flat in Fort William and had ended up shouting and swearing.

'It was the accused who later reported this matter to the police, but when officers spoke to her to obtain a statement, it ended up with charges being preferred against the accused,' said Mr Weir.

Kane's solicitor, Stephen

Kennedy, told the court that the single mum of one had previously had what he termed a 'very volatile' relationship with her former partner in the past, but this had been ended by the time of this incident.

Mr Kennedy explained that the victim had been to see Kane the previous night at her home - despite bail conditions barring him from making contact - to discuss contact with their two-year-old infant son.

'My client allowed him into her property as he wanted to discuss contact with his son,' continued Mr Kennedy. 'But my

client discovered the next day that her bank card was missing and believed that [he] had taken it. So she contacted him by text message but she says he refused to return the bank card to her.

'It was at that point that she chose to visit [him] with the aim of getting her card back from him.

'However, he refused and it was then that my client lost control and started shouting and swearing.

'Ms Kane says she was pushed and dragged from the flat, leaving her with some bruising and scratches.

'She had phoned the police who attended, but it was she who ended up spending a night in custody.'

Deferring sentence for Kane to be of good behaviour for six months, Sheriff MacDonald told her: 'I have listened carefully to what has been said on your behalf. You did not behave very well in this matter.

'However, I will defer sentence for six months and if you are of good behaviour, then it is likely that you will be treated leniently.'

Sentence was deferred until May 22, 2018.

Caol roofer fined £315 for assault on officer

A PART-TIME roofer from Caol was fined £315 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week after admitting assaulting a police officer and trying to headbutt him.

Martin Lawrie, of Blar Mhor Road, pleaded guilty that on May 19 this year, at a previous home address in Caol, he had assaulted PC Dean Gillies in the living room of the property.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard how on the day in question both Lawrie and his mother had been drinking and a row had broken out between the two of them.

Police had been alerted and it was then that Lawrie had assaulted the officer.

'Emotions were running high,' explained Mr Melrose.

Sentencing Lawrie, Sheriff MacDonald said she had listened carefully to what Mr Melrose had said on his behalf about the circumstances surrounding the offence.

Lawrie, 28, was also appearing for sentencing on two other offences, for which sentencing had been deferred for him to be of good behaviour.

These both involved instances of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing - one offence being at Caol Community Centre on April 22, 2016, while the other was at the Co-op store in Corpach.

This latter offence, on February 26 last year, also involved threats of violence towards an employee at the store and both offences were committed while on bail.

Last week Sheriff MacDonald heard that Lawrie had indeed been of good behaviour and she admonished him on both counts.

Fort man fined after 'sustained attack' in pub

A FORT William man who carried out what was described as a 'sustained attack' on another man in the Volunteer Arms pub in the town, was last week fined a total of £500 by Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald.

Alan Morrison, 21, of Kennedy Road, had pleaded guilty that on September 21 of this year outside the Volunteer Arms in the town's High Street, he had assaulted the 69-year-old, whose address was given as care of Police Scotland, and threatened him with violence.

Morrison admitted also pulling off the man's glasses, punching him repeatedly on his face and body all to his injury.

Fiscal Depute Robert Weir told the court how the victim had then entered the Volunteer Arms and sought refuge behind the bar.



'The accused had followed [the man] and carried out what has been described as a sustained attack,' continued Mr Weir.

Morrison further admitted behaving in a threatening or abusive manner on the same day in his address in Kennedy Road, when he had shouted

and sworn at the pensioner and threatened him with violence.

Mr Weir said Morrison had denied his behaviour was due to an alcohol problem, telling police officers: 'It's not a drink problem - I'm like this when I'm sober.'

Mr Weir said the OAP had escaped with nothing more than a sore shoulder.

Defence solicitor Stephen Kennedy said his client had consumed alcohol on the day in question and had come into the possession of some emotive information.

'So feelings were running very high when this offence took place,' said Mr Kennedy, who added that his client had no previous convictions and was ashamed of what he had done.

'I'd be very surprised if he was to appear in any court for

actions of this nature again,' continued Mr Kennedy, who told the court he did not wish to go into the nature of the sensitive information referred to.

'My client had come into information and this was the first time he had been in contact with the complainant since receiving that information,' he said.

'This was an isolated incident that was out of character for my client.'

Fining Morrison a total of £500 - £400 for the assault and £100 for the offence in Kennedy Road - Sheriff MacDonald said she took into account everything noted in the criminal justice social work report she had asked for.

'I am also mindful of what your solicitor, Mr Kennedy, has said on your behalf,' she added.

Ballachulish teenager banned for 10 weeks

AN 18-YEAR-OLD Ballachulish driver was banned from driving for 10 weeks and fined £450 when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Lewis Bryson, of the village's Park Road, who is employed as a machine operator, pleaded guilty to a charge of careless driving on the A82 between Fort William and Corrychurran on November 19 of last year.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard that on the night in question, at about 8.20pm, Bryson's vehicle had passed through Fort William and travelling behind him were two police officers in a marked police car.

Fiscal Depute Robert Weir said on the A82 south of the town officers had clocked Bryson's vehicle travelling at speeds of up to 80mph in a 50mph zone.

'And at various points he had

taken what you would call a racing line through the bends,' said Mr Weir, adding that Bryson had crossed the white lines in the centre of the road at various times to see if it was clear to overtake a vehicle in front.

'In fairness to the accused he did not do so [overtake] but did cross the white lines. Perhaps most carelessly, when travelling round a left-hand bend, his vehicle had crossed fully over into the opposite carriageway,' said Mr Weir.

In mitigation, defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client would have been readily able to see the headlights of any oncoming traffic while carrying out these manoeuvres.

'And there is no suggestion that any other drivers were required to take evasive action,' added Mr Melrose.

He explained his client had

been employed for a year-and-a-half as a machine operator, a job which required him to travel considerable distances and that he had recently been working on Rum, Muck and in Achnacarry.

Mr Melrose added: 'I have a letter from my client's employer who warns that his employment will be in jeopardy [if he loses his licence] because of his actions.'

Sentencing Bryson, Sheriff MacDonald told him that the stretch of road in question was both 'difficult and dangerous'.

And she added: 'I consider this to be at the high end of careless driving and therefore have to impose a period of disqualification - you will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence for a period of 10 weeks, discounted from three months on the basis of your early plea.'

Kinlochleven woman told to behave

AN UNEMPLOYED Kinlochleven woman had her plea of not guilty to a charge of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at her partner, threatening to kill him and brandishing a knife at him accepted when she appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court

last week. Caron Green, 53, of Appin Road, had denied the charge, alleged to have taken place on August 25 this year at her home in Kinlochleven.

However, Green admitted a separate charge of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner on the way to Fort William Police Station later

that same day by shouting and swearing.

Green's solicitor, Stephen Kennedy, said his client had been intoxicated at the time of the offence.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentence for six months for Green to be of good behaviour.

Winter warning for walkers and climbers visiting Highlands

HILL walkers and climbers are being urged to stay safe as they prepare to enjoy what for many is the most rewarding season.

With winter now starting to bite, many hillwalkers and climbers will be looking out their ice axes, crampons and headtorches. But mountaineering experts have stressed that it takes much more than this to be ready for winter. Mountaineering Scotland has highlighted the high quality of online information which can be easily accessed before

heading for the hills. General advice is also available through Mountaineering Scotland and the organisation is running a free winter safety lecture tour.

Heather Morning said: 'Folk heading out on to the hills in winter should take advantage of the advice and information on offer to ensure a safe and enjoyable day.

'As well as making sure you have an ice axe and crampons that fit, remember that winter days are shorter and colder, so a headtorch with spare

batteries is essential. A simple bivouac shelter is also a very good addition to the kit you carry in your winter rucksack.'

Kev Mitchell, vice chair of Scottish Mountain Rescue, said: 'Mountain Rescue in Scotland is provided free by world class volunteers on-call at all times and in all weathers. We would encourage hillgoers to ensure that they have left details of their intended route and expected return time.

'People should also be aware of and use the latest navigation and location technology

such as GPS or OS locate and other similar apps to avoid navigation errors.

'However, it is critical that a paper map and a compass are carried and that people know how to use them. If you require assistance on the hills, dial 999 ask for police the mountain rescue.'

For more essential winter mountaineering advice go to the Mountaineering Scotland website.

For details on the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team go to lochabermrt.co.uk

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RETRO Roamer

More Roamerisms from the 1980s

■ A consignment arrived at the BA from Woodford Green in Essex. The labels were clearly marked 'BA Highland Smelters, Lock Harbour Works, Fort William, Lochabria'. A fax message was soon winging its way to Essex pointing out that it would be helpful, in future, if the address was correct and, in particular, that it should be 'Lock Harbour No More'.

■ Still on the subject of the BA. 'Cheese again!' sighed Willie, as he peered at his piece. 'That's the fourth time this week I've had cheese and it's only Thursday.' So his workmates, understandably, got onto him. 'Why didn't you get herself to put something different on your piece?' Willie's answer? 'Och, she's away at her sister's this week, and I've been having to make up the piece myself.'

■ It was wet, wild and windy on Tuesday evening, so spare a thought for the male paper chasers from a High Street bank who spent the darkening hours scouring the roadway and pavements for assorted pieces of documentation which had been blown to the four winds. A big black bag full of bits of paper had been left out for the bin lorry. But the strong gusts wheeled it up in the air and into the path of a passing truck. There was an almighty 'bang' as the bag burst and then the contents were strewn all over the High Street. Alerted to the 'Documentation Explosion', the bank boys were soon on the scene, took stock of the situation and set to carrying out their salvage operation. This they did with great efficiency and aplomb. (I had to say that because I bank there!)

■ Nice touch at the Fort William Angling Association annual dinner. The trophies were presented by Grace Neilson. Traditionally the lady handing over the prizes receives a bouquet. 'However,' said Ian Mackie, the association secretary, 'with Grace being a florist we decided she should have a box of chocolates instead!'

■ With the arrival of two sets of twins in Victoria Road, motorists and passers-by marvelled at the midwifery skills of Lesley, the vet, as she delivered them. The wee lambs. In the back of a farm trailer, at that. It transpired that the expectant ewes had been driven to the vets' surgery because of farmyard complications with the lambing. And Lesley stepped into the 'breach'.

■ But no such 'arrivals' at the Belford. Where worthies such as George, William, Jimmy, Donald and Nannie have been spending varying amounts of time in the hospital's maternity ward! No 'bundles' to show for it, however. Here again the answer is simple enough. The medical ward has been having quite a facelift operation and a number of patients had to be transferred to Matty. Which certainly did wonders for everyone's morale, not to mention setting a new trend in 'get well' cards!

■ Have you seen the ad on the telly about a 'squeak' coming from a new car which the old man with the oil can finally tracked down due to the carring of a lassie in the passenger seat? There's a sequel. Malky pulled in for petrol in the Fort. As a young lad was filling up the tank there came a series of 'squeaks'. The lad tried all he knew to track down the source, including the Delaney's Donkey technique of pushing the car, pulling at it, and shaking it all about. To no avail. Malky joined in by kidding on he had spotted a formation of greylag geese up above the filling station. But then Malky gave in and burst out laughing. He opened up the car's hatchback (appropriately) and there, nestling inside, were a pair of ducklings he'd bought up at Croy. Aye, it was all good quack.



Ben Nevis as seen from Kilmallie.

Ardnamurchan

Budding writers recognised in national contest

PUPILS at Ardnamurchan High School have once again topped a national competition, this time for their literary skills.

At the recent Amazing Animals Brilliant Science competition – organised by ARC (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) and supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and The Heritage Lottery fund – three S2 students were recognised for their work.

Cheryl MacIntyre won first prize for her story, while Craig MacCowan and Archie Campbell were highly commended for their poems, earning themselves a place at the award ceremony held at Edinburgh Zoo on Saturday October 21.

Youngsters had been asked to draw a picture of, or write a story or poem about Scottish wildlife protected by DNA technology.

There were 15 endangered species to choose from



Craig, Cheryl and Archie with teachers Mrs Musset, Mrs Millar-Craig, Miss Wallace and Mrs White.

and since a number of the pupils live in Ardnamurchan, it seemed natural for teachers Mrs Musset (art), Mrs Millar-Craig (science) Miss Wallace (science) and Mrs White (English) to

collaborate and enter the pupils for the competition.

Some of the students' pictures, even if they were not finalists, can be seen on the website, arc-trust.org Cheryl's story about a red

deer, Craig's poem about an adder, and Archie's poem about an eagle meant a day out at the zoo where they enjoyed lunch and also caught a glimpse of the pandas.

Kinlochleven



Some of the Kinlochleven spinners, from left: Islay MacKintosh (S5), Kim Boa, Iain Macdonald (S5), Maria MacDonald and David Murphy (S5).

Kinlochleven pupils in a spin

PUPILS and staff at a Lochaber school have raised more than £1,000 for charity after cycling non-stop for six hours.

Kinlochleven High School raised an incredible £1,330 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society by spinning bikes for six hours without stopping – pupils and teachers signed up for 30-minute slots to keep the bikes cycling all day.

The school would like to thank Kim Boa, an Active Schools co-ordinator, and Maria MacDonald, leisure

supervisor at the Leven Centre, for organising and running the non-stop Spinathon.

Mrs Machin, head teacher at Kinlochleven High School, said: 'Staff and pupils have family members who are affected by this disease, so they have first-hand experience of the toll this disease can take.'

'I am so proud of the passion they brought to this fundraising event - £1,330 is a huge amount of money but also such an immense

achievement for a small school such as ours.

'Thank you for doing something amazing to help beat MS.'

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a condition that affects the brain and spinal cord. In MS, the coating that protects the nerves (myelin) is damaged, and this causes a range of symptoms.

Once diagnosed, MS stays for life, but treatments and specialists can help to manage the condition and its symptoms.

Claggan

CLAGGAN Tenants' and Residents' Association has been presented with an award for best practice in digital involvement.

The group was nominated for the award by Lochaber Housing Association and Highland Council, and it was presented at a ceremony in St Andrews recently.

The association picked up the runner-up prize in the TPAS Best Practice in Digital Involvement category. The award was accepted by David MacLaren, of Lochaber Housing Association, on behalf of the Claggan group at TPAS's gala dinner last week.

The tenants' and residents' association has carried out a huge amount of work over the past 18 months by using the internet, social media and texting as ways of increasing service users' ability to access, and learn about and communicate their views about services and local issues.

In this category the judges were looking for innovation, especially ideas that can be shared with others and practical achievements involving customers.

Lochaber
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Plockton

PLOCKTON Historical Society attracted a large crowd to Plockton Hall on October 14, when the guest speaker was John M (dodds) MacFarlane, who gave an illustrated talk on the guga hunters of Ness in Lewis which was enjoyed by the audience.

■ The Glasgow-based folk band Gnos, featuring Royal Conservatoire of Scotland students, entertained in Plockton Hall on November 3 with an evening of traditional music.

■ Lochalsh SWI held an auction in Plockton Hall on October 27 to raise funds for the Sandpiper Trust charity. More than £400 was raised.

■ Plockton and District Community Council (PDCC) met in Plockton Hall on October 9.

At the meeting several items were discussed:

A paddock is for sale in the area and the PDCC is hoping for a community purchase of this ground.

The PDCC has purchased a gazebo for village events with the village hall paying 50 per cent of the cost.

David Skilling has stood down as secretary of the

PDCC and Jane Camp has been elected the new secretary.

The National Trust for Scotland has insisted that the new owner of the old craft house should replace the rusted corrugated iron roofing with red corrugated iron roofing.

Mr Leask, a visitor from Aberdeen, was thanked for renovating two benches and cutting whins at the war memorial while on holiday in Plockton at no cost to the council.

The PDCC have objected to the sale of the turning area at Plockton Railway Station which the Highland Council is trying to sell.

The 15-year on ban cows in the village ends next year and the PDCC are to speak to the National Trust for Scotland for an update on the situation.

The next meeting of the PDCC is on December 11.

■ There were 7.5 inches (19cm) of rain with only three dry days at Plockton in October. This was the same as August which was the highest rainfall this year. The warmest day was 17.4 C and coldest was 3.1 C.

CM MacRae

Lochaber

ON SATURDAY November 4, members of all the Scottish Women's Institutes in Lochaber met together in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William, for their federation autumn rally.

The speaker was Donna Hutchison, Scottish volunteer co-ordinator of the Royal Air Force Association, a charity which supports the RAF serving men and women, veterans, young and old, past and present and their families.

Mrs Hutchison spoke of the overarching services this organisation provides to present service personnel and veterans no matter how short their service. There are 65,000 volunteers worldwide and 200 staff in this country that make 100,000 welfare visits, contacts and calls each year to the lonely and isolated. Social cafes have been set up, one in Glasgow, while respite care is provided in three Wings Breaks Hotels and the

association runs sheltered housing in various parts of the country.

Help and advice can be provided for pension problems and welfare grants awarded in hardship cases. All this costs money and the main fund raising campaign is the Wings Appeal in September coinciding with the anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

There is no branch in Lochaber but a volunteer leader has now been appointed. Mrs Hutchison was thanked by Hilary Denny for her informative and interesting presentation.

The afternoon finished with tea provided by members of Arisaig Institute.

The winners of the competitions were:

Poppies: 1 Isobel McGavin, Fort William; 2 Martine Young, Fort William.

Treacle Score: 1 Heather Davy, Fort William; 2 June Cairns, Arisaig.

Skye



AWARD-WINNING Scottish music phenomenon the Elephant Sessions kick off their UK tour this week with a sell-out show in their home town before arriving on Skye today (November 16) for a concert at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Winners of the MG Alba Scots Trad Awards Up and Coming Act of the Year 2014, and nominated as Live Act of the Year in 2016, the fiery folk band from Inverness have taken the UK and Europe by storm, becoming renowned for their breath-taking live shows.

They were recently endorsed by Fiona Hyslop, Scottish minister for culture, tourism and external affairs, at the opening of SEALL's new culture hub at the Gaelic College in the south of Skye where she said: 'The Elephant Sessions are one of those Scottish bands who are on course for a great career.'

And her words have proved true as the band has been shortlisted for two awards at this year's MG Alba Trad Music Awards: Live Act of the Year and Best Album.

They will also be one of the headline acts in the 2018 Celtic Connections on February 2.

The Elephant Sessions fuse rich folk and trad influences with funk,

rock and electronica with 'outstanding levels of innovation and inventiveness' and come to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, An Talla Mòr, today at 7.30pm as part of SEALL's winter programme.

Band frontman Mark Bruce said: 'We can't wait to come back to Skye – it's always been very kind to us in the past with lovely folk and great crowds.'

'It's been a great tour so far, extremely hectic but we're really looking forward to coming back to Scotland this week. Skye in particular is one of our favourite places to play.'

'We always seem to leave the island delighted, but totally broken. See you soon Skye!'

Also coming up in November at SEALL are concerts by young singer songwriter and poet Lee Robert Bouzida with Edinburgh-based indie band Mt Doubt.

They will play on Saturday November 18 at An Talla Mòr.

Classical pianist Ivan Ilic rediscovers Reicha on Tuesday November 21 at An Crùbh, Duisdale; and Inner Sound make a welcome return to the main stage at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Friday November 24.

Tickets and details from 01471 844207 or visit www.seall.co.uk

Fort William



West Highland College UHI welcomed dozens of prospective students and their families at the open day. 11F F46 College open day

Open day appeals to Fort students

WEST HIGHLAND College UHI welcomed dozens of prospective students and their families to Fort William last Saturday for their annual open day.

Staff and students from the college were on hand to answer questions about studying and student life in Lochaber.

Around 30 interested students from all over Scotland came to visit the campus in Fort William. They had been attracted to the Outdoor Capital of the UK to study on one of our four degree programmes in the School of Adventure

Studies, which is primarily based in Fort William with another base in Broadford, Isle of Skye.

Local students also attended the event to find out more about the several new courses listed in the college's prospectus for 2018/19, which has also just been published.

A representative from West Highland College UHI said: 'We are proud that so many of our students go on to achieve exciting and challenging careers here in the Highlands and contribute greatly to the tourism sector in Lochaber

and beyond.'

West Highland College UHI comprises 10 college centres throughout Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross, offering a range of further and higher qualifications from access to degree and postgraduate levels across all of its sites. West Highland College UHI is one of 13 academic partners of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the West Highland College UHI, can contact them on 01397 874000 or visit whi.ac.uk

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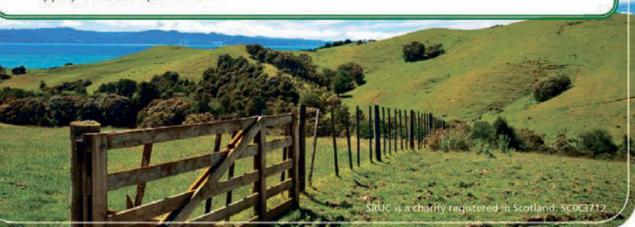
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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

It is a sad fact of life that we continue to live in dangerous times and rely still on our brave military men and women to keep us safe from those who would harm us and our way of life.

So it should come as little surprise that huge numbers of people turned out in Fort William and across Lochaber to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars and numerous other conflicts.

In what were very poignant and moving ceremonies, armed services veterans, current serving personnel, local dignitaries and the uniformed youth organisations,

as well as others, came together over the weekend to honour the memory of those who have died in defence of our country.

Despite international treaties and dialogue between nations, there are still ongoing tensions and belligerence from those who threaten us.

It is a sobering reminder that we continue to depend on the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force to protect us. Yet, as the weekend turnout illustrated only too clearly, the vast majority of people still hold our armed forces in the highest regard.



Days gone by – 2001/2002

There were plenty of goodies on offer at this PTA raffle, but we are unsure of the year and which school were they helping. Pictured are Margaret Kennedy (chairman), Nicola O'Brien, 12, Karen McPhee (PTA), Stephanie Munro, Ina Dawson (PTA), Nicola Gemell and Fiona Stephen (PTA).

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



FOR Highlanders and islanders living in Glasgow, November and the beginning of December is busy time of year in their social calendar with the various annual gatherings of many of these homeland's respective associations taking place.

Although there is a scattering of these events during other times of the year, there is a pronounced concentration in the early winter months.

The Lewis and Harris, Jura, Tiree, Uist and Barra, Coll, and Skye gatherings all take place within a few weeks of each other and, with much crossover of attendees, this kicks the winter off in a lively fashion for exiled Gaels.

Taking the form of concerts and dances and with much accompanying fringe activity, these events and the associations that run them have played an important role in the lives of urban Gaels for more than 100 years.

Set up mainly in the late 1800s and early 1900s, these societies were formed predominantly to bring to-

gether the many hundreds of people who had left their island homes to find work in the city.

It is a natural human desire when far from home to want to join together with others with the same geographic and cultural background, and back in the days when travel and communications were much more limited, it allowed people to keep in touch practically and emotionally with the homes they had left.

A very important role of these groups in earlier times and a strong factor leading their formation was their role as a provider of financial assistance to those who found themselves in poverty.

This was many years before the introduction of the welfare state, and the prospects for those in poverty, far from home, in a strange city, were not good.

Receiving practical, moral and financial support from fellow islanders would have been a lifeline for many in these harsh times.

Over the past week, I have been looking over old programmes from the Tiree Association and I was surprised by how important a part

this took in the work of the group and it shows much foresight, caring and humanity in the intentions of those involved in the setting up and running of these organisations.

As well as this role as a helping hand to individuals, the associations would also help financially with many other projects and causes relating to their areas.

With the recent solemn occasion of Remembrance Sunday, when we pay our respects to those who sacrificed their lives in war, it is interesting and relevant to note that it was the Tiree Association, ably supported by local initiatives on the island, which set up the fund for the erection of Tiree's war memorial.

From the publication of Na Bàird Thirisdeach in 1932 right up to the present day, when next weekend will be launched The Tiree Songbook, the association has played a key role in preserving and promoting the island's history, culture and heritage.

All other of the island societies of this kind played similarly important roles and their work should be recognised as a very significant part in the history and evolution of these islands.



Moira Cameron said: 'Such a beautiful spot and a lovely idea.'
Colline Mackiggan commented: 'Happy memories of childhood Sunday walks.'

There was an outpouring of concern for the welfare of Agnes MacKechnie, the Oban woman seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on Hallowe'en.

Danielle Hay-West posted: 'Wishing a speedy recovery. Hope they have caught the driver responsible.'
Lauren Thomson said: 'Fingers crossed for a speedy recovery.'

Audrey Hunter wrote: 'Our lovely neighbours. Thoughts and prayers from Ken and I.'

Iain Macdonald commented: 'Hoping your recovery continues.'

Julie McKay posted: 'Hope to see you home soon Agnes.'
Claire Evans said: 'Hope she is on the mend soon. A lovely lady.'

Beth Campbell wrote: 'Awful news. Agnes is one of the best people I know. Sending every positive vibe I can and hope to hear good news soon. Lots of love.'

Mogie Gallagher posted: 'So sorry to hear this Agnes. Hope you're ok and recover quickly. Sending out thoughts to you, David and all the family.'

Karen MacKechnie, Agnes's daughter, replied: 'Thanks, it means a lot to us that everyone is thinking of my mum.'

Sharon Bratton, Agnes's sister, commented: 'I am sure when she gets to see this she will be overwhelmed with all you lovely people who are worried about her.'

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.

How to put a stop to sexual harassment

Sir,
With regard to Councillor Julie McKenzie's comments (*The Oban Times*, November 9), I sympathise absolutely with her and others who have been sexually harassed and bullied while at work.

Complaining to your employers leads only to attempts at appeasement or fudged efforts to play it down.

In my long working life, I have, like many others, signed employment contracts, rules of conduct and the Official Secrets Act. In not one of these was there a clause which stated that I may sexually harass a colleague or anyone else.

Therefore, anyone who is harassed is right, at the moment of the offence, to tell the offender (whether in company or not) to desist as they are in breach of contract and facing dismissal.

Saying nothing gives only the impression that the remarks or touch are acceptable, which puts the victim in breach of contract.

If attention is unwelcome outwith the workplace, you would go straight to the police.

My best advice is to stop the offender before he gets a chance to start. Most sex offenders and bullies start with 'a wee bit of banter' which is then allowed to continue.

George Doyle,
Ellenabeich, Easdale.

China offers economic boost for Argyll

Sir,
Last week BID4Oban attended Argyll Enterprise Week at the Tourism Building on Success day.

There was some fantastic information shared on how Oban and Argyll is being marketed and the various opportunities that are coming our way for next year.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative hosted the event.

The highly successful Mark Beaumont, of cycling around the world in 80 days – or, in his case, 78 days – campaign promoting Wild About Argyll, has raised the profile of the area and we can look forward to even more visitors next year, in particular from the cycling community.

The most inspiring presentation was from Gordon Campbell Gray of Campbell Gray Hotels. He spoke passionately about his worldwide experience and observations from his various businesses. He is currently involved in building a new hotel, The Machrie on Islay. He concentrated on providing exceptional levels of customer service and recruitment in the current climate where many businesses are suffering staff shortages during the busy season.

Those businesses that attended will have come away with some food for thought in terms of retention of staff and ideas to recruit in a difficult market.

Following on from the tourism day, we attended the China business summit at the Corran Halls which was hosted by Brendan O' Hara, Argyll

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



DÈ CHANAS TU A-NISE? Bidh cuimhne aig a mhòr-chuid againn air a' cheist sin bho àm ar n-òige is pàrantan agus inbhich eile a' cur nar cuimhne taing a thoirt airson rud a chaidh a thoirt dhuinn.

'S neònach mura robh mòran agaihbh, mar mise, ag èisteachd agus a' coimhead seirbheis cuimhneachaidh croich a' Chogaidh Mhòir air telebhisean Latha na Sàbaid seo chaidh, agus sinn uile mothachail air an uamhas a bha gabhail àite anns an Roinn Eòrpa ceud bliadhna air ais. Sgrìos do-chreidsinneach anns an robh milleanan a' call am beatha agus mìltean de Ghàidheil òga nam measg. Chaidh na h-athraichean againne a ghleidheadh chun na h-ìre 's gum bheil sinn ann agus abair adhbhar dhuinn a bhith taingeil agus usal às na h-uile dam b' fheudar blàr fhulang, agus sinn gu sònraichte cuimhneachail air an fheadhainn nach do thill.

Bhiodh càirdean aig mòran agaihbh ann an cogaidh agus a bha fortanach gu leòr faotainn dhachaigh gun leòn. Ach cuiridh mi geall gur e glè bheag a chuala a' chuid as motha de chàirdean

and Bute MP. This was primarily aimed at producers who want to do business in the Chinese markets.

You may wonder what BID4Oban was doing there. Well, in the coming years the growth of Chinese tourism for our area could be immense. It is a growing market with many younger people visiting from this far-off land.

In attendance were the China-Britain Business Council, Scottish Development International and Bank of China (UK) Ltd.

There was an entertaining presentation from Ewan MacKintosh of Scottish Sea Farms (SSF) where he shared his business's experiences in exporting to China. SSF sends in excess of 600 tonnes of salmon every year to China directly from their site at Shian near Oban.

BID4Oban will now be investigating various ways in how we can help and support AITC build links with the Chinese tourist market to ensure Oban and Lorn are well represented.

Andrew Spence,
Chief executive, BID4Oban.

Scotland's poor record on breastfeeding

Sir,
I wrote to Tesco in Oban about the large aisle sign hanging from the ceiling which said 'Baby Milk' as a locator for infant formula feed.

I asked Tesco if it would re-word this dominant misleading sign to 'Artificial Baby Milk' because that is exactly what it is. Baby milk is human breast milk, not formula, and Tesco is thus contributing to the normalisation of artificially feeding infants which sadly runs throughout the UK.

In fact, we have just about the worst rate of breastfeeding in the world and Scotland is no exception. Oban Tesco failed to respond so I wrote to the customer services manager in Dundee who replied that the term 'baby milk' is within the bounds of its policies.

I daresay it is as it suits its profits but where are its ethics? Tesco also sent me a £10 voucher, probably to try to silence me, but I returned it unused.

The BBC announced last week that the UK had the highest obesity rate in Europe and this is no wonder with the highest rate of artificially feeding our infants, certainly a proven contributing factor.

Yes, we do need more professional and peer support to help mothers to breastfeed for longer (and to want to start in the first place) but also community support and curtailing misleading advertising would go a long way too.

In this season of the BBC's Children in Need, perhaps we may also think about all the children in need of breastfeeding.

Valerie Cleave,
Lochgilphead.

Cathedral of Trees has air of tranquillity

Sir,
Following your excellent article 'Trees bloom for Remembrance Day' (*The Oban Times*, November 9), my grand-

son and I followed up attending the Remembrance Day parade with a visit to the Cathedral of Trees.

It is many years since I was there last. At that time it was looking sad and overgrown.

I was delighted to see how much care and attention it has obviously received recently. Despite grandson and Labrador having a boisterous game of hide and seek among the hedged aisles, the place has a wonderful air of tranquillity.

I would encourage Oban folk to go back and visit again – and leave a pebble in the pot to show support.

Mike Robertson,
Oban.

Unfair costs for single-parent families

Sir,
As I try to decide whether to purchase a Nevis Range season pass for myself, I have once again become aware of how comparatively more expensive life can be as a single parent. I have one son.

If we do not bother with discounts, our combined passes will cost £349 (£248 for me plus £101 for my son). A two-parent family costs £547 (£248 per adult plus £51 for the first child).

The same happens with HighLife Highland. Or maybe even worse. A single membership is £20 a month, a family membership is £30 per month. Some families have up to two adults and four children on their pass. I have one adult and one child.

I understand the need to encourage family membership and that it is expensive to take part in activities with so many children. However, just at these times, I feel hard done by.

Rona Yard,
by email.

Opposition MSPs excluded from talks

Sir,
It is extremely disappointing that the Scottish Government chose not to invite any opposition politicians to attend the Convention of the Highlands and Islands held in Oban last month.

While apparently being open to the public, there was no information advertising the event on the Scottish Government website, which instead only carried the details of last year's event in Inverness.

The whole thing smacks of the type of closed-shop exercise that we have all come to expect from this centralised SNP government, which is clearly only interested in parroting party political messages rather than having a genuine, cross-party conversation about the future for the Highlands and Islands.

I have written to the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Keith Brown MSP, to make my concerns clear. Perhaps if the Scottish Government is keen to engage with local groups, then next time it will extend an invitation to local politicians from all parties to join in the conversation.

Donald Cameron,
MSP, Highlands and Islands.

Ailean Caimbeul

Social media

Our story last week about the project which is aiming to have Oban's Cathedral of Trees, at Glencruitten, restored prompted a response from readers.

Jessie Keymel wrote: 'Thank you for showing this I have often wondered if there was still a Cathedral of Trees. I left Oban in 1954.'

Janet Booth asked: 'Where is this?'
Kerry-anne Wallace responded: 'Up past the golf course turn left at junction up to Mackays pond then you see a place called Grass Roots just down from there you see a building plot next to houses park, and there is head into forest. Would love to see this fully restored was up last week and was very sad to see it so neglected. Remember many childhood walks and wanting to sit in the pews.'

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

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

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

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

New hope for Connel man Billy in Indian prison hell

DAVID MCPHEE

dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

CONNEL ex-para Billy Irving is expecting to hear within 14 days whether he will be released from an Indian prison in time for Christmas.

The Supreme Court of India indicated that it wanted to accelerate the Chennai Six's appeal process, where the High Court judge will have a fortnight to come to a decision.

Billy and five other British ex-servicemen were sentenced to five years in an Indian prison in January 2016.

The men, known as the Chennai Six, were working as armed guards protecting ships from Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

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

Including the Chennai Six, 35 men in total were arrested – 14 Estonians, 12 Indians, and three Ukrainians.

The Ukrainian captain has terminal cancer and it was his case that was being heard in front of the Supreme Court of India this week.

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh surprised him with a visit this week. Speaking about the news in a video, Yvonne said: 'It's really exciting. I have been on such a high all day.'

'There have been a lot of lows while we have been here. It's obviously very exhausting, but at the same time to get this news while we're here and to be able to have the privilege and the honour of going in tomorrow and telling the men themselves and seeing how happy they will be about it.'

Argyll and the Isles march to remember the fallen



Oban Pipe Band led the march from the Corran Halls to the war memorial on Sunday as the town and surrounding areas paid tribute to those who died in the two world wars and other conflicts on Remembrance Sunday. Picture special and full report on pages 10 and 11. Picture: Stephen Day/T46_Pipe band

'It's just going to give them such a lift. I think it fills us all with hope that we will get our Christmas wish and we could have the men home, so fingers crossed everyone.'

Stephen Askins, of London marine solicitors Tatham Macinnes, said: 'The matter went forward to the Supreme Court to try to get the captain out.'

The captain's case will reappear tomorrow (Friday November 17).

'The Supreme Court indicated they wanted the appeal, which we have been waiting for, to be expe-

ditied,' Mr Askins added. 'They expect him to issue his judgement within 14 days.'

'This puts [the judge] under pressure, but it does give some encouragement that the Supreme Court have decided enough is enough on this. It's good news that the families have been waiting for for 11 months.'

'We just need a judgement so we can move things forward. We don't know how things will go, but it does finally seem like there's a little bit of momentum.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael

Russell said: 'It is long past time Billy and the others were home. Yvonne and her fellow campaigners have done wonders but the UK Government needs to up the ante now and make it clear that whatever the initial problems, the delays, confusions and contradictions of the courts in India are completely unacceptable and contrary to the basic principles of justice.'

'The Scottish Government takes that view and I know my Westminster colleague Brendan O'Hara has been doing his best

to get a response from the UK Government that matches the seriousness of the situation.'

'Those efforts need to continue, backed by the campaign of the families and the whole of Argyll and Scotland. The Chennai Six and their colleagues must be released without any more delay.'

Mr O'Hara, MP for Argyll and Bute, said: 'Earlier this month I went to Downing Street with Billy's family to plead with the UK Government to do more to secure his release from jail. This visit followed shortly after

my seventh meeting with my third Foreign Office minister in just two years.'

'With very recent events now clearing the path for a diplomatic intervention, the UK Government needs to pull its finger out.'

'I am in regular contact with Yvonne but the fact this has been ongoing since I first became Billy's MP in 2015 smacks of diplomatic inertia.'

'I've promised Yvonne that I will continue to do whatever I can as his MP to secure his release as quickly as possible.'

Injured Agnes is 'better'

THE daughter of the Oban woman injured in a hit-and-run accident in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Agnes MacKechnie, says her mother is 'looking a lot better' in hospital.

Karen MacKechnie flew to the United States on Sunday November 12 to be at her mum's bedside in St Luke's Hospital.

After visiting Agnes, Karen messaged her aunt, Sharon Bratton, who passed on the Facebook post to *The Oban Times*.

In her message, Karen says: 'That's me arrived last night safe and sound. She's looking a lot better than I thought she would. She is due to go for surgery today. They discovered a small tear near the aorta and will be putting in a stent. Will let you all know how it goes.'

Following the procedure, Karen messaged *The Oban Times* to say: 'My mum's surgery today was a success and she is currently recovering from anaesthesia. Hopefully, we will get to speak to her soon.'

Sharon, Agnes's sister, said this week that Agnes, who suffered severe injuries in the incident on Hallowe'en, was continuing to make progress after a number of operations.

Sharon told *The Oban Times*: 'She is improving and is still getting regular scans. She has fractured both legs and wrists.'

'She has sat up for the first time but still in a lot of pain.'

'The drugs make her sleepy so can only manage to speak for a short time.'

Sharon added that there was no word on when she might be able to return home.

Meanwhile, police in Bethlehem are continuing with their attempt to identify the driver who knocked down Agnes. Police issued pictures from CCTV cameras of a blue Ford pick-up truck. The police said: 'The vehicle has stickers on the left and right lower corners of the rear window.'

coming soon...

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Lochaber bows in silence



Ordinary cadet Cameron Campbell and ordinary cadet Finlay Dempster laid a wreath on behalf of the Sea Cadets. IF F46 Remembrance Fort 04. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Hundreds of people pay their respects at the Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge. IF F46 Remembrance Spean 02. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Members of the public gathered at the Parade in Fort William. IF F46 Remembrance Fort 03. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Boys' Brigade also marched at the Remembrance parade in Fort William. IF F46 Remembrance Fort 05. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Jack Lamb, 95, former member of 3 Commando attended the parade in Fort William just a week after attending a memorial in Normandy. IF F46 Remembrance Fort 07. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Members of Lochaber Schools Pipe Band watch the service. IF F46 Remembrance Spean 10. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Hundreds of people turned out to watch the parade in Fort William. IF F46 Remembrance Fort 03. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Drew Armitage Walker, Kinlochleven, at the parade in Fort William on Sunday. IF F46 Remembrance Fort 01. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

Fort William hosts the first Cloutman Commando dinner in Scotland



Major Stefan Siemieniuch RE presents the coveted Cloutman Award to Lance Corporal William Clark. IF F46 Remembrance Cloutman 01. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Members of 59 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, continued a tradition of recognising the anniversary of Major Brett Cloutman gaining a Victoria Cross with a dinner, this year in Fort William. IF F46 Remembrance Cloutman 02. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

AS COMMEMORATIONS for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday took place over the weekend, Fort William played host to the first Cloutman dinner to take place outside their base in England. Members of 59 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers continued a tradition of recognising the anniversary of Major Brett Cloutman gaining a Victoria Cross with a dinner and awards

ceremony. But this year, the squadron decided to hold it in Scotland, at the Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William. Major Cloutman won his VC on November 6, 1918, when he cut enemy charges set to blow up the strategically important Quarters Bridge in France. Under heavy fire from machine guns and artillery he swam into the river alone and managed to cut the cables

leading to the explosives so the bridge could not be immediately destroyed. He was awarded the VC by King George V in 1919 and died in 1971, with his ashes spread over his brother's war grave in France. The VC is now on display in the Royal Engineers Museum. Speaking at the dinner, commanding officer Major Stefan Siemieniuch said that there was no better place than

'Commando country' to hold the event away from their base. He also praised distillery visitor centre manager Brian Hume and his staff for their tremendous efforts in providing a unique venue for the ceremony. The Cloutman Award was made to Lance Corporal William Clark for his achievements, endeavour and willingness to learn since joining the squadron.

to remember the fallen



Scottish Fire and Rescue Service group manager Pat McElhinney, with Raymond King and Colin McAndrew from the Lochaber branch of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

IF F46 Remembrance Fort 02. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Councillor Andrew Baxter and Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes lay wreaths at the memorial in Fort William.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



The sun sets over the Commando Memorial. IF F46 Remembrance Spean 08. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Robbie MacKay lays a wreath on behalf of the British Red Cross. IF F46 Remembrance Fort 06. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.



Many people turned out for the service, just outside Balmacara. IF F46 Remembrance Lochalsh 04. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Good turnout as Lochalsh marks Remembrance Sunday

ON A cold November morning, with showers of hail, the Lochalsh branch of Legion Scotland held their Armistice Day Parade and service.

About 15 members paraded and assembled with the colours at the Lochalsh War Memorial near Balmacara, on Sunday, November 12, led by the Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band under the guidance of Niall Stewart.

Also on parade were Kyle Cadets, Kyle RNLI, Kyle Fire Brigade, Kyle Ambulance, Lochalsh Red Cross, Lochalsh Scouts and Police Scotland.

The Colour Party was Seamus Maguire, Richard Talbot and Jim Greer. Bugler was Douglas Strachan from Breakish, who played the last post and reveille which followed the two minutes' silence.



Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band led the procession along the road from Balmacara.

Parade Commander was Paul Newton and the salute was taken by Lt. Cdr. Andy Will MBE.

While Niall Stewart played a lament on the pipes, wreaths were laid by the various organisations present, including Biz Campbell for Highland Council.

Terry Grant narrated the Homily, while Reverend Roddie Rankin conducted a short service. A wreath was also laid at the Plockton War Memorial by branch secretary Charles M Macrae.

Following the parade a service was held in Kyle Church of Scotland, which was conducted by Rev Rankin. Afterwards, soup and sandwiches were served in the church hall and a collection was taken for the Earl Haig Fund.



A large procession marched to the Lochalsh War Memorial on Sunday. IF F46 Remembrance Lochalsh 02.



Young Kyle Cadets at the Remembrance service. IF F46 Remembrance Lochalsh 03.



Shaun Hendrie, takes a shot at goal for Thistle.

Thistle spurn two-goal lead in home defeat

Football

South Lochaber Thistle	2
Westcliff	3
Greater Glasgow AFL	

SOUTH Lochaber Thistle succumbed to their third defeat of the season after letting a two-goal lead slip in the second half.

The Jags were two-nil up on the hour mark before a defensive capitulation in the final 30 minutes gave the three points to Westcliff and left the home side reeling in defeat.

Westcliff made the long trip from Dumbarton to Kinlochleven and brought with them a particularly physical style of play. That didn't initially put off the Jags, who continued their good attacking form.

The Jags took the lead after 25 minutes courtesy of a Dave Forbes goal. He finished what was a well-worked move from the midfield through the forwards to slot past the keeper.

Thistle continued to dominate the first half but, despite the pressure, were unable to extend their lead.

The second half started brightly and SLT left off from where they finished the first half. Substitute Craig Cameron made it 2-0 to the home side after rounding the keeper.

Spurred on by this second goal, Westcliff fought back and pulled a goal back with a long distance strike.

Thistle still pressed for more goals and were awarded a penalty only for Dave Forbes to see his spot kick saved by the visitors' goalkeeper.

This gave the visiting side renewed optimism and cracks began to show in SLT's defence. Westcliff were eventually able to draw the game level with 20 minutes left on the clock.

With Westcliff now well and truly in the ascendancy, the Jags were struggling to contain the pressure. The visitors got the rewards of their hard work, scoring a winner with just 10 minutes left on the clock.

The Jags were unable to respond with a goal themselves and so the visitors left with all three points. SLT will be hoping to bounce back next Saturday as they head to Greenock to play their old sparring partners Bellaire.

SLT Moan, Kennedy, Macleod, P Mcfatridge, Ferguson, Morrison (Birrell), Forbes (Scally), Hendrie, Munro, Barker (Cameron (Maclean) Tot (McFatridge). Man of the match: Shaun Hendrie.

Nevis Centre will see muscles flexed for strongman event

A GREAT afternoon's competition awaits this coming Saturday, November 18, afternoon at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, with the staging of the annual Scotland's Strongest Man event.

Organised by the town's own well-known strongman competition competitor Stuart Whyte, the event will feature six teams of two with competitors coming from as far afield as Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The event, which starts at noon, will see the six teams take part in various contests in the under 105Kgs class and as well as this there will also be a strong woman event, including an appearance by current Scotland's Strongest Woman title holder Lisa Livingstone.

This is the fourth year Fort William has hosted a major strongman event in memory of one of the sport's other local enthusiasts, Mark Haldenby.

The last three annual events have been held in memory of Mark, who sadly passed away a couple of years ago.

'This year, all the money raised

Strongman

will go towards the fund-raising efforts to help another local guy, Gary Campbell, with his treatment for MS,' Stuart explained.

With a recent cracking personal performance in a European strongman championships in Glasgow, Stuart is hoping he and his team-mate at Saturday's show will be up there on the winners' podium at the end.

'It should be a great day, raising money for a very good local cause.

'Entry will be free but donations will be very gratefully received,' added Stuart.

'And as well as the strongman and strong woman events, there will be 'strength' activities for the younger fans who come along for a bit of fun.

'The event will be opened by the Ben Nevis All-stars cheer-leading squad as well.

'Hopefully lots of people will turn out to support the event and all those taking part and it should be a great day with the chance to see some of Scotland's top strongman and women athletes in action.'



Stuart Whyte prepares for this weekend's strongman event at the Nevis Centre.



Fighting for Gary: Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club members in the ring to raise funds for Gary Campbell.

Lochaber boxers raise funds for Gary's fight with MS

LOCHABER boxers got in the ring on Saturday to put on a show to raise funds for a campaign to send MS sufferer Gary Campbell to Mexico to receive ground-breaking treatment.

Boxing fans gathered at the Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club gym in Fort William for an afternoon of sparring to raise money for Gary, who is trying to raise £50,000 for specialist Multiple Sclerosis treatment.

The event was organised by Gary's cousin Ryan Watson and Lochaber Phoenix boxing coach Niall Clark. They are hoping to boost the fundraising total and raise awareness of Gary's cause.

Ryan led the open day event as junior and senior boxers took to the ring to showcase training techniques and sparring at all levels to members of the public.

The highlight of the afternoon was a visit by Keir Hardie Boxing Club from Motherwell, who brought with them Stephen Black, a multiple Scottish champion and current two-time GB champion.

Boxing

Stephen took to the ring with Lochaber's own champion and member of the Scotland National Squad Cameron Whyte.

Ryan himself also spent some time in the ring sparring with local boxers in the same weight category.

Entry was free but donations were welcomed and raffle tickets were on sale, raising a total of £370.

Fort William hosts Highland Squash Championship

Squash

SQUASH players and officials from across the Highlands travelled to Lochaber last weekend to take part in the Highlands and Islands Squash Association Championships, which were held at the Fort William Leisure Centre. Inverness squash players had a successful outing with Garry MacKay winning the championship ahead of fellow Invernessian John Kynoch, who finished as runner-up. The winner of the plate was Lewis Gibson, with Ian Black finishing runner-up, both of who are members of Lochaber Squash Club.



Garry MacKay receiving his trophy from Lance Marshall.



All the players and officials at the championships in Fort William.

Entries open for Lochaber's first Ski-An-Duro

ENTRIES are now open for Scotland's new ski and mountain bike Enduro, which is to take place in Lochaber.

The new ski, snowboard and mountain bike race, Ski-An-Duro, a race from the summit of Aonach Mor to the Nevis Range Gondola base station, takes place on March 17, with entries for competitors opening this week.

The brain-child of Outdoor Capital of the UK-based events company No Fuss

Events, the Ski-An-Duro will see 150 individuals and a limited number of teams competing on skis, snowboards and mountain bikes for the glory of being crowned the competition's first champions.

The Ski-An-Duro will see racers from Scotland and the rest of the UK tackle a variety of mountain bike enduro and snowport challenges above and below the snowline at Nevis Range. The for-

Ski-ing

mat for the Ski-An-Duro is simple; two initial timed stages with the combined time giving racers a grid position for the final mass start race.

Frazer Coupland from No Fuss said: 'The event has attracted a lot of interest since we introduced the concept back in October and I have no doubt it will be on the must-do list for many next year.'

Fort slump to narrow defeat in Inverness

Football

Clachnacuddin	2
Fort William	1
Highland League	

WITH inclement weather forecast for the Saturday fixture, Fort William FC and Clachnacuddin agreed to switch their scheduled fixture to be played last Wednesday evening, November 8.

The Fort's campaign has been marred recently by a number of postponements, so this fixture away to mid-table Clach was always going to be a tough away fixture for the Lochaber side.

Despite this, they got off to a decent start and matched their Invernessian counterparts for the opening exchange. Right on the half-hour mark, however, Paul Smith opened the scoring for Clach.

Fort held on until half-time and came out after the break with the intention to level the scores. Just five minutes into the second half, Jack Lingard struck to equalise for the Fort, giving them a lifeline back into the match. The match remained a hard-fought affair with the Lochaber men keen to keep out their opponents.

In the 76th minute, however, Sean Webb netted for Clach to regain the lead. The home side held on to that goal advantage and to take all three points at the final whistle.

Another battling performance from Fort William has once again passed without reward. Fort William's match against Keith in the Highland League on Saturday was postponed.

The Fort will be in action this Saturday, November 18, when they travel to take on Rothes in the Highland League.

Lottery numbers Lottery

THIS WEEK'S Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 7, 14 and 17. There were no winners this week. There will now be £1,200 available for the lotto drawn on Thursday, November 16.

The numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 8, 12 and 18. There were no winning tickets this week. There will now be a jackpot for £400 for next Thursday's draw.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week are 5, 6 and 16. There was one winner this week, with A Fraser taking home the jackpot. That means that next week's total returns to £100.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 2, 11 and 13. There were no winning tickets this week so there is a £600 jackpot up for grabs next week.

Winter league Indoor football

RESULTS: Balla 0, Fiorentina Turner 16; Young Team 0, Doghouse Thistle 7; Arse n All 3, Expected Toulouse 7; HW Energy 7, Snorting Lisbon 0; Portowcy 0, Goon Squad 3; Gozos 4, Fortmund 3.

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Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain then sunshine and showers
Winds strong Westerly
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers then persistent rain
Winds strong Westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Sunny on Sunday
Winds moderate West North Westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 9°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 16, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	04.17	3.6	10.22	1.1	16.23	3.8	23.00	1.2
Fri	04.48	3.8	11.02	1.0	16.55	3.9	23.31	1.1
Sat	05.21	4.0	11.39	1.0	17.27	4.0	**	1.6
Sun	00.02	1.1	05.52	4.0	12.15	1.1	17.59	4.0
Mon	00.35	1.1	06.24	4.1	12.49	1.2	18.32	4.0
Tues	01.10	1.2	06.57	4.0	13.24	1.4	19.05	3.9
Wed	01.45	1.3	07.31	3.9	14.00	1.5	19.38	3.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-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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CHRISTMAS

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