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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Cost of Oban blaze could soar as high as £5 million

LOUISE GLEN
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THE COST of the fire at the largest council depot in Oban, Lorn and the Isles is likely to be valued at 'higher than £5 million'.

The damage was done after a large industrial unit was destroyed along with technical equipment used by Argyll and Bute Council's roads and amenity services directorate.

Criminality has not been ruled out by Police Scotland, but the site has been handed back to the local authority as it is in such a dangerous condition it would be unsafe for accident investigators to enter the area in order to carry out any further investigation.

It is understood the local authority will be required to demolish the building as the fire extensively damaged the entire area.

The fire broke out shortly after 1.30am on Friday and at one point more there were more than 50 firefighters on the scene.

Appliances rushed to Oban from across the west of Scotland.

Firefighters used water jets to stop the fire spreading.

Further appliances were then mobilised to the scene from Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Tyn-drum, Bridge of Orchy, Tarbert and Milngavie, as well as a high-reach appliance from Oban.

Firefighters were made aware of acetylene cylinders, which they cooled as they continued to tackle the blaze.

There were no casualties or fatalities and the area did not



The blaze was so fierce it left the buildings gutted, main picture. Top right, the blaze at its full height was captured by reader Hugh Wilson, while photographer Kevin McGlynn pictured the battle to control the flames.

require to be evacuated. However, residents were concerned about the close proximity of the fire to the town's gas supply.

The incident was gradually scaled down but firefighters were still at the scene on Friday evening.

Station manager Lawson Elliot, the incident commander, said: 'Our crews have dealt with a significant fire. We had 30 firefighters tackling the blaze at its height, with two water jets and a water tower.'

Firefighters were on the scene for more than 12 hours before handing the area back to Police Scotland. At that point it was considered 'a crime scene'.

Police stayed on the scene until late on Monday afternoon when it was decided the area could be handed back to council officers.

Inspector Mark Stephen, from Oban police station, thanked everyone who was at the scene and confirmed that while the depot had been handed back to

the council, the area was still considered a crime scene.

A local woman, who did not want to be named, said: 'It woke me up at 1.30am when one of the canisters exploded. I saw the council yard was ablaze and I called 999.'

'There were four or five explosions an hour or an hour-and-a-half later.'

'The flames were very high up in the sky. It was just a mass of flames. The flames were above the house.'

'The police said they were not going to evacuate and firefighters had the fire under control at 2.30am.'

'What worried me was one of the canisters landed. You heard a bang, and I saw a flame go up.'

A council spokesman confirmed that the depot held various pieces of equipment vital to the roads and bin services in the area. The keys for all the bin lorries, for example, were in the depot office and were lost. The spokesman said: 'We

are currently in the process of obtaining replacement keys for our bin lorries.'

The local authority drafted in vehicles from throughout the area to undertake extra bin collections over the weekend.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman confirmed that loss adjusters would be in the area on Wednesday and today, Thursday.

Alternative arrangements can be found on www.obantimes.co.uk.

TIMESLINE

Free parking for Oban winter fest

PARKING in Oban's pay-and-display car parks will be free during the winter festival, the local authority has confirmed.

Argyll and Bute Council will not charge for parking between November 18 and 27.

A spokesman said: 'Continuing its commitment to support the local economy Argyll and Bute Council will be making parking in Oban's pay-and-display car parks free during the winter festival.'

Councillor Ellen Morton explained: 'Winter festivals in our key towns are big draws and we are happy to help where we can.'

'Obviously to keep our roads and car parks in good condition we have to charge for parking - that is a reality - but we are happy to waive those charges to support local events.'

Man injured on town centre bench

A MAN who was injured on one of the new benches in Oban Town Centre had to receive medical treatment at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We understand an incident took place and are currently looking into it.'

Three free books for every child

AS PART of Book Week Scotland, the national celebration of reading taking place between November 21 and 27, the Scottish Book Trust will gift three free picture books to every primary one child in Scotland.



Crofting chief cleared of charges

THE CROFTING commissioner at the centre of a maelstrom of calls for his resignation has been exonerated by the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life.

A complaint made against Colin Kennedy by two crofters from Upper Coll in Lewis was found to be unfounded and therefore no further action was to be taken.

The original complaint of 38 issues surrounds a series of disputes among the shareholders in the crofting community of Upper Coll and the consideration of these matters by the Crofting Commission.

The dispute came to a head on November 11, 2015, when



Colin Kennedy.

a fact-finding meeting was held on Lewis. It was alleged Mr Kennedy had abused his power and should be charged with misconduct.

It was claimed Mr Kennedy failed to publish the reason for

the meeting, that he lost his temper during the meeting, and on a number of occasions, before 'shouting down' some of the attendees.

In his defence, Mr Kennedy said that during the meeting, 'never in his career had he encountered such behaviour' with a 'blatant' refusal to respect the law.

In his findings, Standards Commissioner Bill Thomson said he was satisfied the meeting's purpose was indicated prior to the meeting, the atmosphere was tense and at times raucous, Mr Kennedy's opening statements were robust and may have alienated the audience but 'overall, the

behaviour of the convener had not been such as to amount to disrespect of those attending the meeting.'

In his 28 pages of findings, the commissioner concluded by stating: 'Commissioner Colin Kennedy has not contravened the code of conduct for members of the Crofting Commission.'

In a further development, Police Scotland confirmed it was 'at the early stages of an investigation to establish criminality or otherwise' after it is understood that papers were seized from crofters operating in the Upper Coll area.

The spokeswoman continued: 'There are no charges as yet.'

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Sticky Toffee Pudding or Dairy Ice Cream or Two Cheeses

2 courses from 3 - £15

OT

TIMESLINE

Drivers warned of road disruption

MOTORISTS are being warned of disruption on the A85 west of Dalmlally.

The stretch of road from there to the A819 Inveraray junction is soon to be improved following an investment of £144,000 from Transport Scotland to resurface the carriageway starting on Thursday November 17 for seven days.

For safety, a 10mph convoy system of traffic management will be in place on this section of carriageway to allow teams to carry out the resurfacing safely. These improvements will be carried out between 7am and 7pm on weekdays, with no works planned at weekends.

Outwith working hours a 30mph speed limit will be in place as vehicles will be running on a temporary surface.

For more information, go to www.trafficscotland.org or Twitter @trafficscotland.

Sign up to reduce amount of waste

WITH European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) fast approaching, Zero Waste Scotland is calling on the people of the Highlands and Islands to do their bit and take part.

From November 19 to 27, EWWR will see hundreds of Scottish schools and universities, businesses, sports clubs, charities and community groups register actions and events designed to celebrate the Europe-wide initiative to tackle food waste at a grass-roots level.

To sign up for EWWR and to register your event, go to www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/ewwr-register-your-action.

Speaker booked for wildlife trust

LANDSCAPE and Wildlife of the Falkland Islands was the subject of a recent talk to the members of the Argyll and Lochaber Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Ecologist Dr James Fenton has become a regular speaker since his relocation to the Isle of Seil and his presentation and photographs were much appreciated.

The next talk will take place at the usual venue, the Scottish Marine Institute at Dunstaffnage, on November 17, at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Dr Hannah Grist of the institute, who will be speaking on Capturing our Coast: the power of marine citizen science. All are welcome.

Residents act to address 'crisis' in Mull social care

LOUISE GLEN

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RESIDENTS on the Isle of Mull are taking positive action to look after each other after a 'crisis' in healthcare saw a number of islanders stranded when they needed help to access services.

Mull Safe and Sound has been set up to provide help as well as a safe and nurturing place for people who feel socially isolated.

The group came together after realising there were a number of places on the island where people were falling through gaps in the services

currently provided. A small team, contactable through Cathy Paton and Jill Kirkham and a Facebook page, has been set up to keep people informed about the group's activities.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, volunteer Wilma De Ath and former Tobermory health centre nursing manager Chris Swinbanks met with *The Oban Times* to explain how the voluntary scheme is going to work.

Mrs Devon said: 'This is pay-back time for the community. Safe and Sound Mull will try to address all those issues that at the moment are keeping people from getting out – or contributing to them feeling

isolated in their own homes.' Ms De Ath added: 'We have all heard horror stories where the cost of using the ambulance to get people back and forward to the hospital for appointments can be upwards of £200.

'There is not anyone on the island who can afford that high level of cost. We want to make sure that we are providing transport for people who need it.'

The group has also involved community pharmacist Julie Walker to support its work. Organisers say this move reinforces the group's raison d'être – that people on Mull are being well looked after.

The team is hoping to recruit

more volunteers to meet the already high demand for its service.

The group also meets fortnightly on a Thursday between 2pm and 4pm in the community building at An Roth, Craignure.

For further details, email mullsafeandsound@outlook.com or telephone Jill Kirkham on 07837 184068 or Cathy Paton on 01680 300001 or 07553 885442.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has praised the news about Oban hospital being able to offer ultrasound scans for pregnant mothers in 2017.

Expectant mums currently have to travel to Glasgow in

order to receive a scan, but a spokesman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership said that he expects the service to be available in Oban next spring.

Mr Russell said: 'I think it's great.

'One of the constant complaints has been that expectant mothers, from Mull and the islands particularly, have to go all the way to Glasgow and that can be a two- or three-day trip.

'That's the type of thing I want to see happening and that I have been campaigning for over a long time. Where it is possible to have services at Oban, they should be there.'

Gaelic learners' group is to close

GAELIC learners' association Cli Gàidhlig is to fold.

At the group's annual meeting in Edinburgh on Saturday, members voted to support a special resolution to dissolve Cli.

Members also supported a motion to send a petition to the Scottish Parliament calling for MSPs to conduct an inquiry into Gaelic development in Scotland.

Cli chairwoman Rachel Alcorn said: 'It is with sadness that the management committee have made this recommendation to members, because of the lack of finance arising from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's decisions to withhold funding from us.

'I would like to thank those who worked for Cli over the years and those who were members. They did so much for the cause of Gaelic and Gaelic learners.'

In a statement on Bòrd na Gàidhlig's website regarding the closure of Cli Gàidhlig, Bòrd na Gàidhlig Ceannard (CEO), Shona MacLennan said: 'Up until March 2016 the Bòrd funded Cli to deliver different projects to support Gaelic learning. Prior to the end of the funding agreement, Cli was one of the members on a working group to create a new learners' strategy for adults. The strategy looks to grow and develop the numbers of adults learning Gaelic in Scotland over a seven-year period in partnership with MG ALBA, local authorities and others. Following the creation of the strategy, Cli made no approach for further funding to deliver on any aspects within the new strategy even after the Bòrd made it clear they were more than welcome to do so.

'It is disappointing that Cli Gàidhlig have come to this decision.

'Bòrd na Gàidhlig is committed to supporting Gaelic learners and increasing the opportunities to learn the language.'

Activities for the elderly

OLDER Mull residents are invited to join a free healthy active ageing showcase from 2pm to 4pm on Thursday November 24 at Trust Housing Association, Glen Losal, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory.

On offer will be activities such as 'strength and balance bingo', where they will discover that many of the things that help keep our brains and bodies healthy as we age are easy to do and fun.

They will also learn about how our brains age and when it's worth raising any changes in thinking, memory or communication abilities with a doctor.

The showcase is a joint initiative of Age Scotland and Trust Housing Association, made possible by support from the Life Changes Trust.

Linda Noble, manager at Glen Losal, said: 'Anyone who is interested can call me to find out more and pre-book at least a day in advance on 01688 302137.

Debt problem blights Argyll

ALMOST 10 per cent of people from Argyll and Bute who contacted debt charity StepChange last year had taken out an 'unfair' payday loan.

StepChange, the UK's largest debt advice charity, found that regulations had 'not fixed' the payday lending market, with some loan providers still not engaging in best practice.

Anyone struggling with debt, due to a payday loan or otherwise, can contact StepChange for free and independent advice.

Family of lost fisherman donate thousands to RNLI station



THE Isle of Barra lifeboat station has received a massive donation of £8,750 from the friends, family and local community of Martin Johnstone, who died alongside two crew mates when the fishing vessel MV Louisa sank off Mingulay on April 9, 2016.

Mr Johnstone's family raised the funds by holding a marathon line-dancing fundraising event in the Royal British Legion in Thurso.

Barra lifeboat was actively involved in the search for the crew of the MV Louisa. The family stated that they had

wanted to raise the funds in support of the Barra lifeboat station and their volunteer crew and to help others in the future.

Barra lifeboat operations manager Roderick MacLean said: 'On behalf of Barra lifeboat station, we are very

appreciative of this magnificent sum that was raised in memory of Martin Johnstone and his crew mates Paul Alliston and Chris Morrison.

'The family have asked that the sum be used towards our new building, which we hope will be started next year.'

Survey begins to drive Gaelic learning

A NEW survey has been launched as part of research examining the impact of Gaelic media on learning of the language.

The Big Gaelic Survey, which has been commissioned by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and MG ALBA, is being conducted independently from the two organisations by Meriel Young Consulting, a research consultancy based in Edinburgh.

Three questionnaires have been launched aimed at those with varying levels of Gaelic proficiency: Gaelic speakers, Gaelic learners and those who are interested in learning Gaelic in the future.

Respondents can access the survey by visiting the dedicated website at www.thebiggaelsurvey.co.uk. Responses should take no more than five minutes to complete.

Among the topics raised in the questionnaire are the impact of platforms such as BBC ALBA and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, the availability and quality of Gaelic learning materials, and the gaps that may exist in resources to encourage more people not only to learn Gaelic but improve their aptitude in the language.

Meriel Young, from the firm of consultants, said: 'The research which has been commissioned by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and MG ALBA will help to inform the future of Gaelic media in forthcoming years.

'We want to reach a wide range of respondents, from fluent Gaelic speakers to those who would like to learn the language but have yet to do so.

'By reaching as many people as possible, male and female, young and

old, we can enhance the value of our findings.'

Iseabail Mactaggart, director of strategy and partnership at MG ALBA, added: 'Our Leirsinn 2021 strategy was launched last December with a five-year objective of transforming the contribution of Gaelic media to the revitalisation of the language.

'This new independently conducted research will enable us to understand the role the media play in Gaelic language learning, from cradle to grave, and we are looking to hear opinions on what users feel they need to further develop their language skills.

'Digital media is evolving quickly and we must ensure that we support Gaelic language learning, capitalising on new opportunities as they become available.'

MSP joins fight against boundaries plan

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Michael Russell has questioned boundary proposals that would see Argyll, Bute and Lochaber joined into a single constituency in Westminster.

Although it doesn't affect the Scottish Parliament, the changes would apply to Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara, who has already condemned the plan.

'The bigger the constituency you have, the harder it is to service,' Mr Russell

said. 'That's just true. Brendan and I still both have among the largest constituencies in Scotland.

'Are you going to get real value for money out of your MP, if that person is going to spend most of their time travelling in the constituency?'

'I love the constituency – I think it's a great place to serve – but if Argyll and Bute as a Scottish Parliament constituency was to get bigger, I would be saying

to people I am not sure how realistic it is to be able to do this job properly.

'And I think that's the question: would you expect your elected representative to be able to do that in an effective manner? It's not just about going to parliament – it's about also being in communities, it's about meeting people and it's about working with people, and it's hard to do at present. It would be even harder to do it in a bigger area.'

CalMac passengers warned about booking system

FERRIES operator CalMac is refreshing its online ticketing to make it easier to use.

The new-look web system will introduce a step by step timeline across the screen to help customers follow their booking process, as well as a summary of their reservation.

Customers should be aware that in order to implement the change, the company's booking system will be taken

offline for an overnight period during the week beginning November 21 – the exact date is yet to be confirmed and passengers are advised to check both CalMac's website and its social media channels for updates closer to the time.

'The look and feel of the ticket booking area of the website will be given a much cleaner look,' said Alan Hood, CalMac's head of ticketing. 'The new booking progress line is a helpful aid

to customers and the pages are clean and straightforward to follow.

'We wanted to share the news with customers in advance to allow them to have a preview of what is to come and to let them know about the single overnight interruption to the booking system which will occur.

'We would advise customers to plan ahead in terms of buying tickets if they want to travel during the week

beginning November 21, as the night that the system goes down, tickets will not be able to be booked either online or by phone to our call centre.

'There will be a short overnight interruption to our booking system during the upgrade week and we would like to thank customers in advance for bearing with us.'

Go to <https://www.calmac.co.uk/new-look-online-booking-preview>.

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Oban - Monday 21st November 2016 10.00am-4.00pm

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Mull - Wednesday 23rd November 2016, 9.30am-12.30pm

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A step by step workshop that will take you through how to develop your own business website and maintain it, using a free content management tool. The workshop is designed for businesses who don't have their own website yet or for those who do but don't have control of managing it themselves.

Oban - Tuesday 29th November 2016 10.00am-4.00pm

BUSINESS START-UP WORKSHOP

A workshop for anyone looking to move into self employment, this workshop will help you turn your ideas into a practical and effective plan to start your business. The workshop covers 3 key areas: marketing, business planning and finance.

Oban - Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th December 2016, 9.30am-4.30pm

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? Some of the questions covered in this workshop for businesses who already have a website. Businesses will examine how to make their existing website better through its' design, content, usability and Search Engine Optimisation.

Oban - Thursday 15th December 2016, 1.00-5.00pm

INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE TRADING

This workshop will cover some of the basics required for trading online and look at various tools, platforms and payment options available to everyone and some information on legal requirements. You will then look at an untapped opportunity for Scottish retailers trading on Online Marketplaces such as Amazon and Etsy and choosing which is the best one for you.

Oban - Friday 16th December 2016, 10.00am-4.00pm

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Controversial housing schemes are approved by planning body

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PLANS to build 24 affordable flats and 12 houses in Glenshellach have been approved.

Councillors from the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee sat to decide for or against the two applications, recommended for approval by Argyll and Bute Council's planning department, at a public hearing in Glencruitten Church hall on Monday.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) applied to build 24 flats, in two three-storey blocks of 12, west of Catalina Avenue. It attracted no letters of

support and 54 objections, citing the site's overdevelopment, increasing traffic on Soroba Road and flooding, and the 'inappropriate' scale of 'the pair of sentry boxes'.

Some 78 dwellings have been granted permission, bringing the total to 102 – above the 90 units allocated in the Local Development Plan (LDP).

ACHA's regeneration manager Matthew MacAulay said if the project did not go ahead this year, the council would lose the Scottish Government's funding increase of £7million to £11m for affordable housing in 2016/17.

Iona MacPhail, ACHA regional manager, said: 'There

is a waiting list of 535 for Glenshellach alone. It is essential to increase the supply of new houses in the area.'

David Campbell, of property consultancy Lambert Smith Hampton, stated the dwellings are 'low density', and 'of the 102, 75 per cent will be affordable'.

Joanne Wright, representing Glenshellach objectors, voiced concerns that 'developments seek to constantly exceed the allocation'.

She said: 'The original allocation was for 50 houses. It was only a year later they increase it by 80 per cent. Now a year later they want 102. It is high density.

'To disregard rules and num-

bers just creates a free-for-all. There is no shortage of land. There is no reason for cramming so many units into such a small space. The buildings are too tall.'

Another resident, Martin Langhammer, said the application should be resubmitted as slides inaccurately dropped the roof heights.

Following a break for lunch, councillor Alex McNaughton announced: 'Councillor McQueen has had to leave, so he will be missing the decision.'

Down from six to five, councillor Rory Colville proposed an amendment to refuse consent due to the flats' 'unacceptable' height, but it was defeated with

no seconder, and four councillors voted to approve the application. Councillor Robin Currie argued the LDP 'does not say the maximum is 90 houses' and Councillor Sandy Taylor added: 'When I read the information from the council's professional officers, I find it very difficult to fail to agree.'

ACHA also applied to build 12 houses by Hayfield, with six more units planned. The plan received no letters of support and 43 objections, arguing the extra 18 dwellings would also exceed the LDP allocation.

For the applicant, Mr Campbell said: 'The application has been reduced from 18 to 12, and

the increased open space is a by-product,' adding 'nine houses per hectare is within the low density threshold.'

Steven Fair representing objectors said the unnecessary, 'tightly crammed' development was of 'excessive number and density'.

He argued that six houses had simply been relocated to an adjacent site and a second planning application, and they 'jointly proposes 18 houses on an 11 house allocation'.

He urged that the application be withdrawn as a departure from the LDP.

All five councillors voted to approve the application.

POLICE FILES

A DRINK driver who was arrested as part of a routine patrol has been reported to the procurator fiscal. The 31-year-old man, who was working in the area, was stopped by the police shortly after 2am on Monday. He is also alleged to have been diving without an MOT.

A MAN was arrested for careless driving at 7.05am on Friday November 11. The 54-year-old was stopped on the A85 near to Dalmally. He has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

A 33-YEAR-OLD man was reported to the procurator fiscal for driving at 45mph in a 30mph zone near to the village of Lochawe. The man is also alleged to have been driving without insurance and therefore his vehicle was seized by officers.

DOG owners are being warned about letting pets run freely in the countryside after a 28-year-old woman was reported to the procurator fiscal. The woman, who was in the Muasdale area of Kilmore at the weekend, was seen allowing her dog to roam while there were livestock in fields. Inspector Mark Stephen said: 'People must keep animals under control and on leads at all times.'

Residents highlight priorities

PEOPLE across Argyll and West Dunbartonshire have highlighted anti-social behaviour, followed by drug dealing and misuse, as their main issues of concern, according to the latest phase of the Your View Counts survey.

The survey, which helps determine policing priorities of communities, has been live for six months and has been completed by almost 16,000 people, with 685 of respondents living in Argyll and West Dunbartonshire.

The survey is just one of the ways in which Police Scotland works with the public, partners and stakeholders to determine the response to issues of concern to communities.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Cowie said: 'Residents in the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire division have identified their priorities as anti-social behaviour and disorder, drug dealing and misuse, violent crime, homes being broken into and child abuse.'

To see the full survey results or to join in, go to www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts. It only takes around 15 minutes.

Firm fined £3,000 after worker's hand is crushed

A COMPANY in Oban has been fined £3,000 for a health and safety breach, after a forklift driver crushed his hand.

3663 Alba Limited, of 814 Leigh Road, Slough, trading as Forteith Food Services, admitted failing to ensure workers had adequate health and safety training to operate a forklift truck at its depot at 73A Glengallan Road, Glenshellach, between May 26, 2014, and January 4, 2015.

Steven John Tonner, the charge continued, used the forklift truck with no formal training and, as a consequence, while reversing it struck a stationary vehicle and crushed his hand to his severe injury.

3663 Alba Ltd also pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the forklift was maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

The procurator fiscal depute told the court on Tuesday November 8: 'He had never been trained to drive it. During the course of [a] reverse, he crushed his hand. He lifted his right arm in an involuntary movement.' He required surgery for severe injuries to his skin and bones.

Sheriff Anderson asked repeatedly for a link: 'I am not clear why no formal training resulted in this injury?'

The fiscal depute responded: 'He had not been trained. Part of his training was that drivers should not have their arms or legs outside [the vehicle].'



Steven John Tonner had not received any training in using a forklift truck when his hand was crushed. Picture: Kevin McGlynn

Sheriff Anderson said: 'It was an involuntary action, which means he could not help himself.'

She added: 'The company operations manager who had been trained to train, did not train. There seems no point sending out someone for a week to learn to train if they are not going to train.'

Defending, Joanna Clark said: 'There are

technical breaches of the regulations. There is a potential lack of connection of the breach and the act itself. This is a company that takes health and safety very seriously, and there has been a local problem in applying a very good system. This is by no means a flagrant disregard.'

'The company did everything it was asked to do. A site manager has been recruited to tighten

up compliance. The company has a good safety record and has no previous convictions.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'This is a reputable company, which takes health and safety very seriously. I still do not know what the link is.'

On the first charge, she reduced the fine of £4,500 to £3,000 due to the early guilty plea, and admonished the firm on the second charge.

Argyll and Isles tourism businesses scoop regional awards

TOURISM businesses from across Argyll and the Isles topped off a bumper tourism season by scooping five awards at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) held in Inverness on Friday November 4.

Finalists from across the re-

gion gathered to hear the results of categories ranging from best accommodation provider to tourism and hospitality hero. Among the finalists was Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC), nominated in the working together for tourism category.

Following the awards, AITC chairman Gavin Dick congratulated all the winners, saying: 'I am delighted to see these awards going to their new homes in Argyll and the Isles.'

'The quality of the offering in our region is second to none, and I'm delighted to see

the judges agree. We have so much to offer our visitors, from fabulous food and drink, to festivals, attractions and unique experiences.'

'Just two hours from Glasgow will take you into the heart of Argyll. It's a journey worth making and we encourage as

many people as possible to come and explore.'

Awards won by Argyll and the Isles businesses were as follows.

Best accommodation provider: the Majestic Line; best cultural event or festival: Oban Winter Festival; friendliest pub/bar: MacGochans, Mull; innovation

in tourism: Mull Eagle Watch; best restaurant experience: Inver, Strathlachlan.

All the award-winners from the evening go forward to represent the Highlands and Islands region at the national finals of the Scottish Thistle Awards in March 2017.

Residents rally to Ann's house campaign



Ann Colthart: community has rallied behind her.

A FACEBOOK page that has been set up in support of a woman who's on the bitter end of a planning mistake has accumulated hundreds of 'likes', writes David McPhee.

More than 200 people had liked the page, which is titled Connel Residents Against Planning Mistakes, within 72 hours of its inception.

It was set up in support of 72-year-old Ann Colthart, from Connel, after houses were built nine metres away from her property when guidelines state they must be at least 18 metres.

The mistake was made during the planning stage when Mrs Colthart's 28msq extension, which has been there for

14 years, wasn't included in the plans.

The developer has since applied for planning permission to upgrade some aspects of the houses in order to improve the situation.

The application received 50 objections. However, at a planning hearing last week, Argyll and Bute Council voted to approve the adaptations.

These include removing the first floor windows and replace them with wooden cladding; securing and frosting the ground-floor windows so they cannot be opened or seen through; and placing a hedge between the houses.

The social media page will

serve as an archive of news coverage, while providing a platform for people to stay up to date and to voice their opinions.

Under a post that highlights the council's decision to accept the adaptations, one commenter, Kathleen Ferguson, said: 'How in heaven's name things have got to this stage beats me.'

'There is something very unsavoury about the whole business. Any competent builder would have surely queried the proximity to Ann's property when the foundations were laid, regardless of planning decision.'

'The fight must continue and the rotten apples exposed.'

Tiree man convicted of dealing cannabis

TWO drug dealers from Tiree and Fife have been convicted after a police drugs swoop.

John Allan McLean, 56, and Geoffrey Gladwell, 53, denied possessing 400g of cannabis with intent to supply after police detained both at a car park by Corran Brae, Oban, on January 6 following a tip-off.

McLean, of 13 Kinloss Court, High Valleyfield, Dunfermline, told Oban Sheriff Court on November 9 he was giving Gladwell, of 2 Dun Bheag, Ruaig, Tiree, a 100-mile lift to the ferry.

'He wanted to be dropped off at the Corran Halls to see a friend of his,' McLean said.

'The next thing I knew was the police came to lift us.'

A search found '980 quid' on McLean, needed 'to buy a motor' seen on Gumtree, he said. 'I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He did not tell me what he had on him.'

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty asked McLean: 'There were four bars [of cannabis] in the car and you did not smell them?'

'I had the heating up and the windows down,' McLean replied. 'It was end of the winter.'

Mr McGinty asked: 'There is not a single witness to say, "A car was advertised and I arranged for someone from

Fife to come and look at it that day?'

'No,' McLean said.

Gladwell bought a 'bulk purchase' of four 100g cannabis bars at two different times and places in Dunfermline, because, he said: 'I cannot get it on Tiree. It was for my back, relieving the pain.'

'Is it a coincidence the four blocks are exactly the same size, wrapped the same way, each with 'RS' stamped on the back?' Mr McGinty asked.

'I don't know,' Gladwell said. 'I cannot recall when I bought them because I was on the scatter – the drink,' he said. 'I was on the scatter for a fortnight.'

Mr McGinty summed up: 'The whole circumstances [are] indicative of something other than personal use. As they pulled up in the car, there happened to be an ongoing police operation at the very address and information a drug deal was under way.'

Gladwell's defence agent Edward Thornton read an expert witness's report: 'The quantity of drugs can be indicative of personal use or onward supply.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'I am satisfied within reasonable doubt you are guilty as charged.' She fined Gladwell £3,000, and deferred sentence on McLean until December 6.

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At Random

MARTIN LAING
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Court case masks a human tragedy

THERE was a story last week that made me pause. It was, at its bottom line, a straightforward account of the criminal justice system in action.

The story reported the jailing of two middle-aged men, both fathers to Oban families rooted in their communities, for drug dealing. One man was sent away for eight months, while the other was jailed for seven months.

For me, it was a tale of human tragedy for all involved.

Some will accuse me of being too liberal and they may be correct.

In some respects, this kind of court case is unremarkable. But in this instance, the imprisoning of these two men will resonate long into the future for those close to them. There may be financial hardship ahead while the families' breadwinners are in prison – and perhaps long afterwards.

Their families wept as they were both led away from Oban Sheriff Court.

I paused to consider what would make hitherto apparently decent citizens sink low enough to embrace the shadowy world of drugs, a scourge in our communities that should not be underestimated.

Both men refused to identify their contacts or suppliers. Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC thus had no alternative but to impose the custodial sentences and I offer no criticism of her.

Yet I found myself speculating at length as to what would impel these two men to risk their reputations, their families' wellbeing and security, and the chance of a respectable future.

Was it simple avarice, that base instinct to make what appears to be easy money? Were there debt problems that they thought could be resolved quickly from criminal activity? Was it as prosaic as wanting a bit of extra money to provide family treats?

The only people who know, of course, are the two men. But their criminal activities have not only resulted in their imprisonment, they have blighted the lives of their loved ones.

I feel for the families, who are innocent victims of crime. They are the ones who will suffer and not solely in financial terms. If ever there was a salutary lesson about the consequences of being involved in drugs, it is this one.

We can only hope the two men learn from the errors of their ways. And I hope their families endure.

Great response from Oban Times readers

IF EVER there was a good example of the hi-tech world in which we live, it occurred during the early hours of Friday morning last week.

That was when the public responded to an *Oban Times* message on social media for someone to take pictures of the fire at the Millpark council depot in the town.

Reader Hugh Wilson, from Morvern Hill, captured a striking image of the depot in flames and emailed it in to us, as did photographer Kevin McGlynn.

The resulting story and pictures were rapidly published on our website and drew a huge response from and engagement with our digital audience. Many thanks to Hugh, Kevin and all the others who contributed.

And we all owe a debt of gratitude to the emergency services, especially the firefighters, who put themselves in danger to deal with the emergency.



Get in touch with your thoughts

Do you have something you want to share? Let me know by writing to me at [The Oban Times](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk), Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB, or by email to mlaing@obantimes.co.uk.

My new mission now is to save planet Earth

Dunbeg-based scientist **Dr Raeanne Miller** from SAMS is about to join an Antarctic expedition. Here she explains what inspired her to apply for the women-only project

ONE video application, 12 months of preparation, 77 women scientists, £10,000 raised each and a journey to Antarctica that will unite us all.

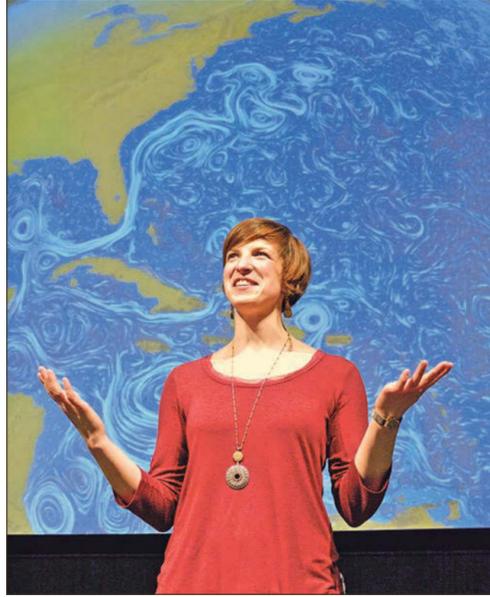
It was a tweet that did it. Women, science, leadership, Antarctica and a picture of an iceberg – I couldn't resist.

I clicked on the link to the Homeward Bound website and, as I read, I became more and more inspired to be a part of this amazing initiative aiming to change the face of science, leadership and sustainability worldwide.

To apply, I created a 60-second YouTube video about what I could bring to the programme, what it means to me and what I hope to learn and share from the experience. It also included lots of beautiful Argyll scenery.

The Homeward Bound project is an Australian-led programme that aims to increase the impact of women and science to create better social and environmental outcomes for the planet.

The reality is this: globally women are under-represented at leadership tables in almost every sector, science included. We think that a more balanced voice, which



Dr Raeanne Miller from the Scottish Association for Marine Science based at Dunstaffnage.

is motivated and inspired, can help us to work towards a sustainable world.

So how will we do this? Over the past 12 months, there has been a lot of activity

to prepare for our voyage in December. We have already been working hard to understand our own unconscious biases, leadership styles and lifestyle values, using a series

of online tests, coaching sessions and discussions.

While I thought this sounded a bit 'kooky' at first, I've actually found the whole process incredibly valuable. It's so rare to get the opportunity to truly reflect on what makes you tick, and what is stopping you from reaching your personal goals.

More than anything, though, it has been amazing to get to know (virtually) all of the other women who are part of the programme, and to recognise how much we are able to support each other – and we haven't even met in person yet. We've shared our dreams, hopes and aspirations over email and online, and we have helped each other overcome hardship and frustration.

We have told each other the stories of our lives and we are already working together on small projects to support the programme.

My team, for example, is focusing on change-makers: women who have catalysed or enabled positive change through their work or personal lives. We'll be producing a blog on the topic soon – keep an eye out.

In the lead up to this voyage,

I've also focused on telling the previously untold stories of female marine scientists working in the generations before us and encouraging future generations to engage with science themselves. I've worked with many different organisations in the past 12 months and there is so much momentum around this topic – so many people are inspired and want to get involved in science, diversity, or education.

It is such an exciting time, and it feels like we are well and truly at the beginning of a movement.

So in two weeks, I will pack my bags full of long underwear, woolly hats, jumpers and warm jackets to head south to Ushuaia, Argentina, where I will finally meet the other 76 women of Homeward Bound. Together we will sail across the Drake Passage to the Antarctic peninsula, exploring one of the regions most affected by climate change worldwide and working together to develop strategies to ensure a positive future for the planet.

Homeward Bound's motto is: Mother Nature needs her daughters. And, right now, it truly does.

Oban responds in droves to mum's appeal

DAVID MCPHEE
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THE PARENTS of a baby who was born 14 weeks prematurely and underwent eight blood transfusions have spoken about Oban's latest blood drive.

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service came to the Corran Halls in Oban last month for two days.

Jemma Campbell, who gave birth to baby Ashton in January, posted a heartfelt plea on social media appealing for Obanites to donate blood.

Speaking after the event had taken place, where people queued for more than one hour to donate, Jemma said: 'A little goes such a long way. Ashton's first transfusion was 30ml, but it was enough to save his life. [It] just brings it home when you know someone whose life has been saved.'

'I gave it [blood] before I had Ashton, but never really thought too much about how good a thing it is.'

'I was one of the first there

on Tuesday at 3.45pm and there were already about 20 people waiting.

'I had a wee chat with my nurse about Ashton's story and mentioned that they might be rushed off their feet with new donors – she politely laughed, I don't think she realised how many people would actually come through the doors.'

'[It] just shows you how heartfelt my son's story is throughout our community. I just hope everyone continues to go back and donate time and time again.'

Jemma is putting any future tattoos on hold, until she has donated eight pints of blood.

Ashton's father, Andrew Matthews, said: 'I just thought it was nice to see so many new faces signing up to it. I've never witnessed the queue so long, right outside the Corran Halls.'

'Oban normally has an excellent turn out anyway, but going by what the nurses were saying it was far more than what they were expecting.'

'It can be a bit of a thought



Baby Ashton with mum Jemma and dad Andrew.

for some folk who haven't given blood before as, realistically, a pint of blood is extracted from you.

'Once you realise how far your donation can go, and what difference it can make to people's lives, it is more than worth it. The people of

Oban have done themselves proud again.'

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is scheduled to visit Oban in October 2017. The service will be at the Corran Halls on Tuesday, October 3 and Wednesday October 4.

Crossroads is here to help carers

CROSSROADS is a locally-managed charity in North Argyll aiming to provide a short break care service in the home.

If you are looking after a parent, partner, child or neighbour who cannot manage due to age, illness or disability, the organisation might be able to help.

Crossroads provides practical support in people's homes and aims to deliver a high quality service in the community to enable carers to take time off.

Crossroads provides personal care, social stimulation and a welcome break for the carer so they can have a rest while being assured that the person they care for is being well looked after.

Crossroads is a voluntary organisation funded by the local authority and private individuals. It delivers a service in the Oban area and, when possible, on the islands and in the Lorn area. It is possible to be referred through social services, depending on your circumstances. Or you can contact the organisation directly on 01631 562277.

All the care attendants are trained in the conditions that they may encounter. They are trained in first aid, health and safety, food and hygiene plus they have an ongoing training programme.

MSP fears Brexit could hit tourism

ARGYLL and the Isles has had a bumper year for tourism, but Argyll and Bute's MSP is concerned about the affects Brexit could have on the industry.

Attractions in the region saw a substantial increase in footfall during in July and August.

Michael Russell MSP, who is also the Scottish Brexit minister, said: 'It's been a good summer throughout the region. Areas that had the first summer on RET (Road Equivalent Tariff), like Mull and Bute, have found it very positive and have seen the benefits of RET. But, generally, people have had a good and profitable summer. And that's always good for the tourist trade, but we can do better, we can always take more people.'

'I have my worries about the affect of Brexit on tourism, but of course we haven't had Brexit yet – we've just had a referendum.'

Argyll MP backs cancer charity

CHLOE JOHNSTON
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LOCAL MP Brendan O'Hara showed his support for Macmillan and helped raise awareness of the issues faced by people affected by cancer by attending a World's Biggest Coffee Morning event in the Westminster Parliament.

More than 220,000 Macmillan coffee morning events were held around the UK to raise money for the charity.

Following the success of the national event, Macmillan hosted a coffee morning in the House of Commons where MPs listened to the challenges faced by people living with and beyond cancer, while learning about the services that Macmillan provides.

Mr O'Hara commented: 'Macmillan's coffee morning is a fantastic annual fixture and I was glad to have the opportunity to attend one



Brendan O'Hara supported the Macmillan fundraiser.

in parliament. And it was also a great way to hear again about the support that Macmillan offers directly to people affected by cancer.

'With the number of people living with cancer increasing, this event is an important opportunity not to only raise funds for a worthy cause but

to bring people together to talk about an issue that will become more urgent in the future.'

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is the original and most successful charity fundraising event of its sort, having raised more than £138 million to date.

The idea is simple: get together with friends, colleagues or neighbours to hold a coffee morning and raise money for Macmillan. Every donation helps ensure that no-one faces cancer alone.

Macmillan supports those battling cancer, as they understand how a diagnosis can take over everything. When you have cancer you don't just worry about your body, you worry about what will happen to your life. That's why Macmillan provides a service to help people take back control of their lives. However, they need your help to make sure that people affected by cancer get the service and support they need.

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Back row: Jamie Delap, Fyne Ales; David Smart, HIE; and Craig Cameron, Midton Acrylics. Front row: Jennifer Nicoll, HIE; Nicholas Ferguson, chairman of the Argyll Economic Forum; Brendon Wallace, BC Technologies; Neil MacDonald, Midton Acrylics; and Pippa Milne, Argyll and Bute Council.

Businesses reap dividends from first enterprise week

ARGYLL Enterprise Week, which took place in Oban from October 31 to November 4, has been hailed a success by those taking part.

A first for Argyll, the ambitious week of activities hosted in partnership by Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, with *The Oban Times* as media partner, was designed to help connect, inform and inspire businesses.

Speaking at the opening event, Nicholas Ferguson CBE, chairman of the Argyll Economic Forum, noted: 'There's a momentum going in Argyll, and something like this event helps propel that. Meeting people and swapping ideas is energising.'

Attendees appreciated the benefit of meeting other businesses and discuss-

ing opportunities. 'It's about trying to spark off each other,' explained Jamie Delap of Fyne Ales. 'It's good to see enthusiasm about the future,' agreed Neil MacDonald from Midton Acrylics.

There were more than 400 participants representing at least 150 businesses or organisations at events across the week, with attendees coming from right across the area, including Bute, Dunoon and Tiree.

A mix of 29 workshops, seminars and discussions took place across the week on a wide range of topics such as cyber security, women in business, knowing your food and drink market, adventure tourism and funding sources.

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for sustainable development, said: 'The feedback has been excellent with

95 per cent of respondents confirming that they had learned something new, 97 per cent confirming that they had made new connections and 96 per cent confirming that they had been inspired as a result. Based on this very positive feedback, we will keep working with our partners and the business community to plan future activity.'

Work is now starting to explore future Argyll Enterprise Week activity and a short online survey is now live to gather ideas and preferences to shape this, combined with the feedback from this year's event.

John Orr of BC Technologies concluded: 'The event was beneficial and is needed. With fine tuning, it can be made even better. Keep at it.'

During the week more than 70 people

expressed an interest in being kept informed about future networking opportunities, so the Argyll Enterprise Week team will continue working with partners to take this forward, as well as following up with the 64 who asked for further discussions with HIE or Business Gateway about the support available.

'We'd like to thank all the speakers, exhibitors and suppliers who contributed to the success of this first Argyll Enterprise Week,' concluded David Smart of HIE.

'Crucially, we'd also like to thank all those from Argyll's businesses, social enterprises and communities who came along. To hear them say that they have benefited from attending is what it was all about.'



The Focus on Social Enterprise Day was very popular.

Social enterprises are 'inspiring'

SOCIAL entrepreneurs from across Argyll and Bute came together in Oban on November 2 and 3, with local social enterprise InspirAlba coordinating the event. Social enterprises are businesses that have a social environmental purpose and are able to reinvest profit for community benefit.

The event kicked off in the evening of November 2 with a film festival hosted at Oban Phoenix Cinema (itself a social enterprise) and compered by Lesley Riddoch with a selection of inspiring short films from

Stramash, Kintyre Recycling, Dunollie House, Kilmartin Museum, and Mull and Garmyn Hydro energy access. A new film highlighting Homesong as a way of bringing artists and audiences together in home-based gigs was also shown. An informal networking event followed at Oban Youth Hostel.

The event on Thursday November 3 included a network session where more than 40 enterprises shared information and learned from each other as well as highlighting issues and opportunities in the area, with Kim Wallace

from Senscot facilitating. Ailsa Clark of InspirAlba said: 'It was great to welcome folks from across Argyll and Bute for the event where there was a very clear indication of the value and desire for networking amongst the social enterprises, with feedback from one social entrepreneur highlighting they had been inspired by being around people that care enough for their communities to try and make a difference, and another stating that the range and diversity of Social Enterprises in Argyll was inspiring.'

Delegates get creative

AS PART of Argyll Enterprise Week, XPONORTH, Scotland's leading creative industries festival and network, created a one-day version of the event on Friday November 4 at the Kinetic Studios in Oban.

More than 160 delegates attended various sessions throughout the day, which included expert discussion panels, presentations and chat on at how to make a success of careers in the creative industries.

The sessions included presentations from Creative Scotland on its new strategy, an

informative sofa question and answer session with Melanie Muir, who is a contemporary jewellery designer and international teacher in polymer, and a presentation from an expert from Glasgow School of Art.

There was also interactive sessions from PRS for Music, DIY self-publishing and crowdfunding from author and publisher Ben Galley, and a range of activity from BBC: The Social, including music placement (including music licensing and supervision) with speakers who included musician Joe McAlinden and Think Sync founder, Connie Farr.



Ben Taylor and John Orr of BC Technologies explained security.

Pub scoops top award for toilets

AN OBAN bar has won acclaim for the quality and standards of its toilets in the Loo of the Year Awards 2016.

The Corryvreckan on Railway Pier in Oban has been awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors - the highest possible.

The awards are aimed at highlighting and improving standards of 'away from home' toilet provision across the UK.

Authorised inspectors make unannounced visits to hundreds of toilets at sites across the UK.

The toilets are judged against numerous criteria, including decor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand-washing and hand-drying equipment.

Argyll council tax discount for second homes could be removed

A TEN per cent council tax discount on second homes will likely be scrapped by Argyll and Bute Council to raise over more than £380,000 for affordable housing.

The Oban Times recently revealed that Argyll and Bute Council estimates cuts of up to £40 million over the next three years to plug a projected black hole in its budget.

A budgetary outlook report, presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on October 27, was updated to reflect 'a worsening position' in Scottish Government funding. The report said: 'The funding gap estimated over the three year period 2017-18 to 2019-20 has been revised to be between

£18.2million and £39.9m, with a gap of between £4m and £13.1m in 2017-18.'

The report also identified how the council can make savings and increase revenue, which included ending the 10 per cent council tax discount on second homes, which could generate an additional £382,000, if given council approval.

'The Scottish Government has given a commitment that legislation would be introduced to allow councils to end the council tax discount on second homes from April 2017,' the report stated.

'The discount currently available to councils ranges from between 10 per cent to 50 per cent and our council has applied

a 10 per cent discount. The additional income from the 10-50 per cent discount is retained locally and must be spent for the provision of new-build affordable social housing to meet locally determined priorities. This income is transferred to our Strategic Housing Fund.

'It is unclear at this stage as to whether the additional income from removing the 10 per cent discount would also have to be routed towards affordable housing, although in a statement made by finance secretary Derek MacKay he mentions the additional money could be used by councils to "invest in local public services".'

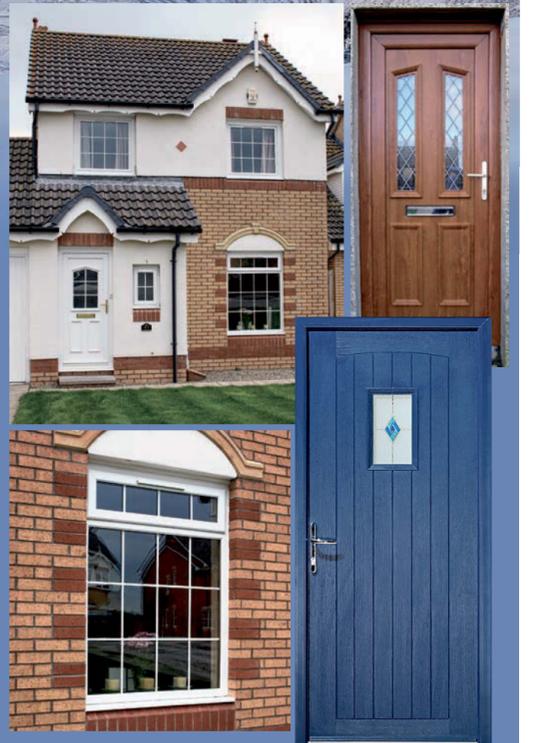
'It is therefore assumed there is flexibility if we chose to re-

move the 10 per cent discount. Removing the 10 per cent discount could raise an additional £0.382m in council tax income.

'Council approval would be required to remove the discount but on the basis of the additional revenue this would generate, the assumption within the updated budgetary outlook is that members would agree to the removal.'

Oban South and the Isles councillor Roddy McCuish, deputy policy lead for strategic housing, welcomed a removal of the second home discount. 'I fully support it,' he said. 'We use that money in our Strategic Housing Fund, which allows us to build more houses, which we desperately need.'

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Kilbrandon

THE NOVEMBER meeting of the Kilbrandon branch of the Scottish Women's Institute was held on Tuesday November 1 in Seil Island Hall.

Vice president Shona Neil welcomed 25 members and introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Seamus Anderson, a local farmer, accompanied by his two dogs.

During the informative evening members learned about the farming year in relation to cows and sheep.

Seamus shared his knowledge of prophylactic treatment, lambing and calving, marking, feeding and much more while entertaining members with anecdotes about his life as a farmer. It was a successful evening which ended with a raffle featuring prizes of sausages, burgers and mutton donated by Seamus.

Oban

THE BRITISH Legion Oban branch is appealing for new members.

The charity is looking for ex-servicemen and women, ex-seamen and women, but also social members interested in improving the lives of veterans in the Oban area.

Ian Blair-Simmonds, chairman of the British Legion's Oban branch said: 'Our main aim is to look after veterans. We're here to help in any way we can and we need members to keep on doing our good work.'

Branch members meet every second Friday of the month at The Oban Lodge Commercial on Albany Street. 'At the moment we only have two main events a year, Charities Day and Remembrance Sunday. We would love to get more involved, but we simply don't have the manpower for it,' added Mr Blair-Simmonds.

If you're interested in becoming a member email Ian Blair-Simmonds at Ian@ObanFM.com. Donations are also welcome. Email Ian at the same address to find out more about donating.

Barcaldine, Benderloch, Connel

WEDDING bells, firework displays and birthday celebrations ensured that village halls in Connel and North Connel were busy over the last week.

One group arrived from Edinburgh to celebrate their seventh birthday among the talented accordion players and singers who live on Bonawe Road.

A good night was had by everyone and revellers danced into the wee hours.

On the evening of Monday October 31, guisers were out in good numbers in all areas with innovative disguises and well-rehearsed jokes entertaining residents. This tradition has gone from strength to strength and it is heartening to see how many householders welcome the guisers with a range of treats and sweets.

A new resident on the Sheen Road is settling in well and is already a hit with walkers and children in the area.

Peggy, a lovable donkey was bought in Oban and is now company for a wide range of animals from horses to sheep and chickens. It is thought Peggy might be pregnant so the new owners might soon awaken to clatter of tiny hoofs. Watch this space for news on any developments.

Hard working members of Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club are putting the final touches to the costumes for their pantomime, *Dick McWhittington*.

The paint is drying on the magnificent stage setting and everything will be ready for curtain-up on Thursday December 8 at the Corran Halls, Oban - oh yes it will!

The pop-up café at Benderloch Church Hall is proving popular with visitors and locals. Teas, coffees and home baking are served every Friday between 2.30 and 4.30pm, with funds going to good causes.

Barra

ISLE of Barra lifeboat station has received a donation of £8,750 from the friends and family and local community of Martin Johnstone, who died alongside two crew mates when the fishing vessel *MV Louisa* sank off Mingulay on April 9.

Mr Johnstone's family raised the funds by holding a marathon line dancing fundraiser in the Royal British Legion in Thurso. Barra Lifeboat was actively involved in the search for the crew of the *MV Louisa*.

Barra Lifeboat operations manager Roderick MacLean said: 'We are very appreciative of this magnificent sum raised in memory of Martin Johnstone and his crew mates Paul Alliston and Chris Morrison. The family have asked that the money be used towards our new building which we hope will be started next year.'



Members of the Dunoon branch of Bloodwise receive their cheque from Marc Gardner.

Soap stars' Loch Fyne Hotel gig boosts specialist cancer charity

A UNIQUE weekend fundraiser, headlined by the stars of *Emmerdale*, has raised more than £5,400 for a specialist cancer charity.

The Yorkshire soap's fab foursome, Gemma Atkinson, Michelle Hardwick, Laura North and Amy Walsh, performed a live set as the 'Emmerdolls' at Loch Fyne Hotel and Spa, and they were even joined by show favourite Dominic Blunt, who plays vet Paddy Kirk.

In all, £5,475 was raised for Blood-

wise, formally known as Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, during a weekend of fun which also featured Top Gear's 'The Stig' and the opportunity for guests to take a spin in some of the finest cars in the world.

Bloodwise has been working to beat blood cancer since 1960. They fund world-class research; provide practical and emotional support to patients and their loved ones. Vitaly, they also raise awareness of blood cancer.

The Inveraray hotel is owned by

Scottish hotel chain Crerar Hotels which has awarded £7m of grants to over 400 organisations over the last 16 years. Marc Gardner, general manager of Loch Fyne Hotel and Spa said: 'We had a dazzling weekend with the stars of *Emmerdale*. It was fantastic to be able to raise over £5,400 for Bloodwise.'

'We're committed to the community in which we live and work, and so being able to present Bloodwise with this cheque was a great privilege.'

On the run for Oban museum

OBAN War and Peace Museum received a cash windfall this month, thanks to a runner in the Jedburgh Half Marathon in the Scottish Borders.

Alan Penrose, who lives in Stirling, was sponsored to run the marathon on Sunday October 30 and decided to donate the money to Oban's war museum on Corran Esplanade.

Its curator Bill Leech explained: 'Jackie, his late grandfather, had been a keen watch keeper at the museum for many years, and Alan thought it would be an appropriate gift in memory of him.'

'The museum has Jackie's Argyll and Sutherland Highlander's sporrans on show, alongside a photo of it being worn by him.'

'Those of us involved with the museum are extremely grateful to Alan for his gift.'



Right to left: Bill Leech receives the £160 donation from Alan Penrose on Saturday November 5, flanked by his family who sponsored him: grandmother Jean (Jackie's wife), aunt Marion, father Richard and uncle Tommy.

Appin

OBAN Gaelic Choir sang for the first time since the recent Royal National Mòd in Stornoway when they performed as part of a ceilidh at Appin's Creagan Inn.

The gathering was organised by choir conductor Sileas Sinclair, who also invited a few of her young accordion pupils to come along and join more seasoned performers on an informal programme.

From seven-year-old singers Bethan Neil and Alice Macdonald to ceilidh legend Neil Sinclair, the mix of musicians was hugely appreciated by the audience. A strong contingent from Lochaber

Gaelic Choir was also in attendance to show support and their members joined the Oban choristers in Gaelic choir songs.

Creagan Inn co-owner Duncan MacCorquodale said the restaurant and bar was delighted to host the event, adding: 'How often can you hear this much talent in the one place? Well done to Sileas and the choir for putting together such a brilliant night.'

A raffle on the night was held in aid of choir funds. Oban Gaelic Choir's annual general meeting will be held on Monday November 21.



Oban Gaelic Choir led the choral singing on the night.



Ten-year-old accordion player Donnie MacCorquodale is accompanied by his big sister Mairi, 12, and his tutor Sileas Sinclair.



Innes Munro is an accomplished piper at just 12 years of age and is under the tutelage of Angus MacColl.

MORVERN lines

The Crofter's champion

HISTORY, they say, has a habit of repeating itself, which is why I took more than a passing interest in what our new Highland MSP Donald Cameron had to say about crofting and crofting law in *The Oban Times* a few weeks ago.

If there is anyone living in the Highlands and Islands who has the background to offer an opinion on crofting in the Scottish Parliament since MSP John Farquhar Munro (1934-2014) passed away, Mr Cameron from Lochaber, must rate high in the list.

Not only is he a lawyer who has been involved in rural issues for many years, he is also the great grandson of Donald Walter Cameron of Lochiel (1876-1951) MP for Inverness-shire, a native Gaelic speaker and an active member of The Napier Commission whose deliberations led to the first Crofter's Act of 1886.

Donald Cameron MP, travelled the length and breadth of the Highlands and Islands gathering evidence from crofters, crofters, factors, landowners, ministers and priests about rents, living conditions, leases, fairness and security of tenure. Land-leaguers who wanted the right to buy their land, thought the Act didn't go far enough.

That may have been so, nonetheless, the meticulous evidence collected by Lochiel and his fellow commissioners brought the plight of the crofters to a wider audience and provided a solid foundation on which future legislation has been based.

Many of MP Donald Cameron's estate and personal papers can be accessed at the Lochaber Archive Centre, in the West Highland College, Fort William.

Film Guild memories

YEARS ago, before television and electricity came to the area, little dark blue vans with 'Highlands and Islands Film Guild' written across their sides, were a welcome sight in many far-flung communities.

Established in 1946, the guild showed popular films, newsreels, cartoons and public information titles and were often the social highlight of the month. The fleet of vans with their own self-contained petrol generators, film-projectors, speakers and screens would arrive outside village halls around noon for the day's showing. In the afternoon children and teachers would attend educational films followed by the evening's entertainment.

Digital technology and not been invented so every reel had to be spooled-on by hand, changed and re-wound at the end. Drivers doubled up as projectionists and were often great characters.

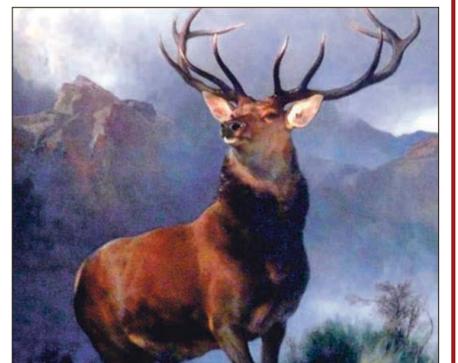
The late Victor Gall, who covered Morvern, Sunart and Ardnamurchan, was a well-known and popular figure with everyone.

Once the main film was set in motion, Vic, as he was affectionately called, would often retire to the local hostelry but not before a 'runner' was found in the audience and given half a crown to let him know if the generator had run out of fuel or the film had jumped the gate and was unwinding on the hall floor.

The National Anthem was always played at the end of each show which meant the audience remained seated until the 'big' film was re-wound. When it came on everyone stood to attention and waited until it had finished before bolting for the door. People were much more patriotic in those days. On one occasion, in the old Lochaline village hall, a short film of the Trooping of the Colour provided the anthem. For whatever reason it was spooled on back to front and the wrong way up so not only were the words and music playing in reverse, the Queen and her horse were upside down.

Researchers at the universities of Glasgow and Stirling are looking for first-hand memories of life in remote communities and the part the Film Guild played in providing public entertainment there.

Anyone with stories or tales of the Film Guild are being asked to contact Dr Ian Goode by calling 0141 330 6500, email: ian.goode@glasgow.ac.uk, or Ealasaid Munroby emailing: ealasaid.munro@glasgow.ac.uk, or call 0141 330 6944. More details about the project can be found at hifilmguild@glg.ac.uk.



The Monarch of the Glen by Sir Edwin Landseer. Photograph: Diageo.

Save painting for Scotland

IT IS disappointing to discover that after many years of using it to promote their business, Diageo, the spirit's giant, is putting Landseer's painting, *The Monarch of the Glen*, on the international market because it no longer fits with their brands.

This world famous work is synonymous with Scotland and the whisky trade - it should not be sold by auction. If all whisky lovers threatened to stop drinking the stuff for a day in protest, it might help.

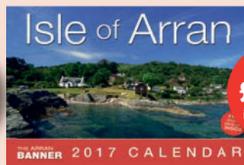
If Diageo can't or won't gift the painting to a Scottish art gallery without cost, Fiona Hyslop, Holyrood's cabinet secretary for culture and the arts, should stop the sale and launch a public appeal to save it for the nation. If Landseer had been a Scotsman and painted William Wallace hurling abuse at the English on the field of Bannockburn, perhaps the situation might have been different. Sir Edwin Landseer (1802-1873) was well known for his paintings of animals, particularly horses, dogs and stags. After *The Monarch of the Glen*, his best known works are the lion sculptures in Trafalgar Square. Landseer spent many days studying deer in the Highlands. He often stayed at Glenquoich in West Inverness-shire where he used its hills as a backdrop in this king of paintings.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Scottish Calendars 2017



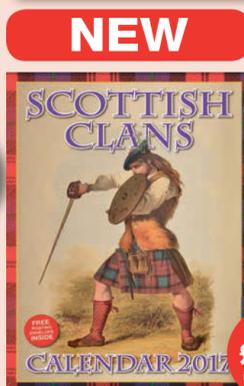
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Chainsaw attacker pleads guilty to attempted murder

Mum's relief leads to fundraising vow

A FORT WILLIAM mother whose daughter was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer earlier this year has spoken of her 'relief' as baby Daisy is given the all clear.

Daisy, who will be 18 months old in December, was treated at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Daisy's mum Leah said: 'We were told there was only between a 10 and 15 per cent chance she would survive. The consultant told us that when parents hear the prognosis a lot chose to enjoy what time they have left with their child rather than put them through treatment. But we said straight away we would try everything to help Daisy.'

Daisy underwent rigorous treatment, including surgery to remove the tumour, six blocks of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant.

Daisy, who will be 18 months old in December, was treated at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow.

Daisy has been home for about four weeks now and Leah says she is 'doing great'.

Leah continued: 'When she got the all clear it was a massive relief, I still get emotional when I think about it now - seeing Daisy bum shuffling along the ground and hearing her voice. She is starting to catch up in her development which is amazing considering we didn't know if she would be here earlier this year.'



Daisy with dad Gary Nicol, mum Leah Thomson and big brother Dylan. Photograph: ABrightside Photography.

A whopping £40,000 was raised for baby Daisy during the course of her illness by friends, family and Lochaber businesses all of who Leah and her family want to thank greatly for their generosity and support.

She said: 'We are saving a substantial amount of the fundraising for the future, in case Daisy does need further treatment. We donated £5,000 to the Royal Hospital for Children and £2,500 to Clie Sargent.'

'We plan to do a lot of our own fundraising next year too so we can help other families whose children have cancer.'

A CRAZED man carried out a horrific chainsaw attack on his ex-lover's elderly parents in Fort William days after she ended their relationship.

James MacDonald, 48, burst into John and Flora MacPherson's home threatening to kill their daughter Tracey. He stood in their living room revving a chainsaw before turning it on terrified Flora and then John as he tried to save his wife. The 74-year-old almost had his whole arm hacked off.

Flora, 63, was also left badly injured as MacDonald fled the house in Fort William.

A judge heard how the couple told each other they loved one another as John feared he was going to die. But he survived after surgeons carried out a nine-hour operation.

Details of the attacks emerged on Monday as MacDonald pleaded guilty to attempting to murder John. He also admitted assaulting Flora to her severe injury, permanent disfigurement and impairment as well to the danger of her life.

MacDonald had been seeing Tracey MacPherson for more than two years before she left him on July 14 this year. She moved back in with her parents, but MacDonald continued to

hound her. Prosecutor Ross Macfarlane QC told the High Court in Glasgow: 'He told her repeatedly that he was going to kill her.'

Tracey was so scared she asked her parents to lock all the doors at their home. On the day of attacks - July 19 - MacDonald was spotted with a chainsaw under his seat at a bar in Caol. Raging, MacDonald left the pub and stormed off to the MacPhersons' house. The couple were watching TV around 8pm when the ground worker got in via a back door. Tracey was upstairs in a bedroom.

MacDonald turned on the chainsaw and yelled: 'Where is Tracey... the *****? I'm going to kill her tonight.'

Crazed MacDonald kept revving the chainsaw before striking out at his former lover's mum. Flora tried to turn away but she was wounded after being hit on the arm. Her husband leapt out of his chair to rescue her. However, the OAP was left horrifically injured after MacDonald also repeatedly lashed out at him.

Flora screamed Tracey was not in before the attacker raced out with the chainsaw still revving. She dialled 999 and then went to help her blood-soaked husband. Prosecutor Mr Macfarlane

said: 'They told each other that they loved one another. John MacPherson said he was going to die and to tell his children he loved them. He also started to pray.'

John, also known as Raymond, was rushed to hospital before being sent for treatment in Glasgow with an injury described as 'catastrophic'. Medics confirmed that had he not received help, he would have died. The court heard he is permanently scarred and his injured arm is now shorter than the other.

The ordeal has left him suffering flashbacks and nightmares. It is likely he will require more surgery in the future.

His wife needed around 12 stitches for wounds to her arm and hand. Flora is also scarred for life and has been seeing a counsellor due to the trauma.

MacDonald, of Fort William, also admitted other charges of behaving in a threatening manner and having an offensive weapon.

Graham Robertson, defending, said the case for everyone involved was an 'absolute and complete tragedy'.

Lord Boyd remanded MacDonald in custody and deferred sentencing for reports until December 13 in Edinburgh.

TIMESLINE

Decision time on Santa's helpers

THE DECISION as to who will be Santa's little helpers at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's Christmas Festival is now being made.

More than 80 entries were submitted for the creative competition, also supported by Ferguson Transport.

Children were asked to write a poem describing the excitement in their home when Santa arrives with presents on Christmas morning.

The festival takes place on Saturday November 26. *The Oban Times* thanks everyone who took part.

Fashion show and pop up shop

A LADIES fashion show and pop-up shop will take place in Ballachulish this weekend.

Hosted by Ballachulish Community Association, the show will take place on Saturday November 19, starting at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Tickets cost £5 and there will be a charity raffle in support of Colours. For more information contact Jo Watt on 07766 562600.



Lomondgate is new A82 gateway

REGULAR travellers can't have failed to notice the development activity on both sides of the A82 on the north-western edge of Dumbarton as new homes, a hotel, restaurants, other visitor services and a world-leading business's new factory have sprung up over the past few years.

Known as Lomondgate, the regeneration project was initiated following the 2000 closure of the J&B bottling plant with the loss of 470 jobs.

Today, the entire footprint of the redundant plant has been regenerated. Part of the former bottling plant has found new life as BBC Scotland's Studios - home to *River City*. The rest has been redeveloped with 344 new homes.

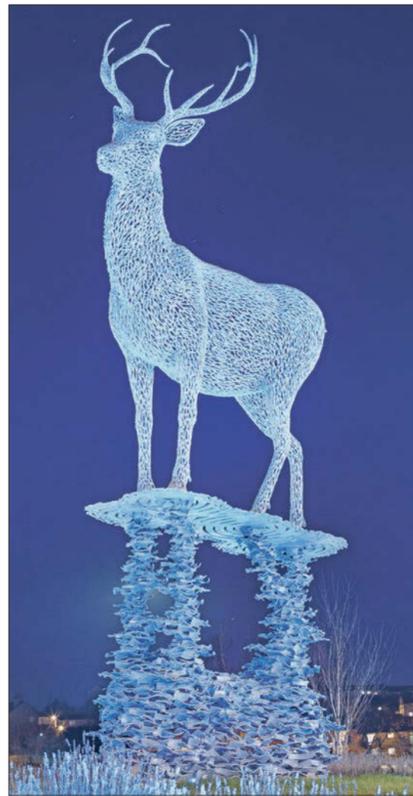
Across the A82, a cluster of roadside services includes Euro Garages' award-winning service station, Scotland's first drive-through Costa, a Premier Inn hotel - opened in 2011 and now being doubled in size - the Malt & Myre pub/restaurant, and Jaconelli's fish diner. Fast becoming the place to break a journey, annual footfall is estimated at 1.7 million.

And this is before development of the remaining site at Lomondgate services as a visitor/tourism facility, which could be to the A82 what the House of Bruar is to the A9.

In 2012, the Princess Royal opened Aggreko's £22m state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Lomondgate. An adjacent 20-acre strategic site with A82 frontage is now ready for business and/or leisure development.

A total of £100 million of investment has been

secured and 700 people now work at Lomondgate. Lomondgate is living up to its name as a natural gateway to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The project is the result of a partnership between Strathleven Regeneration and the Walker Group.



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

COMMUNITIES all across Argyll and the Isles came together once again at the weekend to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of our country.

Many Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday ceremonies and services were held, including at Oban, Taynuilt, Mull, Islay, Jura and Lochgilphead.

All were moving and sombre, and there was added poignancy this year given that 2016 marks the centenary of the horror story that was the Battle of Somme. That

dreadful struggle, which saw so many casualties, would have been uppermost in the minds of many people as a result of the anniversary.

However, the annual remembrance events also honour the fallen from all our other conflicts, many of which are of very recent vintage. So it was gratifying to witness the involvement of numerous young people from our splendid youth organisations.

Remembrance events are part of the fabric of our society and it is essential they continue.



Days gone by – Mòd concert 1981

This week we turn the clock back to 1981 and a concert performed in Oban by Mòd gold medallists, all of whom were from Argyll. They were, back row, left right, Donald MacLeod, Iain Carmichael, Archie MacTaggart, Sandy Brown, Archie MacLean, Carol Galbraith, Kathryn Black (accompanist), Dugan Campbell, Neil McKechnie (chairman), Kenneth Thomson and Duncan MacDonald; front row, Isobel Mitchell, May Margaret MacMillan, Mairi MacArthur, Mary C MacNiven, Annie MacMillan, Anne MacLean, Helen T MacMillan, Catriona Fair, Aunice Gillies and Anne Lorne Gillies.

Glasgow Letter

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

Beware the wild Tìree gathering

WITH the recent events in America, as well as the Brexit vote here in the UK, and not to forget the status of the political elites throughout Europe seemingly crumbling before our eyes, you might be forgiven for thinking that the election of 'The Donald' to the Whitehouse last week was the earth-shattering climax of a shockingly seismic year.

You'd be wrong. There is no doubt that the Trump phenomenon has sent shockwaves all round the world.

But I predict that those shock waves will pale into insignificance when compared to the carnage that is due to commence this weekend in Glasgow when half of Tìree will descend upon the city for the annual Tìree Gathering (details below).

They are a wild people, the Tìridich, who are always up for a party.

And Trail West on Friday night and Gunna Sound in the Park throughout Saturday will certainly provide ample opportunity for that.

I'm also expecting a few gathering revellers at my gig in the Park Bar on Friday night before they head up the Kelvin Way to the dance.

I'm looking forward to playing in the Park for a relaxed tune or two before our Tide Lines show in the art school the following night.

Social media

THERE was a lot of comment and widespread engagement on social media following the major fire and explosions at a council depot at Millpark, Oban, on Friday morning. Karma MacLean wrote: 'Never in my life have I felt my whole house shake like that!! Just glad no1 was hurt!' Rachel Wilson praised: 'Respect to the brave men and women of the emergency services. Hope everyone is ok.' Fiona MacPhee added: 'Pretty sure it's the Council Yard started about 1.40am with a huge explosion that woke us up! The flames and smoke we are watching

The whole weekend will begin fairly sensibly on Thursday night with the concert. Performing are Ellen MacDonald, Calum Ross, Arthur Cormack and the Rowan Brothers.

The evening will be chaired by Gordon Connell, who recently was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame for his great work in tutoring the accordionists of Tìree.

A well deserved accolade for a true gentleman.

Clydebank ceilidh

THE Clydebank Highlanders had a successful evening last Friday November 11.

There were songs from Norman MacKinnon, Rhona Morrison, Seonaidh Rostant, Sheila Galbraith and Alasdair MacMillan, who also chaired the ceilidh. Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist and Robert Wood the piper.

Their next ceilidh is on Friday December 9.

What's on

Thursday November 17: The Tìree Association annual gathering concert in the Partick Burgh Halls.

Friday November 18: The Tìree Association annual gathering dance in Glasgow University Union.

Saturday November 19: Gunna

Sound in the Park Bar afternoon and evening.

Saturday November 19: Tide Lines in the art school, Glasgow, with support, at 7pm.

Wednesday November 23: Ceol is Craic screening of documentary 'A Fàgail Mhiughlaigh (Leaving Mingulay)' in the CCA at 7pm.

Thursday November 24: Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar haggis supper in the Ellangowan Social Club.

Saturday November 26: An Comunn Collach, the Coll Association, annual buffet and ceilidh in the National Piping Centre, McPhater Street.

Friday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering in the Glasgow University Union, with guest of honour, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan. Concert commences at 7.30pm.

Friday December 9: Clydebank Highlanders ceilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Pub scene

Park Bar
Friday November 18: Robert Robertson.

Saturday November 19: Gunna Sound.

Sunday November 20: Trail West. Islay Inn.

Friday November 18: Black Velvet.

Saturday November 19: Twist of Fate.

Wednesday November 23: quiz night.

Offended by call to scrap Gaelic signs

Sir,

In response to John and Jackie Paddison's call to 'Scrap Gaelic road signs' (Letters, *The Oban Times*, November 3), I'm sure they didn't mean to cause any offence with their suggestion to 'scrap Gaelic road signs and repair potholes instead'.

Gaelic is obviously not their culture, but it is ours. If you drive through Wales, Cornwall, Ireland etc and hit another pothole, would you expect them to rip off their native name signs and tell them to spend money on their potholes?

The Gaelic language has suffered terribly during the previous centuries as it was literally beaten out of my father's generation by teachers who told him that 'you won't get a job or a career speaking Gaelic' (even though bilingualism can greatly enhance cognitive skills).

In the 19th century, Ordinance Survey cartographers who were non-Gaelic speakers anglicised the place names when mapping Scotland and Ireland and changed the Gaelic and Irish names.

Other, devastating, historical events such as the aftermath of Culloden, the Highland Clearances and the First World War hugely diminished the numbers of Gaelic speakers to such an extent it has still not recovered, and maybe never will.

I can't speak Gaelic because of previous generations' enforced shame, but I'm proud to see these signs.

My understanding is that a budget of £2 million covers roads signs overall and that there's isn't a significant cost implication for adding the Gaelic.

Even the BBC has reported Gaelic contributes up to £148.5 million per annum to the Scottish economy.

Yes, our infrastructure here desperately needs improvement but, rather than scrap Gaelic road signs, let's withdraw spending on Trident, HS2, the House of Lords and other frivolities.

I think we're very lucky to have a unique language, culture and identity which should be celebrated not vilified. These names have meaning – in Gaelic, if not in English.

As for struggling to get around, my Dutch wife, who has no Gaelic, gets around just fine simply by reading the white English bits.

Arra Mac a' Phleasain Mac Gill' Fheisteir (Arra Fletcher), Sealladh na Beinne (Hill View), An Seanbhaile (Old Town), North Ballachulish.

Plan to charge 50p for toilets is sheer lunacy

Sir,

I see that the Highland Council in

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

THACHAIR AN RUD ris nach robh dùil, agus 's e Dòmhnall Trump a bhios na Cheann-suidhe air Ameireagaidh bho dheireadh an Fhaoilteich 2017.

Ann am beachd mhòran ann an dùthchannan air feadh an t-saoghail tha poiliteigs eadar-nàiseanta gu bhith nas cugallaiche ri linn toradh an taghaidh anns na Stàitean agus 's neònach ma chunnacas riadh uimhir de thaisbeanadh mi-rùin poblach anns an dùthaich sin a thaobh co-dhùnadh taghaidh.

Ach gu ìre dhearbha an taghadh gum bheil mòran de mhòr-shluagh Ameireagaidh ag iarraidh atharrachadh bhon t-suidheachadh far an robh an aon teaghlaichean beairteach a' gleidheadh sealbh air cumhachd phrìomh oifisean na dùthcha. Gu follaiseach cuideachd, tha mòran den bheachd gum faodadh duine le eòlas gnìomhachais piseach a thoirt air staid eaconomach nan Stàitean, agus cosnadh ùra a chruthachadh far am bheil an t-uamhas gun obair an-dràsta.

Ach fad ùine a chuid iomairt airson dreuchd a' Chinn-suidhe nochd Dòmhnall Trump beachdan a chuir oibheum air mòran, agus nam measg sin Muslamaich, slugh Mheagsaco, creideamhan, agus luchd-iomairt chòraichean bhoireannach.

Thuir e rudan a bha cho mì-chneasta is gun robh fiù 's luchd-taice a' phàrtaidh a tha e a' riochdachadh a' cur cùl ris! Ach nuair a bhuannaich e bha car eile an adharc an daimh agus bha Dòmhnall còir a' searmonachadh sith is aonta, agus a' moladh Hillary Clinton a bha e dol a chur dhan phrìosan beagan làithean roimhe sin.

Thathas a-nise ag ràdh gum bheil e a' tarraing air ais bho chuid de na gluasadan a bha e a' gealltainn, leithid cur às dha na prìomh reachdan a thug Obama gu bith thar nan ochd bliadhna a dh'fhalbh.

Ach bidh deagh fhios ag fear-gnothaich dhe sheòrsa cho cunnartach 's a tha e gun gnìomh a chaidh a ghealltainn a choileanadh. Mar sin bidh luchd-taice a' suileachadh atharrachaidhean. Theagamh gum bi aonta am measg mòr-shluagh na dùthcha na dhùbhlann fiù 's nas motha

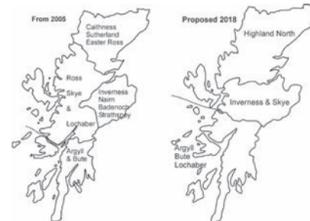
its wisdom is proposing to introduce a charge of 50p for the use of public toilets.

I think this should be at least £1, thus imprisoning many pensioners in their homes where they can be properly supervised by 'granny' state and hastening the death knell of high street shopping by pushing the remaining population towards out of town shopping malls where the facilities will still be free.

In addition, this will make me a millionaire from sales of my 'wee collection knickers' (available in all tartans), the production facility for which will be run on Coronation Street lines and situated in Acharacle, thus providing work for all those residents currently unemployed and in the process contributing substantially to a reduction in the SNP government's £14.9 billion budget deficit.

In politics, of course, this is called 'the law of unintended consequences'. For the rest of us, it is just confirmation that the bampots are still in charge of the asylum.

Andrew Green, Dal Ghorm House, Ardtote.



Boundary plans show disdain for Highlands

Sir, The sketch maps shown here are drawn from those available on the Boundary Commission for Scotland website.

The map on the left shows the existing UK parliamentary constituencies. The right-hand map shows the proposed changes.

As you can see, the maps are very similar although there is a modification around Nairn. Equally, there will have been some population movements between 2005 and 2016.

However, while the number of constituencies across Scotland is being reduced by around 10 per cent, the number in the north and west Highlands is being reduced from four to three – which is 25 per cent. How can this be fair?

The MP for Highland North will have to travel around nearly 13,000 square kilometres, while the MP for Edinburgh North travels around 20.

I am reminded of an anecdote of James Hunter's – repeated in Andy Wightman's book *The Poor Had No Lawyers* – about an old man in Sutherland who said: 'In London, they don't

give a damn about Highlanders, but in Edinburgh they hate us.'

You have until January 11, 2017, to make your feelings known to the Boundary Commission for Scotland in Edinburgh.

Denis Rixson, Fank Brae, Mallaig.

Incontinent adults can have extra bins

Sir,

As a result of a series of emails between myself and Pippa Milne, executive director, development and infrastructure, at Argyll and Bute Council, Ms Milne has confirmed to me in writing that adult users of incontinence pads are able to apply for an additional general waste bin.

While this will not get rid of the smell from these bins, at least qualifying Argyll and Bute residents will not have to worry about their bins overflowing due to the introduction of the hated three-weekly general waste bin collection service throughout the whole of the Argyll and Bute Council area.

Douglas W Tott, Stonayburn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay.

Burning tyres are toxic and dangerous

Sir,

Inevitably at this time of year bonfires abound and are generally great fun, especially for children.

However, this is no fun for those gathered round, or living near, a bonfire that includes burning tyres.

I guess people who are burning tyres are ignorant of the fact that they are potentially crippling the next generation of children or that they themselves could die an early death from lung cancer, leukemia or lead poisoning arising from the toxic soup of pollutants released by burning tyres.

There are more than two gallons of petroleum and oil in one tyre alone, numerous chemicals including chlorine, styrene, and butadiene, and more than 20 different heavy metals. Styrene and butadiene are both suspected of causing cancer, and the metals such as lead, chromium, cadmium and mercury don't even burn away – they just get released into the atmosphere as fragmented ash, small particles which can settle deep in the lungs. Now that's scary.

Children, foetuses, elderly and asthmatics are all more vulnerable to the pollutants released by burning tyres.

Too late for this year but the next time you see a bonfire of burning tyres, you may want to keep your family safe, at home with the windows shut.

Alistair Wallace, Blaich, Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

buileach is aig Dòmhnall ri spèis mòran de dhùthaich fhèin agus an t-saoghail a chosnadh.

Mo nàire mhòr air feadhainn a tha airson dreuchd teachdair gnìomhachais Alba thoirt air ais dha Dòmhnall Trump, agus a tha airson gum toir Oilthigh Raibeart Ghòrdain sgoilearachd urramach dha air ais. A rèir seùlachd, an deidh argamaid bhiorach anns a' Phàrlamaid thuir am Ball Pàrlamaid Bessie Braddock ri Winston Churchill gun robh e fo bhuaidh na dibhe.

'Theagamh sin,' fhreagair Winston, 'ach tha thusa grànda agus a-màireach bidh mise sòbarra, is bidh tusa fhathast grànda!' Cha do chuir toradh an taghaidh idir às do bheachdan oilteil Dhòmhnall Trump.

WORLD political history has many examples of freedom fighters who turned statesmen, and as a Western Isles politician once famously said: 'Every saint has a past and every sinner a future.' But it will take more than conciliatory blandishments from Donald Trump to earn the respect and trust of many Americans, not to mention the world. Repairing the divisions and hatred that he promoted in his poisonous campaign will, I suspect, take considerably longer.

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

Le taic bho

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Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

Midwife retires after 20 years in Lochaber

A MIDWIFE who spent more than 20 years helping pregnant ladies in Lochaber will be 'sorely missed' when she retires.

Staff at the Belford Midwifery Unit said farewell to colleague Roslyn Stewart last month (October) as she retired after 30 years as a midwife, 22 of those based in Lochaber. Ros started her nursing training in Aberdeen in 1980. In 1985 she began her midwifery training in Leeds. Prior to working in Lochaber, she spent six years working in the midwifery team based at Raigmore Hospital.

She said: 'I've seen a lot of changes over the years where we've gone from a GP-led unit to a community midwifery unit and the integration of the teams which combined local births and community care.'

'I've really enjoyed my time here. I'll miss everyone but I am keeping a hand in for now as I've joined the midwifery bank. I'm looking forward to the next chapter of my life.'

Catherine MacDonald, midwifery manager for the area, credits Ros with being a tremendous support to the local team. She said: 'Ros will be very

“I've seen a lot of changes over the years”

Roslyn Stewart
Midwife

much missed by the staff here. We will miss her quiet, calm presence and her unswerving loyalty to us as a team. Her clinical skills are second to none and she has always stepped in to do extra hours and on-call if needed. In fact, she did not take a phased retirement and actually worked extra hours in the run up to her last day as we needed the help.

'Her patients will miss her as well. On the day she left a patient did come by to give her a bouquet of flowers as a thank you. She is just so highly thought of. I know we'll still see her around, but we all wish her a very happy retirement.'



Ros started her nursing training in Aberdeen in 1980.



Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club train in the Nevis Centre or in Lochaber High School most weeks. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan

Skaters roll into Nevis Centre with Sister Act

SISTER ACT is coming to Lochaber next weekend but with a bit of a difference as it will see the 'nuns' dance in roller skates.

The Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club's 'showtime' will take place in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

Frida Alexander, who has run the club for 30 years, described the discipline as being similar to ice skating and says the show is not only good fun but helps raise funds to allow the club to take part

in competitions down south. She added: 'We have travelled to America and Denmark in the past.'

'More recently we just go to England but it still costs a lot of money, so the shows are a great way of helping us make that happen.'

'The competitions usually take place in July when the schools are off so it would be great for us to go and show off the hard work.'

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets are still available.

Concern over government silence on HIE future

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP is deeply concerned she has received 'no answer' from the Scottish Government on plans for the future of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Rhoda Grant tabled a Parliamentary Question on October 31 asking the Scottish Government when it plans to re-advertise the post of chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), what the period of appointment will be and whether an HIE board will be constituted.

The question was due for answer on November 14 but Mrs Grant says the government has

failed to give any clear indication of what lies ahead.

She concluded: 'This issue cannot simply be swept under the carpet in the hope it will go away.'

'It is far too important for our communities in the Highlands and Islands and for the staff of HIE who deserve to know what the plans are.'

'This shows a clear lack of strategy from this government, or an unwillingness to publish that strategy. Either way it is not good enough and I will be holding both Keith Brown and his SNP colleagues to account on this.'



Cara MacKay, right, and Rebecca Thoms, second right, of Lochaber Environmental Group who were guest speakers at the SWI rally on November 5. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Groups share ideas on wasting less

A TALK to help more people waste less in Lochaber turned out to be mutually beneficial.

Cara MacKay and Rebecca Thoms from Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) were guest speakers at SWI Lochaber Federation's Autumn Rally in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William, earlier this month.

Rebecca Thoms from LEG said: 'Cara and myself enjoyed giving the presentation and I think the group came away with new information so we felt it went well. Many people didn't realise the council last year changed what you can and cannot put in your blue bin so a lot of the discussion took place around that. We also spoke about our main project which is zero waste.'

The ladies told us about competitions they had run, including how to make something new from something old and also some recipes – such as how to create a meal from what's in your fridge or from things you were ready to throw out, so those actually gave us a lot of good ideas about things we can look into moving forward and can then pass on to other groups.'

Sports fun for young Gaelic speakers

THE SECOND phase of a popular sports club has kicked off at the Gaelic school in Caol, Fort William.

Club Spòrs, held at Bunscoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, provides a range of extra-curricular sports for fluent Gaelic speaking children from primary one to primary seven.

Three young Gaelic speakers lead the club each Saturday morning where half of the total school roll participate in creative games, dance, indoor hockey, badminton, netball, shinty and football.



Children enjoy a range of sports at the Gaelic school every Saturday morning. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Councillor Hamish Fraser, chairman of the Highland Council's Gaelic Implementation Group said: 'We continue to provide and support Gaelic medium education.'

'It is a priority to support and make provision for young people to use their Gaelic language skills beyond the classroom.'

'Club Spòrs is a good example of how Gaelic speaking can be included in a national programme of sporting activities. The club is also included in the healthy living agenda.'

Woman accused of card theft is freed

A WOMEN accused of stealing her elderly friend's bank card and using it to withdraw money was told there was no case to answer.

Sharon Kenna from Claggan attended Fort William Sheriff Court last week and pleaded not guilty to stealing Jaqueline Sherry's RBS card from her home on January 18, 2016 and using it to withdraw £200.

Ms Sherry told the court Kenna had

turned up to her house uninvited on the evening in question with a drink in her but had left relatively quickly by taxi.

Ms Sherry had gone to the bank the next morning for a 'read-out' of her account after noticing the card was missing and was told £200 had been withdrawn around 10pm the previous night.

Ms Sherry believed the card had been lying on a table in her living room and Kenna had taken it while she was making

a hot drink. The Crown sought to rely on closed circuit television footage showing a figure matching Kenna's description walking toward an ATM in Fort William High Street at the time in question but Sheriff William Taylor said while there was considerable suspicion he had difficulty telling whether the person in the video was a man or woman, never mind identifying it to be the accused and told Kenna she was free to go.

Group reports cruise ship visit had positive impact

ATTRACTING cruise ships to Fort William will boost the local economy.

That's the conclusion of a Fort William Marine and Shoreline Company (FWMSC) report following the visit of the *Boudicca* on September 28.

The Fred Olsen vessel anchored in Loch Linnhe, off Fort William, at 6am and remained there until about 4pm. On board were 808 passengers and approximately

400 crew. Passengers made use of new pontoons purpose built for their arrival thanks to the efforts of FWMSC.

A survey was conducted on the day to gauge how passengers and crew had enjoyed their visit. The results were found to be largely positive. For example, for the question 'how would you rate Fort William as a port of call' 42.7 per cent answered 'good', with 35.96 per cent say-

ing 'excellent' and 21.35 per cent of those asked selecting 'okay'.

Some of the negative points highlighted related to empty shops on the high street and a need for more toilets. The report concluded: 'Attracting cruise ships is worth the effort in terms of economic benefit. Fort William already has so much in place. With a little co-ordination, Fort William has every chance of success.'

Man walks free after paying back cash

A FORMER fishing executive who embezzled more than £1,000 from his Lochaber employer has been admonished.

Fort William Sheriff Court last week heard John Hermse from Argus Lodge, Wards Road, Elgin, has paid back the £1,116.09 which belonged to the Mallaig and North West Fisherman's Association (MNFWA).

During his employment with the association, Hermse had enjoyed access to a company credit card to use for his own expenses, including travel costs to help carry out his day to day tasks.

The wrongdoing in question took place between April 29 2010 to October 5 2013 when Hermse used the company card to make two personal transactions.

The 59-year-old had previously pleaded not guilty to embezzling around £7,000 but admitted theft of the lesser amount in August this year.

Sheriff Sukhwinder Gill presided over the case in August and told Hermse if the money is repaid there may be no further action, adding: 'I am leaving the matter in your hands.'

This information was passed on to Sheriff William Taylor on November 8 by solicitor Hamish Melrose. The Sheriff said he had no reason to depart from the earlier view and that as Melrose was an officer of the court the message was 'good enough for him'.

It is however, understood that the Crown may pursue a proceeds of crime act against Hermse.

POLICE FILES

POLICE are keen to speak to anyone with information about the following incidents:

AROUND 6pm on November 7, a stone was thrown at the window of a house on Lochaber Road, Fort William, causing minor damage.

SOMETIME between 6pm on Wednesday November 9 and 7am the following morning, two vehicle batteries were stolen from the rear of a flat-bed lorry parked at the West Highland Hotel in Mallaig.

ANYONE with information should contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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Remembering the fallen



Euan Dewar, pipe major, played at the end of the two minutes' silence. 17_147parade6



Oban Pipe Band and Oban High School Pipe Band lead the parade from the Corran Halls along the Esplanade to the War Memorial. 17_147parade1



The Territorial Army take the salute after placing a wreath on the Oban War Memorial. 17_147parade7

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE annual remembrance services taking place around the region on Sunday proved the loyalty of those who were left behind and of those people who are mindful of the huge loss of life conflict and wars bring. In Oban, a meaningful and sombre service was held in front of a large crowd. No-one complained as the rain bore down as they were acutely aware of those who had given their lives in much worse conditions. As ever, the praise in Oban goes to the local branch of the Royal British Legion, and in particular to Iain and Lesley

Blair-Simmonds, who over the years have built up the service with the help of many others. Officiating at the service was now-retired Baptist minister Ian McFarlane. His gentle, calm demeanour over the proceedings allowed those present to focus on the loss of life at conflicts throughout the world. Pipe Major Euan Dewar brought the two minutes' silence to an end. Poems, prayers and Bible readings preceded the laying of wreaths by a number of adult and youth organisations. After the service, and despite the weather, people remained at the war memorial, sharing conversations with others who

were laying crosses or poppies in remembrance of those who had died. On the island of Mull, services were held in Tobermory and at Creich, near Fionnphort. In Tobermory, the inclement weather did not stop a crowd making their way to the war memorial on Western Road. Prior to a parade along the street from Tobermory Parish Church, the Reverend Duncan Macdonald led a service of remembrance. The parade saw cadets and a pipers join together with a good crowd before wreaths were laid at the memorial by many, including the cadets, Guides and Brownies, the RNLI lifeboat

team and by Councillor Mary-Jean Devon on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. At the other end of the island, three services took place at Creich and Bunessan, and on Iona, where pipers and short services were held at each place. At Bunessan, community councillor Cameron Anson played the pipes. He explained: 'Last year the weather was terrible so at this year's event the minister was much more organised. 'He had laminated sheets, and he had asked another, Glen MacKellar, to hold an umbrella.'

Local man Rob Jones read out a list of the names of people who had died in conflicts in the First and Second World Wars, and he made special mention of former Bunessan Primary School pupil and Kintra resident Robert MacLaren, who died in Afghanistan. This year the annual dash of pipers moving from one service to another on the Ross of Mull and Iona was abated as the gardener on Mull has joined Mull and Iona Pipe Band and was able to lead the service on Iona for the first time. Readers who would like a mention of their town or village service in next year's paper should contact editor@obantimes.co.uk to make arrangements for copy to be submitted.



Police Inspector Mark Stephen places a wreath at the memorial. 17_147parade11



Cadets stand to attention as they pay their respects. DSC_0601



Oban pipe bands brought dignity to the annual procession. 17_147parade2



Marking the day Great War ended

A CROWD of around 40 fell into a minute's silence at the Oban Garden of Remembrance on George Street on Armistice Day, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, marking the end of hostilities in the First World War. Retired RAF chaplain Rev Ian McFarlane, minister at Oban Baptist Church and chaplain to the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion, led the service. Mr McFarlane told *The Oban Times*: 'On the heels of the recent election in America, it may be prudent to pray the world will work towards discovering peace in trou-

bled times. And at times like these, it shows people come together in remembrance and prayer concerning the wellbeing and future of humankind. 'There are good signs of people working together for charity in Oban. We are mindful of one another: we are not forgetful.' Ex-servicemen Ross Manson of the Royal Scots and Graham MacQueen of the Merchant Navy bore the standards of the Oban branch of the Royal British Legion and the Queen's Colours respectively. Ian Blair-Simmonds of the Royal Artillery, and his wife Lesley of the Intel-

ligence Corps, formed part of the team of volunteers who created George Street's remembrance garden, planted with poppies and 242 named crosses. 'Each cross represents a name on the war memorial on the esplanade,' Lesley said. 'It's important to raise awareness,' Ian added, 'that's why we brought the garden into the town.' The couple, like others attending the service, laid their own crosses in remembrance of friends and family. They thanked Lorn Locks and Homebase, who provided the chains and fencing at no charge.



Ian and Lesley Blair-Simmonds helped to create the remembrance garden in George Street.

from Oban and Argyll



Lesley Blair-Simmonds and Teresa Russell place a wreath at a very poignant moment. 17_147parade12



McCaig's tribute to poppy appeal

OBAN'S iconic McCaig's Tower went the extra mile for the 2016 Scottish Poppy Appeal when it was lit up red for the first time. The tower, overlooking the bay from Battery Hill, shone poppy red at night to raise awareness of the annual fundraising campaign by the charity Poppyscotland. The tower was one of 19 iconic

buildings and structures across Scotland which joined in this powerful visual show of support. Gordon Michie, head of fundraising from Poppyscotland, said: 'We are delighted that McCaig's Tower showed its support for this year's Scottish Poppy Appeal by lighting up red.'

'We hope people will think about ways that they, too, can go the extra mile in their support for the poppy appeal. Whether it's putting a little bit more in the poppy tin, or doing something completely different to raise money, every penny helps us to offer life-changing support so we can be there when they call for backup.'



Flags are lowered during the silence. 17_147parade5



Youth organisations were represented at the parade. 17_147parade3



Children of local primary schools took part in the procession. 17_147parade16



A young member of Oban Boys' Brigade places a wreath. 17_147parade9



Catherine Lamont, the oldest Guide leader, layed a wreath helped by guides Riona Megan, left, and Mara Megan. 17_147parade10



A large crowd turned out to pay their respects despite the rain. dsc_0652



Joan and Carl Johnson from Ireland said they found the service at Oban's war memorial to be meaningful and 'beautiful'. 17_147parade17



Sergeant Major Frank McKenna led a well-organised parade. 17_147parade18



Councillor Julie McKenzie lays a wreath on behalf of the council. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



The RNLI boat was offshore as the ceremony took place. 17_147parade14



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Friday 18 - Thursday 24 November

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB | 12A | 123 MIN

Fri: 17:30, Sat: 18:30, Sun: 16:45, Wed: 21:30
Based on the international best selling book. The true feel good story of how James Bowen, a busker and recovering drug addict, had his life transformed when he met a stray ginger cat.

ANDRÉ RIEU: CHRISTMAS WITH ANDRÉ | 12A | 125 MIN

Sat: 17:00
A festive celebration, featuring a never before seen 90 minute recorded Christmas concert, packed with all the favourites including Hallelujah, Jingle Bells, White Christmas & many more performed by André and his famous Johann Strauss Orchestra along with his sopranos and tenors.

ARRIVAL | 12A | 136 MIN

Fri: 19:45, Sat: 20:45, Sun: 19:00, Mon, Tue: 21:30, Wed: 16:15, Thu: 15:30
When mysterious spacecraft touch down across the globe, an elite team - led by expert linguist Louise Banks - are brought together to investigate.

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM | 12A | 150 MIN

Fri: 12:00, 19:00, Sat: 14:15, 19:30, Sun: 12:00, 18:00, Mon, Tue: 18:45, 19:30, Wed: 18:45, Thu: 19:30, 20:45
3D: Fri: 15:30, Sat: 11:30, Sun: 15:00, Mon, Tue: 16:30, Wed: 16:15, Thu: 16:30
Parent and Baby Screening: Tue: 11:30

The adventures of writer Newt Scamander in New York's secret community of witches and wizards seventy years before Harry Potter reads his book in school.

TROLLS | PG | 112 MIN

Fri: 15:15
Kids Club: Sat: 11:00
Children's Classic. DreamWorks Animation's TROLLS is an irreverent comedy extravaganza with incredible music!

MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN | 12A | 147 MIN

Fri: 12:30, Sat: 15:45, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Tue: 16:00, Thu: 18:00
When Jacob discovers clues to a mystery that spans different worlds and times, he finds a magical place known as Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children.

SILVER SCREEN - SCOTTISH MUSSEL | 15 | 114 MIN

Sun: 14:30
Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! Tea and cake £1.50
Ritchie is a Glaswegian chancer with low hopes and no prospects. Disillusioned with city life, he goes undercover at a Highland conservation centre to make his fortune as an illegal pearl fisher with the help of his two hapless and accident prone mates, Danny and Fraser.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET: CINDERELLA | 12A | 135 MIN

Thu: 19:15
Witty, vibrant, glamorous and romantic, Alexei Ratmansky's Cinderella will sweep you off your feet as this stunning production comes to cinemas.

Joy Dunlop nominated for a prestigious honour at Trad Music Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to Joy Dunlop, who has been nominated in the category Gaelic singer of the Year in the Scots Trad Music Awards. Joy was born and raised in Connel and is a Royal National Mòd gold medal winner. She is also the first, and only, person to ever win the Traditional Singer of the Year and the Traditional Dancer of the Year at the pan-Celtic festival. We had a chat with Joy about the nomination, her passion for Gaelic singing and her plans for the future.

Being nominated for a trad award is a very big deal. How did you react when you were told?

'Honestly? I couldn't believe it. There are so many fantastic Gaelic singers out there who are doing their own wonderful things, so to be among the four who are nominated this year is a real honour. I know that everyone says that it's great to just be nominated but in this case, it's genuinely true. As the nomination process is by public vote, it's lovely to think that people appreciate your work enough to put you forward for a prize. My second thought was that it was a great excuse to go shopping for a new dress.'

Who was the very first person you told about the nomination?

'The first person that I told was my friend Rachel Hair, who is nominated in the Music Tutor of the Year category. Rachel had been in touch with me the day before saying that she had been nominated for an award and asking if I'd heard anything about my category. As I hadn't, I assumed that it wasn't my year so when I received a text from Simon Thoumire asking if I'd accept my nomination, I texted Rachel straight away to let her know. Winning the Gaelic Singer of the Year category would be amazing as it's a genuine recognition of both your music and also the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to allow you to perform. Previously, this category has been won by some of my favourite Gaelic singers so to be up there with them would be so special. As with the nomination process, the winners are decided by public vote, so please do send one my way.'

Why are you involved in Scottish music - and why is it so important to you?

'Argyll has a wonderfully rich cultural heritage and, growing

up in Connel, I couldn't help but be immersed in its local music and language. Although I wasn't a native Gaelic speaker, there was something about the words and melodies of Gaelic songs that caught my heart and made me want to learn more. I always loved hearing Gaelic singers performing at our local ceilidhs. My affinity with the Gaelic language and culture is just as strong now as it was then, and there's nothing that moves me more than the genuine emotions of Gaelic songs. Gaelic singing truly is good for the soul.'

What's next for you?

'I'm looking forward to a very busy 2017, with no fewer than three different recording projects in the pipeline. My new band Las are currently recording our first EP, which is our celebration of Scotland and Ireland's shared cultural heritage and I can't wait to both launch and tour this album in Scotland and Ireland. I was also involved in a fantastic songwriting project with Welsh singer songwriter Gareth Bonello this year and we have exciting plans for both recording these new songs and touring our shared material. Lastly,

I've started working on new material for my third solo album featuring an exciting new line-up and I'm very excited to see how this grows and develops. Other than that, I'm hoping to further develop my media and teaching work both at home and internationally and try to reach as many new places as possible. My mantra is, "have Gaelic, will travel", so who knows where I'll land?'

The Scots Trad Music Awards is an annual event that takes place every December. Held at different venues around the country, the aim of these awards is to highlight Scotland's traditional music in all its forms. The winners are announced at a glittering gala concert and awards ceremony, an event that is considered a major highlight in the traditional music calendar. If you want to vote for Joy, then please visit the following website: <https://projects.handsupfortrad.scot/scotstradmusicawards/voting/>.



The Christmas shopping season is to get off to a colourful start in Duror

A POP-UP show at Duror and Kentalen Community Centre will showcase a range of work from established artists and crafts people from Argyll and Lochaber, as well as some invited exhibitors from further afield.

A large range of quality hand-crafted work will be on display, including pottery, glassware, textiles and woodcarving, as well as limited edition prints, cards, chocolates, soaps, Christmas tree decorations, bookbinding and much more.

Work featured will include bespoke glass by Strontian-based Jean Campbell from fused panels to jewellery and decorations; pottery by Barcaldine-based Hugh MacTavish, including a range of his tableware as well as some one-off pieces; textiles, including cushion covers and lampshades, by Sarah Campbell from Lismore; and scarves and shawls by

Dalmally textile designer Liz Gaffney. The lively etchings of Cuil artist Katy Spong contrast wonderfully with colourful lino cuts of Dunkeld-based printmaker Linda Farquharson, and both will also have a range of cards on display. Duror-based woodcarver Rob Coope will be showing a range of carved spoons and bowls.

The show will also feature a postcard exhibition with work by the pupils of Duror Primary School, who will be showcasing their young talent. It is a while since this sort of event has taken place in Duror and with prices from a few pounds to a few hundred pounds, there will be something to suit all tastes and pockets.

The show will be open from Friday to Sunday, December 2 to 4, from 10am to 4pm.

Admission is free, and profits are to go to the community centre funds.

WIN dinner for two PLUS a 10% discount on vouchers giveaway at Ardanaiseig on Loch Awe



Argyll's Ardanaiseig Hotel is a regional favourite for lunches, afternoon teas, dinners, short breaks - and of course weddings.

Vouchers to dine or stay at this ultra-romantic hotel near Taynuilt make the perfect Christmas present - or wedding or anniversary gift - and the Oban Times is giving readers a 10% discount on them. So a £50 voucher will cost you just £45 and a £100 voucher only £90.

Ardanaiseig was recently named by the Editors of the UK Good Hotel Guide as their favourite Scottish romantic and country house hotel for 2017 so you or your lucky friends or relatives are in for a real treat!

The 16 bedroom grade 2 listed building sits in glorious seclusion amid 120 acres of wooded grounds at Kilchrenan on the banks of Loch Awe and houses an amazing variety of fascinating works of art, furnishings and fittings.

In addition to the discount on vouchers we're giving away a three course a la carte dinner for two in its sumptuous two AA Rosette restaurant, with a bottle of house wine.

To enter our competition, answer this question:



Q. Which publication's editors recently selected Ardanaiseig as their favourite romantic and country house hotel in Scotland?

Answer..... Telephone.....
Name..... Email.....
Address.....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, Ardanaiseig Competition, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by midnight, Tuesday 29th November, 2016. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.
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Vouchers can be used until 23 December 2016 or from 1 April 2017. The winner's prize can be taken in the same period. Accommodation and restaurant bookings are subject to availability. Drinks are not included.

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Saturday 19th
November 2016

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MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McCulluck's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 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, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 -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: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

Arena

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

Cailleach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Cailleach (Gaelic: old woman and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

It might be the 21st century but it's still a man's world

AS I AM flicking through *The Oban Times* catalogue of photographs, I'm struck by something very stark. There is a complete lack of women who have been involved in politics at a local level.

Or to be very clear, there are few and far between photographs of women who have been involved in politics in Argyll and Bute.

Which leads me to the assumption that we are either a) not taking photographs of women or b) women were never taken seriously enough to be in a photograph.

As it stands in 2016: in Westminster we have no female politicians from this area, in Edinburgh we have a few women but, again, it is mainly men, while at a local level on Argyll and Bute Council there are eight women politicians, one of whom has children in school.

Mind you, I can't think of many men in Kilmory with school-age children either.

Over a number of years, and many experiences, it seems to me that politics works by popularity rather than cleverness.

Sometimes, it is isn't what is being said but who was saying it.

I mean, in my experience, what would a non-Argyll woman half the age of many of her colleagues have to say that

would be of any importance? This picture rarely changes. As I flick through the photos from our archive, the sight of a woman is rare in most areas of life. Recently the newspaper even had a complaint about sport coverage in the newspaper missing out women.

The lack of women ... what is it? What is it about the systems that exist that don't allow women to engage fully in politics?

Is it being too busy? Or too tied up? Or less empowered? Less angry? A lack of self-belief?

I come across a picture from the 1950s and I remember a fact heard at a book festival held in Carradale, Kintyre.

In the 1930s, one of Argyll's finest female writers, Naomi Mitchison, was involved in politics.

A small bit of research and I discover Naomi was the Labour representative on Argyll County Council from the 1940s to the mid-1960s.

In 1949, another erstwhile Argyll resident, George Orwell, produced a list of writers who could produce propaganda for the post-war Labour government.

Naomi's name was on that list as it was felt she was a person who was left-leaning enough to write for the government's propaganda unit, the Information Research Department.

High praise indeed for a mere Argyll woman. She didn't receive the same praise inside the local authority – in fact in some of her writings she leans toward the fact that she is almost ignored in the council.

Her activism and her somewhat 'modern' views on women's rights and birth control were often out of step with what other people were thinking around her at a local level – but not at a national and international level.

It is likely that she achieved more through her writing to change the status of women, the way of rural and island life (three things close to her heart) than she ever did through her three decades in the local authority.

So, faced with a political climate where the number of women in politics is yet again falling instead of rising, do we need to secure a way of doing things differently?

To top it all, we have a president-elect who is on record objectifying women, while we yet again have a strong 'iron' woman at the helm of HMS United Kingdom.

The problem is that if men continue to be the major decision-makers for our lives, as well as their own, then nothing in the establishment or order will change. Or will it?



Open week at Tulloch Bellingring Centre December 1-7

Change Ringing is . . . a team sport, a musical performance, an antique art, a demanding pattern-based exercise and it keeps you fit all at once

A RINGER in Scotland is immediately part of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers and welcome to ring in Inverness, Dunkeld, Inveraray, Stirling, Glasgow, Alloa, Dumfries, Dunblane, Edinburgh, Paisley, Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews: see www.SACR.org for more information.

As you would expect from a sociable, team, musical/rhythmical activity, it is a great way of making new friends.

The Tulloch Ringing Centre is a purpose-built facility allowing novice ringers the opportunity to develop their skills in safety and comfort. The facility has two

peals of bells and a state-of-the-art ringing simulator which allows the novice to ring with a team of simulated expert ringers – continually vying for a better score reflecting improved accuracy of striking. We are holding an open week for Lochaber residents to find out more about this intriguing hobby.

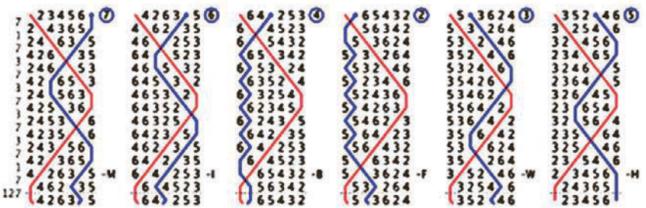
Open ringing week from Thursday December 1 – Wednesday December 7

from 10am-noon, 2-4pm and 7-9pm daily

INDIVIDUALS can arrive at any advertised time through the event. Larger groups (6+) are asked to advise us of their intention to attend. We would like to invite Scouts/Guides/Rotary/golf club/

theatre club/shinty and choir groups etc to consider coming to us instead of the usual Christmas Party, max group size = 20, if your group is 20+ and we will see what we can do. Suitable for anyone

aged 9 – 70. Email: tullochbells@gmail.com or text 07781149905. The Tulloch Ringing Centre is 4 miles east of Roy Bridge, on the south side of the A86 on Tulloch Farm, directions & more info:



Ballet company begins tour of classic Swan Lake, with appearances to take place in Argyll

BALLET West's Scottish tour of *Swan Lake* will feature two outstanding young dancers, Natasha Watson and Uyu Hiromoto, in the contrasting roles of Odette and Odille.

They will be partnered by Ballet West's senior principal dancer, Jonathan Barton, dancing the role of Prince Siegfried.

Nearly 100 of Ballet West's students, together with guest artists and students from

Ballet West's Glasgow and Edinburgh associates, will be taking part in the tour which opens at the MacRobert in Stirling on January 20 and moves on to Helensburgh, Paisley, Oban, Glasgow, Greenock and Livingston, finishing in Edinburgh on February 18.

Genée medalist Natasha Watson is originally from Falkirk. She graduated from Ballet West in 2015 and has danced with English National

Ballet and Scottish Ballet. Uyu Hiromoto is a Japanese Genée finalist and second-year student at Ballet West.

The choreographer is Daniel Job, Ballet West's choreographer and artistic adviser. It is based on the original choreography by Petipa and Ivanov. Daniel says: 'The talented young dancers at Ballet West will provide a wonderful night's entertainment for people of all ages.'

'For Ballet West's students on HND and degree courses, our popular annual tours provide invaluable experience in performing for audiences in many different venues. It is also a wonderful opportunity for them to dance alongside experienced professional dancers. In addition to beautiful dancers, audiences will appreciate stunning sets and costumes,' said Gillian Barton, principal of Ballet West.

New writers' group recruiting members

A JOURNALIST (Louisa) and an author (Christine) are forming a new creative writers' group in this area. If you are interested in any form of writing (emails, blogs, letters etc. or maybe a novel or short story), come along to the first meeting, have a chat and a cup or glass of something. If you enjoy it, we will have another meeting and so on. Wherever the most members live we will try to hold meetings in that area. Hopefully, if we all combine our brain power we will produce something useful. For further info contact Christine at Christinehawe1943@hotmail.co.uk or on 07557 529125. It doesn't matter what age you are from 14 to 104 (if you are older you might need a lift). Everyone will be made most welcome.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

DO YOU LOVE WRITING?

Whether you're the next one of him/her...

Or a bit more like him/her...



You will be welcome at the new Loch Awe Catchment Area Writers Group
For more info email: christinehawe1943@hotmail.co.uk
or call 01838200917
(or find 'Loch Awe District Writers' on Facebook)



A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 17 – Thursday 24 November 2016

DIARDAOIN 17 SAMHAIN
THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming
17.55 *Dè a-nis?* (rpt)
19.00 *Bailtean Alba* – Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.25 *Earrann Eachdraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)
19.35 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)
19.50 *Binneas: Na Trads* – Cathy Ann MacPhee and Maggie MacInnes (rpt)
20.00 *An Là* – News
20.30 *Bonn Còmhraidh* – Episode

1 of the first Gaelic current affairs TV series
21.00 *Jim Baxter* (rpt)
22.00 *Tiree Music Festival* – Highlights
22.30 *Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhòir* – Great War Diaries – Episode 3
23.30 *Blas 2012* – Highlights (rpt)
DIHAOINE 18 SAMHAIN
FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming
18.35 *Machair* (rpt)
19.00 *An Là* – News
19.25 **BÈO | LIVE:** – Rugby: Women's World Cup Qualifier – Scotland v Spain
21.25 *Fraoch Bay* (rpt)
21.30 *Cuimhneachan/Remembrance* – WWI Songs and Poetry – Episode 2 (rpt)
22.00 *Dealbhairean na Dùthcha* – the history of maps (rpt)

22.50 *Earrann Eachdraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)
23.00 *Fonn Fonn Fonn* – Music Quiz (rpt)
23.30 *Tiree Music Festival 2016* – highlights (rpt)
DISATHAIRNE 19 SAMHAIN
SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER
16.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming
17.05 **BÈO | LIVE:** *St. Mirren v Dunfermline*
19.20 *Earrann Eachdraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)
19.30 *Machair* (rpt)
19.55 *Fraoch Bay* (rpt)
20.00 *Ceilidh @ Blas Music Festival 2012* – music highlights (rpt)
20.30 *Gaisgich na Stoirme* – the Storm Heroes – Episode 1 (rpt)
21.00 *Port* – Extra Reserve – series highlights (rpt)
22.00 *Football:* St. Johnstone v

Ross County
23.00 *Hitler ann am Fioilm* – recently discovered colour film (rpt)
24.15 *Cuirm @ Celtic* – Caidreabh is Ceòl Horizons concert (rpt)
DIDÒMHAICH 20 SAMHAIN
SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER
16.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming
18.30 *Seachd Là* – News Review
19.30 *Alleluia!* – Spiritual praise and music (rpt)
20.00 *Eòrpa* – Current Affairs (rpt)
20.30 *Bonn Còmhraidh* – Episode 1 of the first Gaelic current affairs TV series (rpt)
21.00 *Opryan an Iuir* – Irish Country Music (rpt)
22.00 *Am Balach MacCuidhein* – the influence of designer Alexander McQueen (rpt)
23.00 *Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhòir* – Great War Diaries – Episode 3 (rpt)

DILUAIN 21 SAMHAIN
MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's programming
19.05 *Muir is Tìr* – nature and wildlife (rpt)
19.30 *Earrann Eachdraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)
19.35 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)
20.00 *An Là* – News
20.30 *Cuimhneachan* – Songs and poetry about WW1 – Episode 3 (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** *Trusadh: Carraighen Cuimhne* – the secrets of Scotland's carved stones
22.00 *Port* – Edinburgh – shared musical roots in Edinburgh (rpt)
22.30 *A' Ghàidhealtachd (Highlands)* – Scotland's wild heart – Episode 3 (rpt)
23.30 *Fonn Fonn Fonn* – Quiz Show (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 22 SAMHAIN
TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's programming
18.30 **UR | NEW:** *De a-nis?*
19.00 *Bailtean Alba* – Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.25 *Earrann Eachdraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)
19.35 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)
20.00 *An Là* – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** *Gaisgich na Stoirme* – the heroes who take on our extreme weather – Episode 2
21.00 *Opryan an Iuir* – Country Music (rpt)
22.00 *Trusadh: Carraighen Cuimhne* – Scotland's carved stones (rpt)
23.00 *Football* – Hamilton Accies v Hearts

DICIADAIN 23 SAMHAIN
WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's programming
19.05 *Muir is Tìr* – Natural History (rpt)
19.35 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)
20.00 *An Là* – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** *Eòrpa* – news from around Europe
21.00 *A' Ghàidhealtachd* – Scotland's wild heart – the Highlands – Episode 4
22.00 *Fonn Fonn Fonn* – music quiz (rpt)
22.30 *Port* – shared musical roots in Edinburgh (rpt)
23.00 *Jim Baxter* (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 24 SAMHAIN
THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming
17.55 *Dè a-nis?* (rpt)
19.00 *Bailtean Alba* – Scotland's towns (rpt)
19.25 *Earrann Eachdraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)
19.35 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)
20.00 *An Là* – News
20.30 *Bonn Còmhraidh* – Episode 2 of the first Gaelic current affairs TV series
21.00 *Famous Five* – the famous Hibs forward line (rpt)
22.00 *Tiree Music Festival 2016* – Highlights
22.30 *JFK* – 7 days that made a President – the story of JFK (rpt)
23.15 *Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael:* Cànán (rpt)
23.30 *Blas 2012* – Highlights (rpt)

Transatlantic collaboration leads to a Scottish tale

TWO people, who had previously never met decided to co-author and publish a book set on the West Coast of Scotland.

The Secret Labyrinth is a story of a mystery and adventure, where 12-year old Halley has moved with her parents from Florida to the Western Isles. An adventurous and independent girl, one day she sees what could be a mermaid in the sea near her home. Halley's attempts to discover more about the mysterious woman lead her, via Oban and the Corryvreckan, to discover secrets about her ancestry that have been hidden for generations. She is drawn into adventures that lead to the ultimate question: does she belong to the human world?

Pat Donovan, who lives in Miami, was taking part in an online creativity workshop where the participants were being encouraged to see themselves differently.

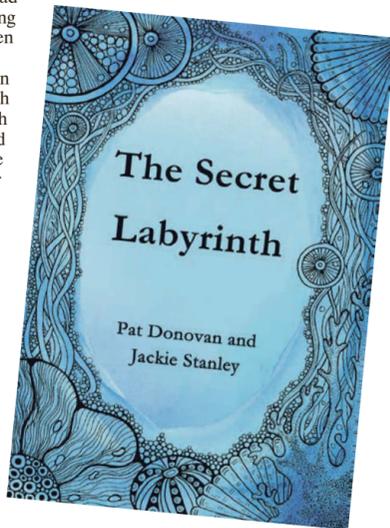
Aspiring author Pat had always wanted to write fiction, and was intrigued by Jackie Stanley, who has joined the workshop from the East Midlands. When Jackie said that if she was superhero she would have 'webbed fingers and fins on

her feet so she can fly like a penguin underwater', Pat overcame her natural reticence and told her Jackie that she wanted to write with her.

Jackie was surprised into saying yes, but had no idea this unusually bold step would lead to the book being published eighteen months later.

They believed in the story, and both wanted to publish something that would help youngsters to see that enjoying their own company and wanting to spend time in nature is as valid as being social and having loads of friends. Halley had become what the authors wanted to be when they were girls. Although the book is aimed at young people, adults will also get drawn in by the story.

It works on different levels – an adventure full of intrigue and tension, a coming of age story, a history of love, loss and sacrifice and an evocation of a wild landscape in which the economic reality of life can be very hard.



The Spell of Na h-Oganaich

A TRIP to Ikea is seldom an experience I find invigorating. Last Friday I emerged from an hour-long zombifying search through the drudgery of domestic dullness like a man broken by life.

I had everything that I required and a few useless items I purchased under the mind-numbing spell of the Ikea fairies. I pushed my trolley out into the world with as much enthusiasm for life as a depressed jellyfish. I was in such a daze that it took me a few seconds to recognise the energetic smiling presence of radiating beauty approaching me.

Margaret MacLeod of Na h-Oganaich it was and what a woman to meet to immediately make life amazing again!

Na h-Oganaich (The Young Ones) was a band before its time and even now, listening

to their old recordings is a refreshing experience.

Consisting of Margaret, her brother Donnie (now also of Dotaman fame) and Noel Eadie, this band arrived on the scene in 1971 and set a new bar for the performance and arrangement of Gaelic music. The sound they produced was incredibly rich and strong for such a small line-up and the harmonies of the three voices with simple guitar backing was mesmerising.

One of the strongest attributes of the band was their choice of material, and specifically the choice of composer whose songs they made the mainstay of their repertoire.

Murdo MacFarlane – Bård Mhealabost – was a songwriter of genius and his lyrics and melodies were perfectly suited to this young

bright and charismatic band. Recently I watched the repeat of a documentary on BBC Alba about Murdo MacFarlane. Na h-Oganaich were featured heavily in it and some fantastic footage of them performing was shown. The marriage of Na h-Oganaich and Murdo MacFarlane's songs was a synergistic union of perfection, with lyrics, melody, arrangement and performance combining to create magic.

For a songwriter, one of the most gratifying experiences is to hear one's songs being performed. For Murdo MacFarlane, listening to Na h-Oganaich sing his songs and bring them alive to huge audiences must have been truly euphoric. In the documentary, it was said that the rise of Na h-Oganaich gave the bard a new lease of life.

Na h-Oganaich had a stage presence that gave them the aura of pop stars. With film-star good looks, effortless confidence in performance, magical sound and outstanding songs, they had everything that a band strives for. It is no accident that they stand out still as one of the greatest and most popular bands in traditional music.

Forty-five years since first hitting the stage, they still re-form occasionally to bring delight to fans. February 2017 in Glasgow will be their next performance and, although they are no longer 'og' their music still soars and they can still make magic.

For anyone ever suffering from the mind-numbing spell of Ikea, what you need as a remedy is the mind-lifting spell of Margaret MacLeod and Na h-Oganaich.

16 Years till Summer

LOU McLoughlan's tender and moving documentary *16 Years till Summer* about redemption interrupted in the Highlands, will screen in Oban's Phoenix Cinema on Saturday November 26 on its Scottish tour.

Filmed over four years in the Highlands, the film follows Uisdean Mackay, a man released after 16 years in prison, to juggle crofting ambitions with caring for his father.

'Uisdean wants forgiveness,' begins a spokesperson explaining the plot, 'but it takes an extraordinary love story to elude growing accusations against him in a film that slips seamlessly between two portraits of the same man: carer and convicted murderer.'

'16 Years till Summer' tells a human story of euphoric hope set against documented tragedy in a film about

what gets sacrificed when people need to see the best in each other.

'Compelling storytelling and cinematic imagery blur the line between the fairy-tale of the heart and the rational judgement of society. Tragic, hopeful and lit with lots of unexpected humour, the film explores the human need to re-invent ourselves via Uisdean's need to start again. As Uisdean earns the trust of his father, Calum, and lover, Audrey, the film also inevitably witnesses the moment when love must question itself.'

16 Years till Summer is the feature film debut of director Lou McLoughlan.

16 Years till Summer has been nominated for the 2016 Grierson Prize and received a Best Picture nomination at the 2015 Scottish Baftas.

Lou said: 'I felt challenged to make this film when Uisdean first said



to me, "My father's very ill. Will you film me on home leave so I have footage of us together? You should show that not all prisoners are monsters".

'Early on in the filming, I thought the film would be more about

Calum than Uisdean, that it would be a story about the unconditional love between a father and son. However, as Uisdean's journey into Audrey's life began a second love story, what developed was a film that examined some-

thing bigger: at what point in a relationship must love, as an act of faith, pause to question itself? And it was that questioning – in response to Uisdean's initial challenge to me – that felt most 'monstrous' to those who had

to do it.' There is also a showing in Skye's Aros Centre on Friday November 18. *16 Years till Summer* was funded by Creative Scotland and The Icelandic Film Centre and co-produced by Zikzak Filmworks.

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To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Competitions, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is December 31, 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

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Lochaber has latest monitor farm

STRONE Farm near Fort William was revealed today (Thursday November 10) by Quality Meat Scotland and AHDB Cereals and Oilseeds as the first of a tranche of nine new monitor farms in Scotland.

The 1,200-hectare hill farm, located in the Great Glen, is run by Chris Cameron in partnership with his father Malcolm and mother Eileen.

The family, who are tenants of Lochiel and Achnacarry Estate, were inspired to become monitor farmers after attending meetings held on two previous monitor farms on Mull and at North Connel.

They have already successfully introduced some changes in response to some of the main challenges the farm faces, including an annual rainfall of 120 inches and a major fox problem at lambing time.

However, they feel there is plenty of scope for the business to benefit from further changes and fresh ideas which could improve the efficiency of the farm, which runs 550 North

Country Cheviot ewes and 40 pure Limousin cows.

Chris, who has three young children with his wife Tina, will be taking over the reins from his father in the months ahead.

He is particularly keen to have a very clear understanding of the farm's performance by carefully benchmarking figures.

Chris said: 'We are far from perfect and we know that there is plenty of scope to make improvements to our business through being part of the monitor farm project.'

'We're also really looking forward to sharing the benefits of having a monitor farm in Lochaber with other farmers in the area. That said, we are also a bit nervous.'

One challenge the Cameron family face is that most of the farm's better quality grass is found on the other side of the Caledonian Canal to the main holding.

Access to this grazing land involves going under the Caledonian Canal through a tunnel which isn't large enough for

anything other than a quad bike.

Malcolm added: 'We are on the edge of agriculture here in many respects.'

'We try our best, but any small improvement we can make as a result of being monitor farmers, will make a big difference to our farm's productivity.'

The Cameron family are big fans of the Limousin breed which they feel perform very well for them, and store calves from the herd regularly top the sale prices at Dingwall.

'We originally had hill breeds but the move to Limousins has seen good results.'

'We think the Limousins give us the best confirmation and they work well for us at Strone,' said Chris.

Preparations are under way to hold the first meeting at the new Lochaber Monitor Farm early in the new year.

Anyone interested in being involved should contact Niall Campbell and Morven MacArthur, SAC Consulting Oban on 01631 563093, or email FBSO-ban@sac.co.uk.



Chris Cameron of Strone Farm near Fort William is part of the monitor farm project.

Officers target farms thefts

POLICE officers from across Scotland are being brought up to speed on how to identify stolen agricultural plant and vehicles in a series of training events being run across the country this month.

Following a similar series of training events last year, more than 70 police officers from across the country will learn how to identify stolen agricultural vehicles and plant in a bid to further reduce the impact of crime in rural areas.

The theft of agricultural vehicles is one of the key priorities identified by the SPARC (Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime) group and quad bikes, all-terrain vehicles and trailers are the most common items to be stolen.

The first of the four awareness training events held on Tuesday this week at Auchterarder in Perthshire. The training events in Aberdeenshire, Perthshire and Lanark are being delivered by a police officer from the National Agricultural Vehicle Intelligence Service (NAVVIS) and an agricultural vehicle specialist from NFU Mutual.

Inspector Jane Donaldson, Police Scotland's rural crime co-ordinator, said: 'Our focus on rural vehicle crime has already seen an overall reduction in the theft of quads and ATVs.'

Union urges clarity over Beef Efficiency Scheme

NFU Scotland is urging the government to provide clarity on when applicants to Scotland's new Beef Efficiency Scheme are going to receive the tags necessary to meet scheme rules.

An estimated 180,000 beef cows from 2,000 Scottish farmers have enrolled in the new five-year £45 million rural development scheme, which looks to improve

the efficiency, sustainability and quality of the herd while helping producers increase the genetic value of their stock and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Tissue tagging 20 per cent of cattle for genetic evaluation is a crucial element of the scheme rules but no tissue tags have yet been received by scheme applicants. The NFUS says that is

frustrating for the many farmers who have already housed and handled their cattle for the winter, with many of those animals now located in overwintering accommodation that is some distance from the home farm.

Because of the ongoing delay, the union has urged the Scottish Government to update all scheme applicants on progress

with BES and, as a priority, let them know when the necessary tags will arrive. Given the delays, farmers must be given as wide a window as possible to return the tissue samples.

NFU Scotland's livestock committee chairman Charlie Adam said: 'We are now into November and it is unacceptable that those who have applied to the new Beef

Efficiency Scheme do not have tissue tags on farms. NFUS has supported this scheme and we want to see it succeed, believing it can improve our beef herd. However, a lack of information and delays are affecting confidence.'

'If tag delays cannot be resolved in the immediate future, then the Scottish Government should recognise the problem and make the

tissue tagging element voluntary for 2016. This will allow those who can take samples from the animals they still own to do so.

'Applicants to this scheme, worth £45 million to the industry, have every right to know now, in detail, what they are expected to do to fulfil their BES obligations and Scottish Government must get back on the front foot.'

Around the markets

DALMALLY sale – Saturday November 12. United Auctions sold 84 Cattle & 566 Sheep of all classes at Dalmally Auction Mart. A good ringside of buyers ensured all stock was cleared at satisfactory levels.

Top prices per head
Bullocks
BSx:
£600(5) – Castles Estate.
Luingx:
£600(5) – Blackmount.
Simx:
£870(5) & £760 – 7 Craigneich.
In-calf heifersBSx:
£920(2) – Keilator
Limx:
£920 – Keilator
BG
£1120, £980 & £920 – Braes of Ardeonaig
In-calf cow
SIMx:
£600 – Craig Farm
Top prices per kilo
Bullocks
BSx:
208p(2) – Castles Estate.
Limx:
203p – Muckairn.
Luingx:
227p(5) – Blackmount
Simx:
223p & 203p – Drimmin Estate.
Sheep
Lambs
Texx:

£40.00 – Gallanachmore.
BF
£44.00 & £40.00 – Tullochcan
Ewes
BF
£45.00 – Acharonich : £35.00 – Duallin.
Chev:
£40.00 – Castle Lachlan.

FORT WILLIAM, Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd., (November 11) sold 135 weaned calves and store cattle, 7 breeding cattle and 22 OTM cattle.
Bullocks (70) averaged 193.7p and sold to 235.0p per kg for a pair of 470kg Limousin crosses from Tigh Airigh, Fort William, and £780 gross for a 410kg Simmental cross from 1 Kinsadel, Morar.
Heifers (65) averaged 172.3p and sold to 348.4p per kg for a pair of 155kg Shorthorn crosses from Dunlichity Farm, Farr and £920 gross for a 560kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Steall, Fort William.
Breeding cattle (7) sold to £570 gross for a Shorthorn cross cow with a male calf at foot from Mucomir Farm, Spean Bridge. OTM cattle (22) sold to 102.2p per kilo for a 695kg Limousin cross from Insh Farm, Spean Bridge and £730 gross for a 755kg Aberdeen Angus cross

from Glendoe Estates, Fort Augustus.
Other leading prices per head and per kg
Bullocks up to 200kg – Cul-A-Bhile, Roy Bridge, £360, 184.6p; 201-250kg – 2 Blaich, Fort William, £515, Keppoch Farms, Roy Bridge, 220.0p; 251-300kg – Dalreoch, Roy Bridge, £610, Market Stance, Fort Augustus, 211.5p; 301-350kg – 1 Kinsadel, £670, 197.1p.
Heifers up to 200kg – Dunlichity Farm, Farr, £620, 310.0p; 201-250kg – Dunlichity Farm, £600, 279.1p; 251-300kg – Mucomir Farm, £600, 203.4p; 301-350kg – Grianan, Glencoe, £620, 187.9p; 351-400kg – Market Stance, £740, 194.7p; 401-450kg – Steall, £600; 451-500kg – Annat Farm, Spean Bridge, £680, 141.7p; over 500kg – Glendoe Estates, £860.

ISLAY – Thursday November 10
At a recent sale at Islay Auction Mart, United Auctions sold 1684 Lambs & Sheep. A good offering of lambs & sheep sold at rates comparing favourably to recent values being obtained at principal mainland centres.
Lambs sold to £70 per head for Texel Crosses from Carrabus Farms and levelled out at £50.29.
Top prices per head
lambs

Suffx:
£63.00 – Ellister : £61.50 – Kilchiaran : £61.00 – Starchmill : £60.50 – Carrabus : £60.00 – Kilchiaran : £59.50 – Ardbeg & Duich : £58.00 – Lossit.
Beltx:
£59.50 & £59.00 – Coille.
Texx:
£70.00 – Carrabus (J Porter) : £65.50, £63.50 & £62.00 – Carrabus : £62.00 – Leorin : £60.50 – Tallant : £60.00 – Lossit & Carrabus : £59.50 – Ballimartin : £58.50 – Ardbeg & Ellister.
Chevx:
£57.50 – Duich.
Cross
£59.50 – Ardbeg
Mule
£61.50 – Carrabus : £59.50 – Uiskentuie : £58.00 – Duich : £55.00 – Ballachlaven.
BF
£47.00 – Lossit & Ballachlaven : £45.00 – Leorin.
Ewes
Suffx:
£58.00 – Carrabus.
Texx:
£78.00 – Carrabus (J Porter) : £68.50 & £60.50 – Carrabus : £60.00 – Lossit.
Cross
£55.00 – Ardbeg
BF
£36.00 – Carrabus.
Top prices per kilo
Lambs

Suffx:
163p – Achnaclach : 156p & 154p – Duich : 153p – Ardbeg : 149p – Lossit : 148p & 147p – Duich : 146p – Ballachlaven.
151p – Coille.
Texx:
163p & 154p – Ardbeg : 149p – Ballimartin.
Chevx:
150p – No2 Foreland : 149p – Duich.
Cross
148p – Leorin.
Mule
152p – Uiskentuie.
BF
130p – Lossit : 128p – Ballachlaven & Dunlossit Ceanacroich.

DINGWALL, Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd., (November 9) sold 363 weaned calves, store & breeding cattle including 94 Highland and Highland crosses in their special sale of Highland Cattle. Bullocks (131) averaged 208.5p and sold to 266.7p per kilo for a 195kg Limousin cross from Craigton, Bonar Bridge, and £970 gross for a 510kg Limousin cross from Conon Mains Farm, Conon Bridge. Heifers (109) averaged 201.0p and sold to 288.0p per kilo for a 205kg Whitebred Shorthorn cross from 10 Badluarach,

Dundonnell, and £900 gross for a pen of 372kg Luing crosses from 5 Strathnaver, Kinbrace. Highland & Highland cross bullocks (41) sold to 210.9p per kg for a 275kg Highland cross from Rovie Lodge, Rogart, and £605 gross for a pair of 288kg Highland crosses from Glencassley Farm, Lairg. Highland & Highland cross heifers (53) sold to 256.0p per kg for a 250kg Highland cross from Glencassley Farm, and £740 gross for a pair of 468kg Highlands from Craig Dhu Estate, Newtonmore. Breeding cattle (29) sold to £1000 gross for an Aberdeen Angus bull from Breakachy, Laggan.

OBAN – Caledonian Marts Ltd (Tuesday 9th November 2016) sold 1832 Store Lambs, Breeding & Feeding Sheep. Store Lambs sold to a top of £54 for a pen of Suffolks from A Campbell, Achnacreebeag, North Connell. Breeding Ewes sold to a top of £50 for a pen of BF ewes from J McNicol & Sons, Turnault, Barbreck. Feeding Ewes sold to a top of £54 for a A Wallace, House of Keil, Duror for a pen of Mules. All classes of store lambs

following the national trend and harder to sell than 3 weeks ago. Leading prices:-
Lambs
Texel
£53 Tyree, £52 Ardachy, £48 Ballimackilichan, £46 Upper Largie
Suffolk
£52.50 Ballimackilichan, £49.50 Poltalloch, £48 Upper Largie, £48 Glengorm Beltex
£49 Poltalloch, £47 Achnacreebeag, Cheviot, £48 Slaterich £42 Quinish Estate £42 Glengorm £40 Kilbride
Mule
£39 Poltalloch, £38 Achalic
BF
36 Carnasserie
Ewes
Cross
£48 Antium, £40 Mingary £39 Fiant
Suffolk
£48 & £46 Lettermore
BF
£48 Antium, £43 Gometra, £42 Isle of Erraid
Cheviot
£42 Slaterich, £38 Quinish Estate, £36 Antium
Texel, £40 Balliemore
Char
£45 Kinlochlaich
Mule
£39 Sithean
Cheviot tup to £75 Glengorm.

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West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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Home buyer confidence bounces back to pre-Brexit levels



Demand for properties

- In September, the average number of house hunters registered per member branch increased from 287 in August, to 333.
- This is a rise of 16 per cent and takes the number of prospective house buyers recorded up to the levels seen back in June, when estate agents recorded 330 on average per branch.

Sales to first-time buyers (FTBs)

- In September, 23 per cent of sales were made to FTBs – a decrease of five percentage points from August and the lowest level seen since November last year when 21 per cent of sales were made to the group.
- Just one in 10 estate agents (12 per cent) has seen sales to FTBs stall since Brexit, whereas two in five (41 per cent) have witnessed no change in FTB activity as a result of the Brexit vote.

Supply of properties and sales agreed

- The number of houses available to buy decreased marginally in September, to 40 per branch. This is a decline from 41 properties per branch recorded in August, which was the highest level seen since March this year.
- The number of sales agreed rose by 12.5 per cent in September to an average of nine per branch.

Mark Hayward, managing director, National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), commented on the findings: 'This month's report proves that buyer confidence is growing, which is obviously reassuring, given that we expected uncertainty following Brexit. Although supply has dropped marginally, this does not concern us as it's still higher than the levels we saw between April and July. However, it is worrying that the number of sales being made to FTBs has fallen to the lowest number in 10 months. The fact the government's Help to Buy housing scheme is due to close this year might pose more of a challenge for those

who were relying on this to help get their foot on the property ladder. We now look ahead to the autumn statement and look forward to seeing what plans the government puts in place to assist FTBs towards their goal of home-ownership.'



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Tel: (0131) 624 6660 E-mail: info@sava-auctions.co.uk

The following are among 32 Lots to be offered for Sale by Auction in Glasgow on Wednesday 30th November 2016.

ISLE of SKYE (Totarder): Two stone buildings for conversion to residential use, plus 6.7Ha (16.57 acres).

OBAN (Stevenson St): Potential three bedroom first floor flat. Refurbishment opportunity, in town centre location. EPC:G

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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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LOCHNELL COTTAGE, LOCHNELL
£600 PCM EPC E45
Unfurnished 2-bedroom cottage
Landlord Registration Number: 82126/130/15500

12 SOROBA ROAD, OBAN
£475 PCM EPC E45
Unfurnished 1-bedroom and box room apartment
Landlord Registration Number: 394114/130/17541

4 POLFEARN HOUSE, TAYNUILT
£500 PCM EPC C73
Unfurnished, 2-bedroom apartment
Landlord Registration Number: 93497/130/10120

FEOLINN, GALLACHOILLE, TAYVALLICH
£500 PCM EPC F34
Unfurnished, 2-bedrooms Traditional Stone Built Steading.
Landlord Registration Number: 05661/130/15250

CONNEL APARTMENT, LONAN HOUSE, TAYNUILT
£450 PCM EPC E39
Fully furnished 1-bedroom apartment.
Landlord Registration Number: 53381/130/28250

2017 'could be the first time since 1930s that rentals outperform sales'

Over the past few years, rental properties have become more and more popular, with more people looking to rent than ever before, thanks to the convenience and the ease of doing so rather than buying a home.

Johnny Morris, research director at Countrywide, recently said: 'The shift between the number of properties being offered for rent and sale has been a long-term trend, boosted a bit by stamp duty and a bit by the Brexit vote. As some would-be buyers and sellers sit on their hands, Brexit-induced uncertainty has continued to boost the rental market. September saw record activity, with increasing numbers of lets agreed and tenants choosing to renew their contracts. 2017 could be the first time since the 1930s that more homes are let than sold.'

At West we have certainly seen this preference towards renting. More than ever, we now see people choosing to live in the rental sector; the convenience, fixed monthly cost and high standard of rental properties mean more people are becoming long-term tenants. We still have incredibly high demand for rental properties in Argyll and Lochaber, so if you have a property and are thinking of letting, please get in touch.

Individual Roomlets with Shared Facilities
2 double rooms available
All utilities included in rent
Gas central heating
Double glazing
EPC Rating - C71
Landlord Registration: 429688/130/04181
AVAILABLE NOW!
£130 per week

INDIVIDUAL ROOMLETS WITH SHARED FACILITIES - 2 furnished double rooms in shared flat in the centre of Oban, available for rental on an individual room basis. Large double room - £130/week. The property is furnished and renovated to a high standard with modern decor.

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Properties for sale / to let LET PROPERTIES NEEDED - LANDLORDS GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERT TEAM TODAY - NOW FULLY MANAGING OVER 150 RENTALS IN ARGYLL & LOCHABER

Penmore, Dervaig

- Detached 1 1/2 storey Cottage
- 4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Quiet, secluded location with large garden
- Close to beaches
- Good sized family home
- EPC Rating - D63

UNDER OFFER IN 3 WEEKS OIRO £250,000

Cnoc Deaghuinn - Built in 2004 by the current owners this one and a half storey detached cottage is situated in a secluded glen close to the village of Dervaig on the stunning west coast of Mull. On the ground floor there is a bright and cosy lounge/kitchen complete with wood burning stove (with back boiler).

Comraich, Tobermory

- Spacious Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms All En-Suite
- High Standard Fixtures & Fittings
- Private Well Maintained Garden
- Potential B&B/Holiday Rental
- EPC Rating - C75

OIRO £300,000

A spacious 3 bedroom detached house located above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Built 8 years ago by the current owners the accommodation comprises a spacious hallway, large lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility and master bedroom with en-suite bathroom.

Schiehallion, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

- Terraced Cottage Conversion
- 4 Bed / 3 Bath / 1 WC
- Mature garden
- Close to Tobermory town centre
- Excellent B&B potential
- EPC Rating - C74

OIRO £220,000

Schiehallion is a spacious 4 bedroom terraced cottage conversion located in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This deceptively spacious 1 storey converted cottage offers generous living spaces, self contained holiday rental and garden and is close to all the amenities Tobermory has to offer.

Combie Lane, Oban

- First Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom
- Town centre location
- In need of modernisation
- Attention Investors!
- AVAILABLE NOW!

OIRO £80,000

7C Combie Lane is a well-appointed one bedroom flat situated in a quiet yet central location in Oban town centre. The flat comprises a central hallway leading to the bedroom, lounge and bathroom. The hallway boasts a large storage cupboard housing the water tanks and hot water cylinder.

Airds Crescent, Oban

- Individual roomlet - Shared facilities
- 2 double rooms available
- All utilities included in rent
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- EPC Rating - C71
- Landlord Registration: 429688/130/04181
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£130 per week

INDIVIDUAL ROOMLETS WITH SHARED FACILITIES - 2 furnished double rooms in shared flat in the centre of Oban, available for rental on an individual room basis. Large double room - £130/week. The property is furnished and renovated to a high standard with modern decor.

MacGregor Court, Oban

- 2 bedroom flat
- Unfurnished
- White goods included
- Lift available - Double glazed
- Shared laundry room
- Landlord Reg: 499554/130/11251
- EPC Rating - C71
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£570 PCM

Unfurnished 2 bedroom flat in Oban Town Centre. This property has two double bedrooms with built in storage and a large open plan kitchen and lounge. The kitchen comprises of washing machine, dishwasher and large fridge freezer. There is good storage space and opposite the flat is a separate drying room with pulleys and driers available.

Lorn Avenue, Oban

- 1 Bed Unfurnished
- Spacious and bright
- Council Tax Band A
- EPC Rating - D56
- Landlord Reg No. 212484/130/18490
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£425 PCM

Cosy 1 bedroom unfurnished first floor flat in Oban. This property is in a popular residential area and within walking distance of the town centre. It comprises of double bedroom, spacious lounge and modern shower WC room. The kitchen has lots of storage and a cooker installed.

The Glebe, Kilmelford

- Large 3 Bedroom Furnished Bungalow
- Rent excludes Utilities (Storage Heating)
- Landlord registration 476363/130/16231
- Council Tax (D)
- EPC Rating - E40
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£590 PCM

Spacious 3 Bedroom Fully Furnished Bungalow in Kilmelford. This property is in a popular residential area just 16 miles south of Oban. This property will be available for a winter let only. Downstairs it comprises of a large kitchen with separate dining room, a comfortable lounge, WC and double bedroom.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Call now to place an ad in our Public Notice section. Tel: 01631 568000

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION
CAMAS GLAS MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCHSUNART

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Camas Glas Marine Cage Fish Farm, Lochsunart, namely:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change(s) to the discharge trade effluent arising from the increased production of fish at an existing Marine Cage Fish Farm.	Lochsunart	NM 6454 5890

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advised-applications-under-car

Any person affected or likely to be affected by or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1009965

Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that the representations have been made which has been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- Apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION
BAGH DAIL NAN CEANN MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, SOUND OF SHUNA, ARGYLL

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Bagh Dail Nan Ceann Marine Cage Fish Farm, Sound of Shuna, Argyll, namely:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change in effluent dispersion and benthic footprint due to an increase in maximum permitted biomass, change in stocking density and an increase in the total allowable quantity of in-feed sea lice medications.	Sound of Shuna	NM 7744 0450

SEPA considers that the above changes to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. Other activities are included in the application that are considered not likely to have such an impact and are not listed here. Details of all the activities applied for can be seen in the application.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advised-applications-under-car/

Any person affected or likely to be affected by or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1004226:

Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that the representations have been made which has been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- Apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION
POLL NA GILLE MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, SOUND OF SHUNA, ARGYLL

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Poll Na Gille Marine Cage Fish Farm, Sound of Shuna, Argyll, namely:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Change in effluent dispersion and benthic footprint due to an increase in maximum permitted biomass, change in stocking density and an increase in the total allowable quantity of in-feed sea lice medications.	Sound of Shuna	NM 7767 0821

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advised-applications-under-car

Any person affected or likely to be affected by or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1000800

Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that the representations have been made which has been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
 Network Rail trading as Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd of the Quadrant, Eldergate, 3rd Floor, Loughton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 1EN is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to keep an extra 2 goods vehicles at the operating centre at Civil Engineering Yard, Crianlarich Store, Crianlarich, FK20 8QN. Owners and 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 from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
 Mrs Patricia Margaret MacNiven has registered their croft 76 Camaghael, Kilmallie 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 3rd August 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3252.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED
 Alastair & Mrs J Mackinnon 2a Portnahaven, Kilchoman 68831 0.241 ha – proposed site for 3 dwelling houses Condition – With fencing conditions. Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk
 Mrs. C S McKinlay Loch Awe (Stronmilchan) 70377 0.332 ha – existing house site & garden ground Condition – With fencing conditions. Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

North Argyll Carers Centre Ltd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Thursday 8th December 2016
 Royal Hotel
 Argyll Square Oban 12 noon
 We look forward to seeing you

CROSSROADS NORTH ARGYLL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Wednesday 23rd November 2016
 Fire Station, Soroba Road, Oban
 10.30am – 12.30pm
 All welcome

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
 Ian Thomas Blake has registered their croft 14 Carnoch, Glencoe 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 9th June 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3249

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
 Caroline Sinclair has registered their croft 1 & 2 Ardconnell, Kilmore and Kilbride 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 23rd February 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2728.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
 Neil Black has registered their croft 4 Achosragan, Lismore and 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 29th March 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2844.

OBAN CAMANACHD CLUB AGM
 Thursday 1st December
 7pm Cuan Mor

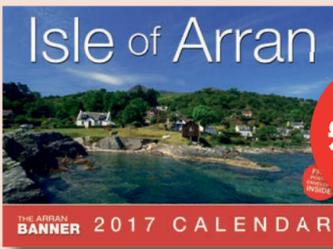
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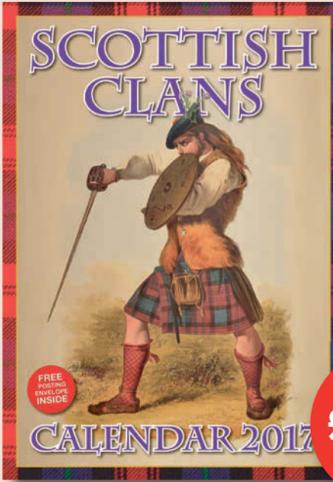


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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/02911/MIN	Development of a quarry allowing for the extraction and processing of sand and gravel and the final restoration of the land	Glasdrum Fasnacloch Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BJ	Sub Post Office Port Appin
16/02889/PP	Application for a sustainable urban drainage system to purify a planning condition for Phases 1, 2 and 3	Land South of Dunavon Connel Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/02878/PP	Erection of 6 dwellings and sheds, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land West of Bridge Cottage Lochdon Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 18
Planning Application Reference Number: 16/02911/MIN
Proposed development at: Glasdrum, Fasnacloch, Appin, Argyll and Bute PA38 4BJ

Notice is hereby given that an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by A & L McCrae Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of Development of a quarry allowing for the extraction and processing of sand and gravel and the final restoration of the land.

A copy of the environmental statement and the associated planning applications may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD and by logging on to the Council's Website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the Planning Application information system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the environmental statement may be purchased from Dalgleish Associates Ltd, Sinclair Street, Dunblane, FK15 0AH at a cost of £200.00 for a hard copy, £20.00 for a CD and £20.00 for a hard copy of the Environmental Statement non technical summary.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to - Planning Services, Development and Infrastructure, Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD.

9 November 2016
David Love, Area Team Leader

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/04802/FUL	Building	175M West Of Warroch, Lochailort	Erection of house, installation of septic tank and soakaway
16/04835/FUL	Land	175M West Of Calbarian, Invergarry	Erection of New House & Double Garage, Installation of Borehole (Private Water Supply), Septic tank & Soakaways.
16/04745/FUL	Land	50M South Of Heron Bay, Fort William	Erection of house and integral garage, installation of septic tank and soakaway amendment to previous approval 15/04022/FUL
16/04706/FUL	Pier, Canal Basin, Corpach, Fort William		Construction of the car park, slipway and change of use of the canal buildings
16/04838/FUL	Land	110M South of Runival, Mallaig	Erection of house and garage
16/04876/LBC	Scottish Whisky And Craft Centre	137 - 139 High Street Fort William	Scottish whisky and craft centre to be demolished, gable end of Free Church of Scotland to be repaired and rendered where necessary
16/04878/FUL	Holly Tree Hotel, Kentallen, Appin		Proposed extension
16/04989/FUL	Larch Cottage, Tirindrish, Spean Bridge		Erection of timber Chalet

Time period for comments is 14 days, 16/04876/LBC is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

AMENDMENT TO ORIGINAL NOTICE PUBLISHED 3 NOVEMBER 2016 - CHANGE OF VENUE

Argyll & Bute Council
MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice is hereby given that Argyll & Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT, plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity at North Pier, Oban. The activity consists of the construction of a Transit Berthing Facility which will include the installation of finger berths and alongside pontoon areas with floating breakwaters.

Further information, can be obtained concerning the proposed works from:

Kirsteen Macdonald
Regeneration Project Manager, Argyll & Bute Council, Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SY

The pre-application consultation event will be held at (from 09:30 to 17:30) on (09/12/2016) at:

Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NZ

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed Transit Berthing Facility can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at:

kirsteen.macdonald3@argyll-bute.gov.uk,
Or by post to
Regeneration Project Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, Whitegates Office, Whitegates Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SY, not later than 09/12/2016

Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If Argyll & Bute Council submits an application for a marine licence to the Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.

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Part Time Vacancy
Medical Receptionist
Port Appin Surgery

We have a Vacancy for a Receptionist at the Surgery. The position is part-time, all day on Monday and Tuesday and holiday cover on other days, as required, throughout the year. The post entails general reception duties, typing, medication dispensing, computer work, answering telephone calls and general office duties. Previous experience of Medical Reception work desirable, but not essential.

Please forward your CV to Linda MacGillivray Practice Manager, Port Appin Surgery, Port Appin, Oban. PA38 4DE or e-mail linda.macgillivray@nhs.net. Telephone no.01631 730271.

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These posts will be subject to a basic Disclosure Scotland check.
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For further information about these posts or for an informal chat please contact Phil Burn on 01546 605824.

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Closing date for applications: 2nd December 2016
Interviews will be held on Mon 12th December 2016

For more information or to request an information pack and application form please email: obanhopekitchen@gmail.com
Or write to:
The Service Manager, Hope Kitchen SCIO, 2 Argyll Street, Oban, PA34 5SG

LOTTERY FUNDED

THE FISHERMEN'S MISSION
Part Time Mission Port Officer Mallaig

The Fishermen's Mission is looking for a person to support our work with active and retired fishermen and their families in Mallaig.

The Mission Port Officer (an honorary role as an office holder) will be expected to work a completely flexible equivalent of two days per week for which an honorarium of £6060 per annum is paid. It is expected that the Mission Port Officer will support the Mission Area Manager in the delivery of the Mission's work in Mallaig in a number of ways, including the following:

- An ability to respond quickly with pastoral, welfare, and practical support for fishermen and their families when accident strikes.
- A special emphasis on the welfare support of retired and active fishermen and their families, especially those in particular need - this is likely to include home and some hospital visiting.
- To participate in the development of good relationships with active fishermen in local harbours
- Spiritual support will include a willingness to work closely alongside local churches in exercising a Christian ministry to fishermen. This might include participation in funerals and other services if such help is requested.

The Fishermen's Mission is a Christian organisation and it is a genuine occupational requirement that candidates are active practicing Christians. Uniform and full training will be provided.

Appointment will be subject to membership of the PVG Scheme.
If you would like a full role description and application form please email HannaTaylor@fishermensmission.org.uk.

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PERSONALS

Thank You
 Fiona MacPherson would like to thank everyone for attending her birthday party in Ardbrecknish Hotel. Thanks also to Iain Bell for the catering. In lieu of presents donations raised £380 for Macmillan Cancer.

Woman Seeking Man
 I am an attractive, slim, blue eyed, blonde haired lady in my early 60s. I have many interests and would like to meet a genuine, respectable gentleman, aged 60-69, possibly for a long lasting relationship. Please call: 01866 833 338

Thank You
 St Johns Church Ballachulish would like to thank all who have donated to the graveyard fund over the last year. Thank you from Iain MacKenzie

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BIRTHS

WRIGHT - To Charlie and Michelle (Kay), a beautiful baby girl Sophie Rose, born November 3, 2016 at Princess Royal Maternity, Glasgow. A lovely little sister for Michael.

DEATHS

ADAIR - Eileen, peacefully at Oban Hospital, on November 9, 2016, widow of Dr Harry P Adair, much loved mother of Richard and David, and grandmother of Harry, Jacob, Peter and Alice. Funeral service at Kilmartin Parish Church, at 1.00pm on Monday, November 21, 2016. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Mary's Meals.

CARMICHAEL - Dollina (Dollie) passed away peacefully on November 15, 2016 at Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, in her 100th year, dear aunt and friend. Funeral service will take place on Wednesday, November 23 at Lismore Parish Church at 1.00 p.m. Family flowers only, donations can be made in aid of Port Appin Surgery and Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home. Sadly missed.

LOGAN - Peacefully at home on Wednesday November 9, 2016, aged 52 years, Cameron Logan, son of the late Margaret and Iain, father of Alan and Ross, good friend to Caroline. Missed by all who knew him.

MACDIARMID - Peacefully, at Louisebrae Care Home on Saturday November 12, 2016 with his family at his side, George much loved husband of Sandra, dear dad of Morag and Mhairi, father-in-law to Stuart and Ben and dearly loved grandad of Callum, Kirsten, Hannah, Jack and Struan, a much loved brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many. There will be a private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving to be held at the North Church, Mill Street, Perth on Friday November 18, at 12 noon, to which all family and friends are warmly invited. Donations, if desired may be given as you leave the church for Louisebrae Residents Comfort Fund and Whitefriars Surgery Red Practice, should you wish to contribute in George's memory.

REID - Peacefully on November 14, 2016, aged 73 years, Iain Reid (Gallery Restaurant), father to Lorraine.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDOUGALL - The family would like to thank all relatives, friends and work colleagues for their support after their recent sad loss of Duncan. The flowers, cards and letters we received have been much appreciated. Grateful thanks to all the staff of Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital for all their care and attention to Duncan over the past month. Special thanks to Belinda and Annie from the Humanist Society for a lovely service so personal to Duncan; to Sharon and staff at the Corran Halls for all their help and to Michael for the lovely catering; thanks also to Moreen for the beautiful flower arrangements. Heartfelt thanks to Catriona and staff of Hamish Hoey for all her help and guidance. A retail collection of £501.28 was raised for Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group.

MARKS - Dr Kathleen MacPhee wishes most sincerely to thank the many friends, neighbours and colleagues for their cards, phone calls and visits throughout the long illness of her dear brother Ronald J B Marks. Special thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron and Rev. Chris Fulcher for constant spiritual support and for an uplifting memorial service in the Oban Parish Church, to members of the congregation, church officer, organist, and to the church choir for their special singing of Effingham. Thanks also to Rev. Ruth Griffiths and members of Kinn Parish Church for their presence at the interment at Dunoon Cemetery. Special thanks, too, to Brigadier John MacFarlane for a memorable reading of Miann an Eilthirich, and to Sileas Sinclair and our "special family", Oban Gaelic Choir, for their unforgettable singing of French and Cearcall a Chuain. Grateful thanks also to the doctors, nurses, the Macmillan Day Unit nurses and Christine Crisp, of Oban Hospital, to Dr MacLennan and the Community Nurses, to colleagues at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Health offices throughout Scotland, and to Roxy's Restaurant, Oban. Also thank you to all who so kindly donated £645.65, to Pancreatic Cancer UK.

MEMORIALS

CAMERON - In memory of a very dear husband, father and grandpa Angus Cameron, died November 18, 1994. Also loved ones gone before - Rosemary and family.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Nancy who died November 20, 2010. Fondly remembered every day. - Iain, Iain, Fiona and families

EMSLIE - In remembrance of my beloved wife Anne, who was taken away on November 16, 2002. We never part from those we love No distance can divide In memory's garden day by day We still walk by your side - Hamish

EMSLIE - Remembering with love and gratitude our mother, mother-in-law and granny Anne, who passed on November 16, 2002. A light is from our household gone A voice we loved is stilled A place is vacant in our home Which never can be filled - Your family

GEMMELL - Cathie. Treasured memories of our beloved mum who was called to rest on November 20, 2006. She never failed to do her best Her heart was true and tender She worked and toiled for those she loved And left them to remember - Kathleen, William, Robert, Lorn, Sine and families

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

MACINTYRE - Treasured memories of beloved, parents-in-law and grandparents, Archibald (Baldy) and Mary (née Boyd) whose anniversaries occur about this time. Always in our thoughts. - Iain, Jane, Caroline and Boyd, Oban and Edinburgh

MACINTYRE - Betty, died November 9, 2003. In the 99th year since your birth the memory and example still burns brightly for us all. - Angus, Lorn, Eric and the whole family

MACKAY - Treasured memories of Christine, much loved wife, mum and nana who passed away on

November 18, 2006. Though absent you are always near Still loved, still missed, still very dear - Donnie, Donna, Finlay, Rebecca and families

MACKAY - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts. - Family, Inveraray and Canada

MACKECHNIE - Precious, happy memories of Jean, died September 22, 2010 and Gilbert, died November 17, 2012, married November 21, 1942. Sweethearts always in our hearts. - From all the family

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Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Obituary Ewen MacMillan Campbell 1945 - 2016



Angus Roderick Grant, musician and inspiration.

EWEN, the Auctioneer, as he was affectionately known was 'a true Lochaber man', as was stated on many of the hundreds of sympathy cards which the family received following his death on October 10.

Ewen was born on the family croft at 72 Camaghael, to Lachie and Annie on December 29, 1945. He attended Banavie Primary School where, among other achievements under the tutelage of the legendary Walter Cameron, he was a member of the MacKay Cup-winning shinty team of 1999.

Ewen's life completely revolved around the mart and there is no doubt that he absolutely loved it. Certainly, there were times when it was stressful and it put pressure on his whole family but he rarely showed this. He was always very calm and collected and treated every member of the community with the same respect. He was an honest, hard-working and respected auctioneer who spent hours on the phone at night trying to persuade buyers to come to that week's sale.

As well as the sales at Corpach, Ewen and his team travelled to Skye to conduct sales in Ardvassar, Torrinn, Haste and several hillside stances in the north end of the island. He enjoyed helping the farmers and crofters to secure as high a sale price as possible for their livestock.

Ewen worked well with the local livestock hauliers and enjoyed the challenge of organising transport for these sales. Furniture sales were a highlight of Ben Nevis Auction Mart in the 1980s and 1990s with the ring full of boxes and small items being sold on the first day and electrical goods and large furniture which filled the pens being sold on the

tions went into partnership with Dingwall mart and a new company Dingwall UA Ltd was set up. Ewen's employment was transferred to the new company and that was the beginning of the end for him as a livestock auctioneer at Corpach. To his great shock he was made redundant six months after the new Ben Nevis Auction Mart was built and opened in 1999.

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second day. This was a service which Ewen provided for the community when the pulp mill was in its hey day. He also conducted clearance sales all over the West Highlands and Islands and enjoyed every minute of it.

After a long day selling, Ewen liked to relax with a dram or two and listen to country or Scottish music. Although not a musician himself, he took great pleasure in helping his grandchildren, Alice and Archie, with their music practice.

To keep in touch with the farming community following his redundancy, he took on the Marr and Macgregor dealership selling feed blocks and minerals as well as doing the occasional valuation and furniture sale.

Away from work, Ewen was a very sociable person, he liked the craic. He was a keen curler for many years and latterly enjoyed being part of the 10-pin bowling league. He was secretary of the Great Glen Sheep Dog Trials Association for over 20 years. He was a member of the British Legion and also a trustee of Kilmallie Community Centre.

Ewen was diagnosed with cancer four years ago and completed three courses of chemotherapy. He died in the most calm and tranquil manner, at home in his own bed with his family around him and the minister reading the words of psalm 40. One which he had chosen.

Ewen was a real Highland gentleman, a view expressed by many of the 800 farmers, crofters and members of the general public who paid their last respects at his funeral service in Ben Nevis Auction Mart. He is gone but he will never be forgotten.

Thought for the week

'I trust in you O God, My times are in your hands' (Psalm 31 v14)

WE do like to feel that we have some control over our lives, to know what will happen and when. So we surround ourselves with plans and time schedules as buffers against the unexpected. We dislike other people organising timings for us, yet often we struggle with our own time-plans. Time is an elusive concept; maybe too little or too much. It can be kept, wasted, spent, lost, made or insufficient for what is needed.

The Psalmist experienced another aspect of time. He knew God's love and care for him, he trusted God for guidance and protection, and confidently placed himself under God's control.

The Bible affirms that God, who is beyond time, has, in Jesus, stepped into our time-frame and that he alone has ultimate sovereign control over time and events. In present time, he seeks our trust and obedience, so that we can live in partnership with him. We can know that our future is in his concern and that NOW, the God of eternity always has time for us.

Thankfully, we can trust God to say, with the Psalmist—"My times are in YOUR hands".

Rev Carol Leech

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Golden Charter Funeral Plans

Muckairn Church holds illustrated charity talk

MEMBERS of Muckairn Church Guild met in the church on November 7 joined by several friends. Marlene Stanners was in the chair and Nan Inkster gave a reading.

Christine Alan accompanied the hymns Jesus loves me and The church is wherever God's people are praising.

Mr Sandy Scrimgeour came from Perth and gave an illustrated talk on the charity the Ascension Trust, which trains street

pastors. Men and women up to any age over 18 can apply and can be from any denomination.

The pastors wear uniforms and walk the streets in groups of three, being a presence to care, listen and help vulnerable people if needed. They go out from about 10pm to 4am when there are people (often young) on the streets affected by drugs and/or alcohol. The pastors do not proselytise or hand out tracts, but show their

faith by being willing to share and care. They do not actively intervene in any disputes, as that is the police role.

It is an international charity and there are 21 groups in Scotland so far. Ivy Smart gave a vote of thanks.

The next meeting will be the annual candlelight supper in Taynuilt Village Hall on December 1, which is open to everyone. A collection will be taken for the Ascension Trust street pastors.

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Green Machine lose in East Kilbride

East Kilbride 21
Oban Lorne 5
BT West Division One

OBAN Lorne travelled to Calderglen Park, East Kilbride, recently for the return leg of the first game of the season, from which EK scraped a 13-8 victory at Glencruitten. It seems to be one of those seasons for the men in green, missing an array of players due to injuries and suspensions, most notably talismanic captain Craig Wright. Ten personnel changes from the previous week's loss at home to Allan Glen's gave a big chance for a few individuals to give coach Corrie Louw a selection dilemma in the coming weeks.

The tone of the match was set early with both teams settling into rhythms, but it was East Kilbride who got the first score of the game after a long period of good Oban defence. The home side went off the top at the lineout and found a gap in the midfield to score just to the left of the posts and, with the conversion successful, the score was 7-0. One mistake from Oban, one try to East Kilbride.

The next score of the match is a possible try of the season contender, with the Italian tackling machine that is Alessandro Franzo receiving an early pass from stand-off Finlay Carmichael, chipping over the East Kilbride defence and getting fortunate with the ball bouncing straight back into his hands and darting in at the corner. The conversion missed but a fine finish from an impressive Franzo.

East Kilbride hosted a sponsors' lunch at the weekend, and the crowd obviously enjoyed the wine a little too much with plenty of goading and banter coming towards the pitch throughout the whole match, sometimes leading to tempers getting the better of players.

The next score of the game came out wide on the left side. Numbers seemed to be there in defence but a dummy and go from the EK player saw him through to the line to take the score to 14-5 after the conversion was successful.

A bit of a sucker punch for Oban as great defence became a feature throughout the whole game, with hard tackles good organisation, good work on the floor, but most of the time leading to nothing as they couldn't keep possession for any sustained period.

The last score of the first half, and the game came from a lineout on the Oban five-metre line. After two or three peels and pops and players running in all directions, the ball ended up over the Oban line and the try was awarded to make it 21-5.

In the second half, neither

team really looked like scoring. An early yellow card for Andy MacDougall drew moans even from some of the EK support after the EK player slipped while carrying the ball resulting in MacDougall's arms connecting with his head.

Shortly after tempers frayed not aided by a vociferous EK home support who were dealt with in an appropriate manner by the referee who was having a good game.

From the resulting penalty East Kilbride opted for the corner and tried their rolling and popping lineout again which was quashed. The home support were geed up from the incident prior to this and desperate to secure all five points. A break wide saw their big second row go close, but for 'big beardy', as he was nicknamed for the day, Calum MacLachlan tackling him into touch and with this the end of the game.

Coach Louw spoke to the boys of how proud he was of every player in this match, only the first time the team had lined up this way and to go away to top of the league and hold their own was commendable. Big performances from players all over the park, Ben McNiven starting his first game at fullback and making a big impression, Steven Parr starting on the wing and competing well against a stuffy outfit, Alessandro Franzo and Tommy Sutherland having the highest tackle count on the pitch by a mile, and Dougie Pender coming out of retirement to help his beloved Oban Lorne out.

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West Regional Shield

The Green Machine take on Argyll and Bute rivals Helensburgh RFC at Glencruitten on Saturday in the first round of the West Regional Shield competition.

The neighbouring Argyll teams have already met this season with Oban Lorne recording a convincing 47-7 win in league duty at Helensburgh.

The 'Burgh have struggled for results this season and find themselves bottom of West Division 1 with only one win.

Oban Lorne will be taking nothing for granted against the visitors on Saturday and will hope to have a strong squad available with a number of players recovered from injury, including captain Craig Wright, Richard MacKay, Lorne MacLachlan and Dave McCabe back from suspension.

Kick-off this Saturday is at 1.30pm to allow for extra time if required.

The Under-18s will be playing as a curtain-raiser to the shield fixture at noon against Garrow/Birkmyre.



A scrum during the recent under-18 game against Newton Stewart.

West Regional Bowl

Argyll and Bute RFC travel to take on Division 3 side Loch Lomond in the West Regional Bowl on Saturday. Argyll will be hoping for a strong squad to take on a team one league higher.

Youth rugby Under-18 West League Ardrossan 5 Oban Lorne 46

Oban Lorne U18s built upon a good performance in Newton Stewart last week with a convincing 46-5 win at Ardrossan.

The U18 side have been building up some momentum over the past few weeks under the guidance of coach Murray Hamilton with positive results and an upsurge in playing numbers.

With Ardrossan short of players, Cartha Queens Park and Isle of Arran helped the hosts to fulfil the game.

This Saturday Oban U18s have a home game against Birkmyre/Garnock at noon. This game will be a curtain-raiser for Oban Lorne's Argyll derby against Helensburgh at 1.30pm.

Under-16 West League Oban Lorne 60 Cartha Queens Park 0

The Oban U16 side continued

their impressive form with a big win in awful conditions at Glencruitten. The U16 side coached by Tommy Sutherland, Gordon Shearer and Matt Corns have improved vastly since the start of the season and find themselves sitting in third place in the West League.

This Sunday the U16s have a home game against unbeaten Glasgow Hawks who beat Oban 33-26 earlier in the season. Kick-off TBC at Glencruitten.

Under-14 West fixtures Oban Lorne 41 Cartha Queens Park 5

Oban U14s recorded a big win against Cartha Queens Park on Sunday. Impressive for Oban were scrum-half Kenni Gray and centre Lewis Budge. The U14s have no fixture this Sunday

Under-13 West fixtures Oban Lorne 7 Hamilton 8

Oban's U13 team lost out by one point in an entertaining match. P7 players from Etive Vikings Louie MacFarlane and Fergus Taylor made their debut for the team with both players doing extremely well. George Gilbert also impressed with a long-range try. This Sunday the U13s travel to take on Waysiders Drumpellier.

BT Womens National League 2 Royal Dick Vet College 5 Oban Lorne Ladies 24

Oban Lorne Ladies travelled to Edinburgh to play the Royal Dick Vet College on a wet Sunday afternoon. Oban Lorne Ladies travelled with a strong and heavy pack of forwards.

The majority of the first half was spent in RDVC's half, with Oban applying heavy pressure using their forwards to burst through the RDVC defence.

The heavy pressure paid off in the end for Oban with their first try of the game coming from Georgia Mitchell, though unfortunately Ellie MacNiven did not manage to convert.

There were outstanding tackles from Emma Roxburgh, Nicole Taylor, Chrissie Leigh bell and Ana Rodriguez (who played her first full game).

The strong pack of Camilla Leslie, Ellie MacNiven, Laura MacCormick and Georgia Mitchell were much more overpowering than RDVC when going into contact resulting in them being able to break the line.

Lorne's second try came from a powerful drive from forward Laura MacCormick but unfortunately MacNiven failed to convert. Before half-time, Oban managed to get them-

selves a third try, again from Georgia Mitchell, which Laura MacCormick did convert.

Oban started the second half and immediately applied pressure causing RDVC to fumble the ball forward. Scrum to Oban. Unfortunately, in the wet slippery conditions, Ellie MacNiven twisted her knee as the scrum collapsed and had to leave the field of play for the remainder of the game.

During the second half, the Oban defence were tested and RDVC made it difficult for them to get the ball out to the wings.

The home side then managed to break the Oban defensive line, scoring a try which was not converted to make it 5-17.

Rugby

After the RDVC try, Oban upped their game again and scored a fourth try from No 10 Emma Roxburgh, again converted by Laura MacCormick.

Oban's backs had very strong performance with scrum-half Audrey Barr putting in strong tackles and time after time ripping the ball from the RDVC players. Emma Roxburgh and Katie Ritchie kept the backs solid and very well structured.

Overall a strong team performance from the Oban ladies.

The ladies' next game is a home match this Sunday against Howe of Fife Women, kick-off at 2pm.



Oban Lorne Ladies celebrate their 24-5 win in Edinburgh.

Runner smashes women's record at tenth Tin Farm

THE SUN shone for a Campbelltown runner as she posted 36.36 to smash the Tin Farm senior women's record by 44 seconds.

Jennifer Martin's run in the 5.5-mile race, earlier this month placed her sixth overall as she broke the mark set by Simone Charnock last year, who was a minute down on her rival this year.

Junior Cara Gorman's record 40.44 was enough for 17th overall.

Two new categories for male and female super vets saw Mid-Argyll's Stephen Whiston set a men's mark at 36.34 and Campbelltown's Jocelyn Richard posted 46.02.

For the first time, a 1.1-mile children's escorted race was introduced with runners setting off at 10.30am in advance of the

adult events. Ruaridh Campbell won the eight-to-10-year-old boys' and Violet Campbell was the girls' race winner for that distance. Gregor Campbell won the boys 11-to-13s battle and Eilidh Cameron took the girls' honours in that age group.

Before the prizes were presented, one of the two organisers, Kirsty Young, presented Lady Lithgow with a bouquet in recognition of the estate's support for the event.

Two further bouquets were given to stalwart timekeepers Mary Semple and Anne McArthur, who have served at all 10 races.

Anne said: 'The sun has shone on every event except one and even that was only marred by showers.'

Kirsty added: 'Dinah Bosomworth and I were both keen

runners and started the race to encourage people to get running.

'In the past 10 years there's been a big increase in the numbers running mainly due to Jog Scotland.

'The Lithgows love to see people out using and enjoying the estate and have been very supportive.'

Catering was by the 19th Argyll Scout Troop who raised £340 for their funds.

Full results: 1 Stuart McGeachy, Campbelltown Running Club (CRC) 32:05, 2 Cameron Campbell CRC 33:34, 3 Drew Dutton CRC 34:39, 4 Tommy Morran CRC 36:22, 5 Stephen Whiston Mid Argyll Triathlon and Cycle Club (MATCC) 36:34, 6 Jennifer Martin CRC 36:36, 7 Darren Renton CRC 36:46, 8 Allan Reid CRC 37:2, 9 Simone Charnock 37:41, 10 Stewart Ireland CRC 37:47, 11 John Dale MATCC 38:10, 12 Colin MacFarlane MATCC 38:28, 13 Douglas Ferguson CRC 38:33,

14 Jimmy Anderson CRC 39:32, 15 Matthew Watkiss 40:07, 16 Ralph Hill CRC 40:20, 17 Cara Gorman 40:44, 18 Sandy McLean CRC 40:57, 19 Matthew Barker 41:06, 20 Emma Morran CRC 41:10, 21 Louise Potter MATCC 41:25, 22 Garret Corner Inveraray Jog Scotland (IJS) 41:29, 23 Alfie Smith 41:42, 24 Stuart Campbell MATCC 42:00, 25 Gavin Robertson 42:09, 26 Andrew Gilthorpe 42:29, 27 Neil John MacPhail CRC 42:34, 28 Paul Honey IJS 42:51, 29 Colin Macvicar CRC 46:02, 39 Elaine McGeachy CRC 46:25, 40 Susan Turner CRC 46:27, 41 Sandra Houldsworth 46:29, 42 Lorraine MacDonald CRC 46:54, 43 Kathleen Mair CRC 46:57, 44 Gordon Wilson 47:06, 45 Edward Laughton (JSMA) 47:12, 46 Alix Geyer CRC 47:20, 47 Agata Brezinaova 47:42, 48 John Lithgow 47:52, 49 Ailsa McCrae Jog Scotland (JS) 48:40, 50 Elaine McCann 48:52, 51 Rebecca Helliwell MATCC 49:19, 52 Janette Hannah CRC 49:34, 53 Lyn MacInnes JS 49:46, 54 David Payne MATCC 49:48, 55 Frances Valentine 49:56, 56 Tina Barrie 51:09, 57 Lucy Marquis JS 51:11, 58 Robert Semple CRC 51:36, 59 Hazel Whiston MATCC 52:33, 60 Tom Semple 52:35, 61 Margaret Sinclair 52:40, 62 Richard Barrie 52:41, 63 Kris Gordon MATCC 52:49, 64 Gavin Brown 53:03, 65 Mairi McKillop CRC 53:12, 66 Jane Kemp IJS 53:38, 67 Sue Allen 54:26, 68 Florence Aura 54:28, 69 Katherine McKerral 55:02, 70 Kirsteen Weir 55:04, 71 Lorna Gilthorpe 55:11, 72 Cheryl Caldwell 55:12, 73 Jamie Robertson 57:09, 74 Kirsty Robertson 57:09, 75 Cara MacInnes JS 57:29, 76 Janet Riddoch IJS 58:14, 77 Fiona McCallum IJS 58:14, 78 Celene McIntyre 58:15, 79 Mhairi MacInnes MAJS 58:57, 80 Nigel Button 59:10, 81 Peter Creech Ford Bog Trotters 59:10, 82 Joanne Tiffin 59:36, 83 Jamie Girvan 1:00:05, 84 William Halliday MAJS 01:00:26, 85 Annette McMillan CRC 01:00:54,



Senior women's winner Jennifer Martin, 25, celebrating her victory.

86 Sarah Campbell CRC 01:01:32, 87 Catherine McLean CRC 01:02:15, 88 Alison Millar CRC 01:02:15, 89 Claire Lumb MAJS 01:04:44, 90 Aileen Galvin 01:06:05, 91 Angela Brown JS Tarbert (JST) 01:06:38, 92

Carole-Anne Burnett JST 01:06:38, 93 Claire Cameron 01:06:53, 94 Lisa Ross 01:06:53, 95 Katie Robertson 01:07:00, 96 Gail Cook IJS 01:07:41, 97 Harley Cogan IJS 01:11:16, 98 Kim Cogan IJS 01:11:17.



Tin Farm races winners. 25, c46tinfarm06

Saints players in Scottish squad Football

OBAN Saints have three players in the Scottish Amateur Football League squad who take on Lothian and Edinburgh AFA in an inter-association cup match to be held at Dalziel Park, Motherwell on Sunday.

Skipper Marc Maccallum, Craig MacEwan and Scott Maitland are in the squad with David McArthur and Brian Mackay on stand-by. The match kicks-off at 3pm.

The full draw is - Strathclyde Saturday Morning AFL v Central Scottish AFL; Lothian and Edinburgh AFA v Scottish AFL; Aberdeenshire AFA v Ayrshire AFA; Caledonian AFL v Glasgow Colleges AFA.

Saints have been drawn away to Edinburgh side Salvesen in the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup. This game is scheduled to be played on Saturday December 3 with a 2pm kick-off.

This will be a tough test for the Oban team as Salvesen currently sit in second place in the Lothian West Division having played seven games, winning all seven.

The Oban side, current holders of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy have been drawn away to face Port Glasgow OBU in the second round. A date for this tie has still to be allocated.



SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Another successful shinty season draws to an end

THE FINAL fixtures in a busy 2016 senior shinty calendar took place last weekend.

However, there is plenty going on behind the scenes as clubs begin their preparations for the year ahead.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochaber 5 Kilmallie 0
Braces from brothers Danny Delaney and Ben Delaney and an Ian Fyfe goal gave the Lochaber seconds a 5-0 win over the Kilmallie second team in their 1.30pm throw-up at Spean Bridge.

Kilmallie had been handed walk-overs in their last two matches and both teams were keen for this derby to go ahead.

Lochaber went in front courtesy of a neat goal. Danny Delaney played a one-two with Ben Delaney before finishing with a low, hard drive into the bottom corner of the net.

The home side doubled their advantage when Ben Delaney played a clever ball to Stuart Matheson and he slipped the ball to Danny Delaney who crashed a shot into the top corner of the net on the act to make it 3-0. Having gathered the ball with his back to goal, some clever movement from Delaney saw him get away from the clutches of Kilmallie full-back Craig MacIsaac and rifle the ball home from around the penalty spot.

Ben Delaney's second and Lochaber's fourth goal of the game came following a well-rehearsed set-piece. Danny Delaney rolled a free hit to his older brother who smashed the ball home to make it 4-0.

Lochaber's Ian Fyfe had moved forward from wing back and when a long ball into the danger area came off a defender's stick and landed to Fyfe around 10 ten yards from the 'D', he showed great composure and passed the ball into

the net for Lochaber's fifth goal of the game.

Kirsty Delaney was unlucky not to add her name to the Spean Bridge side's scoresheet after getting herself into some great positions, with one of her strikes coming back off the post.

Lochaber's Mairi Duncan showed why she was picked for Stuart Reid's Scotland women's squad for the 2016 shinty/camogie international against Dublin by having an outstanding game at wing centre.

Referee Iain Kennedy's final whistle not only brought an end to the match, but also brought the curtain down on the 2016 senior shinty season.

The result means Lochaber climb above Glengarry to finish the season in fourth spot in the division.

Youth shinty

Fort William U14 2 Skye Camanachd U14 2
Skye Camanachd U14 clinched the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title after they drew 2-2 with Fort William U14 at An Aird on Saturday November 12.

The Skye youngsters went into the game two points clear of their Fort William opponents so they knew that at least a draw would be enough to retain the title.

The teams had agreed that should Fort William be ahead at the end of the regulation 70 minutes, the title would be decided on completion of extra time which would start goalless. There would be penalties if the teams were still level after extra time.

Skye head coach Willie MacDonald was without key defender James Morrison. The ever-consistent full back sustained a hairline fracture to his hand in the previous week's Marine Harvest London Shield Final defeat to Oban Camanachd U17. The ensuing reshuffle saw Jamie Gillies going to full back, Ross Gordon

to centre and Dan MacDonald to buckshee forward. Niall MacPhee was given a start at full forward.

Fort William head coach Victor Smith started 2016 Marine Harvest U14 Player of the Year Lachie Shaw at buckshee back.

Skye thought they had taken the lead midway through the first half.

Ross Gordon sent a dangerous ball from just inside the Fort William half in on top of the home goal. The ball was missed by everyone and Skye claimed the ball had crossed the goal line, however referee John Wood waved away their claims.

There was no doubting the opening goal on 25 minutes though. The industrious Mark MacQueen gathered the ball 20 yards from goal and hit a thunderous shot from left of centre which saw the ball flying into the top corner of the net.

With 10 minutes of the first half remaining, Skye suffered a blow when captain Christina MacDonald was forced off with a back injury.

Mark MacQueen went to buckshee back to replace MacDonald and Archie MacDonald came off the bench to slot in at left wing centre.

Play flowed from end-to-end in what was now a highly competitive encounter.

Skye finished the half strongly but couldn't add to their score thanks, in the main, to stout Fort William defending.

There was a complete turnaround at the re-start though. Whatever Fort William coach Victor Smith said to his troops struck a chord and they went on to have good spells of play during the first 15 minutes of the second half.

Fort William wing forward Paul Paterson and Skye wing back Gilleasbuig MacVicar were having an enthralling battle with the defender putting his body in the way of everything Paterson could throw at him.

The second half was just five



Skye Under-14s pictured with the North Division One league trophy after the 2-2 draw with Fort William at An Aird last Saturday.

Photo: Alba Photos

minutes old when Fort William drew level. Victor Smith had had a quiet first half by his standards against Skye's Jamie Gillies. But Smith made half a yard of space before hitting a low, hard 12-yard shot on the turn into the goal to make it 1-1.

Skye went back on the attack, pressuring the Fort backs and they regained the lead from the penalty spot on 55 minutes.

With Skye's Abby MacLean involved in a melee on the goal line, referee John Wood penalised some dangerous play and Ross Gordon made no mistake with the resultant spot-hit, driving the ball high into roof of the net to make it 2-1.

Fort William responded and almost levelled for a second time with first Victor Smith going close and then Paul Paterson rattling the crossbar.

The effort from both sets of players was a credit to their clubs and it was Skye's turn to go close when Dan MacDonald waltzed through the Fort defence on the left, but he sent his shot wide of target.

Abby MacLean then passed up a chance, sending a shot from the right wide of the post.

There was no doubt both teams wanted to win the game and, in the final minute of the match, Victor Smith squeezed

the ball past Skye keeper Murphy Henderson from close range to make it 2-2 with his second goal of the game.

There was to be no denying Skye, for whom Jamie Gillies and Dan MacDonald were excellent, and their celebrations began when referee John Wood took the throw up and immediately blew the final whistle to end a match which was high in entertainment and commitment with plenty skill to boot.

The win completes the double for Skye who add the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title to the MacMaster Cup which they lifted on Camanachd Cup Final day.

After the match, with Camanachd Association Regional Development Manager (East) on hand, Skye captain Christina MacDonald was presented with the Marine Harvest North Division 1 trophy.

Lochaber U14s win Ballachulish Sixes

Lochaber U14s won a well-attended sixes tournament to take the Seddie Lawrie Cup at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish, on Saturday November 12.

As well as host team Ballachulish, Aberdour, Ardnarmurchan, Inveraray, Kilmallie,

Lochaber and Oban Lorn were present.

Lochaber were undefeated throughout the day and a Max Campbell goal gave them a 1-0 win in the final.

Womens shinty

Marine Harvest North Division 2 - play-off Glengarry 0 Lovat 6

Lovat won the Marine Harvest North Division 2 title when they beat Glengarry 6-0 in their play-off match at the Bught Park, Inverness, on Sunday November 13.

The play off was necessary after both sides finished their respective league campaigns level on points at the top of the table.

The victory means Lovat add the Marine Harvest North Division 2 title to the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup won earlier in the season.

Match report to follow in next week's *Oban Times*.

Honours even in shinty/hurling/camogie clashes

The Scotland and Queens University squads notched a win apiece in their shinty/hurling/camogie encounters last weekend.

Queens University (0-7) 7 Scotland Universities (6-10) 28

The Scottish University men's squad recorded a 28-7 win in their shinty/hurling meeting with their Queens University counterparts at the Dub in Belfast on Saturday November 12.

Glasgow Mid Argyll's Craig Anderson has played in a number of these fixtures and was the Scots' top scorer in this 3pm throw up.

His impressive 14 point haul - half of Scotland's total - came courtesy of two goals, three dead ball two-pointers and a couple of in-play single points.

Tayforth's Hamish Anderson also found the back of the net as did Skye's Will Cowie who bagged a goal and a point whilst his club team mate James Pringle also scored a goal.

Beaul's Sandy Elrick notched the other Scotland goal whilst a point from GMA's Jack Berg completed the visitors' tally.

Queens benefited from five single points and a two-pointer.

Queens University 10 Scotland Universities 6

The Scottish University ladies squad put up a good fight before going down 10-6 in their shinty/camogie meeting with their Queens University counterparts in Belfast on Saturday November 12.

Aberdour keeper Taryn Neilson was given the nod to start in goal in this 1pm throw-up, whilst Skye's Sarah-Jane Ferguson took over between the posts at half time.

The Scotland points came from a goal from Badenoch and

Strathspey's Rhona MacIntyre and a goal from Glasgow Mid Argyll's Rachel McCafferty - the latter a 45-yard hit.

Queens University racked up enough points to give them the spoils though.

Badenoch's Megan Ralph was named player of the match.

Lochaber annual general meeting

The date for Lochaber Camanachd Club's annual general meeting has been changed.

The Spean Bridge club's AGM will now take place on Friday November 18 at the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

In a busy weekend, the club's annual dinner dance takes place at the West End Hotel, Fort William, the following night.

Lochcarron mark successful season

Strathdearn Cup winners Lochcarron marked a successful season at an awards evening in the Lochcarron Hotel on Saturday October 29.

As well as collecting the Strathdearn Cup this season, Lochcarron also finished runners up to Aberdeen University in Marine Harvest North Division 2.

Unsurprisingly, Scotland U21 cap Nick Dalgety was to the fore when the prizes were being handed out.

The club's top scorer collected both the Players' Player of Year and Manager's Player of the Year accolades.

Liam Arnott picked up the Young Player of the Year and U17 Player of the Year prizes.

Calum Dean Morrice was given the Endeavour and Commitment Award and Most Improved Player, whilst Jan Picking was acknowledged as Volunteer of the Year.

There was also a special 20 Year Service Award for Bob Munro who was presented with a trophy produced by Alan MacPherson of Tanera Camans.

Annual general meeting

The 2016 Camanachd Association annual general meeting takes place at the West End Hotel, Fort William, on Friday November 25.

This will be a final annual meeting for current chief operating officer Torquig Macleod who is leaving the organisation to take up a role with VisitScotland.

The AGM starts at 7.30pm.

Womens annual general meeting

The Womens Camanachd Association annual meeting takes place at The Isles of Glencoe Hotel on Saturday November 26, starting at noon.

Alan MacRae takes over as Beaul boss

Beaul Shinty Club has announced the appointment of Scotland U21 head coach Alan MacRae as their first team manager for the 2017 and 2018 shinty seasons.

Alan MacRae previously managed neighbours Lovat. He took charge of the Balgale side in 2012, replacing co-managers John MacRitchie and James Gallagher, and guided them to RBS MacTavish Cup successes in 2013 and 2014 whilst also finishing runners up to Newtonmore in the Marine Harvest Premiership over the same period.

After leaving Lovat at the end of the 2014 season, MacRae had a spell at Inverness as co-manager with Drew McNeil and he was Scotland U21 head coach for the recent Marine Harvest shinty/hurling encounter with Ireland's U21s.

Alan MacRae will be responsible for developing the playing side of the club with the aim of Beaul securing promotion to the Marine Harvest Premiership by season 2019.

Alan MacRae's first match in charge at Beaul will be the annual Lovat Cup meeting with rivals Lovat at Braeview Park on Monday January 2 2017.

MacRae, who is expected to continue in his role as



New Beaul manager Alan MacRae.

Scotland U21 head coach, takes over from Stephen MacLean who had noted an interest in continuing his two year tenure in the role. The Beaul club policy is to ensure all senior coaching appointments are available and advertised on a two-year cycle, with a review held at the end of the first season, and the Beaul committee invited applications for the role last month.

It was MacLean's second stint in charge of the senior team at Braeview Park and he coped with the loss of senior players such as Conor Cormack and Sean Stewart to put together a promising young side which finished fourth in the Marine Harvest National Division last season, two points behind third placed Inveraray.

Beaul also ran Kinlochshiel close in the Camanachd

Cup, only losing out after a quarter final replay. They also reached the RBS MacTavish Cup quarter-finals and the Balliemore Cup semi-finals.

Beaul took time to acknowledge their gratitude to Stephen MacLean for assembling the current squad and for his unstinting efforts over many years.

Beaul also confirmed Neil Brindle will remain as their second team manager for seasons 2017 and 2018.

Brindle, who has also enjoyed success coaching at the U17 age group at both club and area level, took over the Beaul colts at the start of the 2016 season.

He will be looking to improve on the team's seventh place finish in Marine Harvest North Division 1 last season and will also be hoping for extended runs in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup and Strathdearn Cup competitions.

Glenurquhart appoint Iain MacLeod as first team manager

Glenurquhart have confirmed Iain MacLeod will be their new first team manager for the 2017 shinty season.

MacLeod takes over from co-managers Billy MacLean and Dave Menzies.

He was appointed following the club's annual general meeting on Wednesday



Iain MacLeod takes over the top job at Glenurquhart.

November 9. Iain MacLeod had a long stint in charge of Glenurquhart's second team but spent most of last season as a utility player, plugging gaps in a first team which was weakened by injuries and player unavailability.

He even stepped in between the sticks towards the end of the season when long-term keeper Stuart MacKintosh was ruled out with a knee injury.

MacLeod will take time to appoint his backroom team and the club has yet to confirm who will manage its second team.

Skye looking for new second team manager

Skye Camanachd are looking for a new second team manager after Davie Pringle

MARTIAL ARTS

WITH IAIN RODGER

Kyokushinkai Karate
Iain Rodger and Craig MacLachlan returned recently from the So-Kyokushin Karate World Championships in Japan after a gruelling trip home. From leaving the hotel in Japan

to getting home was a mammoth 36 hours. Although the tournament didn't go as planned for Craig, the experience gained from fighting on the world stage was immense.

Craig unfortunately went out in the first round to a very tough fighter from Iran who eventually went on to take third place, having knocked out four other fighters, including two very good Japanese contestants



Iain Rodger at the grave of Mas Oyama, the founder of Kyokushinkai Karate.



The fighters line up at the start of the bare-knuckle, full contact world championships in Shizuoka, Japan.

en route to the semi-final. Team coach Iain has been invited to coach another squad for the All Japan tournament next November.

With a couple of days to spare after the event, Iain and Craig took time to visit the grave of Mas Oyama, the founder of Kyokushinkai Karate.

Grading tests have been set for December 17 in Oban and December 18 in Lochgilphead.

Anyone interested in learning this traditional style of karate should contact Iain Rodger on:

07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

Shukokai Karate

Classes continue as usual in Oban and Inveraray.

The clubs' next grading test is coming up very soon and results should be in the next column.

Anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com.

Kickboxing

On November 9, Senshi Do

Kick Boxing held a grading for the junior class.

Achieving 9th Kyu Yellow Belt – Archie Palmer and Isla Hausrath.

8th Kyu Orange Belt – Murrain Swain-Nisbet.

7th Kyu Green Belt (with a triple grading) – Sean Sneddon.

6th Kyu Blue Belt – Rebecca Palmer and Kieran Denholme.

5th Kyu Purple Belt – Ayden Campbell, Aiden Denholme, Innes McKinney, Hazel McGhee and Adam Bratton.

2nd Kyu Brown Belt – Logan Galbraith and Connor Beattie.

While they were sitting the required tests, the rest of the class was practising for the upcoming tournament in Lochgilphead on November 20.

For club info, contact Wullie Rodger using: shihanwill@gmail.com or 07588 513618.

BJJ

There will be more club info in the next column.

Congratulations go to club coach Coogie Potter on the birth of his second daughter.

For club info, contact Coogie on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Defibrillator for Inveraray Shinty Club

IN AUGUST this year Inveraray Shinty Club held an open day as part of their involvement in the Camanachd Association's clubmark scheme at their Winterton Park with one of the aims to raise money for a defibrillator which could also be used for the wider community.

Club member Gordon Pirie, who also works for Scottish Power, then raised the possibility of Cruachan Dam providing a defibrillator as part of their continuing work in the community.

Through the hard work of Scottish Power employees Gordon Pirie and Roddy Davies, the shinty club received their defibrillator earlier this month.

The money that was raised for the defib has instead been used to purchase an outdoor cabinet to house the defib, therefore making it available to all the community should it ever be needed.

Once the cabinet is fitted, it will be attached to the town end of the Inveraray shinty clubhouse.

The Inveraray club would like to thank Cruachan power station and Scottish Power for their generous offer and in particular employees Gordon Pirie and Roddy Davies who organised the defibrillator.

Euan McMurdo added that good news stories such as this is just one reason why the clubs in the west area should

be looking to engage with the CA's clubmark scheme as it can help bring communities and clubs closer together which can

Shinty

only be of benefit to everyone involved.



Euan McMurdo, left, Camanachd Association regional development officer west, receives the new defibrillator from Scottish Power's Ross Galbraith on behalf of Inveraray Shinty Club.

First leg of Tarbert Gun Club's winter season completed

TARBERT Gun Club recently held its first leg of the popular winter league team series of competitions

With 48 shooters in teams of five, the club had set up a mixture of targets for them to test their skills against. The long crosser proved to be the downfall for many shooters. John Weir, in particular, was enjoying a good day of scoring until the crosser.

The DTL section saw high scoring, with Andrew MacDonald hitting a maximum 25 clays, but the crosser cost him top spot, and Ally McDonnell suffered the same fate.

Bob McColl and Brian Baird were the only two to master the crosser, and it gave Bob the high gun for the day.

One of the captains of a team this year is a MacDonald – not Norman, but his daughter Lynn. Her team, though, was handicapped as one member failed to turn up. Still, the team managed to finish in the top four.

Youngsters to watch for the future are the Peden brothers, Angus and Matthew, and both excelled to beat some of the top shots.

The next date in the diary is a charity shoot at Barmore

on November 20 for the Mid Argyll branch of Macmillan Cancer Support. The event is being organised by John Johnston of Ardrishaig and is open to all, starting at 11am. If you have ever wanted to have a go at clay pigeon shooting, now is your chance, and club instructors will be on hand to assist.

Winter league results – Class A: 1 Bob McColl, 2 Ally McDonnell, 3 Brian Baird.

Class B: 1 Andrew MacDonald, 2 Norman MacDonald, 3 Ian Winnard.

Class C: 1 Andy Wilson, 2 David Thorburn, 3 Scott MacAllister.

Class D: 1 Andrew Gall, 2 Ian Currie, 3 Shaun Johnston.

Class E: Stephen MacSporran, 2 Matthew Peden, 3 Michael Harvey.

Top team: Roy Laird, Stewart MacAllister, Akram Khan, Andrew Gall and Stephen MacSporran.

Second place: Bob McColl, Norman MacDonald, Jack Campbell, Shaun Johnston and Jennifer Campbell.



Four of the second-placed team, left to right, Jack Campbell, Jennifer Campbell, Norman MacDonald and Bob McColl, also class A winner. Missing from picture is Shaun Johnston.

GUARANTEED £2000 FOR CHRISTMAS!

For the first time in the competition's history The Oban Times could be giving one lucky reader* a guaranteed £2000 in time for Christmas.

- How will it work?

In the event of an outright winner, where one lucky reader gets their cross in the exact centre of the ball they will win the entire jackpot for that week and the competi-

tion will continue as normal with the jackpot being reset to £500. If the jackpot is not won outright up to and including the competition dated December 15 then instead of the two nearest

the ball entries receiving £25, one entry* nearest to the ball will win a guaranteed £2,000 for that week only. The £2,000 prize will be taken from the current jackpot fund, the remainder

of the jackpot will go back in to the following week's prize fund. There will be no other prizes allocated that week. *In the event of a tie, the £2,000 'near miss' prize will be shared equally

amongst the winning entries. Remember you can enter as many times as you like on separate coupons. So if you would like the chance to win a minimum of £2,000 in time for Christmas then pay close

attention to the competition over the next few weeks and get your entries in. Winners must agree to take part in any publicity regarding the competition and will be notified by December 20.

Please remember the guaranteed £2000 'near miss' prize only applies to the competition printed in the Oban Times dated 15th December 2016

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £4000

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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Paul Carmichael, No 6, wheels away after putting Saints in front against Drumchapel Colts at Scotstoun Sports Campus last Saturday. Match report and photos: Derek Black

Oban Saints pay the penalty

Drumchapel Colts	2
Oban Saints	1
SAFL Premier Division	

TWO PERFECTLY executed free kicks and a stoppage time penalty save consigned Saints to a second consecutive away league defeat at Scotstoun Sports Campus last Saturday afternoon.

Hosts Drumchapel Colts quickly cancelled out Paul Carmichael's fifth-minute opener and completed the turnaround two minutes into the second half before successfully shutting up shop to repel a second-half Saints onslaught.

Injuries once again forced manager Alex Craik to ring the changes, with Jamie Graham and Paul Kerr dropping out from the squad which squeezed past FC Clydebank in the Scottish Amateur Cup the week previously. However, the gaffer was able to add Donald Campbell, Dougal Graham, Paul Carmichael and Scott Maitland to the travelling party.

Saints got proceedings under way playing into the bright low sun and opened the scoring after just five minutes. Paul Carmichael pushed forward from midfield and won a throw in on the right. Dean Smith collected the throw in and fed Brian Mackay, who slipped a perfectly weighted through ball for Paul Carmichael. Paul's well-timed run left the Colts' back four appealing in vain for offside and, from a tight angle, the Saints man rifled a shot across keeper Scott Urquhart and in off the inside of the far post.

The home side came roaring back, forcing Thomas McCulloch to tip over a Josh White shot from 25 yards. From the resulting corner, Joseph Preston climbed above David McArthur but sent his header a foot over the crossbar.

Paul Carmichael was harshly penalised for an 11th-minute challenge on Scott Peters just inside the Colts half and, to add insult to injury, referee Mr Kelso then produced the first of a flurry of yellow cards which threatened to ruin a full-blooded but sporting encounter between two fully committed teams.

The free kick was knocked up to the edge of the Saints box by Scott Fitzpatrick, where David McArthur was deemed to have impeded Joseph Preston and also found his way into Mr Kelso's notebook. Matthew Armstrong lined up the free kick from 26 yards and expertly lifted the ball over the four-man Saints wall and into the bottom corner past Thomas McCulloch's despairing right hand to level the score at 1-1.

Saints threatened to hit back in the 15th minute from a free kick won by Scott Maitland just inside the Drum half. Willie Gemmell played the ball up to Craig MacEwan on the left of the box. Craig tricked his way past Scott Fitzpatrick and sent a low cross into the danger area where Brian Mackay had made a good run. Unfortunately, Brian's finish didn't match the quality of his run and his scuffed effort was easily fielded by Scott Urquhart.

Drumchapel fullbacks Scott Fitzpatrick and Greg Cross were looking to push forward to join the attack at every opportunity with opposite numbers Matthew Kelly and David McArthur only too keen to reciprocate. In the 23rd minute, McArthur was inches away from connecting at the back post with a good deep cross from Kelly on the right.

Joseph Preston became the first of the home side to fall foul of the card-happy referee for a 35th-minute foul on Craig MacEwan. Willie Gemmell again took responsibility for the set-piece but couldn't pick



Drumchapel keeper Scott Urquhart saves Donald Campbell's last-minute penalty.

out either Dene Cassells or Craig MacEwan with a lofted ball to the back post, with Scott Urquhart making a good catch.

As the half wore on, Saints seemed to lose their way, handing the initiative to the home side. Marc MacCallum produced a perfectly timed last-ditch challenge to halt Joseph Preston's run into the box in the 42nd minute. Mr Kelso dismissed loud penalty claims from the Colts players, instead pointing to the corner flag.

The home side maintained the upper hand right up to the half-time whistle, drawing a fine diving save from Thomas McCulloch in the 44th minute to deny Joseph Preston.

The second half began in disastrous fashion for Saints with a highly controversial decision from referee Kelso at the heart of it. Paul Carmichael was penalised for a shirt tug which only Mr Kelso saw. While the referee was lecturing Donald Campbell and Peter MacCallum on the touchline for disputing his decision, Robert Bell stole a couple of yards which heightened the sense of injustice in the Saints camp. Bell emulated the feat of Matthew Armstrong in the first half and lifted the ball expertly up and over the wall, leaving Thomas McCulloch too much ground to make up to his

left and giving the home side the lead. To rub salt into the wound, Saints skipper Marc MacCallum was added to the growing list of cautions for continuing his protestations too long for the referee's liking.

Wounded by this reverse, Saints finally took the game by the scruff of the neck and piled forward in search of an equaliser. Scott Maitland rifled in a shot from 25 yards which was blocked behind for a corner kick. Matthew Kelly's delivery from the right was cleared but only as far as Brian Mackay, who returned the ball to the danger area where Paul Carmichael's knock-down was met by Dean Smith, whose net-bound effort was blocked by Sunil Chatterjee.

Smith tried again in the 56th minute, slicing a spectacular attempted bicycle kick from a Craig MacEwan right-wing cross off target. This proved to be Dean's last involvement as he and David McArthur made way for Donald Campbell and Dougal Graham.

Saints kept up the pressure on the Colts defence and had two penalty kick appeals in quick succession dismissed by Mr Kelso. First, Paul Carmichael appeared to be felled from behind, giving the referee a very close decision to make. Secondly, Donald Campbell went down too

easily in the referee's opinion, earning the Saints' substitute a yellow card for simulation.

The Colts were defending in depth with only Joseph Preston left up front to fight for the long ball from the back. In the 66th minute, Matthew Kelly intercepted one such long ball with a well-timed header to launch another Saints attack. Donald Campbell, Willie Gemmell and Craig MacEwan combined well for Craig to pick out Paul Carmichael's run into the box. Paul held off a challenge from Greg Cross and from six yards left Scott Urquhart rooted to the spot only to see his first-time effort slip agonisingly wide of the keeper's right hand post.

The Saints onslaught continued with a back-peddling Urquhart showing safe hands to gather a looping Willie Gemmell effort under his crossbar.

In the 77th minute, Dene Cassells flashed a header over the Colts' crossbar from a Willie Gemmell free kick after Craig MacEwan had been fouled 10 yards inside the Colts half. A driving run into the box from Donald Campbell in the 78th minute was met by a vital interception by Sunil Chatterjee at the expense of a corner kick.

Before the action could restart, manager Alex Craik made his third and final change, bringing on Ross Maitland to replace Brian Mackay. The first involvement for Ross was to take the corner kick from the right but his delivery was headed clear at the near post by Greg Cross.

Ross fared better with a cross on the run one minute later, picking out Paul Carmichael in the middle whose header flew wide of the keeper's left-hand post. The wee man was in the thick of the action again in the 81st minute, having a header from a Willie Gemmell free kick tipped over the crossbar by Scott Urquhart.

Kicking the ball away at a

Football

throw-in and talking back to the referee at a free kick saw Sunil Chatterjee and Josh White join the ever-expanding list of cautions in the 84th and 85th minutes respectively.

Ross Maitland once again got the better of Greg Cross on the right wing and sent in an inviting ball for Donald Campbell who saw his effort from 10 yards well saved by Scott Urquhart.

With so many yellow cards in the game, it was perhaps inevitable that somebody would see red and that dubious honour fell to Joseph Preston for, in Mr Kelso's opinion, a second yellow card offence in the 88th minute.

Saints continued their bombardment of the home goal into the four added minutes and looked to have secured the slice of luck they required to break down the stuffy Drum defence when Donald Campbell was pulled back in the process of shooting in the box. Mr Kelso immediately pointed to the penalty spot and took the name of Scott Urquhart for vehemently disputing the decision.

The Drum keeper, however, regained his composure to make an excellent diving save to his right to keep out Donald Campbell's spot kick and deny Saints a deserved share of the points.

Manager Craik was bitterly disappointed with the result. He said: 'It was a cracking game against a good side. The first half was pretty even but we dominated for long spells in the second half, but failed to capitalise on three or four good chances.'

Saints were due to take on Auchinleck Boswell at Glenruthen in the West of Scotland Cup on Saturday but the Ayrshire side have scratched from the competition, so unfortunately the Oban lads will not have a game this weekend.

Youth age group age change Youth shinty

THE Camanachd Association are pushing ahead with plans to amend bylaw four and change the age limit for players eligible to play under-14 shinty.

The under-14 eligibility age rule will change from the present July 1 of the year previous to competition to January 1 of the year of competition.

This decision was made following a survey in which the majority of participating clubs agreed to the new date.

However, Oban Camanachd have proposed that the new qualification rules are not introduced until the start of the 2018 season to allow clubs sufficient time to prepare their squads. It's a view supported by Skye Camanachd.

Clubs had until 9am on November 14, 2016, to indicate whether they wish the age change to be implemented from the start of season 2017 or season 2018.

The change removes six months' worth of players from under-14 shinty and there is likely to be further dialogue during 2017 regarding the suitability of the current age eligibility for under-17 shinty.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Drumchapel Colts 2, Oban Saints 1; Campbeltown Pupils, no game; Premier Division One - Dunoon 0, Alba Thistle 5; Premier Division 2A - Carlton YM v Lochgilhead Red Star, postponed; Premier Division 2B - Duntocher 5, Tarbert 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Oban Saints - no game; Milton v Lochgilhead Red Star; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Shawlands FP; Premier Division 2B - Tarbert v Busby.

Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Helensburgh Under-14s 1, Saints Under-13s 5. Saints goalscorers were Thomas McCrindle (4) and Liam Campbell.

Under-14s 6, St Cadocs United 0. On the scoresheet for Saints were Ryan Barclay, Garry Moore, Connor Moore, Ruairidh Munro, Toby MacFarlane-Barrow and Neilly Russell.

Dumbarton Riverside 0, Under-15s 6. Scoring for the Oban side were Aidan MacPhee (3), Gavin Forgrieve, Aaron McKay and Jordan Norman.

Saints Under-16s 4, Saints Under-17s 4. Netting for the Under-16s were Cameron Kerr (2) and Keir MacLean (2). On target for the Under-17s were Daniel MacCuish (2), Martin Rennie and Lewis Buchanan.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Helensburgh; Giffnock SC Blacks v Under 14s; Scottish Cup - Under 15s v Donside Juniors; Under 16s v Antoinine; Under 17s no game.



Saints keeper Thomas McCulloch is well beaten by Robert Bell's free kick.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 1°C to 6°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 1°C to 5°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate east south easterly
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 17, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm
Thu	01.08 0.5 07.00 4.1 13.43 0.7 19.30 4.0	Ardrishaig -5.35 Mallaig +0.25
Fri	01.54 0.6 07.44 4.0 14.43 0.9 20.15 3.7	Campbeltown -5.30 Portree +0.55
Sat	02.42 0.9 08.31 3.7 15.26 1.2 21.04 3.4	Crinan -0.47 Tobermory +0.16
Sun	03.34 1.1 09.23 3.5 16.25 1.5 22.05 3.1	Islay Port Ellen 2.00 Dover +5.30
Mon	04.30 1.4 10.28 3.2 17.36 1.7 23.55 2.9	Lochboisdale +0.30
Tues	05.34 1.5 12.15 3.1 19.04 1.8 **** **	Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Wed	01.30 2.9 06.45 1.6 13.53 3.2 20.25 1.8	Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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christmas

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Chainsaw attacker pleads guilty to attempted murder

Mum's relief leads to fundraising vow

A FORT WILLIAM mother whose daughter was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer earlier this year has spoken of her 'relief' as baby Daisy is given the all clear.

Daisy was diagnosed with an aggressive Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumour in March when she was just nine months old.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Daisy's mum Leah said: 'We were told there was only between a 10 and 15 per cent chance she would survive. The consultant told us that when parents hear the prognosis a lot chose to enjoy what time they have left with their child rather than put them through treatment. But we said straight away we would try everything to help Daisy.'

Daisy underwent rigorous treatment, including surgery to remove the tumour, six blocks of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant.

Daisy, who will be 18 months old in December, was treated at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow.

Daisy has been home for about four weeks now and Leah says she is 'doing great'.

Leah continued: 'When she got the all clear it was a massive relief, I still get emotional when I think about it now - seeing Daisy bum shuffling along the ground and hearing her voice. She is starting to catch up in her development which is amazing considering we didn't know if she would be here earlier this year.'



Daisy with dad Gary Nicol, mum Leah Thomson and big brother Dylan. Photograph: ABrightside Photography.

A whopping £40,000 was raised for baby Daisy during the course of her illness by friends, family and Lochaber businesses all of who Leah and her family want to thank greatly for their generosity and support.

She said: 'We are saving a substantial amount of the fundraising for the future, in case Daisy does need further treatment. We donated £5,000 to the Royal Hospital for Children and £2,500 to Clie Sargent.'

'We plan to do a lot of our own fundraising next year too so we can help other families whose children have cancer.'

A CRAZED man carried out a horrific chainsaw attack on his ex-lover's elderly parents in Fort William days after she ended their relationship.

James MacDonald, 48, burst into John and Flora MacPherson's home threatening to kill their daughter Tracey. He stood in their living room revving a chainsaw before turning it on terrified Flora and then John as he tried to save his wife. The 74-year-old almost had his whole arm hacked off.

Flora, 63, was also left badly injured as MacDonald fled the house in Fort William.

A judge heard how the couple told each other they loved one another as John feared he was going to die. But he survived after surgeons carried out a nine-hour operation.

Details of the attacks emerged on Monday as MacDonald pled guilty to attempting to murder John. He also admitted assaulting Flora to her severe injury, permanent disfigurement and impairment as well to the danger of her life.

MacDonald had been seeing Tracey MacPherson for more than two years before she left him on July 14 this year. She moved back in with her parents, but MacDonald continued to

hound her. Prosecutor Ross Macfarlane QC told the High Court in Glasgow: 'He told her repeatedly that he was going to kill her.'

Tracey was so scared she asked her parents to lock all the doors at their home. On the day of attacks - July 19 - MacDonald was spotted with a chainsaw under his seat at a bar in Caol Raging, MacDonald left the pub and stormed off to the MacPhersons' house. The couple were watching TV around 8pm when the ground worker got in via a back door. Tracey was upstairs in a bedroom.

MacDonald turned on the chainsaw and yelled: 'Where is Tracey... the ***** I'm going to kill her tonight.'

Crazed MacDonald kept revving the chainsaw before striking out at his former lover's mum. Flora tried to turn away but she was wounded after being hit on the arm. Her husband leapt out of his chair to rescue her. However, the OAP was left horrifically injured after MacDonald also repeatedly lashed out at him. Flora screamed Tracey was not in before the attacker raced out with the chainsaw still revving. She dialled 999 and then went to help her blood-soaked husband. Prosecutor Mr Macfarlane

said: 'They told each other that they loved one another. John MacPherson said he was going to die and to tell his children he loved them. He also started to pray.'

John, also known as Raymond, was rushed to hospital before being sent for treatment in Glasgow with an injury described as 'catastrophic'. Medics confirmed that had he not received help, he would have died. The court heard he is permanently scarred and his injured arm is now shorter than the other.

The ordeal has left him suffering flashbacks and nightmares. It is likely he will require more surgery in the future.

His wife needed around 12 stitches for wounds to her arm and hand. Flora is also scarred for life and has been seeing a counsellor due to the trauma.

MacDonald, of Fort William, also admitted other charges of behaving in a threatening manner and having an offensive weapon.

Graham Robertson, defending, said the case for everyone involved was an 'absolute and complete tragedy'.

Lord Boyd remanded MacDonald in custody and deferred sentencing for reports until December 13 in Edinburgh.

TIMESLINE

Decision time on Santa's helpers

THE DECISION as to who will be Santa's little helpers at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's Christmas Festival is now being made.

More than 80 entries were submitted for the creative competition, also supported by Ferguson Transport.

Children were asked to write a poem describing the excitement in their home when Santa arrives with presents on Christmas morning.

The festival takes place on Saturday November 26. *The Oban Times* thanks everyone who took part.

Fashion show and pop up shop

A LADIES fashion show and pop-up shop will take place in Ballachulish this weekend.

Hosted by Ballachulish Community Association, the show will take place on Saturday November 19, starting at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Tickets cost £5 and there will be a charity raffle in support of Colours. For more information contact Jo Watt on 07766 562600.



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Bowed heads as piper Amber MacDonald plays the lament during the Remembrance service at the Commando Memorial in Spean Bridge. Photograph Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Lochaber falls silent to remember

'WE WILL remember them', a promise made by young and old across Lochaber in respect for those who have given their lives to serve their country.

Services were held last Friday November 11 and on Remembrance Sunday with post war and present day Commandos and their families congregating in schools and at well-known memorials.

See pages 10 and 11 for more photographs.

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Information stalls will include a range of organisations connected to Gaelic that can support: Nursery, Primary and Secondary Gaelic Provision in Lochaber, Cròleagan Grianach (Gaelic Playgroup), SMO (Gaelic College - Skye), Feisean nan Gàidheal, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Stòrlann, Gaelic Books Council

Lots of activities for children including bouncy castle, messy play, beat the goalie, music/dance session, cafe and bottle stall, live music

Like and share our Facebook event and invite your friends along.

For more information please contact us on 01397709720

FW

TIMESLINE

More people get food handouts

EMERGENCY food supplies have been given to more than 400 people in Lochaber in six months.

Lochaber Food Bank handed out 412 donations between April and September this year, compared to 218 during the same period in 2015.

Lochaber Food Bank manager Alex McConachie said: 'Every week we meet local people like you or me who have been hit by something unavoidable - such as illness, a delay in welfare payments or an unexpected bill - and are unable to afford food.'

'It really is only with the community's support that we're able to provide vital emergency help when it most matters and we're constantly surprised and overwhelmed by local people's generosity.'

Fort pub toilets win top award

A FORT William pub has won acclaim for the quality of its toilets in the Loo of the Year Awards 2016.

The Great Glen Pub, in Fort William's High Street, has been awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors.

The platinum rating, only given to those who offer 'exceptional toilets,' is the highest award possible. Pub manager Donna Walker said she was 'delighted' with the award.

Have your say on local democracy

A CALL for the public's view on local democracy in the Highlands has been issued.

The Commission on Highland Democracy published a 'call for evidence' last week stating: 'The Highland Council makes daily decisions about everything from home care to bin collections and from building schools to cutting grass. But are they making these decisions in the right way for you or might you be making them instead?'

Go to www.highland-democracy.wordpress.com to complete a short survey or join the discussion at highland-dialogue-app.com. Comments can also be emailed to: Commission@highland.gov.uk, or sent by post to: Commission on Highland Democracy, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.

Care home's delight at donation

Community windfarm on Lewis pledges to continue cash support

ELLIE FORBES
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

POINT and Sandwick Trust (PST), the charity behind the award-winning Beinn Ghrìdeag community wind farm on the Isle of Lewis, has handed over a cheque for £25,000 to Bethesda care home and hospice.

And it has pledged to give the centre a total of £55,000 every year for the next 25 years.

It is the biggest pledge Bethesda has received in its 25-year history and means that, for the first time, staff can count on a healthy cash injection every six months to shore up their fundraising efforts.

Finance officer and fundraiser Dr Macdonald received the cheque from PST on Wednesday November 2 at an event in Ionad Stoodie.

'We've had nothing like that since we opened. In the past, every year we just started from scratch. It means a huge amount. It's about a tenth of what we have to raise every year.'

'We still have to raise more than £200,000 over and above that, but the good thing is we now have a cushion to start the year. It's a big, big thing.'

Angus McCormack, chairman of PST said: 'We are delighted to honour our promise to Bethesda. Bethesda means so much to our community.'

'PST is delighted to be offering solid support for the next 25 years.'

'We see it as a very good investment and it has been uppermost in our minds since the earliest days of the project. This is a good and very satisfying partnership.'



Left to right: Calum Macdonald, Point and Sandwick Power Ltd business manager; Duncan Mackay, Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) vice chairman; Angus McCormack, PST chairman; Dr Macdonald, Bethesda fundraising manager; Carol Summerville, Bethesda general manager; Duncan Maclean, Bethesda chairman, and Donald John MacSween, PST general manager.



Alister McKinnon will be touring the Highlands to warn people about the dangers of alcohol.

Skye man's message on the dangers of alcohol

AN ISLE of Skye man on a mission to warn of the dangers of alcohol has been speaking in Fort William.

As reported in *The Oban Times* in March, Alister McKinnon, who grew up in Elgol, set up the North Sea Garden Mission: The Way to Sobriety programme to help alcoholics and warn youngsters of the dangers of drink.

Alister, who was an alcoholic himself, spoke at a seminar in Kilmallie last week about his experiences and his sobriety programme

which he has travelled all over the world with.

Alister said: 'I am a recovered alcoholic and haven't touch the stuff for 28 years now.'

'I want to raise the awareness of addiction in the Highlands and inform people about what it can do to your body.'

When he's not touring the states on his mission, Alister is driving around Scotland in his car, which he just had newly branded with his slogan 'sobriety changes lives' and website address.

Progress on better island healthcare

AN INTEGRATED health and social care hub is set to be created at Broadford, with a 'bespoke' facility in Portree, as part of a healthcare overhaul.

Plans to redesign services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross took a step forward this month when the Scottish Capital Investment Group approved the 'initial agreement' which had been submitted by the health board.

NHS Highland has now been invited to submit an 'outline business case', the next step in

the process. The redesign of services in the area has been described as one of the most significant that NHS Highland has undertaken in recent time, and Gill McVicar, director of operations for North and West Highland, explained: 'This is a significant point in the formal process and brings us one step closer to having a state-of-the-art facility for the people of Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross.'

'The new arrangements will also enable us to further develop

community services, including care-at-home and mental health services, with integrated teams working flexibly to support people at home or in a homely environment for as long as possible, and to reduce the amount of time people have to be in hospital.'

'The outline business case will give a more detailed description of the agreed service specifications, accommodation requirements and technical aspects of the design.'

'We will continue to work

with and involve local people, staff and other providers as this progresses.'

Ms McVicar added: We are delighted to be at this stage and I am extremely grateful to members of the steering group, project team and project board for immense contributions and commitment to improving services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross, in some cases, for many years. We have a lot of work still to do and the team is focused on keeping the programme on schedule.'

Disappointment over energy delay

MSPS and community members in the Outer Hebrides have expressed their 'utter disappointment' over the UK government's decision to delay support for renewable energy.

The government has launched a further 12-week consultation on remote islands' access to Contracts for Difference (CFD) but published detailed budgets for the next auction round covering offshore wind, wave and tidal on the UK mainland.

Angus Campbell from the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (OHCPP) said: 'It is ironic that the day

after a two-day seminar on depopulation and migration affecting the Outer Hebrides that we get an announcement from the UK Government that the islands will not be included in the next round of CFD which is required to make island wind-farm projects viable. It is fully accepted renewable energy offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform the economic fortunes of the islands by bringing investment and creating jobs and training opportunities. To make that happen we need Government to set the right conditions and this latest announcement is extremely disappointing.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan agreed saying the decision 'kicks far into the long grass' the prospects for developing the islands' energy potential.

He added: 'We have waited years for an answer about what level of support will be offered to island wind power. Now it looks like we could have to wait another two years for an answer to that question. I will be meeting up with the Comhairle about this in the coming days, and will also be seeking a meeting with Scottish ministers so that this issue can again be raised with the Westminster Government.'

Appeal to tackle 'alarming' poverty rate

THE 'ALARMING' scale of poverty in the Highlands and Islands has been highlighted in recent reports.

According to the 'End Child Poverty Coalition', the percentage of children in poverty, after housing costs, in Ross, Skye and Lochaber is 18 per cent. Na h-Eileanan an Iar is close behind at 17.6 per cent and Moray has 17.20 per cent.

These findings follow a separate report from the Trussell Trust which found that, excluding Argyll and Bute, there were 4,211 referrals to foodbanks in the Highlands and Islands in the six months to September.

A statement from Rhoda Grant and David Stewart condemned the findings and said: 'Far too many children are growing up in poverty in the Highlands and Islands and it is appalling foodbanks have almost become a part of everyday life in modern day Scotland.'

The statement continued: 'We need better support for local government in tackling child poverty, yet the Edinburgh government is slashing funding for councils by hundreds of millions of pounds.'

'Half a billion pounds was cut from local government last year, with £1 billion more forecast by the end of the decade unless there is a rethink from the SNP government.'

Lochaber pupils get down to business in enterprise 'den'



Pupils from Mallaig High School taking part in the competition.



Kinlochleven High School took part in the Dragon's Den-style event last week.

LOCHABER pupils got a taste of setting up their own businesses last week.

Teams from Kinlochleven and Mallaig High Schools were taking part in Young Enterprise Scotland Highland and Moray Area's version of TV's *Dragon's Den* at Nairn Community Centre, pitching their idea for products to a panel of local business people.

'Muganised' from Kinlochleven High School was awarded £60 for its plans for decorated mugs and plates while Mallaig's Tailored to Tartan picked up £70 for its proposed handmade tartan cushions.

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.'

FREE Business Gateway workshops

MARKETING YOUR BUSINESS
Improve the marketing of your business, review the impact of current marketing activity, and develop a realist marketing plan that is right for your business objectives and budget.
Oban - Monday 21st November 2016 10.00am-4.00pm

PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING
Learn how to keep accurate financial records, understand the key components of book-keeping and VAT and produce a bank reconciliation.
Mull - Wednesday 23rd November 2016, 9.30am-12.30pm

BUILD YOUR OWN BUSINESS WEBSITE
A step by step workshop that will take you through how to develop your own business website and maintain it, using a free content management tool. The workshop is designed for businesses who don't have their own website yet or for those who do but don't have control of managing it themselves.
Oban - Tuesday 29th November 2016 10.00am-4.00pm

BUSINESS START-UP WORKSHOP
A workshop for anyone looking to move into self employment, this workshop will help you turn your ideas into a practical and effective plan to start your business. The workshop covers 3 key areas: marketing, business planning and finance.
Oban - Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th December 2016, 9.30am-4.30pm

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? Some of the questions covered in this workshop for businesses who already have a website. Businesses will examine how to make their existing website better through its' design, content, usability and Search Engine Optimisation.
Oban - Thursday 15th December 2016, 1.00-5.00pm

INTRODUCTION TO ONLINE TRADING
This workshop will cover some of the basics required for trading online and look at various tools, platforms and payment options available to everyone and some information on legal requirements. You will then look at an untapped opportunity for Scottish retailers trading on Online Marketplaces such as Amazon and Etsy and choosing which is the best one for you.
Oban - Friday 16th December 2016, 10.00am-4.00pm

MEET THE ADVISER
Do you have plans to start your own business? Plans to develop or expand your existing business?
Business Gateway Advisers can offer FREE advice and support to help you develop your ideas into an effective and practical plan.
To make an appointment or book a place call 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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Midwife retires after 20 years in Lochaber

A MIDWIFE who spent more than 20 years helping pregnant ladies in Lochaber will be 'sorely missed' when she retires.

Staff at the Belford Midwifery Unit said farewell to colleague Roslyn Stewart last month (October) as she retired after 30 years as a midwife, 22 of those based in Lochaber. Ros started her nursing training in Aberdeen in 1980. In 1985 she began her midwifery training in Leeds. Prior to working in Lochaber, she spent six years working in the midwifery team based at Raigmore Hospital.

She said: 'I've seen a lot of changes over the years where we've gone from a GP-led unit to a community midwifery unit and the integration of the teams which combined local births and community care.'

'I've really enjoyed my time here. I'll miss everyone but I am keeping a hand in for now as I've joined the midwifery bank. I'm looking forward to the next chapter of my life.'

Catherine MacDonald, midwifery manager for the area, credits Ros with being a tremendous support to the local team. She said: 'Ros will be very

“I've seen a lot of changes over the years”

Roslyn Stewart
Midwife

much missed by the staff here. We will miss her quiet, calm presence and her unwavering loyalty to us as a team. Her clinical skills are second to none and she has always stepped in to do extra hours and on-call if needed. In fact, she did not take a phased retirement and actually worked extra hours in the run up to her last day as we needed the help.

'Her patients will miss her as well. On the day she left a patient did come by to give her a bouquet of flowers as a thank you. She is just so highly thought of. I know we'll still see her around, but we all wish her a very happy retirement.'



Ros started her nursing training in Aberdeen in 1980.



Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club train in the Nevis Centre or in Lochaber High School most weeks. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan

Skaters roll into Nevis Centre with Sister Act

SISTER ACT is coming to Lochaber next weekend but with a bit of a difference as it will see the 'nuns' dance in roller skates.

The Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club's 'showtime' will take place in the Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

Frida Alexander, who has run the club for 30 years, described the discipline as being similar to ice skating and says the show is not only good fun but helps raise funds to allow the club to take part

in competitions down south. She added: 'We have travelled to America and Denmark in the past.'

'More recently we just go to England but it still costs a lot of money, so the shows are a great way of helping us make that happen.'

'The competitions usually take place in July when the schools are off so it would be great for us to go and show off the hard work.'

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets are still available.

Concern over government silence on HIE future

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP is deeply concerned she has received 'no answer' from the Scottish Government on plans for the future of Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Rhoda Grant tabled a Parliamentary Question on October 31 asking the Scottish Government when it plans to re-advertise the post of chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), what the period of appointment will be and whether an HIE board will be constituted.

The question was due for answer on November 14 but Mrs Grant says the government has

failed to give any clear indication of what lies ahead.

She concluded: 'This issue cannot simply be swept under the carpet in the hope it will go away.'

'It is far too important for our communities in the Highlands and Islands and for the staff of HIE who deserve to know what the plans are.'

'This shows a clear lack of strategy from this government, or an unwillingness to publish that strategy. Either way it is not good enough and I will be holding both Keith Brown and his SNP colleagues to account on this.'



Cara MacKay, right, and Rebecca Thoms, second right, of Lochaber Environmental Group who were guest speakers at the SWI rally on November 5. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Groups share ideas on wasting less

A TALK to help more people waste less in Lochaber turned out to be mutually beneficial.

Cara MacKay and Rebecca Thoms from Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) were guest speakers at SWI Lochaber Federation's Autumn Rally in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William, earlier this month.

Rebecca Thoms from LEG said: 'Cara and myself enjoyed giving the presentation and I think the group came away with new information so we felt it went well. Many people didn't realise the council last year changed what you can and cannot put in your blue bin so a lot of the discussion took place around that. We also spoke about our main project which is zero waste.'

The ladies told us about competitions they had run, including how to make something new from something old and also some recipes – such as how to create a meal from what's in your fridge or from things you were ready to throw out, so those actually gave us a lot of good ideas about things we can look into moving forward and can then pass on to other groups.'

Sports fun for young Gaelic speakers

THE SECOND phase of a popular sports club has kicked off at the Gaelic school in Caol, Fort William.

Club Spòrs, held at Bunscoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, provides a range of extra-curricular sports for fluent Gaelic speaking children from primary one to primary seven.

Three young Gaelic speakers lead the club each Saturday morning where half of the total school roll participate in creative games, dance, indoor hockey, badminton, netball, shinty and football.



Children enjoy a range of sports at the Gaelic school every Saturday morning. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Councillor Hamish Fraser, chairman of the Highland Council's Gaelic Implementation Group said: 'We continue to provide and support Gaelic medium education.'

'It is a priority to support and make provision for young people to use their Gaelic language skills beyond the classroom.'

'Club Spòrs is a good example of how Gaelic speaking can be included in a national programme of sporting activities. The club is also included in the healthy living agenda.'

Woman accused of card theft is freed

A WOMEN accused of stealing her elderly friend's bank card and using it to withdraw money was told there was no case to answer.

Sharon Kenna from Claggan attended Fort William Sheriff Court last week and pleaded not guilty to stealing Jaqueline Sherry's RBS card from her home on January 18, 2016 and using it to withdraw £200.

Ms Sherry told the court Kenna had

turned up to her house uninvited on the evening in question with a drink in her but had left relatively quickly by taxi.

Ms Sherry had gone to the bank the next morning for a 'read-out' of her account after noticing the card was missing and was told £200 had been withdrawn around 10pm the previous night.

Ms Sherry believed the card had been lying on a table in her living room and Kenna had taken it while she was making

a hot drink. The Crown sought to rely on closed circuit television footage showing a figure matching Kenna's description walking toward an ATM in Fort William High Street at the time in question but Sheriff William Taylor said while there was considerable suspicion he had difficulty telling whether the person in the video was a man or woman, never mind identifying it to be the accused and told Kenna she was free to go.

Group reports cruise ship visit had positive impact

ATTRACTING cruise ships to Fort William will boost the local economy.

That's the conclusion of a Fort William Marine and Shoreline Company (FWM-SC) report following the visit of the *Boudicca* on September 28.

The Fred Olsen vessel anchored in Loch Linnhe, off Fort William, at 6am and remained there until about 4pm. On board were 808 passengers and approximately

400 crew. Passengers made use of new pontoons purpose built for their arrival thanks to the efforts of FWMSC.

A survey was conducted on the day to gauge how passengers and crew had enjoyed their visit. The results were found to be largely positive. For example, for the question 'how would you rate Fort William as a port of call' 42.7 per cent answered 'good', with 35.96 per cent say-

ing 'excellent' and 21.35 per cent of those asked selecting 'okay'.

Some of the negative points highlighted related to empty shops on the high street and a need for more toilets. The report concluded: 'Attracting cruise ships is worth the effort in terms of economic benefit. Fort William already has so much in place. With a little co-ordination, Fort William has every chance of success.'

Man walks free after paying back cash

A FORMER fishing executive who embezzled more than £1,000 from his Lochaber employer has been admonished.

Fort William Sheriff Court last week heard John Hermse from Argus Lodge, Wards Road, Elgin, has paid back the £1,116.09 which belonged to the Mallaig and North West Fisherman's Association (MNFWA).

During his employment with the association, Hermse had enjoyed access to a company credit card to use for his own expenses, including travel costs to help carry out his day to day tasks.

The wrongdoing in question took place between April 29 2010 to October 5 2013 when Hermse used the company card to make two personal transactions.

The 59-year-old had previously pleaded not guilty to embezzling around £7,000 but admitted theft of the lesser amount in August this year.

Sheriff Sukhwinder Gill presided over the case in August and told Hermse if the money is repaid there may be no further action, adding: 'I am leaving the matter in your hands.'

This information was passed on to Sheriff William Taylor on November 8 by solicitor Hamish Melrose. The Sheriff said he had no reason to depart from the earlier view and that as Melrose was an officer of the court the message was 'good enough for him'.

It is however, understood that the Crown may pursue a proceeds of crime act against Hermse.

POLICE FILES

POLICE are keen to speak to anyone with information about the following incidents:

AROUND 6pm on November 7, a stone was thrown at the window of a house on Lochaber Road, Fort William, causing minor damage.

SOMETIME between 6pm on Wednesday November 9 and 7am the following morning, two vehicle batteries were stolen from the rear of a flat-bed lorry parked at the West Highland Hotel in Mallaig.

ANYONE with information should contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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FW

Future of Rio Tinto smelter in spotlight

THE SCOTTISH Government has been accused of 'stalling' on what it knows about the future of Rio Tinto. Highland and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant believes Keith Brown, the Scottish Government's economy minister held back on what is known about the Lochaber smelter.

The Labour representative put questions to the government regarding Rio Tinto's consultation with stakeholders and staff, and was told Mr Brown would reply as soon as possible.

Mrs Grant is now questioning whether Nicola Sturgeon's presence in Fort William tomorrow to deliver the Charles Kennedy memorial lecture might indicate an announcement from the aluminium company is imminent.

She said: 'This is another occasion where you suspect the government knows more than it is telling the public and hiding behind a cloak of company confidentiality.'

'There is a lot hanging on this crucial industry in Lochaber, with 150 jobs directly employed and many more supported in the wider community.'

'The whole process has lacked transparency.'

'There is a lot hanging on this crucial industry in Lochaber with 150 jobs directly employed and many more supported in the wider community. The whole process has lacked transparency.'

Mrs Grant also wrote to Rio Tinto's vice president of business development, Patrick Tobin, who replied that the company had made a point of trying to provide information when possible to all stakeholders in order for the facts to be out in the open.

He added: 'This being said, both ourselves and the identified bidders continue to share an understanding that the best outcomes will emerge once we have fully shared our views and scenarios for all of the assets, something which neither party wishes to do in a public forum given the commercially sensitive nature of the discussions.'

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Families flock to Ballachulish for eleventh annual fireworks display



The eleventh annual fireworks display took place in Ballachulish last Saturday. Organisers promised the event would be as big and as loud as ever and that it would see the return of the popular 'waterfall' fireworks. Families from Glencoe, Kinlochleven, Fort William and beyond, including the Henderson family from Glencoe, top left, turned out to see the display and were unanimous in saying it did not disappoint. Photographs by Abrightside Photography.



Firefighter stands down to concentrate on day job

MONICA GIBSON
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A FIREFIGHTER who has helped protect local people for almost 30 years has decided to stand down and concentrate on the day job.

Allan MacKinnon served as a retained fire-fighter initially in Kinlochleven for 13 years before moving up to Fort William.

The father of three and grandfather of seven has received nearly 10,000 call outs during his time and says he now looks forward to having a few more hours with the family, as well as holding down his job at the aluminium smelter.

Mr MacKinnon told *The Oban Times* a few of his friends had joined the service and that's how he decided to follow suit.

The 54-year-old added: 'It was quite a thing to be taken into the brigade at that time. I applied and thankfully I got in.'

'I've enjoyed helping people, there's been some nasty road accidents which I would rather forget and the flooding years back was probably one of the scariest things.'

'I'm not good with water as it



More than 80 people turned up to thank Allan MacKinnon at his retirement presentation in the Railway Club on Friday November 11. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

is but when you're in water up to your chest and not sure of your footing – that was hard.

'But things have definitely changed over the years – having a pager strapped to your side 24 hours a day and having to be available around 120 hours

a week has taken its toll.' Mr MacKinnon also said improvements in health and safety standards have led to more frequent and more varied training which has sometimes forced him to take holidays from his job at the smelter.

Mr MacKinnon worked at the smelter in Kinlochleven before it closed and despite the Fort William one now being under offer, he says he is not too worried.

He added: 'The smelter has been under review for some

time. Management were down in London last week so we understand they hope to be making an announcement any day really.'

'The bosses have always said they won't necessarily take the highest bidder but will do what is best for the area.'

'I'm quite confident it will stay open, but for me it's not the end of the world as I could take my pension and my son has just started his own plumbing business so I could always be a plumbing mate a few days a week if need be.'

'Morale is still okay at the smelter, it has been a long 10 months right enough – we'll be glad when we know what's what.' To celebrate his retirement, Mr MacKinnon has had two presentations – one in Inverness at a second, more personal occasion, in the Railway Club in Fort William last Friday.

He said: 'Someone was doing a count and there were 81 who turned up at the club.'

'It was great to see a lot of the team and I was very grateful for the gifts.'

'They gave me a hunter's pocket watch, whisky and a voucher for a hotel which me and the wife will use soon.'

WHAT'S ON

GLEN Nevis autumn litter pick and curling ponds tidy up, Sunday November 20, 10.30am till 3.30pm.

Meet at Ben Nevis Highland Centre (Woolen Mill) 10.30am. Everyone welcome for whatever time they can spare.

Equipment and lunch provided. Telephone Joy on 01397 772459, Susan on 01397 701088 or email info@friendsofnevis.co.uk.

KILMALLIE Christmas tree lights will be switched on at a ceremony on Friday November 18 at 7pm.

Tea, coffee and home baking to follow in Kilmallie Community Centre. Everyone welcome. Take a torch.

LOCHABER Rotary Club's ninth annual Christmas Festival will take place on Saturday November 26.

The festival opens at 9.30am in the Nevis Centre and Santa and his reindeer parade will leave from Cameron Square at 11am.

There will be more than 80 stalls for craftworkers and food and drink producers.

INVERGARRY'S annual Christmas craft fair will be held on Saturday November 19 in Glengarry Community Hall from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Craft producers from up and down the Great Glen will be selling cakes, jewellery, wooden crafts, cards, candles, ceramics and more.

There will be a children's festive treasure hunt, sponsored by Glengarry Trust, plus seasonal entertainment from local singers.

The cafe will be open for refreshments from 10am.

For further information telephone 01809 501246.

A BUS Users' Group meeting will take place on Tuesday December 6 at 11.30am in the Council Chambers, Fort William.

Event in memory of climber Kieran

FRIENDS of a 21-year-old student who died this year are organising a day to remember on his behalf.

Kieran Shaw fell while on a climbing trip on Aonach Mor in October.

Kieran shared his enthusiasm for climbing with an enjoyment for poker, and his friends in the Lochy Poker League are organising 'Texas Hold'em Poker, sit and go' in his memory.

The group has asked local businesses in Fort William and Lochaber to donate a raffle prize and they have been overwhelmed with the response.

The event will take place this Saturday November 19 at the Lochy Bar, Caol. Registration will be from 12.30pm till 1pm with a £5 buy in. The raffle and an auction will take place at 3pm, with all proceeds going to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

Commissioner exonerated

THE CROFTING commissioner at the centre of calls for his resignation has been exonerated by the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life.

A complaint made against Colin Kennedy by two crofters from Upper Coll in Lewis was found to be unfounded and therefore no further action was to be taken.

The original complaint of 38 issues surrounded a series of disputes amongst shareholders in the crofting community of Upper Coll and the consideration of these matters by the Crofting Commission.



Lundavra Primary School was designed to take advantage of its spectacular outlook.

Council staff praised after Lochaber schools finish top of the class in design awards

THE HIGHLAND council has received recognition for the design of two Lochaber schools.

Lundavra Primary School won Best New Building and Best Overall Building in the Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) design awards, while the Gaelic School, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, in Caol got a commendation in the Best New Building category.

Lundavra Primary School opened its doors to pupils after the October break last year and the current pupil roll is 237 primary and 50 nursery pupils.

The school was recognised for providing three important amenity functions – nursery, primary school and community and recreational facilities. Fronting the building is a new civic space, while an outdoor play environment ranges around the lower lochside elevations of the building. There are two storeys of accommodation – but both are effectively ground floor conditions, as the building nestles into the existing topography.

Chairman of the Lochaber Area Committee, Councillor Thomas MacLennan praised staff for their

work, saying: 'I would like to thank all the Highland Council staff who were involved and put so much hard work effort into these projects. Once again you have shown that our standard is up there with the best.'

The IAA represents registered architects in the Highlands and Islands and celebrate projects that express and enhance the identity and culture of the Highlands and Islands with the intention of promoting public interest and involvement in design throughout and beyond the region.

View from the Chamber

THE Outdoor Capital of the UK is proud to support the Fort William Mountain Festival 2017.

Next year's festival is presented by Jöttnar and is in association with Three Wise Monkeys Climbing and the Nevis Partnership.

The Fort William Mountain Festival exists to create and promote opportunities for people to share and find inspiration in mountain experiences, ideas and visions to



promote the understanding and appreciation of the world's mountain places and mountain communities. Festival audiences and partici-

pants are treated each year to a range of inspiring presentations; adrenaline-filled and thought-provoking films; access to information stands and outdoor products in the exhibition area; cultural, creative and outdoor training opportunities; workshops and masterclasses; and indoor and outdoor activities.

This year marks the 15th that the Outdoor Capital of the UK has hosted the Fort William Mountain

Festival. The festival annually attracts more than 2,000 people over the five days. Speakers to the festival come from Canada and beyond and the audience is just as diverse. With bike, climbing and snow sports nights, the festival has something for most people with a taste for the outdoors.

For more information on next year's mountain festival visit www.mountainfestival.co.uk.

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Lochaber man facing jail for assault on 17-year-old

COURT REPORTER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A 57-YEAR-OLD Lochaber man is facing jail after being found guilty of assaulting a 17-year-old 'almost defenceless' girl.

At Fort William Sheriff Court last week, George Pendreigh from Morar denied seizing the college student by the hair and repeatedly punching her on the head on May 13, 2016 near her flat in Mallaig.

Instead, the part-time deck-hand told the court the young woman had verbally assaulted

him before punching him 'square in the face'. Pendreigh claimed self defence when he appeared in court on Wednesday November 9 and said he had tried to restrain the victim by the wrists.

Pendreigh's son Jorge claimed he had witnessed the incident and said he sent his injured father away before the police arrived because he was frustrated by the situation and had work in the morning.

Sheriff William Taylor said he could not accept the evidence of the accused and that he believed Jorge had perjured himself with his evidence from beginning to

end, delivering 'lie after lie after lie', adding: 'I have the clear suspicion you have been put up to.'

The victim's evidence was described by the sheriff as being compelling in its honesty and accuracy.

She had told fiscal Martine Eastwood that on the night of the incident she sat with a friend in a local pub after finishing work and had a couple of juices. After walking a short distance home, the two were outside having a cigarette when another person arrived.

They informed the girls that Pendreigh had asked where the

victim's friend was staying which had upset her due to a 'previous incident'.

Pendreigh then arrived. Concerned for her friend's safety, the victim said she told her to go inside and Pendreigh to go away as they didn't want any trouble.

According to the victim, things then got heated. She asked the person who had told them Pendreigh was looking for the victim's friend to go inside and put her phone on charge as she hoped she could phone Pendreigh's son to rouse him.

When the man went inside, the victim told the court that Pen-

dreigh had said, 'you don't have a witness now', and that is when the assault took place.

Sheriff Taylor described the incident as a 'very serious assault on an almost defenceless young woman' and said a custodial sentence was an open option.

Solicitor Hamish Melrose told the Sheriff that Pendreigh is working part-time and earning £250 a week while his B&B, which was reduced to rubble in a fire in 2015, is being restored.

A background report was requested by the Sheriff and sentence was deferred until Tuesday December 6.

TIMESLINE

Bookbug library challenge returns

HIGHLAND children are being encouraged to get borrowing with the return of the bookbug challenge.

The Bookbug's Library Challenge is a free and fun way to encourage children from birth to discover and enjoy their local library.

Each child registered at their local library will receive a collector's card to gather stamps every time they borrow a book.

When the card is full, the child will receive a beautiful illustrated certificate.

This year, the library challenge has been sponsored by six leading children's publishers, with each certificate featuring beautiful artwork

Scottish group's forestry warning

'EXPERTISE in forestry must be maintained and strengthened', according to a land ownership organisation.

Scottish Land and Estates (SLE) say changes to forestry governance in Scotland should not dilute expertise within the sector.

While SLE believes proposed changes could harness benefits for the sector, improving processes that have become cumbersome, it has warned care needs to be given to any new structure that moved current Forestry Commission Scotland functions into a division of the Scottish Government.

Christmas card design winner

A PUPIL from Ardgorr Primary School has won a competition to design a Christmas card and a day out for her and her classmates.

Ellen Munro won the Lochaber Housing Association (LHA)'s annual design a Christmas card competition.

As part of the prize Ellen and her classmates will visit Printsmith on Friday November 25 and then visit the LHA offices.

Death of games stalwart Ronnie



Ronnie MacKellaig died on November 7. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

A STALWART of the Glenfinnan Highland Gathering has died.

Ronnie MacKellaig MBE was games secretary for 69 years.

He retired in 2015 when he was presented with a specially made garden bench bearing an inscription of his name in recognition of his service.



A career spanning 23 years has seen Steve Frew represent Great Britain at two world championships and compete for Scotland at five Commonwealth Games.

Gold medal winning sports star inspires school pupils

SCOTLAND'S first gymnastics Commonwealth Games gold medalist visited Kinlochleven High School last week.

Steve Frew made history for Scotland when he won the men's rings event in Manchester in 2002. He visited the school last Wednesday and Thursday (November 9 and 10) as a Living For Sport mentor in collaboration with Sky Sports.

Head teacher Rebecca Machin told *The Oban Times* Steve worked mostly with senior pupils, looking at social, emotional and mental aspects of performance.

He also worked with S2 pupils, visiting Kinlochloven as they prepare for their Christmas fayres, and gave a whole school assembly, which was very motivational.

He then stayed behind and gave up his own time to work and train with the school's gym-



Pupils 'Kinloch-loved' having Steve Frew at their school.

nastics club after school, which was a real treat.

Mrs Machin added: 'We are very lucky to have such a wonderful role model attached to our school.'

'He was a genuine inspiration to our youngsters. We are all grateful to Steve and to Sky

Sports for organising this for us.' Kim Boa, one of Kinlochleven's Active Schools Co-ordinators said: 'We are very lucky and so appreciative to have a gold medalist coming to visit and work with our gymnasts.'

'He taught us all to think big. It was fabulous.'

Raising awareness of pancreatic cancer

NOVEMBER is World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and an NHS Highland expert says time is of the essence when it comes to combating the disease.

According to the NHS, more than 280 people in the Highlands were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer over a five-year period from 2010, and approximately 800 people across Scotland, 80 per cent of who are 60 years of age and over, are diagnosed with the condition every year.

The number of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer has increased over the past dec-

ade and NHS Highland surgeon Ron Coggins says it is vital to improve public understanding of the illness.

'It is crucial we improve understanding of pancreatic cancer as it is the sixth commonest cause of cancer death in Scotland. Mr Coggins added: 'The earlier pancreatic cancer is detected, the higher the chance of successful treatment.'

'We need further funding and research into pancreatic cancer and global events like World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month can only help raise awareness of how crucial it is

that we do so.' The signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer can vary depending on the type of tumour. In most cases these can be vague at first and come and go.

Symptoms can include pain in the stomach or back, weight loss, jaundice - yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes - nausea and vomiting.

Mr Coggins continued: 'It is absolutely vital people visit their GP if they regularly experience any of these symptoms, but remember these are also signs and symptoms of many less serious illnesses.'

Man not guilty of supplying drugs

A MAN charged with selling mephedrone to someone who died later that night has been found not guilty.

Cameron Kirkham from Campbell Court appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court last week accused of supplying the drug to the late Donald Ruaridh MacKinnon on January 19, 2016.

During the trial on Monday November 7, Craig Cook who was friends with the deceased, gave evidence that he had spent much of January 19 with Mr MacKinnon, that the two had gone to the doctors where Mr MacKinnon was given diazepam in a blister packet.

Later, Mr MacKinnon went round to Mr Cook's flat, he then went out and reappeared with a bottle of mephedrone which he left there. That was the last time Mr Cook had seen his friend.

The court heard Kirkham had come to the attention of the police after he was noticed by an off-duty officer putting bottles into a bin near the Crofter bar in Fort William.

Kirkham, who has been taking mephedrone for 25 years, denied any wrongdoing and told the court he had taken the decision on that day to recycle these bottles for the first time.

He told the court Mr MacKinnon had come round to his house on January 19 and asked to buy mephedrone but Kirkham refused because he needed it.

Kirkham said he washed an old bottle and gave it to Mr MacKinnon for him to put his own loose tablets in.

In reaching his decision Sheriff James Taylor said: 'There is a considerable amount of suspicion which took place on January 19, 2015.'

He said thankfully for Mr Kirkham the law puts a very high burden of proof that he had supplied the drug.

The Sheriff said he was not satisfied the Crown removed that burden of proof and found Mr Kirkham not guilty.

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Single mother guilty of assault and shouting homophobic abuse at men

A SINGLE mother awaits her fate after assaulting and shouting homophobic abuse at two men after a night out in Fort William.

Sarah Ferguson, 34, from Angus Crescent, was found guilty of punching 22-year-old James Tomlin on the head, kicking him on the leg and of shouting sexually prejudiced remarks at Ross Alexander from Glasgow and hitting him.

The court heard Ferguson and friends and the two men

had been on separate nights out on December 6, 2015 but had bumped into each other when leaving Skippinish Ceilidh House at the end of the evening when the incident began.

Giving evidence from behind a screen, hairdresser James told Fiscal Martine Eastwood an altercation between his partner Ross and one of Ferguson's friends had taken place towards the exit of the club, which is now closed, and that the girls had been moved on by the bouncer.

The men waited until they thought the girls would have been out of the vicinity but they met again near the taxi rank at Tesco when the shouting started, leading to the assault.

Ferguson denied any wrongdoing. Immediately after the incident, Ferguson had complained the men assaulted her but these charges were dropped.

Proceedings were lodged against Ferguson and her friend Cheryl Cullen when Ross Alexander gave his statement to the

police as he was angry 'false claims had been made against his partner'.

The crown dropped the case against Miss Cullen half way through the trial on Tuesday November 8.

Given Ferguson's financial situation, Sheriff Taylor ordered a background report before sentencing and suggested a lower scale community payback order might be appropriate punishment. Sentencing is due to be made on December 8.

FW

Arisaig

ARISAIG residents are invited to have their say on what community issues matter most to them. Run by Lochaber Community Planning Partnership, a second 'market place' event will take place allowing people living or working in Lochaber to discuss their concerns. Anyone interested should drop into the Astley Hall, Arisaig, between 4 and 6pm on Tuesday November 22. At 6pm the same day, for half an hour, there will be a round-up of the discussion with partners and interested community members. Everyone welcome. This session will also incorporate the annual general meeting of the Lochaber Partnership. For further information contact Emma Taylor, assistant wards manager, on 01397 707232.

Fort William

MEMBERS of the Fort William branch of the Scottish Women's Institute enjoyed a talk from a Lochaber businesswoman at their November meeting. Nicola McCallum from the Old Gentleman's Wardrobe spoke about the aims of her chalk painting business and how she hopes to give local artists a platform to exhibit their products. Mrs McCallum demonstrated the unique decorative painting technique developed by Annie Sloan 20 years ago which revolutionised furniture painting. The next meeting of the SWI will be on Monday December 5 at 7.15pm in the Montrose Centre, Inverlochy, when the guest speaker will be the Reverend Ki-Ki MacRae who will speak about his visit to Rwanda. Everyone welcome.

Glenug



Steve Macfarlane, director of the Glenug Inn, picks up this year's Micro Business Award.

THE GLENUIG Inn on the Sound of Arisaig has been crowned the champion of business sustainability. The company was awarded the Micro Business Award in recognition of its strong commitment to the environment at the 17th annual Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards. Steve Macfarlane, director, Glenug Inn, said: 'It's always a challenge to do the right thing for the environment and even more so when we have to provide excellence in all we do for all our guests. 'We are delighted to have won a VIBES award again this year, as it is true recognition of our strong environmental commitment in everything we do.'

Western Isles

ISLES MP Angus MacNeil recently met representatives from mobile phone firm EE, which provided an update on the much-needed 4G upgrade in Na h-Eileanan an Iar. EE is looking to site 25 new masts across the constituency to provide 4G coverage along key roads that currently lack mobile coverage, together with upgrading existing sites to 4G. EE proposes to have 4G available in the islands by the end of 2017. Mr MacNeil said: 'EE tells me that, on average, 4G speeds on their network are between 12-15mbps, compared to 1.5mbps on 3G. 'Improvements to mobile connectivity is an issue which I have been constantly calling for. Better mobile provision is a necessity and I am pleased to hear EE has already submitted planning applications for some of the sites. This is an important step by EE to bring 4G to our islands.'



The Broadford pupils with their shoe boxes.

Broadford boxes spread festive cheer

CHILDREN at Broadford Primary School have put their best foot forward filling 55 shoe boxes for the annual Blythswood Christmas appeal. The Skye pupils took part in the charity event which sees shoes boxes donated to children in need all over the world. A school spokeswoman said: 'We are very proud of the efforts made by the children and families of Broadford Primary School. The school collected 55 filled boxes.'

Raasay school's garden project opens

RAASAY Primary School's all-weather gardening project was officially opened last week by Alisdair Brown of Keep Scotland Beautiful's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF). The school received a £2,437 grant from CCF earlier this year. Together with £1,000 they raised locally, they bought a 3m x 6m Keder Greenhouse to set up a composting scheme. The children built four compost bins and purchased compost caddies and a hand pulled cart which they use to carry out a weekly collection of compostable food waste from houses near the school. They also have a composting drop-off site in Inverarish meaning more houses can take part. Compostable food waste from Raasay Community Stores and Raasay House is now also received.



The opening of Raasay Primary School's new all-weather gardening project.

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The Southern Tenant Folk Union. Photograph: Sandy Butler

Skye

A 'THOUGHT provoking and arresting take' on roots and folk music will be performed in Skye next weekend. Edinburgh-based string band, The Southern Tenant Folk Union will play at the Aros Arts Centre, Portree, on Saturday November 26.

Lochaber students in debate final

THE DEBATING chamber of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in Stornoway was the setting for the first two rounds of the National Gaelic Schools' Debate last week. Judges Matthew MacIver, Christina Walker and Angus MacDonald had their work cut out whittling 20 teams down to four at the event on November 8 and 9. Lochaber High School is one of the four teams to have reached the semi-final stages of this year's competition alongside The Nicolson Institute B, Inverness Royal Academy B and Glasgow Gaelic School. The semi-finals will be held at James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh on Tuesday November 29. The final will be held the following evening in the Scottish Parliament and will be broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal.



Clare MacLellan, left, and Claire Frances MacNeil of Lochaber High School debated whether 'the most important things are learned in school' and other topics in Gaelic.

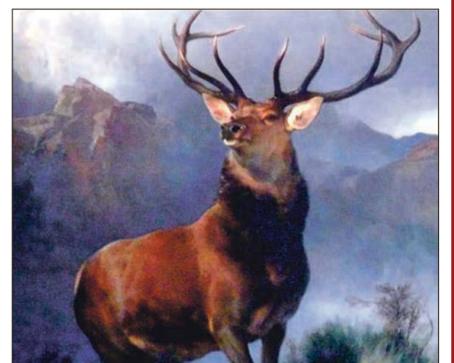
MORVERN lines

The Crofter's champion

HISTORY, they say, has a habit of repeating itself, which is why I took more than a passing interest in what our new Highland MSP Donald Cameron had to say about crofting and crofting law in *The Oban Times* a few weeks ago. If there is anyone living in the Highlands and Islands who has the background to offer an opinion on crofting in the Scottish Parliament since MSP John Farquhar Munro (1934-2014) passed away, Mr Cameron from Lochaber, must rate high in the list. Not only is he a lawyer who has been involved in rural issues for many years, he is also the great grandson of Donald Walter Cameron of Lochiel (1876-1951) MP for Inverness-shire, a native Gaelic speaker and an active member of The Napier Commission whose deliberations led to the first Crofter's Act of 1886. Donald Cameron MP, travelled the length and breadth of the Highlands and Islands gathering evidence from cotters, crofters, factors, landowners, ministers and priests about rents, living conditions, leases, fairness and security of tenure. Land-leaguers who wanted the right to buy their land, thought the Act didn't go far enough. That may have been so, nonetheless, the meticulous evidence collected by Lochiel and his fellow commissioners brought the plight of the crofters to a wider audience and provided a solid foundation on which future legislation has been based. Many of MP Donald Cameron's estate and personal papers can be accessed at the Lochaber Archive Centre, in the West Highland College, Fort William.

Film Guild memories

YEARS ago, before television and electricity came to the area, little dark blue vans with 'Highlands and Islands Film Guild' written across their sides, were a welcome sight in many far-flung communities. Established in 1946, the guild showed popular films, newsreels, cartoons and public information titles and were often the social highlight of the month. The fleet of vans with their own self-contained petrol generators, film-projectors, speakers and screens would arrive outside village halls around noon for the day's showing. In the afternoon children and teachers would attend educational films followed by the evening's entertainment. Digital technology and not been invented so every reel had to be spooled-on by hand, changed and re-wound at the end. Drivers doubled up as projectionists and were often great characters. The late Victor Gall, who covered Morvern, Sunart and Ardnamurchan, was a well-known and popular figure with everyone. Once the main film was set in motion, Vic, as he was affectionately called, would often retire to the local hostelry but not before a 'runner' was found in the audience and given half a crown to let him know if the generator had run out of fuel or the film had jumped the gate and was unwinding on the hall floor. The National Anthem was always played at the end of each show which meant the audience remained seated until the 'big' film was re-wound. When it came on everyone stood to attention and waited until it had finished before bolting for the door. People were much more patriotic in those days. On one occasion, in the old Lochaline village hall, a short film of the Trooping of the Colour provided the anthem. For whatever reason it was spooled on back to front and the wrong way up so not only were the words and music playing in reverse, the Queen and her horse were upside down. Researchers at the universities of Glasgow and Stirling are looking for first-hand memories of life in remote communities and the part the Film Guild played in providing public entertainment there. Anyone with stories or tales of the Film Guild are being asked to contact Dr Ian Goode by calling 0141 330 6500, email: ian.goode@glasgow.ac.uk, or Ealasaid Munro by emailing: ealasaid.munro@glasgow.ac.uk, or call 0141 330 6944. More details about the project can be found at hifilmguild@glg.ac.uk.



The Monarch of the Glen by Sir Edwin Landseer. Photograph: Diageo.

Save painting for Scotland

IT IS disappointing to discover that after many years of using it to promote their business, Diageo, the spirit's giant, is putting Landseer's painting, *The Monarch of the Glen*, on the international market because it no longer fits with their brands. This world famous work is synonymous with Scotland and the whisky trade - it should not be sold by auction. If all whisky lovers threatened to stop drinking the stuff for a day in protest, it might help. If Diageo can't or won't gift the painting to a Scottish art gallery without cost, Fiona Hyslop, Holyrood's cabinet secretary for culture and the arts, should stop the sale and launch a public appeal to save it for the nation. If Landseer had been a Scotsman and painted William Wallace hurling abuse at the English on the field of Bannockburn, perhaps the situation might have been different. Sir Edwin Landseer (1802-1873) was well known for his paintings of animals, particularly horses, dogs and stags. After *The Monarch of the Glen*, his best known works are the lion sculptures in Trafalgar Square. Landseer spent many days studying deer in the Highlands. He often stayed at Glenquoich in West Inverness-shire where he used its hills as a backdrop in this king of paintings. Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com

New project helps Kinlochleven pupils hone job interview skills

PUPILS at Kinlochleven High School took part in mock job interviews to help prepare them for the world of work. Fifth and sixth year students also had their CVs reviewed as part of a new Developing the Young Workforce West Highland (DYWWH) strategy. Conducting the interviews were John MacLennan, Operations Manager at The Underwater Centre in Fort William, Douglas Ormiston, DYWWH Programme Manager, and Erin McHale, DYWWH Programme Co-ordinator, who also checked the content, presentation, spelling and grammar in pupils' CVs. Commenting on the success of the inaugural mock careers interviews, Rebecca Machin, head teacher at Kinlochleven High School, said: 'The mock interviews

have been very useful for us as guidance teachers, but also for the youngsters. They have enjoyed the process and have given positive feedback. For someone else, other than us, to see their CVs and give them this kind of experience is invaluable.' Mr MacLennan, added: 'It has to be probably one of the most rewarding afternoons I can remember. The students were certainly a credit to their school. They had such confidence and were articulate and polite.' DYWWH launched recently as part of the wider Scottish Government Youth Employment strategy. The DYWWH region includes the following catchments areas for high schools and colleges across Skye, Plockton, Gairloch, Ullapool, Fort Augustus, Mallaig, Ardnamurchan, Lochaber and Kinlochleven.

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Cost of Oban blaze could soar as high as £5 million

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE COST of the fire at the largest council depot in Oban, Lorn and the Isles is likely to be valued at 'higher than £5 million'.

The damage was done after a large industrial unit was destroyed along with technical equipment used by Argyll and Bute Council's roads and amenity services directorate.

Criminality has not been ruled out by Police Scotland, but the site has been handed back to the local authority as it is in such a dangerous condition it would be unsafe for accident investigators to enter the area in order to carry out any further investigation.

It is understood the local authority will be required to demolish the building as the fire extensively damaged the entire area.

The fire broke out shortly after 1.30am on Friday and at one point more there were more than 50 firefighters on the scene.

Appliances rushed to Oban from across the west of Scotland.

Firefighters used water jets to stop the fire spreading.

Further appliances were then mobilised to the scene from Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Tyn-drum, Bridge of Orchy, Tarbert and Milngavie, as well as a high-reach appliance from Oban.

Firefighters were made aware of acetylene cylinders, which they cooled as they continued to tackle the blaze.

There were no casualties or fatalities and the area did not



The blaze was so fierce it left the buildings gutted, main picture. Top right, the blaze at its full height was captured by reader Hugh Wilson, while photographer Kevin McGlynn pictured the battle to control the flames.



require to be evacuated. However, residents were concerned about the close proximity of the fire to the town's gas supply.

The incident was gradually scaled down but firefighters were still at the scene on Friday evening.

Station manager Lawson Elliot, the incident commander, said: 'Our crews have dealt with a significant fire. We had 30 firefighters tackling the blaze at its height, with two water jets and a water tower.'

Firefighters were on the scene for more than 12 hours before handing the area back to Police Scotland. At that point it was considered 'a crime scene'.

Police stayed on the scene until late on Monday afternoon when it was decided the area could be handed back to council officers.

Inspector Mark Stephen, from Oban police station, thanked everyone who was at the scene and confirmed that while the depot had been handed back to

the council, the area was still considered a crime scene.

A local woman, who did not want to be named, said: 'It woke me up at 1.30am when one of the canisters exploded. I saw the council yard was ablaze and I called 999.'

'There were four or five explosions an hour or an hour-and-a-half later.'

'The flames were very high up in the sky. It was just a mass of flames. The flames were above the house.'

'The police said they were not going to evacuate and firefighters had the fire under control at 2.30am.'

'What worried me was one of the canisters landed. You heard a bang, and I saw a flame go up.'

A council spokesman confirmed that the depot held various pieces of equipment vital to the roads and bin services in the area. The keys for all the bin lorries, for example, were in the depot office and were lost.

The spokesman said: 'We

are currently in the process of obtaining replacement keys for our bin lorries.'

The local authority drafted in vehicles from throughout the area to undertake extra bin collections over the weekend.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman confirmed that loss adjusters would be in the area on Wednesday and today, Thursday.

Alternative arrangements can be found on www.obantimes.co.uk.

TIMESLINE

Free parking for Oban winter fest

PARKING in Oban's pay-and-display car parks will be free during the winter festival, the local authority has confirmed.

Argyll and Bute Council will not charge for parking between November 18 and 27.

A spokesman said: 'Continuing its commitment to support the local economy Argyll and Bute Council will be making parking in Oban's pay-and-display car parks free during the winter festival.'

Councillor Ellen Morton explained: 'Winter festivals in our key towns are big draws and we are happy to help where we can.'

'Obviously to keep our roads and car parks in good condition we have to charge for parking - that is a reality - but we are happy to waive those charges to support local events.'

Man injured on town centre bench

A MAN who was injured on one of the new benches in Oban Town Centre had to receive medical treatment at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We understand an incident took place and are currently looking into it.'

Three free books for every child

AS PART of Book Week Scotland, the national celebration of reading taking place between November 21 and 27, the Scottish Book Trust will gift three free picture books to every primary one child in Scotland.



Lomondgate is new A82 gateway

ADVERTORIAL

REGULAR travellers can't have failed to notice the development activity on both sides of the A82 on the north-western edge of Dumbarton as new homes, a hotel, restaurants, other visitor services and a world-leading business's new factory have sprung up over the past few years.

Known as Lomondgate, the regeneration project was initiated following the 2000 closure of the J&B bottling plant with the loss of 470 jobs.

Today, the entire footprint of the redundant plant has been regenerated. Part of the former bottling plant has found new life as BBC Scotland's Studios - home to River City. The rest has been redeveloped with 344 new homes.

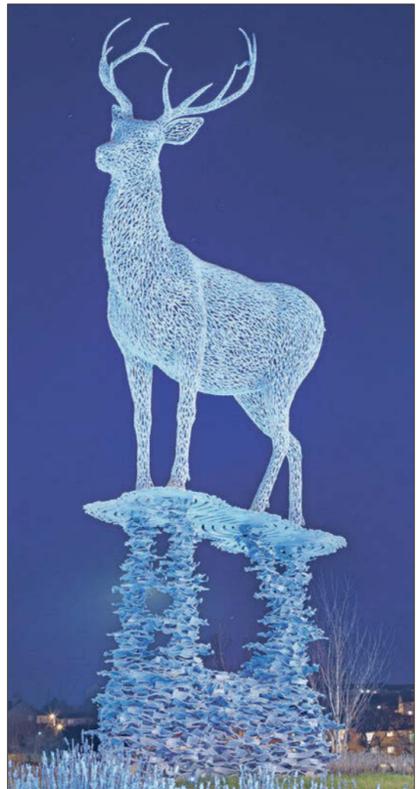
Across the A82, a cluster of roadside services includes Euro Garages' award-winning service station, Scotland's first drive-through Costa, a Premier Inn hotel - opened in 2011 and now being doubled in size - the Malt & Myre pub/restaurant, and Jaconelli's fish diner. Fast becoming the place to break a journey, annual footfall is estimated at 1.7 million.

And this is before development of the remaining site at Lomondgate services as a visitor/tourism facility, which could be to the A82 what the House of Bruar is to the A9.

In 2012, the Princess Royal opened Aggreko's £22m state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Lomondgate. An adjacent 20-acre strategic site with A82 frontage is now ready for business and/or leisure development.

A total of £100 million of investment has been

secured and 700 people now work at Lomondgate. Lomondgate is living up to its name as a natural gateway to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The project is the result of a partnership between Strathleven Regeneration and the Walker Group.



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FW

Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

COMMUNITIES all across Lochaber came together once again at the weekend to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of our country.

Many Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday ceremonies and services were held, including at Fort William and Spean Bridge.

All were moving and sombre, and there was added poignancy this year given that 2016 marks the centenary of the horror story that was the Battle of Somme. That

dreadful struggle, which saw so many casualties, would have been uppermost in the minds of many people as a result of the anniversary.

However, the annual remembrance events also honour the fallen from all our other conflicts, many of which are of very recent vintage. So it was gratifying to witness the involvement of numerous young people from our splendid youth organisations.

Remembrance events are part of the fabric of our society and it is essential they continue.



Days gone by – Mòd concert 1981

This week we turn the clock back to 1981 and a concert performed in Oban by Mòd gold medallists, all of whom were from Argyll. They were, back row, left right, Donald MacLeod, Iain Carmichael, Archie MacTaggart, Sandy Brown, Archie MacLean, Carol Galbraith, Kathryn Black (accompanist), Dugan Campbell, Neil McKechnie (chairman), Kenneth Thomson and Duncan MacDonald; front row, Isobel Mitchell, May Margaret MacMillan, Mairi MacArthur, Mary C MacNiven, Annie MacMillan, Anne MacLean, Helen T MacMillan, Catriona Fair, Aunice Gillies and Anne Lorne Gillies.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

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Beware the wild Tìree gathering

WITH the recent events in America, as well as the Brexit vote here in the UK, and not to forget the status of the political elites throughout Europe seemingly crumbling before our eyes, you might be forgiven for thinking that the election of 'The Donald' to the Whitehouse last week was the earth-shattering climax of a shockingly seismic year.

You'd be wrong.

There is no doubt that the Trump phenomenon has sent shockwaves all round the world.

But I predict that those shock waves will pale into insignificance when compared to the carnage that is due to commence this weekend in Glasgow when half of Tìree will descend upon the city for the annual Tìree Gathering (details below).

They are a wild people, the Tìridich, who are always up for a party.

And Trail West on Friday night and Gunna Sound in the Park throughout Saturday will certainly provide ample opportunity for that.

I'm also expecting a few gathering revellers at my gig in the Park Bar on Friday night before they head up the Kelvin Way to the dance.

I'm looking forward to playing in the Park for a relaxed tune or two before our Tide Lines show in the art school the following night.

Social media

THERE was a lot of comment and widespread engagement on social media following the major fire and explosions at a council depot at Millpark, Oban, on Friday morning. Karma MacLean wrote: 'Never in my life have I felt my whole house shake like that!! Just glad no1 was hurt!' Rachel Wilson praised: 'Respect to the brave men and women of the emergency services. Hope everyone is ok.' Fiona MacPhee added: 'Pretty sure it's the Council Yard started about 1.40am with a huge explosion that woke us up! The flames and smoke we are watching

The whole weekend will begin fairly sensibly on Thursday night with the concert. Performing are Ellen MacDonald, Calum Ross, Arthur Cormack and the Rowan Brothers.

The evening will be chaired by Gordon Connell, who recently was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame for his great work in tutoring the accordionists of Tìree.

A well deserved accolade for a true gentleman.

Clydebank ceilidh

THE Clydebank Highlanders had a successful evening last Friday November 11.

There were songs from Norman MacKinnon, Rhona Morrison, Seonaidh Rostant, Sheila Galbraith and Alasdair MacMillan, who also chaired the ceilidh. Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist and Robert Wood the piper.

Their next ceilidh is on Friday December 9.

What's on

Thursday November 17: The Tìree Association annual gathering concert in the Partick Burgh Halls.

Friday November 18: The Tìree Association annual gathering dance in Glasgow University Union.

Saturday November 19: Gunna

are that direction anyway. Hope all are safe including the Fire Service and other emergency services attending, they could be in for a long night! Good to hear there are no reported casualties.' Kathleen Murgatroyd posted: 'So glad no one was hurt. Now we have to sympathise with those who would have been going to work there this morning. Devastating.' Sheila Kerr offered: 'OMG that's awful hope everyone safe.' Gillian Bisp said: 'Got woken up 1.30 with an exploding canister!!!' Louise Macleod wrote: 'I can see from

Sound in the Park Bar afternoon and evening.

Saturday November 19: Tide Lines in the art school, Glasgow, with support, at 7pm.

Wednesday November 23: Ceol is Craic screening of documentary 'A Fàgail Mhiughlaigh (Leaving Mingulay)' in the CCA at 7pm.

Thursday November 24: Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar haggis supper in the Ellangowan Social Club.

Saturday November 26: An Comunn Collach, the Coll Association, annual buffet and ceilidh in the National Piping Centre, McPhater Street.

Friday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering in the Glasgow University Union, with guest of honour, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan. Concert commences at 7.30pm.

Friday December 9: Clydebank Highlanders ceilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Pub scene

Park Bar
Friday November 18: Robert Robertson.

Saturday November 19: Gunna Sound.

Sunday November 20: Trail West. Islay Inn.

Friday November 18: Black Velvet.

Saturday November 19: Twist of Fate.

Wednesday November 23: quiz night.

the house my poor wee office is gone just glad no one would have been there.'

NEWS that Oban's new Premier Inn is due to open in 2018 was welcomed.

Frances Thom cheered: 'Just back from a stay in a Premier Inn in Manchester. Such good service and unbelievably comfy beds! Should be a great asset to Oban I think.'

Raema Stevenson wrote: 'Great news... and in a fantastic location.'

Dawn MacFadyen said: 'Finally might be able to afford a holiday in Oban.'

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

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either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Offended by call to scrap Gaelic signs

Sir,

In response to John and Jackie Paddison's call to 'Scrap Gaelic road signs' (Letters, *The Oban Times*, November 3), I'm sure they didn't mean to cause any offence with their suggestion to 'scrap Gaelic road signs and repair potholes instead'.

Gaelic is obviously not their culture, but it is ours. If you drive through Wales, Cornwall, Ireland etc and hit another pothole, would you expect them to rip off their native name signs and tell them to spend money on their potholes?

The Gaelic language has suffered terribly during the previous centuries as it was literally beaten out of my father's generation by teachers who told him that 'you won't get a job or a career speaking Gaelic' (even though bilingualism can greatly enhance cognitive skills).

In the 19th century, Ordinance Survey cartographers who were non-Gaelic speakers anglicised the place names when mapping Scotland and Ireland and changed the Gaelic and Irish names.

Other, devastating, historical events such as the aftermath of Culloden, the Highland Clearances and the First World War hugely diminished the numbers of Gaelic speakers to such an extent it has still not recovered, and maybe never will.

I can't speak Gaelic because of previous generations' enforced shame, but I'm proud to see these signs.

My understanding is that a budget of £2 million covers roads signs overall and that there's isn't a significant cost implication for adding the Gaelic.

Even the BBC has reported Gaelic contributes up to £148.5 million per annum to the Scottish economy.

Yes, our infrastructure here desperately needs improvement but, rather than scrap Gaelic road signs, let's withdraw spending on Trident, HS2, the House of Lords and other frivolities.

I think we're very lucky to have a unique language, culture and identity which should be celebrated not vilified. These names have meaning – in Gaelic, if not in English.

As for struggling to get around, my Dutch wife, who has no Gaelic, gets around just fine simply by reading the white English bits.

Arra Mac a' Phleasain Mac Gill' Fheisteir (Arra Fletcher), Sealladh na Beinne (Hill View), An Seanbhaile (Old Town), North Ballachulish.

Plan to charge 50p for toilets is sheer lunacy

Sir,

I see that the Highland Council in

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



THACHAIR AN RUD ris nach robh dùil, agus 's e Dòmhnall Trump a bhios na Cheann-suidhe air Ameireagaidh bho dheireadh an Fhaoilteich 2017.

Ann am beachd mhòran ann an dùthchannan air feadh an t-saoghail tha poiliteigs eadar-nàiseanta gu bhith nas cugallaiche ri linn toradh an taghaidh anns na Stàitean agus 's neònach ma chunnacas riadh uimhir de thaisbeanadh mi-rùin poblach anns an dùthaich sin a thaobh co-dhùnadh taghaidh.

Ach gu ìre dhearbha an taghadh gum bheil mòran de mhòr-shluagh Ameireagaidh ag iarraidh atharrachadh bhon t-suidheachadh far an robh an aon teaghlaichean beairteach a' gleidheadh sealbh air cumhachd phrìomh oifisean na dùthcha. Gu follaiseach cuideachd, tha mòran den bheachd gum faodadh duine le eòlas gnìomhachais piseach a thoirt air staid eaconamach nan Stàitean, agus cosnadh ùra a chruthachadh far am bheil an t-uamhas gun obair an-dràsta.

Ach fad ùine a chuid iomairt airson dreuchd a' Chinn-suidhe nochd Dòmhnall Trump beachdan a chuir oibheum air mòran, agus nam measg sin Muslamaich, slugh Mheagsaco, creideamhan, agus luchd-iomairt chòraichean bhoireannach.

Thuir e rudan a bha cho mì-chneasta is gun robh fiù 's luchd-taice a' phàrtaidh a tha e a' riochdachadh a' cur cùl ris! Ach nuair a bhuannaich e bha car eile an adharc an daimh agus bha Dòmhnall còir a' searmonachadh sith is aonta, agus a' moladh Hillary Clinton a bha e dol a chur dhan phrìosan beagan làithean roimhe sin.

Thathas a-nise ag ràdh gum bheil e a' tarraing air ais bho chuid de na gluasadan a bha e a' gealltainn, leithid cur às dha na prìomh reachdan a thug Obama gu bith thar nan ochd bliadhna a dh'fhalbh.

Ach bidh deagh fhios ag fear-gnothaich dhe sheòrsa cho cunnartach 's a tha e gun gnìomh a chaidh a ghealltainn a choileanadh. Mar sin bidh luchd-taice a' suileachadh atharrachaidhean. Theagamh gum bi aonta am measg mòr-shluagh na dùthcha na dhùbhlann fiù 's nas motha

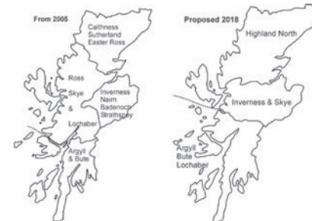
its wisdom is proposing to introduce a charge of 50p for the use of public toilets.

I think this should be at least £1, thus imprisoning many pensioners in their homes where they can be properly supervised by 'granny' state and hastening the death knell of high street shopping by pushing the remaining population towards out of town shopping malls where the facilities will still be free.

In addition, this will make me a millionaire from sales of my 'wee collection knickers' (available in all tartans), the production facility for which will be run on Coronation Street lines and situated in Acharacle, thus providing work for all those residents currently unemployed and in the process contributing substantially to a reduction in the SNP government's £14.9 billion budget deficit.

In politics, of course, this is called 'the law of unintended consequences'. For the rest of us, it is just confirmation that the bampots are still in charge of the asylum.

Andrew Green, Dal Ghorm House, Ardtote.



Boundary plans show disdain for Highlands

Sir,

The sketch maps shown here are drawn from those available on the Boundary Commission for Scotland website.

The map on the left shows the existing UK parliamentary constituencies. The right-hand map shows the proposed changes.

As you can see, the maps are very similar although there is a modification around Nairn. Equally, there will have been some population movements between 2005 and 2016.

However, while the number of constituencies across Scotland is being reduced by around 10 per cent, the number in the north and west Highlands is being reduced from four to three – which is 25 per cent. How can this be fair?

The MP for Highland North will have to travel around nearly 13,000 square kilometres, while the MP for Edinburgh North travels around 20.

I am reminded of an anecdote of James Hunter's – repeated in Andy Wightman's book *The Poor Had No Lawyers* – about an old man in Sutherland who said: 'In London, they don't

give a damn about Highlanders, but in Edinburgh they hate us.'

You have until January 11, 2017, to make your feelings known to the Boundary Commission for Scotland in Edinburgh.

Denis Rixson, Fank Brae, Mallaig.

Incontinent adults can have extra bins

Sir,

As a result of a series of emails between myself and Pippa Milne, executive director, development and infrastructure, at Argyll and Bute Council, Ms Milne has confirmed to me in writing that adult users of incontinence pads are able to apply for an additional general waste bin.

While this will not get rid of the smell from these bins, at least qualifying Argyll and Bute residents will not have to worry about their bins overflowing due to the introduction of the hated three-weekly general waste bin collection service throughout the whole of the Argyll and Bute Council area.

Douglas W Tott, Stonayburn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay.

Burning tyres are toxic and dangerous

Sir,

Inevitably at this time of year bonfires abound and are generally great fun, especially for children.

However, this is no fun for those gathered round, or living near, a bonfire that includes burning tyres.

I guess people who are burning tyres are ignorant of the fact that they are potentially crippling the next generation of children or that they themselves could die an early death from lung cancer, leukemia or lead poisoning arising from the toxic soup of pollutants released by burning tyres.

There are more than two gallons of petroleum and oil in one tyre alone, numerous chemicals including chlorine, styrene, and butadiene, and more than 20 different heavy metals. Styrene and butadiene are both suspected of causing cancer, and the metals such as lead, chromium, cadmium and mercury don't even burn away – they just get released into the atmosphere as fragmented ash, small particles which can settle deep in the lungs. Now that's scary.

Children, foetuses, elderly and asthmatics are all more vulnerable to the pollutants released by burning tyres.

Too late for this year but the next time you see a bonfire of burning tyres, you may want to keep your family safe, at home with the windows shut.

Alistair Wallace, Blaich, Fort William.

Ailean Caimbeul

buileach is aig Dòmhnall ri spèis mòran de dhùthaich fhèin agus an t-saoghail a chosnadh.

Mo nàire mhòr air feadhainn a tha airson dreuchd teachdairne gnìomhachais Alba thoirt air ais dha Dòmhnall Trump, agus a tha airson gum toir Oilthigh Raibeart Ghòrdain sgoilearachd urramach dha air ais. A rèir seùlachd, an deidh argamaid bhiorach anns a' Phàrlamaid thuir am Ball Pàrlamaid Bessie Braddock ri Winston Churchill gun robh e fo bhuidh na dibhe.

'Theagamh sin,' fhreagair Winston, 'ach tha thusa grànda agus a-màireach bidh mise sòbarr, is bidh tusa fhathast grànda!' Cha do chuir toradh an taghaidh idir às do bheachdan oilteil Dhòmhnall Trump.

WORLD political history has many examples of freedom fighters who turned statesmen, and as a Western Isles politician once famously said: 'Every saint has a past and every sinner a future.' But it will take more than conciliatory blandishments from Donald Trump to earn the respect and trust of many Americans, not to mention the world. Repairing the divisions and hatred that he promoted in his poisonous campaign will, I suspect, take considerably longer.

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

Le taic bho



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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.

Controversial housing schemes are approved by planning body

SANDY NEIL
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PLANS to build 24 affordable flats and 12 houses in Glenshellach have been approved.

Councillors from the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee sat to decide for or against the two applications, recommended for approval by Argyll and Bute Council's planning department, at a public hearing in Glencruitten Church hall on Monday.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) applied to build 24 flats, in two three-storey blocks of 12, west of Catalina Avenue. It attracted no letters of

support and 54 objections, citing the site's overdevelopment, increasing traffic on Soroba Road and flooding, and the 'inappropriate' scale of 'the pair of sentry boxes'.

Some 78 dwellings have been granted permission, bringing the total to 102 – above the 90 units allocated in the Local Development Plan (LDP).

ACHA's regeneration manager Matthew MacAulay said if the project did not go ahead this year, the council would lose the Scottish Government's funding increase of £7million to £11m for affordable housing in 2016/17.

Iona MacPhail, ACHA regional manager, said: 'There

is a waiting list of 535 for Glenshellach alone. It is essential to increase the supply of new houses in the area.'

David Campbell, of property consultancy Lambert Smith Hampton, stated the dwellings are 'low density', and 'of the 102, 75 per cent will be affordable'.

Joanne Wright, representing Glenshellach objectors, voiced concerns that 'developments seek to constantly exceed the allocation'.

She said: 'The original allocation was for 50 houses. It was only a year later they increase it by 80 per cent. Now a year later they want 102. It is high density.

'To disregard rules and num-

bers just creates a free-for-all. There is no shortage of land. There is no reason for cramming so many units into such a small space. The buildings are too tall.'

Another resident, Martin Langhammer, said the application should be resubmitted as slides inaccurately dropped the roof heights.

Following a break for lunch, councillor Alex McNaughton announced: 'Councillor McQueen has had to leave, so he will be missing the decision.'

Down from six to five, councillor Rory Colville proposed an amendment to refuse consent due to the flats' 'unacceptable' height, but it was defeated with

no seconder, and four councillors voted to approve the application. Councillor Robin Currie argued the LDP 'does not say the maximum is 90 houses' and Councillor Sandy Taylor added: 'When I read the information from the council's professional officers, I find it very difficult to fail to agree.'

ACHA also applied to build 12 houses by Hayfield, with six more units planned. The plan received no letters of support and 43 objections, arguing the extra 18 dwellings would also exceed the LDP allocation.

For the applicant, Mr Campbell said: 'The application has been reduced from 18 to 12, and

the increased open space is a by-product,' adding 'nine houses per hectare is within the low density threshold.'

Steven Fair representing objectors said the unnecessary, 'tightly crammed' development was of 'excessive number and density'.

He argued that six houses had simply been relocated to an adjacent site and a second planning application, and they 'jointly proposes 18 houses on an 11 house allocation'.

He urged that the application be withdrawn as a departure from the LDP.

All five councillors voted to approve the application.

POLICE FILES

A DRINK driver who was arrested as part of a routine patrol has been reported to the procurator fiscal. The 31-year-old man, who was working in the area, was stopped by the police shortly after 2am on Monday. He is also alleged to have been diving without an MOT.

A MAN was arrested for careless driving at 7.05am on Friday November 11. The 54-year-old was stopped on the A85 near to Dalmally. He has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

A 33-YEAR-OLD man was reported to the procurator fiscal for driving at 45mph in a 30mph zone near to the village of Lochawe. The man is also alleged to have been driving without insurance and therefore his vehicle was seized by officers.

DOG owners are being warned about letting pets run freely in the countryside after a 28-year-old woman was reported to the procurator fiscal. The woman, who was in the Muasdale area of Kilmore at the weekend, was seen allowing her dog to roam while there were livestock in fields. Inspector Mark Stephen said: 'People must keep animals under control and on leads at all times.'

Residents highlight priorities

PEOPLE across Argyll and West Dunbartonshire have highlighted anti-social behaviour, followed by drug dealing and misuse, as their main issues of concern, according to the latest phase of the Your View Counts survey.

The survey, which helps determine policing priorities of communities, has been live for six months and has been completed by almost 16,000 people, with 685 of respondents living in Argyll and West Dunbartonshire.

The survey is just one of the ways in which Police Scotland works with the public, partners and stakeholders to determine the response to issues of concern to communities.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Cowie said: 'Residents in the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire division have identified their priorities as anti-social behaviour and disorder, drug dealing and misuse, violent crime, homes being broken into and child abuse.'

To see the full survey results or to join in, go to www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts. It only takes around 15 minutes.

Firm fined £3,000 after worker's hand is crushed

A COMPANY in Oban has been fined £3,000 for a health and safety breach, after a forklift driver crushed his hand.

3663 Alba Limited, of 814 Leigh Road, Slough, trading as Forteith Food Services, admitted failing to ensure workers had adequate health and safety training to operate a forklift truck at its depot at 73A Glengallan Road, Glenshellach, between May 26, 2014, and January 4, 2015.

Steven John Tonner, the charge continued, used the forklift truck with no formal training and, as a consequence, while reversing it struck a stationary vehicle and crushed his hand to his severe injury.

3663 Alba Ltd also pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the forklift was maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

The procurator fiscal depute told the court on Tuesday November 8: 'He had never been trained to drive it. During the course of [a] reverse, he crushed his hand. He lifted his right arm in an involuntary movement.' He required surgery for severe injuries to his skin and bones.

Sheriff Anderson asked repeatedly for a link: 'I am not clear why no formal training resulted in this injury?'

The fiscal depute responded: 'He had not been trained. Part of his training was that drivers should not have their arms or legs outside [the vehicle].'



Steven John Tonner had not received any training in using a forklift truck when his hand was crushed. Picture: Kevin McGlynn

Sheriff Anderson said: 'It was an involuntary action, which means he could not help himself.'

She added: 'The company operations manager who had been trained to train, did not train. There seems no point sending out someone for a week to learn to train if they are not going to train.'

Defending, Joanna Clark said: 'There are

technical breaches of the regulations. There is a potential lack of connection of the breach and the act itself. This is a company that takes health and safety very seriously, and there has been a local problem in applying a very good system. This is by no means a flagrant disregard.'

'The company did everything it was asked to do. A site manager has been recruited to tighten

up compliance. The company has a good safety record and has no previous convictions.'

Sheriff Anderson said: 'This is a reputable company, which takes health and safety very seriously. I still do not know what the link is.'

On the first charge, she reduced the fine of £4,500 to £3,000 due to the early guilty plea, and admonished the firm on the second charge.

Argyll and Isles tourism businesses scoop regional awards

TOURISM businesses from across Argyll and the Isles topped off a bumper tourism season by scooping five awards at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) held in Inverness on Friday November 4.

Finalists from across the re-

gion gathered to hear the results of categories ranging from best accommodation provider to tourism and hospitality hero. Among the finalists was Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC), nominated in the working together for tourism category.

Following the awards, AITC chairman Gavin Dick congratulated all the winners, saying: 'I am delighted to see these awards going to their new homes in Argyll and the Isles.'

'The quality of the offering in our region is second to none, and I'm delighted to see

the judges agree. We have so much to offer our visitors, from fabulous food and drink, to festivals, attractions and unique experiences.'

'Just two hours from Glasgow will take you into the heart of Argyll. It's a journey worth making and we encourage as

many people as possible to come and explore.'

Awards won by Argyll and the Isles businesses were as follows:

Best accommodation provider: the Majestic Line; best cultural event or festival: Oban Winter Festival; friendliest pub/bar: MacGochans, Mull; innovation

in tourism: Mull Eagle Watch; best restaurant experience: Inver, Strathlachlan.

All the award-winners from the evening go forward to represent the Highlands and Islands region at the national finals of the Scottish Thistle Awards in March 2017.

Residents rally to Ann's house campaign



Ann Colthart: community has rallied behind her.

A FACEBOOK page that has been set up in support of a woman who's on the bitter end of a planning mistake has accumulated hundreds of 'likes', writes David McPhee.

More than 200 people had liked the page, which is titled Connel Residents Against Planning Mistakes, within 72 hours of its inception.

It was set up in support of 72-year-old Ann Colthart, from Connel, after houses were built nine metres away from her property when guidelines state they must be at least 18 metres.

The mistake was made during the planning stage when Mrs Colthart's 28msq extension, which has been there for

14 years, wasn't included in the plans.

The developer has since applied for planning permission to upgrade some aspects of the houses in order to improve the situation.

The application received 50 objections. However, at a planning hearing last week, Argyll and Bute Council voted to approve the adaptations.

These include removing the first floor windows and replace them with wooden cladding; securing and frosting the ground-floor windows so they cannot be opened or seen through; and placing a hedge between the houses.

The social media page will

serve as an archive of news coverage, while providing a platform for people to stay up to date and to voice their opinions.

Under a post that highlights the council's decision to accept the adaptations, one commenter, Kathleen Ferguson, said: 'How in heaven's name things have got to this stage beats me.'

'There is something very unsavoury about the whole business. Any competent builder would have surely queried the proximity to Ann's property when the foundations were laid, regardless of planning decision.'

'The fight must continue and the rotten apples exposed.'

Tiree man convicted of dealing cannabis

TWO drug dealers from Tiree and Fife have been convicted after a police drugs sweep.

John Allan McLean, 56, and Geoffrey Gladwell, 53, denied possessing 400g of cannabis with intent to supply after police detained both at a car park by Corran Brae, Oban, on January 6 following a tip-off.

McLean, of 13 Kinloss Court, High Valleyfield, Dunfermline, told Oban Sheriff Court on November 9 he was giving Gladwell, of 2 Dun Bheag, Ruaig, Tiree, a 100-mile lift to the ferry.

'He wanted to be dropped off at the Corran Halls to see a friend of his,' McLean said.

'The next thing I knew was the police came to lift us.'

A search found '980 quid' on McLean, needed 'to buy a motor' seen on Gumtree, he said. 'I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He did not tell me what he had on him.'

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty asked McLean: 'There were four bars [of cannabis] in the car and you did not smell them?'

'I had the heating up and the windows down,' McLean replied. 'It was end of the winter.'

Mr McGinty asked: 'There is not a single witness to say, "A car was advertised and I arranged for someone from

Fife to come and look at it that day?'

'No,' McLean said.

Gladwell bought a 'bulk purchase' of four 100g cannabis bars at two different times and places in Dunfermline, because, he said: 'I cannot get it on Tiree. It was for my back, relieving the pain.'

'Is it a coincidence the four blocks are exactly the same size, wrapped the same way, each with 'RS' stamped on the back?' Mr McGinty asked.

'I don't know,' Gladwell said. 'I cannot recall when I bought them because I was on the scatter – the drink,' he said. 'I was on the scatter for a fortnight.'

Mr McGinty summed up: 'The whole circumstances [are] indicative of something other than personal use. As they pulled up in the car, there happened to be an ongoing police operation at the very address and information a drug deal was under way.'

Gladwell's defence agent Edward Thornton read an expert witness's report: 'The quantity of drugs can be indicative of personal use or onward supply.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'I am satisfied within reasonable doubt you are guilty as charged.' She fined Gladwell £3,000, and deferred sentence on McLean until December 6.

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Remembering the fallen



A solitary wreath at the memorial in Ballachulish. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



A show of respect from military personnel past and present. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

A DAY of Remembrance was marked across businesses, and schools and among friends and families in respect of those who serve both past and present.

In Fort William units formed up in the Viewforth Car Park around 10.30am on Sunday, followed by the march of colours, the roll call for the First World War and Second World War and the ode of the fallen where the parade replied: 'we will remember them'.

A two minutes silence was punctuated with a single gun fire at the beginning and again at the end.

In Spean Bridge at the Commando Memorial a similar service took place, with Rev Richard Baxter taking part for the first time, and Rev Morag Whitehead, of Duncansburgh Macintosh Church.

Lochaber High School held its annual Concert of Remembrance for members of the Commando Veterans' Association (CVA) on Friday 11 November in the school hall.

The Fort William Remembrance Parade was led by the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, who also led the parade to the Commando Memorial in the afternoon.

The school's wind band also played for the hymn singing and wreath laying at the Commando Memorial on Sunday afternoon.



A large crowd gathered on Sunday morning to pay their respects to the fallen. Photograph: Abrightside Photography



Wreath laying at the Parade Fort William. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



A poignant moment in Fort William. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



Lochaber High School students Annabel Brayshaw, S6, wind band, and Sean MacDonald, S4, pipe band, with Fred Davies, National Secretary of the Commando Veterans' Association, at the school's annual Concert of Remembrance on Friday November 11.

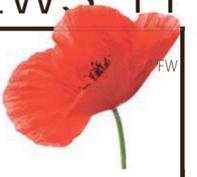


The procession to the Parade in Fort William. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



Marina MacLeod from Marina Bridal in Caol created a special display to mark Remembrance Sunday. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

from across Lochaber



Wreath laying with a display of poppies in the foreground. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



People gathered at memorials across the country, including this one in Fort William, to mark Remembrance Sunday. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



Above: Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band lead the procession to the Remembrance Day service at the Spean Bridge memorial. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



A service was held at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Local Scouts in the crowd at the Spean Bridge Memorial service. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Local businessman Iain Rodger lays wreath at the Fort William service. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



Amber MacDonald plays the lament at the Spean Bridge Memorial. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



The Spean Bridge Memorial service. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Heads are bowed during a moment of silence at the service to remember the fallen. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



The successful Lochaber Leisure swim team Photo: ABrightside Photography

Fort are battered by Brora

Football

Brora Rangers	8
Fort William	0
Highland League	

FORT William travelled to Dudgeon Park last Saturday but felt the full force of a rampant Brora Rangers as the Lochaber side suffered their heaviest league defeat of the season.

The home team continued their run of big wins and clean sheets to keep the pressure on at the top of the Highland League table with 19 goals scored and no goals against them in the past three games.

Brora's goals came from Steven Ross (4), Craig Campbell (2), Zander Sutherland and a David Moffat OG

Fort William have no game this weekend. Next fixture is on Saturday November 26 when they travel to take on Fraserburgh.

Lottery numbers

Lottery

Ballachulish shinty club
This week's lottery numbers were 4, 11 and 15. One lucky winner - Mhairi Cairns of Ballachulish - won the £600 on offer. Next week's draw will revert to £200.

Caol Community Centre
The numbers for last night's draw were, 14, 16 and 18. No winners, so up to £400 for next Sunday's draw.

Fort William golf club
Lotto drawn Thursday November 10. The numbers were 10, 17 and 18. No winner. £800 available for draw on Thursday November 17.

Caol Regeneration Lotto
Winning numbers 7, 14 and 19. Winners were Trudie MacKillop and Marie McCrae who shared the £800 jackpot. Next draw for £100 is November 17.

Loch Lomond walk

Walking

THE NEXT walk will take place on Saturday November 19 around Loch Lomond.

The meeting place is the car park at the woollen mill (Ben Nevis Highland Centre), junction of Glen Nevis and A82 roads, Fort William, for an 8am departure.

For alternative meeting times and details of the walk email nevishillwalkers@f2s.com or telephone secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783.

League results

Indoor football

RESULTS for Sammy's winter indoor league: week two - Ballatasaray 7, The Young Team 2; Portocwy 12, The Goon Squad 5; HW Energy 1, Fiorentina Turner 5; The Stoaters 5, Inverloch 3; Nevis Range 0, Doghouse Thistle 12.

Lochaber pupils in the swim

LOCHABER Leisure Centre swim team had a total of 37 swimmers competing at the annual Highland schools event in Inverness on November 2. There were representatives from the local primary schools as well as Ardnamurchan and Lochaber High schools.

There was a surprise in store for club coach Steven Martin. Over the past two years the club has gone from strength to strength and the total medals won on the day surpassed his expectations.

Two years ago, when the club first competed, they managed to win two bronze medals. Last year they managed to win two gold medals and this year they managed to win a very impressive nine golds, four silvers and seven bronzes - a sure sign that Stevie's commitment, dedication and many hours spent training his young motivated swimmers is paying off.

On the day there were 23 age group records broken with 12 of these times

now standing as new club records. There is also the chance that 12 of these times will now be considered for the Scottish schools event in January of next year.

All in a day's work for Stevie and his dedicated swim team.

Stevie has the swimmers disciplined, motivated and the atmosphere he generates among the swimmers is a token of appreciation to him for the number of hours he commits to each of the

swimmers whom he has such belief in.

Results from the day: gold medallists: Alistair Tait, Lyall Morris (both from Ardnamurchan High School), Aimee McKay winning two golds, Connor Cann winning two golds, Dora Shepherd and Jenna MacLean (all from Lochaber High School), Evie-Jay Clark from Inverloch Primary.

Silver medallists: Lysol Morris Ardnamurchan, Jack Hamilton and Evan Atkinson (both from Lochaber High),

Lottery

Sean Cann from Banavie, Danni Maclean from St Columba's and Evie-Jay Clark from Inverloch Primary.

Bronze medallists: Jenna Maclean, Anna Macdonald, Poppy Valentine, Jack Hamilton, Alice-Ann Macpherson, Ben Dignan and William Cann (all from Lochaber High) and Alex Atkinson from Inverloch Primary.

Heavy defeat for Lochaber away to Ross Sutherland

Ross Sutherland	67
Lochaber	0
BT Caledonia 2NW	

Rugby

LOCHABER travelled to Ross Sutherland recently in their last away game before the league split that will see the top three and bottom three teams from Caledonia North West and North East Division 2 join each other respectively.

Ross Sutherland opened the scoring early on and kept the pressure scoring several tries in the first 20 minutes before Lochaber started to come back into the game with the defence improving and their makeshift scrum going well and taking the set piece against the head on a few occasions.

Unfortunately, the visitors were unable to break down the Ross defence with any of their attacks.

With hooker Jamie Milne

going off with a calf injury, the scrums became uncontested, and Ross were able to make the extra man count towards the end of the first half to get another couple of tries.

The second half was much the same as the first with the Lochaber defence working tirelessly to keep the score down. Unfortunately, a few mistakes in defence allowed for some easy tries for the home team.

Lochaber were unable to get on the score board for the first time in an away game this season. The final score was Ross Sutherland 67, Lochaber 0.

Lochaber now have two home games before the split against the other two teams in the bottom half of the North West table. Lochaber's next game is against Stornoway this Saturday at Banavie with a 2pm kick-off.



Lochaber Badminton Club was established in 1982, playing on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm at the games hall in Lochaber High School. The club was an amalgamation of several small clubs in the area which were Banavie, St Mary's, Upper Achintore and the Drill Hall. All clubs agreed to join ranks and establish Lochaber Badminton Club. The club now has players from the Lochaber area, Kinlochleven and Oban. Players are aged 18 and upwards and the badminton season runs from October through until the end of March each year.

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TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 17, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	01.08	0.5	07.00	4.1	13.43	0.7	19.30	4.0
Fri	01.54	0.6	07.44	4.0	14.43	0.9	20.15	3.7
Sat	02.42	0.9	08.31	3.7	15.26	1.2	21.04	3.4
Sun	03.34	1.1	09.23	3.5	16.25	1.5	22.05	3.1
Mon	04.30	1.4	10.28	3.2	17.36	1.7	23.55	2.9
Tues	05.34	1.5	12.15	3.1	19.04	1.8	***	**
Wed	01.30	2.9	06.45	1.6	13.53	3.2	20.25	1.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 1°C to 6°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 1°C to 5°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate east south easterly
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.