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KARATE TOURNAMENT PHOTOS AND RESULTS

Dunbeg mum condemns use of children's pictures on TV

DAVID MCPHEE

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A DUNBEG mum has condemned images of local pupils being used by a national broadcaster in a bulletin discussing whether the armed forces are using school visits to recruit.

Susan Simpson wrote to *The Oban Times* following the TV company's report, which outlined that 927 military visits were made in Scotland in 2016/2017.

It also revealed that the Ministry of Defence had asked Education Scotland for the deprivation rates in schools for 2015.

A woman from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council was quoted in the item as saying: 'I think there would be a lot of concern among parents that this is a recruitment drive.'

However, Ms Simpson told *The Oban Times*: 'I was so angry and upset when I saw the photographs.'

'Granted, the faces were blanked out but everyone in Oban and the surrounding area will have recognised the uniform, staff and pupils. The photographs are from two years ago and are from an organised visit that all parents knew about.'

'Our school is not, in my opinion, a deprived area school, nor do I believe we are a target for recruitment to the armed forces.'

Royal Marines annually visit Dunbeg and Rockfield primary schools to commemorate former Dunbeg pupil Gordon MacPherson, who was killed on the last day of the Falklands war.

In previous years, the servicemen brought in unloaded guns to show the children, although this was discontinued earlier this year.

'In their curriculum, our children

Oban celebrates festival's winter wonderland



Oban Winter Festival was launched in fine style as Santa's parade – complete with reindeer Hamish – made its way through the town culminating in the big Christmas lights switch-on. Rachel Carre and Erin Jackson had the honour of turning on the lights. Full story and picture special on pages 12 and 13.

cover both the First and Second World Wars, and lessons are also held on more recent and ongoing conflicts,' Ms Simpson added.

'Therefore they know the reality of war and of what our armed forces face when they go into battle. It does absolutely no harm, in my opinion, for our children to be taught a healthy understanding

of the reality of all professions, including the armed services.'

'Our children at Dunbeg are very fortunate to be given so many amazing opportunities to meet and speak to professionals from a variety of workplaces, organisations and agencies. As part of those visits, I, as a parent, would expect the professionals to educate my children on all aspects

of their job. Therefore if someone from the armed services attends, I am perfectly comfortable that they will have the capabilities to appropriately show the children the "tools" that they use.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'The forces visit to Dunbeg school appears to have been in keeping with previous visits and has a strong local

root commemorating, as it did, the service and sacrifice of a local soldier, a former pupil at the school. However, I do understand the concern of some parents and others across the area regarding recruitment activity involving young children and a balance clearly has to be struck to make sure any activity is proportionate, clearly explained and acceptable

to the school community as a whole. The council has to be an arbiter of that involvement'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The Marines visited Dunbeg as part of the Curriculum for Excellence and contributed to children's understanding of teamwork and the importance of fitness. The visit was a success.'

Billy Irving's fiancée is 'petrified'

CONNEL man Billy Irving, imprisoned in India, will find out if he will be released on Monday.

The judge has been given until November 27 to decide whether or not to grant freedom for Billy and 35 other men who were jailed last January.

This information comes as the terminally-ill captain was repatriated on Monday November 20.

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

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

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

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Billy Irving's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, said: 'I can't quite believe we finally have a date for a verdict. Since the day the five-year sentence was handed to Billy, our lives have been at a standstill.'

'Nearly two years we've waited for this day and now it's finally here, I am utterly petrified.'

'We are so close to the end, yet still a million miles away from this hell we are living ending.'

'Everything does feel positive this time round, but you just cannot tell what will happen.'

'Our lives and the lives of 34 men and their families lie in the hands of one man – the judge.'

'All we want is for Billy to be home with us this Christmas.'



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Hearing airs views on wind farm

ARGUMENTS for and against a giant 18-turbine wind farm near Portsonachan overlooking Loch Awe were aired at a public hearing and inquiry in Dalmally, writes Sandy Neil.

The Upper Sonachan Wind Park is so big the application must be determined by the Scottish Government rather than Argyll and Bute Council, under section 36 of the Electricity Act, and go before a public local inquiry. In 2015, Upper Sonachan Wind Park Limited applied to build the 136.5m turbines, with a total capacity up to 61.2MW, on commercial forestry 9.5km north of Inveraray, south of Loch Awe.

Argyll and Bute Council

objected to the application on landscape grounds, joined by Scottish Natural Heritage and Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council.

Community councillor Christine Metcalfe, who gave evidence in Dalmally, said the application was 'yet another financial drain for our hard-pressed council and affected community council. Claims made that distant visibility of other wind farms around Loch Awe provides reason for a section 36 development within an Area of Panoramic Quality beggars belief.'

'With renewable energy targets passed, imposition of more turbines is neither required nor ultimately in the national or con-

sumer interest. We are not being given proof these things produce a CO2 reduction in emissions. The cure is worse than the disease. Why are our vital tourism interests being sacrificed in the absence of such proof?'

Councils, she added, were straining under a 'tsunami' of larger wind power developments. 'It bypasses the ability of councils to decide on the application. The developers reckon they stand a better chance with the government. We desperately need a moratorium. People are on their knees.'

Upper Sonachan Wind Park Ltd is run by Skylark, a joint venture between Skanska and Ecotricity. A Skylark spokes-

person said the sessions would allow the reporter to report back to Scottish ministers for a final decision, likely to be next year.

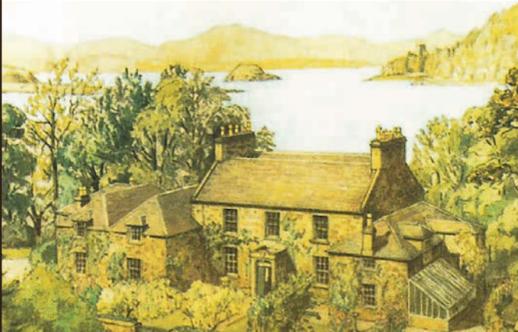
Ecotricity founder Dale Vince added: 'The case for renewable energy, to help the fight against climate change and improve air quality, is unarguable. As is the fact that wind energy saves CO2. Different targets will be met from time to time, when that happens we need to move on to the next ones.'

'The key issue is whether this is a good site for a wind park. Can it be a good neighbour to people and wildlife? If it can, it should go ahead. The world is running out of time to prevent runaway climate change.'

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OT

TIMESLINE

Opposition grows to fish farm plan

THE Friends of the Sound of Jura, a group formed to promote marine conservation in the area, has said it welcomes recent comments by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) that the siting of a proposed fish farm would harm marine features of global importance.

SNH examined the underwater video survey footage and concluded that 'the area of highest quality northern sea fan and sponge communities habitat is restricted to within very close proximity to the proposed fish farm. It is likely that this restricted area of high quality habitat will be lost or significantly degraded as a result of this proposal. This colony is the most southerly known record of this biotope that SNH is aware of.'

SNH advised SEPA that 'the proposed development will result in a significant impact on the national status of the northern sea fan and sponge communities and is therefore contrary to Policy Gen 9(b) of the National Marine Plan'.

Two are held after pub disturbance

AT ABOUT 12.05am on Sunday November 19, police attended a report of a disturbance outside a pub in Tobermory. Two men, both aged 48, were charged with abusive behaviour. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Alcohol unit price decision welcomed

NA H-EILEANAN AN IAR MSP Alasdair Allan has welcomed last week's ruling from the UK Supreme Court that minimum unit pricing for alcohol can now proceed.

Dr Allan said he hoped the law would 'help prevent some personal tragedies in the islands and across Scotland'.

The measure was passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2012, but implementation was delayed by successive court challenges from sections of the alcohol industry.

Scottish ministers will now conduct a consultation on the proposed 50 pence per unit price.

Deal reached to save jobs at Arnish yard on Lewis

MARTIN LAING

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WESTERN Isles politicians have welcomed the news that the BiFab plant at Arnish on the Isle of Lewis has been saved.

MSP Alasdair Allan has expressed the sense of relief on Lewis, after a Scottish Government-brokered deal was reached on Saturday to prevent BiFab Ltd from going into administration.

The deal will see BiFab and its contractors reach an agreement to ensure that work continues at the Arnish yard as well as the company's bases in Fife.

The news comes after days of talks held by the Scottish Government, and after a direct appeal to the companies concerned from the First Minister.

Dr Allan commented: 'In recent days, many families in Lewis have had real cause to worry about their jobs and livelihoods. So this announcement that a deal has been reached represents the best possible news. BiFab is not going into administration, and the current contracts at Arnish will be completed.'

'I want to pay tribute to the commitment of the highly skilled workforce at Arnish, and the constructive attitude they have taken throughout this difficult time. Reaching a deal between the various commercial interests involved has required days of negotiation.'

'The intervention of the First Minister, who came back early from engagements in Germany to take part in the talks herself, was, I believe, a decisive factor,

but I would also like to thank my ministerial colleagues Keith Brown and Paul Wheelhouse for the many hours they have devoted to this issue.'

'I also want to recognise the contribution made by the unions, some of whom I had a chance to meet with outside Holyrood this week, and by the different companies involved in the initial dispute, who have moved a long way to reach this agreement.'

'The emphasis now will be on ensuring that Arnish receives new orders in the future, something which I believe it is well placed to do, given the growing market in the renewables sector for the work that it does.'

'This news, meanwhile, will represent a great Christmas present for the Isle of Lewis.'

MP Angus Brendan MacNeil, who said he was 'delighted' that the threat to Burntisland Fabrications (BiFab) has been lifted.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Yesterday, I said that I was heartened that Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, had made this a priority and I am delighted that the hard work of the Scottish Government, together with interested companies, has resulted in a positive outcome.'

'When I visited the Arnish Yard there was a determination from management and the GMB Union to find a solution. This is absolutely fantastic news and will be a huge relief for the Arnish workforce and their families.'

MSP Rhoda Grant praised the workers for their tenacity throughout the crisis. Last week Mrs Grant met some of the hun-

dreds of workers who descended on the Scottish Parliament in the fight to save their jobs and safeguard the future of BiFab.

The workers marched through Edinburgh under the banner Battle for BiFab.

Mrs Grant said: 'Workers and their families needed guarantees about the future of their jobs, especially in the run-up to Christmas, and so this deal was very welcome indeed.'

'Renewables are a key priority for Scotland's economy and this company is one of the key companies supporting green energy.'

'BiFab is also one of the largest private employers in the Western Isles, with more than 150 people directly employed. Because of this, issues with BiFab disproportionately affect the local community in Lewis.'

Skye band to score Edinburgh's Hogmanay

FOR the first time Edinburgh's Hogmanay fireworks will be choreographed to a score written and designed for the occasion by a Skye quartet.

New producers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, Underbelly, who produce the event on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council, have commissioned Scotland's sound of the future, the electrifying Niteworks, and the award-winning composer and sound designer Dan Jones to create an epic soundscape to the midnight fireworks.

The soundtrack to the extended fireworks display, designed by Titanium, will feature several well-loved tracks from Niteworks' latest album shaped and developed into a single nine-minute work which evolves with light and shade and progresses to an exciting, epic conclusion.

The tracks from Niteworks include Beul na h-Oidhche (Gaelic for the beginning of the night), Coming Down (Anais Mitchell cover), Maraiche (featuring Kathleen MacInnes) and Eilean (Gaelic song about Skye).

Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, directors of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, said: 'This is probably one of the most exciting things to happen to fireworks in Edinburgh since the first recorded firework was set off at Edinburgh Castle in 1507. Those attending the street party, concert in the gardens or ceilidh under the castle will be treated to an exceptional sound and light spectacle.'

'Niteworks, Dan Jones and Titanium are mighty individually but as a trio they are creating an epic midnight moment for those at Edinburgh's Hogmanay to enjoy.'

Skye foursome Niteworks fuse Gaelic language and traditional music with electronic influences to create a unique and exhilarating sound.

Piper Allan MacDonald said: 'It really is an honour.'

'We were thrilled to be asked to perform live for the street party, but to be asked to put the music together with Dan for the fireworks has just been something else entirely. We're a bit lost for words on how to describe this one.'

Allan added: 'The original brief we got was to try to recreate the sound of Scotland, tomorrow.'

'To do this, we felt it was important to include songs in both Gaelic and in English, and also to have a tune on the pipes for immediately when the bells come in.'

'We spent a whole day just watching New Year's Eve fireworks displays from around the world.'

'We're aiming for a vibe something in-between these styles that people will hopefully enjoy bringing the bells in to.'

Jura Association celebrates its 125th gathering and ceilidh



JURACHS partied at the Glasgow Jura Association's 125th gathering and ceilidh dance on November 10 at the city's St Vincent Bowling Club, to the

tunes of Norrie McIver, Archie McAlister and David McDonald.

Once a year – since 1892 – folk who love Jura, living on or off the island,

have birlled and blethered in one of the West Coast's longest-running Glasgow gatherings. The association's president, Charles Renwick, and vice-president

Alasdair Watson, plus all the committee and their helpers, were thanked for providing a great evening to mark the special occasion.

Book features Easdale and Argyll

AUTHOR Mary Withall took advantage of the Easdale Island Christmas fair to launch her latest novel in the Eisdalsa series.

Her new book, entitled *Disruption*, follows the fortunes of a dissident minister of the church after the Disruption of 1843 when a large number of clergy walked out of the General Assembly of

the Church of Scotland in protest against the Patronage Act.

James Bantrie, dismissed from his comfortable living in Perthshire, is obliged to take up the ministry of a small population of slate workers on the small island of Orchy off the coast of Seilichee, close by the island of Eisdalsa in Argyllshire. When opportunity

arises for emigrants to start a new colony on the Otago peninsula in the South Island of New Zealand, James and his family respond immediately.

Mary will be in Oban Library on Friday December 1 at 2pm to sign copies and will also be at Waterstone's in Oban from 2pm on Saturday December 9.

Mary Withall signs a copy of her new book for Clara Knox at Easdale Christmas fair.



Shop owner rejects call to close on Sundays

A SHOP-OWNER on the Isle of Lewis has refused a plea by sabbatarians to close on Sundays, despite a suggestion islanders would boycott her shop.

Entrepreneur Leona Rawlinson, who came to Lewis as a child, opened her shop Tweedstac on Stornoway's Church Street this summer, and kept the doors open on Sundays while she was in her workshop.

But earlier this month she was sent a Bible and a letter from the Lewis and Harris branch of the Day One/Lord's Day Observance Society, asking her to close on the sabbath.

The letter, published on the National Secular Society's website, first congratulated Ms Rawlinson on her successful new business, and expressed

its desire to see her venture succeed. However, the society added its 'great regret' that 'the shop's opening hours continue to extend into Sunday afternoon, which was a concern not only to 'many professed Christians' but also islanders who 'wish to protect the local custom of honouring the Sabbath'.

'The purpose of our letter is certainly not to intimidate you into closing on Sunday ... nor are we aware of any organised campaign in relation to this matter. However, it is a sincere and humble request that you consider closing the shop on the Lord's Day.'

Ms Rawlinson told *The Oban Times*: 'The sad thing is if they had not kicked off I would only be open for five or six weeks.

Because they have done what they've done, I have to stay open. They are not going to tell me what to do.'

'The support from people has been amazing, both from Christians and others. I've had letters and cards. People want the shop to stay open.'

Ms Rawlinson's partner, Martin Flett, who also runs a business on the same premises, said: 'There are obviously concerns that a section of the community will [boycott] or are boycotting the shop. The population is small enough without a section boycotting it. Tourism is a big market for the shop but we also provide a service for the local community and we have a number of craft suppliers who rely on the shop to supplement their income.'

'We've also had many unsolicited messages of support and some Christians who disagree with the headline approach have actually come into the shop to say that the hardliners don't speak for them. Some have even brought gifts by way of apology.'

The National Secular Society alleged Ms Rawlinson had earlier experienced intimidation and harassment because her shop was open on Sundays.

Police Scotland said: 'We can confirm that a report was made to police in August and that appropriate advice and reassurance was offered to a member of public. No further action was taken.'

Western Isles Secular Society commented: 'Leona's is not the first business to be harassed in this cowardly manner.'

Ulva Ferry welcomes two new families

THE Ulva Ferry community officially welcomed two young families into their new homes on Saturday.

The homes, called Sealladh Loch Tuath, are the 'first designated affordable rental housing' to be constructed on Mull for 'many decades'.

The ribbon was snipped by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, who commended the community of Mull for their determination in completing the project.

The houses were built as a joint venture between the Ulva School Community Association (USCA) and Mull and Iona

Community Trust (MICT), and are situated next to Ulva Primary School.

New tenant Samantha Wright commented: 'We are delighted with our beautiful new home. Everyone has been very welcoming – our eldest daughter has settled into Ulva Primary and my husband has found employment locally.'

'Having previously moved from one private let to another, it is very comforting to know we can make this house our long-term home.'

The Ulva Ferry Project was set up by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and MICT in 2012.



Michael Russell MSP opens the new homes.

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Oban woman hurt in USA 'is doing amazingly well'

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THE daughter of Agnes MacKechnie, the Oban woman seriously injured in a road accident in the USA, said this week that her mum 'is doing amazingly well'.

Karen MacKechnie is planning to return to Oban tomorrow (Friday November 24) to prepare for her mother's return from hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Karen told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'My mum's condition is continuing to improve with each passing day. Her latest scans and X-rays are showing great

results. We are still hoping she can start intensive physiotherapy here at St Luke's Hospital for two weeks so she is well enough before being transferred back to Scotland to continue her long road to recovery.

'Now that I know my mum is doing amazingly well, I will be travelling home on Friday so I can get everything ready for her return home.'

Agnes still has her husband, David at her bedside and he has been joined by another family member this week. Karen explained: 'My auntie Rosalyn is travelling over today [Tuesday] to be with my mum and dad and give support.'

Karen also praised her best friend Shona Wallace, who last week set up a Gofundme page asking for donations to help the family offset their rising financial commitments as a result of the hit-and-run accident on Halloween.

Karen added: 'I would also like to express my deepest thanks to my friend Shona who started up the Gofundme page on Facebook on behalf of my parents, and to everyone who has kindly donated so far. My parents don't know about the page yet, but I'm sure they will be overwhelmed by everyone's support.'

Agnes's son Gavin messaged *The Oban Times* on Saturday

November 18 to highlight the Gofundme page which, at the time of going to press, had almost reached its £1,000 target.

Shona's appeal states: 'Agnes was mown down in a hit-and-run after a Halloween party on a once in a lifetime trip to the USA.'

'The incident left her with a fractured skull, neck, both arms, both legs, a torn liver, heart surgery, knocked out teeth and many more cuts and bruises.'

'Whilst her insurance covers all medical bills, it does not cover any loss of earnings.'

'She is very strong and recovering well but will not be

allowed to fly home for at least another couple of weeks.

'David [her husband] is constantly at her side but unfortunately the bills are mounting up while they are there.'

'I'm trying to raise some money to help out with what they're going to be faced with when they're home.'

'We live in an amazing community so I'm really hoping some of you will be able to spare even a couple of pounds so Agnes can concentrate on getting better without the financial worry!!'

To donate to the appeal, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/help-agnes-and-david-mackechnie>

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

□ AT ABOUT 8.40pm on Tuesday November 14, a vehicle was stopped by police on the A85 at Connel. Checks revealed that the vehicle had an expired MOT, lighting defects and a cracked windscreen. The driver, a 61-year-old man, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

□ AT ABOUT 10.55pm on Tuesday November 14, in a house in Barcaldine, a 20-year-old man allegedly breached curfew bail conditions imposed by the court by being outwith the address overnight. In Glasgow on Wednesday November 15, police arrested and charged the man, who was held for court.

□ AT ABOUT 3.30pm on Wednesday November 15, in the Balvicar area, a man aged 38 allegedly seriously assaulted another man, causing a head laceration. The man was arrested and charged. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

□ AT ABOUT 7.30pm on Wednesday November 15, a man allegedly assaulted another man in Longdale Road, Oban. A 45-year-old man was detained. The man was later arrested and charged with assault and

a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

□ AT ABOUT 2am on Sunday November 19, a man allegedly assaulted another man on the Corran Esplanade, Oban. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

□ AT ABOUT 3.20am on Sunday November 19, following a report of a disturbance at a house in Marine Court, Dunbeg, a 31-year-old man and a 39-year-old woman were detained. Both were later arrested and charged with abusive behaviour. They were held for court and a report was submitted to the fiscal.

□ AT ABOUT 7.50am on Sunday November 19 on Soroba Road, Oban, a van was stopped and a 36-year-old man was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. A report has been submitted to the fiscal.

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

Emotional day as families receive keys to new homes

'EMOTIONAL' families have received keys to their new affordable homes in Oban.

On Friday November 17, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) opened eight new homes in Glenshellach Glen.

One family, Lucy Williams, her partner Brian McMahon and their baby daughter Maisie, said the move from the Isle of Coll to Oban's Sunderland Drive was 'emotional'.

Lucy said: 'It has been quite a struggle to look for housing that is affordable because I was on Coll,' Lucy said. 'The moment it came up, it would be gone. Three years we have been on [the list]. Maisie was the only baby on Coll. The next child is three. It means Maisie can now go to playgroups so she will be with her friends. It opens so many doors for us. It is such a relief we have security.'

Mr McMahon, who works at Faslane, agreed: 'At last we have a house sorted. It has been worth the wait.'

Chief executive Alastair MacGregor said: 'I am really pleased we have completed these family homes to help meet pressing housing needs in Oban. They are part of 122 new builds across Argyll and Bute.'

The two- and three-bed properties cost £1.2 million to build, funded by the Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council and ACHA. ACHA said the eight family homes bring the tally in Glenshellach Glen to 65, out of a total of 107 units to be completed by 2019.

The total investment in these new homes will be £15.4 million over five years.

Ten homes in Connel are due to opened next Friday, December 1.



ACHA's new tenants on Sunderland Drive, including Lucy Williams and Maisie, far left.

Oban mourns for loss of Janice Alexander, stalwart of high school and youth football

TRIBUTES have been paid to Janice Alexander, a beloved member of Oban High School and a stalwart of Oban Saints Youth Football Club, who has died this week after a long illness.



Janice Alexander.

Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain, in his blog published on Wednesday, described her good humour both before and during her illness, and the shock of her death.

Mr Bain said: 'Today was a day for tears as I learned that Janice Alexander, who works in our office, passed away this morning after battling a terminal illness for the past four years.'

'Janice has worked in our school for the past 14 years. She is a local girl, well known not just to those in the school but across the community.'

'Along with her husband Iain,

they were stalwarts in developing Oban Saints Youth Football Club into a very successful organisation. Janice kept Iain, the club and a large part of my school office running smoothly and efficiently.'

'What made Janice such an appealing, lovely lady was her desire to be sociable, to chat, to

have a laugh. If there was anyone you would enjoy working with beside, it would be Janice. She continued this same good humour (with a few ups and downs) throughout the past few years despite her illness.'

'The girls in the office who knew her far, far better than I, loved her. They worked with her every minute of the day and they socialised with her on numerous nights out and weekends away. The special bond that all these girls have with each other was pleasing to see each day and heartbreaking to witness today.'

The school closed early on Wednesday, and the news broken to staff in the assembly hall, Mr Bain said: 'The whisperings in the audience and the spreading of the news ensured that before I even began to speak, the tears were flowing.'

'Our thoughts are with Iain, Janice's husband, and her sons Stuart and Robert. Some were shocked and some were stunned by the news. Some of us, already knowing the extent of Janice's illness, were still reeling regardless. Everyone was sad.'

'Today, having to look into the eyes of my colleagues, eyes already red with tears, and confirm that we have lost a wonderful friend and colleague, made this one of the saddest days I have endured.'

'Given the timing and of Janice's interest in my bugle playing, I'll finish with this observation: Last Post has sounded this evening and we must endure our loss. Reveille will usher in a new day tomorrow and the opportunity to celebrate and remember our friend.'

Man pleads guilty to sexual assault against girl in Oban

A 20-YEAR-OLD man has pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl in Oban town centre.

Marcell Grigoreanu, of 1362 London Road, Glasgow, made the guilty plea when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday November 20.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that Grigoreanu was in a friend's car on November 12 of this year at around midnight. He said they pulled up at the station where two girls were situated.

'The [victim's] friend was spoken to by one of the males, who asked for her number,' Mr Ginty said. 'She replied that she did not have one and would not give it to him if she did.'

'[Grigoreanu] reached out the rear window of the car and in a movement pushed [the victim] on the hip in a fashion that swung her around and then at that point grabbed her on the buttocks.'

'[The victim] was asked to get into the car and refused, at which point [Grigoreanu] reached out again and seized her by her upper clothing.'

'She broke free and immediately ran away.'

The police subsequently came across the victim and her friend. '[The victim] was noted to be sobbing uncontrollably,' Mr Ginty added.

'After being calmed down and spoken to by police, she indicated that she had been indecently assaulted, in her words.'

The police then watched the CCTV footage of the area 'could clearly see he had touched her not once, but twice on her buttocks.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentencing for criminal justice social work reports to be obtained.

Grigoreanu will reappear in Oban Sheriff Court on January 3, when his plea of mitigation will take place.



TSL Contractors Ltd have been awarded the works to construct 60 dwellings at the former Lochside Primary School site in Caol, Fort William.

Works commence in January 2018 and will continue into late summer of 2019.

At TSL we strongly believe in working closely with, and investing in the local economy. With this in mind, we would like to work with local labour, contractors and suppliers on the project wherever possible.

To provide an easily accessible platform for this, TSL will be holding a Contractor and Supplier open day on 12th December at Caol Community centre between 4pm - 6.30pm.

During the event staff from our procurement and project departments will be on hand to discuss the various opportunities and would be delighted to meet any interested parties.

If you are unable to make the event or would like further information on the project please feel free to contact our General Manager, John Forbes at j.forbes@tslcontractors.co.uk for further details.

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OT
TIMESLINE

Music society hosts classical concert

OBAN Music Society is hosting a classical concert this Sunday afternoon, November 26, at 3pm in St John's Cathedral in George Street.

Aleksander Kudaiczky has agreed to perform as a late replacement for pianist Saša Gerželj-Donaldson, who has been taken ill.

Kudaiczky, from Glasgow, wowed the Oban audience when he played here in 2015, and was especially praised for his performance of Chopin.

This time Chopin favourites will again feature strongly in his programme, along with Rachmaninoff and Brahms.

Tickets will be available at the door.

Argyll jobless rate continues to fall

THE number of people claiming benefits in Argyll and Bute has fallen year on year, according to figures released from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Overall, the most recent figures for Argyll and Bute show 810 people on the claimant count, a fall of 10 over the previous year.

For those aged 18 to 24, the number out of work is 160, also a reduction of 10.

Since 2010, the fall for the total out of work has been 859 (51 per cent fewer claiming benefits), while for the 18 to 24 group, the number has declined by 275 (a 63 per cent decline).

Church prepares for Christmas fair

OBAN Congregational Church is holding a Christmas fair on Saturday (November 25).

Highlights at the event, from 10.30am to 3.30pm, include tea, coffee and home-baking, Christmas gifts and crafts, cakes, marmalade, a raffle, bottle stall and games.

Admission costs £3, with all proceeds going to church funds.



Pupils and teachers at Oban High School waxed their bodies and helped raise cash for Children in Need. Students at the school raised a total of £856.53 through sponsored waxing, Children in Need-themed bake sale and face painting. This contributed towards the record breaking total on Friday night of £50.1 million. For more pictures go to www.obantimes.co.uk



Left to right are Rotarians Iain MacIntyre and Tommy McQuade presenting a £2,500 cheque to Judy and Bill Clifford, Mary's Meals' community ambassadors, with the club's Douglas Small.

Rotarians present cheque

THE Rotary Club of Oban donated a £2,500 cheque to Mary's Meals raised by a concert with the Audley Male Voice Choir in St John's Cathedral in October.

The choir, from Staffordshire, were joined by the Sequence Ladies Choir from Oban, pipers from Oban High School Pipe Band, and the Young Rotary Musician of the Year, flautist Katie Houston.

The Argyll charity's community ambassador Bill Clifford said: 'Any donation is being doubled,

so it becomes £5,000. That will keep around 370 children in school for a year.'

Currently every gift given to Mary's Meals between November 1 and December 31 will be matched by 'three amazing donors' up to a total of £1.9 million.

Mr Clifford added: 'We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Oban, the choirs, the pipe band and Katie Houston. It was an enjoyable afternoon. It will do a lot of good.'

Gaelic choir launch CD

Oban Gaelic Choir launched their first CD in Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Monday night.

The event was well-attended and everyone was able to enjoy a night of 'singing, dancing and craic'.

Ewan MacDonald was on hand to accompany the choir on the night.

They performed songs from their debut *Stòras* CD, which was recorded live in June at the Corran Halls.

The event, which also featured a ceilidh, was organised as part of Oban Winter Festival.

To stay up to date with the choir, visit www.facebook.com/ObanGaelicChoir



Adele and the girls at Ark Hairdressers. 17_t46_Gaelicschool_fundraiser01

Ladies' night raises money

A GROUP of ladies got together for a night in the Ark Hairdressing Salon in Oban to raise money for Rockfield Primary's Gaelic Unit.

The event, which was organised by Adele Duncan, gave the women the opportunity to learn about skin care, as well as have their nails done.

Beauty therapist Adele said she decided to host the event to

raise money for the Gaelic unit as her daughter is a pupil.

'We go to the meetings,' she said, 'and they are always doing these fundraising events and I wanted to do something different. We have enjoyed it. It was quite a success, so we are going to do it more often. I am going to do another one in December.'

Adele's next ladies' night will be on Friday December 1.

Have you applied to Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund?

THE fund is open to community groups across Argyll and Bute, including community councils and parent councils, and funding of up to £2,500 is available per project.

A website has been created specifically for the fund ABPB.CO.UK and provides details of what can be funded and how to get involved. Mem-

bers of the public will have the final say on which projects receive funding through a vote in April 2018.

Groups have until December 22, 2017, to post ideas for their projects, to let their communities know what they would do with the money and how it would benefit their area.

If you would like to apply to

the fund, visit ABPB.CO.UK. You can also visit the website to see what ideas have been submitted, join in discussion, offer your support and find out more about the projects.

You do not need to register on the website to view the ideas. Those who register will be notified by email when the voting opens up next year.

Rockfield to discuss new status

A PROPOSAL to change the status of Oban Communities Trust (OCT) to become a Community Benefit Society (CBS) will be on the agenda at the trust's annual general meeting on Wednesday November 29 at 7pm at the Rockfield Centre.

Members are being asked to change the legal status of OCT to become a CBS to enable the trust to raise money through community shares.

By changing its status, OCT will follow examples of a growing number of community enterprises to raise investment capital through a community share offer.

Information on Rockfield Centre events is at www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk and on the centre's FB page.

Gordon McNab, chairman of OCT said: 'We extend a warm welcome to everyone to come along to the trust's AGM.'



Pictured left to right: Euan Dewar of Oban Electrical Services, Oban Hospice volunteer Mary Black, chairman David Entwistle, Kerry Craig, head of the Maggie's Centre in Glasgow, and Angus MacPherson, managing director of Oban Electrical Services. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

Hospice's Dove Centre 'gives back hope'

OBAN Hospice has officially opened its new Dove Centre to support people with life-limiting illness and they feel hopeless.

Kerry Craig, head of the Maggie's Centre in Glasgow, on which the Dove Centre is modelled, said it was 'an amazing achievement' by fundraisers and volunteers who refurbished the building on Stevenson Street.

Ms Craig said: 'One of the things that hits me the most every day at work is when peo-

ple come into our centre when they have been diagnosed with cancer or another life-limiting illness and they feel hopeless.

'Places like this centre is what gives people back hope. Even at a time when things seem bleak, there still can be hope.'

The Dove Centre is the latest success for Oban Hospice, founded 20 years ago when the late Betty Dunlop, a retired nurse, proposed setting up Oban and Lorn's own hospice. A separate

charity called the Friends of Oban Hospice, founded in 1999, raises funds for the day hospice, plus the post of an Oban Hospice community services co-ordinator. The new Dove Centre on Stevenson Street provides advice and therapy.

Chairman of the trustees David Entwistle said: 'Oban Hospice wants to extend a big thank you to all the local people, individuals, tradespeople and businesses who have supported us.'

Packed few days as Oban celebrates winter

WHAT a wonderful start to Oban Winter Festival, writes Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald.

The beautiful weather we had for the start of the festival and the reindeer parade added to the fantastic atmosphere throughout the town.

I've got my fingers and toes crossed for this weekend as well, and I'm deliberately not looking at the forecast in case I don't like what I see.

The late-night shopping tonight (Thursday) looks as if it will be really good with more shops than ever opening and many of them offering very tempting goodie bags. I've been saving some of my Christmas shopping for tonight (to be honest I haven't started yet) and I may have to pop into the distillery and Whisky and Fine Wine Shop just to warm me up as I go.

With all the nibbles and mulled wine on offer, I might

not need dinner and can just go straight to the Oban Inn for the quiz.

I'm really torn what to go to on Friday. I want to see *Murder on the Orient Express* in the cinema but I loved the Choir and Candles evening in St John's last time, so it may come down to flipping a coin.

On Saturday I think I might give the Tartan Dash at Ganavan a miss (but good luck to everyone who has the energy) and settle for a wander round the market at the distillery instead before I visit Santa at the Rockfield Centre to give him my present. I love the idea of giving to others instead of getting for a change.

A wee sample gin and chutney in the Kitchen Garden and the Christmas fair in the Congregational Church before a night out at either Supa and Da Kryptonites in the Corran Halls or the annual St Andrew's Pipe

Band ceilidh. I haven't decided yet. After all that, I'm not sure what I'll have the energy for on Sunday but I might start with the Victorian tea in the Corran Halls - it's always wonderful - before another wee wander round the distillery to sample all the delights, especially the haggis, and then I'm really looking forward to the hat parade and the fireworks.

I'm exhausted just thinking about it all but I'm really excited, too, and part of the fun is all the people you bump into.

It feels like the whole town is out and about for the festival. I love that the people of Oban are so good at supporting community events and charities. Our community is what makes Oban such a good place to live.

Last week's photo was of the steps beside *The Oban Times* slip and this week you might need to walk through some grass to see.

WHERE IS THIS?



Argyll and Bute Council Supporting Communities Fund

Make your community group's ideas a reality!

The Supporting Communities Fund is now open to **community groups**, awarding grants of **up to £2,500**.

The Argyll and Bute Council Supporting Communities Fund for community groups is now open and **this year is going digital**.

Visit abpb.co.uk to get involved, have your say and submit your ideas for £2,500 of project funding **before 22 December 2017**. You can also visit abpb.co.uk to see what ideas have been suggested, join in the discussion, offer your support and find out more.

The public vote will take place in April 2018.

To find out more, have your say and submit your idea visit **ABPB.CO.UK**

Need assistance to apply online? Telephone 01369 708669 for support.

Participatory Budgeting scheme by Argyll and Bute Council in conjunction with The Scottish Government

Hospice fundraiser is blooming marvellous

THE Friends of Oban Hospice, the fundraising arm of the facility, held a flower arranging event followed by an afternoon tea at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Sunday, with the event proving to be a sell-out.

The demonstration, which was a huge success, was given by well-known flower demonstrator Christine MacKenna, ably supported by her husband Richard. In addition to the professionalism of the demonstration, Christine regaled the audience, to much laughter, with many stories of her past experiences.

In his vote of thanks, committee member Iain MacIntyre paid tribute to the contribution made by the Friends towards achieving the goal of a standalone palliative care facility now established at Stevenson Street as The Dove Centre.

Iain made it clear that maintaining The Dove Centre would be dependent on the ongoing generosity of the community in terms of finance and the availability of volunteers.

Kathleen Black, event convener, paid tribute to all who had contributed their services, in particular those who had provided sandwiches and baking.



The Friends committee were delighted at the turnout for Christine MacKenna's presentation.

North Connel flats approved

A FORMER Oban councillor has been granted permission to build four flats in North Connel.

Iain MacLean applied to Argyll and Bute Council last January for a certificate of lawfulness to use his land north of Falls View Apartments in North Connel for 'general storage purposes'.

But the application drew many objections, including one neighbour who argued that the 'views of decaying caravans, a Portakabin, dead cars and junk...would make Steptoe's yard look organised'.

Others voiced fears it could devalue their property or 'cause

vermin infestation and disease'.

Mr MacLean apologised for 'the delays in the regularising process to achieve tidy storage ...due to circumstances which I have been unable to control', and in April withdrew that application.

A second was lodged in July applying to erect four two-bedroom flats at the site behind Falls View Apartments.

A single objector raised concerns about the 'hazardous ground', but the environmental health officer did not object to the plan, stating: 'It is not anticipated there will be significant issues from the presence of contaminated land.'

Cafe to flush away poverty

THE Real Food Café in Tyn-drum is taking a stance against consumerist driven Black Friday by raising funds for the charity Toilet Twinning.

The café is one of a growing number of organisations using the day, usually associated with unadulterated consumerism, to highlight the needs of others.

This week, until tomorrow's Black Friday (November 24), the café has been raising money for the world Toilet Twinning project which is working to bring safer sanitation and clean toilets to the one in three people who are without across the world.

This is the second year they have supported this cause.

The Real Food Café team has made special muffins with brilliant blue icing and the Toilet Twinning's squatting man for



Cafe owner Sarah Heward.

the occasion, with £1 from the sale of each £2.85 muffin donated towards building a toilet for a community that needs one.

Safety concerns stop work on Oban construction site

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

HEALTH and safety inspectors have stopped work on an Oban building site after concerns were raised with the watchdog.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is 'responsible for the encouragement, regulation and enforcement of workplace health, safety and welfare', confirmed inspectors had attended MacLeod Construction's Glenshellach site in

Oban and that two prohibition notices had been served on the developer.

HSE said on Tuesday it had also received concerns regarding work at other MacLeod Construction sites in Argyll and Bute, and 'is currently making further inquiries at this time'.

The independent body explains on its website: 'HSE inspectors normally enforce health and safety standards by giving advice on how to comply with the law. Sometimes we

must order people to make improvements by issuing them with a notice, either an Improvement Notice which allows time for the recipient to comply, or a Prohibition Notice which prohibits an activity until remedial action has been taken.'

HSE said it could not comment further due to the notices being in the appeal period and that 'following this they will be readily available for public view on HSE's enforcement database'.

A spokesperson for MacLeod Construction, which is based in Lochgilhead, said: 'I confirm that MacLeod Construction Limited is very proactive in abiding by health and safety regulations and in training our staff to carry out safe working procedures on all sites.'

'Health and safety begins at planning stage and our developments are designed in such a way as they are compliant with health and safety regulations.'

'We not only have an inde-

pendent health and safety consultant but have in-house staff fully trained in health and safety procedures.'

'Health and safety features on the agenda of weekly site agent meetings.'

'We work closely with the Health and Safety Executive and welcome their visits to our sites.'

'We appreciate the advice and assistance given to the construction industry by the Health and Safety Executive.'

D-Day for planning decisions

COUNCILLORS at Kilmory were expected to make decisions on two building projects yesterday.

Three crofter Karl Hughes hopes to build a campsite for 10 motorhomes and 10 tents at Balevullin, which has 12 letters of support and 18 objections.

And Graham MacQueen hopes councillors will not order the demolition of a recreational hut he built without permission for his disabled wife, near the famous Bridge over the Atlantic. The plan attracted 116 letters of support and 17 objections.

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- Chicken Liver Pate
- Confit Duck Spring Rolls
- Salt and Pepper Squid or Chicken
- Crayfish and Green Apple with Marie Rose Sauce
- Goat's Cheese and Roasted Red Onion Flatbread

Main Courses

- Pan Fried Sea Bream
- Roast of the Day
- Textures of Pork
- Rostis
- 8oz Steak Burger
- Mexican Chicken Burger
- Sirloin Steak
- Fish n Chips
- Braised Feather Blade of Beef
- Pea & Broad Bean Risotto
- Fajitas
- Potato Gnochi
- Penne Pasta Arrabiata

Desserts

- Raspberry Cranachan
- Sticky Toffee Pudding
- Cherry & Almond Tart
- Double Belgian Chocolate Brownie
- Trio of Ice Cream
- Tea and Coffee



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OT

Killin



Killin residents of all ages took part in a sponsored walk last week to raise money for Children in Need. Residents of the Falls of Dochart retirement home and the community raised £500 for the charity on Wednesday November 15. Killin Nursery and Killin Primary School pupils also took part in the walk from the Dochart Bridge to the retirement home.

Appin

MEMBERS of the Appin branch of the Scottish Women's Institute raised £200 at their annual whist drive in the village hall on Friday November 10.

President Brenda MacLeod welcomed everyone who had come along on such a wintry evening, before handing over to card master Alan MacKenzie. There was a break for tea at half-time to enjoy 'goodies' provided by members and the raffle was drawn as the scores were being checked.

Results: Ladies: 1 Marina MacInnes; 2 Doreen Evans; travelling prize, Marina MacInnes; Gents: 1 Moira Thomson; 2 Rebecca MacPhee; travelling prize, Mary MacNeill. Brenda thanked everyone who helped to make the evening a success.

Easdale



THE EASDALE branch of the Royal British Legion took part in two acts of remembrance at Balvicar memorial, Seil Island, and Kilchattan, Isle of Luing.

Both services were conducted by Martin Waddell. Wreaths were laid by Sandy Shairp for Royal British Legion Scotland and Rhona McKenzie on behalf of the fire service.

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Dunbeg



Dunbeg's bonfire and firework committee handed over a £2,500 cheque to Oban High School Pipe Band. 17_T47_Dunbeg01

DUNBEG'S bonfire and firework committee has presented £2,500 to Oban High School Pipe Band.

For the past two years, volunteers have organised a community bonfire in the village, with the proceeds of the event going to various charities. This year they opted to give the money to

the high school pipe band. Nan Johnstone, who helps run the band, said: "There are more and more members coming through, which means there are more uniforms to be bought and more spent on going to events."

Nan explained this includes transport and

accommodation costs for competitions.

"We always try to raise money through busking or grants, so anyone can take part. Donations like this are absolutely vital and I thank them for it."

Speaking about the event, organiser James MacDonal, said: "It was absolutely

outstanding and the fireworks were apparently brilliant. I couldn't see because I was underneath them."

"Mickey and Minnie Mouse went down a storm. You couldn't park in Dunbeg there were so many people there. We didn't have one complaint."

Helensburgh

HELENSBURGH clock tower has been bought by Tower Digital Arts Centre, a local charity 'at the heart of the town's community'.

The clock tower, which was formerly a VisitScotland iCentre, received a number of bids which were assessed based on detailed information pro-

vided by each prospective buyer. The scoring was carried out by key VisitScotland staff with community benefits being a major consideration. The new owners will explore the possibility of joining the network of VisitScotland Information Partners (VIPs). Launched in May 2016, the VIP

programme ties in with the national tourism organisation's global Spirit of Scotland campaign and harnesses the local knowledge, warmth and enthusiasm of partners across the country to help visitors receive the warmest of welcomes and make the most of their trip to Scotland.

Benderloch



Lochnell Primary School's Parent Council coffee morning.

LOCHNELL Primary School was buzzing last Saturday when its parent council held its annual fundraising coffee morning.

Parents, friends and grandparents came to the Benderloch school hall to enjoy teas, coffees and an abundance of home-baking and to view pupils' work.

As well as the fine fair, there were side stalls including a lucky dip, bottle stall, treasure hunt, guess the weight of the Christmas cake, lucky lollies, craft-making, coin curling, air football and the ever-popular home-baking stall.

A two-minute silence was observed at 11am in recog-

inition of it being Armistice Day. After two hours of filling tea and coffee cups and serving mountains of donated home-made cakes, £850 was raised.

A parent council spokesperson said: "We are grateful for all the support we received from people and pupils helping out on the day and from those providing goods for the stalls and home-baking. Thank you to everyone."

"The money raised helps to fund the annual Hallowe'en party, fun Christmas activities, bus hire for trips away, the folk group, attendance at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival and P7 leavers' presents."

Oban

THE ANNUAL Oban, Lorn and District Seniors Club Christmas lunch will take place on Monday December 11.

The event, funded by the Crerar Hotel Trust and the Rotary Club of Oban, will be held in the Oban Bay Hotel. Music will be provided by Michael Garvin, Tom Adams, Neil MacKay and guests.

Transport will be available to and from the lunch. To book a place, call 01631 564848.

Western Isles

TRADING Standards are reminding individuals and local groups in the Western Isles that they need a market operator's licence when goods are offered for sale to the public by more than one seller.

A licence is not required if all the proceeds are going to charity.

However, a licence is required, for example, where an individual, charity or community group organises a sale but some

or all of the sellers are in business. This includes sellers who are home and craft producers.

Sellers have to comply with consumer legislation and many products such as foodstuffs and toys have specific hygiene and safety regulations.

More information and an application form can be found on the comhairle website at: http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/licensing/eusd/eusd_marketoperator.asp

Appin

AFTER an absence of 15 years, the winter arts and crafts fair is returning to Appin Hall this weekend (November 25 and 26).

With vendors from all over Argyll taking part, it promises to showcase a wide variety of crafts including textiles, prints, wood crafts, tilework, mirrors, cards, crochet, furniture, Harris tweed bags and accessories, stained glass, knitting, baking and preserves.

So anyone looking for that 'unique' Christmas present or a special treat for themselves should pop in.

There will also be teas, coffees, home baking and soup. Opening times are 10am to 4pm on Saturday, and 11am to 5pm on Sunday.

At Random

MARTIN LAING
 mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Fingers crossed for Billy's release soon

YVONNE MacHugh has expressed genuine hope that her fiancé Billy Irving could soon be released from the hell of the Indian prison where he is being held.

Billy is the former paratrooper from Connel who was detained by Indian authorities while protecting shipping from Somali pirates.

Billy and five other former British servicemen were sentenced to five years of hard labour and are incarcerated in Chennai.

Their plight has been highlighted in *The Oban Times* on numerous occasions – as well as on other media – but their desperate situation has dragged on for far too long.

Britain's useless Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson swore to 'leave no stone unturned' in his efforts to have the Chennai Six, as they are known, released.

He has actually done precisely nothing to protect the interests of these British citizens, all of whom bravely served this country in our armed forces.

I hope so much that Yvonne's optimism is not misplaced now that the Indian judiciary has said the men's latest appeal will be ruled on within a week.

It would be absolutely amazing if Billy and the others were freed and could make it home in time for Christmas.

I have no doubt Mr Johnson,



David and Agnes MacKechnie the day before the accident.

being the full-of-bluster typical politician that he is, will try to claim the credit when the men are eventually released.

He should not, though, as he has been notable only for his complete lack of action.

Great credit to the MacKechnie family

THE PAST few weeks have been exceedingly difficult for one Oban family.

As we have reported extensively, Agnes MacKechnie was seriously injured in a hit-and-run road accident at Hallowe'en while on holiday visiting her brother in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Agnes remains in St Luke's Hospital but, according to her daughter Karen and sister Sharon Bratton, is making a remarkable recovery after a series of surgical procedures.

Karen and Sharon have been so accommodating in responding to my requests for information about Agnes' condition.

Without their assistance, we would not have been able to keep Agnes' many friends updated through the pages of *The Oban Times* and on social media.

I hope sincerely that Agnes continues to make progress, although it will be a long haul for her and there is no indication yet as to when she will be able to come home.

I thank the family for all their help.

Festival is a real treat for town

I TIP my tile to the tireless organisers of the annual Oban Winter Festival.

Just as the dark, cold nights of winter clutch us in their miserable embrace, up pops the yearly feast of fun.

One of the highlights each year is the opening ceremony and Santa's reindeer parade, culminating in the Christmas lights switch-on in Station Square.

All this week there have been great events taking place in numerous venues across the town and they have attracted substantial interest among local residents.

As ever, these kind of civic celebrations would not be able to go ahead without the significant effort of a number of people. The winter festival organising committee works all year round to set up the fantastic events that have so well entertained so many people.

And there is much more still to come, with a host of events over the next few days, culminating in the pyrotechnic explosion of the fireworks on Sunday. Don't miss it.

What do you think?

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

oban WINTER FESTIVAL

Vote for the 2017 Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

Win a luxury box of chocolates from the Oban Chocolate Company

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

Vote for the 2017 Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

Post entries to Best Dressed Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

Entries must be submitted by Monday November 27, 2017

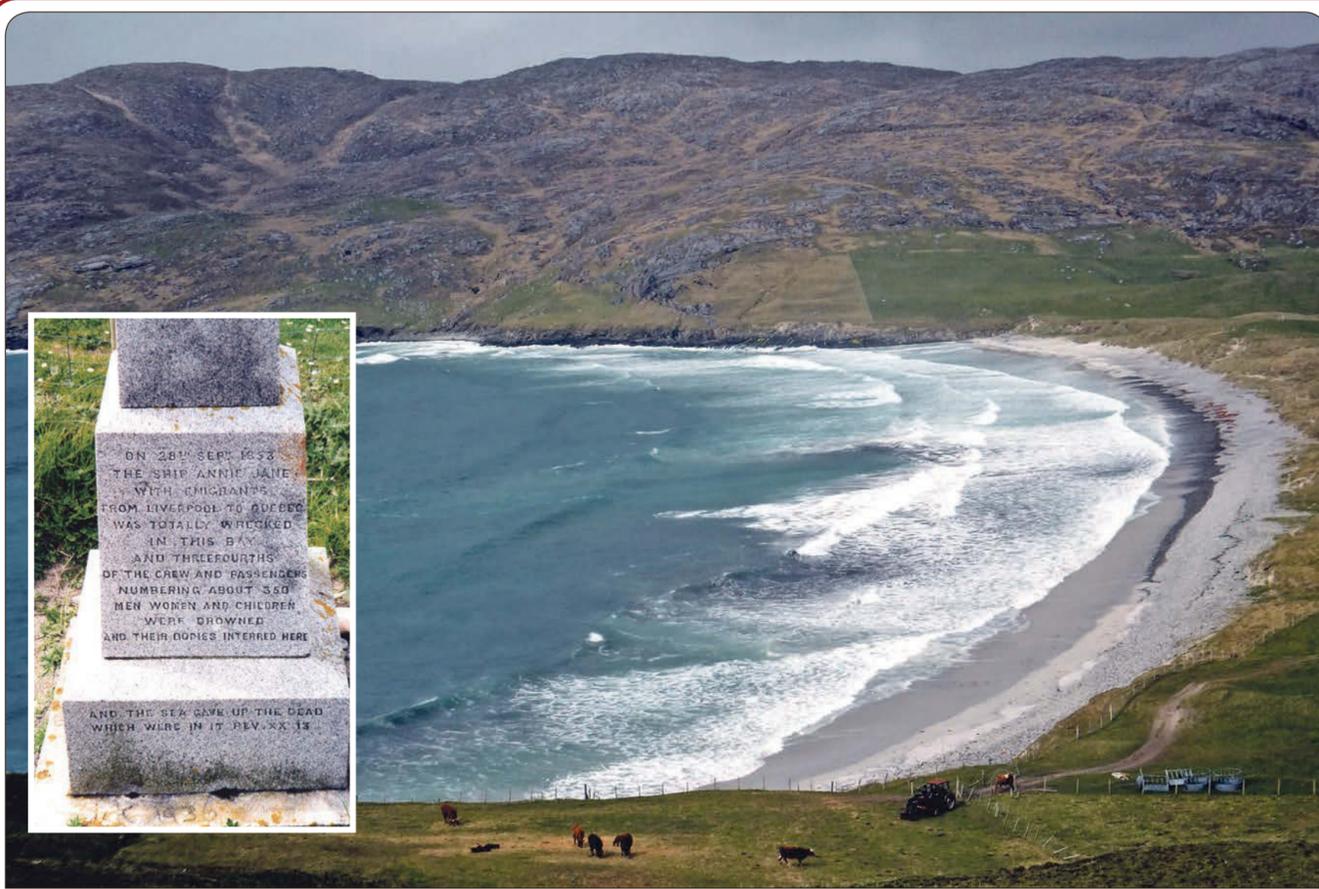
Your winner for this year's Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

Name

Address

Telephone

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



An obelisk stands on the bay where the *Annie Jane* foundered, with the loss of around 350 men, women and children. Photographs: Allan Murray.

Island's forgotten disaster

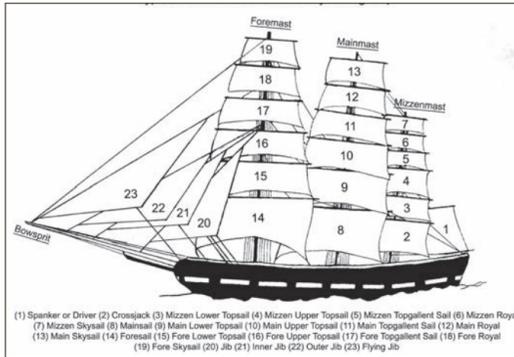
SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW book reveals the 'untold story' of the wreck of the *Annie Jane*, a 'forgotten island disaster' off the Isle of Vatersay which claimed hundreds of lives.

At almost midnight on September 28 1853, the *Annie Jane* was wrecked in a horrendous storm and driven ashore on the small island of Vatersay in the Outer Hebrides, with the loss of up to 350 passengers and crew.

On a walk on Vatersay during the millennium, Lewis author Allan F Murray encountered a tall granite obelisk, paid for by Robert Macfie, which reads: 'On September 28, 1853, the ship *Annie Jane*, with emigrants from Liverpool to Quebec, was totally wrecked in this bay and three fourths of the crew and passengers, numbering about 350 men, women and children, were drowned and their bodies interred here. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it. [Rev. XX 12].'

'Looking round that peaceful place, it was hard to believe



The *Annie Jane's* sail plan. Photograph: Rebecca Murray.

that something traumatic had ever occurred there. I turned to my companion and declared: 'Quebec or the bottom,' he said. The carnage and chaos of the shipwreck, and up to 350 dead strewn all along that beach, and the 102 survivors being given reluctant hospitality on the small, remote island of Vatersay, some of them for up to a fortnight, being told to mind the pigs as they slept in the sty.

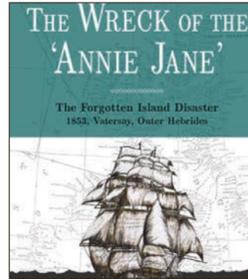
A single booklet, entitled *Shipwrecked on Vatersay*, drew him even more into the story. 'A new ship; an aborted, disastrous first voyage; a fractious legal case to try to recover passage money; reluctant passengers who had to take passage again because it was that or starve in Liverpool. 'Then the second voyage, a

near mutiny, and the captain, William Mason, holding the passengers off with a revolver: 'Quebec or the bottom,' he said. The carnage and chaos of the shipwreck, and up to 350 dead strewn all along that beach, and the 102 survivors being given reluctant hospitality on the small, remote island of Vatersay, some of them for up to a fortnight, being told to mind the pigs as they slept in the sty.

'Then came the looting of the wreck and the bodies, the trip back to civilisation, with some



Allan Murray's new book will be released in Stornoway.



of the survivors taking a month to return to their homes. Subsequently, the public outcry, then an official inquiry in Liverpool and the controversial result.

'Then this accidental monument, not put up by government, emigrant organisation or relatives of the deceased, but out of the goodness of one individual.

'Without it, the disaster would have been forgotten.'

Mr Murray's research discovered two eyewitness accounts, one from a 'ragged school' orphan being sent to Canada to begin a new life, published in late 1853 in the *Ragged School*

Magazine, and a 19-year-old man, Marc Ami, a cabin-class passenger, whose memoir *Le Naufrage de l' Annie Jane* was written in 1856, but not published until 1891 in Quebec.

The publisher said the book is a fitting memorial to the brave emigrants who did not make it.

For the first time, the names of those who perished and survived one of the worst shipwrecks in British maritime history is recorded for posterity.

□ *The Wreck of the Annie Jane: the Forgotten Island Disaster* will be released on Tuesday November 28 at Stornoway Library.

Amazed by wonders of migration

MORVERN LINES
IAIN THORNER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

THERE is surely nothing more exciting than witnessing the annual migration of thousands of birds, fish and animals, large and small, familiar and unrecognised.

Somehow, from somewhere, out of the blue, over the sea, down from the sky and across land they come, making their way against the odds that would appal any human, crossing seas and countries in the darkness of the night, and yet arriving, as often as not, at the same place they left the previous autumn.

Who has not thrilled to Sir David Attenborough's wonderful films of the awesome numbers of wildebeest braving crocodile attacks in the Mara River as they migrate annually from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the greener pastures of the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya during July through to October? It is Africa's most incredible spectacle and often referred to as the 'World Cup of Wildlife'.

Although Argyll cannot produce such dramatic hoofed sights these days, there are still some seasonal arrivals and departures that take the breath away.

A few decades ago in early spring, salmon and sea trout used to migrate upstream to spawn in their thousands. Not so very long ago, I stood in the darkness on the banks of



Grey seal pups look innocent but have razor sharp teeth. Photograph: Iain Thorner.

the upper reaches of the River Ailort between Arieniskill and Loch Eilt on a spring tide, hearing them battling their way over the rapids and through the shallow water making a noise which was almost deafening as they moved forward en masse into the loch.

But for a few grizzly bears, bald sea eagles and wolves, one might have been in Alaska along with the Chinook and sockeye salmon.

And so it used to be at the mouth of the rivers Aline, Shiel, Moidart, Barr, White Glen, Kinlochteacuis, Coinnich (Kingairloch), Gour, Cona, Awe, the Scaddle and just about every other river on the west coast. There was no need for the dubious catch-and-release scheme then.

Today the fish have virtually disappeared and the emptiness is palpable. Where have the salmon and sea trout gone?

What has happened? Anyone who solved this puzzle would become a millionaire overnight.

Another extraordinary sight is the migration of tiny common eels (*Anguilla vulgaris*) from their breeding grounds off the West Indies to the freshwater rivers and lochs of the British Isles. Their life story is one of the strangest in the natural history world. There are two sorts: yellow eels and silver eels. Young eels, or elvers, move up river in spring and large eels return in the autumn.

Until recently, nothing was known of their breeding grounds or their migration. By climbing onto each other's backs, elvers can scale high waterfalls. They will also travel for quite long distances overland, wriggling across fields and through damp grass until they find their way into rivers and lochs where they may remain for 10 years and more. To enable them to

journey in this miraculous way, they have several gill slits, each with a cavity that can be closed with a membrane so they can carry sufficient moisture with them as they travel.

In the history of evolution, which is the story of the great race of life through the ages, there are some fish who gradually left the sea for a life on the seashore and became half aquatic and half land-living animals.

Millions of years ago, these amphibious creatures found homes further inland and eventually abandoned the water altogether.

They were the forefathers of today's seals and became extinct, while those that remained by the coast found they were in less danger and, learning to swim, hunted for food offshore. They lived entirely in the water, except for brief spells on land when the sun was warm,

and during the breeding season. Generally, there are two types of seals found around Argyll's coastline - the grey seal, of which there are literally thousands, and the common seal, which is not quite so plentiful as its name suggests. During the autumn, when the equinoctial gales send the great Atlantic rollers crashing against the rocky cliffs of the west, grey seal bulls fight with one another for their mates. One male, if he is large enough, will collect a whole harem and guard it against all-comers. Males can be nine feet long and often weigh up to 55 stone.

Seals migrate to traditional calving grounds in October and what a spectacle they make, coming in to have their pups. I have watched grey seals calving on Soa Island off Iona and Fladda and Cairnburg Mor in the Treshnish Isles. Here there are sheltered bays and sandy beaches, allowing the heavily pregnant cows to heave themselves out of the water and upwards, sometimes 50 feet beyond the high-water mark, to produce young among bracken-covered boulders.

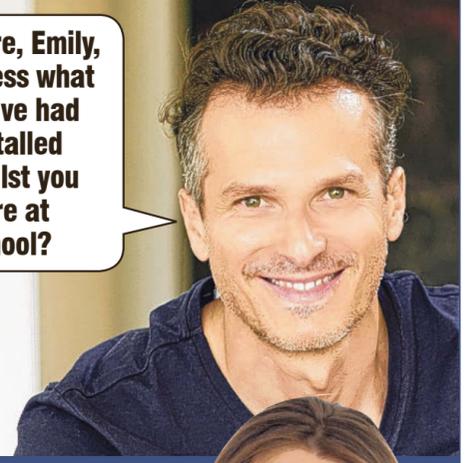
When the pups are born and licked clean by their mothers, they are almost pure white and the picture of innocence. But beware: they have strong jaws and teeth as sharp as razors.

Woe betide any man or beast who comes between mother and child.

Iain Thorner
iain.thorner@btinternet.com

Mike becomes the apple of his daughters eye after an early Christmas gift arrives...

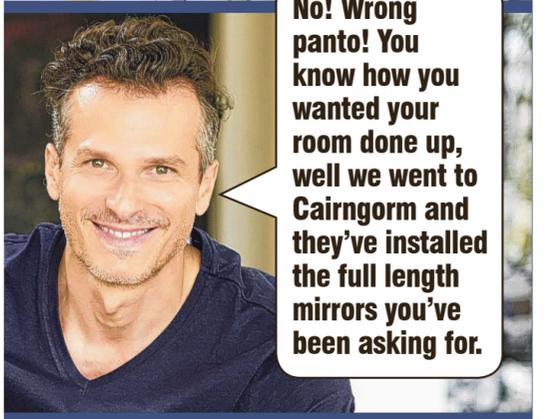
Here, Emily, guess what we've had installed whilst you were at school?



Oh I don't know, a giant beanstalk?



No! Wrong panto! You know how you wanted your room done up, well we went to Cairngorm and they've installed the full length mirrors you've been asking for.



Oh dad that's amazing! Perfect for my selfies. You're the best dad.



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'We watched as a golden eagle stooped at a deer'

EWAN MILES

witnessed a rare spectacle of an eagle attacking a deer

DURING a wildlife excursion on the Isle of Mull this autumn, we observed an incredibly rare natural spectacle.

It was mid-afternoon and we were travelling west alongside one of Mull's many sea lochs, which indent the island greatly. I was scanning the terraced skyline and spotted a large bird stooping down vigorously at something on ground level which was out of view.

The general profile and behaviour of the bird confirmed that this was a golden eagle and it was in hunting mode.

As the group and I got into a better position, we discovered that the noble bird was mobbing a red deer 'nursery group' consisting of adult females (hinds) and their young from this year (fawns).

The eagle managed to break a mother and its youngster away from the herd and the avian predator then made a very bold move as it attempted to grasp the fawn in its talons, but was unsuccessful. This action was amazingly captured on camera by one of our guests, David Banasiak.

I've read about this behaviour in golden eagle literature but



One of Ewan Miles's clients captured this dramatic picture of a golden eagle attacking a deer.

feel privileged to have been in the right place to witness this eagle ecology taking place. Golden eagles are highly

opportunistic hunters and can prey on anything from a meadow pipit of 15g to a new-born red deer at 15kg.

I'll always remember a primary school class trip to a natural history museum when I saw a stuffed golden eagle, so power-

ful and elegant on display.

My thoughts were: 'There is no way that can be a species in existence today, it has to be something out of a movie.'

Since then, wild encounters with this species have helped inspire me and spark a more

committed interest in our natural heritage.

In Latin, this species is called 'aquila reale', the royal eagle, and on every golden eagle encounter I am tempted to bow down when I see that heraldic pose.

Mull man voted best newcomer in national leisure competition

MULL entrepreneur Ewan Miles has won the award for best newcomer at the Scottish outdoor leisure awards in Glasgow for his new tourism business Nature Scotland.

The company, established in 2016, provides wildlife tours on the island.

Speaking about the Nature Scotland's first award, Ewan said: 'I am delighted to win the award after making the final with so many

other excellent new outdoor and leisure businesses in Scotland.'

Speaking about his aspirations, the 30-year-old said he wanted to continue to give as much back as possible to wildlife and the environment, and make a difference to help nature. Another ambition, he added, was to get 'involved in golden eagle survey work, a species which helped spark the wildness in me.'



THIS WEEK'S WALKS

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

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

Thursday November 23 Kingshouse to Bridge of Orchy Rannoch Moor

This crossing of Rannoch Moor

is a classic section of the West Highland Way. It follows the line of a Telford Parliamentary Road across a wilderness of heather and bog encircled by grand mountains.

Start at the Kings House Hotel, NN259546, where ample parking is available. Head SE on a good track for 1.3km, cross the A82 and turn S to Blackrock Cottage. Turn on to the wide, well-surfaced footpath of the WHW and follow it S across the moorland for 12km to join the public road at Victoria Bridge. Follow the road to the Inveroran Hotel, the take the

WHW up E, over Mam Carraigh and down to Bridge of Orchy. Transport required.

The length of this walk can be shortened by starting at Glencoe SC and/or finishing at Victoria Bridge or the Inveroran Hotel. At the expense of an extra 1km, the final ascent of Mam Carraigh can be avoided by finishing at Tulla Cottage. The entire route may be reversed to take advantage of the prevailing weather.

Grade: M; Distance: 18km; Height to climb: 348m; Map(s): LR41/50, EX384/377. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at

8.10am or Glencoe village car park at 9.10am. Start at 9.30am. Leader: Fiona Wild 07879 495165.

Saturday November 25 Carn Dearg (South East) Glen Roy

One of three Corbetts in the vicinity of Glen Roy with the same name, this one forms part of a pleasant circuit with great views and a varied, interesting terrain.

Start 400m SW of Brae Roy Lodge at NN333911, where off-road parking is available. Walk back to the bridge at NN330909, cross the river and head S up the steep hillside to Carn Bhruna-

chain, 723m. Continue SE to the summit of Carn Dearg, 834m.

A gentle descent E leads to a watershed. Climb E to the rocky summit of Creag Tharsuinn, 719m. Follow its NE ridge down to the Burn of Agie and the Dog Falls. From here a path heads N, then W along the lower slopes of Torr o'Sonn to reach Annat. Follow the track alongside the River Roy to Brae Roy Lodge and back to the start.

Grade: M+; Distance: 14km; Height to climb: 670m; Map(s): LR34, EX400. Meet at Fort William woollen mill for 9.15am sailing.

Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday November 26 Stob Ban

Start at the Scout Hut at NN253806, where restricted parking is available, (or 2km further south at NN255788, but the track is rough). Follow the track

around Corriechoille House and continue S through The Lairig, in an area of forest recently cleared.

Follow the track as far as the bothy. From the bothy head SW up stream to cross on the bridge and follow the NE ridge of Stob Ban to its summit. If weather and snow conditions permit, descend the N ridge to a col then head E down a rocky coire with impressive slabs. This leads back to the bothy. Otherwise return by the same route as ascent.

Distance: 18km; Height to climb: 1050m. Suggested and coordinated by Toril Frantzen.

Experts urge safety in winter mountains

HILLWALKERS and climbers are being urged to stay safe as they prepare to enjoy what for many is the most rewarding season of the year.

With winter now starting to bite, many hillwalkers and climbers will be looking out their ice axes, crampons and head-torches. But mountaineering experts have stressed that it takes much more than this to be ready for winter.

Mountaineering Scotland has highlighted the high quality of online information which can be easily accessed before heading for the hills.

Mountain safety adviser Heather Morning said: 'There are some excellent resources for mountain weather information. Check out www.mwis.org.uk and the excellent new Met Office mountain pages at www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecasts

'If there is snow on the ground, then check the sportscotland Avalanche Information Service (SAIS) at <http://www.sais.gov.uk/>, which provides free daily reports on snow conditions and an avalanche forecast for six mountain areas of Scotland.'

General advice is also available through the Mountaineering Scotland website at www.mountaineering.scot and, in partnership with Tiso and Cotswold stores, the organisation is running a free winter safety lecture tour. Check out www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and-skills/courses-and-events/winter-safety-lectures for dates and venues.

Heather added: 'Folk heading

out onto the hills in winter should take advantage of the advice and information on offer to ensure a safe and enjoyable day.

'As well as making sure you have an ice axe and crampons that fit, remember that winter days are shorter and colder, so a head-torch with spare batteries is essential. A simple bivouac shelter is also a very good addition to the kit you carry in your winter rucksack.'

Kev Mitchell, vice-chairman of Scottish Mountain Rescue, said: 'Mountain rescue in Scotland is provided free by world class volunteers on call at all times and in all weathers. We fully endorse the Mountaineering Scotland winter safety message and would encourage hillgoers to ensure that they have left details of their intended route and expected return time.'

'People should also be aware of and use the latest navigation and location technology such as GPS or OS locate and other similar apps to avoid navigation errors. However, it is critical that a paper map and a compass are carried and that people know how to use them.'

'If you require assistance on the hills, dial 999 for police then mountain rescue.'

For more essential winter mountaineering advice go to the Mountaineering Scotland website at www.mountaineering.scot/activities/mountaineering/winter-mountaineering.

For more details of Scottish Mountain Rescue teams see <http://www.scottishmountainrescue.org>.

Giant finches on rise

AN UNUSUALLY high number of giant finches look likely to arrive in Scotland this winter.

There have been record sightings of hawfinches in England and Wales and now they are reportedly travelling north with several already having been spotted here in the past week.

The influx is a real treat as these birds are shy and elusive, and there are thought to be fewer than 1,000 pairs in the UK.

Hawfinches are the nutcrackers of the bird world, with their massive parrot like bills that can

crack even the hardest nutshells. They are also very attractive birds, patterned with autumnal shades, including a rich chestnut head, rose-pink breast and black-and-white wing markings.

The number of hawfinches that nest in the UK has declined dramatically in recent years, but each winter birds from the continent travel to Britain searching for food.

This year, however, the numbers seen have been much larger than normal, with hundreds of sightings recorded.



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New Fort hospital plans well under way

PLANS to build a new hospital in Fort William are well under way, according to the project's senior officer.

NHS Highland operations director Gill McVicar has been named as the senior responsible officer for the project and says work on a replacement for Belford Hospital at Blar Mhor is going well.

'I am pleased to confirm there is now an established structure to our internal management of the project and this will enable more rapid progress to be made,' Mrs McVicar explained.

The health board announced in September that funding for a replacement for the Belford Hospital was included in NHS Highland's five-year capital plan.

A steering group, including local clinical staff and members of the community, is overseeing work to prepare an initial agreement for the project.

Mrs McVicar continued: 'The aim is to have a draft clinical model by the end of January 2018 and this will be shared with internal and external stakeholders before refining and presenting to the Scottish Government in May 2018. The initial agreement is the next stage in the process around six months later. Thereafter we will progress to the outline business case by summer 2019.'

In October 2015, the Highland Council bought land in Fort William at Blar Mhor from Tesco for £2 million. The site has been made available for a new hospital, which could incorporate a new science academy for the West Highland College.

Daughter of crushed forestry man overwhelmed by support

MARK ENTWISTLE
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

THE DAUGHTER of a forestry worker badly injured when he was crushed by a falling tree in Glen Loy, near Fort William, last week, says she has been overwhelmed by people's support following her dad's accident.

Tree surgeon David Munro was seriously hurt when the 100ft tree fell and crushed him during logging operations on Friday.

Mr Munro, 52, is believed to have been in the process of felling the tree, when it rolled off its stump and trapped him.

He sustained serious pelvic and leg injuries and the incident saw a massive rescue operation triggered involving a range of emergency services, including a Coastguard helicopter.

Seventeen members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) joined ambulance and police personnel at the scene of the incident.

Mr Munro received emergency first aid before being winched into the helicopter and flown to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, where he has already undergone operations in preparation for a transfer to a hospital in Glasgow, closer to his home.

Mr Munro works with his family firm, Heather Country Services, based at Glendaruel in Argyll, which provides tree maintenance services, and will be well-known in the forestry industry in Lochaber.

This week, Heather Munro, from Otter Ferry in Argyll, confirmed her dad was now conscious and slowly improving.

'The nurses say he is doing well and the plan is for him to be moved to a hospital nearer home soon,' Heather told the *Lochaber Times*.

'We are obviously just so very, very grateful to all the emergency services, including members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, and fellow forestry workers, who helped dad.'

'And there has been huge support from dad's friends and members of the community, which has been amazing.'

Lochaber MRT described the rescue as an excellent example of a multi-agency response in difficult terrain.

LMRT leader John Stevenson told the *Lochaber Times* the huge tree had been lifted clear of Mr Munro by his fellow forestry workers using their machinery.

'It was a comprehensive response to this incident with a large turnout of emergency personnel, including our own paramedics and nurses,' he said.

'The man had suffered very serious injuries and the danger with crush injuries like those is that getting a person free and relieving the weight can make matters worse.'

'You have to be extremely careful in dealing with these type of incidents.'

'We had to move the man to more of a clearing so the helicopter was happy to come in.'

The site involved was at the top of a clearfell site making access for rescue personnel difficult.

The helicopter winched Mr Munro from a small clearing with assistance from a team on the ground using a highline to ensure its winchman and stretcher avoided the surrounding trees.



Above: A Coastguard helicopter gets into position to winch aboard injured forestry worker David Munro after an accident in Glen Loy last week.



We are obviously very grateful to all the emergency services

Heather Munro



Left: David in happier times.



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Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

There are two stories in *The Oban Times* this week that will resonate with a large number of people in the town and across the Argyll area.

One is the continuing recovery from extremely serious injuries of Agnes MacKechnie, the well-known Oban woman who was hurt in a dreadful hit-and-run accident at Hallowe'en while she was on holiday in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in the United States.

The other is the tragically untimely death of Janice Alexander, an enormously popular figure at Oban High School, where she worked, and with everyone involved

in Oban Saints youth football, to which she devoted a large amount of time and energy.

The loss of Janice has been a bitter blow for all who knew her, but especially, of course, for her family. There is sure to be a large turnout of mourners at Janice's funeral tomorrow (Friday November 24) at St Oran's Church in Connel.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Janice's family and to anyone who knew her.

And we wish Agnes all the best as she continues on her long road to recovery.



Days gone by – 2012

The children of Tobermory RNLI's volunteer crew have recreated photographer Nigel Millard's iconic image almost five years to the day after it was taken in November 2012. The original photograph, above, was featured both in Nigel's acclaimed book *The Lifeboat and the Courage on Our Coasts* exhibition which toured the UK and Ireland in 2013 and 2014. The image features children of Tobermory's volunteer crew wearing their fathers' kit.

The latest photograph, right, was by Tobermory RNLI's lifeboat operations manager, Dr Sam Jones, to mark the fifth anniversary of the original. Five years on, Alexander Anderson (far right back), son of former station mechanic Jock Anderson, is now a member of the crew having joined earlier this year aged 17.



MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The following lyrics on that theme are from a new song we will release in December.

Wishing Well – Angus MacPhail
When the white cold of Christmas will cover the morn
May your wounds all be healed and your love be reborn
And the mid-winter memories long in the glow
Be real as you walk on the snow.
Chorus
Let us join by the glow where the clear waters flow
From the wishing well high on the hill.
Forever we'll feel, but the waters will heal
From the wishing well high on the hill.
Live the unbridled magic of life long ago

When our hearts were as whole as we felt them before
Before the blind reapers brought dark to the day
And our dreams of the dawn washed away.
Your steps are in time and your tune holds the key
And your smile it still lights the gifts under the tree;

Eternal the flame, you will always return
And will dance in the land of the young.
The Star of the Sea in the clear winter skies
Gives the guidance of old and the light never dies.
Your spirit was strong, now silent your song
But your soul with the Polestar shines on.
May the wrongs of the world never banish the right
Be the stranger still welcome from the cold winter night.
Our manger is warm, there is room at the inn
And the wishing well heals from within.

Billy Irving
On a not unrelated note, Billy Irving and his 34 detained colleagues will find out on Monday November 27 whether they will gain their freedom and be able to spend this Christmas at home reunited with their families, or if they will be left to languish in an Indian jail. All our goodwill and hopes are with Billy and his fellow prisoners.



Social media

There was an outpouring of grief following the announcement of the death of Janice Alexander, a beloved member of staff at Oban High School and a stalwart of Oban Saints Youth Football Club.

Catherine Wylie posted: 'So sorry to hear such sad news, lovely lady in every way, thoughts are prayers are with lan and the boys, herMum and mother in law. Will miss her smile and waving every morning as she passed by my house.'

Ann Matheson said: 'A sad day especially for her family a lovely girl always with a smile on her face.'

Lindsay Allward wrote: 'Such sad news, such a lovely lady, thoughts are with Janice's family.'

Sheena MacLennan posted: 'I am so

very sad to read this. Janice was a beautiful woman inside and out, she will be truly missed by all the lovely people of Oban.'

Doreen Gordon commented: 'Beautiful lady inside and out, so sad, sending heartfelt condolences to all her family.'

Ruth Oliver posted: 'Very sorry to hear this, sympathies to lan and family.'

Iain Davidson offered: 'All our thoughts are with lan & boys at this very sad time. Sleep tight Janice.'

Pat Tyrrell said: 'I am so sad to hear of Janice's death. All those of us whose kids benefitted from their time in Oban Saints owe her a huge debt. She has been an inspiring woman. Thoughts and love to her family.'

Malcolm Leatham remembered: 'Was a lovely person thinking off all the family

my that's go to you all take care.'

Mary Nicolson wrote: 'An amazing lady with a heart of gold, you'll be truly missed love Mary Jane and Christine.'

Dorothy Lockhart said: 'Thoughts are with you lan and family.'

Linda MacDonald commented: 'Lovely lady. Condolences.'

Gwen Cameron posted: 'Thoughts are with lan and the boys. Treasure the happy memories.'

Duggie Mackiggan wrote: 'Very sad news, deepest sympathy to lan and family.'

Colline Mackiggan said: 'Caring thoughts to lan and the boys also the extended family, a lovely lady and neighbour.'

Emily Cornelius commented: 'Sorry to hear this my thoughts are with you all.'

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.

Proposed savings are unfair for Jura

Sir,
I was dismayed to read that the Argyll and Bute consultation on money-saving schemes specifically singles out the community of Jura to bear the costs of proposed additional ferry fare increases, as one potential source of additional funds. Jura is a success story in terms of new businesses, new opportunities and a rising primary school roll, but with no mainland link, we depend on our ferry connection to Islay for everything.

This short, lifeline crossing, operated by skilful and dedicated crews, already bears the dubious honour of having among the highest fares per kilometre of any crossing in Europe. Fares have gone up substantially more than inflation for at least the past decade, notably with a 35 per cent increase in one single blow, when residents' discounts were abruptly withdrawn in 2010.

Furthermore, since centralising much of Jura's service provision through Islay was a key part of a previous money-saving plan, raising revenue through the necessity of residents gaining access to such essentials as eye tests, dental care, high school parents' meetings and hospital appointments makes this a particularly unjustifiable proposal.

We simply have no alternative. It's like proposing a Jura-only tax.

Finally, to invite nearly 90,000 Argyll and Bute residents to be able to have a say about a potentially damaging measure which would only affect a vulnerable community of 200 souls is unjust and unethical - for them and for us.

Any 'service choice' for cutting budgets should be borne across the entire community or not at all. It would be profoundly unfair - and morally unthinkable - for me or my neighbours to make choices which would have a detrimental effect on community services which would only impact on, say, Campbeltown or Lochgilphead.

Nevertheless, this consultation offers a very similar opportunity for residents living in Helensburgh or Oban, or anywhere else, to influence a lifeline ferry service for distant, out-of-sight and out-of-mind Jura.

Philip Kitching,
Inverlussa, Jura.

Rural Argyll is being sidelined by SNP

Sir,
I attended the latest council administration meeting where I spoke of how important it is that Islay's infrastructure is dramatically improved.

I have no doubt that business across Argyll and Bute is growing well... [but] for our local infrastructure to support this great economic growth we will need to see our money from the Scottish Government increase, not decrease.

The SNP likes to forget that the

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



MURA BIODH SPIORAD CHARTHANNNAIS is bith-eòran ann an nàdar dhaoine nuair a tha àm na Nollaige a' teannadh oirnn 's neònach gum biodh uimhir de dh'arrtasana taice a' taomadh tro na dorsan againn.

Chan ann gun aithne a tha luchd-to-gail airgid nam buidhnean sin ag iomairt idir, agus gu h-iongantach ged a tha cosgaisean theaghlach uile nas àirde mu dheireadh na bliadhna, tha e coltach gum bheil daoine nas deiseile airgead a thoirt seachad dha carthannais cuideachd. Ge b' e dè an t-adhbhar, tha e coltach gum bheil sinn a' freagairt thagraidhean nan liuthad buidheann a tha a' ruigheachd oirnn, agus nach math gur ann mar sin a tha agus gum bheil na caochladh chartannais sin air chomas taic is cobhair a thoirt dha diolan-dèirce a tha an cruaidh fheum cuideachaidh.

Gu mi-fhortanach chan eil meud neo ire an fheum sin a' sioladh air chor sam bith eadar feumalachdan chuid a' fulang sgrìos aimsire neo chrith-thalmhainn, neo feadhainn air an glacadh gu neo-chiontach ann an cogaidhean bho nach fhaigh iad teicheadh. Bho chionn làithean

union dividend it is so hell bent on getting rid of up to £1,750 for each person in Scotland.

That very surplus sent north of the border by our UK government is just not properly getting through to our rural constituencies once placed in the hands of the incompetent Scottish Government.

Sadly, with the SNP being both hopelessly urban and separation obsessed, I fear that we in rural Argyll will continue to be sidelined.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Let us use the station car park for free

Sir,
I'm sure many Obanites have noticed that the station car park has been closed for some time, certainly for many weeks.

I wrote to ScotRail over three weeks ago asking when the problem would be fixed, as parking to pick up visitors from a train or ferry has become very difficult without getting in the way of taxis and pier traffic.

I was told that the sensor under the road was faulty and that ScotRail couldn't confirm a timescale for it to be fixed.

As the company is allowing taxis and staff cars in, couldn't ScotRail also allow the public to use the car park for free until the problem is sorted? It would save a great deal of frustration.

Maurice Wilkins,
Laurel Road, Oban.

Was councillor not in favour of austerity?

Sir,
I can sympathise with Councillor Alastair Redman in his concerns about the proposed closure of public toilets on Islay (Letters, *The Oban Times*, November 9).

These and other cuts in services across the county are likely to come into effect as the administration seeks to resolve its forthcoming budget. Nobody would pretend that such reductions in service are welcome.

One matter puzzles me though. Is not Councillor Redman a Conservative member of the controlling group on the council? When last I saw him on a public platform, he was advocating and enthusiastically supporting the policy of austerity being pursued by his party.

Ken MacColl,
Villa Road, Oban.

Trying to trace an American visitor

Sir,
I am writing to you to see if you can help me in my quest to try to contact the relative of a gentleman and his wife I met on the train travelling up to Oban on September 27 this year.

They were from America and enjoying their first trip to Scotland as their son-in-law is a marine engineer working in Oban for six months.

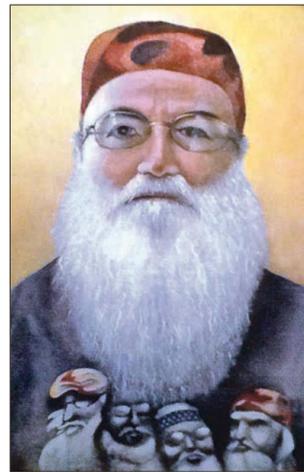
The gentleman was a colourful character and he gave me his permission to take his picture, from which I have since painted him.

He was a fan of an American show on television called *Duck Dynasty*, which he obviously fashioned himself on, as you can see from the picture I painted.

I thought it would be a nice idea if I could somehow contact his relative in Oban to get the gentleman's address in order to send him the painting as a memento of his trip to Scotland.

I understand this is a long shot, but perhaps worth a try.

Margaret Meek,
29 Douglas Drive,
Garrowhill, Baillieston,
Glasgow G69 6NJ.



Proper crossing is needed at new school

Sir,
A traffic-light pelican crossing is urgently required in the area about Matheson's furniture store and Millpark area to accommodate the school children arriving and departing the new high school when it opens.

Cars often flout the 30mph speed limit coming down from the fire station area, so a crossing would lessen the chance of an accident here.

Stephen Jones,
by email.

Positive move by Atlantis Leisure

Sir,
I was very pleased to find that the cafe at Atlantis Leisure is now offering customers their drinks in china mugs or cups, as an alternative to paper ones with plastic lids.

This gives customers more choice and helps reduce the amount of plastic waste which is so detrimental to the environment.

Gill Moore,
Brochroy Croft, Taynuilt.

Ailean Caimbeul

tha sinn air a bhith a' faicinn is a' cluinntinn sgeulachdan mu bhuidh aithne air a' faicinn is a' cluinntinn sgeulachdan ann an tè de na dùthchannan Arabach, a' Yemen, an dùthaich as bochda anns an Ear-Mheadhanach.

Fad còrr air trì bliadhna a-nise tha sabaid eadar feachdan an riaghaltais agus neo-eisimeilich air eaconamaidh na dùthcha a bhriseadh agus tha faisg air trì chairteil de shluagh na dùthcha, mu thimcheall air naoi millean deug neach, feumach air cobhair dhaonnachd, agus biadh, uisge, agus cungaidhean-leighis. Dh'fheumadh neach a bhith cruaidh da-rìribh nach biodh air a ghluasad gu sàr thruas a' coimhead nan dealbhan de chloinn agus inbhich a' bàsachadh le cion bidh is uisge. 'S dòcha gun tug na dealbhan sin buaidh air fialaidheachd an t-sluagh a thug seachad còrr air caogad millean not, air an aon oidhche, dha tagradh Chlann ann an Èis aig a' BhBc.

Abair coibhneas an sin, agus chan eil teagamh nach tig mòran cofhurtachd agus faothachadh às an sponan luachmhor seo. Ach air an aon t-seachdain 's a bha dealbhan

brònach chloinne na Yemen fo ar comhair, agus a bha soirbheachas an tagraidh aig Clann ann an Èis na mhìsneachadh, phàigh cuideigin aig rup eadar-nàiseanta ceithir cheud millean dolair air dealbh a chruthaich Leonardo da Vinci.

Chan eil mise neo duine eile, tha mi cinnteach, dol a dh'àicheadh ealantas da Vinci ach shaoil mi fhìn gum bheil rudeigin mì-chneasta mun t-suim seo ga thoirt air dealbh nuair a tha ceudan mhillean a' bàsachadh le acras air feadh an t-saoghail. Gu cinnteach chan eil spiorad a' charthannais a' buntainn ris a h-uile neach idir.

WHO could not be moved seeing adults and children dying of starvation and thirst in Yemen, but record support for BBC Children in Need might encourage us to feel the power of charity. However, against the background of continuing international humanitarian need, the payment of \$400 million for a painting seems somewhat obscene.

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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TRADITIONAL MUSIC

'Se seo an aon chùrsa ceuma tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig far am faigh luchd-ciùil traidiseanta cothrom ceòl, eachdraidh is dualchas na Gàidhealtachd a sgrùdadh, an lùib Sgeama na Gàidhlig is Chuspairean Co-cheangailte. Bidh oileanaich an sàs ann an obair aghaidh-ri aghaidh is obair clas far am bithear a' rannsachadh caochladh chuspairean a bhios riatanach ann an dreuchdan ciùil soirbheachail iom-fhillte. Gheibh iad cuideachd an cothrom an sgilean a thaisbeanadh gu cunbhalach air tursan is aig fèisean mòra ciùil agus bidh cothrom airson semeastar a chur seachad a' rannsachadh ciùil ann an Èirinn no Canada anns a' cheathramh bliadhna.

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The Scots Trad Music Awards celebrate Scotland's traditional music in all its forms and create a high profile opportunity to bring the music and music industry into the spotlight of media and public attention.

This year's event will be hosted in Paisley and the night will be jam-packed with live performances from The Shee Big Band, who are roping in honorary Shees from throughout their 11 years to join them on stage, as well as performances from nominees Elephant Sessions and Siobhan Miller, making it a must-see event.

Oban Live and the Killin Music Festival are among the nominees for the Event of the Year category, while Community Project of the Year nods to Tíree Songbook and EPL Events, among others.

Murdo MacSween, communications manager for the event's title sponsor, MG ALBA, said: 'The MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards showcase Scotland's world-class musical talent. We at MG ALBA are immensely proud to support that – and delighted that Scotland's talent gets the broadcast platform it deserves on BBC ALBA.'

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Oidhche còmhla ri Gaisgich Chiùil na h-Alba Celebrate with the Stars

Na Trads 2017

BEÒ - Disathairne 2 Dùbhlachd 9f | LIVE - Saturday 2 December 9pm

Cothrom coimhead air Duaisean Ceòl Traidiseanta na h-Alba 2017 aig MG ALBA còmhla ri preasantairean Màiri Anna NicUalraig agus Tony Kearney agus cuid den luchd-chiùil thraidiseanta as fheàrr ann an Alba, agus a' chuir ga cumail aig an Ionad Lagoon, ann am Pàislig.

Còmhla ri Màiri Anna is Tony bidh The Shee, Siobhan Miller, Elephant Sessions agus Neach-ciùil Òg Traidiseanta na Bliadhna, Teàrlach Stiùbhart. Cuideachd air an oidhche, bidh na seinneadairean Uibhisteach Màiri NicAonghais, Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil agus Sìneag Nic an t-Saoir a' toirt urram do Dhòmhnall Ruadh Phàislig agus a chuid òrain.

Join Mary Ann Kennedy and Tony Kearney and a host of Scotland's best traditional musicians at the Lagoon Centre, Paisley, for the 2017 MG ALBA Scots Traditional Music Awards.

Joining Mary Ann and Tony will be The Shee, Siobhan Miller, Elephant Sessions and Charlie Stewart - the Young Traditional Musician of the Year. A group of Uist singers including Mairi MacInnes, Gillebrìde MacMillan and Sìneag MacIntyre will pay tribute to the Paisley Bard, Donald MacIntyre and his songs.

Na Trads aig 15 | Na Trads at 15

Disathairne 25 Samhain 9f | Saturday 25 November 9pm

Tha BBC ALBA a' comharrachadh 15 bliadhna bho thòisich Duaisean Ceòl Traidiseanta na h-Alba aig MG ALBA le prògram sònraichte a tha a' coimhead air mar a thòisich na duaisean agus air mar a dh'fhàs iad gu bhith nan aon de na tachartasan cultarach as cliùitiche a bhios a' tachairt gach bliadhna ann an Alba.

BBC ALBA celebrates 15 years of the MG ALBA Scots Traditional Music Awards with a special programme that celebrates and charts the early beginnings and growth of one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures in Scotland's cultural calendar.



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Arena

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

WHAT'S ON

IN OBAN

In partnership with
Oban Town Diary
bid4oban.co.uk



Thursday 23rd November

- Fella-dha-Furan**
Songs and rhymes for 0-3
Furan Gaelic Centre, 12pm-12.45pm
- Gaelic Taster Session**
Furan Gaelic Centre, 7pm-8.30pm
- Bookbug Sessions**
Oban Library, every Thursday during term time, 9.30am & 11am
- Oban Health Walks**
Start Oban Congregational Church, 10am-12pm
- Scottish Slimmers**
Oban Guide Hall, 11:45-1pm
- Late Night Shopping**
Oban Town, 6pm-9pm
- Oban Lorne Strathspey & Reel Society Practice Night**
Oban Guide Hall, 7.30pm-9.30pm
- Songwriting Sessions**
The Rockfield Centre, 7pm-9pm

Friday 24th November

- Toy Cupboard**
Glencruitten Church, 10am-12pm
- Footloose and Fancy Tea**
1pm - 2.30pm Glencruitten Church Centre
Tickets £5 from TSI High Street or at the door
- Boys Brigade**
Oban Congregational Church, 6pm-9pm
- Ballet West Winter Wonderland**
Corran Halls, 6.30pm-8.45pm
- Lorn Archaeological & Historical Society**
St Columba's Cathedral Hall, 7pm-9pm
- Quiz Night**
Masonic Lodge, 7.30pm-10.30pm
- Let's Make a Scene - Journeys 'Special'**
Open Mic night The Rockfield Centre, 8pm-11pm
- Choirs and Candles**
St John's Cathedral Oban, 7.30pm
- Leugh Leabhar**
Furan, Corran Halls Oban, 4pm-5pm

Saturday 25th November

- Oban Winter Festival Food & Craft Market**
Oban Distillery, 10am-4pm
- Come & Try Craft Coffee Shop**
Oban Youth Cafe, 12pm-3pm
- Tartan Dash**
Ganavan, 9.30am
- Haggis Hurling**
Shinty Pitch, 10am-12pm

Saturday 25th November

- Welcome to Oban**
The Rockfield Centre, 12pm-4pm
- Pool Inflatables sessions**
Atlantis Leisure, 1pm-1.45pm, 2pm-2.45pm, 3pm-3.45pm
- Black Mount Hill Walk**
Tyndrum, All day
- Ganavan Sands parkrun**
9.30am-11am
- Coffee morning & table top stalls**
Parish Church Hall, Oban 10am-12pm
- Coffee Morning, St Johns Cathedral**
10.30am-12.00pm
- Oban Congregational Church**
Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre 10.30am-3.30pm
- Santas Grotto**
HUT 1 - The Rockfield Centre 10am-4pm
- Locating Lorne**
Hut 1 - @ The Rockfield Centre, Stevenson Street 10am-4pm. FREE
- Christmas wreath & decoration making**
Glencruitten Woodland Oban, 11am-3pm
Free event donations welcome
- Oban Winter Wonderland**
Ocean Explore Centre, 11am-4pm
- Fair Trade & Christmas Market**
Kilmartin Museum Cafe, 11am-4pm
- Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)**
Furan Gaelic Centre, 12pm-1.30pm
- Love Oban Reindeer Parade with special guest - Santa**
Station Square, 5pm-6.15pm
- Race Night**
Oban Commercial Lodge, 7.30pm
- Taynuilt Winter Ceilidh**
Taynuilt Village Hall, 7.30
- Annual St Andrew's Pipe Band Ceilidh**
Fear-am-Tighe Rev Dugald Cameron Argyllshire Gathering Halls Oban 7.30pm
Tickets £7 from Oban Music and on the door
- Whisky Festival**
Cask Room, Oban Distillery Oban Distillery 1pm-3pm
- Haggis Festival**
Cask Room Oban Distillery 1pm-3pm entry £2
Proceeds to Oban High School Pipe Band.

Sunday 26th November

- Victorian Afternoon Teas**
12 noon - 4pm Corran Halls, Studio Theatre
Tickets available from Corran Halls £9.50 Proceeds to charity
- Zumbathon**
Corran Halls, 2.30pm-4pm
- Fair Trade & Christmas Market**
Kilmartin Museum Cafe, 11am-4pm
- Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration**
Argyllshire Gathering Halls, 2pm-4pm
- Bubbles and Balloons**
2pm-6pm, Spruce George Street Oban
Proceeds to Oban Youth Cafe
- Santas Grotto**
Supported by Mary's Meals and Salvation Army HUT 1 - The Rockfield Centre 10am-4pm
- Selkie Sand Art**
Hut 1 The Rockfield Centre 11am-3pm £5 per card.
- Atlantis Leisure Roller discos**
2.30pm-3.30pm and 3.45pm-4.45pm in the sports hall
Price £2.20 if you bring your own skates - £4 includes hire of skates
- Family Parade**
Gather at Corran Halls at 4.45pm Parade leaves at 5pm
- Distillery Courtyard**
Hot soup, Pimms, Hot Food . Fire Art and Music Auld Land Syne at 6.15pm
- Finale**
Illuminations - pyrotechnics and fireworks from the tower. 7.30pm

Tuesday 28th November

- Gaelic Toy Cupboard**
Undercroft Church Centre, 1.30pm-3.30pm
- Irish Dancing Classes**
St Columba's Cathedral Hall, 4.15pm-5.45pm

Wednesday 29th November

- Slimming World Group Classes**
Glencruitten Church, 9.30am-5.30pm
- Toy Cupboard**
Undercroft Church Centre, 10am-12pm
- Beach Clean with Hope Kitchen**
HOPE Kitchen, 10.30am-12pm
- Cancer Support Services - Drop in Wednesday**
Oban Library, 2.15pm-4.15pm

Oban Winter Festival



Ballet West's Winter Wonderland featured Abi Drew.
Picture: Ryan James Davies.
T47_ObanWinterFestival27



Town crier Stuart Smith with Rachel Carre and Erin Jackson. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival1



Oban Pipe Band stirred the crowds on parade. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival09

The seventh Oban Winter Festival kicked off last Friday with Ballet West's beautiful winter wonderland and bumper turn-outs to weekend events, promising plenty more fun in store.

Organiser Pamela Lockhart said many events and stallholders had sold out, with Oban Distillery's food and craft market drawing 2,500 visitors through the door alone. 'The town was busy,' she

said, 'all the car parks were full.' Volunteers at Argyll Animal Aid served 650 portions of clootie dumpling and 500 'snow fairy' cakes at their busy craft fair in the Corran Halls. Around 250 visitors

of all ages attended the family fun science event at the Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunstaffnage, part of the Oban Winter Festival. In the absence of Sir David Attenborough and his Blue Planet II

team, it was students from the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI who educated visitors on topics as diverse as plastic pollution, underwater sounds and dolphin strandings.

The winners of the Rotary Club of Oban's design a Christmas card competition enjoyed their moment of glory later that evening, with Lois MacLean of Park Primary and Elin

Glasgow Letter

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



Tiree annual gathering success

Tiree must have been a quiet island last weekend as half of its residents descended upon Glasgow for the 117th annual Tiree gathering concert and dance. I have been to a fair few Tiree gathering concerts over the past few years and last Thursday's in the Partick Burgh Hall was the busiest I have seen - with many audience members standing round the periphery of the hall. Such an attendance is proof that the association is flourishing under the presidency of Ian Smith, with the backing

of an excellent and enthusiastic committee who really do put on a great event every year. There was a lovely relaxed atmosphere throughout the concert which was established immediately by Angus MacPhail, who lent his erudition and wit to the chairmanship. Over the course of the night, Angus composed and recited limericks about each of the performers which at times had the audience in raptures. Gordon Rowan got the evening off to a great start with a set on the pipes before his sons, Allan and Kyle, put on the impeccably high standard of show now expected of them by audiences everywhere.

Norman MacKinnon had everyone singing with classics like *Eilidh*; and filled us all with emotion in quieter moments such as *A' Choille Ghruamach*. Kim Carnie from Oban showed why she had been a finalist of the Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition earlier in the year. While gathering audiences love a good singalong, it is always good to hear slightly lesser known songs, and Kim certainly provided that with aplomb. Katherine Callendar took a stroll down memory lane with a solo selection of old Gaelic airs on the piano; and even managed to fit in a quick story about a rather

eventful night out I had in Tobermory a couple of months ago. You can't get away with anything these days - particularly as the event was streamed worldwide on Facebook Live. All in all, it was a great pleasure for me to sing at the concert alongside such great artists - and a very enjoyable night altogether.

What's on
Thursday November 23: Comunn An Taobh An Iar haggis supper at 7.30pm in the Ellan-gowan Social Club.
Thursday November 23: Farpais Phìobaireachd (piping competition) in the Park Bar hosted by Glasgow University's Ossianic Society at 8pm.
Friday November 24: Helensburgh and District Highland Association dance at 8pm in the Commodore Hotel.
Friday November 24: Glasgow Uist and Barra annual dinner and dance in the Glynhill Hotel at 7.30pm.
Saturday November 25: Coll Association annual buffet and ceilidh in the National Piping Centre at 7pm.
Tuesday November 28: Glasgow Skye Association special meeting at 7.30pm in the Woodside Halls.
Thursday November 30: Glasgow Skye Association annual dinner at 7pm in the Glasgow University Union.
Friday December 1: Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering concert in the Glasgow University Union at 7.30pm and dance at 10.30pm.
Friday December 8: Clydebank and District Highland Association ceilidh in the Napier Hall at 7.30pm.
Saturday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association children's party at 2.30pm in the Rensfield Centre, Blythswood Hall.
Pub scene
Islay Inn
Friday November 24: Twist of Fate.
Saturday November 25: Black Velvet.
Sunday November 26: Calum Macphail.
Park Bar
Friday November 24: Deoch 'n Dorus.
Saturday November 25: Eriskay Lilt.
Sunday November 26: Robert Robertson.

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

To list your event, please call 01631 568000

Pub & Gig Guide coming soon

THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

Oban's Got Talent

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

Charity event in aid of
Macmillan cancer relief

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

LOCHABER'S CHRISTMAS CAROL EXTRAVAGANZA

Join Gary Innes and an incredible house band featuring Ingrid Henderson, Iain MacFarlane, Ewen Henderson, Hugh MacCallum, Ewan Robertson and James Lindsay for a night of festive fun and Christmas cheer.

Highlight will include performances by Spean Bridge, Coal, Inverloch, Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig, St Columbas RC, Banive Primary schools and Lochaber High School Pipe Band and Folk band.

Nevis Centre, Fort William
Thursday 14th December, 7pm
Adults: £10 Under 15's: £5
Tickets available from the Nevis Centre

oban WINTER FESTIVAL



Ballet West's Winter Wonderland. Picture: Ryan James Davies, T47_ObanWinterFestival26



Riding on Santa's sleigh were Elin Maclean and Lois MacLean. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival08



Ballet West perform. Picture: Kevin McGlynn. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival15



All smiles at the reindeer parade. Picture: Kevin McGlynn. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival18



At the Victorian market at the Perle in Oban were David Simpson and Cameron Crowe. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival07



Enjoying the Victorian market were Kirsty MacKenzie, Aimee Norton and Isla Norton. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival06



At Argyle Animal Aid Fair were Lynn Amos, Maggie Farrell, Catherine Goodbrand and Jean Sutherland. 15_T47_ObanWinterFestival04

MacLean of Salen Primary taken on a tour of victory through the town, pulled by reindeer in Santa's sleigh. The older winners, Erin Jackson of Strath of Appin Primary and Rachel Carre of Loch-nell Primary, had the honour of switching on the Christmas lights in Station Square.

Ahead there's plenty to look forward to, including today's late-night shopping, plus a

spectacular light show and haunting pipes tunes at Dunollie, where the stories of Oban's ancient castle are brought to life, with a warming pie and broth.

Oban Pipe Band holds its annual St Andrew's night ceilidh on Saturday at 7.30pm in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. The versatile Crackin' Craic will headline, supported by Argyll

Ceilidh Trail, Sinclair School of Dance, Mary Catherine MacNeill, Sileas Sinclair, world class piper Angus MacColl and, of course, Oban Pipe Band. Admission is £7, and tickets are available from Oban Music or at the door.

Saturday also sees *Murder on the Orient Express* at Oban's Phoenix Cinema, a Tartan Dash parkrun, the haggis hurling

championships, and this year's live music act OMG featuring Supa and Da Kryptonites in the Corran Halls.

The Rockfield Centre hosts contemporary art events including a workshop and Locating Lorne, a series of events aiming to build collaborations between artists in North Argyll. A charity Zumbathon is raising money for the Hope Kitchen and

Homestart Lorn at the end of the Oban Winter Festival.

The 90-minute workout to Latin American music will be led by four local instructors, Magdalena Sadlik, Deslyn Mothae-Hall, Karen Banaghan and Sam Ford. If you wish to take part, the Zumbathon takes place on Sunday November 26 from 2:30pm-4pm in Oban's Corran Halls, and all proceeds from

the £8 tickets go to these two local charities.

Sunday also features the whisky and haggis festivals, Victorian afternoon teas, Selkirk sand art, Atlantis Leisure's roller disco, wine tasting, and Rockfield's winter wonderland grotto, which invites you to bring a present to Santa for the annual shoebox appeal, supported by Mary's Meals and the

Salvation Army.

The festival finishes with the 'something old, something new' family hat parade starting at the Corran Halls at 5pm, ready to watch the fireworks finale illuminating McCaig's Tower at 6.30pm.

For those wanting more, there's an extra St Andrew's night ceilidh dance in Skippin'ish Ceilidh House on Thursday November 30.

Your local radio listings

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

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

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

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

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

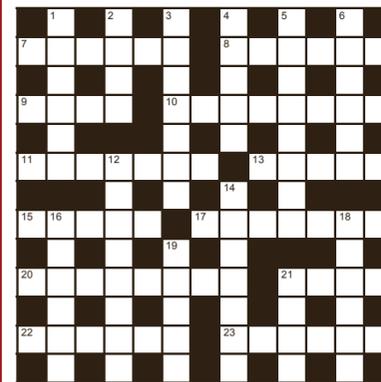
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christine's Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00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

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

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

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

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 Ordinary (6)
- 8 Purge (6)
- 9 Saturate (4)
- 10 Writer of music (8)
- 11 Beneath a knight (7)
- 13 Symbol of freshness (5)
- 15 Cat colouring (5)
- 17 Opening between the vocal chords (7)
- 20 Pursuit of noble principles (8)
- 21 Trick (4)
- 22 Get to... (6)
- 23 ...get out of (6)

Down

- 1 About blood carriers (6)
- 2 Break flower from stem (4)
- 3 Notice carried (7)
- 4 Standing (5)
- 5 Balloon pilot (8)
- 6 They have pull (6)
- 12 Fair (8)
- 14 Scale (7)
- 16 Enthusiast (6)
- 18 Disclose (6)
- 19 Thick (5)
- 21 Information (4)



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 7th December

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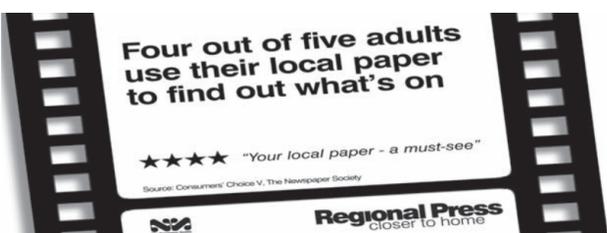
A	B	C
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11am-3pm
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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
1st & 3rd Dec 1.30-6pm,
2nd 10am-6pm
Over 40 decorated trees!
Tarbert Ladies Choir 2.30 & 3.30 Sat 2nd.
Elf hunt, Homebaking & Hot drinks
Entry free, donations welcome

Macmillan Cancer Support COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 25 November
10am - 12pm
at Glencruitten Church Centre
Entry £3



Òrain Ìleach

A new book collecting the Gaelic songs of Islay, called *Òrain Ghàidhlig à Ìle*, launches at a concert this Saturday November 25 in Islay House, Bridgend.

Islay Gaelic Choir are performing the songs written by Islay bards or about Islay, including *The Old Men of the Oa*, *Coll Kitto's Galley*, *Fair Sheena*, *Handsome MacIntosh*, *The Green Hills of Islay*, and *Spare My Mother's Brother* about the Battle of Gruinart Sands.

Lynn MacDonald, of Portnahaven, a lecturer at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, explained in the book's introduction. She said: 'These songs of Islay represent the life and heritage of a vibrant and unique island community. The themes range from love, through history, war and the beauty of the landscape. 'Islay has a rich song tradition and included in this book are previously published and well-known Islay songs, others where the song is known locally but for the first time published, and new songs using existing poems that have developed out of community music projects. 'It represents a meticulous process of putting into print a precious local oral tradition, with all the songs written by Islay bards or about Islay. Translations have been included with a view to conveying the meaning of the songs for those who do not have Gaelic rather than as poems in their own right.'

One such Islay bard was Duncan Johnston who lived between 1881-1947. A native of Lagavulin, Duncan Johnston attended Ardbeg school, working on the roads with his father before leaving to serve in France with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the First World War.

Following his return to Islay in 1916 as an invalid, he left the island for Glasgow in 1918. His book of songs and poems *Crònan nan Tonn* was published in 1938 and his songs became well-known and loved, covering themes ranging through war, love and history. He won the coveted Bardic crown at the Mòd in 1929.

National Mòd gold medal winner and Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle and conductor Kenneth Thomson said some Islay songs were 'easy to find, such as the published songs of Duncan Johnston, and others have been found by local people to whom we are grateful. 'There are a number of songs which are unpublished and some which involved asking people to sing them as no musical notation was available. The book also includes three recent musical settings commissioned for the Blàr project and set by Clare Jordan.'

Clare, a native of Connel, was educated at Oban High School before graduating from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig with a BA in Gàidhlig and Traditional Music. Thereafter she lived and worked in Islay, joining Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, and studied to become a primary school teacher. She is currently teaching at Rockfield Primary School, during the music and is part of the Argyll-based band Ceòl an Aire. Kenneth added: 'Islay has produced many excellent Gaelic singers over the years, including seventeen Mòd gold medallists - a tremendous feat for the island.' Other island bards

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M'ALBA MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 23 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER
17.00 Programan Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Tathadh - Glenquithel (rpt)
19.25 Binneas - Na Trads - N.E. Folk Collective (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earran Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 UR|NEW: Eòrpa
21.00 Cailleagan a' Chogaidh Mhòir - First World War story of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (rpt)
22.00 Féis Chiùil Thiriodh - Blazin' Fiddles (rpt)
22.30 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - The story of President John F Kennedy (rpt)
23.15 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Gruff Rhys (rpt)
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIHAOINE 24 SAMHAIN FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER
17.00 Pìobairean Bhoiris - animated tale of a boy who receives the gift of piping from a sinister fairy (rpt)
17.15 An Là - News

17.25 UR|NEW: Pro 14 Live Rugby - Cheetahs v Edinburgh
19.20 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber - Dougie MacLean (rpt)
19.30 Aibisidh - Quiz Show (rpt)
20.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn - selection of Scotland's best musicians and singers (rpt)
20.30 Kerry's Kirsty: Rothan gu Robhanais (rpt)
21.00 Ceòl, Camanachd is Cogadh - a tribute concert to shinty heroes (rpt)
22.00 Skipinnish aig Barrowland (rpt)
23.00 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - The story of President John F Kennedy (rpt)
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - Gruff Rhys (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 25 SAMHAIN SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER
16.00 Programan Chloinne - Children's programming
17.55 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
18.00 UR|NEW: Scottish Premiership - Hamilton Academical v Hibernian
20.00 Aibisidh - Quiz show (rpt)
20.30 Eòrpa (rpt)
21.00 UR|NEW: Na Trads aig 15

22.00 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - The story of President John F Kennedy (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge - Loch Maree (rpt)
22.55 Scottish Premiership - Hamilton Academical v Hibernian (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 26 SAMHAIN SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER
16.00 UR|NEW: Women's Scottish Cup Final - Glasgow City v Hibernian Ladies
18.15 Binneas - Na Trads (rpt)
18.30 Seachd Là - News Review
19.30 UR|NEW: Alleluia
20.00 Fuine - Cooking for a birthday party (rpt)
20.30 Prosaig (rpt)
21.00 Opry an Iùir (rpt)
21.50 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
21.55 Na Trads aig 15 (rpt)
22.55 JFK - Na Làithean Mòra - The story of President John F Kennedy (rpt)
23.45 Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber - The MacLean project (rpt)

DILUAIN 27 SAMHAIN MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER
17.00 Programan Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Innean an Iar - Hebrides (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 Kerry's Kirsty: Rothan gu Robhanais (rpt)
21.00 UR|NEW: Trusadh - Heisgeir: Eadar na h-Eileanan - a fascinating look at a very special group of islands
22.00 Hòra Gheallaidh (rpt)
22.30 Cùm Greim! - the rope access industry in Scotland (rpt)
23.30 Féis Chiùil Thiriodh - Blazin' Fiddles (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 28 SAMHAIN TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
17.00 Programan Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Tathadh - Balavil (rpt)
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 Fuine - cooking for a day on the move (rpt)
21.00 UR|NEW: Opry an Iùir
21.55 Dhan Uisge (Loch Maree) (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh - Heisgeir: Eadar na h-Eileanan - a fascinating look at a very special group of islands (rpt)
23.00 Togaidh Sinn Fonn - (rpt)
23.25 Binneas - Na Trads - The Speirs Family (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DICIADAIN 29 SAMHAIN WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER
17.00 Programan Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Innean an Iar - Hebrides (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 UR|NEW: Prosaig
21.00 Dileab Thormoid - story of photographer and naturalist Dr Norman Morrison and his historic photographs (rpt)
22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)
22.30 Hòra Gheallaidh (rpt)
23.00 Cailleagan a' Chogaidh Mhòir - Scottish women's hospitals in the First World War (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 30 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER
17.00 Programan Chloinne - Children's programming
19.00 Tathadh - Balavil (rpt)
19.25 Binneas - Na Trads - The Speirs Family (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earran Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là - News
20.30 UR|NEW: Eòrpa
21.00 An t-Ionnsachadh Bòidheach - the impact of an unconventional teacher (rpt)
22.00 Féis Chiùil Thiriodh - The Levellers (rpt)
22.30 Là mu Dheireadh Lincoln - following the last hours of President Lincoln's life (rpt)
23.20 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan - C. Duncan (rpt)
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 30 SAMHAIN THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER
17.00 Programan Chloinne - Children's programming

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K9 Kev and Rory O'B join Edinburgh festival favourites at the Corran Halls this Saturday

This Saturday (November 25) will see festival favourites Supa and Da Kryptonites as well as K9 Kev and Rory O'B perform at the Corran Halls. The event is being organised by Oban Music Group (OMG) in association with

Oban Winter Festival. Supa and Da Kryptonites are based in Edinburgh and have become a festival favourite with their high energy showmanship and eclectic sound. The band consists of front man rapper Jay, soulful

vocalist Sarah and has a three-piece brass section. The overall feel is a blend of funk, soul, ska and hip-hop. Supporting the band will be Oban's very own festival favourites K9 Kev and Rory OB and their Oban Live band.

Having won the battle of the unsigned bands and proving a real crowd pleaser at this year's Oban Live, this will be the last chance to see our homegrown talent this year. Angela from OMG said: 'We are really excited to be

able to bring Supa and Da Kryptonites to Oban and to be part of Oban Winter Festival. The event is open to over-14s so we'd encourage any parents to take along their teenagers who might not otherwise get to see a

fantastic festival band playing in their home town.' The event is open to over-14s (accompanied by an adult). Doors open at 8pm. Tickets are priced £10 and are available from the Corran Halls box office.



Edinburgh band, Supa and Da Kryptonites, will play in the Corran Halls this Saturday. NO_T47_ObanMusicGroup

include Hugh MacLachlan (1897-1973) of Bruichladdich, a runner-up in the Bardic crown at the Mòd who left a trove of unpublished poems and songs, and Duncan MacNiven (1880-1955) who, with his brother Charles, was a prolific poet living at Kilchoman.

The book, published by Acair, explains: 'The boys' wide education is evidenced in the wit and perspective of their poems, painting an invaluable picture of rural life at the time.'

'Bàird Chill-Chomain was published in 1943. Featured in this book is a previously unpublished song, Tràigh a' Mhachair.' Another featured in the book is Port

Charlotte-born Donald MacFadyen (1894-1964), a blacksmith whose songs were preserved by his son, the late Donald MacFadyen, farmer at Carn, who died in 2016.

Eamonn (Edmund) Black (1884-1951), the son of the lighthouse keeper of the Rhinnis lighthouse on Orsay island, also made the selection.

He remained in Portnahaven with his mother Catherine and sister following his father's death, working for the Post Office, before moving to Unst in Shetland as lighthouse keeper himself where he married.

His songs are much loved and well-known in Portnahaven and Port Wemyss.

ADVERTORIAL

Chef profile: Kenny Meldrum

Regent Hotel, Oban



Staff: Bence Sazbo, sous chef Rafal Przemielewski, Dasha Ibero, Anghel Oana, manager, rear Segun Ogunyemi, head chef Kenny Meldrum, Sheila Zbiate.

For the Regent Hotel's new head chef, moving to Oban has been a dream come true.

Kenny Meldrum said he loves being beside the sea ... and cooking and eating its produce.

He said: 'I grew up in Stirling and, after finishing college, I worked in Edinburgh for a few years before moving down south and eventually to Jersey in the Channel Islands where I took my first head chef's job.'

'It was there that I found my passion for

seafood and a love of being by the sea. My background and passion is modern British/European food. I was working in Manchester, where my wife is from, when an old friend put me in touch with Jimmy, the new owner of the Regent.'

'We had a chat and then I came up and saw his vision for the Regent, so here I am.'

Kenny's background is sure to see great things happening at the Regent. He won Scottish hotel restaurant of year at the

Scottish food awards in 2015 and was featured in *The Oban Times* for that achievement.

He has big ambitions for his new job.

'I would like to try and make the Regent family-friendly with good, fresh cooked food.'

While fine dining is on the menu for those using the Regent, Kenny admits that at home he has simpler tastes. 'After a night out, I like nothing more than cheesy pasta with a smoked sausage and pickled chillies,' he confided.

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Pet Idol **Round 2**

It is fair to say that you have all gone completely barking mad over Pet Idol. We have received almost a thousand votes so far and you can now feast your eyes on these fantastic furry and feathered friends that make up our top 100. You now have the incredibly difficult task of voting for your top 50. You can vote by simply completing the voting coupon provided and send it to Wyvex Media, Pet idol Vote PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB.

The pets can be viewed at www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/petidol

Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 27th November.

You can vote for as many pets as many times as you like. Only one pet can be voted for on each voting form. Just make sure you use the number quoted on the pet's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We will also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to our top 100.

VOTING COUPON Pet Idol: Round 2

I would like to vote for:

Pet number*:.....

Pet's name:

Please post to Wyvex Media, Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or votes can also be handed in to our offices in Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet photograph.
Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.
You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.
Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 27th November, 2017

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Oban Live in huge boost to local economy

SURVEY results from rural music festival Oban Live have revealed the 2017 event brought in £1.39 million to the local economy, a 27 per cent increase from the previous year.

The two-year-old event has immediately become the biggest open-air live music concert in rural Argyll, entertaining just under 8,000 attendees each year with traditional Scottish and Celtic rock music.

It has also attracted international superstars such as KT Tunstall (2016) and Toploader (2017) to the line-up. Held during a non-holiday weekend, the survey results confirm the event's growing popularity and positive impact on the local economy.

It's attracting more visitors from further afield, too. A rise in the number of festival visitors travelling to Oban from outside Scotland was identified: 10 per cent (seven per cent in 2016 and six per cent in 2015) of the survey sample were from outside Scotland and trips from outside the UK accounted for four per cent (two per cent in 2016 and 2015) of the sample.

Meanwhile, 38 per cent were visiting from other areas of mainland Scotland, outwith the local area and the Highlands and Islands.

Impressively, more than 17 per cent of visitors stayed for four or more nights (14 per cent in 2016). Almost five per cent (three per cent in 2016) were staying away from home for more than seven days.

The use of overnight paid accommodation was a lot more popular in 2017 than 2016 and 2015, notably self-catering, B&Bs and campsites.

The rise in camping comes as no surprise. Funded by EventScotland, shuttle buses



KT Tunstall was a top headline act in Oban Live's inaugural year.

run by West Coast Motors and the tent-site development for 50 extra campers at Oban Caravan Park created an additional budget accommodation option. The trial was a sell-out success and is to be repeated for 2018 with 50 more spaces, a total of 100, currently on sale.

Around 98.4 per cent of attendees were in the area as a result of Oban Live, with many of them returning visitors. The analysis found that more than two thirds (50 per cent in 2016) had visited Oban Live in 2016 meaning 2017 was a successful year in encouraging repeat visits as well as attracting a new audience.

Discounted early bird tickets for Oban Live 2018 sold out in record breaking time earlier this month ahead of any line-up act announcements which are expected in the coming weeks.

Tickets were bought from a range of locations from Oban and surrounding areas, to as far afield as Europe and America.

Oban Live managing director Daniel Gillespie said: 'Since day one, creating economic opportunity for the local area and attracting more visitors to the town of Oban has always been a main objective.

'So we are absolutely delighted to see such positive results and encouraged to see the event going from strength to strength.

'Our thanks to all our sponsors, partners and the supporting local community whose input and advocacy for the event has proven to be a key factor in the growth of Oban Live and its social and economic impact.'

Fergus Murray, Argyll and Bute Council's head of economic development and strategic transportation, said: 'This is fantastic news for Oban and the wider Argyll and Bute area. Oban Live attracts a large number of people and helps boost the local economy.'

Oban Live 2018 takes place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, on June 8 and 9.

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Lifetime Achievement winner Dr Finlay MacLeod with Cathy MacDonald and sponsor Donald McLeod at the Gaelic Awards.

Lifetime Achievement honour for Dr Finlay Macleod at Scottish Gaelic Awards

The fifth Scottish Gaelic Awards were held at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow on Wednesday (November 15) with more than 200 guests.

The main award for lifetime achievement was bestowed on Dr Finlay MacLeod from Lewis, who is well known as an author, broadcaster, teacher and historian.

The award was presented to Dr MacLeod on behalf of Bòrd na Gàidhlig by Donald MacLeod, one of its members, who said: 'Dr Finlay has been involved from early on in key developments in Gaelic education, broadcasting, the arts, writing, publishing and much more.'

'Dr Finlay has spent a lifetime studying many of the aspects of life in the Western Isles and he has worked tirelessly on a range of initiatives which have contributed to life in Lewis and further afield.

'He is an expert on a wide range of topics, including chapels, healing wells, place-names, the Lewis Chessmen, island photography, archaeology, the land struggles and the place of religion and education

in communities. Dr Finlay has provided many people with detailed information, advice and, most importantly, encouragement to pursue different projects.

'Dr Finlay and his wife Norma have welcomed many students, journalists and writers to their home where they provide support, guidance and friendship. Many individuals and groups have recognised the immense contribution Dr Finlay has made to Gaelic.

'Tonight we recognise the contribution he has made and we are delighted to present him with this Lifetime Achievement award.'

Among the other winners were Arthur Cormack who won Best Contribution for his efforts in standing up to ill-informed and often incorrect media criticism of Gaelic, while Pàdruig Morrison from Grimsay, North Uist, a student in Edinburgh, won the Young Gaelic Ambassador award.

The Scottish Gaelic Awards were first staged in 2013 by the Daily Record

newspaper with support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and support also comes from HIE, Creative Scotland, MG ALBA and the private sector company Thorntons Investments.

The full list of winners is:

Learner Award: organising committee – Buidheann Disathairne; Arts and Culture Award: sponsored by Creative Scotland, Alex MacDonald; Event Award: Comunn Eachdraidh Nis; Community, Heritage and Tourism Award: sponsored by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Fife Gaelic Development Group; Best Contribution Award: sponsored by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Arthur Cormack; International Award, sponsored by MG ALBA, Robert Currie; Innovation in Education Award: Lasadh; Young Gaelic Ambassador of the Year Award: Pàdruig Morrison; Gaelic as an Economic Asset Award: sponsored by Thorntons Investments, Fèisean nan Gàidheal; Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr Finlay MacLeod.



Left is Young Gaelic Ambassador award-winner of the year Pàdruig Morrison with Cathy MacDonald and Daily Record editor Murray Foote. Right is the Best Contribution winner Arthur Cormack with Cathy MacDonald and sponsor Norman MacDonald.



Photographs: Alasdair MacLeod, Sunday Mail/Daily Record.

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DEPOSIT DEDUCTIONS



PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET



The most common reasons why tenants don't get their deposits back at the end of tenancy agreements are:

- Lack of sufficient cleanliness: 88 per cent;
- Lack of maintenance (ie, overgrown gardens): 44 per cent;
- Direct damage to the property and its contents: 39 per cent;
- Unpaid rent at the end of the tenancy: 31 per cent;
- Damage due to carelessness and lack of maintenance: 29 per cent;
- Unwanted personal belongings left behind: 12 per cent;
- Keys not returned at the end of tenancy: two per cent;
- Unpaid bills at the end of the tenancy: two per cent;

When renting out a property, landlords take a deposit from the tenant before the lease begins.

The deposit offers a level of protection to landlords and means that, should the tenant breach the terms of the agreement, such as causing damage or not paying rent, appropriate deductions can be made from the deposit.

But what are the main causes for landlord and tenant disputes?

Fresh research by ARLA PropertyMark (formerly the Association of Residential Letting Agents) has revealed the truth behind why landlords may not return part – or all – of deposits to tenants. The study found that the most common cause of a tenancy deposit dispute in the private rented property sector is cleaning, with 88 per cent of letting agents surveyed identifying this as a major contributing factor as to why a deduction was made to the tenancy deposit. A lack of property maintenance is the second most cause of disputes at 44 per cent, followed by damage to a property and its contents at 39 per cent, and rent arrears at the end of a tenancy at 31 per cent.

We advise all landlords take a deposit, but importantly complete a detailed condition report and reference photos for the property at the start of the tenancy. In addition to this, landlords should inspect the property regularly to ensure the tenants are cleaning and maintaining the property in good order. As you can see from the survey, it is crucial to log the cleanliness in the condition report and inspection reports too, so that if it is returned in a poor condition and requires cleaning, these documents can be provided as evidence. At West we provide this with both of our lettings packages, giving landlords peace of mind should a dispute arise. If you would like any advice on managing your rental property please feel free to call a member of our Lettings Team TODAY.

CRAIGNEUK, BENDERLOCH

- Detached Extended Traditional House
- 5 Bedrooms/ 2 Family Bathrooms/ 1 WC
- Stunning SEA VIEWS
- Well maintained throughout
- Established Holiday Let
- EPC Ratable value £4,000

OIEO £490,000

Craigneuk offers an amazing opportunity to purchase a spacious, traditional property enjoying stunning sea views from almost every room and only a short walk from the beach. The property has been let as a successful holiday let but is equally suited to being a permanent family home. Part of Craigneuk's charm is that despite its size, it retains a cosy and homely feel by having multiple reception rooms. Additionally, the layout ensures the interior is bathed in natural light throughout the afternoon and evening.

BURNBANK TERRACE, OBAN

- First Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: C (71)
- LL REG: 149580/130/06310

PCM £560

A spacious, unfurnished flat located on Breadalbane Street in Oban Town centre, just a moments walk to the main high street. The property comprises of 2 double bedrooms, WC, separate shower room with shower, kitchen with built in gas hob and dining area and large lounge with gas fire. Neutral décor and carpets throughout. Deposit and Full references required. Available January 2018.

THE OLD POWERHOUSE, GLENGORM

- Detached bungalow
- 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom room/1 shower room
- Peaceful and pretty location
- Walk-in condition
- Established holiday let
- EPC Rating: D56

OIRO £235,000

A well-proportioned cottage with integrated holiday let and owner's accommodation. The Old Power House offers a great deal of flexibility. Currently used as a self-catering holiday let with separate but adjoining owner's accommodation, this property offers buyers a property with income potential or an opportunity for a sizable and practical family home.

42 COMBIE STREET, OBAN

- Ground Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Part Furnished B
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: E (52)
- LL REG: 290857/130/18421

PCM £550

Spacious, 2 bedroom flat in Oban Town centre. This part furnished property is located on the ground floor and comprises two sizeable double bedrooms, generous living room, bathroom with built in shower and kitchen with white goods. Perfect for professionals, couples or small family. Available now. Deposit and full references required. Available Now

GRIANAN, DUNOLLIE ROAD, OBAN

- Delightful detached bungalow
- 3 bedrooms/ 1 bathroom
- Convenient location
- Garden to front and rear
- Excellent Family Home
- EPC Rating: D (61)

OIEO £185,000

A unique opportunity to purchase a sizable family home within in easy walking distance of Oban's local amenities. The property comprises a cosy lounge with wood burning stove and patio doors out onto a large covered porch to the front of the house, ideal for sitting and enjoying the view or even drying washing on those showery days! Adjacent to the lounge is a bright and generous dining room, perfect for family meals and entertaining guests.

BEECHWOOD, OBAN

- Detached House
- 3 Bedroom + 1 Box Room + 2 Bathroom
- Unfurnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: G (10)
- Landlord Registration Pending

PCM £675

Beautiful FAMILY HOME in the popular village of Benderloch just outside of Oban. The DETACHED property is UNFURNISHED and benefits from two generously sized reception rooms, a fully fitted kitchen and shower room on the ground floor. Upstairs, there are 3 SPACIOUS bedrooms, a box room and modern bathroom. Deposit and Full references required. Available NOW.

RIVERSIDE COURT, TOBERMORY

- Semi-Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/ 1 WC
- Walk-in Condition
- Garden and Private Parking
- Ideal Family Home
- EPC Rating: D62

OIRO £180,000

32 Riverside Court is a superb 3 bedroom semi-detached house located in the beautiful town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This modern home has been tastefully decorated and is in walk-in condition, offering spacious family accommodation arranged over 2 floors. On the ground floor, the spacious hallway leads to a large, bright lounge which features a big bay window giving plentiful natural light.

LUNDRAVA ROAD, FORT WILLIAM

- 4th Floor Flat
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- Part Furnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating: C (70)
- LL Registration 622153/270/13111

PCM £650

Spacious modern bright unfurnished 4th floor flat located on Lundavra Road, Upper Achintore, with stunning views over Loch Linne. Comprising of well portioned lounge with picture window to view over Loch Linne. Modern fully fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. 2 Double and 1 Single Bedroom. 1 double bedroom benefits from a walking wardrobe, single bedroom also benefits from a built in wardrobe. Well-appointed bathroom with Jacuzzi bath and overhead electric shower. AVAILABLE NOW.

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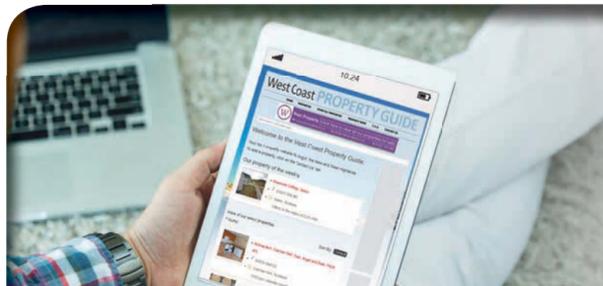
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NFUS welcomes report from four agri champions

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

NFU Scotland has welcomed the messages on positive change included in the interim discussion document from Scotland's four agri-champions, published last week.

The four agricultural champions were appointed by Scottish Government in January to advise on the development of a strategy to guide the long-term sustainable future for Scottish agriculture. Targets included increasing profitability and boosting innovation, production and sustainability. Each champion was paired across four themes: education and training, food and drink, sustainability, and public value.

In welcoming the report, NFU Scotland president Andrew McCormick said: 'The direction of travel suggested by this discussion paper is very much

in line with our Brexit CHANGE documents, currently being discussed at packed Brexit roadshows the length and breadth of Scotland.

'The strong message is that farming is a long-term business that needs a strategy with a timescale to match. Quick-fix policies or policies that chop and change as the balance of governments alter are of little use. We welcome the fact that what is being suggested is an agricultural strategy that spans 10 or 15 years and stretches well beyond a single parliamentary term.

'A real partnership between government and the industry is essential if we are to get the right policy for farming. Pursuing a cheap imported food policy would decimate Scottish farming, our rural economy and destroy the many jobs in and dependent upon our Scottish food and drink industry. As

Brexit happens, this partnership approach to policy must be recognised by the people making the critical decisions.

'The champions acknowledge in their report that agriculture, as an industry, merits support and, in our CHANGE documents, we recognise that the basis for that support will change.

'If the government works in partnership with the industry, I am certain we can get the right agricultural policy and the right support package that will enable Scottish farming to thrive and grow.

'For the Scottish economy, the ambitious prize is the doubling our food and drinks sector by 2030. That will only happen if we support agriculture, increase our agricultural output and allow our farms to grow the crops that are needed and rear the livestock that is wanted. Profitable production from our farms must be the goal.

'Generating a profitable and vibrant industry will also be key to securing the future generations of Scottish farmers and crofters. The interim report contains very valuable and welcome messages on how to develop apprenticeships and build careers to create a workforce that will underpin our sector in the years ahead.'

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing added: 'Farming faces huge challenges, but also opportunities over the next decade.

'That is why at the start of the year, I appointed four champions to advise on the development of a strategy for farming in Scotland.

'I am therefore delighted to receive the champions' interim report and would like to thank them for pulling together such a comprehensive and ambitious set of recommendations aimed at delivering a profitable and

sustainable future for our farmers and crofters.

'The report identifies six key themes aimed at assisting the sector through a period of major transformational change. While continuity will be important, it remains vital that we secure the funding to which Scotland is entitled, so that we can continue to support the industry, while also looking at how the sector can improve its productivity and better promote itself to the wider public.

'The champions rightly identify the concept of public value underpinning all the strategic themes set out in the report. Farming performs many functions that are to the benefit to wider society, but we need to improve the way we communicate with the public to ensure that public continues to support and understands the importance of a productive, sustainable and thriving farming sector.'

Around the markets

LOCHBOISDALE - United Auctions held their annual late autumn sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart on November 14 when a record catalogued entry resulted in 491 head of cattle and 956 sheep and lambs being sold. This was undoubtedly the biggest one-day entry of stock booked for this market which drew stock from Barra, Eriskay, Benbecula and North Uist. A good following of buyers present resulted in a firm trade and sellers returning home happy despite an 11-hour marathon selling.

Principal lots and prices
Store cattle and calves
Bullocks:
ABERDEEN ANGUS CROSS: 3 Howbeg - £1030; 289 Kilpedhar - £980; 1 Ormiclate - £980; 3 Howbeg - £980; 289 Kilpedhar - £960; 3 Gramsdale, Benbecula - £880; 92 Bualadubb - £850
BEEF SHORTHORN: 3 Vatersay, Barra - £710
CHAROLAIS CROSS: 325 North Boisdale - £1070; Cnoc-an Torr - £1000; Drimore Farm - £860
LIMOUSIN: 103 Carnan - £1000, £980, £970; 1 Ormiclate - £960; 103 Carnan - £950; 3 Milton - £940 and £930; 103 Carnan - £930; 101 Carnan - £930; 1 Airdhmuillean - £910; 261 Dalburgh - £910; 101 Carnan - £900; 103 Carnan - £900; 9 Milton - £900.
SHORTHORN CROSS: 221 Stoneybridge - £840 and £810
SIMMENTAL CROSS: 3 Vatersay, Barra - £1080
Heifers
ABERDEEN ANGUS CROSS: 4 Frobst - £740; 52 Balgarva - £700; 61 Bualachrach - £700
BRITISH BLUE CROSS: 88 Bualadubb - £1080 and £900
CHAROLAIS CROSS: 9 Milton - £840
LIMOUSIN CROSS: 103 Carnan - £980; 101 Carnan - £920; 103 Carnan - £890; 61 Bualachrach - £860; 15 Bornish - £850
SHORTHORN CROSS: 200 Stoneybridge - £700
SIMMENTAL CROSS: 7 Middlequarter, North Uist - £900;
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
ABERDEEN ANGUS CROSS: 6 Ormiclate - 215p; 52 Balgarva - 214p
BLONDE CROSS: Dunganachy - 284p and 256p
CHAROLAIS CROSS: Drimore Farm - 240p and 237p
LIMOUSIN CROSS: 10 Illeray, North Uist - 279p; Aird Illeray, North Uist - 273p, 268p and 263p; 5 Frobst - 255p; 261 Dalburgh - 254p; 101 Carnan - 254p; 15 Ormiclate - 253p; 85 Borve, Barra - 252p; 336 North Boisdale - 251p; 103 Carnan - 251p; 9 Milton - 250p
SALER CROSS: 5 Dunganachy - 235p; 5 Vatersay, Barra - 232p
SIMMENTAL CROSS: Drimore Farm - 226p; 17 Hougharry, North Uist - 224p
Heifers
ABERDEEN ANGUS CROSS: 8 Kildonan - 222p
SHORTHORN CROSS: 9/10 Drimisdale - 213p
BRITISH BLUE CROSS: 88 Bualadubb - 235p
BLONDE CROSS: 6 Dunganachy - 267p and 250p
CHAROLAIS CROSS: Drimore Farm - 245p; Croismorag, North

Uist - 224p
LIMOUSIN CROSS: 103 Carnan - 258p; 12 Ormiclate - 252p; 103 Carnan - 250p; Aird Illeray - 246p; 11 Ormiclate - 244p; 5 Frobst - 244p; Drimore Farm - 242p; 103 Carnan - 241p
SALER CROSS: Dunganachy - 250p
SHORTHORN CROSS: 200 Stoneybridge - 264p; 5 Dunmore - 238p
CAST COWS: 7 Griminish - £1120 and £1080; 1 Ormiclate £1080; 76 Ardanmonie - £1040; 301 Kilpedhar - £1000; 3 Ormiclate £980; 5 Frobst - £960; 3 Bunavullin, Eriskay - £960 and £920; 291 Dalburgh £900; 289 Kilpedhar - £900
IN-CALF COWS: 301 Kilpedhar - £1180; 9/10 Drimisdale - £1150; Sheep
Lambs
SUFFOLK CROSS: 330 North Boisdale - £66; Truimsigarry, North Uist - £60
TEXEL CROSS: 32 Linciate - £76; 6 Rhuban, Eriskay - £65; 20 West Gerinish - £64; 18 West Gerinish - £61
CHEVIOT CROSS: 8 Gearradubb, North Uist - £62; 2/3 Airdhmuillean - £60; 14 Balashare, North Uist - £58; 9 Baile, Eriskay - £58
CROSS: Doon - £62
BLACKFACE: 301 Kilpedhar - £41; 465 South Lochboisdale - £40; 7 Gearradubb, North Uist - £39
WEDDERS: 18 West Gerinish - £100; 7 Middlequarter, North Uist - £90 and £84; 18 West Gerinish - £82; 303 Kilpedhar - £79 and £72; 1 Malaclate, North Uist - £78 and £72
CAST EWES: 18 West Gerinish - £88; 14 Balashare, North Uist - £84; 330 North Boisdale - £84; Aird Illeray, North Uist - £82; Dunganachy - £76; 7 Middlequarter - £76; 32 Linciate - £74.

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday November 16 sold 202 cattle comprising 105 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, six OTM cattle, and 91 cast cows and bulls.

Once again all classes of prime cattle bucked the deadweight trend, and were dearer on the week. Bullocks averaged 226p Heifers averaged 220p OTM Cattle averaged 180p Young Bulls averaged 196p Beef Cows averaged 114p Dairy Cows averaged 96p Bullocks topped at 246ppkg for a Limousin from W Dandie and Sons, Learielaw, Broxburn to J Johnston Butchers, Falkirk, and to £1719 for a British Blue from D McLaren, Classlochie, Kinross. Heifers topped at 255ppkg again from Learielaw to T Johnston, and to £1660 for a Limousin from Brockwoodlees to Hugh A Black and Sons. OTM Cattle sold to 215p for a Limousin from J R MacGregor Ltd, Dyke, Milton of Campsie, to CM Kirkpatrick, and to £1596 from Learielaw to Hugh A Black and Sons. Young Bulls to 220ppkg for a Limousin from J Burnett and Sons, Upper Spittalton, Thornhill to J F Finlay and Co, Wishaw and to £1597 for the same animal. The final calf sale of 2017 will be on November 30.

President says farm incomes will be measure of Brexit success

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCormick has used Scotland's biggest one-day agricultural event to call for politicians to focus on the long-term future of the sector.

Speaking at AgriScot, at Ingleston, Mr McCormick said Brexit was a wake-up call and an opportunity to do better, but the measure of its success would be measured in farm incomes.

He called for politicians in all parliaments to put aside short-term fixes and focus on a long-term view of policy and support to allow farmers and crofters to plan.

Sharing a platform at AgriScot with Scotland's Rural Economy Secretary, Fergus Ewing, Mr McCormick said: 'All parts of Scottish farming, food and drink want a profitable, sustainable future through and beyond Brexit.

'Scotland's farmers and crofters work in scales of production that are measured in years. A long-term view of policy and support is essential to allow all parts of our industry to make decisions. We are the cornerstone of a food and drink sector looking to double in size by 2030 but that ambition will only be realised if we grow our agricultural output.

'The measure of success will be judged in farmers' and crofters' incomes. These need to be improved now and beyond the Brexit process to allow us to invest in our businesses and deliver food, landscapes, jobs, environmental benefits and a thriving rural economy.



NFU Scotland President Andrew McCormick, right, shares a handshake with Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing.

'Brexit is the wake-up call and the opportunity to change and do better.' Mr McCormick added: 'Scotland's farmers and crofters face the massive challenge of a very high cost winter because of an exceptionally wet summer

and autumn. Mr Ewing's commitment to creating a Weather Advisory Panel in Scotland gives us an opportunity to react in smarter ways to our ever-changing weather.

'We must learn from events like the extreme flooding in early 2016 as well as the summer of 2017 where it wasn't the high rainfall that did the damage but the lack of dry days when silage, harvest, slurry-spreading or ploughing could be completed.'

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- Landini Vision 90 4WD, 2003, c/w Quicke loader, 90HP, 40k..... £19,995
- Claas Celtis 456 4WD, 2008, c/w Claas FL80 PCH loader, 40k..... £19,995
- Zetor Proxima 95, 2010, only 1100 hours, 90HP, 80% tyres, 90HP..... £19,495
- Claas 436 4WD, 2007, C/W Troma loader/fork, powershuttle £18,495
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MOTORISTS URGED TO TICK ALL THE BOXES THIS WINTER, SAYS 'THE MOTOR OMBUDSMAN'

WINTER MOTORING



- Drivers advised to look out for The Motor Ombudsman logo when choosing a garage to get their car ready for winter
- Downloadable winter ticklist introduced on The Motor Ombudsman website to guide motorists through the key points to consider when taking their car to a garage
- The Motor Ombudsman's online Garage Finder allows consumers to easily check for a business' accreditation to the Service and Repair Code and for any seasonal garage promotions

AS THE mercury drops, and the days get shorter in the run-up to winter, The Motor Ombudsman, the automotive dispute resolution provider, is urging drivers to look out for its widely-recognised logo at their local

independent garage or franchised dealer when getting their car ready for the cold weather. A business displaying the Motor Ombudsman badge on their website and premises, which is centered around a prominent blue tick as a symbol of reassurance, means motorists can have the peace of mind that the retailer is committed to providing the highest level of care and workmanship.

With the end-of-year season traditionally bringing tougher conditions on the road, making sure a vehicle is fully roadworthy, whether for the daily commute or for the holiday getaway, is essential to staying safe. The Motor Ombudsman has therefore introduced an online ticklist that can be downloaded from its website. The handy, one-stop resource guides motorists through key considerations when having work done at a garage including if any quotes and invoices are easy to under-

stand, or whether components such as tyres, lights and wiper blades are all functioning correctly.

Furthermore, the Garage Finder (TheMotorOmbudsman/garage-finder) is another useful tool available to drivers. At the click of a button, it allows consumers to see all garages within a specific area or postcode that are accredited to its Service and Repair Code of Practice, of which there are thousands across the UK.

Motorists can also read the latest customer reviews, find out about the latest winter offers and make a direct booking for any maintenance via a business' profile page.

Bill Fennell, chief ombudsman and managing director of The Motor Ombudsman, said: 'All-year round maintenance of a vehicle is critical. However, winter is particularly a time to make sure everything is working as it

should and that any repairs are undertaken by a garage that adheres to recommended practices. Therefore, we have put together this useful download on our website where vehicle owners can check in one place that they have the main bases covered when it comes to any seasonal maintenance, as this could ultimately make the difference.'

For the next two weeks, starting today, social media users can enter The Motor Ombudsman's winter competition on its Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheMotorOmbudsman) and Twitter (@Motor_Ombudsman) pages to be in with the chance of winning a winter car care kit.

To view and download The Motor Ombudsman's winter ticklist, visit TheMotorOmbudsman.org/winter-ticklist.

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C-HR Dynamic 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.1 (7.4), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 47.8 (5.9). CO₂ Emissions 135g/km. All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Model shown is C-HR Dynamic 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual at £25,565. Price excludes metallic paint at £545. Prices correct at time of going to print. *3.9% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of C-HR between 2nd October 2017 and 17th December 2017 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 31st March 2018 on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC, registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 10p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Affordable finance through

AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty. Terms and conditions apply. If you trade-in any car or commercial vehicle that was registered up to and including 31st December 2009 you can receive between £1,000 and £4,000 (saving dependent on model chosen and incl VAT) scrappage saving off the Recommended On The Road Price of a New Toyota. Offer available on all new Toyota passenger cars and commercial vehicles, excluding base grades (Active and X) and Yaris GRMN. New Toyota vehicle must be ordered and registered between 1st September 2017 and 31st December 2017. Further information can be found at www.toyota.co.uk/toyota-scrappage-scheme.

IS MY CAR WINTER-PROOF?

- How much tread is left on my tyres?
- Are all tyres (including the spare) at the correct pressure for the load being carried?
- Do I need winter tyres, and if so how much do they cost?
- How much does it cost to change the winter tyres back to regular tyres?
- Are the brakes in good working condition and legal?
- What is the condition of the battery?
- When was the battery last changed?
- Are the fluids topped up to the recommended levels (i.e. screenwash / anti-freeze, oil and air conditioning)?
- Are all front and rear lights working?
- Do the wiper blades leave the front and rear screen free of streaks?

AM I PREPARED?

- Do I have sunglasses (winter sun can be dazzling)?
- Is there an ice scraper and de-icer in the car?
- Do I have an emergency kit (i.e. a first aid kit, jump leads, boots, warning triangle and a blanket)?
- Do I comply with all the equipment requirements if I am travelling abroad?
- Have I got the right level of breakdown cover for where I am travelling to?
- Is my car insurance, MOT and tax up to date?
- Have I washed and waxed my car to protect it from the build-up of dirt and grime?
- Is there a charger and / or adapter in the car to top-up my phone?
- Is my satellite navigation system working?
- Do I have a shovel at home in case of thick snow?
- Do I have salt to spread on paths and driveways in the event of ice and snow?

WHERE DO I GO FOR A WINTER CHECK AND WHAT DO I LOOK OUT FOR?

- Is the business accredited to The Motor Ombudsman's Service and Repair Code of Practice?
- Have I read any reviews about the business? (e.g. on The Motor Ombudsman's Garage Finder)
- Do I understand the work that needs doing on my car, and has it been clearly explained to me?
- Does the invoice match the work undertaken and the price that I was quoted?
- Was I consulted before any additional work was carried out?
- Did I get a receipt for the work and any condition reports?
- Does the garage have any winter check offers or discounts?
- Do the replacement parts being offered to me meet my budget (e.g. tyres)?
- Can the work be done while I wait, or do I have to leave the car at the garage?



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Keep road safe with the 20 pence tyre check

TYRESAFE is reminding all drivers to ensure they're keeping their road risks to a minimum by practising #SafeTyreChecks.

November is typically cold and wet and coincides with the onset of chillier weather, a combination which places high demands on the only safety feature of a vehicle which is in touch with the roads – its tyres.

Most drivers are unaware that each tyre's 'footprint' is about the same size as an adult's palm and, with so much literally riding on them, it's essential to check they are in optimal condition.

'Drivers need to remember that brakes, steering and all advanced safety systems designed to help avoid accidents depend on

the vehicle having a sure footing on the road – in other words, their tyres need to be in good condition,' said Stuart Jackson, chairman of TyreSafe.

'As we're now facing an increasing number of cold and wet days, to stay safe we need to be even more attentive to tyre maintenance.

'Air pressure, condition and

tread depth must be checked regularly, especially if you're planning a break using a car laden with your most prized possessions – your family.'

Many drivers are aware that recommended tyre pressures for a vehicle vary to suit the weight of the load it is carrying, but far too many are complacent and don't take the time to make this important adjustment before they set off with their families.

Typically, the unladen and laden pressures are on a plaque either inside the fuel filler flap or in the door, but they are sure to be found in the handbook. Incorrect pressures are not only increase wear and decrease fuel efficiency but also make the tyre more vulnerable to sudden deflation.

A tyre's tread depth is a particularly important factor in cold and wet conditions as the more worn it becomes, the longer your car will take to stop.

Checking is easy and takes just a few minutes using the 20p test as the outer band of a 20p piece is 1.6mm, which is the minimum legal tread depth.

To check how close you are to that limit, place the 20p in the main grooves in the centre section of your tyre: if you can't see the tread, then check at two other points across the width and repeat at two more places further round the circumference.

If you can see the 20p's outer band at any point or are unsure, you need to get the tyres checked by a professional as the tyre maybe illegal and dangerous.

If you find something in the grooves, like a stone, remove it if you are able to do so.

While you're checking the tread depth, you should also ensure the tyres are in good condition, looking out for cracks, lumps, bumps or embedded objects.

Tyre manufacturers don't produce tyres with bulges or screws in them, so if you see anything suspiciously out of the ordinary, get it checked by a professional.

TyreSafe recommends these checks are done at least once a month and before long journeys.



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NISSAN - NAVARA DIESEL - Double Cab Pick Up Acenta 2.5dCi 190 4WD 2012, White, Manual, 2500, First Registered 20/03/2012, YG12 KDV, Mileage 109,698 **£5000+VAT ONO**

TOYOTA - HILUX DIESEL - Invincible D/Cab Pick Up 3.0 D-4D 4WD 171, 2014, Black, Manual, 3000, First Registered 28/02/2014 SR63 BMV, Mileage 97,358 **£9500+VAT ONO**

VOLKSWAGEN - AMAROK A32 DIESEL - D/Cab Pick Up Trendline 2.0 BITDI 163 4MOTION Sel, 2011, Black, Manual, 2000, First Registered 17/05/2011 DS11 YGD, Mileage 110,230 **£8000+VAT ONO**



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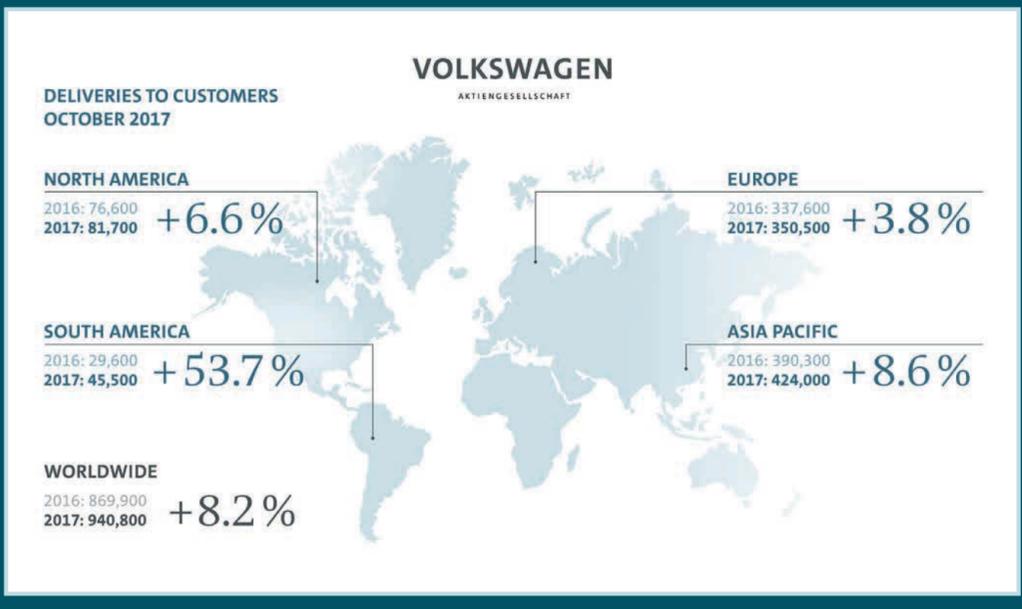
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VOLKSWAGEN GROUP DELIVERIES GROW 8.2 PERCENT IN OCTOBER



- 940,800 VEHICLES HANDED OVER TO CUSTOMERS IN OCTOBER
- 8.7 MILLION VEHICLES DELIVERED WORLDWIDE FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER (+3.2 PER CENT)
- FRED KAPPLER, HEAD OF GROUP SALES: *'October showed that our customers all over the world trust our brands and products. Group deliveries grew significantly in all regions.'*



The Volkswagen Group handed over 940,800 vehicles to customers in October, an increase of 8.2 per cent compared with the previous year. 'October showed that our customers all over the world trust our brands and products. Group deliveries grew significantly in all regions,' Fred Kappler, Head of Group Sales at Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft, commented. The Group handed over 8.7 million vehicles to customers worldwide in the first ten months, an increase of 3.2 per cent.

Deliveries in Europe rose significantly in October: 350,500 vehicles (+3.8 per cent) were handed over to customers there, of which 284,300 (+1.4 per cent) were delivered in Western Europe. In Germany, 103,400 (+0.8 per cent) customers chose a new vehicle from the group. The good performance was in particular due to developments in Central and Eastern Europe, where 66,200 new vehicles (+15.5 per cent) were delivered. The group has enjoyed solid growth

of 3.0 per cent in Europe since the beginning of the year. Once again, the group reported significant gains in the North America region in October, handing over 81,700 new vehicles (+6.6 per cent) to customers. This is attributable to deliveries in both the USA (+10.1 per cent) and Canada. The upward trend on the South American market continued in October. Group deliveries in the region rose significantly to 45,500 units (+53.7 per cent). This trend was primarily driven by Brazil, where 26,700 vehicles (+67.6 per cent) were delivered, and Argentina. The group has recorded double-digit growth of 24.5 per cent in the region since the beginning of the year.

Group deliveries in the Asia-Pacific region in October increased by 8.6 per cent to 424,000 vehicles. With 398,100 vehicles delivered (+9.4 per cent), China strengthened the region's good performance. By the end of October, 3.3 million customers in China had taken delivery of a new vehicle from the group.



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ADVICE FOR DRIVING IN HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODS

HOW TO PREPARE FOR DRIVING IN HEAVY RAIN

Firstly, it is always advisable to consider before you set off whether your journey is essential. If not, can it be delayed until after the rain has subsided?

If so then plan your journey in advance, taking care to avoid areas which are prone to flooding, and factor in extra time to allow for slower speeds and potential congestion.

It is also a good idea to let relatives and friends know your intended route and expected time of arrival and, where possible, travel with others.

How to drive in heavy rain

Firstly, slow down. Reduce your speed and leave more space between you and the vehicle in front as stopping distances in rain are increased

Use dipped headlights so that other drivers can see you more easily

Don't use rear fog lights. They can mask your brake lights and dazzle drivers behind you

Look out for large or fast-moving vehicles creating spray which reduces visibility

Keep your air conditioning on as this will stop your windows from misting up

You can read our full advice page on how to demist your windscreen in double-quick time

Listen out for local news bulletins to keep up-to-date with road closures, flooding and forecasts

If you break down in torrential rain keep the bonnet closed while waiting for help to arrive to avoid the electrical system getting soaked

Driving too fast through standing water could lead to tyres losing contact with the road. If your steering suddenly feels light you could be aquaplaning. To regain grip, ease off the accelerator, do not brake and allow your speed to reduce until you gain full control of the steering again

Driving fast through deep water can cause serious and expensive damage

Be considerate to other road users and try

not to spray pedestrians and cyclists as you drive through water

Heavy rain may lead to large puddles, areas of standing water and even flooding. In the event that you may have to negotiate these types of conditions on the road, read below for our advice on how to drive through deep puddles.

Stopping distances in the rain
The Highway Code states that stopping distances will be at least double in wet weather because your tyres will have less grip on the road.

Reduce your speed and leave more space between you and the vehicle in front to account for greater stopping distances – remember the two-second rule? Well increase it to four if it begins to pour.

How to drive through water and floods
'Puddles' may conjure up an image of a small drop, but some can develop into sizable bodies of water.

Driving through these puddles incorrectly could cause serious damage to your car, not to mention cost an extortionate amount to repair.

As a result we've put together some top tips for driving through them:

Size up the puddle first. Even if it means you have to stop your car and get out, getting a bit wet is a lot better than being left stranded.

If the water is muddy you might not be able to see the bottom and gauge its

depth. Try and find a stick or an object to find the lowest point.

If it's clearly too deep for your car, find another way to your destination. Modern vehicles' door seals are good and keep water out, but this can make a car buoyant, meaning it could begin to float if the water gets too deep, leaving you stranded. Even in this instance, the water will eventually find its way in.

If the puddle is shallow enough to drive through, try and spot any objects that may cause damage to your car's wheels, tyres or suspension, potentially leaving you mid-puddle with a problem. This way you can pick a safe path across.

Once you've confirmed you can drive through the puddle and determined your route, keep your vehicle in a low gear (second is generally adequate) and engine revs up.

This will help you maintain momentum when you travel through the puddle, creating a bow wave so you don't get bogged down.

Once you exit the other side – and especially if the puddle is on the deep side – pause for a moment if you can to let any excess water drain away and flow back to where it came from.

If you can't, be aware that grip levels on the road ahead will be diminished, as fluid



from the puddle is dropped along the road surface by other cars.

It's always worthwhile to gently brush your brake pedal on exit, creating some friction and therefore heat to evaporate off any excess moisture. Some luxury vehicles can sense when you've navigated a puddle and automatically do this for you,

keeping braking performance as effective as possible.

Shallow puddles are not the most arduous obstacles to overcome, but it's still important to remember that on the other side of a puddle grip levels could be lower. Adjust your speed to suit the depth of the water, too.



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E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
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Due to an expanding portfolio of products in both print and online, we are looking for sales staff to join our busy and successful team at Wyvex Media, the parent company of the Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser and Arran Banner.

We also publish a plethora of lifestyle magazines, tourist maps, holiday publications and business directories covering the west coast of Scotland and beyond.

We are looking for our next shining star and will offer flexible working patterns and working location for the right person. A hardworking, committed work ethic is essential, along with the desire to develop long term relationships with existing and new clients.

Experience in advertising sales is not necessary, as full training will be given.

We offer excellent pay and real career progression and benefits including BUPA, holidays to 35 days (Scale), realistic targets and achievable bonus.

You will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please submit CV and covering letter to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

WYVEX MEDIA



THE MAJESTIC LINE

The Majestic Line

The Majestic Line is an innovative small cruise company sailing out of Oban on the West Coast of Scotland. The vessels 'Glen Massan' and 'Glen Tarsan' are traditional wooden 85ft fishing boats which have been converted to provide a very high standard of hospitality for up to 11 guests. The 'Glen Etive' is a purpose built vessel providing accommodation for up to 12 guests. We are currently recruiting for 2018 season commencing April until the end of October.

We invite applications for experienced:

- Skippers
- Marine Engineers
- Chefs
- Bosuns/ Steward(ess)

Applicants should have the required experience and be willing to provide excellent standards of customer care for our guests.

For further details please apply to info@themajesticline.co.uk or telephone Neil on 01369 707951



HGV DRIVERS

Class 1 HGV Drivers / Timber crane experience is essential.

Timber Contracts throughout Scotland.

Competitive Salary

Overtime available

To apply, please send your CV to HR@tslcontractors.co.uk

or via post to TSL Contractors Ltd, Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA65 6AY or call 01680 812 475 for further details.

Find us on: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Individual to assist running a fish hatchery on the Isle of Mull

Will be required to undertake daily management of hatchery and river including grass cutting. Monitoring, maintenance and record keeping in hatchery and reporting to the estate manager on a regular basis. Some computer experience necessary. Prior hatchery experience is not critical but will be beneficial. Prior experience with grass cutting machinery will be beneficial.

Email: michael.laing@struttandparker.com

Hazelbank Motors Ltd

Oban

Require a full time, Time Served Mechanic for expanding workshop.

Please apply in writing only to:
Iain Coates, Hazelbank Motors Ltd,
Lynn Road, Oban PA34 4PL

MACTAGGART LEISURE CENTRE – Isle of Islay

FULL TIME RECREATION ASSISTANT REQUIRED

For life guard, cleaning & customer service within friendly team. Ideally to have pool lifeguard qualification but not essential as training provided. Opportunities for swim instruction & progression to supervisor for right candidate. Immediate start.

For application pack or chat contact gary@mactaggartleisurecentre.co.uk or ring Gary Scott 07957 609256

Retreat House Warden

BISHOP'S HOUSE

ISLE OF IONA

The board of Island Retreats Limited seeks a warden to run the retreat house on the Isle of Iona in Argyll, part of the Scottish Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and The Isles. For recruitment pack visit:

<http://www.argyll.anglican.org/home/vacancy/>

Closing date 16 December 2017

Registered Charity No: SC023281 Registered Company No: SC225528



Senior Regeneration Officer (New Build) Argyll & Bute

Salary £39,811 - £46,836 per annum

Fixed Term Contract (3 years)

35 hours per week

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: 01546 605817 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

This post will be subject to a Basic Disclosure Scotland check. CV's are not accepted.

For more information, please contact Matthew MacAulay, Regeneration Manager on 01546 605839.

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 8th December 2017

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Wednesday 10th January 2018

ARDFERN YACHT CENTRE LTD



BOOKKEEPER/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

(Competitive salary depending on qualifications and experience)

We require a bookkeeper/office administrator to join our busy marina, boatyard and chandlery office near Lochgilphead in Mid Argyll.

The ideal candidate will have a strong accounts background and must be familiar with all aspects of daily and monthly bookkeeping routines.

Reporting to the general manager and a director, you will be familiar with processing purchase and sales invoices, bank reconciliation and VAT returns, as well as being able to undertake general office duties and effectively manage customer relations.

Experience using accountancy software such as Sage and the Microsoft Office package (particularly Excel), is critical to the role.

Please apply for an application form and full job description to Mark Cameron, Ardfern Yacht Centre Ltd, Ardfern, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN. Tel: 01852 500247 or via email to mark@ardfernyacht.co.uk before the closing date of Friday 1st December 2017.

Social Worker (Permanent)

£32,775 - £35,841

Lochgilphead Ref: HAW00891

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date:
Friday 1st December 2017

To apply visit
our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Cultural Co-ordinator (Temporary)

£22,410 - £24,417

Location Negotiable

Ref: CME00491

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date: Friday, 1 December 2017

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



Senior Husbandry - with Critical Equipment Specialisation Loch Nevis, Mallaig

Earnings Potential for this Role: (£29,000 - £32,500) + Bonus

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

A unique role designed to undertake planned preventative maintenance of site equipment including generators, vessel engines, outboards, small plant, net cleaners, feed systems, incinerators forklifts etc. Showing leadership in health and safety and working with site staff to keep critical equipment in optimal condition.

Would be ideal for an aspiring engineer keen to become involved in Scotland's highly successful aquaculture industry. Specialist training will be provided. Applicants to be dynamic, meticulous and excellent communicators.

Candidates will be Day Skipper qualified (or equivalent) and ambitious enough to pursue a Yacht-Master coastal. Relocation package will be available for the right candidate.

Working a 40-hour week, Monday to Friday with 1:3 weekend working required on a rota system.

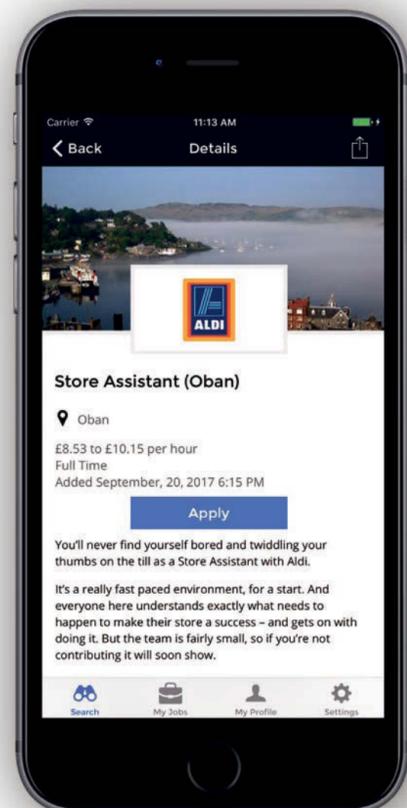
In return we will offer an attractive salary dependant on experience along with additional payments on completion of specific training, crop bonus, discretionary company bonus, pension scheme, life cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

A current driving licence is essential.

If you would like to be considered for this vacancy, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing date for applications: Friday 1st December 2017

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home and in the community.



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ref no. SWR/FOR/6050

enhanced support worker

Fort William & Ballachulish

30 hours (permanent)
hourly rate at £9.70*
ref no: ESW/FOR/6051

*pay award pending

If you are looking for a rewarding job with a well established, sustainable organisation who has an excellent reputation for supporting its workforce then this could be the job for you! Key offer excellent support and training alongside a range of benefits and opportunities for career progression.

Key is a leading Social Care provider working across Scotland for adults with disabilities. We provide person centred support to individuals to live in their own homes and be active citizens; enabling each individual to use their talents, fulfil their dreams and be in control of their lives.

We are currently looking for people who:-

- Enjoy and have experience of working with people
- Have a positive attitude to life and a commitment towards making a difference to the lives of people with disabilities
- Have excellent life skills and the ability to share these with others
- Have common sense and can understand and adhere to Codes of Practice and Care Standards

For the Support Worker and Relief Support Workers, experience of working with adults with disabilities although desirable is not essential as full training and 'on the job' support will be provided.

The Enhanced Support Worker will take on some aspects of the management role to support the Local Service Manager. Enhanced responsibilities may include undertaking management checks, preparing the rota or completing returns. Given this some experience and understanding of working in social care is essential.

For an application form, job description and copy of our equal opportunities policy, please email: jobs@key.org.uk or telephone 0141 342 1892 (24 hour answering service), visit our website at www.key.org.uk or write quoting job title and location to Personnel, Key Community Supports, The Square 70 Renton Street Glasgow G4 0HT

For further discussion or support you can contact:- Stephen.Riches@key.org.uk or Jean.Ramsay@key.org.uk

Closing date: 8th December 2017.

Key, Key Support and Key Housing are names used by Key Housing Association Ltd, a charity registered in Scotland, No SC006652.

Visit: www.key.org.uk



Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02605/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse including ancillary artisan workshop space	Land Adjacent To The Sewage Works Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar
17/02895/LIB	Internal alterations including removal of partition walls, installation of new partitions, doors and public counter	Court House Albany Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4AL	Oban Area Office
17/02824/PP	Erection of greenhouse	33 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/02869/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Totamore Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle Of Coll
17/02887/PP	Erection of entrance porch, formation of planting and seating structures and associated works	Malcolm Elliot Stores Salen Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JB	Sub Post Office Aros Isle Of Mull
17/02937/PP	Installation of antenna	Taigh Solais Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/04997/FUL	Development Site East of South Cuil, Duror	Proposed dwelling house & installation of septic tank
17/05323/FUL	Narrach Bridge, Kinlochleven	Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement house
17/05332/FUL	Land 150M NE of Aldersyde, Gairloch, Spean Bridge	Erection of 6no visitor accommodation pods & services building

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (INVERARAY) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2017

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A83 Taret - Lochgilphead - Campbelltown Trunk Road from its junction with the entrance to The Avenue Car Park, Inveraray in a generally northerly direction on Main Street South, Main Street West, Main Street East then in a north westerly direction on Front Street East and Front Street West to its junction with the entrance leading to Inveraray Castle, a distance of 575 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Inveraray Christmas Parade, 2017 will be in operation from 24th November 2017 until 25th November 2017 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as and is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police, coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES
An alternative route for traffic during the prohibition is not required. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

S P DAVIES
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION
GLEN NOE HYDRO SCHEME

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Innoy Renewables UK Ltd for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Glen Noe Hydro Scheme, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.8m in height	River Noe	NN 0747 3333
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.6m in height	Allt Garbh	NN 0733 3326
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.0m in height	Allt a' Bhraith	NN 0622 3347
Abstraction of 91,729 m3 per day of water	River Noe	NN 0747 3333
Abstraction of 31,375 m3 per day of water	Allt Garbh	NN 0733 3326
Abstraction of 16,192 m3 per day of water	Allt a' Bhraith	NN 0622 3347
Return of abstracted water	River Noe	NN 0485 3412

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities 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: <http://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, either by email to registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk or to the following address, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1162982:
Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representation received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and,
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

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DESMOND MICHAEL FORRESTER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 10 Poyntz Road, London SW11 5BH, who died on 08/03/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 02/02/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Keystone Law,
48 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JF.
Ref: RJP/AMA12.1/FORRESTER

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Appointment of Grazings Committee

Name of Common Grazings: Bohuntin

A meeting of shareholders for the above common grazings will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee.

10th December, 2017
Roy Bridge Hall-Kitchen
3.30pm

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter.

Mary Keith is applying to divide the owner-occupied croft Keills, located at Keills, Craighouse, Jura Argyll. PA60 7XG.

The application is to divide Keills into two crofts (by creating one additional new smaller croft).

Please submit written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to:

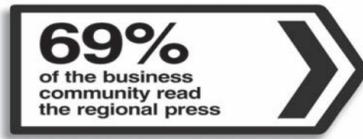
Crofting Commission,
Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by 22/12/17.

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Elaine Robertson (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)

Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on Friday 24th November 2017 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 10.00am - 12 Noon.

Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email - Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk



CROFTING COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING

The Crofting Commission will be holding public meetings in the FALLS OF LORA HOTEL, CONNELL 29 NOVEMBER 7.30 - 9pm

NEVIS CENTRE, FORT WILLIAM 30 NOVEMBER 7.30 - 9pm

The purpose of the meeting is to invite interest for the new Assessors Panel which will be appointed in Spring 2018 along with an update from the Commission on general crofting matters.

www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 FERRY BERTH IMPROVEMENTS AND SLIPWAY REPAIRS, LOCHALINE FERRY TERMINAL, LOCHALINE, MORVERN

Notice is hereby given that Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of ferry berth improvements and slipway repair works at:

Cost	£3,000,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Lochaline Ferry Terminal	56° 32.201' N	005° 46.495' W
Lochaline	56° 32.230' N	005° 46.490' W
Morvern	56° 32.226' N	005° 46.492' W
	56° 32.216' N	005° 46.507' W
	56° 32.211' N	005° 46.495' W
	56° 32.209' N	005° 46.498' W
	56° 32.213' N	005° 46.507' W
	56° 32.197' N	005° 46.532' W

(WGS84)

North Argyll Carers Centre Ltd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 14th December 2017
Royal Hotel
Argyll Square Oban
12 noon
We look forward to seeing you

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Morvern Post Office, Lochaline, Oban, PA80 5XT.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference:

06537
Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd

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www.krispprint.co.uk

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FOLDING ELECTRIC BIKE with trailer, very little used, 36 volt, 6 speed, 15 mph, £350 Tel 07796 593327

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DOG / LUGGAGE GUARD Travall make for Land Rover Discovery Sport, like new, £50 ono Tel 07770 956372.

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BING BUNNY - INTERACTIVE TOY Interactive toy. Talks & sings, walks, talks to you. Excellent condition. For over 2 yrs, £15 Tel 07795 180964.

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GIRLS LITTLE TIKES toddler trike. Lilac/pink on white. With front plaque and rear bucket. Parent's handle. Good condition. Oban, £8 Tel 07795 180964.

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LADIES COAT new Target Dry ladies full length waterproof coat, size 16, colour brown, £20 Tel 07920 487939.

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BIRTHS

MACINNES - Claire (née Kennedy) and Iain are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Amy Margaret on October 22, 2017. First grandchild for Marjorie Kennedy, Oban, Colin Kennedy, Isle of Coll and Alistair MacInnes and Fiona Malcolm, Tiree. First great-grandchild for Mabel MacArthur, Tiree.

MACLEAN - GRANT - Calum and Emily are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Evie Grace on October 29, 2017, a little sister for Calum. Thanks to all emergency services for all their help.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Wednesday November 15, after a long and courageous battle against illness, Janice dearest wife of Iain, much loved mother of Robert and Stuart, daughter of Catherine and sister of Shirley, Karen and Kenneth. Janice will be forever missed but never forgotten. Funeral will take place from St. Oran's Church, Connel on Friday November 24 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Macmillan Day Bed Unit, Oban.

BRYCE - Jean Gordon (nee McWilliam). Formerly of 11 Southend Place, Bellshill and Alma Crescent, Oban. Peacefully on Sunday November 12, 2017 at Croft Bank Care Home Uddingston. Jean devoted wife of the late John P. Bryce, beloved Mum

to Barbara, Janice (deceased) Lorna and Iain. A loving Gran to David, Ewan, Laurie and an adoring Great Gran to Eilidh and Bryce. Funeral service to be held at South Lanarkshire crematorium 31 Sydes Brae, Blantyre G72 0TL on Thursday November 30, arriving at 11am to which all friends are respectfully invited.

CAMPBELL - Maurice of Dunblane, formerly of Caol. Peacefully at the Beatson on Saturday November 11, 2017. Husband of Rosemary (née Scott), dad to Lorna and Alison. Funeral service will take place on Saturday November 25 at 10.30am at Falkirk Crematorium, to which all are invited. Family flowers only.

CARMICHAEL - At Islay Hospital on November 19, 2017 Archie (formerly Kinnabus Farm, The Oa), aged 76 years. Dearly beloved husband of Elsa, loving dad to Linda, father-in-law to Niall and treasured granddad to Iona. Funeral service at St John's Church, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay on Monday November 27 at 11.30a.m. and thereafter to Kilnoughton Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan nurses.

DAVIES - Peacefully, in Invernevis House on Friday, November 10, Brian Davies. Sincere thanks to Rev Richard Baxter for his comforting service, Tweeddale Surgery, Invernevis House, Macmillan Nurses for all their support, special thanks to John McLellans for their guidance with the funeral arrangements.

Special thanks to Fort William Shinty Club for the catering and thanks also to friends and family who have supported Barbara at this sad time.

MACDONALD - Gordon Fotheringham. Peacefully at his home at 15 Carnan Road, Arinagour, Isle of Coll, PA78 6TA on November 13, 2017. A funeral service will take place at Cardross Crematorium on November 27, 2017 at 12.15 p.m. A memorial service will take place on Coll in the spring of 2018 when the ashes will be scattered and Gordon's memorable life will be remembered and celebrated. The relevant date will be intimated in due course.

MACKINNON - James C. Mackinnon (Seumas) of Dalgety Bay (formerly Pencaitland, Inverness and Fort William), died suddenly on November 9, 2017. Much loved husband of Muriel, father of Jay and brother of Sine. At his own request, Seumas will be cremated privately. No flowers please. Donations, if wished to Parkinson's UK.

McKINLAY - Alexander McKinlay, born 5.4.1947. Eldest son of Alex and Helen, passed away on November 2, 2017 in Victoria, Australia after a short illness. Sadly missed.

PEARSON - Anne Ailsa, formerly of Greenock, Campbeltown and the Isle of Lismore, in her 82nd year, died peacefully at Erskine Care Home, on November 15, 2017, after a short illness. Beloved wife of the late Andrew, much loved mother of Andrew Jnr, Calum and Angus and loving grandmother of Kate,

Lucy and Archie. Funeral at Greenock Crematorium on Friday, November 24 at 11.00am. Sincere thanks from the family to all the staff at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Ardgowan Hospice and Erskine. A collection will be taken for Erskine.

SOMERVILLE - Grace Alice (known as Jane), beloved wife of the late Alastair, very special mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully in her 95th year, on November 21 at the Lake Wakatipu Care Home, Queenstown, New Zealand. Private cremation and service at St John's Presbyterian Church, Arrowtown, NZ. Much treasured and missed by all the family.

MEMORIAMS

HENDERSON - In loving memory of my dear husband Iain who died November 22, 2002. We never part from those we love, No distance can divide, In memories garden day by day, We still walk by your side. - Sadly missed, Isobel

MACINNES - In loving memory of my dear wife Iain, who passed away on November 28, 2010. No tears, no verse, no words can say How much we miss you every day. - Love Roddy xx

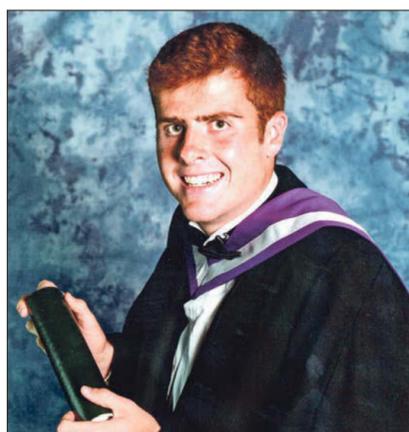
MACINNES - In loving memory of a dear mum and granny, who passed away on November 28, 2010. The good times we had as a family, A beautiful nature, a heart of gold, These are the memories, We'll always hold. Love and miss you always - Fiona, Brian and Euan xx - Keven, Claire and Ellie xx

GRADUATION



HANNAH MCDIARMID

Graduated from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig with a BA (Hons) in Gaelic Language and Culture. Hannah is the daughter of Mike and Margaret McDiarmid, Torvaig, Portree, granddaughter of Susie and the late Jimmy MacDonald, Caol, Fort William, and the late Katie and Johnnie McDiarmid, Torvaig, Portree. Hannah was awarded student of the year for both Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and UHI.



IAIN JAMES MACCALLUM

Graduated from North Highland College UHI (Dornoch Campus) with a BA Honours in Golf Management. Iain is the only son of Kenneth and Catriona MacCallum, Lundavra Farm, Fort William and the only grandson of Anne and the late Alastair MacCallum, Lundavra Farm and Anna and the late Iain MacDonald, Aonachan Gardens, Spean Bridge.

Coping with *bereavement*



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MACINTYRE - In memory of Calum, a much loved husband, who passed on November 27, 2015. Always remembered. - Joyce.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our dad and Shenair Calum, who died November 27, 2015. Remembered every day. - Mark, Donna, Gary and Shannon.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather, who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts. - Families Inveraray and Canada

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of Iain, dearly loved husband, dad, granddad and great-granddad who died on November 20, 2011. Also remembered James, loving brother and uncle, who died November 1, 2007. We miss you more each passing day Remembered always with our love - Betty and Family xx Precious memories of my amazing dad and a cherished and loving papa. - Marina, Cammy and Emma xxxx

MACKENZIE - Cherished memories of Willie, a loving husband, dad and grandpa, who died November 29, 2008. Forever in our thoughts. - Neileen and family.

MAY - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny Cathie, who died November 23, 2006. Sadly missed and remembered everyday. - Your loving family.

SELBIE - In remembrance of Christina, who died on November 22, 2016, much loved mum, granny and proud gran gran. Every day in some small way Memories of you come our way - Sadly missed by Jean, Yvonne, Hazel and families in Oban and Isle of Lewis.

OBAN TIMES
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

SEN - In loving memory of Su, darling much loved husband, father and granddaddy passed away November 2, 2015. May the winds of heaven blow gentle and whisper for you to hear, that we still love and miss you, wishing you were here. Till we meet again we hold you in our hearts. - Shirley and family.

OBAN TIMES
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

Thought for the week

Christmas morning will declare God's great love for us all - let's live out the 'countdown' through great love towards each other. (Mark 12:30-31)

As we approach Advent, we begin our preparation for the greatest countdown of the year: marking off the days until Christmas morning. It's a day in which we look to express our love and gratitude towards others, perhaps even holding some personal hopes and dreams for the day too. But as I look forward to the day itself, I sense a challenge not to count down to Christmas, but rather to build up a degree of momentum - in my love for others and a gratitude for all that they do, even an increase in prayer over my hopes and dreams, so that when Christmas morning finally arrives I can look back and see the richness of God's hand over every aspect of my life and conduct.

Stuart Lawson
Oban Baptist Church

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LOSS happens to everyone at some time. Most people expect this to happen later on in life, perhaps to an elderly relative, and loved ones have an idea that they are going to be faced with loss. But even though they know a loved one is dying, when it happens it comes as a great shock, and they are overwhelmed by unexpected feelings. And sometimes the loss of a loved one is sudden and unexpected.

Research has shown that in order to grieve in a healthy way, those suffering bereavement need to spend time grieving for the person and somehow continue to live and to function. If a person spends all of his time grieving and not engaging with life, or all his time pushing the grief away, he may have trouble moving forward and recovering.

Experts give several tips for those undergoing the bereavement process.

Talking to close family and friends, especially those who understand, can help feelings of loneliness by recounting memories and sharing stories that summed up the character of the person no longer with them. Such discussions remind everyone why the person was so loved in the first place.

In a similar vein, some may consider making a tribute of some kind to help pay their respects in a symbolic way. Finding ways to continue the bond with the

deceased person can help ease grief, such as engaging in activities they used to do, or participating in an event they would have liked - for example, a charity walk.

Going back to work too soon can hamper the bereavement process, although some people find it helpful to keep busy - as long as they don't push their feelings away and keep them bottled up.

The funeral can be one of the most important parts of the grieving process. The funeral offers a chance to say goodbye while sharing memories, experiences and anecdotes with friends and family - a true celebration of a person important to so many. Funeral directors will take care of the practical arrangements and guide the bereaved through the selection of flowers, music and order of events. It is difficult to make decisions under the weight of grief, and funeral home staff are skilled at assisting during this difficult time.

Grief counselling can help make the bereavement process a bit easier.

Sometimes it is helpful to talk to someone outside the circle of family and friends. A counsellor can help make sense of and help to normalise feelings. In addition, bereavement groups can help one through the process by providing an outlet to talk about difficult feelings, while acting as a social hub for those who have something in common.

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Tournament update
THE TOURNAMENT on November 4 in Lochgilphead was well attended by members from IKKU Oban, IKKU Lochgilphead, IKKU Perth, Senshi Do Oban, Argyll Martial Arts, Oban, and Argyll Martial Arts, Inveraray.

MARTIAL ARTS

WITH IAIN RODGER

The children taking part showed great determination and spirit and must all be congratulated for simply taking part. It's not easy for these youngsters to perform in front of a large crowd and they all did it admirably.

Tournament organiser Iain Rodger said: 'I was really impressed with the standard of competitors this year. The kids are getting better and better and, in particular, I must say a big well done to the kick boxers who adapted really well to the karate rules of fighting.'

'After the success of this event we are planning to hold another tournament in May next year to make this a six-monthly event instead of the usual yearly one.'

Fifteen-year-old Jodie Robertson of the Lochgilphead club took part in the junior and adult kata sections with great success.

Abbreviations: IKKU = Independent Kyokushin Karate Union (Caledonia Kyokushin); AMA = Argyll Martial Arts (Shukokai Karate); SDKB = Senshi Do Kick Boxing.

Placings were as follows: Junior kata (set patterns) up to 7th kyu;

1 James Snelgrove IKKU; 2 Campbell Shaw IKKU. Junior kata 6th kyu +: 1 Jodie Robertson IKKU; 2 James Whitelaw AMA; 3 Conan Burns AMA.

Adult kata: 1 Paul Mackay IKKU; 2 Jodie Robertson IKKU; 3 Darryl McLaughlin IKKU.

8-10 yrs kumite (fighting) up to 7th kyu: 1 James Snelgrove IKKU; 2 Kuba Grabczynski IKKU; 3 Mina Ritchie IKKU.

8-10 yrs kumite 6th kyu +: 1 Cody McCulloch SDKB; 2 Hugh Ross AMA; 3 Billy Bratton SDKB.

11-13 yrs kumite 6th kyu +: 1 Darcy Curran IKKU; 2 Donald Robertson IKKU; 3 Gregor Warnock AMA.

14-15 yrs kumite 3rd kyu +: 1 Jodie Robertson IKKU; 2 Robbie Bratton SDKB; 3 Finlay Lawson AMA

The most spirited fighter award went to young Henley McCulloch from SDKB.

Kyokushinkai Karate

The club members are working towards their next grad-

ing which take place on December 16 and 17. All those attempting black belt grades will be at the Oban dojo on the 16th. In addition to local boy Darryl McLaughlin, there will be others from around Scotland attempting to gain the coveted black belt that day. Club coach Iain Rodger is the IKKU national grading examiner for Scotland and assistant national grading examiner for the UK.

Anyone requiring more information on this style of karate should contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

Kickboxing

For club details contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07588 513618.

BJJ

The club attended a prestigious competition at Meadowbank Stadium last weekend with great success. Full details will be in the next report.

Anyone looking for more information about BJJ and MMA classes should contact club coach Iain (Coogie) Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Shukokai Karate

The Argyll Martial Arts club held their latest grading last week. This saw the club gain three new black belts. Sam Barker, Archie McColl-Smith, and Finlay Lawson all completed the tough two-hour test last week. All three boys have trained between six and eight years to reach this high rank.

Head coach Kenny Gray said: 'We would like to wish them all the best for their future in the martial arts world.'

Many other students completed gradings at a lower level with everyone passing with flying colours. The club will continue to train weekly up to Christmas when they will have a short break.

Beginners are always welcome at the club and anyone thinking of taking up this martial art should contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com.



All the prize-winners. Front row, left to right, are Conan Burns, Henley McCulloch, James Whitelaw, James Snelgrove, Mina Ritchie. Second row, Billy Bratton, Cody McCulloch, Hugh Ross, Campbell Shaw, Kuba Grabczynski. Third row, Robbie Bratton, Finlay Lawson, Gregor Warnock, Jodie Robertson, Darcy Curran, Donald Robertson. Back row, Darryl McLaughlin and Paul Mackay.



Finlay Lawson.



Sam Barker and Archie McColl Smith.



Adam Brattan and Hugh Ross.



Donal Robertson and Darcy Curran.



Jodie Robertson and Robbie Brattan.



Cody McCulloch and Hugh Ross.



Mima Ritchie and Lucy Blue.

Argyll youngster receives Sporting Achievement of the Year Award

AN ARGYLL youngster has been given the Sporting Achievement of the Year award for his commitment to orienteering.

Louis MacMillan of Loch Eck Orienteers, who competes in the under-17 age group, represented his country at this year's World Schools Orienteering Championships in Italy.

In order to make up the shortfall and fund his trip, Louis busked with his bagpipes.

Long distances
Most weekends the Loch Eck teenager travels long distances to attend events throughout Scotland.

As well as this, he has had to juggle school work on longer trips when he competes in England, for example.

The piper also used his musical talents to lead the Scottish schools orienteering team in Italy, playing both at the opening ceremony

Sports award

in Palermo and at the cultural evening. He also played at the prize-giving at the Scottish Six Days event.

Loch Eck is the orienteering club for Argyll. The club covers the whole of Argyll, but the majority of members hail from the Lorn and Oban area.

For more information, visit www.ecko.org.uk.

Oban Councillor Roddy McCuish presents Louis MacMillan with his Argyll and Bute Sporting Achievement of the Year award.
Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Mull lose out to Shawlands

Shawlands	38
Isle of Mull	6
BT West Division Three	

Rugby

AFTER last week's valiant effort at Bishopton (travelling with two players short, finishing the game with 11 and narrowly missing out on a victory) the boys from Mull were on their third away match in a row.

Arriving at Dumbreck to face Shawlands, a relatively strong Mull squad included a welcome return to the Carmichael brothers, Finlay and Patrick, playing alongside each other. The opposition team sheet included Muileach Tony Haunschmidt, which was sure to add some spice to the fixture.

The first half saw Shawlands leading by 19-6. A well-drilled Shawlands took their chances well

despite some valiant defence from Mull. Penalty conversions from Finlay Carmichael provided some hope for the islanders however. Salen's Calum Maceachran came coming closest to scoring, turned back feet from the try line.

Mull's lack of substitutes and the long journey began to take its toll in the second half. The valiant defence continued with some incredible tackling but the speedy backs from the southside managed three tries toward the end of the game for final score of 38-6.

After facing three of the top four teams in the league away from home, Mull have a run of home games, starting with Mofat RFC this Saturday.

Oban Camanachd awards night

THE OBAN Camanachd player of the year awards were made at an end of season buffet and dance at Glencruitten Golf Club last Saturday. Two of the awards were re-named to remember two people very special to the Oban club.

Oban Camanachd Nonny MacInnes Player of the Year Award – Scott McKillop

The Oban Camanachd first team player of the year award is now named in memory of Oban Camanachd stalwart Nonny MacInnes and Nonny's wife Karen and daughter Kirsty presented a new silver salver to Scott McKillop. The former Glenorchy defender joined Oban Camanachd at the start of the 2015 season and has been a stand-out for the side this year.



Lochside Rovers Jamie Kerr Player of the Year Award – Daniel Sloss and Craig Easton

The Lochside Rovers player of the year has been re-named to remember Jamie Kerr and Jamie's father John and his brother Jordan made the presentation to joint winners Daniel Sloss and Craig Easton. The youngsters have had a terrific 2017 and both were given a run out in the first team during the latter part of the season.

to the Oban Camanachd U14 and U17 squads. Their coaching and guidance has allowed a number of promising youngsters to flourish and Oban Camanachd can only benefit as the young guns progress to the first team squad.

Oban Camanachd U17 Player of the Year Award – Daniel MacCuish

Daniel MacCuish was the recipient of the Oban Camanachd player of the year award. The talented Scotland U17 player has broken into the Oban Camanachd first team squad this season.

Loyal Service Award – Iain MacMillan

There was a special loyal service award for Iain MacMillan who is proving a great servant to the club. As well as his overall contribution, Iain often mixed playing commitments with night shift work duties and he is deserving of such special recognition.

Oban Camanachd U14 Player of the Year Award – Ross Campbell

Ross Campbell was named Oban Camanachd U14 player of the year and his involvement this term has included playing for the U17s and breaking into the Lochside Rovers squad.

Every successful shinty club needs the help of their unsung heroes and heroines who work away unnoticed behind the scenes.

Oban Camanachd Special Award - David MacCuish, Scott Buchanan and George Easton

A special award was made to David MacCuish, Scott Buchanan and George Easton who stepped down as youth coaches at the end of the season. The trio first lead Rockfield Primary School to MacKay Cup success before bringing silverware

Oban Camanachd treasurer Fiona Livingstone comes into that category and her tireless work over the years made her a popular choice for the unsung heroine award.

This was a well-attended occasion and a useful club fund raiser. Compere Pat Steeman and event organisers Gareth Evans and Aidan MacIntyre were thanked for their efforts.



Oban Camanachd first team player of the year Scott McKillop is presented with the Nonny MacInnes salver by Nonny's wife Karen and daughter Kirsty. First team manager Ian Hay is also pictured.



David MacCuish, Scott Buchanan and George Easton were presented with a special award for services to youth shinty at the club. Also in the photo is Daniel MacCuish who won the Under 17 Player of the Year award.



The Under 14 Player of the Year was Ross Campbell who was presented with his award by Steven Sloss.



Joint winners of the Lochside Rovers Jamie Kerr Player of the Year award were Craig Easton and Daniel Sloss. They were presented with the award by Jamie's father John and brother Jordan.



Iain MacMillan was presented with a Loyal Service Award by Lochside manager Gareth Evans.



Club treasurer Fiona Livingstone won the Unsung Heroine Award which was presented by Chris Ecclestone.



Oban Bowling Club champions Andrew Forbes and Anne MacDougall.

Oban Bowling Club prizewinners

LADIES: Morag Skinner Trophy - M Goldie; Senior Ladies Handicap Trophy - L Carmichael; MacLean Senior Ladies Trophy - A MacDougall; D Cumming Trophy - L Barrie; MacLean Junior Trophy - E Gargan; Nominated Pairs - H MacLean and D MacLean; Balloted Pairs - H MacLean and L Barrie; Nominated Triples - A MacDougall, A

Stewart and L Carmichael; Balloted Triples - H MacLean, J Campbell and J Church; Ladies Champion - A MacDougall; Runner Up - H MacLean. Gents: MacBrayne Trophy - S Carr; Senior Singles - N MacDougall; Nominated Triples - J Fairlie; Centenary Triples - D MacAlpine, A Carmichael and D McCallum; Balloted Triples - S Carr, A B Carmichael and

Bowls

J Kidd; Nominated Pairs - N MacDougall and N Etherson; Balloted Pairs - C Carmichael and D McCall; Senior Gents Balloted Pairs - N MacDougall and P MacKinnon; Mixed Pairs - E Gargan and S Gargan; Gents Champion - A Forbes; Runner up - D MacLean.

Good home win away from home for Oban hockey club

Oban	2
Ayr 2nds	0
West District - Division 4	

OBAN mens' hockey team travelled to Helensburgh to play their home match against Ayr Mens 2. Their home ground at Taynuilt is water logged – much like the rest of Argyll.

Ayr are currently heading Division 4 of the West District league with only one defeat and that was to Oban at the start of the season. Could history be repeated?

The first half ended 0-0 and the prospect of another seven goal bonanza as experienced in Ayr looked highly unlikely,

although Oban showed much promise. There was some excellent passing and movement on display, but the final product was lacking due in no small part to the heroics of the Ayr keeper. Ayr did come close but Andy Head in the Oban goal pulled off a reaction save to deny them.

At the interval, captain Ali Burton gave his customary upbeat team talk and his words of wisdom paid dividends early in the second half when Stuart Head finally beat the Ayr goalie to put Oban in the lead.

Oban continued to play the better hockey with man of the match George Gauley playing



Captain Ali Burton gives an inspirational half time team talk.



The Ayr goalkeeper makes another fine save.

solidly as sweeper and thwarting any Ayr foray. Andy Hodge, Mark Lockhart and Jake Sanders put in excellent shifts with Ali Burton leading by example in the middle of the park. It wasn't all Oban though as Ayr showed they, too, could attack and after a couple of close encounters they levelled the score. As the half progressed, it looked like all the hard work would be unrewarded with shots going just wide or the Ayr

Hockey

keeper continuing to impress. However, in the dying seconds Stuart Head found himself a couple of metres from goal and with some deft stick work got the ball past the goal keeper for a second time. There was no time for a re-start and Oban had won a hard-fought encounter 2-0. Oban's next game is next weekend, also at home, this time in Glasgow.



SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Lochside Rovers presented with South Division One league trophy

Oban Camanachd end of season sixes

THE INAUGURAL Oban Camanachd end of season sixes took place on a cold but dry and sunny day at Mossfield on Saturday November 18.

This was a fun day for all associated with the club and eight teams of mainly eight players signed up to the event.

After an entertaining afternoon's shinty, Lorne Dickie's Jura side and Gavin Stobbart's Colonsay squad won through to the final. The sides could not be separated and a sudden death penalty shoot-out decided the outcome.

Willie Neilson sent Colonsay's first penalty over the bar.

Jura keeper Brian MacCallum had an excellent tournament, something he reminded his teammates about at the club function later in the evening, and he proved to be the match winner when he converted his penalty to give Jura the trophy.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy MacCuish presented the trophy to Jura captain Lorne Dickie.

Jura from: Lorne Dickie, captain, Steven Sloss, Daniel Sloss, Stephen Campbell, Drew Walker, Brian MacCallum, Lennon MacKechnie, Dougie MacDonald and Allan MacKechnie.

Katy Cameron and Eilidh McKay organised, cooked and sold food and drinks during an afternoon which proved to be a fine fundraiser for the club.

Lochside Rovers trophy presentation

LOCHSIDE Rovers were presented with the Marine Harvest South Division 1 trophy immediately after Oban Camanachd's inaugural end of season sixes at Mossfield on Saturday November 18.

Camanachd Association president Jim Barr performed what could be one of his final duties before standing down at this week's annual general meeting when he joined Argyll and Bute Councillor Roddy MacCuish to present the Marine Harvest South Division 1 trophy to Lochside Rovers captain Mi-

chael MacQueen in front of a delighted squad.

Lochside went through the league season losing only once and added the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup earlier in the season to round off a terrific year for Gareth Evans' side.

Kilmallie winners

KILMALLIE announced their 2017 player of the year awards at their annual dinner dance at The Moorings Hotel on Saturday November 18.

In the night's most poignant moment, Duncan Rodger, who passed away earlier this season, was named Kilmallie first team player of the year.

The other winners were:

Kilmallie Second Team Player of the Year - Dean Williamson.

Kilmallie U17 Player of the Year - Calum MacDougall.

Kilmallie U17 Most Improved Player of the Year - Cam Clark

Kilmallie U14 Player of the Year - Andrew Dingwall.

Kilmallie U14 Most Improved Player of the Year - Ben Mackinnon.

Camanachd Association AGM

A NUMBER of matters are up for consideration at the 2017 Camanachd Association annual general meeting at The West End Hotel, Fort William, on Friday November 24.

New appointments

KEITH Loades is expected to be confirmed as Camanachd Association president, taking over from Jim Barr who he has been shadowing for the last six months in a president-elect role.

Keith Loades has been a Camanachd Association board member for the last three years, latterly as vice president.

His aims include offering strong leadership, building good relationships, implementing shinty's new strategic plan, financial stability and strengthening the Camanachd Association board with the appropriate skills.

Keith Loades is retired after 33 years in the construction industry during the last 10 years of which he was commercial



Lochside Rovers with the Marine Harvest South Division One League championship trophy presented by councillor Roddy MacCuish and Camanachd Association president Jim Barr. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

director (Scotland) with a large construction company.

He had a distinguished playing career, mostly with Kinlochshiel, a club he managed on three occasions.

Finance director Daniel Palombo is up for re-election and is seeking a second term in office to continue his efforts to stabilise and improve the Camanachd Association's financial position.

Wendy Chamberlin, a current member of Aberdeen Shinty Club who has strong links with Kyles Athletic, is standing for election.

She is currently co-opted as the Camanachd Association's board's first female director and she wishes to chair the club and volunteer portfolio.

Colin Cameron also stands for election. He was part of the Strachur side which reached the 1983 Camanachd Cup Final and has been involved with the club since. He is looking to see shinty flourishing in the traditional playing heartlands.

New resolutions

PROPOSED changes to bylaw 1 (rules of play) put before members include:

- Minor alterations to the ball, allowing the core to be made of a solid composite material which does not absorb water.
- Players will no longer have

to wear the same colour helmets as their team mates. Helmets must be free of any sharp edges and should be secured to the head by use of a chinstrap.

- Secondary shorts no longer need to be the same colour as the team shorts.

- The procedures following a sending off have been expanded to include team officials who have been dismissed.

- It has been clarified that all persons representing a club in an active capacity at any game are subject to the same rules, standards of conduct and actions as the players and named substitutes. This is intended to address aggressive dissent, abusive remarks and foul language from the touchline support teams. Having to regularly face this type of behaviour is the most common reason given by individuals who give up refereeing or decline to take up a role in refereeing when approached to do so.

- If the two centre players are one left-handed and the other right-handed, the choice of the side for the throw up shall alternate throughout the game rather than the players having the advantage for a half each.

- The rules in relation to 'cleeking' have been explained further, clarifying that 'cleeking' is permissible but that dangerous lifting and downward hacking are not.

- The term persistent fouling is defined as a minimum of three fouls committed by an individual player. A warning for persistent fouling shall be issued after a minimum of three fouls has been committed by an individual player. The warning must be specific to the player and it must be made clear that a caution will follow if the player continues to foul. The same procedure will apply if a further caution is to be issued to an individual player for persistent fouling.

- To prevent foul and abusive language (including frustration with oneself), it is proposed this features as a distinct cautionable offence. If the swearing is aggressive or abusive or directed specifically at the referee or a goal judge, then there are grounds for immediate dismissal of the offending player.

- Deliberately preventing a clear goal scoring opportunity through foul play is categorised as a cautionable offence.

New Lewis management

LEWIS Camanachd have named their new management

team for the 2018 shinty season. John MacAskill will be the first team manager, assisted by Andrew MacAskill.

John MacAskill spent the 2017 shinty season as assistant manager to Duncan MacIntyre who steps down after two years in charge at the island club.

Peter Gomez will captain Lewis Camanachd next season with Ally Lamont vice captain.

David Macdonald continues as chieftain.

Fort William AGM

FORT William's senior club annual general meeting will take place at the clubhouse, An Aird, on Monday December 11 at 7.30pm.

Oban Lorn awards

OBAN Lorn shinty club held their annual prize giving at the Rowanree Hotel, Oban on Saturday November 11.

The main winners were: Ladies Player of the Year - Karen MacKinnon; Ladies Most Improved Player of the Year - Gillian Ruth MacKechnie; Ladies U18 Player of the Year - Mairi Inglis; U14 Player of the Year - John Douglas; Most Improved U14 Player of the Year - Duncan MacEwan; Attendance Awards - William MacEwan, Cameron Crowe and James Manson.

Ballachulish boss Wilson stands down

BALLACHULISH have begun the search for a new manager after Donald Wilson stepped down.

Wilson's assistant Malcolm Grant has also left his role.

As well as passing on their gratitude to Wilson and Grant for their services, the club have moved quickly to find replacements and are now accepting applications for a new senior management team.

Anyone interested in these positions should contact club chairman Iain Brown on 07747 634418.

Ballachulish's annual general meeting takes place at The Jubilee Park Pavilion, Ballachulish, on Thursday December 7 at 7.30pm.

Ballachulish, like all other community groups, are looking for volunteers to help ensure the club has a future.

The AGM is open to anyone, not just players and committee members, who wish to discuss matters in relation to the club.

Skye Camanachd Player of the Year awards

THE 2017 Skye Camanachd player of the year awards were presented at a celebration to mark the club's 125th year at the Portree Community Centre on Saturday November 18.

With 240 people in attendance, the 2017 club player of the year was defender Ally MacDonald who received the John 'The Caley' Trophy. Ally MacDonald played most of the season at full back, covering for Steven Morrison's absence, and his contribution went a long way to aiding Skye's Marine Harvest National Division title success.

Second team keeper and captain Ryan Morrison was rewarded for some superb performances when he collected the second team player of the year award.

Marine Harvest WCA National player of the year Lorna MacRae captained Skye Camanachd Ladies to Marine Harvest National Division 1 and Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Cup successes and she rounded off a terrific season by being named Skye Camanachd Ladies player of the year as well as being awarded the coveted 'Caman DR'.

The Angus Murchison trophy, presented to the person who has done most for the club off the field of play, was awarded to Alice Martin who has done so much behind the scenes for many years.

William MacKinnon, who plays senior shinty for Inverness, was named U17 player of the year with Taylor Matheson taking the U14 award.

MacRae stays in charge at Beaully

ALAN MacRae remains in charge of the Beaully first team following the club's annual general meeting at the Lovat Arms Hotel on Thursday November 16.

Beaully will be delighted the Scotland U21 head coach will lead the side for a second season in the Marine Harvest National Division.

Alan Bruce and Kyle MacDonald will look after the Beaully reserve side.

Gregor McCormick and Niall MacLennan will continue to work with Beaully U17 and U14 squads.

Beaully president David Calder was made a life member to mark his 25 years at the club.

Youth shinty

Dunoon U14 5 Bute U14 1

The U14 South of Scotland League was decided at Dunoon Grammar School on Friday November 10 when Dunoon hosted Bute in the final game of the season.

Bute went into the match only needing a draw to secure the title. Dunoon knew nothing less than a victory was required if they were to get their hands on the championship.

Dunoon, backed by a good home support, made a bright start, pushing the islanders back from the throw-up.

Bute appeared to have weathered the early storm but the Dunoon pressure told on 12 minutes when Ross Donald found himself free at the back of the D and he powered the hosts in front with a low shot into the net.

Dunoon's neat pass and move shinty was rewarded on 20 minutes when an angled through ball found Neily McNaughton wide on the left and he rifled an unstoppable shot high into the net to make it 2-0.

Bute looked to have grabbed a lifeline on 25 minutes when the ball was bundled over the line but the referee spotted a 'kick' and awarded a free-hit in Dunoon's favour.

A couple of minutes later, Dunoon netted a crucial third goal when Neily McNaughton scored his second goal of the game, giving his side a comfortable 3-0 cushion going into half-time.

The second half continued in the same vein with intelligent movement from the Dunoon forwards causing Bute all sorts of problems. Finan Kennedy finished off a great move on 32 minutes, expertly lobbing the keeper, to make it 4-0.

With Bute pushing forward, Dunoon hit them on the counter-attack and a free flowing move involving Sam Bulloch and Mark Crowe set up a chance for Marcus Keith who fired home from distance to add a fifth on 45 minutes.

Bute grabbed a consolation goal five minutes from the end through Steven Dunn.

This was a tremendous effort from Dunoon who only dropped three points throughout their league campaign.

Colin Cameron from the Camanachd Association presented the trophy to Dunoon captain Kyle Kerr.

Sportsdesk
01631 568000



Team Jura, captained by Lorne Dickie, won the Oban Camanachd club end of season sixes at Mossfield last Saturday. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Saints have to do that little bit extra

Red Star 2
Oban Saints 3
West of Scotland Cup, 4th round

2-2 after 90 minutes – Saints win in extra time

OBAN Saints secured their place in the fifth round of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup last Saturday with a gutsy extra-time win over Red Star at Lochend Sports Centre in Glasgow's eastern suburbs. After twice coming from behind, and playing for almost an hour with 10 men, a beautifully struck dipping shot from Willie Gemmell finally saw off the challenge of a very useful Red Star side.

Manager Alex Craik's selection woes continued when Craig MacEwan's cracked rib, sustained in the Scottish Amateur Cup replay victory over Falkirk Community, ruled him out along with Donald Campbell, Marc MacCallum and Ross Maitland. On the plus side, Ally McKerracher and David McPhee returned from extended spells on the sidelines to bolster the squad numbers.

In charge of proceedings was Glasgow-based Willie McCulley whom Saints last encountered in a Scottish Amateur Cup fourth round tie against the now-folded Postal United. However, this was to be no case of old familiar faces as only skipper for the day Willie Gemmell remained from Saints starting eleven on that particular afternoon less than two years ago.

Willie Gemmell won the toss of Mr McCulley's coin and chose to take advantage of the bright low sun by switching ends for the first half. The move, however, didn't go quite according to plan as Saints conceded from Red Star's first attack with just 90 seconds on the watch. A quick counter-attack on the right wing led by Kevin Fraser turned the Saints back four with Sam Donald tapping in Fraser's low cross at the back post to give the home side an early advantage.

Saints recovered from this early setback to create their first decent opening in the fourth minute with Steven MacLeod and Paul Carmichael linking up to force a throw-in on the right. The two combined again for Carmichael to swing in a deep cross which Scott Maitland controlled, picking out Ally McKerracher who laid the ball off to Myles McAuley

for a shot from 20 yards which flew narrowly wide of keeper David Hosie's right-hand post.

Saints restored parity from Hosie's goal-kick when Matthew Kelly's run up the right wing was halted unfairly by John Crawley. Kelly's low free-kick picked out Ally McKerracher in the middle nine yards out. With his back to goal McKerracher turned away from the assembled throng and clipped a clever left-foot finish into the bottom corner past the unsuspecting David Hosie.

This should have been the signal for Saints to kick on but it was the home side who seized the initiative against a very much out-of-sorts Saints.

From a hotly disputed seventh-minute John Crawley corner on the right, Steven MacLeod cleared an Allan Cairns header off the goal-line before danger man Cairns got the better of young Saints left-back Craig MacMillan to fire a low shot across Graham Douglas but wide of the far post.

Calamity struck the Saints defence in the 12th minute when a misplaced Willie Gemmell back-pass put keeper Graham Douglas under pressure gifting an opportunity to John Crawley. Douglas stopped but couldn't hold Crawley's effort which squirmed loose to Sam Donald who gratefully accepted his second tap-in of the afternoon.

Matthew Kelly latched onto a Paul Carmichael flick-on in the 19th minute with the big striker quickly on his toes to get on the end of Kelly's cutback from the right. Disappointingly, Carmichael's shot from 18 yards cleared the crossbar by some distance.

Scott Maitland and Craig MacMillan swapped places after 20 minutes with the Saints youngster introducing himself to the midfield battle with a late tackle on Paul Shaw which earned him the game's first yellow card.

Saints continued to struggle in the middle of the park and created little of note for the strikers. On the rare occasions when Saints did get forward Red Star keeper David Hosie, who shipped nine goals with Millbeg Villa in the Scottish Amateur Cup at Glencruitten two years ago, was happy to see efforts from Ally McKerracher and Paul Carmichael slip wide of the target.



Ally McKerracher turns away after bringing Saints level against Red Star at Lochend Sports Centre last Saturday. Photos and match report: Derrek Black

Calamity wasn't restricted to the Saints defence when referee McCulley blew for half-time after just 41-and-a-half minutes. To his credit, the jovial whistler quickly realised his mistake and brought the players back on to play out the remainder of the allotted 45 minutes plus an additional two minutes of stoppage time.

Manager Alex Craik opted for a tactical reshuffle for the second half, switching to a 3-5-2 formation to match that of the home side. The change necessitated a sixth appearance of the season for the overworked gaffer with young Craig MacMillan making way.

Attacking threat

The change of formation gave Saints more of an attacking threat with Scott Maitland desperately unlucky to see a 49th-minute goal-bound shot from 18 yards blocked on the penalty spot by Ally McKerracher.

Getting free on the right wing in the 53rd minute, McKerracher frustratingly sent his near post cross too close to the Red Star keeper with Paul Carmichael closing in.

At the other end, Graham Douglas had to come quickly off his line to save at the feet of substitute Craig Stewart, who had come on to replace the injured Allan Cairns. The loose ball found its way across to John Crawley on the left who blazed over from the corner of the 18-yard box.

Saints responded with a Keith Millar left-foot shot from 17 yards which David Hosie, unable to hold the veteran Saints man's effort, was relieved to see Michael McKenna turn behind for a corner kick.

Millar was in the thick of the action again in the 57th minute, acrobatically volleying a Paul Carmichael flick-on from a Willie Gemmell throw over the crossbar.

Craig Campbell was next to attempt an acrobatic finish, hooking a Matthew Kelly corner kick over from eight yards after Myles McAuley's driving run and shot had been blocked behind.

Ally McKerracher made space again on the right and sent a tempting ball across the face of goal which Scott Maitland, racing in at the back post, could only turn into the side netting.

The momentum was building for Saints and they were left incredulous in the 64th minute when referee McCulley turned down a loud penalty appeal when John Crawley appeared to 'save' a Keith Millar shot inside his own six-yard box.

There was no reprieve for the Red Star defence 60 seconds later when Mr McCulley pointed to the spot after Ally McKerracher was tripped cutting into the box from the right. McKerracher's rash reaction to the foul sparked a melee which Mr McCulley quickly put the lid on by flashing a red card in



Craig Campbell came close with this header.

McKerracher's direction and issuing a yellow to Red Star skipper Gary McLean.

To compound the blow of losing McKerracher, Willie Gemmell had his spot kick saved by David Hosie diving to his right.

While Saints were reeling from this double setback, Red Star passed up a gilt-edged chance to extend their lead when substitute Ross Lambie lost his footing on the 18-yard line after Sam Donald had sent him clean through on the counter-attack.

In a bold move to get back into the match Saints pushed Craig Campbell up front to partner Paul Carmichael leaving just the gaffer and Steven MacLeod at the back.

Mr McCulley dismissed another loud Saints penalty appeal with 15 minutes remaining when David McGoaghey appeared to wrestle Paul Carmichael to the ground on the corner of the six-yard box.

Saints risky man-for-man policy at the back was exposed in the 77th minute when Sam Donald again picked out Ross Lambie in the middle but Graham Douglas saved the day with a smart stop to deny the Red Star substitute.

Scott Maitland's run from the left of midfield across the Red Star defence presented a shooting opportunity to Matthew Kelly who tested the handling of David Hosie from 25 yards.

Kelly followed this up in the 80th minute with a run of his own which John Crawley unceremoniously ended 28 yards from goal.

Having previously been denied from 12 yards, Willie

Gemmell found this distance more to his liking and drew Saints level, curling the ball around the Red Star wall and inside David Hosie's left-hand post leaving him clutching at fresh air.

Before the restart the clearly struggling Steven MacLeod limped off to be replaced by David McPhee, who, with parity again restored, was joined alongside the gaffer by Willie Gemmell.

Saints received another let-off with two minutes of the 90 left to play when a long throw from the right found its way across to the unmarked John Crawley, who sent a left-foot shot flying inches over the crossbar.

Injury struck again for Saints in the dying seconds when Keith Millar's tightening hamstring forced him off, to be replaced by Andy Moore.

The first period of extra-time got off to a dream start for Saints who took the lead for the first time in the match after just one minute. Paul Carmichael won a throw-in on the right which Myles McAuley took, aiming for Carmichael's head on the corner of the six-yard box.

Cameron Stevenson knocked the ball to the edge of the box where Andy Moore played it back out to McAuley on the right. McAuley picked out Willie Gemmell on the edge of the D who beat Andrew Hosie all ends up with a dipping effort into the top corner.

Saints at last had something to cling to and coped well in the ensuing 14 or so minutes, with Graham Douglas making comfortable saves from Jamie Campbell and Craig Stewart

Football

as the home side loaded the box for set-pieces before Mr McCulley brought the first half to a close.

Despite briefly threatening in the opening minute when David Hosie had to come a long way off his line to intercept Scott Maitland's through ball for Paul Carmichael, it was very much a case of attack against defence in the final 15-minute period. The 10-man Saints side defended manfully again, restricting six times Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League Premier Division Champions Red Star to set-piece opportunities which on the whole were repelled comfortably.

When the chances did fall Red Star's way, Saints were grateful beneficiaries of wayward finishes from Ross Lambie and John Crawley which enabled the visitors to hold on and dig out a heroic victory.

Although the performance fell a long way short of the standard required to mount a serious assault for honours this season, Saints gaffer Alex Craik will be quietly pleased with the dogged determination of his charges not to accept defeat against a useful Red Star side, particularly when reduced to 10 men for almost an hour.

It's Red Star opposition once again for Saints this Saturday when they face Lochgilphead Red Star at Glencruitten in the second round of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

Kick-off is 2pm with referee Jimmy Litster in charge.



Scott Maitland, 20, just fails to connect with Ally McKerracher's cross into the box.

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Oban

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Oban golfer just misses out on European Tour card

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN'S rookie pro golfer Robert MacIntyre has just failed to secure a European Tour card.

Playing in the gruelling European Tour Qualifying School competition at La Lumine in Spain, left-hander Robert, who only turned pro a month ago, was just two shots off an automatic place on the prestigious tour.

However, 21-year-old Robert has earned himself a place on the Challenge Tour, the second-tier men's professional golf tour in Europe.

The Glencruitten Golf Club man finished 11 under par after six competitive rounds with a total of 417.

Robert had been in an automatic qualifying place on Wednesday after a blistering five-under-par 66, but shot a level par 71 on Thursday to finish just behind the top 25 qualifiers.

A spokesman for his management company tweeted: 'A fantastic week @ETQSchool in Spain @LumineGolf has @robert1lefty just 2 shots short of @EuropeanTour card. A superb effort after turning pro one month ago and so many positives to take. Well played Bob.'

The Challenge Tour will still be a stern test for the young professional. This year's tour included tournaments in Portugal, Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and the United Kingdom.

It also includes competitions in Kenya, Turkey, Kazakhstan, China, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The Challenge Tour was introduced in 1986 and was initially called the Satellite Tour. The Order of Merit was introduced in 1989, with the top five players on it winning membership of the European Tour for the following season. The following year the tour was renamed the Challenge Tour.

Players successful on the Challenge Tour qualify for membership of the European Tour the following year. Fifteen players earn direct promotion to the European Tour.

Players finishing 16 to 45 may also gain qualification for occasional low prize money European Tour events, but can improve their status through European Tour Qualifying School. Players who win three Challenge Tour events in a season are



Robert MacIntyre missed out on a European Tour place by two shots, but earned himself a place on the Challenge Tour.

fast-tracked onto the main tour immediately and are exempt the following season.

Robert said: 'What a start it's been to life as a professional and, with a win and a Challenge Tour card under my belt, I can't

wait to get on with my exciting new career in 2018. The goal for me at the European Tour Qualifying School was really the Challenge Tour, although once I got myself in the mix going into the last day I was obviously

pushing hard for the bigger prize. In the end, I fell two shots short of getting into the top 25 and securing a European Tour card, but you won't hear me being negative in any way about that.'

Golf

'The Challenge Tour is a step in the right direction for me. I think that is probably the right place for me at the age of 21.'

Scottish Amateur FL results/fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, fourth round - Red Star Glasgow 2, Oban Saints 3 (after extra time); Premier Division One - Claremont 5, Campbeltown Pupils 0; Neilston 3, Dunoon 2; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star 9 Paisley 0; Tarbert 1, Millbeg 4.

This Saturday's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup, 2nd Round - Oban Saints v Lochgilphead Red Star, Glencruitten, kick-off 2pm. Referee Jimmy Litster. Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - FC Argyll v Tarbert

Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Scottish Cup - Under 13s 3, Bayside 2. Saints goalscorers were Kyle Cooper (2) and Ruairidh Buchanan. League games - Under 14s no game; Under 15s 5, Dunoon 1. On target for Saints were Connor Moore (3), Toby MacFarlane-Barrow and Ross Campbell. Under 16s 2, Under 17s 4. Scoring for the Under 16s were Lennon Campbell and Gavin Forgrieve with Cameron Kerr (2), Scott Mossman and Jamie Anderson netting for the Under 17s.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Helensburgh; Lenzie v Under 14s; Busby v Under 15s; Under 16s v Milton; Westerton United v Under 17s.

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Rugby round-up . . . rugby round-up . . . rugby round-up . . .

Mitsubishi Motors U13/U14 West Conference Kilmarnock v Oban Lorne

Oban Lorne travelled to take on Kilmarnock for fixtures at U13 and U14 level on Sunday. A depleted Oban U13 side mixed with Kilmarnock to make up numbers with the hosts running out comfortable winners.

The U14 game was a much closer affair with Oban going down 15-3.

This Sunday Oban are scheduled to host Waisiders Drumpellier in the last West U13/U14 games for the season.

Mitsubishi Motors U16 West Conference Oban Lorne U16 46 Kilmarnock 15

Oban Lorne's U16 team rounded off an impressive league campaign on Sunday with a comfortable 46-15 win against a hard working Kilmarnock side. The league has brought some impressive results so far for the Oban team who have won all but one game, a defeat to top of the league Stewartry RFC. A strong squad of 20 players was available on Sunday, all looking to impress their coaches ahead of the U16 Schools Bowl Final at BT Murrayfield on December 6.

A big crowd gathered a North Connel with Glencruitten still being closed and unavailable

for the game. Oban took and early lead with a try from Ross McCaskill under the posts converted by Angus Neil for a 7-0 lead. Two quick tries followed for winger Ellie Hunter, both set up by some good play in the backline that extended the score to 19-0 with another Neil conversion.

Oban extended their lead again with a penalty followed by an impressive 50-metre run by fullback Jordan Norman giving Oban their fourth try of the game and a 29-0 half-time lead.

The second half was a closer affair, with Oban's discipline letting them down at times. Despite this, the lead was again extended as McCaskill scored his second of the day as the powerful forward ran in from 40 metres after gathering a loose ball at the lineout. Kilmarnock failed to let their heads go down and responded with a well deserved try taking the score to 34-5.

Both sides scored twice in the closing stages. Oban's efforts came through a powerful burst by Connor Taylor and the second try from winger Aaron McCall. Full-time score 46-15 to Oban Lorne.

Sunday's result completes Oban's U16 league campaign for the 2017 season. Oban currently top the league on 16 points but could be pipped to the league

title by Stewartry, who still have a game in hand.

Oban U16s will continue to compete in friendly fixtures and the West U16 League Cup for the remainder of the season.

Mitsubishi Motors West U18 Conference Cambuslang/Uddingston 15 Oban Lorne 29

Oban Lorne U18s' recent good run of form continued on Saturday with an impressive 29-15 win away to a combined Uddingston/Cambuslang side. Coach Gordon Shearer had a strong team to choose from, including Oban Lorne 1st XV player Jack Strachan who is still eligible for U18 rugby. The team made a sloppy start to Saturday's game played at Uddingston RFC but improved as the first half wore on, playing at times some of their best rugby this season.

Oban's defence was outstanding at times as they held the hosts on numerous occasions while they were camped on the tryline. Try scorers for Oban on the day were David Cameron, Kieron Morrison, Ben MacFarlane Barrow and Craig Cook.

The U18s have no league fixture this weekend due to the autumn test between Scotland and Australia. The next scheduled game for the U18s is at home to Newton Stewart/Wigtownshire on December 2.

U15 Girls T4 Conference Oban Lorne U15 Girls 27 Highland RFC 21

Oban's U15 girls' team took on 'local' rivals Highland RFC for the first time on Sunday at North Connel. The game was the best showing so far from the Oban Girls, who produced some great rugby against a well-drilled opposition. Highland made Oban fight hard throughout the fixture with Oban adding a bit of gloss to the scoreline with Rona Shearer's last-minute try.

The Oban team boasted a squad of 19 players for the game, proving that the development of girls' rugby in the area is going from strength to strength.

National U16 Schools Bowl Oban High/Oban Lorne 34 Duncanrig High School 22

Oban High School/Oban Lorne's U16 team have progressed to the National U16 Bowl Final after an entertaining 34-22 win against Duncanrig High School at North Connel last week.

The Oban side have progressed through the competition with wins against Breadalbane/Pitlochry/Blaigowrie (10-45) and a quarter-final meeting with Ardsrossan that finished 50-0.

A strong and full squad was fielded for this semi-final tie played at North Connel. Oban went ahead early in the fixture with Connor Taylor

touching down for the first try of the game. Duncanrig hit back with their first try of the game almost immediately narrowing the score to 7-5.

Oban improved as the first half wore on and raced into a 19-5 half-time lead with further tries from Jordan Norman and another effort from Connor Taylor.

Kenny Gray looked to have put the game beyond doubt at the start of the second half but his effort was ruled out for being offside.

Angus Neil did, however, extend the lead shortly after bringing the score to 26-5.

Things were looking good for Oban at this point until a dubious yellow card with 15 minutes to play turned the game on its head. Duncanrig, with a man advantage, raced in three unanswered tries to claw back to 26-22. Oban did keep the visitors at bay with an Angus Neil penalty bringing the score to 29-22. As Duncanrig pressed in the later stages, Kenny Gray sealed the

Oban win with a fantastic solo run from 40 meters out so score with the last play. Full-time 34-22 to Oban.

The result means that the team will progress to the National U16 Bowl Final that will be played on Wednesday December 6 at 2.30pm on the back pitches at BT Murrayfield, a fantastic achievement for the players and coaches. Details for the final and for supporter transport will be announced by the school/club in due course.



Oban Lorne pictured before their 29-15 win over Cambuslang/Uddingston.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain showers Winds moderate West North Westerly Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.
Friday	Cloudy with sunny intervals Winds light Northerly Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.
Weekend Outlook	Sunshine and showers on Saturday Sunshine and showers on Sunday Winds moderate North Westerly Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 23, 2017** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm	
Thur	02.20	1.5	08.07	3.7	14.39
Fri	02.57	1.7	08.46	3.6	15.22
Sat	03.38	1.9	09.31	3.4	16.15
Sun	04.31	2.0	10.30	3.2	17.21
Mon	05.36	2.0	12.05	3.2	18.33
Tues	06.30	2.9	06.45	2.0	13.48
Wed	02.10	3.1	07.53	1.8	14.41

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

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New Fort hospital plans well under way

PLANS to build a new hospital in Fort William are well under way, according to the project's senior officer.

NHS Highland operations director Gill McVicar has been named as the senior responsible officer for the project and says work on a replacement for Belford Hospital at Blar Mhor is going well.

'I am pleased to confirm there is now an established structure to our internal management of the project and this will enable more rapid progress to be made,' Mrs McVicar explained.

The health board announced in September that funding for a replacement for the Belford Hospital was included in NHS Highland's five-year capital plan.

A steering group, including local clinical staff and members of the community, is overseeing work to prepare an initial agreement for the project.

Mrs McVicar continued: 'The aim is to have a draft clinical model by the end of January 2018 and this will be shared with internal and external stakeholders before refining and presenting to the Scottish Government in May 2018. The initial agreement is the next stage in the process around six months later. Thereafter we will progress to the outline business case by summer 2019.'

In October 2015, the Highland Council bought land in Fort William at Blar Mhor from Tesco for £2 million. The site has been made available for a new hospital, which could incorporate a new science academy for the West Highland College.

Daughter of crushed forestry man overwhelmed by support

MARK ENTWISTLE
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THE DAUGHTER of a forestry worker badly injured when he was crushed by a falling tree in Glen Loy, near Fort William, last week, says she has been overwhelmed by people's support following her dad's accident.

Tree surgeon David Munro was seriously hurt when the 100ft tree fell and crushed him during logging operations on Friday.

Mr Munro, 52, is believed to have been in the process of felling the tree, when it rolled off its stump and trapped him.

He sustained serious pelvic and leg injuries and the incident saw a massive rescue operation triggered involving a range of emergency services, including a Coastguard helicopter.

Seventeen members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) joined ambulance and police personnel at the scene of the incident.

Mr Munro received emergency first aid before being winched into the helicopter and flown to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, where he has already undergone operations in preparation for a transfer to a hospital in Glasgow, closer to his home.

Mr Munro works with his family firm, Heather Country Services, based at Glendaruel in Argyll, which provides tree maintenance services, and will be well-known in the forestry industry in Lochaber.

This week, Heather Munro, from Otter Ferry in Argyll, confirmed her dad was now conscious and slowly improving.

'The nurses say he is doing well and the plan is for him to be moved to a hospital nearer home soon,' Heather told the *Lochaber Times*.

'We are obviously just so very, very grateful to all the emergency services, including members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, and fellow forestry workers, who helped dad.'

'And there has been huge support from dad's friends and members of the community, which has been amazing.'

Lochaber MRT described the rescue as an excellent example of a multi-agency response in difficult terrain.

LMRT leader John Stevenson told the *Lochaber Times* the huge tree had been lifted clear of Mr Munro by his fellow forestry workers using their machinery.

'It was a comprehensive response to this incident with a large turnout of emergency personnel, including our own paramedics and nurses,' he said.

'The man had suffered very serious injuries and the danger with crush injuries like those is that getting a person free and relieving the weight can make matters worse.'

'You have to be extremely careful in dealing with these type of incidents.'

'We had to move the man to more of a clearing so the helicopter was happy to come in.'

The site involved was at the top of a clearfell site making access for rescue personnel difficult.

The helicopter winched Mr Munro from a small clearing with assistance from a team on the ground using a highline to ensure its winchman and stretcher avoided the surrounding trees.



Above: A Coastguard helicopter gets into position to winch aboard injured forestry worker David Munro after an accident in Glen Loy last week.

Left: David in happier times.

“
We are obviously very grateful to all the emergency services
”

Heather Munro



Highland Military Tattoo scrapped by board

THE HIGHLAND Military Tattoo at Fort George has been cancelled following poor attendances and a 'risky financial situation', writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The event's board announced on Tuesday it has decided not to hold another tattoo, despite it attracting more than 6,000 visitors this year.

In a statement, the board said: 'Despite tremendous praise for the event again this year, the board are in full agreement that another year of low attendance rates, the likelihood of increased costs for Ministry of Defence support and the tattoo's risky financial situation make it unsustainable.'

The event attracted 6,174 visitors this year, 843 more than in 2016, but was still well short of the 8,000 target.

Although the tattoo recorded small

losses in each of its first three years, the 2017 event made a larger loss as ticket sales fell short and grants and donations could not fully cover the cost.

Previous years at the Highland Military Tattoo have included performances from military bands, RAF displays and traditional Scottish dancing and civilian pipe bands.

The tattoo's director, Major General Seymour Monro, said: 'We have delivered this authentic, high quality performance for four years but we have come to the sad conclusion it is not sustainable, even though we have received a new, generous funding offer from Historic Environment Scotland. Simply put, we needed more bums on seats and more sponsorship, including a headline sponsor.'

General Monro added that although

the tattoo aims to support the armed forces and their charities, Ministry of Defence charges are likely to increase significantly in 2018 and beyond.

'The directors cannot go on shouldering the financial losses and I have nothing but praise for what the team have achieved. We are all enormously grateful to the many performers – especially the younger ones – who have produced really professional shows. And praise, too, for all our excellent contractors without whom the tattoos would not have happened and huge thanks to our generous supporters.'

Highland Council has since responded to the news. Provost Helen Carmichael said: 'While we respect the decision of the board of directors of the Highland Military Tattoo, this is very sad news for the Highlands.'

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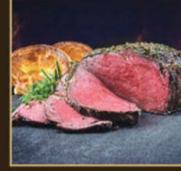
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WHAT'S ON

■ The Lochaber branch of Dyslexia Scotland will hold its next meeting tonight (Thursday November 23) in the Kilmallie Free Church at 7pm. The meeting comes after the branch helped mark Dyslexia Awareness Week which ran from November 6 to 11.

■ A beetle drive in aid of Lochaber Senior Citizens will take place tomorrow (Friday November 24) at 7pm in the Nether Lochaber Village Hall. Tea, coffee and home baking will be on offer and there will be a raffle on the night.

■ Nether Lochaber Hall, Onich, hosts a craft fair on Saturday November 25 from 10am to 4pm in Onich. Cakes and jams, handmade cards, knitted and crocheted crafts and other wares will be available. Contact Berit for more information on 01397 705539.

■ Lochaber Environmental Group is holding its AGM on Tuesday November 28 at Voluntary Action Lochaber, An Drochaid, Claggan, Fort William, at 7pm. This is an opportunity for people to chat with the board and staff and hear about unusual local food developments. There will be tea, coffee and homemade cake available. Contact 01397 700090 or info@lochaberenviron.org.uk.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre will hold its AGM on Wednesday November 29, at the Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, at 6.30pm.

■ Lochaber Camanachd Club will hold its AGM in the Bridge Cafe, Spean Bridge, on Friday December 1 at 7.30pm. This is a change of date from previously advertised.

■ Fort William Scottish Women's Institute is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Monday December 4 in the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William, from 7pm. Present members would be delighted to welcome former members of the institute to the party. If you would like to come along, meet old friends and chat about your 'rural memories', call Edythe Knowles on 01397 702744 or Martine Young on 01397 702758.

■ Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach is holding its Christmas fair on Saturday December 9 from 11am to 3pm. The fair will include meat, home-grown vegetables, candles, jewellery, knitted crafts and more. Soup, cakes and refreshments will be on offer. Tables cost £8 each. To book a table, contact the centre manager on 01397 600111. All proceeds go towards the upgrading of Kilmallie Community Centre.

Ardnamurchan pupils raise cash for Nepal trip



Ardnamurchan High School pupils Anna, Rebecca, Nathan and Ben had their own stall at the recent school craft fair to raise funds for their 'World Challenge' expedition to Nepal next year.



Youngsters are spot on with fundraising efforts

LOCHABER youngsters were at the forefront of efforts to raise money for the BBC's annual charity event, Children in Need, on Friday.

Pupils at Banavie, Caol and St Columba's RC primary schools wore their pyjamas to school as a way of raising cash and awareness of the charity, and the youngsters at Banavie Primary also held a Pudsey Bear tuck shop to raise extra money, while St Columba's pupils also had a bake sale.

Those at Lundavra Primary in Fort William wore spots and stripes or just 'dress down' for the day, and also had face

painting and homebaking on sale.

St Columba's raised a fantastic total of £486.07, while Caol collected a cracking £375.

The *Lochaber Times* was waiting to hear from Banavie and Lundavra on their final totals at the time of going to press - we will publish those next week.

And at St Bride's Nursery in North Ballachulish, the toddlers had a busy week raising funds for Children in Need by playing Pudsey-themed games and they also brought their favourite teddy bears to nursery for the day and had a

very spotty teddy bears' picnic. The children managed to raise the fantastic sum of £91.

Pictured clockwise from above right: Children from Banavie Primary school held a Pudsey tuck shop; Caol Primary pupils were Pudsey-tastic; while, below, youngsters at St Columba's RC Primary in Caol had fun raising money for the BBC Children in Need; children from St Bride's Nursery in North Ballachulish had played Pudsey-themed games and brought their favourite teddy bears to nursery for the day and had a very spotty teddy bears' picnic.



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From left, Skye Strachan, nine, of St Columba's, Ella Welsh, 11, Bun Sgoil Gaidhlig, and Natalie Murray, seven, of Banavie Primary switch on the Christmas lights. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



Volunteers from the Star for Harris charity provided cakes and drink in the hall at the lights switch on in return for a donation to the charity.

Kilmallie gets into festive mood with Christmas lights switch-on

KILMALLIE got its festive season celebrations off to a compassionate start at the weekend with the switch-on of its Christmas tree lights, writes Mark Entwistle.

Volunteers from the Star for Harris charity had been invited to be on hand to provide cakes and drink in the hall in return for a donation to the charity.

The charity was set up in memory of Harris Ross, the Corpach toddler who lost his long battle with a brain tumour in 2010, and which supports treatment and raises awareness of childhood cancer.

Helen Bryan, from the Kilmallie Christmas Lights Fund, was delighted with the way the event went.

'It was a super night with a turnout of 80 people. We have been very well supported by

the local community. And, of course, the real stars of the night were the three local children picked by their schools to perform the switch-on and they all did a tremendous job.'

The evening also saw Harris's mum, Tanya Ross, give a brief speech just before the lights were switched on, thanking everyone for coming to support the event.

'It's just great to see so many of you here. It's always such a fantastic night that we greatly enjoy being part of,' she said.

She then gave a quick update about what Star for Harris has been up to since last year. 'After donating £25,000 to the new Edinburgh Sick Kids' Hospital, I'm delighted to report that the playroom, family waiting area and balcony garden for the

oncology ward are well under way and due for completion in spring/summer next year along with the rest of the hospital,' said Mrs Ross.

'What a wonderful difference these rooms will make to many very inspirational and brave children and their families.'

'We have continued to fund gift sets for children throughout Scotland going into isolation for intense cancer treatment and for resources to support the Glasgow and Edinburgh oncology wards.'

'We know personally what a difference it makes to be well resourced during long stays in hospital during gruelling treatment and what a support toys and gifts make in supporting a child's emotional wellbeing.'

'We are still very passionate

about funding music therapy at Edinburgh's Sick Kids' and are excited about plans to extend this programme to another hospital next year.

'As so little money goes into childhood cancer research, and with research being vitally required to develop new and more effective drugs, we are about to donate a further £14,409 towards a research programme into Medulloblastoma, Harris's aggressive brain tumour type. This follows on from previous donations from Star for Harris totalling £28,818.'

'It's important that we continue to fund the Hallowe'en and Christmas celebrations, and tonight will contribute to Edinburgh's ward Christmas celebration, a much-needed break away from normal ward days.'

Santa helps Lochaber celebrate winter festival

THIS Saturday marks the 10th anniversary of the Rotary Club's annual Lochaber Christmas Festival and to mark the milestone the club is joining forces with Fort William Town Team to create a fun-filled, two-day event.

The fun begins with the High Street Christmas Gathering tomorrow (Friday). Everyone is invited to gather at the Parade Green at 5.45pm ready for Santa's arrival at 6pm.

Santa will then lead the lantern parade, accompanied by Lochaber High School Pipe Band, along the High Street to Cameron Square for the Christmas lights switch-on and a sing-along.

Bring your own lanterns or get a glow stick for the evening. A street magician will entertain visitors during the evening, there will be a mini fairground for children on Cameron Square and lots of other activities along the High Street including Santa's Grotto and late night shopping.

Town Team chairwoman Moira Robinson is urging everyone to join in the fun: 'Come and join us in the High Street for an evening of fun and entertainment. We'll have lots for you to see and do including the Christmas tree light switch on, late night shopping and much, much more.'

Santa then returns to Cameron Square, this time with his reindeer from Aviemore, sponsored by Ferguson Transport & Ship-

ping, at 10.30am on Saturday morning, when he will be joined by little cheerleaders, the Ben Nevis All Stars, and Lochaber Pipe Band.

At 11am, Santa, accompanied by little elves Faolan Hunter and Kayla Duncan, winners of this year's *Lochaber Times* Christmas Card Message Competition, will make his way along the High Street and over the Parade Green to arrive at the Christmas Festival in the Nevis Centre at noon and open his Grotto where, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Festival, there will be a special surprise for the youngsters this year.

The annual Christmas Festival Designer Craft and Food and Drink Produce Fair will be open from 9.30am until 4.30pm. This year the children's activities will occupy the studio hall with the craft and gift stalls and food and drink displays in the main hall.

The snack bar and children's play areas will be open. The grand raffle offers prizes of five quality local food hampers and, for whisky connoisseurs, there is a collection of all six classic malts worth more than £200 up for grabs.

Rotary President Donald McCormick commented: 'With almost 70 stalls and a huge range of gifts and crafts, this is the perfect event to meet all your Christmas shopping needs. Working with the Town Team, we have created a really exciting two-day treat for the family.'



This weekend will see Santa help celebrate Lochaber Winter Festival's 10th anniversary.

Faolan and Kayla win chance to ride with Santa and his reindeer

TWO PUPILS from Lundavra and Caol primary schools will join Santa as the stars of this weekend's Lochaber Winter Festival as their reward for winning this year's *Lochaber Times*/Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Card Message Competition.

The literary efforts of Faolan Hunter, aged nine, from Lundavra primary, and Kayla Duncan, eight, from Caol primary, were chosen from a fantastic field of 123 entries.

As well as getting the chance to become elves and join Santa on his sleigh with his reindeer on Saturday, Faolan and Kayla will also hopefully see their winning entries used as the festive season messages inside Christmas cards as part of a competition to design a card organised by the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

The competition was judged last week with the winning entries selected by Jodie Ferguson and Mairi Sandison from Ferguson Transport. The company is generously paying all the costs of the reindeer coming to Fort William.

Rotarian Ken Johnston says the club was delighted with the response to the competition and the very high standard of entries.

'We congratulate both Faolan and Kayla, and hope they enjoy this memorable experience,' Mr Johnston said.

'It was thanks to the wide circulation of the *Lo-*

chaber Times that we attracted 123 entries from as far away as Mallaig Primary School.

'The club hopes to promote a Christmas card design competition next year in the run up to Christmas 2018 using the winning messages created by Faolan and Kayla.'

Faolan Hunter, age nine, Lundavra Primary School

*It's time to decorate your tree
it's time to be full of glee
Christmas time is full of joy
for every girl and every boy
Watch Santa fly
and zoom through the sky
Look at the snow
and its amazing glow*

Kayla Duncan, age eight, Caol Primary School

*Wishing you lots of Christmas cheer
Santa's coming with his reindeer
Snow is falling from the sky
Children making snow angels as they lie
Who is coming down the chimney tonight?
As quick as a flash Santa is out of sight
Listen to the angels sing
Isn't it the loveliest thing*

Students' pride over prize pitch

ENTERPRISING students behind a community business in Kinlochleven have said they are 'very proud' to have won last week's Dragon's Glen competition.

Kinlochlovin', a non-profit-making social enterprise and charity set up two years ago in partnership with Kinlochleven High School, was announced as the winners of Lochaber Ideas Week's Dragon's Glen competition on Friday night - winning the £10,000 top prize.

The student-run enterprise fought off stiff competition from five other finalists after their business plan and pitch impressed the 'dragons'.

Kinlochlovin' chairwoman Anna McBride is a teacher at Kinlochleven High School and guides the pupils.

She said: 'Going into the Dragon's Glen was a daunting

prospect but it was very exciting to compete alongside so many other people in Lochaber with fantastic business ideas.'

The group's pitch successfully conveyed the group's message of social justice, community spirit and the importance of investing in the talents and skills of young people.

Anna continued: 'We were overwhelmed to be announced as the winners and it means a lot to so many young and adult volunteers who have committed a lot of time and effort over the last two years to make Kinlochlovin' a success.'

'We hope the success of this development will enable us to provide more work placements for young people in Lochaber and sustainably ensure all young people have an educational experience that is rich in a wide range of skills and experiences.'



Back row, from left: Anna McBride, Esme Leitch, Hugh Purvis. Front row, from left: Kai Bashir, Cameron Purvis, Ian MacCallum and Morgan Lawrence.

LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

First *Lochaber Times* sponsored film showing for children

LOCHABER Cinema Group (LCG) hosted the latest in its series of pop-up film showings for youngsters, following a cash donation from the *Lochaber Times* to help keep the popular initiative going.

'A big thank you to the *Lochaber Times* for donating money to LCG to help us to continue our pop up cinema kids screenings,' the group posted on its Facebook page.

Saturday's screening of

The Emoji Movie was held at Fort William's Duncansburgh Macintosh Parish Church hall.

And this week, LCG confirmed it is ready to send off its funding application for Highlands & Islands Enterprise funding this week. It will be decided on January 25, 2018.

The funding is being sought to allow the group to buy buildings in Fort William to be converted into a new community cinema.

'There will be a few months of intense fundraising by us, so if anyone would like to be involved just pm [private message] the [Facebook] page,' said the group in a statement this week.

Left: The first film for children, sponsored by the *Lochaber Times*, was screened on Saturday.

Police launch meaty probe

POLICE in Fort William are appealing for information after a large quantity of meat was stolen from a food retailer in Corpach.

Sometime between 1.45pm on Tuesday November 14 and 6.45am the following morning, entry was forced to a smokehouse in Annat Industrial Estate. A large quantity of meats, including venison, beef and pork, was stolen from the premises.

Sergeant Brian Heriot said: 'If you were in the area at the time or saw anything suspicious then please call police in Fort William.'

'We are also asking anyone who has been offered large cuts of meats for sale, or who has information about such sales taking place, to get in touch.'

'You can speak to officers in Fort William by calling 101, quoting reference NP10488/17, or alternatively call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.'

Flat fire due hunt continues

POLICE in Lochaber are still seeking information following a fire in a flat in Kinlochleven two weeks ago.

Police and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service were called to the fire at Park Road at 8.20pm on Friday November 10.

No-one was injured but the flat was extensively damaged.

The fire is currently being treated as suspicious and officers are appealing for anyone with information to make contact.

Detective Sergeant Andy Bilton said: 'We are asking anyone who was on Park Road or saw anything unusual in the area on Friday evening [November 10] to get in touch with us as soon as possible.'

'Information can be passed to us by calling 101, quoting reference NP10387/17, or you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.'

TSL Contractors Ltd have been awarded the works to construct 60 dwellings at the former Lochside Primary School site in Caol, Fort William.

Works commence in January 2018 and will continue into late summer of 2019.

At TSL we strongly believe in working closely with, and investing in the local economy. With this in mind, we would like to work with local labour, contractors and suppliers on the project wherever possible.

To provide an easily accessible platform for this, TSL will be holding a Contractor and Supplier open day on 12th December at Caol Community centre between 4pm - 6.30pm.

During the event staff from our procurement and project departments will be on hand to discuss the various opportunities and would be delighted to meet any interested parties.

If you are unable to make the event or would like further information on the project please feel free to contact our General Manager, John Forbes at j.forbes@tslcontractors.co.uk for further details.

Did you know ?

Kebabish

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FW

Ullapool festival set for 2018 return

ORGANISERS say they are 'genuinely humbled' that Loopallu music festival will be returning next year, after concerns that the 2017 festival would be the last.

Preparations have now begun for the staging of the Ullapool festival on September 28 and 29, 2018.

In a statement, festival organisers said: 'We don't know what to say. We thought that was it, but no, it seems like [festival-goers] have different ideas.'

'When we first started Loopallu it was with the aim to give the community a last lift in the season before the long, quiet winter months.'

'We also knew we would stand a better chance of the village embracing the festival if it wasn't displacing existing trade. Thirteen years is a long time.'

Limited accommodation and the worry of future attendance numbers at the festival were the main reasons why many thought 2017 would be the last festival.

'We are genuinely humbled, and indeed overwhelmed by what our event means to everyone. So as long as you want to keep coming, we will try and keep putting it on,' added organisers.

Tickets are now on sale online.

Skye band to score capital's Hogmanay fireworks



Skye foursome Niteworks fuse Gaelic language and traditional music with electronic influences to create a unique and exhilarating sound.

FOR THE first time Edinburgh's Hogmanay fireworks will be choreographed to a score written and designed for the occasion by a Skye quartet.

New producers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, Underbelly, who produce the event on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council, have commissioned Scotland's sound of the future, Niteworks, and the award-winning composer and sound designer Dan Jones to create an epic soundscape to the midnight fireworks.

The soundtrack to the extended fireworks display, designed by Titanium, will feature several well-loved tracks from Niteworks' latest album shaped and developed into a single nine-minute work which evolves with light and shade and progresses to an exciting, epic conclusion.

The tracks from Niteworks include *Beul na h-Oidhche* (Gaelic for the beginning of the night), *Coming Down* (Anais Mitchell cover), *Maraiche* (featuring Kathleen

MacInnes) and *Eilean* (Gaelic song about Skye).

Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, directors of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, said: 'This is probably one of the most exciting things to happen to fireworks in Edinburgh since the first recorded firework was set off at Edinburgh Castle in 1507. Those attending the street party, concert in the gardens or ceilidh under the castle will be treated to an exceptional sound and light spectacle. 'Niteworks, Dan Jones and

Titanium are mighty individually, but as a trio they are creating an epic moment for those at Edinburgh's Hogmanay to enjoy.'

Skye foursome Niteworks fuse Gaelic language and traditional music with electronic influences to create a unique and exhilarating sound.

Piper Allan MacDonald said: 'It really is an honour. We were thrilled to be asked to perform live for the street party, but to be asked to put the music together with Dan

for the fireworks has just been something else entirely. We're a bit lost for words on how to describe this one.'

'We spent a whole day watching New Year's Eve fireworks displays from around the world - London and Melbourne are quite pop and contemporary, whereas Tokyo or Dubai, for example, are more traditional/classic. We're aiming for something in-between these styles that people will hopefully enjoy bringing the bells in to.'



Alasdair Allan MSP outside Holyrood last week.

Deal reached to save BiFab jobs on Lewis

WESTERN Isles politicians have welcomed the news that the BiFab plant at Arnish on the Isle of Lewis has been saved.

MSP Alasdair Allan has expressed the sense of relief on Lewis, after a Scottish Government-brokered deal was reached on Saturday November 18 to prevent BiFab Ltd from going into administration.

The deal will see BiFab and its contractors reach an agreement to ensure that work continues at the Arnish yard as well as the company's bases in Fife.

The news comes after days of talks held by the Scottish Government, and after a direct appeal to the companies concerned from the First Minister.

Dr Allan commented: 'In recent days, many families in Lewis have had real cause to worry about their jobs and livelihoods. So this announcement that a deal has been reached represents the best possible news. BiFab is not going into administration, and the current contracts at Arnish will be completed.'

'I want to pay tribute to the commitment of the highly skilled workforce at Arnish, and the constructive attitude they have taken throughout this difficult time. Reaching a deal between the various commercial interests involved has required days of negotiation.'

'The intervention of the First Minister, who came back early from engagements in Germany to take part in the talks herself, was, I believe, a decisive factor, but I would also like to thank my ministerial colleagues Keith Brown and Paul Wheelhouse for the many hours they have devoted to this issue.'

'I also want to recognise the contribution made by the unions, some of whom I had a chance to meet with outside Holyrood this week, and by the different companies involved in the initial dispute, who have moved a long way to reach this agreement.'

'The emphasis now will be on ensuring that Arnish receives new orders in the future, something which I believe it is well placed to do, given the growing market in the renewables sector for the work that it does.'

'This news, meanwhile, will represent a great Christmas present for the Isle of Lewis.'

His sentiments were echoed by MP Angus Brendan MacNeil, who said he was 'delighted' that the threat to Burntisland Fabrications (BiFab) has been lifted.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Yesterday, I said that I was heartened that Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, had made this a priority and I am delighted that the hard work of the Scottish Government, together with interested companies, has resulted in a positive outcome.'

'When I visited the Arnish yard there was a determination from management and the GMB union to find a solution.'

'This is absolutely fantastic news and will be a huge relief for the Arnish workforce and their families.'

Dr Allan had met with members of the BiFab workforce earlier in the week, as they rallied at the Scottish Parliament to defend jobs in both Fife and the Isle of Lewis.

Burntisland Fabrications, has two yards in Fife and one at Arnish on the Isle of Lewis. The firm builds large-scale equipment for the offshore oil and gas industry, as well as platforms for offshore wind turbines and tidal generators.

Dr Allan continued: 'I was pleased to meet with members of the BiFab workforce outside Holyrood [last Thursday], and offer my support to the workers and families affected.'

Lewis shop owner rejects call to close on Sunday

A SHOP owner on the Isle of Lewis has refused a plea by Sabatarians to close on Sundays, despite a suggestion islanders would boycott her shop, writes Sandy Neil.

Entrepreneur Leona Rawlinson, who came to Lewis as a child, opened her shop, Tweed-tastic, on Stornoway's Church Street this summer and kept the doors open on Sundays while she was in her workshop. But earlier this month she was sent a Bible and a letter from the Lewis and Harris branch of the Day One/

Lord's Day Observance Society (LDOS), asking her to close on the Sabbath.

The letter, published on the National Secular Society's website, first congratulated Ms Rawlinson on her successful new business, and expressed its desire to see her venture succeed.

In the letter, the LDOS said its 'great regret' was 'the shop's opening hours continue to extend into Sunday afternoon, which was a concern not only to "many professed Christians" but also islanders who "wish

to protect the local custom of honouring the Sabbath".'

The letter continued: 'It is a sincere and humble request that you consider closing the shop on the Lord's Day. We are concerned for the spiritual and eternal as well as temporal consequences of such actions of Sunday opening and do not believe that lasting blessing or profit will follow.'

Ms Rawlinson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'The sad thing is if they had not kicked off I would only be open for five or six

weeks. Because they have done what they've done, I have to stay open. They are not going to tell me what to do.'

'The support from people has been amazing, both from Christians and others. People want the shop to stay open.'

Ms Rawlinson's partner, Martin Flett, who also runs a business at the same premises, said: 'There are obviously concerns that a section of the community will [boycott] or are boycotting the shop. The population is small enough without

a section boycotting it. Tourism is a big market for the shop but we also provide a service for the local community and we have a number of craft suppliers who rely on the shop to supplement their income.'

'We've also had many unsolicited messages of support and some Christians who disagree with the hardline approach. Some have even brought gifts by way of apology.'

The National Secular Society alleged Ms Rawlinson had earlier experienced intimidation

and harassment because her shop was open on Sundays.

Police Scotland said: 'We can confirm that a report was made in August and that appropriate advice and reassurance was offered to a member of public. No further action was taken.'

Western Isles Secular Society commented: 'Leona's is not the first business to be harassed in this cowardly manner and it probably won't be the last. This kind of shameful behaviour is typical of a small and hardcore group of fundamentalists.'

M&S

FOODHALL

M&S brings an extraordinary Christmas to Fort William



The new M&S Foodhall Fort William will open its doors just in time for Christmas, bringing the very best of M&S festive food and drink to the area for the first time.

Opening next Thursday, the brand new M&S Foodhall Fort William will boast thousands of inspiring products perfect for chillier evenings in and show-stopping dishes for entertaining family and friends over the festive season. Whether your family opts for a traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings on Christmas day or chooses something a little more extraordinary to delight party guests, delicious food is the highlight of the season.

OUTSTANDING PARTY FOOD

From golden turkey and delicious stuffing, to cured salmon and outstanding party food, enjoy a classic Christmas with all the trimmings from M&S Fort William Foodhall. A new vegetarian and vegan range, featuring the Instagram-worthy Butternut & Beetroot Filo Parcels and Baked Ricotta Stacks with Mushrooms, Leeks & Kale will inspire any table

of guests. Make sure you end your Christmas meal on a high with special seasonal desserts including classic Mince Pies or a luxurious Melting Belgian Chocolate & Toffee Sponge Pudding.

BE TEMPTED

With something for get togethers of all sizes, be tempted by M&S's best range of party food yet, which includes Melt in the Middle Yorkshire Puddings; a miniature version of the British classic filled with a rich porcini sauce, topped with a slice of roast beef and finished with a red wine drizzle.

M&S Fort William will also take the hassle out of Christmas offering a 'Click & Collect service' for customers on 22nd, 23rd and 24th December, helping up to 1,000 families in the local area achieve a wonderful, stress-free Christmas. Browse the wide variety of festive dishes, sides and desserts available at www.christmasfood.marksandspencer.com and complete your order by 15th December to avoid missing out on a delicious Christmas feast.



Location of the intake at the BroomPower hydro scheme.

Switch-on for hydro scheme at Lochbroom

A NEW hydro power scheme near Lochbroom started generating power after a 'switch-on' launch event on Saturday, November 18.

BroomPower, the community renewable energy scheme for the Ullapool and Lochbroom area of the north-west Highlands, has been completed.

Operated by voluntary organisation Lochbroom Community Renewables (LCR), the 100KW run-of-river hydro was completed on schedule at the beginning of this month. It was officially opened at a special 'switch-on' ceremony on Saturday November 18 alongside LCR's AGM.

The hydro is currently in its beta testing phase which

means it is already generating electricity, and therefore income, for the community and investors.

Tim Gauntlett, chairman of LCR, commented: 'BroomPower will provide much-needed resource and benefit for our local community for years to come. We are immensely proud of the huge team effort that has brought BroomPower into being and grateful to all those who have given so much of their personal time and effort and professional skills to make it a reality.'

Construction of BroomPower was undertaken on very challenging terrain and steep gradients by a team of highly skilled experts, chosen

by LCR for their track record in building small-scale hydro schemes of this nature.

The project has had the overwhelming support of the Lochbroom community since it was first instigated in 2013 and was the subject of a huge fundraising effort in 2016 to raise the £900,000 needed to build it.

Located on the Allt a'Mhullinn burn nine miles south of Ullapool, the flow of the hydro will receive a boost every time it rains, giving the locals a reason to celebrate rather than curse the sometimes soggy Scottish weather.

More information can be found at www.broompower.org.

Police hunt owl statue thieves

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information following the theft of a stone owl statue from a hotel in Glencoe.

The unique stone figure was stolen from within Glencoe House sometime between Wednesday November 15 and the morning of Friday November 17.

The statue is between 30cm to 40cm in height and 20cm in diameter, is carved from stone and mounted on a wooden base.

Glencoe-based Constable Melanie Itze said: 'This is a distinctive item which is unique to the hotel from which it was stolen. I would urge anyone with information about this theft to contact us on 101, quoting reference NP10568/17, or call Crimes-toppers on 0800 555111.'



The stone owl statue.

Snowsports club wants to build hut on Aonach Mòr

A SNOWSPORTS club wants to build a ski hut on Aonach Mòr, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

Inverness Backcountry Snowsports Club hopes to build the hut just north of Coire an Lochain below the 'Climber's Col' and near the Braveheart Chair in the Back Corries area of Nevis Range.

The hut would sleep eight to 12

people and feature a wood-stove for heating and gas for cooking.

The Inverness club claims the development would be of economic benefit to Nevis Range.

A club statement said: 'As club membership grows, interest in off-piste ski-ing grows. It is felt a dedicated club hut is a logical and desirable progression which will

allow more people to enjoy snow and wild spaces, whilst being a good example of sympathetic and appropriate accommodation in the mountains.'

The hut would be used by members of Snowsport Scotland affiliated clubs, Mountaineering Scotland members and clubs, guides and educational groups.

The location on Aonach Mòr has been known to hold covering snow from January to May, even longer in some years.

'Thus far, the club has visited bothies, used the CIC Hut under the North Face of Ben Nevis, stayed in stalking-lodges and camped with tents and full, heavy winter gear. Wonderful expe-

riences, but each has inherent challenges which restrict access to the sport and club to a hardcore, committed few.'

Permission to build has been given by the landowner, Jahama Highland Estates, and the club is consulting with organisations and stakeholders before applying for planning permission.

Lochaber MP addresses Brussels think tank

LOCHABER MP Ian Blackford addressed the European Policy Centre (EPC) in Brussels last week, calling for the Prime Minister to 'work across the political spectrum' in a speech on Brexit.

Blackford, leader of the SNP group in Westminster, travelled to Brussels last week at the invitation of the EPC – a think tank on European Union affairs.

With the EU Withdrawal Bill having just started its progress through Parliament and almost 500 amendments to be debated, Ian Blackford told the Brussels audience it is 'damaging and unworkable, with Theresa May's government in a state of chaos over it.'

He said: 'MPs should think about the direct consequences of Brexit on their constituencies. The UK must remain a member of the single market and negotiate on that basis. A 'no deal' scenario would cost Scotland 8,000 jobs and £1 billion per year.'

Speaking about the upcoming Budget announcement, he added: '[The Budget] must be on the basis of the UK's continued membership of the single market. This will not only settle the markets but more importantly will give business the confidence it so desperately needs to invest.'

Volunteers thanked for Glen Nevis litter pick effort

FRIENDS of Nevis thank the volunteers who took part in the recent Glen Nevis litter pick and curling ponds tidy up.

'It was great to have 29 volunteers of all ages. The weather was excellent and litter was cleared from as much of the Glen as possible,' the group told said this week.

'Helped by members of the curling club, the Curling Ponds area was tidied up, leaves raked and scrub cleared. Thanks go to the Ben Nevis Highland Centre and Lidl who once again supported the event.'

To find out about future events or to join in an event, visit www.friendsofnevis.co.uk or email Susan at info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or telephone Susan at the Nevis Landscape Partnership office 01397 701088.



The volunteers who took part in the Glen Nevis litter pick.

Children wanted to join festive parade

FORT William Town Team is looking for children to join Santa's Lantern Parade at this year's Christmas Gathering.

The group needs youngsters to escort Santa to Cameron Square during the High Street Christmas Gathering tomorrow (November 24).

Led by the Kilmallie Singers, people will be singing Jingle Bells all the way from the Parade

to Cameron Square where Santa will be turning on the High Street Christmas Lights and the Christmas Tree in Cameron Square.

If you want to join in, be at the Town Team's hub on the Parade at 5.45pm this Friday. Further details from Sue Keen on 01397 702583, sue@fortwilliamtownteam.co.uk or the team's Facebook page.

Police continue A82 safety crackdown

POLICE stopped 90 vehicles on the A82 between Inverness and Fort William on Saturday as they continue their road safety crackdown.

Two insurance offences, two MOT offences and two speeding offences were detected. A number of offences relating to vehicle use and construction were also detected, with advice issued regarding tyres and roadworthiness.

Saturday's day of action follows a similar event on Friday November 10 when more than 150 vehicles were stopped between Inverness and Crianlarich.

Sergeant Donnie Mackinnon, of the Road Policing Unit based in Dingwall, said: 'We will continue to carry out proactive work to detect road safety issues to help keep the A82 safe.'

Newsdesk
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- Rostis
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- Mexican Chicken Burger
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- Braised Feather Blade of Beef
- Pea & Broad Bean Risotto
- Fajitas
- Potato Gnocchi
- Penne Pasta Arrabiata



Desserts

- Raspberry Cranachan
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RETRO Roamer

More Roamerisms from the 1980s

* It could only happen in An Gearasdan. Gordon Square had its parking bay white lines painted on Thursday. All bar one, right enough, because a car had been abandoned there. Next morning the tar truck arrived and the council workforce proceeded to obliterate all of the glossy white demarcation areas. I haven't been back to check what stage the white and black show has reached.

* That same Thursday, the Great Kilmallie Cattle Drive was held. The livestock trundled through Corpach, much to the chagrin of motorists, including bus and lorry drivers who couldn't make head nor tail of it all. The stretch of A830 between Montrose Mansions and Drumfada got a temporary covering - and it wasn't tar or white lines.

* I can confirm one of our Lochaber district councillors nodded off during last week's housing committee meeting. This was a bit surprising as there's always a lot of noise at 'housing'. Now, if it had been the leisure and recreation committee I could have understood it.

* A local joiner was doing a refurbishment job at the museum. I met him in Cameron Square as he was taking a break. He said: 'I thought I'd better get out for half an hour as people are beginning to think I'm a permanent fixture in there and are looking at me as if I am an exhibit.'

* Long faces in Ladbroke's in Viewforth. The race by race satellite pictures weren't reaching the screens. However, a bit of quick detective work on the Caley Green revealed the receiving dish was being obscured by autumn leaves falling from the trees. Now that the dish has been raised to a higher plane, the pictures are coming over as clear as a bell. But the horses are still as slow as ever.

* Did you hear about the thrashed thrush that keeps banging its head against a window at the Factor's House? This thrush, nicknamed 'Kamikaze', makes a daily raid on one of the larger windows of that establishment. RSPB experts reckon the bird is trying to 'regain its territory', which seems a bit odd to me. It may be seeing its reflection in the glass and thinks it's having a go at a trespassing thrush.

* A Lochaber quiz question: 'Which are the two best known Scottish fish starting with the letter 'S'? One local lassie came up with 'single' and 'special'. So did Sammy.

* A couple of union members, currently on strike, turned up on Saturday for the Fort William v Buckie match at Claggan Park just as Fort manager Henrijk Madej was passing by the 'turnstile'. 'Hey, Henrijk, have you not got a gate for strikers?' they queried. Quick as a flash Henrijk replied: 'If you two are strikers, we can use you up front.'

* And Nigel's football boots saw international duty at the weekend. They were worn by Bill Machray, who was refereeing the Scotland v England U15s international at Dingwall. Bill had damaged his foot while officiating at a previous match when a player trod on it. Accidentally, of course. So Nigel's wide-fitting, consumer-protected boots were just the job. The Real Machray, in fact.

* Simon Fraser and Ken Scouler were overtaking the skiers and snowboarders on Aonach Mor on Sunday. The dynamic duo had been climbing on Nevis Range. On the way down to the Snow Goose Restaurant they opted for the slippery slopes. So much so, that they glissaded down on their 'bahoochie's' at such a rate they just about won the snowboarding slalom prizes - without boards. However, Simon and Ken were disqualified for their barefaced cheek.

McMaster's, one of Fort William's well-remembered fishmongers. Johnny Gordon's will feature next week.

LOCHABER Rural Education Trust (LRET) has been chosen as Marks and Spencer's charity of the year.

Marks and Spencer is opening a branch in Fort William on Thursday November 30 and LRET will be doing a bag pack on the opening day.

Linda Campbell of the trust said: 'The trust is delighted to be chosen and looks forward to working with the Marks and Spencer team.'



McMaster's, one of Fort William's well-remembered fishmongers. Johnny Gordon's will feature next week.

Moidart

Entrepreneur wins top business award

MOIDART-BASED entrepreneur and investor Angus MacDonald has won a top UK award for entrepreneurship.

The West Highland-based businessman was awarded the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the 11th annual Spears Wealth Management Awards, known as 'The Oscars of City finance' at London's Dorchester Hotel last Tuesday.

Mr MacDonald's business interests include the education publisher ICSLearn, the wind turbine supplier Renewable Parts Ltd and the fast-growing waste management company SWR.

He first made his name in the 1990s and 2000s by building two financial publishing firms.

In 1990 he founded Edinburgh Financial Publishing, which was sold to Barra Inc in 1997 for £12m. He then refinanced Fi-



Angus MacDonald receiving his award at the Spears Wealth Management Awards in London.

ancial News and became chief executive officer and launched the City jobs site efinancialcareers which he sold for a combined £79m in 2007 to Dow Jones and two private equity businesses.

The judges' citation praised MacDonald as 'a serial entrepreneur with a conscience, with a genuine love of the West Highlands of Scotland'.

Awarded the OBE in 2014 for services to the Highlands, Mr MacDonald also heads the Moidart Trust, a 'venture philanthropy' fund that helps grow West Highland businesses. He said he was 'delighted to have won' adding 'it demonstrates that UK wide businesses can be built from this part of the world'. He said: 'I am passionate about this

beautiful and diverse area of Scotland and devote a lot of my time trying to help West Highland entrepreneurs stay in the area and thrive here.'

Mr MacDonald is also the founder of the Caledonian Challenge, an annual corporate endurance race, and is a vice president and a leading fundraiser for the National Trust for Scotland.

Fort William

LOCHABER Rural Education Trust (LRET) has been chosen as Marks and Spencer's charity of the year.

Marks and Spencer is opening a branch in Fort William on Thursday November 30 and LRET will be doing a bag pack on the opening day.

Linda Campbell of the trust said: 'The trust is delighted to be chosen and looks forward to working with the Marks and Spencer team.'

The LRET team with staff from Marks and Spencers.



Mallaig

LOCHABER pupils took the first step towards setting up their own business last week.

Students from Mallaig High School were taking part in Young Enterprise Scotland Highland and Moray area's version of TV's Dragons' Den at Nairn Community Centre, pitching their idea for products to a panel of local business people.

The Mallaig team, 'Fois', was awarded £50 for their plans for a range of printed T-shirts, receiving valuable advice on how to take their idea forward in time to set up a stall at the annual Young Enterprise Scotland Christmas trade fair in Inverness on December 9.

Over the course of a year, the team learn how to run a successful business



Mallaig High School young entrepreneurs Gregor Innes, Alicia Poole-Fuste, Matthew Baker and Kay Rodgers.

by designing and making products, marketing them and managing the financial side of the business.

The Young Enterprise Scotland scheme is aimed at 15 to 19-year-olds and

teams are supported by teachers, a volunteer business adviser from the local community and an area team.

Linda Thomas, chairwoman of YES Highland

and Moray, said: 'Our Dragons were particularly impressed with the professional presentations and well thought out ideas from the teams of young people taking part this year.'

Caol



Mairi Hedderwick with the young Caol readers. JP F47 Caol Morag 02. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Famous Katie Morag author visits Caol Primary School

YOUNG Caol pupils were delighted to welcome Mairi Hedderwick to their school last Friday.

The Scottish author, famous for penning the Katie Morag stories for 40 years, visited Caol Primary School for a day of storytelling.

The children were captivated by her and afterwards she posed for photographs with the children and signed books.

P3 pupil Catherine Hunter even dressed up as Katie Morag for the occasion. Caol Primary School pupils have been

working hard on the First Minister's Reading Challenge and their message 'Reading is so Caol' is spreading around Lochaber. Kerry Lamont, who is co-ordinating the reading campaign, said: 'Our slogan 'Reading is so Caol' is being reflected by the children who are loving having so much fun with books and reading at the moment, so a visit from such a famous author was a real treat.'

Mairi Hedderwick is currently writing a novel, this time appealing to grown up readers.

Fort William

MEMBERS of Fort William Scottish Women's Institutes were visited by Rachel MacLean, regional officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland for Fare Share, who presented a talk on food waste.

Fare Share is a UK-wide charity fighting hunger and food waste, redistributing food from the food industry to community cafes, food banks and other charitable organisations.

Nearly 10 million people in Britain found it difficult or were unable to afford a meal despite 10 million tons of food being wasted each year.

Although there is no equivalent branch in Fort William, local supermarkets work with Lochaber community cafes and the food bank to reduce food waste in the area. Mrs MacLean was thanked for her informative and thought provoking talk by SWI member Cathy White.

The next meeting will be a celebration of the institute's centenary. This will be held in the Salvation Army Hall on Monday December 4 at 7pm. Contact Edythe Knowles on 01397 702744 or Martine Young on 01397 702758 for more information.

Kinlochleven



Michael MacInnes, Jo Shepton, Kinlochleven Community First Responder Anna Stephen, Hannah Newson and Callum MacLean.

Kinloch pupils raise funds for defibrillator

KINLOCHLEVEN High School pupils donned their aprons and took part in a bake sale last week to help fund the village's new defibrillators.

The pupils baked and sold cakes and cookies at their school and at Ballachulish Co-op on Friday November 10, raising £184.44. The money will be given to the Kinlochleven Community First Responders who are working with Lucky2BHere and have raised more than £3,000 so far.

The main role of Lucky2BHere is to place defibrillators and deliver emergency life support training to communities throughout Scotland. As a result of this hard work, Kinlochleven is to get three defibril-

lators for the village. Kinlochleven High School head teacher Rebecca Machin said: 'Congratulations and a huge thank you to the S6 pupils who organised the event and all of the bakers, buyers and sellers of cakes and cookies.'

'Particular thanks go to the four S6 pupils who stood in the freezing cold outside Ballachulish Co-op and to the staff who kindly let them stand in the porch, out of the rain.'

The defibrillator handover and training will be on Thursday November 30 at 6.30pm in the Leven Centre and will be a two-hour training session.

Everyone is expected to go along and learn basic life saving skills. Refreshments will be available.

Ballachulish



Staff from Abbeyfield Care Home were presented with their prize at the Scottish Care Awards on Friday.

Delight as care home wins national award

ABBEYFIELD Ballachulish Care Home was named Care Home Service of the Year in Scotland at a prestigious awards ceremony on Friday night.

The Lochaber care home was nominated in the Care Home Service of the Year Award category at the Scottish Care Awards and reached the final along with two other central belt services.

The Scottish Care Awards celebrate the best of the independent care home sector in Scotland and recognise individuals, teams and companies, with entries flooding in each year from employers and employees nominating their peers and colleagues. Abbeyfield Ballachulish is the first service from the Highland area to win the award.

Care home manager Wilma Allan said: 'On behalf of the voluntary board of trustees and the management in Abbeyfield, I would like to thank all the team that make this such a special and consistently high performing care home, as recognised

by Scottish Care with this award. We would like to thank our clients and their families, our local GPs and stakeholders and the wider community for their support of such a small charity in Ballachulish.

'The charity continues to improve to provide the best holistic care for each individual who uses its services and, despite the current financial climate, will move forward and enhance its services. The recognition from Scottish care can only support Abbeyfield Ballachulish in its quest to provide quality care.'

Abbeyfield Ballachulish is an independent charity reliant on the business it generates on site. The care home provides residential care to 30 clients as well as an additional day care centre for 10 and a daily lunch club for the wider community.

Eleven years ago the home faced closure because of poor performance and financial difficulties before a new manager and board appointed the current award-winning team.

Vote for the 2017 Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

Win a luxury box of chocolates from the Oban Chocolate Company

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

Vote for the 2017 Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

Post entries to Best Dressed Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

Entries must be submitted by Monday November 27, 2017

Your winner for this year's Winter Festival best-dressed shop window

.....

Name

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

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

Dunbeg mum condemns use of children's pictures on TV

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

A DUNBEG mum has condemned images of local pupils being used by a national broadcaster in a bulletin discussing whether the armed forces are using school visits to recruit.

Susan Simpson wrote to *The Oban Times* following the TV company's report, which outlined that 927 military visits were made in Scotland in 2016/2017.

It also revealed that the Ministry of Defence had asked Education Scotland for the deprivation rates in schools for 2015.

A woman from the Scottish Parent Teacher Council was quoted in the item as saying: 'I think there would be a lot of concern among parents that this is a recruitment drive.'

However, Ms Simpson told *The Oban Times*: 'I was so angry and upset when I saw the photographs.'

'Granted, the faces were blanked out but everyone in Oban and the surrounding area will have recognised the uniform, staff and pupils. The photographs are from two years ago and are from an organised visit that all parents knew about.'

'Our school is not, in my opinion, a deprived area school, nor do I believe we are a target for recruitment to the armed forces.'

Royal Marines annually visit Dunbeg and Rockfield primary schools to commemorate former Dunbeg pupil Gordon MacPherson, who was killed on the last day of the Falklands war.

In previous years, the servicemen brought in unloaded guns to show the children, although this was discontinued earlier this year. 'In their curriculum, our chil-

Oban celebrates festival's winter wonderland



Oban Winter Festival was launched in fine style as Santa's parade – complete with reindeer Hamish – made its way through the town culminating in the big Christmas lights switch-on. Rachel Carre and Erin Jackson had the honour of turning on the lights. Full story and picture special on pages 12 and 13.

children cover both the First and Second World Wars, and lessons are also held on more recent and ongoing conflicts,' Ms Simpson added.

'Therefore they know the reality of war and of what our armed forces face when they go into battle. It does absolutely no harm, in my opinion, for our children to be taught a healthy understanding

of the reality of all professions, including the armed services.'

'Our children at Dunbeg are very fortunate to be given so many amazing opportunities to meet and speak to professionals from a variety of workplaces, organisations and agencies. As part of those visits, I, as a parent, would expect the professionals to educate my children on all aspects

of their job. Therefore if someone from the armed services attends, I am perfectly comfortable that they will have the capabilities to appropriately show the children the "tools" that they use.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'The forces visit to Dunbeg school appears to have been in keeping with previous visits and has a strong local

root commemorating, as it did, the service and sacrifice of a local soldier, a former pupil at the school. However, I do understand the concern of some parents and others across the area regarding recruitment activity involving young children and a balance clearly has to be struck to make sure any activity is proportionate, clearly explained and acceptable

to the school community as a whole. The council has to be an arbiter of that involvement'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The Marines visited Dunbeg as part of the Curriculum for Excellence and contributed to children's understanding of teamwork and the importance of fitness. The visit was a success.'

Billy Irving's fiancée is 'petrified'

CONNEL man Billy Irving, imprisoned in India, will find out if he will be released on Monday.

The judge has been given until November 27 to decide whether or not to grant freedom for Billy and 35 other men who were jailed last January.

This information comes as the terminally-ill captain was repatriated on Monday November 20.

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

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

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

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Billy Irving's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, said: 'I can't quite believe we finally have a date for a verdict. Since the day the five-year sentence was handed to Billy, our lives have been at a standstill.'

'Nearly two years we've waited for this day and now it's finally here, I am utterly petrified.'

'We are so close to the end, yet still a million miles away from this hell we are living ending.'

'Everything does feel positive this time round, but you just cannot tell what will happen.'

'Our lives and the lives of 34 men and their families lie in the hands of one man – the judge.'

'All we want is for Billy to be home with us this Christmas.'

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LOCHABER TIMES
& Oban Times

FW

Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

People often talk about the generosity and selflessness of the people of Lochaber and that observation rings particularly true when you look through the pages of this week's *Lochaber Times*.

Whether it is our youngsters organising bake sales and tuck shops, or wearing their pyjamas to school to raise cash for Children in Need, volunteers litter-picking in Glen Nevis for the benefit of all, or the many people who put in hours and hours of work into organising Lochaber Winter Festival or ensuring Fort William is as attractive and welcoming as it can be for the many

visitors and residents, week in and week out people are giving up their own free time to put something positive back into their local communities. And although during our busy weeks and lives we often take our home town or village and the people we live and work with for granted, we should all stop every once in a while for a few minutes, lift our heads and see how truly fortunate we are to be here.

Thank you to everyone in our communities who do their own little bit to make Lochaber a fantastic place to live and work.



Days gone by – 2012

The children of Tobermory RNLI's volunteer crew have recreated photographer Nigel Millard's iconic image almost five years to the day after it was taken in November 2012. The original photograph, above, was featured both in Nigel's acclaimed book *The Lifeboat and the Courage on Our Coasts* exhibition which toured the UK and Ireland in 2013 and 2014. The image features children of Tobermory's volunteer crew wearing their fathers' kit.

The latest photograph, right, was by Tobermory RNLI's lifeboat operations manager, Dr Sam Jones, to mark the fifth anniversary of the original. Five years on, Alexander Anderson (far right back), son of former station mechanic Jock Anderson, is now a member of the crew having joined earlier this year aged 17.



MacPhail

ANGUS MACPFAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



The following lyrics on that theme are from a new song we will release in December.

Wishing Well – Angus MacPhail
When the white cold of Christmas will cover the morn
May your wounds all be healed and your love be reborn
And the mid-winter memories long in the glow
Be real as you walk on the snow.
Chorus
Let us join by the glow where the clear waters flow
From the wishing well high on the hill.
Forever we'll feel, but the waters will heal
From the wishing well high on the hill.
Live the unbridled magic of life long ago

When our hearts were as whole as we felt them before
Before the blind reapers brought dark to the day
And our dreams of the dawn washed away.
Your steps are in time and your tune holds the key
And your smile it still lights the gifts under the tree;

Eternal the flame, you will always return
And will dance in the land of the young.
The Star of the Sea in the clear winter skies
Gives the guidance of old and the light never dies.
Your spirit was strong, now silent your song
But your soul with the Polestar shines on.
May the wrongs of the world never banish the right
Be the stranger still welcome from the cold winter night.
Our manger is warm, there is room at the inn
And the wishing well heals from within.

Billy Irving
On a not unrelated note, Billy Irving and his 34 detained colleagues will find out on Monday November 27 whether they will gain their freedom and be able to spend this Christmas at home reunited with their families, or if they will be left to languish in an Indian jail. All our goodwill and hopes are with Billy and his fellow prisoners.



Social media

There was an outpouring of grief following the announcement of the death of Janice Alexander, a beloved member of staff at Oban High School and a stalwart of Oban Saints Youth Football Club.

Catherine Wylie posted: 'So sorry to hear such sad news, lovely lady in every way, thoughts are prayers are with lan and the boys, herMum and mother in law. Will miss her smile and waving every morning as she passed by my house.'

Ann Matheson said: 'A sad day especially for her family a lovely girl always with a smile on her face.'

Lindsay Allward wrote: 'Such sad news, such a lovely lady, thoughts are with Janice's family.'

Sheena MacLennan posted: 'I am so

very sad to read this. Janice was a beautiful woman inside and out, she will be truly missed by all the lovely people of Oban.'

Doreen Gordon commented: 'Beautiful lady inside and out, so sad, sending heartfelt condolences to all her family.'

Ruth Oliver posted: 'Very sorry to hear this, sympathies to lain and family.'

Iain Davidson offered: 'All our thoughts are with lain & boys at this very sad time. Sleep tight Janice.'

Pat Tyrrell said: 'I am so sad to hear of Janice's death. All those of us whose kids benefitted from their time in Oban Saints owe her a huge debt. She has been an inspiring woman. Thoughts and love to her family.'

Malcolm Leatham remembered: 'Was a lovely person thinking off all the family

my that's go to you all take care.'

Mary Nicolson wrote: 'An amazing lady with a heart of gold, you'll be truly missed love Mary Jane and Christine.'

Dorothy Lockhart said: 'Thoughts are with you lan and family.'

Linda MacDonald commented: 'Lovely lady. Condolences.'

Gwen Cameron posted: 'Thoughts are with lan and the boys. Treasure the happy memories.'

Duggie Mackiggan wrote: 'Very sad news, deepest sympathy to lain and family.'

Colline Mackiggan said: 'Caring thoughts to lan and the boys also the extended family, a lovely lady and neighbour.'

Emily Cornelius commented: 'Sorry to hear this my thoughts are with you all.'

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.

Proposed savings are unfair for Jura

Sir,
I was dismayed to read that the Argyll and Bute consultation on money-saving schemes specifically singles out the community of Jura to bear the costs of proposed additional ferry fare increases, as one potential source of additional funds. Jura is a success story in terms of new businesses, new opportunities and a rising primary school roll, but with no mainland link, we depend on our ferry connection to Islay for everything.

This short, lifeline crossing, operated by skilful and dedicated crews, already bears the dubious honour of having among the highest fares per kilometre of any crossing in Europe. Fares have gone up substantially more than inflation for at least the past decade, notably with a 35 per cent increase in one single blow, when residents' discounts were abruptly withdrawn in 2010.

Furthermore, since centralising much of Jura's service provision through Islay was a key part of a previous money-saving plan, raising revenue through the necessity of residents gaining access to such essentials as eye tests, dental care, high school parents' meetings and hospital appointments makes this a particularly unjustifiable proposal.

We simply have no alternative. It's like proposing a Jura-only tax.

Finally, to invite nearly 90,000 Argyll and Bute residents to be able to have a say about a potentially damaging measure which would only affect a vulnerable community of 200 souls is unjust and unethical - for them and for us.

Any 'service choice' for cutting budgets should be borne across the entire community or not at all. It would be profoundly unfair - and morally unthinkable - for me or my neighbours to make choices which would have a detrimental effect on community services which would only impact on, say, Campbeltown or Lochgilphead.

Nevertheless, this consultation offers a very similar opportunity for residents living in Helensburgh or Oban, or anywhere else, to influence a lifeline ferry service for distant, out-of-sight and out-of-mind Jura.

Philip Kitching,
Inverlussa, Jura.

Rural Argyll is being sidelined by SNP

Sir,
I attended the latest council administration meeting where I spoke of how important it is that Islay's infrastructure is dramatically improved.

I have no doubt that business across Argyll and Bute is growing well... [but] for our local infrastructure to support this great economic growth we will need to see our money from the Scottish Government increase, not decrease.

The SNP likes to forget that the

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



MURA BIODH SPIORAD CARTHANNNAIS is bith-eòran ann an nàdar dhaoine nuair a tha àm na Nollaige a' teannadh oirnn 's neònach gum biodh uimhir de dh'arrtasana taice a' taomadh tro na dorsan againn.

Chan ann gun aithne a tha luchd-to-gail airgid nam buidhnean sin ag iomairt idir, agus gu h-iongantach ged a tha cosgaisean theaghlach uile nas àirde mu dheireadh na bliadhna, tha e coltach gum bheil daoine nas deiseile airgead a thoirt seachad dha carthannais cuideachd. Ge b' e dè an t-adhbhar, tha e coltach gum bheil sinn a' freagairt thagraidhean nan liuthad buidheann a tha a' ruigheachd oirnn, agus nach math gur ann mar sin a tha agus gum bheil na caochladh chartannais sin air chomas taic is cobhair a thoirt dha diolan-dèirce a tha an cruaidh fheum cuideachaidh.

Gu mi-fhortanach chan eil meud neo ire an fheum sin a' sioladh air chor sam bith eadar feumalachdan chuid a' fulang sgrìos aimsire neo chrith-thalmhainn, neo feadhainn air an glacadh gu neo-chiontach ann an cogaidhean bho nach fhaigh iad teicheadh. Bho chionn làithean

union dividend it is so hell bent on getting rid of up to £1,750 for each person in Scotland.

That very surplus sent north of the border by our UK government is just not properly getting through to our rural constituencies once placed in the hands of the incompetent Scottish Government.

Sadly, with the SNP being both hopelessly urban and separation obsessed, I fear that we in rural Argyll will continue to be sidelined.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Islay.

Let us use the station car park for free

Sir,
I'm sure many Obanites have noticed that the station car park has been closed for some time, certainly for many weeks.

I wrote to ScotRail over three weeks ago asking when the problem would be fixed, as parking to pick up visitors from a train or ferry has become very difficult without getting in the way of taxis and pier traffic.

I was told that the sensor under the road was faulty and that ScotRail couldn't confirm a timescale for it to be fixed.

As the company is allowing taxis and staff cars in, couldn't ScotRail also allow the public to use the car park for free until the problem is sorted? It would save a great deal of frustration.

Maurice Wilkins,
Laurel Road, Oban.

Was councillor not in favour of austerity?

Sir,
I can sympathise with Councillor Alastair Redman in his concerns about the proposed closure of public toilets on Islay (Letters, *The Oban Times*, November 9).

These and other cuts in services across the county are likely to come into effect as the administration seeks to resolve its forthcoming budget. Nobody would pretend that such reductions in service are welcome.

One matter puzzles me though. Is not Councillor Redman a Conservative member of the controlling group on the council? When last I saw him on a public platform, he was advocating and enthusiastically supporting the policy of austerity being pursued by his party.

Ken MacColl,
Villa Road, Oban.

Trying to trace an American visitor

Sir,
I am writing to you to see if you can help me in my quest to try to contact the relative of a gentleman and his wife I met on the train travelling up to Oban on September 27 this year.

They were from America and enjoying their first trip to Scotland as their son-in-law is a marine engineer working in Oban for six months.

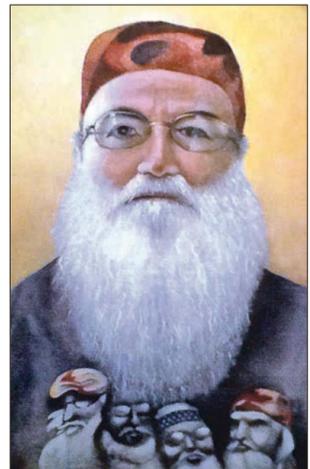
The gentleman was a colourful character and he gave me his permission to take his picture, from which I have since painted him.

He was a fan of an American show on television called *Duck Dynasty*, which he obviously fashioned himself on, as you can see from the picture I painted.

I thought it would be a nice idea if I could somehow contact his relative in Oban to get the gentleman's address in order to send him the painting as a memento of his trip to Scotland.

I understand this is a long shot, but perhaps worth a try.

Margaret Meek,
29 Douglas Drive,
Garrowhill, Baillieston,
Glasgow G69 6NJ.



Proper crossing is needed at new school

Sir,
A traffic-light pelican crossing is urgently required in the area about Matheson's furniture store and Millpark area to accommodate the school children arriving and departing the new high school when it opens.

Cars often flout the 30mph speed limit coming down from the fire station area, so a crossing would lessen the chance of an accident here.

Stephen Jones,
by email.

Positive move by Atlantis Leisure

Sir,
I was very pleased to find that the cafe at Atlantis Leisure is now offering customers their drinks in china mugs or cups, as an alternative to paper ones with plastic lids.

This gives customers more choice and helps reduce the amount of plastic waste which is so detrimental to the environment.

Gill Moore,
Brochroy Croft, Taynuilt.

Ailean Caimbeul

tha sinn air a bhith a' faicinn is a' cluinntinn sgeulachdan mu bhuidh aimhreit mhaireannach ann an tè de na dùthchannan Arabach, a' Yemen, an dùthaich as bochda anns an Ear-Mheadhanach.

Fad còrr air trì bliadhna a-nise tha sabaid eadar feachdan an riaghaltais agus neo-eisimeilich air eaconamaidh na dùthcha a bhriseadh agus tha faisg air trì chairteil de shluagh na dùthcha, mu thimcheall air naoi millean deug neach, feumach air cobhair dhaonnachd, agus biadh, uisge, agus cungaidhean-leighis. Dh'fheumadh neach a bhith cruaidh da-rìribh nach biodh air a ghluasad gu sàr thruas a' coimhead nan dealbhan de chloinn agus inbhich a' bàsachadh le cion bidh is uisge. 'S dòcha gun tug na dealbhan sin buaidh air fialaidheachd an t-sluagh a thug seachad còrr air caogad millean not, air an aon oidhche, dha tagradh Chlann ann an Èis aig a' BhBc.

Abair coibhneas an sin, agus chan eil teagamh nach tig mòran cofhurtachd agus faothachadh às an sponan luachmhor seo. Ach air an aon t-seachdain 's a bha dealbhan

brònach chloinne na Yemen fo ar comhair, agus a bha soirbheachas an tagraidh aig Clann ann an Èis na mhìsneachadh, phàigh cuideigin aig rup eadar-nàiseanta ceithir cheud millean dolair air dealbh a chruthaich Leonardo da Vinci.

Chan eil mise neo duine eile, tha mi cinnteach, dol a dh'àicheadh ealantas da Vinci ach shaoil mi fhìn gum bheil rudeigin mì-chneasta mun t-suim seo ga thoirt air dealbh nuair a tha ceudan mhillean a' bàsachadh le acras air feadh an t-saoghail. Gu cinnteach chan eil spiorad a' charthannais a' buntainn ris a h-uile neach idir.

WHO could not be moved seeing adults and children dying of starvation and thirst in Yemen, but record support for BBC Children in Need might encourage us to feel the power of charity. However, against the background of continuing international humanitarian need, the payment of \$400 million for a painting seems somewhat obscene.

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

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

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Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, 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.

Fort swept aside by rampant Rothes

Football

Rothes	9
Fort William	1
Highland League	

FORT William Football Club's recent poor form continued on Saturday after a bruising defeat leaves them still without a win this season.

The Lochaber outfit travelled to Rothes on Saturday, a fixture which has previously been a bottom of the table clash. But with Rothes now a mainstay in the top half of the Highland League this season, this tie on Saturday presented Fort with a difficult trip north-east.

After just six minutes Dan Moore put Rothes in front. Although John Treasurer pulled one back for the Fort, the home side's dominance soon began to show. Scott Davidson and Dale Gillespie put Rothes back in front and the teams win in at the break with the score at 3-1.

In the second-half Rothes turned the screw, with Gillespie netting a penalty before completing his hat-trick in the 51st minute. Dale Wood and Jamie Wilson each got on the scoresheet in a calamitous five minute spell for Fort William.

James MacKay and Craig Cormack rounded off the scoring, with the final tally being nine for the home side - another hefty defeat on the road for Fort William this season.

Fort William are at home to Cove Rangers on Saturday (November 25).

Lottery numbers

Lottery

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 12, 15 and 17. The winner was Moira Campbell who scooped the £1,200 jackpot. There will now be £100 available for the lotto drawn today (Thursday November 23).

The numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 2, 7 and 16. There were no winning tickets this week.

There will now be a jackpot for £500 for next Thursday's draw.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week are 11, 18 and 19. There were no winners this week.

That means that next week's jackpot is £200.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 5, 9 and 19. Lorne Brown in Ballachulish picked the winning numbers and won the £600 jackpot. Next week's draw will revert to £200.

Indoor results

Indoor football

LATEST results from week five of Sammy's Indoor Winter League: Expected Toulouse 7, Snorting Lisbon 5; Fiorentina Turner 9, HW Energy 4; The Young Team 0, The Goon Squad 2; Balla 3, Gozos 1; Portowey 2, Borussia Fortmund 7; Doghouse Thistle 19, Arse n All 0.

Ten-pin bowling strikes up again in Fort William

TEN-PIN bowlers are back in action as the new season got under way at the Nevis Centre in Fort William this month.

After week one in the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues, three teams - British Legion Fort William, Council and The Domino's - sit at the top of the scratch division with the maximum five points. In the handicap division, Domino's are the only team with the maximum five points, followed by Alleycats, British Legion Fort William and Council all on three points.

Individually the best game in week one came from Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with a 207. Also this week Ben Weller (The Empire) rolled a 174. Tony Whitelocke swept the board with the top handicap game of 225, the best two game scratch series with 354 and the best two game handicap series with 390.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats with

10-pin bowling

the top scratch game of 611, two game scratch series of 1,148 and two game handicap series of 1,508 whilst Council had the top handicap game of 811.

In the second week of league competition, Council lead the scratch division with the maximum possible 10 points followed by The Empire on seven points and Alleycats on six points. Council also lead the handicap division with eight points followed by The Empire and The Fillies Plus Gillie both on seven points.

Individually, the best scratch games in week two came from Ben Weller (The Empire) with games of 202 and 190.

Weller swept the board with the top handicap game of 231, the best two game scratch series of 392 and the best two game handicap series of 450 - all season highs.



Ten-pin bowlers are back in action at the Nevis Centre in Fort William. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

The best team scores of the week came from The Empire who swept the board with the top scratch game of 601, the top handicap game of 806, the top two game scratch series of 1,152 (the season high), the top two game handicap series of 1,562 (the season high). The leagues are supported by loyal sponsor Lochaber Building Supplies.



Stuart Whyte and teammate Eben van Wyk with their prizes after both lifting a record 600kg in the deadlift. Photos: Abridge Photography.

Record-breaking lifters show their strength at Fort event

Strongman

SOME of Scotland's strongest men and women came to Fort William on Saturday and put their strength to the test in a gruelling day of competition.

The town's Nevis Centre hosted an afternoon of strongman competitions as part of the annual Scotland's Strongest Team strongman event.

This is the fourth year Fort William has hosted a major strongman event in memory of one of the sport's other local enthusiasts, Mark Haldenby.



Stuart Whyte competing in one of the many rounds of strongman competition at the Nevis Centre on Saturday.

Organised by the town's own well-known strongman competition competitor, Stuart Whyte, the event featured six teams, with competitors coming from as far afield as Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow to take part.

And it was Whyte who took the top prize in the competition thanks to a record 600kg deadlift. This feat was matched by teammate Eben van Wyk who was also awarded the gold medal. Alan Callum and Ian Wood came in second place, with Stephen Donnan and Larry Wood taking third spot.

Whyte now adds this win to his superb performance at a European strongman championships in Glasgow earlier this year.

In the women's competition, Emma Jane Smith took first place, with Caitlin Riley and Cara Jane Droy finishing behind her in first and third place.

The proceeds of the event have been donated to support Fort William local Gary Campbell's campaign to get stem cell treatment.

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Touching night at Kilmallie's end of season dinner dance

IT WAS an emotional evening for everyone involved at Kilmallie Shinty Club on Saturday as the club held its annual dinner dance.

Players and management turned out for a touching night of celebration and remembrance to mark the end of what has been, at times, a difficult season for the club.

Kilmallie players and management paid tribute to former player Duncan Rodger, who passed away earlier this year, with the player of the year prize being awarded in Duncan's memory.

On the field, the club had mixed fortunes in 2017.

Kilmallie were beaten finalists in the MacTavish Cup final, just edged out by Newtonmore after a heroic comeback

Shinty

wasn't quite enough to win them the trophy. The club, however, finished the Premiership season in ninth place, resulting in their relegation to the National Division.

The club would like to thank the Moorings Hotel for being great hosts and to thank all of the organisers as well.

Prize winners: First team player of the year - Duncan Rodger; Second team player of the year - Dean Williamson; U17 player of the year - Calum MacDougall; U17 most improved player - Cam Clark; U14 player of the year - Andrew Dingwall; U14 most improved player - Ben Mackinnon.



L to R: Barry MacDonald (first team player of the year) Stuart Matheson (second team player of the year), Findlay MacDonald (player), Tyler Whyte (under 14 most improved player) and Max Campbell, under 14 player of the year. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Lochaber Camanachd holds end of season presentation

LOCHABER Camanachd Club celebrated the end of their 2017 shinty season with their annual dinner dance on Saturday night (November 18).

The West End Hotel played host to a busy night of merriment as Lochaber



Mairi Duncan (U17 player of the year), left, Anna Berardelli (most improved player of the year), and Kira MacDonald (second team player of the year).

Shinty

Camanachd players, management and volunteers marked what has been quite a successful season for the club.

With the first team finishing as the highest placed club in Lochaber in the divisions and the second team narrowly missing out on promotion from North Division 2, the celebrations were well earned.

Prize winners: First team player of the year - Barry MacDonald; Second team player of the year - Stuart Matheson; U17 player of the year - Mairi Duncan; U14 player of the year - Max Campbell; U14 most improved player - Tyler Whyte; Girls first team player of the year - Missy Cameron; Girls second team player of the year - Kira Macdonald; Girls most improved player - Anna Berardelli.

The club would like to thank Aileen Campbell for organising the evening, the West End Hotel, the band and all the sponsors who have helped the club throughout the season.



Kilmallie Shinty Club award winners and management team at the club's dinner dance on Saturday night. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

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WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain showers Winds moderate West North Westerly Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.
Friday	Cloudy with sunny intervals Winds light Northerly Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.
Weekend Outlook	Sunshine and showers on Saturday Sunshine and showers on Sunday Winds moderate North Westerly Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 23, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm				
Thu	02.20	1.5	08.07	3.7	14.39	1.7	20.11	3.5
Fri	02.57	1.7	08.46	3.6	15.22	1.9	20.47	3.3
Sat	03.38	1.9	09.31	3.4	16.15	2.1	21.33	3.1
Sun	04.31	2.0	10.30	3.2	17.21	2.1	22.37	3.0
Mon	05.36	2.0	12.05	3.2	18.33	2.1	***	**
Tues	00.30	2.9	06.45	2.0	13.48	3.3	19.41	1.9
Wed	02.10	3.1	07.53	1.8	14.41	3.5	20.38	1.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate