

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

FREE INSIDE

YOUR 12 PAGE LOCAL GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS PACKED WITH GREAT IDEAS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON



Oban's McCaig Tower lit up in solidarity with the people of Paris after terrorist attacks saw 129 people killed and more than 400 injured across five locations in the city. The lights in the Tricolore of red, blue and white lit up the town on Saturday evening thanks to the keeper of the lights, Argyll and Bute Council officer Louis Barrow. Photograph: WDR Photographics

Petition for talks successful

A CAMPAIGN calling for Prime Minister David Cameron to raise the plight of six men stranded in India with the country's President Narendra Modi during his recent visit was successful.

Yvonne Machugh, the partner of Connel man Billy Irving, who has been held in India for more than two years, told The Oban Times: 'I am delighted to let everyone know that through your support and help with the petition at change.org, it was delivered to the Indian Ambassador in London during Prime Minister Modi's visit.'

'Today we got confirmation from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that Prime Minister David Cameron raised the men's case with Prime Minister Modi.'

'We have no information as to what was said, but this is a huge step and a very positive one.'

'Please continue to share and sign the petition. We will continue to use it to show the support for our men stuck in India and will not give up fighting until the are on home soil.'

The petition can be viewed at www.change.org/p/william-hague-help-free-the-6-british-ex-soldiers-from-indian-prison

Closure

QUEEN Street Station in Glasgow, the start and end point for rail services to and from the West Highlands, will be closed from March 20 until August 6, 2016 for refurbishment.

David Gallant, Oban community Council transport spokesman told fellow councillors by email: 'Trains to Oban and Mallaig will use the Queen Street low level station. Some services will terminate at Springburn and some services will have replacement buses for all or part of the route.'



For more on the Paris attacks, turn to page 7.

Oban couple tell of terror after being caught up in Paris tragedy

LOUISE GLEN
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AN OBAN couple who were within metres of a Paris restaurant as guns open fired have praised the kindness of strangers in the city.

Chillingly, Graham Campbell and Simone Hossoba, who were in the French capital to celebrate his birthday, may have been dining at the very restaurant where the atrocities happened on Friday November 13 if timings of the Metro had been different.

As the City of Light was plunged into darkness, the couple were forced to wander aimlessly around the streets of Paris as they were turned away by cafés, restaurants and taxis leaving them with no idea how to get back to their apartment.

Alarmingly, the couple were staying a mere 150 metres from the Bataclan building where the shootings at the rock concert took place.

They were only alerted to the terrorism lockdown by a family member, who phoned from



Graham Campbell and his fiancé Simone Hossoba, centre, with her sister Romana in Paris before the attacks took place.

Oban. Graham said: 'My fiancé Simone booked the surprise trip to Paris for my birthday. I had never been before, but her sister lives there. We had been in Paris since Sunday November 8 and my birthday was on Thursday the 12th.'

'On Friday, Simone, her sister Romana and myself had spent

the whole day at Disneyland Paris. When we got off the train in Paris we enjoyed a meal in a café near Notre Dame Cathedral before heading home for the night.'

'Just as we were leaving to get onto the subway we heard police cars speeding by and I said, 'there must be something big happening'.

'When we got off the subway [to change to another line] we said cheerio to Romana who was staying on the metro, but when we tried to change line we were told that the subway at République and our stop at Goncourt were closed. We weren't given the reason why because our French was not very good. We were told to get a number 75 bus.'

'I then got a phone call from my sister to ask if we were safe and she explained what was going on. We realised the batteries on our phones were very low. We had no 3G to check maps. We were lost in a city in lockdown and it all became very frightening.'

'We went outside to wait for a bus and as we were waiting there was a round of gun shots – a close-by restaurant was under siege. At that point we wanted to get as far from the scene as quickly as possible.'

The couple were turned away from cafés and restaurants, with taxi drivers refusing to take them to their apartment.

Graham describes walking 'aimlessly and blind' through the

streets of Paris. People tried to help with directions and maps. But as the couple's French is limited it was proving very difficult.

'Simone was very scared and we didn't want to get back into an area with a big crowd, such as the subway or onto a bus. For me, the adrenaline kicked in. I had to stay calm because if I panicked we weren't going to get anywhere.'

Exhausted, the couple came across a bar and decided they would try one last time to get help. The owner of Café Hugo on Place des Vosages, near the Bastille, proved to be the good Samaritan the couple needed.

Graham said: 'She just took one look at us and said, 'Come in and stay here and we will get you back to your apartment tonight'.

'I saw a bottle of Clan Campbell whisky on the gantry and for some reason I knew then it was all going to be okay.'

'She said a friend of hers was coming to take her staff home and he would take us home afterwards. She even paid for him to take us. She offered us

food and wine, although I didn't feel like drinking alcohol. She even let us charge our phones allowing us to make contact with our families. We eventually got back to our hotel after 2am. The following morning the woman's friend came to take us to the airport. They were so kind.'

'I've never experienced the kindness of strangers when I have been in dire need before and I cannot believe how generous they were in Café Hugo.'

'We now have many 'what ifs' – what if we had been 30 minutes earlier, we could have gone into that restaurant, or what if we had gotten back to the apartment, we might have wandered along the road [past the Bataclan].'

'We saw the best of Paris for its architecture, we heard the worst of Paris, and we met the most welcoming people.'

'Paris is never going to be the same again. This was an attack on young socialising teens and 20-year-olds.'

Council staff denied living wage till 2016

ARGYLL and Bute Council told The Oban Times this week that although it is a living wage employer it won't pay the full £8.25 an hour to its lowest paid staff until April 2016, writes Louise Glen.

The pay rise of 40 pence was introduced by other living wage employers on November 1. The local authority is currently advertising posts claiming to pay the living wage in Taynuilt, Campbeltown, Oban, Helensburgh, but excludes Modern Apprenticeships from the scheme.

A motion passed at the local authority in December 2012 meant workers on the lowest salaries would have their wages

increased by more than £2 to ensure they were earning the living wage – a cost to the local authority of £250,000.

A council spokesman initially told The Oban Times: 'The council is a living wage employer.' But when challenged that it was not registered with the Living Wage Foundation, he said: 'The reason we are not a living wage employer is that although we pay the living wage to all of our employees, we cannot get accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation as we have contractors working, predominantly on our premises, who do not pay the living wage.'

'We cannot make the living

wage a requirement of procurement as this is illegal under EU procurement legislation.'

In clarifying the council's position, a spokeswoman said: 'In line with the negotiated pay settlement agreed with Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA), Argyll and Bute Council pays the living wage of £7.85 per hour to all employees (plus 1.5 per cent which will be back dated to April 2015).'

'From April 2016 the council will pay the new living wage of £8.25 per hour (plus one per cent again as agreed by CoSLA).'

A spokesman for the Taxpayers Alliance said he was surprised the local authority

couldn't stretch to paying its workers an extra 40 pence an hour when two of its employees had earned more than £100,000 in 2014/2015.

He said: 'Chief executive Sally Loudon earned £121,817 – an increase of more than £7,232 from the previous year, and three officers earned in excess of £92,000, all with increases in salary from the previous year.'

The council spokesman declined to comment on the difference between its highest and lowest paid staff members.

The Living Wage Foundation said it would investigate the local authority's claims that it pays the living wage.

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Bon Voyage, Norman

Islay shore staff hold special celebration at CalMac ship master retires

STEVEN RAE
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AN OBAN ship captain has said 'bon voyage' to more than 50 years at sea after retiring from his career with CalMac.

Norman Martin, 68, moved to Oban in 1976 to work with the ferry operator, having grown up in Glasgow and held summer roles with the company in 1971 and 1972 before finally being promoted to ship master in 1984.

Having trained with British and Commonwealth Shipping Company between 1964 and 1969, Norman's career has seen him transporting different cargo to destinations including Australia, Africa, New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa.

To mark his retirement, shore staff at Port Ellen on Islay held a special celebration during his last sailing to the destination, which has been Norman's main route for the past five years.

Neil Kirkpatrick, a steward for CalMac, who lives on Iona, wrote a Canadian barn dance titled Captain Norman Norwest Martin in Norman's honour, performing and recording it with musical partner Charlie Kilpatrick, Davie Hastie on drums, and presenting a CD of the song to Norman.

The former skipper also received eight bottles of whisky from the various distilleries on the island, including one from Laphroaig which was specially labelled: Captain Norman W. Martin The Great Escape, along with the date of his retirement,



Norman, above, with the Merchant Navy Medal he was presented with last year; and left, Norman with the crew of the Hebridean Isles, on his retirement on November 11. Photograph: Elliot Bowman.



November 11. During his lengthy career, Norman has sailed every route on the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service (CHFS), except to Dunoon and Rothesay.

'I've enjoyed sailing all the routes,' said Norman, who has been married to wife Patricia for

40 years. 'It's particularly interesting to visit each island and see the unique and vast differences between them. The Islay folk are great, they really do enjoy life.'

'You learn about so many islands and meet regular and non-regular travellers. There's

days I'll walk around Islay and I'll see dozens of people I know from the years.

'The whole of the island really did me proud, including Port Ellen and Port Askaig, with a celebration at Kennacraig too.'

One of the most memorable moments of Norman's career was during Hogmanay 2006, when he was travelling from Islay to Kennacraig during a hurricane. 'It was a bit of a battle but even-

tually we tied up at Kennacraig, but couldn't get off the boat as the causeway was marooned. Luckily we had enough supplies to enjoy Hogmanay onboard.'

Norman's colleague, chief engineer Ambrose Harper wrote a poem based on the incident, using Tam O'Shanter as inspiration.

One of Norman's proudest moments as a seaman was last year, when he was awarded the Merchant Navy Medal at a ceremony in London - a prestigious award recognising acts of courage or meritorious service by people from the United Kingdom, or British Overseas Dependent Territories, within the Merchant Navy or fishing fleet.

Norman plans to remain actively involved with charity fundraising organisation Oban and Lorn Lions Club, and other maritime union activities, during retirement. He added: 'I certainly won't miss the 'rising tide' of paperwork I've seen accumulate over the years.'

'CalMac has been and is a fantastic employer for many reasons, though. They really are an enlightened employer and whatever difficulties there are with the west coast ferries, it wouldn't improve with a change in operator, so naturally, I hope CalMac are successful in their bid for the CHFSS contract.'

Although admitting he would 'help out if needed', Norman plans to spend more time with his family, including daughter Lorna, son-in-law Mark and grandchildren Erin, 4, and Daniel, 2, who live in Montrose.

Loganair dumps passengers at closed terminal

STAFF REPORTER
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A GRANDMOTHER has spoken about a nightmare trip to hospital which ended when she was left late at night, in the dark, outside Machrihanish Airport's terminal.

The 70-year-old pensioner, who did not want to give her name, told former councillor George McMillan, 84, about a catalogue of errors after she left Campbeltown, on a Loganair flight, on Wednesday last week.

Her experience comes on the back of the pilots' union Balpa calling on Loganair, which flies in Flybe colours, to make major improvements in its repairs department.

Mr McMillan said: 'My friend was due to go to hospital for a routine check-up. On Wednesday morning she arrived at the airport at 8.15am and then sat for three hours before the plane took off.'

'During that time she was on and off the plane because of problems with an engine.'

Eventually the lady arrived at the hospital where an appointment slot had been saved with a consultant.

When she returned to Glasgow airport for the 4.25pm Loganair flight home the problems began again.

Ten other passengers were waiting for the flight and all sat for more than two hours without any announcements from Loganair staff about why there was a delay.

Mr McMillan said: 'My friend's granddaughter phoned her granny to ask if she was home. There was no reply so she phoned Machrihanish Airport to ask if the plane had landed and was told it had been cancelled.'

'My friend went to the Loganair desk with this information and was told the reason for the cancellation was that there was not a plane available.'

Mr McMillan added: 'During my days as a Strathclyde regional councillor I fought to have the Campbeltown to Glasgow route subsidised by



Loganair, which flies in Flybe colours.

the government. As part of the subsidy Loganair have an obligation and responsibility to make sure serviceable planes are available.

'They should have enough planes to bring one in from somewhere else.'

'Loganair have the attitude that it is just Campbeltown so it does not matter.'

Following the cancellation, passengers were put on a bus at Glasgow airport and driven to Machrihanish. They were dropped off at the long closed terminal building in the dark at 10pm and left to arrange their own transport back to Campbeltown, just three miles away.

A Loganair spokesman said: 'Flight BE6847 was delayed at Campbeltown Airport for just under 90 minutes due to a technical fault.'

'The return journey from Glasgow, scheduled to depart at 4.25pm, was then cancelled because of a technical fault affecting the aircraft.'

'Ground staff at Glasgow Airport offered each passenger a meal voucher and organised alternative transport to complete the journey to Campbeltown.'

'While the airline's obligation is point to point, substitute bus services can make additional stops if ground staff are informed in advance. However in this instance, as far as we are aware, no request was made.'

'Loganair would like to apologise for the inconvenience caused to our passengers.'

Call for improved mobile coverage on islands

HEAD of infrastructure at Argyll and Bute Council has written to the Westminster Government to raise concerns about the number of islands that are not included on a target list for mobile phone signal improvements.

Pippa Milne says she is concerned that not having the service puts the people who live in these areas at a disadvantage. 'Tiree, Iona, Colonsay, Luin, Gigha, Lismore, Bute, Ulva and

Kerrera are all missing from the government's plan to improve mobile phone connectivity.'

She said: 'Communication links on these islands are crucial and more so in emergency situations.'

She continued: 'Very few settlements [in Argyll] benefit from a 4G service and some lack reliable 2G coverage.'

She says it is vital that the main transport routes have mobile phone connectivity.

Nominate your Angel OF THE YEAR

If you know someone who really makes a difference in their community or to someone's life then let us know.

You can nominate by post using the form below or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel

All nominations will be assessed by a panel of judges including a Wyvex Media director

As well as winning a trophy and the title of **ANGEL OF THE YEAR**, the winner will also receive **£500**. Two runners up will each win **£100**.

The search is on for the The Oban Times Angel of the Year 2015, and we want you to nominate those deserving of the accolade.

The award recognises those who have made a real difference to their community, often with no thanks or reward. The winners receive a special trophy and cash prize of £500, while two runners-up will each receive £100.

Oban's Andy MacDowall was named the 2013 Angel of the Year after being nominated by Senga Cakebread of Argyll Voluntary Action, an award that he dedicated to his late wife, Rena. Andy is well known as one of Oban's favourite volunteers. From helping with the 'Soup Group', to tending flowerbeds at Station Square, to raising money for worthy causes, Andy gives tirelessly of

his time and talent.

On receiving the award, Andy said: 'I do enjoy meeting people and it is nice to do something for others. I always say it's for the older people - in fact I'm often older than some of the people I'm helping.'

The 2013 runners up were

Roanna Black, a Benderloch teen who is a dedicated fundraiser and volunteer, and Moira Haywood of Barcaldine, a volunteer with Home-Start Lorn.

The deadline to receive nominations will be announced in a future issue.



The deadline to receive nominations by will be announced in a future issue.

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's name Nominee's address

My nominee should win because..... (please submit up to 200 words on a separate sheet and attach to this form).

Your name..... Your address

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Send to: The Oban Times, Angel of the Year, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel

MULL lines

Mull couple make a splash at food awards

A MULL couple are riding on the crest of a wave after winning restaurant of the year for the second time in three years at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

John and Carla Lamont, who own the Ninth Wave Restaurant in Fionnphort, won the award last month at the event in Inverness, hosted by comedian Fred MacAulay.

The environmentally-friendly restaurant takes its name from Celtic sea mythology, where the 'land of other-worldly delights' begins at the ninth wave.

Carla explained: 'Ninth Wave is a destination organic seafood restaurant on the wild Isle of Mull. Menu ingredients are picked fresh from our kitchen garden or seven-acre Hebridean croft.'

'John, a local fisherman himself, will not only catch your lobster and crab on his wee fishing boat, the Sonsie, but will also be your waiter and wine steward for the evening.'

'In an industry where words like 'freshest', 'local' and 'provenance' are used with annoying and increasing frequency - and sometimes questionable accuracy - we feel we stand a cut above. 'Fresh' means lobsters brought in, live in a bucket an hour before service by the fisherman-owner, and where 'foraged' means handpicked-with-care by the chef on the



John and Carla Lamont with their award, centre. They are pictured with comedian Fred MacAulay, far left.

restaurant croft that day.' Ninth Wave has helped put Mull firmly on the food map since it was opened at the height of the recession in 2009 by the husband and wife team, and first won the coveted award in 2013.

The restaurant beat five other entries, including Michelin-starred Eriskay Hotel and The Whitehouse, Localine, to win.

Carla added: 'The contest was fierce and we were surprised to hear our name announced. Supported by our unbeatable staff, we have tried very hard

to keep our standards up, and endeavoured to improve every year.'

Corncrake flock to Iona

IONA has bucked the national trend in falling corncrake numbers by increasing the noisy bird on the island.

The notoriously shy bird has suffered a poor season this year [2015] with numbers dropping by nearly a fifth. Nearly all parts of the country

that cornercrakes occupy witnessed a drop in numbers this year, except for a few places, such as the island of Iona who had a slight increase, and the Isle of Mull which stayed the same.

In an annual RSPB Scotland survey, the number of calling males fell by 17 per cent compared to last year, with only 1,069 being counted. In 2014, there were 1,289 calling males counted - the highest total in at least 45 years.

Corncrakes are elusive, pigeon-sized birds which breed in Scotland over the spring and summer, migrating to Africa in winter. They are found in only a few isolated parts of the country, mainly on the islands. The Isle of Tiree holds the most cornercrakes with 333 calling males counted in 2015.

Despite these recent fluctuations, however, cornercrakes have recovered hugely since the early 1990s. At that time the species - which, in the 19th century, was common right across Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland - had dwindled to just 400 calling males. These were almost entirely restricted to a few Scottish islands.

Research by RSPB Scotland identified changing agricultural activities, especially a shift to earlier mowing of hay meadows and silage fields, as the main cause of the declines.

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POLICE FILES
with Sergeant Alan Moore



DAMAGE: The campaigner's front door and a storage box were defaced in the spray paint attack. 17_147crime1

Campaigner's home vandalised

HUNDREDS of pounds worth of damage was inflicted on a campaigner's home in the sort of crime rarely seen in Oban.

Black spray paint was used to write 'Dobed' or 'Dober' on a storage box outside the 64-year-old woman's house below McCaig's tower, and spray paint was also used to vandalise her front door.

The incident happened sometime between 10.45pm on Monday November 17 and 9am on Tuesday November 18.

Police are now undertaking door-to-door investigations and have promised to bring the vandal to justice.

The Oban Times spoke to the victim, who runs a campaign against dog fouling in the town, who said anyone with information should contact the police.

Police said this was a highly unusual incident in Oban and that they were increasing officers in the area. Sergeant Alan Moore said: 'We are taking this matter very seriously. We will be running additional patrols in the area.'

'The person who carried out this act of vandalism should be aware that the penalty can be a period of imprisonment or a heavy fine.'

Anyone with information should contact Constable Chris Pringle on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

reported to officers on November 12.

Bats are a protected species under law and any act to disturb them is a police matter.

Anyone with information in connection with the alleged theft should contact wildlife officer Kenneth Brack on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

Hotel cash allegation

A SUBSTANTIAL amount of money was taken from the reception area of the Rockport Hotel, Oban, sometime between 11am and 4pm on Sunday November 8.

Anyone with information about the crime should contact Constable Chris Dewar on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

Reported to procurator fiscal

A 38-YEAR-OLD man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after being found in possession of heroin, a Class A drug.

The man had been stopped by police in Albany Street at 7.20pm on Friday November 13. Officers searched the man, allegedly finding the illegal drugs.

The man has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Witnesses sought

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a car was vandalised in Manse Brae, close to the Free Parish Church, Oban.

The white Smart car had its bumper removed between 6pm on November 12 and 9am on Friday November 13.

Anyone with information about the crime should contact Constable Chris Dewar on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

Missing bat boxes

THE THEFT of nine bat boxes has left police officers scratching their heads.

The boxes were last seen at Sutherland's Grove near Benderloch on September 22 and it is likely they had nesting bats inside.

The theft of the boxes was

Tiree riding crest of wave with awards

LOUISE GLEN
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A SMALL island music festival almost wrecked by storms this summer has blown away the opposition to win a major tourism award.

During this year's Tiree Music Festival, more than 1,000 people had to be evacuated from the site because of strong winds.

A huge response from the community and local businesses helped find shelter for festival-goers in schools, the island airport and people's homes so the event was able to continue.

The festival, which attracted a sell-out 1,700 audience - more than three times the island population - has been voted Best Cultural Event or Festival at the prestigious annual Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA).

And in a double success for the island, the Tiree Wave Classic windsurfing event also won HITA's new Best Sporting Event category.

The awards were presented on Friday night by tourism minister Fergus Ewing MSP at a ceremony in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness.

In all, 15 tourism businesses and individuals were crowned winners at the event, which was hosted by celebrity chef Tony Singh.



AWARD WINNERS: Tiree Music Festival organisers pick up the much coveted event of the year award.

The HITA judges said of the festival: 'The tiny, seemingly inaccessible isle of Tiree has overcome local constraints to build its annual music festival into an incredible, cultural event which brings economic benefits to the community, highlights traditional and contemporary music and makes imaginative use

of sponsorship. It is a worthy winner that has enhanced the overall visitor experience.'

'This year the festival faced unprecedented weather conditions which could have forced it to be abandoned. However, a truly remarkable effort by the organisers and the island community ensured it not just

recovered but flourished in the following days.'

Tiree Wave Classic is the longest running professional windsurfing event in the world. Founded in 1986, it showcases the UK's best windsurfing talent, ranging from juniors to World Cup professional windsurfers.

Mr Loch Melfort named as ambassador of the year

CALUM ROSS, proprietor of the Loch Melfort Hotel, Oban, was chosen as Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) 2015 Ambassador of the Year.

Mr Ross was described by the HITA board as someone with a quiet and unassuming manner, but with a strong sense of leadership and great integrity.

The Ninth Wave Restaurant in Mull also enjoyed success at the awards event, being voted Best Restaurant Experience. Opened in 2009, the restaurant is run from a traditional croft and uses local produce including seafood, meat, cheese and herbs - see Mull Lines page two.

The five-star Ardtorna bed and breakfast in Oban also brought home an award, winning Most Hospitable of the Year.

And the HITA Hospitality Hero was named as Emma Clark from Glenegedale House in Islay.

Emma and her husband Graeme took over the hotel from her parents in 2013 and have since won a number of awards.



SUCCESS: Calum Ross of the Loch Melfort Hotel was chosen as HITA 2015 Ambassador of the Year.



LANDMARK EVENT: An exhibition will showcase new large-scale works by Jolomo.

Princess Royal to open Jolomo exhibition

BESTSELLING Scottish artist John Lowrie Morrison OBE (Jolomo) is the subject of a landmark exhibition in Glasgow's Mitchell Library, which will be opened by HRH The Princess Royal.

Jolomo@the Mitchell is the Tayvallich artist's biggest show this year and will include a major selection of new paintings.

John's distinctive expressionist landscapes of Scotland have made him one of the country's most successful artists, with celebrities such as Sting, Madonna and Rick Stein buying his work.

In this show, he will unveil a number of new large-scale panoramic works, a shift away from his signature square-format for the first time in 40 years.

The exhibition will also reveal another side to John's work: portraits and drawings of crofters in Argyll, and striking portraits of disabled children, which were completed when he was a student at Glasgow School of Art.

John Lowrie Morrison OBE said: 'As a Glasgow lad, I'm delighted to be having a show in the Mitchell Library Reading Room when I was a teenager at Hyndland Secondary School studying for my highers. Now, it's a fantastic exhibition space.'

'It feels like a museum - the scale of the space seemed to lend itself to some bigger work. I have made a couple of really large landscape-format works. I've been painting square paintings for 40 years, so this is a major departure. I decided to include a selection of retrospective works, which a lot of people won't have seen.'

'I'm not associated with figurative work. It will be interesting for people to see that I'm not a one-trick pony, as some people have said.'

All the paintings, excluding the retrospective works, will be for sale, with a percentage of the proceeds going to Carers Trust.

John and his wife Maureen are vice presidents of Carers Trust, which has HRH The Princess Royal as president.

The show opens on Thursday November 19.

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Council outlines economic progress

'HEADING in the right direction' is how the chairman of an influential Argyll and Bute Council committee last week described the region's economic situation.

Councillor Ellen Morton was speaking as council officers presented a half-year performance report on development and infrastructure services.

Among a number of successes listed were improvements to Oban through the Stafford Street development and planning permission for a new maritime visitor centre in the town.

In the report to the environment, development and infrastructure committee, Helensburgh and Campbeltown CHORD developments were also highlighted, while the council's Business Gateway team supported 28 business start-ups, creating 35 new jobs, during the reporting period.

There are, however, challenges to economic prosperity, including a fundamental threat as the council struggles to meet its obligations under the Single Outcome Agreement as a means of achieving long-term prosperity, sustainable employment and inward investment. Another potentially stormy passage involves the transfer of responsibilities to Transport Scotland for ferries serving Jura, Lismore, Lu-

ing and Easdale. The implications of a ban on waste landfill in 2020 is also exercising minds in Kilmory, though there was encouragement as the proportion of recycling increased.

On a broader front, attracting staff with the right skills to certain council posts has proved difficult, while staff absence within the authority continues to cause concern.

Fergus Murray, head of service for economic development, said: 'Staff are working hard to ensure success along with a whole range of partners, though there are challenges ahead.'

Under questioning from councillor Bruce Marshall, Mr Murray conceded that economic progress was not equally spread, explaining: 'There are areas such as Bute and Cowal with some challenging economic issues, but in that area there are also successes like Portavadie, as well as opportunities around Castle Toward and the new Ardyne development.'

He added: 'We are working alongside HIE to improve connectivity and transport across the whole region to stimulate economic activity.'

Concluding, Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'It's still an uneven, fragile picture, but I do feel we are heading in the right direction.'

Euro cash boost for businesses

EUROPEAN funding will 'significantly increase' help available to accelerate the growth of small and medium-sized businesses.

Argyll and Bute councillors were told last Thursday it was hoped 236 new businesses would be developed under Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator and that it would significantly increase the assistance available to help

the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region and contribute to the National Business Gateway approach to supporting growth businesses across Scotland.

The council is also applying for European funding to deliver other projects, including support and skills for those people 'furthest removed from the labour market'.

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Abigail flexes her muscles but shows mercy to Argyll

STORM Abigail didn't wreak as much havoc in the West Highlands and Islands as expected, but still caused power outages and school closures.

The storm, the first to be officially named by the Met Office, left more than 20,000 homes without power as winds as high as 101mph and heavy rain swept across the region on Thursday night and Friday morning.

The storm was deemed 'quieter than expected' by the Met Office, but caused a spate of power cuts, with more than 30 high-voltage faults reported in the area, including Argyll, Skye, the Western Isles and Colonsay.

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) engineers worked late into the night on Thursday, then started at first light on Friday to restore power and assess damage caused by the high winds and lightning strikes.

The Western Isles was one of the areas worst-affected, with all schools and nurseries closed to children on Friday and all CalMac ferries cancelled to and from the Western Isles on Thursday and Friday.

Other facilities, including Barra Medical Practice, libraries and leisure centres closed early on Thursday and Friday, and bus services ran on limited services.

On Monday, Western Isles schools were still weathering the storm, with Eoligarry and Castlebay closed all day, and Lochmaddy and Paible, Lionacleit, Balivanich, and Daliburgh all sending pupils home early.

Traffic-wise, in Lochaber, Highland Council staff responded to some disruption in the early evening of Friday, with trees blown over on the A861 near Tresaig. There was also flooding at the Lochybridge and Kingairloch junction on the A861. At the time of going to press,

Argyll and Bute Council reported no major incidents.

Meanwhile, ferry operator CalMac said it had weathered the storm well, delivering more than two thirds of ferry services.

Operations director, Drew Collier, said: 'Collated figures are now available and show that on Thursday CalMac operated 224 sailings from a total of 337 timetabled, while on Friday 277 sailings from a total of 352 were successfully completed as the company continued to deliver its vital services across the 200-mile long network.'

'Where possible and, of course, when safe to do so, we were determined to keep our ferries running.'

The lighthouse at Ardrishaig harbour was battered by waves whipped up by Storm Abigail. 147storm06



LORN lines

Oban pupils' charity Doo

OBAN High School senior pupils did all they could 'Doo' for Children in Need last Thursday, with some dressing up as the characters from the famous crime-fighting cartoon, Scooby Doo.

Although Scooby was missing from the picture, the sixth year pupils were joined by Batman, Robin, and characters from the Incredibles cartoon.

Mrs Shona Sharp, who teaches religious, moral and philosophical studies, got into the spirit of the day by dressing up as legendary guitarist Slash, of Guns N' Roses fame.

Other fundraising endeavours included a fun fashion show and the ever-popular 'soak the teacher', although given Storm Abigail's appearance, most were soaked before a wet sponge was even lobbed.

Drumming marathon

AN OBAN High School pupil has



Senior pupils with teacher Mrs Shona Sharp, front, as Slash. 15_147scooby01

done a 'bang up' job, raising more than £600 for a local primary school to buy drumming equipment.

Connor Edwards, 17, organised the 'drumming marathon' at Oban's St Columba's Primary School for his Learning Pathways project, part of a school work placement.

The sixth-year pupil, who lives in Oban, taught drumming techniques to his percussionist protégés, from primary five, six and seven, last Thursday, from 1.30pm to 3pm.

Connor said: 'We had to choose somewhere to go for our Pathways project and I wanted to teach drumming and was asked to come up to the school.'

Previously, the primary school had

been borrowing equipment from Oban High School as they did not have enough sticks and pads for a whole class to learn at once.

The money raised through sponsorship for the drumming marathon will allow a full class of 33 to learn to play drums together at once at St Columba's.

The primary school's head teacher, Ms Michaelina Maclellan, said: 'The school is very grateful to Connor for coming up and working with the children.'

'It's a wonderful experience for the children to get involved in music and hopefully that will continue as they progress on to Oban High School.'



Connor, front left, with his percussionist protégés. 15_147drums01



Glynis Dewar and David Entwistle. 17_T47quiz01

Joint charity quiz success

OBAN Hospice and the town's branch of Cancer Research UK united on Friday for their first joint fundraiser.

The Black Friday Quiz was such a success, Glynis Dewar and David Entwistle, left, who chair the Oban branch of the cancer charity and the hospice respectively, are now asking their committees and members to think of more events they could do together to help keep overheads low.

Oban Masonic Lodge hosted the

quiz, which was set by Tony Cave, well-known for setting some real brain teasers. The lounge bar at the lodge was packed and as a result each charity received £275.

School banner on dog fouling

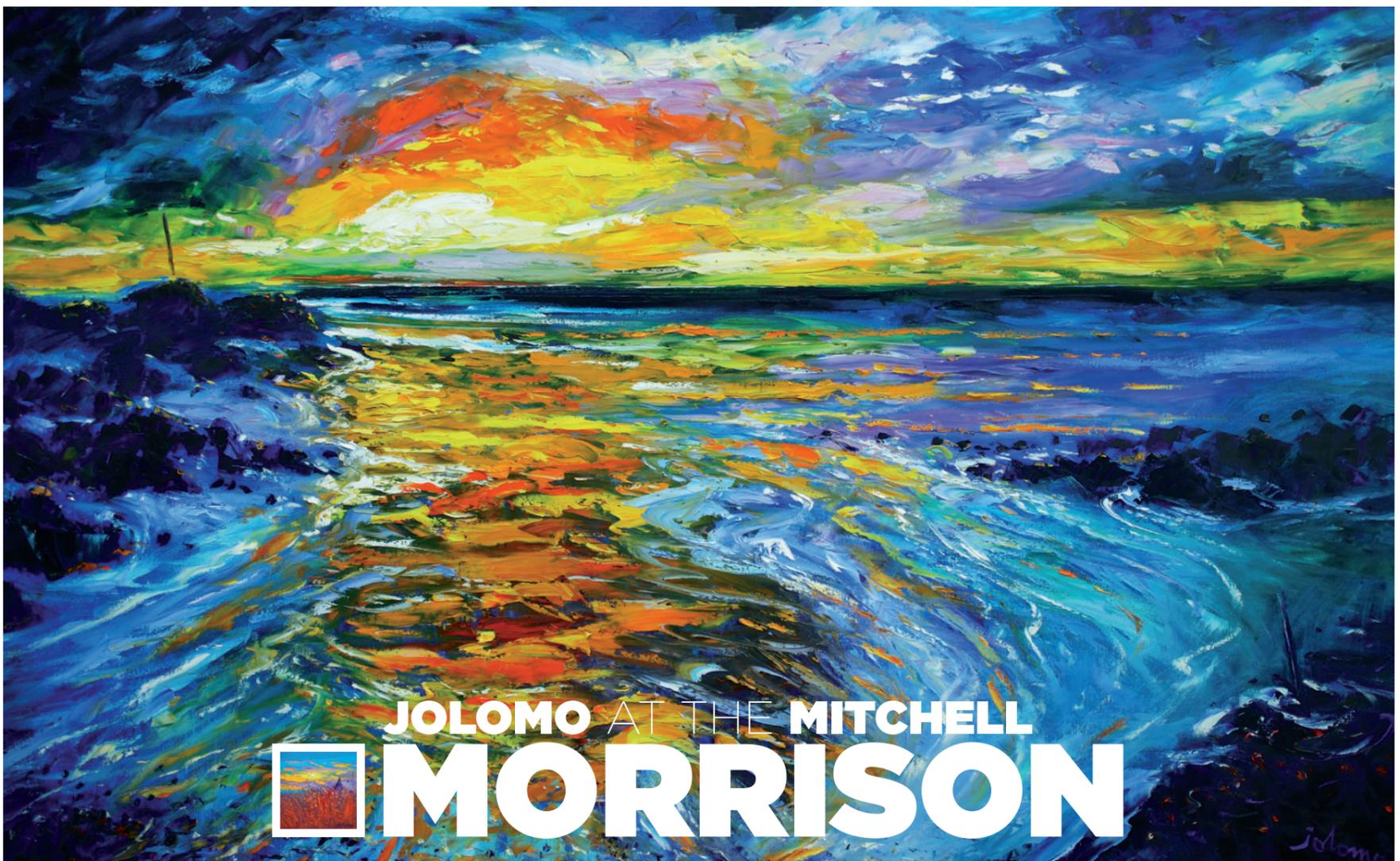
A BANNER has been placed at Park Primary School in a bid to deter pet owners from allowing their dogs to defecate on the children's playground.

Community councillor and co-founder of the group community action against dog fouling, Julie Mackenzie, revealed that the school janitor was having to clear up dog faeces from the playground on an almost daily basis.

Julie continued: 'We've lent the banner to the school and alerted the amenity warden to the issue in the hope that it will highlight awareness and hopefully result in the offenders being fined.'

'There is no excuse for people not to be picking up after their dogs in areas where children play.'

'The main concern is the obvious hazard posed to children's health by the actions of these inconsiderate dog owners. We'd urge the residents of Dunollie to report the people who are doing this to Argyll and Bute Council.'



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TRAGEDY: Inveraray is in shock following the death of Ross Kennedy

Inveraray mourns after road tragedy

THE PEOPLE of Inveraray have been left shocked after a local man tragically lost his life in a car accident just south of the town.

Ross Kennedy, 24, died at the scene following the two-car crash, which happened on the A83 near Dalchenna Farm at around 4.20pm on Friday November 6. The driver and the passenger of the second vehicle, who were also local, sustained no serious injuries in the incident.

The road was closed for around six hours to allow police investigations to take place.

The tragedy has stunned the close-knit community.

One local woman said: 'Ross was a really nice lad, and our hearts go out to his family and friends. It's just so sad.'

Ross's family also spoke of their loss. Mum Lynn said: 'He had just gone out the door a few minutes earlier. When we heard there had been an accident, we didn't think anything like this would have happened.'

'It's just unbelievable. There is a huge hole in all of our lives, but if what happened makes young drivers think about the dangers of the road, at least some good will have come out of it.'

She continued: 'People all around Inveraray have been so kind, and it means a lot to us. Ross was just an easy going, kind-hearted boy. He would have done anything to help anyone.'

Sergeant Archie McGuire, from the divisional road policing unit, said: 'I would appeal to any witnesses to please contact the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire divisional road policing unit via the 101 telephone number.'

Councillors to back fishermen

ARGYLL and Bute Council has agreed to support the fishing industry as it struggles to cope with a raft of measures restricting its activity.

Even as demand grows for premium Scottish shellfish, West Coast fishermen are having to deal with a wide range of proposals aimed at conserving shellfish and finfish stocks – moves they claim could decimate their industry, the supply trades and entire communities that depend upon fishing.

By the end of the year, the Scottish Government plans to introduce a number of Marine Protection Areas and marine Special Areas of Conservation at the same time as conservation charity SIFT (Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust) is pressing for a regulating order affecting the Firth of Clyde.

Argyll and Bute Council last week agreed to support the fishing industry's case in a formal motion that began: 'The implementation of these proposals will have a disproportionate impact on Argyll and Bute and have the potential to cause further depopulation to already-fragile communities.'

The council also expressed concern that restrictions in one area would force boats to move elsewhere, leading to adverse environmental impacts in that area.

Recognising the efforts already made by Clyde fishermen to enhance the sustainability of fishing grounds, councillors also urged the Scottish Government to provide urgent financial assistance and support to fishing businesses, the local supply chain and their families, as well as the wider communities affected – should the measures go ahead as planned.

Budget strain hits families

CONCERNS have been raised about scathing cuts being considered in Argyll and Bute by The Scottish Children's Services Coalition, a group of charity bosses.

The group claims the public need to be aware that one in five children need support at school and cuts will threaten

vital children's services in Argyll and across Scotland.

The major campaign launched by Tom McGhee of Spark of Genius; Duncan Dunlop of Who Cares? Scotland; Stuart Jacob of Falkland House School; Sophie Pilgrim of Kindred and Niall Kelly of Young Foundations will see a

fight back to 'ridiculous cuts proposed by the local authority.'

A spokeswoman for the coalition said: 'The potential to cut services is set against a backdrop of increasing demand for children's services, with the number of those identified with Additional Support Needs

(ASN) standing at around one in five of the school population. 'Urgent action is required to ensure that those children and young people with ASN are identified as early as possible and provided with adequate support.'

The spokeswoman continued: 'Cutting already dimin-

ished resources is simply not an option and we would urge authorities to protect services for children and young people, using the current financial environment as an opportunity to explore the potential for public service reform and the delivery of services in the most efficient and effective manner.'

Families from action group Argyll and Bute: Parents Against Council Cuts (AB-PACC) thanked the national coalition for their support and shared with The Oban Times the stress they have been under since the threat to their children's education was announced.

Our Story by Liz Davidson, Ross' mum



SUPPORT: Ross handing over a petition signed by more than 1,000 people within a short time frame.

'WE MOVED to Argyll around 10 years ago for the work/life-style balance and primarily it was viewed by us as perhaps a better choice to raise a family.'

'We were lucky enough to be blessed with a great wee guy, Ross, 7. He really does have an infectious wee character and is known widely because of this.'

'However he struggles with day-to-day life due to being autistic, something that will become more and more apparent to him as he grows older.'

'Since we first discovered these cuts, which were explained to us by another anxious parent, we have been all consumed with them, particularly in relation to the 45 per cent Additional Support Needs (ASN) proposed cut in support for our child.'

'We just couldn't believe that this could possibly be an option for Argyll and Bute Council given that they have a statutory obligation to disabled children.'

'It totally flies in the face of GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child - a national framework policy for the delivery of education), something all councils in Scotland must adhere to. 'We have been writing to

councillors and meeting with them, including council leader Dick Walsh and area chairman Roddy McCuish, who were part of the project board who made the decision to put forward the cuts in the first place.'

'We have also been writing to MSPs and even MPs.'

'All of this stress means we have been having trouble sleeping and concentrating on family life as a whole.'

'We attended a meeting recently with councillors and were extremely upset to see another parent, a very articulate parent, become tearful when trying to get answers as to why these cut's are even considered as an option.'

'We can see exactly the same anxieties and worries in other parents eyes and hear it in their voices.'

'We know cuts need to be made in the hard times we are living in, namely austerity, however surely it cannot be to the detriment of the most vulnerable within our society?'

'It beggars belief. Suffice to say it is clear that the parents of all disabled children are suffering massively due to the stress and strain that the council have put us under.'

Mum Jan Roberts added: 'The last weeks since October 2 when the budget consultation was announced have been extremely stressful for us all.'

'We have had sleepless nights and endless worry. Every day/week is stressful, as it is, but this takes things to a whole new level.'

'We feel committed to working as a group and we are very committed to our campaign. No parent would change their involvement it's for our kids and what wouldn't you do for your children?'

'However, we should never have been put into this situation by Argyll and Bute Council.'

'It's tiring, it's emotional – but we won't give up. To put an option of a 45 per cent cut to a service that is already under strain is unbelievable and the possible consequences of such a cut are endless.'

'We urge the public to make use of the public consultation document and to say no to these and other cuts that will detrimentally affect their life.'



APPEAL: Matthew and his mum who are opposed to the council cuts and want other people to help them in their fight.

'We are parents who are already pushed to our limits'

KIRSTEEN BINNIE told the Oban Times: 'My son Matthew is 13 years old.'

'He has learning difficulties and a severe speech disorder – he cannot speak – he signs, points and gestures.'

'He has just gone into first year at high school and has settled well, but one thing that has made a key difference is the staff who were trained in sign language before he came to high school.'

'For children like Matthew, having adults supporting you who know you and understand your communication is vitally important, and if this 45 per cent cut goes ahead, as a parent I am so concerned this will result in the loss of trained

and experienced staff who do so much to support children who have communication difficulties.'

'I can't tell you how much additional stress the past couple of months have put on our lives as we have worked hard to campaign against these cuts.'

'Not only do we have our son to support but many of the parents in the group have jobs to hold down, other children to take care of or elderly relatives to support as well.'

'We are parents who are already pushed to our limits because of the needs that our children have. We need our community to stand up and support our children.'

TIMESLINE

Council to help dairy farmers

THE FUTURE viability of dairy farming in Argyll and Bute is one of the region's key challenges, says a council chief.

In a report to the local authority's environment, development and infrastructure committee, executive director Pippa Milne described the challenge as 'supporting the dairy farming sector, which faces significant global market challenges over the price of milk with the future viability of the dairy sector'.

The committee agreed to continue working with the Argyll and Bute Agricultural Forum and NFUS representatives to find ways of supporting dairy farmers.

Committee member, Councillor John Armour, said: 'We are looking to meet with farmers in Kintyre to get their views.'

Knitwear shop to close in December

STAFF at Pitlochry Knitwear on Oban's George Street have been issued redundancy notices, with the shop set to close on December 27.

The store, owned by the Edinburgh Woolen Mill, has stood on the same site for more than 25 years.

Staff said the closure was a 'bit of a shock'.

Pink ladies day

CALLING all pink ladies for a day of friendship, good food and relaxation in Inveraray on December 4.

Open to women with first hand experience of breast cancer to share a day with other like-minded women.

To reserve one of 50 free places email Nicky Murphy on pinkladiesday@outlook.com by November 27.

Service pipe band

THE Oban Times would like to clarify that the pipe band that played in last week's Remembrance service was a mixture of both Oban High School Pipe Band and Oban Pipe Band.



BIGGER AND BETTER: Trustees and volunteers outside the newly extended shop.

Local causes to benefit from charity's growth

THE OBAN Community Charity Shop has extended into an adjacent shop, allowing it to carry more stock and raise even more cash for local causes.

The shop on the North Pier, known locally as the White Building, has been used by MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust since 2009. The trust moved into the building next door last Wednesday.

Robin MacQueen, one of the trustees, said: 'The building was being used as a site office during the Mòd. All the work to get it up to a useable standard was done voluntarily. All our shop staff are volunteers, so apart from our running costs, all the money raised stays in the community.'

Around 30 people give up their time to keep the shop going from Monday to Saturday, from 10am to 4pm, with quarterly committee meetings held to decide where donations will go, based on requests from local causes.

Mary Tindall, who began volunteering six years ago, said: 'Most of us have been here since we first opened.'

'We mainly worked together at the Mòd and knew each other.'

'The guys at the top let us get on with it, which is good, and the scenery looking out onto the bay is brilliant.'

Frank Walton, who is also a trustee, said: 'It's good because it saves things going to landfill, and gives people the chance to donate and things to be reused.'

'All the money goes into the local economy,

and it's amazing how often someone will buy something like a couch, then when they are finished with it, will donate it back to the shop and it gets sold again, maybe another two or three times.'

Robin added: 'The committee for the Oban Mòd had to raise £50,000 and the trust managed to provide around £28,000 of it, which was great for us and them.'

Graham MacQueen, also a trustee, said: 'For the past few years, Oban and district has benefited hugely from the MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust. Each year, many thousands of pounds are distributed locally to deserving good causes.'

The trust depends on a number of organisations and supporters to enable it to plough almost all the money it raises back into the community.

'Chief among these is the fact that suitable premises are available to us. On behalf of all the trustees, I have to thank most sincerely Argyll and Bute Council for their continuing support by allowing us the use of the White Building.'

'Premises on their own would be of no use, and the trustees give a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who man the store every day, giving their time so freely and generously – the trust could not function without them.'

Graham also thanked the public for all the donations received over the years, as well as cash donations and people buying items for sale.

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Coll

ADULT film audiences on Coll can look forward to an evening of whisky and cinema next month with a Whisky Galore evening on December 12 at community hub, An Cridhe.

Billed as a double measure of classic comedy and marvellous malts, everyone aged over 18 years is welcome.

Winter games nights kicked off yesterday (Wednesday) with a Scrabble night. Other games nights, including a poker night in December and whist in January, are planned with dates to be confirmed.

The regular volunteer garden work parties, with the young project volunteers on the island, who offer their time to help in the community as part of their selection process, are urging more people to get involved.

The first event is on Thursday November 26 when there will be daffodil planting in remembrance of John Waters, key holder of the Old Hall.

Organisers have said it is an opportunity to spend time with enthusiastic young people and help them find out more about living on the Isle of Coll.

There are also general maintenance tasks such as caring for the young trees, tackling the brambles and planting donations of cuttings etc.

Work is carried out from 9am to 12pm with a break around 10.30am. People are welcome to attend at any time. For any information about events at An Cridhe, telephone 01879 230 000 or email info@ancridhe.co.uk

Plockton

JUST two inches of rain fell in Plockton during October, compared to 11 and a half in the same month last year.

The warmest day was 18.5°C and the coldest was 4.4°C.

The final meeting of the present Plockton and District Community Council was held in Plockton hall on October 27. Among the main items discussed were roads, Burnside bridge, septic tanks, station road and village maintenance.

Outgoing chairman Charlie MacRae, who was on the community council for 40 years, thanked members of the council and local Highland councillors.

He also listed some of the most successful achievements of the community council over his 40 years.

They included the removal of the refuse dump, winning the Drumbaie inquiry, the building of new pontoons at Plockton, the stand taken by the council to get Station Road repaired at no cost to the residents, the new sewage system and keeping the village tidy after the cows left.

The first meeting of the new community council will be held on December 8.

Lochaber

MEMBERS of all Scottish Women's Institutes in Lochaber came together in Fort William for their autumn rally.

The main speaker at the event in the Salvation Army hall last Saturday was countryside ranger Angus MacIntyre. He spoke of changes in his role over the years, including his work in the community with summer play schemes, local events and flora and fauna walks. The talk was accompanied by a slideshow of Lochaber scenery.

Morar Institute won the trophy for best syllabus. Other competitions included best wildlife photograph which was won by Marion Davidson, followed by Pauline Elwell in second and Audrey MacEachan in third.

Best rock buns was won by June Cairns with Edythe Knowles coming second and Margaret MacEachan in third.

Morar

SIX MEMBERS attended the November meeting of the Morar Scottish Women's Institute, hosted by Nicky Parish.

The ladies enjoyed a demonstration on how to make their own paper gift boxes.

Winner of the competition for best muffins was Eleanor Reid, followed by Heather Simpson in second and Pauline Elwell in third. Eleanor also came first in the jewellery contest, followed by Pauline Elwell with Audrey MacEachan coming third. And good things came in threes for Eleanor, who also won the raffle.

The next meeting will be held on December 3 with guests Ken and Jean Bowker, who will be speaking on local archaeology.

Spean Bridge

THE NEWLY-elected members of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council will have their first meeting next month.

There will be a short meeting with the new community councillors on December 1 at 7pm, for a Highland Council official to formally approve the new members and then to elect the office bearers.

There are two vacancies and the community council is welcoming anyone who would be willing to serve to apply.

The normal monthly meeting will start at 7.20pm, after the new members are approved.

Invergarry

THE ANNUAL Invergarry Christmas craft fair returns this weekend.

Producers from up and down the Great Glen will be selling cakes, jewellery, cards, candles and everything in between in Glengarry hall from 10am on Saturday.

A children's craft table, sponsored by the Glengarry Trust, will have lots of festive activities to keep the little ones entertained.



NAME THAT GRITTER: Anna Macfarlane Barrow, left, and her fellow Dalmally pupils beside 'The Ice Destroyer'.

Dalmally pupil names new gritter

DALMALLY Primary School pupil Anna Macfarlane Barrow won the chance to name a new BEAR Scotland winter spreader through a competition run by Transport Scotland this winter.

The winning name, The Ice Destroyer, was picked by Transport Minister

Derek Mackay as part of Transport Scotland's trunk road winter campaign launch for 2015/2016.

Newly-named 'The Ice Destroyer' is one of 45 state-of-the-art mega-spreaders, including 22 new vehicles, that will serve trunk roads

in the north of Scotland this winter. The school is one of seven from across the North of Scotland that took part in a competition to name seven of BEAR Scotland's new state-of-the-art spreaders that serve the trunk roads in their areas.

Kilchrenan voyage of discovery

KILCHRENAN Primary School pupils are preparing to become space biologists and embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space.

In September, 2kgs of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station on Soyuz 44S where they will spend several months in microgravity before returning to earth in March 2016.

The seeds were sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Kilchrenan Primary School will be one of up to

10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which they will grow alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the differences over seven weeks. The students won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

The out-of-this-world, nationwide science experiment will enable the children to think more about how human life could be preserved on another planet in the future, what astronauts need to survive

long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates.

Head teacher Graham Dickie said: 'We are very excited to be taking part in Rocket Science. This experiment is a fantastic way of teaching our students to think more scientifically, and builds on our success in achieving a merit award in the Rolls Royce Science prize.'

'It is an example of the way in which small schools can offer and deliver an innovative and engaging curriculum, whilst giving us the experience with

working with other students across the UK.' Rocket Science is just one educational project from a programme developed by the UK Space Agency to celebrate British ESA astronaut Tim Peake's Principia mission to the ISS and inspire young people to look into careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects, including horticulture.

Applications to take part in Rocket Science are still open and will close in March next year or until all packs have been allocated. Schools and educational groups can apply at rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening.

Highlands

Highlands has highest pass rates

SITTING a driving test can be a stressful experience, but those struggling can give themselves an advantage by sitting their driving tests in the Highlands of Scotland.

The test centres with the highest pass rates in Britain are Mallaig, with an 83.3 per cent pass rate, Barra with 81.3 per cent, Kyle of Lochalsh with 73.5 per cent and Portree with 71.3 per cent of motorists passing.

Areas throughout London and Birmingham have the lowest pass rates, with figures ranging from only 30 to 35 per cent of drivers passing their test.



SWEET: Alice Campbell who gave a demonstration on sweet making.

Kilmore

Sweet deal at Kilmore meeting

A SWEET deal was had at the latest Kilmore and District SWI meeting, with Alice Campbell of the Tainuilt institute giving a demonstration on sweet making.

She showed the ladies how to make macaroon bars and lemon, peppermint and coffee pecan creams.

The winners of the night's competitions were Ann Ferguson, who made the best treacle scones, and Mamie Nicolson, who made the best knitted cake. The group also had Christmas in mind as members had the chance to sell some of their craftwork.

MORVERN lines

Wonderful local history sources

ITS title suggests something pretty dull and boring but The Statistical Accounts of Scotland is certainly not; it is the greatest source of research on Scottish life in the 18th to 21st centuries ever published.

There have been three accounts. The first, called the 'Old', was published between 1791 and 1799 by Scottish politician Sir John Sinclair from Ulbster, a scattered crofting community on the east coast of Caithness.

The second, known as the 'New', came out between 1834 and 1845 under the auspices of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the third, consisting of 27 volumes, between 1951 and 1992. The first two are considered to be among the finest European contemporary records of life in Scotland during the agricultural and industrial revolutions.

Many people think of statistics as just tedious figures and tables but these accounts, which can now be accessed online and printed off, are far more interesting than that.

Parish by parish they provide a rich record of a wide variety of topics: wealth, class and poverty; climate, agriculture, fishing and wildlife; population, schools, and the moral health of the people; antiquities, geology, place names and local history.

How was the information gathered in the days before telephone, fax and internet? In 1790, Sir John sent questionnaires to more than 900 parish ministers, covering the whole of Scotland.

These contained 160 questions in four sections, namely geography and topography, population, agricultural and industrial production and miscellaneous questions.

The second and third accounts followed a similar pattern but this time the contributors included doctors, schoolmasters and local historians on the assumption they were likely to be meticulous and enlightened scholars with a good command of the English language which was thought essential in the more remote Highland and Island parishes where Gaelic was still in everyday use.

It is also possible the compilers felt that some of the ministers were becoming too judgemental. For example, spending money on football pools was denounced; in the parish of Kemback, Fife, the minister described the inhabitants of Dura Den as extremely ignorant and singing in the schools and the church in the Parish of Inch, Wigtownshire, was 'painful to an educated ear'.

In the days when parish ministers were already doubling-up as voluntary marriage-guidance counsellors, farmers, social workers, lawyers and land agents as well as gatherers of souls, being asked to compile what amounted to a major history of their parish must often have been an unwanted chore. But on the whole what they wrote was well done; their contributions have stood the test of time and are more or less at-the-moment snapshots of the past.

Here are a few extracts from the 'Old' statistical account for the Parish of Morvern. It was compiled by the Rev Norman Macleod who, in 1794, recorded there were 14,000 sheep (of the South Country breed), 2,500 black cattle, 250 horses, 1,764 people (in 1793, today there are 181), 34 weavers, 15 tailors, two blacksmiths, one shoe makers, four broguemakers and 12 dramhouses.

By 1843, the Rev John Macleod, son of the previous minister, writing in the flowery 'New' account style, recorded the freestone quarries at Lochaline and Ardtornish had provided stone for the Crinan Canal, Lochaline House and the Lismore lighthouse. The sheep population had risen to 29,000, while black cattle numbers had fallen to 690. His main grouse was the shortage of roads, the rainfall, the inferior inns, the lack of a resident doctor, an infestation of moles, absentee landowners and no regular or steady employment.

Just over a century later, the Rev Hector MacSween, who contributed the chapter on Morvern for the third account, managed to be a bit more upbeat. He recorded 460 people living in the parish and although the number of children had fallen sharply there were still schools at Lochaline, Claggan and Bunavullin with rolls of 25, 20 and nine each in the charge of a woman teacher. The percentage of Gaelic speakers had fallen from 86 in 1881 to approximately 50 in 1955, but it was still habitually spoken by the older inhabitants. On Ardtornish estate a good herd of dairy cattle provided the people of Lochaline with their milk supplies.

Up to 1952 approximately 430,000 tons of high quality silica sand had been exported from Lochaline. The annual output was between 40,000 and 50,000 tons employing 50 workers housed in temporary accommodation at Tor-na-Fhaire and elsewhere around the village. Electricity was provided by the sand mine.

The sand was transported from an adit on the west shore of Loch Aline over a light railway to a processing plant and pier on the Sound of Mull where it was crushed, screened, washed and stored in bunkers ready for shipping.

About 25 men were in regular employment in Fiunary Forest bought by the Forestry Commission in 1930, which meant there was little or no unemployment in the 1950s.

Try Googling the Statistical Accounts of Scotland the next time you are on the 'net'. Search for your own parish and be prepared for a pleasant surprise.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



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NEWS OF FORT WILLIAM RESIDENT SERIOUSLY INJURED IN FRENCH SHOOTINGS APPEARS TO BE BOGUS

Hoax fears follow claim man lay in coma in wake of Paris attacks

Young trio jump to it for Children in Need



Fort William one-year-olds Evie Love, Estelle Gibb and Cruiz Campbell raised £233 for Children In Need with a sponsored jump organised by their childminders Nicola Gray and Shona Denholme. For more on Children In Need see page three.

EMMA CRICHTON
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REPORTS of a young Fort William father thought to be in hospital in an induced coma following the terror attacks in Paris may have been a hoax.

A number of media outlets said the father-of-one, named as Hamish 'Callum' MacDonald had been found unconscious outside the Bataclan Music Hall with a head injury, and since the attacks on Friday, a woman, claiming to be his cousin, Leah, had been using Twitter to give updates on his condition.

On Tuesday, Ian Blackford, the MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, spoke to BBC Radio Scotland's Highlands and Islands news saying he had received the sad news that 'a young man from Fort William, Hamish MacDonald, known as

Callum MacDonald, is sadly in an induced coma in Paris having been caught up in the events in the Bataclan.'

But it now appears the whole story may have been a rouse as The Oban Times contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in a bid to clarify the situation and was told they had not dealt with anyone with that name.

A spokeswoman said: 'One British national is confirmed to have died and two others were injured and treated in hospital.'

'If there are other British nationals who have been affected but have not sought our assistance, they can contact FCO consular staff on 0207 008 1500.

'We have provided consular support to everyone we are aware of and will have an enhanced package of support

to those who were directly caught up in the attacks.'

Later on Tuesday, Mr Blackford told The Oban Times he had been informed the whole thing was likely to be a hoax following investigations by multiple public sector organisations.

He added: 'I was concerned when I heard there may have been a person from Fort William involved, as I would be about anyone involved in this situation.'

'If it is the case that this was a hoax it's extremely disappointing that anyone should behave in such a manner because a lot of time and effort will have been wasted in attempts to track down this unidentified person.'

The Twitter account allegedly run by the man's cousin was closed on Tuesday afternoon. Prior to this,

Leah had been using social media to track down Callum, describing him as being 24 years old, from Fort William, with ginger hair and a tattoo of an eagle. The woman, whose Twitter account said she lived in Inverness, thanked people for their support before stating she would be deactivating the account.

A police spokesman confirmed enquiries into the Twitter account are ongoing.

During The Oban Times' attempts to track down Callum's family, no one in Lochaber could shed any light on his identity. Everyone asked was at a loss as to who the young man might be.

Neil Clark, chairman of Fort William Community Council, said: 'I have no idea who he is. I've been asking around but nobody seems to know anything about him.'

TIMESLINE

Festive fun galore in Fort William

FORT WILLIAM will be full of Christmas cheer next weekend. Events kick off with the town's Christmas Gathering on Friday evening, November 27, which will see the High Street filled with circus acts, late night shopping, mulled wine and a visit from Santa Claus.

He will be back in town the following morning, this time with his reindeer, at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's Christmas Festival, with a parade leaving Cameron Square at 11am. Festivities continue with a craft and produce fair at the Nevis Centre, with live music, a bouncy castle and Santa's grotto.

Biography of late MP is published

A BIOGRAPHY of Charles Kennedy has been published, five months after the politician's death.

The life of the former Liberal Democrat leader, who was born and lived in Fort William, has been outlined in an updated version of the original biography 'Charles Kennedy: A Tragic Flaw', originally written in 2006 by Greg Hurst.

Mr Hurst said: 'He was a man touched by greatness, one of the most talented politicians of his generation.'

Children's rights in the spotlight

YOUNG people deserve the best possible service, say attendees of the first children's rights conference in Fort William.

Forty professionals joined directors and staff of Lochaber Women's Aid for the event, focusing on how public, private and voluntary organisations can ensure children are aware of their rights.

Ardnamurchan pair make it to Gaelic debating final

TWO ARDNAMURCHAN high school pupils have made it to the final of a national Gaelic speaking debate.

Rona Nicolson and Charlie-Anne Pleming, both fifth years, achieved the highest marks of the 20 teams competing in the Stornoway qualifiers of the National Gàidhlig Debate and will travel to Edinburgh for the finals at the Scottish Parliament later this month.

Gaelic teacher John MacInnes was full of praise for his two students: 'This is a huge

achievement for the girls who worked brilliantly together as a team throughout the competition. The standard of debate was very high but they rose to the occasion to outperform many larger schools and are now looking forward to the finals.'

Head teacher Chris Millar-Craig added: 'We are very proud of the girls' success and of what the Gaelic medium provision here at Ardnamurchan High School has achieved. Well done to everyone involved.'

SUCCESS: Rona Nicolson, left, and Charlie-Anne Pleming have made it to the final of a national Gaelic debating competition.



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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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There won't be one person who hasn't been affected by the shocking events in Paris at the weekend. For many our thoughts and prayers have been with the families and friends of those who died, as well as with the many innocent people who were injured. But for one Oban couple the fear was all too real as they became caught up in the aftermath following the shooting at the restaurant.

Scared and struggling to find their way back to their holiday apartment, one thing that stood out for them was the kindness of strangers. While cafés and taxi drivers had refused to help them, one restaurant owner fed and sheltered them, got them back to their flat, and then got them to airport the next day, with nothing asked in return. It is this compassion and selflessness that gives us hope and helps us believe the terrorists can never win.



Days gone by – Tulloch School pupils, Roy Bridge, 1920s

Ian Lockhart of Dunbeg submitted this week's flashback photograph. It features children from Fersit and Inverlair who were pupils at Tulloch School, Roy Bridge, in the 1920s. Ian's father Louis Lockhart is pictured back row, left. He stayed at Rouchburn Cottage, near Tulloch. Digital versions of flashback photos for the *Oban Times* can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, the *Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Scottish government to blame for cuts

Sir, Residents are rightly angry at the destructive cuts to services being proposed by Argyll and Bute Council, but the blame should be directed towards those responsible.

It's the Scottish Government in Holyrood which has starved all councils in Scotland of funds by refusing to allow them to raise Council Tax. Isn't it ironic that the SNP in Scotland is meekly following the policy of the Conservative Government, which is squeezing councils in England the same way.

Education services must be protected

Sir, The parents of Rockfield Primary School, Oban, would like to express their grave concerns about the proposed cuts in education which have been put out to public consultation by Argyll and Bute Council.

We are particularly concerned about the proposed 45 per cent reduction in additional support needs (ASN) and the extensive range of duties provided, from supporting children with complex additional support needs, supporting literacy and numeracy programmes, admin-

istering first aid, working one-to-one with children and providing support at breaks.

The loss of qualified staff would have a detrimental effect on our school and many children would not be able to fully access all areas of the curriculum if they lost support.

Education is a vital service which must be protected so that children have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Rockfield Parent Council.

SNP has squandered cash on wrong things

Sir, Mrs Macdonald accuses me of amnesia and dishonesty (letter, November 12).

She is mistaken. The block grant paid by the UK Government to the Scottish Government is higher, even when taking inflation into account, than when the SNP came to power. The problem is the SNP has spent the money on the wrong things, including the Referendum and grandiose central belt projects. If I were the local MSP, I'd be demanding more money for Argyll and Bute. Mrs Macdonald appears to have forgotten the SNP won the last council election, but its administration disintegrated within a year. The reason there are so few SNP councillors is because more than half the SNP councillors elected in 2012 have left the SNP group.

Alan Reid, Dunoon.

Bridging attainment is always possible

Sir, With reference to your front page article 'Deprived children not making it to university', I have been a lone parent for the 13 years that my son attended local schools and on low enough income to be entitled to some working and child tax credits.

My son was entitled to free school meals but he chose not to take them. I don't usually speak of his achievements but he gained seven Highers and received three unconditional offers from Scottish universities, one of which he is now attending.

'Bridging the attainment gap' is possible.

With all due respect, don't rely on State provision, be it education or the NHS.

Both his parents contributed to reading to him every day in his early years, routinely helped with homework, taught some subjects not always offered in school, managed quantity and quality of television and computer use, and took him places and to activities of interest requiring little or no money. Most importantly though, I feel, my son was breastfed for more than two years which cost me nothing.

Financially deprived children needn't be nutritionally deprived in

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
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Tiree Gathering begins

A BIG weekend for the Tiree Association has arrived. Its concert is on Thursday night with myself, James Graham and the Rowan Brothers taking to the stage. Robyn Stapleton, who was due to be singing, has unfortunately had to pull out, so the audience will instead be treated to songs from D I Brown, this year's Mòd Gold Medallist, and Bernie Smith, senior. The dance is on Friday night in Glasgow University Union with Gunna Sound. Gunna Sound are also playing from 3pm on Saturday in the Park Bar for the gathering 'hangover cure'!

Glasgow Skye celebrations

DETAILS of the Glasgow Skye's 150th annual gathering have been announced. Looking at the line-up on the poster for the Gathering Concert, this is going to be an incredibly special and historic night.

Clydebank cèilidh success

DESPITE 'A-big-gail', Clydebank Highlanders had a good turn out at its cèilidh on Friday November 13.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
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THA BILE Foghlaim (Alba) 'dol tro chùrsa deasbaid anns a' Phàrlamaid an-dràsta agus am measg phrìomhaid amasan eile a thaobh chòraichean chloinne tha molaidhean ann a thaobh dhleastanasan Chomhairlean air a bhith a' measadh iarrtais agus a' libhrigeadh foghlaim Gàidhlig.

Ach ann am beachd luchd-iomairt na Gàidhlig chan eil seo làidir gu leòr is chan eil e a' toirt còir air foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Gu dearbh chanadh cuid nach biodh cus eadar-dhealachadh ann bhon t-suidheachadh a bh' againn deich bliadhna fichead air ais nuair a bha Comhairlean a bha taiceil dhan chànan deònach aonadan Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh nan d' rachadh aca air luchd-teagaisg a lorg.

'S e an t-eadar-dhealachadh a th' air cùl an deasbaid air a' Bhile seo gum bheil a-nise Achd Gàidhlig againn a tha a' gealltainn co-ionannachd spèis dhan Ghàidhlig ma choinneimh na Beurla, agus tha Plana Nàiseanta Gàidhlig a' daingneachadh rùn Riaghaltais na h-Alba a thaobh leasachadh na Gàidhlig. Le cùisean air gluasad cho fada air adhart, agus le làn-aithne gum bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig bunaiteach ann an ath-leasachadh

a' chànan, tuigear carson a bhiodh luchd-cleachdaidh is taice na Gàidhlig a' sùileachadh gum biodh Bile Foghlaim a' daingneachadh chòraichean agus a' leudachadh chothroman a thaobh Gàidhlig ionnsachadh.

Bha measgachadh theachdaireachdan aig an Àrd-Ollamh Mata MacIomhair na òraid aig dinnear bhliadhnail Chomuinn Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis bho chionn ghoirid, is e a' beachdachadh air ire taice dhan Ghàidhlig bho shiostam foghlaim Alba. 'S e adhartas le taice a th' anns an adhartas le foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns na bun-sgoiltean thuirte Mata, ach thachair sin anns a' mhòr-chuid ri linn spàirn phàrantan agus luchd-taice seach mar thoradh air poileasaidh nàiseanta. Ma tha amasan leasachaidh na Gàidhlig dol a shoirbheachadh tha feum air innleachd a chruithaicheas mòran a bharrachd luchd-teagaisg aig gach ìre, agus tha feum èiginn each air teicneòlas a chur an sàs gus foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a libhrigeadh anns na h-àrd-sgoiltean gus comasan cànan chloinne a chuideachadh a dh'ionnsaigh ìre inbheachd. Tha cruth Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd na chothrom sònraichte dhan Ghàidhlig thuirte Mata, agus 's còir

All artistes gave of their best, and the chairman's theme was on remembrance and the Canadian emigrants – stories which were much enjoyed by the audience.

Clydebank's next cèilidh will be on Friday December 11 in Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Youngsters excel at Glasgow Skye

A SUCCESSFUL evening was enjoyed by a good turnout of family and friends on Saturday November 7 at the Crawford Hall for the Glasgow Skye post-Mòd cèilidh. The youngsters, who had been to the Oban Mòd, demonstrated their great talents: performing solos, duets, Highland Dance, recitation, story telling, piping, fiddle, and accordion playing. The evening was compered by Darren MacLean, a director of the association, and the usual supper was enjoyed by everyone.

Glasgow Mòd 2019

AT THE Royal National Mòd in Oban last month, it was announced the festival will be coming to Glasgow in 2019. There will be an open meeting on Tuesday November 24 in Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu at 7pm to discuss the upcoming event.

What's on

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

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

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

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

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

Friday November 27: Glasgow Uist and Barra association, annual reunion dinner dance, Glynhill hotel.

Thursday December 3: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner, Glasgow University Union.

Friday December 4: Glasgow Skye Association, 150th Annual Gathering Concert, 7.30pm, and dance, 10.30pm, Glasgow University Union.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday November 19: Session. Friday November 20: Ceol an Aire. Saturday November 21: Gunna Sound from 3pm (Tiree Association 'hangover cure').

Sunday November 15: Nicky Mcmichan and Martin Pottinger.

Islay Inn: Friday November 20: Parting Glass. Saturday November 21: The Keelies. Wednesday November 25: quiz night.

Ailean Caimbeul

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

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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, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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'Miracle' man celebrates 50 years

EMMA CRICHTON
 crichton@obantimes.co.uk

A 'MIRACLE' man from Fort William who was told he wouldn't survive a motorbike accident 13 years ago celebrated his 50th birthday at the weekend.

Neil Nicolson was left seriously disabled and with severe head injuries after a woman driving a Volkswagen Sharan pulled out of a side road in Surrey and collided with his Suzuki bike in August 2002.

A mechanic by trade, Neil, then 39, was working as a scaffolder in London at the time of the accident and now has almost no short-term memory and little mobility. After the crash doctors said he was unlikely to survive and if he did



MIRACLE: Neil Nicolson celebrates his 50th birthday, 13 years after a motorbike crash which doctors said he wouldn't survive. He is pictured front centre with his mother, Betty, on his left and his sister, Lizanne, on his right. 21_147neil01

he wouldn't live to see his 40th birthday. But Neil defied the odds and celebrated his 50th birthday in Fort William on Sunday, surrounded by friends and family.

Neil grew up in Staffin, north Skye, with his parents, sister Lizanne Nicolson and brother Ronald Nicolson, before moving to Fort William as a teenager.

Lizanne said: 'We're so proud of Neil. He really is a miracle. To be here celebrating his 50th is just amazing. It's such a huge thing for us all to be here today. The accident changed his life completely but look at him now. He's living in his own specially adapted home, he has carers but he's as independent as he can be.'

Despite having no short-term

memory, Neil can recall events from his younger years and can still speak Gaelic fluently, after learning at school on Skye and at Lochaber High School. He is not paralysed and has slight mobility in his arms but the head injuries he sustained mean his brain can no longer send the appropriate signals needed to walk. This is a vast improvement from the years immediately following the accident when he couldn't move at all.

At the party at An Aird on Sunday, Neil's family asked for donations to be made to Headway, a charity which supports victims of head injuries and their families. Lizanne said: 'People at Headway helped and supported us a lot in the aftermath of the accident.'



GREAT EFFORT: Lochside RC pupils raised £400 from a pyjama day and coffee morning. 21_147lochside01



OUCH: Ibiza Sun beauticians working on Stevie Martin's back wax. 21_147pudsey04



WARM WELCOME: Lochaber Leisure Centre staff at the start of the fundraiser. 21_147pudsey01



Banavie primary four and five pupils count the £650.59 they raised for Children in Need. 21_147banavie02

Digging deep for Children in Need

MORE than £2,000 has been raised for Children in Need through hair-raising events organised by Lochaber Leisure Centre.

Male staff members braved back and leg waxing at Friday night's fundraiser, while Phil Hughes had 25 inches of hair chopped off in his first haircut in 20 years.

The leisure centre team raised more than £2,000 from sponsors and donations on the night, with money still coming in as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Schools across Fort William took part in fundraisers for the annual BBC appeal.



ABOVE: Phil Hughes prepares for the chop with friend Rab Lees, middle, and barber John Wilson. 21_147pudsey02



RIGHT: Phil has short hair for the first time in 20 years. 21_147pudsey03

TIMESLINE

Trapped whale cut free by fishermen

TWO SKYE fishermen have freed a whale which was caught in equipment used to catch lobsters.

The humpback whale was caught in a buoy and rope, attached to lobster pots.

Fisherman John McKinnon spotted the whale from Elgol in Skye on Saturday and alerted the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMRLR).

Mr McKinnon and his nephew Gordon then went out on their boat and cut the whale free - its tail had become trapped in part of the net of the buoy.

BDMRLR identified the whale as one they had tried to rescue two weeks earlier, tangled in ropes at the Sound of Sleat. The organisation had previously thought the whale had drowned after losing track of it in recent stormy weather.

The animal swam off safely after being freed by the pair.

RNLI rescues three divers near Kishorn

KYLE of Lochalsh RNLI rescued three divers from a sinking boat which ran aground near Kishorn.

The stricken vessel, a Sabre 2, collided with rocks near Kishorn at 3.30pm on Sunday, with the lifeboat crew taking the divers aboard their rescue boat.

The crew then attempted to refloat the Sabre 2 at 4pm, however, it began taking on water, listed to its side and sank just two minutes later.

A spokesman for Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI said: 'The vessel did not appear to have been damaged by the rock but there must have been significant damage to the underside of the hull.'

'Once it began to float free from the rock it only took a couple of minutes for the boat to go down. We couldn't save the boat but everyone was rescued safely, which is the most important thing.'

Vandals strike twice in Lochaber

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

At around 9am on Saturday November 7, a section of wire fence was cut at South Laggan, next to the main A82 carriage-way. Some time between 9pm on Saturday November 14 and 11am the following day, a vehicle was damaged on Argyll Road, Fort William.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

NEW Business Gateway workshops

Practical Basic Book-keeping

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

25 November - Mull; 8 December - Campbeltown; 10 December - Oban

Better Business Websites

What makes a good website? What does your design say about your business? Is your website content appropriate for your audience? And can people even find it on the first place? Some of the questions covered for businesses already live online. Businesses will examine how to make their existing website better through its' design, content, usability and Search Engine Optimisation.

25 November - Oban

Becoming an Employer

Help small businesses create a structured plan for taking on staff and understand the process of employing people, covering legal obligations and good practice recruitment.

26 November - Helensburgh

Introduction to Trading Online

A workshop that will focus on some of the basics required for trading online, and will look at the various tools, platforms and payment options available to everyone and will include some information of the legal requirements.

1 December - Inveraray

Business Start-up

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

2/3 December - Oban

Recruiting and Managing Staff

This workshop will help businesses recruit, induct, manage and develop staff. Focusing on the skills and processes required to get the best out of staff, rather than the legal aspects and be able to create a plan for managing and developing the staff within their business.

10 December - Inveraray

To find out more or to book a place please contact Business Gateway on 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk



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Nurse honoured with long-service award

A LOCHABER woman has received an award for her long service in the nursing profession.

The Queen's Long Service Certificate and Badge was presented to Cheryl McIntosh by the Queen's Nursing Institute for Scotland at a ceremony on October 9 in Edinburgh.

During her career, Cheryl was the Queen's district nurse in Argyll, Lorn and Lochaber.

Angela said: 'Cheryl notably spent her working life in the nursing profession, having been superintendent in Fort William

latterly in her career. In June 2009, she received the MBE from the Queen for voluntary services for Lochaber.'

Cheryl, right, is pictured with her friend Philis Knox, left, a retired nurse from the Belford Hospital, Fort William, and Angela MacDonald, the Queen's district nurse visitor for Inverness and Rosshire. The women recently had afternoon tea at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, to celebrate Cheryl's honour. The award is given to community nurses completing 21 years of service.

Scottish Business Awards Winner 2015 - Employer of the Year

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Supplier Engagement

FES Group is one of the largest independent technical services companies in the UK with over 50 years of experience providing building services solutions to a wide range of corporate and public sector clients. Our Facilities Management arm, FES FM provides a unique range of in-house hard and soft facilities management services to a diverse portfolio of public and private sector clients across the UK.

FES FM has experienced significant growth in the last 2 years and as part of a privately owned business which has an enviable record in community engagement and development of SME businesses, we are arranging a number of supplier engagement events in order to connect with the SME Community throughout Scotland.

These events will take place in our Scotland offices during November and December. We welcome attendance from members of the SME community who can support us in delivering Building Services and Hard FM Maintenance Services.

In the first instance can interested suppliers please email supplychain@fes-group.co.uk to register their interest. Once registered we will advise you of dates and venues to suit your location.

FES Scotland offices include:

- Aberdeen
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Oban
- Stirling
- Stornoway

www.fes-group.co.uk

Arena

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

The Great Tapestry of Scotland journeys to the Outer Hebrides

PART of one of Scotland's most popular artworks will be on display in the Outer Hebrides in November and December.

Thirty of the 159 panels from the Great Tapestry of Scotland will be available for viewing at Benbecula's Sgoil Lionacleit from this Saturday (November 14) until December 22 in a project by Museum nan Eilean.

The 142m tapestry, the brainchild of bestselling author Alexander McCall Smith, depicts the nation's history from geological formation to the reconvening of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. The intricately stitched panels are the work of more than 1,000 Scottish males and females of all ages.

Mr McCall Smith said: 'I am delighted that the Great Tapestry of Scotland is coming to the Western Isles. The Western Isles have made a great contribution to the history

of Scotland and this is reflected in a number of the tapestry's panels. I hope that as many people as possible will take the chance to see this magnificent and moving work of art when it comes to them.'

Author and historian Alistair Moffat, the project's co-chairman, said: 'This is a history of all of Scotland, and one that attempts to compass not only the whole nation but also all of its people as it tells the stories of shepherds, weavers, ploughmen, crofters, fishermen, and all of the people who made our story come alive. Kings, queens and other powerful people have their place, but this is a unique way of telling our history - because it was made by the people of Scotland, a thousand stitchers, from Berwickshire to the Butt of Lewis.'

A number of events for all ages will also be held during the exhibition.



Panels from the Great Tapestry of Scotland will be on display in the Outer Hebrides. 166tapestry1no

Natural history in full view on field trip north

MEMBERS of Lochaber Natural History Society had an enjoyable outing to Dundreggan Estate in Glen Moriston for their first trip of the season.

Conservation manager Doug Gilbert gave a guided tour in fine autumn sunshine and the group found pine cones stripped by red squirrels, rare evidence of the elusive animals.

Society members also enjoyed learning about the estate's Trees for Life project, which involves reducing grazing pressure through deer management.

This was followed by the first talk of the season held on Monday night (November 9), given by Dan Watson, an ecologist with National Trust for Scotland.

Social scene

Oban Gaelic Choir

You can't keep a great choir down - Oban invites townsfolk to a party

OBAN Gaelic Choir threw a party on Saturday night and invited all the members, their family and friends to celebrate their phenomenal success in their year's Royal National Mòd.

Conductor Sileas Sinclair led the choir through their three pieces from the Mòd, and all the silverware they won was on show, including the top honour of the Lovat and Tullibarrine Shield; a victory all the sweeter for being won on home ground due to the Mòd being held in Oban this year.

Duncan Macdonald, convenor of the local organising committee for the Mòd, said life was a lot quieter now the event was over and he and his wife Glenys, who also helped in the Mòd shop in Oban, are glad the telephone isn't ringing as much as it did in the run-up to and during the Mòd itself.

The party at the Royal Hotel, Oban, lasted well into the night.



Sileas Sinclair leads the choir in performing the three pieces which won them glory at this year's Royal National Mòd. 17_T47party07



Sileas Sinclair, Mary Catherine MacLean and Karen MacCorquodale. 17_T47party03



Duncan Macdonald and his wife Glenys. 17_T47party05



Christine MacIntyre, Gaelic reader for the choir, and her husband Donald. 17_T47party04



Music for the evening was provided by Kevin McGlynn, Ross MacPherson and Hector MacFadyen. 17_T47party02



The dance floor was filled. 17_T47party06



Donald Harrison of Taynuilt. Choir members, soloists and musicians from across the area joined Oban Gaelic Choir at their party in the Royal Hotel. 17_T47party01

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

St.Orans & Dunbeg Church CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Connell Village Hall
Sat 28th Nov
11.00am to 3pm
Coffee & Tea, Soup Lunch
Lots to buy

Oban Art Society Talk/Demonstration
by Sian MacQueen
on From Painting to Sculpture on Friday
20th November 2015
in The Lorn Resource Centre
Soroba Road, Oban
7.30pm to 9.30pm
Visitors very welcome

Argyll Animal Aid
Charity Number SC013211
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
21st November 2015.
Bric-a-brac
38 Craft & Gift Stalls
TEA & COFFEE
Home Baking
Corran Halls Oban (11am)

An Comunn Gaidhealach MEUR CHRUACHAIN (Ruachan Branch) CEILIDH
Fiona Ross, Calum Ross, Morag MacNeil
Ann Barlow, (fiddle) Hector McFadyen (Accordion)
Piper: Aaron Hossain, The Isla Sinclair Dancers
Bean an Taigh: Isabel Banks
in TAYNUILT VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY,
21st November 2015 at 7.30 p.m.
Admission £4.00, Members £3.00, Children £2.00

CHARITY SALE
Including Tea, Coffee & Home Baking
on Saturday 21 November 2015
in St John's Cathedral Hall, Oban
11am - 3pm
Admission £3
Various stalls including:
Baking, Preserves, Books, Bric a Brac and Raffle
In aid of Alzheimer Scotland and St John's Cathedral, Oban

Netherlorn Piping Society
Recital by Calum Beaumont
Supported by Pupils of Angus MacColl
Wed 25th Nov in the Argylshire Gathering Halls,
7.30pm
Entry adults £3, Child Free

Cheese & Wine Charity Auction
With Live Music
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ROCKFIELD CENTRE
Wednesday 25th Nov. 7pm for
7.30pm at the Oban Bay Hotel
Tickets £5 from Stevenson Kennedy

The Rockfield Centre present
A Postwar Childhood
Oral History Project Exhibition
Fri 20 - Sun 22 Nov
10am - 4pm daily. Free Entry
The Rockfield Centre,
Stevenson Street, Oban

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Nepal - A Walk into Thin Air:
Les and Izzy Silkowski
Saturday 21 November
Port Appin Hall 2.30pm
Voluntary collection in aid of Community Action Nepal
All welcome!
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

BEREAVEMENT GATHERING
Rowantree Hotel,
George St, Oban
Thursday 26th November
11am-1pm & 5pm till 6pm
Tel 01631 563 737
All affected most welcome

Christmas Fair
in Taynuilt Village Hall
on 28th November 2015
at 10.30am until 12.30pm
Baking, Bottle Stalls & Raffle, Tea & Coffee

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.21 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

TSI
Supporting people and communities to thrive
Oban Seniors Forum
Tuesday 2nd December, 10.30 am. Glencruitten Church Hall. Speaker Anne Timmins. Self Directed Support. All welcome.
For more information call Maggie on 01631564839

Soroba Young Family Group CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS FUND TABLE TOP SALE
Saturday 21st November
11am-4pm
Oban Youth Cafe
George Street, Oban (opposite cinema)

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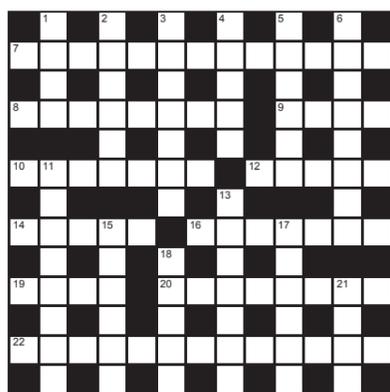
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Across

- 7 Queen's husband (6,7)
- 8 Act of splitting (8)
- 9 Surefooted goat (4)
- 10 Short rope (7)
- 12 Takes one upwards (5)
- 14 Milk dispenser (5)
- 16 Change sequence (7)
- 19 Type of tide (4)
- 20 Freedom of action (8)
- 22 Gossiper (13)

Down

- 1 Face-to-face exam (4)
- 2 Furtive (6)
- 3 French sea port (2,5)
- 4 Dry of drink (5)
- 5 Casual top (1-5)
- 6 High altitude beyond which there is no tall growth (4,4)
- 11 Watchers (8)
- 13 When to partake in cake and beverage (7)
- 15 Enlarge (6)
- 17 By which something is marked (6)
- 18 Fold (5)
- 21 Act (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Festive times

your *local* guide to Christmas



Warm up this winter
with our get cosy for
Christmas feature

Look a little further
with our guide to Christmas
on the islands and in Lochaber

Oban festivities
including the winter
festival programme

Gift ideas
find that something special

Christmas dining
eating out or eating in,
we've got it covered



The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Supports the Oban Winter Festival



oban
WINTER FESTIVAL

The Oban Times wishes the community a fantastic start to the festive season and every success to the Oban Winter Festival this year and many more to come. Stay safe, keep warm and keep up-to-date with the latest news, reviews and pictures at www.obantimes.co.uk, www.facebook.com/obantimes and twitter.com/obantimes

Welcome to The Oban Times Christmas Special 2015

IT'S the most wonderful time of the year, and to help you create a Christmas that is merry and bright, we have put together lots of great ideas and inspiration. Gift ideas, timely tips and the lowdown on all the best places to enjoy the season – you'll find them all here. Christmas in Argyll is very special, with traditional celebrations throughout the towns and villages full of festive fun for the whole family. There is so much to look forward to in Oban alone – the Victorian Market, the Reindeer Parade, McCaig's Tower dressed in jolly hues of green and red – all great ways to brighten up the darkest time of year. We've compiled a list of events throughout the area, so you

won't miss a thing. Christmas also means there is much to do, from shopping for gifts, to planning celebrations, to attending the rounds of parties. Because no one can ever have enough holiday ideas, our supplement is here to help. It's the essential guide to everything Christmas, whether you need help finding the perfect present, need a sparkling outfit, or are looking for a place to get away for a Hogmanay weekend in the country. And to capture Argyll's Christmas spirit, we asked members of the community to share what they love about the holidays. However you plan to celebrate, from all of us at The Oban Times, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Christmas for me is the smell of pine branches in the Barn Bar at Lerags – when the fresh branches are up the pub is transformed into a mini magical enchanted forest. Many of our guests return each year and become honorary locals for the festive season. They all love a bit of snow, especially those from down south, and most years we can oblige.

Linda Battison,
Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance Ltd.



C

get yo

IN THE depths of winter, it's important that our homes are as snug as possible. After braving the chilly temperatures, driving rains and brisk winds of the Highlands, it's a treat to come home to the comfort of a warm room and a hot cup of tea. Whether heating with coal, wood, gas or electricity, a professional can identify problem spots and recommend products that will keep the home fires burning and keep heat inside where it belongs – without breaking the bank. By creating a cosy atmosphere and making sure the house is as efficient as possible, getting through the long winter season will be much more pleasant.

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cosy at Christmas

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Special traditions I love are getting all the Christmas decorations out of their boxes and decorating the house and Christmas tree so that it is all festive and Christmasy. And seeing my grandchildren's faces when they realise that Santa has been and they find their stockings at the bottom of their beds.

Jane Young,
Castle manager, Inveraray Castle



Buying oil early will save you money

James D Bilsland Ltd supports national campaign to buy oil now

FORECASTERS are warning of a cold winter, so local heating distributor James D Bilsland Ltd is urging households across Argyll and Bute to buy their heating oil now before the weather affects deliveries and price.

This message is also being backed by industry trade association FPS (Federation of Petroleum Suppliers), which has this week launched the 2015 'Buy Oil Early' campaign.

Chief executive of the FPS Mark Askew comments: 'The price of heating oil is currently cheaper than gas heating for the fifth quarter in a row, so the FPS says it is a great time to buy, particularly if we are in for a bad winter.'

Jodie Allan from James D Bilsland Ltd said: 'When snow hits us, deliveries of heating oil to mainly rural

areas take longer and costs rise as we are forced to pay staff for longer hours to cope with the increase in demand and pay more for fuel to collect heating oil from refineries. So we are advising homeowners to purchase their heating oil now while prices are low and we can get to them.'

'We pride ourselves on our service, and our drivers have been fantastic in some really tricky driving conditions, but they can be slowed down by the road conditions and occasionally just about brought to a standstill. But together with our trade association the FPS we always liaise with local authorities and follow the gritters into the worst affected areas. Our advice is always to plan ahead and fill your tank up sooner rather than later.'



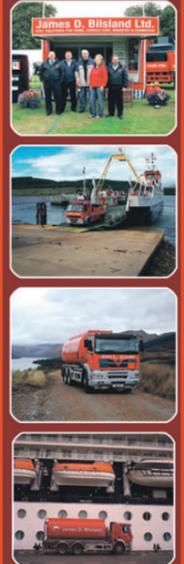
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“ I reckon my favourite thing about Christmas is having my family around me. Christmas dinner has traditionally been in the same place each year, for the last 25 years or so, shared with close friends and family.”

Donald Melville,
Easdale Island Hall

Energy saving quick tips

Brought to you by Energy Saving Trust

WE'RE all responsible for the energy we use in our homes. Whether you're a homeowner, private or social renter, student, or you live at home with your parents, there are many things you can do to reduce how much energy you use and how much is spent. Take a look at our quick tips and see if you're saving as much energy as you could be.

Understand your bill

The information on a typical energy bill can be confusing. But understanding it can go a long way to helping you get to grips with your energy use.

Switch off standby

You can save around £30 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode.

Almost all electrical and electronic appliances can be turned off at the plug without upsetting their programming. You may want to think about getting a standby saver which allows you to turn all your appliances off standby in one go.

Check the instructions for any appliances you aren't sure about. Some satellite and digital TV recorders may need to be left plugged in so they can keep track of any programmes you want to record.

Careful in your kitchen

You can save around £50 a year just by using your kitchen appliances more carefully:

- Use a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap and save £30 a year in energy bills.
- Only fill the kettle with the amount of water that you need and save around £7 a year.
- Cutback your washing machine use by just one cycle per week and save £5 a year on energy, and a further £8 a year on metered water bills.

Get a head

If you've got a shower that takes hot water straight from your boiler or hot water tank (rather than an electric shower), fit a water efficient shower head. This will reduce your hot water usage while retaining the sensation of a powerful shower.

A water efficient shower head could save a four-person household (eg a family of four or even a shared student flat) around £67 a year on gas for water heating, as well as a further £100 on water bills if they have a water meter.

This calculation is based on the assumption that the family takes just under 20 showers a week and replaces a 13 litre/minute power-shower head with a 7.7 litre/min water efficient shower head, and the family is charged £3.01 per cubic meter of water used (includes sewage charge).

Spend less time in the shower

Spending one minute less in the shower each day will save £10 off your energy bills each year, per person. With a water meter this will save a further £15 off annual water and sewerage bills. If everyone in a four-person family did this it would lead to a total saving of £100 a year.

Draught excluder

Unless your home is very new, you will lose some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor, or through the chimney.

DIY draught-proofing of windows, doors and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards can cost around £200, but can save up to £25 to £35 a year on energy bills.

Take control of your heating

More than half the money spent on fuel bills goes towards providing heating and hot water. Having a room thermostat, programmer and thermostatic radiator valves installed could save you between £80 and £165 a year. Even turning down your room thermostat by just one degree can save between £85 and £90 a year.

Whatever the age of your boiler the right controls will let you:

- set your heating and hot water to come on and off when you need them
- heat only the areas of your home that need heating
- set the temperature for each area of your home.

Get savvy with smart controls

Smart heating controls are the latest innovation to help you control your heating and understand your energy use.

They allow you to control your heating remotely via a mobile app, meaning that you can manage the temperature of your home from wherever you are, at whatever time of day.

Switch to LEDs

You can now get LED spotlights that are bright enough to replace halogens, as well as regular energy saving bulbs ('compact fluorescent lamps' or CFLs). They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and fittings.

If the average household replaced all of their remaining old-fashioned bulbs with CFLs, and all of their halogens with LEDs, it would cost about £100 and save about £35 a year on bills.

Turn off lights

Turn your lights off when you're not using them. If you switch a light off for just a few seconds, you will save more energy than it takes for the light to start up again, regardless of the type of light. This will save you around £15 on your annual energy bills.

Are you a homeowner?

If you're a homeowner, there are some other things you can consider to improve the energy efficiency of your home. These can be more costly to put in place but will benefit you in the long term.

Explore the benefits of renewable energy technology

Installing renewable technology for your heating or electricity can lead to greater savings on your energy bills and extra income as a result of the energy you generate.

Consider your options for insulation

Making sure your home is well insulated can significantly reduce unnecessary heat loss - leading to lower energy bills and a more comfortable home.

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energy saving trust

reduce your energy bills with simple changes

Changing your habits may seem trivial but as you make more changes you will save more on your energy costs. Read the easy tips to find how you can save money and energy. Enter our quiz and you could also win a £250 gift voucher to spend with well-known High Street retailers. Simply read the text and answer the questions below...

Switch it off
Try to be aware of unnecessary lights left on, and appliances left plugged-in or on standby. Nearly all electrical and electronic appliances can safely be turned off at the plug without upsetting their systems but check the instructions on any appliances you aren't sure about.

A typical household could save £30 a year just by remembering to turn off appliances left on standby.

Draught proofing
If your fireplace is not used then it can cause a lot of draughts; insulating a chimney will make your home feel warmer. A chimney draught excluder can save you between £25 and £30 a year.

Washing and drying
Setting the washing machine at 30 degrees uses around 40 per cent less electricity than washing at higher temperatures.

Turn down your room thermostat
Turning down your central heating thermostat by 1 degree Celsius could save £85 to £90 every year - based on turning down a room thermostat from 22 degrees to 21 degrees in the main living areas.

Who can you call for more advice?
To find more ways to save energy and money call Home Energy Scotland from the Scottish Government free on 0808 808 2282 to speak to one of our advisors, or visit energysavingtrust.org.uk/Scotland

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your chance to win £250 of gift vouchers

For your chance to win, simply provide the correct answer for each question below:

1. How much could you save each year if you have a chimney with a draught excluder in it?

.....

2. If you wash at 30 degrees rather than at higher temperatures, how much less electricity will you use?

.....

3. Who can you call to find out more ways to save energy and money?

.....

Name
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Postcode
Phone Number
Email address

Fill in your contact details and return to **Home Energy Scotland, Fairways House, Fairways Business Park, Inverness IV2 6AA** no later than **31st December 2015** for your chance to win*. The winner will be notified in **January 2016**.

* Please call 0808 808 2282 or write to us for a full copy of the prize draw terms and conditions. Calls from landlines and most mobile networks are free.

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Christmas on the islands

take a trip to the islands this festive season

IF A getaway from the hustle and bustle of the holiday rush sounds like your idea of heaven, then an escape to the islands is the ideal Christmas break. Whether it's



the snow on the mountains of Mull and Skye, or the sugar sand beaches of Tiree and Barra, a white Christmas is guaranteed on the islands. Spoil yourself with the gift of tranquillity, away from traffic jams and long queues, replaced by the peaceful sounds of birdsong and the waves lapping against the shore. The Isle of Skye is a favourite holiday destination any time of year. When

the sea-son kicks off with the annual parade, Christmas lighting and holiday market in Portree the weekend of December 2 and 3, this beautiful island truly transforms into a festive wonderland. Mull celebrates all season long with Christmas markets throughout the island, from Craignure to Tobermory, and from Dervaig to Buinessan. On nearby Iona, visitors can celebrate the spiritual nature of the holiday with candlelight ceremonies in the

ancient Abbey. Winter is a special time on the islands, where you can enjoy the night skies as our ancestors did for millennia, away from city lights, with the Milky Way clear and bright and the constellations vivid - it's not uncommon to see the Northern Lights on the islands during December, truly a magical experience that will never be forgotten. Peace on earth...is waiting for you on the islands this Christmas.

Edinbane Pottery
 WORKSHOP & GALLERY
 Open all year
 Mon-Fri 9am-6pm
 7 days Easter to October
 www.edinbane-pottery.co.uk
 Isle of Skye Tel: 01470 582 234
Christmas Sale
 1 - 10th of December

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TWIXMAS - 2 OR 3 NIGHT STAY
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 www.dunsdale.com

THE WESTERN ISLES HOTEL
 Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Why not treat yourself and your friends to a **Christmas Celebration** at the Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

Menu is available on website & Facebook (4 choice/3 course menu)
 Every party of 6 or more receives a complimentary bottle of house wine.
 B&B available for £25.00 pp if having dinner
 Friday 19 Dec - Tobermory's own Natural Voices Choir

Followed by the Isle of Mull Ceilidh Band which will be playing traditional Scottish music from 9pm
Booking Advisable!

Call us on 01688 302012 or email us at Mull.Reservations@Bespoke-Hotels.com
 www.westernisleshotel.co.uk
 Western Isles Hotel, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PR

Skye Farm Shop
 Looking for something different this Christmas?
 Why not buy a Skye Farm Shop hamper basket, gift voucher or choose from some of our gift ideas.

Skye Farm Shop, Armadale, Isle of Skye, IV45 8RS
 Tel: 01471 844 462 Email: info@skiefarmshop.co.uk www.skiefarmshop.co.uk

Dunvegan Hotel
 Dunvegan

Book now for Christmas Lunch or Dinners Available from the 10th - 24th of December
 Enjoy Lovely Loch Views and a Open Log Fire Accommodation All Year Round
 Tel: 01470 521497
 E-mail: enquiries@hoteldunvegan.co.uk

Let the Festivities begin!
cafesia with **Oskeyroastery**

Come to Cafe Sia for family meals, Christmas parties or just a friendly get together!
Booking essential!

Please bring a copy of this advert for a **10% DISCOUNT**
 Three course Xmas meal - £16.95 (kids £9.95) Seasonal opening hours and events
 From Monday 30th November Please check Cafesiaskye on Facebook
 Tel: 01471 822616 Look out for our online shop on FB for coffee gifts

Look a little further

sometimes it pays to step off the beaten track when searching for the ideal gift

TAKE time out during the festive season to get off the beaten path for Christmas shopping, dining and lodging that is out of the ordinary and out of this world. The Argyll countryside is teeming with unique gift shops, fanciful art galleries and wonderful eateries, all featuring the best of the west. With a plethora of mass-produced gift ideas out there, finding that one-of-a-kind item is easy when you look a little further. Artisan crafters and producers offer everything from paintings to textiles to candles, all made with love in Argyll, and inspired by the beautiful light, magical landscapes and fresh air that makes this area so famous. To get away from it all without going too far, consider a weekend away in Argyll. Whether it's a rustic country inn or a stately manor, indulging in fine food and luxurious comfort is the best Christmas present you can give yourself. If Christmas means plans with family and friends, how about a Hogmanay holiday package at one of Argyll's fine hotels? The food, lodging and party are all taken care of, so you can let your hair down and ring in the New Year. Look a little further this festive season. You might just discover your new favourite hidden gem.



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 at Balagowan Deer Larder

Now taking orders for Christmas. Venison and oven-ready pheasant and pheasant breast

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 Larder: 07879 491 181
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 Food & Drink available all Day

NEW CHRISTMAS MENU
 3 Courses - £22.50
 Available from 1st Dec till 24th Dec
 Call for Bookings: 01838 400219

WED 23rd DEC - Christmas Raffle
SUN 27th DEC - Rileys Pool, Darts & Dominoes
 From 12pm: Food & Prizes

HOGMANY
 Live Music & Party with The Norloch Ceilidh Band
 Fireworks and Piper at the bells
 We still have rooms available from £40 per person

NEW YEARS DAY
 Karaoke & Disco with Zane

SKY Sports / BT Sport : All the games live
 Bookings & Information: Tel - 01838 400219
 Email info@thetyndruminn.co.uk

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 Tel: 01546 603274

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 11:30 - 14:30 (Last Ferry 17:00)
 Why not book a room and 4 course Evening Meal £60 per Room £35 Single Occupancy £30 pp meal
 1st December - 21st December
 Booking Advisable
 Call: 01583 505254
 Email: kdeacon@btconnect.com
 www.gighahotel.com

Christmas fest

THE DAYS are short and the weather chilly, but Oban welcomes the season with the 'biggest winter party in the west'. Festivals, entertainment, celebrations, traditional pantos and fayres throughout the festive season are sure to keep the winter doldrums at bay. Even McCaig's Tower is dressed up for the holidays in vibrant dancing lights, providing a postcard perfect backdrop to the fairy lights and Christmas decorations that twinkle throughout the town. The merry season kicks off with the Oban Winter Festival, held November 20 to 29. Now in its fifth year, it's a 10-day celebration of the town's culture and community, featuring parades, live music, fire dancers and fun family events. This year's theme for the festival is 'The Spirit of Winters Past'. To celebrate, organisers are holding a Christmas Craft Competition, in which families are invited to create a shoebox display with the theme of 'Christmas through the Ages'. Named among 'Top 10 events that should not be missed in autumn 2015' by Scotland Traveloholic, the Oban Winter Festival will be in full gear on November 21 with a Reindeer Parade, a visit by Santa and the official switching on of the Christmas lights. There will be children's rides, entertainment, food stalls, the ever-popular Victorian Market and a Scottish Food and Craft Market leading up to the big lighting at Station Square. Throughout the weekend, exciting pop-up theatre comes to town with the Three Wee Crows performing their brief history of Oban 'Fish and Ships' at various

venues. Oban commemorates St Andrew's Day with a weekend of events for the entire family, from a dry ski slope at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, to the Haggisfest competition, in which the national dish will be both tasted and hurled. A Tartan Dash and traditional ceilidh will cap the day. Of course, no festive season would be complete without fantastic Hogmanay festivities. Oban's pubs, bars and hotels will be putting on the Ritz for New Year's Eve, with music and entertainment ranging from old-fashioned ceilidhs to all night rock-and-roll blowouts. Christmas is such a special time in Oban, so check out our programme of events, and join the entire community as we celebrate in style over the festive season.

oban

EXHIBITIONS

MEMORIES MATTER
Runs: Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd November
10am - 4pm Free Entry

OBAN WAR AND PEACE MUSEUM
We are open from 10am - 4pm daily including Sunday during the Winter Festival. Admission is free

ART EXHIBITION
WEIRD SISTERS 10am - 5pm daily
Saturday 21st - Saturday 28th November - Free Entry

FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER

TAKE A TOUR
4 persons per tour. 10am and 2pm.
Tour lasts approximately 2 hours. Tickets £12
Concessions £10 To book call: 07769 637 754

WINTERSAFE AT WINTERFEST
Stafford Street - 4pm to 5.30pm

BALLET WEST WINTER WONDERLAND
Corran Halls, Oban at 7.00pm Doors open 6.30pm
Tickets £12 Concessions £10 from Corran Halls box office 01631 567333

WHISKY TASTING
Tickets £10 per person
Tickets available from shop beforehand or on the night.
Oban Whisky and Fine Wines,
Stafford Street, Oban. 7pm

CHARITY FASHION SHOW
In aid of Lyne of Lorne Care Home
M&Co Station Road, Oban - 6.30pm.
Tickets £5 from Lyne of Lorne Care Home or M&Co

SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER

GAELIC BOOKBUG
Corran Halls 10.30am Free

TAKE A TOUR
4 persons per tour. 10am and 2pm. Tour lasts approximately 2 hours.
Tickets £12 Concessions £10
To book call: 07769 637 754

FISH AND SHIPS
Some locations will be announced on the Winter Festival website.
Other locations may be a complete surprise.
There will be no charge but donations will be most welcome.

PUTTING PICTURES TO WORDS
Oban Phoenix Cinema, 140 George Street, Oban.
10.30am Free Entry

FUN CHRISTMAS SCIENCE EVENT
Entry: £3 adult / £2 child - 11am - 4pm

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID CRAFT FAYRE
Corran Halls, Oban 11am - 3pm Free Entry

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL SCOTTISH FOOD & CRAFT MARKET
Oban Distillery Cask Room. 10am - 4pm Free Entry

CHARITY SALE
ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, OBAN 11am - 3pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL VICTORIAN MARKET
Caledonian Hotel, Station Square, Oban.
12 noon - 7.30pm Free Entry

SANTA'S POST BOX WILL BE IN THE CALEDONIAN HOTEL
(behind reception) for the duration of the Festival.

ROLLER DISCO
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban. 2pm - 4pm
£3.50

REINDEER PARADE
See the Christmas Lights 'Switch On' At 6pm in Station Square.

COSTA COFFEE MUSIC
6.30pm - 8.30pm

COMEDIENNE
Studio Theatre Tickets £6 from Corran Halls
Doors open 8pm

WINTER WARMUP
Argyllshire Gathering Halls
Tickets £10/Concessions £5 - 7.30pm

SCUBA DIVING
Dunstaffnage Marina
www.diveobanandargyll.co.uk

SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER

TAKE A TOUR
4 persons per tour. 10am and 2pm.
Tour lasts approximately 2 hours.
Tickets £12 Concessions £10
To book call: 07769 637 754

LADIES DAY
Great Western Hotel, Esplanade, Oban
Tickets: £10 1pm - 4pm / VIP £15 12pm - 4pm
Tickets available from Spruce, John Street, Oban

WHISKY TASTING NIGHT AT THE WHISKY CELLAR
Open at 6pm

FISH AND SHIPS
Some locations will be announced on the Winter Festival website.
Other locations may be a complete surprise.
There will be no charge but donations will be most welcome.

DUNOLLIE MAKES CHRISTMAS
1pm - 4pm
Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds
For more info: www.dunollie.org

CHRISTMAS AT THE KITCHEN GARDEN
Kitchen Garden George Street, Oban.
Tickets £10 Admission by ticket only
All proceeds to local charities 7pm

TEDDY TIFFIN'S FESTIVE FUNTIME
AT COSTA COFFEE 2pm - 4pm

SCUBA DIVING
Dunstaffnage Marina
www.diveobanandargyll.co.uk

MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

BOOKWEEK SCOTLAND @ THE WINTER FESTIVAL
Corran Halls Studio Theatre 12.30pm - 2pm
Tickets are free. Contact Oban Library or 01631 571444 to book place.

CHRISTMAS AT THE KITCHEN GARDEN
Kitchen Garden George Street, Oban.
Tickets £10 - Admission by ticket only available from Kitchen Garden 7pm

GAELIC TASTER SESSION FOR BEGINNERS
Furan Gaelic Centre Corran Halls
7pm - 8.30pm Free

MARK'S CONCERT IN THE CAFE
Corran Halls Studio Theatre Bar 7.30pm
Admission: Adults £4 Concessions £3 on the door

THE LAST MAN IN EUROPE
Oban Phoenix Cinema, 6.30pm Adults £6
Concessions £4 VIP £7 www.obanphoenix.com

'BROOKLYN'
Oban Phoenix Cinema, 2pm
Admission £2.50 Tea and cake.

TUESDAY 24th NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS AT THE KITCHEN GARDEN
Kitchen Garden, George Street, Oban.
Tickets £10 Admission by ticket only
All proceeds to local charities - 7pm

GAELIC SINGING WORKSHOP
Furan Gaelic Centre Corran Halls 7pm - 8.30pm

'A TASTE OF SCOTLAND'
Corran Halls, 7pm
Tickets £6/Concessions £4 from Corran Halls

WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER

THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE CHEESE & WINE CHARITY AUCTION WITH LIVE MUSIC
Tickets £5 from Oban Bay Hotel, 7pm for 7.30pm

TODDLERS WINTER PLAY GARDEN
Old Rockfield School Playground
Admission Free

BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND
Evening with Tony Black - Tickets are free but limited - Oban Library 01631 571444

GAELIC SINGING WORKSHOP
Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls
7pm - 8.30pm Free

THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER

FEALLA-DHA (FURAN FAMILY FUN)
Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, 11am - Free

Befrienders

Because children's lives are never just black and white

Do you have a few hours to spare to support a vulnerable local child or young person?

Please contact Cathi Bertin
01546 603144
www.befriendersforchildren.co.uk
PO BOX 9576, Lochgilphead, PA31 9BB
cathibertin@btconnect.com

oban WINTER FESTIVAL
ocean EXPLORER CENTRE

MARINE SCIENCE FUN DAY

Saturday 21st November

11am - 4pm @ the Ocean Explorer Centre (next to Dunstaffnage Castle, Dunbeg)

Games

Demonstrations

Talks

Quizzes

Crafts

Christmas Shopping

Cafe

www.oceanexplorercentre.org

Celebrate books and reading, wherever you are!

BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND

An evening with **Tony Black**

Come & hear the bestselling Scottish crime writer

Oban Library

Wednesday 25th November
7.30pm

This is a free event.
Please reserve a seat by phoning
01631 571444.

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DunOllie Makes Christmas

Family Fun Reindeer Trail
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Carol Singing - Festive Food & Drink
Sunday 22nd November 2015; 1.00 - 4.00pm

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The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND PAPER

Activities in Oban



WWW.OBANWINTERFESTIVAL.COM @OBANWINTERFEST



FARPAIS-CHEIST FURAN (FURAN GAELIC QUIZ)
Studio Theatre Bar, Corran Halls, 7.30pm
Entry £2

TODDLERS WINTER PLAY GARDEN
Old Rockfield School Playground
Admission Free

THE ROCKFIELD HORROR PICTURE SHOW (15)
at old Rockfield School, from 7pm
Sorry grown ups only - certificate 15
Booking essential

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING IN TOWN
Special pre Xmas offers, music in cafes.
Get out and grab yourself a bargain!

CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING DEMO
Alba, Albany Street, Oban.
ALBA - your one stop Christmas Shop.
6pm - 9pm

COCKTAIL NIGHT AT THE WHISKY CELLAR
Open from 6pm

PURDIES OF OBAN NIGHT
George Street, Oban. 7pm - 9pm

OBAN PHOENIX THEATRE
A Winters Tale featuring Judi Dench and Kenneth Branagh (streamed live) Seated by 7pm

FEEL GOOD IN YOUR SKIN
Dolce Vita, George Street, Oban
6.30pm - 8.30pm Tickets £5 from Dolce Vita

COFFEE, CAKES & CHRISTMAS CHORUS
Costa Coffee, Station Square, Oban
6.30pm - 8.30pm

AN AUDIENCE WITH MR AND MRS ANDREW
CARNEGIE
Oban Library 7pm Admission Free
(advance tickets from library essential)
www.cultural-connections.co.uk

FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER

TAKE A TOUR
10am and 2pm. Tour lasts approximately 2 hours.
Tickets £12 / Concessions £10
To book call: 07769 637 754

TODDLERS WINTER PLAY GARDEN
Old Rockfield School Playground
Admission Free

THE FISHERMAN AND THE SEAL
by Yugen Puppet Company
6.30pm - doors open 6pm

OBAN CHOCOLATE COMPANY HOSTS
CHOCOLATE COATED CHRISTMAS SONGS
Tickets £6 from Oban Chocolate Company,
34 Corran Esplanade
Tel. 01631 566099 - 7.30pm - 9pm

WHISKY TASTING
Tickets £10 per person
Tickets available from shop beforehand or on the night.
Oban Whisky and Fine Wines,
Stafford Street, Oban - 7pm

THE ROCKFIELD HORROR PICTURE SHOW (15)
at old Rockfield School from 7pm
Sorry grown ups only - certificate 15
Booking essential

DRAGONFLY PEARLS
The Ark, Airds Crescent, Oban
7.30pm - 9pm Tickets £2 from The Ark

COMEDY NIGHT
6pm in the Whisky Cellar Bar (Regent Hotel) -
this event is free. To register to attend free event
go to: Facebook - TheComedyNightOban

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL SCOTTISH
FOOD & CRAFT MARKET
Oban Distillery Cask Room
10am - 4pm Free Entry

SCUBA DIVING
Dunstaffnage Marina
www.diveobanandargyll.co.uk

TAKE A TOUR
4 persons per tour. 10am and 2pm.
Tour lasts approximately 2 hours. Tickets £12
Concessions £10 To book call: 07769 637 754

WINTER WONDERLAND
Location: Ganavan Woodland near Oban
For more info. No booking required - open event
Cost - small charge applies - see posters and
website 12pm - 3pm

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA
Doors open 12 noon / Film begins 12.30
Adults £4 Children £3 All proceeds to SIMBA

OBAN YOUTH CAFE
George Street, Oban 12 noon - 3pm
Everything is donation only.
Queen Elsa will make an appearance again too!

STRICTLY AFTERNOON TEA DANCE
Guide Hall, 3pm - 5pm
Tickets £5 including afternoon tea, available
from Argyll Voluntary Action, High Street Oban
or on the door.

TARTAN DASH
Register at 10.30am

HAGGIS HURLING
Atlantis grass pitch 12 noon - 2pm £1 per throw

CIRCUS SHOWCASE
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban 2pm
Adult £4/Child £2 Family Ticket £10
(2 adults & 2 children)
Tickets from Purdies, George Street, Oban

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL & OBAN PIPE BAND
ST. ANDREW'S CEILIDH DANCE
Suitable for age 12 years and over.
Corran Halls, Oban, 8pm Doors open 7.30pm
All tickets £7 from Corran Halls, Oban.

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER

HAGGIS FESTIVAL
THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD
Oban Distillery 1pm - 3pm £2

SCUBA DIVING
Dunstaffnage Marina
www.diveobanandargyll.co.uk

WEST COAST WHISKY FESTIVAL
Oban Distillery, Stafford Street, 1.15pm
Tickets £10 Telephone 01631 572005

MAREK'S CONCERT IN THE CAFE
Corran Halls Studio Theatre Bar, 7.30pm
Admission: Adults £4 Concessions £3 on the door

TAKE A TOUR
4 persons per tour. 10am and 2pm.
Tour lasts approximately 2 hours.
Tickets £12 Concessions £10
To book call: 07769 637 754

PLAYPARK OPENING
Some activities age restricted. Booking required
for some activities. 11am - 3pm

CRAFT MARKET
Corran Halls 12 noon - 4pm Free Entry

WATCH OUT FOR 'MAREK'S MAGIC PIANO BUS'
TOURING THE TOWN
PLAYING A SELECTION OF EASY CLASSICS
TO BUSY SHOPPERS ON THE MOVE.

VICTORIAN AFTERNOON TEA
Corran Halls Studio Theatre 12 noon - 4pm

CIRCUS SKILLS ON THE GRASS
Grass adjacent to Corran Halls Free Entry

BIG LANTERN PARADE
Gather at the Corran Halls at 4.45pm departs 5pm Free

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AULD LANG SYNE AT 6.15

FESTIVAL FINALE
Note earlier start at 6.30pm
(see website for updates)

MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER

ST ANDREW'S DAY
GIANT SALTIRE ON MCCAIG'S TOWER

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Limited stock so it might be a good idea to get your 'skates' on!!

free Snowflake Pendant WORTH £60
WHEN YOU SPEND £75 ON HOT DIAMONDS

WIN! The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
A Christmas hamper
worth *including an Asus laptop* **£300!** Courtesy of Tesco, Oban.

The Oban Times is giving readers the chance to win a fantastic Christmas hamper worth a whopping £300! The hamper will include an Asus laptop*, a Finest turkey, a Finest bouquet of flowers, Finest champagne, Finest wine, a Finest meal deal for two and a selection of Xmas Finest products.

This could be a helping hand towards your Christmas shopping or a present to yourself for being good this year. Just imagine being able to put even more Christmas presents under the tree for your friends and family to enjoy.

To enter, simply collect three tokens - HERE IS TOKEN ONE

Token two will be printed next week, November 26 and token three will be printed December 3.

Full details on how to send in your tokens will appear in The Oban Times, December 3 2015.

TOKEN ONE

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. *The prize laptop is an Asus x205ta red 11.6" laptop 2GB, with windows 10 and office 365 notebook. No cash alternative. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner must take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. The winner must be aged over 18 years and provide proof of age. The winner must collect the prize in person at Tesco, Oban on an agreed date provided by The Oban Times. Digital subscribers can enter by printing the pages and cutting out the tokens and submitting their entry with the supplied entry form (printed Dec 3) accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber.

ARNE DAHL
Author of the INTERCRIME TV series
Series 2 now on BBC4 Saturdays 9pm

Eva Dolan & Stuart Neville

Arne Dahl, Eva Dolan & Stuart Neville will be speaking at **Oban Winter Festival**
Corran Halls, Corran Esplanade, Oban
Monday 23rd November, 12.30-2pm
FREE TICKETS available from ObanLibrary
Tel: 01631 571444

oban WINTER FESTIVAL

WWW.OBANWINTERFESTIVAL.COM @OBANWINTERFEST

20 - 29 NOVEMBER 2015

MARKETS, PIPE BANDS, FAIRGROUNDS, REINDEER PARADE, SNOW!

ST ANDREW'S DAY EVENTS - OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL HAGGISFEST
To celebrate The Year of Food and Drink, butchers from across Scotland go head to head to win the coveted Golden Haggis Award.
Public tasting and voting from 1pm
Admission £2

Proceeds to Oban High School Pipe Band
WEST COAST WHISKY FESTIVAL
Classic malt whisky and chocolate tasting from four west coast distilleries

FAMILY LANTERN PARADE LED BY THE KELPIE
TARTAN DASH, HAGGIS HURLING, CEILIDH, STILLMAN TOUR, LIGHTSHOW.

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Festival programme now available from VisitScotland Oban Office & shops

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Something special

find the perfect present for that special someone

A HUGE part of the joy of Christmas is seeing someone's eyes light up when they open a special gift. Finding that perfect present within budget can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Talk to family and friends about possibly changing the way you approach your list this year. Set price limits, buy only for the children, or draw names within a circle of family or friends so you can buy one nice gift instead of lots of small ones. Agree to go out for a meal together during the festive season in lieu of gifts. Gifts don't have to be expensive - often it's the simple things that people remember most. While it may be tempting to just give cash, taking the time to choose a personalised gift will mean so much more. If in doubt, gift vouchers are always appreciated. Or consider making a gift, such as a batch of sweet treats or a handmade card. From art to clothing, from gourmet treats to fine jewellery, Oban is a shopper's paradise, so it's easy for Santa's helpers to find everything they need for under the tree and on the table. It's not too early to start organising, and our guide will help take the stress out of the holidays.

Top 5 tips for buying the perfect gift

1. Give the gift of an experience. She loves Les Miserables but already has the book, movie and the poster? Buy her tickets to see the show and make a weekend out of it. Does he daydream of catching the big one? Get him a chartered fishing trip and cook the catch of the day together. Need some pampering 'couple time'? Get each other a spa day for two and enjoy massages, with a facial for her, and a hot shave for him.
2. Don't feel you have to buy expensive gifts. Christmas is not about how much money you have; it's about how much you care. Sometimes the simplest presents are the most thoughtful - and truly, it is the thought that counts. How about a festive mug with a box of their favourite tea, or a framed photograph of a cherished memory? These things won't break the bank, but they will definitely be appreciated.
3. Make the gift fun. A funny gift is a great way to show how much you appreciate someone's sense of humour or cheer up those who find the holidays a bit difficult. Enjoy a laugh together as they open that Tartan Tammy or an apron with an appropriately funny quote on it.
4. Spend time choosing the right present. You can't expect to find the perfect gift the day before Christmas. First, make a list of everyone you need to buy for, along with a couple of ideas for each. Give yourself time to really browse, get an idea of what the different shops have, find the best price, and then narrow down your choices. Plan at least a full day to shop, leaving time out for a relaxing lunch, and be sure to pace yourself.
5. When in doubt, ask. No one is a mind reader, so just take the direct route and find out exactly what they would like. It's not considered rude, and people would rather get something they asked for instead of a gift they will want to return the day after Christmas. And what if they say they don't know, or don't care? A gift voucher to their favourite salon, restaurant or shop is always in good taste.



I am very lucky to be able to travel the length and breadth of Argyll all year. Although visiting the islands for surgeries gets harder in the winter, cold, still mornings on ferries, frosty drives along sea lochs and the sight of snow topped mountains are all things that inspire me and make me glad to be in what is the most beautiful part of Scotland in (almost) any weather. And sitting at home by a wood fire watching the light fade over the Cowal hills is a particularly special experience.

Michael Russell, MSP Argyll and Bute

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Christmas dining



Whatever the season, there a lot of great places to eat, drink and shop in Argyll. My particular favourite is always seafood and with oysters, prawns, crabs and salmon all plentiful, good eating is guaranteed. What's more, the rise of food businesses in the local area means that local food for giving as presents is more and more available and affordable.

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Christmas

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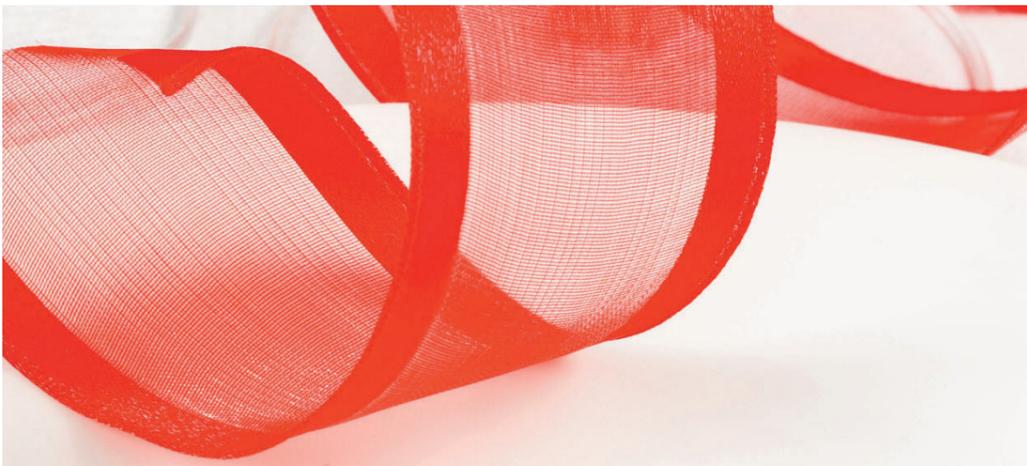
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The Seafood Capital of Scotland... and so much more

WITH something for every taste and budget, dining out is a great way to reduce stress and work over the festive period. And as 'The Seafood Capital of Scotland', Oban and the west coast are ground zero for all the bounty the sea has to offer. Mouths water at the mere thought of the crispy battered fish, succulent scallops and lovely langoustines that grace plates at a huge selection of award-winning food stalls, restaurants and pubs. Straight from the net to the plate, it just doesn't get any fresher. Never mind best fish and chips in Oban - here they vie for the title of 'Best in Britain'. Seafood isn't for everyone but, not to worry, as the west coast has other goodies to experience. Eateries offer Argyll venison, beef, duck, game and lamb,

in addition to seafood. Varieties of locally-produced cheese, preserves, fresh produce, fine ales, whiskies and smoked fish round out the bountiful menu available. From a classic fish supper to a mouth-watering burger to roast saddle of lamb, there is something to please every member of the family, so dine out this festive season and enjoy the 'best of the west.' There's something special about the whisky produced on the west coast and islands - the pure water, the pristine environment and smoky peat combine with skills that have been passed down through the generations to produce world-class beverages. It's no wonder the area is also known as 'The Whisky Coast'.



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Christmas in Lochaber

a winter wonderland

on your doorstep

CHRISTMAS is a lovely time to visit Fort William and Lochaber. The mountains are frosted with snow and fairy lights twinkle from town and village, creating the perfect winter holiday atmosphere.

The festive season gets in high gear with the High Street Fort William Christmas Gathering on November 27. This year promises to be the biggest yet, with face painting, food vendors, entertainment and fun for the wee ones. Shops will be open late and a Games Fair will be held at the Alexandra Hotel, in which various charities will host games tables such as 'Bauble Bobbing' and 'Snowball Scavenging'. The party continues with the Lochaber Christmas Festival sponsored by the Rotary Club at Glen Nevis Visitor Centre on November 28 starting at 9.30am. Santa and his reindeer will take off from Cameron Square at 11am and parade through the town,

arriving at the Nevis Centre, which will be transformed into a winter wonderland with stalls and entertainment.

Ski and hiking holidays are all the rage here in the Outdoor Capital of the UK during the festive season, depending on how much snow Old Man Winter brings. Even those who don't ski will enjoy a ride on the mountain gondola, which offers spectacular views. Many hotels and restaurants around Lochaber offer holiday specials, so why not consider skipping the stress of a home-cooked Christmas dinner and take everyone out instead? For those who love to dance through the night for Hogmanay, look for festive packages that include a room, dinner and live entertainment. The traditional New Year celebration at The Nevis Centre offers an authentic Highland ceilidh, in which locals don their tartan glad rags to reel, spin and jig their way into 2016.

No matter how you choose to celebrate, Christmas in Lochaber is a magical time.



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Help your local heroes shine

Last chance to enter the Scottish Rural Awards

THE SCOTTISH Rural Awards is entering its final week for accepting nominations, with companies across the Highlands and Islands encouraged to join those across Scotland who have already sung the praises of their rural heroes.

Businesses and individuals have until next week to nominate their rural heroes for the second annual Scottish Rural Awards, either by nominating those who go the extra mile, or by self-nominating. The closing date is Friday November 27.

Each nomination is automatically entered into a prize draw to win a bottle of Glenfarclas 30-year-old single malt whisky, with a RRP of £230.

Businesses, organisations and individuals have already been nominated – from Lochaber to Islay, Moray to Fife – across 12 diverse categories that celebrate the very best of rural Scotland, from brilliant business start-ups to aquaculture stars and artisan foodies.

The Ardnamurchan Estate, Gigha Halibut, Ballet West, Great Glen Charcuterie and the Lochaber Rural Education Trust were



Winners from last year's event included Ballet West, the Lochaber Rural Education Trust, and Brian and Duncan Swinbanks from Mull.

among businesses from across the Highlands and Islands that excelled in last year's awards, which were presented at a sell-out gala dinner of more than 300 guests from across Scotland.

Brothers Brian and Duncan Swinbanks were also among those honoured, picking up the Rural Hero award for their outstanding work across a number of community projects on

the Isle of Mull. Judging this year's batch of rural superstars will take place throughout December and January by a panel of rural-minded professionals from backgrounds spanning publishing

and communications to business development and hospitality. The winners in each category will be honoured at a gala dinner set to take place at Our Dynamic Earth in Edin-

burgh on March 31 next year. To nominate your rural hero, just visit www.scottishruralawards.org/nominate-for-2016. Nominating is free.

Fashionistas strut the catwalk

OBANITES are dedicated followers of fashion – if last weekend's events are anything to go by, with two fashion shows held in the town.

On Friday night M&Co hosted a show in its Station Square store, which had been organised to help boost the funds of HCPT Group 43, the Oban branch of the charity that helps to send children to Lourdes.

Children and adults from the group's supporters helped out by stepping onto the catwalk.

The following night Oban's Corran Hall was packed with rack upon rack of clothing as Colours Fund Raising Fashion Shows came all the way from

Manchester to help Friends of Oban Hospice.

All the clothes from leading High Street stores were shown by their two models and then on sale afterwards.

This was the second show Joyce Miller, who chairs the Friends of Oban Hospice, and her team of dedicated volunteers has organised.

Joyce said: 'Our first event raised more than £2,000 and we are hopeful that this one will do the same. We'd all like to thank everyone who turned out on such a stormy night to support the hospice and I'd like to say a big thank you to all the Friends' volunteers.'



Oliver Clark. 17_T47ash01



Zuzanna 'Zuzu' Slok. 17_T47ash03



Kate MacLellan and Lara Simpson. 17_T47ash04



Yvonne Addison, Jacqui Ireland, Nicola Watson, Lori Macdonald, Susan Johnstone, Sandra Johnstone and Karen Oman. 17_T47show02



Joyce Miller and Belinda Jacob of Colours Fund Raising Fashion shows. 17_T47show01



Brodie and Charlotte Sloss with Islay Berry. 17_T47ash02

Entertainment Guide

Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

20 NOVEMBER 2015 - 26 NOVEMBER 2015

SILVER SCREENING - BROOKLYN (12A)
Mon: 14:00

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 (PG)
Sat: 11:00; Sun: 12:15

KIDS CLUB: POLAR EXPRESS (U)
Sat: 11:30

SPECTRE (12A)
Fri: 21:40; Sat: 20:30, 21:40; Sun: 19:30, 21:40; Mon, Tue, Thu: 18:45; Wed: 18:30

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY - PART 2 (12A)
Fri: 16:15, 18:45; Sat: 17:30, 18:45; Sun: 14:20, 15:30; Tue: 16:15; Thu: 15:50

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY - PART 2 3D (12A)
Fri: 19:30; Sat: 15:30; Sun: 12:35, 18:45; Mon: 21:30; Tue: 19:15; Wed: 16:30

THE LADY IN THE VAN (12A)
Fri, Mon, Tue, Thu: 16:30; Sat: 13:15, 15:15; Sun: 17:15; Wed: 16:15

THE LAST MAN IN EUROPE: NORMAN BISSELL
Mon: 18:30

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (12A)
Wed: 19:30

THE WINTER'S TALE
Thu: 19:00

COMING SOON

ENO: THE MIKADO (12A)

03/12/2015 Nanki-Poo loves Yum-Yum. Just one snag. She's betrothed to Ko-Ko, the new Lord High Executioner. And Ko-Ko needs to find someone to execute – chop chop! Otherwise, it's his own neck on the block. Maybe Ko-Ko and Nanki-Poo can come to some arrangement... ..

HE NAMED ME MALALA (PG)

27/11/2015 HE NAMED ME MALALA is a documentary about Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot and seriously injured by the Taliban, who has since become a potent advocate for the education of girls and the co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

MYSTERY MOVIE (PG)

02/12/2015 Buy your ticket for just £4.00, sit back, and let us entertain you! Suggestions for upcoming months' Mystery Movies greatly appreciated! HINT: Who's watching you...?!

BROOKLYN - 112MINS

BROOKLYN is a romantic drama set in the 1950s in which a young woman on a visit to her native Ireland from New York must decide in which country and with which man she will spend the rest of her life.

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2 - 109MINS

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

KIDS CLUB: POLAR EXPRESS - 100MINS

Children's Classic A young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express. During his adventure he learns about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas. Kids just £4, adults free!

SPECTRE - 170MINS

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

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2 - 160MINS

After being symbolized as the "Mockingjay", Katniss Everdeen and District 13 engage in an all-out revolution against the autocratic Capitol.

THE LADY IN THE VAN - 124MINS

A man forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her car that's parked in his driveway.

THE LAST MAN IN EUROPE: NORMAN BISSELL - 143MINS

A talk and readings from the novel The Last Man in Europe by Norman Bissell about the last years in the life of George Orwell on Jura and elsewhere. He will talk about Orwell's love of nature and tell the dramatic story of his near drowning in the Corryreckan Whirlpool and his desperate struggle to finish Nineteen Eighty Four on Jura before his health failed him. This will be followed by a showing of the film adaptation, '1984' starring John Hurt and Richard Burton.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW - 130MINS

The Royal Albert Hall is screening The Rocky Horror Picture Show broadcast to Cinemas around the world all in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Richard O'Brien's sinfully twisted salute to horror, sci-fi, b-movies and rock music. Join us in a 'sensual daydream to treasure forever' – starring Tim Curry (in his classic gender-bending performance), Barry Bostwick, and Oscar winner Susan Sarandon. A pre-film Q&A with cast members Tim Curry, Patricia Quinn and Nell Campbell, hosted by Rufus Hound, will kick off the evening, making this gala screening the ultimate Rocky Horror bash.

THE WINTER'S TALE - 210MINS

Shakespeare's timeless tragedy of obsession and redemption is reimagined in a new production co-directed by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh, following their triumphant staging of Macbeth in Manchester and Manhattan. Judi Dench will play Paulina, Kenneth Branagh will play Leontes.

Radio

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THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:

0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle

TUESDAY:

0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

WEDNESDAY:

0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY:

0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY:

0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lavin

SATURDAY:

0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

SUNDAY:

0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

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Published on 10th December

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Renewed appeal over missing hillwalker

AN APPEAL continues for information about missing walker Robin Garten after walking poles were discovered near where he went missing.

The hiking equipment was discovered by a walker in the Anach Eagach Ridge area of Glencoe, sparking another extensive search for the 69-year-old but no further items were discovered.

Police are now appealing for anyone who may have left or lost the black and gold Leeki telescopic poles to contact them on 101.

Anyone planning to walk in the Glencoe area is asked to bear in mind the ongoing search and to report anything they feel may assist enquiries to police or Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team.

Mr Garten hasn't been seen since the morning of Friday September 25 when he checked out of the Kings House Hotel in Glencoe.

Police traced Mr Garten's black Volkswagen Passat estate car to the Achnambeithach car park, off the A82 by Loch Achtriochtan. It is believed Mr Garten may have had made plans to walk in the Coire Nam Beith or Bidean Nam Bian areas.

He is described as 6ft2ins in height, of slim to medium build with fair hair which is slightly balding. It is not known what he was wearing on the day of his disappearance.

Hospital given a clean bill of health

A POSITIVE inspection of Western Isles Hospital has been welcomed by NHS.

The facility on Lewis was examined by the Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI) without prior warning and found it to be clean and safe.

Inspectors met patients and staff, visited wards and inspected equipment and found the hospital was meeting national standards. Just one improvement requirement was noted, relating to handling and storing breast milk.

Dr Neil Galbraith, chairman of NHS Western Isles, welcomed the report: 'The board takes a close interest in maintaining the standards of cleanliness within our hospitals because of the high correlation with patient safety.'

'We welcome the inspection findings which largely corroborate the Western Isles Hospital's own self-assessment report and provide the external reassurance that our cleanliness and anti-infection regimes are effective.'

'The board notes the one requirement emerging from the inspection and will look to have the policy paper produced and related practice brought into being with immediate effect.'

Travel firm refutes claim public left in dark over route changes

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY councillor has claimed a travel firm has failed to consult the public about changes to bus routes from Fort William and Inverness, leaving travellers with a sub-standard service.

John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge, and Achnacarry Community Council, regularly travels between the town and Inverness through his work as the chairman of a charity in the city.

He has written to Scottish

Citylink to complain about the quality of vehicles used on the route and changes to the services. Scottish Citylink is 35 per cent owned by Stagecoach. Stagecoach North Scotland has taken over some of the services on the route.

The operator is removing four journeys between Fort William and Inverness, the 919 route, on November 23.

The company has said the impact of the changes will be minimised by Stagecoach North Scotland's service 19, starting on November 23, which will follow the same journey pattern as the 919 ser-

vice, but at altered times. One of the concerns raised by Mr Fotheringham is the impact on connections with West Coast Motors' service 918, Oban to Fort William.

He said: 'I understand that Stagecoach manage Citylink in the Highlands and are part of Citylink, but surely these are not acceptable standards. Why are we in Lochaber treated as second-class travellers?'

'A spokesman for Scottish Citylink said a 15-week consultation would take place and in an email it was said it would be 'an extensive one'.

'In fact it consisted of one

meeting on August 19 at which two representatives claimed it was purely a preliminary advice.

'They were not able to supply either proposed timetables, nor allow those present to express any complaint contrary to the story being peddled by Scottish Citylink.'

However, a spokesperson from Scottish Citylink said there had been an adequate consultation and services were changed due to passenger demand: 'Like all businesses, from time-to-time we take a look at our network to determine which services are

most in demand and which have fewer passengers using them. This is to ensure we are providing the kind of services that reflects the travel habits of our customers.'

'From November 23, we are withdrawing four services between Fort William and Inverness to reflect passenger demand. We understand that two of these services will be replaced by Stagecoach North Scotland, and our review has shown that the other two were, on average, less than a quarter full. We continue to offer six services per day between these locations and Stagecoach

North Scotland provides more journey options. We expect all of our service providers to ensure the vehicles used on the route are suitable for the journey.'

'We work hard to make sure we are using our resources effectively to meet the needs of as many of our customers as possible. This will help us to deliver a strong and stable network in the longer term.'

'We shared all of our plans with local authorities through an extensive 15-week consultation period and received no requests to change our proposals from any local council.'



OFFICE CHEER: Representatives from various health organisations at the opening of the new Skye office of CHSS and Lucky2BHere.

New office sees charities strengthen links on Skye

TWO LIFE-SAVING charities have strengthened their links after opening a new office on Skye.

The launch of the Portree office on Friday October 30 marked a significant event as Chest Heart Stroke Scotland (CHSS) opened the premises with fellow charity Lucky2BHere.

In 2007, Lucky2BHere was established by Skye native

Ross Cowie, who had a cardiac arrest, but was lucky an ambulance was nearby to save his life.

As a result of his experience, he decided to raise funds to buy a defibrillator for Skye Camanachd Shinty Club in Portree.

The effort grew into a registered charity with an elected committee and trustees run on a voluntary basis.

Initially Lucky2BHere provided defibrillators and emergency life support training on Skye and the immediate mainland, but now delivers this throughout Scotland.

The office will provide a base for CHSS's community support worker to support the work of Lucky2BHere and improve links between CHSS and remote and rural populations. Ross said: 'Working with

Scotland's leading health charity will increase the profile of Lucky2BHere on the national stage, supporting the life-saving work already being done while, at the same time, enabling us to drive forward our ambition to have emergency life support training introduced into the curriculum of every secondary school in the country which, without doubt, will save lives.'

'Hard-working' chairwoman thanked

THE 'HARD-WORKING' chairwoman of Lochaber High School's parent council has been thanked for her input as she steps down after four years.

Caroline Haines has passed the baton to Liz Lennon and was presented with flowers from pupils and staff of the Fort William school.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'We are very grateful for the hard work and support that Caroline has given to the school over many years as a parent council member, then secretary and, for the last four years, as chairperson.'

'The parent council is an effective voice for parents, thanks to Caroline's positive and enthusiastic contribution.'

ALL CHANGE: Caroline Haines, right, outgoing chairwoman of Lochaber High School Parent Council, was thanked for her hard work by new chairwoman Liz Lennon.



Union to vote on industrial action

TRANSPORT union members are to be balloted on whether to carry out industrial action following reported 'defects' on trains linking Fort William with other cities.

RMT union members working on the Caledonian Sleeper rail service which links Fort William with Glasgow and London are to vote on industrial action.

Union members say the service has been suffering from broken toilets and fire alarms, leading to delays and cancellations.

Operator Serco, which took over Caledonian Sleeper earlier this year, said it was disappointed the union was considering industrial action, and it was working to improve the sleeper service.



BUSINESS BRAINS: Mallaig High School pupils, left to right, Kelly Norman, Louise Duncan, Alyssa Smillie and Duncan Biddulph.

Pupils a class act at business event

PUPILS from two West Highland schools had their first taste of cutting edge business at a Dragon's Den-style event.

Teams from Mallaig and Plockton high schools attended the Highland and Moray's Young Enterprise Scotland (YES) event on Monday November 9, pitching their product ideas to a panel of businessmen and women.

Mallaig's 'Wee Grow' team were awarded £80 towards their plans to produce Ben Nevis-themed children's height charts while 'Let's Make History' from Plockton received £70 towards their castle building kits.

Linda Thomas, chairwoman of YES Highland and Moray, said: 'Our dragons were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm, professional presentations and innovative product ideas from the young people taking part this year.'

'Now more than ever it can be challenging for young people to find jobs so the expert advice given by the business people on the panel is invaluable.'



CLASS ACT: The Plockton team: Daniel Goldthorpe, Ailsa James, Sarah Nutkins, Mairi Dinan and Lillidh Berry.

ADVERTORIAL

FREE KITS TO KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE WARM THIS WINTER

ALenergy have FREE "Keep warm kits" with cool energy saving gadgets to give to young people who are leaving care or the family home to get their own place. Young carers and young parents can also have a "Keep warm kit". The kits are packed with video links, apps and information to help keep warm without blowing the budget. Each kit bag will have selected gadgets depending on individual circumstance.

If you would like a kit get in touch email us at: enquiries@alenergy.org.uk
Phone 01631 565 183

You can find out about other help if you tweet us at: @ALenergy13
like us on Facebook: ALenergy

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IT'S NOT EASY BEING A YOUNG PERSON ESPECIALLY IN WINTER

When someone mentions fuel poverty the image that pops into our head is a miserable old lady wearing numerous layers of clothing sitting in a cold and dark looking home. This imagery is conjured up because older people historically have been the face of high profile fuel poverty campaigns. Help the Aged have successfully championed fuel poverty campaigns and have so effectively raised awareness of fuel poverty as an older person's issue we now think fuel poverty is synonymous with older people. This is at odds with the statistical evidence which shows a sharp rise in the number of young people in fuel poverty. In Argyll, more than 43% of people are living in fuel poverty and the figure reaches more than 60% in some communities. Parents worry about their children, at the very least they want to ensure their child is not hungry and homeless and that their home is warm and dry. Children transitioning from care to live alone often have little or no parental support. ALenergy is concerned about all young people living in fuel poverty but are particularly concerned about young people transitioning from care and young people who are carers - as these groups may be more vulnerable to fuel poverty and debt due to generally lower incomes and less knowledge and experience of how to reduce energy bills. Fuel poverty may also exacerbate other issues in their lives such as difficult living conditions and financial worries. Advice, support and practical help provided to these young people can significantly reduce the likelihood of them slipping into fuel poverty or debt and suffering from its related consequences. In response to these concerns, ALenergy has been awarded funding by West Coast Energy to provide services that are specifically focused on young households - offering advice, support and mentoring to help them to adopt energy saving behaviours; switch suppliers or change tariffs; maximise their income and access energy efficiency schemes for installation of measures. Training is also offered to front-line workers in organisations and groups that support young people in their community, so that they can identify those who are struggling, refer them for specialist advice / support and if need arrange follow-up. Free toolkits containing video and app links and energy saving gadgets are available to young householders who contact ALenergy or one of their partner organisations for help. Kintyre food bank, supports vulnerable young people. Jean McIntyre works for the food bank and stated "Our stock went very quickly, young folk snapped them up. There is a real need for them locally. With winter coming young people and families often find it hard to make their money stretch to eating and heating".

Anniversary of dog rescue charity



CELEBRATIONS: Some members at the Sarda 50th anniversary dinner in the Alexandra Hotel with their dogs, including founder member Hamish MacInnes, centre.

THE 50TH anniversary of the founding of one of Scotland's best-loved charities has been celebrated in Fort William.

In 1965, Hamish MacInnes formed the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) in Scotland. It has now expanded to several parts of the UK. To mark the special occasion, more than 100 people gathered in the Alexandra Hotel.

Past and present members from SARDA Scotland, Southern Scotland, England, and the Isle of Man attended, as well as current dog handlers, and ex dog-handlers going back as far as 1965.

Moir Weatherstone of SARDA Scotland said: 'Old friends were reunited. New dog handlers were introduced and exchanged stories with ex-dog handlers from the '60s, '70s and '80s. Old friends who could not be with us were remembered. We also celebrated the heroes - our dogs. Each table was given the name of a dog from the past including Hamish's dogs. It was a fantastic evening and one we will all remember.'

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The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (NORTH BALLACHULISH TO SOUTH OF FORT WILLIAM) (40MPH AND 50MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2015

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 40 mph and 50 mph on speed reduction on the following lengths of road:

40 mph Speed Limit

1. That length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point (Ordnance Map coordinates 203243,761382) 37 metres or thereby east of the east main gable of Onich Hotel to a point (Ordnance Map coordinates 202360,762054) 57 metres or thereby northeast of the northern main gable of the building known as "The Old Store", a distance of 1.532 kilometres or thereby.

50 mph Speed Limit

1. That length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point (Ordnance Map coordinates 205213,759986) 400 metres or thereby south of where it meets the extended centreline of the B863 to a point (Ordnance Map coordinates 203243,761382) 37 metres or thereby east of the east main gable of Onich Hotel, a distance of 3.030 kilometres or thereby.

2. That length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point (Ordnance Map coordinates 202360,762054) 57 metres or thereby northeast of the northern main gable of the building known as "The Old Store", to a point (Ordnance Map coordinates 207665,770814) 19 metres or thereby southwest of the southern main gable of the building known as "Tigh Buidhe", a distance of 11.001 kilometres or thereby.

The 40mph speed restriction is currently in operation by virtue of The Trunk Roads (Route A82) (Onich) (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 1984 and is not changed by anything in this Order.

The Trunk Roads (Route A82) (Onich) (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 1984 is revoked and the 40 mph speed limit is replicated in this Order.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, and a copy of the order being revoked may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 12th November 2015 until 10th December 2015 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF; Fort William Library, Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EU; and Kinlochleven Community Library, Riverside Road, Kinlochleven, Argyll, PH50 4QH.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Karl McAreevey, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A82/KM by 10th December 2015.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/north-west-traffic-orders>

S LEES
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Inveroy Common Grazings, Kilmoinvaig
Registration Number: CG195

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home

Goods Vehicle Operators Licence

Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd trading as Highland Industrial Supplies Ltd of 36 Seafield Road, Inverness, IV1 1SG is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to add an operating centre to keep one vehicle at 5 Ardgor Road, Caol, Fort William, PH33 7JE. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, 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 for the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

| Ref | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 15/03006/PPP | Site for the erection ofcroft house | Land North of Cala Nan Eun Kilchrean Taynult Argyll and Bute | Sub Post Office Taynult |
| 15/03010/PP | Erection of dwellinghouse | Garden Ground Caberfeidh Polvinnister Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5TN | Oban Area Office |

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

| Ref | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| 15/02952/PP | Erection of dwellinghouse, studio and car port, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access | Land South of Shelling (Garden Ground of Pier House) Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll And Bute | Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura |

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

| Reference Number | Development Address | Proposal Description |
|------------------|--|---|
| 15/03802/PIP | Land at Croft 5 (Plot C), Sanna, Kilchoan | Erection of house |
| 15/04076/FUL | Sheraton Homes Development Site, Lochyside, Fort William | Conversion of vacant retail storage space to form 3 residential studio apartments at first floor north side of the Sheraton Retail Building |
| 15/04077/FUL | 127 High Street, Fort William | Siting of 3 tables and 7 chairs outside premises Monday to Friday 11am to 8pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am to 8pm |
| 15/04087/FUL | Crannoch, Nevis Bridge, Glen Nevis, Fort William | Change of use from garage/workshop to dwelling |
| 15/04141/PIP | Land 40m South of Runival, Mallaig | Formation of house plot and access |

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

First Registration of a Croft

Mr John Livingstone has registered the croft Glasdrum, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 2nd August 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1889.

North Argyll Carers Centre

AGM
Thursday 10th December 2015
At The Royal Hotel Oban, 12.00
All welcome
SCO40902

Oban Camanachd Club

AGM
Tuesday 01 December 2015
The Rockfield Centre
7pm prompt
All Welcome

Serco Caledonian Ferries Limited
is hosting open days on Mull and Tiree.

We would like to invite members of the community to meet the Serco CHFS bid team, tell us your views regarding the CHFS service and learn more about Serco and its operations in Scotland.

Please join us at the Isle of Mull Hotel between 1:30pm and 6:30pm on Wednesday 25th November.

You are also invited to meet the team at Tiree Community Hall between 12pm and 4:30pm on Thursday 26th November.

For further information on the event contact Ruairidh Wilson, Stakeholder Engagement Manager at caledonianferries@serco.com

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION

1 Ashcroft
5 & 6 Sanna, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart
0.198 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.59758

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

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Scotch lamb campaign succeeds in driving sales

RETAIL sales of fresh lamb in Scotland were lifted by more than eight per cent as a result of a Scotch Lamb marketing campaign, an industry body has claimed.

The increase, says Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), was driven by a QMS advertising campaign entitled 'Wham Bam Scotch Lamb'. The promotion increased demand for lamb over the two months of the campaign, out-performing sales of fresh lamb across the rest of Britain in the same period. The campaign targeted 3.7 million consumers - more than 90 per cent of Scottish adults - and built on a campaign a year earlier.

A key objective of the 2015 campaign, which took place in August and September, was to encourage consumers to understand how versatile lamb is, as well as being quick and simple to cook.

The campaign harnessed a range of marketing activities to drive Scotch Lamb sales, including 115 days of sampling in retailers, 112 outdoor poster sites; a month-long radio advertising campaign and extensive on-line and social media activity.

'The good news is that the average retail price in Scotland for fresh lamb held firm and even strengthened by 1.5 per cent year-on-year to £9.25/kg during the course of the campaign, compared with the GB-wide price which went down by 0.5 pwe cent,' said Laurent Vernet, Head of Marketing with QMS.

'Our research also clearly indicates that the strong results were not triggered by reduced retail prices. The campaign resulted in shoppers increasing the number of occasions they purchased lamb and also the volume of lamb purchased on each shopping trip.'

Another encouraging aspect of the campaign



BBC Masterchef host Gregg Wallace was reunited with Masterchef: The Professionals winner Jamie Scott at the campaign, the pair cooking quick, simple dishes with Scotch lamb.

results, he said, was a lift in the retail value of fresh lamb purchased by more affluent consumers.

Mr Vernet continued: 'During the campaign we also saw an increase of Scottish shoppers aged under 45 years old purchasing fresh lamb, with a welcome lift in the number of Scottish families with children purchasing lamb. We believe that our general message resonated with these younger consumers.'

'The frequency of lamb purchased by urban families also saw a very encouraging 55 per cent increase during the campaign.'

Farm Management Handbook - new edition published

THE LATEST edition of the Farm Management Handbook has just been published. In an incredibly difficult climate for farmers, the editors of the 36th edition have recognised the need to add the latest information on CAP reform as well as dedicating space to assessing machinery costs many of which are now unsustainable in this uncertain economic situation.

Senior rural business consultant, Julian Bell, said: 'With widespread changes to CAP payments coming into effect this year, coupled with a downturn in almost every commodity sector, farm businesses are facing huge challenges. SAC Consulting predict the pace of business restructuring and shifts in production systems will accelerate this year as

farm businesses adapt to the new environment. The updated handbook will help support this process.'

The handbook, which is updated every year, is an essential tool for any progressive farm business, providing a comprehensive and up-to-date source of information for farmers, rural professionals, students and consultants.

To help this decision making process the new handbook provides detailed guidance on determining machinery costs on a per hectare/acre basis. This requires information on the costs of machinery purchase, servicing, fuel use and work rates to generate an accurate figure to compare against contractors' charges.

In addition, the 2015/16 handbook continues to provide the following updated information:

- Detailed gross margins for livestock, arable, forage and organic enterprises.
- Information on renewable energy, diversification projects and organics.
- Whole farm data for English and Scottish farms.
- Information on labour, machinery, rural aid, taxation, contracting charges, buildings, forestry and credit.
- Key reference data such as residual values of fertilisers.
- Conversion rates and input prices.
- Useful dates and timings for key farm operation and management events.
- Details of relevant contacts and further sources of information.

To order, or for details visit www.sruc.ac.uk/fmh; call 0131 603 7525.

Autumn show for Scotland's farmers

NOW WIDELY regarded as one of the premier events in UK agriculture, AgriScot was held on Wednesday near Edinburgh.

Farmers from across the UK descended on the Ingliston showground to view the latest agricultural products and services.

More in next week's paper.

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

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For further information contact: The Estates Office, Facility Services, Blairvadach, Shandon GB4 8ND. Tel: 01436 658957. Email: propertysales-lettings@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The Boathouse Restaurant, Kingairloch, Ardgour. Available for Lease

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- 30 covers plus 10 on outside decking
- Ideally suited to a couple passionate about food
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- Separate 3 bedroom house available for rent under separate negotiation

Price On Application

For more information or to arrange a viewing contact James Allan on 01397 702433.

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Audi A4 Cabriolet

2004 2.5tdi. Fully years MOT, service history, 6 CD multi changer, full grey leather interior, alloy wheels, 96,000 miles, black, good condition.

£3,800 ono

Tel: 07789 961633

100 HP YAMAHA 2006

Outboard engine, 288 hours, fully serviced with new anodes and thermostat, propeller in great condition, includes controls and rev counter.

£4850

Tel: 01852 314234

Interest Rates Remain Same

Earlier this month, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted eight to one in favour of keeping the Bank Rate at 0.5%. While many expect a rise during the first half of 2016, increasingly it has been suggested that any increase in rates may yet be some way off.

Back in September the chief economist at the Bank of England said that the case for raising interest rates is "some way from being made", while Capital Economics said that it was "easy to imagine rates not rising until the second half of next year".

The Bank has tried to encourage consumer spending to stimulate economic activity by holding the interest at the historical low rate for over 6 years. It is expected that any increase will be slight allowing those on variable rate mortgages to adjust to an increase in their repayments. However, those savers looking for a return on their hard earned savings, this news is less welcome, especially those who are looking to save a deposit.

Letting: UK rents 'increase annually by 2.7%'

According to new data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), UK private rental prices have increased by 2.7 per cent in the 12 months to September 2015.

Across the UK, private rental prices were shown to have grown on average by 2.8 per cent in England, 1.6 per cent in Scotland and 0.5 per cent in Wales.

The ONS report claimed that the national rental market was going from strength to strength, with prices growing at their joint fastest annual rate since October 2012. The reasons for the rise have been partly attributed to a low supply of available private rented property and also increasing house prices, which are seeing more people renting for longer periods. Demand continues to outstrip supply in many areas according to the recent Residential Market Survey from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors for September.

We are seeing this national trend in Argyll and Lochaber too. Increasing rents, high demand for rental properties and many people resigning themselves to renting for the foreseeable future.

Thinking of investing in rental property or have a property to rent? We have tenants waiting for a range of properties. Call a me on 01631 569 466 (Opt 1) to discuss your property TODAY!

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Apartments 1-5, The Cairns, North Connel, Argyll

- ONLY 2 APARTMENTS REMAINING!!
- New development of 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments
- Sought after location
- Loch views towards Connel Bridge

Offers In The Region Of £225,000

An exciting new development of 2 & 3 bedroom apartments in the desirable location of North Connel a hamlet on the north side of Loch Etive in Argyll, Scotland. The development comprises of allocated parking and communal gardens. Within easy commuting distance of the lively coastal town of Oban.

The Steading, Camas Inas, Acharacle

- Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Loch side location with mooring
- EPC Rating - E (48)
- Set in approx. 2.5 acres including woodland and

Offers In The Region Of £380,000

This spacious loch side three bedroom extended steading complete with mooring, set in approx. 2.5 acres with panoramic views across Loch Sunart. Originally an old byre dating back to the 1800s the property has been extended and modernised to create a spacious and practical home.

35 Pulpit Drive, Oban, Argyll

- Semi-detached bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom / 1 WC
- In excellent condition
- Easily maintained garden
- Quiet location
- EPC Rating D(62)

Offers In Excess Of £169,000

A spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached house located on a quiet cul-de-sac in Oban. The property comprises a hall, lounge diner, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom and separate WC. The property is presented in excellent condition throughout having been renovated to a high standard by the current owners.

Flat 1, 3 Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll

- First floor flat
- 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Quiet location

UNDER OFFER IN UNDER 24 HOURS

Offers In The Region Of £98,000

SO, this is a spacious 2 bedroom first floor flat in Oban town centre. The property comprises a kitchen/diner, lounge, 2 double bedrooms and bathroom.

Bramble Cottage, Bramble Cottage, Calgary, Isle Of Mull

- Detached Heb Homes cottage
- 3 Bedrooms / 3 Bathrooms
- EPC Rating - D (66)
- Delightful views over countryside towards Calgary Bay

Offers In Excess Of £280,000

Built in 2008, this Heb Homes design property is situated in an elevated position less than 1 kilometre from the popular Calgary beach on the West coast of the beautiful Isle of Mull. On the ground-floor the accommodation comprises hall, open plan lounge kitchen diner, 2 bedrooms (1 en-suite) and family bathroom.

Rowantree Cottage, Rowantree Cottage, Isle Of Lismore

- Detached Cottage
- 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- In excellent condition
- Large private garden
- Located on the beautiful island of Lismore
- EPC Rating E(43)

Offers In Excess Of £120,000

A charming 2 bedroom detached cottage in the beautiful Isle of Lismore. The property is comprised porch, hall, kitchen/diner, bathroom, lounge with stairs leading to two bedrooms upstairs. The property has been restored and improved by the current owners.

Cuan Cottage, Cuan Ferry, Isle Of Seil

- Detached Cottage
- 2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Sea Views
- Large garden
- Beautiful island location
- EPC Rating G (01)

Offers In The Region Of £190,000

A charming 2 bedroom cottage on the Isle of Seil set within a large private garden and enviable sea views across the Cuan Sound. Though this property requires some modernisation it offers an excellent opportunity to purchase a traditional cottage, set in a generous garden with sea views.

Top Floor Flat, 10 Main Street, Tobermory

- Top floor flat on Tobermory's Main Street
- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- EPC Rating - E (50)
- Delightful views over Tobermory Harbour
- Excellent holiday let

Offers In The Region Of £115,000

A bright and spacious 3 bedroom top floor flat on Tobermory's popular Main Street with unobstructed views over Tobermory's bustling harbour. The property comprises a spacious hallway, hall cupboard, open plan kitchen/lounge, three well-proportioned bedrooms (two with views across the bay) and family bathroom.

WANTED

Wanted all 4x4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Telephone: 07703490572 ask for Robert

2009 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Titanium Diesel



53,000 miles. Two careful owners. Excellent condition inside and out, first to see will buy. **£4,495 o.v.n.o.**

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WANTED

4x4s, Land Rover, double or single cab pickups, or any type of 4x4, any year or condition, will collect.

Tel 07767 302294 or 01339 802522

Seat Leon, 1.2 TSI S Copa



2011, silver, alloy wheels, blue tooth stereo, steering wheel controls, parking sensors, fsh, MOT March 2016. **£7350 o.n.o.**

Telephone 07947 855941

Black Ford Fiesta Zetec, 1.25, 2010



Very low mileage 19,000. Alloy wheels, parking sensors. This car is in excellent condition inside and out. It comes with 12 months MOT and 2 keys. **£5,500**

07584 778291

Honda Cr-V 2.0 SE Sport Petrol AUTO



137,000 miles, black part leather, electric windows, sunroof and mirrors. Average condition. MOT and serviced in August 2015. Advisories have been priced at about £850. Fort William.

£450

07920 186507

WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

Telephone: 07546 788945

WANTED



Cars/ Motorbikes & Quads
Any condition/ mileage considered from 2000-2014

Tel: 07900 668642 Andrew

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan, any 4x4 considered non-runners, failures, single or double cab and accident damaged, MOT failure, genuine people to deal with.

Telephone: 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

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Ford Galaxy Titanium-X 180 Diesel AUTO



2011(11), 41,000 miles, beige leather, Sat NAV, panoramic sunroof, reversing camera, tyre sensors, Thule roofbox, MOT and Serviced in June 2015. NO advisories. Fort William.

£14,500

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Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for these positions although the company offers extensive training and development opportunities through both in house and external courses. Preference will be given to candidates who can offer transferable skills and qualifications.

Applicants must have good practical and problem solving skills, along with good standards of fitness to enable passing a full ML5 medical. A full, clean driving licence is also essential together with a willingness to travel to other Marine sites as and when required.

The Scottish Salmon Company is 100% focused on Scotland. We produce our salmon with a pride recognised at home and around the World. We require passionate individuals dedicated to delivering the highest standards in all aspects of our business from animal husbandry to customer service.

In return we offer a competitive salary package within a successful and innovative company committed to sustainability.

To apply, please contact:
Angela Gibson
The Scottish Salmon Company
Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll PH26 8BH
Tel: 01499 600 430 angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 26th November 2015
www.scottishsalmon.com

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£7.32per hour £8.05 weekend rate

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He receives support both at home and in the community. Support staff will accompany him to various activities of his choice. He enjoys Going to the gym, swimming and also likes to attend a music session every Friday night where he takes part playing the accordion. He also receives support with home skills and will be supported to perform tasks at home from cooking to housework. He has a good sense of humour and is great company. He enjoys the company of people around his own age.

Previous experience is not essential: we are seeking people with common sense in abundance and excellent values. Full training will be given.
Closing Date: 7th December 2015

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Telephone 01631 710756, mobile 07887771229.

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Corrie Construction Ltd seek applicants for both Plant Operators and General Operative positions. CPCS and CSCS cards and a full driving licence are essential.
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Carn Mor House, Glen Nevis Business Park, PH33 6RX

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As we enter a new era, we are looking for a dynamic individual to join our fantastic team, who will engage with our customers in the communities that we serve and possess the skills and personality to be a conversation starter, good listener and creative thinker.

Whilst experience in this field is preferred, it is more important that the newest member of our team has drive, ambition, a positive attitude and the desire to learn, develop and advance in their career.

If this sounds like you then we would love to hear from you. We offer full training and support, excellent rates of pay, a pleasant working environment and all the benefits associated with a major employer in the West of Scotland.

A full driving license is essential. **Closing date: Friday 4th December.**

In the first instance, please email your CV to Fiona Bennett, HR Manager at fiona@wyvexmedia.co.uk or call Nicky Murphy, Advertising Director Designate for an initial discussion on 01631 568000

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:
Seasonal Port Assistants
Rate of Pay £9.49 per hour
3 positions available until March 2016
20 hours
Kennacraig

Applications are invited for the position of Port Assistant based at the Kennacraig Ferry Terminal. Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include:

- All duties connected with ship movements, gangways and securing of vessels.
- Customer enquiries.
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- Cash handling.
- Use of VHF and PA Systems.
- Control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working, as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

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Mrs Alice Goode who celebrated her 100th birthday on September 30, 2015, would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all the beautiful flowers and gifts and many cards. It was a very special day. Thank you all.

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DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully, after a long illness, at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, on November 12, 2015, Christina (Tina) Campbell, née Paterson, of 43 Mains Avenue, Beith and formerly of Strachur, beloved wife of the late Norrie Campbell, much loved mother of Liz, Norrie and Christine, adored nanny and great-nanny and a dear sister and aunt to all the family. Funeral service will be held in Kilmorich Parish Church, Cairndow, on Friday, November 20, 2015 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Kilmorich Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Nurses.

INGRAM - On the November 10, 2015, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, Elizabeth Catherine Ingram (née MacVicar) Dunoon & Highlanders Institute Glasgow, ex-Head Teacher of Ulva Primary School, beloved wife of Ivair, mother to Alasdair, Douglas and Shona, granny of Megan, Ryan and Pamela. She was a fighter to the end. Funeral service to be held at Salen Parish Church, Isle of Mull on Friday November 20, 2015 at 11.15am.

MACCALLUM - Peacefully at his home, 15 Jubilee Terrace, Lochgilphead, on November 14, 2015, Malcolm (Mal) MacCallum, aged 86 years, beloved husband of the late Margaret Gillies, dear brother of Cathie, Elsie and Nancy, and a much loved uncle, great uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague and mentor to many. Will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Friday, November 20, 2015 at 11.00am, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Erskine Home.

MACE - Peacefully at home, in Kilmorich, Fife on Monday November 16, 2015, Guy aged 65 years. Beloved husband of Lesley devoted father to John, James and Clare and a loving grandfather to Lilly and Hugo. Funeral service at Kirkcaldy Crematorium on Wednesday November 25, at 11am. Family flowers only please.

MACKENZIE - The Rev. D.W. MacKenzie, of Perth, Auchterarder, Inveraray, Barra and St Johnstone's Care Home, Perth on November 10, 2015, aged 98. His funeral will take place at Perth Crematorium at 12.30pm on Friday, November 20. No flowers please, donations for Cancer Research.

MOIR - Peacefully after a short illness at Borders General Hospital on Monday November 16, 2015, Barbara, (late of Acharacle) beloved wife of the late Donald, much loved mum of John, Grant, Garry and Stuart a devoted granny and nana of the family. For funeral arrangements please contact Co-operative Funeralcare, Galashiels on 01896 752300. Family flowers only please.

UNGOED-THOMAS - Mary Ann of Meikleour, Perthshire (formerly of The White House, Onich), on November 11, 2015, peacefully after a long illness, at Blairgowrie Cottage Hospital, aged 83 years. Dearly loved wife of Basil, much loved mum of Colin, Mark and Claire, adored Jannie to grandchildren Hannah, Ruth, Ben and Andrew. Funeral service will be held in St. Catharine's Episcopal Church, Blairgowrie, on Monday November 23 at 12.45pm, followed by committal in Perth Crematorium at 2pm. Family flowers only please, but donations to the Stroke Association and Marie Curie Cancer Care may be given at the church or sent directly to David Scott Funeral Directors, 65 High Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6DF.

OBAN TIMES BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

VASS - Peacefully at North Argyll House, Oban on November 10, 2015, in her 85th year, Anne Sophia Vass (née MacCorquodale) beloved and loving wife of the late Donald. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church on Friday, November 20 at 1.00pm thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiring collection/donations, if desired for North Argyll Residents Comfort Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BAKER - John. Following the loss of a beloved husband and father, Margaret, Catrina, Derek and Aileen would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, flowers and generous donations made to Prostate Scotland. Currently the sum of £1,554 has been raised. Thank you to the doctors, nurses and staff of the Victoria Hospital and the health centre in Rothesay for the excellent care during John's illness. Special thanks also to Rev. MacKenzie, Roddy MacDiarmid and George Hill.

MEMORIAMS

CAMERON - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father and grandad, Angus Cameron. Died November 18, 1994, always in our thoughts and prayers. - Rosemary and family.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Nancy, who passed away on November 20, 2010. Dearly loved wife, mum, mother-in-law and granny. Always in our thoughts.

ENDERSON - In loving memory of my dear husband Iain who died November 22, 2002. We never part from those we love. No distance can divide. In memories garden day by day. We still walk by your side. - Sadly missed, Isobel

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of Hugh, a dear husband to Flora, father to Corinne and father-in-law to Alan, who died on November 19, 2004. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. - Corinne and Alan Barrie, Bridge of Marnoch, Huntly and Flora MacGillivray, Keith

MACGILVRAE - In loving memory of our uncle Mr Angus MacGillvray (Angie) of Cullipool, Luig who died November 17, 2014. "Gus an coinnich sinn a rithist" **MACINTYRE** - Treasured memories of beloved parents, parents-in-law and grandparents Archiebald (Baldy) and Mary (née Boyd) whose anniversaries occur at this time. Always in our thoughts. - Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd

MACKAY - Treasured memories of Christine, loving wife, mum and nana who passed away November 18, 2006. Remembered with love every day. - Donnie, Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families.

MACKECHNIE - Gilbert. Papa, Dad. Loved and missed always. I'll sing you a wee 'Too Ra Loo Ra'. - Jan, Mark, Nadia and Joe, Iain, Lindsay, Quinn and George, Gilbert and Iona xxx

MAY - Precious memories of our dearest mum and granny, Cathie, who died November 23, 2006. 'As you were, you will always be treasured forever in our memory'. - Sadly missed by her loving family.

RICHMOND - In loving memory of our dear parents, mother Agnes, who died on November 21, 1984, father John, who died December 13, 1973, our dear brother Victor, who died March 12, 2015. Always and forever, in our hearts and thoughts. - Lynda and Ian

SMITH - In loving memory of Jessie who passed away on November 23, 2014. Always in our thoughts. - Kenny and family

Obituary - Colin Campbell

Highland band leader

Born: May 7, 1936; Died: September 5, 2015

ACCORDIONIST Colin Campbell, who has died aged 79, fronted his own Highland band for more than 20 years and was considered one of Scotland's greatest-ever box players, with magical dancing fingers. Oban-born and bred, he toured with his band throughout the UK, including London's Festival Hall and Royal Albert Hall, and on several trips to Canada to get expat Scots' feet tapping.

Colin Campbell and his Highland Band, with Colin often singing and playing solo accordion, were one of Scotland's top bands of their era, from the mid-1960s through all of the 1980s. But they also played with many other Scottish acts, including the Corries, Robin Hall and Jimmie Macgregor, Jimmy Shand and his band, Alasdair Gillies, the great Gaelic singer Donald MacRae, Calum Kennedy, the Edinburgh City Pipe Band and the Cape Breton Fiddlers.

Mr Campbell's band, with his great pal Billy Ford on drums, was one of the most-travelled and possibly the hardest-working in the country, and Mr Campbell, a joiner by trade, became known both in the music business and in his trade as 'the Giant'. He was not particularly tall, though well-built, and the nickname came more from respect and the fact that his catchphrase was 'don't worry, leave it in the hands of the Giant'.

Resplendent in Ancient Campbell tartan jackets

and often kilts, the band's secret was a distinctive West Coast swing, with their own compositions and superb arrangements, usually by Mr Campbell himself, a self-taught but naturally-gifted musician. They cut numerous albums, EPs, singles and cassettes over the years, in the days before CDs, and were invited to Canada to play on the top-rated TV series Ceilidh, and with the Cape Breton Fiddlers of Nova Scotia.

But away from the recording, TV studios and big concert halls they were equally at home 'up close and personal' with small appreciative audiences in pubs, hotels or village halls - in the early days packing themselves and instruments into an old Ford Cortina with the double bass strapped to the roof.

Colin Campbell and his Highland Band represented Scotland for two years running at the Welsh International Eisteddfod, where they played with the Corries, Roy Williamson and Ronnie Browne - at a time when the Edinburgh folk duo were at their peak with Williamson's composition Flower of Scotland. In the early '70s, Mr Campbell's band played every week with Alasdair Gillies on his STV programme, Alasdair Sings, which occasionally beat even Coronation Street in the ratings. Mr Gillies became a dear friend and visited Colin during his illness.

Mr Campbell, full-of-life and as fit as his accordion

(his daughter Fiona's words) until his last month, was diagnosed just three weeks before his death with mesothelioma, a rare and aggressive form of cancer caused by earlier exposure to asbestos, presumably from his younger days as a joiner. No one noticed Mr Campbell's illness until he demanded an X-Ray because of his horrendous pain. By then it was too late.

After he stopped touring with the band around 1990, Mr Campbell played solo accordion in his favourite local venues, including Oban's McTavish's Kitchens and the Park Hotel. (He was also known in Oban's hotels and hospitals as their 'Mr Fixit', a perfectionist joiner and carpenter).

His family also dubbed him Mr Safety after he insisted on installing 10 smoke alarms in his old school, Rockfield.

Towards the end of his life, he fought passionately to prevent the school from closing down and to see it taken over by the community. He wrote a special tune for it, the Rockfield Polka.

Behind his Excelsior accordion, he also provided apres-ski entertainment as part of the resident trio at the Strathspey hotel in Aviemore.

Colin Campbell was born on Stevenson Street, Oban, in 1936, one of three children of Collie and Jean Campbell. He was a direct descendant of Sir Duncan

Campbell of Glenorchy - Black Duncan. He went to the local Rockfield School, which he would staunchly support later in his life, and to Oban High School, where his father was janitor. A keen shinty player at school, he went on as a young man to play for Oban Camanachd (the Camanachers), once reaching the Scottish cup final only to be beaten by Newtonmore.

He taught himself to play the accordion when he was 10 and was only 14 when he started his own country dancing band while doing his five-year apprenticeship as a joiner. It was while playing at a dance in Oban that he met Lorna Black, a Jordanhill student from Glen Douglas, by Loch Long, who was working in Oban's Park Hotel as a summer job. They married in Garelochhead in 1959, a marriage that lasted, as they had pledged, until they were parted by his death. Mr Campbell had recorded an accordion song for her, Lorna Campbell of Feorlin.

His daughters recalled him using his carpentry skills to carve their own

wooden toys, notably boats with their individual names engraved. When family, friends or neighbours needed something done around the house, they called in 'the Giant'.

Colin and Lorna lived almost all their married years in a house called Feorlin, just behind Oban's landmark McCaig's Tower, the uncompleted would-be copy of Rome's Colosseum. After Lorna converted the house into a B&B, Mr Campbell helped welcome and entertain guests, who often returned year after year to hear him play the accordion or tell old Scottish tales, and to drool over Lorna's Stornoway black pudding and homemade rhubarb and ginger jam.

She was forced to close the B&B only recently after Mr Campbell's illness, much to the chagrin of regular guests. Colin Campbell is survived by his wife Lorna, daughters Fiona, Alison, Lorna and Audrey, 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. One of his favourite tunes was Men of Argyll, of which he was proudly one. FCS

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Thought for the week

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." (Matthew 5, v. 9)

WHETHER we're religious or not, I doubt many would argue against such sentiments, above. Sadly, we are reminded daily that our world is not a peaceful place.

In a tragic irony we even have a long manufactured gun known as 'the peacemaker'. Jesus' words were addressed to the crowds of people who gathered to listen to a man whose teaching was marked out by an authority lacking in others.

In this opening part of what therein lies the root cause of our lack of peace in its fundamental sense.

But the good news is that this is why Jesus came into the world in order that we might find true peace and reconciliation in him, and become the peacemakers this world desperately needs.

One of the songs in the Old Testament urges us to seek peace and pursue it. May God help us to attain that worthy goal. James Beaton

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GRADUATIONS

Stephen Joseph MacPhee
graduated from Stirling University with a BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science.
Stephen is the son of Roddy and Margaret Rose MacPhee, Fort William and the grandson of Christine and the late Donald MacDonald, Fort William and South Uist, and Catherine and the late John MacPhee, South Uist. A former pupil of Fort William Gaelic and Lochaber High School.

GRADUATIONS

Robert Allan Dunning
recently graduated from the University of Glasgow with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Mathematics and Statistics. Robert is the son of Allan and Mairi Dunning and the grandson of the late Frank and Flora Dunning, Clunes, Achnacarry and the late Lachie and Chrissie MacLean, Knock Farm, Mull. He is a former pupil of Lochnell Primary School and Oban High School.

BJJ
OBAN BJJ held its first children's class last Friday which had games that involved balance and movement, incorporating the movement needed in BJJ. The classes are on Fridays from 6pm - 7pm at the Oban Martial Arts Centre and are for age five and over.

The adult class is concentrating on the upcoming competition in Motherwell on November 21. The classes continue to show growth, not just in numbers, but in everyone's understanding.

For info on any of the BJJ classes contact Coogie Potter on: coogiepots@gmail.com

Karate and Kickboxing
SUNDAY November 1 saw several clubs and associations come together for the Caledonia

Kyokushin Junior tournament (including adult kata) at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead. Clubs represented were: SDKB Oban, ASK Inveraray, ASK Oban, IKKU Oban, IKKU Lochgilphead, IKKU Stirling, and IKO3 Edinburgh. A special mention went to Kenny Gray the local Shukokai instructor who took part in his first tournament for many years and took first place.

The tournament started at 11am with the kata (set patterns) section which produced the following results: Junior low grade kata: 1 Theo Bennett, IKKU Stirling; 2 Shreyas Salunke, IKKU Stirling; 3 Stuart, IKKU Lochgilphead. Junior high grade kata: 1 Oliver Twynham, IKKU Lochgilphead; 2 Lara Pawlicki, IKO3 Edinburgh;

MARTIAL ARTS

WITH IAIN RODGER

3 Iona McCulloch ASK Inveraray. Adult low grade kata: 1 Karen Paterson, IKKU Lochgilphead; 2 Iva Bursikova, IKKU Oban. Adult high grade kata: 1 Kenny Gray, ASK; 2 David Sellick, IKKU Stirling; 3 Andrew Smart, IKKU Lochgilphead.

After the medal presentation for kata the tournament moved on to the fighting. The highlight

of the day was the very last fight which was the high grade 11 - 13 years category between Jilly Lefebvre and Iona McCulloch. This was a fantastic fight with both competitors showing great technique and skill doing both their clubs and instructors proud. Jilly eventually managing to pull off the win with a high scoring tobi jodan geri (jumping head

kick).
The fighting results were:
Under 8 years: 1 Arran Crawford, IKKU Lochgilphead; 2 Connor McLean, SDKB Oban; 3 Logan Galbraith, SDKB Oban.
8-11 years low grade: 1 Darcy Curran, IKKU Lochgilphead; 2 Donald Robertson, IKKU Oban; 3 Kiva Cryans, ASK Inveraray.
8-10 years high grade: 1 Jessica

Graham, SDKB Oban; 2 Cody McCulloch, SDKB Oban; 3 Lara Pawlicki, IKO3 Edinburgh.
11-13 years high grade: 1 Jilly Lefebvre, IKKU Lochgilphead; 2 Iona McCulloch, ASK Inveraray, 3 Robbie Bratton, SDKB Oban.
The award for most spirited fighter of the day went to Iona McCulloch of Argyll Shukokai.
Local club contacts:
For Shukokai karate: kenni.gray@btinternet.com
For Kickboxing: shihanwill@gmail.com
For Kyokushinkai karate: iain@ikku.co.uk

Shukokai Karate
SHUKOKAI Karate held a club grading last Sunday in Dalmaiy. Andrew Buchanan was awarded his 2nd Dan black belt.



Adult low grade kata: Iva Bursikova, left, and Karen Paterson.



Junior low grade kata, from left: Stuart Phillips, Shreyas Salunke and Theo Bennett.



Junior High grade, from left: Iona McCulloch, Lara Pawlicki and Oliver Twynham.



Adult high grade kata, from left: Andrew Smart, David Sellick and Kenny Gray. Photos: Wullie Rodgers



Andrew Buchanan received his second Dan black belt from Shukokai Karate club.



Under 8s fighting, from left: Logan Galbraith, Connor McLean and Arran Crawford.



8-11 low grade fighting, from left: Kiva Cryans, Donald Robertson and Darcy Curran.



8-10 high grade fighting, from left: Cody McCulloch, Lara Pawlicki and Jessica Graham.



11-13 high grade fighting, from left: Robbie Bratton, Iona McCulloch and Jilly Lefebvre.

Oban Camanachd lose out to the champions

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Oban Camanachd | 1 |
| Newtonmore | 2 |
| Marine Harvest Premiership | |

AFTER a pitch inspection last Saturday morning ruled Mossfield Stadium unplayable due to heavy overnight rain, the Marine Harvest Premiership match between Oban Camanachd

and Newtonmore was transferred to the Bught Park, Inverness, a round trip of more than 200 miles for the red and blacks.

It was a long haul for the Oban side to play their remaining 'home' fixture. However, they started in positive fashion opening the scoring through Daniel Cameron, a lead they held onto

until Newtonmore replied with two second half goals from Norman Campbell to secure victory for the champions.

Camanachd teenager Ross MacMillan, who will play in this Saturday's Under 17 final, was outstanding snuffing out the threat of Premier League top scorer Glen MacIntosh.

Team manager Ian Hay said: 'We are pleased with the performance level of the team despite having to forfeit home advantage. To run the champions so close is an indication of the team's ability to play at this level and augurs well for next season.'

The remaining league fixture against Kyles Athletic will take place this Saturday and is transferrable should the pitch at Tighnabruach be unplayable.

Daniel Cameron will not be available for this fixture as he will be in Dublin with the Scotland squad for the shinty/hurling international against Ireland.

Oban Camanachd under 17s Marine Harvest London Shield



Newtonmore's Paul MacArthur and Scott MacMillan of Oban Camanachd. Photo Donald Cameron

Shinty

final against Newtonmore was cancelled on Saturday due to Mossfield being unplayable. The game has now been re-scheduled for this Saturday and will be played at Craigard Park, Invergarry with a 1pm throw-up with extra time and penalties, if necessary, to decide the winner.

Semi-final
Also waiting patiently are Camanachd's Under 14s who have a semi-final date against Bute in the MacMaster Cup at a venue still to be aged.

In the meantime, team coaches Stephen Sloss and Brian Logan continue training the team in preparation for the game.

The club's annual dinner dance will be held at Glencruitten Golf Club on Saturday November 28, where the annual awards for Player of the Year will take place.

Tickets are still available from Aidan MacIntyre, Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish and committee members.

Opinions wanted on youth shinty

THE Camanachd Association would like to gather the opinions of everyone involved in, and interested in, youth shinty.

Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GRGJ585>. The survey will run until 9am on December 7.

The responses will be collated and used to inform ongoing discussions.

If anyone has any questions please contact Graham Cormack the National Development Manager on 01463 715931/01463 715931 or graham.cormack@shinty.com

Silver medal for Mull weightlifter

A MULL man has powered his way to a silver medal in a British weightlifting competition.

Sean MacPhail, 23, competed in the British Junior Power Lifting Championships in Bournemouth on November 1, having won the regional qualifying heat in July in Newcastle, where he was crowned the Newcastle and Yorkshire Junior Champion.

Competing in the under-24, 120kg-plus weight category, Sean won the silver medal after

Weightlifting

achieving personal bests in all three lifts - bench press, dead lift and squat lift.

Final year
Sean, from Tobermory, is in his final year studying for a BSc physiotherapy degree at Northumbria University.

He is pictured on the left with fellow power lifter and physiotherapy classmate, Jack Gilmour.



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competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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Oban Saints march on in West of Scotland Cup

'We didn't play well by our standards but in saying that we scored six goals and could have scored another four or five'

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Oban Saints | 6 |
| Springhill | 1 |

West of Scotland Cup - 3rd Round

OBAN Saints progressed to the fourth round of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup with a 6-1 win over Springhill of the Lanarkshire Amateur Football League Premier Division last Saturday. Storm Abigail and the heavy rain which she brought with her put an end to any lingering hopes of the match being played on grass so the tie was switched to the 3G community pitch at Oban High School.

Manager Alex Craik named the same squad and starting 11 that defeated Campbeltown Pupils in the Argyll derby the previous week.

Despite the convincing scoreline, this was far from a vintage performance from Saints with the game remaining in the balance until deep into the second half when their opponents from Shotts began to tire, allowing Saints to finally hit their stride.

The home side kicked off attacking the games park end and were almost immediately behind when Willie Gemmell delayed too long in clearing up field and was closed down on the edge of his own penalty box by Paul Hughes. Hughes broke into the box but was closed down by Saints keeper Thomas McCulloch who came quickly off his line to smother the ball at the feet of the Springhill striker.

Surviving this first minute scare Saints went straight up the other end and opened the scoring with

their first attack. Ross Maitland and David McArthur combined well on the right with McArthur sending in a good cross which picked out Donald Campbell on the edge of the box. Campbell met the cross perfectly on the half volley and fired an unstoppable shot into the bottom corner giving Springhill keeper Graeme Marshall no chance.

This should have been the signal for the flood gates to open but Saints' usual slick passing was sadly not in evidence, allowing the visitors to remain firmly in a game which, frankly, should have been a canter for the home side.

Despite not hitting their usual heights Saints continued to create chances particularly from the wide areas where they looked more of a threat.

Terrific Cross

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban outfit's second goal came in the 29th minute with width finally proving decisive. Craig MacEwan delivered a terrific cross from the left which Ross Maitland controlled excellently on his instep before beating full back Dylan Ferguson and drilling a left foot shot low past Marshall in the Springhill goal.

Saints had the ball in the net again two minutes later after Springhill had cleared a Ross Maitland corner from the right.

The ball came back out to Maitland's who flighted a deep cross to the back post towards Campbell. He headed the ball back across goal for MacEwan to nod into the net only for referee John Stobo, who had a good

Football

game, to rule offside which must have been a close call for the man in the middle.

With five minutes of the first half remaining Saints' slackness in the centre of the park was punished when Paul Hughes pounced on a loose ball and quickly fed James Cordiner, who made a good run forward and tucked a neat finish inside McCulloch's right hand post to halve Saints' advantage.

The Oban side ended a largely disappointing first half with a good turn and cross from MacEwan on the right wing which fizzed across the face of goal with, sadly, no takers in navy blue.

Saints profligacy in front of goal continued with Donald Campbell firing high over the crossbar from the edge of the box and Craig MacEwan sending a free header also over the bar from a Ross Maitland corner won on the right by Paul Kerr.

The goal which finally made the tie safe for Saints came when Ross Maitland rifled a 30-yard shot into the bottom corner, the pace and accuracy of which beat keeper Marshall low down to his right.

Saints twice almost allowed Springhill an unlikely route back into the match with sloppy passing gifting opportunities to Matthew Wemyss and Declan Muir.

Saints broke up-field in the 77th minute where MacEwan picked



HAT-TRICK HERO: Ross Maitland takes on Springhill defender Dylan Ferguson during last Saturday's West of Scotland Cup 3rd round tie at Oban Community pitch.

Match Report: Derek Black / Photo: Stephen Lawson

out Campbell with an excellent through ball. Campbell fired in a shot from just outside the box which the advancing keeper Marshall did well to parry but only into the path of Maitland who stroked the ball home to complete his hat-trick.

With five minutes remaining Saints got their fifth from the penalty spot. Maitland made a terrific run into the penalty box, before being brought down by the goalkeeper. The ball broke loose to Campbell who steered it into the unguarded net. However, referee Stobo had already blown for a penalty kick.

Clearly frustrated that his original effort had been ruled out, Campbell smashed his spot kick emphatically off the underside of the crossbar for his second of the game and 14th goal in six matches.

Stooped

Saints rounded off the scoring in the final minute when Martin Bonar stooped at the back post to head home a lofted Maitland free kick from the right to make the final score 6-1.

Manager Alex Craik was delighted to get through to the next round of the cup but not with the performance of his team.

He said: 'We huffed and puffed our way through the game. We didn't play well by our standards but in saying that we scored six goals and could have scored another four or five. However, a better team would have punished a performance like that.'

Saints will face either Shawlands FP or New Farm Loch in the fourth round at Glencruitten on Saturday December 12.

This Saturday Saints return to league duty with a tough away game against undefeated Goldenhill. The match will be played on the 3G pitch at Clydebank High School with a 2pm kick-off.



HEADER: Alan Buchanan gets a header in during last Saturday's game.

Narrow home win for Oban Athletic

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Oban Athletic | 1 |
| Cardross | 0 |

West of Scotland AFL

TOP OF the league, Oban Athletic, welcomed bottom side Cardross, to Oban last Saturday.

The home side, who never looked like losing the match, managed to grind out a one nil victory and secure the three points after being awarded a penalty with five minutes to go.

Athletic started well and created a number of half chances, but couldn't direct their shots on target.

The first chance of the game fell to the Oban side, after Stephen Kelly played a good through ball that found Alan Buchanan who beat his man and drilled a

low cross in front of the box, but the Athletic attack were unable to connect with it.

It was then Craig Campbell's turn when he out-jumped his marker to get on the end of a corner, but his goal-bound header ricocheted off the ground and bounced into the keepers arms.

Athletic had the opportunity to go in at half time one goal to the good after they came close from another corner, but Colin Tindal's header sailed over the cross bar. The first half was a goalless affair and ended 0-0.

When defending an attack down the wing, Oban's Craig Livingstone got his studs caught in the artificial turf and needed to leave the pitch to receive treatment. Livingstone came

Football

back on the pitch, but only for five minutes before being substituted for Daniel MacKinnon.

Both the crowd and Oban players were appealing for a penalty when Colin Tindal was brought down in the box, but referee, Martin Rae, who had a good game, didn't agree and waved play on.

After some good attacking play from Oban that ended in a collision in the box, Athletic were this time awarded a penalty, which was blasted into the back of the net with five minutes to go to make the final score 1-0.

Oban Athletic's next match is at home on November 28, when they welcome Bellairre from Greenock.

Scotland quietly confident going into second test

FINLAY MacRae believes Scotland have to put their biggest win in eight years behind them and focus on raising the standards even higher this weekend against Ireland's Hurlers.

The 30-year-old Kinlochshiel player has tasted both a win and a defeat at Croke Park previously and would love to add another victory to his list of career moments.

However, Ireland have a tradition of bouncing back in these fixtures, particularly on home soil.

Jeffrey Lynskey has galvanised his Hurling squad with six changes to the side that lost 24-14 in Inverness last month.

And MacRae reckons the Scots have to consider this second test as a match against a different opponent and home in on the qualities that make Scotland a proposition.

'Ireland always seem to come back in the second game and I am not sure why, but I still think we can do it,' said the dark blue stalwart, who has been playing representative shinty for 13 years.

'Ireland have brought in some

players for this game and that will obviously help them but, for me, it is about how we react.

'We were convincing in the first game but we have to forget about that because it is over and done with. They've beaten us for a few years now over there and we want to prove we can win both games and bring the pride back.'

National Coach Ronald Ross MBE had the players together for the final time at an all-weather park in Coatbridge on Sunday following a fitness session with coach, Neil Bowman.

Acquaint

The Scots fly out to the cavernous Croke Park in Dublin on Friday and will get a chance to acquaint themselves with their impressive and formidable surroundings.

MacRae starred in the one point defeat of the Irish at the same venue in 2010 and recalls the feeling of winning at the home of hurling in front of a sizeable green and white crowd.

He would like nothing more than to savour a repeat but knows, with players such as Hurler of the Year, TJ Reid of Kilkenny, draft-

Shinty/hurling

ed in, the task will be significant. 'Croke Park is the biggest stage I have ever played on, and ever will, but it is also the same for the hurlers. When we won there in 2010, there were so many people there, the match was so tight and we were ecstatic at getting the win.'

'Ireland will not want to lose at Croke Park, at home and in front of the family, so we need to make sure we are ready for it.'

Ross has been in negotiation with the Irish regarding rules for the second test, with players not allowed to create a raised turf with their boot for ground hits.

A vast sum of money has been invested by the GAA in the Croke Park surface so officials have agreed to allow the Scots to use golf tees instead of their heels to create a platform for hitting.

The match throws in at 4.35pm and will act as the curtain raiser ahead of the International Rules clash between Ireland and Australia, which is likely to attract a capacity 80,000 crowd.

McPhee signs new deal with Saxoprint-RTG

Motorcycling

CONNEL'S John McPhee is to ride with the Saxoprint-RTG squad again in the 2016 Moto3 World Championship, the Racing Steps Foundation announced before the recent Valencia Grand Prix where the Scot finished in seventh place.

The foundation is set to sign a contract for McPhee to race with the soon-to-be Peugeot Motorcycles factory squad in the 250cc lightweight class.

The team, which currently competes with Honda power, will switch to Mahindra Racing-engineered bikes in 2016 under the new arrangement with Peugeot Motorcycles.

The 21-year-old Scot, who finished 11th in the world Moto3 championship said: 'This year has been a tough one for me and Saxoprint-RTG as a whole.'

'But looking forwards to 2016, we have a fresh and exciting start, with new management and a new Peugeot Motorcycles-backed bike which provides us all with a terrific opportunity to show what we are made of.'

'I'm really looking forward to working closely with the Mahindra Racing and Peugeot Motorcycles people to develop the new bike.'

'Hopefully my three years spent in the world championship and the experience I've amassed over that time will prove to be of benefit.'



John McPhee

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST weekend's results: West of Scotland Cup, third round - Campbeltown Pupils 1, Auchinnairn Star 2; Dunoon 1, Haldane United 2; Maryhill Thistle 1, Tarbert 0; Oban Saints 6, Springhill 1; Premier Division One - Lochgilphead Red Star 3, Busby 1. Division One - Rossvale 5, Dunoon Athletic 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Goldenhill v Oban Saints; Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Millbeg Villa v Tarbert.

Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Westerton 1, Under 14s 15; Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacPhee (5), Aaron McKay (4), Daniel Sloss (2), Craig Millar (2), Cameron Clark and Euan Logan; Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game; Under 19s v Westerton, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures - Under 13s v Drumchapel; Tynecastle v Under 14s; Cali Thistle v Under 15s; Under 16s no game; Kilpatrick v Under 19s.

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WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds light north north easterly
Temperatures 1°C to 5°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 19, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

| Date | am | pm |
|------|---|----|
| Thur | 04.38 1.7 10.51 3.3 17.36 1.8 23.14 3.0 | |
| Fri | 05.58 1.7 12.46 3.3 18.55 1.7 ** ** * | |
| Sat | 01.13 3.0 07.17 1.6 14.09 3.5 20.05 1.5 | |
| Sun | 02.35 3.3 08.29 1.3 15.03 3.8 21.05 1.2 | |
| Mon | 03.23 3.5 09.35 1.1 15.49 4.0 21.56 1.0 | |
| Tues | 04.04 3.8 10.23 0.9 16.31 4.2 22.43 0.8 | |
| Wed | 04.44 4.0 11.12 0.7 17.12 4.2 23.26 0.7 | |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

| Port | Difference |
|------------------|------------|
| Ardrishaig | -5.35 |
| Campbeltown | -5.30 |
| Crinan | -0.47 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00 |
| Lochboisdale | +0.30 |

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

| Route | Sea State |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Oban to Barra/South Uist | Moderate |
| Oban to Coll/Tiree | Moderate |
| Kennacraig to Islay | Moderate |

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



YOUR 12 PAGE LOCAL GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS PACKED WITH GREAT IDEAS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

NEWS OF FORT WILLIAM RESIDENT SERIOUSLY INJURED IN FRENCH SHOOTINGS APPEARS TO BE BOGUS

Hoax fears follow claim man lay in coma in wake of Paris attacks

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

REPORTS of a young Fort William father thought to be in hospital in an induced coma following the terror attacks in Paris may have been a hoax. A number of media outlets said the father-of-one, named as Hamish 'Callum' MacDonald had been found unconscious outside the Bataclan Music Hall with a head injury, and since the attacks on Friday, a woman, claiming to be his cousin, Leah, had been using Twitter to give updates on his condition.

On Tuesday, Ian Blackford, the MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, spoke to BBC Radio Scotland's Highlands and Islands news saying he had received the sad news that 'a young man from Fort William, Hamish MacDonald, known as

Callum MacDonald, is sadly in an induced coma in Paris having been caught up in the events in the Bataclan'.

But it now appears the whole story may have been a ruse as The Oban Times contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in a bid to clarify the situation and was told they had not dealt with anyone with that name.

A spokeswoman said: 'One British national is confirmed to have died and two others were injured and treated in hospital. If there are other British nationals who have been affected but have not sought our assistance, they can contact FCO consular staff on 0207 008 1500.

'We have provided consular support to everyone we are aware of and will have an enhanced package of support to those who were directly caught up in the attacks.'

Later on Tuesday, Mr Blackford told The Oban Times he had been informed the whole thing was likely to be a hoax following investigations by multiple public sector organisations.

He added: 'I was concerned when I heard there may have been a person from Fort William involved, as I would be about anyone involved in this situation.'

'If it is the case that this was a hoax it's extremely disappointing that anyone should behave in such a manner because a lot of time and effort will have been wasted in attempts to track down this unidentified person.'

The Twitter account allegedly run by the man's cousin was closed on Tuesday afternoon. Prior to this, Leah had been using social media to track down Callum, describing him as being 24 years old, from Fort

William, with ginger hair and a tattoo of an eagle. The woman, whose Twitter account said she lived in Inverness, thanked people for their support before stating she would be deactivating the account.

A police spokesman confirmed enquiries into the Twitter account are ongoing.

During The Oban Times' attempts to track down Callum's family, no one in Lochaber could shed any light on his identity. Everyone asked was at a loss as to who the young man might be.

Neil Clark, chairman of Fort William Community Council, said: 'I have no idea who he is. I've been asking around but nobody seems to know anything about him.'

For more on the Paris attacks and a West Coast couple's traumatic experience in the French capital, turn to page 7.

TIMESLINE

Festive fun galore in Fort William

FORT WILLIAM will be full of Christmas cheer next weekend. Events kick off with the town's Christmas Gathering on Friday evening, November 27, which will see the High Street filled with circus acts, late night shopping, mulled wine and a visit from Santa Claus.

He will be back in town the following morning, this time with his reindeer, at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's Christmas Festival, with a parade leaving Cameron Square at 11am. Festivities continue with a craft and produce fair at the Nevis Centre, with live music, a bouncy castle and Santa's grotto.

Biography of late MP is published

A BIOGRAPHY of Charles Kennedy has been published, five months after the politician's death.

The life of the former Liberal Democrat leader, who was born and lived in Fort William, has been outlined in an updated version of the original biography 'Charles Kennedy: A Tragic Flaw', originally written in 2006 by Greg Hurst.

Mr Hurst said: 'He was a man touched by greatness, one of the most talented politicians of his generation.'

Children's rights in the spotlight

YOUNG people deserve the best possible service, say attendees of the first children's rights conference in Fort William.

Forty professionals joined directors and staff of Lochaber Women's Aid for the event, focusing on how public, private and voluntary organisations can ensure children are aware of their rights.



Young trio jump to it for Children in Need



Fort William one-year-olds Evie Love, Estelle Gibb and Cruz Campbell raised £233 for Children In Need with a sponsored jump organised by their childminders Nicola Gray and Shona Denholme. For more on Children In Need see page three.

Ardnamurchan pair make it to Gaelic debating final

TWO ARDNAMURCHAN high school pupils have made it to the final of a national Gaelic speaking debate.

Rona Nicolson and Charlie-Anne Fleming, both fifth years, achieved the highest marks of the 20 teams competing in the Stornoway qualifiers of the National Gàidhlig Debate and will travel to Edinburgh for the finals at the Scottish Parliament later this month.

Gaelic teacher John MacInnes was full of praise for his two students: 'This is a huge

achievement for the girls who worked brilliantly together as a team throughout the competition. The standard of debate was very high but they rose to the occasion to outperform many larger schools and are now looking forward to the finals.'

Head teacher Chris Millar-Craig added: 'We are very proud of the girls' success and of what the Gaelic medium provision here at Ardnamurchan High School has achieved. Well done to everyone involved.'



SUCCESS: Rona Nicolson, left, and Charlie-Anne Fleming have made it to the final of a national Gaelic debating competition.

Man rescued from 'certain death'

A HILLWALKER rescued from Ben Nevis amid Storm Abigail's atrocious weather avoided 'certain death', according to a volunteer rescue team.

Fort William-based Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) said the man was attempting to reach Observatory Gully last Thursday when he got into trouble. Rescuers described the scale of difficulty of the route he was attempting as 'certain death' and the weather conditions as 'atrocious'. The hillwalker was found high on a snow slope with chest injuries and was taken to a nearby hut before being helped off the mountain.

In a message to its Facebook followers, Lochaber MRT said: 'Troops have just returned from the eye of hurricane Abigail rescuing a hillwalker attempting

Ben Nevis via Observatory Gully. On the scale of difficulty, this route is certain death.'

'A very difficult rescue in atrocious weather with a very good outcome.'

People took to The Oban Times Facebook page to give their opinions on the man's decision to climb in such hazardous conditions and questioned whether people should be held accountable, financially or otherwise, for getting into danger in pre-warned situations.

Mags Ann Johnstone said: 'They should be made to pay for their rescue. Other people have to risk their own lives to rescue them, especially when they knew the weather was terrible.'

Bev Lascey added: 'I love outdoor activities, but cannot endorse blatant

stupidity or irresponsibility for people venturing out in such conditions unless it's on the understanding no-one will come to their rescue. Thankfully there are still dedicated people who put their own selfless lives on the line and at risk to rescue others.'

Craig Johnston, however, disagreed with the popular view that charging people for rescues, regardless of the situation, was the right thing to do.

He said: 'How many of you have ever set foot on a mountain? Rescues should remain free. There are big risks attached to climbing regardless of weather. MRTs have always been dead-against charging people, so why not listen to the ones who volunteer their time and risk their lives to actually do the job?'

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'Miracle' man celebrates 50 years

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A 'MIRACLE' man from Fort William who was told he wouldn't survive a motorbike accident 13 years ago celebrated his 50th birthday at the weekend.

Neil Nicolson was left seriously disabled and with severe head injuries after a woman driving a Volkswagen Sharan pulled out of a side road in Surrey and collided with his Suzuki bike in August 2002.

A mechanic by trade, Neil, then 39, was working as a scaffolder in London at the time of the accident and now has almost no short-term memory and little mobility. After the crash doctors said he was unlikely to survive and if he did



MIRACLE: Neil Nicolson celebrates his 50th birthday, 13 years after a motorbike crash which doctors said he wouldn't survive. He is pictured front centre with his mother, Betty, on his left and his sister, Lizanne, on his right. 21_147neil01

he wouldn't live to see his 40th birthday. But Neil defied the odds and celebrated his 50th birthday in Fort William on Sunday, surrounded by friends and family.

Neil grew up in Staffin, north Skye, with his parents, sister Lizanne Nicolson and brother Ronald Nicolson, before moving to Fort William as a teenager.

Lizanne said: 'We're so proud of Neil. He really is a miracle. To be here celebrating his 50th is just amazing. It's such a huge thing for us all to be here today. The accident changed his life completely but look at him now. He's living in his own specially adapted home, he has carers but he's as independent as he can be.'

Despite having no short-term

memory, Neil can recall events from his younger years and can still speak Gaelic fluently, after learning at school on Skye and at Lochaber High School. He is not paralysed and has slight mobility in his arms but the head injuries he sustained mean his brain can no longer send the appropriate signals needed to walk. This is a vast improvement from the years immediately following the accident when he couldn't move at all.

At the party at An Aird on Sunday, Neil's family asked for donations to be made to Headway, a charity which supports victims of head injuries and their families. Lizanne said: 'People at Headway helped and supported us a lot in the aftermath of the accident.'



GREAT EFFORT: Lochside RC pupils raised £400 from a pyjama day and coffee morning. 21_147lochside01



OUCH: Ibiza Sun beauticians working on Stevie Martin's back wax. 21_147pudsey04



WARM WELCOME: Lochaber Leisure Centre staff at the start of the fundraiser. 21_147pudsey01



Banavie primary four and five pupils count the £650.59 they raised for Children in Need. 21_147banavie02

Digging deep for Children in Need

MORE than £2,000 has been raised for Children in Need through hair-raising events organised by Lochaber Leisure Centre.

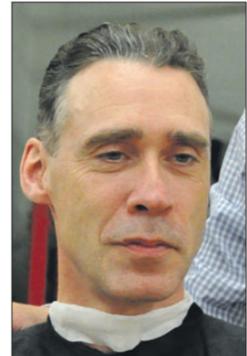
Male staff members braved back and leg waxing at Friday night's fundraiser, while Phil Hughes had 25 inches of hair chopped off in his first haircut in 20 years.

The leisure centre team raised more than £2,000 from sponsors and donations on the night, with money still coming in as *The Oban Times* went to press.

Schools across Fort William took part in fundraisers for the annual BBC appeal.



ABOVE: Phil Hughes prepares for the chop with friend Rab Lees, middle, and barber John Wilson. 21_147pudsey02



RIGHT: Phil has short hair for the first time in 20 years. 21_147pudsey03

TIMESLINE

Trapped whale cut free by fishermen

TWO SKYE fishermen have freed a whale which was caught in equipment used to catch lobsters.

The humpback whale was caught in a buoy and rope, attached to lobster pots.

Fisherman John McKinnon spotted the whale from Elgol in Skye on Saturday and alerted the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR).

Mr McKinnon and his nephew Gordon then went out on their boat and cut the whale free - its tail had become trapped in part of the net of the buoy.

BDMLR identified the whale as one they had tried to rescue two weeks earlier, tangled in ropes at the Sound of Sleat. The organisation had previously thought the whale had drowned after losing track of it in recent stormy weather.

The animal swam off safely after being freed by the pair.

RNLI rescues three divers near Kishorn

KYLE of Lochalsh RNLI rescued three divers from a sinking boat which ran aground near Kishorn.

The stricken vessel, a Sabre 2, collided with rocks near Kishorn at 3.30pm on Sunday, with the lifeboat crew taking the divers aboard their rescue boat.

The crew then attempted to refloat the Sabre 2 at 4pm, however, it began taking on water, listed to its side and sank just two minutes later.

A spokesman for Kyle of Lochalsh RNLI said: 'The vessel did not appear to have been damaged by the rock but there must have been significant damage to the underside of the hull.'

'Once it began to float free from the rock it only took a couple of minutes for the boat to go down. We couldn't save the boat but everyone was rescued safely, which is the most important thing.'

Vandals strike twice in Lochaber

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

At around 9am on Saturday November 7, a section of wire fence was cut at South Laggan, next to the main A82 carriage-way. Some time between 9pm on Saturday November 14 and 11am the following day, a vehicle was damaged on Argyll Road, Fort William.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

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Nurse honoured with long-service award

A LOCHABER woman has received an award for her long service in the nursing profession. The Queen's Long Service Certificate and Badge was presented to Cheryl McIntosh by the Queen's Nursing Institute for Scotland at a ceremony on October 9 in Edinburgh.

During her career, Cheryl was the Queen's district nurse in Argyll, Lorn and Lochaber.

Angela said: 'Cheryl notably spent her working life in the nursing profession, having been superintendent in Fort William

latterly in her career. In June 2009, she received the MBE from the Queen for voluntary services for Lochaber.'

Cheryl, right, is pictured with her friend Philis Knox, left, a retired nurse from the Belford Hospital, Fort William, and Angela MacDonald, the Queen's district nurse visitor for Inverness and Rosshire. The women recently had afternoon tea at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, to celebrate Cheryl's honour. The award is given to community nurses completing 21 years of service.

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Oban's McCaig Tower lit up in solidarity with the people of Paris after terrorist attacks saw 129 people killed and more than 400 injured across five locations in the city. The lights in the Tricolore of red, blue and white lit up the town on Saturday evening thanks to the keeper of the lights, Argyll and Bute Council officer Louis Barrow. Photograph: WDR Photographics

Petition for talks successful

A CAMPAIGN calling for Prime Minister David Cameron to raise the plight of six men stranded in India with the country's President Narendra Modi during his recent visit was successful.

Yvonne Machugh, the partner of Connel man Billy Irving, who has been held in India for more than two years, told The Oban Times: 'I am delighted to let everyone know that through your support and help with the petition at change.org, it was delivered to the Indian Ambassador in London during Prime Minister Modi's visit.'

'Today we got confirmation from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that Prime Minister David Cameron raised the men's case with Prime Minister Modi.'

'We have no information as to what was said, but this is a huge step and a very positive one.'

'Please continue to share and sign the petition. We will continue to use it to show the support for our men stuck in India and will not give up fighting until they are on home soil.'

The petition can be viewed at www.change.org/p/william-hague-help-free-the-6-british-ex-soldiers-from-indian-prison

Closure

QUEEN Street Station in Glasgow, the start and end point for rail services to and from the West Highlands, will be closed from March 20 until August 6, 2016 for refurbishment.

David Gallant, Oban community Council transport spokesman told fellow councillors by email: 'Trains to Oban and Mallaig will use the Queen Street low level station. Some services will terminate at Springburn and some services will have replacement buses for all or part of the route.'

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Oban couple tell of terror after being caught up in Paris tragedy

LOUISE GLEN
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AN OBAN couple who were within metres of a Paris restaurant as guns open fired have praised the kindness of strangers in the city.

Chillingly, Graham Campbell and Simone Hossoba, who were in the French capital to celebrate his birthday, may have been dining at the very restaurant where the atrocities happened on Friday November 13 if timings of the Metro had been different.

As the City of Light was plunged into darkness, the couple were forced to wander aimlessly around the streets of Paris as they were turned away by cafés, restaurants and taxis leaving them with no idea how to get back to their apartment.

Alarmingly, the couple were staying a mere 150 metres from the Bataclan building where the shootings at the rock concert took place.

They were only alerted to the terrorism lockdown by a family member, who phoned from



Graham Campbell and his fiancé Simone Hossoba, centre, with her sister Romana in Paris before the attacks took place.

Oban. Graham said: 'My fiancé Simone booked the surprise trip to Paris for my birthday. I had never been before, but her sister lives there. We had been in Paris since Sunday November 8 and my birthday was on Thursday the 12th.'

'On Friday, Simone, her sister Romana and myself had spent

the whole day at Disneyland Paris. When we got off the train in Paris we enjoyed a meal in a café near Notre Dame Cathedral before heading home for the night.'

'Just as we were leaving to get onto the subway we heard police cars speeding by and I said, 'there must be something big happening'.

'When we got off the subway [to change to another line] we said cheerio to Romana who was staying on the metro, but when we tried to change line we were told that the subway at République and our stop at Goncourt were closed. We weren't given the reason why because our French was not very good. We were told to get a number 75 bus.'

'I then got a phone call from my sister to ask if we were safe and she explained what was going on. We realised the batteries on our phones were very low. We had no 3G to check maps. We were lost in a city in lockdown and it all became very frightening.'

'We went outside to wait for a bus and as we were waiting there was a round of gun shots - a close-by restaurant was under siege. At that point we wanted to get as far from the scene as quickly as possible.'

The couple were turned away from cafés and restaurants, with taxi drivers refusing to take them to their apartment.

Graham describes walking

'aimlessly and blind' through the streets of Paris. People tried to help with directions and maps. But as the couple's French is limited it was proving very difficult.

'Simone was very scared and we didn't want to get back into an area with a big crowd, such as the subway or onto a bus. For me, the adrenaline kicked in. I had to stay calm because if I panicked we weren't going to get anywhere.'

Exhausted, the couple came across a bar and decided they would try one last time to get help. The owner of Café Hugo on Place des Vosages, near the Bastille, proved to be the good Samaritan the couple needed.

Graham said: 'She just took one look at us and said, 'Come in and stay here and we will get you back to your apartment tonight'.

'I saw a bottle of Clan Campbell whisky on the gantry and for some reason I knew then it was all going to be okay.'

'She said a friend of hers was coming to take her staff home

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POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Alan Moore



DAMAGE: The campaigner's front door and a storage box were defaced in the spray paint attack. 17_147crime1

Campaigner's home vandalised

HUNDREDS of pounds worth of damage was inflicted on a campaigner's home in the sort of crime rarely seen in Oban.

Black spray paint was used to write 'Dobed' or 'Dober' on a storage box outside the 64-year-old woman's house below McCaig's tower, and spray paint was also used to vandalise her front door.

The incident happened sometime between 10.45pm on Monday November 17 and 9am on Tuesday November 18.

Police are now undertaking door-to-door investigations and have promised to bring the vandal to justice.

The Oban Times spoke to the victim, who runs a campaign against dog fouling in the town, who said anyone with information should contact the police.

Police said this was a highly unusual incident in Oban and that they were increasing officers in the area. Sergeant Alan Moore said: 'We are taking this matter very seriously. We will be running additional patrols in the area.'

'The person who carried out this act of vandalism should be aware that the penalty can be a period of imprisonment or a heavy fine.'

Anyone with information should contact Constable Chris Pringle on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

Missing bat boxes

THE THEFT of nine bat boxes has left police officers scratching their heads.

The boxes were last seen at Sutherland's Grove near Benderloch on September 22 and it is likely they had nesting bats inside.

The theft of the boxes was

reported to officers on November 12.

Bats are a protected species under law and any act to disturb them is a police matter.

Anyone with information in connection with the alleged theft should contact wildlife officer Kenneth Brack on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

Hotel cash allegation

A SUBSTANTIAL amount of money was taken from the reception area of the Rockport Hotel, Oban, sometime between 11am and 4pm on Sunday November 8.

Anyone with information about the crime should contact Constable Chris Dewar on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

Reported to procurator fiscal

A 38-YEAR-OLD man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after being found in possession of heroin, a Class A drug.

The man had been stopped by police in Albany Street at 7.20pm on Friday November 13. Officers searched the man, allegedly finding the illegal drugs.

The man has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Witnesses sought

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a car was vandalised in Manse Brae, close to the Free Parish Church, Oban.

The white Smart car had its bumper removed between 6pm on November 12 and 9am on Friday November 13.

Anyone with information about the crime should contact Constable Chris Dewar on 101 or speak to a uniformed officer.

Tiree riding crest of wave with awards

LOUISE GLEN
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A SMALL island music festival almost wrecked by storms this summer has blown away the opposition to win a major tourism award.

During this year's Tiree Music Festival, more than 1,000 people had to be evacuated from the site because of strong winds.

A huge response from the community and local businesses helped find shelter for festival-goers in schools, the island airport and people's homes so the event was able to continue.

The festival, which attracted a sell-out 1,700 audience - more than three times the island population - has been voted Best Cultural Event or Festival at the prestigious annual Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA).

And in a double success for the island, the Tiree Wave Classic windsurfing event also won HITA's new Best Sporting Event category.

The awards were presented on Friday night by tourism minister Fergus Ewing MSP at a ceremony in the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness.

In all, 15 tourism businesses and individuals were crowned winners at the event, which was hosted by celebrity chef Tony Singh.



AWARD WINNERS: Tiree Music Festival organisers pick up the much coveted event of the year award.

The HITA judges said of the festival: 'The tiny, seemingly inaccessible isle of Tiree has overcome local constraints to build its annual music festival into an incredible, cultural event which brings economic benefits to the community, highlights traditional and contemporary music and makes imaginative use

of sponsorship. It is a worthy winner that has enhanced the overall visitor experience.'

'This year the festival faced unprecedented weather conditions which could have forced it to be abandoned. However, a truly remarkable effort by the organisers and the island community ensured it not just

recovered but flourished in the following days.'

Tiree Wave Classic is the longest running professional windsurfing event in the world. Founded in 1986, it showcases the UK's best windsurfing talent, ranging from juniors to World Cup professional windsurfers.

Mr Loch Melfort named as ambassador of the year

CALUM ROSS, proprietor of the Loch Melfort Hotel, Oban, was chosen as Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) 2015 Ambassador of the Year.

Mr Ross was described by the HITA board as someone with a quiet and unassuming manner, but with a strong sense of leadership and great integrity.

The Ninth Wave Restaurant in Mull also enjoyed success at the awards event, being voted Best Restaurant Experience. Opened in 2009, the restaurant is run from a traditional croft and uses local produce including seafood, meat, cheese and herbs - see Mull Lines page two.

The five-star Ardtorna bed and breakfast in Oban also brought home an award, winning Most Hospitable of the Year.

And the HITA Hospitality Hero was named as Emma Clark from Glenegedale House in Islay.

Emma and her husband Graeme took over the hotel from her parents in 2013 and have since won a number of awards.



SUCCESS: Calum Ross of the Loch Melfort Hotel was chosen as HITA 2015 Ambassador of the Year.



LANDMARK EVENT: An exhibition will showcase new large-scale works by Jolomo.

Princess Royal to open Jolomo exhibition

BESTSELLING Scottish artist John Lowrie Morrison OBE (Jolomo) is the subject of a landmark exhibition in Glasgow's Mitchell Library, which will be opened by HRH The Princess Royal.

Jolomo@the Mitchell is the Tayvallich artist's biggest show this year and will include a major selection of new paintings.

John's distinctive expressionist landscapes of Scotland have made him one of the country's most successful artists, with celebrities such as Sting, Madonna and Rick Stein buying his work.

In this show, he will unveil a number of new large-scale panoramic works, a shift away from his signature square-format for the first time in 40 years.

The exhibition will also reveal another side to John's work: portraits and drawings of crofters in Argyll, and striking portraits of disabled children, which were completed when he was a student at Glasgow School of Art.

John Lowrie Morrison OBE said: 'As a Glasgow lad, I'm delighted to be having a show in the Mitchell Library. I more or less lived in the Mitchell Library Reading Room when I was a teenager at Hyndland Secondary School studying for my highers. Now, it's a fantastic exhibition space.'

'It feels like a museum - the scale of the space seemed to lend itself to some bigger work. I have made a couple of really large landscape-format works. I've been painting square paintings for 40 years, so this is a major departure. I decided to include a selection of retrospective works, which a lot of people won't have seen.'

'I'm not associated with figurative work. It will be interesting for people to see that I'm not a one-trick pony, as some people have said.'

All the paintings, excluding the retrospective works, will be for sale, with a percentage of the proceeds going to Carers Trust.

John and his wife Maureen are vice presidents of Carers Trust, which has HRH The Princess Royal as president.

The show opens on Thursday November 19.

NEW Business Gateway workshops

Practical Basic Book-keeping

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

25 November - Mull; 8 December - Campbeltown; 10 December - Oban

Better Business Websites

What makes a good website? What does your design say about your business? Is your website content appropriate for your audience? And can people even find it on the first place? Some of the questions covered for businesses already live online. Businesses will examine how to make their existing website better through its' design, content, usability and Search Engine Optimisation.

25 November - Oban

Becoming an Employer

Help small businesses create a structured plan for taking on staff and understand the process of employing people, covering legal obligations and good practice recruitment.

26 November - Helensburgh

Introduction to Trading Online

A workshop that will focus on some of the basics required for trading online, and will look at the various tools, platforms and payment options available to everyone and will include some information of the legal requirements.

1 December - Inveraray

Business Start-up

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

2/3 December - Oban

Recruiting and Managing Staff

This workshop will help businesses recruit, induct, manage and develop staff. Focusing on the skills and processes required to get the best out of staff, rather than the legal aspects and be able to create a plan for managing and developing the staff within their business.

10 December - Inveraray

To find out more or to book a place please contact

Business Gateway on 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Council outlines economic progress

'HEADING in the right direction' is the chairman of an influential Argyll and Bute Council committee last week described the region's economic situation.

Councillor Ellen Morton was speaking as council officers presented a half-year performance report on development and infrastructure services.

Among a number of successes listed were improvements to Oban through the Stafford Street development and planning permission for a new maritime visitor centre in the town.

In the report to the environment, development and infrastructure committee, Helensburgh and Campbeltown CHORD developments were also highlighted, while the council's Business Gateway team supported 28 business start-ups, creating 35 new jobs, during the reporting period.

There are, however, challenges to economic prosperity, including a fundamental threat as the council struggles to meet its obligations under the Single Outcome Agreement as a means of achieving long-term prosperity, sustainable employment and inward investment. Another potentially stormy passage involves the transfer of responsibilities to Transport Scotland for ferries serving Jura, Lismore, Lu-

ing and Easdale. The implications of a ban on waste landfill in 2020 is also exercising minds in Kilmory, though there was encouragement as the proportion of recycling increased.

On a broader front, attracting staff with the right skills to certain council posts has proved difficult, while staff absence within the authority continues to cause concern.

Fergus Murray, head of service for economic development, said: 'Staff are working hard to ensure success along with a whole range of partners, though there are challenges ahead.'

Under questioning from councillor Bruce Marshall, Mr Murray conceded that economic progress was not equally spread, explaining: 'There are areas such as Bute and Cowal with some challenging economic issues, but in that area there are also successes like Portavadie, as well as opportunities around Castle Toward and the new Ardyne development.'

He added: 'We are working alongside HIE to improve connectivity and transport across the whole region to stimulate economic activity.'

Concluding, Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'It's still an uneven, fragile picture, but I do feel we are heading in the right direction.'

Euro cash boost for businesses

EUROPEAN funding will 'significantly increase' help available to accelerate the growth of small and medium-sized businesses.

Argyll and Bute councillors were told last Thursday it was hoped 236 new businesses would be developed under Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator and that it would significantly increase the assistance available to help

the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region and contribute to the National Business Gateway approach to supporting growth businesses across Scotland.

The council is also applying for European funding to deliver other projects, including support and skills for those people 'furthest removed from the labour market'.

Scottish Business Awards Winner 2015 - Employer of the Year

FES Group - Supplier Engagement



Supplier Engagement

FES Group is one of the largest independent technical services companies in the UK with over 50 years of experience providing building services solutions to a wide range of corporate and public sector clients. Our Facilities Management arm, FES FM provides a unique range of in-house hard and soft facilities management services to a diverse portfolio of public and private sector clients across the UK.

FES FM has experienced significant growth in the last 2 years and as part of a privately owned business which has an enviable record in community engagement and development of SME businesses, we are arranging a number of supplier engagement events in order to connect with the SME Community throughout Scotland.

These events will take place in our Scotland offices during November and December.

We welcome attendance from members of the SME community who can support us in delivering Building Services and Hard FM Maintenance Services.

In the first instance can interested suppliers please email supplychain@fes-group.co.uk to register their interest. Once registered we will advise you of dates and venues to suit your location.

FES Scotland offices include:

- Aberdeen
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Oban
- Stirling
- Stornoway



Wild wins first winter league race of the season

THE RAIN briefly stopped on Sunday to allow the first race of Lochaber Athletic Club's Winter League to take place.

Club member Finlay Wild was the clear winner of the 75 runners, finishing the Canal Bank route at Banavie in 27 minutes, almost three minutes ahead of second place Stephen Burns, also of LAC, who crossed the finish line in 28 minutes and 57 seconds.

Hot on Burns' heels was his son, Steven Burns, who took third place in 29 minutes and six seconds, making it three out of three for LAC.

LAC runner Diane Baum was first lady home, in a remarkable time of 31 minutes and 41 seconds, taking 12th place. She was followed by Johana Mackova,

Athletics

unattached, in 34 minutes and 15 seconds, with Amanda Blackhall of LAC third of the ladies in 35 minutes and 26 seconds.

First guest home was Ryan MacKenzie of Highland Hill Runners who was eighth overall with a time of 30 minutes and nine seconds.

Members of LAC thanked marshalls, timers and other helpers for their efforts on Sunday morning.

Top 20 finishers (LAC unless otherwise stated): 1 Finlay Wild 27:00; 2 Stephen Burns 28:57; 3 Steven Burns 29:06; 4 Bruce MacLean 29:19; 5 Ryan Stewart 29:44; 6 Tim Brand 29:49; 7 Michael Bossard 29:55; 8 Ryan



The 75-strong field set off for the first of Lochaber Athletic Club's Winter League races. 21_47race01

Mackenzie (Highland Hill Runners) 30:09; 9 Aidan Donnelly 30:26; 10 Jon Gay 31:14; 11 Allan

Lamont 31:38; 12 Diane Baum 31:41; 13 Alan Smith (Deeside Runners) 31:52; 14 Andy Craig

31:57; 15 Barrie MacKinnon 32:05; 16 Neil Wasldge 32:36; 17 Ben Dodman 33:03; 18 Niall Macbeath 33:34; 19 Markus Marners 33:43; 20 Keith Blackhall 33:51.

Fort lose out to Thistle

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Strathspey Thistle | 2 |
| Fort William | 1 |
| Highland League | |

THE RELIEF of having a fixture go ahead was short-lived for Fort William when they went down 2-1 to Strathspey Thistle on Saturday.

It was a goalless first half until stoppage time when a Strathspey own goal put the visitors ahead but less than 10 minutes into the second half Strathspey made up for their mistake with a goal in the 53rd minute before a second in the 73rd minute to put an end to the game.

This leaves the Fort second bottom in the league, four points behind nearest rivals Huntly but Ally Ewen's men will have plenty of opportunities to catch up as last night's (Wednesday) scheduled game against Inverurie Locos marks the first of 10 games between now and the new year.

The next home game is this Saturday (November 21) when the Fort welcome Forres Mechanics to Claggan Park.

Alleycats stay top Ten pin bowling

ALLEYCATS continue to lead the scratch division of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league after week five.

They now have 23 points, followed by British Legion Fort William on 20 and the Creeps on 18 points.

But the Creeps have inched ahead of British Legion to lead the handicap division on 18 points. British Legion have slipped to second on 17, followed by Alleycats on 16.

Individually, the best games of the week came from Jim Bell of British Legion and Tony Whitelocke of Alleycats who both rolled 171. Jim also had the top handicap game with 234 while Tony enjoyed both the best two-game scratch series with 331 and the best two-game handicap series with 417.

The top team scores of the week came from Alleycats with a scratch game of 578 and two-game scratch series with 1145 while the Creeps had the best handicap game with 788 and the best two-game handicap series with 1537.

Ali Young League Indoor football

WITH THE Ali Young Indoor Football League in full swing, Fiorentina Turner are top of the table and yet to be defeated, following a 3-2 win against Portocwy this week.

Tangney's Dungeon are also undefeated in the Sunday night league but are falling behind on goal difference after week seven in the Nevis Centre, despite an 11-0 victory against Crystal Phallus.

ABCDE were also high scorers on Sunday, beating Ballatasaray 9-1, while Nevis Range beat Real Nevis 6-3.

Crystal Phallus made up for their loss in their second game of the night when they won 3-2 against Inverloch United in their first win of the league while Barcalochy also beat HW Energy 3-2. Stoaters picked up a crucial three points when they beat the Goon Squad 4-3 in a middle of the table clash.

Lochaber Camanachd holds award ceremony

Shinty

THE BEST of Lochaber Camanachd's bunch were celebrated at the shinty club's awards night at the weekend.

The dinner dance at the West End Hotel on Friday night saw nine players of all ages receive prizes for their hard work and dedication to the club.

Brian MacDonald was the proud winner of first team player of the year, while Stuart Callison received the prize for supporters' player of the year. Stuart also jointly won the best trainer, along with Duncan MacKinnon.

Danny Delaney picked up second team player of the year while Findlay MacDonald won the same prize for the under 17s, as did Cameron Whyte for the under 14s.

Kirsty Delaney was the top choice for the ladies' team, while Amy Disher won most-improved girl. Missing from the photo is Ronnie Fulford, who was awarded the under 14s most improved player.



Prizewinners at Lochaber Camanachd's annual dinner dance.



Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee present the Fraser MacPhee Memorial Trophy to Freya MacDonald, second left, and Amy Disher.

Fraser MacPhee Memorial Trophy winners

TWO YOUNG athletes have been awarded a trophy as 'ambassadors for sport'.

Freya MacDonald and Amy Disher, both fourth year students at Lochaber High School, were this year's recipients of the Fraser MacPhee Memorial Trophy, in commemoration of a young shinty player from Fort William who died in 2002.

Keen netballer Freya has attended leadership and coaching courses in Glasgow, coached younger players and plays for Fort William in the Highland

Ambassadors for sport

and Moray Netball League while Amy enjoys gymnastics and football as well as playing shinty for Lochaber Ladies and Fort William's under 14s. She is one of Lochaber High School's sport ambassadors and helps out at the girls' lunchtime football. The pair were presented the trophy by Fraser's parents, Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee.

Alan Lawrie is just champion



The Railway Bowling Club rounded off the season with a prizegiving on Saturday night. Alan Lawrie (front) was this year's championship winner.

ALAN Lawrie from Kinlochleven was this year's winner of the Railway Bowling Club Championship.

He was presented a trophy at the Inverloch club's awards ceremony last Saturday night, along with other prize winners.

The two bowl competition prize went to Christine Kane, gents' singles and seniors were both awarded to Eddie Downs, balloted pairs was won by Agnes Boyle and William Clark and both nominated pairs and mixed pairs went to Agnes Boyle and Eddie Downs.

Lochaber win bottom of the table

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Lochaber | 32 |
| Ellon | 0 |
| BT Division Two North | |

LOCHABER Rugby Club picked up much-needed points this weekend after beating Ellon 32-0 in a bottom-of-the-table clash.

Lochaber put their rivals under pressure right from the kick off and scored a try early on. Conor Taylor then ran through the defence to score two more tries in quick succession.

Fitness levels

With two yellow cards for Lochaber and fitness levels beginning to drop, Ellon started to come back into the game but were still no match for Lochaber's defence.

Soon Taylor scored his fourth try of the game with Callum Boyd also dotting down for the home

team before Dale Monk scored Lochaber's sixth and final try in the last play of the game.

This Saturday Lochaber are

Rugby

at home again, welcoming sixth place Moray to Banavie.



Lochaber's Chris Simpson takes down an Ellon defender.

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Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy
Winds moderate north north westerly
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds light north north easterly
Temperatures 1°C to 5°C.

Weekend Outlook Heavy rain showers on Saturday
Light rain on Sunday
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 19, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

| Date | am | pm | Ardrihaig | Mallaig |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Thur | 04.38 1.7 10.51 3.3 17.36 1.8 23.14 3.0 | Ardrihaig -5.35 Mallaig +0.25 | | |
| Fri | 05.58 1.7 12.46 3.3 18.55 1.7 ** ** * | Campbeltown -5.30 Portree +0.55 | | |
| Sat | 01.13 3.0 07.17 1.6 14.09 3.5 20.05 1.5 | Crinan -0.47 Tobermory +0.16 | | |
| Sun | 02.35 3.3 08.29 1.3 15.03 3.8 21.05 1.2 | Islay Port Ellen 2.00 Dover +5.30 | | |
| Mon | 03.23 3.5 09.35 1.1 15.49 4.0 21.56 1.0 | Lochboisdale +0.30 | | |
| Tues | 04.04 3.8 10.23 0.9 16.31 4.2 22.43 0.8 | Ferry Crossings/Sea States | | |
| Wed | 04.44 4.0 11.12 0.7 17.12 4.2 23.26 0.7 | Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate | | |
| | | Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate | | |
| | | Kennacraig to Islay Moderate | | |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)