

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Agenda:

- the people
- the issues
- the back story



### THIS WEEK Christine Metcalfe

"Those paid to represent us have no right to impose an energy policy that is harmful to our health."

including an Asus laptop  
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**COLLECT  
TOKEN TWO  
INSIDE**

## Where else is the axe due to fall?

**STAFF REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

IT'S CRUNCH time for Argyll and Bute Council as a meeting of the full council votes whether to remove the controversial 45 per cent cut planned for additional support needs funding for children.

The very idea sparked a storm of protest; Oban's Corran Halls saw a turnout of more than 300 to a meeting called by the town's community council with the AB-Pacc (Argyll and Bute Parents Against Council Cuts), last Wednesday.

The meeting was heated at

times and councillors were left in no doubt about public feeling.

Today (Thursday) the full council gets to vote on the recommendation to 'consider whether the option of reducing additional support needs (ASN) assistant support by 45 per cent should be removed from the current service choices consultation programme'.

At the start of this school year there were 1,931 pupils who needed additional support and of these approximately 570 children needed ASN assistant support.

SNP councillors announced ahead of today's council meeting that they would be voting to get

rid of the cut, criticising 'the unnecessary angst' it has caused for parents, children and the people facing redundancy.

'I hope that the council will together agree to put this emotive and distressing issue behind us,' said Sandy Taylor leader of the SNP council group.

Last Wednesday's meeting heard council area leader Roddy McCuish heckled and called a 'liar' and an opposition councillor likening the project board – the committee set up to oversee the budget-making process – to 'North Korea'.

This worry at the lack of information and fear of where other

cuts will fall was echoed when Oban Community Council held a second, less-well attended public meeting on Friday at Glencruittan Church Hall.

This was for the public consultation 'Planning our Future', complete with a survey asking for public opinion on how to make savings between now and 2018.

The document left many people baffled; they felt it was too complex.

Alan Reid, Scottish Liberal Democrat candidate for Argyll and Bute in the May 2016 elections, who was at the meeting on Friday, said: 'The clear feeling of the meeting was that the council

hadn't given enough details of what the options would mean and the community council should feed that back to the council.'

One member of the public, Andy MacArthur, said asking people to fill in the consultation document was 'like sitting in a lifeboat deciding who to eat first while the good ship Kilmory [council headquarters] sails on'.

He added: 'There is absolutely no accountability or transparency in Argyll and Bute; 52 per cent of the project board are un-elected.'

Ahead of today's meeting, Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart sent his support for Argyll and Bute Parents Against

Council Cuts.

He said: 'The service cuts are unacceptable. As is so often the case, those in most need have to bear the brunt of the cuts.'

'I have sympathy for the situation Argyll and Bute Council is in. It is time its MSPs faced up to the reality that these cuts are a direct result of the council tax freeze that the SNP government imposed across Scotland.'

'The situation is made worse due the remoteness of some parts of Argyll and the large number of islands that do not receive the same support offered to other island communities. I will continue to fight for a fair deal for Argyll.'

### TIMESLINE

**New party for region set to Rise**

A POLITICAL party planning a socialist alternative to the SNP and Labour is to draw up a manifesto for the Highlands and Islands.

RISE (Respect, Independence, Socialism and Environmentalism) was formed in the wake of the Scottish independence referendum campaign.

Independent Highlands and Islands list MSP Jean Urquhart has agreed to help draw up a manifesto.

She said she would not be standing for re-election in the 2016 Holyrood election, but said she was 'delighted' to be involved in the manifesto for the Highlands and Islands.

**Couple in court on drugs charges**

A MAN and woman have appeared at Oban Sheriff Court following a drugs raid in the town on Friday.

A 39-year-old man and 25-year-old woman appeared in court on Monday.

Both are accused of producing cannabis, a class B drug, with intent to supply. The woman faces a further charge of possession of heroin, a class A drug. She has pleaded guilty to both charges.

The man submitted a not guilty plea to his charge.

The pair were bailed and will appear in court on February 3 next year.

### Correction

IN *The Oban Times*' front page story last week, about the Oban couple caught up in the Paris attacks, the wrong spelling for Simona Hossova was given. *The Oban Times* apologises for this error.

Oban Times newsdesk 01631 568000



### Wildlife crime penalties review

RSPB Scotland has welcomed the publication of the Scottish Government's Review of Wildlife Crime Penalties.

RSPB Scotland Head of Investigations, Ian Thomson, said: 'Scotland has some of the best wildlife protection laws in Europe, but in our opinion, these need to be effectively enforced and there need to be meaningful sentences imposed on those convicted of wrong-doing.'

RSPB Scotland staff routinely assists the police and other statutory agencies in the investigation of wildlife crime incidents.

### Lower limit drives down offending

DRINK-DRIVING offences in the Highlands and Islands have fallen since the introduction of the lower drink-drive limit, new figures have shown.

There was a 9.2 per cent reduction in the number of offences in the region in the nine-month period following the change.

Figures obtained by AlcoSense Personal Breathalysers show that between December 2014 and August 2015, all but one area in Scotland reported a reduction in drink driving offences, with a decrease of 12.5 per cent nationwide.

## Santa in town to help launch Oban Winter Festival



Families came out en masse on Saturday to help celebrate the launch of this year's Oban Winter Festival. Bid4Oban event manager Neil Mackay said: 'It was wonderful to see the reindeer parade and Christmas lights switch on. It's been so successful and every year we have seen an increase in numbers. Not only were we very lucky with the weather, but the sterling work carried out by lighting officer Ryan McGlynn and his team from Argyll and Bute Council made sure everything slotted into place perfectly. Thanks to all the organisations such as Oban Pipe Band, who helped to create a great atmosphere at another fantastic event in the Love Oban calendar.'

For full coverage of this year's winter festival, see next week's Oban Times. Photographs: WDR Photographics

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### Alcohol issues in region 'worrying'

SHOCKING statistics have shown that almost one in 10 men in the NHS Highland region is a problem drinker, and children as young as three can recognise the smell of alcohol. Alcohol abuse will be top of the agenda at the NHS Highland board meeting on Tuesday December 1, with Dr Hugo van Woerden, the board's director of public health, calling the figures 'extremely worrying'.

The statistics show the challenges the region, along with many other parts of Scotland, face with regards to problem

drinking, and form a key part of Dr van Woerden's report. It also shows women are as likely to suffer from alcohol abuse as men.

Across the NHS Highland region, 9.4 per cent of men and 7.2 per cent of women are classed as problem drinkers, and there has been a rise in alcohol intake by women aged 16-24. In total, 40 per cent of the population regularly drinks more than the recommended limit.

The board meeting, to be held at Assynt House in Inverness, starts at 8.30am.

### 12 jobs at risk at Glensanda quarry

A DOZEN workers at Glensanda Super Quarry are set to lose their jobs over the festive period.

CA Blackwell, which deals with the load and haulage at Glensanda Quarry after being awarded the contract in July 2013, said it was making the redundancies following the introduction of new crushing technology.

A company spokesman said: 'Normally this processing would take place seven days a week, but the new crusher allows the same volume to be achieved in just five days.'

'As a result of the change to the contract, we have put 12 plant operator roles at risk.'

'Consultations have commenced with those affected and other roles within our business are being identified to minimise any impact. There are no plans for any further redundancies.'

The Blackwell Glensanda contract currently employs 50 people on rotating shifts seven days a week. Due to the changes, the load and haul contract has been extended by 22 months and is now planned to finish in April 2019.

### SPOTLIGHT Musical Theatre Group

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**MULL**  
lines

**Parents call meeting over plans to cut school budgets**

TOBERMORY High School Parent Council has called a meeting to discuss the 'severe cuts' being proposed to education budgets.

Writing to *The Oban Times*, a spokesperson for the group, said: 'Argyll and Bute Council is having to make some very severe cuts to its budget and one of the key areas that is being looked at is education. We want to highlight the main three proposed cuts that the school is having to come to terms with.'

'First is the cut to the school library service which will result in the loss of the school librarian whose role goes far beyond core library management.'

'The librarian doesn't just shuffle books and say shush a lot to pupils. The librarian offers support to the teachers and pupils, looks after school laptops and assists in the senior pupils' study and research work to ensure the school remains as competitive as ever.'

'This is a full-time, year-round job and there aren't many of those on the island. The library isn't just somewhere the children go when it's raining. Much of the curriculum now focuses on research and the children discovering things for themselves. The internet is good, but it can't match books.'

'Secondly is the reduction in support to children on the island who have additional support needs (ASN) as well as the withdrawal of early years support and intervention.'

'This is going to cause serious problems for these youngsters. A good and positive supported childhood results in better, more balanced and educated adults. Also, what happens to the children who need the help? The risk is that they are sent away to residential care, away from their families to a potentially uncertain future.'

'And thirdly, the general erosion of both the primary and secondary school budgets. The main issue here is the cuts will remove the lab technicians and IT support roles.'

'How do the children learn anything when their computers don't work and they spend too much time preparing for science work than actually doing it?'

The THS Parent Council will be holding a public meeting in the school canteen on November 30 at 7pm.

**Facebook 'Friends' pay heartwarming tribute to island vet**



ISLANDERS have been posting pictures on social media of their animals in memory of a 'caring and kind' vet who tragically died in an accident on October 30.

When Theresa Wade, 29, died in a head on car collision on Mull the outpouring of grief from islanders and those from far beyond spoke of the shock and disbelief that the young islander had been killed.

Shortly after the woman's funeral last week, Mull Theatre's Alasdair McCrone from Tobermory posted a picture of

his two dogs on Facebook to say thank you to Theresa, starting an 'avalanche' of tributes to the young woman.

Alasdair said: 'A few of us thought it might be nice to start a wee thread with photos of our animals, friends who'd had love and care from our dear vet, Theresa. Share the love.'

Clockwise from top left: HTC; Hugo; cows on one of the many farms Theresa attended; Bregtha the retriever; and Alasdair McCrone's two dogs.

**Chairman for drugs partnership announced**

A NEWLY-appointed, independent chairperson has been named for the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

John Owens took up the post on Monday this week.

He said: 'I am really enthusiastic about this new role and the opportunity that it provides to help with collaborative working in the field of alcohol and drugs.'

Christina West, chief officer for Argyll and Bute Health

and Social Care Partnership, and who currently chairs the partnership, said that Mr Owens had an extensive range of experience, having worked with a number of third-sector organisations and also as a social worker.

She said: 'I'm delighted to welcome John to this new role.'

'He comes with an extensive range of experience having worked with a number of third sector organisations and also as a social worker.'

**Last chance to have your say on fishing proposals**

A SERIES of public meetings around the Firth of Clyde, to highlight concerns over the potential community-wide impact of proposed fishing regulations, are being held by the Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA).

The CFA has been hosting community meetings in Campbeltown, Carradale, Tarbert, Port Ellen (Islay), Troon, Stranraer and Largs, with the last of the meetings due to take place on November 30.

Elaine Whyte, secretary of the CFA, said: 'The meetings are open to everyone who is

concerned about the survival of our communities, whether they are directly connected with fishing or not.'

'The management arrangements for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Clyde combined with a proposed Regulating Order from the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) have the potential to impact upon every aspect of community life, including local businesses and schools.'

More information on the meetings can be found at [www.clydefish.com](http://www.clydefish.com)

**Argyll chef in trout final**

CHEF Michael Knowles of the Loch Melfort Hotel has made it through to the final of the Trout Chef of the Year competition using Loch Etive trout.

Michael is one of six chefs in the final who has used sustainably-sourced, farmed trout.

Michael's recipes are cold-smoked Loch Etive Trout cannelloni, smoked trout, ricotta and dill mousse; sea aster, sea lettuce and sea grass pesto all with a sea salt crumb

as a starter and his main course is a warm terrine of Loch Etive cold smoked trout and baby spinach, squid ink tagliatelle, sun-blushed tomatoes, watercress and parsley dressing.

The Federation of Chefs Scotland runs the event, this year in conjunction with the RR Spink and Sons fish smoker celebrating its 300th anniversary year.

The winner was due to be announced yesterday (Wednesday).

**Free TV licence reminder**

ANYONE celebrating their 75th birthday in the next 12 months is being reminded by TV Licensing and Age Scotland, who have joined forces, that they are entitled to claim a free TV licence following

this landmark birthday. Anyone aged 75 or over is granted a free TV licence for their main address.

Currently, 980 people in Oban have an over-75 TV licence.

**BE HEALTH-WISE THIS WINTER**

1. Check when your GP surgery is open
2. Don't run out of repeat prescriptions - order only what you need in plenty of time
3. Check you have cold and flu remedies



BE HEALTH-WISE THIS WINTER



Don't let ill-health spoil Christmas and New Year. For more health advice visit [www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk)

*Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY*

**Bunnahabhain's George retires after 40 years**

STAFF member George Jamieson has retired after 40 years dedicated service as an employee of Bunnahabhain Distillery.

Colleagues and family members, including his wife Isobel, attended the buffet lunch marking the occasion and a variety of gifts were received from co-workers and the distillery's master blender Ian MacMillan. Everyone wished George a long and happy retirement agus slainte mhath.

**Record sum collected for poppy appeal**

DONATIONS for the PoppyScotland appeal in the Kilarrow parish amounted to the record sum of £628.05. Thanks to the generous parishioners and convener David Barr for his efforts.

**Islay to get its own book of Gaelic songs**

Gaelic book publisher Acair has undertaken to produce a book of Gaelic songs pertaining to the island and it is planned that the publication will hit the bookshops in 2016.

Among the book's contents will be Clare Jordan's Blàr Suite, based on local bard William Livingston's poetic account of the Battle of Loch Gruinart, along with another group of favourite local songs and a number of previously unpublished works.

Also featured will be a selection of the songs included on Còisir Ghàidhlig Ile's CD, Sruth air a Charraig.

Kenneth Thomson, conductor of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (the GG) is presently working on the musical arrangement and the book will include illustrations by local artist Dr Raymond Lafferty. There will also be artwork input from Islay's school pupils which all goes to make the publication a truly Ilead undertaking.

Heading the project is Iomairt Ghàidhlig Ile's Dhiùra in conjunction with other leading Gaelic agencies, including Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Valued support has also been received from the Schroder Foundation, Ardbeg



Bunnahabhain distillery worker George Jamieson and his wife Isobel are pictured with George's co-workers at a gathering for his retirement.

Distillery and a number of private donors.

**Stalwart elders congratulated**

CONGRATULATIONS to Round Church elders Nancy Stewart and David Woodrow whose long years of service on the kirk session have been recognised with the presentation of certificates signed by the current Moderator of the General Assembly, the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison.

Nancy has been an elder at the Bowmore church for 36 years, while David, a former session clerk, has served 30 years.

Belle Stewart, another valued elder for the past 30 years, will receive her certificate during the communion service at the Round Church on December 6.

**First for Bowmore Christmas lights**

THANKS to the generosity of local business people and the forward thinking of the village sports committee, Bowmore

will get into the festive spirit earlier this year with the village's first ever display of Christmas street lights.

Specially illuminated will be the village's main and shore street and the Morrison Square area at the centre of the village.

The lights were put in place in far-from-ideal weather conditions by local contractors as their contribution to the display.

The official switch on will take place at the village square at 4pm on Saturday December 5 when there will be lots of entertainments to enjoy, as well as activities specially geared for children. A portly, bearded gentlemen in a red coat is also likely to appear.

Earlier on the same day, members of the Round Church will hold their Christmas-themed coffee morning in the Bowmore buffet hall, beginning at 10.30am, and the main village hall will be the setting for a seasonal fayre, which kicks off at 1pm.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

# Frail pensioner calls for revamp of system after appointment runaround

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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A 75-YEAR-OLD man with chronic heart failure is being forced to travel 200 miles to attend a medical appointment a month after he could have had the same attention 12 miles from home.

David Pearson, from Seil has already waited more than three months to be seen by a consultant – despite the best efforts of his GP and medical practice.

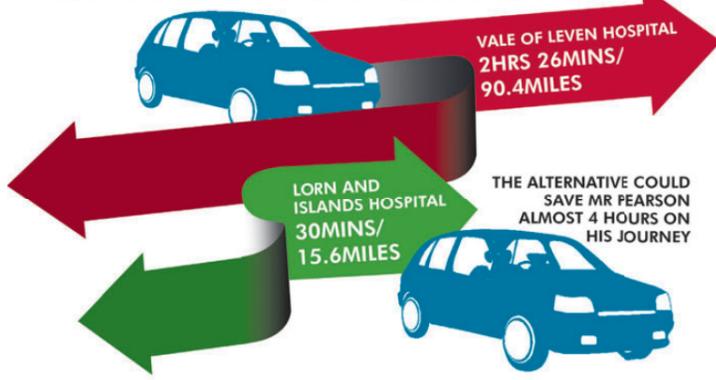
At the beginning of August Mr Pearson, an Isle of Seil resident consulted his GP Dr Miranda Barkham at Easdale Medical Centre with throat symptoms.

Mr Pearson was told by his GP that she would refer him to the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) clinic as an urgent patient.

Mr Pearson said: 'Subsequently I received a letter from Lorn and the Islands hospital outpatients department to say they would not be able to offer me an appointment for at least 12 weeks, but that I could apply to the Vale of Leven Hospital, hopefully to be seen earlier.'

It was not until September 24 that Mr Pearson got a letter offering him an appointment

MR PEARSON HAS AN ALMOST 5 HOUR ROUND TRIP JOURNEY FROM THE ISLE OF SEIL TO ATTEND HIS MEDICAL APPOINTMENT



on December 16 at the Vale of Leven – a trip of 200 miles to the hospital and back.

Mr Pearson continued: 'I was speaking to Dr Barkham and said I was concerned that should I have cancerous material in my throat it could metastasize [spread] several times by December 16.'

'She carried out the examination on October 26 and said

she would try to get an earlier appointment.

'On Friday October 30 I was telephoned by the practice manager at Easdale Medical Practice who told me she had been trying to get an earlier appointment at the Vale of Leven but had only succeeded in bringing the date forward to December 9.'

'I said that as I had remade another appointment at Glasgow

Royal Infirmary to coincide with the existing one, I would let things stand.

'I then asked when the next ENT clinic took place at Lorn and the Islands.'

Mr Pearson found out that there was a clinic on November 20 but that it was full and that the consultant will not accept any one else to the list.

At that point Mr Pearson

learned that because he had 'chosen' to go to Vale of Leven, he had been removed from the list to see the consultant in Oban.

He said: 'If this is the system I feel it needs urgent revision. I feel the surgery have done their best for me but the rest of the system is falling down.'

Confirming the events, a spokeswoman at Easdale medical centre said they were unable to comment on any patient within the practice.

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'Due to patient confidentiality we are unable to comment on this specific case.'

'However, when a patient is referred by their GP for a first outpatient consultant appointment we have a target of seeing the patient within 12 weeks of the referral being received.'

'If we are unable to offer them an appointment locally within the 12 weeks we then look to provide that patient with an alternative from the specialist hospital (usually in Glasgow), which provides our local service or they can decide to wait locally for the next available appointment slot.'

'We will also be in contact with the patient concerned to discuss the issue further.'

## Argyll planners praised

ARGYLL council's planning department has been praised by the Scottish Government for its positive approach to partnership working and a strong commitment to customer care.

It follows submission of the council's annual planning performance framework – a scorecard that all local authorities must submit to the government for review.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, said: 'We are delighted with this feedback which shows, once again, that we are one of the top performing planning authorities in the country, with a real focus on working with developers to achieve sustainable economic growth.'

'It highlighted the fast turnaround times across all planning categories, with the average time taken to decide applications being well ahead of the national average, meaning projects can progress much faster.'

'We were also commended for our partnership approach, where the council's planning officers work closely with applicants, providing them with high quality professional advice at each stage of the planning process.'

## Roadworks at Connel

MOTORISTS driving through Connel next week should plan their journey in advance.

Resurfacing work on that section of the A85 will begin on Monday 30 and is expected to take five days, with work taking place 7am-7pm daily.

The road will remain open during this time and a convoy system will be put in place to ensure everyone's safety.

This will be removed during non-working hours, but a reduced speed limit will remain in place.

## Retiree Angus has lucky escape after lightning hits his Colonsay home

**STEVEN RAE**  
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A COLONSAY man has described his terror as lightning struck the chimney of his house, just two metres above where he was sleeping.

Friday the 13th, known as an unlucky day in Western superstition, certainly was for Angus MacPhee, 66, when he narrowly avoided being injured by the lightning, which struck the property on Squint Street, during storm Abigail.

A single bolt of lightning can carry anything between 100million and 1billion volts of electricity.

'I was in the army for 12 years,' said Angus, who has lived on Colonsay since 1997. 'I've heard bombs and other types of explosions, but I've never heard a noise like that. It was terrifying and so loud that they heard it at the other end of the island.'

'It was about 2.25am on Friday the 13th of all days, and I heard this horrendous bang. It was lightning hitting the chimney, coming through the roof.'

Having had a few drinks before going to bed, Angus



The lightning damaged the chimney and roof of Angus MacPhee's home.

said the incident was a sobering experience.

'I'd had a few whiskies but that sobered me up straight away. I didn't run down the stairs, I practically fell down them,' he said. 'It blew my fuse box up, the television, Sky box, all my white goods and the whole electric circuitry. I had no heating after it. The roof is full of holes.'

'Thankfully I had my phone in my dressing gown, so I managed to call the fire brigade.'

'One of the electricians told me it was 100 million volts that came into the house – I was

just two metres underneath it.' As a tenant of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Angus, who grew up in Paisley but whose grandfather was a native of Colonsay, was housed in temporary accommodation until being rehoused in Oban on Monday.

'I can't praise ACHA enough, they have been terrific,' he said. Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'Mr MacPhee was the only ACHA tenant affected by the lightning. He was put up by the association in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation, but has accepted an offer of a permanent transfer to an ACHA property elsewhere.'

A spokesman for Scottish and Southern Energy said: 'We have lightning protection equipment on our network, so when there is a lightning strike our equipment is protected. But ultimately we are battling nature and there are times the network can suffer damage caused by lightning.'

'There were 3,261 customers off supply on November 13 across Colonsay, Lochgilphead, Badenoch. Our apologies for the disruption and the inconvenience our customers suffered.'

## Oban man charged over drugs find

AN OBAN man has been charged after allegedly being caught with cocaine in the town.

Officers stopped the 31-year-old on Tuesday November 17 in Shore Street, where he was searched under the misuse of drugs act.

After allegedly struggling with the officers, he was arrested and charged with obstructing a police search, police assault and possession of the class A drug.

A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Alan Moore



Officers with the mobile response unit, carry out random checks on Friday evening in Tainuill. 15\_148police01

## Crimebreakers joint operation

OBAN police officers, road traffic police, the CID and a sniffer dog were all involved in a joint Crimebreaker operation on Friday evening.

A mobile response unit was positioned on the A85, on the outskirts of Tainuill, where the officers came together to carry out roadside checks, clamping down on a wide range of offences.

Sergeant Alan Moore, of Oban Police Station, said: 'These joint operations give us a chance to catch various criminal activity, including road traffic offences, drug offences and other intelligence-led offences, such as travelling criminals carrying out rural thefts.'

'It shows a police presence and the sniffer dog is used to remind people that concealed drugs can, and will, be found.'

Sergeant Moore said a number of vehicles were stopped and drivers given fixed penalty notices for various offences.

He also noted that the Crimebreaker operations were a chance for officers to give safety advice about driving in challenging or dangerous road conditions.

PC Danny Macbeth issued a warning to those thinking of

drink-driving this winter. He said: 'If you are drink driving, you will be caught.'

## Oban business window smashed

POLICE are appealing for information after a business in Oban was vandalised at the weekend.

A large window at the Fugu and Haggis Tattoo Parlour in the town's Craighard Road was smashed some time between 5pm on Friday November 18 and 11am on Saturday November 19.

Anyone with information should contact Constable Scott Deakin at Oban Police Station on 101.

## Drivers warned – be prepared

THERE were a handful of minor road accidents on the A85 at the weekend following icy conditions.

Sergeant Alan Moore said most occurred in the Loch Awe area, near the Falls of Cruachan Railway Station, on Saturday.

Sergeant Moore advised the public to drive according to the weather condition and to ensure they were properly prepared for driving in hazardous weather conditions.

## Day of pampering for Pink Ladies

A SPECIAL event for women who have experienced breast cancer and their friends is being held in Inveraray next month.

The Pink Ladies day provides an opportunity for 'Pink Ladies' to relax and enjoy themselves while meeting other women who are in remission or living with breast cancer.

The day will run from 10am to 5pm and will include lunch, refreshments, a host of free complimentary therapies and beauty treatments, and use of the hotel's leisure facilities. Specialists will be on hand to advise with balancing life's day to day challenges, health, fitness, nutrition and self-esteem. The event is available for up to 50 women and their plus 1 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anyone wishing to attend must register by emailing Nicky Murphy: pinkladiesday@outlook.com or by calling Nicky on 07786 861266 by tomorrow (November 27).

## Public attitude towards Renewable Heating

AFTER launching a national survey aimed to track and monitor public attitudes towards renewable heat, household energy bills and energy security, The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have released a summary of their key findings which bear insightful results. More interestingly, the data collected by the Government mirrored the statistics recently reported by local company Renewables Now, after they took to the streets of Oban and Fort William to ask home owners how they feel about the future of Renewable Energy.

Barcaldine based company Renewables Now found that almost all of those surveyed by them were aware of renewable heating, however, over half were unaware of how to source further information when considering a renewable installation. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) had similar findings and reported that almost half of the UK were aware of renewable heating and it's three most common forms, air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers. Their results however, found that less than 5% of the respondents felt they knew much about these technologies in detail.

The summary of data collected by the Government also revealed that nearly 7 in 10 people were concerned about the steep rise in future energy prices and such concerns were proven to be highest amongst those aged 35 - 44. Renewables Now confirmed that of those aged between 30 and 50 who participated in their survey and of those who currently use electric heating, there was a strong desire to change to a 'less expensive' method of heating.

Renewables Now have been helping homeowners to make improvements to their homes for a number of years and are always happy to welcome new enquiries. They are on hand to advise and support anyone who wishes to make their home more energy efficient and provide each customer with the most beneficial option for them and their home. Whether it be introducing smart heating zones throughout the home, installing a smart energy monitor or by replacing a fossil fuel heating system with a more efficient renewable one, there is always a more sustainable, affordable and comfortable solution for everyone. Call the Renewables Now team on 01631720587 to find out more or arrange a viewing at one of their renewable installations near you.

# MAKE YOUR HOME



## A renewable heating system can meet your home's future energy needs

- 50% of UK fossil fuels are imported from abroad
- 55% of Scotland's energy use is for heating
- 47% of Scotland's carbon emissions are from heating
- 10% of household income is spent on energy bills

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# Opposition grows over boundary plans

STEVEN RAE  
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OPPOSITION to plans for a 'ludicrous' redrawing of local ward boundaries in Argyll and Bute has won support from the umbrella body for Scotland's councils.

David O'Neill, president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), has said he fully backs opposition to the proposals already voiced by Argyll and Bute Council, politicians from all tiers of government, and a coalition of community councils.

Under the proposals, much of the Oban North and Lorn council ward would become part of a much larger Mid Argyll ward.

They all use, and rely on, a wide range of council services, health facilities, local businesses, social clubs and transport links located in Oban. Other areas of the proposed Mid Argyll ward are much closer to Lochgilphead, or even Dunoon, and as such do not share these links with Oban.

Oban North and Lorn is also one of the wards set to lose a councillor, as Argyll and Bute faces reduced

elector member numbers, from 36 to 33. At a meeting earlier in the year, arranged by community councillors in the affected areas, councillor for Oban North and Lorn, Iain Angus MacDonald, called the plans 'ludicrous'.

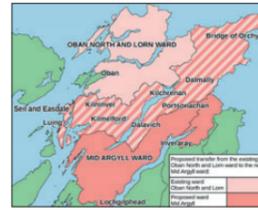
And in an earlier statement to the Boundaries Commission, Argyll and Bute Council spoke of its 'significant concern at the impact these proposals will have on existing communities' when it rejected the proposals.

In a letter to the commission's chairman, COSLA chairman Mr

O'Neill said: 'In our view, for many reasons, these proposals will not make sense at community level and this is a fatal flaw in the Boundary Commission's review.'

'The points made by Argyll and Bute in its letter to you reflect all of these concerns in some detail and provide significant evidence of the adverse impact for the Argyll and Bute area and the communities it serves.'

Final recommendations to Scottish ministers by the commission will be made after the Scottish Parliament elections in May of next year.



The map shows the proposed changes. The striped area, currently part of Oban North and Lorn, would move to the Mid Argyll ward.

## LORN lines

### ACHA helps local groups

CHARITY groups are being encouraged to apply for funding to boost their community projects.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has, over the past year, given financial help to 17 organisations throughout Argyll and Bute.

These groups have received an award from the association's Community Action Fund, set up to give donations of up to £500 to organisations registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and which have some housing connection or a connection to the aims and objectives of the association.

Applications are considered by ACHA's four local area committees.

In Oban, Lorn and the Isles, groups which have benefited from an award include Oban Youth Café, Oban Winter Festival, Curam Thiriodh, Soroba Young Family Group Nursery, Glenorchy and Innishail Community Orchard and Ross of Mull and Iona Community Transport.

Lorraine-Anne Drysdale, chairwoman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee said: 'It has been a pleasure to be able to help local groups with funding for their projects that benefit our local communities. We would like to highlight to local registered groups that this funding is available.'

Any group which wants to apply for an award from the community action fund should contact Lorna Kerr at ACHA on 01546 605922.



## Jessica in the spotlight at town's festive parade

Young Jessica McCann was all smiles when she dressed up as a rabbit to take part in Oban's Reindeer Parade on Saturday to highlight Spotlight Musical Theatre Group's forthcoming pantomime in the town's Corran Halls from Wednesday December 2 to Saturday December 5. Photograph by Debbie Day.

## Advice bureau is facing closure

'IS THIS the end for the Citizens Advice Bureau in Argyll?'

That was the question raised by Gillian McInnes of Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau following a public meeting in the Corran Halls, Oban last Wednesday to discuss proposed cuts to Argyll and Bute Council's budget.

She said: 'Part of the package of savings in the council's public consultation paper, service choices, is the 'removal of funding to advice services.'

'You'd be forgiven for not having realised that this one line in the 23rd page document refers to the Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) because the organisation is not named. It appears within the Planning and Regulatory Services part of the Stop to Save section.

'If the seed-corn funding from the

council ends, there will be no lever to bring in the additional £500,000 each year in grants forcing the CAB to close. People get help from the CAB with almost 8,000 issues each year and in Oban, Lorn and Isles 1,279 people had assistance last year. It is hard to comprehend the hardships that people will be forced to endure if they don't have our assistance. We help people with debt, employment, housing, benefits and a multitude of other problems.

'All too often we see people who feel helpless and in many cases hopeless, but with our help they regain dignity and independence and can see a way forward. In addition to the financial gain for people (estimated at £180,000 for the Oban area each year) the CAB helps people to avoid homelessness, to improve their living and working conditions, to know their rights and

responsibilities and to be able to afford to live in Argyll and Bute and pay their bills.'

Jane MacLeod, chairwoman of the board of directors for the CAB, said: 'It is difficult to understand why councillors would vote to lose this respected organisation which brings such added value to the economics of Argyll and Bute and to the council itself. I hope people will go online and fill in the council questionnaire and choose to save this invaluable organisation.'

In a recent letter to council leader, Dick Walsh, the chief executive of Citizens Advice Scotland, Margaret Lynch said: 'We are extremely concerned to hear that Argyll and Bute Council is proposing to remove funding from this vital service and we regard this as being of significant detriment to those living in the region.'



Guests at the recent Charter Dinner of the Rotary Club of Oban in the Royal Hotel, Oban, on Friday November 13. Left to right: Neil Owen, guest speaker; Bruce Robertson, Rotary Club of Mid Argyll president and Roger Parry, former president of the Rotary Club of Oban. Front row: Betty Moncrieff, Ken Moncrieff, president of the Rotary Club of Oban; and Ursula Parry, president of the Inner Wheel of Oban.

## Small change makes a big difference to Oban groups

THREE charities in Oban are among 1,000 around the UK to benefit from Yorkshire Building Society members' small change.

The society's charitable foundation has donated a total of £100,000 to charities and good causes nominated by people during its Small Change Big Difference campaign.

Oban Seniors Soup Group, Oban Community Sensory Garden and Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre were among those to be given a £100 donation after being nominated at the Oban branch of Yorkshire Building Society.

The charitable foundation is funded through the Small Change Big Difference scheme where members donate the pennies from the annual interest on their accounts to help charities and good causes.

Sally Jackson, manager of the Oban branch of Yorkshire Building Society, said: 'I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came into the branch to nominate a charity for a donation during our Small Change Big Difference campaign.'

'At Yorkshire Building Society we are committed to our community and I hope these donations will enable the charities to carry on their wonderful work here in Oban.'

## Older people of Oban turn out to voice concerns

MORE than 50 people from Oban packed into the Corran Halls last Friday to attend a local meeting of the Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA).

The meeting was held in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, NHS Highland, and Oban Community Council.

SOPA chairman Tom Berney said he was delighted to have the people from Oban add their voices to those of other communities from around Scotland.

While some issues are always going to be specific to local areas, Mr Berney said there are many general problems that affect older people through policies made in Holyrood and Westminster.

He said: 'The people of Oban now have a chance to feed into this national dialogue about how we shape the future for older people in Scotland.'

Residents raised concerns about transport, including the absence of bus stops and vehicles and some care arrangements for people at home or in hospitals.

After the meeting, Tom Berney continued: 'SOPA's local meetings provide a great opportunity for older people across Scotland to make their voice heard and I was really encouraged by the discussions in Oban.'

'Our aim is to help improve the quality of life for the increasing numbers of older people in Scotland and events like this are a vital part of understanding which issues we should be taking directly to decision makers.'

Those interested in learning more about SOPA are encouraged to visit their website [www.scotopa.org.uk](http://www.scotopa.org.uk) or follow on social media.

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# Obanites treat hounds to welcome break

## Newfoundland dogs cared for after owner breaks leg while holidaying in Argyll and Bute

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THEY say every dog has his day but two Newfoundlands enjoyed a three-month taste of Highland hospitality when their owner had an unexpected break of her own. Janice Milligan, from Liverpool, drove to Oban with pet dogs, Wendy and Nana, in August for a camping holiday around the West Highlands. But the huge dogs ended up in board and lodgings at Argyll Animal Aid rescue centre when their mistress slipped in mud and was rushed to hospital with a broken leg. Ms Milligan, who is still on crutches, was finally reunited with her pets at the weekend after spending a month in hospital and two months recuperating from her ordeal. The 64-year-old said she couldn't thank Argyll Animal

Aid enough for helping her stranded dogs, after she was rushed off to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. Ms Milligan explained that she had left the dogs in her car at Oban Caravan and Camping Park, thinking she was just going for a quick check-up at the local hospital. She said: 'We had had a few beautiful days in Oban and then it started to rain. I popped out of the tent to go to the loo, but I didn't get very far before I fell and slipped in the mud and broke the top of my femur. The dogs were with me so I put them in the car and told the campsite owners the keys were in the car, thinking I would be back the next day. But when I got to the hospital in Oban they said I needed an operation and would have to go to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.'



Janice Milligan, left, picking up her Newfoundland dogs from Fiona Woodhouse after their three-month stay with Argyll Animal Aid.

“ We are happy to help. ”

**Fiona Woodhouse**  
Argyll Animal Aid

'I was there for two weeks before being transferred to hospital in Liverpool. I had no spare clothes or anything. They were in the car, along with my spectacles and the dogs.' The campsite owners kept the car on site and called in Argyll Animal Aid, which was happy to look after the dogs. Ms Milligan said the people she met at the Royal Alexandra Hospital were just as helpful. She said: 'I was in Paisley for

two weeks and met some really nice people there; the daughter of one of the patients brought me in some clothes, somebody else got me a mobile phone, some of the staff brought me some books in because I couldn't watch TV without my glasses and all this time Argyll Animal Aid looked after my dogs. 'The people at the campsite were great and the people in Argyll Animal Aid have been ever so good. 'Wendy and Nana are water dogs and they even took them swimming in the loch.' And there was drama at the rescue centre not long after Ms Milligan was taken into hospital. Fiona Woodhouse, of Argyll Animal Aid, had to take Wendy to the vet in Oban, where she had a successful emergency operation for an infected uterus. She said: 'We are happy to help, that's what we are here for.'

# Tourism bosses hit back over media scare tactics

SECTIONS of the national press have been accused of scaremongering after reports of beefed-up security on CalMac ferries to counter terrorism appeared at the weekend. And the Provost of Argyll and Bute, Len Scoullar, has been accused of putting his foot in it by giving Syrian refugee families destined for Bute a less-than-friendly welcome. Reports of possible bomb and terror threats could have a damaging long-term impact said Gavin Dick, who chairs Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co operative, adding: 'It is disappointing that a photo, taken from a training exercise held some months ago, has been used out of context.' CalMac agrees and a spokesman said: 'A picture shows a routine training exercise by Royal Marines, which have been taking place on our ships for some time and are not in response to any specific security threat to our ferries.' And an Argyll police officer, in a non-attributable briefing, said: 'The world is a hard enough place at the moment without people making stuff up about terrorism.' Police in the area are not aware of any heightened security measures at this time. However, Mr Scoullar who lives on Bute, told The Sun newspaper last week that he had 'reservations' about who would be amongst the refugees coming to the island, saying: 'It's a fear that everyone will have, I'm sure, if we brought in a terrorist amongst these people. It's always been a reservation that I've had but we just hope these are genuine people and we can do the genuine thing for them.'

# Oban High School maps out its pupils' futures

OBAN is one of the first high schools in Scotland to take part in a school programme to map children's educational journey to adulthood. The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) chose the school because of the number of experiences and qualifications that are available to pupils allowing them to understand the qualifications systems in the county. At an official launch on Thursday November 18 in Glasgow, the School Ambassador Programme was launched so that young people can learn about which skills and qualifications are required in schools. A spokesman for SCQF said:

'Benefits include supporting flexible learning pathways for people as they plan their learning journey, and understanding the many different learning programmes that are on the framework and how these can be compared against standard academic qualifications.'

**Sir Andrew Cubie, far right presents a plaque to John McPherson, deputy head-teacher at Oban High School as the school is announced as a qualifications ambassador.**



# Public show of strength as hundreds attend meetings to voice cuts concern

## 'Whoever put proposals forward should be shot', councillor tells crowd at cuts meeting

A COUNCILLOR said proposed budgets cuts affecting children with special educational needs are 'madness' and 'whoever put them forward should be shot'. Argyll and Bute councillor Neil MacIntyre told the 300-strong crowd at a meeting in the Corran Halls, Oban, last Wednesday that he could guarantee the proposed cuts to 70 additional support needs (ASN) posts would not go ahead. Mr MacIntyre repeatedly said: 'The cuts to this service will not happen. Who is going to vote for them? This will be withdrawn. It shouldn't have been out for consultation in the first place. It is madness.' Mr MacIntyre said he was not on the budget board at the council, which put forward the proposals in the first place, adding that the move was 'madness; whoever put it in should be shot'.

“ We'll fight for every child in Argyll and Bute ”

**Spokesperson**  
AB-PACC

Parents voiced their concerns, asking why the proposed service cut was in the consultation in the first place.

Speech therapist Julia Hannah and former education officer Wilma Lawn both gave presentations to support the parents; Ms Hannah believed that the strides that many children have made in using language was because of the extensive work by ASN staff in schools. Ms Lawn questioned the legality of removing 70 staff. Other councillors at the meeting were also questioned about the proposed cuts. As Oban, Lorn and the Isles area leader Roddy McCuish rose to his feet to speak, one parent shouted from the audience: 'Liar'. When asked directly why the ASN cuts were included in the consultation, he said: 'I thought it was the right thing to do.' Mr McCuish asked the area committee to work with him to find a way through the budget proposals. The often-heated debate between

councillors focused on the issue of who made the decision to put forward the proposals in the first place. Dunoon councillor Michael Breslin, the former director of Argyll College, said getting information about the budget proposal project board was difficult. He said: 'North Korea is the analogy that I think about Argyll and Bute Council.' After the meeting, a spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Parents against Council Cuts (AB-PACC) said: 'The community of Oban turned out in vast numbers at a public meeting to raise awareness and to voice their concerns to Argyll and Bute councillors over the proposed 45 per cent cuts to the additional support needs budget. The Corran Halls were packed on Wednesday night. Our campaign will continue. We will fight for every child in Argyll and Bute.'

# Game on as football club aids Dalmally charity

DALMALLY charity Mary's Meals said it was delighted to announce it has become an official charity partner of Southampton Football Club. The football club will support the charity's work through a season-long fundraising initiative with the Saints Foundation. This means all money raised will be split evenly between Mary's Meals and the Saints Foundation's projects in Southampton and the local area. The charity works to provide a nutritious daily meal in schools in some of the poorest countries across the world - encouraging children to the classroom where they receive food and an education that can be a route out of poverty. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, CEO and founder of Mary's Meals, said: 'We are hugely grateful to have been chosen as an official charity partner of Southampton Football Club. This partnership will introduce us to new supporters and help us to feed more hungry children across the world. Mary's Meals reached the milestone of feeding more than one million children across 12 countries in the spring this year, however, with 59 million children in the world still hungry, I believe this work has just begun.'

Mike Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute called the comments 'crass and inappropriate'. He said: 'The last thing the refugee families need at the end of their exhausting and life-changing journey is small-minded suspicion directed at them by a senior civic leader.' Following Mr Russell's comments, Councillor Scoullar replied: 'I wish to make it clear that I always have and will continue to support the refugee resettlement initiative and I am looking forward to the families arriving in Bute before Christmas.' In his role as provost, Councillor Scoullar has written to Emmanuel Cocher, Consul General de France in Edinburgh, on behalf of the people of Argyll and Bute to express deepest sympathies following the terror attacks in Paris.

# Pupil costs at Tiree as high as sending child to Eton

IT COSTS as much to send a pupil to Tiree High School as it does to Eton. Speaking at Friday's public meeting, which was called by Oban Community Council to discuss the forthcoming Argyll and Bute Council budget, Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'You could send pupils from Tiree High School to Eton for what it costs to keep the school running.' Eton's school fees run at just over £11,000 a term, plus extras; Tiree High School costs £33,361 a year for each of its 25 pupils, compared to Oban High, which has more than 1,000 pupils and spends £5,091. (2014-15 budget).

The councillor said she was not advocating closing Tiree High School, but highlighting the costs facing Argyll and Bute Council in providing services on more than 20 islands and in remote areas, and that Argyll and Bute received less of the Special Islands Needs Allowance pro-rata than Western Isles, Orkney or Shetland. Friday's meeting was overshadowed by the Wednesday evening meeting the community council organised in conjunction with AB-PACC, Argyll and Bute Parents Against Council Cuts, which was held in the Corran Halls. There, more than 300 people

were furious that the council was considering cutting the number of special needs assistants in schools. The worry on Friday was where else the axe would fall; 30 people attended. Soroba Young Families Group was out in force; it is not faced with closure if the proposed cuts go ahead this year but it proposed to stop its birth-to-three-years section. One member of the public, Kirsteen Binnie, said: 'Teachers I know are buying resources themselves for use in the classroom.' Councillor Neil MacIntyre said he wanted to see everyone take a small

cut rather than see some services lost altogether - 'Everyone takes a small cut to keep everything going' - and he wanted to see major savings in the tiers of middle management. Alan Reid standing as LibDem Argyll and Bute candidate for the 2016 Scottish elections, said that debating which of the cuts in the council's consultation document should be made was a depressing exercise. He called for people to all work together and mount a campaign to persuade the Scottish Government to give Argyll and Bute a fair share of local government funding.



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**TIMESLINE**

**Businesses vye for beauty awards**

SEVERAL West Highland and Islands businesses are shortlisted for awards at the Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards at Glasgow's Crowne Plaza Hotel to be held on Sunday.

Oban hairdresser Claire Pearson, of Ash Hairdressing, is up for Women's Stylist of the Year, while Joanne and Malcolm Macrae, on the Isle of Lewis, have been nominated for Professional Product of the Year for their seaweed skincare range, Ishga.

Oban salons Me Myself and I, and The Studio Hair and Beauty are in the running for Beauty Salon of the Year, alongside Onyx Beauty from Fort William.

Avalon Hair and Beauty, and Hair By Rutherfords, both from Oban, up against UniQue Hair in Fort William for North West Hair Salon of the year, while Onyx Beauty is again shortlisted, along with Ash Hairdressing in Oban for Team/Service of the Year category for the North West.

**Fundraising group marks milestone**

FIVE years of hard work for a Fort William-based group fundraising for Cancer Research UK will be celebrated with an afternoon tea.

Lochaber Together will mark its anniversary and the £86,000 raised so far at a party in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, where the group was originally formed, on December 5.

Adam Ramsey, chairman of Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK, said: 'I would like to thank the generosity of the people in Fort William and the whole Lochaber area. They are the main reason we have been so successful.'

**Rhoda to fight for Western Isles seat**

THE WESTERN Isles Labour party has selected Rhoda Grant as its candidate to fight for its constituency seat in next May's Scottish Parliament elections.

Ms Grant, currently a list MSP for the Highlands and Islands, was chosen following two public meetings in the Hebrides.

**Christmas fair fun and fundraiser**

A CHRISTMAS fair will be held at Lochyside RC Primary School next week. Crafts, gifts, games, face painting and refreshments will be on offer from 6.30pm next Thursday with all proceeds going to the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund.

**Majority against proposal to cut school week hours**

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

ALL HIGHLAND Council offices and schools could close at lunchtime on a Friday as part of cost cutting proposals by the local authority.

Members of a Citizens Panel have been asked for their views on reducing the council working pattern to four and a half days, to make savings using less heat, light and power.

Most staff would still work their existing contracted hours but some could be given the option of reducing their hours as part of the scheme to plug the £21 million funding gap for

next year's budget. Highland Council chief executive Steve Barron said: 'It is important to note that this is currently a proposal only, one which needs further work and which would only be implemented with the agreement of elected members in February. Clearly there will be some service areas where this could pose practical difficulties, hence the wish to consult and to think carefully about impact and feasibility.'

But in a poll conducted on the Highland Council's Facebook page just days before, a massive majority said they would be opposed to reducing the school week.

The survey asked 'If we can

protect services by reducing the primary school week to 22.5 hours (over 4.5 days) which is the nationally agreed class contact time for teachers, would this be acceptable to you?'

Of the 428 respondents, a massive 357 (83.41 per cent) said no, just 66 (15.42 per cent) said yes and five (1.17 per cent) said don't know.

Many people raised concerns about the impact this would have on working families, particularly added childcare costs, for Friday afternoons when pupils wouldn't be at school.

The survey was part of a series of Facebook 'chats'

run by the local authority to gauge opinions on how to save money, ahead of the budget to be set next February.

When asked where savings should be made, most people (71.72 per cent) said cuts should not be made equally across services in schools, additional support, children's social work and adult social work.

Of those who said cuts should not be made equally, 63.16 per cent said schools should be protected, both additional support needs and children's social work were selected by 15.79 per cent each and 5.36 per cent asked adult social work not to be cut.

Drew Millar, chairman of

Highland Council's education, children and adult services committee, said: 'We are currently looking at a wide range of proposals and ideas to save money and increase income, while protecting the most essential of services as far as possible. Some of the proposals include difficult choices we really would rather not have to make, however, we have very significant savings to make, to balance our reducing budget.'

'The feedback through Facebook is helpful and we will take that into account along with other ways of gauging public views, whether face to face or through other surveys.'

**Intriguing plot for high school production**

THINK Highland games, killer midges and an evil uncle and this is the plot for this year's Kinlochleven High School Christmas show.

The annual festive performance in South Lochaber grows in popularity every year and this year's Glen of Thrones: A Winter Star will be no exception.

A joint production between the school and local theatre group Dramafish, pupils are playing a part in every aspect of the show, from characters to costumes and lighting, with the help of teachers and the Kinlochleven community.

Rebecca Machin, head teacher at Kinlochleven high, will play a part in the play.

She said: 'It is sure to be a wonderful performance. I would encourage people to buy their tickets quickly because it is sure to be a sell-out.' Glen of Thrones: A Winter Star will take place in Kinlochleven High School's theatre from December 9 until December 12. Information about how to buy tickets will be available soon.

**Ben group holds annual litter pick**

FRIENDS of Nevis said good riddance to bad rubbish last Sunday, as the charity held its annual litter pick up.

Among the debris cleared by the group were boxes, plastic and used fireworks, which were enjoyed, but not picked up, by a group of revellers in Braveheart car park.

The organisation would like to thank the Ben Nevis Highland Centre, Lidl, the Highland Council and the volunteers who took part.



**Nursery youngsters enjoy fire station visit**

OUT AND ABOUT LEARNING: Caol nursery youngsters enjoyed a visit to Fort William Fire Station last week, where they learned about fire engines and the important work of firefighters.



BEFORE: The remains of Torcastle tower house were hidden behind overgrown vegetation.

**Society volunteers clear the way to castle ruins**

RUINS of a medieval castle in Lochaber can now be safely accessed again, thanks to the hard work of volunteers.

Members of Lochaber Archaeological Society cleared vegetation from the old tower house at Torcastle, near Banavie, which had become hidden behind the overgrown jungle.

The scheduled monument was originally the property of Clan Chattan before it came into the possession of the MacIntoshes in the late 13th century. It was later occupied by the Camerons and is thought to have remained

the seat of these chiefs until the 17th Cameron built his residence at Achnacarry in the mid 1600s.

The clearance has also allowed a lasting record of the monument to be created through surveys carried out on the land.

Robert Cairns of Lochaber Archaeological Society said: 'Our volunteers put an incredible amount of hard work into the care of this monument and we are proud of the results. We've already had a number of visitors coming up and saying how nice the site looks.'



AFTER: The Torcastle remains can now be easily spotted and accessed.

**NEW Business Gateway workshops**

**Practical Basic Book-keeping**  
A half day workshop shows how book-keeping is used to generate the financial information needed for Income Tax, VAT, Corporation Tax, PAYE and National Insurance contributions.  
8 December - Campbeltown; 10 December - Oban

**Becoming an Employer**  
Help small businesses create a structured plan for taking on staff and understand the process of employing people, covering legal obligations and good practice recruitment.  
26 November - Helensburgh

**Introduction to Trading Online**  
A workshop that will focus on some of the basics required for trading online, and will look at the various tools, platforms and payment options available to everyone and will include some information of the legal requirements.  
1 December - Inveraray

**Business Start-up**  
A one and a half day workshop incorporating: business planning, finance, marketing and market research.  
2/3 December - Oban

**Get your Business Noticed (PR on a Budget)**  
A workshop about getting your business noticed without spending money and getting featured in newspapers and on the radio and television. Understand how media works, find stories in your business that journalists will want to tell and how to make contact with them so that you enjoy the benefits of free publicity. At the end of the workshop, you will understand how to plan and deliver your own PR campaigns to meet your business objectives.  
8 December - Helensburgh

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

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**Prestigious award for heroic air rescue team**

ONE OF aviation's most prestigious awards goes to the heroes who rescued two missing climbers from Ben Nevis earlier this year.

The Prince Philip Helicopter Rescue Award was presented to Lieutenant Commander Charlie Fuller of HMS Gannet, the Royal Navy's search and rescue unit, who was flying the Sea King Mk 4 helicopter.

On January 17 the crew of HMS Gannet was called out to assist the climbers who were in a precarious position; stranded at 3,800 feet on Tower Ridge, Ben Nevis.

After flying for several hours in the worst of the winter weather, with a lack of visibility and stability, the climbing enthusiasts were eventually rescued.

Central Ayrshire MSP Dr Philippa Whitford mentioned the achievement to the Scottish government, asking it to honour 'the outstanding courage, team-work and professionalism' of the crew.

HEROES: left to right: Lieutenant Commander Charles Fuller, Lieutenant Merion Hammond, Lieutenant Angela Lewis and Petty Officer Aircrewman Mike Henson.



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LEARNING: medical student Haroon Ejaz teaches first aid.

LOCHABER High School pupils enjoyed learning about medical studies when two university students visited.

Sally Andrews and Haroon Ejaz, medicine students at the University of Aberdeen, spent a two-week placement at the Fort William

school as part of their degree and took a number of different lessons.

The pair also offered a basic first aid course to first year pupils. Head teacher Jim Sutherland thanked the pair for their contribution and wished them well for their studies.

# Watch officer drunk when ship ran aground in Ardnamurchan

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

THE OFFICER on watch was drunk when a cargo ship crashed full speed into an Ardnamurchan shoreline, a report has revealed.

The Lysblink Seaways was left stranded near Kilchoan for almost two days during bad weather from February 18, resulting in 25 tonnes of marine gas oil leaking into the water and the vessel being scrapped after it was 'pounded heavily' on the rocky foreshore.

A report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) said the officer on watch, a 36-year-old Russian, was the sole watchkeeper at the time of the ship's journey between Belfast and



SCRAPPED: The officer on watch was drunk when the Lysblink Seaways ran aground at Ardnamurchan.

Sokgn, Norway, and became 'inattentive' at around 2am, after drinking half a litre of rum.

It also stated warning systems that would have alerted the officer that the ship was off course and at risk had been

turned off. The 7,000-tonne ship had been carrying 50 tonnes of waste paper along the west coast of Scotland, via the Sounds of Islay and Mull. Damage to the Lysblink was so severe it was declared a 'constructive total loss' and scrapped.

The report said: 'The vessel grounded when the officer on watch (OOV) lost situational awareness due to his consumption of alcohol. While the chief officer's performance can largely be accounted for by his alcohol consumption, the investigation also uncovered poor navigational practices and that defences/control measures for the OOV becoming incapacitated were being ignored. Many of these, had they been in place, could

have prevented the accident. The chief officer had consumed a very large amount of alcohol before going on watch.

'However, the investigation found that the owner's zero alcohol policy on board was often flouted by crew members. 'The inventory of the vessel's bonded store records showed it was regularly replenished with spirits, wine and beer, and evidence of significant alcohol consumption by the crew should have alerted the owner to the likelihood that its alcohol policy was not being observed.'

A spokesman from the owners, DFDS Seaways, confirmed the company operates a zero tolerance policy on drinking during work and those responsible were no

longer employed by DFDS. He added: 'We have never seen anything like this on any of the vessels in our fleet. We communicate our policy so clearly there is no way it could be misunderstood.'

'The watchman is no longer with us and the management on board was responsible for carrying out policy and completely failed to do so. He is no longer employed by us.'

He said: 'We are extremely sorry that this accident happened and, of course, we are very happy that no persons were injured during the incident which was quite dangerous. We can only say that it is a result of a completely irresponsible action on board which should never have happened.'

## TIMESLINE

### Quality awards for college and staff

WEST Highland College UHI has been highly commended in two categories at a national awards ceremony.

The college's quality officer, Fred Fudge, received the accolade in the SQA Champion category at the Scottish Qualification Association (SQA) Star Awards, for his work in developing courses to best meet the needs of students. The college itself was also highly commended in the Innovation category for its unique approach in developing outdoor adventure and tourism courses.

### Traditional slate building course

TRADITIONAL slate building techniques are to be taught at a two-day course in Ballachulish next week.

The class is part of a wider project on the historic slate arch in the village and is free.

To book a place contact Helen Smith on 07910 524037 or via helen@rowan-tree-consulting.co.uk.

### Pupils tune up for winter concert

LOCHABER High School's annual winter concert will be held next week.

The free event kicks off at 7.30pm on Wednesday and will feature the junior wind band, the big band and senior band.

### Man reported for a serious assault

A MAN has been reported for a serious assault in Fort William.

The 38-year-old has been reported to the procurator fiscal following a police appeal for information relating to the alleged attack near Lochaber Leisure Centre on November 3.

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## Roundabout will replace Inverloch traffic lights

A ROUNDABOUT is to be built in Fort William to replace traffic lights at Inverloch junction.

Plans by trunk road maintenance group BEAR Scotland are under way for the work on the A82, which it is hoped will reduce congestion.

Construction is due to start early next year and it is not known how long it will last, but a BEAR spokesperson said the company would ensure work avoids busy periods such as Easter.

The spokesperson added: 'We will continue to work with key stakeholders to ensure members of the council and the local community are kept informed of activity. We will also be doing all we can to ensure we minimise disruption to motorists as much as possible.'

But Highland councillor and Lochaber area leader, Thomas MacLennan, thinks the work



We'll just have to see how a roundabout works out

Thomas MacLennan  
Councillor and area leader

is unnecessary and congestion could be reduced by adjusting sensors on the traffic lights.

He said: 'Four years ago a quarter of a million pounds was spent on the present lights and I have been told the sensors are not positioned in the most effective way.'

'Maybe if the sensors were put in the right place the lights would work better, but we'll just have to wait and see how a roundabout works out.'

## Across the world to thank lifesaver



SPECIAL TRIP: Ann-Marie MacCallum travelled to Fort William from Australia to thank Jim MacDougall for saving her father's life 62 years ago.

A WOMAN who would not have been born if not for a Fort William man who saved her father's life, made a voyage across the world to thank him.

Ann-Marie MacCallum travelled from Sydney, Australia, as part of a reunion of former residents of Annat village to meet Jim MacDougall, a retired postman, who risked his life along with his friend, the late Jimmy MacLean, to rescue her father John MacCallum and the late Frank Sweeney, 62 years ago.

John and Frank were just nine years old when they set out onto Loch Eil on a home-made raft and were swept away by the tide. But the fearless Jim and Jimmy, who were then 22 years old, grabbed an old fishing boat and set out after the youngsters. It was only when they were in the water that they discovered the boat was leaking badly and they all got back to shore in the nick of time.

Now 70 and working as a church minister, John was unable to make the reunion, but his daughter, a doctor, enjoyed afternoon tea with Jim, 84, to thank him for saving her father decades before she was born. Thomas and Alan, sons of well-known bus driver Jimmy, attended on behalf of their father.

# Dunollie Castle's Winter Festival fun



Dunollie proved to be a popular venue during the Winter Festival. 17\_148dun07

DUNOLLIE Castle and Museum joined forces with the Oban Winter Festival for 'Dunollie Makes Christmas', with crafts, carols, food and drink, plus masses of activities for children to enjoy.



Rufus and Felix Hughes of Oban. 17\_148dun04



Nine-year-old Sara Simpson from Oban met Sara and Tilly the Shetlands from Kilvree Stables, Connel, and Debbie Craig. 17\_148dun01



Above: Santa was kidnapped by wicked fairy Rowan and all the children had to help rescue him. Colin Langford and Mary Freer joined in the fun. 17\_148dun02



The Three Wee Crows theatre company - Kathleen Campbell, Vivienne DeCaris and Jane Dunbar - performed at Dunollie and throughout the town over the weekend. 17\_148dun06



The Kettle Café at Dunollie did a roaring trade in hot drinks. The café has just been awarded a major architecture prize. 17\_148dun05



Alex and Andrew MacPherson joined Fiona MacRae and Jane Issacson to make crafts in the willow garden. 17\_148dun03

### Serco Caledonian Ferries Limited is hosting an open day in Tarbert.

We would like to invite members of the community to meet the Serco CHFS bid team, tell us your views regarding the CHFS service and learn more about Serco and its operations in Scotland.

Please join us at Tarbert Community Centre between 11am and 7pm on Tuesday 1 December.

For further information on the event contact Ruaridh Wilson, Stakeholder Engagement Manager at caledonianferries@serco.com

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# Viewpoint

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

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We were robbed. Would Argyll and Bute's budget cuts be as deep if we had been given more money in the first place?

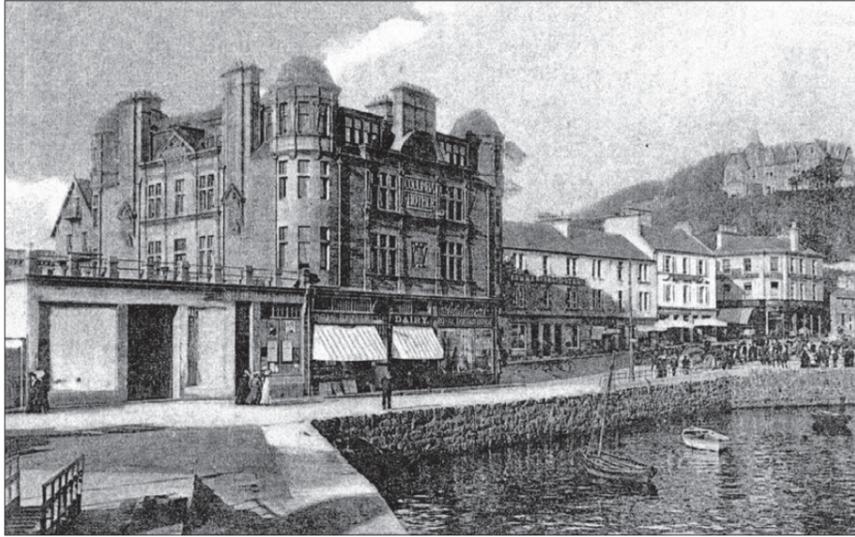
The Oban Times reported the founding of Argyllshire County Council in 1890, its replacement by Strathclyde Regional Council in 1975 and Strathclyde's death in 1996.

A very strong case was made at the time that Argyll and Bute Council did not receive a fair share when the Strathclyde spoils were divided. And we certainly do

not have an equal share of the Special Islands Needs Allowance.

Irate parents are outside Kilmory before council meetings as people fight for vital services. A couple of years ago it was carers and pensioners.

Instead of fighting amongst ourselves why not join together and fight for a better deal? Look at the map, look at our social, economic and geographic problems; everyone likes to think they are a special case, but here in Argyll we are. Hand over the cash.



## Days gone by - old North Pier, Oban

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Colin Armstrong of Coventry and features Oban's North Pier in days gone by. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

## Reindeer parade and Christmas lights

Sir, I am contacting you with regard to the 'Love Oban' annual reindeer parade and Christmas lights switch-on celebrations which took place last Saturday November 21.

Through your columns I would like to thank all the people and organisations who helped with the event including Oban and Lorn Lions Club, Oban Rotary Club, Police Scotland, West Coast Tool and Plant Hire, Oban Electrics, Bank of Scotland, West Coast Motors, Kevin McGlynn and the Oban Community Singers, who were excellent as were Oban Pipe Band, Och Aye Events, not forgetting Ryan McGlynn and all the ABC staff who were involved.

More than 3,000 people came out to say hello and welcome Santa and his reindeer.

It was especially gratifying when Santa was saying 'cheerio' that he asked for a 'Love Oban' sticker for his sleigh!

Thanks to everyone who was involved and who came along.

Neil Mackay, Bid4 Oban Event Manager.

## Money must be found for decent services

Sir, I was shocked by the situation described in the 'Budget Strain' article, The Oban Times, November 19.

If the marker of a civilised society is how it cares for its most vulnerable members, then where does this leave Argyll and Bute Council?

Parents already pushed to the limits

by their children's needs cannot be asked to accept deteriorating school provision for those children. Decent services have to be paid for and I am realistic enough to think that 'efficiency savings' and the possible sale of Kilmory Castle are unlikely to be enough. If the council is constrained in what it can do by edict of the Scottish government, then that government must reverse the cap on Council Tax - or find another way.

I do not enjoy paying taxes any more than anyone else, but if that is what it takes to fund the better Scottish society I thought I voted for, then I will do it.

Rosemary A S Firth.

## Librarian skills vital to a child's education

Sir, It sounds tedious, but it's surprisingly easy. And it might just make a huge difference.

Why not add your voice to Argyll and Bute Council's public consultation on options for budget cuts? The deadline for this is December 31.

I am going all the way to category four: stop to save. This is where you'll find the option to stop employing librarians in secondary schools.

Sounds relatively painless, except for those unfortunate employees. After all, anyone can shush kids and organise books? No, no and no again. This option would damage the education of every single youngster in Argyll and Bute secondary schools. Secondary school librarians provide support for independent learning in all areas of the curriculum.

They help young people learn how to learn: skills those youngsters will

need to be successful in any future job, career or education.

They provide access to computers for the many who do not have access to the internet at home and they are there to help them learn how to use them for learning.

Librarians make sure all young people have a safe place to read, to daydream, to think creatively, to be challenged. They put the right book in the right child's hands at the right time.

A cut to qualified school librarians is a cut to all young people's opportunities. Please click the 'strongly disagree' box on the on-line consultation.

Please talk to your local councillors about this short-sighted proposal. Please make sure Argyll and Bute Council knows this option is not an option for our communities.

Jenny Des Fountain, former Tobermory High School head teacher.

## Council Tax hike not the answer to cuts

Sir, David Pollard, letters, November 19, seeks to blame the Council Tax freeze for cuts to services proposed by Argyll and Bute Council.

The freeze is fully funded by the Scottish Government.

Indeed, a recent Scottish Parliament report concluded that local government is better funded than if Council Tax had increased by RPI. There is no doubt solutions to the financial problems of the council must be found.

A hike in council tax, however, is not the answer.

Colin Morrison, Isle of Mull.

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## Excitement builds for Glasgow Skye events

THERE is just over a week to go until the most anticipated association event of the year - the Glasgow Skye's 150th annual gathering.

The gathering, on Friday December 4, will feature an array of singers and musicians from the island performing at the concert, which begins at 7.30pm in Glasgow University Union.

Trail West will play for dancing from 10.30pm to 2pm.

The evening is going to be special indeed, showing all the generations of Skye Gaelic singers.

There are no less than 17 Mòd Gold Medallists from the island taking to the stage - some of whom sang 50 years ago at the 100th gathering - and some of whom are a fair bit younger than that.

Last week, I included the gathering poster in this column and I don't think I've ever seen a line-up that has got me so excited for a concert.

The committee has been putting in a power of work all year to mark the association's anniversary, which included a fantastic dinner in the City Chambers earlier in the year.

It has all been building up to the gathering - which will be one final Glasgow Skye birthday party of 2015.

Ticket sales have been going extremely well for the gathering.

To get your hands on yours, contact John Robertson on 07768 058139.

Glasgow Skye nights are always good, but this one is totally unmissable.

## Glasgow Sutherland Association EGM

THE GLASGOW Sutherland Association is urging all its members to attend an extraordinary general meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday December 10 in Jordanhill Bowling Clubhouse, 112 Randolph Road, Glasgow, G11 7DU.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CHA ROBH E RIAMH na amas gun cuireadh Achd na Gàidhlig glas-ghuib air luchd-cleachdaidh is coimhearsnachd a' chàinain, ach ann am beachd mhòran chan eil cothrom air a bhith aig na Gàidheil coinneachadh airson deasbad bho chaidh an Achd an gnìomh.

'S docha nach eil e na annas gum bheil, mar a dh'innis mi air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, leithid an Ard-Ollamh Mata MacIomhair, agus a-nise An t-Ollamh Uisdean MacIHFhinnnein, a' togail seo ann an òraidean poblach.

Mar a tha fios aig a' mhòr-chuid de luchd-taice na Gàidhlig, thachair leasachaidhean dhan chàinain ri linn strì luchd-iomairt feadh na coimhearsnachd seach air sgàth iomairt thaiseil sam bith bho phàrtaidhean poilitigeach.

Agus b' e sin a' chomhairle a fhuair sinn bho Sheòras Younger nuair a bhruidhinn e aig a' chiad cho-labhairt nàiseanta air Gàidhlig a chaidh a cumail aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig ann an 1985.

An làthair mar Rùnaire Stàite Alba, chomhairliche Younger gun dearbhadh gnìomhan nan Gàidheal an cuid creideas anns a' Ghàidhlig, agus nan dèanadh iad sin gum

## Comunn-an-taobh-an-iar Haggis Supper

THIS Thursday November 26, I'm looking forward to singing at the Comunn-an-taobh-an-iar haggis supper in Ellangowan Social Club at 7.30pm.

I always enjoy heading along there, particularly when there is haggis on the go!

## Successful Tìree Association weekend

THE COMMITTEE of the Tìree Association will surely be extremely happy with the success of this year's gathering.

The concert on Thursday night was so full that, when the artistes walked in once the audience was seated, we had to find extra seats.

It was a great night with everyone performing well - and Iain Mackinnon 'Hillerest' kept us going with hilarious stories.

James Graham, Bernie Smith and I all sang and the Rowan Brothers kept everyone's feet tapping with lovely arrangements of tunes on the box and piano.

A special cheer from the audience was reserved for Donald-Iain Brown, the current Mòd Gold Medallist, of whom Tìree is obviously very proud.

It is clear the island is also very proud of Ian Smith who, at the age of just 22, is one of the youngest presidents in the association's history.

The dance on Friday night in the Glasgow University Union was also packed.

Ceòl an Aire had a real party atmosphere going in the Park Bar beforehand and when everyone headed up to the uni for the dance, Gunna Sound had the floor packed from start to finish.

Saturday's Park Bar 'hangover cure' proved an excellent finish to the weekend.

Gunna Sound played from 3pm until closing time with the help of

the legendary Donald Macrae who, despite being in his 80s, still sounds exactly as I imagine he did back in his heyday when he had the Park Bar bouncing every weekend.

I wish I could have heard him all those years ago, but what a pleasure it is to get the chance to occasionally hear him nowadays.

## What's on

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

**Thursday November 26:** Lasag: Coinnich ri Ughdar, Meet the Author, with Daibhidh Eyre, 7pm, Gaelic Books Council.

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

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

**Tuesday December 1:** Glasgow Skye Association special meeting, Partick Burgh Halls, room 7, 7.30pm.

**Wednesday December 2:** Seisean-ciùil Gàidhlig, Gaelic Music Session, the Lismore, Dumbarton Road, 9pm.

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

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

**Thursday December 10:** Glasgow Sutherland Association extraordinary general meeting, Jordanhill Bowling Clubhouse, 7.30pm

## Pub scene

**Park Bar:** Thursday November 26: Session. Friday November 27: Eriskay Lilt. Saturday November 28: Martainn Skene. Sunday November 29: Trail West.

**Islay Inn:** Friday November 27: Black Velvet. Saturday November 28: Fandangoes. Wednesday December 2: quiz night.

Ailean Caimbeul

## Press policy

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

We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, 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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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

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## Time capsules buried for future generations

AN INSIGHT into life in South Lochaber in 2015 has been buried deep in a stone plinth for future generations to find.

Two time capsules, created by children and the community of Duror and Kentallen, were hidden away on part of the area's cycle path last week. Photos, newspaper articles and an essay about life in the area were all placed in the capsules, along with every day items including a paper clip, which may be obsolete when it is discovered in the future.

Also included was a copy of New Scientist magazine with an article about what experts think life could be like in 2099.

Jonathan Baxter of Duror and Kentallen Community Council said: 'These time capsules could be found in 10 years or they might never be found. I think 2099 would be a good year to suggest to future generations to open them because it would be interesting to see if the article was right about what life will be like then.'



GOING UNDERGROUND: Duror primary school pupils and members of the Duror and Kentallen communities buried two time capsules for future generations to find. 21\_48Capsules01

## Emergency cash grants for groups

COMMUNITY groups in the Highlands have benefited from grants totalling more than £24,000 to help them prepare for winter storms and emergencies.

In Lochaber, Duror and Kentallen Community Council received £2,479 to install a generator and telephones in the village hall, Astley Hall Trust was awarded £2,000 for emergency equipment in Arisaig, and Ballachulish Community Association was given £2,560 to deliver an emergency and resilience plan.

In Skye and Lochalsh, Uig Community Trust was granted £13,390 to install standby generators at the filling station and community hall, Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Council received £3,000 for emergency equipment, and Tarskavaig Communities Hall Association received £1,197 to buy and install emergency lighting for homes in Achnacliach, Tarskavaig and Tokavaig. The funding came from Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution's resilient communities fund.

# Man guilty of sexually assaulting 16-year-old

A FORT William man has been found guilty of sexually assaulting a teenager in her sleep.

Thomas John Findlay, 18, was found guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 17 of sexually touching the woman, who was 16 at the time and cannot be named for legal reasons, at an address in the town on September 27, 2014.

The apprentice electrician, who was 17 at the time of the offence, was found not guilty of attempting to rape the woman. Procurator fiscal Michelle Molloy used Findlay's recorded police interview from October 13, 2014 at Fort William police station as her first piece of evidence.

In the interview, he initially denied anything had happened on the night of the offence.

However, when police officers said they had seen a text message conversation between the two from the victim's mobile phone, claiming he had tried to rape her, Findlay admitted: 'I did try to have sex with her, but she said no, so I stopped.'

While he claimed he had been asked into the bed by the woman 'to cuddle up', she said she had drunkenly fallen asleep on the couch in her living room and woken up in her bedroom to find Findlay behind her in her bed in the 'spooning' position. He had pulled the clothing on her bottom half down to her knees and was touching her private parts.

The victim, who was by her own admission, struggling with alcohol and other personal problems at the time, said in court: 'I woke up in my

bedroom downstairs. He must have carried me there. I could feel someone behind me and I turned around and could see it was Thomas.'

The woman said she remembered only one sexual assault, however Findlay said he twice fondled the woman while she was sleeping - once at around 11pm, after which the pair fell asleep, and once again at around 1am, at which point he left after she told him to stop.

Defending, Hamish Melrose asked the victim: 'Thomas was clearly trying it on with you?' 'While I was sleeping, passed out,' she replied.

Mr Melrose said: 'I put it to you that he didn't try to have sex with you with your will?' She replied: 'Well, why did he wait till I was sleeping?' In court, Findlay said at no

point did he expose himself but did admit to touching her sexually on two occasions, while she was asleep.

Fiscal Molloy said to Findlay: 'The first time she said to you, "what the f\*\*\* are you doing?", but you tried a second time. You were sober, she was drunk and asleep. Do you know what consent is?' Findlay replied: 'Yes'. The fiscal continued: 'If she is asleep, can she consent?', to which he replied, 'No'.

Findlay also admitted under cross-examination that he 'felt bad for her', and for 'hurting her'.

Sheriff Michael Fletcher QC deferred sentence on Findlay until December 6 for criminal social justice and psychological reports, and ordered him to be put on the sex offenders register.

## Vital repairs start on Ben Nevis path

VITAL work is under way to stabilise more than three kilometres of the Ben Nevis mountain path.

The repairs on part of the track between Achintee and St John's Wall on Britain's highest summit will take three years to complete, as part of a £1 million project between Nevis Landscape Partnership, Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The first phase of improvements will end in March next year to avoid the busy summer period and walkers have been asked to consider alternative routes up the Ben during this period, including starting from the North Face car park.

Lizzie Cooper of Nevis Landscape Partnership said: 'We are extremely grateful to our funders for their commitment to the repair and upgrading of the Ben Nevis path.'

'It will make a huge difference to this mountain route and help reduce erosion.'

## TIMESLINE

### New A830 bridge opens on schedule

PROGRESS on a £10 million Road to the Isles improvement scheme continues as the second new bridge is completed.

Work on Garbh Bridge, on the Fort William to Mallaig A830, is now finished, with work on the third of the nine, the Utha Bridge, expected to end next month. Stone from the original Garbh structure has been used on the replacement bridge, designed to blend into the famous scenic surroundings.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative, said: 'We are pleased to open the new A830 Garbh Bridge to traffic on schedule after months of careful construction. It provides a safe, low maintenance structure that is designed to last for 120 years.'

### Christmas festival fun in Fort William

FORT William's Christmas Festival looks set to be the biggest yet as the Rotary Club of Lochaber has hired the entire Nevis Centre for Saturday's event.

Demand for stalls has been so great that the market will be extended into the studio as well as the main hall and Santa's Grotto has been relocated to the bar. Rotary president Terry Lee said: 'Moving the grotto will create more space for stalls in the main hall. All the indications are this will be our busiest year since we started the festival in 2008.'

### Police hunt village window vandal

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information following an act of vandalism in North Ballachulish.

The outer pane of a double-glazed window of a static caravan at Callart was damaged sometime between 3pm on Saturday November 21 and 9am the following day. Anyone with information should contact police on 101.



BEST FEET FORWARD: Forty hardy walkers braved wind and rain in Fort William to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer screening.

## Walkers out in wild weather to raise breast screening funds

FORTY determined walkers braved torrential rain and gale-force winds to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer screening in the Highlands.

Organiser Elaine MacNeil planned the moonlit outing last Friday to support the screening unit in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, after she had a scare earlier this year.

The Fort William bar worker said: 'I noticed a lump, went to the doctor on the Monday and was screened in Inverness on the Friday. Thankfully I got the all clear, but when I was sitting in the waiting room I realised I was surrounded by women who wouldn't all get the good news I did.'

'I was so grateful for how quickly I was seen because spotting cancer early can make such a difference. I

decided I wanted to do something to help the screening unit and that's when I planned the moonlit walk.'

Some people were put off by the weather and the planned route had to be cut by around 10 minutes but the 40 who took part were rewarded with tea and cakes at Wetherspoons, where a raffle took place to boost the total raised to £650.

Elaine added: 'The support I got was fantastic,' but said the event was as much about raising awareness as funds and highlighted the importance of checking lumps early.

She said: 'We're so lucky in the Highlands because we can be screened quickly. The worry I went through on the days I was waiting was a living nightmare.'

## Norovirus fears shut hospital wards

WARDS in two Highland hospitals had to be closed after suspected outbreaks of norovirus.

Ward one at the Belford in Fort William was closed on Wednesday last week after six patients experienced sickness and diarrhoea but reopened on Thursday after investigations found the virus wasn't present. Ward 6C at Raigmore has been closed since Thursday after four patients tested positive for norovirus.

The Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) at the Inverness hospital was also closed from last Tuesday after two patients tested positive, but reopened on Friday following a deep clean.

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Karen Smyth, Buyer at Gordons Chemists added: 'One that I really like this year as a men's stocking filler is a Gillette Mach 3 Set that includes a razor and shaving gel for only £4.99! There are also some great items if you're buying for a woman - there's a really nice Nivea Skin Smoothness Set that's half price. For someone who likes tanning or make-up, we have a WhitetoBrown Radiant Self Tan Kit at £15 that has a lovely cosmetic bag, as well as two full-sized tanning products, and a Real Techniques Collector's Edition make-up brush set that's £19.99 - you're saving £10 on it. I've already bought one for myself.'

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# MORVERN lines

IN THE National Library of Scotland there are many papers belonging to Seton Gordon (1886-1977), the well-known writer and naturalist from Skye. They include correspondence with Alastair Cameron (1916-1973) of Bunaltachan, Sunart – better known under the pen name of 'North Argyll', whose letters and articles enriched the columns of *The Oban Times* for more than 50 years. One in particular, dated March 15, 1958, caught my attention and may be of interest to Scottish Natural Heritage and anyone else interested in deer and their habits. It has not been published before.

Dear Seton Gordon  
The White Stag of Sunart about which you enquire in your letter was born as far as I am aware, in Coire-na-criche, a corrie in the march between Sunart and Ardgour, but on the Sunart side. He was seen shortly after being born by Mr Lachlan MacInnes, Ariundle, Strontian, then employed as keeper by the Department of Agriculture for Scotland on its Sunart Estate.

Late in the winter Mr Allan MacPherson (Ban) Scots-town saw it among hogs on the Scotstown crofts. There was snow at the time and he thought at first it was a goat. He saw it again as a knobber, on Beinn-a-chaorunn, Ranachan late in September when out stalking. From there he [the stag] travelled westward and spent the winter and probably spring on the Resipole low ground. He then crossed over to Ardnamurchan making the Salen-Camusinnes hill grazing his chief habitat. He has been known to make occasional visits to the Resipole ground. His presence was rather resented by the ordinary coloured deer, and he was pretty often seen alone or on the outskirts of the herd.

This occasioned a Strontian correspondent of the 'People's Journal' to call him the outcast, and after one of his reappearances on the Camusinnes ground after being missing all summer, I referred to it in the same paper under the heading of 'the outcast returns'. He is rather a poor specimen of the species and I understand he had rather an ugly head, from an antler point of view. Whether he did any travelling during the rutting season I cannot say. He has definitely been seen with hinds about that period but there is no evidence so far that he has left any progeny.

Since coming back from hospital at the end of August I have had only one report of him being seen, so I am beginning to wonder if he is alive, or has left the locality. Of course I have heard of the white hind of Coire Ba, and I am sometimes wondering if it was a white hind Angus Maceachern, Jura, was commemorating in his song, 'Och! nan och! When he refers to the 'te bhan a bha 's an fhrith'. I am no authority on deer lore but I think I am right in stating that a white stag is much rarer than a white hind.



Alastair Cameron

Mr Cameron was correct in stating that white stags were not so common as white hinds. In a list of 30 white deer compiled in Scotland over a long period, less than a quarter were stags. These were to be found on Arran, Glenshero, Killiechonate, Glen Affric, Cluanie, Suie, Auchlyne, Dalnamein and, of course, Sunart. It is perhaps needless to say that traditionally white deer were linked with the supernatural and that it was and, probably still is, considered bad luck in some places to kill one. When a guest, unbeknown to the head stalker, arrived back at the lodge after inadvertently killing the white stag of Glen Affric on Ben Attow in 1937, he was told to pack his bags and to leave immediately. Many white red deer, west of the Caledonian Canal, were thought to be descended from some animals sent up to Glenquoich from Woburn in 1875 for Lord Burton. In all the years I have been stalking I have never seen a white stag but, in 1984, while out on Kingairloch and Glensanda, I saw an almost pure-white hind among a large group of normal-coloured hinds and calves.

An incident of an unusual nature and one of sufficient interest to be recorded in the stalking annals of the time, occurred in 1892 when Colonel Platt, the sporting tenant of Kingairloch, shot a stag towards the end of the day. It was badly wounded and tried to cross Loch a' Choire where it got into difficulty. No boat being to hand, Colonel Platt's son swam out and attached a rope to its antlers and, after a struggle, managed to tow the animal ashore.

A year earlier a Clyde fishing boat was making its way down Loch Linnhe when the skipper came across a stag swimming from Kingairloch towards Appin. A boat was lowered; the stag was lassoed, killed and hoisted aboard. Not only did it provide fresh meat for the crew for some days but the captain had the head stuffed by a Glasgow taxidermist to hang in the lobby of his house in Greenock, 'as a trophy of deer stalking by boat at sea', as he used to boast to his visitors.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

## Duror and Kentallen

THE NEW Duror and Kentallen Community Council has been formed, following elections held earlier this month.

Eight members were elected by householders in the two villages on November 18. They are Dave Shepton, Jonathan Baxter, Rachel Shepton, Jeannie MacLeod, Patricia Young, Christopher Pearman, Chris Clay and Malcolm Knowlson.

The result came from 160 postal votes, 55.36 per cent of the voting-age population in the area.

## Gigha

DAIRY farmers in Gigha are being offered help to improve their milk quality, which should in turn increase the cheese yield at the Campbelltown Creamery they supply.

Project organisers SAC Consulting believe that milk high in the protein casein will produce larger volumes of cheese.

This new project will help First Milk farmers in the area – who are struggling with low prices – to produce this type of high-quality milk.

## Loch Lomond

THE FIRST episode of a four part television series showcasing the landscape and wildlife of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park aired on Channel 5 last Tuesday.

The first episode focused on spring, the season of new life, and viewers were shown a rare glimpse of some of the best wildlife Scotland has to offer, such as the park's ospreys flying home from West Africa to breed and rearing two baby chicks.

Speaking about the series, Simon Jones, director of conservation and visitor operations at Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, said: 'Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is blessed with jaw-dropping landscapes that are home to some of the country's finest wildlife.'

'We are thrilled that Channel 5 viewers will get a fascinating insight into a world our rangers are fortunate enough to see on a regular basis.'

The show will cover all four seasons and is on at 8pm on Tuesdays.

## Lochaline

LOCHALINE residents have come up with an innovative new way of socialising and keeping fit.

Highland Hustle is a fun fitness class based on Scottish Highland Dancing with some ceilidh steps, aerobics and toning, all set to amazing upbeat music every Wednesday in the village hall. Everyone is welcome.

## Seil

THE ROYAL British Legion Scotland, Easdale Branch, raised a total of £1,942 for the poppy appeal in memory of military personnel who have died in war.

On Seil, Easdale and Luing, £1,302 was raised, while the Kilmelford area total was £640.

Branch secretary Jean Alexander said: 'Our thanks go to all the public supporting this endeavour, which raised £70 more than last year. Also our thanks to all those who collected for us, door-to-door, in terrible weather.'

'We also supported two acts of remembrance on Seil Island and Luing, which, despite a very stormy day, were well-attended, and our thanks go to Reverend Kenneth Ross for leading both those services.'

## Skye

A 170-MILLION-YEAR-OLD fossil found on the island has turned out to be the final piece of an evolutionary mystery. Oxford University students discovered part of a jaw from a mouse-sized mammal, which was the missing piece that links two previous findings.

Scientists originally thought the earlier finds came from three different species because of the differences in the shape of the teeth, but, in fact, they join together and showcase an important step in the evolutionary process from when teeth were evolving.

## Soroba

SOROBA Youth Club in Oban is holding a Christmas Fayre in order to raise money to purchase essential equipment. The club, which is run by a group of volunteers, is a vital service to the children of Soroba. It gives them a place to meet and explore their creative interests.

The fayre will take place from 11am to 2pm on Saturday November 5 at the Congregational Church Hall, Oban and will have games, activities, raffles, drinks and home baking.

There is a £1.50 entry fee, which includes tea, coffee, juice and homemade cakes.

If anyone would like to book a table at the fayre, phone: 07882 226675.

## Tiree

TIREE High School recently honoured those who have lost their lives in military conflict.

The servicemen and women's sacrifices were marked by the pupils' respectful and moving presentation on November 11, which focused on the role of the average soldier.

Pupils Kirsteen, Jack, Colin and Ben read poetry, while Miss McArthur said in her address that Ryan Munn had represented the school at the war memorial by laying a



LISTEN UP: Pupils at lochdar Primary School donned blue lips to raise awareness of mouth cancer.

# Pupils get lippy about cancer

SOUTH UIST youngsters did their bit recently to raise awareness about mouth cancer when they donned some blue lips.

Pupils of lochdar Primary School on the island learned about the signs and symptoms of mouth cancer during

a visit from Lochboisdale Dental Practice staff. The staff also took the opportunity to carry out fluoride varnishing on the children's teeth.

Morag MacKinnon, dental therapist and oral health improvement co-ordinator at Lochboisdale, said: 'We took

the opportunity to make teachers and staff aware of the signs and symptoms of mouth cancer. We also explained to the children that when they come to the dentist we check not just their teeth but also their lips, tongues and cheeks.'



Kinlochleven High School senior students organised an interactive assembly to mark Remembrance Day.

## Kinlochleven

AN INTERACTIVE assembly to mark Remembrance Day went down a storm at Kinlochleven High School.

Twenty-one pupils across three senior years took it upon themselves to plan

the whole event, which included a video showing conflicts from the First World War until today, a mini museum and poppy-making workshop. Sixth-year pupil Tyna Reimerova painted a poppy onto a canvas and every pupil signed around it as a way to remember the day.

Rebecca Machin, head teacher at Kinlochleven High School, said: 'I was very proud of all the children involved and I thought it was a wonderful idea to make an assembly which they would enjoy participating in as well as learning so much.'

wreath. Also, on Wednesday November 11, the S4 and S5 pupils held the annual Remembrance Day assembly.

The assembly was timed so that it coincided the end of hostilities of the First World War, with the conflict famously ending 'on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month'.

A two-minute silence was attended by teaching staff and pupils from P7 to S6 to remember and honour those who have paid the price for the country's freedom.

TIREE High School's secondary pupil parliament met for the first time on Monday, November 9, to discuss matters concerning pupils and ideas for improving the school. Representatives of each year group – Olaf (deputising for Rory) for S1, Marshall for S2, Jack for S5 and chairwoman Eirin and secretary Kirsteen – talked about inter-house activity ideas, school dress and suggestions as to how to spend the £50 they have been given for an improvement project.

They will take the discussion back to their year group members and will be asking for feedback and ideas.

THE NUMBER of one of Scotland's rarest birds, which are mainly natives of the Hebrides, has dropped dramatically this year due to the wet and cold weather, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland has announced.

The number of corncrakes has dropped by almost a fifth, the organisation said, which listens for the call of males to

count the birds. Corncrakes migrate from Africa to the Hebrides, with 1,069 counted this year, while last year there were 1,289 – the highest total in 45 years.

The largest number of the birds fly to Tiree to breed, with 333 counted this year, down from 396 in 2014.

RSPB Scotland said Islay and Iona had a slight increase in the birds, which are part of the rail family, but there were fewer in almost every other part of the Highlands and islands.

## Coll

CHRISTMAS cheer is coming to Coll, with a series of events organised for early December.

Staff, directors and the management committee of the island's community centre, An Cridhe, are inviting friends, helpers and volunteers for an evening of festive fun at the Coll Hotel on Monday December 6, from 6.30pm.

Champagne cocktails, nibbles, a buffet main course and dessert will be included in the £15 ticket.

Attendees are asked to let staff at the centre know by tomorrow (Friday) if they plan to attend.

THE WHEELS are in motion for more affordable housing on Coll with the island's main community company

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## Furnace fights for lower speed limits

PEOPLE are 'too frightened' to use the pavement beside the main road through Furnace as traffic thunders past at high speed. This view was expressed more than once at a public meeting recently in Furnace Village Hall, where people want to extend the 40mph speed limit. The A83 trunk road passes through the Loch Fyne-side

village, and locals say the speed and volume of traffic is causing genuine problems. Spurred on by current plans by Transport Scotland to introduce a 50mph limit south of the village to Allt Na Ceardaich, Furnace Community Council has taken up the fight to have a 40mph speed limit imposed instead, right through to Minard, three and a half miles to the

south. At the meeting attended by around 40 people and chaired by community council convener Mike Masters, it was agreed that a new petition, asking to have the speed limit reduced to 40mph, would be raised and passed around residents in both Furnace and Minard. Speaking from the floor, residents explained the prob-

lems caused by heavy traffic travelling at speed. 'I have a job getting out my drive at times,' said one man living beside the road. This was supported by Reverend Roddy MacLeod, a Minard resident, who said: 'I have enough trouble getting out my drive in a 40mph, so it must be particularly difficult in a 60mph area.'

### Tarbert

MYSTERY surrounds a big bang that was heard in Tarbert on the night of November 17. The loud noise was heard right across the town and with many people thinking it had happened either inside, or just outside, their house. The sudden noise also terrified local pets. When some people went outside to investigate they found nothing amiss and no signs of damage. A local police officer said he had heard it. The police were called but were at a loss as to what it was and said they wouldn't be investigating any further. Small earthquakes can sometimes be heard as loud bangs



BANG: A mysterious noise was heard in Tarbert.

but the British Geological survey confirmed there had been no activity recorded.

The suggestion that it was a sonic boom from a plane was quickly dismissed, another

theory was that it could be the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on exercises nearby.

### Coll continued

finishing a consultation. Development Coll enlisted the services of independent company Lateral North for analysis on three sites for housing, having already consulted the community earlier in the year. During the consultation, the public view was that the need for affordable housing took priority over the location. Three locations offered were visited by the district valuer and planning officer for Argyll and Bute Council, and following this, two were then taken off the market by the owners, leaving just one option. All this information is now in the hands of the Scottish Land Fund who will take the decision at the end of November whether or not they will give Development Coll the funds required. A spokesman said: 'Development Coll is delighted that matters are moving on and we look forward to Scottish Land Fund's decision.'

### Western Isles

CHILDREN in the Western Isles are all smiles after new figures show they have the second best teeth in Scotland. The statistics, released by the National Dental Inspection Plan (NDIP), show 82.8 per cent of primary seven pupils have no obvious decay, with the Scottish average 75.3 per cent. In first place was the Borders, with 83.6 per cent. The new figures compare to 54.5 per cent of primary seven children in the Western Isles having no obvious decay in 2007, a vast improvement over eight years. Gordon Jamieson, NHS Western Isles chief executive, said: 'I am delighted with what is being achieved in this important area of oral health in children.' THE LEADER of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has called on the UK Government to implement the Smith Commission recommendations in full. Angus Campbell, who has led the Western Isles local authority since 2012, is urging the government to devolve management and revenues of The Crown Estate. He said: 'I would call on the UK Government to honour the Smith Commission in full and, in clear and unambiguous terms, legislate for the full devolution of the Crown Estate, its management and revenues to Scotland and immediately thereafter by Scottish Government to island areas and other coastal communities in line with the Lerwick Declaration of devolving powers to local communities.'



ART: Painter Margaret Whitton is among those showing at Kilmore Hall.

### Kilmore

## Tuesday group hosts art exhibition

KILMORE Tuesday Group will host an art exhibition in Kilmore Hall from November 27-29. The show will be open on Friday 1pm to 4pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 1pm to 4pm. Nearly a dozen artists will have paintings,

cards and textiles to browse, including Margaret Whitton, Ann Sorley, Rhoda Thomas and Sona Campbell. Tea and biscuits will be served. Entry is by donation, with proceeds going to the Kilmore Hall fund. For more information call 01631 562878.

## Fears council cuts could see recycling workers with special needs out of a job if proposals go ahead

### Campbeltown

PROPOSED council cuts might cost workers with special needs and learning difficulties their livelihoods at Kintyre Recycling Limited (KRL). KRL bosses were shocked to learn during a meeting with Argyll and Bute council, on November 6, that recycling collections might be taken in house, rendering the Campbeltown Glebe Street charity operation, which employs 22 people, surplus to requirements. Changes to amenity services are detailed in Argyll and Bute's services choices consultation paper. Under three policy options, there is a proposal to 'move to a three-weekly collection for general waste but retaining fortnightly recycling collections'. KRL receives £157,000 a year from Argyll and Bute to run its service and nearly matches that with income from sales and other sources. Directors are unhappy there is no mention in the report of taking recycling collection services in-house and removing the contract from KRL, nor is it mentioned as a potential third sector partner. KRL believes that the cuts, intended to save money, will cost the economy of Kintyre £280,000, and the employment of many vulnerable workers.

SHOCKED: KRL workers outside their new Ben Gullion Road premises in Campbeltown purchased for £41,230 this summer. 25\_c26recycle01



## Clachan burn bursts its banks

MAJOR flooding due to torrential rain closed the A83 trunk road at Clachan but substantial damage was averted thanks to a multi-agency response. At about 5am, on Sunday November 15, the small burn, which flows behind the fuel station burst its banks. A large green lorry container, used as a store by Clachan Garage, was washed into the burn and lodged against five

trees opposite the village hall. There followed 12 hours of rescue activity involving Argyll and Bute Council, Police Scotland, the coastguard and Campbeltown Fire and Rescue Service, contractors Macleod, McFadyen and McNaughton as well as local farmers, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish and Southern Energy and forestry contractors.

## Roads concern on Islay

ISLAY residents raised the issue of roads and roads funding at a meeting of their community council last month. Community councillors had contacted Argyll and Bute Council in order to understand the formula being used for the funding of roads on Islay, but it was still awaiting a response. Community councillors noted that other roads had benefited from being classified as trunk roads due to the funding being allocated from the Scottish Government rather than

from Argyll and Bute Council. Community councillors also heard that neither the bridge at Glenegeadale or the one on the approach to Port Charlotte had been repaired but it was hoped they would be completed by the end of 2015. Community councillors also expressed concerns about trailers from articulated wagons being parked in inappropriate places such as Port Brae and adjacent to Buildbase which is now causing further damage to the road surfaces.

## Nominate your Angel OF THE YEAR

If you know someone who really makes a difference in their community or to someone's life then let us know. You can nominate by post using the form below or online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/angel](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/angel)

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

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

The search is on for the The Oban Times Angel of the Year 2015, and we want you to nominate those deserving of the accolade. The award recognises those who have made a real difference to their community, often with no thanks or reward. The winners receive a special trophy and cash prize of £500, while two runners-up will each receive £100.

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

his time and talent.

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

The 2013 runners up were

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

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



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

### NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's name ..... Nominee's address .....

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

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# Fyne Times

## this festive season

Tarbert

Inveraray

## Tarbert Book FESTIVAL 27th & 29th November 2015

AUTHORS, poets, performers and book lovers will come together for the third annual Tarbert Book Festival November 27-29, packed with events for literary fans of all ages and genres.

Pupils at Tarbert Academy will receive a literary treat on Friday, as Julie Bertagna talks about John Muir Earth - Planet Universe, and storyteller Claire Hewitt shares tales inspired by her travels in a programme called 'It's Geography, Jim, But Not as we Know It!'

In 'Between Mountains and Sea,' at the Tarbert Hotel on Friday at 7.30pm, Andrew Greig talks about and reads from 'At the Loch of the Green Corrie,' his homage memoir to Norman MacCaig, and 'Found At Sea,' a book of poems.

Saturday's events get in full gear at the Templar Arts and Leisure Centre at 10.30am and

1.30pm, when families will enjoy an action packed session from Beano writer and artist Kev Sutherland.

At the Anchor Hotel at 11am, prize winning author, dramatist and creative writing tutor Lesley Glaister will talk about the difficulties of writing her haunting novel, Little Egypt: Big Problems.

Come sit at the feet of storyteller Claire Hewitt at 11am at the Galley Café, where she will take the audience to the magical land where stories grow, a programme for the young and young at heart.

Ken McLeod will be at the Galley Café at 2pm called 'Science Fiction, Poetry and Working with Iain Banks,' in which he talks about the genre and the book of poems he wrote in collaboration with Iain Banks.

In 'Doubling Back: Ten Paths Trodden

in Memory,' award-winning writer of short stories, radio drama and creative non-fiction, Linda Cracknell, will talk about links between walking, writing and memory at the Anchor Hotel 3.15pm.

There will be a BookBug Session for younger children in the library at 1.30pm.

The Stonefield Hotel will hold a Springfield whisky tasting session at 7pm, followed by author Mark Douglas-Home in conversation with Lisa Tuttle about his novel, 'The Sea Detective.'

On Sunday at 11am at An Tairheart, medieval Tarbert Local historian Robert McPhail will talk about about the medieval royal castle. Weather permitting, a guided walk will follow. Antiquarian books and collectibles will be on sale at TALC on Saturday and An Tairheart on Sunday.



## Welcome to Inveraray

AS THE gateway to the Highlands and Islands, the royal burgh of Inveraray has plenty to offer both visitors and locals during this festive season.

This Friday, November 27, will see the official start of the season of goodwill as residents turn out to see the burgh's Christmas lights switched on. The fun kicks off at 7pm with a parade, and Santa will fly in for a quick visit to find out what the children of Inveraray want this Christmas. The event, held on Black Friday - the busiest shopping day of the year, will see businesses open late, marking the official start of the shopping season in Mid Argyll.

Despite its modest size, Inveraray is brimming with boutique shops that are packed with stocking fillers and gifts for every person's taste. The first port of call

for many at this time of year is Inveraray's homeware and gift stores, which are filled with inspiring and thoughtful presents for loved ones this Christmas. In an area that is full of outdoor events and adventure, there are a range of clothing shops that cater to the wishes of hiker, horse rider and adventure sport enthusiasts. The royal burgh's restaurants and cafés are not merely a place to rest at the end of a day's shopping. They are also filled with artisan produce, perfect for gift giving and for adding to festive feasts. From west coast whiskies to fine wine, local cheeses, chutneys and cakes, Inveraray is the perfect place to find creative Christmas hampers. So whether shopping, dining or sightseeing, Inveraray has something for everyone this festive season.

*Celebrate Christmas at* **West LOCH HOTEL**

**£22.50** PER PERSON TWO COURSES  
Includes tea & coffee and mini Christmas pudding

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Includes tea & coffee and mini Christmas pudding

Planning your office Christmas party, or want to organise a festive meal with family and friends? Celebrate the 2015 season with a get-together at the West Loch Hotel. We offer a fabulous setting for entertaining. With a beautiful loch view, fire-side dining, the West Loch Hotel offers a relaxed, warm and festive stay. Locally sourced food served in charming surroundings by welcoming and friendly staff ensures that you can just sit back and revel in our hospitality.

Call or email today to book your party! t: 01880 820283 e: info@westlochhotel.com

**The co-operative**

**FOR ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS ESSENTIALS**

Co-operative Food - Inverary  
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Tel: 01499 302436

Paul Nelson, manager at the Co-op Supermarket in Inveraray, proudly shows off the The Co-operative's champion champers that has been awarded top of the pops ahead of many other leading brands! Recently featured in Which magazine and on sale at just £16.99 whilst stocks last. Hurry!

**TARBERT FESTIVALS 2015**

TARBERT IS AN ENCHANTING AND BEAUTIFUL FISHING VILLAGE SITTING ON THE WEST SHORES OF LOCH FYNE. THERE ARE SEVERAL FESTIVALS HELD DURING THE YEAR WHICH ENCOMPASS TARBERT'S FISHING HERITAGE AND ITS AFFINITY WITH THE SEA.

COME TO TARBERT AND EXPERIENCE LIFE ON SCOTLAND'S WEST COAST, YOU WILL BE MADE MOST WELCOME.

**TARBERT BOOK FESTIVAL**  
27TH - 29TH NOVEMBER

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
4TH DECEMBER

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f FB: Lochgilphead Bookshop

ABC ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT TARBERT 2015 BOOK FESTIVAL

**A warm welcome from Mr Pia's and The Royal Burgh Café...**  
Eat In? Dine at home? The choice is yours - and the choice is huge!

The best Fish & Chips for miles and miles and a huge range of delicious, freshly prepared take away dishes, cooked using the finest ingredients. Next door, eat in at The Royal Burgh Café offers an extensive menu from light lunches, hand-made, stone baked pizzas, pastas and risottos as well as a la carte style evening dining. Enjoy a glass of wine or cool beer as you choose from the extensive menu on offer!

Main Street, Inveraray. To reserve a table at The Royal Burgh Café. Tel: 01499 302323. Private parties and special requests welcome - please call to discuss

**TARBERT HARBOUR**

The Trustees and Staff would like to wish the Tarbert Book Festival every success

Tel: 01880 820344  
Email: info@tarbertharbour.co.uk

**TARBERT BOOK FESTIVAL 2015**

27th - 29th November

**Friday 27th November**  
7.30 pm Tarbert Hotel Between Mountains and Sea

**Saturday 28th November**  
10.30 am TALC Comic Art Masterclass  
11.00 am Anchor Hotel Little Egypt: Big Problems  
11.00 am Galley Café Family Storytelling  
1.30 pm TALC Comic Art Masterclass  
1.30 pm Library Bookbug  
2.00 pm Galley Café Science Fiction, Poetry and Working with Iain Banks  
3.15 pm Anchor Hotel Doubling Back: Ten Paths Trodden in Memory  
7.00 pm Stonefield Hotel Whisky Tasting  
7.30 pm Stonefield Hotel Springfield Session with Mark Douglas-Home

**Sunday 29th November**  
11.00 am An Tairheart Medieval Tarbert

For full programme of events and further details please visit our website  
f www.tarbertbookfestival.org

Mr Pia's Fish & Chip Bar and The Royal Burgh Café are run by husband and wife team Stephen and Julie and their two sons Michael and Stephen junior. As they approach their 1st birthday in both the take-away and restaurant, they look back fondly on the last year. 'We've had a great time getting to know both visitors and locals alike and finding out more about what they really love to eat. We have had fantastic feedback and but we are always thinking of new dishes to introduce to the menu to keep things fresh, innovative and interesting'.

The menu at Mr Pia's presents a mouth-watering array of fresh fish and seafood, Stornoway black pudding, stone baked, freshly made pizzas and a whole host of chip shop favourites including high quality sausage suppers, pies, king ribs and much more. There's even the obligatory deep fried Mars Bar for those with a super sweet tooth!

The Royal Burgh Café is warm and welcoming with delicious home cooked food to suit all tastes. You'll find Italian dishes with a Scottish twist from traditional fish and chips to freshly cooked Mediterranean specials. From smoked salmon and chunky ciabattas to juicy steaks and authentic Italian pastas and risottos. Wash it down with a chilled glass of wine, beer or a fine Scottish malt. Relax and enjoy!

**Fresh, stone-baked Italian Pizzas!**

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- Canna Community Shop - Isle of Canna
- Ma MacKinnons Marmalade - The Old Smithy, Bridgend, Isle of Islay
- Orsay - 2 Stevenson Street, Oban
- The Ferry Shop - Fionnphort, Mull
- The Green Welly Shop - Tyndrum
- Loch Fyne Galleries - Harbour Street, Tarbert

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Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6UD  
Tel: 01880 820 430

**Tarbert Book FESTIVAL**

For more information, visit [tarbertbookfestival.org](http://tarbertbookfestival.org) or ring 07827 636799

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Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate TCe 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4X2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

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

# Arena

Special edition  
four-page  
pullout

## Curtain up on Spotlight's Puss in Boots



**Puss In Boots**  
Corran Halls, Oban

2-5 December

Sue Baker as Puss In Boots, David Johnston as The Wicked Ogre, Ellie Cooper as The Bad Fairy, Nicole O'Brien as The Princess, Roddy MacEachen as The Queen, Morven Wright as Babs and John Robinson as Jasper



## Festival celebrates Lochaber landscape



HUNDREDS of people are expected to attend events celebrating the Lochaber landscape following the launch of next year's Fort William Mountain Festival programme.

The event, running from February 17 to 21, will begin with a torchlit ascent of Aonach Mor on skis, snowboards and mountain bikes.

It will also include talks, film screenings, workshops and exhibitions as well as the coveted Scottish Awards for Excellence in Mountain

Culture. Mike Pescod, chairman of organisers Highland Mountain Culture Association, said: 'The Fort William Mountain Festival celebrates our wild landscape and the opportunities it presents. The mountains and glens that surround us influence our culture in many ways. We want to promote the value of the landscape of Lochaber as the best des-

tinuation in the UK to live, work and play. The mountain festival includes a superb line up of top climbers and explorers, mountain films, inspirational speakers and skills workshops. It's not just for adventure addicts though, anyone who appreciates the landscape of the Outdoor Capital of the UK will find something for them in the mountain festival.'



## Feast of events and offers to mark Scotland's national day

OBAN residents are being encouraged to get involved in a programme of events and special offers for Scotland's national day.

Circus performers put on a spectacular stunt at the Oban Distillery as part of this year's Oban Winter Festival.

This is one of 11 funded events in Scotland's Winter Festival calendar and more than 420 venues offering incentives to encourage people to visit Scotland as part of their St Andrew's Day celebrations.

The two performers from contemporary circus company Circus Alba gave a glimpse of what to expect at this week's Oban Winter Festival (which ends on November 29) and to highlight the different events

and activities taking place in Argyll and the Isles for St Andrew's Day. Louis Barrow from volunteer group Oban Winter Festival said: 'Our organising committee has been delighted to watch the Oban Winter Festival get better every year.

'People have been getting involved in many different ways - by simply coming under our with their own events, such as comedy, music, dance, visual arts and exhibitions - or by simply attending one of the top quality food and drink events, tied to St Andrew's Day.

'Most satisfying of all, though, has been the success in realising some

of our original intentions, to bring family members of all ages together to enjoy the local events or just the simple pleasures on offer to Oban's locals and visitors.

'It has been a pleasure to see so many folk keen to

learn about the nature of their area, its world-class produce and its interesting history.

'The sense of community in Oban was already strong and we are delighted to welcome visitors to come and join in.'

Scotland's Winter Festivals is a



programme of events running across Scotland in the lead up to St Andrew's Day, through Christmas and Hogmanay, to Burns Night to promote and showcase Scotland as a modern and creative nation with a rich heritage, through music, arts, food and drink.



Contemporary circus performers Will Borrell, 25, and Alyssa Brough, 18, from Circus Alba visited Oban Distillery to practise some of their moves ahead of their performance at the Oban Winter Festival, one of 11 funded events and more than 420 venues offering incentives to encourage people to visit as part of their St Andrew's Day celebrations.



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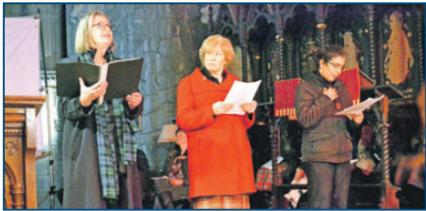
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# Arena

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

## St Conan's is packed out in remembrance

A NIGHT at St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, offered an evening of song, drama and poetry in memory of those injured or killed in conflicts around the world. Held on Remembrance Day, November 11, 'Pack up your Troubles' saw a great turnout of people support the event.



Three Wee Crows: Kathleen Hannigan, Carol Thompson and Vivienne Price.



Taynuilt and Dalmally primary school choirs, who sang a selection of songs.



Matthew Houston, Eliza Cox and Emily Reid, who performed This Night 100 Years Ago.



Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, under the instruction of conductor Audrey Paterson, sang a selection of songs.

## Laughter, learning, pampering and friendship at Pink Ladies Day

A SPECIAL event for women who have experienced breast cancer and their friends is being held in Inveraray next month.

The Pink Ladies day, an event now in its second year, is for women from the west of Scotland, who have experienced first-hand living and dealing with breast cancer.

This is a day all about laughter, learning, pampering and friendship, along with good food and relaxation.

The Pink Ladies Day provides an opportunity for 'Pink Ladies' to meet like-minded or like-bodied women who are either in remission, or living with breast cancer to simply relax and enjoy themselves.

The day will run from 10am to 5pm and will include morning and afternoon coffee, lunch, a host of free complimentary therapies and beauty treatments and use of the Loch Fyne Hotel's leisure facilities.

The day also presents the chance to hear from and speak to specialists in areas that can help with balancing life's day-to-day challenges. There is the opportunity to learn more about health, fitness, nutrition and self-esteem.

The event is available for up to 50 women and their 'plus one' on a first-come, first-served basis.

Often, women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer have at least one female friend or family member

who has been a fantastic support to them during and after treatment, so this is the chance to spoil them a little too.

Those preferring to come on their own will be welcomed with open arms and will be well looked after throughout the day.

Anyone wishing to attend this special, free day must register in advance either by emailing Nicky Murphy: pinkladiesday@outlook.com or by calling Nicky on 07786 861266 by November 27.

Pre-bookings are very important to communicate with guests about activities, hair and beauty treatments and transport ahead of the day.

## Dynamic American trio take to the stage in Fort William

A DYNAMIC American trio has crossed the water to perform in Fort William as part of Lochaber Music For All's winter season.

Drumpetello, featuring Mary Thornton on trumpet, Carrie Pierce on cello and Matthew McClung on

percussion, have played across five continents and will add Lochaber High School to its list of venues tomorrow night (Friday).

They will be performing a blend of old and specially commissioned new work, from 7.30pm.

## Youngsters tune in to new Gaelic song app

A NEW app has been launched to help youngsters learn Gaelic songs.

'Orain na Cloinne Bige' is free to download and features 20 songs for early years, all recorded by five talented young singers from the Western Isles.

The project is a collaboration between Pròiseact nan Ealan and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to aid the Gaelic learning process while holding the attention of children.

Erica Morrison, creative director at Pròiseact nan Ealan, said: 'We are delighted to have worked in partnership with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to produce this wonderful Gaelic app which can be enjoyed by fluent and learner Gaelic speakers. This resource will enrich the Gaelic experience for young

people, especially as it is not confined to the classroom.

'Embracing modern communication methods is essential to ensure Gaelic is used in everyday life.'



Little James Earl MacLeod enjoys the new Gaelic music app.

## Social scene Warm welcome for



PRIDE OF PLACE: Marion with a plate of free samples.

SPOILED: Guests are spoiled for choice at what was on offer.

POPPIES Garden Centre was the centre of attention last Thursday, when an abundance of women descended on to the establishment for the annual Ladies Night In.

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

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



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

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

The final token and full details on how to enter will be printed in The Oban Times, December 3 2015.



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

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 10th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £19.99

<b>A</b> Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban	<b>B</b> SEASONS GREETINGS to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban	<b>C</b> MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban
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Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-

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'fright night' recently, at Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine. There was a scary walk, face painting, puppeteering, rinks and horror-themed cakes. Activities at the event on November 14, 'a scream' for all who came along.



## Flying start to Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club meeting

THE NOVEMBER meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club got off to a flying start with local trio Ally 'K' MacPherson on accordion, John Cameron on keyboard and Donald John Campbell on drums. Another local fiddle tutor, Caerina Campbell was next to entertain, firstly with pupil Ellie MacPherson and then in a fabulous duet with Gemma Donald which went down a storm with the appreciative audience. The entire second half of the evening was devoted to a fabulous performance from the club's special guests, the talented duo of Alan Small on accordion and Gemma Donald on fiddle. They launched into a wonderful varied programme of music played to the highest standard. Great arrangements throughout and not a sheet of music in sight. This brought the evening to a close with a traditional stramash involving local club players. A happy audience headed home, already looking forward to another great night of music at their December meeting when the guest band will be The Alan Gardiner Trio on Thursday December 3 in the usual venue of The Royal Hotel, Portree.



Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club special guests Gemma Donald and Alan Samll.



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27 November 2015 - 03 December 2015

**Brooklyn (12A) 132 mins**  
Fri: 18:30 Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu: 18:15, Sun: 20:00 Mon: 21:00

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

**Mystery Movie (PG) 100 mins**  
Wed: 19:15pm

Buy your ticket for just £4.00, sit back, and let us entertain you! Suggestions for upcoming months' Mystery Movies greatly appreciated! HINT: Who's Watching You!

**ENO: The Mikado (12A) 150 mins**  
Thu: 19:30

Nanki-Poo loves Yum-Yum. Just one snag. She's betrothed to Ko-Ko, the new Lord High Executioner. And KoKo needs to find someone to execute - chop chop! Otherwise, it's his own neck on the block. Maybe Ko-Ko and Nanki-Poo can come to some arrangement... without anyone losing their head? Set in an ever-so English 1930s seaside hotel, Jonathan Miller's Marx Brothers-inspired song-and-dance Mikado is a popular hit with audiences of all ages.

**He Named Me Malala (PG) 107 mins**  
Fri, Mon: 16:30 Sat: 20:40 Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:15

He Named Me Malala is a documentary about Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot and seriously injured by the Taliban, who has since become a potent advocate for the education of girls and the co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

**Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG) 109 mins**  
Sat: 11:00 Sun: 12:45

The Drac Pack is back for an all-new monster comedy adventure in Sony Pictures Animation's Hotel Transylvania 2! Everything seems to be changing for the better at Hotel Transylvania... Dracula's rigid monster-only hotel policy has finally relaxed, opening up its doors to human guests. Things are about to get batty!

**Kids Club: Paddington (PG) 95 mins**  
Sat: 10:00

Children's classic. A young Peruvian bear with a passion for all things British travels to London in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone at Paddington Station, he begins to realize that city life is not all he had imagined - until he meets the kindly Brown family. Kids just £4 - adults FREE!

**Sicario (15) 138 mins**  
Fri: 19:10

An idealistic FBI agent is enlisted by an elected government task force to aid in the escalating war against drugs at the border area between the U.S. and Mexico.

**SIMBA: Frozen Sing-a-Long (U) 165mins**  
Sat: 12:15

Oban Phoenix and SIMBA present: Frozen Sing-A-Long! When the newly crowned Queen Elsa accidentally uses her power to turn things into ice to curse her home in infinite winter, her sister, Anna, teams up with a mountain man, his playful reindeer, and a snowman to change the weather condition. Get your vocal chords and feel free to dress up as your favourite character in tune for this Winter Wonderland Adventure, sit back and 'Let it Go!' You the audience can be the stars!

**Spectre (12A) 170 mins**  
Sat: 18:25 Sun: 15:00

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

**Sunset Song - Preview (15) 133 mins**  
Mon: 18:30

Based on the classic book. The daughter of a Scottish farmer comes of age in the early 1900s. Directed by Terence Davies. Stars Peter Mullan, Agyness Deyn, Kevin Guthrie.

**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 (12A) 160 mins**  
Fri: 21:45 Sat: 13:10, 15:30 Sun: 12:00, 14:50 Mon, Wed, Thu: 16:15 Tue: 16:30

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

**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 3D (12A)**  
Fri: 16:15 Sat: 21:30 Sun: 18:10 Mon: 19:15 Tue: 19:30

**The Lady in the Van (12A) 124 mins**  
Fri: 21:00 Sat: 16:00 Sun: 17:45

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

**Coming Soon**

**Black Mass (15) 11/12/2015**

The true story of Whitey Bulger, the brother of a state senator and the most infamous violent criminal in the history of South Boston, who became an FBI informant to take down a Mafia family invading his turf.

**Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens 17/12/2015**

A continuation of the saga created by George Lucas set thirty years after Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983).

## Poppies Ladies Night

# For everyone at Poppies' annual ladies night in



choice as they take a look at... 15\_148poppies04



CHRISTMAS: Before entering the restaurant, some of the guests entertained themselves and had a look at the festive products. 15\_148poppies05



SAMPLE: Owner Marion McPherson entertains her customers and provides them with a free sample of food. 15\_148poppies01



TEAM WORK: From left to right, Laura Barrington and Fiona Macaulay, who were working at the event.

A full car park was met with a full stomach, as a variety of free samples and mulled wine were available for everyone.

Owner Marion McPherson said:

'It's nice to give something back. We didn't start until 6.30pm, but at 6.15pm, someone came in and said the car park was full.'

Marion also had a number of

tables set up around the room selling a variety of mirrors, utensils, candles, soaps and more.

She continued: 'I've travelled far and wide for my stock. I go to shows

all over the place and even go as far as Germany.

'I try to buy Fairtrade items and be as ethical as I can be and I also use local products whenever possible.'

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**RECIPE: Chicken Barmoral Served with Root Vegetable and Potato Mash, accompanied with a Pepper Sauce**

Place the Chicken Barmoral in an oven dish and cover with tinfoil  
Place in the Oven at 180 °C for 50 minutes

After 50 minutes remove the foil and cook for a further 10 minutes  
Boil the Potatoes and Mash with Butter once Cooked

Boil the Root Vegetables and Mash Simply heat the pepper sauce (Sauce available at Grant's the Butchers) Serve and Enjoy  
**Chicken Barmorals and Vegetables are ready to purchase at Grants the Butchers, Main Street, Taynuilt.**

## WIN

A LUXURY HEBRIDEAN HAMPER



The Hebridean Food Company, located on the Island of North Uist, Outer Hebrides produces a range of exquisite meat grazed on the uninhabited surrounding islands. Sourcing an equally wild array of local shellfish. Everyone can discover a taste of the Hebrides with a 20% discount, just enter code: FIELD at checkout (valid until 15 December).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **What island is the Hebridean Food Company based on?**

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Hebridean Hamper Competition, Wyvex Media, Fether Park, 485 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH6 2DS. Closing date is December 4, 2015. Entries must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicly, indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.



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

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

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

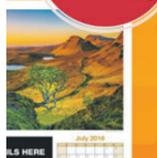
**THURSDAY:** 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

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

**SATURDAY:** 0900 Swinging 'Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

## YOUR BUSINESS CALENDAR



Company tails displayed fish landscape photographers.

# Arena

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

## Superstars and cult heroes all set for Celtic Connections

WITH 2,500 musicians from around the world set to perform in Glasgow at this year's Celtic Connections it will again be the thread that links the international Celtic community. West Coast musicians will feature in many of the concerts, ceilidhs and talks and in a host of one-off musical collaborations on 26 stages at venues across the city. Beginning on Thursday January 14 2016, musicians from around the world will gather in Glasgow for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions,

workshops, free events, late night sessions and a host of special one-off musical collaborations. Artistic director Donald Shaw said: 'Celtic Connections is rooted in a love of traditional, folk and world music. Since our earliest days the passion, the skill and the excitement that you find at a live concert at Celtic Connections has inspired us to put together the programme each year. For 2016, we are bringing superstars and cult heroes, new talent and

artists who were legends long before the first Celtic Connections was staged. 'This year we weave stories of pilgrimage, of crossing continents, we celebrate anniversaries and the Auld Alliance.' International artists booked to play at the 2016 festival include The Chieftans, Baaba Maal, Lucinda Williams, Kris Kristofferson and Toumani Diabaté. Celtic Connections takes pride in looking to the future as well as celebrating the past. Matthew Welch's Blarvuster, Isle of Seil's

Aidan O'Rourke Trio and Soumik Datta and Bernhard Schimpelsberger: Circle of Sound are among those who will step into the spotlight at a new venue for the festival, Drygate Brewery, to represent a new strand, The Shape of Folk to Come. A series of major anniversaries will be marked, with celebrations of Aly Bain at 70 in a show entitled Le Grande Anniversaire where he will be joined by his long-standing cohort Phil Cunningham to celebrate 30 years of

performing together. A series of concerts in the Tradition will celebrate piping and Gaelic music. Nights dedicated to Gordon Duncan and the Ardmagh Pipers and a concert recalling the legendary Live in Ireland 78 will put the swirl and power of the pipes centre stage. A special 30th anniversary concert for Féis Ros, music from Oban's Anne Lorne Gillies, and a show entitled Gàidhlig meets Americana, which brings together Gillebride MacMillan and Kyle Carey, will

be music to the ears of lovers of these two traditions, which remain as fresh, vital and entertaining as ever. The Auld Alliance between Scotland and France will be centre stage at this year's Showcase Scotland as the festival celebrates France as the partner country for 2016 and the 10th anniversary of the twinning of Glasgow and Marseille. At the core of the festival is the award-winning Education Programme, which sees thousands of children attend free morn-

ing concerts, experiencing live music from Scotland and further afield. Up to 11,400 children will take part in Celtic Connections Education Programme for schools during the 2016 festival, with opportunities including five free morning concerts. In addition to the school workshops, there will be more than 60 public workshops for all ages and abilities from dawn until dusk over each of the three weekends. Highlights include the Ukulele School hosted by Finlay Allison and The

Fiddle Village hosted by Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. The final day of Celtic Connections, Sunday January 31, includes a show at the Old Fruitmarket in aid of the Bert Jansch Foundation, whose charitable aim is to support the next generation of acoustic musicians. Robert Plant, Bernard Butler, Archie Fisher, and Jacqui McShee will perform along with more special guests to be announced in Bert Jansch.

# Celtic CONNECTIONS



Donald Shaw - Taynuilt Village Hall, Capercaille and now Celtic Connections.



Aly Bain will play a tune or two with old friends and new for his three score years and 10.



Aidan O'Rourke from the Isle of Seil will perform.



Anne Lorne Gillies, one of Scotland's finest performers, who hails from Oban.

## Malt of the Month

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Ardbeg Corryreckan £65  
It has to be that you arrive in the dark, get lost, become found, see some wildlife and wake to the golden sky that would calm any heart. I am at my friend Ms Hester's gaff on Islay. Even in the dark it looked like something very special. In the light, my expectations were not disappointed. I was strangely excited to drive through a distillery, one of eight and counting on the island, on our way to Coillabus, our eco-lodgings for our week. Mr Carmichael, Ms Hester's father, has spent his 82 years here. I can see why. This is a cottage that shows the whisky island off to its best. Twinkling lights in the distance would make even the most pent up person want to relax. My breath has been taken. A day lies in store. Mrs Iona and

I are off to Ardbeg where a lovely man called Neil is going to show us around. Should I be so excited about this day out? I mean, it is not as though I haven't tasted Ardbeg's delicious world-renowned peatiness before. And the Corryreckan is the fruitiest of the distilleries library that I've tasted. I have sipped, savoured and enjoyed the Ardbeg Corryreckan many a fine night with Mr Lee. But a distillery trip is different, this is understanding the brand. And what a brand it is. The trip with Neil will be about visiting the shrine of the malt. I am delighted to do so. No doubt I will return to Coillabus with a wee dram or two. It is near Christmas after all - there can be no better gift.

*Louise Glen*

## Budding Lochaber writers thrilled by author's visit

BUDDING writers at Lochaber High School were thrilled when a talented author visited them in class. Shona MacLean, author of Crucible, The Redemption of Alexander Seaton, Game of Sorrows and The Seeker, paid a visit to the advanced higher English students on November 13. The writer spoke to the pupils about characters, setting, starting and ending a story and, most importantly, sticking to a plot. She then put on a creative writing workshop, which was a real eye opener for the teenagers. English teacher Sharon McGonigal said: 'We really enjoyed Shona's visit. We learned a lot and we're all encouraged to read her books.'



Author Shona MacLean, right, visited Sharon McGonigal's advanced higher English class at Lochaber High School.

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**FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB**  
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All Welcome  
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In the event of a last minute cancellation by any guest artist the committee will find an alternative artist

**Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Every Thursday of the month from October until April  
Royal Hotel  
Guest Artist: Leonard Brown  
Thursday 3rd December 2015  
7.30pm  
All welcome. £4

**Small Paws Rescue Home Baking sale**  
Saturday 28th November  
Pets at Home (Oban)  
10am to 4pm.  
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**Oban Congregational Church Christmas Fayre**  
Saturday 28th November  
10.30am - 2.30pm  
Tea, Coffee, Home Baking, Soup  
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All proceeds to church funds

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
St Conan's Kirk Lochawe  
Friday 4th & Saturday 6th Dec  
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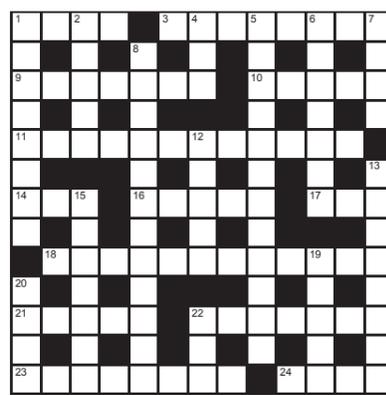
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Across

- 1 Small whirlpool (4)
- 3 Usually (8)
- 9 One who has lost a body part (7)
- 10 Categorize (5)
- 11 Between (12)
- 14 Type of tree seed (3)
- 16 Alpine call (5)
- 17 Bathroom item (3)
- 18 Inflammatory condition needing an operation (12)
- 21 Baking ingredient (5)
- 22 Make lifeless (7)
- 23 Do better than (8)
- 24 Fastener (4)

Down

- 1 Avoidances (8)
- 2 Cache (5)
- 4 Be in debt (3)
- 5 Great variety (12)
- 6 Generous behaviour (7)
- 7 Canine sound (4)
- 8 Bringer of trouble (6,6)
- 12 Broke off (5)
- 13 Unfortunate squint (4-4)
- 15 Upper (7)
- 19 Spiral (5)
- 20 Curled hairdo (4)
- 22 \_\_\_ de deux (3)

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Agenda: the people ● the issues ● the back story



# Blowing in the wind or wilful blindness?

In reply to an Agenda by Mike MacKenzie, a MSP for the Highlands and Islands region, who advocates onshore wind farms, campaigner Christine Metcalfe lists the reasons why she believes the Scottish Government's policy on wind farms is unhealthy.



Those paid to represent us have no right to impose an energy policy that is harmful to our health.”

Christine Metcalfe  
Argyll campaigner  
against wind farms

UNSPOILT: the view  
of Loch Avich from  
Christine's house  
15\_t30windmet02

Some readers may remember MSP Mike McKenzie's eulogising ode to wind energy titled, The answer is blowing in the wind. So he will be pleased that Loch Awe side is now beleaguered by three huge wind farm applications at various stages of planning – Upper Sonachan (Ecotricity); Balliemanoich (Sgurr Energy) and Blarghour (Coriolis Energy). Each will be determined by the Scottish Government due to their sheer scale and size. E.ON intend to test wind speeds in Inverliever Forest near Dalavich prior to yet another application. Whether more are 'waiting in the wings' is as yet unknown.

The wind industry and the Scottish Government make idealised claims about wind power which invite close examination:

**Decarbonisation**  
UK communities outwith Scotland now have the final say on whether wind developments should proceed. We don't.

The economy, infrastructure, businesses and homes cannot be powered when the wind doesn't blow or blows too hard; the country needs conventional power generation as back-up. Cockenzie is now being dismantled and Longannet will follow soon, leaving two ageing nuclear generators and half a gas plant at Peterhead.

The National Grid has been forced to introduce an emergency scheme that pays large businesses to cut electricity usage; this had to be implemented last week and is paid for by further levies on our energy bills.

In addition, as a direct result of our chaotic energy policy, banks of polluting diesel generators have been put in place at costs of up to 50 times average power prices, again paid by consumers. It is estimated that the costs will be in the region of £463m, with emissions of several million tonnes of CO2 a year.

These subsidies also attract solar developers who are building diesel generation on their sites to maximise their returns, compounding costs to the consumer. Very recently, due to high winds causing extra energy production in excess of what the National Grid could take, Scottish wind farms have received more than £5million so-called 'constraint payments' paid for via a subsidy added to consumers' electricity bills. Older generation plants have been utilised to cope with the crisis.

**Subsidy cuts**  
Damage to the economy and job losses are banded about by the industry and repeated by politicians.

There is no detailed data on either alleged 'loss'. Would the money accrued by foreign developers stay in the country? Where is the hard, factual, economic evidence on jobs – in precisely which sector; full time/part time; which locations? How many jobs are lost in other

industries due to high electricity costs because of subsidies and green levies on bills, and the covert knock-on costs levied from one industry to another? Our steel industry is fighting for its very survival, due in large part to high energy costs, not just cheap Chinese steel.

Political parroting of wind industry figures is commonplace and yet Inverness-based Mackay Consultants revealed that electricity customers were ultimately billed for three times the amount required to help build them.

**Health effects**

Noise and water contamination: Despite peer reviewed reports of 73 health professional experts and acousticians worldwide, denials about adverse health impact evidence already in existence and emerging continues. Adverse effects are well documented by many eminent people around the world, including Mike Stigwood, whose ground-breaking research into amplitude modulation and other noise impacts on residents up to 10km from wind farms provides some of the strongest scientific evidence to date for the true environmental cost of wind farms (<http://scotlandagainstspin.org/2013/12/wind-farms-noise-sacrifice-rural-minorities-mike-stigwood/>). Effects are regularly reported at [www.waubra-foundation.org.au](http://www.waubra-foundation.org.au) and [www.wefn.org](http://www.wefn.org).

An alert was sent to the British Medical Association to help inform authorities and members of the medical profession about their role in public protection and human rights issues. See [www.windsforjustice.org.uk](http://www.windsforjustice.org.uk) for this and access to the Request for Action on wind power and water contamination issues.

The Australian Senate Inquiry this year listened to hours of testimony from witnesses who had been adversely affected by noise, and read hundreds of submissions before making hard-hitting recommendations.

**Safety**

If turbines are 'harmless', why are they being removed from school grounds due to potential danger to children and staff? As turbines become larger, so metal fatigue becomes a major issue, and close proximity to our roads becomes highly relevant. See submission 117 to the Australian Senate Inquiry on wind power [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Wind\\_Turbines/Committees/Senate/Wind\\_Turbines/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Wind_Turbines/Committees/Senate/Wind_Turbines/Submissions)

**Benefits/disbenefits**  
Targeted farming communities are mostly unaware of disbenefits. A report at <http://fairwindenergy.org/testimony.html> is one of many global examples.

Schools welcome the industry speaking about the technology's advantages. Is information ever



Christine Metcalfe and fellow wind farm campaigners.

given on adverse health, environmental or financial effects? Does anyone discuss children in China having to grow up in toxic villages to provide heavy metals for wind turbines and other equipment? Where is the balance in respect of what our children are led to believe?

A cross-party issue at the heart of all present and future needs should

be a beneficial energy policy for our country.

It is possible and necessary to retain basic ethics of supporting the wish to change damaging environmental behaviour, while accepting that it must be accompanied by a healthy scepticism on any emerging questionable dogma, or hijacking of original principles.

## CONCLUSION

For the electorate and people suffering from turbine impacts, inescapable facts remain. Those paid to represent us have no right to impose an energy policy that is harmful to our physical, mental or economic health or the environment in which we live. We, conversely, have a right to reject the rapid imposition of policies based largely upon weak/unproven theories, ideologies, or political expediency, which disproportionately benefit the few to the detriment of many.

As speculative wind power applications rise throughout Scotland, vested interests mask problems relating to energy production technologies which have the capacity, through excessive implementation, to cause the opposite effect. Before imposing an energy policy upon a population, claims relating to emission savings and benefits must be first proven - and that it is being done without inflicting actual or indirect harm. This includes full transparency of plans

and compliance with International Treaty legal obligations. If we do not insist that those in power act in our best interests via the rule of law and compliance with treaties involving human rights and aspects involved, we are risking a loss of democracy.

Scottish Government denials of adverse impacts upon tourism and visitor numbers, evidence of people suffering harm and of plummeting property prices, show an inability to accept that in reality all those things are happening.

'Wilful blindness' is an apt description of the status quo. Unbiased politicians unafraid to depart from party lines are few. If any exist with a capacity for serious research, will they please step forward to assist colleagues who don't.



# Farming

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## United Auctions sheep and cattle sale

SATURDAY November 14 saw United Auctions, Dalnally, sell 139 cattle and 794 sheep of all classes. Top prices per head:

**Bullocks:**  
7 Craigniech (Sim) £940;  
Duallin (SimX) £800; Ardbeg (Lim) £730; Claonaig (Ger) £690; Escart (Char) £600;  
Ardachuple (Sal) £590;  
Blackmount (Luing) £550.

**Heifers:**  
Duallin (Sim) £860;  
Ballygowan (SimX) £710;  
Ardbeg (LimX) £640;  
Ardachuple (Sal) £540; High Baltyntyre (LimX) £510.

**Top prices per kilo:**  
Bullocks:  
High Baltyntyre (LimX) 258p; Ardbeg (Lim) 255p;  
Otter Estate (Sim) 230p;  
Blackmount (Luing) 223p;  
Escart (Char) 220p.

**Heifers:**  
High Baltyntyre (LimX) 247p; Ardbeg (Lim) 227p;  
Knockderry (Sim) 226p

**Breeding cattle**  
In-calf stock cows  
Sim (Claonaig) £1,080;  
Claonaig (AA) £900;  
Claonaig (Luing) £860;  
Claonaig (Sh) £840.

**In-calf cows:**  
Brough (Lim) £880;  
Knockderry (Sim) £700.

**Sheep, per head:**  
Ardsheal (Suff) £55.50;  
Ledcharrie (Cross) £55;  
Alaval (Tex) £50.50;  
Ledcharrie (Mule) £50; 7  
White Gates (TexX) £49; 3  
Morvern Cresent (Chev)  
£49; Ledcharrie (BF) £49.50;  
Stronachullin (BF) £48.

**Sheep, per kilo:**  
Evanachan (Tex) 163p; Alaval (TexX) 151p; Alaval (Suff) 147p; 3 Morvern Cresent (Chev) 145p; Ledcharrie (BF) 148p.

**Ewes:**  
Bargullian (Chev) £59;  
Ardsheal (Cross) £59;  
Ardsheal (Mule) £49.50;  
Drinnin (BF) 42; Evanachan (BF) £41.

# AgriScot draws crowds despite farming challenges

MORE THAN 11,500 people attended last week's AgriScot event near Edinburgh.

The farm supports a flock of 780 Laing-type north country Cheviot ewes. Richard Blake from Thorntons Solicitors, judging the competition, said: 'Joyce and the Armadale team show fantastic community engagement including ongoing work with local schools and the Rural Skills programme. They have regular dialogue with multiple retailers resulting in the re-introduction of Scotch lamb on local shelves. Joyce herself is also active in encouraging the next generation to become actively involved in the farming operation and in showcasing the farm and the Scottish sheep sector to a national and international audience by way of social media.'

The Isle of Bute had success as an Ayrshire heifer won the interbreed 'Super Heifer' award. Bred by J McAlister and Sons, Bruchag Farm, Bruchag Talent Evelyn also won the championship at Bute Show earlier this year. Judging at the show in



Claire Simonetta with (left) rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead and Alec Ross of sponsors Biocell Agri.

Rothesay that day was Ayrshire farmer Gilmour Lawrie, who promptly bought a half share in the winning beast. Andrew Moir, AgriScot chairman, said: 'It has been very busy. There have been a lot of good vibes about the event and the seminars have been really pleasing, especially the one at which the cabinet

secretary, Richard Lochhead, spoke. I think there were more than 300 people at that seminar, keen to hear him speak about the forthcoming CAP reform. 'My gut feeling is that we have a similar, or greater, number of attendees as last year. The timing of AgriScot is perfect, given that most farmers can get away from the farm

at this time of year. Despite current challenges, farmers still want to come along and learn what's new in the industry and I'm particularly pleased to see so many younger farmers. Business is still being done - where there are difficulties, there will always be opportunities and that is what AgriScot is all about.'

## Harbon Wind Turbines: Powering the future energy needs of Highland an island communities

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POWERING THE FUTURE

## Disappointment for farmers as subsidy delayed

Payment targets missed by Scottish government

SCOTLAND'S farming union has slammed the government after subsidy payment targets were missed.

The Scottish Government announced last week that payments under the new basic payment scheme (BPS) are to be made in two instalments of 70 per cent and 30 per cent.

Just a quarter of Scottish farmers will, however, receive their first instalment by the end of December. The majority will receive their 70 per cent part-payment by the end of January and some will not receive the first tranche of BPS until the end of March.

The balance payment of 30 per cent is to be delivered to all farmers by the end of April, just a few weeks before Scotland's farmers and crofters will be expected to submit their claim forms for the 2016 scheme.

Mr Lochhead said: 'This is the first year of

the new CAP reform we are implementing and it's the biggest and most complex reform in a generation.

'There can be no doubt the three payment regions and coupled support schemes requested by industry - as well as the move to area-based payments required by Europe - have greatly added to our enormous administrative challenge but the message I always got was that this is a price worth paying to deliver a better policy for Scotland.

'My officials have been working extraordinarily hard to get us to this point and continue to work flat out ensure we can pay as much as possible to as many as possible as soon as we can.'

NFU Scotland president Allan Bowie said: 'For some considerable time, NFU Scotland has informed the industry that Scotland's traditional payment timetable would not be

met and now the cabinet secretary has come clean on what is likely to be delivered.

'NFU Scotland has been given a clear mandate by its membership that the only acceptable outcome for delivery of the new BPS was for at least 90 per cent of claimants to receive at least 90 per cent of their funding by mid-January 2016. With this announcement, we are a long way short of what farmers and crofters need and, given the hugely difficult year, disappointment in this timetable will be immense.

'Simply pointing to the complexity of the scheme as a reason for delays is a red herring. The Scottish Government made the necessary policy decisions 18 months ago. Other parts of the UK and other member states have coped with new schemes and complexity but Scotland's chosen delivery mechanism has not.'

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**Peugeot Convertible 307**



04, 2 litre petrol, long MOT, mileage 64,000. **£1275 o.n.o.**

Telephone 07515 105472

**Ford Galaxy Titanium-X 180 Diesel AUTO**



2011(11). 41,000 miles, beige leather, Sat NAV, panoramic sunroof, reversing camera, tyre sensors, Thule roofbox, MOT and Serviced in June 2015. NO advisories. Fort William. **£14,500**

07920 186507

**2009 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Titanium Diesel**



53,000 miles. Two careful owners. Excellent condition inside and out, first to see will buy. **£4,495 o.v.n.o.**

Contact 07545 548368

**Titanium X sport**



2.2 diesel 12 plate 30500 miles Full service history Excellent condition with loads of extras **£11,500 ono**

Please phone 07919150436 or 01770600678 if interested.

**WANTED**

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered.

Telephone: 07546 788945

**Mitsubishi L200 Pickup**



2002 only 61,678 miles alloy wheels. 10 months M.O.T. Hard top, towbar and liner. **£3,900 + vat o.n.o.**

01852 300203 07771920621

**2008 RENAULT KANGOO 1.5 DCI SL 170 VENTURE**



MOT May 2016, 89,000 miles, electric windows & mirrors, CD player, central locking, ABS, side loading door, metallic paint, very clean van, any inspection welcome. **£2,850 No VAT**

Telephone: 07990 974026

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DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM 16v (75bhp) 1149cc Petrol 5 door Mileage 43,250 F.S.H. Sat nav and air con Metallic blue Alloy wheels MOT Till June 2016. **£3900 o.n.o.**

01880 820 365

**Landrover Series 3 109**



2.6L petrol hardtop. 1979 with only 38,000 miles. Mot 08/16 Good runner. **£2800**

For more info call 01852314267

**2005 Ford Focus**



diesel, 1 years MOT **£1000**

01852 316226

**Toyota RAV4 T180 2.2dcat 4WD**



08 Reg 70k diesel, Metallic Flint, Dual air con, sunroof, full leather, sat nav, reversing camera, heated seats, etc 40mpg + full mot and serviced. **£8500 o.n.o.**

07889 959500

**Tudor Oxford static caravan**



35ft x 12ft. 3 bedrooms, separate living room, kitchen/dinning room, separate toilet and shower rooms. May suit new house builder. In Barcaldine area. Buyer to remove from site. **£1200**

Contact 01631 720519

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4x4's, all makes and models, also light commercials, vans, pick-ups bought, high miles no problems, MOT or not, instant decision, same day payment.

Telephone: William 07730 130284 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

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4x4s, Land Rover, double or single cab pickups, or any type of 4x4, any year or condition, will collect.

Telephone 07767 302294 or 01339 802522

**Renault Laguna**



1.7 petrol, 03 reg, 12 months MOT, 4 door hatch, metallic silver. Alloys, half leather, CD player, power steering, good condition for year, good mechanically, good on fuel. Cheap to insure. **£850 o.n.o.**

07554 571070

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16.5 feet with cuddy and top screen, forward steering position, fitted cockpit cover. Suzuki 25 horsepower 2 stroke outboard. Housed in boathouse when not in use. Very sound sea boat in good condition. Located on Loch Sunart. Trailer included. **£3000**

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**VW Beetle 2.0 2002**



1 owner, 80,000 miles 12 months MOT recent battery and exhaust. Amazing spec with heated leather Recaro seats. **£1,485**

01631 570241

**WANTED**

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan, any 4x4 considered non-runners, failures, single or double cab and accident damaged, MOT failure, genuine people to deal with.

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01586 552030 www.peugeot-campbeltown.co.uk

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2006 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI+ 3DR BLACK, 90,000 MILES, MOT AUGUST 2016, CLEAN LOCAL CAR, .....£1,675

2005 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI 3DR, SILVER, 68,000 MILES, MOT NOVEMBER 2016, .....£1,650

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01546 606272

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12 Renault Clio Exp +, 1.2, 3dr White, 18,250 miles.....£5,750

61 Renault Clio Dyn, 1.2, T/tom, 3Dr, Black, 17,350 miles.....£5,995

61 Renault Wind roadster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles .....£5,250

11 Renault Clio DYN, T/tom DCI Est 1.5, Blue, 52,500 miles.....£6,250

11 Peugeot 308 Access SW HDi Est, 1.5, Black, 46,000 Miles .....£6,250

09 Renault Clio DYN DCI 106, 3dr Blue 57,000 miles.....£3,950

56 Citroen Picasso 1.6DCI, silver, 44,000 miles.....£2,250

**COMMERCIALS**

12 Renault Kangoo in White, Choice of 2.....£5,500+VAT

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60 Vauxhall Vivara DCI Van .....£7,000 plus VAT

08 Renault Master SWB, White .....£6,000+VAT

04 Nissan Kubistar Diesel .....£1,500

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Dacia Duster = from £9,495\*

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Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate Tce 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

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As we enter a new era, we are looking for a dynamic individual to join our fantastic team, who will engage with our customers in the communities that we serve and possess the skills and personality to be a conversation starter, good listener and creative thinker.

Whilst experience in this field is preferred, it is more important that the newest member of our team has drive, ambition, a positive attitude and the desire to learn, develop and advance in their career.

If this sounds like you then we would love to hear from you. We offer full training and support, excellent rates of pay, a pleasant working environment and all the benefits associated with a major employer in the West of Scotland.

A full driving licence is essential. **Closing date: Friday 4th December.**

In the first instance, please email your CV

to Fiona Bennett, HR Manager at

fiona@wyvexmedia.co.uk or call

Nicky Murphy, Advertising Director (Designate)

for an initial discussion on 01631 568000



## Applications are invited for the following post: - DEPOT OPERATOR – CONNELL DEPOT

Gleaner Oils Limited requires an individual to primarily carry out the function of planning and routing fuel deliveries throughout Argyll area. Experience in processing customer orders through to delivery would be advantageous although training will be provided.

Stock control, assisting with general depot maintenance, scheduling vehicle maintenance and, from time to time, undertaking delivery of packed goods locally will also form part of this role's remit therefore a full car driving licence is essential.

Preference will be given to an applicant who has an understanding of Health & Safety, is flexible, adaptable with a can do attitude. The position is full time 40 hours per week with a requirement for flexibility on occasion.

Please send your application in writing together with a C.V. (including present salary details) to: -

The HR Dept, Gleaner Oils Ltd, Milnfield, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1UU

Or By e-mail to: hr@gleaner.co.uk



## Aqua Pharma

### Technical Support Manager – Marine Aquaculture

Aqua Pharma is a rapidly growing specialist service provider for the international Atlantic salmon farming industry. We have a vacancy for a Technical Support Manager based in Scotland to support our customers on the West Coast of Scotland & Northern Isles as well as a supporting role in North America & Ireland amongst others.

You will have extensive practical experience of marine bath treatments at supervisory/management level with a sound knowledge of the biology involved. Ideally you will be educated to degree level but, more important, will be your cage management & husbandry skills, your customer focus, and your drive to provide a continuously high standard of service.

Our working culture will suit you if you are self-motivated & enjoy working as part of a small team with varied skill-sets & a shared determination to succeed. You will possess an ability to make decisions within a flat & informal management structure. You will also be willing to travel both nationally and internationally to meet customers requirements and hold a valid UK driving licence.

In return we offer a competitive salary & we will encourage you to develop your skills & fulfill your potential. Some flexibility in your hours of work is possible.

Please send a brief CV together with a short email explaining why you are interested in this position to Pam Lynas at pam@aquatic.as by 4 December.

### RETAIL ASSISTANT



Harbro Limited is one of the UK's leading animal feed manufacturers. The company's core business is the supply of livestock feed plus a retail division of 18 Country Stores.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated individual to join the team at our Lochgilphead Country Store. Working hours will be a minimum of 30 hours per week from 8.00am to 2.00pm with flexibility to work additional hours as required.

Applicants must be over 18 years of age and have good communication skills and a pleasant manner. An agricultural background would be an advantage.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter for the attention of Catriona Crawford, Store Manager, Harbro Ltd, 14 Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR.

Closing date: 11th December, 2015

### HGV Class 1 Driver for beer deliveries in Argyll

Top rate of pay, position available due to retirement, no long distance, deliveries in Argyll, flat available if required, 40 hour week. £12 per hour.

Apply Argyll Haulage, Oban.

Telephone 01631 710756, mobile 07887771229.

### Oban Times RECRUITMENT



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Ian Stark

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### Caledonian MacBrayne

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

### Duty Piermaster

Oban

40 hours per week

Rate of Pay £9.49 per hour

Ref 781-SB

Applications are invited for the position of Duty Piermaster based at the Oban Ferry Terminal.

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include:

- Supervision of Pier staff.
- Berthing of fishing fleet, coasters, liners, yachts, etc.
- The collection of all berthing dues.
- The collection of all fish landing dues.
- The cleanliness of large gangway (on a daily basis), and office area up to barrier.
- The cleanliness of the pier.
- Assisting with passenger queuing during peak times.
- Controlling all vehicle parking on pier.
- Carrying out any other duties required by the Port Manager.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working, as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 781-SB no later than 6 December 2015 to:

e-mail: vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk, or:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited

Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP

t: 01475 650144

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

### Scottish autism

West of Scotland Area Services – Outreach Autism Practitioner Permanent Part-time (16 hours per week) £14,718 - £15,392 pro rata Reference: SA/268

We have exciting opportunities within our Outreach Services for an enthusiastic and committed Autism Practitioner with an interest in developing a career working with individuals on the Autism Spectrum.

To download an application form or for more information please visit our website www.scottishautism.org

Closing Date: 03 December 2015

### Scottish autism

West of Scotland Area Services – Oban Saturday Club Autism Support Workers Casual Opportunities also available £14,718 - £15,392 pro rata £7.73 per hour for Casual Reference: SA/267

We have exciting opportunities within our Saturday Club for enthusiastic and committed Support Workers with an interest in developing a career working with individuals on the Autism Spectrum.

To download an application form or for more information please visit our website www.scottishautism.org

Closing Date: 03 December 2015

### Oban Times RECRUITMENT

### Oban Times RECRUITMENT



### Community Support Assistant - 2 posts

(1) Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig – 17.5 hours per week, Monday – Friday 9am to 12.30 pm Salary - £8,548.50 - £9,444.50 per annum

(2) McCracken Court, Lochgilphead – 10 hours per week, Monday – Friday 2 pm – 4 pm Salary - £4,885 - £5,397 per annum

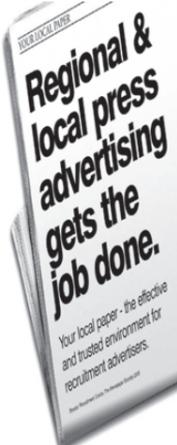
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 11th December 2015

Interviews for these posts will be held on 17th December 2015

This post will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland PVG check.

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk



**The Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A828 TRUNK ROAD (CREAGAN TO PORTNACROISH) (40MPH AND 50MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984(a) which will have the effect of imposing a 40mph and 50 mph speed limit on the following lengths of road:

**50mph Speed Limit**

1. That length of the A828 Connel - South Ballachulish Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map co-ordinates 193787,746400) 217 metres or thereby north of the extended centreline of its junction with the C27 Tynribbie - Port Appin road in a northwesterly direction to a point (at Ordnance Map co-ordinates 193276,746915) 510 metres or thereby north west of the extended centre line of its junction with the U112 Glenstockdale Road, a distance of 760 metres or thereby.
2. That length of the A828 Connel - South Ballachulish Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 197693,744631) 35 metres or thereby south west of the centre of the roundabout at Creagan, north of Loch Creran, to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 193991,745812) 473 metres or thereby south east of the extended centreline of its junction with the C27 Tynribbie - Port Appin Road, a distance of 4.096 kilometres or thereby.

**40mph Speed Limit**

3. That length of the A828 Connel - South Ballachulish Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map co-ordinates 193276,746915) 510 metres or thereby north west of the extended centre line of its junction with the U112 Glenstockdale Road, in a northwesterly direction to a point (at Ordnance map co-ordinates 192567,747700) 1.75 kilometres or thereby north west of the extended centre line of its junction with the U112 Glenstockdale Road, a distance of 1.24 kilometres or thereby.
4. That length of the A828 Connel - South Ballachulish Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map co-ordinates 193991,745812) 473 metres or thereby south east of the extended centre line of its junction with the C27 Tynribbie - Port Appin Road in a northwesterly direction to a point (at Ordnance Map co-ordinates 193787,746400) 217 metres or thereby north of the extended centre line of its junction with the C27 Tynribbie - Port Appin Road, a distance of 690 metres or thereby.

Full details of the proposal, copies of the Orders to be revoked together with a plan showing the lengths of road involved, and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from Thursday 26th November 2015 until Thursday 7th January 2016 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF and Port Appin Post Office, Port Appin Community Co-op, Port Appin, Argyll, PA38 4DE

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Karl McAreevey, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A828/KMC by Thursday 7th January 2016.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/north-west-traffic-orders>

**S LEES**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/03706/FUL	Macaachan & Carr Boat Builders, Toigal, Morar, Mallaig	Erection of single dwelling and self catering unit
15/03919/FUL	Post Office, Leven Road, Kinlochleven	Alterations and change of use to dwelling
15/04022/FUL	The Rowans, Heron Bay, Fort William	Renewal of planning permission 12/03560/FUL
15/04164/FUL	West Highland Hotel, Mallaig	Proposed biomass boiler and associated plant installation
15/04170/FUL	Land 60M NW of Unit 5, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William	Installation of DSLAM cabinet
15/04188/FUL	Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe, Ballachulish	New building to provide hostel accommodation with 30 bed-spaces

**Time period for comments is 14 days, 15/04188/FUL is 21 days**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [elanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:elanning@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**  
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02731/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and associated shed	Land South East of Sunny Brae, Balesphuil Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UE	Tiree Area Office
15/02994/PP	Erection of meteorological mast up to 80m in height for a temporary period of 36 months	Mast 1 Land Approx 850 Metres South West of Loch A Mhin Inveriever Forest Dalavich Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuait
15/02995/PP	Erection of meteorological mast up to 80m in height for a temporary period of 36 months	Mast 2 Land North West of Arichamish Inveriever Forest Dalavich Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuait
15/02996/PP	Erection of meteorological mast up to 80m in height for a temporary period of 36 months	Mast 3 Land Approx 700 Metres South West of Cam Loch Inveriever Forest Dalavich Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Tainuait
15/03081/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land North of Achavach Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
15/03117/PP	Change of use of dwellinghouse to house of multiple occupation	Autumn House Tainuait Argyll and Bute PA35 1UN	Sub Post Office Tainuait

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/03040/PP	Alterations and addition of first floor to existing extension	17 Breadalbane Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PD	Tobermory Area Office

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2015**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION UNDER REGULATION 6, 7 OR 8**

An application for hazardous substances consent together with plans and other documents has been submitted by:

Applicant: Bruichladdich Distillery Company Limited  
Agent: SLR Consulting Ltd  
Reference: 15/02178/HSZCON  
Proposal: Application for Hazard Substances Consent to permit the storage of liquid Ethanol and fuel oil (in relation to the existing Bruichladdich Distillery site)  
Address: Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle Of Ilay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN

may be inspected at:  
Planning and Regulatory Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgiphead PA31 8RD or at the Sub Post Office Port Charlotte during normal opening times. Plans can also be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) between the hours of:  
9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm Monday to Friday. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am.  
Written representations (including comments or questions) may be submitted to Planning and Regulatory Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgiphead PA31 8RD by 17.12.2015.

The application may be granted (either unconditionally or subject to conditions) or refused.

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgiphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://elanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgiphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**CROFTING COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD  
DECROFTING APPLICATION**

A Cameron  
80 & 85 Portuairk, The Bungalow, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
0.226 ha - Existing house site  
4.86.61694

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED**

A J Maclean  
21 Reef Enig 29 Bal-liphetrish, Tiree  
0.169 ha - Croft house site and garden ground  
4.85.58784

Conditions: 3b, 4

(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:  
(b) the proposed development completion

(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

**CROFTING COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD  
FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS**

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Heylpol Common Grazings, Tiree  
Registration Number: CG199

Balesphetrish Special Common Grazings, Tiree  
Registration Number: CG200

Kirkapoll Common Grazings, Tiree  
Registration Number: CG201

Balesphuil Common Grazings, Tiree  
Registration Number: CG202

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home)

**CROFTING COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD  
RECTIFICATION OF FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS**

The Crofting Commission have submitted a rectification since the registration of the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Shielfoot Common Grazings, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
Registration Number: CG140

Reason for rectification: To include Shielbridge Estate as land and to amend the boundary to exclude a number of properties previously included in error.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home)

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**Application for Apportionment  
Kilchoan Common Grazings**

James D MacMillan East Durran Castletown intends to lodge an application for an apportionment of approximately 4.25ha for the purpose of an Agricultural building, A dwelling house and grazings area.

Hugh MacLachlan Grazing Clerk Ben Seilg Kilchoan has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

Any comments on the application should be lodged with the crofting commission Great Glen House Leachkin Road Inverness IV3 8NW before 24/12/15.

**Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share**

Mr Steven MacLeod is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazings share pertaining to the croft at 16 Clovulin to Mr Shaun Corrigan of Monadh Dubh, Keil, Ardgour, By Fort William, PH33 7AH.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mrs Helen Catherine McDonnell has registered the croft Earsnaig, Glenelg on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 2 August, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C1893.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**First Registration of a Croft**

Dr William Lindsay has registered the croft Achnacroish, Kilbrandon and Kilchattan on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 04/08/2016. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C1921.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Notice of first registration of croft**

Mrs Claire Fletcher has registered their croft known as 15 & 16 Lorgbaw, Kilchoman on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 26th July 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C1854.

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Jessie Scott

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**BIRTHS**

**McKECHNIE** - Allan and Kerryanne (née MacAra) are delighted to announce the arrival of Noah Innes on November 9, 2015. Already a much loved little brother for Ellie-Mae and treasured son, grandson, great-grandson and nephew.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**BROWN - THOMSON** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Rory, son of Campbell and Janet Brown, Glasgow and grandson of the late Lachlan and Annie Brown, Crossapoll, Tiree and Eilidh and the late John MacPhail, Sonachan, Kilchoan, to Danielle, daughter of John and Catherine Thomson, Glasgow.

**MARRIAGES**

**WATSON - BULLOCK** - At Waypoint Bar and Grill, Kerrera on September 5, 2015. Freya Alison and Ruby Joni would like to announce the marriage of their parents, Gillian Helen daughter of James and Alison to Colin son of Alistair and Joan.

**DEATHS**

**CLARK** - Suddenly at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on November 21, 2015, in her 91st year, Dorothy, beloved wife of the late Peter Rae Clark, dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

**HAYES** - Suddenly at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow on November 3, 2015, William Martin Hayes aged 82 years. Sadly missed.

**MACDONALD** - Suddenly at the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on November 22, 2015, in his 80th year, Angus MacDonald (Angie) formerly of Arisaig, beloved husband of Winnie, loving dad and grandpa.

**MACINNES** - Peacefully after a short illness on November 16, 2015 in North Tyneside General Hospital, Mabel MacInnes (née Foster), aged 93 years, formerly of Ardven, Glencoe, much loved wife of the late Alistair, beloved mother of Iain, Margaret and Sheena, grandmother of Alasdair, Polly and Donald and mother-in-law of John and Andy.

**MACNEILL** - Peacefully at home in Ardbeg, Jean, aged 77 yrs, beloved wife of late Donnie and much loved mother and mother-in-law of Alasdair and Donnie, Linda and Fiona, and dearly loved granny of Emma. Greatly missed by all. Funeral service in St John's Church, Port Ellen, Islay on Saturday November 28, 2015 at 11.30am followed by interment in Bowmore Cemetery.

**MATTHEWS** - (née Pearson). Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital on Sunday November 22, 2015. Pearl, beloved wife of the late Bill Matthews much loved mother of Billy, a good neighbour and dear friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

**McALLISTER** - At the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow on November 18, 2015 Jean, wife of the late Johnny. Loved mum to Sheena and Kate and granny to Ed, Hannah, Kerry, Sean and Stephen. Funeral will take place today (Thursday) on the Island of Colonsay.

**PATON** - Robert. Peacefully at Eastbank Care Home, Glasgow, on Sunday November 22, 2015, Bob, dearly loved brother of Tommy and the late Billy (Australia) and a very dear uncle who will be very sadly missed. Funeral service at Daldowie Crematorium Broomhouse, Glasgow (G71 7RU) on Tuesday December 1 at 1pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Any enquiries to Co-Operative Funeral Care on 0141 778 3028.

**POVEY** - Suddenly at home on Thursday November 19, 2015, aged 58 years, Stephen John Povey, dear husband to Beata, much loved dad to Ryan, Owen, Oliver, Stephen, Peter and Bartek, a loving grampa and beloved brother.

**TAYLOR** - Tragically, on November 15, 2015, Craig Dixon Taylor, aged 21 years, of Barsloisnach Farm, Poltalloch, Kilmartin, loving son of Sheila MacCallum, née Dixon, and Grant Taylor, a much loved brother and grandson, and a dear nephew and cousin to all the family. A good friend and former work colleague to many. Proposed date for funeral service is Tuesday, December 1 at 12.00 noon, at Kilmartin Church and Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations to Mid Argyll Agricultural Society (Show Gate Fund).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CAMERON** - Ian, Daniel, Jamie and Lewis would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kind words, cards and flowers following the sad loss of Christine. Thanks also for the generous donations of £1,685 for Macmillan Cancer Care. Thanks to the doctors and nurses of Ward 1, Lorn and Islands Hospital and Rev. Dugald Cameron.

**MUIR** - Alan, Carole and Andrew wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, sympathy and support since Isabel's passing. Thank you to Rev Dr Adrian Varwell for the lovely service. Grateful thanks to the wonderful Community Health Care Team in Lochaber, especially Tweeddale Medical Practice, Belford Hospital - particularly Dr Patrick Byrne and staff, Macmillan Nurses, Handyperson Service, the District Nurse Team - with special thanks to Ronald MacKenzie for his support, and also Raigmore Hospital Ward 7A, especially Dr S Evans and Staff. Our thanks also to John McLellan & Co Ltd for their sympathetic handling of Isabel's funeral arrangements and to all who attended and generously donated £250 to the District Nurse Team - with special thanks to Ronald MacKenzie for his support, and also Raigmore Hospital Ward 7A, especially Dr S Evans and Staff. Our thanks also to John McLellan & Co Ltd for their sympathetic handling of Isabel's funeral arrangements and to all who attended and generously donated £250 to the District Nurse Team - with special thanks to Ronald MacKenzie for his support, and also Raigmore Hospital Ward 7A, especially Dr S Evans and Staff.

**PARKER** - On the death of Malcolm Parker (November 3). We his family would like to thank everyone who supported us in this difficult time, thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron. Thank you for the floral tributes and cards. To the staff and management of the Regent Hotel for the catering and to D&A Munn for all their help and to all the medical team at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. We raised £98.00 for (ABCD) unit. From his wife Irene and all family members.

**PARKER** - On the death of Malcolm Parker (November 3). We his family would like to thank everyone who supported us in this difficult time, thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron. Thank you for the floral tributes and cards. To the staff and management of the Regent Hotel for the catering and to D&A Munn for all their help and to all the medical team at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. We raised £98.00 for (ABCD) unit. From his wife Irene and all family members.

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**MEMORIALS**

**CARMODY** - Fondlest memories of our dearest Auntie Ina, who passed away November 29, 2014. She touched the lives of those around her. And will always hold a special place in our hearts. - Love Anna, Ewan, Violet and Nigel.

**CROOKS** - Vera Grace. Precious memories of a loving mum and nana, sorely missed and always in our thoughts. All our love. - Kirsten, DJ, wee DJ, Jamie and Amy xxx

**GRACIE** - Precious memories of a much loved husband, dad and papi, died November 28, 2014. Miss you so much. - Margaret, Moreen, Sandra and families.

**NICOL** - In loving memory of a beloved son Gavin William who passed away on November 23, 2010. Loved and remembered always. Forever in our hearts. - Mum, Jimmy and Chloe.

**MACDOUGALL** - Gregor, died November 17, 2014. Precious memories of a dear brother and uncle. Forever in our hearts and thoughts. - Duggie, Mary and family.

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of a dear mum and nana Nancy, passed away November 25, 2005. Forever loved and missed. - Mairi, Donald and Sarah xxx.

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of my dear wife Ina, who passed away on November 28, 2010. No tears, no verse, no words can say. How much I miss you every day. - Love Roddy xx

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of a dear mum and granny Ian, who passed away on November 28, 2010. The hands of time keep turning and years slip away but memories are the keepsake no-one can take away. Always remembered. - Love Fiona, Brian and Euan xx Kevan, Claire and Ellie xx Joanne x

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**LIFE lines**

**Teenager's brains**

I have a teenager. She is the most adorable, beautiful, understanding polite child and I love her so much.

But then she will take on the mantle of the Wicked Witch of the West all of a sudden. She will become intolerable - unable to speak to me, desperate to get out of my sight.

I wonder if it is drugs, or alcohol or maybe even just lack of sleep. My husband tells me it is more to do with the chemicals in her brain and that I should try to understand that.

I do. I remember how it feels. When you haven't quite gotten used to your body, or the way it looks, or how to dress.

The feeling that I would much rather have played with Lego than hang about outside the chip shop to meet boys. But to the chip shop I would go, because otherwise I would have been different. No one really wants to be different as a teenager, or an adult for that matter.

It is not easy being young (it never was), I dread to think what my Facebook feed would have revealed to me after a night out with my friends.

There is no advice here. I am as in the dark as my daughter is. For me it is about being a mum of a teenager whose hormones are running wild. All I can do is love her to the best of my ability.

Anne Maxwell

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather, who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts. - Families in Inveraray and Canada.

**MACKECHNIE** - Treasured memories of Iain our much loved husband, dad, grandad, papa and great-grandad, who died November 20, 2011. Another year since you left us. Your presence we miss so much. And as we go where life leads us. Our memories of you will always be kept. In our thoughts and forever in our hearts - Betty, David, Marina, Agnes and all your grandchildren and great-grandchildren xx

**MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of William MacKenzie, who passed away on November 29, 2008. Forever in our thoughts. - Neileen and family.

**MACQUEEN** - Colin. In loving memory of our dear dad who was lost at sea, November 30, 1990. Love and miss you always. - Yvonne, Richard and Michael

**MURRAY** - Treasured memories of George who died November 30, 2001, dear husband, father, grand-dad and great grand-dad. Always in our thoughts. - Love always Kathleen, Kathleen, the late John, Neil, Martin, Catherine and family.

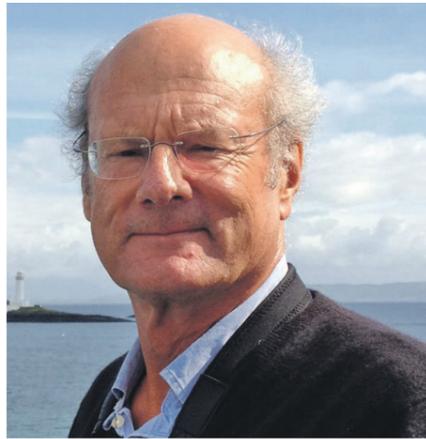
**NICOL** - In loving memory of a beloved son Gavin William who passed away on November 23, 2010. Loved and remembered always. Forever in our hearts. - Mum, Jimmy and Chloe

**NEWELL** - Flora (Lily) fell asleep November 29, 2011. Very much missed but will be with me always and forever. - Ralph.

**YEOMAN** - In loving memory of a much loved wife, mother and nan, Chrissie, who died November 28, 2014. We miss you as we waken to face each brand new day. We miss you as the sun goes down and quietly slips away. - Inserted by Hamish, Tommy and all the family.

**Obituary - Guy Mace**

1950 - 2015



**HIGHLY RESPECTED: Guy Mace, pioneering leader in the aquaculture industry.**

**GUY MACE**, a hugely admired, pioneering leader in the aquaculture industry, died peacefully at the home he shared with his wife Lesley at Kilconquhar in Fife on November 16.

Guy Whitmore Mace, one of three brothers, was born in 1950 in London and spent his early years around Lambourn where his father, John Mace, was a partner in a veterinary practice. In mid-career his father decided to study fish diseases in the USA before returning initially to join the White Fish Authority (which later became the Seafood Industry Authority) and then to food and supermarket group Fitch Lovell, where he formed a fish farming subsidiary called Golden Sea Produce (GSP). Meantime Guy had left Kings School, Bruton to study Botany and Zoology at London University (1969-72), followed by an aquaculture MSc at Stirling University. Guy needed no persuasion to join his father at GSP and started by building a hatchery at Ardtaraig (Argyll), where in the winter of 1973 the first batch of wild salmon eggs were hatched and reared to produce salmon smolts, which were transferred to establish a salmon farm on Loch Striven. Sadly in 1978 Guy's father died and Guy (aged 28) took

over to run GSP. Following on from this, GSP's focus moved further north with more hatcheries and sea farms being established on the Scottish west coast, creating much-needed employment in remote rural Highland and island communities. Guy's ambitions did not stop at salmon production and under his leadership Fitch Lovell bought Scotland's first and only shellfish hatchery, Scottish Sea Farms at South Shian, near Oban. The hatchery was also used to rear larvae for an innovative marine fish farm at Hunterston, which he developed using warm water from the adjacent nuclear power station, successfully rearing four species (turbot, Dover sole, halibut and sea bass).

In 1983, Fitch Lovell decided to sell GSP to the Norwegian conglomerate, Norsk Hydro, who invested heavily in the business, with Guy continuing as MD until 2000. Many new salmon seawater and freshwater farms were set up, and sites acquired, so that under its new name Hydro GSP was the second largest salmon farming company after Marine Harvest. Guy also decided to internationalise their turbot hatchery expertise, resulting in a joint venture (Prodeman) between Norsk Hydro and

the Bank of Bilbao, in order to rear turbot in shore-based tanks in Galicia, north west Spain (unfortunately the first turbot crop were part-albino, which proved a little ahead of their time when it came to the Spanish market, but this venture is now the largest of its kind in the world albeit under different Norwegian owners). As if that was not enough, Guy Mace with his father and brother was instrumental in setting up the first Sealife Centre aquarium close to the holiday town of Oban. The Sealife Centre was a successful tourist business, but didn't fit with Norsk Hydro's plans for aquaculture, and was sold in 1987, - it is still going strong and today 'Sea Life' is the world's largest aquarium chain. In 1999 Guy and Lesley acquired the Sea Life Centre in St Andrews and re-opened as an independent aquarium which is known as St Andrew's Aquarium and managed by Guy's eldest son John.

In 2004 Guy took over as MD of BioMar in Grangemouth, the UK subsidiary of the Danish-owned fish feed company BioMar, and he consolidated its strong position supplying feed to Scottish salmon farms. Guy retired as MD in June 2015 while staying on as a BioMar board member; he had been suffering from increasingly poor health over the past two years and it's a tragedy that he did not live to enjoy a richly deserved retirement.

As well as his unrivalled practical experience and vision in developing the Scottish aquaculture industry, Guy Mace will be fondly remembered for his energy, enthusiasm and good humour. He was a natural leader and a popular friend and mentor to so many young fish farmers and colleagues. In addition Guy was a passionate sailor, who sailed many oceans and along the way he admired the wildlife which he so adored. Our thoughts are very much with Guy's devoted wife Lesley and their grown-up children, John, James and Clare, and the grandchildren, Lily and Hugo. LM

**Thought for the week** "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:1)

I have never liked getting up on dark winter mornings and we are rapidly approaching the shortest day of winter when there is far more darkness than daylight. The same can be said about the world in which we live where there is so much darkness that seems to extinguish the light. The apostle John tells us that "men love darkness instead of light because their deeds are evil." (John 3:19) But John also tells us that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever

follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) He assures us that, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never be able to overcome it." (John 1:5) It will soon be the season of Advent when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas time. It is in the birth of Jesus Christ that the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled. He is the one who reveals the great light of the glory of God

so that our darkness can be dispelled. If you are walking in darkness look to Jesus in faith. Trust in his promise that those who believe in him find forgiveness of sin and eternal life. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from all sin."

Rev. George Cringles  
Minister of Coll with Connel Church of Scotland.

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& West Highland Times  
**THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL**



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Golden Charter Award Winner

**GRADUATION**

**Eilidh May MacLeod**  
graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a BSc Honours in Occupational Therapy. Eilidh is the daughter of Gordon and Sandra MacLeod, Alva (formerly Benderloch and Connel) and Granddaughter of the late Alex and Sheila Mackay, and of Ken and Ann MacLeod, North Connel

**WEDDINGS**

**Andrews - Navarro**  
Mark Andrews and Helen Navarro were married in Glen Nevis on August 15th and afterwards a lovely reception was held at the family home in Spean Bridge.

# Last minute goal denies Saints away win against Goldenhill

Goldenhill	4
Oban Saints	4
SAFL Premier Division	

SAINTS somehow contrived to snatch a draw from the jaws of victory in an enthralling match at Clydebank High School last Saturday afternoon. Despite being a goal ahead and two men to the good with only 10 minutes remaining, Saints couldn't see the match out and conceded a cheap headed last minute equaliser giving the home side an unlikely but deserved share of the points.

Goldenhill started the stronger of the two sides and had Saints pinned back in their own half during the opening exchanges without really threatening the Saints back four too much.

The visitors opened the scoring in the 12th minute when an excellently struck Donald Campbell shot from the corner of the 18-yard box brought out a terrific diving save from Scott Rennie low down to his right.

Unfortunately for the Gowdie the big keeper could only parry the ball into the path of Ross Maitland who coolly picked out Craig MacEwan on the six-yard line with MacEwan tucking the ball into the net.

### Frustration

In the 25th minute MacEwan came the width of the post away from doubling his tally. Maitland made a good run forward on the Saints left and delivered a tempting cross which MacEwan did well to head goalwards, however, much to the frustration of the Saints contingent on the touchline, the ball struck the inside of the post and dropped into the grateful arms of keeper Scott Rennie.

Saints' second goal came in the 35th minute with the two holding midfielders, Willie Gemmell and Paul Kerr, combining for a rare goal for Paul. Gemmell sent a perfect delivery from the

left towards the back post where Kerr had made a late run to send a sensational header back across the goalkeeper and into the top corner of the net.

Saints ended the first half seemingly well in control of the match but looking back ruefully on the missed chances which could have seen them already out of sight.

Saints didn't have long to enjoy their lead as it was wiped out in a blistering start to the second half from the home side. In the opening minute, Saints conceded possession from their own throw-in on the left. Daniel Gibson raced into the inside right channel past a statuesque Saints defence and squared for James Gallagher to tap in at the back post.

Barely 60 seconds later the Gowdie drew level when Gibson pounced on a speculative ball over the top splitting David McArthur and Dene Cassells.

The Gowdie winger fired in a low shot which Thomas McCulloch got both hands to but couldn't keep out low down at his near post.

The home side completed the turnaround in the 53rd minute when a deep cross from their left was nodded down at the back post by Daniel McKenna into the path of the unmarked James Gallagher to complete his hat-trick with a sweet right foot finish past the helpless McCulloch.

Despite this set back Saints refused to let their heads drop and came close almost immediately when Dean Smith made good progress to the dead ball line and sent a tempting cut back which agonisingly bisected the runs of MacEwan and Campbell in the centre.

In the 57th minute Gemmell stung the palms of Scott Rennie with a rasping long range effort which the big keeper did well to hold with Smith waiting to pounce on any handling error.

The Gowdie had adopted a higher defensive line in the



DRAW: Dean Smith, No 9, fires Saints into a 4-3 lead after Goldenhill keeper Scott Rennie fails to hold a Willie Gemmell thunderbolt. Match report and photo: Derek Black

second half and after a couple of tight calls from Mr Hay, Saints finally sprung the home side's offside trap with a perfectly timed MacEwan run onto a David McArthur through ball. MacEwan drew the keeper and squared to Maitland for a simple tap-in to restore parity.

Barely a minute later, Saints hit the woodwork for the second time when Maitland got on the end of a Kerr pass and hit the inside of the post with the ball being scrambled behind for a corner kick.

Maitland flighted in an excellent ball from the Saints left which eluded everyone in the centre but was well controlled by Cassells at the back post, who turned and fired in a shot which was blocked on the goal-line and hoofed to safety.

### Curling pass

Saints got their noses back in front in the 75th minute by once again springing the Gowdie offside trap. Gemmell began the move with a delicious curling

pass setting Maitland off on a run in the inside left channel. Maitland won the foot race with the Gowdie full back Steven Dock and cut the ball back to Gemmell, who thundered in a fierce right foot shot which this time was too hot for the keeper to handle and the ball broke loose to Smith, six yards out, who eagerly gobbled up the opportunity to restore the lead for Saints.

The home side momentarily lost their heads with substitute striker Chris McGrath receiving a straight red card for aiming a kick at Jamie Graham and defender Jack Bennett picking up a second yellow for a petulant kick at Smith as he lay on the ground having been brought down on the half way line.

With the match seemingly safe, manager Alex Craik made a couple of changes replacing Maitland and Smith with Shaun MacIver and Allan Mackay.

With the clock ticking down and the killer fifth goal eluding them Saints seemed to panic

and dropped deeper and deeper inviting the nine men of Goldenhill onto them. A succession of needless fouls gave the Gowdie the chance to launch long balls into the box which, although Saints managed to deal with their failure to fully clear their lines meant the ball kept coming straight back.

### Inevitability

It was, therefore, with a large dose of inevitability that the home side equalised in the 89th minute from a long throw on the Saints right level with the 18-yard line.

The Gowdie piled everybody into the box for the long throw and Damon Gray looped a free header beyond McCulloch and into the net for an equaliser for which Saints have only themselves to blame.

At the outset a share of the points against an impressive Goldenhill side on a 10-match winning streak would not have been a bad result but the manner in which the late equaliser was

### Football

conceded against nine men leaves the result feeling more like a defeat than a draw.

Manager Craik was gutted at the result.

He said: 'We played really well against a good Goldenhill team. I've got no complaints about that. However, the start of the second half was a disaster, losing two poor goals.'

'We battled back into the game and when they went down to nine men we should have been experienced enough to run down the clock but we invited them on to us and we failed to clear our lines properly on a number of occasions and the inevitable happened.'

Saints will be hoping to return to winning ways on Saturday when they take on Finnart in a premier division league game.

The match will take place at the Oban Community 3G Pitch with a 2pm kick-off.

## Common skate caught at Loch Etive

### Fishing

THE HIGHLIGHT of Loch Fyne Sea Angling Club's recent outing at Loch Etive was a young common skate caught by Ardrishaig's Steven MacBrayne.

A member of Loch Fyne SAC, Steven was one of eight anglers taking part in the monthly boat competition when he hauled in a 10lb 9oz skate.

Not a record breaker by any means, but the first landed aboard the charter boat Laura Dawn II indicating there are common skate breeding in or around Loch Etive.

Despite the heavy rain and wintry conditions, fishing in general was good with six species including common skate, spurs, thorn back ray, pouting, whiting and dogfish boosting the scoresheet.

Fish tally came to 158 at the end of the day and the angler who accrued the most points was Scott Rankin, with 36 fish (123pts) closely followed by Willie Shaw, 35 fish (118 pts), and then Mike Thompson, 21 fish (80 pts).



CATCH: Steven MacBrayne with his 10lb 9oz skate.



SILVERWARE: Glencairn Golf Club held its annual prize-giving recently. Above are the major trophy winners.

## Dalmally Golf Club hands out the prizes

PRIDE of place at Dalmally Golf Club's annual prize-giving went to the club's blossoming junior section, who were attending for the first time. From left to right in the front row proudly displaying their achievements are: Sam Brighty, Kieran Brighty, Jake Campbell, Craig Rankin and Ruairidh Rankin.

Other prizewinners for 2015: Ladies - Colleen Brown, Tyndrum Trophy (with Ann Colthart); Etive Brown, Four Seasons Salver, Duriehill Rosebowl, SLGA Brooch, Bronze Medal; Janet Buchanan, Linsay Trophy (with Ann Munro); Ann Colthart, Tyndrum Trophy (with Colleen Brown); Alison Livingstone, Thistle Brooch, Two Clubs and Putter; Lily McKay, Raglan Decanter, Sutherland Cup Scratch Championship, Silver Medal, Kilchurn Matchplay, Birdie Tree; Ann Munro, Simmers Quaich, Lora House Cup, Braigh Quaich, Fourball Betterball (with Janet Buchanan), Millennium Salver Handicap Championship, LGU Brooch; June Sutherland, Best 33-36 Handicapper; Sheila Tollan, Highland Heritage Cup.

Gents - Gerry Davies, MacIntyre Greensomes (with Shaun Squire), Club Championship,

Doubles Strokeplay (with Shaun Squire), Leisuresport Trophy, Strathorchy Trophy; Tommy Gibson: Seniors Championship; Jim Livingstone, Handicap Championship, McLure Cup, Nine Hole Stableford League, Singles

Matchplay; John MacKechnie, Two Clubs and Putter, Silver Medal, Doubles Matchplay (with Davy McLeod); Billy McKay, Ralph Boon Trophy, Gold Medal; Davy McLeod, Doubles Matchplay (with John MacKech-

### Golf

nie); Shaun Squire, MacIntyre Greensomes, Doubles Strokeplay (both with Gerry Davies); Gary Wilson, Cowan Cup.



PRIZES: Dalmally Golf Club prizewinners, with the junior achievers in the front row.

## St Kilda Challenge to be held in June

THE FIRST-ever yacht race from North Uist to St Kilda is to be held next year.

The St Kilda Challenge, a 24-hour competition, will start from Lochmaddy, North Uist, and finish in St Kilda, which is 42 miles west of Benbecula, and is one of the remotest parts of the British Isles.

The race, to be held in June, is being organised by the Society of the Sea - Comann nan Mara - which is based in Lochmaddy.

Ferry operator CalMac has offered to support the race which will be recognised by Royal Yachting Association Scotland, sailing's governing body.

### Yachting

The largest island of the archipelago of St Kilda is Hirta, whose sea cliffs are the highest in the United Kingdom. There are also three other islands, Dun, Soay and Boreray.

The only year-round residents are military personnel, a variety of conservation workers, volunteers and scientists, who spend time on Hirta in the summer months, after the island's last permanent residents were evacuated in 1930.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1500

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

C Allan Drimvargie Terrace Oban

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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



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# Scotland lose out in close match at Croke Park

'If this had been a two-game series, we would have won it this year'  
- Scotland manager Ronald Ross MBE



RACE: Kyles Athletic's Roddy MacDonald in a race for the ball with Ireland's Matthew Whelan at Croke Park last Saturday.

Ireland	16
Scotland	14
Shinty/Hurling	

SCOTLAND fell to two late goals at Croke Park last Saturday to lose the shinty/hurling international second test 16-14 against Ireland.

However, the overwhelming view in the aftermath was that the Scots have taken significant strides when it comes to matching their hurling counterparts.

With only five minutes left to play at the home of hurling, with around 20,000 fans inside the Dublin stadium, it looked as if Scotland were going to win a point.

Sadly, the final moments didn't go the Scots' way and Eoin Price and Shane Nolan were able to evade markers and launch single point strikes over the posts.

Understandably, the Scottish players were devastated at their late loss but, to a man, could not have given more over the two legs.

'I thought the players were brilliant,' said a disappointed but proud Scotland manager, Ronald Ross MBE.

'If this had been a two-game series, we would have won it this



CELEBRATIONS: Lovat's Kevin Bartlett celebrates scoring Scotland's second goal against Ireland last Saturday with Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron. Report: Kenneth Stephen. Photos: Sportsfile

year. Overall, I was really pleased with the improvement if you consider what happened in Ireland last year.'

Few could have disagreed with Ross' assessment as the Internationals concluded with a win apiece for each nation.

In fact, had Grant Irvine converted a first half goal chance, the disciplined Scots may have left Dublin with more.

TJ Reid, Hurler of the Year, was matched every inch by Newtonmore defender Rory Kennedy and failed to stamp his authority on the proceedings.

Despite being unable to create a divot to raise the ball for ground hits, Scotland were once again well served by their hitters, Kevin Bartlett and Steven MacDonald.

Indeed, it was MacDonald's strikes which created two of Scotland's three point goals.

Eoin Reilly failed to deal with MacDonald's looping hit in six minutes and Fraser Heath was able to bundle the rebound into the back of the net.

When Reilly parried another of MacDonald's rockets, Bartlett was alert to pounce and drill the ball home in 31 minutes.

Ireland, too, had their goals. Patrick Maher's first half strike was the pick of them. He juggled the ball on his hurl before running deep into the Scottish box.

With Stuart MacKintosh as the last line, he smashed the ball on the volley and nothing would have kept it out.

For Ireland's second first half goal, MacKintosh was poorly sighted by activity in front of him and Zane Keenan, who was outstanding, managed to squeeze the ball over him and into the net.

Ireland's other first half scorers

## Shinty/hurling

were Keenan (five points from hits), Eoin Price (1) and Neal McAuley (1).

Goals aside, Scotland's first half strikes came from MacDonald (2 points from ground hits) and Bartlett (4 points from hits).

With the interval scoreline standing at 13-12 to Ireland, the second half was less frenetic.

Bartlett (2) and Ireland's Derek McNicholas (1) evened things before Ireland's telling late goals.

Scotland, though, will take heart from 160 minutes in which they did little wrong.

'For a while, we were being criticised but I think Ireland know we are up for this now. That can only be a good thing,' said Steven MacDonald.

# Oban Camanachd finish the season with a home win over Kyles Athletic

Kyles Athletic	1
Oban Camanachd	3
Marine Harvest Premiership	

WITH the pitch at Tighnabruich deemed unplayable the last premier league fixture of the season was switched to Mossfield Stadium which was in excellent condition.

Both Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanachd were under strength with players involved in the shinty/hurling international in Dublin.

Camanachd were still without long term injury victims Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish and Keith MacMillan. However, the red and blacks recalled Robert Dunning in goals for the important game knowing that a win would see them finish comfortably in mid-table and round off an astonishing recovery in the second part of the season.

The home side began well with the forward line of Lorne Dickie, Connor Howie, Michael MacQueen and Malcolm Clark

clearly in the mood and were two goals to the good after 10 minutes through Michael MacQueen and Lorne Dickie.

David Lafferty was controlling the midfield area ably supported by Lochside recruits Keith Burnett and Jordan Kerr.

The movement and pace of the forwards was causing the Kyles defence all sorts of problems and they can thank keeper Whyte, who produced some terrific saves that kept the scoreline at only 2-0 to the home side at half-time.

Team manager Ian Hay made changes for the second half with Aidan MacIntyre and Alex Dunning coming on.

Kyles started the second half in positive fashion with the Camanachd defence of Gary Lord, Gary MacKerracher, James MacMillan and Scott MacKillop called into action to keep the Tighnabruich men at bay.

However the game was all but over when a fine individual goal from Connor Howie left the Kyles defence in his wake to give

Camanachd a three goal lead with 20 minutes remaining.

Kyles' reaction was immediate and they pulled a goal back through Thomas Whyte.

**Hard season**  
The last quarter was played out in sporting fashion with referee Graham Cameron, who had a good game, signalling the end of a long, hard season for both clubs.

The result meant that Camanachd's good run in the second half of the season - only two defeats in 10 games - ensured the club will play in the top flight of shinty after finishing comfortably in mid table after languishing for so long at the foot.

Team manager Ian Hay said the club would like to thank team sponsor Malcolm Kerr and all those who supported the team throughout the season. 'We are looking forward to playing in the Premiership next season and to bring through more players from our promising second team Lochside Rovers.

'We should have Keith MacMil-

lan and Andrew MacCuish fit for start of next season which means competition for places.

'My thanks also to Paul Kersley, Alex MacVicar and Dugie MacIntyre as well as Lochside manager Gareth Evans, who all contributed to the success of the team in the second half of the season.

'We can look forward to our AGM which will be held at Rockfield on Tuesday December 1, but before that we have our annual buffet dance at Glenruithen Golf Club on Saturday November 28, where the player of the year awards will take place.'

Asked about his own position as team manager Ian said he would be delighted to carry on and hoped that with the backing of the club committee and players, the team could make a consistent start to season 2016 and make a positive impact in all league and cup competitions.

Camanachd's Under 17 team lost 2-0 to a strong Newtonmore outfit at Cannich last Saturday in the final of the London Shield.



ACTION: Lewis MacPhee, Oban Camanachd and Tommy Stewart, Newtonmore in action during the London Shield final. Photo: Neil Paterson



WINNERS: Inveraray Shinty Club held its annual dinner dance and prizegiving ceremony recently. Above are the winners, top left to right, Andrew McMurdo (first team player of the year), Ruaraidh Graham (Jock McCallum memorial trophy for most promising player), Lewis Montgomery (MacQuiston Cup Captain) and Euan McMurdo (first team top goal scorer). Bottom left to right: Ross Montgomery (second team player of the year) and Fraser Watt (second team top goal scorer).



TEAM WORK: Keith Burnett shields the ball and gets ready to pass it to his teammate David Lafferty. 15\_148shinty02



CONCENTRATION: Malcolm Clark keeps his eye on the ball as he prepares to pick out a pass. 15\_148shinty01

## final league tables . . . final league tables . . . final league tables . . . final league tables . . .

Marine Harvest Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	18	17	0	1	63	14	34
Kyles Athletic	18	11	2	5	56	29	24
Glenurquhart	18	9	4	5	39	34	22
Lochaber	18	7	3	8	34	44	17
Lovat	18	6	4	8	38	38	16
Oban Camanachd	18	6	4	8	26	30	16
Kinlochshiel	18	6	4	8	30	44	16
Fort William	18	6	3	9	27	41	15
Kingussie	18	5	3	10	25	35	13
Inveraray	18	2	3	13	20	49	7

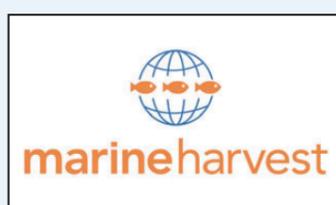
Marine Harvest North Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	12	11	1	0	58	10	23
Kilmallie	12	9	1	2	51	16	19
Glasgow MA	12	6	1	5	25	23	13
Caberfeidh	12	4	3	5	29	22	11
Beaulie	12	5	1	6	29	31	11
Inverness	12	2	2	8	17	32	6
Ballachulish	12	0	1	11	4	79	1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	16	13	1	2	59	27	27
Newtonmore	16	10	5	1	73	22	25
Kingussie	16	8	4	4	55	29	20
Glenurquhart	16	8	2	6	27	34	18
Strathglass	16	7	4	5	42	38	15*
Beaulie	16	6	2	8	27	34	14
Kinlochshiel	16	4	4	8	25	54	12
Lovat	16	3	1	12	22	55	7
Lochcarron	16	1	1	14	24	61	3

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bute	18	15	2	1	78	10	32
Lochside Rovers	18	16	0	2	72	21	32
Oban Celtic	18	11	1	6	53	34	23
Inveraray	18	10	2	6	40	33	22
Kyles Athletic	18	8	1	9	37	52	17
Aberdour	18	7	1	10	27	38	15
Taynuilt	18	6	2	10	31	49	14
Glenorchy	18	4	3	11	21	60	9*
Stachur	18	3	3	12	26	43	5*
Kilmory	18	1	3	14	17	51	3*

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	18	15	2	1	73	19	32
Glenarry	18	10	2	6	60	35	22
Lochaber	18	11	0	7	66	22	21*
Aberdeen Uni	18	9	3	6	62	39	21
Caberfeidh	18	9	2	7	57	42	19*
Kilmallie	18	10	0	8	40	41	17*
Boleskine	18	8	1	9	53	61	16*
Lewis	18	7	0	11	35	69	14
Inverness	18	3	2	13	20	81	8
Strathspey	18	2	0	16	18	65	3*

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Col Glen	14	10	2	2	52	19	22
Tayforth	14	10	1	3	58	30	20*
Glasgow MA	14	7	2	5	52	26	15*
Bute	14	7	0	7	35	45	12*
Oban Lorn	14	6	0	8	29	36	11*
Glenorchy	14	4	2	8	21	38	9*
Ballachulish	14	4	3	7	16	39	6*
Aberdour	14	2	2	10	20	50	6



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## Argyll and Bute win local derby against Mull

**Argyll and Bute** 42  
**Isle of Mull** 26  
**BT West Division 4**

ARGYLL and Bute took on local rivals Isle of Mull RFC at North Connel on Saturday in the second meeting of the teams this season. Isle of Mull, who have been unlucky not to have won all of their games so far this season, won 22-3 in the reverse fixture at Garmony earlier in the season.

With Oban Lorne's BT Division 1 game with Allan Glens being postponed, Argyll were strengthened by some 1st XV players to cover some key positions and add some experience to a youthful team.

Argyll went ahead with a try in the first 10 minutes. Craig Wright burst onto a good pass from Dave McCabe to slice through the Mull defence and touch down under the posts.

The Mull team did not let this dampen their spirits and scored a fantastic runaway try from their own half as Argyll lost control of the ball in contact. Stand off James Gibbons converted to tie the game at 7-7.

Argyll dominated the majority of possession and territory in the first half with a high number of scrums and lineouts in the Mull 22. The Muileachs defence stood firm and managed to turn Argyll over on a few occasions and clear their lines. Despite Argyll and Bute having the majority of possession the away side looked dangerous on a couple of occasions when they managed to break free from their own half, with the final pass letting them down.

The Argyll team finally managed to break down the impressive Mull defence with Craig

Wight scoring his second try of the afternoon for a 14-7 halftime lead.

Argyll were frustrated at the break that they did not have more points on the board but were up against a Mull side who were making life difficult and also had a vastly improved scrum from the previous meeting between the teams.

Argyll made a great start to the second half and scored their third try of the game within five minutes. Dave McCabe's miss pass found South African winger Sandile Khumalo out wide who raced in from the 22 for his first of two tries; 21-7 to Argyll.

The hosts built on their lead adding a further two scores. A try from Steven Parr was followed by a second from winger Khumalo for an impressive 35-7 lead. Despite the scoreline there was always a sense that the islanders were going to remain in the game. Mull hit back with a score from Gareth Tait to reduce the deficit to 35-14.

Argyll, however, responded immediately with stand off McCabe scoring beneath the posts to finish Argyll's scoring for the day.

With 10 minutes remaining Mull fought hard to get back into the game. Replacement stand off Finlay Carmichael pulled the strings to create two tries for the visitors in the closing stages with the last try a runaway winner for try of the day. The final score read 42-26 in Argyll and Bute's favour in an entertaining game between two friendly neighbours.

The result gives Argyll and Bute their first points of the season while Mull still sit in third place. This Saturday Argyll and Bute travel to Scotstoun, the home

of Glasgow Warriors to take on Hyndland RFC while Mull face league leaders Police Scotland RFC at Garmony.

**Allan Glens** P  
**Oban Lorne** P  
**BT National League Div 1**

frustrated on Saturday with their West Division 1 fixture at Allan Glens being called off due to an unplayable pitch. This is the third league match the past four weeks that has fallen as a result of the West Coast weather.

The positive for Oban Lorne was the impressive performance of Craig Wright and Dave McCabe, who gained some vital game time in Argyll and Bute's West Division 4 fixture along with some other 1st XV players. Notably Callum MacLachlan came off the bench for Argyll in his comeback from a hamstring injury.

Oban Lorne sit in fifth place in the table having won three games from five. The Green Machine have a few games in hand on the teams around them and will be hoping to climb back up the table prior to the turn of the year.

The Green Machine host lowly Cambuslang RFC at Glencruitten this Saturday, kick off 2pm. Oban recorded a bonus point 34-16 win at Cambuslang in the opening fixture of the season.

**Howe of Fife** 13  
**Oban Lorne Ladies** 5  
**Women's Bowl - Quarter Final**

ON A COLD and wintery Sunday in Cupar, Fife a squad of eight Oban Ladies were joined by seven players of the up and coming National Development League team Helensburgh, to take on Howe of Fife on their home pitch. Recent storms made for slippery pitch conditions but the players from both the Oban and Helensburgh teams gelled quickly to field a strong force to be reckoned with.

The girls in Green took control of the many scrums that were dealt out to dominate the first half, even despite the difficult conditions underfoot. They were able to keep Howe pinned back in their own territory for the majority of the initial 40 minutes, with the most noticeable break coming from a clever kick just beyond their five-metre line. It was quickly chased down and tidied up by a Howe player, who was tackled whilst scrum half Audrey Barr quickly arrived on the scene to steal the ball but was unfortunately called up by the referee for an unknown reason.

The referee was quick to admit her mistake but (again to everyone's confusion) the resultant scrum was awarded to Howe and unfortunately did not result in the try that Oban deserved.

With some game changing events, unfortunately not seen by the referee, including a punch to Oban's stand off Emma Roxburgh by a Howe of Fife player and early engagement in the scrums, the Oban team had not managed to convert their effort into points, and the first half ended evenly on 0-0.

The start of the second half began with a couple of storming runs by Howe's winger to bring the score to 0-10 after only a few minutes.

Oban responded by re-organising their defensive line and the remainder of the latter half went on in a similar fashion to the first. Again, scrums were the theme of the game with an increasingly



**PILE UP:** Players from both teams do everything they can to try and secure the ball. 15\_148rugby04

conditions underfoot. They were able to keep Howe pinned back in their own territory for the majority of the initial 40 minutes, with the most noticeable break coming from a clever kick just beyond their five-metre line. It was quickly chased down and tidied up by a Howe player, who was tackled whilst scrum half Audrey Barr quickly arrived on the scene to steal the ball but was unfortunately called up by the referee for an unknown reason.

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muddy pitch. Oban players were penalised for not rolling away under the posts and Howe capitalised on their mistake to slot another three points over the posts, bringing the score to 0-13.

The Green Army stayed in the game to the last minute and managed a consolation score in the dying moments of the game after winning a scrum, allowing their winger to run up the pitch and touch down.

The final score was 5-13 and, with referee decisions consistently not falling in their favour, Oban narrowly missed out to a tough and physical, well drilled Howe of Fife team who will go on to play in the semi-final of the BT Bowl.

Player of the match was Emma Roxburgh, who came back for this match from a previous injury to demonstrate some impressive tackling and an outstanding control of the game. The Oban Ladies travel to Edinburgh next weekend for a league game against Broughton, with their next home game not until 2016.

The ladies' train every Wednesday at the Oban Rugby Clubhouse from 6-8pm, with beginners very welcome.

**Ardrossan Accies** 22  
**Oban** 43  
**T4 West U16 Conference**

OBAN'S U16 rugby team made a long trip to Ardrossan on Sunday

### Rugby

for the team's West U16 league fixture.

Despite only having 13 players due to some last minute call offs, Oban managed to record an impressive 43-22 win against a well-drilled Ardrossan team.

This Sunday the U16 side travel to take on Hillhead/Jodanhill

**Cartha Queens Park** 5  
**Oban** 61  
**T4 West U18 Conference**

OBAN U18s played out their second fixture this season with a convincing 61-5 win at Cartha Queens Park in Glasgow.

Oban fielded a strong squad with help from players at Mid Argyll and Kintyre. This is another positive step forward for U18 rugby in Oban after the teams first outing at Cumbernauld that saw them win 17-5.

This Saturday the U18s are at home to Cumbernauld RFC. Kick off noon at Glencruitten.

**T4 Schools Conference**

OBAN High Schools S1, S2 and S3 teams will take part in their latest School Conference Fixture away to Shawlands Academy on Wednesday. Oban have played previous fixtures with Duncannrig, Dalziel and Williamwood in the new SRU Schools setup so far this season

### Oban Lorne past players, friends and associates hosts dinner

#### Rugby

OBAN Lorne RFC will be hosting a dinner for past players, friends and associates of the club this Saturday night in the clubhouse.

People are invited to attend Oban Lorne's BT Division 1 clash with Cambuslang at 2pm followed by a three-course meal and entertainment from local speakers from 7pm.

For more information please contact Murray Hamilton at murray.hamilton@argyll-bute.gov.uk or 07786655202. Tickets are £15pp, and everyone is welcome.

### Scottish AFL results and fixtures

#### Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Goldenhill 4, Oban Saints 4; Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division One - Dunoon 3, Lochgilphead Red Star 2; Premier Division Two - Millbeg Villa 3, Tarbert 5.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Inverclyde v Campbeltown Pupils; Oban Saints v Finnart; Premier Division One - Lochgilphead Red Star v Motherwell Thistle; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v FC Clydebank. Division One - Dunoon Athletic v Carlton YM; Centenary Cup - Dunoon v Ferguslie Star.

### Saints youths' results and fixtures

#### Youth football

LAST weekend's results - Under 13s 2, Drumchapel 1; On target for Saints were Szymon Chmielecki and Connor Moore. Tynecastle 7, Under 14s 0; Cali Thistle v Under 15s, postponed; Under 16s no game; Kilpatrick 5, Under 19s 2. Scoring for Saints were Conor Howe and Matty Kelly.

This weekend's fixtures: Stenhousemuir v Under 13s; Larkhall Thistle v Under 14s; Seafar Villa v Under 15s; Motherwell Community v Under 16s; Under 19s v Baillieston BC.

### Teachers are top of the class

#### Over 35s football

RESULTS from the Over 35s indoor league

Taynuilt 8, Trialists 3  
Connel 3, Teachers 6  
Clements 1, Emergency 6  
Coasters 7, Taynuilt 2  
Teachers 4, Trialists 1  
Connel 1, D&K Lafferty 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Teachers	2	2	0	0	10	4	6
D&K	1	1	0	0	10	1	3
Coasters	1	1	0	0	7	2	3
Emergency	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
Taynuilt	2	1	0	1	10	10	3
Clements	1	0	0	1	1	6	0
Trialists	2	0	0	2	4	12	0
Connel	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

### Oban Pool League Pool

OBAN Pool League results: Markie Dans B 4, Lochavullins Cellar 8; Wide Mouthed Frog 1, Markie Dans A 11; Lochavullin 4, Lochnell 8; Gluepot 9, Outreach 3.



ON THE RUN: Alan Wright looks on as Argyll and Bute's Craig McGuire drives past the opposition. 15\_148rugby03

### Hearts say a big thank you to John

#### Football

AN OBAN man received a limited edition Heart of Midlothian football shirt as a thank you for his continued support.

Three years ago when Hearts were struggling financially, 8,000 plus supporters decided to pledge money every month to aid their beloved team.

To thank those who helped, the Edinburgh side have created 10 tribute tops with everyone who pledged named on them.

John Horne was one of the 8,000 fans who donated and was one of 10 supporters presented with the shirt at half time during last Saturday's match against Dundee.

John said: 'I got a phone call from the club to say I was one of the lucky 10 who will be presented with their shirts on the pitch at Tynecastle. Both my boys were with me on the hallowed turf.'



THANKS: Oban Jambo John Horne with sons Ruaridh and Innes along with Hearts legend John Robertson, who presented John with his Foundation of Hearts tribute shirt during last Saturday's SPL game at Tynecastle against Dundee.

**SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES**

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds strong westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Hail showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds strong south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 19, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Thur	05.24 4.1 11.58 0.7 17.52 4.2 ** ** **		Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Fri	00.08 0.6 06.03 4.2 12.44 0.7 18.31 4.1		Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sat	00.51 0.7 06.43 4.1 13.28 0.9 19.10 4.0		Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Sun	01.33 0.8 07.23 4.0 14.12 1.1 19.49 3.8		Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mon	02.15 1.0 08.03 3.8 14.58 1.4 20.30 3.5					
Tues	03.00 1.2 08.45 3.6 15.46 1.6 21.13 3.3					
Wed	03.48 1.4 09.32 3.4 16.39 1.9 22.06 3.1					

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



### Time capsules buried for future generations

**WIN!** worth *including an Asus laptop* **£300!**  
A Christmas hamper

**COLLECT TOKEN TWO INSIDE**

# Watch officer drunk when ship ran aground in Ardnamurchan

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

THE OFFICER on watch was drunk when a cargo ship crashed full speed into an Ardnamurchan shoreline, a report has revealed.

The Lysblink Seaways was left stranded near Kilchoan for almost two days during bad weather from February 18, resulting in 25 tonnes of marine gas oil leaking into the water and the vessel being scrapped after it was 'pounded heavily' on the rocky foreshore.

A report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) said the officer on watch, a 36-year-old Russian, was the sole watchkeeper at the time of the ship's journey between Belfast and



**SCRAPPED:** The officer on watch was drunk when the Lysblink Seaways ran aground at Ardnamurchan.

Sokgn, Norway, and became 'inattentive' at around 2am, after drinking half a litre of rum.

It also stated warning systems that would have alerted the officer that the ship was off course and at risk had been

turned off. The 7,000-tonne ship had been carrying 50 tonnes of waste paper along the west coast of Scotland, via the Sounds of Islay and Mull. Damage to the Lysblink was so severe it was declared a 'constructive total loss' and scrapped.

The report said: 'The vessel grounded when the officer on watch (OOW) lost situational awareness due to his consumption of alcohol. While the chief officer's performance can largely be accounted for by his alcohol consumption, the investigation also uncovered poor navigational practices and that defences/control measures for the OOW becoming incapacitated were being ignored. Many of these, had they been in place, could

have prevented the accident. The chief officer had consumed a very large amount of alcohol before going on watch.

'However, the investigation found that the owner's zero alcohol policy on board was often flouted by crew members. 'The inventory of the vessel's bonded store records showed it was regularly replenished with spirits, wine and beer, and evidence of significant alcohol consumption by the crew should have alerted the owner to the likelihood that its alcohol policy was not being observed.'

A spokesman from the owners, DFDS Seaways, confirmed the company operates a zero tolerance policy on drinking during work and those responsible were no

longer employed by DFDS. He added: 'We have never seen anything like this on any of the vessels in our fleet. We communicate our policy so clearly there is no way it could be misunderstood.'

'The watchman is no longer with us and the management on board was responsible for carrying out policy and completely failed to do so. He is no longer employed by us.'

He said: 'We are extremely sorry that this accident happened and, of course, we are very happy that no persons were injured during the incident which was quite dangerous. We can only say that it is a result of a completely irresponsible action on board which should never have happened.'

### TIMESLINE

#### Quality awards for college and staff

WEST Highland College UHI has been highly commended in two categories at a national awards ceremony.

The college's quality officer, Fred Fudge, received the accolade in the SQA Champion category at the Scottish Qualification Association (SQA) Star Awards, for his work in developing courses to best meet the needs of students. The college itself was also highly commended in the Innovation category for its unique approach in developing outdoor adventure and tourism courses.

#### Traditional slate building course

TRADITIONAL slate building techniques are to be taught at a two-day course in Ballachulish next week.

The class is part of a wider project on the historic slate arch in the village and is free. To book a place contact Helen Smith on 07910 524037 or via helen@rowan-tree-consulting.co.uk.

#### Pupils tune up for winter concert

LOCHABER High School's annual winter concert will be held next week.

The free event kicks off at 7.30pm on Wednesday and will feature the junior wind band, the big band and senior band.

#### Man reported for a serious assault

A MAN has been reported for a serious assault in Fort William.

The 38-year-old has been reported to the procurator fiscal following a police appeal for information relating to the alleged attack near Lochaber Leisure Centre on November 3.



### Roundabout will replace Inverlochy traffic lights

A ROUNDABOUT is to be built in Fort William to replace traffic lights at Inverlochy junction.

Plans by trunk road maintenance group BEAR Scotland are under way for the work on the A82, which it is hoped will reduce congestion.

Construction is due to start early next year and it is not known how long it will last, but a BEAR spokesperson said the company would ensure work avoids busy periods such as Easter.

The spokesperson added: 'We will continue to work with key stakeholders to ensure members of the council and the local community are kept informed of activity. We will also be doing all we can to ensure we minimise disruption to motorists as much as possible.'

But Highland councillor and Lochaber area leader, Thomas MacLennan, thinks the work



We'll just have to see how a roundabout works out

**Thomas MacLennan**  
Councillor and area leader

is unnecessary and congestion could be reduced by adjusting sensors on the traffic lights.

He said: 'Four years ago a quarter of a million pounds was spent on the present lights and I have been told the sensors are not positioned in the most effective way.'

'Maybe if the sensors were put in the right place the lights would work better, but we'll just have to wait and see how a roundabout works out.'

## Across the world to thank lifesaver



**SPECIAL TRIP:** Ann-Marie MacCallum travelled to Fort William from Australia to thank Jim MacDougall for saving her father's life 62 years ago.

A WOMAN who would not have been born if not for a Fort William man who saved her father's life, made a voyage across the world to thank him.

Ann-Marie MacCallum travelled from Sydney, Australia, as part of a reunion of former residents of Annat village to meet Jim MacDougall, a retired postman, who risked his life along with his friend, the late Jimmy MacLean, to rescue her father John MacCallum and the late Frank Sweeney, 62 years ago.

John and Frank were just nine years old when they set out onto Loch Eil on a homemade raft and were swept away by the tide. But the fearless Jim and Jimmy, who were then 22 years old, grabbed an old fishing boat and set out after the youngsters. It was only when they were in the water that they discovered the boat was leaking badly and they all got back to shore in the nick of time.

Now 70 and working as a church minister, John was unable to make the reunion, but his daughter, a doctor, enjoyed afternoon tea with Jim, 84, to thank him for saving her father decades before she was born. Thomas and Alan, sons of well-known bus driver Jimmy, attended on behalf of their father.

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## Edinburgh Woollen Mill shocks Fort with news of shop closures

FORT WILLIAM has been shocked by the announcement that two long-standing High Street stores will close their doors this weekend, just a month before Christmas.

Both Edinburgh Woollen Mill shops will shut on Saturday, with staff only informed of the closure and job losses last week. The Mairi MacIntyre High Street store and Ben Nevis Highland Centre at Lochybridge, owned by the same company, will remain open. One of two Edinburgh Woollen Mill stores in Oban is also set to close.

A spokesman from the clothing company, which has 380 stores across the UK,

declined to comment and employees were asked not to discuss the issue, so it is not known how many employees face redundancy or reasons for the closure, but at least six people are thought to be losing their jobs.

Thomas MacLennan, Highland Councillor and leader of Lochaber area committee, said he was sorry to see the shops close, both of which have been open for more than 30 years.

He said: 'It's very disappointing news that the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shops are closing. They have been a fixture in Fort William for a long time and it's a bad time of year for people to be losing

jobs. Fort William High Street has been showing more signs of life recently with new shops and cafes opening, so it's a shame to see two go.'

Neil Clark, chairman of Fort William Community Council, added: 'It's a shame because the shops have been there for as long as I can remember and the High Street seemed to be taking a turn for the better recently. I always wondered how they survived with four in one town, but they must have been profitable or they wouldn't have been open for so long. It's disappointing to hear there's likely to be jobs lost, as it is when any jobs in the area are lost.'

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## Time capsules buried for future generations

AN INSIGHT into life in South Lochaber in 2015 has been buried deep in a stone plinth for future generations to find.

Two time capsules, created by children and the community of Duror and Kentallen, were hidden away on part of the area's cycle path last week. Photos, newspaper articles and an essay about life in the area were all placed in the capsules, along with every day items including a paper clip, which may be obsolete when it is discovered in the future.

Also included was a copy of New Scientist magazine with an article about what experts think life could be like in 2099.

Jonathan Baxter of Duror and Kentallen Community Council said: 'These time capsules could be found in 10 years or they might never be found. I think 2099 would be a good year to suggest to future generations to open them because it would be interesting to see if the article was right about what life will be like then.'



GOING UNDERGROUND: Duror primary school pupils and members of the Duror and Kentallen communities buried two time capsules for future generations to find. 21\_48Capsules01

## Emergency cash grants for groups

COMMUNITY groups in the Highlands have benefited from grants totalling more than £24,000 to help them prepare for winter storms and emergencies.

In Lochaber, Duror and Kentallen Community Council received £2,479 to install a generator and telephones in the village hall, Astley Hall Trust was awarded £2,000 for emergency equipment in Arisaig, and Ballachulish Community Association was given £2,560 to deliver an emergency and resilience plan.

In Skye and Lochalsh, Uig Community Trust was granted £13,390 to install standby generators at the filling station and community hall, Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Council received £3,000 for emergency equipment, and Tarskavaig Communities Hall Association received £1,197 to buy and install emergency lighting for homes in Achnaolich, Tarskavaig and Tokavaig. The funding came from Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution's resilient communities fund.

# Man guilty of sexually assaulting 16-year-old

A FORT William man has been found guilty of sexually assaulting a teenager in her sleep.

Thomas John Findlay, 18, was found guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on November 17 of sexually touching the woman, who was 16 at the time and cannot be named for legal reasons, at an address in the town on September 27, 2014.

The apprentice electrician, who was 17 at the time of the offence, was found not guilty of attempting to rape the woman. Procurator fiscal Michelle Molloy used Findlay's recorded police interview from October 13, 2014 at Fort William police station as her first piece of evidence.

In the interview, he initially denied anything had happened on the night of the offence.

However, when police officers said they had seen a text message conversation between the two from the victim's mobile phone, claiming he had tried to rape her, Findlay admitted: 'I did try to have sex with her, but she said no, so I stopped.'

While he claimed he had been asked into the bed by the woman 'to cuddle up', she said she had drunkenly fallen asleep on the couch in her living room and woken up in her bedroom to find Findlay behind her in her bed in the 'spooning' position. He had pulled the clothing on her bottom half down to her knees and was touching her private parts.

The victim, who was by her own admission, struggling with alcohol and other personal problems at the time, said in court: 'I woke up in my

bedroom downstairs. He must have carried me there. I could feel someone behind me and I turned around and could see it was Thomas.'

The woman said she remembered only one sexual assault, however Findlay said he twice fondled the woman while she was sleeping - once at around 11pm, after which the pair fell asleep, and once again at around 1am, at which point he left after she told him to stop.

Defending, Hamish Melrose asked the victim: 'Thomas was clearly trying it on with you?' 'While I was sleeping, passed out', she replied.

Mr Melrose said: 'I put it to you that he didn't try to have sex with you outwith your will?' She replied: 'Well, why did he wait till I was sleeping?' In court, Findlay said at no

point did he expose himself but did admit to touching her sexually on two occasions, while she was asleep.

Fiscal Molloy said to Findlay: 'The first time she said to you, 'what the f\*\*\* are you doing?', but you tried a second time. You were sober, she was drunk and asleep. Do you know what consent is?' Findlay replied: 'Yes'. The fiscal continued: 'If she is asleep, can she consent?', to which he replied, 'No'.

Findlay also admitted under cross-examination that he 'felt bad for her', and for 'hurting her'.

Sheriff Michael Fletcher QC deferred sentence on Findlay until December 6 for criminal social justice and psychological reports, and ordered him to be put on the sex offenders register.

## Vital repairs start on Ben Nevis path

VITAL work is under way to stabilise more than three kilometres of the Ben Nevis mountain path.

The repairs on part of the track between Achintee and St John's Wall on Britain's highest summit will take three years to complete, as part of a £1 million project between Nevis Landscape Partnership, Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The first phase of improvements will end in March next year to avoid the busy summer period and walkers have been asked to consider alternative routes up the Ben during this period, including starting from the North Face car park.

Lizzie Cooper of Nevis Landscape Partnership said: 'We are extremely grateful to our funders for their commitment to the repair and upgrading of the Ben Nevis path.'

'It will make a huge difference to this mountain route and help reduce erosion.'

## TIMESLINE

### New A830 bridge opens on schedule

PROGRESS on a £10 million Road to the Isles improvement scheme continues as the second new bridge is completed.

Work on Garbh Bridge, on the Fort William to Mallaig A830, is now finished, with work on the third of the nine, the Utha Bridge, expected to end next month. Stone from the original Garbh structure has been used on the replacement bridge, designed to blend into the famous scenic surroundings.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative, said: 'We are pleased to open the new A830 Garbh Bridge to traffic on schedule after months of careful construction. It provides a safe, low maintenance structure that is designed to last for 120 years.'

### Christmas festival fun in Fort William

FORT William's Christmas Festival looks set to be the biggest yet as the Rotary Club of Lochaber has hired the entire Nevis Centre for Saturday's event.

Demand for stalls has been so great that the market will be extended into the studio as well as the main hall and Santa's Grotto has been relocated to the bar. Rotary president Terry Lee said: 'Moving the grotto will create more space for stalls in the main hall. All the indications are this will be our busiest year since we started the festival in 2008.'

### Police hunt village window vandal

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information following an act of vandalism in North Ballachulish.

The outer pane of a double-glazed window of a static caravan at Callart was damaged sometime between 3pm on Saturday November 21 and 9am the following day. Anyone with information should contact police on 101.



BEST FEET FORWARD: Forty hardy walkers braved wind and rain in Fort William to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer screening.

## Walkers out in wild weather to raise breast screening funds

FORTY determined walkers braved torrential rain and gale-force winds to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer screening in the Highlands.

Organiser Elaine MacNeil planned the moonlit outing last Friday to support the screening unit in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, after she had a scare earlier this year.

The Fort William bar worker said: 'I noticed a lump, went to the doctor on the Monday and was screened in Inverness on the Friday. Thankfully I got the all clear, but when I was sitting in the waiting room I realised I was surrounded by women who wouldn't all get the good news I did.'

'I was so grateful for how quickly I was seen because spotting cancer early can make such a difference. I

decided I wanted to do something to help the screening unit and that's when I planned the moonlit walk.'

Some people were put off by the weather and the planned route had to be cut by around 10 minutes but the 40 who took part were rewarded with tea and cakes at Wetherspoons, where a raffle took place to boost the total raised to £650.

Elaine added: 'The support I got was fantastic,' but said the event was as much about raising awareness as funds and highlighted the importance of checking lumps early.

She said: 'We're so lucky in the Highlands because we can be screened quickly. The worry I went through on the days I was waiting was a living nightmare.'

## Norovirus fears shut hospital wards

WARDS in two Highland hospitals had to be closed after suspected outbreaks of norovirus.

Ward one at the Belford in Fort William was closed on Wednesday last week after six patients experienced sickness and diarrhoea but reopened on Thursday after investigations found the virus wasn't present. Ward 6C at Raigmore has been closed since Thursday after four patients tested positive for norovirus.

The Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) at the Inverness hospital was also closed from last Tuesday after two patients tested positive, but reopened on Friday following a deep clean.

Advertisorial

## Public attitude towards Renewable Heating

AFTER launching a national survey aimed to track and monitor public attitudes towards renewable heat, household energy bills and energy security, The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have released a summary of their key findings which bear insightful results. More interestingly, the data collected by the Government mirrored the statistics recently reported by local company Renewables Now, after they took to the streets of Oban and Fort William to ask home owners how they feel about the future of Renewable Energy.

Barcaldine based company Renewables Now found that almost all of those surveyed by them were aware of renewable heating, however, over half were unaware of how to source further information when considering a renewable installation. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) had similar findings and reported that almost half of the UK were aware of renewable heating and it's three most common forms, air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers. Their results however, found that less than 5% of the respondents felt they knew much about these technologies in detail.

The summary of data collected by the Government also revealed that nearly 7 in 10 people were concerned about the steep rise in future energy prices and such concerns were proven to be highest amongst those aged 35 - 44. Renewables Now confirmed that of those aged between 30 and 50 who participated in their survey and of those who currently use electric heating, there was a strong desire to change to a 'less expensive' method of heating.

Renewables Now have been helping homeowners to make improvements to their homes for a number of years and are always happy to welcome new enquiries. They are on hand to advise and support anyone who wishes to make their home more energy efficient and provide each customer with the most beneficial option for them and their home. Whether it be introducing smart heating zones throughout the home, installing a smart energy monitor or by replacing a fossil fuel heating system with a more efficient renewable one, there is always a more sustainable, affordable and comfortable solution for everyone. Call the Renewables Now team on 01631720587 to find out more or arrange a viewing at one of their renewable installations near you.

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# Where else is the axe due to fall?

**STAFF REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

IT'S CRUNCH time for Argyll and Bute Council as a meeting of the full council votes whether to remove the controversial 45 per cent cut planned for additional support needs funding for children.

The very idea sparked a storm of protest; Oban's Corran Halls saw a turnout of more than 300 to a meeting called by the town's community council with the AB-Pacc (Argyll and Bute Parents Against Council Cuts), last Wednesday.

The meeting was heated at

times and councillors were left in no doubt about public feeling.

Today (Thursday) the full council gets to vote on the recommendation to 'consider whether the option of reducing additional support needs (ASN) assistant support by 45 per cent should be removed from the current service choices consultation programme'.

At the start of this school year there were 1,931 pupils who needed additional support and of these approximately 570 children needed ASN assistant support.

SNP councillors announced ahead of today's council meeting that they would be voting to get

rid of the cut, criticising 'the unnecessary angst' it has caused for parents, children and the people facing redundancy.

'I hope that the council will together agree to put this emotive and distressing issue behind us,' said Sandy Taylor leader of the SNP council group.

Last Wednesday's meeting heard council area leader Roddy McCuish heckled and called a 'liar' and an opposition councillor likening the project board – the committee set up to oversee the budget-making process – to 'North Korea'.

This worry at the lack of information and fear of where other

cuts will fall was echoed when Oban Community Council held a second, less-well attended public meeting on Friday at Glencruit-tan Church Hall.

This was for the public consultation 'Planning our Future', complete with a survey asking for public opinion on how to make savings between now and 2018.

The document left many people baffled; they felt it was too complex.

Alan Reid, Scottish Liberal Democrat candidate for Argyll and Bute in the May 2016 elections, who was at the meeting on Friday, said: 'The clear feeling of the meeting was that the council

hadn't given enough details of what the options would mean and the community council should feed that back to the council.'

One member of the public, Andy MacArthur, said asking people to fill in the consultation document was 'like sitting in a lifeboat deciding who to eat first while the good ship Kilmory [council headquarters] sails on'.

He added: 'There is absolutely no accountability or transparency in Argyll and Bute; 52 per cent of the project board are un-elected.'

Ahead of today's meeting, Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart sent his support for Argyll and Bute Parents Against

Council Cuts.

He said: 'The service cuts are unacceptable. As is so often the case, those in most need have to bear the brunt of the cuts.'

'I have sympathy for the situation Argyll and Bute Council is in. It is time its MSPs faced up to the reality that these cuts are a direct result of the council tax freeze that the SNP government imposed across Scotland.'

'The situation is made worse due the remoteness of some parts of Argyll and the large number of islands that do not receive the same support offered to other island communities. I will continue to fight for a fair deal for Argyll.'

## TIMESLINE

### New party for region set to Rise

A POLITICAL party planning a socialist alternative to the SNP and Labour is to draw up a manifesto for the Highlands and Islands.

RISE (Respect, Independence, Socialism and Environmentalism) was formed in the wake of the Scottish independence referendum campaign.

Independent Highlands and Islands list MSP Jean Urquhart has agreed to help draw up a manifesto.

She said she would not be standing for re-election in the 2016 Holyrood election, but said she was 'delighted' to be involved in the manifesto for the Highlands and Islands.

### Couple in court on drugs charges

A MAN and woman have appeared at Oban Sheriff Court following a drugs raid in the town on Friday.

A 39-year-old man and 25-year-old woman appeared in court on Monday.

Both are accused of producing cannabis, a class B drug, with intent to supply. The woman faces a further charge of possession of heroin, a class A drug. She has pleaded guilty to both charges.

The man submitted a not guilty plea to his charge.

The pair were bailed and will appear in court on February 3 next year.

### Correction

IN *The Oban Times*' front page story last week, about the Oban couple caught up in the Paris attacks, the wrong spelling for Simona Hossová was given. *The Oban Times* apologises for this error.

Oban Times news-desk 01631 568000

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## Wildlife crime penalties review

RSPB Scotland has welcomed the publication of the Scottish Government's Review of Wildlife Crime Penalties.

RSPB Scotland Head of Investigations, Ian Thomson, said: 'Scotland has some of the best wildlife protection laws in Europe, but in our opinion, these need to be effectively enforced and there need to be meaningful sentences imposed on those convicted of wrong-doing.'

RSPB Scotland staff routinely assists the police and other statutory agencies in the investigation of wildlife crime incidents.

## Lower limit drives down offending

DRINK-DRIVING offences in the Highlands and Islands have fallen since the introduction of the lower drink-drive limit, new figures have shown.

There was a 9.2 per cent reduction in the number of offences in the region in the nine-month period following the change.

Figures obtained by AlcoSense Personal Breathalysers show that between December 2014 and August 2015, all but one area in Scotland reported a reduction in drink driving offences, with a decrease of 12.5 per cent nationwide.

## Santa in town to help launch Oban Winter Festival



Families came out en masse on Saturday to help celebrate the launch of this year's Oban Winter Festival. Bid4Oban event manager Neil Mackay said: 'It was wonderful to see the reindeer parade and Christmas lights switch on. It's been so successful and every year we have seen an increase in numbers. Not only were we very lucky with the weather, but the sterling work carried out by lighting officer Ryan McGlynn and his team from Argyll and Bute Council made sure everything slotted into place perfectly. Thanks to all the organisations such as Oban Pipe Band, who helped to create a great atmosphere at another fantastic event in the Love Oban calendar.'

For full coverage of this year's winter festival, see next week's Oban Times. Photographs: WDR Photographics

# Dunollie Castle's Winter Festival fun



Dunollie proved to be a popular venue during the Winter Festival. 17\_148dun07

DUNOLLIE Castle and Museum joined forces with the Oban Winter Festival for 'Dunollie Makes Christmas', with crafts, carols, food and drink, plus masses of activities for children to enjoy.



Rufus and Felix Hughes of Oban. 17\_148dun04



Nine-year-old Lara Simpson from Oban met Sally and Tilly the Shetlands from Kilvaree Stables, Connel, and Debbie Craig. 17\_148dun01



Above: Santa was kidnapped by wicked fairy Rowan and all the children had to help rescue him. Colin Langford and Mary Freer joined in the fun. 17\_148dun02



The Three Wee Crows theatre company – Kathleen Campbell, Vivienne DeCaris and Jane Dunbar – performed at Dunollie and throughout the town over the weekend. 17\_148dun06



The Kettle Café at Dunollie did a roaring trade in hot drinks. The café has just been awarded a major architecture prize. 17\_148dun05



Alex and Andrew MacPherson joined Fiona MacRae and Jane Issacson to make crafts in the willow garden. 17\_148dun03

## Serco Caledonian Ferries Limited is hosting an open day in Tarbert.

We would like to invite members of the community to meet the Serco CHFS bid team, tell us your views regarding the CHFS service and learn more about Serco and its operations in Scotland.

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# Frail pensioner calls for revamp of system after appointment runaround

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A 75-YEAR-OLD man with chronic heart failure is being forced to travel 200 miles to attend a medical appointment a month after he could have had the same attention 12 miles from home.

David Pearson, from Seil has already waited more than three months to be seen by a consultant – despite the best efforts of his GP and medical practice.

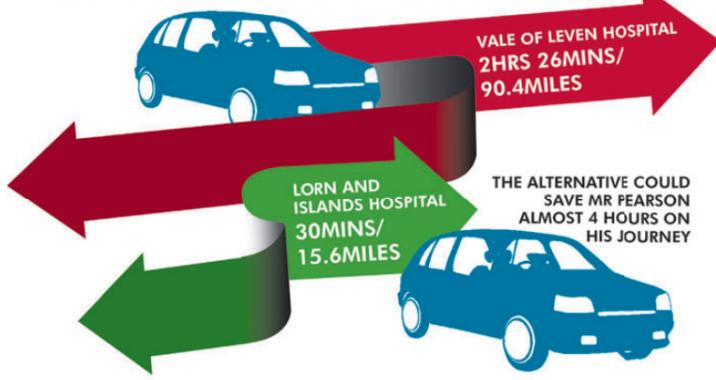
At the beginning of August Mr Pearson, an Isle of Seil resident consulted his GP Dr Miranda Barkham at Easdale Medical Centre with throat symptoms.

Mr Pearson was told by his GP that she would refer him to the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) clinic as an urgent patient.

Mr Pearson said: 'Subsequently I received a letter from Lorn and the Islands hospital outpatients department to say they would not be able to offer me an appointment for at least 12 weeks, but that I could apply to the Vale of Leven Hospital, hopefully to be seen earlier.'

It was not until September 24 that Mr Pearson got a letter offering him an appointment

MR PEARSON HAS AN ALMOST 5 HOUR ROUND TRIP JOURNEY FROM THE ISLE OF SEIL TO ATTEND HIS MEDICAL APPOINTMENT



on December 16 at the Vale of Leven – a trip of 200 miles to the hospital and back.

Mr Pearson continued: 'I was speaking to Dr Barkham and said I was concerned that should I have cancerous material in my throat it could metastasize [spread] several times by December 16.'

'She carried out the examination on October 26 and said

she would try to get an earlier appointment.

'On Friday October 30 I was telephoned by the practice manager at Easdale Medical Practice who told me she had been trying to get an earlier appointment at the Vale of Leven but had only succeeded in bringing the date forward to December 9.'

'I said that as I had remade another appointment at Glasgow

Royal Infirmary to coincide with the existing one, I would let things stand.

'I then asked when the next ENT clinic took place at Lorn and the Islands.'

Mr Pearson found out that there was a clinic on November 20 but that it was full and that the consultant will not accept any one else to the list.

At that point Mr Pearson

learned that because he had 'chosen' to go to Vale of Leven, he had been removed from the list to see the consultant in Oban.

He said: 'If this is the system I feel it needs urgent revision. I feel the surgery have done their best for me but the rest of the system is falling down.'

Confirming the events, a spokeswoman at Easdale medical centre said they were unable to comment on any patient within the practice.

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'Due to patient confidentiality we are unable to comment on this specific case.'

'However, when a patient is referred by their GP for a first outpatient consultant appointment we have a target of seeing the patient within 12 weeks of the referral being received.'

'If we are unable to offer them an appointment locally within the 12 weeks we then look to provide that patient with an alternative from the specialist hospital (usually in Glasgow), which provides our local service or they can decide to wait locally for the next available appointment slot.'

'We will also be in contact with the patient concerned to discuss the issue further.'

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Alan Moore



Officers with the mobile response unit, carry out random checks on Friday evening in Tainuill. 15\_148police01

### Crimebreakers joint operation

OBAN police officers, road traffic police, the CID and a sniffer dog were all involved in a joint Crimebreaker operation on Friday evening.

A mobile response unit was positioned on the A85, on the outskirts of Tainuill, where the officers came together to carry out roadside checks, clamping down on a wide range of offences.

Sergeant Alan Moore, of Oban Police Station, said: 'These joint operations give us a chance to catch various criminal activity, including road traffic offences, drug offences and other intelligence-led offences, such as travelling criminals carrying out rural thefts.'

'It shows a police presence and the sniffer dog is used to remind people that concealed drugs can, and will, be found.'

Sergeant Moore said a number of vehicles were stopped and drivers given fixed penalty notices for various offences.

He also noted that the Crimebreaker operations were a chance for officers to give safety advice about driving in challenging or dangerous road conditions.

PC Danny Macbeth issued a warning to those thinking of

drink-driving this winter. He said: 'If you are drink driving, you will be caught.'

### Oban business window smashed

POLICE are appealing for information after a business in Oban was vandalised at the weekend.

A large window at the Fugu and Haggis Tattoo Parlour in the town's Craigmard Road was smashed some time between 5pm on Friday November 18 and 11am on Saturday November 19.

Anyone with information should contact Constable Scott Deakin at Oban Police Station on 101.

### Drivers warned – be prepared

THERE were a handful of minor road accidents on the A85 at the weekend following icy conditions.

Sergeant Alan Moore said most occurred in the Loch Awe area, near the Falls of Cruachan Railway Station, on Saturday.

Sergeant Moore advised the public to drive according to the weather condition and to ensure they were properly prepared for driving in hazardous weather conditions.

## Argyll planners praised

ARGYLL council's planning department has been praised by the Scottish Government for its positive approach to partnership working and a strong commitment to customer care.

It follows submission of the council's annual planning performance framework – a scorecard that all local authorities must submit to the government for review.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, said: 'We are delighted with this feedback which shows, once again, that we are one of the top performing planning authorities in the country, with a real focus on working with developers to achieve sustainable economic growth.'

'It highlighted the fast turnaround times across all planning categories, with the average time taken to decide applications being well ahead of the national average, meaning projects can progress much faster.'

'We were also commended for our partnership approach, where the council's planning officers work closely with applicants, providing them with high quality professional advice at each stage of the planning process.'

## Roadworks at Connel

MOTORISTS driving through Connel next week should plan their journey in advance.

Resurfacing work on that section of the A85 will begin on Monday 30 and is expected to take five days, with work taking place 7am-7pm daily.

The road will remain open during this time and a convoy system will be put in place to ensure everyone's safety.

This will be removed during non-working hours, but a reduced speed limit will remain in place.

## Retiree Angus has lucky escape after lightning hits his Colonsay home

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A COLONSAY man has described his terror as lightning struck the chimney of his house, just two metres above where he was sleeping.

Friday the 13th, known as an unlucky day in Western superstition, certainly was for Angus MacPhee, 66, when he narrowly avoided being injured by the lightning, which struck the property on Squint Street, during storm Abigail.

A single bolt of lightning can carry anything between 100million and 1billion volts of electricity.

'I was in the army for 12 years,' said Angus, who has lived on Colonsay since 1997. 'I've heard bombs and other types of explosions, but I've never heard a noise like that. It was terrifying and so loud that they heard it at the other end of the island.'

'It was about 2.25am on Friday the 13th of all days, and I heard this horrendous bang. It was lightning hitting the chimney, coming through the roof.'

Having had a few drinks before going to bed, Angus



The lightning damaged the chimney and roof of Angus MacPhee's home.

said the incident was a sobering experience.

'I'd had a few whiskies but that sobered me up straight away. I didn't run down the stairs, I practically fell down them,' he said. 'It blew my fuse box up, the television, Sky box, all my white goods and the whole electric circuitry. I had no heating after it. The roof is full of holes.'

'Thankfully I had my phone in my dressing gown, so I managed to call the fire brigade.'

'One of the electricians told me it was 100 million volts that came into the house – I was

just two metres underneath it.' As a tenant of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Angus, who grew up in Paisley but whose grandfather was a native of Colonsay, was housed in temporary accommodation until being rehoused in Oban on Monday.

'I can't praise ACHA enough, they have been terrific,' he said.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'Mr MacPhee was the only ACHA tenant affected by the lightning. He was put up by the association in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation, but has accepted an offer of a permanent transfer to an ACHA property elsewhere.'

A spokesman for Scottish and Southern Energy said: 'We have lightning protection equipment on our network, so when there is a lightning strike our equipment is protected. But ultimately we are battling nature and there are times the network can suffer damage caused by lightning.'

'There were 3,261 customers off supply on November 13 across Colonsay, Lochgilphead, Badenoch. Our apologies for the disruption and the inconvenience our customers suffered.'

## Day of pampering for Pink Ladies

A SPECIAL event for women who have experienced breast cancer and their friends is being held in Inveraray next month.

The Pink Ladies day provides an opportunity for 'Pink Ladies' to relax and enjoy themselves while meeting other women who are in remission or living with breast cancer.

The day will run from 10am to 5pm and will include lunch, refreshments, a host of free complimentary therapies and beauty treatments, and use of the hotel's leisure facilities. Specialists will be on hand to advise with balancing life's day to day challenges, health, fitness, nutrition and self-esteem. The event is available for up to 50 women and their plus 1 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anyone wishing to attend must register by emailing Nicky Murphy: pinkladiesday@outlook.com or by calling Nicky on 07786 861266 by tomorrow (November 27).

## Incredible value delivered

WITH Christmas just around the corner, you'll find hundreds of unbeatable offers in our stores!

John Clark, General Manager of Gordons Chemists said: 'We pride ourselves on offering a very wide range of products that deliver incredible value for money. Whether it's an everyday item, or something for a special occasion, we're confident that we'll have what you're looking for – at a price you'll be happy with. For example, every week we pick several fragrances and sell these at a really great price; this week's one-off deals are DKNY Men Eau de Toilette 100ml for just £18, and Vera Wang Lovestruck Eau de Toilette 100ml for only £19.99 – that's a saving of more than £50 on a very high-quality ladies fragrance.'



'Every Christmas, the products on our shelves seem to get better and better, and there's a really good choice this year – something to suit absolutely everyone in the family. On top of that, the savings that customers are making by shopping with us really do defy belief.'

Karen Smyth, Buyer at Gordons Chemists added: 'One that I really like this year as a men's stocking filler is a Gillette Mach 3 Set that includes a razor and shaving gel for only £4.99! There are also some great items if you're buying for a woman – there's a really nice Nivea Skin Smoothness Set that's half price. For someone who likes tanning or make-up, we have a WhitetoBrown Radiant Self Tan Kit at £15 that has a lovely cosmetic bag, as well as two full-sized tanning products, and a Real Techniques Collector's Edition make-up brush set that's £19.99 – you're saving £10 on it. I've already bought one for myself.'

With prices slashed by up to 50 per cent off the usual retail price on celebrity and designer fragrances, future discounts when you spend £30 in-store and an abundance of special offers available online as well as in-store, Gordons prices are sure to fit any budget no matter what limit you've set yourself on spending this year.'

To shop online and avoid the rush, simply log onto www.gordonsdirect.com; if you'd rather browse the shop floor for ideas, you can visit any one of Gordons Chemists 9 stores across the country. To check out all the latest offers, follow Gordons Chemists on twitter @gordonschemists and like their facebook page www.facebook.com/gordonschemists.

**27 & 28**  
NOVEMBER NOVEMBER

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<p><b>£2.99</b> you save <b>£3.51</b> Lynx Duo Sets RRP £6.50</p>		<p><b>£24.00</b> you save <b>£28.00</b> Armani Diamonds EDP 50ML RRP £52.00</p>	
<p><b>£8.99</b> you save <b>£6.00</b> Technic Advent Calendar RRP £14.99</p>		<p><b>£29.99</b> you save <b>£60.01</b> Babyliss Boutique Straightener WAS £90.00</p>	
<p><b>£9.99</b> you save <b>£20.31</b> James Bond 007 EDT Set 50ml VALUE £30.30</p>		<p><b>£4.95</b> you save <b>£15.00</b> Slim Sonic Toothbrush WAS £19.95</p>	

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## Fort William golfers pick up their silverware

THE BEST golfers in town were presented with their prizes at Fort William's award ceremony on Sunday.

Eric Wallace was named winner of the men's club championship, earning him the Connachie Cup, while David Fairgrieve was runner up. Paul Brian won the senior club championship for over 50s, followed by Brian Stewart, while the Elliot Trophy for the ladies'

championship was won by Rosie MacIntyre, followed by Iona Cameron.

The monthly medals were won by Eric Wallace in April (George Band for seniors), Jason Wallace in May (Henry MacDonald for seniors), James Duncan in June, Jason Wallace in July (Ian Mackie for seniors), Frank Sweeney in August (Gerry Conaghan for seniors) and Neil Feggans for

### Golf

September (Henry MacDonald for seniors).

All prizewinners: Connachie Cup for men's club championship, Eric Wallace; Rummy Cup for scratch match-play club championship, Eric Wallace; Hugh MacIntyre Trophy for handicap match-play club championship,



SILVERWARE ON SHOW: Fort William Golf Club men's winners.

Scott Lawrie; Lochy Bar men's club championship, Stewart Duncan; Clydesdale Bank Challenge Cup for knockout match-play handicap, Neil Worsdall; The Royal Bank Cup for two rounds stroke play (scratch), David MacPherson; MacIver Cup for two rounds stroke play (handicap), Graeme Worsdall; Jimmy Bruce Memorial Trophy for greensome knockout (handicap), Neil Worsdall and Graeme Worsdall; Scottish Pulp and Paper Mill's knockout match play (handicap), Jason Wallace; Mairi MacIntyre Rose Bowl for medal final (scratch), Andrew Brown; Young Trophy for medal final

(handicap), Nick Hough; senior four ball match-play (handicap), Brian Stewart and Ian Robertson; Senior club championship, Paul Brian; Wolverton Trophy, Steven Jamieson; 1912 Cup, Martin Duncan; Captain's Prize, Stephen Howden; Vice Captain's Prize, Andrew Bergin; Neil Hardie Trophy, Neil Feggans; John Soutar Medal, Steven Jamieson; Craig Paterson Memorial Trophy, Ian Robertson; Donnie Gillies Memorial Trophy, Jason Wallace.

Ladies prizewinners: Elliot Trophy for club championship, Rosie MacIntyre; Clydesdale Bank Trophy for bronze division

club championship, An Lovatt; MacNab Cup for singles (handicap), Rosie MacIntyre; E.W.B Howie Trophy for three best net scores, Rosie MacIntyre; E Cameron Trophy for stableford, Iona Cameron; West Highland Oil Tray for ladies outing, Theresa Smith; Wolverton Cup for summer eclectic, Helen Brian; Mungo Cup for winter eclectic, Rosie MacIntyre; Roseburn Trophy for winter stableford singles, Rosie MacIntyre; Alex Fairlie Cup for mixed foursome matchplay (handicap), Helen Brian and Paul Brian; Moorings Hotel Cup for greensome knockout, Kathleen Leitch and Gail Anderson.



WELL DONE LADIES: Ladies' player of the year, Rosemary MacIntyre (right), with fellow prizewinners and Roberta Gillies (left), who presented the trophies.

## Fort William lose at home to Forres

Fort William 0  
Forres Mechanics 3

### Football

FORT WILLIAM Football Club continue to flounder second-bottom of the league table after another defeat at the weekend.

The Claggan side were a goal down after just 10 minutes into the home game and a second goal took Forres Mechanics 2-0

up at half time. In the second half, another goal from Forres Mechanics left Ally Ewen's men trailing behind with no reply.

This Saturday the Fort will welcome Keith to Claggan. Kick off 3pm.



BLOCKED OFF: Fort's Danny MacKintosh and Forres Dachi Khutsishvili.

## Ewan turns on the style in Elgin

### Boxing

LOCHABER Phoenix boxer Ewan Easson from Inverloch continued his fistic education last weekend when he boxed in Elgin against the hometown club's Ian Reid.

The 14-year-old won the Scottish Novice championships last month so was keen to show any improvement since his championship winning run and didn't disappoint, winning all three rounds and taking victory on a unanimous points decision.

Ewan showed his positive defence skills to good effect on Friday night and all three rounds were similar in that as much as possible he would take ring centre and as Reid charged forward the Lochaber Phoenix boxer would use clever footwork to create punching room and walk the Elgin youngster onto his shots thus doubling the power. At every opportunity Ewan launched his own attacks to ensure that they were not boxing at his opponent's preferred rate or rhythm.

What became evident was that Ewan had learned to defend and attack using angles, very rarely moving in straight lines. Coupled with a good grasp of working the jab, keeping shape and alternating attacks between body and head, his skills are improving due to the experience of contests and hard work in the gym.

Ewan will compete in the Scottish Intermediate Championships at the end of January which is the next step up from the novice championships and the last step before being an open class boxer and capable of fighting any boxer in Scotland.



UP AND RUNNING: The 71-strong field set off for the Drumfada Chase on Sunday.

## Stephen burns up the field to win Drumfada Chase

BLUE skies and sunshine made bright but chilly conditions for the Lochaber Athletic Club (LAC) Drumfada Chase.

Seventy-one runners took part in the second of the winter league races on Sunday but it was local Stephen Burns who took first place in 50 minutes and two seconds.

Burns was more than 30

seconds ahead of second place Michael Bossard, also of LAC, who finished in 50 minutes and 33 seconds. It was visiting Craig Mattocks of Gala Harriers who finished third in 51 minutes and 30 seconds, followed by junior Steven Burns in 51 minutes and 54 seconds.

LAC's Diane Baum was first lady home, finishing 11th overall

### Athletics

in 56 minutes and 10 seconds.

The next race is the Nevis Range Loop this Sunday November 29 at 11am. Registration is at Nevis Range car park from 10am.

Top 20 finishers (LAC unless otherwise stated): 1 Stephen Burns 50:02; 2 Michael Bossard 50:33; 3 Craig Mattocks (Gala Harriers) 51:30; 4 Steven Burns 51:54; 5 Steven Traill 53:54; 6 Jon Gay 53:55; 7 Aidan Donnelly 53:59; 8 Stuart Forrest (Highland Hill Runners) 54:40; 9 David Gallie (Highland Hill Runners) 55:52; 10 Allan Lamont 56:04; 11 Diane Baum 56:10; 12 Alan Smith (Deeside Runners) 56:29; 13 Geoff Simpson (Highland Bog Trotters) 56:49; 14 Gavin MacMillan 57:01; 15 Neil Waslidge 57:55; 16 Ben Dodman 58:02; 17 Barrie MacKinnon 58:40; 18 Andy Craig 59:14; 19 Gordie Taylor (Highland Hill Runners) 1:00:18; 20 Pawel Cymbalista 1:00:22.

## Table tennis season up and running

THE NEW season has started and there is some excellent table tennis being played in Lochaber.

If anyone enjoys watching, they should just go along to the Nevis Centre and watch but anyone who fancies trying it out can go as a guest.

People are welcome to go and have some fun and exercise in

### Table tennis

a nice easygoing atmosphere where they will meet new friends of all ages.

Age and ability makes no difference. Players meet every Monday at the Nevis Centre from 6.45pm till 9pm.

## Alleycats stay top of scratch division Ten pin bowling

ALLEYCATS continue to lead the scratch division after week six of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league.

They have 28 points and are followed by the Creeps with 23 points and British Legion Fort William on 18.

The handicap division is neck and neck with the Creeps and Rotavators both on 20 points, followed by British Legion on 19.

Individually, the best game of the week came from Jim Bell of British Legion who rolled 167. Jim also had the top handicap game of 227 while Rossamy Wareing had the best two-game scratch series of 319 and two-game handicap series of 440.

The top scratch average is held by Pam Weller of Alleycats on 159, followed by Tony Whitelocke, also of Alleycats, on 148 with Tim Attack of Ardtoe and Co on 144.

## Tight at the top of Ali Young League Indoor football

TANGNEY'S Dungeon steamrollered over Real Nevis 14-2 on Sunday night, but it wasn't enough to take them to the top of the Ali Young indoor football league.

Current top spot holders Fiorentina Turner had a smaller scale victory of 3-1 over the Goon Squad but stay in first place on goal difference on 18.

In other action in the Nevis Centre Ballatasaray beat Nevis Range 3-1, HW Energy won 2-1 against Real Nevis, Portocoy thrashed Inverloch United 10-1, ABCDE FC beat Stoaters 7-4 and Barcalochy won 4-1 against Crystal Phallus.

League table as of November 23:

Team	Points
Fiorentina Turner	24
Tangney's Dungeon	24
ABCDE FC	21
Portocoy	18
Goon Squad	18
Nevis Range FC	15
The Stoaters	15
HW Energy	12
Ballatasaray	9
FC Barcalochy	9
Crystal Phallus	3
AA Young Ltd	0
Inverloch United	0
Real Nevis	0

## Narrow win for Lochaber Rugby

Lochaber 22-19 Moray

LOCHABER have leapfrogged above Moray in the league, after beating their rivals 22-19 on Saturday.

The victory allowed the Banavie side to overtake visiting Moray and jump to sixth place in the Caledonia division two league.

Lochaber have no fixture this weekend. Their next game is away to Aberdeen Wanderers on December 5.



TACKLE: Lochaber's Conor Taylor makes a run backed up by team mate Jamie Stickland.

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**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds strong westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Hail showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds strong south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

**FRIDAY**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 19, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardnish	Mallaig
Thur	05.24 4.1 11.58 0.7 17.52 4.2 ** ** **		-5.35	+0.25
Fri	00.08 0.6 06.03 4.2 12.44 0.7 18.31 4.1		-5.30	+0.55
Sat	00.51 0.7 06.43 4.1 13.28 0.9 19.10 4.0		-0.47	+0.16
Sun	01.33 0.8 07.23 4.0 14.12 1.1 19.49 3.8		2.00	+5.30
Mon	02.15 1.0 08.03 3.8 14.58 1.4 20.30 3.5			
Tues	03.00 1.2 08.45 3.6 15.46 1.6 21.13 3.3			
Wed	03.48 1.4 09.32 3.4 16.39 1.9 22.06 3.1			

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)