

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8384

Thursday 7 December, 2017

www.obantimes.co.uk

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# Memorial bench to be fitting tribute to tragic Kayla, eight

**SANDY NEIL**  
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THE family of Kayla MacDonald, the eight-year-old girl from Dunbeg who died in a tragic accident in an Argyll forest in the summer, are dedicating a memorial bench just before her birthday this Christmas.

And they are inviting people to attend the dedication to share their happy memories of her.

Kayla, a pupil at the Rockfield Gaelic-medium unit in Oban, was killed by falling logs in a forest near Benderloch in July, in an incident which also injured a 12-year-old girl.

Her grief-stricken family described her as a 'precious and fun-loving eight-year-old who was loved by everyone around

her', whose 'smile would light up a room'.

A few days before what would have been Kayla's ninth birthday this month, her relatives will install a seat in one of her favourite spots, which they can see from their homes.

Kayla's mum, Karina MacPherson, invited people to join them to remember her.

She said: 'As a mark of respect to Kayla Mary MacDonald, the family have arranged for a memorial bench to be placed inside Dunstaffnage Castle.

'They will be meeting on Friday December 15 at 3.30pm inside the castle and would love for any friends and family to come along to mark this event.

'Afterwards they invite everyone to Soroba House in memory

of Kayla and to think of her in the lead up to December 20, her birthday.'

Kayla's grandmother, Janice Ferguson, or 'gaga' as Kayla called her, said: 'Kayla would be nine on December 20. We were thinking about a way to remember Kayla.'

The family settled on installing a bench at Dunbeg's historic landmark castle, and its custodians kindly offered to put it inside the ancient walls.

'I am not sure they have thought this through: a MacDonald bench in a Campbell castle!' Janice said.

The area had great significance for Kayla and for her relatives.

Janice added: 'The three families all live there, looking across to the castle, and Kayla moved there in her last year of life. The house looks straight across to the castle.'

'Kayla has got lots of happy memories there. I have pictures of her rolling her Easter eggs there. I have pictures of her on the steps just before the accident.'

'It is going to be a difficult Christmas,' she added. 'We are dreading it. It is the run up to Kayla's ninth birthday. It is not going to be easy.'

Kayla's six-year-old brother 'just does not understand', Janice said, adding: 'He asked if Santa will bring Kayla back. Other kids want the most up-to-date gadgets, and there he is wishing his sister back.'

'We want to remember the happy times because she was such a happy child. We will do a wee talk about Kayla. I have got a plaque for the bench. It's porcelain, with a picture of Kayla's face. It says, "In memory of our princess Kayla Mary MacDonald. Forever eight".'



Kayla pictured at Dunstaffnage Castle earlier this year with her brother Ruairidh.

## Tree-mendous fun at festival



So many Christmas trees! One-year-old Mhairi Johnston of Cladich was spellbound by all the colour and lights when she was taken along to the Christmas tree festival at St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, on Saturday by her mum Holly Ford and auntie Cara Johnston. For more pictures and a full report, turn to page three. Photograph: Joanne Simms.

## Connell man Billy is on his way home

BILLY Irving was flying home yesterday morning after being freed from an Indian prison last week.

The Connell man was found not guilty of firearms offences last Monday, after being sentenced to five years in jail in January 2016.

Billy and five other British ex-servicemen, known as the Chennai Six, have been fighting the firearms charges for the past four years.

The former paratrooper was working as an armed guard protecting shipping from Somali pirates when he and 34 of his colleagues were arrested in 2013.

They were initially found not guilty of straying into Indian waters with 'unlicensed weapons'. However, after a lower court appealed the decision, the men were jailed.

But after a long campaign and appeal process they were acquitted last week.

The Bring Billy Back Facebook page was updated yesterday (Wednesday) morning, saying: 'Billy is finally on a plane home.'

'After over four long excruciating years we can breathe a sigh of relief that Billy will soon be home with his family and friends. We would like to thank everyone for your support over the past four years.'

'We cannot stress enough how much it has helped in the fight to bring Billy back and we would have been at a loss without all our family, friends and supporters worldwide.'



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## Public object to 46 proposed houses

MORE than 40 people have publicly objected to plans to build 46 houses at Lonan Drive in Oban.

The application to build the dwellings in Lonan Drive is currently being considered by Argyll and Bute Council.

The subject was discussed at last week's Oban Community Council meeting, which has subsequently objected to the plans as a statutory consultee.

Duncan Martin, on behalf of the community council, wrote: 'The junction between McCaig Road and Soroba Road was already overloaded before the primary campus was built. It is now attempting to carry even

more traffic. No further development should be permitted until a solution is found.'

He added: 'Both the water and sewerage infrastructure were designed for far fewer houses than currently exist. Adding another 40-plus houses would mean that they would be serving nearly twice as many as their designed capacity.'

'It is unfortunate that this site was ever designated for development. It is the only green [space] within an area of housing, much of which is at high density.'

Mr Martin also highlighted previous clearance attempts, which he said 'only seem to have spread the knotweed, which is

going to take four to five years to remove professionally.'

These concerns were reiterated by the chairwoman of Oban Community Council, Marri Malloy, who is a resident of the area.

She said: 'I have got a personal objection. I think it's nonsense. The traffic would be horrific with another 46 houses going in that wee space. The traffic is already bad on Soroba Road.'

'The sewage was meant to take 200 houses, as far as we have heard, there's 287 right now. It's a disaster waiting to happen.'

'The water pressure in Soroba is dreadful. If they put another 46 houses, we are all going to

suffer. They are making it look like a concrete jungle. It's a lovely glen that people take their children up and down. If they take that away, we have no recreational space. I can't understand why they are building here.'

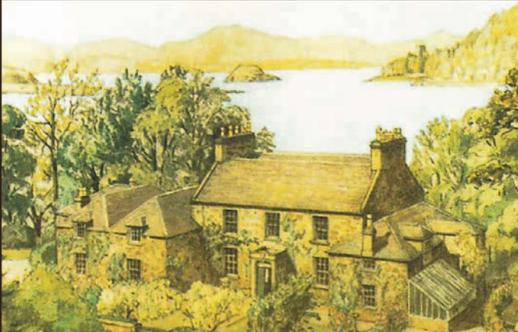
A member of the public said: 'There is huge pressure on undeveloped land in Oban and this small glen is a haven for both people and wildlife. I don't deny that houses are needed, but to destroy wild or semi-wild areas like this is little short of criminal.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The application is currently being considered.'

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## TIMESLINE

## Dental hub plan is 'unravelling'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan has said the case for the Uist dental hub is 'unravelling' in his submission to the Western Isles Integrated Joint Board's consultation on dental services in Uist.

The IJB said its preferred model for the delivery of dental care in Uist is to have a single service operating from Uist and Barra Hospital. That would involve the closure of the dental clinics in Lochmaddy and Linciate, with the clinic in Lochboisdale already having been closed.

The IJB launched a consultation on Uist dental services in October and held a series of public meetings in Uist last week. The consultation will run until tomorrow (Friday December 8).

## Opinions sought over fisheries

VIEWERS are being sought from the Western Isles on proposals to test new management measures in Scottish inshore waters.

The consultation will consider which areas should host two two-year pilots, part of an initiative to examine whether changing management arrangements in the inshore zone can have an impact.

One trial will test a more localised approach to fisheries management, where fishing interests have developed local arrangements.

The second will trial the impact of separating different methods of fishing, such as creeling and trawling, in an area.

## TV star is patron of Mull Otter Group

GORDON BUCHANAN, Mull's own internationally-renowned wildlife photographer and film-maker, has agreed to be patron of Mull Otter Group.

The television wildlife presenter and cameraman has spent his career filming wild and wonderful creatures in remote areas of the planet.

Most recently Gordon has been on TV in the highly acclaimed *Tribes, Predators and Me, Elephant Family and Me, Life in the Snow and Life in Polar Bear Town*.

The Mull Otter Group said: 'Although a healthy population of otters exists on the Isle of Mull, the Eurasian otter is still classed as "vulnerable".'

The intention of the Mull Otter Group is to work with the local community, other agencies and visitors to the island to ensure that otters on the island are given the respect they deserve.'

Gordon will support the group through practical interventions, information gathering and education.

## Attack could have been halted

DAVID MCPHEE  
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THE Manchester Arena attack that killed 22 people – including a Barra teenager – might have been prevented if different measures were taken, an official report has determined.

In the months leading up to the attack on May 22, in which 14-year-old Eilidh MacLeod lost her life and her friend Laura MacIntyre was injured, MI5 received intelligence about the would-be suicide bomber Salman Abedi, 'whose significance was not fully appreciated at the

time', states David Anderson QC, who wrote the report. This intelligence was not linked to terrorism, but to criminality.

'In retrospect, the intelligence can be seen to have been highly relevant to the planned attack,' the report reads.

Mr Anderson said: 'It is not the purpose of the internal reviews, or of this report, to cast or apportion blame. But though investigative actions were for the most part sound, many learning points have emerged. It is conceivable that the Manchester attack in particular might have been averted

had the cards fallen differently.' The report, which was submitted to the Home Secretary on November 2, covered the attacks at Manchester, Westminster, London Bridge and Finsbury Park.

Mr Anderson said: 'The excellent recent record of MI5 and the police in defending the UK from terrorist attack came to a brutal end this year at Westminster, Manchester Arena, London Bridge and Finsbury Park.'

'Despite elevated threat levels, the fundamentals are sound and the great majority of attacks continue to be thwarted. But

the shock of these incidents has prompted intensive reflection and a commitment to significant change.'

'In particular, MI5 and the police have identified the need to use data more effectively, to share knowledge more widely, to improve their own collaboration.'

'No free society can offer immunity from terrorism, or any other kind of crime. But if properly implemented and supervised, the 126 recommendations in these internal reviews will strengthen the hand of the security services, without compromising the strong legal and

ethical framework within which they work.'

This news comes after Sir Paul McCartney donated a special edition box set of Beatles music and memorabilia to be auctioned in aid of the Barra girls' families.

The two teenagers from Castlebay were attending an Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena in May, when a bomb was detonated, killing 22 people. Eilidh sadly lost her life, while Laura suffered severe injuries to her hands and legs.

Laura returned home at the end of August and is now back in school.

Sir Paul McCartney's *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* collection is to be auctioned by Bonhams.

The former Beatle has said he will personalise the collection to the winning bidder.

The auction will take place on December 13.

The donation was welcomed by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar councillor Donald Manford.

He said: 'I think it's a marvellous tribute and it brings the opportunity for so many to show the love and concern they have for all that has happened to the young girls and their families.'



100th defibrillator celebrations for life-saving trainers and supporters in Stornoway.

## Western Isles given 100th defibrillator ...

A COLLABORATION between Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the charity Lucky2BHere has made the Western Isles one of the best protected communities in the UK in terms of life-saving training and equipment.

In a proactive council-led approach, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) teamed up with Lucky2BHere and defibrillator manufacturer Cardiac Science to achieve the feat.

Together they have provided more concentrated access to defibrillators and comprehensive Emergency Life Support training (ELS) than anywhere else in the UK.

The Western Isles took delivery of its 100th defibrillator last week at the Cabarfeidh Hotel in Stornoway.

ELS training, including how to operate a defibrillator, is now provided routinely by Lucky2BHere volunteers in all 24

secondary and primary schools across the Western Isles as part of the curriculum.

Bernard Chisholm, education director for the Western Isles, helped create the framework for change by making defibrillator provision possible and championing the ELS training. Defibrillators are now available 24/7 at every school in the Western Isles, both for school and wider community use, all signposted from local roads.

The proactive approach to life-saving training is widely adopted across Europe, especially in Scandinavian countries, where survival rates after sudden cardiac arrest are as good as one in two. In the UK it is only one in 20.

Councillor Angus Morrison has been instrumental in the campaign both as a councillor and a volunteer trainer and co-ordinator at Lucky2BHere. He suffered a heart attack himself in 2015 and is well

aware of the importance of timely life-saving intervention.

It was his vision to see defibrillators in every community in the Western Isles and the scheme has seen that increase from seven to 100 in less than 18 months.

He said: 'After my heart attack I wanted to raise awareness of the need to have both easy access to defibrillators and the necessary life-saving skills to deal with a sudden cardiac arrest.'

Lucky2BHere trainers are volunteers all trained according to current Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines. The free-of-charge ELS training gives people the knowledge and confidence to provide bystander CPR and defibrillation in an emergency.

A celebration dinner was held at the end of November to mark an extraordinary 18 months of progress in life-saving education and the installation of the 100th defibrillator in the Western Isles.

## ... And there's a new one for Gribun

GRIBUN is one of the remotest parts of Mull but it now has a new defibrillator installed inside the former BT phone box thanks to Jacqui Farquhar.

Originally from Ballymeanach, Jacqui was prompted by news in 2016 of another new defibrillator installation in Salen to contact Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) and ask for support for a defibrillator near to her childhood home – when she was then Jacqui MacFadyen. MICT already works in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service to manage the inspection and maintenance

of 14 public access defibrillators across Mull and Iona. MICT has established a new partnership with the Community Heartbeat Trust which, in turn, has an arrangement with BT for the adoption of decommissioned phone boxes to host defibrillators.

Moray Finch, general manager of Mull and Iona Community Trust, said: 'We're really grateful for the generous donation from Jacqui that means we've been able to add a 15th defibrillator to the network on the islands. The defibrillator will be cared for by local volunteers.'



Uist and Barra 'Making a Difference' Youth Engagement Project. Picture: Outer Hebrides LEADER LAG

## Youth fund is set up for the Western Isles

THE Outer Hebrides LEADER 2014-2020 programme has announced the launch of a fund designed to support young people.

The fund is being delivered in partnership with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Bridge Community Centre.

The LEADER Youth Fund is available to provide money to projects aimed at supporting young people and youth initiatives. And all decisions on applications are decided upon by young people, through LEADER's newly established Youth Local Action Group (Youth LAG).

The Youth LAG, who will be responsible for allocating the £100,000 youth fund, is a group of young people aged between 14 to 25. They were recruited through an open call for volunteers, and spaces are still available to be on the Youth LAG.

To apply to the youth fund projects must directly benefit young people and youth initia-

tives, demonstrating innovative solutions to support community benefit. Funding is available for up to 90 per cent of total eligible project costs with a minimum grant requirement of £1,000. LEADER can support both capital and revenue projects, including new products and services, events, initiatives and creating new networking opportunities.

The Youth LAG will be launching its new fund in January, which will also coincide with Scotland's Year of Young People, with events taking place throughout the islands so prospective applicants can meet the Youth LAG and also find out more about the fund.

Although launch events are not taking place until January the fund is now officially open and accepting inquiries, with the closing date for application submissions being Wednesday March 7, 2018.

Applicants should go to the LEADER website at www.outerhebridesleader.co.uk.



Children from Tobermory cut the tape to open the new-look Co-op following its £1 million makeover. The store on located on Main Street re-opened on Thursday November 30.

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## Amy follows in footsteps of Jura 'hero'

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SEVENTY years after her 'hero' grandfather signed up to rescue lives in peril on the Isle of Jura's wilds and waters, Amy Dunnachie successfully completed her first call-out for Jura's Coastguard.

Amy, a 24-year-old youth development worker and jeweller raised on the island, finished four weekends of training in Tarbert a fortnight ago to join Jura Coastguard's 10 volunteers on call.

The team, drawn from the island's 200-plus inhabitants, faces an average of 30 emergencies each year, ranging from evacuating injured people from Jura's bays, glens, bays, cliffs and seas, to safeguarding washed up whales or dealing with unexploded bombs.

Amy told *The Oban Times*: 'I am really into community stuff. I thought it was quite a meaningful thing to do for someone who is quite active.'

Amy's first official emergency came on Thursday when the team was called out to help rescue a stalker injured in the hills miles away from the island's only road.

She said: 'The first thing I got was a message saying: "Call-out: a male suspected broken leg".'

Amy and her boyfriend Grant Rozga, a keen fell-runner who is also a member of Jura Coastguard,



Probationer Amy Dunnachie is ready to head out to an emergency.

were ready to deploy at a moment's notice. 'We were like "Go, go, go!"' she said. 'I had all my kit in the car waiting. We were first on the scene.'

A helicopter, dispatched when others in the stalking group called for help, was already on its way, and the couple watched it fly overhead to winch the injured man to hospital and safety. She was relieved her first 'exciting' day had ended successfully.

Seventy years ago Amy's grandfather, the late Charlie Maclean, had also faced his first call-out in the

Atlantic gales as a young man in the Jura Coastguard. 'It is a really nice continuation of life on Jura,' Amy said.

Charlie, the island's bus driver who died 19 years ago, became the Coastguard station officer for most of his life, earning him an MBE for his service. Just this month the family celebrated the 90th birthday of Charlie's wife, Nancy, and recalled stories of their life on the island.

'My uncle Andrew remembers, as a wee boy, a yacht ran aground

on Christmas Day,' Amy said. 'He thought Santa had crashed his sleigh and his dad was going out to save him. It was a hero moment.'

Charlie and Nancy made headlines in *The Oban Times* when they married on the island in November 1954 in a double wedding.

Amy's parents Carolyn and Alec are proud of her carrying on the tradition, as is Nancy herself. 'She is quite chuffed I am not too girly and full of action,' Amy said.

Dave Graham, senior coastal operations officer for HM Coastguard, said: 'The Jura team deal with 20 to 30 incidents each year and they can vary from a medical evacuation by helicopter, to a missing person search, to dealing with abandoned pyrotechnics and ordnance washed up on the shoreline.'

'Our Coastguard rescue officers are specially trained in a diverse range of skills to enable them to operate safely in the remote environment.'

'Amy has recently successfully completed the new entrant core skills course and has returned to Jura to join her team where she will spend the next six months as a probationer consolidating her skills under the direction of the Jura station officer Graeme Lindsay.'

'Amy is joining a close-knit team with a long history on the island and she will make a fantastic addition to an already effective team.'

# Sheriff praises teacher as he bans and fines her £350 for drinking and driving

THE way an island primary school teacher conducted herself after being caught drink-driving has been commended by a sheriff.

Eilidh Marion Campbell, aged 30, of Benview, Kilmoluaig, Tír-e, pled guilty at the first available opportunity to the drink driving charge. She had a breath reading of 85 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath when

the limit in Scotland is 22. She appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

The offence took place on November 10 on the B8068, a half-mile north of Scarinish on the island.

Her car had been involved in a minor collision with another vehicle at a passing place on the single-track road.

She had pulled away too early

while the other car was still passing.

'Witnesses noticed that her speech was slurred and there was a smell of alcohol,' said procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty.

There was no mobile phone signal at the spot where the collision happened and the witnesses drove on to find a signal and report the incident and Campbell drove home, where

she was seen later that evening by a police officer.

From her first interview with the police Campbell admitted the offence and co-operated fully, her defence agent, Jane MacLeod, said.

Mrs MacLeod said: 'She told me, "I don't want to try and wriggle out of this". She is utterly, utterly, disgusted by her own behaviour and has accept-

ed full responsibility from the beginning.

'She has been genuine in her remorse.'

Mrs MacLeod added that the whole episode had been one of embarrassment and shame for her client.

Campbell, who teaches at the island's primary school, had no previous convictions and a clean licence.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes told her: 'Your attitude towards this has been a great credit to you, taking responsibility for this from the outset.'

He fined her £350 and imposed a 12-month driving ban but said she was eligible to attend a driver rehabilitation course. The course, if completed, allows up to a 25 per cent reduction in the driving ban.

## End of an era as Nancy Blacks shuts

THE shutters came down and shelves were emptied at Oban's Nancy Blacks shop this week, after half a century of selling boat and outdoor equipment.

Stock from the chandlery, camping and coastal clothing store at 18/19 Argyll Square was seen being removed by receivers on Tuesday morning. Its business



hours were also updated just after midnight on its Facebook page, which no longer displays opening times or contact details.

The shop was started by Nancy Black in 1965, its website explains, and began its third term of ownership in 2012 under Sean and Karina Jameson. It hosted a nursery fashion show just last month.

Blacks Town and Country just along the street at 24-25 Argyll Square is a separate business under different owners, and remains open as usual.

Members of Tarbert Ladies Choir came to sing at the festival. Paula McLean, front right, conducted. Anne Curnyn, from Tarbert was singing sitting down, after breaking her leg when she slipped while out walking Jodi, her wee Westie.



Members of the Lochawe community mingled with visitors from across Oban and further afield.

## Kirk hosts third Christmas tree festival

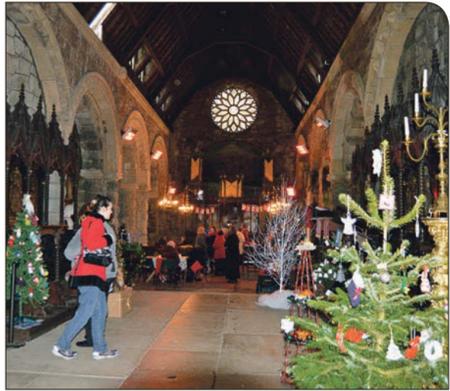
BEAUTIFUL St Conan's Kirk at Lochawe marked the start of Christmas with a weekend-long Christmas tree festival.

Schools, businesses, youth groups and organisations all took a tree along to the kirk, filling it with all different shapes and sizes for the festival, which ran from Friday December 1 to Sunday December 3; opening on Sunday after the monthly service which coincided with the first week of Advent.

More people than ever went along and the kirk was packed on Saturday.

Tarbert Ladies Choir members travelled from across Argyll to perform twice during the afternoon. Friends of St Conan's organised the event and served hot drinks and cakes throughout. This was the third year the festival has been held and there were more than 40 trees.

The carol service at St Conan's will be on Christmas Eve and 6pm, everyone is welcome.



The kirk was filled with Christmas trees.



Rosie Campbell-Preston, chairwoman, and Liz Mackay, secretary of the Friends of St Conan's.



Wide Mouthed Frog bar manager Bobby Martin and Nikki Warham.

## Nikki proves Oban's Got Talent

SINGER Nikki Warham triumphed at the Oban's Got Talent contest at Dunstaffnage Marina on Saturday night, which raised hundreds of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The competition, run by The Wide Mouthed Frog, boasts a first prize of a two-hour recording session in a Glasgow studio, with all travel and accommodation provided.

The 25-year-old mum of two, soon to be three, sang Etta James's *At Last* in the first round, *Perfect* by Ed Sheeran in the second, and then *Make You Feel My Love* by Adele to clinch victory, finishing on KT Tunstall's *Black Horse and the Cherry Tree* for the crowd.

The former Oban High School

pupil, who now lives in North Connel, was a regular on the Lorne's open mic circuit, but had only sung once, last December, since her first child David was born four years ago, and was nervous about returning to the stage.

'I cancelled five days prior because I lost my voice entirely,' she said. 'I was trying to get it back. By the afternoon I really wanted to give it a go.'

After her win, she added: 'I was really pleased, as I had not sung in so long. There were lots of people there. It has given me my confidence back.'

This year's event raised more than £300 for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

## Oban Unsigned will return for 2018 event

IN ASSOCIATION with *The Oban Times*, talent competition Oban Unsigned is making a comeback for Oban Live 2018.

The return was announced by 2017 winners K9 Kev and Rory O'B on Monday December 4.

The duo received rave reviews after their crowd-wowing set at Oban Live back in June. More details on the competition and how to enter to follow early next year.

And a campaign titled #10DAYS, organised by Oban Live, is well under way.

The 10-day campaign, which began December 1 and runs until December 10, includes an announcement each day on the event's social media channels and a 10 per cent discount on tickets, which are now on sale.

Skerryvore, Heron Valley and Irish band Hermitage Green have all been announced so far for the 2018 line-up with more act and event news to be announced during the campaign.

Hermitage Green are one of

Ireland's hottest bands. Following the release of singles *Jenny* and *Quicksand* came *Save Your Soul*, an album that was also steered by the production talents of Philip Magee (The Academic, Kodaline, The Script and Declan O'Rourke). Oban Live will be their first outdoor festival in Scotland.

Nominated for Up-and-coming Artist of the Year at the weekend's MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards, the popular Heron Valley are an energetic young folk band whose roots lie in Scottish and Irish traditional music.

Skerryvore, the band behind the whole event, will also take to the Oban Live stage next year, which will also see the release of Skerryvore's sixth studio album accompanied by a global tour.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.obanlive.com/10days](http://www.obanlive.com/10days).

To claim the 10 per cent discount, users must use promotional code 10DAYS.

Valid until 11.59pm on December 10.

## POLICE FILES with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

AT ABOUT 10.30pm on Monday November 27, at the Halfway House filling station at Pennyfuir, a car was stopped and the 26-year-old woman who was driving was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol. The woman was charged with the offence and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

AT ABOUT 10.20am on Tuesday November 28, a woman allegedly assaulted another woman at the Atlantis Leisure Centre in Oban. Subsequently, a 30-year-old woman traced and charged with assault. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

AT ABOUT 5.40pm on Thursday November 30, on the A828 near Benderloch, a collision occurred between a Fiat Panda and a Mercedes van. Subsequently, two men, aged 42 and

80, were charged with careless driving. The van driver suffered minor injuries as a result of the collision. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

AT ABOUT 12.30pm on Saturday December 2, on the A85, near Arrivain, Tyndrum, a motorist was stopped for exceeding the speed limit. The driver, a man (33), was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

AT ABOUT 7.25pm on Saturday December 2, in Tesco car park in Oban, a vehicle was allegedly left unattended with the engine running. The driver, a man aged 26, was traced within the store and charged with the offence. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

AT ABOUT 6.40pm on Saturday December 2, a man allegedly assaulted another

man in Miller Road, Oban. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

AT ABOUT 9.15pm on Saturday December 2, on the A816, near Kilmore, a car was stopped and the 29-year-old man who was driving was found not to be using any eye correction (glasses or contact lenses) as required under his driving licence conditions. The man was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

AT ABOUT 11.55pm on Saturday December 2, in Argyll Street, Oban, a car was stopped and the 27-year-old man who was driving while under the influence of alcohol. The man was charged and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

BETWEEN 2pm on Saturday December 2 and 11am on Sunday December 3, in a car park at Millpark Place, Oban, a black Ford Fiesta was damaged by having its bodywork scratched. Police are investigating and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

AT ABOUT 12.30pm on Sunday December 3, on the A85, west of Tyndrum, a motorcyclist was stopped for dangerously exceeding the speed limit. The rider, a man aged 54, was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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

## TIMESLINE

### New procurement strategy approved

AN UPDATED procurement strategy and policy designed to make it easier for smaller organisations to bid to work with Argyll and Bute Council have been approved.

At its meeting on Thursday November 30, members of Argyll and Bute Council approved the Procurement Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy, which guides the way the council buys goods and services over the next year.

### Young man found dead in Oban

A 23-YEAR-OLD man has been found dead at a property in Catalina Avenue, Oban. Police received a report just after 1am on Monday November 27, and have confirmed there are no suspicious circumstances.

### Free membership of coast trust

ARGYLL and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust's (ACT) until January 31 is offering free membership to community groups, small businesses, schools and individuals.

And when you sign up, ACT will give you a free tree for you to plant in Argyll.

For more information or to sign up for free membership, email [info@act-now.org.uk](mailto:info@act-now.org.uk)

### Well-known Argyll businessman dies

ONE of the area's best-known figures, Murdo MacLeod, died suddenly but peacefully at his Achnaba home on Wednesday November 29 at the age of 70.

Along with his twin Kenny, Mr MacLeod was a founder in 1975 of the business that became MacLeod Construction Ltd, and he retained an active role in the business to the end.

Following a well-attended funeral service yesterday, Mr MacLeod was interred at Killewin cemetery, Minard.



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TIMESLINE

Rowan takes on national role

A PUPIL from Oban High School has been selected as a member of Scotland's first ever Scottish Education Council.

Rowan Watkins, 17, is one of only five young people chosen to join the council to oversee work to help improve education services across the country.

The Scottish Education Council is made up of a mix of representatives, brought together to discuss education in Scotland and look at where improvements can be made.

Rowan said: 'I feel extremely privileged to have been chosen to stand on the Scottish Education Council and to represent the young people of Scotland. We held our first meeting in Edinburgh last week and will meet every two months. It is a wonderful opportunity for me and I look forward to being a voice for Scotland's young people.'

Butcher rewarded for training efforts

ALISTER Jackson from Oban was one of the finalists of the training partner of the year award due to his commitment to training.

Alister is known for treating his employees as part of his family and has understood the desire for young people to travel away from Oban is strong but this has not stopped him investing in new talent as well as helping them take time to develop.

All Alister's trainees Alister have remained in the industry.

Three local causes land cash windfalls

THREE local good causes have benefited from a donation of £500 each from money raised over the past year by members of the Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club.

The three local causes who received the donations are Hope Kitchen, Lorn and Oban Healthy Options and Oban Hospice's Dove Centre.

Beneath the surface: all the news from SAMS

FRIENDS and colleagues of the late Prof Graham Shimmiel travelled from across the UK to celebrate the life and career of the Scottish Association for Marine Science's (SAMS) pioneering former director.

Leading marine scientists from around the UK attended the event held last Friday at SAMS, on what would have been Prof Shimmiel's 59th birthday.

Prof Shimmiel, who died on Christmas Eve last year, was at the helm of SAMS between 1996 and 2008 and transformed the institute: doubling the number of staff; developing the BSc and PhD programmes; building a new main laboratory; developing a business incubator for marine biotechnology companies; broadening SAMS research to include Arctic science, biotechnology and social science; and setting up its first commercial subsidiary.

Speakers at the event highlighted Prof Shimmiel's legacy as a scientist, a leader, and an innovator.

Prof Nicholas Owens, the current SAMS Director, explained how Prof Shimmiel's presence was still felt at SAMS and that it was a 'huge challenge' to follow in his footsteps.

SAMS President Prof Geoffrey Boulton added: 'SAMS has lived on a heritage that Graham built and we need to continue that heritage. It seems like Graham is now throwing down a challenge to us to ask what we're going to do next.'

Prof Shimmiel left SAMS for the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, in Maine, USA, and was the driving force behind a new \$33m laboratory.

Prof Willie Wilson, now director at the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science in Plymouth, worked with Prof Shimmiel at Bigelow. He said: 'I have been a director and worked in various places and I often ask myself, "What would Graham do?". I think that is testament to his leadership.'

AN INDIAN marine scientist has come to SAMS for three months to learn more about the changing Arctic region.

Divya David works in the Ocean Sciences Group at India's National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, part of the Ministry for Earth Sciences. The group has increased its



Prof Graham Shimmiel's widow, Jane, holds a book of remembrance signed by guests at the SAMS event to celebrate the life and career of the former director.



Dr Ruth Paterson is with Prof David; external examiner Dr Nicolas Touzet of the Institute of Technology; and internal examiner Prof John Day of SAMS.



SAMS director Prof Nicholas Owens welcomes Divya David to Dunbeg.

work on Arctic issues in recent years and Divya contacted SAMS scientist Dr Finlo Cottier in order to learn more about his work.

During her visit, funded by a fellowship jointly awarded by the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), she will explore the physical, biological and chemical interactions between the north Atlantic and Arctic waters.

Divya said she is enjoying experiencing a different climate in Oban but

admitted to having brought over some Indian tea to remind her of home.

She has also had requests from home to bring back Oban whisky and chocolate!

SAMS researchers joined First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and other international delegates in addressing the Scotland and the New North forum at Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms.

The recent conference, organised by the Arctic Circle and the Scottish Government, discussed environmen-

tal issues, transport, energy solutions and other issues in the face of a changing Arctic region.

SAMS was represented by speakers Prof Mark Inall, who is also director of the Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society (SAGES), and Knowledge Exchange manager Dr Raeanne Miller, who also represented the European-funded Arctic climate project Blue-Action.

Dr Finlo Cottier had an exhibition at the event, promoting SAMS' leading Arctic science and the education

provision on Arctic studies through the University of the Highlands and Islands.

CONGRATULATIONS to student Dr Ruth Paterson on successfully gaining her PhD.

Ruth, who is also a yoga instructor in Oban, has been studying toxic algae in Scottish waters and is supervised by Prof Keith Davidson.

She is pictured with, from left, Prof Davidson; external examiner Dr Nicolas Touzet of the Institute of Technology, Sligo, Ireland; and internal examiner Prof John Day of SAMS.

Ruth was also supervised by Dr David Green of SAMS and Eileen Bresnan and Jean-Pierre Lacaze from Marine Scotland Science.

AS AN academic partner in the University of the Highlands and Islands, SAMS UHI hosted this year's UHI postgraduate conference in November, giving the students a chance to learn from each other about a range of subjects and to meet their fellow scholars.

From birds in space to Gaelic poetry, rune graffiti and everything in between, the event demonstrated the diversity of the university partnership.

Oban puts its 'trust' in the Trust

SUSAN WINDRAM  
swindram@obantimes.co.uk

FOLLOWING the presentation of a special resolution to change the legal status of Oban Communities Trust (OCT) to become what is commonly known as a community benefit society, the community again put its 'trust' in the Trust at OCT's annual general meeting last week.

Wednesday evening's meeting, held in the Rockfield Centre's community hut, heard the change in status would enable OCT to fundraise through the issue of community shares and follow a growing number of community enterprises raising investment capital through a community share offer.

Guest speaker James Hilder – a consultant and director of his local community development trust at Strontian, who has had a long involvement with Mull and Iona Community Trust, helping establish several new social enterprises – shared his experience and knowledge of the benefits of community shares at the meeting.

He outlined details of the successful Harmony Hydro project on Mull run by community benefit society Green Energy Mull and the fundraising for a new primary school at Strontian, both of which he has been closely involved with. As well

Getting festive at the Rockfield Centre

Festive fun is happening this weekend at the Rockfield Centre. A wreath-making workshop kicks off at 2pm on Saturday December 9 and is on until 4.30pm, while Sunday sees more festive craft making at the festive family drop-in between noon and 4pm.

But before that, tomorrow (Friday December 8) is an Inspired? family activity ideas session from 11am to 4pm, giving everyone the chance to have input on ideas for activities through the centre.

The popular monthly Blether Session will focus on Christmas in Oban on Friday December 15 from 2pm to 4pm. Go along and have a chat and a cup of tea and talk about memories of Christmas in the town.

Later that evening, the Scratch Choir meets at 6pm and the Craftwork Makers meet up on Sunday December 17 for the annual craftmakers' get-together before Christmas.

as many others, these projects continue to successfully benefit their communities.

OCT will now move to become Oban Community Benefit Society with support from Community Shares Scotland, with a share offer to be launched in the spring of 2018. As well as community shares, OCT has an ongoing programme of grant applications to help raise the target amount of £3.2 million for the development of the main building.

A full house at the AGM heard chairman Gordon McNab thank the board of directors and project facilitator Eleanor MacKinnon for overseeing the project operation and future plans, the

design team led by Andrew Pinkerton and the full Rockfield Centre team for their unstinting work over the past year running a diverse range of activities from the community huts.

The arts and culture programme, co-ordinated by Rhona Dougall, moves from strength to strength with regular activity. The heritage projects include the Oban Playmap, supported by Cori Princel and printed by The Oban Times, to the current project Journeys to the Little Bay supported by Jamie Yates.

Gordon McNab said: 'From use as a meeting place for many organisations, work space and for a wide range of health and wellbeing classes, popular regu-

lars such as the monthly Scratch Choir, Let's Make a Scene events and the Oban Fiddle Group, to the weekly Under the Skin camera club, song-writing group and all the other events held here, it has been an incredibly busy year with 12,000 people using the huts during this term.'

'We remain true to our original ethos of the four themes outlined by the community for the development of the Rockfield Centre – history and heritage, arts and culture, education and enterprise, and community well-being. The importance of the centre to the community is no better outlined than in the social impact report prepared for the past year which is available to read on our website.'

He added: 'We have a small but amazing team driven by the community and we thank everyone for their support and belief in the project. The Rockfield Centre will be a beacon of hope to Oban and Argyll, with a wider collaboration both nationally and internationally.'

'We have always done things differently at the Rockfield Centre and we will continue to do this and succeed in securing the funding to get the doors of the main building open for the community once again.'

Information on Rockfield Centre events is available through www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk and on its Facebook page.

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\*Offer ends 10th Dec

Santa is on his way to Oban ... twice!

I'M SO excited! Christmas is nearly here and – don't tell anyone – but I get to be an elf and help Santa on Saturday, writes Oban town ambassador Kay McDonald.

Oban and Lorn Lions are hosting Santa this Saturday and next from 11am till 4pm in Airds Crescent, just beside the TSB. I'm hoping to see lots of excited wee faces and lots of adults with hankies and cameras.

There is nothing like a child's face when they see Santa. Lots of them don't know whether to laugh or cry, and sometimes the adults aren't much better.

Another highlight of this weekend is Spotlight Theatre in the Corran Halls with Rapunzel. I can't wait to see what they make of it: they always manage a wee twist on the classic fairy tales and lots of laughs.

The cinema is also really good just now with a National Theatre performance of Young Marx, Justice League and A Son of Bigfoot for the young and young at heart and two great comedies, with A Bad Mom's Christmas and Daddy's Home 2 as well as a craft sale during the day on Saturday. It's all go up there. I hope you're all enjoying

the beautiful Christmas shop windows around the town, they're spectacular this year and more shops than ever have entered into the spirit of things.

Oban is looking beautiful just now with all the coloured lights and sparkles. She's just like someone dressed up for a special occasion.

Last week's photo was of a lamppost in Gibraltar Street. It's a lovely wee area which just needs a wee bit TLC to make it a feature.

This week's photo is at the other end of the town again and worth a wee walk to see if you can spot it.

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## IJB begs for £1m to halt rising waiting times

THE number of people in Argyll and Bute who are not receiving an outpatient appointment within the 12-week waiting period is set to increase by 320 per cent, new figures reveal.

A meeting of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership heard on November 29 that there were 1,120 'breaches' in 2016/17, up from 532 the previous year, and it is forecast to rise again threefold to 4,719 in 2017/18. If this trend continues without investment, the meeting heard, people could be waiting 26 weeks as of September 2017 for some specialities. The IJB noted further breaches are likely without funding and a service redesign.

The board said it was 'inequitable and unacceptable the £3.2 million allocated to the NHS Highland board should be only spent on the Highland council population'.

It directed its chief executive to write to the NHS Highland board requesting the 'NRAC allocation of funding (£925,000) be released to Argyll and Bute'.

The IJB began this year facing a budget gap of £2 million, but its projection has jumped to £3.4 million 'due to ongoing overspends for locums/agency staff [and] overspends in social care services'.

Its financial recovery plan has had to be updated with further savings to 'ensure' a balanced budget for March 2017-18, but if the savings are not achieved, the overspend threatens to roll into 2018-19, swelling next year's budget gap from £9.1 million to £11.4 million.

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Oban man Neil MacKechnie retired from Argyll and Bute Roads Department after 25 years service on Thursday November 30. Neil received a quiaich from the council, presented by Donald Campbell, and various presents from his colleagues.

# RBS slammed over branch closure plan

DAVID MCPHEE  
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MORE than 5,250 people have signed a petition urging the Royal Bank of Scotland to reverse its decision to close the only bank on Barra.

This comes as RBS announced it would be shutting 259 branches between May and June of next year, including Inveraray, Campbeltown, Rothesay and Castlebay on Barra. RBS has said it will keep the ATM on Barra, but the branch will still close in the summer.

This concession has been welcomed, but the decision to close the only bank on the island has been condemned.

The trade union Unite Scotland

labelled the closures as 'morally bankrupt'.

Western Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil said: 'From the correspondence that RBS has sent me, it had suggested that a local alternative ATM could be in Portree, Tobermory or indeed Oban.

'That is the equivalent of telling the people of Dover that they can go to Paris to access a cash machine.

'[RBS] informs me that only 11 people per week use the branch in Castlebay. However, I can confirm that this is utterly untrue, as this morning alone, sources in Castlebay, keeping an eye on the bank door, tell me that they have seen 20 people going into the branch, mostly local businesses.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell also criticised the news about closing branches in the area. He has written to the bank's chief executive asking him to reconsider.

'Both Rothesay and Campbeltown have a large number of faithful Royal Bank customers who are being treated shabbily,' said Mr Russell.

'I am particularly concerned about the impact on the farming sector given that the Royal Bank has been a key player in the local agricultural scene for a long time. These two closures should not happen but at least there are some banking alternatives in both places. There are none in Inveraray and the town will be severely affected by the loss of its

last high street bank. 'Access to ATM facilities will cease and the ludicrous offer by RBS of a "community banker" without an office or cash adds insult to injury.'

Once closed, the closest bank to Inveraray would be Oban, which is 37 miles away.

In a letter to the minister for business, innovation and energy, a spokesperson for Unite Scotland said: 'The directors of RBS made a pledge that they would never close one of their branches when it was "the last bank in town".'

'The plans are not actually about inefficient, under-used services for the most part. They are about money, and making more of it for RBS shareholders. We actually believe RBS is morally bankrupt.'

## Injured Agnes could be home this week

KAREN MACKECHNIE, the daughter of the Oban woman badly injured in a hit-and-run accident in the United States, has returned home after spending a fortnight at her mother's bedside.

And Karen said on Monday this week that she hopes her mum, Agnes, 'could be travelling on Thursday'.

Agnes suffered multiple fractures and other serious internal injuries after being struck by a pick-up truck in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, at Hallowe'en while on holiday visiting her brother, who lives in the city.

Karen told *The Oban Times* last Thursday: 'I arrived home last Friday after a very emotional couple of weeks visiting my mum and dad at St Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem.

'My mum is doing fantastically well, considering there were moments we all thought we would never see her again, but she's an amazingly strong person and a fighter.

'She's currently undergoing intensive physiotherapy and we are hoping she could be back in

Scotland as early as next week some time if all goes well.

'I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support and the many donations we have received on the Gofundme page on Facebook which was set up by our family friend, Shona Wallace.

'I would especially like to thank my mum's work colleagues and customers at Albany Stores for their cards and generous donations.

'And everyone at my workplace at SAMS who have been amazing with their support, especially the girls in CCAP [the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa lab], who held a coffee morning while I was away to help raise money to cover some of my travel costs.'

The Gofundme page set up by Shona Wallace has so far raised more than £1,505 to help Agnes and her husband David meet some of the costs they have incurred as a result of the accident.

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



Brendan O'Hara MP, left, with ACHA chairman Jim Milne, Iona MacPhail from ACHA and Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, at the opening of the new homes in Powell Place, Connel. The 10 new homes opened mean a total of 30 have now been completed by ACHA on the site in the past three years. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

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OT

## Portavadie

PORTAVADIE'S Marina Restaurant and Bar has been awarded two AA Rosettes for culinary excellence.

This comes after the destination won two prizes at the Scottish Outdoor and Leisure Awards, along with a coveted Highlands and Islands Tourism Award.

Executive chef Liam Murphy said it was 'an honour' to be given the rosettes.

'I'm absolutely delighted to see the passion and dedication of our team rewarded in this way,' he said.

'Only 10 per cent of eateries in the UK receive one rosette or above and I am thrilled our commitment to delivering high quality, locally-sourced food has been recognised by an organisation as renowned as the AA.

'We are incredibly lucky to live and work in an area with such an abundant larder, from land and sea. This, together with our innovative team, allows us to showcase the best produce to create memorable dishes for our guests.'

## Loch Lomond

PEOPLE from around the world have helped to raise almost £70,000 to get the UK's last built paddle ship sailing on Loch Lomond again.

The campaign to fix the Maid of the Loch got under way on Friday October 27 with the aim of raising £125,000 in six weeks. The money will be used to buy and install a boiler.

Fundraisers were thrilled by a gift of £25,000 from Graeme Varley of Manchester. He was born in Greenock and spent his early childhood there. As a teenager in the early 1960s, Graeme used to sail on the Maid of the Loch and was inspired to support the campaign because of these happy memories.

The farthest and perhaps most historic donation came from Calgary, in Alberta, Canada. \$5,500 CAD was given by members of the Humble family in memory of author, journalist and photographer Ben Humble MBE (1903-1977), who overcame deafness to become one of the pioneers of mountain rescue in Scotland.

Ben's books and countless articles covered every aspect of the Scottish outdoors and soon after the end of the Second World War he shared his life-long enthusiasm for the Clyde and Loch steamers with a popular series of guide books.

To donate or respond to the appeal for missing items go to [www.maidoftheloch.org](http://www.maidoftheloch.org)

## Ballachulish

A SANTA Dash will take place in Ballachulish on Saturday December 9 in aid of the village hall, play park and the fourth Lochaber Scouts.

The two kilometre run, walk or jog starts at noon from the Quarry Cafe. Elves and reindeer are also welcome. Registration is from 10.30am.

## Benderloch



Children and adults gathered in The Victory Hall, Benderloch, on Friday December 1 for the annual Yuletide Fair. As well as stalls and games, children from primary one at Lochnell Primary School sang carols and Christmas songs, finishing with a rousing Jingle Bells which marked the arrival of Santa. Teas, mince pies and a well-supported raffle rounded off the evening.



Anne celebrates at the end of her trolley dash with Aldi Oban staff.

## Trolley dash winner bags £366 worth of food

THE WINNER of Aldi Oban's supermarket sweep took home £366 worth of food and raised the same amount for charity.

Anne MacLennan from Oban won an in-store competition to take part in a five-minute trolley dash in aid of charity on Thursday November 16.

The Oban store matched the value of Anne's haul and donated £366 to her nominated charity - Hope Kitchen.

Anne said: 'I had a fantastic time. I can't believe I collected so many Aldi goodies in such a short time. Thanks

to Aldi and the amazing staff for making it such a great experience.

'I'm really happy Aldi are also going to donate the same value to Hope Kitchen. I am really glad my success will help lots of other families, especially at this time of year.'

Graham Nicolson, group buying director at Aldi in Scotland, said: 'We created the Aldi supermarket sweep as a fun way for our shoppers to help support their local community and get at least a few days worth of shopping for themselves.'

'Anne has scooped an astonishing amount of treats for herself and helped raise a huge amount for her local community foodbank.'

Dr Stuart Chalmers, chairman of Hope Kitchen, said: 'We are really grateful Anne chose us as her supermarket sweep partner. She did a fantastic job and flew around those aisles.'

'We also want to say a huge thanks to Aldi for the donation. It will go a long way and help provide food to the individuals and families we serve.'



The Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio.

## Inveraray

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club entertained a large audience at its November concert.

Supporting players were: Fyne Folk, with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles, Agnes Liddell on keyboard and two guests, Angus J MacColl on small pipes and Grant MacDougall on drums.

Also playing on the night were Sandy Carr from Oban on melodeon; Charlie Saune from Rothesay on fiddle; Dalriada Ceilidh Band, with Myles Clark on accordion, Steve Hunter

on guitar and Grant MacDougall on drums; Jake MacKay on 'moothie' with Angus J and Agnes.

Guest artistes were the popular Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio, with Charlie on button box, Derek Hamilton on keyboard and Ian Graham on drums.

All too soon, it was time for the final set of reels, followed by a stramash, but not before chairman Niall Iain MacLean thanked all the artistes.

Next week the club welcomes back Neil MacEachern from Kippen and his Scottish Dance Band.

## Tibetan monks tour Argyll

THE WORLD famous Gyuto Monks of Tibet are going on a mini tour of Argyll.

The Open Mind, Loving Hear Tour will see the monks travel to Oban, Iona, Ballachulish and Ardgour.

The monks will collaborate with Gaelic singer Giogair Labruidh from Ballachulish.

They will be in Oban's St Columba's Cathedral on Thursday December 14 at 7pm, before travelling to Iona on Friday December 15 to perform at 2pm in the Abbey.

Saturday December 16 will see the monks perform in Ballachulish Village Hall from 7.30pm and on Sunday they will play in Ardgour's Watercolour Studios at 3pm.

## Return of Appin Craft Fair after 15 years

THE APPIN Craft Fair is back after an absence of around 15 years, thanks to growing interest locally.

Appin man Les Silkowski invited crafters, artists, weavers and jewellery makers from around Argyll to the Christmas-themed event in Appin Village Hall on the weekend of Saturday November 25 and Sunday November 26. Les had also organised a craft fair in Port Appin village hall in the summer, which proved popular.

## Delight as Taynuilt Shinty Club 'lands' fish farm sponsor

AN ARGYLL shinty club has secured a new sponsorship deal with a local fish farm company to cover the cost of new strips and equipment as well as supporting club activities.

For the next three years, Taynuilt Shinty Club will be sponsored by Dawnfresh Farming, the largest producer of farmed trout in the UK. The company has four sites on Loch Etive, close to Taynuilt, and a number of staff grew up and live in the area.

The agreement with Dawnfresh Farming means Taynuilt will be equipped with new strips and equipment for next year, with subsequent contributions being paid directly into club funds to help grow the club at all age levels.

A new shirt design will be launched in the new year but will continue to feature Taynuilt's traditional orange and black colour scheme.

Dawnfresh Farming director Alison Hutchins said: 'Dawnfresh Farming always does what it can to contribute to the community, whether through the people we

employ and the economic contribution that brings, through the work our staff do in the local area or through sponsorship of important local groups like Taynuilt Shinty Club.

'The club encourages young people to improve their health and well-being by taking part in sport. Without their work, young people might have to travel great distances to take part or, worse still, not take part at all.

'The club committee has presented a strong case about their activity for the future and we are delighted to be able to support them.'

Davie Thomson, chairman of Taynuilt Shinty Club, said: 'Keeping local clubs such as ours in operation is always difficult, so to have this kind of long-term support from Dawnfresh Farming is invaluable as we plan for the future.'

'We want to see our teams at all levels continue to grow and compete with other clubs from around Scotland.'

'Shinty is a vital part of not only our heritage but also our future if we want to provide activities that will encourage people to stay and to move to the local area and be part of our vibrant community.'

## Seil

SEIL Drama Group will stage its annual pantomime on Saturday January 27.

The cast will be performing Clachan Jack: The Man with the Golden Beans at 3pm and 7pm. To keep up-to-date with the event, follow Seil Drama Group on social media.

Newsdesk 01631 568000



Appin's craft fair was a success.

## Co-op funding boost for Argyll good causes

DOZENS of good causes across Oban and the West Highlands received an early Christmas present this week when the Co-op handed out £148,000.

The money will be shared by 41 organisations, all of whom are making a difference to communities throughout the region. These include

16th Argyll (Campbeltown) Scout Group, Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust, Feis Latharna and Lochaber Rural Education Trust.

This is the latest round of payouts from the local community fund and brings the amount the Co-op has invested in good causes in Oban and

the West Highlands since September 2016 to £275,000.

When a member buys Co-op branded products from food stores or a funeral plan or funeral from Funeralcare, they earn a five per cent reward for themselves with a further one per cent going to a local good cause of their choice.

## At Random

### Ladies have truly amazing sporting achievement

OBAN Lorne Ladies rugby team have most definitely been setting the heather alight this season - with an astonishing achievement.

The girls have been smashing opponents week in and week out in BT Women's National League 2 to establish what must be a world rugby record. Not only have Oban Lorne Ladies won every match they have played, they did not concede a single point - until Sunday. Indeed, their worst result to date this season was the 53-0 hammering of Kelso Ladies on Sunday November 2. Their best score was a 105-0 drubbing of the hapless women from Helensburgh.

Now, I've heard some rather unkind comments about the quality of opposition faced by the Oban girls, but that misses the point entirely for me. They play in the Scottish Rugby Union BT division and can only face the teams scheduled by the league fixture list. Prior to Sunday, the league table shows the amazing stats of six matches, six victories, 457 points scored and zero points conceded.

Way to go, girls!

If any other young women are interested in becoming part of this success story, the team are always looking for new faces. The ladies train on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm, with information about this typically shared on their Facebook page 'Oban Lorne Ladies Rugby Club'.

### Mystery over whether Hitler was in the Highlands

WE HAD an intriguing headline a few weeks ago which read: 'Did Hitler visit Argyll?'



Natalie Pacitti shows off her skills at the opening of her new make-up and beauty bar, Oro Rosa, in Oban's High Street on Friday.

It was above a typically erudite feature by Iain Thornber, in which he described the persistent rumours - to this day - that the Nazi leader visited the island Inch Kenneth and was attending, incognito, a wedding in Tobermory in 1938.

Iain wrote: 'I have heard these tales from so many different sources that I am beginning to wonder if somewhere among rumour and speculation they may contain a grain of truth.'

'If Hitler set foot on Inch Kenneth, it can only have been to visit Unity, the daughter of David and Sydney Mitford (Lord and Lady Redesdale), who bought the island in 1938. The Mitford family were followers of the fascist movement and among Hitler's greatest admirers in the UK.'

Iain went on to write: 'Less well-known perhaps is the number of high-ranking German officers and their friends who travelled with ease between Germany and Scotland to enjoy

fishing and stalking prior to the war. Arthur Nall-Cain, the second Lord Brocket, bought the 62,000-acre Knoydart estate in the 1930s where he entertained members of the Anglo-German Fellowship. So close was he to the German cause that he was invited to Hitler's 50th birthday party.'

Now, on the back of that splendid Morvern Lines article, Iain has emailed me to say: 'I have had a lot of comment about the Hitler piece and two correspondents who, independent of each other, told me that Hitler had visited Knoydart in 1933, coming ashore from a yacht to stay with the Brockets. It's all very intriguing! Does anyone have any more information?'

### Good luck to Natalie's new business in Oban

IT IS always pleasing to see new businesses start up in Oban and its surrounding area.

Nothing, after all, shows quite as much confidence in the local economy as a budding entrepreneur who thinks they have identified a gap in a market and have the belief to invest their hard-earned cash in an idea they hope will succeed. So I extend the best of wishes to a young lady I know who on Saturday opened her new enterprise - a makeup and beauty bar called Oro Rosa in Oban's High Street.

Natalie Pacitti has spent the past few weeks preparing her new business for its big opening event, which was held on Friday ahead of trading starting officially on Saturday.

I hope she is a roaring success.

### What do you think?

WRITE to me at [miaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:miaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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Artist's impression of Inniemore when it was occupied. Picture: Forestry Commission

# Heart-rending account of the Highland Clearances

**MORVERN LINES**  
**IAIN THORNER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

IF YOU go down to a particular wood in Morvern today you will definitely be surprised, to parody the words of American composer John Walter Bratton (1867-1907), who wrote the popular children's song, *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*.

You certainly won't see any bears but you will be able to meet a friendly herd of multi-coloured Highland cattle, known locally as 'the hairy coos'.

You might well ask what are they doing roaming around in a forest far away from any farm. The answer is, they are helping the Forestry Commission to restore an ancient woodland and protect a valuable piece of Highland Clearance history.

Aoineadh Mor, or Inniemore if you prefer, means 'the steep promontory or face (of the hill)'. In 1779, 45 people, all Camerons, used to live here in 20 or so houses – some barely 12 feet square.

Their turf ceilings were covered in peat soot from the open fire in the middle of the floor, kipping not only the fish and meat hung there to cure, but the human inhabitants as well.

There was a horizontal water mill to grind corn, several kilns to dry it in and a few enclosures for kale and potatoes. Further away were walled fields for small cattle, goats and a few hardy sheep which were taken in at night for milking.



A Forestry Commission poster explains the hairy coos of the wood, left, and uncovering Inniemore village in 1993. Pictures: Iain Thorne

Early in the 1820s, Miss Christina Stewart, a middle-aged spinster living in Edinburgh, acquired a fortune making fancy bonnets for London society and, with the proceeds, bought 10,000 acres of the Morvern peninsula. It was no more than an investment as there is no record of her ever setting foot on the place.

She died in 1829, remembered in Morvern for her cruelty. With little concern or interest for the folk whose ancestors had occupied the settlement for generations, Miss Stewart set about clearing the land for large flocks of sheep.

One day in 1824, her agents came to tear the thatched roofs off the houses and push the inhabitants into a different world. Never had the



brutality of the Clearances been etched in sharper relief. The sheep craze soon failed and the evictions proved pointless.

The land changed hands for sport then, after the First World War, Inniemore was bought by the Forestry Commission and the village disappeared under a thick blanket of Sitka spruce until 1993 when it was uncovered during felling operations and carefully preserved.

What makes Inniemore interesting and unique is the existence of a moving first-hand account of the eviction. It was taken down years later from the Gaelic-speaking Mary Cameron, one of the last inhabitants to leave.

'That was the day of sadness to many – the day on which MacCailein Mor [the Duke of

Argyll] parted with the estate of his ancestors in the place where I was reared. The people of Inniemore thought that the "flitting" would not come upon them while they lived.

'As long as they paid the rent, anxiety did not come near them: and a lease they asked not. It was there that the friendly neighbourhood was, though now only one smoke is to be seen, from the house of the Saxon shepherd.

'When we got the summons to quit, we thought it was only for getting an increase of rent but permission to stay we got not. The small cattle were sold, and at length it became necessary to part with the one cow.

'When shall I forget the plaintive wailing of the children deprived of the milk which was no more for them? When

shall I forget the last sight I got of my pretty cluster of goats bleating on the lip of the rock, as if inviting me to milk them?

'But it was not allowed me to put a cuach under them. The day of the flitting came. The officers of the law came along with it, and the shelter of a house, even for one night more, was not to be got. It was necessary to depart.

'The hissing of the fire on the flag of the hearth as they were drowning it, reached my heart. We could not get even a bothy in the country; therefore we had nothing for it but to face the land of strangers.

'The aged woman, the mother of my husband, was then alive, weak and lame. James carried her on his back in a creel. I followed him with little John, an infant at my breast. Our neighbours carried the little furniture that remained to us, and showed every kindness which tender friendship could show.

'On the day of our leaving Inniemore, I thought my heart would rend. I would feel right if my tears would flow; but no relief thus did I find.

'We sat for a time on Knock nan Càrn to take the last look at the place where we had been brought up.

'The houses were being already stripped. The bleat of the "big sheep" was on the mountain. The whistle of the Lowland shepherd and the bark of his dogs were on the brae.'

Iain Thorne  
iain.thorne@btinternet.com

# Argylls' museum wins national recognition

**MARTIN LAING**  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

THE unique collection held at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum at Stirling Castle, which commemorates the service of Oban and West Highland-born soldiers since the 18th century, has achieved recognition as being Nationally Significant to Scotland.

The Argylls' museum is among 10 regimental museums around the country to have collectively won National Significance status.

The highly-prized recognition of the combined collection's importance was awarded by Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS), the national development body, on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The award provides a major boost to the profile of the much-loved museum, which is embarking on a £2.6 million development project following a fundraising drive under the patronage of Prince William, the Earl of Strathearn.

The announcement last month of the award, marking the 10th year of the MGS scheme, was made by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for



Prince William at the regimental museum in Stirling with the famous painting, *The Thin Red Line*, which depicts the heroics of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the Battle of Balaclava in 1854.

Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, and Joanne Orr, chief executive of MGS.

Rob Layden, chief executive of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum, said: 'This award provides the museum with national accreditation status that will help secure its sustainable future.'

'The endorsement of the Scottish Government enables us to form partnerships that

will help encourage visitors to see our unique and fascinating collection for themselves.

'National Significance status also underlines the historical and cultural value of the collection here at Stirling Castle, reinforcing our case that the regiment's story is closely intertwined with the history of Scotland.'

As well as the Argylls' museum, the other collections to be

included in the award are those of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Royal Scots, the Royal Highland Fusiliers, the King's Own Scottish Borderers, the Cameronians, the Black Watch, the Highlanders (Queen's Own Highlanders Collection) and the Gordon Highlanders.

Together the military museum collections tell a crucial part

of Scotland's story, one that is central to the nation's identity, since before the Act of Union up until the present day.

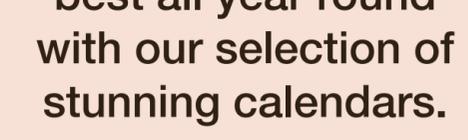
Ms Orr, from MGS, said: 'Scotland's recognised collections represent some of the country's most diverse and fascinating collections, and reflect centuries of commitment to conserving and interpreting our past.'

'Over its 10-year history, the Recognition Scheme has sought to improve the accessibility and longevity of the collections, as well as the long-term sustainability of the organisations that hold them. The scheme is dynamic, and as our ideas of what's important and significant continue to evolve, so too will Scotland's Recognised Collections.'

As well as military material such as uniforms, insignia and weapons, the regimental museums also hold fine and decorative art, rare manuscripts and original photographs. Their combined collection comprises more than 160,000 objects.

The recent centenary commemorations associated with the First World War have underpinned the importance of the collective memories preserved within this collection.

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The food shortage has come after four years of deadly conflict, which has already displaced nearly four million people, destroyed harvests and caused food prices to soar.

**Families urgently need your help**

As is often the case, the food shortage has hit the poorest communities the hardest. Some families are so hungry they have resorted to eating wild foods like lily roots and drinking unsafe water to survive.

But, by making a gift today, you could help give a

cash transfer to a struggling family and give them the chance to buy healthy, nutritious food.

**Your gift will be doubled**

A gift from you today could change the lives of not one family, but two – because your donation will be doubled by the UK Government.

**With so many people in South Sudan going hungry, in urgent need of food, please send a gift today – which will be doubled – and save lives this Christmas.\***



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\*Donations made to the Enough for Everyone Christmas appeal between 6 November 2017 and 5 February 2018 will be matched up to £2.7 million. We will use your donations for projects such as those featured and where we consider the need is greatest. The UK Government's match will fund our work in South Sudan.

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Oban Times editor Susan Windram presents chocolates to Allan McAlonie, while Coolio hands over the Prosecco.

## Cuan Mor wins best shop window contest

WITH the final Oban Winter Festival event taking place last Thursday, there's just one more thing to do – reveal the winner of the best-dressed shop window.

With snow-capped hills featuring McCaig's Tower, this year's best window went to Cuan Mor, designed by Niki and Laura Currie.

In collaboration with *The Oban*

*Times*, residents were asked to vote for their favourite shop window and a random entry was selected to receive an Oban Chocolate Company box of chocolates from editor Susan Windram.

Allan McAlonie was on hand to pick up the chocolates, while Coolio was there to give Niki and Laura a bottle of Prosecco.

## Oban charity fashion show raises £419



Some of the children who took part in the event, showcasing M&Co's pyjama range.

Picture: Jeff Anderson

A CHARITY fashion show has raised more than £400 to take disadvantaged children to France.

The event, which took place in M&Co, was organised by HCPT Group 43.

HCPT is an international charity that takes children and young people with a variety of additional needs to Lourdes each year. Each region's group is responsible for raising the money.

It costs around £1,000 per child and each year around eight children from Oban and the surrounding areas attend.

To donate, visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heptgroup43](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heptgroup43)



The semi-finals were between Ian Wyllie, Robbie MacLarty, Jeff Bowles and Peter Connelly.

## Praise for memorial darts competition

FRIENDS of the late Finlay Morrison came from far and wide to the Tigh an Truish at Seil Island on Saturday to raise their glasses in his memory and enjoy a darts tournament.

The annual event is held in his honour to compete for a cup named after Finlay and to raise funds for the Fishermen's Mission and other charities.

This year's event was more low-key as the Tigh an Truish is undergoing renovation and part of the ground floor was not available.

Owners Marion and Gregor Johnstone are refurbishing two luxury letting bedrooms, and creating a café restaurant downstairs, complete

with a conservatory. So it was darts only, with pool and dominoes on hold until next year.

Robbie MacLarty, the event organiser, said: 'The generosity of the Tigh an Truish and our sponsors make this such a great night out and helps Finlay's friends to raise so much money for charity.'

This year the event also had music thanks to box player Kenny Macdonald and guitarist Aiden 'Kite' MacDougall.

Matthew Ramsay, of the Fishermen's Mission in Argyll, from Carradale, said: 'Once again our thanks go to everyone who supported Robbie and his team of helpers who work so hard to make this such a great night out.'



Natalie Pacitti, right, and Gemma McKie, who works in the salon.

## New Oban beauty salon raises £305 for charity

AN OBAN woman has raised £305 for the MS Centre at the launch of her beauty salon – Oro Rosa.

A capacity crowd attended Natalie Pacitti's opening night, buying raffle tickets in the hundreds.

The MS Centre is a charity close to her heart, as her grandmother suffers from the condition.

Natalie, who has worked as a mobile beautician for the past eight months, attends the centre once a month to carry out beauty treatments.

'I wanted to give back to the centre who helped her when she needed it most,' the 22-year-old said. 'I love working in there once a month. I love my regular ladies and making them happy.'

'It makes me feel good to know I make others feel good. That's why I love my job so much.'

She added: 'The opening night

was amazing. The turnout was unbelievable.

'If you had told me last year that I would have my own salon now, I would have laughed in your face. I never thought I'd ever manage to do something like this.'

'I'd like to thank Ronnie from the Jobcentre. If he didn't believe in me and support me from the second I walked in there, clueless and scared, then I don't think I'd be here doing this right now.'

During the launch party, Natalie gave a make-up demonstration before the raffle, which featured prizes such as Oban Live tickets.

Natalie wanted to thank all the businesses and individuals who donated to the raffle, as well as everyone who helped get the salon ready and attended the opening night.

The make-up and beauty bar is located at 22 High Street, Oban.



OBAN-BASED Fèis Latharna has been given almost £1,400 to help buy a pair of 'small pipes'.

The £1,396 grant from the Co-op in Inveraray will allow people to learn the pipes at a fraction of the cost.

Fèis chairman Ewan MacDonald said: 'We got the news last week and attended a bake sale on Saturday November 25 in

Inveraray to raise some further funding, play some tunes and meet with the other local causes who have been awarded funding from the Co-op local community fund, including Strachur and District Piping School and Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

'The reason for us applying for funding was down to the high demand for learning the

small pipes in the area and the purchase cost being too great for many to afford.

'We rent out small pipes at £7.50 per month to local pupils and this is far more affordable than the purchase cost, which is in excess of £1,000.

'The funding from the Co-op will allow us to buy one set of small pipes.'

Oban's Fumiko Miller has raised around £300 for charity by having her long hair cut off. Fumiko, who is originally from Tokyo, had the chop on Friday December 1 at Reflections in Oban to raise money for Mary's Meals, where she is a volunteer. The 12 inches of hair have been donated to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that supplies wigs for children who have lost their own hair due to cancer.



### ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff and Specsavers founder Dame Mary Perkins at the opening of the 800th Specsavers store

## DON'T DELAY, BOOK AN EYE TEST TODAY

With opticians on every high street and a growing number of out of town locations, keeping on top of your eye health has never been more convenient.

But despite that, a survey\* has revealed that a quarter of UK adults are still risking sight loss by not having an eye test every two years, as recommended.

The research carried out by Specsavers and Royal National Institute of Blind People also identified that 250 people nationally start losing their sight every day despite half of all cases being avoidable. Routine eye tests are key in detecting and managing issues early.

Specsavers has just opened its 800th UK and Irish store in Sainsbury's in Preston – part of its ongoing drive to make eye care more accessible. It is the fifth outlet Specsavers has opened within a supermarket this year, with more to follow.

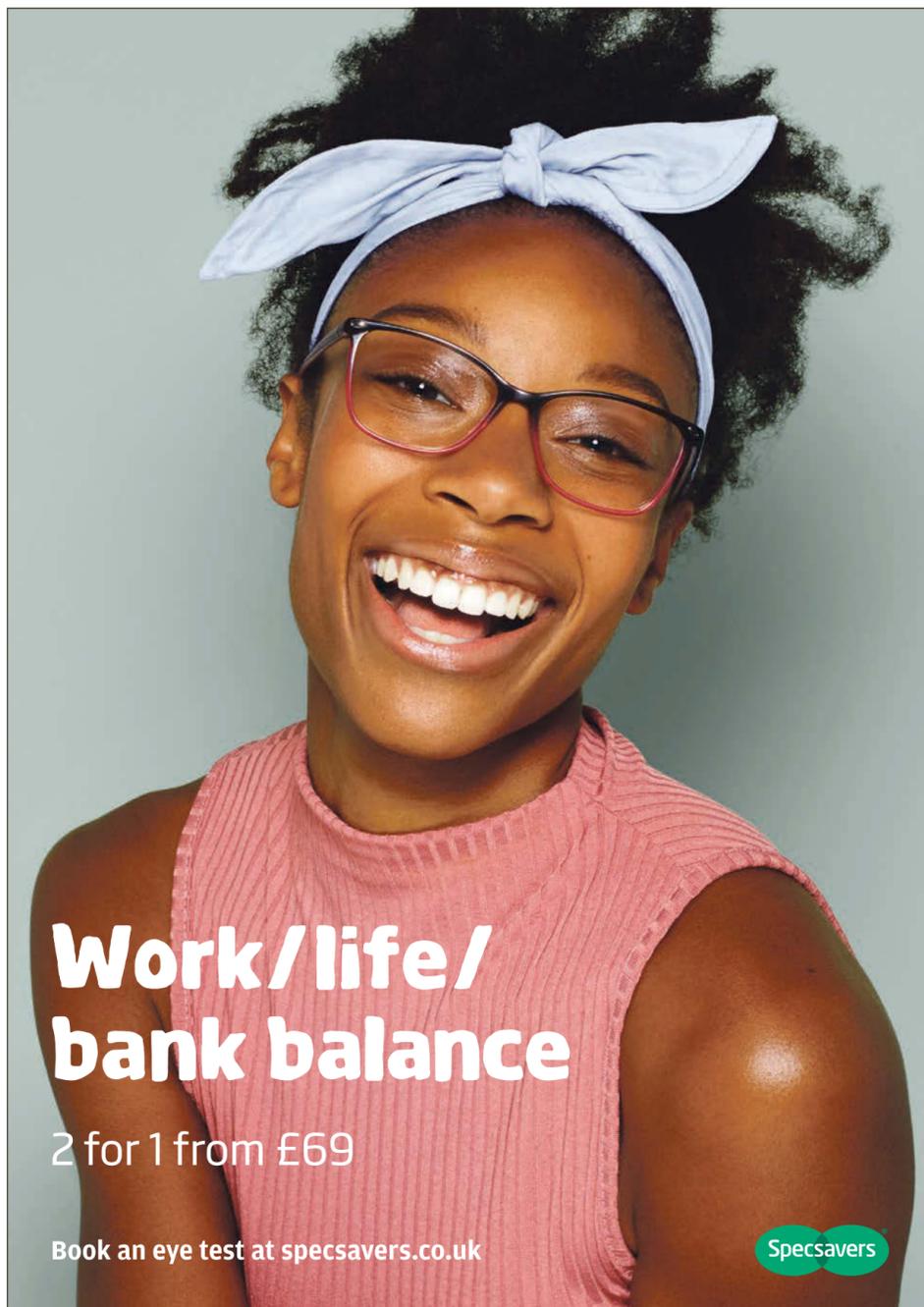
Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff cut the ribbon to the 800th store and popped in for an eye test. The cricketer turned broadcaster said: 'So many of us take our sight for granted. To see how far eye care has developed since Specsavers opened its first store is incredible.'

Specsavers features the latest clinical technology and highly qualified and professional teams. Complete glasses start at £25 with two for one available from £69. A variety of designer styles, including Kylie Minogue Eyewear, BOSS Orange and the new Balmain range are also available.

Eye tests can be booked online. Customers that have undergone an eye test elsewhere are welcome to bring in a valid prescription.

Specsavers offers home eye care to those who cannot visit a store unaided. Free hearing tests are also available at Specsavers.

\* The State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017: A Year in Review



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## Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

One of the most tragic and upsetting stories we have had to publish this year was news of the death of young Kayla MacDonald.

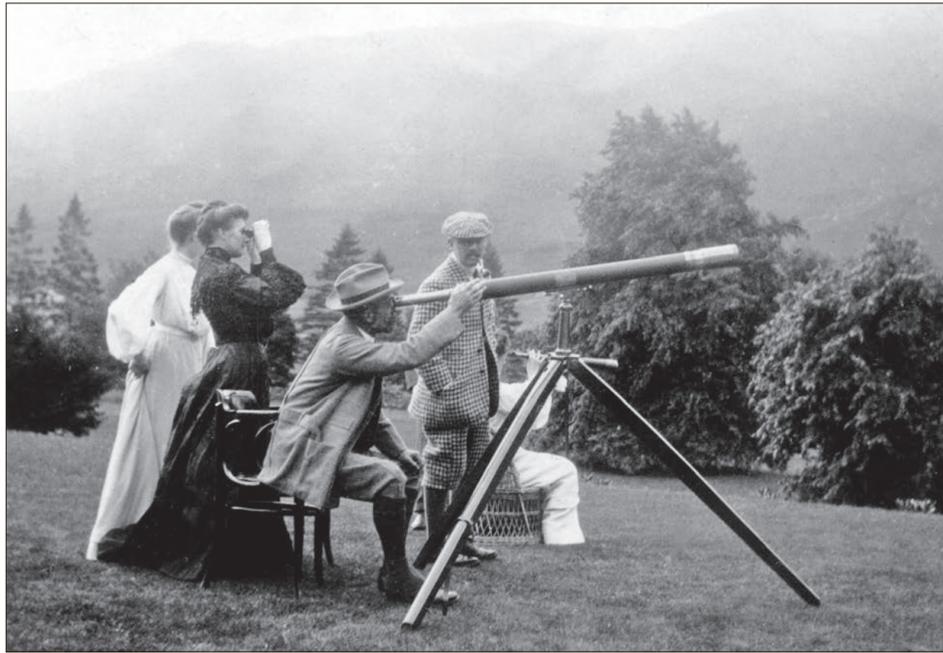
No-one could have failed to have been moved by the circumstances that led to her passing following a terrible accident in a log fall near Benderloch.

At the time, there were fulsome tributes to Kayla, who attended the Rockfield Gaelic-medium unit in Oban, and who was a fluent Gaelic speaker.

Kayla lived at Dunbeg, as a result of which the nearby Dunstaffnage Castle was a favourite place for the

eight-year-old, who loved playing in the outdoors. So it is a very fitting initiative by her family to dedicate a memorial bench in tribute to Kayla just before her birthday this Christmas. She would have turned nine on December 20.

At the time of the accident, her family said: 'Kayla was a precious, fun-loving eight-year-old who was loved by everyone around her. Kayla's smile would light up a room.' The location of the bench inside Dunstaffnage Castle will provide a lasting reminder for all who knew and loved her.



## Days gone by – 1904

Iain Thornber from Morvern sent us this picture of the Strutt family looking for the deer stalkers from the lawn of Kingairloch House, August 7, 1904.

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



ON NOVEMBER 21, I was privileged to have been invited to the launch of the MV Glen Sannox, the latest ship in the CalMac fleet.

What a pleasure it was to witness the powerful spectacle of a new ship sporting the CalMac colours hitting the water for the first time.

The combination of what that represented for CalMac, for Ferguson Marine and for the ship-building industry of the River Clyde created a melting-pot of pride, of history and hope for the future.

The decline of both the ocean cargo trade and the ship-building industry on the Clyde has been a sad part of Scotland's history over the past few generations and to see and feel a spark of positivity among the desolation was exhilarating.

I wrote the following ditty in 2014 when the news broke that the Ferguson yard went into administration. Having heard tales my whole life of the cargo and passenger ships loading and unloading up the Broomielaw in the centre of the city and of the great Clyde-built ships sailing the world, it

has always struck me with sadness to see the river so empty as it is nowadays.

The Stobcross or, as more widely known, the Finnieston crane stands impotently as a melancholy reminder of the once-rich cargo shipping heritage. The countless shut-down shipyards all along the river have a similar effect on me.

Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd was saved from probable oblivion through investment by Jim MacColl and his company, Clyde Blowers Capital. The outcome of that investment and what it represented was felt by all who watched the Glen Sannox slide gracefully into the sea for the first time.

*The River Clyde  
I mourn to see the Finnieston Crane  
The river will not be the same,  
A change from the days of industrial pride  
A quiet has come on the River Clyde.*

*Both the yards and trading docks  
The loading up and the siren clock,  
The rushing sound of a city alive  
The pulsing beat of a buzzing hive,  
A hundred thousand men of grit  
Gave life to steel ship after ship.  
Through brutal work without reprieve  
The river Clyde it ruled the sea.*

### Social media

There was widespread anger and dismay at the news that the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) is to close a number of branches across the Highlands and Islands.

**Thomas Curry:** 'These banks are not interested in providing a service. Never have been. How the elderly, disabled and young mothers with no transport get on beats me. The elderly and disabled generally do not believe in internet banking. When the Clydesdale Bank closed the Grangemouth branch, they took away the ATM at the same time. Can the banks mentioned not at least keep the ATM facility.'

**Danielle Hay-West:** 'This is ridiculous. And yes while a lot of folk use online now. Again the most vulnerable in our area will be worst affected. There is little consideration given to elderly or

learning disabled when someone in an office far away makes these decisions. Makes me mad.'

**Stuart Craine:** 'Add in the issue of limited and expensive internet access for some in the more remote areas of Argyll, this is a poor show. I wonder if they'll assist these areas with the funding needed to get decent internet access to these folk?'

**Samantha Leiper:** 'Yes I have internet banking. But I am always in my bank taking money out or putting checks and money into my account I stay over an hour away from my bank as I stay in middle of nowhere this is ridiculous and will effect alot of people.'

**Sue Hearn:** 'Same issue in lake district HSBC Natwest closed many branches. When you complain get told to use the post office. Why should we? Our bank

*The work was tough, the men were hard  
From Yarrow's and from John Brown's yard,  
The Ferguson and Denny Men  
Their breed we'll never see again.*

*The world's ways forever move  
And change will come as we 'improve';  
But sorrow comes from what is lost –  
We'll never truly know the cost.  
To move the time and mix the men –  
Compare them now with others then –  
The chiselled men who powered the sea  
With polished suits of Pacific Quay.*

□ ON A much lighter note, the annual Trad Music Awards delivered, as they always do, a night to remember. Congratulations go to all the winners and nominees.

Though unable to attend because of a prior commitment, we were very lucky to receive the Live Act of the Year award.

However, while very grateful and delighted, we are well aware that the winning and losing should never go to one's head.

A band is only as good its last song and, as we have a new single being released this Saturday, even a Trad Award is not enough to settle the nerves as we await people's judgement of *Wishing Well*.



### Press policy

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

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please

let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with

our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



### Oban Airport has too many restrictions

Sir,  
May I congratulate Argyll and Bute Council on its investment in Oban Airport? It is without doubt one of the best equipped general aviation (GA) airports in the north-west of Scotland, with an excellent runway and terminal, and the staff are extremely helpful.

I, like many of my acquaintances, fly small GA aircraft extensively for private business and leisure purposes. We use modern, well-equipped aircraft as a serious mode of transport in day/night under visual flight rules (VFR) and instrument flight rules (IFR) conditions.

Access to airports that are open to suit our personal schedules is essential to the effective use of our aircraft and this is where I need Argyll and Bute Council to review its operating procedures.

There is a common misconception about what general aviation is. Basically, it is all forms of aviation other than public transport (British Airways, Virgin, Ryanair etc). It is not just recreational flyers.

For Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), legal, insurance, safety and security purposes, it is not a requirement for an airport to be licensed. We do not need to have air traffic controllers or fire cover.

The CAA approves of pilot-controlled lighting so, again, night operations are perfectly legal, approved and safe. In the winter, airfield lighting is essential to be able to complete a full working day. The limitation preventing private GA night operations at Oban Airport is a limitation put on by Argyll and Bute Council rather than the CAA or insurers.

I understand the council has invested in excess of £10 million in the airport infrastructure and its running costs must exceed £1 million a year. I suggest it is incumbent on the council to maximise its return on its investment by doing all in its power to increase aircraft movements of all types.

Airfields tend not to be run for the benefit of aircraft owners/pilots/operators but for the employees. There is a work-to-rule atmosphere. Opening hours are rigid and, to us users, arbitrary. Why close an airfield at 5pm on a weekday or noon at the weekend other than for the cost and convenience of the employees?

I have tried to apply for out-of-hours indemnity for Oban, a common procedure at many other airfields, only to be told that it is not available to aircraft that are owned by a limited company. This quite bizarre rule is unique to Oban.

You have in Oban Airport what could be a vital link to the local and national transport infrastructure. It could bring much-needed outside investment into the region if only it was operated on a more business-like and customer-friendly way.

I am not sure who is advising the council on CAA regulations but it is in a position to write its own operating manual to make it as attractive as possible to GA. There is no legal or

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



RUD NACH EIL, NACH ROBH, 's nach bi, sin a-mach do làmh is chì.

Thàinig faclan an tòimhseachain na mo chuimhne às ùr 's mi a' tòiseachadh ri Beachd na seachdainne seo a' sgrìobhadh. Eagal 's nach eil am freagairt a' tighinn thuagabh, 's e nach eil bhur corragan an aon fhaid.

Ach 's e thug na faclan gu mo chuimhne gun robh mi a' leughadh mun iomairt a tha gu bhith a' dol Disathairne ann an Dùn Èideann agus airgead a thogail airson dìon a thoirt dha daoine gun dachaigh a tha cadal air sràidean a' bhaile.

Mo mhìle beannachd air an fheadhainn a tha dol a chur seachad oidheche Shathairne ann an Garradh Sràid a' Phrionnsa mar mheadhan air taic airgid a thional. A bharrachd air fàsghadh dhan fheadhainn gun dachaigh, tha luchd-deasachaidh na h-iomairt seo cuideachd an dòchas gun faigh cuid cothroman air cosnadh a lorg, agus 's dòcha an t-amas as misneachaile uile gu lèir gun cuir às do dhaoine a bhith a' cadal air sràidean a' phrìomh bhaile.

operational reason why GA aircraft owned by either a private individual or limited company should not be allowed to land at Oban day or night under VFR.

The council claims to wish to deliver prosperity by turning economic opportunity into economic growth and yet it is deterring vital relatively prosperous visitors from coming to Oban.

I implore the council to listen to its customers, and take a positive attitude to the practical ways the airport can increase movements for the benefit of all. Reduce the costs without limiting availability.

Dave Henderson,  
by email.

### Banks and post office should share services

Sir,  
Given that Holyrood and Highlands and Islands Enterprise pontificate rather than act, we need to sort out bank access for rural communities now.

The decision of the banks is understandable as physical coins and notes will disappear by 2030 as contactless cards and phone technology provide an alternative. So how do we provide services to communities?

We need to start with an existing or new cyber café as communities are about people. Coffee sales will bring in some income, as will having a Link cash machine. The café also needs to be a post office two mornings a week. More income will come from the NHS paying Royal Mail for posties to check on isolated elderly residents.

The same premises need to be shared with bank tellers who will come in two mornings a week and will rotate between the three Scottish banks. Decisions on loans and other matters can be done via a secure video link. Cash takings by small businesses can be stored in a safe and collected by a security van.

Sharing services and multiple income streams make this solution workable for a social enterprise business.

Mike Foster,  
Oban.

### Unfair penalty for parking infringement

Sir,  
I am 71 years old and have a mobility problem where I have to use a walking stick. I live on an island and so, when coming to the mainland, I usually do a large shopping because there are lots of goods we cannot get here on Coll.

On November 20, I had been to Glasgow to see my cancer consultant and the journey back through roadworks and bad weather meant I got to Oban in the dark and arrived tired.

I parked at Aldi about 5.30pm to do a good shop, so I thought. The shelves in the store had changed since my last visit and finding things was not easy and the bill came to £164.51. I then

proceeded to pack everything into my vehicle, which took me a good 20 minutes with the weather still against me.

Then on November 30 I received a parking charge notice from a company called ParkingEye for £70 for going over the one hour and 30 minutes you are allowed by 18 minutes. I have since found out that Lidl also has this policy for parking.

Perhaps these companies do not want customers, because I think one hour and 30 minutes is not enough time in a town where there are so many people coming from the islands to do their shopping.

Pat Graham,  
Garden House, Isle of Coll.

### Morar left behind on superfast broadband

Sir,  
When superfast broadband was proposed for Morar, the original plan was to have it installed by the end of 2016.

Mallaig and Arisaig are further than Morar from the exchange but they had it installed by the end of 2016.

It is now the end of 2017 and we have one cabinet in Morar, opposite the primary school.

The original plan included two cabinets to cover the whole village. Several weeks ago this plan was put on hold and re-examined but we don't know why. The one cabinet, which was put there a year overdue, serves only part of the community.

Houses within range of this cabinet were already benefiting from speeds of above 12Mb/s, while the upper part of the village had speeds of one to three Mb/s. While the cabinet can provide some people with speeds of up to 80 Mb/s, the rest of the village must still struggle with their old speeds.

The school curriculum requires children to use computers. At the moment a great number of the families live in the Bracara area, where speeds average 0.5 Mb/s. This can hardly be used for any form of work.

While we understand that some remote areas were able to establish local wireless networks (eg, Hebrnet on Eigg), the difficulties posed by our topography in the Morar area prevent such solutions.

After examining multiple options and discussing it at the community council, we have concluded that the best solution would be to lead an optical cable all the way to Bracara.

Several years ago all the phone cables were replaced to the end of Bracara, so what we propose is not impossible. Therefore we appeal to Highlands and Islands Enterprise to help our community.

We also wish to ask why there has been a delay in providing the second cabinet. This cabinet had been surveyed and approved but has not materialised.

We trust that Highlands and Islands Enterprise will respond to our concerns. The whole community eagerly await its response.

Deirdre Roberts,  
Secretary,  
Morar Community Council.

Ailean Caimbeul

teach a tha a' leantainn ann an Siria agus thuir e gun robh riaghladh aintighearnail a' Chinn-suidhe Asad air an sluagh a chur fodha chun na h-ìre 's nach fuilingeadh iad a' chòrr agus dh'èirich cuid dhiubh na aghaidh. Tha a-nise na "reubaltaich" sin a' call fo bhuaidh taice na Ruis dhan riaghaltas aig Asad agus anns an eadar-ama tha sluagh neoichiontach a' bàsachadh leòran den aon rud fìor a thaobh suidheachadh nan croitearan ann an ochd deug agus na h-ochdadan agus gu e freastal a dh'fhàg nach robh barrachd smachd armachd aig na h-uachdarain agus na bàillidhean a bh' ann!

CONGRATULATIONS to those who will brave Saturday night in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens to help the city's homeless. Homelessness is not new. It is a continuing social scandal which the country has a duty to eradicate.

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

### Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number

is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

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## New beavers brought to Argyll

MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

SCOTLAND'S wild beaver population has been successfully reinforced by the introduction of three new animals to Knapdale Forest in Argyll.

The beavers, of Bavarian origin, were sourced from RZSS Highland Wildlife Park and Wildwood Zoo in Kent, as part of a Scottish Beavers initiative, with RZSS Edinburgh Zoo staff introducing three beavers to their new home.

Scottish Beavers is a partnership between the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) to continue the work of the Scottish Beaver Trial.

The releases at Knapdale represent the first stage of a three-year programme which will see up to 28 beavers released under controlled and monitored conditions to increase genetic diversity and improve the health and resilience of the original population introduced through the Scottish Beaver Trial in 2009.

Beavers were absent in the wild in Scotland for more than 400 years prior to the Scottish Beaver Trial. This innovative conservation project saw the release of 16 Eurasian



The three beavers are released into their new home in Argyll's Knapdale Forest.

beavers into Knapdale Forest between 2009 and 2014. The benefits and impacts were inde-

pendently monitored through a comprehensive programme of research co-ordinated by Scot-

tish Natural Heritage (SNH). In November 2016, following evaluation of the trial, the Scot-

ish Government announced that beavers would be allowed to remain and their population naturally expand from Knapdale and Tayside. This marked the first successful reintroduction of any wild mammal to the UK.

Ben Harrower, RZSS conservation programme manager, said: 'Following the approval by Scottish Natural Heritage of a species licence to release beavers into the wild in September, we have been working on the translocation of three beavers to Knapdale, which involved detailed health screening as well as genetic analysis. Our monitoring suggests that they are adapting well to their new home.'

'We will continue to closely monitor the progress of the beavers with a view to releasing more animals in early 2018 and over the next three years. By the end of that period, we hope to see some of the translocated beavers paired up with the existing population and producing kits.'

'This is a significant milestone for the conservation of beavers in Knapdale. We are grateful to Forest Enterprise Scotland for hosting the Knapdale population as well as Mechanical Engineering Services for its support during

our activities and surveys.' Susan Davies, director of conservation at the SWT, added: 'Reinforcement of the population of beavers at Knapdale is an essential step to encourage natural recolonisation of beavers from Knapdale into mid-Argyll. We have been greatly encouraged by the support received from both the local community and national stakeholders during the public consultation undertaken as part of the licence application process.'

'Beavers are fantastic natural engineers and we've seen firsthand in Knapdale how a relatively small number of animals can create new wetlands and improve riparian woodland. They also bring wider benefits to a range of other species, from insects and birds to otters and water voles.'

'In addition, beaver tourism is giving a boost to the local economy as the presence of these animals is proving to be a strong draw for visitors to mid-Argyll.'

'We will continue to work with partners to monitor beaver ecology and the wider impacts on biodiversity and land use. This work will help inform the approach to successfully managing the return of this mammal into Scotland's landscape.'

## All-areas season tickets go on offer

SKI-SCOTLAND has announced that some lucky skiers and snowboarders can still buy season tickets which cover all five mountain resorts and also include benefits at Scotland's sixth real-snow area.

The all-areas season tickets are much sought-after, with a limited number being made available each year. Season ticket holders can decide not only which resort to visit and so follow the best snow and weather, they can also bypass ticket office queues and be first on the pistes – assuming they arrive early enough, that is.

The tickets could make brilliant Christmas presents for both skiers and snowboarders and are valid all season long at every resort. Ticket holders also get free slope time and great discounts at Snow Factor, the indoor real snow ski and board centre as well as free access to all of Iceland's ski areas.

'At this time of year, many of our skiers and boarders play a risky waiting game,' said Andy Meldrum, new chairman of Ski-Scotland. 'They want to wait to see what the weather might have in store for us before deciding to buy a season ticket.'

'With just a limited number available, once they're all sold, that's it until next winter. However, already all the snow sports areas have had some snow, albeit not yet sufficient to operate. Also, three of our resorts will this winter operate snow factories to provide snow on some pistes, so this season, for the first time, Scotland can offer guaranteed snow.'

Ski-Scotland is also offering one lucky skier or snowboarder the chance to win an all-areas season ticket by taking part in a competition on its Facebook page. Entrants are asked to post information about their best day on the pistes, using the hashtag #BestScottishSnowDay. The winner will be drawn at random tomorrow (Friday December 8).

'After the prize is drawn we expect the remaining tickets to disappear like snow off a dyke,' continued Andy, 'so our best advice is not to wait. Snap up your ticket now through the official website and if you happen to be our winner, I'm sure we can arrange a refund.'

## 'Puffarazzi' help scientists to understand decline in puffins

THE RSPB's Project Puffin has taken the first steps in solving the mystery of why some puffin colonies are in dramatic decline.

Scientists analysed more than 1,400 photographs sent in by the public – or the 'puffarazzi', as they were called.

More than a third of the photos came from Scottish puffin colonies.

This helped them to build a better picture of what these seabirds are feeding their chicks. Traditionally, puffins feed on a mixture of fish, with sand-eels making up a high proportion of their diet.

The photos from puffin colonies in north-west Scotland show that sand-eels are making up about half of their diet compared to the two-thirds at colonies in southern Scotland, northern England and Wales.



Puffin numbers are falling in Orkney and Shetland.

The pictures have helped scientists identify areas where puffins are struggling to find the large, nutritious fish needed to support their chicks.

Early results suggest that the diet of puffins vary significantly around the UK.

In the northern isles of Orkney and Shetland, where serious puffin declines have been seen, they appear to be consistently finding smaller prey compared to most other colonies.

To find out more, visit [www.rspb.org.uk/projectpuffin](http://www.rspb.org.uk/projectpuffin).

## CalMac appoints wildlife officer for West Coast ferries

CALMAC has seconded a full-time wildlife officer to help educate crew and passengers about marine life.

Andy Gilbert will take up the roll in 2018, working as a conservation expert across the ferry operator's West Coast fleet.

The project will be a collaboration between CalMac and wildlife charity Orca.

Orca is a UK whale and dolphin conservation charity dedicated to the long-term protection of whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Andy has spent decades pursuing his passion for wildlife and conservation, first as a volunteer, and most recently as an Orca wildlife officer in both the Bay of Biscay and in the Hebrides aboard the MV Loch Nevis.



Andy Gilbert.

'The opportunity to spend 2018 working in the Hebrides and helping deliver the Orca wildlife officer programme, in partnership with CalMac, is an

exciting next step in my career,' he said. 'I can't wait to start helping to spread the message about marine conservation across the network of routes.'

'The more we learn about the diversity of what lives in our seas, the greater understanding we will have about how to conserve it for future generations.'

CalMac environmental manager Klare Chamberlain, added: 'The survey shows that the waters we sail have some of the most abundant marine mammals in the UK and we have a duty to do what we can to help protect them.'

'We're really looking forward to working with Andy to help raise awareness of the terrific diversity of wildlife we are privileged to work alongside every day.'

## THIS WEEK'S WALKS

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

THE WALK leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

**Thursday December 7**  
**Beinn Udlaidh, Glen Orchy**

A fine Corbett with easy access, identified from a distance by a white quartzite dyke on its NE flank. This extends in a remarkably straight line across the hill to Coire Daimh on its E side. Start on the B8074 at Glen Orchy Farm, NN260347, where limited off-road parking is available.

Head E across a field to reach a track and follow it uphill SSE through a conifer plantation.

Emerging on to the open hillside the track winds S up a broad

ridge, curving E around the rim of Coire Daimh. After crossing a fence line, the track curves NE then N to the summit of Beinn Udlaidh, 840m. Descend gently N to the tip of the spur then steeply down NE following the quartzite dyke. Aim for the corner of the forest bounded by the Allt Ghamhain. Just before the burn a forest track heads NNW to the B8074. Walk back to the start on the quiet road beside the River Orchy.

Grade: M+; Distance: 11km; Height to climb: 730m; Map(s): LR50, EX377. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban at 9am or Glencoe village car park at 9.15am. Start at 10am. Leader: Ann Jones 07770 434114.

**Saturday December 9**  
**Polloch and Loch Shiel, Strontian**

A quiet walk in a wild, remote glen with woods, rivers and lochs full of wildlife, leading to the shore of the magnificent 28km-long

Loch Shiel. Start from the CP at Polloch NM792689, at the end of the public road. Take the track W towards Ceanna Garbh where it looks out over Loch Shiel. There is a small way-marked circuit to be walked here. Continue NE on the track overlooking Loch Shiel to Gorstanvorran. Return by the same route.

Grade: L; Distance: 10km; Height to climb: 200m; Map(s): LR40, EX390/391. Meet at Corran Ferry slip for 9.45am sailing. Start

of walk at 11am. Leader: Kate Willis 07899 783279.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Please see full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club).

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

**Sunday December 10**  
**Streap**  
Follow the estate road under the

viaduct and turn right at the next bridge over the River Finnan. Keep to the edge of the forest and follow the Allt an Tuim for less than a km, then go left on to the steep SW ridge of Beinn an Tuim. Then follow the crest NNE for 4km over cols and summits to Streap. Return via Streap Comhlaidh and descend S into Gleann Dubh Lìghe.

Distance: 15km; Height to climb: 1300m. Suggested and co-ordinated by Gerry Gilbert.

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# Arena

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

## WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary  
bid4oban.co.uk



### Thursday 7th December

**Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club**  
Royal Hotel, 7.30pm  
Admission £4

**Spotlight Theatre Group**  
Rapunzel - A tangled tale  
Corran Halls, 7.30pm  
Price: £6 - £35

**Song Writing Sessions**  
Rockfield Centre  
7pm-9pm

### Friday 8th December

**Toy Cupboard**  
Glencruitten Church  
10am-12pm

**Family Activity Ideas Session**  
Rockfield Centre  
11am-1pm

**Boys Brigade**  
Oban Congregational Church  
6pm-9pm

**Lorn Archaeological & Historical Society**  
St Columba's Cathedral Hall  
7pm-9pm

**Spotlight Theatre Group**  
Rapunzel - A tangled tale  
Corran Halls, 7.30pm  
Price: £6 - £35

### Saturday 9th December

**Inverawe Smokery**  
Shop Open 10am-4pm  
9th-24th December

**Ganavan Sands Parkrun**  
9.30am-11am

**Visit Santa**  
Oban and Lorn Lions Club  
Airds Crescent (next to TSB Bank)  
11am - 4pm

**Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)**  
Furan Gaelic Centre,  
12pm-1.30pm

**Wreath-making Workshop**  
Rockfield Centre  
2pm-4.30pm

**Riding for the Disabled Quiz Night**  
Glencruitten Golf Club  
7pm

**Spotlight Theatre Group**  
Rapunzel - A tangled tale  
Corran Halls, 2pm-4.30pm,  
7.30pm-10pm  
Price: £6 - £35

### Sunday 10th December

**Inverawe Smokery**  
Shop Open 10am-4pm  
9th-24th December

**Festive Family Craft Drop-in**  
Rockfield Centre  
12pm-4pm

**Hill Walk Glenfinnan**  
Glenfinnan, Highland  
All day

### Monday 11th December

**O.L.D.S**  
Christmas Lunch  
Oban Bay Hotel, 12pm-3pm

**Inverawe Smokery**  
Shop Open 10am-4pm  
9th-24th December

**Oban Photographic Club Meeting**  
Regent Hotel  
7.15pm-9.30pm

### Tuesday 12th December

**Gaelic Toy Cupboard**  
Undercroft Church Centre,  
1.30pm-3.30pm

**Irish Dancing Classes**  
St Columba's Cathedral Hall  
4.15pm-5.45pm

**Inverawe Smokery**  
Shop Open 10am-4pm  
9th-24th December

### Wednesday 13th December

**Toy Cupboard**  
Undercroft Church Centre,  
10am-12pm

**Cancer Support Services - Drop in Wednesday**  
Oban Library, 2.15pm-4.15pm

**Inverawe Smokery**  
Shop Open 10am-4pm  
9th-24th December

**Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Inveraray Inn  
8pm

**WHAT'S ON IN OBAN**  
**WHAT'S ON IN OBAN**  
**WHAT'S ON IN OBAN**  
**WHAT'S ON IN OBAN**  
**WHAT'S ON IN OBAN**

## Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



### Successful Glasgow Skye Gathering

I could not make the Glasgow Skye Gathering this year but I am told it was celebrated in style - with two great evenings of entertainment both in the Glasgow University Union.  
At Thursday night's dinner, a good number of members and friends enjoyed an excellent meal. The main speaker was Alasdair Campbell, the Right Honourable Lord Bracadale, who gave an amusing and informative address. The association was toasted by Donald

(Maroot) MacLeod in his own inimitable style and the guests and kindred associations were toasted by Shona Masson.

Friday night saw Sineag MacIntyre, Catriona Watt, Darren MacLean, Calum Angus MacDonald and Eilidh MacFadyen (accordion), John Gillies (association piper), and the Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band (led by Pipe Sergeant Kurt MacIntosh) all in tremendous form in a most enjoyable concert - chaired ably by Lord Bracadale.

The dance which followed to music by the Dùn Mòr Ceilidh Band) was also voted a resounding success.

### Trad awards a great night

Paisley made a great impression on everybody who attended the trad awards on Saturday night.

What a lovely evening it was with many superb nominees and deserved winners - unfortunately there are far too many to mention here.

Tide Lines had a table at the awards, but I was only able to keep half an ear on the stage as we were playing during the course of the evening and we, therefore, kept having to sneak away to set up our gear and for interviews.

Live performances that stood out for me, however, were the

Seumas O' Sullivan Experience, whose set swung along wonderfully and had the audience stamping their feet, and a selection of Uist Gaelic singers' tribute to the Paisley bàrd, Dòmhnall Ruadh Phàislig, which was wonderful.

Another most memorable moment was Dr Kenna Campbell MBE's acceptance speech for the special award bestowed upon her for her services to Gaelic.

She rightly received a standing ovation as she both humorously and sincerely urged everyone to learn Gaelic both in order to become happier people but also, more practically, as a means to deal with nuisance callers.

On a personal level, as I said in a television interview, Paisley has turned out to be a lucky place for me.

In 2013, I won the Mòd gold medal in the town hall and this year I won the Gaelic Singer of the Year. For this reason, I think I might have to start supporting St Mirren!

I will certainly support Paisley's bid to become the first town ever to be named UK City of Culture and will be keeping my fingers crossed on Thursday.

### What's on

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

The Vatersay Boys live in the Glasgow Barrowland.

Saturday December 9: Glasgow Skye Association children's party at 2.30pm in the Renfield Centre, Blythwood Hall.

### Pub scene

Islay Inn.  
Friday December 8: The McKinstrey Brothers.  
Saturday December 9: Black Velvet.  
Sunday December 10: Calum Macphail.



Tony Kearney and Mary Ann Kennedy compered the awards in their usual jovial style.

## Your Christmas Greetings

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

Isobel Binnie will not be sending Christmas cards this year but wishes all her friends Seasons Greetings and all blessings.

**HENRY & ETIVE BLACK, OBAN**

wish all friends the compliments of this season.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

to all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Isobel Craig, Oban.

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my friends and family from Margaret Kilcullen (Pacey).

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Seamus McNeill, Oban

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Archie Lamont, Taynuilt. Thanks for a milestone year of affectionate reminiscence & kindness from near and far.

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Nigel and Hazel Evans and family, Oban.

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all friends and family from Harry Hickford, Tobermory

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Iain MacDonald and family 14 Millpark Place, Oban

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Angus MacDonald (Moy) and family North Uist

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

To all my Family, Friends and Neighbours. From Bob Lucas

**SEASON'S GREETINGS & Happy New Year**

to all our friends in Oban and Mull from Christina and David Robertson, Alexandria

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from John MacVean, Dalmally

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Penny MacPhail, Oban.

*Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.*

From Helen MacBean, Victoria Court.

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Agnes MacFadyen.

**There is still time to put your Christmas Greeting into the Oban Times. Simply fill in the form on page 24.**

## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 January 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

### WIN

A TRIP FOR TWO TO SHETLAND OR ORKNEY



Scotland's Northern Isles are closer than you think. With their own unique culture, unrivalled wildlife and spectacular historical ruins, the islands are just waiting to be discovered.



Your journey begins with NorthLink Ferries, where you'll be able to enjoy many comforts on board before arriving at your destination feeling refreshed and ready to start your island adventure.



One lucky reader will win a prize that includes a return ticket on any route for two passengers including one car and a standard cabin on overnight sailings with NorthLink Ferries.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
**Where is the town of Stromness? a. Orkney b. Shetland c. Stornoway**

Package includes return travel on any route for two including car and standard cabin with NorthLink Ferries valid until 31 December 2018. Cabins are available on overnight sailings only. The prize is subject to availability, non-transferable or refundable and no cash alternative will be offered. Upgrades are available upon request.

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

## WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS FOR THE MOST FAMOUS BAGPIPE BAND ON THE PLANET



Bagpipes with attitude, drums with a Scottish accent and a show so hot it carries its own health warning. The band's achievements have reached incredible heights with their groundbreaking fusion of traditional Scottish music and rock/pop anthems which they proudly call 'bagrock' But don't just take our word for it...see it for yourself For your chance to win a pair of tickets to the Red Hot Chili Pipers at the Corran Halls, Oban on Saturday, 17th February 2018, simply answer the easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, RHCP Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday 8th January 2018

**QUESTION: What date is the show at the Corran Halls?**

Red Hot Chili Pipers Competition

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone.....

Email .....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 8th January 2018. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

Events may charge. Please visit [www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details.  
To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

**The Oban Times supports local charities and not-for-profit event organisers.**

Let us know about your forthcoming event to appear for free in our listings, in association with Oban Town Diary.

We have reduced our community noticeboard box adverts to just £10 plus VAT (where VAT is applicable)

Put your event in front of 25,000 readers and also see what we can offer you by promoting your event online - we have over 11,000 followers on Facebook and 36'000 monthly visitors to [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

It pay to advertise with The Oban Times - first for community news, business news and events throughout Oban, Lochaber and the West Highlands.

Contact Nadine or Rhona on **01631 568000**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

# Gaelic pantomime visits Oban's Rockfield Primary

A 15-day tour of a new Gaelic pantomime – Anna Bheag a' Chota Dheirg – called on Thursday last week at Oban's Rockfield Primary, with schools on Tiree, Islay and Barra also being involved. This is the 10th year that the Scottish charity Fèisean nan Gàidheal has produced and toured a Gaelic language pantomime for children in Gaelic-medium education and will take the play to more than 2,500 young Gaelic speakers, including many

island schools. The Gaelic panto is a re-imagining of the *Little Red Riding Hood* fairytale and features Calum McDonald, who is a well-known presenter on the BBC; MJ Deans, who toured *Rocket Post* with the National Theatre of Scotland; and Ellen MacDonal, well-known for her role as Kirsty in BBC Alba's *Bannan*. Fèisean nan Gàidheal's drama officer Angus Macleod said: "The play updates the traditional *Little Red*

*Riding Hood* story and gives it a martial arts twist. The three experienced actors bring lots of fun and energy to their roles and the audience interaction will make this an engaging and enjoyable experience for children and adults alike." Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a Scottish charity which was established in 1991 which helps promote Gaelic arts development. The tour began on November 27 and will finish on December 15.



MJ Deans, left, and Ellen MacDonal entertain their young audience at Oban's Rockfield Primary School.

## Your local radio listings

**OBAN FM** Community Radio - your local radio station  
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at [www.obanfm.com](http://www.obanfm.com)

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

**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Maccoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down  
**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2  
**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 15.00 The Wednesday Jukebox with Michelle 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre  
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight  
**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie  
**SATURDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight  
**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breege, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

# Blow Dry Bar

**Get your Christmas Party night started at Trinity**

We are launching a brand new Blow Dry Bar

From Bouncy Blow Dries to Party hair ups, we have you covered.

Bring your friends, enjoy a free glass of Prosecco and get in the Christmas Party mood whilst Hannah and Patrick glam up your hair.

**Blow Dry Bar Opening hours**  
Friday the 8th of December: 5pm - 7:30pm  
Saturday the 9th of December: 3pm - 5pm  
Friday the 15th of December: 5pm - 7:30pm  
Saturday the 16th of December: 3pm - 6pm  
Friday the 22nd of December: 5pm - 7:30pm

**TRINITY** hairdressing & beauty  
3 High Street, Oban 01631 566696

## Stellar cast announced for Nevis Centre

Lochaber's Christmas carol extravaganza is not to be missed at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Thursday December 14 at 7pm. With generous support from Liberty, British Aluminium, this year's concert will go ahead with performances from six local primary schools – Banavie, Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar, Caol, Inverloch, Spean Bridge and St Columba's. Lochaber High School Pipe Band and Folk Band also feature in the programme.

Gary Innes, Manran, has been instrumental in preparing the youngsters for the 'big stage' and for coordinating the programme. Gary has also assembled a house band for the evening and this is an opportunity to hear professional musicians perform in their home area.

Tickets are now available at the Nevis Centre on 01397 700707. At £10 for adults and £5 for children, this is an affordable festive night out for all the family.

## LOCHABER'S CHRISTMAS CAROL EXTRAVAGANZA

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

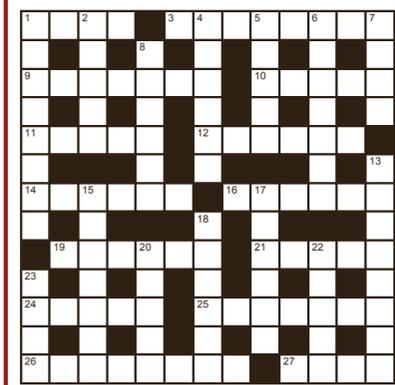
Highlight will include performances by Spean Bridge, Caol, Inverloch, Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig, St Columba's RC, Banavie Primary schools and Lochaber High School Pipe Band and Folk band.

Sponsored by **LIBERTY British Aluminium**

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

Tickets available from the Nevis Centre

## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Oxen tie (4)
  - Conducting away from an organ (8)
  - Really bad (7)
  - Unreactive (5)
  - Move (5)
  - Secure (6)
  - Counterbalance (6)
  - Black mark (6)
  - Giver (6)
  - Puzzle (5)
  - Way out of trouble (8)
  - Painful swelling (7)
  - Childs supernatural hobgoblin (8)
  - Neuter (4)
- Down**
- Annual statistical papers (8)
  - Attuned (5)
  - Bird of prey (6)
  - Pronouncement (5)
  - Dusk time (7)
  - Goodbye from a child (2-2)
  - Hold back (6)
  - Where vestments are kept (8)
  - Questioning a sport! (7)
  - One who writes the words of others... (6)
  - ...and corrections list (6)
  - Affiliate (5)
  - Nap (5)
  - Slap on (4)

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 7th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £20

**A**

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban

**B**

SEASONS GREETINGS

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban

**C**

JOHN AND JANE SMITH, OBAN

would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a merry Christmas

**Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-**

OBAN TIMES, LOCHAVULLIN IND EST, OBAN TEL: 01631 568000  
OBAN TIMES, 22 HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003

**ONLY £20 (inc. VAT.) OPTIONS A,B OR C.**

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or Phone in your message quoting your Master Card/Visa Number  
Deadline Monday 4th December. To appear Thursday 7th December

MESSAGE 20 words maximum

\*NAME..... A  B  C

ADDRESS..... PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.

..... Tel..... \*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

20 words maximum PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

DIRECT FROM IRELAND THE HIT SHOW

JMG MUSIC GROUP

# THE LEGENDS OF AMERICAN COUNTRY TRIBUTE SHOW

**FRIDAY 19TH JAN 2018**  
**THE CORAN HALLS, OBAN**  
DOORS 7.00PM SHOW STARTS AT 7.30PM

TICKETS £19.50  
BOX OFFICE 01631 567333

# Arena

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

## Book Week Scotland goes down a treat in Oban

Oban was bustling with all things literary last weekend, with a series of events taking place for Scottish Book Week.

Renowned crime writer Christopher Brookmyre launched his latest book *Places in the Darkness* in the Corran Halls on Thursday night.

Children's author Alan Windram was in Waterstone's on Saturday morning, entertaining youngsters and parents alike.

The Lorn Resource Centre welcomed the author, storyteller and poet Renita Boyle.

Renita amused the centre's discussion group, who themselves are no strangers to writing stories.

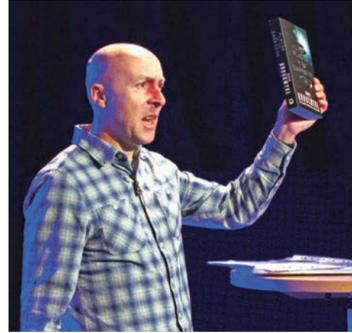
Each year, the group enters the Scottish Book Trust's themed competition - with this year's topic being Nourish.

The group came up with nine original stories and poems

about their favourite food.

One story titled *Tikka* by Lachie Johnston has been chosen to be featured in the trust's e-book.

Other notable events that took place in Oban for Scottish Book Week include talks by authors Mary Whithall, Graeme Macrae Burnet, Lindsay Campbell, and a hip-hop workshop by rapper turned author Darren 'Loki' McGarvey.



Scottish crime writer Chris Brookmyre was in the Corran Halls last Thursday night.



Renita Boyle gave a talk to the Lorn Resource Centre as part of Scottish Book Week. 17\_T49\_LornResourceCentre02

Book your Festive Feast now by calling 01631 562183

**3 Course Christmas Lunch** 1st December - 24th December  
Only £17.95pp

**3 Course Christmas Dinner** 1st December - 24th December  
Only £24.95pp

**Children's 3 Course Santa Helpers Menu**  
Children 11 - 16 years £17.95  
Children under 10 years £12.95

**OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY**  
3 courses for only £34.95

YOU CAN BOOK NOW... IT'S EASY, JUST CALL 01631 562183  
The Columba Hotel, Oban, Argyll PA34 5QD  
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www.facebook.com/sgehotels @SGEHotels

### PETS CORNER

Sponsored by Highbridge Kennels & Cattery, Spean Bridge, 01397 712 567

## Dog owners have less stress in their lives

Survey shows dog owners are happier

More than 87 per cent of pet owners in Scotland believe having a dog can help to bring stress levels down.

In fact, research, conducted this year by manufacturer of pet supplements Lintbells, found that on average dog owners in Scotland are less stressed and happier in life because of their pet.

With almost a quarter of households in the UK now owning a dog, the study found that dog owners are happier, more satisfied at work and more sociable than people without a pooch. Some 83 per cent of people in Scotland now consider their dog to be an integral part of their family.

The national study, of 1,000 dog owners and 1,000 adults without a dog, found 80 per cent with a dog are 'very happy' or 'happy' with their life overall, compared to just 70 per cent of people without a four-legged friend.

In addition the research found that people with no dog spend longer watching TV and less time outdoors.

In fact, it was discovered people without a pooch watch 14 hours more TV a month, averaging an extra 3.5 hours per week, than those with a four-legged friend.

## Our colouring-in competition winner

Congratulations to Kelsey MacEwan, aged nine, from Oban who won a £50 gift card in our Christmas colouring-in competition.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000

**AnComunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain Tànuilt Christmas Ceilidh**  
Mary Catherine MacNeil, John Joe MacNeil, Tànuilt Primary School Choir. Plus Full supporting programme.  
Saturday 16th December, Tànuilt Village Hall, 7.00pm\*  
\*Please note ceilidh start time.  
Stovie Supper and Hamper Raffle. Adults - £4. Children £2.

**Inveraray & District Accordion and Fiddle Club**  
INVERARAY INN  
Wednesday 13th December at 8.00pm  
Guest Artists: Neil MacEachern & his Scottish Dance Band. Supporting players most welcome.

**OBAN & LORN GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**  
(Charity no: SC028649)  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
Saturday 9, December 2017  
Glencruitten Golf Club  
Oban PA34 4PU @ 7pm  
£2.50 per person  
Teams of 4  
Raffle draw will take place after quiz.

**Oban and Lorn Lions Club Visit Santa**  
Saturday 9th & 16th December  
Airds Crescent, Next to TSB Bank, Oban, 11am - 4pm  
Entry by donation  
Table top sale  
Seasonal gifts and crafts  
Sponsored by Menzies Distribution

## MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 07 DÙBHLACHD THURSDAY 07 DECEMBER  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
18.35 **Dè a-nis?** (rpt)  
19.05 **Tàthadh** - Caisteal Charabasdaill (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **ÙR | NEW: Eòrpa**  
21.00 **Bho Mhinistear gu Modaràitair** - a year following Angus Morrison's year as a Moderator of the church of Scotland (rpt)  
22.00 **Féis Chiùil Thiriodh** - Highlights from Tìree festival 2016 (rpt)  
22.30 **ÙR | NEW: Reagan & Gorbachev** - Ronald Reagan & Michael Gorbachev putting an end to the cold war (rpt)  
23.30 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** (rpt)

DIHAOINE 08 DÙBHLACHD FRIDAY 08 DECEMBER  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
19.00 **An Là** - News  
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

19.30 **Aibisidh** - Quiz Show (rpt)  
20.00 **Togaigh Sinn Fonn** - a selection of Scotland's best musicians and singers (rpt)  
20.25 **Binneas - Na Trads** - De-och'n'Dorus (rpt)  
20.30 **Kerry's Kirsty: Rothan gu Robhanais** (rpt)  
21.00 **Na Trads 2017** (rpt)  
23.20 **Dhan Uisge** - Loch Loyne (rpt)  
23.25 **Féis Chiùil Thiriodh** - Highlights from Tìree festival 2016 (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 09 DÙBHLACHD SATURDAY 09 DECEMBER  
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
17.55 **Binneas - Na Trads** - The Shee (rpt)  
18.00 **ÙR | NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Hamilton Academical v St Johnstone (rpt)  
20.00 **Aibisidh** - Quiz show (rpt)  
20.30 **Eòrpa** (rpt)  
21.00 **ÙR | NEW: Lorient is Alba:** Scotland's Year  
22.00 **Peter Manuel - Deireadh an Uilc** - Questioning the mental state of the notorious serial killer 50 years after he was hanged (rpt)  
22.55 **Scottish Premiership** - Hamilton Academical v St Johnstone (rpt)

DIDÒMHAICH 10 DÙBHLACHD SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER  
16.00 **ÙR | NEW: Scottish League**  
1 - Airdrieonians v Raith Rovers  
18.15 **Piobairean Bhoirinis** - Tale of a boy who receives the gift of piping from a sinister fairy  
18.30 **Seachd Là** - News review  
19.30 **ÙR | NEW: Alleluia**  
20.00 **Air an Smuid** - The battle to save a rusting old puffer (rpt)  
20.30 **Prosbaig** - a look back at some of the stories from the BBC Gaelic current affairs series (rpt)  
21.00 **Opry an Iùir** (rpt)  
21.55 **Binneas - Na Trads** - The Shee (rpt)  
22.00 **Lorient is Alba: Scotland's Year** (rpt)  
23.00 **Reagan & Gorbachev** - Ronald Reagan & Michael Gorbachev putting an end to the cold war (rpt)

DILUAIN 11 DÙBHLACHD MONDAY 11 DECEMBER  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
19.00 **Innsean an Iar** - Hebrides (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** - History shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **Bannan: Air Cùl a' Chamara** (rpt)  
21.00 **ÙR | NEW: Trusadh - Tìodhlac Ghosta** - the story of a striking set of images from the Western Isles 40 years on (rpt)  
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)  
22.30 **Gàidhlig Obar Dheathain** - the history and future of Gaelic in Aberdeen (rpt)  
23.30 **Féis Chiùil Thiriodh** - Highlights from 2016 (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 12 DÙBHLACHD TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
19.00 **Tàthadh** - Doune (rpt)  
19.25 **Binneas - Na Trads** - The Shee (rpt)

19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** - History Shorts (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **Air an Smuid** - the battle to save a rusting old puffer (rpt)  
21.00 **ÙR | NEW: Opry an Iùir**  
21.55 **Binneas - Na Trads** - The Shee (rpt)  
22.00 **Trusadh - Tìodhlac Ghosta** - the story of a striking set of images from the Western Isles 40 years on (rpt)  
23.00 **ÙR | NEW: Quay Sessions** - Iain Morrison  
23.25 **Alleluia** (rpt)

DICIADAIN 13 DÙBHLACHD WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
18.30 **ÙR | NEW: Dè a-nis?**  
19.00 **Innsean an Iar** - Hebrides (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **ÙR | NEW: Prosbaig** - a look back at some of the stories from the BBC Gaelic current affairs series

21.00 **Fuine na Nollaige** (rpt)  
22.00 **ÙR | NEW: Scottish Premiership** - Partick Thistle v Motherwell  
DIARDAOIN 14 DÙBHLACHD THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER  
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** - Children's programming  
18.35 **Dè a-nis?**  
19.05 **Tàthadh** - Doune (rpt)  
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
19.55 **Binneas - Na Trads** - The Shee (rpt)  
20.00 **An Là** - News  
20.30 **ÙR | NEW: Eòrpa**  
21.00 **A' Fàgail Bharraigh** - personal stories of historical and family links between Barra and Canada (rpt)  
21.45 **Torcull's Guide to Being a Gael:** Canan  
22.00 **Féis Chiùil Thiriodh** - Highlights from 2016 (rpt)  
22.30 **ÙR | NEW: The Equalizer** - Na Geamannan Co-Ionnan - Athletes competing with old-school ways  
23.20 **Dhan Uisge** - Loch Lomond (rpt)  
23.30 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** (rpt)

BBC ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER | FACEBOOK.COM/BBCALBA | @BBCALBA  
Co-bhannachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

## Pet Idol

Time to vote for your TOP 20!

**VOTING COUPON** Round 3

I would like to vote for:  
Pet number\*:.....  
Pet's name: .....

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

\*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet photograph.  
Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.  
You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.  
Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 11th December.

The Oban Times | LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times | argyllshire advertiser | campbeltown courier

## Tiree Songbook launches

An album of songs from the Isle of Tiree was launched this month, just before it clinched the Community Project of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards.

The *Tiree Songbook* was originally commissioned by The Tiree Association for A' Bhuain 2016, Tiree's Homecoming Week for island descendants worldwide.

The new live and studio album is composed of material performed at both the A' Bhuain Finale Concert in An Talla, Tiree, in May 2016 and at the Celtic Connections 'Tiree Songbook' Concert in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, in January 2017.

The album celebrates songs from Na Bàird Thirisdeach, the definitive 20th century collection of songs from Tiree, alongside more recent compositions from the island, including songs by Flora and Angus MacPhail and Niall Brownlie.

Additionally, the album also recognises the great piping tradition in Tiree by bringing together some of the island's well-known piping families to play some of the famous tunes and brilliant new compositions written by and about islanders.

Included on the album is the late Bernard Smith's final public performance at Celtic Connections this year, recorded just a few months before he passed away. Alongside the house band, Bernie was joined that night by Angus MacPhail, Daniel Gillespie and Campbell Brown, and this track stands as a fantastic legacy of a very well-known and much-loved man.

The Tiree Association said before the awards ceremony: 'It's a real honour that the project has been nominated as we've put a lot of hard work into this over the past two years or so.'

The album's musical creators, Donald-Iain Brown, John Campbell, Mary Ann Kennedy and Ian Smith, wrote jointly: 'The blue book of Na Bàird Thirisdeach has been part of our lives since we were born. If we didn't receive it as a Gaelic prize at school, it was certainly on the bookshelves in our homes and from an early age, and still today, it is a point of reference for us leafing through its pages to sing many of the clever and insightful lyrics composed by our forebear poets.'

'It has been uplifting and the greatest privilege for us to take those lyrics

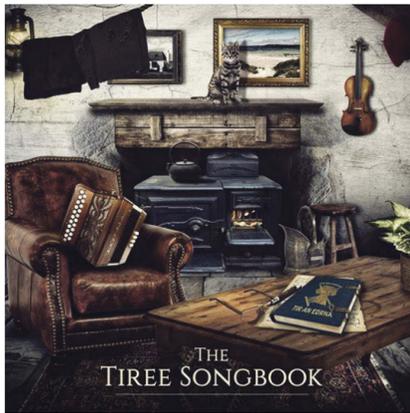
and tunes and to create this CD. And to highlight that the bardic craft is still practiced, we have included two songs from three of our 20th and 21st century poets – Flora and Angus MacPhail, and the late Niall Brownlie. There is no way that we can repay the bards of yesterday and today for the wonderful words they have shared with us.'

'Beyond our bardic tradition, Tiree has been synonymous with the playing of the bagpipes and it was our great pleasure to bring together our pipers who are connected by two locations and

families – the Cachaileith (Sinclairs) and Corrairigh (Campbells) – our Cachaileith to Corrairigh Pipers.

'We cannot express how much pride and pleasure it has given us to bring together this CD, something that started with A' Bhuain (The Homecoming) some 10 years ago. The concert that we had in the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow in January 2017 was beyond special and will remain with each of us, for many reasons, for ever.'

'We hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed producing it.'



The *Tiree Songbook* includes new songs by Flora and Angus MacPhail and Niall Brownlie.

# Trad triumphs

A Tiree Songbook, Inveraray and District Pipe Band and Spean Bridge accordionist Gary Innes triumphed at the weekend's Scots Trad Music Awards.

The awards, organised by Hands Up for Trad, saw stars of the Scottish music scene take to Paisley's Lagoon Centre to celebrate and honour the very best of traditional talent.

Newly-crowned World Pipe Band Champions for 2017, Inveraray and District Pipe Band celebrated another victory as they fought off stiff competition to scoop

the Scottish Pipe Band of the Year.

The *Tiree Songbook*, a double album launched by the Tiree Association in Kelvingrove Art Gallery in November, won Community Project of the Year.

Gary Innes, a Lochaber member of Manran, former shinty player, broadcaster and part-time fire-fighter, won Instrumentalist of the Year, while Live Act of the Year went to trad heavyweights Skipinnish.

The band kicked off 2017 with a bang, releasing the hugely popular

single, *Alive*, reaching number 26 in the UK music charts, followed by a new album *The Seventh Wave* and a sold-out album launch tour.

Other winners of the raft of prizes handed out on the night included Gaelic Singer of the Year winner, Robert Robertson, who beat off stiff competition from Mary Ann Kennedy, Alasdair MacLilleBhàin and Calum Alex MacMillan.

Talisk clinched the Scottish Folk Band of the Year award, while Hò-rò won the Up and Coming Artist Award,

Siobhan Miller took Scots Singer of the Year and Elephant Sessions won the coveted Album of the Year for *All We Have is Now*.

Alan Morrison, head of music at Creative Scotland, said: 'Every single category at this year's MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards was bursting with talent, so it's plain to see why 2017 has been such an amazing year for

Scotland's folk and trad music. Congratulations to all of the winners and nominees for taking this scene to a higher level at home and abroad.'

'It's great to see the likes of Talisk, Elephant Sessions, Siobhan Miller, Robert Robertson and Hò-rò carry our traditional heritage on their young shoulders, championing Scottish culture around the world and into the future.'



Inveraray and District Pipe Band.



Hò-rò celebrate



Elephant Sessions.

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# A festive feast of local food

Fishermen, farmers and foodies across the West Highlands are passionate about their produce

ASK yourself, this Christmas, why would you buy mass produced for your Christmas feasting when you have some of the finest foods here on your doorsteps?

We all agree on one thing: the West Highlands is one of the best places you can live.

The waters are clear, the air and land unpolluted and the pace of life is more measured, less fast with a more considered, caring, attitude to life.

And what makes for a great environment to live, work and raise a family also makes for a superb setting to produce some of the finest food in the UK.

Don't just take The Oban Times' word for it: just look around you.

Whilst we might have the occasional grumble about wet weather, the mild, moist Atlantic air makes for superb pasture, from the rolling fields of the Kintyre peninsula with its award-winning dairy herds, where the majority of the milk goes for making cheese and specialised milk products, to the rugged hills of Argyll and Lochaber for tender lamb or prime beef.

The waters of the West Highlands provide some of the finest seafood around –

Oban boasts the title of seafood capital of Scotland – have you seen anyone come and try and claim it off us? Our seafood is sought after by buyers from all over the world.

Our sea and fresh water lochs are home to some of the best quality farmed fish in Europe; salmon farmed in Argyll has won major international awards and across the West Highlands farms supply the nation's supermarkets with salmon and trout.

We even have companies selling edible seaweed, plus Argyll is home to major research institutes for the sea and sustainability. We lead the way in so many aspects of this industry.

Scotland is famed for its smoked fish and you can find some of the best smoked salmon, trout, mussels, kippers, and oysters here.

With so many great ingredients no wonder we have so many people earning a living as food producers. They can be making a nationally-known product, or one just known here in the West Highlands or even in their own village or through craft fairs. They are all passionate about making superb quality produce.

Breads, cakes, biscuits, jams, chutneys, all manner of preserves and condiments are created here, with enterprising artisans starting off operating from their own kitchens, and going on to expand with help from Business Gateway and the expertise of the environmental health departments at Argyll and Bute and the Highland Council. Some of our biggest names have started small and grown and grown.

And we also import! foodie enthusiasts have started up businesses specialising in oils, vinegars and teas and coffees. The owners of our specialist delicatessens, bakeries and grocers take great delight

in selling local products and sourcing others from small companies across Scotland.

So if you are staying home for Christmas dinner, fill up your larder, fridge and freezer with local fare. And if you are going to friends or family for the big day, take along a taste of Argyll and the Islands, Lochaber and the West Highlands with you for a unique and special gift.

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## Drink to Highland heritage, sláinte mhaith!

Whisky has a long, rich, history here in the West Highlands and now gin is joining the ever growing story.



IN THIS part of the world the word 'distillery' has meant whisky . . . but no more.

That other very Scottish drink, gin, is enjoying a revival.

Scottish gin accounts for 70 per cent of the UK's entire production. The big-three, best-sellers nation wide, Hendrick's, Gordon's and Tanqueray, are all made here and now gin is suddenly fashionable again, thanks to craft distilleries producing small-batch artisan gins.

Whisky companies have also decided to join in and create gins; even the whisky island itself, Islay, now has its own gin.

With many of the smaller gins boasting 'botanicals' from their own locations, this has all helped make gin fashionable again, tapping into the foodie, artisan, hipster mood of today.

It follows on from the revival of small, local, micro-breweries and brings the wheel full-circle from the mass production which began in Victorian times.

This has seen rise to another welcome revival, the rise of the specialist shop, where knowledgeable staff will source more hard-to-find treasures from whisky and gin producers and advise on food pairings and how to enjoy and serve whisky and gin.

Scotland's love affair with gin began in the Port of Leith in the early 18th century with the start of the trade in the Dutch spirit Jenever and has grown steadily from there.

But our first love, whisky in all its complexities, from blends to single malts, goes back much, much further. The first record of distilling is found in records of 1494.

Of the five main categories of whisky - Highland, Lowland, Speyside, Islay, and Campbeltown - Argyll can claim two of them as its own which is not bad going for one small corner of Scotland.

The Scotch Whisky Association map edition of 2017 lists 14 distilleries here in Argyll and Bute – can you name all of them (answers hidden on page).

The same association also says that whisky is 'a significant contributor to rural employment, supporting often fragile local economies.' It estimates that exports are worth £4bn to the UK economy as a whole.

Today no distillery is complete without a visitor centre, generating more wealth for local economies and boosting tourism.

And remember the saying: 'Today's rain is tomorrow's whisky'.

drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

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### Win a bottle of Oban Little Bay for Christmas

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the entry form below and post it to The Oban Times, Distillery Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by midnight, Friday 15th December, 2017

Question: What is the name of the distillery whisky bar?

Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
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Over 18s only. Winners will be selected at random after the closing date and will receive a 750ml bottle of Oban Little Bay, Single Malt. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to 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. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Friday 15th December, 2017.

QUIZ ANSWERS: Ardbeg, Bowmore, Bruichladdich, Bunnahabhain, Caol Ila, Kilchoman, Lagavullin, Laphroaig, Glengyle, Glen Scotia, Springbank, Jura, Oban, Tobermory.

# Recipe from your new M&S Foodhall Fort William

The new M&S Foodhall Fort William is now open and boasts thousands of inspiring products perfect for chillier evenings in and show-stopping dishes for entertaining family and friends over the festive season. Whether your family opts for a traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings on Christmas day or chooses something a little more extraordinary to delight party guests, delicious food is the highlight of the season.

M&S Fort William takes the hassle out of Christmas, offering a 'Click & Collect service' for customers on 22nd, 23rd and 24th December, helping up to 1,000 families in the local area achieve a wonderful, stress-free Christmas. Browse the wide variety of festive dishes, sides and desserts available at [www.christmasfood.marksandspencer.com](http://www.christmasfood.marksandspencer.com) and complete your order by 15th December to avoid missing out on a delicious Christmas feast.

And if you fancy having a go at your own fabulous mince pies, here's one of M&S's favourite recipes that they are happy to share with you...

## Giant lattice topped mince pie

Prep 15 min  
Cook 40 min

593.0 cal/  
serving

Medium  
effort

**Ingredients** serves 8

- 1 orange
- 1 tsp icing sugar
- 2 fresh figs
- 2 tbsp milk
- 100g marzipan
- 2 tbsp Cointreau or Amaretto (optional)
- 822g fig and hazelnut and orange mincemeat
- 400g short crust pastry

**Preparation**

Grate the marzipan. Quarter the fresh figs. Zest the oranges.

**Method**

1. Preheat the oven to 400F /200C/Fan 190 /Gas 6. Roll out 2/3rds of the pastry and use to line a 20cm loose bottom round cake tin.
2. Prick the base with a fork and line with baking parchment and baking beans.
3. Bake blind for 15 minutes then remove the beans and paper.
4. Reduce the oven temperature to 350F/180C/Fan 170/Gas 4.
5. Meanwhile, mix together the mincemeat with the liqueur and marzipan (if using).



6. Spoon into the part cooked pastry case.
7. Roll out the remaining pastry and cut into thin long strips, arrange over the top in a lattice pattern, pressing down the edges.
8. Brush with a little milk to glaze and return to the oven for 20 to 25 minutes until pastry lattice is cooked and golden.
9. Remove from the oven allow to cool for 30 minutes then carefully remove from the tin onto a serving plate or board.
10. Arrange quartered figs on top, dust with icing sugar and scatter with curls of orange zest.

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## Mull's gentle gin

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Just like its namesake, Whitetail Gin is superior in strength and power at 47% abv, subtle and smooth – As gentle on the palate as a feather drifting down from the sky.

We use sustainably-sourced botanicals, such as juniper, coriander and lemon peel, but the real secrets lie in the botanicals we include that are native to Mull and grow on or beside our home. These include the heather, winter savoury and pine needles from our family estate and the sea-kelp collected from the shores of Loch Scridain. They are carefully harvested by us, by hand (and by the eagle itself).

Our gin is then expertly crafted with the aid of eighth-generation master distiller, Charles Maxwell of Thames Distillers in London and distilled using water freshly sourced from Tiroran's private spring (said to have mythical healing powers) to create the finest there is: a premium London Dry Gin.

Buy Whitetail Gin and branded glasses from our Whitetail licensed shop on the Isle of Mull or via [whitetailgin.com](http://whitetailgin.com).

Priced at: £38.00 for 70cl or take advantage of our Christmas Offer: A bottle of Whitetail Gin, 2 x Branded Whitetail Gin glasses and free-shipping for £50.

### Did you know ?

- Fourteen new whisky distilleries have opened since 2013
- Many whisky distilleries' existing sites have been expanded to increase production meaning more warehouses.
- Be grateful to the phylloxera beetle for an outbreak of the wee bugs devastated 19th century French vineyards. Wine and almost all French brandy disappeared from export. Scotland was always a big, brandy-drinking country, showing historic links to France, but our newly legal, taxed and thriving whisky industry took advantage and by the time brandy exports were working again, whisky had taken the market share.
- Historians say that in the early 18th century the dreaded excise men were confiscating around 14,000 illicit stills every year and more than half the country's whisky went untaxed. If you can't beat them join them, and the laws were changed to make it profitable to produce whisky legally.
- The 'demon drink' was gin in 18th century London; it was cheaper than beer and safer than the city's water supply. The city's gin distillers bought their raw spirit from Scotland.
- Edinburgh had eight licensed distillery producing gin in 1777; the number of unlicensed ones was reckoned to be more than 300.
- Campbeltown was once the whisky capital of Scotland with more than 30 distilleries; a perfect storm of the rise of railways opening up Speyside to the blended whisky makers and reducing costs, the Great Depression and American prohibition saw the market collapse.

### Festive Martinez

A seasonal twist on a classic

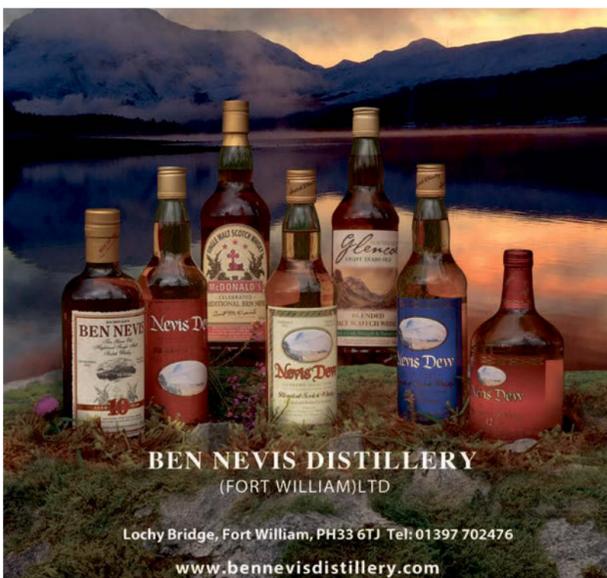
**Ingredients**

- 40ml Whitetail Gin
- 20ml sweet vermouth
- 10ml Luxardo Maraschino liqueur
- 1 dash Angostura bitters
- A pinch of ground mixed spice

**Method**

Stir all ingredients over lots of ice for about 20 seconds and strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

Garnish with a Luxardo Maraschino Cherry and an orange twist.



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# FARMING NEWS

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## Anger greets Muller decision to cut price paid to its suppliers

NEWS that dairy giant Muller is to slash the price paid to its farmers by 1.5p per litre has seen NFU Scotland receive many calls from angry Muller suppliers.

The NFUS said the scale of the price drop is hugely disappointing for Muller direct suppliers and, worryingly, opens the door for other milk processors to follow suit.

The NFUS said it had spoken to colleagues in NFU England and Wales and would approach Muller with an urgent request for a joint face-to-face meeting in the next few days.

NFUS vice-president Gary Mitchell said: 'Muller has set an appalling precedent and once again farmers are left to pay the price.'

'At the first sign of cream and butter prices softening from what are historic highs, Muller has jumped at the opportunity to slash the price it pays to producers to shore up its own profits. Yet, when cream prices surged, it took Muller many months to return an extra 1.5p per litre to its suppliers.'

'Despite watching all dairy farmers in 2016 endure the lowest milk prices for a generation, Muller and others were slow to lift prices when the markets rose, arguing that their cautious approach was to avoid over-production. Now, Muller has dropped the price like a stone at the first opportunity.'

'The reality is that November



Gary Mitchell blasted the 'appalling' decision to slash prices.

butter and cream prices of £4,500 and £2,100 per tonne respectively, while dipping from the highs of the summer, are still thousands of pounds per tonne higher than the trough seen in spring 2016.

'As a company, we believed Muller had made good strides in developing producer representation, futures options and volume projection. However, the decision to slash prices went against the recommendation of the company's farmer board to hold.'

'Many dairy farmers across Scotland, including all Muller producers, face a high-cost winter where they are short of forage with soaring feed and bedding bills.'

best can barely cover their costs, actions like that taken by Muller risks more farmers walking away from dairying.'

NFU Scotland's milk policy manager George Jamieson added: 'The problems run deeper than this price cut and, sadly, Muller will not be alone. NFUS has cited the lack of genuine collaboration within the dairy supply chain for several years.'

'The problem is not just volatility and asymmetric pricing, but poor value transfer down the chain by retailers and processors. The good times for dairy farmers are neither long enough nor good enough to compensate for bad times.'

'NFUS is fully aware that we can't buck the market. Global supply and demand is outwith our control and drives UK prices, but farm gate milk price should not be the safety valve for processors and end-users to sustain their margins.'

'Well over 90 per cent of consumers eat dairy products every day. It is a staple part of the diet, and yet processors and retailers are seemingly content for dairy farmers to merely survive, rather than thrive and invest to preserve the hugely important UK dairy farming sector.'

'Given the way that Muller suppliers and its producer board have been ignored, there is an urgent need for them to consider the benefits of a properly constituted, professional Dairy Producer Organisation.'

## Around the markets

**STIRLING** - United Auctions on Thursday November 30 sold 6079 prime sheep comprising 4778 lambs selling to an average of 169.8ppk and 1301 ewes and rams.

Lambs: (4778) South Flanders (Tex) £106; Doune Farms (BTex) £104; Catcune (Suff) £95; South Flanders (Char) £85; Cherryfield (X) £84; South Baldutho (Chev) £80.

Lambs: (4778) Forest (Tex) 220p; Harviessmailing (BTex) 214p; Dall (X) 188p; Isle Cottage (Suff) 182p; Loanhead (Chev) 180p; East Dron (Char) 177p.

Ewes: (1301) - Cherryfield (Tex) £132; Pyeston (Suff) £1117; Leyden (X) £104; Killeddan (BL) £95; Balmonth (HB) £94.50; Cherryfield (BFL) £93; High Machrimore (Mule) £79; South Brownhill (BF) £58.

Rams: Catcune (Suff) £132; Coldrochie (Char) £130; Muirslaird (Lley) £120.

**STIRLING** - United Auctions on Wednesday November 29 sold 764 store cattle, also 220 cast cows and forward cattle and 138 breeding cattle.

Bullocks (388) - averaged 209.70p to 275.80ppk for a 330kg CharX from Spittal and to £1300 for 668kg AAX from Croftlane.

B&W Bullocks (25) - averaged 131.42p to 145.50ppk for a 471kg HFX from Westerhill, and to £685 for a 471kg HFX from Westerhill.

Heifers (337) - averaged 200.82p to 246.60ppk for a 296kg CharX from Sorn Mains, and to £1380 for a 680kg LimX from The Ross.

Young Bulls (14) - averaged 230.92 to 254.10ppk for a BRBX from Mid Shawton and £1000 for a CharX from Midlock.

Cast Cows (175) - averaged 119.85p to 179.90ppk for a SimX from Hard House and to £1000 for a CharX from Midlock.

Dairy Cows (44) - averaged 96.09p and to 144.70ppk for a HoX from Bandirran, and to £1110 for a HoX from Bandirran.

Forward Cattle (4) - averaged 110.74p and to 171.90ppk for a HFX from Branchal, and to £735 for a LimX from Graystone.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs - West Muirhouse £480, 192.00p; 251-300kgs - Braidland £660, 227.90p; 301-350kgs - Spittal £910, 275.80p; 351-400kgs - East Memus £101, 263.00p; 401-450kgs - Midlock £1100, 253.50p; 451-500kgs - Holehouse £1160, 243.20p; 501-550kgs - Croft Jane £1170, 222.00p; 551-600kgs - Starr £1250, 214.20p; 601-650kgs - Dempston £1275, 210.70p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs - West Muirhouse £350, Moneydie 187.50p; 250-300kgs - Sorn Mains £730, 246.60p; 301-350kg - Spittal £780, 236.80p; 351-400kgs - Old Leckie £910, 244.00p; 401-450kgs - West Park £960, 234.4p; 451-500kgs - Midlock £1060, 232.50p; 501-550kgs - The Ranch £1160, 214.00p; 551-600kgs - Midlock £1140, Barlae 200.40p; 601-650kgs - The Ross £1380, 202.90p.

Young Bulls: Up to 300kg - Lyoncross £550, 200.70p; 301-350 - Mid Shawton £790, 254.10p; 351-400 - Gateslack £810, 218.90p; 451-500 - Midlock £1000, 200.80p.

OTM Cows:

£ per head - Craigowmill (AA) £1390; Midlock (Char) £1350; Back O Muir (Lim) £1330; Back O Muir (Sim) £1250; Bandirran (Ho) £1110; East Memus (ContX) £1110.

PPK - Haddo House Estate (Sim) 178.90p; Lyoncross (AA) 172.00p; Back O Muir (Lim) 167.10p; Midlock (Char) 157.30p; Bandirran (Ho) 144.70p; Craigend (ContX) 141.10p.

OTM Bulls:

£ per head - Moneydie (BS) £1650; Longman House (Lim) £1470; Forest (AA) £1310; Hardhill (Sim) £1230.

PPK - Burnside of Balhadie (AA) 182.00p; Hardhill (Sim) 170.80p; Moneydie (BSH) 172.20p; Longman House (Lim) 134.10p.

United Auctions Stirling also sold 138 breeding cattle

Beannie Lim cow & bull calf £2100; Beannie Lim cow & heifer calf £1800; Beannie Lim cow & bull calf £1800; Beannie Sim cow & bull calf £1800; Kettlehill Sim hfr & heifer calf £1600; Murdieston Sim cow & heifer calf £1700; Lochend Pure Lim Hfr & heifer calf £1400.

Bolfracks Dispersal - Lim bull £3700; Lim cow I/C £1800; Lim cow I/C £1750; Sal cow I/C £1700; Lim cow I/C £1700; Sal cow I/C £1700; Lim cow I/C £1650; BRB cow I/C £1600; Lim cow I/C £1600.

**DINGWALL** - Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on November 28 sold 71 prime cattle at its Christmas show and sale sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland, John M Munro Butchers, Highland Tractors, Parks Motor Group and Scot JCB and judged by Mrs A Ingram, East Comaleg.

Prime bullocks (23) averaged 225.8p (+6.8p) and sold to 250p per kg and £1,610.00 gross.

Prime heifers (48) averaged 239.2p (+27.4p) and sold to 500p per kg and £2,675.00 gross.

Overall champion & Flowerburn rose bowl, junior champion and 1st prize junior heifer - Mr D. Morrison, 128 Kinlochbervie, Lairg for a 16 month old, 535kg British Blue cross selling at 500p per kg (£2,675.00) to Messrs B T Kitson Ltd, 178 High Street, Northallerton.

Reserve champion, junior reserve, best homebred animal, 1st haltered heifer and 2nd junior heifer - Messrs J. Munro & Son, Invercharron, Ardgay for a 13 month old, 520kg Limousin cross selling at 360p per kg (£1,872.00) to Messrs John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall.

Senior champion, and 1st prize senior heifer, - Messrs W. J. Jack & Son, Woodend, Killearnan, for a 24 month old, 620kg Charolais cross selling at 250p per kg (£1,550.00).

Senior reserve and 2nd prize senior heifer - Mr G Anderson, Auchenthalrig Farm, Spey Bay, for a 19 month old, 610kg Limousin cross selling at 270p per kg (£1,647.00).

1st prize senior bullock - Messrs W. J. Jack & Son, Woodend, 250p.

1st prize junior bullock & 2nd prize haltered bullock - Messrs W. J. & G. A. Fraser, Little Croy Farm, Croy, 230p.

2nd prize junior bullock - Messrs K. H. Grigor & Partners, Redfield, North Kessock, 228p.

1st prize Aberdeen Angus bullock - Messrs W. A. Fettes, Braes of Enzie, 427 Export Ewes averaged £37.25.

Buckie, 238p  
1st prize pair of heifers - Messrs W. J. Jack & Son, Woodend, 243p and 244p.

2nd prize pair of heifers - Messrs J. & B. McCullum, Mountrich Farm, Dingwall, 236p and 226p.

John M Munro prize for best animal exhibited by regular consignor - Messrs J & J Henderson, Udale Farm, Poyntzfield, Prime bullocks (23) averaged 225.8p (+6.8p) and sold to 250p per kg for a 605kg Limousin cross from Woodend, Killearnan, and £1,610.00 gross for a 700kg Limousin cross from Little Croy Farm, Croy.

Prime heifers (48) averaged 239.2 (+27.4p) and sold to 500p per kg and £2,675.00 gross for a 535kg British Blue cross from 128 Kinlochbervie, Lairg and sold to B & T Kitson Ltd, 178 High Street, Northallerton.

Other leading prices per kg: Bullocks: Easter Sheep Park, Balblair, (LimX), 248p; Auchenthalrig Farm, Spey Bay, (LimX), 244p; Braes of Enzie, Buckie, (AAX), 238p.

Heifers: Invercharron, Ardgay, (LimX), 360p; Auchenthalrig Farm, (LimX), 270p; Udale, Poyntzfield, (LimX), 252p.

Other leading prices per head: Bullocks: Redfield, North Kessock, (LimX), £1,527.60, Easter Sheep Park, (CharX), £1,514.70; Woodend (LimX), £1,512.50.

Heifers: Invercharron, (LimX), £1,872.00; Auchenthalrig, (LimX), £1,647.00; Mountrich Farm, Dingwall, (LimX), £1,583.55.

**STIRLING** - Caledonian Marts Ltd on Tuesday November 28 sold 2682 prime lambs, ewes and tups.

A good show of prime lambs forward would be slightly dearer on the week with the overall average for 1882 lambs 167.7ppkg (+1.2ppkg) with 1701 (39kg + av £75.19 - 50p on the week). Top price of the day went to Doune Farms for a pen of 48 kilo Beltex at £98.

Top price per kilo went to W S Young & Son, Mawcarse for an outstanding 39 kilo Beltex lamb at 210ppkg.

Leading prices  
Lambs pounds per head - Beltex £97, £96 & £95 Doune Farms Beltex x £96 & £90 Easter Ochtermuthill

Tex X £90 & £89 Meikle Seggie Tex £88 & £87 Bailanstruth Suff £85.50 Devonshaw Suff X £84.50 Kinraigie Mule £72.50 Viewfield Cross £72 Glenquay & Burnhead BF £69 Viewfield

Lambs per kilo - Beltex X 206p & 205p Meikle Seggie Beltex X 204p & 202p West Lundie Tex 200p & 198p Meikle Seggie Tex X 197p Blairnessnock Suff 180p Meadowfield

Mule 161p St Mungo's & Summerhouse BF 153p Edentaggart

Also forward were 800 cast ewes and tups. With a poorer show for quality forward heavy ewes were harder to cash.

143 Heavy ewes averaged £66.60 selling to £123 for a Texel from J McKerrrow, Riverview, Bo'ness.

427 Export Ewes averaged £37.25.

## NFUS welcomes decision on herbicide

THE long-running campaign to secure the re-authorisation of what the National Farmers' Union Scotland called 'the essential' herbicide, glyphosate, has seen the appeals committee in Brussels approve the product for a further five years.

It has been a hugely frustrating process, which saw politics rather than scientific evidence delay decisions on a product that had been deemed safe by the European Food Safety Author-

ity (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) amongst others. NFUS believes re-authorisation for a full 15 years was justifiable.

NFU Scotland has been running its #Glyphosateisvital social media campaign since the summer and recently president Andrew McCornick wrote to the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and commissioners Vytenis Andriukaitis and Phil

Hogan on the need for re-authorisation.

An NFU Scotland delegation was in Brussels three weeks ago to conduct meetings with UK and Scottish Government representatives on the importance of glyphosate to Scottish farmers and crofters. Following the outcome, Mr McCornick commented: 'Glyphosate is vital to Scottish farmers who use it to control weeds, manage harvests, and reduce grain drying costs.'

It has been an unnecessarily protracted process, but finally the uncertainty for our members is over and they can start planning for next year, factoring the use of glyphosate into their cropping and harvesting plans.

'Off the back of such a difficult harvest and challenging planting conditions for so many Scottish farmers, the thought of not having such a useful and environmentally-beneficial product would have been daunting.'

<b>Massey Ferguson 5455 4WD</b> c/w Mailloux loader, 2006, 40k.....£21,495	
<b>McCormick CX95</b> , 2009, c/w MX U8 loader, powershift, 40k.....£21,495	
<b>New Holland T5040 4WD</b> , 2010, c/w MX T6 PCH Loader, 85 HP ...£20,995	
<b>Kubota M9540</b> , 2010, c/w Kubota loader / bucket, hyd shuttle, 40k.....£20,995	
<b>Landini Vision 90 4WD</b> , 2003, c/w Quicke loader, 90HP, 40k.....£19,995	
<b>Claas 456 4WD</b> , c/w Claas loader, 2008, 40k, air con.....£19,995	
<b>Zetor Proxima 95</b> , 2010, only 1100 hours, 90HP, 80% tyres, 90HP.....£19,495	
<b>Claas 436 4WD</b> , 2007, C/W Troma loader/fork, powershuttle .....£18,495	
<b>Massey Ferguson 4355</b> , 2002, speed shift, 85HP, air con, air seat.....£16,995	
<b>Zetor 7341 4WD</b> , c/w Quicke loader, 2004, mech shuttle.....£15,495	
<b>Massey Ferguson 4255 4WD</b> , 2001, 95 HP, 2 spools.....£15,495	
<b>Kubota 4240</b> , 4WD, 2013, power shuttle, air con.....£12,995	
<b>Case 895 XL</b> , 4WD, 1993, c/w Quicke loader, 85HP.....£10,995	
<b>Goldoni 30DT Compact 4WD</b> Tractor, Trailer & Mower Package.....£9495	
<b>John Deere 2140 2WD</b> , 1981, SG2 cab, 82HP, Power synchron.....£7895	
<b>Kubota B2400 Compact</b> , 2006, Snow Plough and Salt Spreader ... £5495	
<b>International 674</b> , 2wd, c/w loader, bucket and fork .....£3995	
<b>JCB 8026 Mini Excavator</b> , 2014, 1200 hours, 1 bucket, CHOICE.....£17,495	
<b>Bobcat E08 Mini Excavator</b> , Brand New, c/w 3 buckets, CHOICE ...£12,995	
<b>Neuson 3001 3 Ton Swivel Skip Dumper</b> , 2013, AWD, CHOICE.....£12,295	
<b>Twaites 1 Ton Hi Tip Dumper</b> , 2014, AWD, Hydrostatic, CHOICE.....£10,995	
<b>Ammann AV12-2 Double Drum Vibrating Roller</b> , 2011.....£7995	
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## Federation offers proposals for taking crofting forward

THE Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has responded to the Scottish Government Crofting Consultation 2017 with a clear set of proposals to form new fit-for-purpose legislation before 2021, the end of this government term.

'There are a range of possibilities being talked about,' said Russell Smith, chairman of the SCF, 'ranging from doing nothing to starting all over again with completely new law. Having consulted with our members over a long period of time, it is clear that crofters do not want to lose any of their existing protection and rights, and therefore want existing law, that has evolved over many years, to be made fit for purpose.'

'There is the perpetual hope that crofting legislation will interfere with crofting less and help it more.'

'There are three fundamentals that can be done relatively quickly and to great effect. To begin with, a lot of work has been done already by the Crofting Law Group on compiling the issues that need correcting to make the law work. The law can be fixed.'

'Along with this, crofting development must be returned to



the Crofting Commission, which is best placed to implement it in conjunction with regulation.

'The Crofting Commission will then have a more holistic role in which to best serve crofting. However, the Crofting Commission cannot carry out all its functions if inadequately resourced. So we call on the Scottish Government to sufficiently resource the commission. If it cannot, this needs to be stated and an alternative plan for crofting put forward.'

'And the third leg to the stool is common grazings, a high priority for the commission in its role of crofting development.'

Common grazings must be effectively regulated and grazings shares must be used.

Shares getting separated from crofts is a failure of the law that really needs to be rectified and

shares reconnected to active crofts and used.

'Then agricultural and rural development support schemes need to be appropriate to common grazings, not left as an after-thought.'

Mr Smith concluded: 'Do these three things and crofting will have a chance to flourish. A common theme from our membership has been to question why we are going through this navel-gazing again. There is a feeling that this is wasting valuable time given that the Scottish Government has set the target of "modernising crofting law and making it more transparent, understandable and workable in practice" within the term of this government. This has already been a long road and needs to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.'

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## 'House fever could be as big as hay fever,' says allergy expert

With the wintry weather setting in, it's common for many of us to develop the usual sniffly cold. But cold germs aren't always the culprit – it could be that you're actually allergic to your own house! Airborne allergies expert and creator of HayMax allergen barrier balm, Max Wiseberg, explains why as many as 12 million of us could suffer with a condition he terms 'house fever'. Here he talks about the symptoms and how we can help prevent them...

Max recalls his own experiences of house fever. "Knowing that I suffer from hay fever and that it should stop at the end of the summer, I always wondered why I carry on having horrible allergy symptoms,

often throughout the winter. And then I realised that although the pollen had stopped, there are many other allergens hanging around the house, ready to give me grief when I start to hibernate though the winter – including dust mite, mould spores and even animal dander. I thought, 'Blimey, I'm allergic to my own house! Instead of hay fever, I've got house fever!'"

Max continues: "House fever could be nearly as big a problem as hay fever. Currently around one in five people suffer with hay fever in the UK and NHS Choices report that indoor allergies are very common and that 10-20 per cent of the population has an indoor allergy. And we can't even escape it at Christmas time as the

mould, pollen and dust collecting on our Christmas tree can trigger symptoms."

**Max explains what we can do to ease our house fever...**

- "Mould and dust mites thrive in moist environments. Try to keep the humidity in your house to a minimum to control these allergens. Make sure your house is well ventilated, avoid drying clothes on radiators and/or use a dehumidifier.
- Vacuum the house regularly using a HEPA (high efficiency particle arresting) filter, especially beds and fabrics to reduce the number of dust and pet allergen particles.

- Damp-dust surfaces regularly, to reduce allergens on surfaces while avoiding dispersing them into the air.
- Wash bedding very regularly to remove allergens. Anti-allergy bedding made from 'intelligent fibres' can be very helpful for children and adults who suffer from dust mite allergies. They limit the growth of dust mite allergens and also keep them away from the skin.
- Apply an organic drug-free allergen barrier balm such as HayMax (www.haymax.biz) around your nostrils and the bones of the eyes in the

morning, throughout the day and at night to trap dust, pet and mould allergens before they enter the body; less allergen, less reaction.

- Shower at night before going to bed, to remove dust and pet allergens from your hair and body.
- Ensure your pet is well groomed and shampooed as much as possible to remove pet allergens and dust particles, and try to keep pets out of bedrooms.

**And at Christmas time...**

- Hose down your Christmas tree before taking it into the

house, or after getting it out of storage, as this can help remove some of the dust and mould spores – though it's probably best to get someone who isn't allergic to do this!"

[1] Chief Investigator: Professor Roy Kennedy, Principal Investigator: Louise Robertson, Researcher: Dr Mary Lewis, National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit, 1st February 2012.

[2] <http://www.nhs.uk/news/2011/11/November/Pages/allergy-uk-says-home-allergies-affect-millions.aspx>

## Seven tips to prepare the garden for winter and spring

As we approach the shortest days of the year, and the coldest, the last thing most homeowners will want to think about is getting out in the garden to do some clipping back or raking up the leaves that are rapidly falling.

Around this time of year gardens are starting to look a little tired, drab and in need of some colour to brighten them up. If you've just moved into a new-build home, the garden is a blank canvas, and it's all too easy to put gardening off until the warmer weather arrives, but there are plenty of things to do to keep your garden looking good and to attract winter wildlife during the colder months.

Seven autumn tips to prepare your garden for winter and spring.

NHBC, the UK's leading warranty and insurance provider for new homes, is offering all homeowners some autumn tips to get your garden ready for winter and spring:

1. Treat your lawn with autumn fertiliser to help strengthen the grass ahead of winter. Be careful not to use a traditional summer fertiliser because this can encourage grass to grow, making it more susceptible to frost.

2. Tidy up your garden by clipping back all the summer growth. Plant some of the off-cuts in pots if you want more in your garden or to share with friends and family.



3. Dig up your annual plants so you have space to plant pansies and other bedding plants that will be blooming in the spring. Bulbs need to be planted at a depth of two to three times their height so they'll bloom in spring.

make sure you cover it with a net to prevent fallen leaves from polluting the water.

4. Regular autumnal showers mean the soil is moist and perfect for transplanting work if you need to move any of your established plants around.

6. To protect your flower beds and other frost-sensitive plants, cover them in bubble wrap.

5. Remove dead and yellowing leaves to prevent your plants from decaying as the temperature drops. If you have a pond,

7. To help garden wildlife during the lean winter months, fill bird feeders with nuts and seeds and plant berry bushes such as holly.

## SCOTTISH PROPERTY PRICES CONTINUE TO GROW COMPARED TO LAST YEAR



The latest publication of the monthly UK House Price Index (UK HPI) shows that the average price of a property in Scotland in September 2017 was £144,924 – an increase of 3.1 per cent on September in the previous year and a decrease of 1.3 per cent when compared to the previous month.

This compares to a UK average of £226,367, which was an increase of 5.4 per cent on September in the previous year and an increase of 0.4 per cent compared to the previous month.

The volume of residential sales in Scotland in July 2017 was 8,725 – a decrease of 5.7 per cent on July 2016 and a decrease of 18.3 per cent on the previous month.

Registers of Scotland business development and information director Kenny Crawford said: 'Average prices in Scotland continued their upward trend in September with an increase of 3.1 per cent when compared to September 2016. Average prices have been steadily increasing each month since March

2016, when compared with the same month of the previous year.

'Residential sales volumes declined in July. The annual decrease of 5.7 per cent on July 2016 in Scotland was the smallest across the UK. The cumulative volume of sales for Scotland for the financial year to date – from April to July 2017 – was 35,484. This is an increase of 10.5 per cent on the equivalent year to date position for July 2016.'

Average price increases were recorded in 30 out of 32 local authorities in September 2017, when comparing prices with the previous year. The biggest price increase was in the City of Edinburgh, where the average price increased by nine per cent to £248,702.

Across Scotland, all property types showed an increase in average price in September 2017 when compared with the same month in the previous year. Flats showed the biggest increase, rising by 4.2 per cent to £105,398. The average price of semi-detached properties showed the smallest increase, 2.1 per cent to £149,616.

The average price in September 2017 for a property purchased by a first time buyer was £117,510 – an increase of 3.1 per cent compared to the same month in the previous year. The average price for a property purchased by a former owner occupier was £173,160 – also an increase of 3.1 per cent on the previous year.

The average price for a cash sale was £133,783 – an increase of 2.9 per cent on the previous year – while the average price for property purchased with a mortgage was £150,085 – an increase of 3.2 per cent on the previous year.

## PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

### SNIE COTTAGE, ISLE OF MULL

- Detached house
- 4 bedrooms/3 bathrooms
- Fantastic sea views
- High standard fixtures & fittings
- Popular location
- Detached garage with self-contained flat
- EPC Rating: C76

**OIRO £390,000**

Snie Cottage is a beautiful large detached house with fantastic sea views in a sought-after area on the Isle of Mull. The accommodation is arranged over 2 floors in this 1 1/2 storey property. The main door takes you into a large hallway, which has plenty of boot and jacket space including a large built-in storage cupboard, housing the clothes washer and tumble dryer. The main living space is a grand, open-plan room comprising a well-appointed kitchen to the rear and boasting an excellent dining space to the front, with views over Loch Tuath.

### 4 STEVENSON ST, OBAN

- 1 Bed/1 Bath
- Unfurnished
- First Floor Flat
- Long Term Let
- EPC - D
- LL REG 91986/130/31040

**PCM £450**

One bedroom, first floor flat in Oban Town Centre. A bright flat comprising of lounge/kitchen area, bedroom and bathroom. Freshly decorated in neutral colours and has laminate flooring throughout. This property is unfurnished with 1 hob, 1 oven, 1 fridge and 1 washing machine included in the kitchen only. On-street permit parking available nearby. Double glazing throughout.

### KONADISH, BLACKCROFTS, OBAN

- Spacious Detached House
- 6 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms
- Lovely family home
- Popular location
- Bed & Breakfast potential
- EPC Rating - C

**£340,000**

Konadish would make the ideal family home or potential B&B. The property is situated in North Connel, along side Loch Etive in a small residential area. The central entrance hall leads to a bright living room which is connected to the dining room. Across the hall is a double bedroom that could be easily used for Air B&B or as a snug/study with a separate downstairs WC. At the end of the hallway is a large family kitchen with plentiful wall and floor units with built in appliances. Patio doors from the kitchen open on to a decking area that look over fields with views of Ben Cruachan.

### FLAT 5, ALBANY STREET, OBAN

- 1 Bed/1 Bath
- Second floor flat
- Part Furnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Rating - D66
- LL Reg: 427367/130/18351

**PCM £485**

Cosy one bedroom flat located in Oban just a few minutes walk to the main street. The second floor flat is part furnished and comprises of one bedroom, shower bathroom, kitchen/dining area, lounge and hallway. Fully fitted modern kitchen includes cooker, fridge-freezer, washing machine. With secure entry system and on street permit parking available. Double glazing and electric heating throughout. References and Deposit required.

### THE SHEILING, BENDERLOCH

- 4 Bedrooms/ 2 Bathrooms
- Detached Bungalow
- Spacious and Practical Layout
- Off road parking
- Views of Bienn Lora
- EPC Rating - D

**OIRO £230,000**

The Sheiling is a well presented detached four-bedroom bungalow set within its own private garden. The property would make the ideal family home boasting a large kitchen with a central island and plentiful storage in the floor and wall units. The dining area within the kitchen easily accommodates a dining table perfect for entertaining and family meals. Leading from the kitchen is a large family living room with an efficient multi-fuel stove and patio doors leading out to the garden.

### BELLVUE APARTMENTS, OBAN

- 1 bed/1 bathroom
- Ground Floor Flat
- Long Term Let
- Part Furnished
- LL REG: 43971/130/10230 & 143974/130/10390
- EPC F-25

**PCM £480**

One bedroom, ground floor flat located a few minutes walk from Oban town centre. The property comprises one double bedroom, WC with separate shower room and open plan kitchen/living room with large bay window over looking Oban bay. The property is part furnished, the kitchen includes a built in hob & oven, fridge & freezer. Washer/dryer also included. Private parking, drying area and external bike rack available.

### PLANE TREE COTTAGE, ISLE OF MULL

- Semi-Detached Cottage
- 2 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom
- Rural Village Location
- Private Garden
- Fantastic Holiday Let or First Time Buyer Potential
- EPC Rating: F21

**OIRO £160,000**

Plane Tree Cottage is a delightful traditional two bedroom cottage nestled in the heart of the village of Dervaig on the Isle of Mull. On entering the cottage, you are welcomed into the main lounge. To the left is a second separate lounge, this smaller room would make a cosy place to curl up on a cold winters night with an open fire. Leading off the main reception room, to the rear, you can find the well-appointed kitchen with built in units.

### YOUNG PLACE, FORT WILLIAM

- 1st Floor Flat
- 2 Bedroom/1 Bathroom
- Fully Furnished
- Long Term Let
- EPC Band D (74)
- LL Registration 3361/270/30371

**PCM £580**

Spacious, bright first floor, FULLY FURNISHED flat located at Young Place, Plantation. Comprising of well portioned lounge with view to the hills, modern fully fitted kitchen, 2 double bedroom, well-appointed bathroom with walk-in shower. AVAILABLE NOW.

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87,000 miles, 2 owners from new, MOT, Many new parts, great running standard car

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25,500 mls, Tamar blue, 1 owner, FSH, 36 mth service at 24,500 mls, tow bar, Michelin tyres

**£19,500 + VAT on**

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**MERCEDES SPRINTER 311 CDI LWB**



First reg (65 plate), 198,000 mls, MoT Feb 18, fully converted motor caravan. Sleeps 2-4, 3 seats front, toilet / wash basin, gas cooker, grill & hob, sink with hot/cold water, tv, dvd & extras. Vg cond, well worth viewing.

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currently in limp mode (1st gear only) due to electrical fault codes, no tax, no MOT. 118,158 mls. Benderloch

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Power loader, muck & earth buckets. Good strong running engine. Good tinwork/glass all intact, Hydraulics and PTO in great working order. Sought after model with 4900 hrs. Genuine tractor.

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36' x 12'. Three bedrooms, one double/two twin rooms. Shower room/ separate wc. Double glazed/Gas central heating. In good order. Must be taken off site. (Tayinloan)

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All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

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All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

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All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

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VW Polo SE 1.0	64 - 5 door h/back - 7,200 miles	£9,275
Renault Captur (Dynamique Medianav Energy TCE S/S)	63 - 5 door h/back - 9,272 miles	£9,475
Ford Focus Zetec (Auto)	63 - 5 door estate - 22,995 miles	£8,595
Ford Fiesta (Automatic)	62 - 5 door - 35,180 miles	£7,665
Nissan Note N-Tec 1.4	62 - 5 door h/back - 9,682 miles	£6,900
VX Astra Elite 1.6	13 - 5 door h/back - 13,000 miles	£7,900
Nissan Micra Visia	63 - 5 door hatchback - 20,781 miles	£5,300
VX Corsa 1.4 Sri	64 - 3 door hatchback - 44,000 miles	£5,895
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15 ISUZU D-MAX TD UTAH DCB	2.5l Diesel, Manual, Black, 19,455 Miles	£18,250+VAT
15 ISUZU D-MAX TD FURY DCB	2.5l Diesel, Manual, Red, 24,000 Miles	£16,500+VAT
14 ISUZU D-MAX HUNTER	2.5l Diesel, Manual, Green, 86,000 Miles	£15,495+VAT
14 ISUZU D-MAX TD YUKON DCB	2.5l Diesel, Manual, Silver, 64,698 Miles	£13,750+VAT

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# PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 25 YEARS



JUST a 20-minute drive from Glasgow city centre, in the small, rural village of Eaglesham, is where you'll find Eaglesham Garage.

This family-run business was taken on by Bob McGlone in 1989. They quickly became an integral part of the local community and beyond, introducing car sales into the business, becoming dealers of the renowned Isuzu and Subaru brands. Since then, the business has grown from strength to strength, developing a loyal customer base, which continues to grow every year.

Bob's son Andrew McGlone took up the reins of the business in 2010. An impressive 20 years in the motor trade has given Andrew the knowledge and experience required to run such a successful enterprise.

However, he prides their success of the business on delivering honest, friendly and knowledgeable service, just like his father set out to do all those years ago.

Now one of the top Isuzu dealerships in the UK, customers come from far and wide, year on year, to purchase cars and trucks from the family. Perfectly located for off-roading, with miles of land right on their doorstep, the team regularly take customers out to put the vehicles to the test, and show exactly what they are capable of on their own off-road track!

When it comes to Subaru, it's no longer a brand only for those with a need for speed, and is now often the first choice of car for many young families. The range offers vehicles



perfect for packing up with everything but the kitchen sink, to hit the road for a family adventure, while also performing exceptionally well as city cars, perfect for the day to day family life.

Not only do they trade in first-rate new cars, but they also stock an impressive array of used cars. The stock is hand-picked by Andrew and

sales manager Ross, and here you'll find everything from Land Rover Defenders to Mercedes GLs, and even a wide range of Audi and BMW stock.

With such an impressive stock of vehicles, a trusted servicing department who are fully manufacturer trained, Vicky who runs the aftersales department has years of experience in

the motor trade and is able to source almost any part for you, and a warm and friendly service from the sales team, it's easy to see why so many people choose Eaglesham Garage. Check out their stock online at [www.eagleshamgarage.co.uk](http://www.eagleshamgarage.co.uk), follow them on Facebook at @EagleshamGarage or visit the showroom at 77 Gilmour St, Eaglesham, Glasgow G76 0LH.

## EAGLESHAM GARAGE

2014/64 ISUZU D-MAX TD YUKON VISION DCB  
AUTOMATIC, DIESEL, 2014, BLUE, 17,851 MILES .....£16,495+VAT

2017/67 Isuzu D-Max YUKON DCB Automatic, Diesel, 2017, white, 817 miles.....	£21,495+VAT
2017/17 Isuzu D-Max DCB Manual, Diesel, 2017, white, 9,140 miles.....	£17,495+VAT
2017/17 Isuzu D-Max YUKON DCB Manual, Diesel, 2017, blue, 5,728 miles.....	£19,495+VAT
2017/67 Isuzu D-Max YUKON DCB Manual, Diesel, 2017, grey, 998 miles.....	£20,495+VAT
2017/67 Isuzu D-Max UTAH DCB Manual, Diesel, 2017, blue, Many extras fitted, 896 miles..	£24,495+VAT
2010/10 Isuzu Rodeo RODEO DENVER MAX TD LWB D/C Manual, Diesel, 2010, silver, Canopy, 77,214 miles.....	£8,995+VAT
2010/10 Isuzu Rodeo TD DENVER MAX LE Manual, 3.0l, Diesel, 2010, silver, Leather 98,125 miles.....	£8,995+VAT
2015/65 Subaru Forester D XC Manual, Diesel, 5 doors 2015, silver, 17,201 miles.....	£17,995
2017/67 Subaru Forester D XC Manual, Diesel, 5 doors 2017, blue, 1,021 miles.....	£24,995
2013/62 Subaru XV I S Manual, Petrol, 5 doors 2013, black, 35,250 miles.....	£9,995
2013/13 Subaru XV I SE NAV CVT Petrol, 5 doors 2013, orange, 50,635 miles.....	£11,995
2012/12 BMW X5 XDrive 30D SE Automatic, Diesel, Leather Metallic Blue, 45069 miles.....	£18,995
2015/15 BMW 4 Series 435D XDRIVE M SPORT Automatic, Diesel, 2 doors 2015, blue, 15,236 miles.....	£24,995
2011/11 Volkswagen Tiguan SE TDI BLUEMOTION TECHNOLOGY 4MOTION Manual, Diesel, 5 doors 2011 silver, 43,368 miles, Eaglesham.....	£10,995
2014/64 Audi A7 TDI QUATTRO S LINE BLACK EDITION Semi Auto, Diesel, 5 doors 2014, white, 34,042 miles.....	£25,995
2015/15 Audi TT TFSI S LINE Manual, Petrol, 2 doors 2015, silver, 23,521 miles.....	£21,995
2013/63 Kia Sportage CRDI KX-3 Manual Diesel, 5 doors 2013, white, 28,962 miles.....	£13,695

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GLASGOW G76 0LH  
T: 01355 302 685  
[www.eagleshamgarageltd.co.uk](http://www.eagleshamgarageltd.co.uk)



## ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS VOLKSWAGEN COMMERCIAL

# VEHICLES GAVE TO ME... A SERVICE THAT I GOT FOR FREE!

- VOLKSWAGEN COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LAUNCHES CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY CAMPAIGN
- WINNERS PICKED DAILY BETWEEN WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER AND THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER
- ANY FULL SERVICE UP TO THE VALUE OF £500 WILL BE COVERED FOR THE PRIZE WINNERS
- BOOK A SERVICE AT YOUR LOCAL VAN CENTRE NOW TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN

VOLKSWAGEN COMMERCIAL VEHICLES is getting into the festive spirit with a big Christmas giveaway. The brand is celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas early, not with drummers drumming or geese-a-laying, but by giving customers the chance to win a free service.

As part of its '12 Days of Christmas' campaign, customers booking their vehicles in for a full service on the working days between 6-21 December will be entered into a national free prize draw. Each working day, any full service up to the value of £500 will be covered for the prize winner\*.

With the Christmas season being one of the most expensive times of the year, this festive promotion is designed to help customers keep as much cash as possible in their back pocket, another example of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles' Working With You brand promises to support local businesses, and help keep their business moving.

Trevor Hodgson-Phillips, Head of Service and Parts at Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, said: 'We know that Christmas can be a hectic time



of the year. From finding time to see everybody, to buying gifts, to preparing the Christmas dinner, it's difficult to get those day-to-day tasks completed - especially when the expense is factored in.

'To help spread a little festive cheer, anybody booking in for a full service with us from Wednesday 6 to Thursday 21 December will be entered into a daily prize draw to win their service for free. Hopefully this saving will help our customers spread some Christmas magic of their own and treat those closest to them.'

Whether you're a small business owner needing a winter check, a fleet manager wanting a full fleet audit or just

wanting your tyres checked before the ice sets in, your local Volkswagen Van Centre or Authorised Repairer can help. Even Santa is welcome to come and get a sleigh service if the reins are feeling a little wonky before the big night!

To book your service and for full terms and conditions call your local van centre on 0141 302 4674.

\*For any work exceeding this amount, £500 will be deducted from the final bill. Retail customers only; for full terms and conditions, visit [www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk/Christmas](http://www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk/Christmas).

# Save 40% off a New Caddy Life. Now from £12,999.\*

Offer available for a limited time only.



### Volkswagen Van Centre Glasgow Darnley

901 Kennishead Road, Darnley, Glasgow. Telephone: 0141 302 4674.  
Find us on your sat-nav using G53 7RA.  
[www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk/glasgow-west](http://www.volkswagen-vans.co.uk/glasgow-west)



Commercial  
Vehicles

Lonmond Motors Ltd are brokers and not lenders and can introduce you to a limited number of lenders, who may pay us for introducing you to them. \*Offer available on Caddy Life SWB 1-2 TSI Petrol Manual. Subject to availability, while stocks last. \*On the road price incl. delivery to Van Centre, number plates and vehicles excise duty first year.

# RECRUITMENT

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Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

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**£ Excellent basic + Bonus + BUPA + Benefits**  
Due to an expanding portfolio of products in both print and online, we are looking for sales staff to join our busy and successful team at Wyvex Media, the parent company of the Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser and Arran Banner.

We also publish a plethora of lifestyle magazines, tourist maps, holiday publications and business directories covering the west coast of Scotland and beyond.

We are looking for our next shining star and will offer flexible working patterns and working location for the right person. A hardworking, committed work ethic is essential, along with the desire to develop long term relationships with existing and new clients.

Experience in advertising sales is not necessary, as full training will be given.

We offer excellent pay and real career progression and benefits including BUPA, holidays to 35 days (Scale), realistic targets and achievable bonus.

You will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please submit CV and covering letter to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

**WYVEX MEDIA**



Due to continued success in securing several long term contracts we require the following full time personnel to join our Facilities management and Contracting departments.

### Electrical Project Manager

Previous experience is preferred for this key role, applicants wishing to progress to this role may be considered – SMSTS, 17th Edition amendment 3 certification, minimum requirements would be a full electrical apprenticeship and currently working as an approved electrician at foreman level. Salary negotiable with attractive benefits package.

### Electrical Contracts Surveyor

Previous experience is preferred for this key role – Experience with preparing valuations, in-contract estimating, providing budget/cash flow information & margin projections to senior management. Salary negotiable with attractive benefits package.

### FM - Help Desk Co-ordinator

Full training will be given for this role – Good admin skills are required with the ability to manage our bespoke Help desk system, familiarity with Microsoft office applications and attention to detail is key to the success of this position. Salary negotiable.

### FM - Multi skilled Operative

Operatives with a strong trade background are required – Roofer's – joiner's- plasterer's etc, to work along side our existing team on long term housing/commercial FM contracts, both reactive and planned maintenance tasks. The ability to work to a planned schedule and use initiative to complete tasks as required. Training will be given to the right candidates to continue their development within the role. Competitive hourly rate

### FM - Trainee Building Services Engineer

Great opportunity to join our existing team to work on long term FM contracts throughout Argyll. Full on site training will be given and the opportunity to join our Modern Apprenticeship Program at Forth Valley college

A wide variety of skills will be gained including electrical, mechanical, plumbing & air-conditioning. Hourly rate increasing through apprenticeship.

### FM - Maintenance Electricians

Operatives with a strong electrical background are required to work along side our existing team on long term housing/commercial FM contracts, both reactive and planned maintenance tasks.

The ability to work to a planned schedule and use initiative to complete tasks as required. Training will be given to the right candidates to continue their development within the role. Competitive hourly rate

### Contracting – Approved Electricians

17th Edition Electricians & Approved Electricians are required for a variety of projects, commercial/ industrial experience preferred. We require experienced operatives due to a full order book for 2018 SJB rates paid.

### Apprentice electricians

We welcome CV's for our 2018 intake, these roles are for an anticipated college start of August 2018. Good opportunity for candidates to gain on site experience prior to this.

All applications including CV's and covering letter to be e-mailed for the attention of; **Angus MacPherson, Managing Director, OES Ltd**  
[amacpherson@fes-group.co.uk](mailto:amacpherson@fes-group.co.uk)

## Enable Scotland

**Full & Part Time Support worker**



For more information please call or text Isabella Thomson on 07889465173, call into our local office at McLeod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, or complete an online application form via our website.

[www.enableScotlandjobs.org.uk](http://www.enableScotlandjobs.org.uk)  
£8.45 per hour



## The Gem Box

**We are looking for a Talented Store manager**

Reporting to the Retail Operations Manager (the successful applicant will have) complete branch responsibility for maximising our sales potential by excellent customer service and relations, effective staff management, and high standards of visual merchandising. The candidate will also be responsible for driving local promotions and marketing initiatives to create additional footfall and sales while maintaining our reputation for quality unique jewellery and outstanding customer service.

Experience in Retail Management in the jewellery or related fashion industry is preferred.

We Offer a competitive salary, generous staff discount & 28 days holiday per year

To apply please email your CV along with a cover letter to [recruitment@shiptonia.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@shiptonia.co.uk)  
Due to the anticipated high volume of applications it may not be possible to respond to all applicants.



## Glen Scotia Distillery – Position of Assistant Distillery Manager

**Job purpose:**  
Assist the distillery manager with the daily tasks required to ensure the safe, efficient and high-level quality orientated culture within the distillery.

**Work pattern:**  
Typically 5 days per week from 8am until 5.30 pm.  
Flexibility is required around working days in busy periods.

**Person Specification:**  
Demonstrated track record of people management is preferred.  
Knowledge of whisky production and of the Scotch whisky industry is preferable but not as essential as a willingness to learn and an enthusiastic approach.  
Demonstrated history of dependability is essential and the role holder must be able to adopt a hands-on approach as and when required.

- Ability to work flexibly with proven track record of multi-tasking on numerous projects and tasks.
- Excellent communication skills are required.
- Ability to learn on the job is critical as the role holder will need to undertake whisky related events, tastings and tours.

**Remuneration & benefits:**  
Attractive salary dependent on experience  
25 days holiday plus public holidays  
Employer pensions scheme with matching employee and employer contributions (5% of salary).

To apply in writing by sending your CV to [payroll@lochmondgroup.com](mailto:payroll@lochmondgroup.com). You should include a covering letter stating why you wish to be considered for the position.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 5pm.

## The healthiest life possible for the people of Ayrshire & Arran



Arran War Memorial Hospital  
**Cook (Band 3)**

Reference No. A/595/17  
(please quote this number on any correspondence)

In support of our core purpose of Working together to achieve the healthiest life possible for everyone in Ayrshire and Arran we are committed to a culture that is Caring Safe and Respectful. The post holder is required to work collaboratively in a safe, caring and respectful way.

Our main kitchen provides in excess of 40 prepared and cooked meals every day including therapeutic diets to patients, staff and the public. In addition, we cater for hospitality for meetings and functions.  
This is an excellent opportunity for an organised person with kitchen management skills. You must have experience in large scale catering preferably within the NHS and hold City and Guilds or S/NVQ qualifications together with a food hygiene certificate. Your duties include the preparation, cooking and service of meals. Maintain high standards of hygiene. Recording and monitoring data for HACCP and Environmental Health.

Hours: 25 hours per week, between the hours of 8am until 5pm Monday to Sunday. A degree of flexibility is essential, as you will be required to work additional hours during periods of leave.

Informal enquiries to: Robert McLaughlin, Catering Services Manager, on 01563 577050.  
**Closing date: 22 December 2017.**

You can apply using the online application form on the SHOW website – [www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk). Alternatively, to request an Application Form please contact the Department of O&HRD on 01563 825711. Your completed application can be returned to [HRACCSS@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:HRACCSS@aapct.scot.nhs.uk) or to the Department of O&HRD, 63A Lister Street, University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock, KA2 0BE.

All correspondence will be sent by email. We have experienced some issues with personal email addresses and there is no guarantee correspondence will be sent to your inbox. It is therefore your responsibility to check all email folders, including your junk folder, as we have no control over which folder the correspondence will be sent to.

PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO NO MORE THAN 500 WORDS, IF LIMIT IS EXCEEDED TEXT WILL BE CUT-OFF. PLEASE AVOID USING SYMBOLS, &/E SIGNS, BULLET POINTS, ETC THROUGHOUT YOUR APPLICATION.

To find out more about NHS Ayrshire & Arran and services visit [www.nhsaaa.net](http://www.nhsaaa.net)

RECRUITMENT  
**HIJOBS**  
RECRUITMENT  
**HIJOBS**

## ARGYLL CARAVAN PARK INVERARAY, ARGYLL, SCOTLAND CARAVAN PARK MANAGER

Argyll Estates seeks a motivated & experienced Manager for their successful caravan and holiday park. The Manager will be responsible for all aspects of the daily and long-term management of the park including staff, sales, profitability, marketing and statutory compliance.

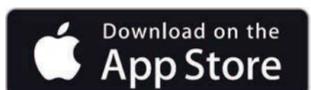
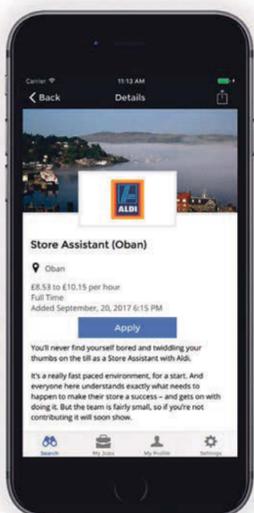
A full job description and further details can be obtained from Argyll Estates Office by contacting [secretary@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:secretary@inveraray-castle.com)

Applications in writing, together with a CV should be sent to [secretary@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:secretary@inveraray-castle.com) to arrive no later than 11th December 2017



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**HIJOBS**

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Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

**SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PLC  
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 1990**

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, (company registration number SC213461) and whose registered office is situated at Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed for a temporary period (of no more than two years) approximately 627m of 132kV wood pole trident overhead line (including one section of underground cable) between existing Tower FF87 (Grid Reference NN 2392 8942) and Tower FF90 (Grid Reference NN 2308 8899) situated on the Fort William to Fort Augustus 132kV Overhead Line near Inverglo, Fort William, Inverness-shire. The proposal will provide a temporary diversion whilst the existing Fort William to Fort Augustus Overhead Line is reconducted. Within a period of no more than two year from its installation, the temporary overhead line referred to above, would be removed.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc has also applied for planning permission to be deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it is available for inspection, free of charge, during normal opening hours at:

Highland Council Service Point Lochaber House, High St, Fort William PH33 6EL	Highland Council Planning & Development Glenurquhart Road Inverness IV3 5NX
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(The application can also be viewed at Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; or at [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot).)

Any representations to the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at [www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx](http://www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx) ; by email to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at [representations@gov.scot](mailto:representations@gov.scot) ; or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to [representations@gov.scot](mailto:representations@gov.scot) will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than 14th January 2018, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the developer will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held. Following examination of the environmental information, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

**Fair Processing Notice**  
The Scottish Government Local Energy & Consents processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot). When making an email or paper representation you will automatically be opted in to its publication unless you choose to mark it as confidential. We may share your personal data with DPEA and local Planning Authorities but will not publish your personal data (e.g. your name and address) as this is removed beforehand in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Should you choose not to provide your personal data in an electronic or paper representation then your representation will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared for consideration with any other party. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: [Econsents\\_admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_admin@gov.scot) or write to Local Energy & Consents, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003  
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011  
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION  
EAST TARBERT BAY MARINE CAGE FISH FARM,  
SOUND OF GIGHA, ARGYLL**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by The Scottish Salmon Company Limited for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with East Tarbert Bay marine cage fish farm, namely:

<b>Description of controlled activity</b>	<b>Water affected</b>	<b>National grid reference</b>
Discharge of trade effluent arising from the production of salmon at a new cage fish farm	Sound of Gigha	NR 66781 53215

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and the interests of other water users.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below. Between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registrydwgwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registrydwgwall@sepa.org.uk) or to the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1161484:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- Assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- Assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- Consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- Consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- Assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- Assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- Apply and have due regard to relevant legislation

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

[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 online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
17/03703/FUL	Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe Ballachulish	Alterations & extension of Hotel, Landscaping and upgrade of drainage system (amended plans)
17/05155/FUL	Glensanda Quarry, Glensanda, Morvern, Oban	Formation and operation of up to three finger lagoons and ancillary pipe work by the extraction of rock for the management of silt and installation of 500 kw hydro-electric power plant and associated infrastructure
17/05235/S42	Burnbrae, Claggan Road, Fort William	Application under Section 42 to vary Condition 1 of planning permission 14/03348/MSC (erection of a house) to change the roof material to terracotta Plastisol profile sheeting
17/05237/FUL	Land 100M SE of Cuillin View, Arisaig	Erection of house and associated works
17/05481/FUL	Land 140M SE of 8 The Corries, Caledonia Park, Inverglo, Spean Bridge	Construction of a tarred bellmouth refurbishment - Fort William to Fort Augustus 132kV transmission line
17/05487/FUL	Land 60M SW of 12 Spean Park, Spean Bridge	Erection of house
17/05490/FUL	Cnoc Uaine, Acharacle	Alterations and change of use from garage/workshop building to self contained letting unit and erection of garden room
17/05492/FUL	The Shack, Duror, Appin	Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement house
17/05495/S42	Lochaline Mine, Lochaline, Morvern	Time extension for continued underground mining, processing and dispatch of silica sand
17/05503/HSC	Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Ltd	Hazardous Substance Consent for the use and storage of bath (containing cryolite)
17/05517/LBC	7 New Buildings, Arisaig	Replacement of timber tilt-and-turn windows
17/05551/FUL	Land 15M North of Camus An Tallan Cottages, Arisaig	Erection of house and sewage system. Renewal of Planning Permission 14/04496/FUL

**Time period for comments is 14 days and 17/05517/LBC is 21 days.**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [elanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:elanning@highland.gov.uk)

**First Registration of a Croft**  
Peter Alexander Sinclair is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Dalrannoch, Ardcattan & Muckairn to Peter Shaun Sinclair of Abernethy's, Connel, Argyll, PA37 1PA  
Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW. [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) by 4th January 2018

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**  
Lachlan John MacLean trading as Argyll Haulage Ltd of Greenacre, Connel, Oban PA37 1PJ is applying to add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles and 1 trailer at Culcharron Farm, Benderloch, Oban PA37 1RZ. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Office of the Traffic Commissioner, Scotland, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**First Registration of a Croft**  
David MacInnes has registered his croft Part of Croft 11 Cloullin, Ardgour 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 August 14, 2018.  
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 C4615.

**CROFTING COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA  
CROITEARACHD  
DECROFTING  
DIRECTION ISSUED**

P Boyle & S Janes  
Lara Croft, Jura  
74807  
0.1009 ha  
Reason - amenity ground  
Condition - With fencing.

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**Notice of Annual  
General Meeting  
Fèis Latharna  
Saturday 16th  
December at  
12pm  
Glencruitten  
Church Centre  
all welcome**

**69%  
of the business community  
read the regional press**

**Argyll and Bute Council  
PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/02951/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Lochnell Lodge Kilmore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XU	Oban Area Office
17/02999/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 14/02485/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Site 2 Land North East Of Ardbrecknish House Ardbrecknish Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1BH	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/03014/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 14/00474/PPP (Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses)	Land South East Of Dalmally Hotel Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AY	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/02387/PP	Erection of jetty with slipway and gabion baskets to form storm break (retrospective).	Inveraray Chalet Portsonachan Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1BJ	Sub Post Office Dalmally
17/02755/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land At Poll A'Chaguill 3 Claddach Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 75Y	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/02825/PP	Alteration to form one and a half storey dwelling. Increase in height of roof, formation of dormers and construction of first floor over existing rear extension	Atlantic View 59 Main Street Port Wemyss Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 75R	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/finding-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**First Registration of a Croft**  
Elizabeth and Donald MacGillivray have registered their croft 37 North Ballachulish, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.  
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by August 16, 2018.  
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 C4636.

**69%  
of the business community  
read the regional press**

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017  
FORMATION AND OPERATION OF UP TO THREE FINGER LAGOONS AND ANCILLARY PIPE WORK BY THE EXTRACTION OF ROCK FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SILT AND INSTALLATION OF 500 KW HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT GLENSANDA QUARRY, GLENSANDA, MORVERN, OBAN**

The Council has received an application from Yeoman Glensanda on land at Glensanda Quarry, Glensanda, Morvern, Oban PA80 5QB. The application is development falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The application reference number is (17/05155/FUL).

The application, the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report and its addendum are available for public inspection online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application number 17/05155/FUL)

Copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report can be purchased for £200 per paper or £25 for CD. Please contact Morag Eaton, SLR Consulting Limited, Suite 68, Stirling Business Centre, Wellgreen, Stirling, FK8 2DZ, [maeaton@slrconsulting.com](mailto:maeaton@slrconsulting.com) tel: +44 (0)1786 239900.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and addendum can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 28 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference number in your correspondence.

J. Stuart Black  
Director of Development and Infrastructure

**SCHEDULE 4  
Regulation 10  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2015  
NOTICE OF APPLICATION UNDER REGULATION 8**

An application for continuation of hazardous substances consent where there has been a change in the person in control of part of the land, together with plans and other documents has been submitted by Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Ltd for the use and storage of bath (containing Cryolite) at Liberty Aluminium Lochaber Ltd, North Road Fort William PH33 6TH. Plans are available online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> under ref: 17/05503/HSC

Written representations (including comments or questions which must include the application reference number) may be submitted to ePlanning, ePlanning Centre, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX or [epc@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epc@highland.gov.uk) by 31 December 2017. The application may be granted (either unconditionally or subject to conditions) or refused.

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**VICTORIAN DOLLS HOUSE** Still boxed, with 20 packs of furnishings, open to offers, Tel 01397 701742.

### BABY EQUIPMENT

**FISHER-PRICE** precious planet 2 in 1 wind up mobile, suitable for cot or buggy, £20 Tel 01631 562750.  
**HIGH CHAIR** Child's folding high backed high chair incorporating tray, rarely used and in excellent condition. Yellow in colour, £15 Tel 01631 562750.

### BICYCLES

**LADIES BICYCLE** Good Order, £50 ono Tel 01397 701742.

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**DOOR PLATES** 12 white plastic finger plates to protect doors from marks and fingerprints, £10 Tel 01631 720369.  
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**AVON TYRE** Unused and in new condition. Size: 215/70R15C, £15 Tel 01631 730280.  
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570998.  
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**FAUX FUR JACKET** Charcoal, medium size, worn once, £50 Tel 01397 701742.  
**HARRIS TWEED JACKET** In excellent condition. Colour is lovat with blue/brown fleck and olive green suede trim and elbow patches. Size: 38/40, £35 Tel 01631 730280.  
**LADIES PLEATED SKIRT SUIT** Emerald Green Sun Ray, worn once, hat to match, £40 Tel 01397 701742.

### DEERSTALKING EQUIPMENT

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8kg condenser tumble dryer for sale. Spare appliance, £40 Tel 07771 392886.  
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### RAYBURN 216 MULTIFUEL RANGE

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### FURNITURE

**2 SEATER SETTEE** Brown Faux Fur, almost new, £75 ono Tel 01397 701742.  
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**COFFEE TABLE** Removable glass topped coffee table in dark wood with slatted shelf for magazines etc. 36.5"x20.5"x16.5". Good condition, £15 Tel 07767 123885.  
**COUCH, CHAIR AND FOOTSTOOL** 3 seater brown leather couch, chair and footstool. Couch does not split in two. Good condition, £85 Tel 07766 991987.  
**NEXT TV STAND** smoked glass, fits TV up to 48", 2 shelves, £15 Tel 07450 647084.  
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**STACKING DINING CHAIRS** Six modern chairs in white/chrome finish. Ikea design. Very good condition, £45 Tel 01631 730280.

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DEATHS

**BLACK** - Peacefully, at Ardenlee Care Home, Dunoon on December 3, 2017, Mrs Charlotte Black, née Munro, aged 90 years, late of 2 Weem Flats, Manse Brae, Lochgilhead, and formerly of Willowbank, Manse Brae, Lochgilhead, beloved wife of the late James MacKinnon Black (formerly Lismore), much loved mother of Duncan, dear mother-in-law of Susan, much loved grandmother of Kirstin, Julie and Duncan, and great grandmother of William, Thea, Lily and Oscar. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium, on Monday, December 11, 2017 at 11.15am. Family flowers only please.

**MACCALLUM** - Peacefully on November 23, 2017, at Abbeyfield Ballachulish. Morag Stewart MacCallum (née Nicolson), beloved wife of John MacCallum, darling mother of Mairi and dearly loved mother-in-law of Tony.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully, on her 72nd birthday, December 4, 2017, surrounded by her family, Lorna née Young, beloved wife of the late Evan MacDonald, cherished mum to Gael and Gary, dear mother-in-law to Allan and Viv, doting granny to Abbie, Jennie and Siobhan and granny Lorna to Jamie. Reunited with her loving Evan.

**MACLEOD** - Murdo. Suddenly, but peacefully at his home, Achnaba House, Lochgilhead, on November 29, 2017, Murdo MacLeod, aged 70 years, Holder of the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion, twin brother of Kenny MacLeod (MacLeod Construction Ltd), beloved husband of Jane (née MacNeill), adored father of Mairi, Jennifer, Susan and Alison, cherished papa of Ailis, Donald and James, and a dear brother, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good friend and respected member of the local community. Funeral service was held in Lochgilhead Parish Church, on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, followed by interment at Kilevin Cemetery, Crarae, by Minard. Sadly missed.

**MARTIN** - Suddenly but peacefully in the care of ward 3E at Crosshouse Hospital, on St Andrew's Day 2017, Colin Riley Martin, aged 71 years. Much loved husband of Sara. Proud father of Victoria, Zoe and Philippa. Father-in-law to Derek and Harald. Best Baba to Nairn, Mia-Poppy and Finnan. Sadly missed. A commemoration of Colin's life will be held at The Park Hotel, Kilmarnock at 12:30pm on Thursday December 14, 2017. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

**MCRORY** - Andrew Joseph (Andy). Loving father, Shena and uncle. Passed away on November 30, 2017 in his 86th year, at home in Tobermory surrounded by his family. Foverever missed and always in our hearts. Funeral service to be held at Our Lady Star Of The Sea, Tobermory, on Tuesday December 12 at 11.00am. Thereafter to Beadoun Cemetery.

**O'MAHONY** - Peacefully at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh on December 1, 2017, Peter, beloved husband of Mary Sinclair, much loved dad of Colin and Keith and dear father-in-law of Angela and Kathleen. A dear brother-in-law, uncle and great-uncle. A Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, December 13 at Our Lady of the Waves Church, Dunbar at 10am. Burial thereafter at Stenton Church at approximately 11.15am. Dearly loved and sadly missed.

**SIMPSON** - Fiona (Cowan). Beloved wife of the late John of Kilmore. Passed away peacefully at Lorn and Islands, on December 3, 2017. Funeral to take place Kilmore Parish Church at Kilmore, on Monday December 11, 2017 at 1pm thereafter to Kilbrandon Cemetery. All welcome.

**YEOMAN** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on December 4, 2017, in his 86th year, Hamish Yeoman, beloved husband of the late Chrissie, father to Tommy and a dear grandfather.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAMPBELL** - Christine, Paul and Ewen wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss of Chrissie. A heartfelt thank you to Ada Brown, Sandra McConachie, Janette Cowie and Annie Gemmell who did a wonderful job of looking after Chrissie during the last few months of her life. Grateful thanks to Alan Smurthwaite for his personal and compassionate ceremony, to John McLellans for their caring funeral arrangements and to the Moorings Hotel for the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who came to pay their last respects at the ceremony and to those who generously donated £567.21 towards a Palliative Care Bed.

**CARMICHAEL** - Elsa, Linda and Niall wish to thank, most sincerely, all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness to us before and after Archie's passing. Thanks for all the beautiful flowers, baking, cards and visits. Special thanks to doctors and nurses at Islay Hospital and Jennifer Aitchison, Macmillan nurse. Thanks to Reverend Valerie Watson for the warm and comforting service,

organist Jean Campbell, Charlie Kirkpatrick on accordion, Jean, Craig and Donnie for all the funeral arrangements. Finally our appreciation to everyone who attended the church and graveside from Islay and the mainland and the Islay Hotel for a beautiful purvey. The sum of £600 has been donated to Macmillan nurses.

**DAVIES** - Brian. Sincere thanks to Rev Richard Baxter for his comforting service, Tweeddale Surgery, Invernevis House and Macmillan Nurses for all their support. Special thanks to John McLellans for their guidance with the funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Fort William Shinty Club for the catering and thanks also to friends and family who have supported Barbara at this sad time.

**DOWSETT** - Margaret would like to convey her sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to her following the sad loss of her beloved husband Ken. Special thanks to the Doctors and Nurses who supported Ken during his ill health. Grateful thanks to Scott, Billy and Stuart at John McLellan Funeral Directors for their guidance and support. Finally, thanks to those who paid their last respects at the service and who kindly donated in memory of Ken.

**GUDELIS** - The family of the late Elizabeth Gudelis would like to thank everyone for the many cards, e-mails, flowers and visits following the loss of Elizabeth. Special thanks to Dr Douglas, Tweeddale Surgery and Mr Scott, Belford Hospital for their professionalism, care and support. Thanks also to her many friends at Belford Hospital for their support during this sad time. Thanks also to Mike McFall Funeral Directors for their professional handling of the funeral arrangements and Ailie MacLeod of the Humanist Society of Scotland for her warm and personal tribute. Finally thanks to all those who came to pay their last respects to Elizabeth and generously donated £994 to Cancer Research.

**HENRY** - (Strathpeffer). The family of the late Stewart Henry wish to thank all relations and friends for their sympathy and support shown in their recent bereavement. Thanks also to Father Len Black for his continuing support as well as an uplifting service. Donations in Stewart's name for the Renal Unit at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness totalled £500.06. Thanks also to John Fraser & Son, Lovat House, High Street, Dingwall for their care and compassion with the funeral arrangements.

**LAWRIE** - The family of the late Hugh 'Ginn' wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Alan Smurthwaite for his comforting ceremony, to Scott, Linnie and Billy at John McLellans for their professional support and guidance with the funeral arrangements and to Caol Community Centre for the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who joined the family to pay their last respects to Ginn and to those who generously donated £349.79 in aid of the British Heart Foundation - your warmth and support is greatly appreciated!

**MACCALLUM** - John, Mairi and Tony would like to convey their heartfelt thanks to all friends, relatives, colleagues, neighbours and the wider community who sent cards, flowers and comforting messages of love and support to them following their very sad loss of Morag. Words cannot express how overwhelmed we are for all the kindness and love we received during this difficult time. Grateful thanks to Rev Malcolm Kinnear for his warm and personal service, to Major Janet McIntyre, Don Young for their contributions during the service. Grateful thanks to Ena for playing the organ, to Scott Greenlees and colleagues at John McLellans for their professional funeral arrangements and to The Holly Tree for providing the catering. Finally, thanks to all those who paid their last respects to Morag at the church and graveside and to those who generously donated £361.05 to Abbeyfield Residents Fund.

**MACLACHLAN** - Aileen and family of the late Dougie MacLachlan would like to extend their sincere thanks to friends and neighbours for their sympathy at this time. Special thanks to Rev Richard Baxter for his comforting and personal service, to all who paid their respects at the service and also to those who donated so generously raising £508.71 for The Belford Hospital. Thanks also to John McLellans for their funeral guidance.

MEMORIAMS

**ANTONIOS** - Dr Wagih Antonios died December 14, 2007. Still loved and remembered every day. - by his loving wife Margaret.

**BUCHANAN** - In loving memory of Chrissie Buchanan, who died December 9, 2016. Beautiful memories silently kept. Of one that we loved and will never forget. Love and miss you every day. - Michael and Sharon.

**DEMPSTER** - In loving memory of my dear husband Archie, who passed away on December 5, 2014. Loved and remembered every day. - Your loving wife Anne xx. Rest in peace.

**DEMPSTER** - Third anniversary of Archibald Donald, who passed away on December 5, 2014. No farewell words were spoken. No time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it. And only God can tell us why - Anne Marie, Ian, Archie and Raymond. Miss you Dad.

**GILLIES** - In loving memory of Graeme, who died on December 3, 2006. No longer in our lives to share. But in our hearts you're always there. - With love Dad, Mam, Scott, Kevin, Sarah, Cameron and Rory, Ross, Asha, Sandy and Lauren.

**LAMBERT** - Remembering Joey with love and sadness. Always on my mind. - Jimmy.

**MAGILLIVRAY** - In loving memory of Duncan who died December 5, 2009. Treasured memories of a very special person. Always in our hearts. - All the family x

**MACINTOSH** - In loving memory of my dear wife, mum and granny who died November 27, 1979. Always remembered. - Inserted by her husband Ewan and family, Isle of Barra.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of my dear father Hugh MacIntyre, who passed away December 9, 1970. RIP. The years pass by. But memories stay. Loved and remembered always. - Inserted by his loving daughter Flora.

**MACKINNON** - Johnny. Loving memories of a special son who passed away December 9, 2015. To lose someone so special is really hard to bear. It hardly seems believable. That you're no longer here. Sadly missed. - Loving mum, brothers and sisters.

**MACMILLAN** - Donald passed away on December 7, 2016.

Today is just another day, in the calendar of life, to us its a huge reminder its been a year since we saw your light. We miss the dad we knew, the phone calls for a beer or two, a box of brew, a wee ten minutes to do a job for you. Your love was a blessing, John and Mags.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of a dear dad and special grandpa, Donnie who passed away December 7, 2016. Also remembering a dear mum and granny Eva

and a dear sister and auntie Yvonne.

Always in our thoughts, Margaret and Yvonne XXX

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of Hector, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away on December 7, 2013. Forever loved, missed and remembered. - Christina, Banny, Laura, Martin, Sinead and Lewis.

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of a dear dad and shennair Hector, who died December 7, 2013. Also remembering a dear mum and granny Mary, who died May 17, 2004 and also a dear brother-in-law James Maitland who died December 23, 2012. Happy memories silently kept. No need for words, we'll never forget. - Lorraine, Paul, Jill and Kyle.

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of Hector a much loved dad and shennair, who died December 7, 2013. Forever in our hearts. - Teeny and family

**O'BRIEN** - Treasured memories of Valerie, a loving wife, mum and grandmother, who died on December 4, 2010. Will always be remembered in our hearts and will never be forgotten xxxxxx. - Billy, Louise, Laurence, Olivia, Amelia and Lucia.

**RENNIE** - Precious memories of Dave, who died on December 13, 2016. To the world you were Dave but to me you were the world. Love and miss you with every beat of my heart. - Pat xx. A dad leaves his mark on the world through the love he gives his children. Love and miss you every day. - Lee-Anne, Nicola, David and families xxx



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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**Thought for the week**

I RETURNED home in the early hours of this morning. I have spent the past five weeks or so visiting all 25 parishes that make up the Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles. My route took me from Oban, all through the Western Isles, Inner Hebrides, Lochaber, Argyll, Badenoch, right down to the Clyde side islands and towns. It was an epic and varied journey taking thousands of miles by road and boat. In each parish I celebrated Mass, met with the priest and parishioners, and enjoyed pastoral tasks such as visiting the household, hospitals, schools and houses. I certainly put on a few pounds with the Highland hospitality! My trip was tiring but very uplifting. I frequently marvelled at the beauty of God's Creation while also humbly submitting to its power of wind and snow! Of course, the crowning glory of Creation is ourselves. Everywhere I went I was very impressed by the lovely people whom I met. Many were no strangers to struggles of various kinds, but I was constantly inspired by people's generosity of loving service. Likewise, I was encouraged by many people whose deep faith in God shone out. The challenges to faith today are well known but there are still countless people who love and trust God and are quietly and selflessly building the Kingdom of God in our midst. All of us are on a journey through life. God is our destination. At Christmas we celebrate God taking on human nature to redeem us. It is so easy that in our busy lives we miss Christ at Christmas. We have just begun the season of Advent. Advent is a time to reflect on our need for God and trusting he will come. Let us take the opportunity to prepare the Lord's Way by opening our hearts to God and others in love.

**Bishop Brian McGee**  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

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**GRADUATION**

**EWAN MURDO MACLEAN**  
Graduated from Sabhal mor Ostaig with a BA in Gaelic and Media Studies. Ewan is the son of Alastair and Murdina MacLean, Tìree. Grandson of the late Murdoch and Rose MacDonald, Kilmoulaig and Sarah and the late Hugh MacLean, Barrapoll.

**EMMA AINSLEY**  
Daughter of Mr and Mrs David Ainsley, Isle of Seil, recently graduated from the University of Oxford with a Degree of Bachelor of Civil Law with Distinction. Emma is a former pupil of Easdale Primary School, Oban High School and Lomond School. Emma is currently training with CMS Law in London.

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# Argyll rally drivers fly in Fife

**By Gavin Brown**  
RALLY crews from all over Scotland and further afield recently made the annual journey to the East Neuk of Fife for the GMSC Craill Stages 2017, the final round of the Blackwood Plant Hire Scottish Tarmac Championship.

The top title, overall champion, had already been decided with Gareth White taking the drivers championship and Harry Marchbank lifting the Co-Drivers title.

A few of the top crews were missing, some on duty overseas and others rebuilding cars ahead of next season.

It was inspiring to see a good representation from Argyll at the event, with some teams challenging for class honours and others getting out for a final fling in 2017.

## Big hit

The layout at this year's event was a big hit with competitors and spectators with fast and testing stages throughout the day. The twist in the tail this year, however, was the addition of a night stage to finish the event off.

Crew comments on Stage 7 (in the dark) ranged from 'brilliant', 'a whole lot of fun' and 'exhilarating' to 'total carnage' and 'I never want to do that again'.

These comments could almost perfectly be matched to the similar sliding scale of 'competitors who read the regs and brought auxiliary lighting' to 'those that

were out there in almost complete darkness'.

Shaun Sinclair, more used to throwing a car through the forests in the Scottish Rally Championships, was seeded Car 1 with his daughter Iona screaming at him to speed up most of the day. Shaun was unfortunate enough to suffer mechanical gremlins on Stage 1 after leaving some fairly essential car parts lying in the first two or three corners of the event. They battled on bravely, having a lot of fun on the way, finishing just outside the top 10.

Shaun was heard in service to comment that he would need to seriously consider who he hired cars off in the future - tongue in cheek surely Shaun?

Another north Argyll driver out in the top, Class 5, machinery was co-driver Calum MacPherson, sitting with podium contender Gordon Morrison. The crew started the rally with eyes firmly on third place overall in the championship. Their main contender Taylor Gibb, one of the sports brightest young prospects, had mechanical failure almost from the moment the stages started and he would retire after stage 1, leaving the door open for Gordon and Calum to settle in and concentrate on getting a finish. They, however, were to slide off the road in Stage 2 after a bottom ball joint let go, apparently after hitting

'nothing', sending the car into a fairly unexpected spin through the tyres and into the stubble field. Did anyone want the last podium place?

It panned out that with the retirements on the day, Gordon and Calum took a more than respectable third place overall in the championship. Much more to come from this pair in future.

## Emblazened

Mid Argyll had a selection of classes covered, both in drivers and co-drivers. Jamie Miller was chasing a class 1 overall championship win, up against a very quick and consistent Marcus Tinsley in his Peugeot 205. Jamie did all he could to catch the Peugeot man, ignoring the 'for sale' banner emblazened across the windscreen, driving his wee Nova 1400 8v as if his life depended on it. He came up just short on the day but secured second place in Class 1 for the season and enticed someone to buy the Nova, which was sold within the week. One careful owner!

Donald Bowness was as quick as ever in the orange and white corsa, also class 1, until the poor wee thing cried enough and snapped the back axle on Stage 5 when setting blistering times and pushing some very expensive and powerful cars all the way. Donald suggested to Robin Nicholson they had a puncture. This diagnosis was quickly dismissed when Robin

## Rallying

noted the right rear wheel and tyre had just overtaken them near the end of the second loop of the stage.

Innes Mochrie persuaded Del Galbraith into the silly seat in the Mighty Metro for the final round. He was his usual fast and neat self, although there were a couple of moments on Stage 2 when two wheels were deemed quicker than four. And only the fact Innes had chosen Del for the job kept the passenger side down and let them carry on to a finish. Officially they were OTL on Stage 1 though with a failed kill switch cutting the engine. They did a lot of running around the car swearing and took just too long to rectify and self-recover. The metro will be back I'm sure, stronger and quicker than it should ever really be.

## Demons

George and Lois Fell came back to Craill to banish the demons of previous visits. They had never finished Stage 1 on this event although there is a rumour that George's roll in the Subaru a couple of years back was a celebration right at the start of Stage 2 but we can't rely on hearsay.

Everything was going well until the car developed a misfire at the coast end of the venue resulting eventually in no drive and much scratching of heads. Phone calls were made half way across the country with symptoms relayed to technical staff absent on the day. 'Flywheel, definitely the flywheel' came the response. Closer inspection later in the week would reveal a three inch hole in piston number three. The recipient of the call has since been removed from Lois's Who Wants to be a Millionaire friends list.

Ian Parker continued his 'never sitting beside the same person two events in a row' policy (his choice he assures me!) with a run in Alex Adams well-prepared Mk2 Escort. The pair had a lot of fun in the recently repaired Ford and finished a more than credible 18th overall and third in class.

Willie and Steven Beattie powered their beautiful Mk2 to a fantastic 14th



Shaun and Iona Sinclair from Connel in their Mitsubishi WRC. Protos: West Coast Photos

overall and second in Class 3. This season has seen Willie really find his feet (especially his lead lined right one!) and it will be interesting to see how his 2018 season shapes up, with success surely round the corner, albeit sideways in that escort!

There were a couple of immaculately presented Peugeot 205s flying the Argyll flag. Angus McNeil from Oban was out in his excellent 1600cc 205, trying to throw the paparazzi off the scent by having his alter ego (Johnny) right across the bonnet. Angus and Michael were unlucky not to get a finish with the engine letting go on Stage 5.

## Upgraded

Neil McAllister and Stephen Lang were out for a 'test' in the newly upgraded Peugeot 205, with new things like wheel-spin and wind noise now a real issue (kidding Neil). The pair got to grips with the increased power and finished 30th overall and a respectable fourth in class.

The event was won by Mini WRC pilot Nigel Feeney, ably guided round the venue by Phil Sandham. Watch out for a season review over the coming weeks with a look back at the best action on tar, as well as in the forests, of Scotland.



Oban's Gordon Morrison and Calum MacPherson in their Subaru Impreza



Alex Adams and Iain Parker from Lochgilphead in their Ford Escort Mk2.



Angus and Michael McNeil from Oban in their Ford Escort Mk2.



Neil McAllister and Stephen Lang from Campbeltown finished 30th overall and a respectable fourth in their class.



The Ford Escort Mk2 driven by Willie Beattie from Kilmartin and Lochgilphead's Steven Beattie.



Lochgilphead's Innes Mochrie and Minard's Del Galbraith in their Lotus Metro.



The Vauxhall Nova driven by Lochgilphead's Jamie Miller and Iain McCulloch came up just short on the day but secured second place in Class 1 for the championship.



Ardishaig's Donald Bowness and Robin Nicholson in their Vauxhall Corsa snapped the back axle on Stage 2



Dawid Loukil won a silver medal.



Mateusz Grabiec with his silver medal.

Tomasz Kapusta also picked up a silver medal.

## MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER



**BJJ**  
OBAN BJJ took a group of ten students to the winter leg of the BJJ Scotia Cup at Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh.

More than 360 people took part in the tournament which had gi and nogi divisions. The event would see five Oban BJJ students enter their first competition.

First came the gi divisions from 10am until 1pm. Ewan Weir was the first to win a medal - silver in a stacked division full of talent.

Next up was Dawid Loukil, who lost in the final by two points to pick up silver. Coll Johnstone got bronze and Mateusz Grabiec got silver too, losing the final by two points.

The other students who did not get podium finishes gained invaluable experience learning to deal with nerves and pressure in a competitive environment.

Nogi ran until after 5pm and again was very busy with large divisions. Coll Johnstone took bronze, which was a great achievement. Two medals from

his first competition speaks volumes to his commitment and hard work.

Tomasz Kapusta lost his final on an advantage, but was pleased with his silver.

Mateusz Grabiec won nogi gold, sweeping past all his opponents on his way to final.

The final tally of medals was seven which for the size of club compared to the powerhouse gyms the Oban boys were competing against shows the level of commitment and hard work put in by everyone.

Coach Coogie said: 'We would like to thank our new sponsor Scottish Sea Farms for their investment in us and to Alex Hill fencing which helped with travel and gym'.

Anyone looking for more information about BJJ and MMA classes should contact club coach Iain (Coogie) Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

**Kyokushinkai Karate**

For club details contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk.

**Kickboxing**

For club details contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com or 07588 513618.

**Shukokai Karate**

For club details contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com.



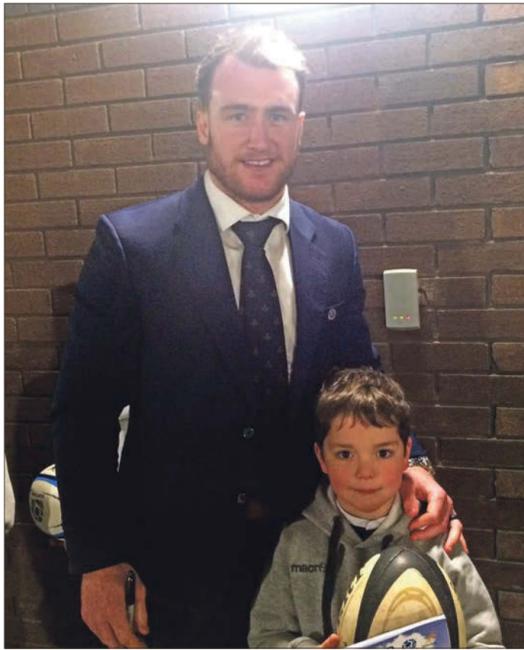
The Oban BJJ team who travelled to take part in the Scotia Cup at Meadowbank Stadium.



Ewen Weir won a silver medal.



Coll Johnstone with his bronze medal.



Tom Corns with Scotland full back Stuart Hogg.



Tom and his brother Joe meet Doddie Weir.



Michael Strathern receives his sports award from councillor Elaine Robertson at Benderloch Badminton Club. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

## Memorable day for young mascot Tom

**YOUNG** Tom Corns from Taynuilt was star of the show when he attended his first international rugby match.

Lucky Tom was a mascot at the recent Scotland v Australia match and what a game it was, with lots of tries, a red card and

Scotland winning. Tom told his mum that he liked running out onto the pitch with Stuart McNally, singing Flower of Scotland, meeting lots of players, especially Stuart Hogg, his yummy half time burger and to top it all off meeting legend

Doddie Weir on the way home at the tram stop.

At the end of the game, Tom announced to his English dad that he no longer wanted to play for England as he wants to be Scotland's number 9.

Since the game he hasn't taken

**Rugby**

his Scotland shirt off and has been practicing his box kicking, scrum half pass and side step.

## Michael makes the feathers fly

**MICHAEL** Strathern from Benderloch Badminton Club won Argyll and Bute Council's Young Coach of the Year award.

Michael has attended the badminton club since he was eight and started coaching at 13. During his five years of coaching, he has encouraged many young people to take up the sport and has

**Coaching**

helped produce competitive players at S1 level. Without Michael's coaching, the club would not be where it is in terms of competitive success and the success of the club overall.



Oban Squash Club champion Michael Kelly and ladies champion Nicola Morgan. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

## Sam's the man as he breaks two records

**OBAN** Otters ASC hosted its annual club gala on Sunday December 3.

There was a fantastic turnout and competition was fierce for a fine selection of medals and trophies, many of which date back to the beginning of the club in the 1970s.

President of Scottish Swimming's west district Janice Morgan made sure all timekeepers and judging was

**Swimming**

up to strict national standard. One of the many highlights of the day was the smashing of two club records by rising star Sam Coates, aged 15.

In the 100m Breast Stroke - The Hunter Cup - the record has been held by John Forteith (1min 17.30secs) since 1979. Sam took an impressive four



Boys senior champion Sam Coates from Kilmore on his way to breaking the 100m breast stroke gala record, held since 1979 by John Forteith, in a time of 1.17.30. Sam's record-breaking time was 1.12.90. Sam also broke the 4x50m individual medley record in a time of 2.24.94 The old record stood at 2.32.75.



Prizewinners at the Oban Otters swimming gala held at Atlantis Leisure. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

seconds off in an outstanding performance of 1 min 12.90 seconds. This had the onlookers cheering with excitement and delight which reached fever pitch as he went on to break another club record in the 4 x 50m Individual Medley - Beaver Timber Shield.

Held by Patrick MacKinnon since 2012, Sam shaved just over two seconds off this by finishing in 2 minutes, 29.94 seconds. Sam is ranked 11th in Scotland for boys 15 years 50m breaststroke. He has qualified for the 50m breaststroke at the Scottish National Age Group Championships to be held in

April 2018. Sam is also hoping to achieve a qualifying time for the 100m breast stroke in the New Year.

Atlantis Leisure sponsor Sam Coates and fellow elite swimmer Ella MacKechnie, giving them the chance to train

in the pool and the gym outwith club times and putting in a huge commitment to their chosen sport, inspiring younger club members.



Senior girls champion Ella MacKechnie powers home in the butterfly. She won five golds at the gala.



# SHINTY

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

## Gareth Evans on Lochside Rovers

THE POSITION of second team manager is one of the most demanding roles in shinty.

- The remit is to:
  - Prepare the club's younger players for first team action
  - Include enough senior players to inject the necessary experience into the side
  - Be able to compete with other second teams and single teams clubs in your division
  - Sacrifice your best players when the first team is short
  - Keep a sufficiently large pool of players interested so you have cover for all eventualities
  - Ensure everyone attends training

And do all this in front of an expectant support who will likely either be unaware or indeed care little for the aforementioned factors which the stressed second team boss has had to contend with during the week.

To pull all this off, and end the season with a league and national cup double, is the stuff dreams are made of but that's exactly what Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans achieved during the 2017 shinty season.

To put the side's progress in context, when Lochside won Marine Harvest South Division 2 in 2012, their promotion to South 1 led to fourth and fifth place finishes over the next two seasons.

Gareth Evans took charge of Lochside Rovers in 2015. After breaking into the Oban Camanachd first team in 1994, he had just hung up his camanachd at the end of the previous season.

It was an illustrious on-field career which hit a high in 1996 when Oban Camanachd lifted the Camanachd Cup for the third time, beating Kingussie 3-2 in the final in Inverness.

An attacker, Gareth had missed the semi-final win over Fort William through suspension and was an unused substitute in the final win over Kingussie.

His competition for a starting place in the forward line could hardly have been tougher. Gareth said: 'The forward line of David MacCuish, Dougie MacIntyre, Fraser Inglis and Gordon MacIntyre was something special. And, let me tell you, if you didn't pass to these guys when you were in the side, you knew all about it. Dougie MacIntyre, in particular, was a fantastic player. Definitely the best player I have seen in the game.'

He had a spell with Fort William and after coming back to Oban Camanachd featured in defence. He had so much natural ability. He wasn't the best trainer, it has to be said, but he was a wonderful player.'

Stephen Sloss, who would star for Lochside Rovers last season, was another unused substitute in the 1996 final, whilst the other reserve, Steven Campbell, who scored the extra-time semi-final winner against Fort William, got onto the field of play.

Perhaps the tough competition for a forward berth influenced Gareth's switch to a defensive role in 1997 during what was a halcyon period for the club. 'We reached six Camanachd Cup finals in nine years and I thought this is great. I thought this was the way it would always be.'

After hanging up his camanachd, Gareth looked to share his experiences with the younger Oban Camanachd players as he turned his focus to management.

After a bright first season in charge at Lochside Rovers, the side were pipped to the South 1 title on goal difference by Bute.

Gareth recalls that season well. 'I remember a defeat to Oban Celtic late in the season cost us dear. However, there were so many positives to take. When we took over the side, it was an older squad and

there weren't so many younger players involved. Some of the youngsters were losing interest. I told them if they came to training each week, they would get a place in the side.

'There were, and still are, other attractions for young guys including playing football. The response was terrific. They came along to training, played in the team and we had a great first season.'

Gareth acknowledges there was a dip in 2016 with the team only winning seven of their 14 league fixtures to end the year in third place. 'We died a bit that season,' he said. 'So it was important we re-grouped for 2017.'

'Oban Celtic moving up to the Marine Harvest National Division at the end of the 2016 season opened up the league and I felt we would face a strong challenge from Aberdour and Ballachulish whilst Bute, despite their eight-point deduction, would always be difficult opponents.'

'We sat down with the players at the start of the year and told them they would only get out of shinty what they put in. It was important everyone bought into what we were trying to do. We all had to work harder and train harder.'

'Our target was to win all our home games as we knew that would leave us in a strong position in the league but, the reality was, we had a good pre-season and when the competitive action started, the boys did much better than we could have hoped.'

Gareth is quick to recognise the crucial roles played by his management team. 'Eccy' (Chris Eccleston) moved up to the first team at the end of the 2016 season to assist Haybo (Iain Hay) so Brian MacCallum, who had just finished playing, came on board with Lochside whilst Stephen Sloss and Iain 'Scally' MacMillan fulfilled an enhanced role as senior players.

'We had a lot to work with as Iain Hay had done a great job with the U14s and U17s before stepping up to the first team whilst David MacCuish, Scott Buchanan and George Easton also did tremendous work with the youths, taking them from MacKay Cup success to cup wins at U14 and U17 level. That was important as it installed a winning mentality from the start.'

'These young players were used to winning things when they broke into the Lochside team and long may that last. Similarly, Alan MacKechnie has had great success with the U14s so it's a good system for the club.'

'Stephen Sloss returned to the side after several years away from the game and has been outstanding. His runs out of defence with the ball had to be seen to be believed. You just wouldn't believe he had been out of the team for so long and he's a great influence on the younger players.'

The competitive season started with an emphatic 6-1 victory over an Aberdour side who would go on to be Lochside's main league challengers.

However, any thoughts this would be a procession to the title were extinguished when newly-promoted Tayforth beat the Oban side 2-1.

'That was one of these days,' said Gareth.

'We hit the post in the game and lost two terrible goals. I wasn't happy to say the least and it was a quiet bus on the way home.'

'It sounds obvious to say but you win games and you enjoy your Saturday night. However, a shinty defeat has to mean something and when it happens it certainly ruins my weekend and I wanted the boys to feel the same.'

'I wouldn't go as far as saying that loss was the best thing that



Lochside Rovers manager Gareth Evans and his assistant Brian MacCallum with the Marine Harvest South Division One trophy.

could have happened to us, but we then went on a fantastic run.' It was a run that would see Lochside win 11 games on the bounce, scoring 53 times and only conceding twice.

Gareth has no doubts where the strength of the team lies. 'Our defence was our strong point last season. Keeper Cammy Sutherland joined us from Ballachulish and has been a fine player this year, winning the Marine Harvest South Division 1 Player of the Year. Stephen Sloss at full back led the defence. He has such an unbelievable will to win and, having played in defence myself, I know what a superb job he has done. Chrissie MacMillan has also played his role well, whilst youngsters Daniel Sloss and Craig Easton are two tremendous talents and they've already had a shot in the senior side last season. It's pleasing to have Craig Easton involved as he's a guy who was in the youth ranks at Dumbarton Football Club.'

'Our captain Michael MacQueen has also been outstanding. 'He has come back to shinty and we gave him the responsibility of being captain. I think he was determined to get his hands on a silver mounted camanachd.'

'Although he has mainly been used at full centre, we have put him up front a number of times and he did the business every time, scoring some really important goals. 'Youngsters Ross Campbell and Lennon Campbell broke into the squad and they have held their own playing against adults. They have both exceeded expectations.'

'Team spirit has been another plus. 'The whole squad get on really well and that helps. They've all been training this year and the squad was certainly fitter than the year before.'

If there was one disappointment in 2017, it was the Bullough Cup semi-final defeat to the Inveraray seconds, denying Lochside the opportunity to go for what would have been an historic treble. 'Inveraray fielded a strong side that day,' recalls Gareth. 'They had several youngsters but there were a number of Camanachd Cup winners too. We were all over them and Toad (Graham MacPherson) in the Inveraray goal made some great saves but we started to get frustrated and it wasn't to be.'

'When asked of Lochside's toughest test of the season, Gareth picks the 2-2 draw with

Bute at Ganavan, the team's next match following the Inveraray defeat. 'Bute are a senior team but they opted to drop down from the national at the end of the previous season to rebuild. That was a tough game and it took a last minute penalty from Michael MacQueen to earn us the draw. It was a real pressure penalty, but it didn't faze Michael.'

Lochside got back to winning ways against Ballachulish and it soon became a matter of 'when' rather than 'if' they would be crowned champions.

There was also a cup success. 'I remember looking at the Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup draw, which is made right through to the final, and seeing that all of our ties were away from Oban.'

'There were trips to Beaulay, away to a strong Kyles side and off to face Bute at The Meadows. It was a great run which earned us a semi-final against Glenurquhart at the Jubilee before a tough final against Kingussie which we won 3-1 to become Scottish junior champions.'

Lochside's success was further recognised when Gareth Evans received a deserved Marine Harvest South Division 1 manager of the year award although a prior commitment meant he was unable to attend the ceremony.

With an Oban Camanachd AGM looming, and a new season just around the corner, what should we expect next from Lochside Rovers?

'I understand my role,' said Gareth. 'Lochside Rovers is a feeder team for Oban Camanachd. My remit is to get the young boys ready for the step up to play in the senior team. It is so important the young ones get game time and I think that strategy is now paying dividends and the younger players have been excellent.'

'It's up to Haybo, of course, but we have already seen Daniel MacVicar and Daniel MacCuish establish themselves in the first team and I'm sure there will be more to follow next season.'

'Winning trophies is great and we want the players to retain that winning mentality they have had through the youth teams. The best bit about my job though is seeing the young-er players get a chance with the first team. That's special.'

'We may just have won the league but I see 2018 as a period of transition where we will have to rebuild again. Stephen Sloss has said his return was for

one season only and he'll be a big loss. We won't have Iain MacMillan on the field either so that's another big miss but I am glad Michael MacQueen is going to carry on.'

'I expect to lose several players to the first team too so there will be another injection of young players from our successful youth sides.'

'The message to the younger players is clear, if they come along to training, they will play. We'll be all right for numbers so there will be competition for places.'

'I think Aberdour and the Inveraray seconds will be challengers next season, as will Bute.'

However, 2018 will also be Gareth's final year in charge of Lochside Rovers - or to quote the man precisely, he is '99.9 per cent sure it will be his final year as boss'.

He has already informed the Oban Camanachd committee of his decision but anyone who knows Gareth won't be surprised to hear he'll still be available to assist with any club matters. Few will grudge him a break from a senior playing career, followed by a management role, which have almost spanned 25 years.

Gareth works for Matheson Furnishings in Oban and has an understanding boss in Neil Matheson. Gareth's commitment is such that with Saturday working being part of his job, he is allowed to use his holidays to fulfil his Saturday shinty commitments.

Neil Matheson deserves great credit for his part in this arrangement, but it is also just another example of the lengths Gareth Evans will go to for Oban Camanachd and shinty as a whole benefits greatly from such dedication.

Looking at the bigger picture for the Oban club, Gareth said: 'The next step for Oban Camanachd is to win a trophy and I'd love to see them do that as much for Haybo (Iain Hay) as for the club. He is a great Oban Camanachd servant and he puts so much into the first team management role and he is absolutely the right guy to be in charge.'

As if running Lochside Rovers isn't enough, Gareth is also an Oban Camanachd vice president. His duties, along with fellow vice president Duncan MacMillan, include standing in for president Alan Dunning.

The game of shinty is richer for the contributions made by the likes of Gareth Evans. Even if he does stand down at the

end of the 2018 shinty season, it is impossible to imagine he will not be involved behind the scenes in some shape or form which is reassuring as the game needs people like Gareth Evans.

### Oban Camanachd hold AGM

Oban Camanachd's annual general meeting took place at Rockfield Buildings on Friday December 1.

With 25 members present, the AGM was a straight-forward affair.

Duncan MacMillan stepped up from vice president to take over from Alan Dunning as president.

Chris Eccleston stepped down as secretary but becomes the club's only vice president as Gareth Evans concentrates on his Lochside Rovers duties.

Fiona Livingston carries on as treasurer. The club's finances are as good as they have ever been due, in no small part, to Fiona's efforts.

Claire Jackson joins the committee as child protection and youth lead.

Iain Hay continues as first team manager with Chris Eccleston staying on as coach.

Gareth Evans remains as Lochside boss along with his assistants Brian MacCallum and Iain MacMillan.

Stephen Sloss has been appointed head coach for the U14s and U17s.

There are two roles for Pat Steeman who becomes fundraising convenor and superball promoter.

Aidan MacIntyre is social media convenor.

Iain MacIntyre is chieftain whilst Nigel Evans and Alan Dunning are honorary presidents.

Oban Camanachd are actively looking for a new secretary.

Iain Hay and Gareth Evans will meet soon to discuss player pools for next season and who will be the Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers 2018 team captains.

Both Oban Camanachd and Lochside are looking for pre-season opponents - playing either home or away during February 2018.

### Artemis Macaulay Cup draw

Now that the 2017 shinty season has come to a close, we know which teams will participate in the 2018 Artemis Macaulay Cup competition and they won't have to wait long to find out their opponents.

This tournament is the only cup format in senior shinty to be played on a regional basis so guaranteeing a final between a south and north side.

Eligibility is based on the previous year's league placing with the top eight clubs in south in one half of the draw and the top eight clubs in the north in the other grouping.

There is just one change from the south teams who competed last season as Kilmory replace Ballachulish.

There are three south teams from last season's Marine Harvest Premiership - Kyles Athletic, Oban Camanachd and Glasgow Mid Argyll - as well as Inveraray and Oban Celtic from the Marine Harvest National Division. Marine Harvest South 1 sides Aberdour, Bute and Kilmory make up the group.

There is also just one change in the north half of the draw with Marine Harvest Premiership bottom side Kilmallie replacing Fort William who finished third in Marine Harvest National Division.

Kilmallie missed out last season meaning their only cup action was in Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup and

MacTavish Cup. However in 2018, they will compete in the Scottish, the MacTavish Cup, the Artemis Macaulay Cup and the Balliemore Cup. The north will be represented by Glenurquhart, Kilmallie, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Lochaber, Lovat, Newtonmore and Skye Camanachd.

The 2018 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw will be made live on Oban FM's Sports Show on Saturday December 9. The south and north sections will be drawn right up to the semi-final stage. The Sports Show starts at 6pm.

The Artemis Macaulay Cup Final at Mossfield is usually televised live and Kyles Athletic are the current holders having beaten Newtonmore 7-4 in last season's final.

### Willie Cowie steps down at Skye

Skye Camanachd have begun the search for a new first team manager after Willie Cowie stepped down from the role after just one season in charge.

Cowie and his assistant Pater Gordon led the side to the Marine Harvest National Division title last season, giving the club an immediate return to the Marine Harvest Premiership.

Skye Camanachd will look to appoint Cowie's replacement as a priority.

### Kilmory AGM

Kilmory Camanachd's annual general meeting will be held at the Stag Hotel on December 11.

The meeting starts at 8pm and all players, supporters and anyone interested in the running of the club are most welcome.

The MacRae Park side also announced Andy Cunningham is the winner of their 2017 player of the year award.

The versatile Cunningham can play in the forward line or centre line and was a consistent performer throughout the season.

### President Loades looks forward

New Camanachd Association president Keith Loades is looking forward to his tenure at the forefront of the game.

Speaking after he was confirmed as president, the former Scotland, Kinlochshiel, and Aberdeen University player said: 'Having been involved with the sport of shinty all my life, and having enjoyed the experience and having made a large number of friends, I wish to give something back to the sport now. Recent appointments to the board and to the staff have strengthened the association and whilst outgoing president Jim Barr will be a huge loss to the association, I look forward to continuing the good works and initiatives which he has created during his term in office. My aim is to leave the association in as good or better position than when I take over and we can do that by working together with our members to implement the new strategic plan for shinty.'

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# Green Machine picks up the points

Helensburgh	17
Oban Lorne	23
BT West Division One	

OBAN Lorne made the short trip to fellow Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC on Saturday for the first meeting between the sides this season.

Both clubs have been struggling in BT West Division One this season and sit in 12th and 11th place in the league. The Green Machine have been improving since the start of the season, having put together a recent upturn of results and performances.

Saturday's squad was a strong one despite the missing player/coach Corrie Louw due to illness. Oban Lorne's RBS National Bowl winning captain Robin MacQueen came out of retirement to start the game at prop, while there was also a start for centre Andrew Abraham returning to Oban to visit family. Lorne MacLachlan played his last game of the season on Saturday before starting a trip abroad.

It was the visitors who made a bright start to the game at Ardencape with scrum half

Finlay Carmichael putting Oban ahead 3-0 with a well taken penalty.

Having gone a month without a game, Oban were looking a little rusty on occasion and were gifting the home side easy possession.

Helensburgh raced into a 12-3 lead with two tries against the run of play, one of which resulted from an intercepted pass from an Oban Lorne attack.

### Dominant

As the first half wore on, Oban's scrum and forward play were becoming dominant. The front row of Robin MacQueen, Daniel Kemp and Tommy Sutherland were all having a great game allowing Lorne MacLachlan, Jack Baxter and Richard MacKay to have some good attacking runs.

From 12-3 down Oban led 12-13 at the break. Carmichael scored first with a well-taken try, followed by another good penalty attempt.

The second half was commanded well by Oban Lorne who maintained the majority of possession and territory thanks to their dominant set pieces. Iwan Rhys Roberts at stand off was orchestrating his back line

### Rugby

well putting Andrew Abraham and captain Craig Wright into good attacking spaces.

Oban were rewarded with a try from man of the match Lorne MacLachlan and another Carmichael penalty that took the score to 23-12. The men in green pushed for a further try but were undone by a Helensburgh defence that proved hard to break down for the majority of the afternoon.

The gloss was taken off Oban Lorne's crucial win in the last play of the game as another intercepted pass resulted in a try for the home side. Full-time 23-17 to Oban Lorne.

Saturday's win lifts Oban Lorne into 10th place in the league, six points clear of Helensburgh who remain bottom of the table.

The Oban squad will look to build on Saturday's win with two fixtures remaining of 2017.

The first is this Saturday away to second-placed Garnock, while they entertain third-placed Kilmarnock at Glencruitten on Saturday December 16.



Oban Lorne players celebrate their 23-17 win over Helensburgh. Photographs: Stephen Lawson.

## Lorne Ladies lose first try of the season in away game at Royal Dick Vet College

Royal Dick Vet College	7
Oban Lorne Ladies	61
BT Women's National League 2	

SUNDAY December 3 saw a reduced squad of ladies travelling to Peffermill in Edinburgh to take on RDVC. With no subs available, it was bound to be a tougher game than the ladies had experienced to date, particularly with people arriving late due to navigational issues and their coach unable to travel.

Oban played well in the first half though, forcing multiple penalties from their opposition. The first of these allowed the visitors to attack into the opposition's 22 and outside centre Erika Skofca scored the first try after six minutes, successfully converted by fly half Lucy Stewart.

After a penalty to RDVC,

Oban fought hard to secure a turn over ball and used their speed and handling skills to reach winger Ellen Barlow who drove over the line for try number two.

Following on from a big hit by Skofca, inside winger Rachel MacDonald scored next, this time converted by prop Ellie MacNiven. Four minutes later, the ladies scored again following a scrum and Skofca diving over the line once more to extend her impressive tally of points scored this season.

Supporters have been impressed by the ladies' performance in the league to date, willing them to maintain their record of zero points against. But Oban conceded their first points of the season to RDVC following a penalty, with only two minutes of the first half remaining. Nevertheless, the

Green Army did not let this disappointment affect their performance, retaliating with a final try, and hat-trick for Skofca, before the half time whistle, bringing the score to 7-35 at half time.

The second half saw the visitors in green mainly kept in their own half, playing a defensive game against a spurred on RDVC squad, awarded penalty after scrum after penalty. Despite this, the ladies successfully defended their try line from any other attacks during the game and Skofca carried on her impressive show of both teamwork and individual skill with another three tries to her name.

Conditions were cold as the game played out and the ladies thank the Oban Lorne men's team players that stepped in to offer support and guidance

### Women's rugby

from the sidelines in what proved to be a tough match in the absence of their usual coaching team. The final touchdown of the game was secured by Stewart, successfully converting her own try to bring the final score to 7-61.

Next weekend the squad travel to Aberdeen to take on the Aberdeenshire Quines in their final match before Christmas. They return to home ground on Sunday January 14 against Ardrrossan Women, 2pm kick off.

The ladies train every Tuesday and Thursday 6-7pm, with training on the astro pitch at Oban High School until Christmas due to waterlogged pitches at Glencruitten. Everyone welcome.



Lorne MacLachlan barges his way through the Helensburgh defence.

## Narrow win for Oban Lorne Under 18s

Oban Lorne	19
Newton Stewart	17
West Under-18 League	

OBAN'S U18 side welcomed a combined Newton Stewart and Wigtownshire team to Glencruitten on Saturday. The teams had met earlier in the season playing out a 12-12 draw in Stranraer.

The Oban side have gathered good momentum since a patchy start to the season and sit in third place in the table going into last weekend's game.

It was Oban who made a good start to the game, in particular man of the match James Divers who made some good breaks. The game remained scoreless until 10 minutes as both sides displayed some good, physical defensive work.

After a good attack into the visitors 22, Oban reacted quickly from a penalty with scrum half Sandy Bavington tapping quickly to Ewan Shearer who was brought down short of the line.

The ball was recycled quickly out to centre David Cameron who crashed over for the first try of the day.

Fellow centre Andrew Ritchie converted the kick for a 7-0 lead.

'Newtonshire' narrowed the score shortly after as Oban switched off at a five metre lineout to conceded a soft try.

Oban refused to let this dent their confidence as they attacked well from the kick off. Promising runs from David Cameron, James Divers, Euan Shearer and Brych Hensman

Martin gave the team a good platform to attack from. On 20 minutes Oban scored their second try of the day. The Oban pack powered the visitors over the line on their own ball allowing Finn Charlton in for a straightforward touchdown. Ritchie again converted for a 14-5 lead.

The visitors hit back with another try narrowing the deficit to only four points at half-time.

Oban pressed for another score early in the second half but knocked the ball on near the line allowing the hosts to break clear.

Oban were reduced to 14 men with winger Robert McLaughlin forced off with a head injury. Oban, with no substitutes, had to play the remainder of the game 14 v 15.

### Youth rugby

Using the man advantage 'Newtonshire' took the lead with another try bringing the score to 14-17.

Another draw would probably have been a fair result but Oban refused to give up and scored a fantastic team try with Andrew Ritchie eventually breaking free down the left touchline to score.

Oban held on at 19-17 to record a hard fought victory.

The U18 side have two remaining games left this season as they make the long trip to Castle Douglas this week to take on Stewartry and finish 2017 with a home game against Ardrrossan on Saturday December 16.



Finlay Carmichael is unceremoniously upended by two Helensburgh defenders.

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3100

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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**  
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## Depleted Saints battle to stay in Scottish Cup tie

Greenock HSPF	2
Oban Saints	2
Scottish Cup - 4th Round	

A DEPLETED Oban Saints, with two 17-year-olds and a considerably older member of the coaching staff on the subs bench, forced a highly creditable Scottish Amateur Cup fourth round draw at Battery Park, Greenock, last Saturday. The well below full strength Saints side twice battled back from a goal behind against Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Greenock High School Former Pupils to force a replay at Glencruitten this Saturday.

A crippling combination of injuries, work and family commitments forced Saints manager Alex Craik to keep up his unwanted record of naming a different starting 11 for every match so far this season.

Saints got proceedings underway at a dry but overcast Battery Park, Greenock, playing into the cold wind blowing in off the Firth of Clyde. The makeshift Saints, trialling a new 3-4-2-1 formation, made a solid start against opponents Greenock who were also missing a few regulars.

Shaun MacIver forced the first corner kick of the match in the eighth minute after a powerful run from inside his own half from Myles McAuley. MacIver's delivery from the left was headed clear by Greenock stalwart Chris McAllister under pressure from Craig Campbell.

The 'High' responded immediately with their first corner kick after Matthew Kelly was penalised for a foul on Lewis Graham on the half-way line. Another Greenock stalwart, Barry Munro, sent the free-kick into the Saints box and it was headed behind by Craig Campbell. Dead ball expert Munro's corner kick from the right was watched closely by Graham Douglas as it drifted inches over his crossbar.

Munro tried his luck from the opposite flank in the 11th minute after Alex Craik had headed a speculative Michael O'Donoghue long ball behind.

David Smith's headed clearance from the six-yard line only got as far as Kevin Brown on the edge of box who was quickly closed down by Matthew Kelly and Myles McAuley. McAuley set off on another driving run which was only halted by a vital sliding interception from Lewis Graham midway inside the Greenock half.

Home keeper Neil Flack showed good reactions in the 20th minute, getting down smartly to his left to stop a Shaun MacIver left foot strike from the corner of the 18-yard box.

As the half wore on, the home side gained the upper hand in terms of possession with Saints content to sit in and look to hit on the counter-attack. Despite enjoying the lion's share of possession, the 'High' were unable to unlock the solid looking Saints back three who were well screened by a hard-working midfield.



Scott Maitland scored the equaliser.

The home side came close to breaking the deadlock in first half stoppage time from a corner on the left after Steven MacLeod had headed a speculative Kevin Brown long ball behind.

Barry Munro's in-swing to the back post was headed back towards the edge of the box by produced a far more threatening delivery which found the head of Harry Donaldson on the six-yard line. Fortunately for Saints,



Craig Campbell, David Smith, Scott Maitland, Shaun MacIver and Matty Kelly congratulate Willie Gemmell after his corner kick went directly into the net from a corner during last Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup tie against Greenock HSPF.

Match report and photographs: Derek Black.

Donaldson, who had stolen in ahead of Myles McAuley, could only guide his header into the grateful hands of Graham Douglas keeping the scores level at the break.

In the 48th minute, Willie Gemmell worked the ball forward to Myles McAuley who looked to have played Shaun MacIver in with a defence splitting pass. MacIver's efforts in rounding Neil Flack and tucking a neat finish into the bottom corner were, however, in vain as Mr Caldwell gave the benefit of an extremely close offside call to the home side, much to Saints' frustration.

To compound the agony, the scoreline didn't remain blank for much longer with the 'High' getting their noses in front after 52 minutes.

Ryan McCorkindale's run into the box was forced left by Alex Craik, with the Greenock striker digging out a cross from the by-line which looped over Graham Douglas to be poked home at the back post by Ryan Corr who held off the attentions of Scott Maitland to open the scoring.

Saints struck back almost immediately with Scott Maitland and Shaun MacIver combining to force a corner on the left straight from the re-start.

So often chipping in with vital strikes already this season,



Saints' midfielder David Smith heads clear.

### Football

Willie Gemmell added to his growing list of telling contributions, curling an equaliser direct from the corner flag just inside the far post.

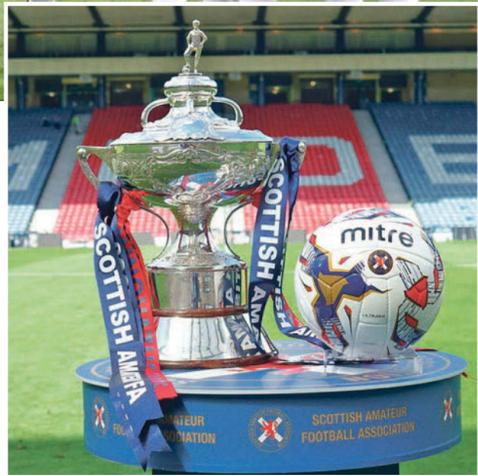
The thrills and spills kept coming and just three minutes after the equaliser Harry Donaldson was felled in the Saints box by Craig Campbell with Mr Caldwell pointing to the penalty spot. A lengthy stoppage ensued as Donaldson, who was unfortunately unable to continue, received treatment. He was replaced by Craig Boyd.

The visitors were relieved to see Kevin Brown strike the crossbar with his spot kick with Alex Craik heading the rebound to the edge of the box where Myles McAuley won a free-kick for a push in the back by Thomas MacFarlane.

At the midway point of the second half, 17-year-old Daniel McCuish made his debut as a replacement for David Smith who had put in a good shift in the middle of the park alongside skipper Willie Gemmell.

The home side regained the lead in controversial circumstances after 72 minutes. After a tussle with Daniel McCuish on the Greenock right, Chris McAllister sent a long ball into the box which Craig Boyd appeared to handle under pressure from David McPhee. Referee Caldwell saw nothing wrong and ignored the loud Saints appeals allowing Ryan Corr on the edge of the box to lob the loose ball back towards goal. A backpedaling Steven MacLeod got his head to the ball, but only succeeding in sending it back to Boyd who, from six yards, beat the combined efforts of Graham Douglas and Alex Craik to find the bottom corner.

In a bid to get back into the match Saints were committing more players forward and were relieved to see Graham Douglas



The top prize all amateur football teams strive to win - the Scottish Amateur Cup. Photograph: SAFA.

make a good save after a smart 79th minute turn and shot from Craig Boyd.

The extra endeavour from Saints paid dividends with just ten minutes remaining. Daniel McCuish slipped a perfect ball through the inside left channel for the overlapping run of Scott Maitland who beat the advancing Neil Flack with a low left foot finish drilled into the bottom corner.

The deserved equaliser gave Saints the lifeline they needed and they almost snatched a winner in the 83rd minute with McCuish again the architect. The Saints youngster sent Shaun MacIver racing through but, unfortunately, MacIver was unable to get the ball out from his feet allowing David McLean to make a vital interception on the 18-yard line.

Sixty seconds later, the 'High' had their chance to seal victory with the gaffer proving the Saints' saviour getting a crucial touch to deny Kevin Brown inside the Saints box.

Saints had to endure the five minutes of stoppage time added on by Mr Caldwell with ten men thanks to a needless red card picked up by Shaun MacIver.

The young striker, who lead the line extremely well on his first outing since recovering from an operation, needlessly lashed out at Greenock second half substitute Lee Curran in retaliation for a trip ten yards

inside the Saints half. The remaining minutes of what was a very entertaining Scottish Amateur Cup tie were played out with little incident leaving Saints the more satisfied of the two to have secured another cup reply for the Glencruitten faithful to enjoy.

Saturday's game will take place at Glencruitten with a 1.30pm kick-off.

The game has to be finished on the day so extra time and penalties, if required, will determine who goes through to the fifth round. Referee in charge is Peter Laing from Lochgilphead.



Daniel MacCuish made an impressive debut.

### Friendly hockey tournament Hockey

LOCHABER Hockey club travelled to Oban to face both Oban Ladies and Oban men's teams in a friendly tournament on Saturday December 2.

The tournament opened with the mixed Lochaber team facing Oban ladies who had drafted in several men's players to make up the numbers.

Lochaber retained the ball for long periods putting the defensively minded Oban ladies team under severe pressure. Long periods of the match were played in the Oban half but excellent defending from Leanne Munro, Karen MacKinnon and Tricia Le Carré kept the ball out of the Oban net. Despite the sustained pressure Oban looked dangerous on the counter attack and scored two goals to win.

Oban ladies immediately faced a youthful Oban men's team in a hard fought match. The ladies opened the scoring within 30 seconds. After the restart the ladies weathered severe pressure from the men's team who dominated in terms of both territory and possession for the rest of the game. However, The men's team struggled to find the net. Experience and possibly some luck allowed the ladies to eventually come out on top by two goals to one.

Finally the youthful Oban men faced Lochaber to close the tournament. Lochaber were well organised and started strongly retaining possession for long periods. Excellent play from Hannah Beardmore and Lewis Gibson resulted in an early goal from Lochaber. The youthful Oban side came out fighting after the restart and began to exert good pressure on Lochaber but eventually succumbed going down two goals to nil.

### Scottish Amateur FL results/fixtures Football

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Cup fourth round - Greenock HSPF 2, Oban Saints 2; Premier Division One - Rosehill Star v Campbeltown Pupils postponed; Premier Division Two - Cardross 1 Lochgilphead Red Star 9; Tarbert 2, East End United 11.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Cup fourth round replay - Oban Saints v Greenock HSPF; Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Port Glasgow OBU v Lochgilphead Red Star; Tarbert v Duncanrig.

### Oban Saints youths' results and fixtures Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Dunoon v Under 13s postponed; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 14s postponed; Under 15s no game; Under 16s 6, Milton 3. Scoring for Saints were Lennon Campbell (3), Aidan MacPhee (2) and Jordan Norman; Dunoon 2, Under 17s 8. On target for Saints were Cameron Kerr (4), Sol Smith (3) and Keir MacLean.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Greenock United; Under 14s v Ardencape; Baljaffray v Under 16s; Ardencape v Under 17s.

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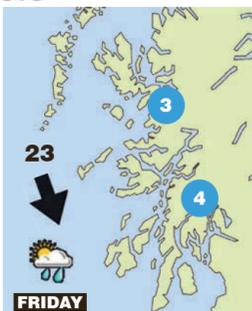
### Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

#### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday December 7, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrishaig	Mallaig
Thur	01.55 0.6 07.48 4.0 14.36 0.9 20.21 3.7		-5.35	+0.25
Fri	02.45 0.8 08.37 3.8 15.31 1.2 21.13 3.4		-5.30	+0.55
Sat	03.38 1.0 09.32 3.5 16.32 1.4 22.17 3.1		-0.47	+0.16
Sun	04.36 1.2 10.39 3.3 17.42 1.6 23.52 3.0		2.00	+5.30
Mon	05.40 1.4 12.18 3.2 19.03 1.7 *** **		+0.30	
Tues	01.21 3.0 06.49 1.5 13.46 3.2 20.19 1.7		<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>	
Wed	02.25 3.1 08.00 1.5 14.44 3.3 21.16 1.6		Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)			Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
			Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Winds strong North Westerly Temperatures 2°C to 8°C.
Friday	Light rain showers Winds strong North Westerly Temperatures 2°C to 4°C.
Weekend	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate North North Westerly Temperatures 1°C to 5°C.



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### Smelter owners to buy Highland renewables firm

OWNERS of the aluminium smelter in Fort William plan to become the UK's largest provider of renewable energy. SIMEC Energy, part of GFG Alliance which owns the Lochaber smelter, has entered into an unconditional agreement to acquire Green Highland Renewables (GHR), a Scottish hydro development firm.

The acquisition will be complete by the end of February 2018 and will include 18 hydro-electric power stations in the Highlands and a team of 17 engineers, operators and designers.

In addition to GHR's 18 existing power stations, SIMEC said it will develop a further eight hydro power plants on its Lochaber Highland estate lands, with the planning process due to start in 2018.

SIMEC Energy also announced its plans to build one gigawatt of renewable power generation capacity in the UK within three years, supporting fellow GFG company Liberty Steel's ambitious target to develop five million tonnes of low-carbon steel in the UK within five years.

SIMEC is already one of the UK's largest hydro power operators, including in its portfolio the Lochaber and Kinlochleven stations.

GHR started in 2007 and its teams based in Perth and Dingwall have delivered more than 45 hydro schemes internationally, including one in Kinlochleven earlier this year.

Sanjeev Gupta, executive chairman of GFG, added: 'We are delighted to have agreed this deal at the same time as the publication of the UK government's white paper on industrial strategy because we intend to be a standard bearer for "clean growth" in the economy.'

# 'Prince of Poachers' avoids jail after firearms offences

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

DEER poacher James Kennedy evaded a prison sentence this week – but with a sheriff's warning ringing in his ears that he was not above the law.

At the town's sheriff court last month, Kennedy, 72, of Fort William's Achintore Road, admitted possessing a rifle and sound moderator without a firearms certificate, along with 22 cartridges of a type banned, at Drumfada, Glen Loy, on November 2 last year.

Nicknamed the 'Prince of Poachers' in the national media, Kennedy, who has been jailed for poaching in the past, committed the offences just weeks after a sheriff stripped him of his firearms licence.

The gun licence forfeiture followed Kennedy's conviction in 2015 for deer poaching, which saw him become the first person to be convicted of the offence as a result of DNA testing.

On the latest offences, fiscal deputy Robert Weir told the court this week how Kennedy had been spotted on the day in question in November last year on an area of moorland by a number of witnesses and recognised.

'One was using binoculars and could see what appeared to be a rifle slung over his [Kennedy's] back,' said Mr Weir.

Police were alerted and, later the same day, officers scoured the area where Kennedy was seen, finding a black corrugated pipe about five feet long.

The end had been sealed with silicone and inside officers

found a rifle, cleaning rod, a towel, ammunition and a sound moderator.

Police detained Kennedy the following day on suspicion of a number of offences.

The fiscal said Kennedy had told officers: 'I don't have a firearms licence – you took it off me.'

But again it was DNA testing that led to Kennedy's downfall when swabs analysed by a laboratory linked Kennedy to a number of items recovered from the pipe.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose told the court that over the several months he had contact with Kennedy, his client's passion for deer and deer preservation had come across very strongly.

A number of character references had been submitted on behalf of Kennedy and Mr Melrose also flagged up the large amount of community work his client was well-known for.

However, Mr Melrose added: 'The loss of his firearms certificate had a huge impact on Mr Kennedy, particularly his lifelong passion for deer preservation, and it is a passion he was not able to give up and he is now before the court today.'

One particular character reference described this passion as Kennedy's 'Achilles' heel' and said it had led to his ultimate downfall and that Kennedy held the belief that, as a Highlander, he should be free to roam in pursuit of deer.

Sentencing Kennedy to 200 hours of unpaid voluntary work, Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald said

### Banavie pupils celebrate St Andrew's Day in style



Banavie Primary School pupils celebrated St Andrew's Day in style on November 30. The school held a special concert, ceilidh and a Scottish food tasting session. Pictured here are some of the pupils ready to tuck into to some venison and oatcakes, courtesy of Letterfinlay Foods. Photograph: Abrisightside Photography.

some of the information placed before her on this matter seemed to have an 'overwhelming sense' that Kennedy was not a real criminal and just 'a Highland gentleman doing what Highland gentlemen do'.

'But thousands of people live in the Highlands and behave and do not do these things,' she said.

'Despite your conviction in 2015 you have carried on regardless. But the law of Scotland applies to everybody, Mr Kennedy – and you are not above the law.'

The sheriff said she had taken into account everything Mr Melrose had said, all the character references and the great contribution he had made

to the community in coming to a decision on sentencing. But she warned the pensioner: 'I consider this case can be dealt with by a community payback order. But these are very serious offences – you had a weapon and ammunition when you were not allowed to do so. This community payback order is a direct alternative to imprisonment.'



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### Disability campaigners want legislation reviewed

LOCHABER disability campaigners say they are prepared to meet politicians 'anytime, anywhere' to try to get legislation reviewed to help those with mobility problems.

Last week, the *Lochaber Times* highlighted the case of one such person, wheelchair-user Iona Grant from Glencoe, who has had to cope for a decade with transport problems using local buses. Ms Grant, aged 21, a student who attends college in Fort William three days a week, detailed how repeated breakdowns of disability access ramps on Stagecoach and Citylink vehicles were blighting her quality of life.

Arthur Cowie, chairman of Lochaber Disability Access Panel, said technical problems with buses and coaches were not new. He said: 'What is needed is for

the legislation governing such vehicles to be reviewed. To do that, we need politicians to get round the table with people like us and those who use these services and discuss these issues properly. The legislation governing accessibility on public transport needs to be looked at across the board and we are always willing to meet with MPs and MSPs, anywhere, anytime.'

'At the moment, when it comes to talking about legislation, we have to deal with civil servants and all we get is rhetoric. We need our national politicians to get involved.'

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes said she had been really struck by Ms Grant's story and agreed politicians need to do more. She said: 'I have a family member with a disability and I know the massive

difference it makes to him. I am always happy to meet with people to discuss how we change this.'

Highlands MSP Donald Cameron said unreliable disabled access to buses was a problem that happens all too often across Scotland and it was high time bus companies took action. He added: 'While there may be rare instances where a technical fault occurs, it is inexcusable that bus firms do not have alternative measures in place to ensure customers with a disability can safely embark and disembark from a bus without worry or embarrassment. Bus companies need to do all they can to ensure customers like Iona have an enjoyable experience on their service and the Scottish Government must intervene where operators are failing to meet these basic requirements.'

**Lochaber Action on Disability**

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## WHAT'S ON

THE MUSIC Shed Community Choir is staging a Christmas concert on Saturday (December 9) at St Mary's Church, Glencoe, at 2.30pm. Everyone welcome. Donations in aid of St Mary's.

A CHRISTMAS festival is to be held at the Old Pines Hotel, Spean Bridge, on Saturday (December 9) in aid of Marie Curie. Highlights at the event, from 1pm to 5pm, include local producers and crafts, beer tasting, carol singers, live music, tea, coffee and mince pies.

KILMALLIE Community Centre, Corpach, is holding a Christmas fair on Saturday (December 9) from 11am to 3pm. There will be a variety of stalls including meat, home-grown vegetables, candles, jewellery and knitted crafts. Soup, cakes and refreshments will also be on offer. To book a table, priced £8, contact 01397 600111. All proceeds will go towards the upgrading of Kilmallie Community Centre.

DON YOUR Santa hat and walk, jog or run 5k on Saturday December 9 in the Mallaig Pool and Leisure Santa Dash. The event starts from Morar train station at 11.30am and will finish at the Steam Inn, Mallaig. The dash will be followed by mulled wine, mince pies and a 50/50 raffle draw. To enter, collect an entry form from Mallaig Leisure Centre. There is no entrance fee. Donations will go towards the centre's refurbishment programme.

THERE will be a bottle stall in Caol Co-op on Sunday (December 10) from 11am in aid of the local food bank. Bottle donations can still be handed in. Call 07429 485452.

STAFF and volunteer members from Caol-based Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will be visiting Ardnarmurchan on Monday December 11. The outreach team will be at Acharacle Medical Centre from 10.30am to 11.30am and at Strontian Surgery from 12.30pm to 1.30pm to offer help and advice to anyone living with sight or hearing loss.

LOCHABER residents are being urged to give blood at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on Wednesday December 13. There are two sessions: 1.30pm to 4pm, and 5pm to 7.15pm. Bookings must be made by 4pm on Tuesday December 12. To book an appointment call 03459 090999.

KILMALLIE Singers' annual Christmas concert is on Saturday December 16 in Duncansburgh Macintosh Church at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced £5 for adults, concessions £4, children £1, are available at the church door on the evening or from choir members.



The cast and crew of Lochaber Showstoppers before one of their *Swinging Cabaret* performances at the weekend. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

## Showstoppers bring cabaret to life in Lochaber

LOCHABER Showstoppers staged its third instalment of cabaret capers at the Ben Nevis Hotel's ballroom last weekend.

It was a sell out show once again as crowds flocked to see the group's *Swinging Cabaret* production, with performances on Friday and Saturday night.

Charlotte Sutton was musical director and Leah Burns choreographed the show.

Providing the soundtrack were two local bands, Lochaber Swing Band led by John Whyte, and Ancient Mariners led by Sam Wilson.

This lively collaboration transported the audience back to the 1920s with medleys from the musicals

*Chicago* and *Bugsy Malone*, while mixing it up with modern classics from James Brown, Pink Floyd and extracts from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

The linchpin of the Showstoppers' performance was host Chris Jones, a regular with the amateur troupe. This year's *Swinging Cabaret* was Chris' last performance with the group.

Grant Morrison of Showstoppers thanked Chris for his commitment over the years, saying: 'His presence will be missed on and off stage for all of his contributions over the years ranging from performing, writing, directing and designing.'

'He has been inspiring throughout the years and will be sorely missed.'

# 4SCOTS help Colombian cadets pipe for president



Piper Stirton had to mend some of the pipes.



Piper Stirton instructing the Colombian pipe band in the Caribbean sun.

THANKS to an alliance between two military pipe bands, bagpipes provided the musical backdrop to the commissioning of Colombian navy cadets last month.

At the start of November, the 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS, The Highlanders), deployed a three-man training team to the Colombian Navy Officers Academy for a month to tutor its pipe band and prepare members for their annual commissioning parade.

The UK has been sending pipers and drummers to Colombia for almost 30 years to help train their band which has been a tradition in the Navy Academy for nearly 50 years.

The trip began in Bogota, when Lance Corporal Dixon flew in ahead of the rest of the team to play at a remembrance service. The assembled crowd appreciated having a military bugler at the parade, a rare experience for them.

The rest of the team flew in a few days later with everyone meeting up in Cartagena, the site of the Navy Academy. The temperature was vastly different from the cold UK winter and they spent the first few weeks acclimatising, drinking litres of water and moving from shade to shade.

The 4 SCOTS team was greeted warmly by cadets and staff at the academy and got straight



Bagpipes provided the musical accompaniment for the Colombian navy officers' commissioning parade.

“Everyone has had a fantastic time.”

Captain Porro Expedition leader

down to training. The students were very enthusiastic, but their kit was old and had suffered a lot in the sun and humidity. After essential first aid on the pipes and drums, the cadets began training in earnest.

The team had three weeks to prepare the band for the commissioning parade and the arrival of the president of Colombia, who was a piper at the Navy Academy when he was a cadet 50 years ago; a tough man to please.

The team and cadets worked hard, fitting practice around the cadets' long training days and slowly but surely they began to improve.

Finally the big day arrived and, after a final week of rehearsals, sometimes until 10pm, the team was ready. The crowd was gathered on the stands and the cadets stood on parade with their rifles and boots gleaming.

Then the president appeared and the pipe band struck up. The tutors watched with bated breath as the pipers performed their set to perfection, with the crowd in awe of the drone of the pipes.

At the end of the parade the team marched on and performed a short set for the president, after which he came down and thanked the team for their efforts.

Reflecting on their time in South America, expedition leader Captain Porro said: 'It hasn't all been hard work. We have had the chance to make the most of our time in the Caribbean, soaking up the hot sun on the white beaches, visiting the beautiful old city centre, learning about the fascinating history of Cartagena and even trying salsa dancing with the locals.'

'Everyone has had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed getting to experience a little slice of South America. There are certainly worse ways to spend your Monday morning.'

## Applecross Primary School wins national recycling challenge

APPLECROSS Primary School has won a national recycling challenge.

The school won the Community Resources Network Scotland 'Re-use versus Recycle' challenge for their humorous silent commercial, in vintage black and white comedy style, which displayed examples of items that can be re-used and recycled.

Head teacher Robert Gill said: 'I am so proud of our pupils. This was a great opportunity for them, learning about the environment and how we can re-use and

recycle. I would like to thank our teacher Tom O'Halloran for all his hard work alongside the children in developing their skills in planning, filming and editing such a creative piece of work.'

Right: Applecross pupils Mazie McCowan and Morganna Fraser, mother Sarah McCowan and head teacher Robert Gill receive their prizes from host Fred MacAulay. Photograph: Community Resources Network Scotland.



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## View from the Chamber

LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce represents businesses throughout Lochaber with a focus on encouraging economic growth, job creation and promoting Lochaber as a great place to live, work, study and visit.

Last month's fifth annual Lochaber Ideas Week was a fantastic success, bringing in record attendance figures across the week of inspiring business events at the Moorings Hotel from November 13 to 17.

From sporting legend Gavin Hastings to Question Time, Around Lochaber in 80 Tables, An Introduction to Mentoring, Tourism Day



and the Dragons' Glen business competition, we were delighted so many members, local business people and interested members of the community joined us.

The key themes of the week were entrepreneurship, mentoring and

the ability to debate, engage and network. The week generated a real buzz among the business community, with record numbers of more than 800 attendees taking advantage of business insights, new ideas and networking opportunities.

Huge congratulations to Kinlochlovin' social enterprise company based in Kinlochleven High School which won the top prize of £10,000 in Dragon's Glen! We look forward to your future success.

The Charles Kennedy Memorial Lecture was this year delivered by Lord Thurso. The audience was treated to an extremely thought-pro-

voking and personal lecture, inspired by his friend Charles Kennedy.

Thank you to everyone who came along to events. It's your Lochaber Ideas Week and you who make it a success. We hope you were able to join us at the events that mattered most to you and that we'll see you again to share more inspirational ideas in 2018.

At the chamber, we're committed to helping members achieve their business goals. If you'd like to join our thriving Chamber of Commerce, which includes the Outdoor Capital of the UK destination group, call us on 01397 705765.

# Kilmonivaig Church billed for water supply it has never had

MARK ENTWISTLE  
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SCOTTISH Government environment minister Roseanna Cunningham could be dragged into a row over a small Lochaber church technically being eligible for water rates despite it never having a water supply in the two centuries since it was built.

Kilmonivaig Parish Church hall, near Spean Bridge, has a water supply, but has been exempt from water and sewerage charges as it is a registered charity together with its adjacent church.

But although it has never had a water supply, the church – just five metres away – also has its own water Supply Point Identification number (SPID).

There had been no issues until this year, when it emerged that there would be separate bills for the church and hall for which

separate charity exemptions would have to be applied for.

Business Stream, the Scottish Water subsidiary which deals with non-domestic customers, told church trustee John Fotheringham that both Kilmonivaig Parish Church and the hall are assessed separately under the rates system.

But although both buildings are now exempt from paying the annual charges, it still means more paperwork for Mr Fotheringham to claim separate exemptions for the two sites.

'This seems unnecessarily bureaucratic as we are just one small charity with two buildings on a very small footprint,' Mr Fotheringham told Business Stream last month.

'The principle of why we should have to double our work for no gain whatsoever for either of us needs to be resolved.'

Business Stream's Caroline Davies told Mr Fotheringham

that although the church had no direct water supply, it did have access to the supply in the church hall.

'In such circumstances, unmeasured charges, based on the Rateable Value (RV), are applicable for each property as there is no meter installed to capture the full consumption used by the church and the church hall,' she wrote.

Mr Fotheringham says he was flabbergasted on querying this to be informed that even if the minister fills up a glass of water in the adjacent hall and carries it into the church to sip during a sermon, this could count as a water supply in the church.

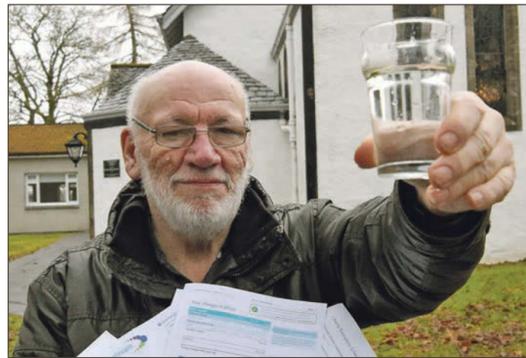
And he decried the situation as a ridiculous state of affairs and, on the instruction of his fellow trustees, has now escalated the matter to Business Stream bosses. And he further warned Business Stream that failing to get a practical solution will see

him take the matter up with Ms Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for Scottish Water and Business Stream.

'We feel your company's ruling that our church, which for 202 years has had neither water nor sewerage, can be charged for both because in your words we have access to a supply even though you have no evidence that we have used it, is ridiculous,' he told Business Stream.

'This is a point of principle and given the amount of work both you and I have undertaken it is a gross waste of public money and volunteer time.'

Asked to comment, Jo Mayes, Business Stream's director of customer operations, said: 'We are pleased that following a successful application process which we assisted with, the church and church hall have now been granted charitable exemption meaning no payment is required



John Fotheringham outside Kilmonivaig Church and hall.  
IF F49 John Fotheringham church row

from either site. We are in close contact with the customer to make sure there are no outstanding issues.'

Calling for either Business Stream or the government to cancel one of the two SPIDs, Mr

Fotheringham said: 'Too many people these days seem to take the contribution of volunteers for granted and that our efforts don't matter, nor does our time.'

'How often will this sort of thing be happening across Scotland?'

## Seven charged after disturbance

POLICE in Fort William have confirmed seven men have been charged in connection with a disturbance in Fort William on Sunday November 12.

The men, aged between 19 and 26, have been reported to the procurator fiscal following an incident outside a nightclub in the town. The men will appear at Fort William Sheriff Court in due course.

Constable Brian Heriot said: 'This has been a complex investigation and I am grateful for the support of members of the public while inquiries were on-going. I would also thank police colleagues in Arbroath for their assistance with this investigation.'

## Crime prevention roadshows

POLICE Scotland will be hosting crime prevention roadshows throughout the Highlands in December.

Officers will be joined in the initiative by representatives from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Highland Council Road Safety Group, Trading Standards, Inverness Women's Aid, Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland and Adult Support and Protection.

The roadshow will be visiting the Parade, Fort William, on Thursday December 14 from 11am to 2pm.

## Homemade bike trails concern

UNAUTHORISED mountain bike trails are not only putting riders at risk but damaging land, according to a landowners organisation.

Care for the Countryside, a Scottish Land and Estates initiative, is warning of the safety risks posed by 'poorly constructed self-built trails' as well as the affect on the land's flora and fauna. Karen Ramoo, of Scottish Land & Estates, said: 'We are concerned these trails can present a danger to riders.'



Back row, left to right: Iain Johnston, president elect of Lochaber Rotary Club; Thomas McQuade, president of Oban Rotary Club; and Donald McCorkindale, president of Lochaber Rotary Club. Front row: Vivien Johnston, Julie McQuade, Lesley McCorkindale and Rosie Curtis. IF F48 Rotary Dinner 01. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

## Lochaber Rotary Club enjoys 67th Charter Night in Fort

ALMOST 70 Rotarians and guests enjoyed Lochaber Rotary Club's 67th Charter Night dinner at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Saturday December 2.

Ablly chaired by club president Donald McCorkindale, the guest speaker was the modest yet multi-skilled Rosie Curtis who entertained everyone with an absorbing and wide ranging talk. Rosie, a Killohan native, is Scotland's first female fish farm manager, based at a new sea farm at MacLean's Nose near the mouth of Loch Sunart. In 2015 she was awarded 'farm manager of the year' at the

annual Scottish Marine Aquaculture Awards.

On behalf of the club, president Donald thanked Rosie for this insight into fish farming saying: 'You have shown how a woman in a man's world can make a difference.'

At the dinner, the Lochaber club awarded its highest accolade to David Robertson from Torlundy. David was club president in 1998. He has chaired all of the club's committees during his 30-year membership and has been a key figure in the 10-year run of the club's annual Christmas festival, putting a huge effort into negotiating and organ-

ising one of Lochaber's premier events. A surprised David was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his exceptional dedication and contribution to the work of the club and to the Lochaber community. David is only the fourteenth member to be recognised in this way in the club's 67-year history.

President McCorkindale, in presenting the award on behalf of the club, said that was a great privilege to present you with this mark of appreciation in his year as president. In response, David thanked the club for this 'wonderful' gesture and said he was proud to be a Rotarian.



Councillor Biz Campbell with Clare Frances MacNeil and Iain Gillies at the debate at the Scottish Parliament.

## Lochaber high pupil best Gaelic debater

A LOCHABER High School pupil was named best debater at 2017 National Gaelic Schools Debate final at the Scottish Parliament last Wednesday.

A lively debate was heard with Claire Frances MacNeil and Iain Gillies from Lochaber High School going up against John Alasdair Bain and Calum Maclellan from The Nicolson Institute in Stornoway.

Although the Lochaber team finished second, with the trophy going to Stornoway, Claire was presented with the best debater award by Marion MacKinnon from the BBC's Gaelic team.

Claire has enjoyed a successful 2017 as she adds this award to the two trophies she won at the 2017 Lochaber Mòd in October for Gaelic singing.

## Caol man jailed for eight months for Class A drugs supply offence

A CAOL man has been jailed for eight months after admitting being involved in the supply of the Class A drug diamorphine.

At a court appearance last month, Mark McManus, of Patience Way, had pleaded guilty to the offence, which took place on May 9 this year at MacFarlane Way, Fort William.

McManus, 40, appeared for sentencing at Fort William Sheriff Court this week, when Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald heard how police had found the banned drug hidden in the collar of the accused's jacket during a search.

Fiscal Depute Robert Weir explained how police had received information about McManus being involved with controlled drugs.

'Police stopped the accused for the purposes of a search and found nothing of note,' said Mr Weir.

'The accused was taken to Fort William Police Station for a more thorough search

and it was then they noticed the accused's black jacket had a lump at the collar.

'Officers discovered a slit in the collar and on closer inspection this produced a cling-film wrap, which is known as a way for drugs to be secreted about a person.

'Further examination showed this wrap to contain half-an-ounce, about 14 grams, of what turned out to be diamorphine with a value of £400.'

Mr Weir said a subsequent police search of McManus' home uncovered cling film, small bags and a tick list among items found at the property.

McManus had told the police he used two grams of the drug a day and the quantity found in his jacket collar was for his own personal use.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose told the court the majority of the recovered drug was for his client's own personal use but that he had intended selling part of it to friends to pay for what he used himself.

'My client is a single man, aged 40, and has a heroin habit that followed a conviction in 2000 that led to a period in prison of two years and eight months,' said Mr Melrose.

'It was during that time that his habit developed and he has struggled with that ever since.

'To his credit, he had been in touch with the community medical health team and GPs to address these matters, but says the assistance was not there, so he decided to go it on his own and since May says he has not taken any heroin, and that is without the support of doctors or CPNs [community psychiatric nurses]. He has now been clear of heroin for the last six months.'

Sentencing McManus, Sheriff MacDonald told him it was a very serious offence: 'Looking to your previous convictions and that you served a period of imprisonment for an analogous offence in 2000, I have no alternative but to impose a custodial sentence of eight months.'

## Call to name and shame delivery companies

PARCEL delivery charges are at least 30 per cent higher on average for Highlands and islands addresses, according to a report published this week by Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS).

The situation worsens for residents living on islands who are asked to pay more than 50 per cent extra than the rest of the country. For parcels in the 20 to 30kg category, the average delivery cost for Highland customers was 23 per cent

higher than that of city consumers. And for the heaviest weight category, such as white goods and televisions, the delivery cost was found to be up to four times as expensive for Highland residents than those living in urban areas.

The CAS report concluded by saying: 'Finding a way to make the Highlands and islands a less expensive place to deliver parcels is in the interest of consumers, retailers and delivery operators.'

In a speech in the Scottish Parliament chamber on Wednesday, MSP for Lochaber Kate Forbes called on her constituents to 'name and shame' delivery companies, saying: 'They have turned a blind eye to people in rural areas who depend more on postal services, who have less access to high street alternatives and who are regularly ripped off by online retailers who have the brazen cheek to charge them more.'



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## Broadford hospital plans to be showcased

PRELIMINARY designs for Skye's new Broadford hospital 'hub' will be showcased next week.

The drop-in event, on Wednesday December 13 at Broadford Hotel between 2.30pm and 7.30pm will be an opportunity to hear about the design, while NHS Highland will be seeking further views on the building, access and use of outdoor space.

Design team members will explain design ideas for the new healthcare centre for Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross on land adjacent to Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital.

Hub North Scotland Ltd was appointed by NHS Highland to deliver the new hospital and architectural firms Rural Design, based in Portree, and Oberlanders from Edinburgh won the contract for the design. Balfour Beatty was appointed contractor in September 2017.

Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland's deputy director of operations for north and west and project director for the re-design, said: 'Approval of the outline business case and preliminary design are important milestones.'

## Leading the way with life-saving

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar and charity Lucky2Bhere have made the Western Isles one of the best protected communities in the UK in terms of life-saving training and equipment.

Together they have provided more access to defibrillators and comprehensive Emergency Life Support training (ELS) than anywhere else in the UK. The Western Isles took delivery of its 100th defibrillator last week at the Cabarfeidh Hotel in Stornoway.

# Car hire firm drops 'unfair' Highland ferry surcharge

**NEILL BO FINLAYSON**  
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A CAR hire company has agreed to abolish a ferries levy for customers taking their vehicles to the Highlands and islands.

Green Motion UK, based in



Kate Forbes MSP.

Buckinghamshire, had been adding a £125 surcharge – plus £20 for every day of the hire – when their cars travelled on a ferry.

This meant anyone using the Mallaig to Armadale, Corran Ferry, the Small Isles and Skye to the Outer Hebrides crossings would have incurred a minimum £145 fee – with a total additional surcharge of £405 if the hire was for a fortnight.

But Green Motion UK has now agreed to ditch the unpopular policy, following extensive pressure from Kate Forbes MSP.

The fees came to light after a Highland B&B owner contacted Ms Forbes on behalf of two Swiss tourists, Maik Christen and Therese Reilstab, who cancelled a trip to the Outer Hebrides because of the astronomical extra costs of more than £400.

Maik and Therese said at the time: 'We had no choice but to change the whole plan for our

trip. Fortunately, it was possible to cancel the accommodation on Lewis. It was a very disappointing and annoying start of our long-planned trip to Scotland.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch had already contacted other car hire firms, including Hertz, Avis and Europcar, who all confirmed they did not operate such a practice.

Kate Forbes MSP said: 'I am absolutely delighted Green Motion UK has changed its unfair policy on charging more for island-bound drivers.

'This outcome demonstrates that the battle for equity in the Highlands is winnable.

'It is a tremendous boost for the tourists that first identified the problem and the constituent who brought this to my attention.'

The MSP for Skye and Lochaber added: 'I have always contended that I have the most beautiful constituency in Scot-



The Corran Ferry was one of the services subject to the levy.

land and it's no surprise tourists are keen to come and visit.

'The reality is that it can often be difficult to rely on public transport in the more rural parts of Scotland, meaning hiring a car to get around is often a popular choice for holiday-makers

as well as visiting business folk.

'I was speechless when I learned Green Motion UK had been applying a minimum additional levy of £145 for visitors using Scottish ferry crossings. To my knowledge no other car hire company was doing this.'



Left to right: Dr Angus MacDonald, John Norman Macleod, Lady Lucilla Noble, Lord Minginish, Boyd Robertson, Calum Graham and Murdo Beaton.

## Lord Minginish delivers Sir Iain Noble lecture

THE SIXTH Sir Iain Noble Memorial Lecture was delivered by Lord Minginish, Roddy John MacLeod, at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Tuesday November 14.

Lord Minginish delivered a fascinating talk on crofting legislation, making particular reference to the work of Fearann Eilean Iarmain.

On delivering the lecture, Lord Minginish said: 'It was a great honour to be asked to deliver the Iain Noble Memorial Lecture. As Iain was himself a landlord of a crofting estate, I thought it appropriate to talk about the history of crofting legislation, especially at a time when there are proposals for

change. As I said in my lecture, we sadly cannot know what changes Iain himself would wish to make.'

As part of the evening's proceedings, Skye's Young Gaelic Person of the Year award was presented to Martin MacLure from Aird in South Skye for his contribution to the use and promotion of Gaelic. Martin is the college's short courses manager.

Martin said: 'It is great Urras an Eilein are supporting young people from the island who are interested in and working in Gaelic, and I hope this will encourage other young Gaelic speakers to maintain the language.'

## Jurassic fossil discovery on Skye

DISCOVERY of an unusual fossil on the isle of Skye could significantly advance scientists' understanding of prehistoric times in the region.

The fossil, from the jawbone of a small crocodile-like creature, was found near Duntulm Castle on the north coast of the island and is thought to be approximately 170 million years old.

Skye is one of the few places in the world where freshwater crocodile-like fossils from this period, known as the middle Jurassic, can be found and the discovery will aid scientists' understanding of prehistoric animals of this type.

Scientists examined the structure of the jawbone using high-resolution X-rays but cannot assign the fossil to a specific species owing to its incompleteness and size. However, they say the discovery of further fossils from Skye may be key to classifying this species.

The study is part of an on-going investigation of Skye's fossil record, led by a consortium including staff and students of the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with scientists across Scotland, called the PalAlba Group.

The work, published in Earth and Environmental Science Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, was carried out in collaboration with researchers from Imperial College London, the University of Leicester and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It was funded by Marie Curie and the Royal Society.

Lochaber Times  
newsdesk  
01397 703003

## Portree Primary School wins second gold sport award

PORTREE Primary School has won its second Gold School Sport Award from sportscotland.

As part of the school's celebrations last week, the Camanachd Association's Regional Development Manager East Ronald Ross visited and led shinty training for pupils.

All coaches and volunteers were invited to share a celebratory cake ahead of the award presentation to the whole school.

Vice chairman of Highland Council's People Committee and former Portree Primary School head teacher Councillor John Finlayson, who was instrumental in establishing sport at Portree primary, was

invited to speak and congratulated the school. He said: 'It is great to see Portree Primary School again leading the way. It was the first school in the Highlands and Islands to receive a Gold School Sport Award and is now the first school to be re-accredited with a Gold Award.'

'This award again confirms the great support the school gets from the local community and the dedication of staff, parents, coaches and community members to ensure all Portree pupils have opportunities to develop healthy life styles and sporting skills and attitudes.'

Portree Primary School's head teacher Sara Matheson said everyone at the school was delighted.

'Thanks to the dedication of coaches, parents and volunteers, our pupils have access to more than 40 extra-curricular activities each week,' she said.

'With support from Active Schools, pupils have become young leaders themselves and have engaged their peers in games and dance.'

'All of these experiences offer invaluable opportunities for our young people to achieve and succeed beyond the classroom, and to develop skills and a passion for activities that will stay with them beyond their primary school years.'

There were celebrations at Portree Primary School when it received a second gold award from sportscotland.



Those who attended the meeting stand with the distinctive flag.

## Barra flag granted official recognition by Lyon Court

BARRA'S flag has been granted official recognition from the Lyon Court.

The distinctive green and white Scandinavian-style flag has been widely used by the community for decades – flying across the island and appearing on local produce. However, until now, it has had no legal recognition.

Alasdair Allan MSP and Philip Tibbetts of the Flag

Institute organised a community meeting in Barra last December to explore the possibility of a petition being submitted to the Lyon Court.

This initiative was championed locally by Dolina Manford, chairwoman of Northbay Community Council, with the support of the island's other community council.

Funding was kindly provided by Barra and Vatersay

Voluntary Action. An official unveiling will be held in summer. Dolina Manford said: 'I am very happy to see the Barra flag has now received official recognition from the Lord Lyon.'

'It has been a long process, but now the green and white Nordic cross that has been used in Barra for a number of years is officially registered at the Lord Lyon.'

## Energy firm alters new overhead line route

SCOTTISH and Southern Electricity Networks (SEN) has changed the overhead line alignment of a new transmission line connecting Fort Augustus with Skye following public consultation.

The energy firm is now encouraging community members and other interested stakeholders to comment on the new plans.

SEN wants to install a new 132kV overhead line from the existing Fort Augustus substation to the existing Dunvegan substation using double trident H wood poles. The reinforcement is required to enable the connection of renewable generation in the north of Skye and will also improve the resilience of the local transmission network.

In addition to the new overhead line between Fort Augustus and Broadford, SEN is proposing to replace the existing overhead line between Broadford and Dunvegan substation with a new higher capacity line.

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## Decision not to end charitable relief welcomed

THE HIGHLAND Council and High Life Highland (HLH) have welcomed the decision not to end charity relief for the Highland organisation.

It was announced this week the Scottish Government will not be accepting the recommendation of the Barclay Review to end charity relief from non-domestic rates.

HLH chief executive Ian Murray said: 'I am very pleased the Scottish Government has decided not to accept the Barclay recommendations associated with organisations such as HLH.'

'The charity already contributes to national initiatives such as preventative health, obesity and social isolation. We look forward to a positive working relationship with the government on these and other important priorities.'

Highland Council established HLH in 2011 to operate its leisure and cultural services. Its charitable status allows it to generate income through a number of its services, which develop and promote opportunities in culture, learning, sport, leisure, health and well-being throughout the Highlands.

Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson added: 'The removal of non domestic rates exemptions would have resulted in an additional bill of £1.8m a year and would have had a very severe impact on Highland services when taken against an already challenging financial backdrop of reducing funding.'



Isabel Campbell of Lochaber Rural Education Trust cuts the ribbon to officially open the new M&S Foodhall in Fort William last Thursday, with store manager, Sam Nugent. Photographs Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Hundreds flock to M&S foodhall opening in Fort William

SHOPPERS flocked to Fort William last Thursday for the opening of the new Marks & Spencer foodhall.

Hundreds of customers had made their way to celebrate the official opening of the store in the town's new North Road Retail Park.

Store manager Sam Nugent, along with his newly-recruited 76-strong team, welcomed locals as they enjoyed entertainment from a piper and a taste of the new Christmas food range.

The 8,000 sq ft store features a 24-seat café, bakery and an extensive range of quality food and drink.

The new foodhall is the most remote M&S store in mainland UK and the first in the area, offering greater convenience for local



Piper Sean Cameron at the opening of the new M&S Foodhall.

customers who now no longer need to travel to Inverness to stock up from M&S.

Mr Nugent said: 'Fort William has been waiting a long time for M&S to open. We're looking forward to playing an important role in serving the community and visitors.'

'My team and I are excited to meet locals and make every moment special for customers.'

Sheonagh Robertson, from Fort William, was the first customer in the new store. She said: 'We've waited a long time for M&S to open here.'

'The store will be good for the town and I'm sure very popular among the locals.'

Isabel Campbell, of Lochaber Rural Education Trust, which will be supported by M&S, officially opened the store by cutting a ribbon.

# Bank slammed over branch closure plan

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THE SNP'S Ian Blackford MP and Kate Forbes MSP have appealed to Royal Bank of Scotland chief executive Ross McEwan to review the decision to close branches in Kyle of Lochalsh and Mallaig.

There has been outrage after RBS revealed last week these branches would be closed due to falling numbers of customers and the greater uptake of online banking. RBS intends closing 259 branches – one in four of its outlets – and axing almost 700 jobs. The plan involves 62 Royal Bank of Scotland and 197 NatWest branches.

But Mr Blackford and Ms Forbes are both challenging these claims.

Mr Blackford said the argument from bank bosses that these branches are not well used is far from reality.

'Information supplied to me by RBS is that Mallaig has 1,001 customers and has had 10,098 transactions in the last year; Kyle has 2,436 customers and has had 25,000 transactions, which are not small numbers,' he said. 'Without these branches, the only option is for customers

to travel long distances to access personal and business services.

'Although RBS rightly has operational independence, the state retains a majority stake in RBS. I raised the matter in parliament and will be pushing for a debate on the impact of rural bank closures. Together with my colleague Kate Forbes, I am also writing to the chief executive of RBS asking for the company to reconsider these plans.'

Ms Forbes added: 'While online banking is becoming more popular, RBS is prematurely closing branches in the very communities that most depend on the bank's physical presence and I do not think that is right.'

'Of course, RBS have got to turn a profit - but that shouldn't be at the cost of the most vulnerable customers, such as the elderly, who actually use the branch. I stand with my colleague Ian Blackford MP in calling on RBS to rethink these closures.'

Their comments were echoed by Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan who hit out at the decision to close the RBS branch in Castlebay on Barra. While welcoming the change of heart by RBS over its proposed closure of the island's only cash

machine, Mr Allan has urged RBS to reconsider the decision to close the branch.

'Many people are still dependent on face-to-face services and I cannot emphasise enough the serious difficulties this is going to cause people in Barra and Vatersay,' he said.

Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson has also voiced concern. 'This news will be of great concern to many communities across the Highlands which are totally dependent on these branches for private and business banking,' she said.

'While I appreciate the changing nature of banking, it is very disappointing there was no prior consultation or efforts made to explore alternative options, especially as RBS is a publicly-owned bank. Increasing use of online banking is not and never will be a replacement for cash transactions. If branches close, rural businesses that wish to bank cash income face round trips of hundreds of miles to the nearest bank and this could leave them vulnerable as potential targets for crime in areas without banks. I will be writing to RBS to seek an urgent meeting to discuss their branch closure proposals.'

## Ardnamurchan pupils' maths magic wins top title

ARDNAMURCHAN high made history when it beat 69 other schools from across Scotland to become the first Highland school in living memory to win the prestigious Scottish Mathematical Council Enterprising Mathematics in Scotland final.

A total of 70 schools in Scotland, including fee-paying and

state schools, spent an intensive day last week solving puzzles and mathematical conundrums, and Ardnamurchan triumphed.

This is a huge achievement for such a small school and congratulations go to team members Bethan White, Dugald MacIntyre, Alistair Tait and Ben Gregg.



The winning Ardnamurchan high students and their trophy.

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## Fort William drummer wins national award

A DRUMMER from Fort William has received national recognition for her dedication to cadet piping and drumming.

Cadet Colour Sergeant Jodie Standen, 16, from 1st Battalion The Highlanders' Fort William detachment, was awarded the BAE Systems Recognising Excellence Award in piping and drumming on Saturday November 25 at the annual Army Cadet Force Association dinner in the De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms in Covent Garden, London.

A representative from 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force said: 'Cadet Colour Sergeant Standen is everything a cadet should aspire to be. She is dedicated to not only furthering herself as a cadet, but also helps ensure junior cadets within her battalion and detachment strive to reach their goals.'

'Although she is not a member of the pipes and drums detachment, Jodie makes an almost four-hour round trip from Fort William to Culloden to take part in the pipe band detachment's training nights where she holds the position of cadet drum major.'

Jodie was lead drum major for the national cadet pipes and drums during their performance with the massed bands and pipes and drums of the household division on Horse Guards Parade in June. She has also completed her BTEC Music Diploma with CVOO and is currently completing her Duke of Edinburgh Silver award.

Jodie was presented her award by Lieutenant General (Retired) Andrew Graham, president of the ACFA. Jodie's parents are Fort William detachment adults - company sergeant major instructor Margaret Standen and sergeant major instructor James Standen - and proudly watched her being presented with her award in London.



Colour sergeant Jodie Standen and her parents James and Margaret.

### Plockton

THE SALE of poppies in aid of the Earl Haig Fund in Lochalsh, Glenshiel, Glenelg and Achmore this year raised a record £4,542.82 bringing the total collected in the past five years to £22,010.

Plockton and District Horticultural Society held a social evening in Plockton Hall on Thursday November 23 with more than 20 people attending. Talks by various speakers on the First World War were enjoyed by the audience. Mince pies and wine were served. CM MacRae.

### Arisaig

MEMBERS of the Arisaig branch of the Scottish Women's Institute enjoyed glass painting at their November meeting with everyone taking a painted glass item home.

Tea hostesses were Bridget Moynihan and Yvonne MacDonald. Bridget won the raffle. Competition, glass painted item: 1 June Cairns; 2 Ann Lamont, Helen Lamb, Anne Cameron, Yvonne MacDonald, Vera MacDonald; 3 Barbara Collins and Bridget Moynihan.

The next meeting will be the Christmas celebrations on Thursday December 14 in Astley Hall.



Lochaber Rural Education Trust is presented with a cheque from the Corpach Co-op store.



Members of the Ballachulish Rainbow Baby and Toddler Group are presented with their cheque from the team at the Ballachulish Co-op store.

## Co-op spreads festive cheer



Members of the Lochalsh branch of the Legion Scotland receive a £4,207 cheque from the Co-op in Kyle.



DOZENS of good causes across the West Highlands received an early Christmas present this week as the Co-op dished out £148,000.

Some of the money has been given to local good causes in Lochaber, Lochalsh and Argyll, with branches in Caol, Corpach, Ballachulish, Kinlochleven and Kyle handing out cheques this month.

When a member buys Co-op branded products from food stores, they earn a five per cent reward for themselves with a further one per cent going to a local good cause of their choice.

Shoppers can choose which good cause they wish to support by logging on to the Co-op's membership website.

Rufus Olins, director of community and campaigns at the Co-op, said: 'It's great to be delivering an early Christmas present to communities and individuals. Making a positive contribution and making great things happen locally has been at the heart of the Co-op's purpose since 1844 and the local community fund is a good modern example of this.'

Left: A £4,905 cheque was donated to Kyle Lifeboat RNLI team.

## Fort volunteers needed to aid RAF association

THE ROYAL Air Forces Association is looking for volunteer fundraisers to help pay for its welfare work in Fort William.

'Forces personnel and their families sacrifice a normal family life to keep the rest of us safe,' said Katharine Montgomery, volunteer manager at the association. We believe we owe

them a debt of gratitude once they have served. We are a welfare charity that focuses on providing practical and emotional help for service personnel and their partners and dependents.

'We are looking for people who are passionate about raising money to fund our welfare support for the veterans and serving men and women

in the Royal Air Force.' The charity is looking for team leaders to help organise street collections, make contacts and set up collections in supermarkets. Volunteers must be aged 18 or over. To find out more visit [www.rafa.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.rafa.org.uk/volunteer), contact the association at [volunteers@rafa.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@rafa.org.uk) or call 08000 182361.



Children of St John's, Caol, with the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles Brian McGee after the youngsters received their confirmation.

## Bishop attends Caol confirmation

Children of St John's, Caol, with the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles Brian McGee after the youngsters received their confirmation.

## Music festival publishes 2018 syllabus

THE SYLLABUS for the 2018 Lochaber Music Festival, which takes place at venues in and around Fort William from Friday March 16 to Wednesday March 21, with a final grand concert on Thursday March 22 at Lochaber High School, is available at Fort William Library, Lochaber High School and website [www.lochabermusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.lochabermusicfestival.co.uk).

Organisers wish to highlight the non-competitive ceilidh dance section of the Scottish Country Dance evening taking place on Tuesday March 20. The closing date for entries is Friday January 26.

Enquiries to [secretary@lochabermusicfestival.co.uk](mailto:secretary@lochabermusicfestival.co.uk) or telephone 01687 450289.

## RETRO Roamer

### More Roamerisms from the 1980s

☐ Jean Pardoe was on sentry duty at the West Highland Museum. She sold two tickets to an elderly couple. Off they went to enjoy the delights. A quarter of an hour later the man came down the stair and out into the sunshine. After a couple of minutes a man came in, brandishing an admission ticket, and walked straight past Jean's desk and up the stairs. 'Funny, thought Jean, 'there's something a bit different about that bloke.' So off she went, up the stairs to take a look at him. And Jean finished up getting ticket money off the man who, it transpired, was an identical twin of the 'party of the first part'. Jean had noted there was a subtle difference and caught them at it. So the museum was 50 pence better off and a potential minor con trick was foiled. Full marks to Jean for her powers of observation and tenacity.

☐ How are you getting on with the phones, then, now that Fort subscribers have three score and ten in front of their four figure numbers? Go on, admit it, you nearly always forget to dial 70 first when you're making a local call!

☐ There'll be an eruption before Christmas if the forecast of Lochaber's Poll Tax liability proves anything like correct. It would appear the tax and rents are supposed to subsidise the £1 million plus which is to be doled out for the Brackett Tip. So that's calculated to put us all down in the dumps.

☐ The Banavie hills are alive to the sound of the Magnificent Seven Henderson music makers. And it's nice to hear their Badabrie neighbours say how much they enjoy the alfresco renditions and bagpipe recitals in the garden of Tigh a Chiuil - The House of Music.

☐ Mobile trader puts the key in the ignition of his van. Key breaks. Temporary alternative means of transport required. So he hires another van. Fills up with petrol. Too late he discovers it should have been diesel. Mobile driver's wife enquires of me next day, how can a mobile trader do anything so daft?

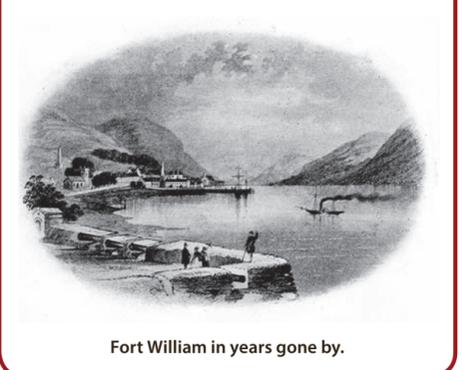
☐ As Drew was announcing the teams and the officials over the tannoy at Claggan Park, he was chattering with the cold. So much so that when he was at the stage of naming the linesmen he give Nigel his full title, but hiccupped when he got to Chick. 'I can't remember Chick's surname,' he hissed at his co-announcer. 'Murray', came the nonchalant response. I suppose on the basis that all linesmen are comedians.

☐ Brian Ball, doyen of freelance football reporters, was comparing notes with me at the Fort v Peterhead match on Saturday. For me, as a mere hack, it was educational. We agreed that Dougie Masson had netted in 25 minutes, Midge Shearer in 26 and that Davie Revie had arrived on his bike after 27. And Fort William FC president Colin Neilson won the raffle - in extra time. It's such attention to detail that ensures the accuracy of our reports.

☐ Alex Scotland of the Sunday Mail had an interesting 'Scotland' experience on Tuesday. He came up by train from Glasgow 'to see the Lochaber lights'. To while away the hours, Alex indulged himself with a couple of drinks from the trolley. As the train made its way across Rannoch Moor, the catering lady reappeared, but without trolley. 'Would you like another drink, sir?' asked she. Alex would. 'I'll have another wee bottle of white wine, please,' he replied. This brought the amazing response from the trolley vendor of 'How many drinks have you had, sir?' Alex was dumbfounded, but then managed to gasp: 'I've had two so far, actually. Am I going to be breathalysed on the train?' The ScotRail lady laughed and then explained. 'Well I'm afraid that's your lot. We only carry two wee bottles of white wine - and you've had them both!' Aye, welcome to the Highlands, Mr Scotland!

☐ 'Knickers!' Who said that? Everyone in Lochaber, it seems. This subject has certainly been entertaining a lot of folk. Plenty of them have been quick to point out - and the long and the short of it is now part of local lore - that a number of ladies have been finding it difficult to be suitably supplied, foundation-garment wise, by Fort shops and stores. But the town retailers have been quick to respond to ensure the open market doesn't annex all the sales. Peter MacLennan advised immediately that the family firm had 20 types of knickers of all sizes in stock - even some that would 'fit an elephant!' And Nellie (!) not only organised a window display of the usually unmentionable items, she backed this up with a notice which read, simply, 'Drathaisan Gu Leor'. Even John Steel - aye, him again - got in on the act. Within hours he was displaying a pair of knickers in the window of one of his shops. They must have sold quickly, because there was no sign of them later in the day. A discontinued line, perhaps.

☐ Children in Need fundraising is with us again. Local organisations are, as always, doing plenty to raise money. For example, you'll see some Round Table members dressed as mutant Round Tablers collecting cash at the Esso and Road to the Isles Filling stations. Meanwhile, in Cameron Square, there will be a 12-hour table football challenge involving teams from either side of the High Street. It will be Augustus Barnett v Victoria Wine, in the battle of the off licences, with staff and customers entering into the spirit of the event. Then there's the Clydesdale tackling the TSB in a five-a-side woman only football match at Black Parks.



Fort William in years gone by.

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# Memorial bench to be fitting tribute to tragic Kayla, eight

**SANDY NEIL**  
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THE family of Kayla MacDonald, the eight-year-old girl from Dunbeg who died in a tragic accident in an Argyll forest in the summer, are dedicating a memorial bench just before her birthday this Christmas.

And they are inviting people to attend the dedication to share their happy memories of her.

Kayla, a pupil at the Rockfield Gaelic-medium unit in Oban, was killed by falling logs in a forest near Benderloch in July, in an incident which also injured a 12-year-old girl.

Her grief-stricken family described her as a 'precious and fun-loving eight-year-old who

was loved by everyone around her', whose 'smile would light up a room'.

A few days before what would have been Kayla's ninth birthday this month, her relatives will install a seat in one of her favourite spots, which they can see from their homes.

Kayla's mum, Karina MacPherson, invited people to join them to remember her.

She said: 'As a mark of respect to Kayla Mary MacDonald, the family have arranged for a memorial bench to be placed inside Dunstaffnage Castle.

'They will be meeting on Friday December 15 at 3.30pm inside the castle and would love for any friends and family to come along to mark this event.

'Afterwards they invite every-

one to Soroba House in memory of Kayla and to think of her in the lead up to December 20, her birthday.'

Kayla's grandmother, Janice Ferguson, or 'gaga' as Kayla called her, said: 'Kayla would be nine on December 20. We were thinking about a way to remember Kayla.'

The family settled on installing a bench at Dunbeg's historic landmark castle, and its custodians kindly offered to put it inside the ancient walls.

'I am not sure they have thought this through: a MacDonald bench in a Campbell castle!' Janice said.

The area had great significance for Kayla and for her relatives.

Janice added: 'The three families all live there, looking across to the castle, and Kayla moved there in her last year of life. The house looks straight across to the castle.

'Kayla has got lots of happy memories there. I have pictures of her rolling her Easter eggs there. I have pictures of her on the steps just before the accident.

'It is going to be a difficult Christmas,' she added. 'We are dreading it. It is the run up to Kayla's ninth birthday. It is not going to be easy.'

Kayla's six-year-old brother 'just does not understand', Janice said, adding: 'He asked if Santa will bring Kayla back. Other kids want the most up-to-date gadgets, and there he is wishing his sister back.

'We want to remember the happy times because she was such a happy child. We will do a wee talk about Kayla. I have got a plaque for the bench. It's porcelain, with a picture of Kayla's face. It says, "In memory of our princess Kayla Mary MacDonald. Forever eight".'



Kayla pictured at Dunstaffnage Castle earlier this year with her brother Ruairidh.

## Tree-mendous fun at festival



So many Christmas trees! One-year-old Mhairi Johnston of Cladich was spellbound by all the colour and lights when she was taken along to the Christmas tree festival at St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, on Saturday by her mum Holly Ford and auntie Cara Johnston. For more pictures and a full report, turn to page three. Photograph: Joanne Simms.

## Connell man Billy is on his way home

BILLY Irving was flying home yesterday morning after being freed from an Indian prison last week.

The Connell man was found not guilty of firearms offences last Monday, after being sentenced to five years in jail in January 2016.

Billy and five other British ex-servicemen, known as the Chennai Six, have been fighting the firearms charges for the past four years.

The former paratrooper was working as an armed guard protecting shipping from Somali pirates when he and 34 of his colleagues were arrested in 2013.

They were initially found not guilty of straying into Indian waters with 'unlicensed weapons'. However, after a lower court appealed the decision, the men were jailed.

But after a long campaign and appeal process they were acquitted last week.

The Bring Billy Back Facebook page was updated yesterday (Wednesday) morning, saying: 'Billy is finally on a plane home.'

'After over four long excruciating years we can breathe a sigh of relief that Billy will soon be home with his family and friends. We would like to thank everyone for your support over the past four years.'

'We cannot stress enough how much it has helped in the fight to bring Billy back and we would have been at a loss without all our family, friends and supporters worldwide.'



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### ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff and Specsavers founder Dame Mary Perkins at the opening of the 800th Specsavers store

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With opticians on every high street and a growing number of out of town locations, keeping on top of your eye health has never been more convenient.

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The research carried out by Specsavers and Royal National Institute of Blind People also identified that 250 people nationally start losing their sight every day despite half of all cases being avoidable. Routine eye tests are key in detecting and managing issues early.

Specsavers has just opened its 800th UK and Irish store in Sainsbury's in Preston – part of its ongoing drive to make eye care more accessible. It is the fifth outlet Specsavers has opened within a supermarket this year, with more to follow.

Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff cut the ribbon to the 800th store and popped in for an eye test. The cricketer turned broadcaster said: 'So many of us take our sight for granted. To see how far eye care has developed since Specsavers opened its first store is incredible.'

Specsavers features the latest clinical technology and highly qualified and professional teams. Complete glasses start at £25 with two for one available from £69. A variety of designer styles, including Kylie Minogue Eyewear, BOSS Orange and the new Balmain range are also available.

Eye tests can be booked online. Customers that have undergone an eye test elsewhere are welcome to bring in a valid prescription. Specsavers offers home eye care to those who cannot visit a store unaided. Free hearing tests are also available at Specsavers.

\* The State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017: A Year in Review

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## Viewpoint



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

## LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

Bureaucracy has gone mad if our article on page three is anything to go by.

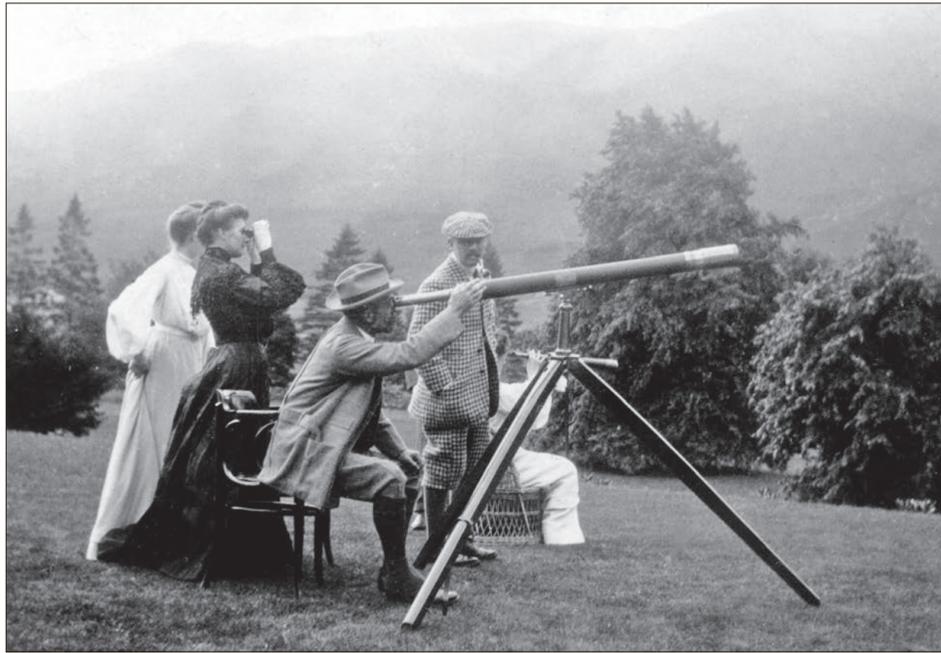
A disagreement has broken out between Business Stream, the Scottish Water subsidiary that deals with non-domestic customers, and the trustees of a tiny church near Spean Bridge over the company's insistence that as the church is technically eligible for water rates, despite it never having had a water supply in the 200 years since it was built, so it must claim an exemption.

The fact there will be no financial payment is of no consequence to trustee John Fotheringham, who has to

deal with all the paperwork for both the church and the church hall, which does have a water supply but is exempt from charges. The fact is that he, and many others like him, are being tied up in red tape unnecessarily, wasting volunteers' time up and down the country.

Surely once the initial paperwork is done, rather than people wasting their time filling in the same forms with the same information year after year, a quick annual phonecall to update the system could solve this problem easily and quickly?

A bit of common sense wouldn't go amiss.



## Days gone by – 1904

Iain Thornber from Morvern sent us this picture of the Strutt family looking for the deer stalkers from the lawn of Kingairloch House, August 7, 1904.

### MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL  
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



ON NOVEMBER 21, I was privileged to have been invited to the launch of the MV Glen Sannox, the latest ship in the CalMac fleet.

What a pleasure it was to witness the powerful spectacle of a new ship sporting the CalMac colours hitting the water for the first time.

The combination of what that represented for CalMac, for Ferguson Marine and for the ship-building industry of the River Clyde created a melting-pot of pride, of history and hope for the future.

The decline of both the ocean cargo trade and the ship-building industry on the Clyde has been a sad part of Scotland's history over the past few generations and to see and feel a spark of positivity among the desolation was exhilarating.

I wrote the following ditty in 2014 when the news broke that the Ferguson yard went into administration. Having heard tales my whole life of the cargo and passenger ships loading and unloading up the Broomielaw in the centre of the city and of the great Clyde-built ships sailing the world, it

has always struck me with sadness to see the river so empty as it is nowadays.

The Stobcross or, as more widely known, the Finnieston crane stands impotently as a melancholy reminder of the once-rich cargo shipping heritage. The countless shut-down shipyards all along the river have a similar effect on me.

Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd was saved from probable oblivion through investment by Jim MacColl and his company, Clyde Blowers Capital. The outcome of that investment and what it represented was felt by all who watched the Glen Sannox slide gracefully into the sea for the first time.

*The River Clyde  
I mourn to see the Finnieston Crane  
The river will not be the same,  
A change from the days of industrial pride  
A quiet has come on the River Clyde.*

*Both the yards and trading docks  
The loading up and the siren clock,  
The rushing sound of a city alive  
The pulsing beat of a buzzing hive,  
A hundred thousand men of grit  
Gave life to steel ship after ship.  
Through brutal work without reprieve  
The river Clyde it ruled the sea.*

### Social media

There was widespread anger and dismay at the news that the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) is to close a number of branches across the Highlands and Islands.

**Thomas Curry:** 'These banks are not interested in providing a service. Never have been. How the elderly, disabled and young mothers with no transport get on beats me. The elderly and disabled generally do not believe in internet banking. When the Clydesdale Bank closed the Grangemouth branch, they took away the ATM at the same time. Can the banks mentioned not at least keep the ATM facility.'

**Danielle Hay-West:** 'This is ridiculous. And yes while a lot of folk use online now. Again the most vulnerable in our area will be worst affected. There is little consideration given to elderly or

learning disabled when someone in an office far away makes these decisions. Makes me mad.'

**Stuart Craine:** 'Add in the issue of limited and expensive internet access for some in the more remote areas of Argyll, this is a poor show. I wonder if they'll assist these areas with the funding needed to get decent internet access to these folk?'

**Samantha Leiper:** 'Yes I have internet banking. But I am always in my bank taking money out or putting checks and money into my account I stay over an hour away from my bank as I stay in middle of nowhere this is ridiculous and will effect alot of people.'

**Sue Hearn:** 'Same issue in lake district HSBC Natwest closed many branches. When you complain get told to use the post office. Why should we? Our bank

*The work was tough, the men were hard  
From Yarrow's and from John Brown's yard,  
The Ferguson and Denny Men  
Their breed we'll never see again.*

*The world's ways forever move  
And change will come as we 'improve';  
But sorrow comes from what is lost –  
We'll never truly know the cost.  
To move the time and mix the men –  
Compare them now with others then –  
The chiselled men who powered the sea  
With polished suits of Pacific Quay.*

ON A much lighter note, the annual Trad Music Awards delivered, as they always do, a night to remember. Congratulations go to all the winners and nominees.

Though unable to attend because of a prior commitment, we were very lucky to receive the Live Act of the Year award.

However, while very grateful and delighted, we are well aware that the winning and losing should never go to one's head.

A band is only as good its last song and, as we have a new single being released this Saturday, even a Trad Award is not enough to settle the nerves as we await people's judgement of *Wishing Well*.



should provide us with access to their services. My RBS branch 75 mile round trip. Reciprocal arrangement with Nat west now means same due to their closures. Branches are vital for individuals paid in cash, businesses paying in takings or needing change, young, old etc. No amount of complaining made any difference here and post offices few and far between now too.'

**Alison Lindsay:** 'And how much did they pay out to shareholders this year? ...and I thought The British Taxpayer still owned most of RBS?'

**Hamish Kirk:** 'It is the UK that owns 72%. They have as much interest in our welfare as did the Duke of Cumberland.'

**Jenny Jeffree:** 'Are they going to provide a mobile bank service? Ours is brilliant (Bank of Scotland).'

### Oban Airport has too many restrictions

Sir,  
May I congratulate Argyll and Bute Council on its investment in Oban Airport? It is without doubt one of the best equipped general aviation (GA) airports in the north-west of Scotland, with an excellent runway and terminal, and the staff are extremely helpful.

I, like many of my acquaintances, fly small GA aircraft extensively for private business and leisure purposes. We use modern, well-equipped aircraft as a serious mode of transport in day/night under visual flight rules (VFR) and instrument flight rules (IFR) conditions.

Access to airports that are open to suit our personal schedules is essential to the effective use of our aircraft and this is where I need Argyll and Bute Council to review its operating procedures.

There is a common misconception about what general aviation is. Basically, it is all forms of aviation other than public transport (British Airways, Virgin, Ryanair etc). It is not just recreational flyers.

For Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), legal, insurance, safety and security purposes, it is not a requirement for an airport to be licensed. We do not need to have air traffic controllers or fire cover.

The CAA approves of pilot-controlled lighting so, again, night operations are perfectly legal, approved and safe. In the winter, airfield lighting is essential to be able to complete a full working day. The limitation preventing private GA night operations at Oban Airport is a limitation put on by Argyll and Bute Council rather than the CAA or insurers.

I understand the council has invested in excess of £10 million in the airport infrastructure and its running costs must exceed £1 million a year. I suggest it is incumbent on the council to maximise its return on its investment by doing all in its power to increase aircraft movements of all types.

Airfields tend not to be run for the benefit of aircraft owners/pilots/operators but for the employees. There is a work-to-rule atmosphere. Opening hours are rigid and, to us users, arbitrary. Why close an airfield at 5pm on a weekday or noon at the weekend other than for the cost and convenience of the employees?

I have tried to apply for out-of-hours indemnity for Oban, a common procedure at many other airfields, only to be told that it is not available to aircraft that are owned by a limited company. This quite bizarre rule is unique to Oban.

You have in Oban Airport what could be a vital link to the local and national transport infrastructure. It could bring much-needed outside investment into the region if only it was operated on a more business-like and customer-friendly way.

I am not sure who is advising the council on CAA regulations but it is in a position to write its own operating manual to make it as attractive as possible to GA. There is no legal or

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



RUD NACH EIL, NACH ROBH, 's nach bi, sin a-mach do làmh is chì.

Thàinig faclan an tòimhseachain na mo chuimhne às ùr 's mi a' tòiseachadh ri Beachd na seachdainne seo a' sgrìobhadh. Eagal 's nach eil am freagairt a' tighinn thu gaibh, 's e nach eil bhur corragan an aon fhaid.

Ach 's e thug na faclan gu mo chuimhne gun robh mi a' leughadh mun iomairt a tha gu bhith a' dol Disathairne ann an Dùn Èideann gus airgead a thogail airson dìon a thoirt dha daoine gun dachaigh a tha cadal air sràidean a' bhaile.

Mo mhìle beannachd air an fheadhainn a tha dol a chur seachad oidhche Shathairne ann an Garradh Sràid a' Phrionnsa mar mheadhan air taic airgid a thional. A bharrachd air fàsadh dhan fheadhainn gun dachaigh, tha luchd-deasachaidh na h-iomairt seo cuideachd an dòchas gun faigh cuid cothroman air cosnadh a lorg, agus 's dòcha an t-amas as misneachaile uile gu lèir gun cuir às do dhaoine a bhith a' cadal air sràidean a' phrìomh bhaile.

operational reason why GA aircraft owned by either a private individual or limited company should not be allowed to land at Oban day or night under VFR.

The council claims to wish to deliver prosperity by turning economic opportunity into economic growth and yet it is deterring vital relatively prosperous visitors from coming to Oban.

I implore the council to listen to its customers, and take a positive attitude to the practical ways the airport can increase movements for the benefit of all. Reduce the costs without limiting availability.

Dave Henderson,  
by email.

### Banks and post office should share services

Sir,  
Given that Holyrood and Highlands and Islands Enterprise pontificate rather than act, we need to sort out bank access for rural communities now.

The decision of the banks is understandable as physical coins and notes will disappear by 2030 as contactless cards and phone technology provide an alternative. So how do we provide services to communities?

We need to start with an existing or new cyber café as communities are about people. Coffee sales will bring in some income, as will having a Link cash machine. The café also needs to be a post office two mornings a week. More income will come from the NHS paying Royal Mail for posties to check on isolated elderly residents.

The same premises need to be shared with bank tellers who will come in two mornings a week and will rotate between the three Scottish banks. Decisions on loans and other matters can be done via a secure video link. Cash takings by small businesses can be stored in a safe and collected by a security van.

Sharing services and multiple income streams make this solution workable for a social enterprise business.

Mike Foster,  
Oban.

### Unfair penalty for parking infringement

Sir,  
I am 71 years old and have a mobility problem where I have to use a walking stick. I live on an island and so, when coming to the mainland, I usually do a large shopping because there are lots of goods we cannot get here on Coll.

On November 20, I had been to Glasgow to see my cancer consultant and the journey back through roadworks and bad weather meant I got to Oban in the dark and arrived tired.

I parked at Aldi about 5.30pm to do a good shop, so I thought. The shelves in the store had changed since my last visit and finding things was not easy and the bill came to £164.51. I then

proceeded to pack everything into my vehicle, which took me a good 20 minutes with the weather still against me.

Then on November 30 I received a parking charge notice from a company called ParkingEye for £70 for going over the one hour and 30 minutes you are allowed by 18 minutes. I have since found out that Lidl also has this policy for parking.

Perhaps these companies do not want customers, because I think one hour and 30 minutes is not enough time in a town where there are so many people coming from the islands to do their shopping.

Pat Graham,  
Garden House, Isle of Coll.

### Morar left behind on superfast broadband

Sir,  
When superfast broadband was proposed for Morar, the original plan was to have it installed by the end of 2016.

Mallaig and Arisaig are further than Morar from the exchange but they had it installed by the end of 2016.

It is now the end of 2017 and we have one cabinet in Morar, opposite the primary school.

The original plan included two cabinets to cover the whole village. Several weeks ago this plan was put on hold and re-examined but we don't know why. The one cabinet, which was put there a year overdue, serves only part of the community.

Houses within range of this cabinet were already benefiting from speeds of above 12Mb/s, while the upper part of the village had speeds of one to three Mb/s. While the cabinet can provide some people with speeds of up to 80 Mb/s, the rest of the village must still struggle with their old speeds.

The school curriculum requires children to use computers. At the moment a great number of the families live in the Bracara area, where speeds average 0.5 Mb/s. This can hardly be used for any form of work.

While we understand that some remote areas were able to establish local wireless networks (eg, Hebrnet on Eigg), the difficulties posed by our topography in the Morar area prevent such solutions.

After examining multiple options and discussing it at the community council, we have concluded that the best solution would be to lead an optical cable all the way to Bracara.

Several years ago all the phone cables were replaced to the end of Bracara, so what we propose is not impossible. Therefore we appeal to Highlands and Islands Enterprise to help our community.

We also wish to ask why there has been a delay in providing the second cabinet. This cabinet had been surveyed and approved but has not materialised.

We trust that Highlands and Islands Enterprise will respond to our concerns. The whole community eagerly await its response.

Deirdre Roberts,  
Secretary,  
Morar Community Council.

Ailean Caimbeul

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If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please

let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with

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THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number

is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

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



Cameron Whyte with Jimmy McDonnell, head coach of supermiddleweight title-holder James DeGale.

## Whyte continues good form with points victory in Motherwell

### Boxing

TEENAGE boxer Cameron Whyte, from Spean Bridge, continued his good form last Friday night at Motherwell's civic centre where he defeated formidable Forgewood opponent Alec MacDonald at the aforementioned club's 30th year anniversary show.

The two young fighters had taken part in a breathtaking bout last month in Fort William which Cameron won on points, so the older MacDonald was gunning for revenge in his home town show.

Fifteen-year-old Whyte immediately took control of the centre of the ring in the opening round as MacDonald skirted the outside looking to flash in and out of range.

This was a very even round which could have gone either way on the score cards.

Whyte upped his game in the next round as he forced the taller MacDonald on to the ropes in the majority of the rounds. The Lochaber boxer's superior strength and inside work gave him an advantage which he was only too keen to exploit as he drove bent arm punches to body and head. MacDonald was still dangerous on the occasions he managed to utilise his straight shots but it was a clear round for the Lochaber boxer.

Whyte was now into a rhythm and, while he never quite hit the peaks he is capable of reaching, he was getting enough points in the bag to ensure he was always keeping ahead of the talented MacDonald. The final bell rang with the Motherwell boxer fittingly with his back to the ropes as Cameron continued to pressurise right to the end and claim a points victory.

Whyte was also awarded with the best away boxer of the night trophy which was judged by the boxing officials. This was a real feather in his cap as the 16 bouts featured a wealth of Scottish, GB and Ulster champions.

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# Ruthless Brora humiliate faltering Fort William side

Brora Rangers	16
Fort William	0
Highland League	

BRORA Rangers showed no mercy against an under-strength Fort William team on Saturday as they ruthlessly thumped the visitors 16-0, the record highest victory in the Sutherland club's history.

The rugby-like scoreline consigned Fort William to their second double-figure defeat this season, having lost 10-0 to Fraserburgh in September, and is one goal short of matching the Highland League record, a 17-0 win for Peterhead in 1998 against Fort William.

Five goals from Steven MacKay and a Colin Williamson hat-

trick helped take Brora's goal tally to 16 on what was one of the worst days in Fort William Football Club's history.

The Fort made the long journey north with a number of key players absent, including captain Iain Foggo and forward Iain MacLellan, and only two named substitutes.

With Brora sitting seven points from the top of the league, the afternoon at Dudgeon Park was always going to be difficult for the Lochaber team but few could have predicted the scale of the task facing Fort William.

After just four minutes it became clear that Brora weren't in the mood for mercy as Williamson opened the scoring for the home side from a corner. Less

than 10 minutes later, Martin McLean found the back of the Fort net from another corner, while a Paul Brindle finish two minutes later made it three.

Steven MacKay got his first goal of the game after 20 and 22 minutes, while Zander Sutherland rounded off catastrophic 10-minute period for the Fort to make it 6-0 after 25 minutes.

Despite the result already being a foregone conclusion, Brora's hunger for goals wasn't satisfied as Steven MacKay and Zander Sutherland continued the onslaught with another goal each.

At 8-0 down, the Fort management team had the unenviable task of trying to lift the players' spirits at half-time, while the

Brora coaches couldn't be happier with their team's performance.

Unfortunately for the Lochaber men, the second half continued in much the same way with the Brora forwards queuing up to get their name on the scoresheet.

Brindle and Williamson got their second goals of the game to take the score into double-figures. But still the waves of Brora attacks persisted and in a three-minute goal spree Scott Lisle, Martin MacLean and John Pickles compounded the Fort's misery.

There was enough time for Williamson to secure his hat-trick before Steven MacKay stole his thunder by netting his

### Football

fourth and fifth goals of the afternoon just before the final whistle.

This rounded off a merciless performance from Brora, who seemed determined to boost their goal difference, perhaps in preparation for what could be a tight Highland League title contest this season.

Fort William, however, sit bottom of the Highland League with a goal difference of -80 and still without a league win this season.

The Fort are in action again this Saturday when they welcome Huntly to Claggan Park in the Highland League.

## Lundavra primary badminton players scoop titles again

### Badminton

LUNDAVRA Primary once again emerged as year winners at this year's Lochaber Primary Schools Badminton Championship, taking first place in both the boys' and girls' competition, but with Caol Primary snapping at their heels this year with a second in the girls' event and third in the boys'.

The event, which took place last Wednesday, was staged at Lochaber High School.

PE teacher Carol Cairns commented: 'The new facilities at both schools are fantastic and make such a difference. Pupils are really keen to come and take part in sport whenever they can; we have been holding before school and lunch-time badminton clubs and the standard of play has visibly improved.'

The girls' final was won by Amy Ionita, with Chiari Harper in second place. Third was Dana Edwards from Caol, who beat Elizabeth Morgan from Lundavra into fourth place in a very tight playoff.

In the boys' competition, Liam Martin beat his Lundavra classmate Rio Bell to take the title, while Kian Duncan from

Caol took the bronze medal from Calum MacLean of St Columba's RC.

Organised by High Life Highland Active Schools co-ordinators Fiona Beattie and Bridget Thomas, in conjunction with the primary and secondary PE staff, the event attracted entries from 12 primary schools: Arisaig, Banavie, Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Aber, Caol, Invergarry, Inverie, Inverloch, Lady Lovat, Lundavra, Mallaig, Spean Bridge and St Columba's.

Pupils took part in a round robin format tournament, competing to earn a place in the quarter-finals. Tension mounted as pupils were knocked out and the semi-finalists took to the court. Fresh from battle, the losing semi-finalists came back on court to fight it out in a third/fourth place playoff.

Organisers extended their grateful thanks to Lochaber High School for hosting the competition and to the senior pupils on the Level 5 Leadership course who refereed and supported on the day.



The winning badminton players, from left, Kian Duncan, Rio Bell, Liam Martin, Ann Ionita, Chiari Harper and Dana Edwards. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



## South Lochaber Thistle receive new tops from sponsor Liberty

Brian King (left) and Rosie Flannigan of Liberty British Aluminium present a set of 'travelling polo shirts' to David

Forbes and Alan Gray (right) of South Lochaber Thistle Football Club. Photo: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

## Smith wins Beinn Bhan Bash hill race

CLEAR skies and a calm but chilly day greeted the 48 runners who took part in the fourth edition of the Beinn Bhan Bash hill race on Sunday December 3.

The melting snow made for a slow pace further up the hill and a very slippery descent.

The first lady home was Keri Wallace in 50:18 followed by Vicki MacKinnon (LAC, FV40) and Nix Forster (LAC, FV50). Keri's time was just outside the women's record time of 49:37, set in 2013 by Diane Baum.

First gent home was Lochaber AC's

### Athletics

Tom Smith (M40), just outside his personal best time, in 40:46, closely followed by John Yells (LAC, M) and Steve Macdonald (LAC, M).

Many thanks to Isla, Stu, Elaine, Ian, Ellen, Corrina, Ben and Aileen for marshalling and timekeeping, and Ben and Fiona for hosting.

Full results available at lochaberac.co.uk.

The next LAC race is Sunday December 10 at Nevis Range.

# Mountain Bike World Cup set for Fort William return

ORGANISERS of the Fort William leg of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup have announced the event will gear up for its return to Lochaber in 2018.

The Fort William event, which was recently named as the best downhill mountain bike event on the World Cup circuit in

2017, will see more than 20,000 spectators from around the world descend on the spiritual home of downhill mountain bike racing for a truly unique weekend of adrenaline pumping gravity action.

As the only UK leg of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, the event is set to take place on the

slopes of Aonach Mor at Nevis Range on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3.

### Partners

Mike Jardine, from organisers Rare Management, said: 'Over the past 16 years we've worked with our partners to establish the Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup's reputation

as a world-class spectacle and event experience for all the family.'

'In that time, we've witnessed many memorable moments of phenomenal downhill action, especially when the final riders drop into the finish arena.'

'The event brings elite riders, teams and spectators from all

### Mountain biking

over the world to the Scottish Highlands, where they can enjoy a great experience and the legendary Fort William atmosphere.'

For more event details and ticket information, visit fortwilliamworldcup.co.uk.

## 10-pin bowling league results

### 10-pin bowling

AFTER week four of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, The Empire lead the scratch division with 17 points, followed by Council on 15 points and Alleycats on 14 points. The Fillies Plus Gillie are the new leaders in the handicap division with 15 points followed by The Empire and Council both on 14 points.

Individually, the best scratch game of the week came from Gary Cowan (The Empire) with 169. Gary also had the week's top two-game scratch series of 316. The week's high handicap game went to Frank Sweeney (Council) with 240 which tied the season high. The top two-game handicap series went to Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) with 439.

The best team scores of the week came from The Empire with the top scratch game of 596 and the top two-game scratch series with 1182 - the season high. The top handicap game went to Alleycats with 795 who also had the top two-game handicap series of 1565 - the season high.

The top scratch average is held by Ben Weller (The Empire) with 163 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 153 and Tony White Locke (Alleycats) on 152.

## Lottery numbers

### Lottery

THIS week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 6, 19 and 20. There was no winner this week. There will now be £300 available for the lotto drawn today (Thursday December 7).

The numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 15, 16 and 20. There were no winning tickets this week. There will now be a jackpot of £700 for next Thursday's draw.

The Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week are 12, 17 and 20. There were no winners this week. That means that next week's jackpot is £400.

The Ballachulish Shinty Club lottery numbers for this week were 7, 8 and 17. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a jackpot of £600.

## Winter league

### Indoor football

LATEST results from week seven of Sammy's Indoor Winter League: Borussia Fortmund 1, The Young Boys 4; Snorting Lisbon 18, Arse N All 2; Fiorentina Turner 9, Expected Toulouse 2; Portowey 3, Balla 2; The Goon Squad 1, Doghouse Thistle 4; HW Energy 1, Gozos 9.



Michael Gillespie, left, of the Goon Squad and Barna Tot of Fiorentina Turner.

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**WEATHER**

Thursday	Sunshine and showers Winds strong North Westerly Temperatures 1°C to 7°C.
Friday	Light rain showers Winds strong North Westerly Temperatures 2°C to 4°C.
Weekend Outlook	Heavy rain showers on Saturday Light rain showers on Sunday Winds moderate North North Westerly Temperatures 1°C to 5°C.

**FRIDAY**

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
 Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday December 7, 2017** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	01.55	0.6	07.48	4.0	14.36	0.9	20.21	3.7
Fri	02.45	0.8	08.37	3.8	15.31	1.2	21.13	3.4
Sat	03.38	1.0	09.32	3.5	16.32	1.4	22.17	3.1
Sun	04.36	1.2	10.39	3.3	17.42	1.6	23.52	3.0
Mon	05.40	1.4	12.18	3.2	19.03	1.7	***	**
Tues	01.21	3.0	06.49	1.5	13.46	3.2	20.19	1.7
Wed	02.25	3.1	08.00	1.5	14.44	3.3	21.16	1.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate