

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8229

Thursday 11 December, 2014

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

FREE Lochaber Supplement

Inside A 16 page supplement celebrating Lochaber industry

Oban hospital service cut claims denied

LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

NHS HIGHLAND has denied claims that Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital will lose services to Fort William as the health board looks to balance its books.

Oban community council chairwoman Marri Malloy fears NHS Highland will move services between the towns if a new hospital is built in Fort William.

And her concern over services is shared by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, who criticised NHS management and said he was getting an increasing number of complaints about the range of services available in Oban.

Mr Russell said: 'It is vital as many services as possible are delivered locally by the NHS and I am concerned at what appears to be a reduction in such services at the hospital in Oban.'

'I am getting an increasing number of complaints about the failure of NHS Highland to provide the range of health services that people want and have a right to expect across Argyll.'

'I am continuing to press these issues with them and with the health minister.'

'The ambitions for patients held by our excellent local

health staff as well as their tireless efforts to treat them in their own community are all being undermined by NHS management and that needs to stop.'

Mrs Malloy said: 'They are selling us down the river with the hospital.'

'My fear is the NHS is going to build a great new hospital in Fort William and more and more services will be provided there until there is nothing left in Oban.'

'Is NHS Highland running it down to pay off its debt?'

'Everyone tells me that is not the case.'

'But until we start getting our services delivered in Oban then I am not convinced.'

'As far as I see it the hospital is being cut back. The staff in the hospital are second to none.'

'It is beautifully clean, a wonderful hospital and yet more and more people are being sent to hospitals in Glasgow. Why do we not get the consultants to come to us?'

Over the past few weeks a number of issues about the hospital, including maternity services, consultant-led clinics and surgery, have been raised by patients and their families with *The Oban Times* and the community council.

An NHS Highland spokesman

said: 'The staff at Lorn and Islands hospital are very experienced and provide a wide range of services to the public in Oban and surrounding areas.'

'There has been no reduction in the number of outpatient appointments and inpatient/day case appointments within the hospital.'

Demands have been made in recent weeks for ultra-sound scans for pregnant women to be brought back to Oban after they were stopped last year due to changes in training, qualification and supervision requirements.

The spokesman said: 'Women have always travelled to Glasgow for their 12-week CUB (combined ultrasound and biochemical) scan and their 20-week anomaly scan.'

'We have, however, established a working group to look at scanning generally across Argyll and Bute to see if we could provide more services locally and this group will be reporting back in the next couple of months.'

He said there had been a small increase in the number of babies born in the hospital, believed to be around 40 babies in 2013.

He added: 'Pregnant women are risk-assessed and follow a specific pathway either to Glasgow or Oban.'



HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE: Friends of Oban Hospice and board members Kathleen Black, left, and Joyce Millar attended the Light Up a Life event

Lights shine in Oban in memory of loved ones

PEOPLE from across Oban and Lorn gathered at the Corran Halls on Tuesday to turn on lights in memory of loved ones they have lost.

The Light Up a Life event, organised by Friends of Oban Hospice, allows people to sign a book of remembrance and place a candle light in memory of their nearest and dearest.

Asked whether the annual

event was more of a solemn occasion, or one of hope, Margaret MacLean of Friends of Oban Hospice said: 'It is a bit of both. An occasion of solemn remembrance but also one of hope. Some people stay afterwards to mix with others and share their thoughts with others in a similar position.'

'It is an important event for the area. We started nine

years ago and we see a lot of the same people coming back year after year; it means a lot to them.'

After the welcome from Oban Hospice board chairman David Entwistle on Tuesday evening, there were readings from board member Iain MacIntyre and Rev Ken Hunter and music from Ken Harrower and Oban high school pupils.

TIMESLINE

Friends host event for stranded Billy

FRIENDS of a man 'stuck' in India as he makes his way through the legal system are organising a fundraising night for him on January 24.

Billy Irving, formerly of Campbeltown, and the crew of the MV Seaman Guard Ohio were released following their arrest on piracy charges but an appeal is slowly making its way through the court system and he has no passport to leave the country.

It is a year since Billy has been paid and his partner, Yvonne MacHugh, who lives in Connel, is due to have their first child in February.

His friends in Campbeltown have now decided to hold a fundraising night for him in the town's Victoria Hall.

Co-op shop denies it is on the move

JUST a week after closing its store in Soroba Road, The Co-operative group has quashed rumours it is moving into premises on George Street in Oban.

The Co-op said it had no plans to move into the former Blockbuster store on the corner of William Street.

But The Oban Times understands the company is looking for other premises in the town.

Fish farm plans in meeting spotlight

A MEETING will be held tonight (Thursday) at Ardchattan primary school, to discuss the planning application on Loch Etive by fish farm company Dawnfresh.

Organised by Ardchattan community council, the meeting will involve a presentation and question and answer session with a Dawnfresh representative.



Disruption as high winds and rain batter the West Highlands

TRAVEL was disrupted and schools closed as high winds and rain hit the West Highlands this week.

The Western Isles suffered badly, with a power cut just before

7am on Wednesday, prompting all schools and nurseries to be closed for the day.

Commuters also suffered as the Glasgow Queen Street to Oban train was cancelled, and Cale-

donian MacBrayne reported cancellations or disruption to 25 of its ferry routes on Wednesday morning.

Winds were expected to peak on Wednesday afternoon.

Hotelier guilty of sex assaults

AN OBAN hotel owner has been found guilty at Oban Sheriff Court of sexually assaulting two former female employees.

Raymond Hyams, 58, had denied three charges of sexual assault and one of making sexual remarks at the Queen's Hotel between September 2010 and April 2012.

The first of the two victims previously told the court that Hyams' behaviour towards her had started within weeks of her starting to work at the Corran Esplanade hotel in September 2010 until she left in March 2012. This included touching her body with his, looking down her top, touching her hips and waist and grabbing her bottom.

The second victim had told the court that Hyams had made inappropriate

comments to her, including frequently touching her hair, body and bottom.

The first woman had emailed Best Western, a marketing group the hotel had joined, regarding a number of incidents at the hotel. Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said Hyams, of Cuanra, North Connel, claimed he had the 'first whiff' of being accused of inappropriate behaviour when approached by Best Western but three separate members of staff had brought it to his and his wife's attention that they had suffered 'sexual harassment'.

Hyams had accused the two complainers of meeting in an Oban pub in what was described as a 'witches' coven of disgruntled ex-employees' to plot against him because they were jealous of the couple's success and because of other

incidents including the sacking of a friend of one of the women, being reprimanded over dress code and for sullen behaviour and a financial mistake that almost cost the hotel £2,000.

Defence advocate Stewart Ronnie said Hyams was a man who 'worked hard' and 'demanded high standards' and would not have jeopardised this by behaving in this manner. 'He is not a vulgar man or a tactile man,' he added.

Finding Hyams guilty, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I accept that the Crown witnesses were telling the truth about the incidents that occurred in the Queen's Hotel.'

Sentence was deferred until January 7 2015 for reports and in the interim he was placed on the Sex Offenders' Register.



£25, £40 & £50 THE PERFECT GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS Tel: 01631 565666

EE-USK

Set Lunch
2 courses £12.95

Wee smoked Haddock Pot
or Warm Chilli Chicken Salad
or Cream of Celeriac Soup

½ Seabass in Batter
or Mussels in Shallots
Garlic and Cream
with Chips
or Pork Fillet in Peppercorn Sauce

Bread And Butter Pudding
or Dairy Ice Cream with
Butterscotch Sauce

For reservations please
call 01631 565666

EE-USK

Set Dinner
1 course £12.95
2 courses £16.95
3 courses £19.95

Cream of Celeriac Soup
or Fillet of Sole in Seafood Sauce
or Salmon Fishcake

Haddock in Breadcrumbs
or Breast of Chicken in Mushroom
and Garlic Cream
or Smoked Haddock Pie
or Seafood Linguini

Bread and Butter Pudding
or Cream Meringue
with Strawberry Ice Cream
or Mature Cheddar and Oatcakes

We NEVER
compromise quality

Big cash boost for South Uist project

A SOUTH Uist development group has been awarded more than £500,000 for a new learning and recycling centre.

Cothrom received the money from the Big Lottery Fund to create a new base for its ReStore project, which provides training opportunities in woodwork by refurbishing old furniture and selling items on.

Currently based in a small workshop in Bornish, the £504,000 grant will allow the group to build a new facility with equipment, storage, a variety of workshops and a store.

Cothrom manager, Barbara MacDonald, said: 'ReStore provides a valuable service to the communities of Uist and Barra.'

'This project is an investment in our community in the long term as it will allow ReStore to diversify its training, expand its activities and work towards greater sustainability.'

Construction will begin next summer and the building should be ready by March 2016.

Castle Toward petition call

RESIDENTS in Cowal are being asked to petition councillors as part of a 12 Days of Christmas campaign.

The Advent Action Calendar will reveal the name of a different councillor in order to persuade them to accept an offer for Castle Toward.

It is hoped the campaign will convince councillors that the bid made by the community for the buyout of Toward Castle in Dunoon will be accepted at a meeting on December 18.

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



Oban Music

- Guitars by Faith, Freshman and Ibanez
- Violins
- Banjos
- Ukuleles
- Mandolins
- Accordions
- Bagpipes & Chanters
- Whistles
- Stands
- Microphones

- Amplifiers
- Strings
- Cables
- Music Books
- DVDs and CDs
- Broad range of musical accessories
- Extensive range of unique Musical Gifts

OPEN ON SUNDAYS

20 Argyll Square, Oban
jean@obanmusic.com
01631 566 304
visit our website
www.musicscotland.com

Sub-sea cable lays the way for high speed broadband

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

FIBRE broadband in the Highlands and islands is now a step closer after the laying of 250 miles of subsea cable across 20 seabed crossings.

The cable, stretching from Orkney to Kintyre, will form essential links for a massive network being built to bring high-speed fibre broadband to 84 per cent of the Highlands and islands by the end of 2016 by Digital Scotland.

The £410 million Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband project partners met in Millport, on the Isle of Cumbrae, on December 4, to mark the successful installation of the fibre-optic cabling, hailed as the most complex sub-sea engineering challenge ever undertaken by BT in UK waters.

The £26.9 million project is part of the £146 million Digital Highlands and Islands rollout which will make faster, more reliable services available to more than 150,000 premises across the region's mainly rural communities for the first time.

I hope they will bring forward their plans on a firm timetable

Michael Russell
MSP for Argyll and Bute

part of the £146 million Digital Highlands and Islands rollout which will make faster, more reliable services available to more than 150,000 premises across the region's mainly rural communities for the first time.

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, welcomed the

completion, saying: 'Complaints about broadband speed are common in Argyll and Bute, but the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Project will provide huge increases in speed and reliability across the area over the next couple of years.'

'Its successful completion brings the day closer when the majority of people in Argyll and Bute will be able to access superfast broadband, which is of huge importance to business and to everyday domestic life.'

'These services will also allow the mobile phone companies to provide something more than the basic and often inadequate service they presently give to local bill payers, and I hope they will bring forward their plans on a firm timetable with no further delay.'

Deputy first minister John Swinney said: 'In the coming months, thanks to the Digital

Scotland Superfast Broadband programme, many island communities will start to benefit from fibre broadband - that otherwise would not have received coverage. The rollout of superfast broadband will allow many households across our islands to connect to fibre broadband services for the first time, as well as giving businesses the opportunity to enhance their services.'

Work will now continue on land to complete the main network, linking the subsea connections together.

The first island communities to connect directly as a result of the new subsea links will go live during spring next year.

People will have access to fibre broadband speeds of up to 80Mbps, around 10 times faster than the current top speeds available on most Scottish islands, many of which are

currently connected by radio links. The Digital Scotland rollout consists of two projects - one covering the Highlands and islands area and the other covering the rest of Scotland, with more than 750,000 premises to benefit across the country.

The Digital Highlands and Islands project is being led in the region by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), with funding partners the Scottish Government, Broadband Delivery UK, HIE itself and private sector company BT, which is also delivering the contract on the ground.

HIE's director of regional development Carroll Buxton said: 'This is a legacy network for the Highlands and Islands and for Scotland, opening up next generation broadband for homes and businesses whether they are in urban or remote and rural Scotland.'

Medal honour for CalMac captain Martin



HONOURED: CalMac ship's captain Norman Martin with the prestigious Merchant Navy Medal he received from Lord West at a ceremony in London

AN OBAN ship's captain who has worked for Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) for almost 40 years has been awarded the Merchant Navy Medal.

Norman Martin, 67, who moved to Oban in 1976, received the medal on November 17 from Lord West at a ceremony in London.

Established in 2005, the Merchant Navy Medal is a prestigious annual award recognising acts of courage or meritorious service by people from the United Kingdom, or British Overseas Dependent Territories, within the Merchant Navy or fishing fleet.

Norman, who grew up in Glasgow, said: 'I'm not certain who nominated me but I was very surprised - very pleasantly surprised - when I found out, as it hasn't really been given to people from this area in the past.'

'It's an honour and from looking at the other people awarded the medal there are some very senior people across the profession.'

'The award itself is great because it also recognises the

important role the Merchant Navy plays.

'Personally, it's also been a great privilege to work in this area for so long.'

Norman has sailed to the Western Isles for CalMac since 1976, having held summer roles with the company in 1971 and 1972, and was promoted to ship master in 1984.

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

As well as his work for CalMac, Norman is also the longest-serving member of the council of Nautilus International, the trades union which represents seafarers and allied workers in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Norman was one of 19 people to receive the medal this year, in front of a crowd of around 100 people, including his wife, daughter and son-in-law.

South Uist native's new agency role

A SOUTH Uist native has moved roles within Gaelic development agency Bòrd na Gàidhlig to become its new ceannard (chief executive officer).

Iain Campbell, Bòrd na Gàidhlig's current cathraiche (chairman) will take up his new post on March 2 2015.

The post has become vacant with the announcement that the present ceannard, John Angus MacKay, is to retire at the end of March 2015.

Mr Campbell is a native Gaelic speaker and currently the senior project manager of Soille, an inter-university partnership project involved in a range of research areas associated with Gaelic language revitalisation. He also represents Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the Board of MG ALBA.

The minister for learning, science and Scotland's languages, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, said: 'I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to Iain Campbell on his appointment as CEO of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a very important role in the Gaelic community. Iain comes to this post with a wide range of experience and a deep and enduring commitment to the promotion of Gaelic in Scotland.'

'In March John Angus can step down knowing that there has been significant progress and improvement under his leadership. We are, indeed, in his debt and wish him well.'



CEANNARD: Iain Campbell.

Concerns prompt bridge review

TRAFFIC management plans for the Skye bridge are to be reviewed after concerns were raised about recent closures.

Highland councillor Drew Millar chaired a meeting with BEAR Scotland, police and NHS Highland representatives as well as other local members to address issues caused by closures during high winds in October, which left commuters stuck both on Skye and the mainland.

The current wind management plan for the bridge is to be reviewed, including implementing a new traffic management procedure for both sides.

BEAR Scotland will also create a group email list for weather warnings and wind closures for Skye Bridge, providing automatic alerts for anyone who signs up.

Councillor Drew Millar said: 'My fellow councillors and I felt it was important to get agencies together following the number of concerns being raised by the public and businesses [who are] looking to understand more about what activates the bridge closing and what more can be done to alert them.'

'Maintaining the route to and from our island is vital not only to the convenience of people living, working and visiting Skye, but also for the economic impact on communities both sides of the bridge.'

Salvation Army festive appeal

THE SALVATION Army has made an appeal to the Oban community to give generously this Christmas to those less fortunate.

The charity is asking for donations of unwrapped toys, gifts for teens and adults and non-perishable food items from now through to Friday December 19.

Donations can be handed in to the Salvation Army Hall or the shed in Stevenson Street on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 12pm and 4pm. Donations can be collected by arrangement by phoning Andy on 07724 639507.

A Salvation Army spokesman said: 'The Salvation Army believes that every child should have a gift at Christmas and every member of our community should feel that they are valued and loved.'

DRIVERS WILL AVOID TWO NARROW BRIDGES AT BOTTLENECK

Crianlarich by-pass to open before Christmas

THE CRIANLARICH bypass on the A82 road is to open before Christmas.

The new 1.3 kilometre carriageway will allow drivers to avoid two narrow, low bridges through the bottleneck village on the route between Glasgow and Inverness.

Work started in October last year, with an overall cost of £5 million.

Brian Murphy, chairman of campaign group the A82 Partnership, described the opening as 'great news' but wants to see more investment along the whole route. He said: 'Hopefully it won't be too long until we see the Pulpit Rock work finished.'

'Then we need to keep up the pressure to get the Tarbet to Inverarnan design work completed, and push for a definite start date for these sections.'

A Transport Scotland spokes-

man said: 'The new bypass is currently scheduled to open to traffic in the coming weeks and is on budget.'

'It will reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability. It will also enhance access to the village for the community and tourists, supporting local economic activity.'

Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish, a member of the A82 partnership, said: 'I welcome the news the Crianlarich bypass will be open to motorists before Christmas. This new route will mean journey times will be more reliable, supporting our economy by allowing for the easier movement of goods and vehicles. The council works closely with our partners in Transport Scotland and will continue to do so, pursuing further improvements to our strategically important trunk roads.'

'At our recent economic summit in Dunoon, the importance of transport connectivity to our economy was highlighted by a number of speakers from a variety of backgrounds and, as such, it's particularly encouraging to see this project being completed.'

Also on the A82, roadworks on the Ballachulish bridge are now scheduled to be completed on December 17, more than three weeks later than planned, after being delayed by 'unusually wet weather' according to contractors BEAR Scotland. A £380,000 project is being undertaken to repair and waterproof the deck of the structure, which carries traffic over Loch Leven. The carriageway, kerbing and footways - which had to be removed - will be re-laid with new markings and a 10mph convoy system will be put in place for traffic during the final stages of work.

Violent crime figures fall

CRIME is on the decrease in Argyll and Bute, according to Police Scotland statistics.

Violent crime in the county has dropped by 30.8 per cent, while crimes of a sexual nature in the area are down by 31.8 per cent.

The constabulary's latest performance figures also show overall serious crime is down by 9.6 per cent and the number of domestic abuse incidents reported has dropped by 25.9 per cent.

Chief Superintendent, Helen Swan, divisional commander for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, said: 'I am very encouraged by these results which are testament to the hard work and dedication of police officers and staff across the division - but we are by no means complacent and there is still a great deal of work to be done.'

Figures reveal slow uptake of winter flu vaccinations

ONLY two per cent of two-to-five-year-olds in the Western Isles have received winter flu vaccines, according to new figures published by GPs.

The same set of statistics for the Highland region show 74 per cent of infants have still to be treated, as well as 72 per cent of pregnant women and 62 per cent of people under 65 with underlying health problems.

Children between two and five years old were included in the vaccination programme in October as they are said to be two to three times more likely to catch flu than adults, although the figures show the majority of youngsters are still to be treated.

Children aged between five and 11 are being offered their vaccines in school. As a result,

medics are urging children and adults to get their vaccines before the end of the year to protect them against viruses during the colder months.

They are available free to pregnant women, children aged two to 11, unpaid carers, healthcare workers, anyone aged 65 and over, and those under 65 with underlying health problems.

Dr Nicola Steedman, senior medical officer for the Scottish government flu campaign, said: 'If you have a long-term medical condition, the best way to protect yourself against the serious effects of flu is to get vaccinated, even if you are feeling perfectly well. The flu vaccination is quick and easy but will offer protection for around a year.'



Islay distillery manager is the toast of whisky awards

AN ISLAY distillery manager is raising a glass to being named distillery manager of the year 2015.

Georgie Crawford, of Lagavulin distillery, was presented with the honour at the Icons of Whisky Scotland awards lunch in Edinburgh.

Last year's winner, Michael Heads of Ardbeg, was highly commended in the category.

Islay-born Georgie has overseen the running of the distillery since joining Lagavulin in 2010.

Her first role in whisky was at The Vaults in Edinburgh, where she worked for the Scotch

Malt Whisky Society. Following this, Georgie joined Diageo as a visitor centre manager at Talisker distillery on Skye.

This led to a year spent training in distilling with the Glen Ord Group, prior to being offered the distillery manager position at Lagavulin.

Georgie said: 'It's our job to maintain the whisky, the brand, the heritage and we do feel like custodians.'

'I'm thrilled to receive this award on behalf of the whole team at the Lagavulin distillery, who work so hard to produce such a universally popular whisky.'

WHISKY ICON: Georgie Crawford, left, of Lagavulin distillery has been named distillery manager of the year for 2015

Ambitious social housing target

INVESTMENT in social housing in Argyll should see 110 homes built every year for the next three years.

Presenting the programme last week to Argyll and Bute Council, councillor Robin Currie said it was ambitious but achievable and it was good news for people looking for housing, good news for the house building industry and good news for the economy of Argyll and Bute.

Mr Currie continued: 'To me the construction sector is crucial to the economy and investing in house building is absolutely paramount.'

'I'm particularly pleased Argyll and Bute Council will contribute nearly £9 million over the next three years in getting new units built all over Argyll and Bute and the contribution per unit will increase from £22k per unit to £25k per unit as this will enable housing associations to keep rents at affordable levels and make the houses more energy efficient.'

Police hunt boat battery thieves

BOAT batteries worth around £100 have been stolen from Dunstaffnage Marina but police have narrowed down the time of the incident to a 13-minute window.

The theft of up to 12 batteries occurred between 9.40am and 9.53am on Saturday November 15. Police in Oban are particularly interested in speaking to the driver of a white Ford Transit van in relation to the incident but anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area should contact police on 101.

Probe into yard container theft

A CONTAINER at Maclachlan's yard, next to Oban auction mart, was broken into sometime between November 14 and December 5.

Oban police are investigating the theft and would encourage anyone with information to get in touch. The incident, police said, is not necessarily linked to break-ins on consecutive weekends at Glengallan Industrial Estate last month.

Man arrested on vandalism charge

A MAN who was thrown out of an Oban town centre pub was subsequently arrested by police for alleged vandalism and disorder.

The 20-year-old was ejected from the premises and arrested at 1.30am on December 7.

He is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Doors set to open on Santa's grotto

SANTA Claus will be in Oban's Royal Hotel this Saturday and next, to hear what the town's children would like for Christmas.

The grotto, organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club and supported by Oban Express, will run from 11am to 3pm on both days.

SAME DAY, TWO DIFFERENT VIEWS OF OBAN



SAME DAY, two different views of Oban. The first is the one residents would like visitors to see - that of a beautiful esplanade where a rainbow falls behind the cenotaph. Scenic, idyllic and beautifully clean and tidy.

The other is of overflowing bins. It was taken in Soroba but could have been taken in a number of areas in Oban.

Have your say on our Facebook page about these two very different images of Oban.

Winter cheer as Oban sees a 'second season' emerge

EUAN PATERSON
epater@obantimes.co.uk

MORE winter events and a change in visitor habits have seen Oban develop what some are calling a 'second season', as hotels reported full occupancy at a typically quiet time of year.

Work by BID4Oban and the emergence of Oban Winter Festival, alongside the arrival of the Scottish Rural Parliament in Oban saw a busy November in the town.

The weekend of November 28-30, the St Andrew's Day climax to Oban Winter Festival, was particularly busy with Oban Bay Hotel and the Regent Hotel both fully booked on the Saturday night.

The winter festival committee reported a facebook reach of 39,000 people over the first

weekend (November 21 - 23), compared with 8,000 the previous year and many events, such as the St Andrew's Day ceiliidh, were sold out.

Hayley Tucker, head receptionist at Oban Bay Hotel said 'We were particularly busy in the build up to the winter festival. I have worked in the hotel industry for a good number of years and normally October is when you see a decrease, but our reservations have been steady throughout winter.'

Steven Reffin, manager of the Royal Hotel, said: 'Oban, in general, is a busier place for a longer amount of time. Previously you would have the October holidays then it went dead for two months until Christmas, and then quiet again until Easter'

'Now, we maybe have two weeks

in January when it is quiet but the rest of the year is busy. We now employ 60 staff all year round as a result.

'I'm not sure if we got a direct benefit from the winter festival but it all adds to the vibrancy of the town, which attracts people here, and Oban is also marketing itself better.'

'Traditionally, Oban businesses relied on a busy summer-only season, but the recent trend has led to some retailers counting on a 'second season' during winter.

Graham Fraser of Alba said: 'People now like taking minibreaks in the UK and decide at the last minute, so the town has to have events on in winter because of that. Oban Winter Festival has been a slow burner but it is gathering momentum and we felt the shop was much busier this November. People

liked the late-night shopping and events in town and I believe next year will be bigger and better.'

Alister Jackson of Jackson Bros Butchers agreed the traditional summer-only season was an old fashioned idea.

He added: 'The two weekends during the winter festival definitely gave the town a lift; it seemed to create something that wasn't there before.'

Neil Mackay, BID4Oban events manager, said Oban would be even busier next year as the business group leads Oban 2015 Year of Culture, food and drink, a series of events throughout the calendar year. He said: 'This year BID4Oban has worked very hard with partner organisations to encourage business in the shoulder and winter months (September to February).'

'Fireworks, the reindeer

parade, and working with the rural parliament and the winter festival has seen very pleasing improvements in both the retail and visitor footfall.

'This November has underlined how crucial good events are to the economy of Oban.'

Calum Ross, acting chairman of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association disagreed that Oban was enjoying a 'fully-fledged second season' but said events like the winter festival helped businesses during a traditionally quiet time of year.

He added: 'The other thing that brings visitors out of season is the concept of the voucher scheme deals, like Itison and Secret Escapes.'

'If accommodation providers can work with voucher companies and get extra volume to the town, everyone benefits.'

Tiree festival a big boost for island

NOW IN its fifth year, Tiree Music Festival is continuing to have an increased benefit to the island's economy, according to a new report.

The festival, which was named Best Small Event in the UK last month, was held at An Talla in July, to a sell-out crowd of 1,600 people.

Published by consultancy firm MKA Economics, the report showed that an extra 100 people visited the island compared to 2013, a total increase of seven per cent, and an increase of 28 per cent over two years since 2012.

Figures also show that 94 per cent of those attending the festivals were visitors to Tiree, again an increase from the past two years.

While there is likely to be a fan base that has returned to Tiree for the event, three out of 10 of those who responded to the survey were newcomers to the island.

The estimated average spend per visitor was £298.66, a 13 per cent increase on 2013, which works out at around 1,500 visitors injecting £450,379 to the island's economy.

The figures were taken from an online visitor survey conducted in September, asking attendees to give information about their visit, which garnered 663 responses.

Figures also show that 98 per cent of those attending would return to the island for a future visit. The 2015 festival will be held from July 17-19.



IN MEMORY: A fundraiser will be held in memory of dancer Eilidh MacInnes who passed away earlier this year.

Highland dancers honour teacher

HIGHLAND dancers in north Argyll will come together in memory of a teacher who lost her battle with cancer earlier this year.

The Eilidh MacInnes school of dance Christmas show will see Glencruitten church hall light up her life on Tuesday December 16 at 6pm.

The dance school will present prizes to pupils who have passed dancing exams this year alongside special awards for best competitor, most improved dancer and dancer with most potential.

Organisers are planning to hold a raffle and a cake sale with all proceeds from the evening going to DMI Cancer Trust.

Child allowed in home while drugs were used

AN OBAN woman who held a party in her house after which a young man was found dead in her bed has plead guilty to allowing a child to be in her house while drugs were being used.

Arlene Clarke, 28, of Scalpay Terrace in Soroba, Oban, also pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis at her home in April this year.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday: 'The circumstances of this offence tragically involved a death within her home.'

'On Sunday April 6 the accused had a party at her home address that was attended by the deceased and a number of others and that went on most of the night and into the morning of April 7.'

'It was accepted that during the course of that drugs were taken.' He said everyone left the house apart from the young man who was in the accused's bed while she was in the living room asleep or unconscious on the sofa.

At around 12.30pm a child came into the flat and tried to rouse Clarke and then left, only

to return around 5.30pm to find Clarke falling 'in and out of sleep on the sofa', said Mr McGinty.

'The buzzer to the flat went and [the child] let two people into the flat [the child] knew were there the evening before.'

'While [the child] was there, they smoked cannabis in the kitchen and then left.'

The court heard that when Clarke tried to rouse the man around midnight she discovered he was dead.

Mr McGinty said that while there was a traumatic call to

paramedics, the child was allowed to remain in the house.

'The accused had the presence of mind to go through the deceased's pockets and remove drugs which were then discarded,' he added.

When the house was searched by police the cannabis was found in the kitchen.

Defence solicitor Laura McManus said it had clearly been a very tragic incident with repercussions for not only Clarke but the family of the young man. She said it had since been

revealed that the young man's death was 'not a drugs death but death by pneumonia'. She said the child was not supposed to be in the house but had let themselves in and when the cannabis had been smoked in the kitchen, the child had been in a different room.

Fining Clark £100 for possession of cannabis and placing her under a community payback order, with 175 hours of unpaid work, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'The whole circumstances of these two offences are very unpleasant.'

More action needed against foul owners

A GUEST house owner says council staff fall foul in not issuing any enforcement notices against dog owners.

Valerie Bichener of Thornloe guest house in Oban says she has called the local authority on numerous occasions to make a complaint.

She said: 'On an almost daily basis we were finding dog mess on our path up to our guest house. It was being walked in and generally not pleasant.'

'Over a matter of months we emailed, phoned, lodged complaints with Argyll and Bute Council about the lack of action and frankly wondered if the dog warden existed.'

'Finally he phoned and said he had driven up Albert Lane and could not see a problem and could we let him know whose dog was causing a problem. Talk about asking us to do his job. I have photos of a dog we have chased out of our garden several times who then barks at our gate if it is closed. It is not just here that there is a problem we also have problems with fouling outside the Scout hall.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We have two environment wardens covering the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area. They have a great number of duties including car parking, litter and

dog fouling enforcement; handling commercial waste agreements and licences, as well as some enforcement, pest control, control of dog work, investigating fly tipping, dealing with abandoned vehicles and following up public complaints by carrying out amenity inspections.'

'Patrols are on-going and, as resources permit, joint patrols with the wardens and the police take place. Our warden service can be used most effectively when they are given quality information by concerned members of the public.'

'The difficulty is in actually catching dog owners who do not clear up once their pet has fouled. The public can play their part by contacting our customer service centre and providing information, which will help our wardens catch the perpetrators in the act.'

'If any member of the public feels uncomfortable providing the name and address of the person failing to clean up after their dog, they can provide the exact location this occurs - a street, a particular grassland area, the approximate time the dog owner exercises their pet in this area and a description of the dog. This key information can be provided anonymously.'

Manor House Hotel Restaurant

Wine Tasting Dinner January 29
Presented by Eva Franceschi of Inverarity Wines
7 Course Dinner with Wine Pairings - £69
A unique Christmas Gift Voucher

Gallanach Road · Oban · 01631 562087
www.manorhouseoban.com

There are some things you can't do with

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Digital Edition

but you can **save 64%** on an annual subscription

obantimes.co.uk/digital

*Calculated against the cost of a printed annual subscription at £58 per year which includes postage and packaging. Please note this product does NOT work on Kindle, iPad or Tablet. Requires PC or Mac with access to the internet (Broadband recommended) with an internet browser that supports Flash.

CORRAN HALLS CARPARK

STARTS @ 7.00pm

HOGMANAY IN OBAN

BRIAN HUGHES AND HIS BAND

The Works **ceol an Aice** **CRACKIN CRAIC**

NICKY MACINNES **PERFECTLY FLAWED**

BALLET WEST OUTREACH **CHARLOTTE LAWSON**

The allocation of tickets is available from Friday 12th December
They will be distributed over the next few weeks, only available at Oban Filling Station & Corran Halls.

Sponsors: Jewison oban, Argyll & Bute Council, Common Good, Bids, Sinclair Plant & Contracting, Neil McGougan Joiner & Building Contractors Ltd

66 Your say



Keith MacMillan, 46, from Taynuilt, is a steward for ferry operator CalMac.

He agrees with the new legislation and feels eventually the limit should be zero.

He said: 'I think eventually the limit will be, and should be, zero - everyone is waiting for it. In this part of the world the road conditions are hard at the best of times. It's madness to consider driving here after drinking.'

'It's setting a good example for the next generation of drivers who know that they shouldn't be drinking. As a father myself it gives me peace of mind.'

'People don't have to drink. There's never a situation where they can't say no, if they know they're driving.'



Iain Venters, 45, is a taxi driver from Oban.

He said: 'The fact it's lower will make people think twice about drinking the next day, hopefully this will change attitudes because the limit is so low now.'

'If there was a zero-tolerance then people know where they stand and to me this seems as good as. It's definitely a good thing; everyone has got to think about how much they are having now.'

'It's quite right Scotland is leading the way in this as well. The referendum showed we want to make our own laws.'

'This will cut deaths on our roads so it's obviously for the best.'

TOWN RESIDENTS WELCOME LAW CHANGE WHICH BRINGS SCOTLAND INTO LINE WITH MUCH OF EUROPE

Overwhelming support for new lower drink-drive limit

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

THERE has been overwhelming support from people in Oban for a new law that reduces the legal drink-drive limit.

And some believe the change should be seen as a step towards a zero-tolerance approach to drink driving.

The lowering of the limit came into force last Friday, from 80mg in every 100ml of blood to 50mg in every 100ml of blood, bringing Scotland into line with Germany, France, and much of the rest of Europe but below the UK limit.

An average of 20 people die on Scotland's roads every year in accidents involving drivers who are more than the legal drink-drive limit.

There is also evidence to suggest that just one alcoholic drink before driving can make a person three times as likely to be involved in a fatal car crash.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell fully supports the new legislation.

He said: 'The evidence is clear - any alcohol in the bloodstream impairs driving performance and therefore costs lives.'

'Lowering the level still further is in all of our interests, and across Argyll this time next year there will be one or two people who would not be alive had it not been for this change.'

'That is a really sobering thought.'

But while Alan Reid, MP for



Oban police constables Eilidh Ann McAskill and Kenny Brack breathalyse a motorist in Oban. The limit for the amount of alcohol in a person's breath that constitutes a breathalyser fail has dropped from 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath, to 22 millilitres

Factfile
The limit in the rest of the UK is 80mg per 100ml of blood - Europe's highest. Only Malta shares the same 80mg limit.
Northern Ireland is considering making the same reduction as Scotland.
The Czech Republic, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia have introduced a zero-tolerance policy.
Germany has a 50mg limit - but for new drivers the limit is 0mg.
The USA and Mexico have a limit of 80mg, while Canada uses a lower 50mg limit.
In South America, Brazil and Argentina have a 0mg limit.

Argyll and Bute, agrees with the limit reduction, he feels the punishment for the new limits is too harsh.

He said: 'I support the reduction in the drink drive limit from 80mg to 50mg.'

'People shouldn't drink and drive.'

'However, the penalty for a first offence of being over the new limit shouldn't be a 12-month driving ban, if the driver was still under the old limit.'

'A shorter ban would be a sufficient deterrent for a first offence.'

'The penalties for driving offences should be reviewed. For example, driving while using a hand held mobile phone or going through a red light both attract three penalty points, yet these offences are probably more dangerous to other road users than driving with just more than 50mg of alcohol.'

Oban police inspector Julie McLeish was clear on her advice to drivers.

'The safest option is not to drink at all,' she said.

'It is impossible to predict how a measure of alcohol will affect people as alcohol tolerance level can vary from person to person dependent on factors such as size, age and how much they have had to eat.'

'However, any amount of alcohol will cause impairment to some extent.'

'Morning drivers should also be mindful of when they have had their last drink the night before.'



Val Hamilton, 60, is a retired teacher from Oban.

She said: 'This is a good idea because it takes the chance out of it. When the limit had a higher alcohol content in it, people thought to themselves, 'I'm fine if I have one drink'. Hopefully this will cut down on that and people will just say 'no' altogether.'

'I know there are schemes where people are given complimentary soft drinks as well, so really there's no excuse now. Why risk it?'

'It's good Scotland is leading the way as well. We are setting an example, whether the rest of the UK changes the law or not.'



Lynsey Black, 31, is a librarian for Argyll and Bute council.

She said: 'There are quite a few accidents in this area.'

'They are maybe not down to drink driving but this takes that out of the equation.'

'One glass of wine can affect two people very differently, so rather than have that element of doubt it's best for people not to drink at all.'

'I don't drive myself but my boyfriend does and I wouldn't even think of getting in the car if he'd had one drink, but he wouldn't.'

'It's also about changing attitudes towards drink driving and the best way to do it is by changing the law.'



Ian McDougall, 60, from Fort William is a retired carer and former HGV driver.

He said: 'Although I don't drive any more, when I did I would always take a taxi if I'd been drinking and I wouldn't drive the following morning.'

'When I lived in the central belt there were people who would go to the pub, have as many alcoholic drinks as they wanted and then get up and drive the next day, which is incredibly dangerous.'

'People who are used to risking it the next day need to realise that it isn't acceptable. They're putting lives at risk, including their own.'



BUNTY Menassa and Susan Asher are both 60. Bunty is a retired ambulance service worker and Susan is a retired nurse.

Bunty said: 'There's no reason to do it, there are plenty buses and taxis, or groups of people can take it in turn to be the designated driver. I think in the future, eventually the limit will be, and should be, zero.'

Susan agreed, saying: 'I think this is a step towards a zero limit. It's definitely about changing attitudes, and Scotland in particular usually gets a bad name when it comes to alcohol, so this can only be a good thing.'

Meet Santa and his Reindeer at SEA LIFE!

on 14th December

Real live Reindeer Parade and Enclosure

REINDEER PARADE 11.00am

VISIT SANTA IN SANTA'S GROTTO* 11.30am-3.00pm

*Extra charge applies

SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY

Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll PA37 ISE.
Tel: 01631 720 386

£8 entry - discounts available online
www.visitsealife.com/oban

Queen's Guide honour for Julie

A GIRLGUIDING Scotland member from Oban is poised to make her mark on the next generation of leaders after earning the charity's highest accolade - the Queen's Guide Award.

Julie Ann Ewart, 24, has dedicated three years to gaining guiding's top award - a feat achieved by only a handful of Girlguiding's half a million members annually.

The Queen's Guide Award is for women aged 16 to 25 and sets participants a series of demanding tasks, including embarking on an ambitious four-day outdoor adventure, overseeing a pair of ground-breaking community action projects and devoting a year to cultivating a new skill.

Among the tasks Julie chose to tackle were helping to build a sensory garden in her local community and planning a sleepover for Brownies.

She received her award from chief guide Gill Slocombe - a former recipient herself - at a special ceremony in London



DEDICATED: Julie Ann Ewart receives her Queen's Guide Award from chief guide Gill Slocombe

on November 18. Julie, who is a leader with the 2nd Oban Brownies and is working towards her SVQ Level 3 in child care, said: 'Through working on my Queen's Guide Award I have gained confidence in helping the Brownies with their daily tasks.'

'It has also made me more confident that I can take responsibility by taking them out on expeditions and organising sleepovers.'

Gill said: 'Girlguiding's research shows most girls aged 16 to 21 - 58 per cent - aspire to take on leadership roles in their future careers, but they need to see more inspiring women at the top to give them the confidence to do so.'

'The Queen's Guide Award is all about showing young women that this is possible, that they have the potential to take on any challenge the world throws at them and become tomorrow's leaders in all walks of life - so they can go on to inspire the next generation to aim high.'



IN COSTUME: Lorn Resource Centre discussion group and Oban library readers' group who dressed up as famous Scottish literary characters for Book Week Scotland

Groups get into character to celebrate Book Week Scotland

MEMBERS of Lorn Resource centre discussion group and Oban library readers' group dressed up as famous Scottish literary characters last week to celebrate Book Week Scotland.

Organised by Argyll and Bute council's adult literacy and numeracy service in Oban, the members read from and distributed free copies of Scotland's Stories of Home from November 24-30.

Now an annual event, Book Week Scotland was initiated by the Scottish Book Trust to give people from all walks of life the chance to come together to share and enjoy books and reading.

ADVERTORIAL

Get along to Sea Life Sanctuary for festive fun

JOIN The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary for its annual Winter Festival Funday on Sunday December 14.

This year, it promises to be even more magical as the event welcomes real reindeer to the sanctuary.

Experience the magic of Christmas with Rudolph and his friends as they parade into the centre accompanied by Father Christmas in his sleigh. Children can then meet Santa in his enchanting Christmas Grotto and will receive an exclusive gift.

The reindeer will be resting in a paddock where everyone can take lots of pictures of them throughout the day.

Treats and tasty festive fayre available in the restaurant. From sumptuous hot chocolate - with extra marshmallows perhaps - to warm mince pies.

The sanctuary shop will also be open where that perfect Christmas gift can be found.

From VIP feeding experiences, creature adoptions and Sea Life annual passes, to

amazing stocking fillers, there's sure to be something for everyone in the fantastic gift shop.

Parading into the sanctuary at 11am on Sunday December 14, Santa and his reindeer will spend the afternoon greeting children before parading out again at 3pm.

To avoid disappointment, prebooking is strongly encouraged as the sanctuary will be busy.

Discounts are also available by booking online.

Volunteers still required

SEVEN volunteers have come forward since the Oban branch of the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) made a plea for help. But meet and greet and befriender organiser Audrey Hunter says the group would still like more people to come forward. The service, based in Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital, sees a member of the RVS support those people who are coming into the hospital. RVS also provides a trolley service to hospital patients. Anyone who would like to volunteer, at various different times of the day, should contact Audrey on audrey.hunter@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or on 07557 911567.

Cruise round west coast gardens

MEMBERS of the Lorn Garden Club were treated to a tour of gardens on the west coast from the perspective of the Hebridean Princess for its December meeting. Maurice Wilkins, head gardener at Arduaine, inspired the group with photographs of the tour, on which he was a guest speaker. Gardens featured were: Armadale Castle; Canna House; Dunvegan Castle; Inverewe; Attadale; Lip na Cloiche and Ardchattan Priory. The next meeting is on Tuesday January 6 when the topic will be garden pests and diseases.

APPEAL TO RESIDENTS TO REPORT SUSPECTS ANONYMOUSLY AS DRUGS CRACKDOWN REMAINS TOP OF COMMANDER'S PRIORITIES

Police urge public to shop a dealer



TOUGH STANCE: launching the Shop A Dealer campaign in the community's battle against illegal drugs are, from left, Oban police inspector Julie McLeish, Graham Bruce of WHHA, councillor Elaine Robertson and Oban police sergeant Alan Moore 15_t50shop01

EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

POLICE in Argyll are seeking the public's help as they aim to add to their database of intelligence on the county's drug dealers. The Shop A Dealer campaign allows members of the public to anonymously report suspected drug dealers using a leaflet that can be posted free of charge to police. Previously run three years ago, police in Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown say the campaign is an effective way of weeding out drug dealers in these communities. The campaign launch on Monday came a week after 14 people in the area were charged with various drugs offences, suggesting a crackdown on drugs crime is high on area commander Marlene Baillie's list of priorities. The chief inspector said: 'Drugs are a key priority for us, because they are a priority for the community. There is evidence of drugs within our community and from the dialogue I have had with the community, it is clearly a community concern. 'We maybe have not managed to give them sufficient confidence, in terms of what we are doing to tackle illegal drugs. We are doing a lot of work around this but maybe we are not feeding that back to the communities.'

“ It may just be the missing link we need to capture a drug dealer ”

Area commander
Marlene Baillie

'The Shop A Dealer scheme allows people to give information directly to local officers but without having to go into a police office or make a formal report. 'I would encourage anyone who has concerns about drugs to let us know. 'Every piece of information will be fed into our intelligence systems and it may just be the missing link we need to capture a drug dealer.' Leaflets will be available in public buildings, local shops and distributed by housing associations. These leaflets contain a tear off sealed post card that allows information to be sent back freepost to local police offices in Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Oban. The information received will be used to build up a broader

knowledge of drug dealing within a particular area. The campaign has been launched in partnership with Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), Fyne Homes, West Highland Housing Association (WHHA), Kintyre Crime Prevention Panel and Oban, Lorn and the Isles Substance Misuse Group. Graham Bruce of WHHA said the leaflets would be distributed to its tenants along with their Christmas newsletter. He added: 'We are very happy to support the initiative. 'Like any social housing landlord we would certainly act on any information received and work hand-in-hand with the police. 'We won't tolerate drug dealing in any of our premises.' Oban North and Lorn councillor Elaine Robertson, who is also chairwoman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Substance Misuse Group, said: 'I fully support all initiatives that address the impact of drugs on our communities. 'The campaign is an opportunity for intelligence and information to come to the police in an anonymous fashion. 'This is part of the greater intelligence gathering by the police and it is reassuring to know all the Shop A Dealer reports will be scrutinised and used appropriately.'

MULL lines

Huge praise for Mull Rally

PISTONHEADS, the national magazine of motor sports, said Mull Rally was 'well worth the trip'. In a report to the magazine it says that Mull on first impressions was 'a bit Father Ted,' in reference to the pace of life, but the southerner soon got into the swing of the rally, saying, 'I'm glad I did it.' Mike Duff wrote in the magazine: 'Mull is not the most obvious place in Scotland for a driving adventure. 'This Hebridean island isn't home to any of the sort of sweeping A-roads that you'd normally associate with the Highlands, although you'll have travelled over a few of these on the long journey there. 'Rather Mull's roads are narrow,

twisty and very three-dimensional, with the big crests inevitably followed by deep gouges in the tarmac where the undersides of cars have met the surface. 'But while it's well worth coming to Mull for the tour in October, it's also a great place to visit afterwards - when the roads are open and there's nobody about, and you can make your own private pilgrimage to a motor sport venue that makes the Col De Turini look as fast and open as Monza. 'The locals are a friendly bunch too, although several clearly thought my pilgrimage to Mull out-of-season was pure madness. They may have been right, but I'm glad I did it.'

Transforming Tobermory

THE TOBERMORY Harbour Association's long-term vision of 'facilities for all' is underway. Developments on the community association's waterfront asset have now reached a new stage - phase six - with a new pier and breakwater proposed to further increase the popular project. Phase six project manager Marion MacLean said that design drawings had been received in mid-November. Funds have already been secured in early 2014 to finance an engineering study and prepare a budget estimate for phase six. As well as the pier it is hoped the breakwater will have an attached pontoon attenuator. This will protect the existing pontoons and, in turn, provide berthing and all-tidal accessible facilities for the local fishing fleet, charter boats and commercial vessels, and a vital new slipway with boat servicing area. Marion said: 'This multi-million project is essential in the development of Tobermory as a hub-port and is not only key to the growth and sustainability of Tobermory as a must-see tourism destination but also to the concept of Tobermory as a safe and accessible primary harbour; expansion of which will deliver considerable benefit to all coastal communities north and west of Ardnamurchan.' She added: 'With the plans almost in place, we are now exploring the



VISION: Tobermory harbour

various avenues of funding but are confident that, given the investment which has been made in other west coast harbours recently, we at Tobermory are in prime position to deliver major benefit to these more remote sailing locations. 'The phase six plans would not only encourage extension of the visitor season through private yacht, commercial and cruise sectors, bringing wealth to Tobermory and the Isle of Mull but also encourage visitors afloat north to recently developed harbours at Lochmaddy, Lochboisdale, Barra and as far north as Stornoway as well as west to Ulva, Staffa, Iona, Coll and Tiree. 'The recent £10 million harbour development at Lochboisdale was completed with public funding and grant aid and Tobermory is the best placed gateway to drive business to Lochboisdale and the rest of the all important necklace of west coast harbours.'

Quiz night cash for fireworks

A QUIZ night in Tobermory's Park Lodge Hotel has raised £140 towards the Hogmanay fireworks display. Last Saturday five teams took part in a two-hour, eight-round quiz. Local worthies the Pokey Hats ran out winners by some distance from second-placed Charlie

and his 5 Angels. Hostess Rebecca Gallagher thanked everyone for their efforts and contributions to the cause. The fireworks display still requires more funds and next up is a Festive Football Frenzy on Sunday December 21, with a full programme of football quizzing and two football games.

Fèis Mhuile fundraising ceilidh

FÈIS Mhuile held a ceilidh dance fundraiser in Bunnassan Hall at the end of November.

Performers, including Iain Cameron, Alasdair Whyte and friends, played to a good crowd.

Grocery Click+Collect now at Killin Hotel

Your online grocery shopping picked, packed and even popped in your boot. All at a time to suit you and free when you spend £25 or more at tesco.com/groceries

📍 Killin Hotel car park
 Main Street, Killin, FK21 8TP

tesco.com/groceries
 Free Click+Collect when you spend £25 or more on orders placed on tesco.com/groceries or the Tesco Grocery Apps. Minimum basket charge applies to orders under £25. Collection at selected UK stores. The free Click+Collect offer may be withdrawn without notice.

Glengarry

A GLENGARRY moor is being turned into a bee and butterfly paradise for next spring. Volunteers from Highland Titles - a group which sells small plots of land to members of the public - have planted around 100 aspen, hawthorn and rowan trees in a special nature reserve they have created on the edge of Loch Loyne and named Bumblebee Haven. Once they start to flower, the trees will provide a perfect habitat for insects. Highland Titles has similar reserves set aside for honeybees which schoolchildren in Lochaber recently helped to build. But one of the volunteers, Stewart Borland, believes bumblebee colonies are harder to establish. He said: 'You can't just buy a hive of bumblebees because they nest underground, you have to get them to come to you. 'But depending on what you plant you can turn anything into a bumblebee haven.'

Coll

THERE are several activities on this weekend at An Cridhe, Coll's community hall, as residents enjoy the build-up to Christmas. On Friday night there will be football activities with a Christmas twist. Children are invited to An Cridhe for some fun and games, 5.30pm -7pm, while parents will be kept entertained with a Christmas quiz at the Coll Hotel, with proceeds going to the Kids Football Club. Staff from the Cosmos Planetarium will be on Coll with their stargazing equipment to amaze locals with their knowledge of the stars on Saturday. On Sunday, they will be hosting an afternoon of astronomy activities for kids at An Cridhe, including a rocket-making workshop and launch, followed by two short films in the planetarium.

Plockton

CHARLIE MacRae, who has held both the secretary and treasurer roles within Plockton hall committee for half a century is giving up one of the roles. At the group's annual meeting on November 25 the meeting decided to split the secretary/treasurer into two roles. Mr MacRae had been secretary for 53 years and treasurer for 48 years but gave up the treasurer's role. Kally Leiper was appointed the new treasurer. All the other office-bearers were re-elected with John Leiper standing down from the committee. The treasurer reported a satisfactory balance, despite expenditure of £9,797.22. The committee agreed to get a dishwasher and a new fridge in the new year and also buy new cutlery.

Fort William

FORT William's women's rural institute branch met in the Railway Club on December 1. The group enjoyed music from David Anderson and Liz Budge, who sang old and familiar songs introducing many of them with the story of their origin. Isobel McGavin won the competition for a hand-made Christmas decoration with Catherine Hamilton in second place. Raffle winners were Martine Young and Heather Davie. Next month's meeting will be on January 5 at 7.15pm when a police representative will tell the group about home safety and how to deal with bogus callers. The competition will be for three rock buns.

Fort William

ARISAIG villagers enjoyed an unusually dry month according to amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyne. Rainfall in November was 137.4mms, well below average for this time of year. The median temperature ranged from a low of 4°C to a high of 13°C, both warmer than usual. Coldest night in November was -1°C with the hottest day reaching 18°C, a century high, only equalled in 2011.



RESTORED: The memorial granite bench in main street has been returned to its former glory.



HERO: William MacBean.

Taynuilt memorial restored to former glory

A MEMORIAL to a Taynuilt war hero, situated in the centre of the village, has been restored to its former glory thanks to another former soldier. Taynuilt resident and keen historian Brigadier John MacFarlane arranged for the stone bench dedicated to second lieutenant William MacBean, Inverawe, to be restored. The bench, situated on the main street in front of Taynuilt police station, was refurbished using leftover money from a Taynuilt War Memorial Fund. Taynuilt residents initially contributed to the fund when the village war memorial was repaired and the names of the fallen from World War II added.

William MacBean died in action on May 12, 1916. His death came at the end of a night where he distinguished himself in a German attack on a position held by 11th Argylls. He took charge of the counter-attack, established contact with units on the flanks and finally took post on the firing-step of newly-won trenches with rifle in hand like his men. Just at the moment of victory, he was killed by a single sniper-shot to the head. He is buried in Vermelles Military Cemetery. Brigadier MacFarlane said: 'William was an extraordinary officer and personality, described as 'frank, genial, untiring and fearless'. It is a

fitting memorial to a brave officer who was one of three brothers from the same family who died in World War I. 'It is right that his monument should be on the edge of a flower-garden in the centre of the village and used frequently by passers-by, tourists and mums waiting for their school-children. That is a fine way to remember one of our heroes.' The memorial bench, which is of granite from Inverawe Quarry, was originally erected at the request of officers of the regiment at the mouth of the River Awe. During clearance operations connected with the Cruachan Dam, the seat was moved by two local builders to Taynuilt main street.



Pupils hit the high notes for St Andrew's Day

CELEBRATIONS: Banavie primary school pupils celebrated St Andrew's day with a ceilidh and performance for family and friends. Children from primary one to seven took part in the event which featured singing, dancing, and poetry recitals. Above: Banavie primary six and seven pupils prepare to sing at the St Andrew's day ceilidh



Ballachulish and Kinlochleven

SOUTH Lochaber children had a taste of culture during a recent trip to Inverness. Primary six and seven pupils from Ballachulish and Kinlochleven primary schools visited the city's museum and art gallery to view the work of Scottish artists John Byrne. The exhibition, named Sitting Ducks, included drawings, paintings and multimedia pieces from throughout Mr Byrne's career.

TRIP: Ballachulish and Kinlochleven primary pupils before exploring Inverness museum and art gallery

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

MORVERN lines

LAND and alcohol are in the news just now. Ownership of the former has always been an emotive subject. Indeed, it is probably fair to say it has been the cause of more unrest in the world than religion. Long ago land was tied up with cattle raising which generated wealth and fighting men. Nowadays lumps of concrete in burns and myriads of horizon-giddy wind turbines are the 'cash cows' and the only fighting is over feed-in tariffs and how much the local communities should be compensated for the inconvenience and visual intrusion, if at all. How do you define a 'community' and what is a 'local'? It was always said in the past that to qualify for that exclusive label five generations of your family had to live and die in the same locality. Now that people move around more, that is certainly no longer the case as the following story, which went the rounds in Oban a decade or so ago, exemplifies. It concerned a lady who drove on to the forecourt of an Oban petrol station, who might have been the Dowager Countess of Grantham herself. She demanded, somewhat bluntly, that the attendant should jump to it; she belonged, she said, to the island of Mull and was hurrying to catch the ferry to Craignure. The canny attendant, as fine a specimen of a West Highlander you would ever wish to meet, carried on without comment in his usual unhurried way until he handed over her change and murmured, with just the vaguest hint of polite deference: 'Indeed, I thought by your accent you must be from Mull.' As the late Dr Flora MacDonald, of Salen, used to maintain 'the curious phenomenon of those last off the boat having the most to say'. No matter what your politics are, if you live and work in the Highlands and islands things will never be quite the same again if the proposed Scottish Land Reform Act passes through parliament. It is not only the owners of large farms and estates who will be affected but, more worryingly, the smallholders, tenants and crofters who are just as attached, if not more so, to their 'wee bit hill and glen'. If a radical shakeup is needed the government should lead by example and instruct the Forestry Commission and Scottish Natural Heritage, which it controls, to sell off some of their massive land banks. In Morvern alone there are huge chunks of the 14,000-acre Finuary Forest lying derelict that will never be planted which could be made into agricultural units and crofts, especially along the Sound of Mull. If there is one anomaly in land ownership which does need addressing it is absenteeism. The Morvern peninsula runs to about 118,221 acres and is owned by only 21 individuals with more than 100 acres. Only one is resident throughout the year. In the past it was said that to finance an estate an owner had to live in the south especially if they worked in the city. With better communication, eg access to high-speed broadband and reliable mobile telephone coverage, this is no longer the case. Permanent residency at that level would bring many benefits for everyone. Perhaps those landowners who live outwith the parish for much of the year should be subject to a higher rate of taxation as their counterparts are on the continent.



ABSENT: too few Morvern landowners are resident



MOVING FORWARD: the Forestry Commission needs to release more land for local community use

A NEW law has come into force which makes the legal drink drive limit in Scotland lower than elsewhere in the UK. The change reduces the legal alcohol limit from 80mg to 50mg in every 100ml of blood. There was a story told many years ago of a gamekeeper who lived in a remote glen with a bad road leading to it. He was fond of a dram and when he cycled down to the nearest village for his weekly food supplies, he usually spent the rest of the day in the pub, resulting in a very zig-zag journey home. One day a tramp arrived at his door asking for some food and work. The gamekeeper was cutting peats at the time and suggested that the tramp might like to help him. As they laboured he said to the tramp: 'You are a very good worker, what are you doing on the road?' The tramp replied: 'Well keeper, it's the drink that put me on the road.' The keeper looked at him and said: 'It never put me on the road, but it has put me off the road often enough.' When the Rev Thomas Newton of Glencripesdale estate decided to build a new mansion house on Loch Sunart-side he engaged an Oban contractor called William Menzies. On the day the house was completed he invited him in for a dram. Producing a bottle of the best Scottish whisky, he poured out a smaller measure than Mr Menzies was accustomed to. After he had finished it Mr Newton, who didn't really approve of alcohol, said: 'Now isn't that a fine whisky?' 'Well,' was the reply, 'there was so little of it I cannot tell whether it is good or bad.' The hint was taken and the glass refilled. Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com

SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS
SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE
ScottishField
www.scottishruralawards.org

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR THE AWARDS GALA DINNER
Thursday 26th March 2015 held at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

FREE LUXURY GOODIE BAG FOR EVERY GUEST

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT: www.scottishruralawards.org
or Tel: 0131 551 7933 email: info@scottishruralawards.org



GENEROUS: Lady Lovat pupils prepared gift boxes to send to orphans for Christmas

Morar youngsters spread festive cheer

KIND-HEARTED Morar children fill 32 boxes with gifts donated by the prepared Christmas parcels for orphans in other countries. The Lady Lovat primary school pupils and staff set up a production line to

MORAR children had a taste of different music and culture when a group of Ghanian drummers paid them a visit. Joined by children from nearby Inverie, Lady Lovat primary school pupils enjoyed learning to play the drums with the help of the Kakatsitsi troupe. The youngsters and teachers thanked Kenneth MacKenzie, who runs a shop at Mallaig Mission, for the donation of £150, used to pay for the visit.



RENT TO BUY SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED IN LOCHABER

New housing cash welcomed

LOCHABER families struggling to buy homes will be given a helping hand thanks to a £3 million investment by the Scottish government.

The Rural Rent to Buy housing scheme - which currently allows tenants to buy houses for less than their market value after renting them for five years - is to be widened to include more Lochaber communities following the cash boost, making houses affordable to those who do not have the funds to buy immediately.

The system, run by the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT), sees tenants given a cash return to use as a deposit to buy their house at the end of the renting period.

Several houses - three in Arisaig, one in Acharacle and one in Invergarry - are currently being built as part of the initiative, using land provided by Lochaber Housing Association, with plans for another three in Strontian and one in Mallaig to be constructed next spring.

More similar detached and semi-detached homes are planned in the future for other yet to be decided parts of the Highlands following the £3 million extra funding from the government, which comes on top of a £30 million cash boost given last week to the Help to Buy (Scotland) scheme.

Blair Allan, chief executive of Lochaber Housing Association, believes HSCHT's scheme will be a great help to people locally.

He said: 'We are delighted to be working with the HSCHT to deliver these properties, which are an innovative and attractive way to enable families in housing need to access affordable housing. We think it could have a lot of mileage in our area; Lochaber is a difficult place to get into and there has been a lot of squeeze since the recession plus increased demand for holiday homes.'

The Rural Rent to Buy scheme in the Highlands has employed local contractors to build properties, which is hoped

will benefit the local economy. Ronnie MacRae, chief executive of HSCHT, said: 'The Scottish government's approach to increased rural development is hugely helpful and this scheme is proving extremely popular with individuals, contractors and communities. The scheme is based entirely on loan finance which has the potential to be recyclable and provide social and economic benefit to rural communities for the longer term.'

However Fort William resident Carolanne Lawrie, who has struggled to find a house in the area, believes the rent to buy scheme should include properties within her hometown rather than villages outside if it is to help people.

She said: 'If it was to include Fort William itself it would make a difference for those needing homes but not anywhere else.'

'Lack of housing seems to be an ongoing problem for everyone here.'

For more on Miss Lawrie's story, turn to page 9.



Corpach sparkles at lights switch-on

FESTIVE FUN: Ellie Dennison, eight, left, from Lochside primary school and Kieran MacEachan, five, of Banavie primary were well wrapped up when they switched on the Christmas tree lights at Corpach on Friday. A large crowd braved cold and icy weather for the ceremony, before heading to Kilmallie hall for warm refreshments

Lightning knocks out lighthouse

ARDNAMURCHAN lighthouse was knocked out of action by a bolt of lightning during severe weather in the West Highlands on Sunday morning.

The building was struck during fierce thunderstorms in the early hours of the morning, causing the light to go off and the emergency back-up beam to come on.

Northern Lighthouse Board technicians visited the site the following day and reinstated the main lamp, which will continue to be observed until the stormy weather subsides. While the back-up light can guide ships, it does not have the same range as the main system and is in a fixed position as opposed to moving.

Fort man guilty of two sexual assaults

COURT REPORTER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A FORT William man will be put on the sex offenders' register after he was found guilty of two counts of sexual assault.

Ian Bruce, of 28 Kennedy Road, was told he could face prison for touching two women on their breasts. Sheriff Richard Davidson also found the 47-year-old supermarket worker guilty of exposing and touching himself in front of the victims and another woman, all on the night of May 20.

During the trial on Monday, Fort William sheriff court heard

Bruce had joined the three friends, who can't be named for legal reasons, at a house in the town where they had been drinking. He denied all charges, saying in court he had exposed himself and touched one woman's breasts after encouragement.

Giving evidence, Bruce said: 'I was a bit merry, I had a lot to drink. They said 'we have seen [named other men] so what are the chances of seeing mine?' So I stood up and pulled down my trousers.'

'She [one of the victims] was rubbing and squeezing her breasts and I went over and put my hands under her top, over her

bra, she didn't do anything to stop me.'

But during her evidence, the first witness said she was 'uncomfortable' when Bruce exposed himself and did not want him to touch her.

She said: 'He exposed himself in the kitchen, had his hands at his crotch and was moving them up and down. I was really uncomfortable and just wanted to leave. I was waiting for someone to pick me up and was gathering my stuff together when he came up behind me and put his hands up my top.'

'I pushed him away and ran into the hall.'

Another witness said she saw this happen and when the two women left her home Bruce touched her breasts and attempted to put his hands down her trousers.

She added: 'I was on my phone and he came up behind me and put his hands up my top then tried to put his hand down my trousers.'

'He only got to just below the waistband. He had one hand on my breast and one at my trousers.'

Fiscal depute Ruairidh McAlister called Bruce's defence 'ridiculous and incredible' but defence solicitor

Hamish Melrose insisted he was responding to encouragement from the women.

Sheriff Davidson found Bruce guilty of all charges and deferred sentencing until January 6 for background reports.

He said: 'This behaviour suggests to me that you are a throwback of the bad old times when men thought they could abuse women and get away with it.'

'Your behaviour was completely and utterly unacceptable. Given the nature of these offences and the fact there are three of them I must be explicit that you could face a prison sentence.'

OT
TIMESLINE

Mallaig man remanded in custody on driving charges

A MALLAIG man has been remanded in custody after he drove a truck under the influence of alcohol and without a licence or insurance.

Allan Morrison, of 1 Blaven View, admitted the charges, committed on Thursday December 4, when he appeared in Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday.

Fiscal depute Ruairidh McAlister told the court a policeman said he finished his shift at 6.30pm and saw the 38-year-old cleaner's tipper go out of control on the main A830 road through Mallaig before skidding on a roundabout and crashing in to a bollard.

He added: 'The accused was not apprehended at the time but a few days after the incident he gave himself up voluntarily and was taken to Fort William police station.'

Defending solicitor Gerry Sweeney said Morrison had been drinking following an argument with his partner and had 'reacted badly'.

He added: 'Rather than dealing with the issue in a responsible way he went to a local bar and drank alcohol.'

'He understands he has a difficulty with alcohol and knows he has to do something about it.'

Sheriff Richard Davidson called for a background report on Morrison, who will be remanded in custody until the case calls again in January.

He said: 'You had already been disqualified from driving for previous offences and, if you won't accept that, the alternative is a more serious punishment.'



like us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/
obantimes



4.9%APR representative.

Our best ever loan rate. Exclusively for TSB customers.

At TSB we only give personal loans to our existing customers, because we want to help them thrive.

And at this expensive time of year we're offering our best ever rate of 4.9% APR representative on loans between £7,500 and £20,000.

So if you're a TSB customer and would like to take advantage of this rate feel free to get in touch.

You know where to find us.

call | click | visit

Local banking
for Britain



Our loans are available to TSB Current Account Holders who have held a TSB current account for 3 or more months. Lending is subject to status and lending criteria. Borrowers must be aged 18 or over and UK resident. TSB Bank plc. Registered office: Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland No. SC95237. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under registration number 191240. We subscribe to the lending code: copies of the Code can be obtained from www.lendingstandardsboard.org.uk. TSB Bank plc is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and the Financial Ombudsman Service.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Embrace 'second season'

IT HAS long been said that businesses in Oban need a good summer.

Why? Because in the winter locals are not out and about as often; they don't spend as much and there are no tourists anyway. Right?

Well, it seems times are indeed changing. The much-heralded 'staycation' seems to have finally borne fruit in this part of the world, meaning people from all over the UK are willing to pack their bags and head for the west Highlands at any time of the year.

At the same time Oban has focussed its efforts on extending the traditional summer season, organising events for the months from September to February.

Organisations such as BIDOban and Oban Winter Festival have been key to increasing this footfall to the area and, in effect, creating a second season.

Let's hope this is a trend, rather than a flash in the pan.

Glasgow Letter

Glasgow Skye Association

I RECENTLY highlighted the problems facing city associations when organising functions.

To this list must be added the Glasgow Skye Association since its annual dinner, concert and dance takes place during the first weekend of December and therefore risks people not being able to attend because of inclement weather.

I am pleased to report 2014 was kind to them and this set the scene for a series of successful events.

First up was the dinner in Glasgow University Union with guest of honour John Norman MacLeod, vice principal and director of studies at Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

From Trotternish in Skye, John Norman was the first lecturer appointed to the college and as the profile of the institution developed in tertiary education his personal career has paralleled this rise in status. In his speech at the dinner, and then in a resume at the concert, he took as his theme island communities with their shared characteristics and problems.

In particular, he was pleased there was now improved educational opportunities in the tertiary sector meaning there is less need for the youngsters to leave their communities.

As a consequence these communities were more likely to maintain their identity.

In entertaining speeches, the toast to the association was proposed by Julia MacIsaac, president of the Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, and committee member Anna West delivered the reply.

At the short ceilidh which followed the singers were Alasdair Gillies, Calum Ross and Darren MacLean.

One of the unique features of the Glasgow Skye is that it has its own pipe band and with Pipe Major Ewan Henderson it once again, at the concert, showcased why it is a top band.

The artists were all in top form with each of the singers, Margaret MacLeod, Eilidh Munro, Seumas Campbell and Robert Robertson, all being Mod Gold Medalists.

The earliest medal was won in 1962 and the most recent in 2013 so there was a range of ages on stage and interestingly all but Robert were at one time members of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, in Eilidh's case the junior choir.

It was also pleasing that the singers took the opportunity, where appropriate, to be accompanied by Alan Kitchen and this encouraged more audience participation.

Completing the line-up of artists, Fiona MacAskill, from Skye and a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, played excellent fiddle selections.

At the close of his address at the concert John Norman and his wife Janet were each presented with a memento of the occasion by Daniel Save, grandson of committee member George MacDonald and great grandson of the late Jake MacDonald.

At the dance which followed the concert the music was provided by Robert Robertson and his band, a fitting end to a successful weekend for the Glasgow Skye Association.

Clydebank ceilidh

THE FINAL ceilidh of 2014 will take place in Napier Hall tomorrow evening (Friday) at 7.30pm when the artists will be piper Robert Wood, accordionist Willie Scott and singers Sheena Walker, Alasdair Whyte and Rocksalt.

The accompanist will be Kirsteen Grant and I will be chairman for this ceilidh.

Highlander's Club

THE HIGHLANDER'S Club which was formed in 1971 to run ceilidh dances in the Highlander's Institute and then in Partick Burgh Hall, has this session reduced the number of events due to costs.

But on Saturday December 20 it will return to the Partick venue for a dance with Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band.

Old and new members are encouraged to give support so that the club can continue as in the past.

Oban High School FPs

IF YOU are a former pupil of Oban High School, a date for the diary is Saturday March 14 2015 when the FP Association will be holding its annual dinner dance in Oban's Royal Hotel, a change from the usual Glasgow location.

Tickets, cost £30, are available from Ruth Oliver telephone 07766 816025.

Diary dates

Thursday December 11: Gaelic Quiz, 7pm. Coffee and Craic, 74 Elderslie Street.

Friday December 12: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh - see above. Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm - The Bevvys Sisters.

Saturday December 13: Glasgow Skye Association Children's Party, Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, 2.30pm. Tolbooth, Stirling, Christmas ceilidhs, 3pm and 8pm.

Tuesday December 16: Singing workshop and singalong with Gillebride MacMillan, Coffee and Craic, 74 Elderslie Street, 7pm.

Thursday December 18: Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook, City Halls, 8pm.

Saturday December 20: Highlander's Club Ceilidh Dance - see above.

Pub scene

DEOCH 'n Dorus with Martin Pottinger will be playing in the Park Bar on Friday, Ceol An Aire on Saturday and Nicky McMichan with Martin Pottinger on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday. Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



Young day porters, Royal Hotel, Oban

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Mrs Ruth Grant of Tain, Ross-shire. It features some of the young day porters who worked in the Royal Hotel, Oban, as day porters in years gone by. Mrs Grant died in 1992 and Mrs Grant retired and sold up to Strathmore Hotels. Included in the photograph are John, Donnie, David 'Socks' and Steven. The boys worked in the hotel after school and in the school holidays. Prints or emails of flashback photos sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk should be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Planning concerns fall on deaf ears

Sir, I read with interest last week's article about the Lundavra Road development in Fort William.

It seems planners were aware of the concerns of the adjacent houses but allowed the project to sail through, completely ignoring the people affected with blatant callousness.

I was similarly affected when a person who had no intentions of living in Tobermory received planning permission to build a two storey house on the ruins of a single storey bothy in a back lane in a conservation area. Several of the adjacent neighbours were never notified of the plan until it was well under construction, the explanation being that notification had been out-sourced to a private company.

We protested to no avail. This building has a roof level which can be seen clearly from the main street below and is used as a holiday home, so doesn't help local housing needs.

Now the same council has allowed a person who bought a single-storey mid-terrace house on the most iconic street in Tobermory to be totally demolished.

This is one of the oldest houses in the town on a beautiful street overlooking the town and, may I say again, in a conservation area. The new owners submitted extravagant plans to turn this traditional house into a two-storey house with a magnificent bay window overlooking the bay with a

huge extension and massive area at the rear.

After protests they withdrew their plans and came back with a modified version having been informed that they must retain the original façade.

However, they demolished so much of this mid-terrace house that the front of the house became unsafe and now they will have to completely rebuild the façade, presumably in the same appearance as it was with the ultra modern behind.

It would appear the word 'conservation' has different meanings to different authorities.

The school at Upper Achintore will be built no doubt with no further reference to the people living close by. How sad is that?
Pat Sands, Tobermory.

Glengallan Road could have better bus service

Sir,

On November 27 you published an article about West Coast Motors intending to run Sunday buses between Oban and Fort William.

This is very welcome news. However, will it mean the same old story of drivers being instructed not to carry passengers between Glengallan Road and Station Square? In *The Oban Times* on August 28 you published an article about there being no Sunday buses to or from Glengallan Road. Strictly speaking, this is incorrect. There are Sunday buses running to and from Glengallan Road but they refuse to carry any passengers.

Your Letters

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

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

Press Policy

WEATheObanTimesdoourutmosttomakesurethatallour reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

When I contacted West Coast Motors I was told that the Oban-Fort William buses and the Oban-Glasgow buses were operated by it under contract to Citylink and Citylink will not allow it to carry passengers between Station Square and Glengallan Road.

When I contacted Citylink about this, it said that this was nonsense.

It said the bus operator could carry passengers beyond Station Square to and from the bus garage in Glengallan Road as long as it made it clear this was not part of the Citylink contract. In other words, the buses could show route number 5 from Glengallan Road to Station Square and then change the number to 918 (Fort William) or to 976 (Glasgow). In the opposite direction, they could change the number to 5 (Glengallan Road) when they arrive at Station Square from Fort William or from Glasgow.

In addition to the above, there are also two local 'ghost' buses to and from Glengallan Road on Sundays. They run at the following times: Glengallan Road to Station Square at 10.06am and 10.27am, and from Station Square to Glengallan Road at 6.32pm and 6.40pm.

These buses are not shown in any timetable leaflets, not shown online, not shown at bus stops, and if you call the Traveline telephone enquiry service they will deny any such buses exist.

I am not sure what instructions the drivers of these buses are given, but some drivers will allow passengers to use these buses and some will not.

So there is absolutely no reason for Glengallan Road not to have a better bus service, including a Sunday service, simply by permitting passengers to travel on existing bus journeys instead of refusing to allow passengers to use these buses.

David Gallant, Oban.

Better Mull roads vital

Sir, Following David Whitehouse's letter, whilst I agree Mull's road surfaces need improving, I do not agree road widening improvements will be tampering with something successful.

With the proposed introduction of RET, we are bound to see an increase in visitor numbers, traffic that sections of our single track roads will be unable to cope with. The section between Tobermory and Salen is long overdue for upgrading to two lanes.

Improved roads will make things more successful for both islanders and visitors. Visitor Val Ibsen may be

happy with our quaint single track roads, but she does not have to live or work here.

Not all visitors agree with her; friends of mine visiting for the first time recently left after one day as they could no longer face single track driving. They are not likely to return, comparing us unfavourably with Skye.

I wonder how many other visitors feel the same way?
Phil Siddall, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

No respect for Co-op staff

Sir, One of the largest shops in Oban closing, does it matter?

Part of the community for nearly 100 years, does it matter?

Nearly 500 years' service in the final team of staff, does it matter?

The only supermarket you could go into and the staff knew you by name, does it matter?

Raised thousands of pounds for local good causes over the years, does it matter? If it does, then tell me this: Why were the staff treated so badly in the last few weeks, pushed and shoved by customers who only had eyes for cheap food.

No respect was given to the 30-plus staff who have lost their jobs three weeks before Christmas, but still in their final days there gave more than £1,300 to Friends of Oban Hospice and more than £1,000 worth of food to Hope kitchen.

Even in *The Oban Times* over the last few months it's all been about the closure and the Lidl takeover.

Last week it would have been a kind gesture to everyone involved to at least print a picture big enough to make out the staff, never mind the cheque they were handing over to charity and a story to say farewell to a loyal caring team instead of converting the story back to Lidl again.

Good luck for the future to all the Co-op staff from someone who does care.

M Diamond, Ardentinny.

Phone thanks

Sir, Last week I arrived home in Tobermory and realised I had lost my mobile phone, possibly in Tesco's Oban.

I phoned and 'yes' the phone had been handed in.

I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to whoever found my phone. Everyone was so kind from the manager at Tesco's and all the people on our local Facebook pages who offered to collect the phone for me. Thank you - that is why I live here.
Chris Swinbanks, Tobermory.

Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

'THA MISE TAICEIL DHAN Ghàidhlig, ach..!' Ged a tha caochladh sgrùdaidhean is aithisgean measaidh thar còrr math is fichead bliadhna a-nise air dearbhadh cho èifeachdach 's a tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, tha e fhathast gu math follaiseach nach eil làn-thèarainteachd dearbhte dhan t-siostam teagaisg seo.

Mar a bhiodh dùil, tha beachdan bhall chomhairlean ionadail a' fàs nas cruaidhe mar is doimhne a tha na gearraidhean ann am maoin poblach a' dol, agus tha ionnsaighean às ùr an aghaidh obair-leasachaidh na Gàidhlig a' toiseachadh ri nochdadh ann am pàipearan-naidheachd is eile. Tha e gu math tàmailteach agus dòrainneach a bhith a' faicinn nan seann duain mu chosgaisean agus beag luach na Gàidhlig! Dè dh'fheumar a dhèanamh gus cur às dhan fhaoinas ole seo, agus gu sònraichte dè ghabhas dèanamh gus toirt air Ghàidheil sgur a bhith a' cur sgeinean nan dileab dualchais fhèin? Sàoilidh mi gur e pàirt mhòr den trioblaid a thaobh suidheachadh na Gàidhlig nach eil mothachadh neo tuigse aig mòran de shluagh na dùthcha seo air an cuid dualchas cultarail, gun ghuth air an luach eadar-nàiseanta a th' aige sin. Chaidh iomadach iomairt luachmhor a chur air adhart thar an dà fhichead bliadhna a dh' fhalbh gus suidheachadh na Gàidhlig a neartachadh, agus ged a fhuair e taic luachmhor bho luchd-poilitigs, 's e mo bheachd-sa nach eil sgoiltean na h-Alba fhathast a' toirt de thuigse dhan chloinn mu chànanan na dùthcha a chruthaicheas agus a gheidheas moit nan dualchas cultarail.

Ciamar a chuireas slugh na dùthcha luach air an cuid dualchas mura bheil tuigse aca air dè a th' ann? Agus cho fad 's a chithear romhainn tha feum gu bhith aig Ghàidhlig air taic mòr-shluagh na dùthcha gus a dìon.

A dh'aindeoin sin uile 's fhiach cuimhneachadh gun do dhearbhadh tomhais beachd thar nam bliadhnaichean gum bheil mòr-chuid de shluagh na h-Alba mothachail agus taiceil dhan Ghàidhlig, agus gun teagamh tha am Mòd Nàiseanta ag ùrachadh a' mhothachaidh sin gach bliadhna. Tha sinn moiteil aig tuath gun robh Mòd na bliadhna seo soirbheachail agus na dhearbhadh às ùr air cho buannachdail 's a tha co-obrachadh eadar bhuidhnean-taice na Gàidhlig. Chan eil teagamh agam nach bi na bhios romhainn aig Mòd 2015 san Oban sònraichte math cuideachd!

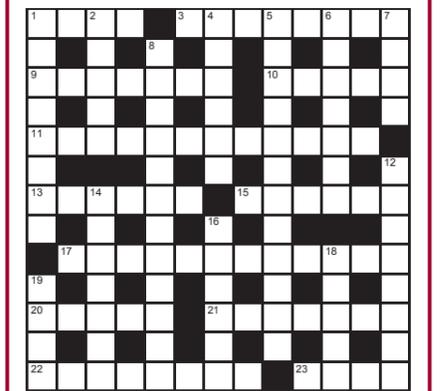
Mar a bhiodh dùil, bha molaidhean luchd-poilitigs bho gach partaidh na mhisneachadh, agus bu mhath a-nise dearbhadh ùr a chluinntinn gum bheil inbhe agus taic na Gàidhlig gu bhith air a neartachadh gur structar riaghalaidh ùr a tha ga dhealbhadh air molaidhean a' Mho-rair Mac a' Ghobhainn.

CROSS-PARTY political plaudits for the 2014 National Mod were welcome and they recognised effective partnerships among organisations and voluntary supporters of Gaelic, a unique part of Scotland's national heritage. The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 demonstrated the Scottish Parliament's awareness of its continuing responsibility for Gaelic, and language supporters will seek early confirmation that a more empowered Scottish Parliament will confirm its commitment to Gaelic and increase support for its development.

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

SCOTS
Heritage Magazine
SPONSORS

THE OBAN TIMES CROSSWORD



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Across | Down |
| 1 Desiring of another's (4) | 1 The ability to get away from it all (8) |
| 3 Contagious skin disorder (8) | 2 Clear drink (5) |
| 9 An elaborate ending to a piece (7) | 4 Surrounded by water (6) |
| 10 Listlessness (5) | 5 Coat with silver maybe (12) |
| 11 Laid for one to sit at (5,7) | 6 Turn to bat (7) |
| 13 Seed oil (6) | 7 Final notice (4) |
| 15 Japanese island (6) | 8 Go-between (12) |
| 17 Showing the way (7,5) | 12 Shopper (8) |
| 20 Below in text (5) | 14 Die (5,2) |
| 21 Gap (7) | 16 Banner (6) |
| 22 Remote (8) | 18 Circumference (5) |
| 23 Blender sound (4) | 19 Pen name (4) |

LAST week's SOLUTION

WINTER EDITION OUT NOW

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

PARENTS URGE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TO FILL VACANT KINLOCHLEVEN HIGH SCHOOL POSITION TO AVOID 'CATALOGUE OF DISASTERS'

Urgent call for new school head

GORDON WEBSTER
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THE LEADER of a parents association at Kinlochleven high school has urged Highland Council officials to fill the vacant head teacher position to avoid a future 'catalogue of disasters'.

Stewart Borland, chairman of the school's parent council, is concerned that there has been no replacement for headmaster John McGilp, who left his post in April, and that academic performance is suffering as a result.

A job advert was placed for the position earlier in the year but no-one applied.

Gordon Milne has since taken

charge as acting head, but has had to juggle the post with his job as a chemistry teacher, repeating a similar situation two years ago when he covered Mr McGilp's duties while the latter was temporarily employed in another post.

Mr Borland says this most recent episode has left the chemistry department short-staffed.

Along with Andrew Baxter, councillor for Fort William and Ardnachan, he met with Highland Council's head of education services Jim Steven to raise the matter.

Mr Borland said: 'Since September 2012, when John McGilp left for a temporary post in Thurso, Kinlochleven high

has been suffering from staff shortages.

'The only respite came during Mr McGilp's return from July 2013 until April 2014.

'We are reliving the same problems the school had last time - it's like the movie Groundhog Day.

'We've been pushing to get the job advertised but the council processes are incredibly slow.'

Mr Borland believes that the initial job advertisement failed because Highland Council reduced the salary from its previous level.

He added: 'How can we expect someone to move here for a drop in salary?'

'Job sizing and cost cutting can't be at the expense of our

children's education and their future.

'There is money there - education should and must be a priority.'

Councillor Baxter said: 'We are impressed on the head of education the urgency of finding a head teacher and that we can't allow the current situation to just keep drifting along as it has in the past.'

However, Mr Borland said he has learned the job vacancy will be re-advertised and that temporary staff may be employed at the school until a new head teacher starts.

Highland Council's education services department had made no response as *The Oban Times* went to press.



GONE: former head teacher John McGilp left Kinlochleven high school in April and has yet to be replaced

Serious crime down by 20 per cent

SERIOUS crime in the Highlands and Islands has dropped by 20 per cent in the last year, according to a new report.

Chief superintendent Julian Innes, divisional commander, announced a significant reduction between April and October this year.

'Violent crime has dropped by 29 per cent, sexual crimes are down by 28 per cent and crimes of dishonesty and fire raising have reduced by 19 per cent.'

Road safety has also improved in the same period, with the number of people killed and seriously injured on roads down by six and 25 respectively on last year's figures.

Chief superintendent Innes said: 'The overall reduction in crime is encouraging and reflects not only the work by our officers and staff, but also the partnership work which is particularly strong in this area.'

'Road policing continues to be a key priority for the local policing plan and the reduction in casualties is also welcome.'

'While we welcome these encouraging figures, there's no room for complacency and we remain committed to continue working alongside our partners and with our communities to build on the positive results.'

David Alston, Highland Council's deputy leader, also welcomed the report.

He said: 'A reduction in crime is a good news for people in the Highlands. This is a very safe place to live.'

As well as a reduction in deliberate fire raising, Scott Hay, Scottish Fire and Rescue's local senior officer for Highland, announced a drop in accidental house fires. These incidents were down from 36 in 2013 to 32 this year and Mr Hay said staff visits to homes had prevented a number of fires. He added: 'We have been consistent in our delivery of free home fire safety visits over the past five years and it is pleasing to note a reduction in accidental dwelling fires. We deliver around 4,000 visits each year. We target the most vulnerable people in the communities of Highland area, particularly those who would benefit most from fire safety advice and information.'

Grant backing for heating project

FUEL poverty in a Lochaber village is to be tackled with a £24,000 grant awarded to Highland Council.

All local authority housing in Caol, Fort William, as well as two new schools and a community centre being built, will be connected to a new low carbon heating system with fixed supply costs run by the council.

The Scottish government is funding the Caol District Heating Project to provide heat to 296 properties, all of which are not served by the gas grid.

Holyrood energy minister Fergus Ewing announced funding for the Lochaber contract along with 16 other green energy projects across Scotland.

He said: 'We have an ambition to put communities at the heart of local energy systems.'

'We want a renewable energy market where community stakes are the norm and local groups can come together to design local energy systems that suit their needs.'

Letter spreads the word for 20 years

MALLAIG and the Small Isles community newsletter West Word has surpassed a milestone 20 years of publication.

Politicians from across the country, including Charles Kennedy MP and former Scottish first minister Alex Salmond, have paid tribute to the Morar-based production which printed a special anniversary edition last month.

Alex Salmond said to the magazine: 'I send my very best to all West Word staff, past and present, for their hard work and commitment in making this paper the success it is.'

'It's a valued source of information and continues to be a voice for the people after 20 years.'

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Couple's angst at housing search

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A FORT William couple think they 'would be better off not working' as they have struggled for more than a year to find a home in the town.

Carolanne Lawrie and Beth MacDonald say they have tried to secure a private let but the competition is too high and after asking the council for help were told they could wait up to 10 years before receiving a house or flat.

The frustrated pair, who work in local bars, said they could declare themselves homeless but could pay up to £7,000 for emergency accommodation as they both have full-time jobs.

Miss MacDonald, 21, said: 'We've tried everything and we don't know where to turn anymore.'

'People seem to come here from other places and get a flat straight away but we've lived in the area our whole lives and can't get anything.'

'We're living between our parents just now but we both work late nights and it's not fair to them when we're coming in late and need to get showers or want to watch TV. It's not like we're trying to live for free, we both work really hard and just want somewhere of our own.'

A Highland Council spokeswoman said there was



WAITING: Carolanne Lawrie, left, and Beth MacDonald are at their wits end with the Fort William housing shortage 20_50housing01

currently a waiting list of 708 people in Fort William.

She added: 'There is currently insufficient stock to meet demand. However, new build

projects will begin to ease the burden.'

But Miss Lawrie, 28, said: 'People who have children and haven't worked a day in their

lives get flats straight away and I'm not saying they shouldn't have them but we shouldn't be in a position where people feel like they're better off not working.'

'If you're unemployed you're told you need to go out and get a job but if we were both on benefits and went homeless we'd have a flat in six months.'



MAKING WAVES: turtles and dolphins were just some of the marine animals pupils from Upper Achintore primary school learned about when they were joined by Matt Barnes of the Marine Conservation Society

Wildlife experts lead marine workshops

MORE than 300 primary school pupils in Fort William enjoyed a visit from wildlife experts for a series of marine education workshops.

Children from Caol, Fort William and Upper Achintore primary schools were captivated by talks on aquatic mammals and seabirds given by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Marine Conservation Society and other groups.

More importantly, the

classroom talks focussed on how humans affect the marine world and how the marine world affects humans, mentioning issues such as pollution.

Judith Bullivant, RSPB Scotland's West Highland and Islands education officer, said during the visit two weeks ago: 'These days offered a fantastic opportunity for local pupils to benefit from the knowledge and skills of our marine magic team and we were delighted with the response from staff and pupils.'

Severe weather warning issued

SCHOOLS and transport services were thrown into chaos across the Western Isles following a severe weather warning issued on Tuesday.

As The Oban Times went to press, gales of up to 90mph were expected throughout Wednesday, with police advising the public not to travel unless absolutely necessary.

All schools, nurseries, depots, libraries, museums, sports and leisure centres in the Hebrides were to close, with bus services restricted, while the Skye Bridge was closed to high-sided vehicles from Tuesday.

The Galley of Lorne Inn
Ardfern, Argyll ★ www.galleyoflorne.co.uk
Located 30 mins drive from Oban on the lochside at Ardferrn

Festive Dining
Hogmanay Dinner & Live Music - £39.50**
Delicious 5 course menu with toe tapping music to the Bells
Festive Specials throughout December
The best local seasonal produce with all the trimmings
Real Ales, Connoisseur Whiskies & Fine Wines

Gift Vouchers
Available from £25.00
The perfect Christmas gift for friends or relatives

Call to Book on: **01852 500 284**
One of TripAdvisor's best rated Inns on the West Coast

Great Festive Food
Cosy Surroundings
Great Gift Idea



FESTIVE FUN: Some of the cast of the Kinlochleven high school panto on stage 20_50panto01

Curtain up on community panto

PERFORMERS from four to 70 years old were involved in a special community Christmas pantomime at Kinlochleven high school, showing for four nights between last Wednesday and Saturday.

'Peter Pandemonium' saw schoolchildren and teachers from the high school and the adjacent

primary taking part, with high school fifth year pupil Esmé Leitch playing Peter and technical teacher Graeme Martin playing Captain Hook.

Sell-out crowds for three out of four nights enjoyed the show, which had plenty of laughs, local twists plus added elements of Bollywood and popular television show Gogglebox.

Lochaber music school hosts festive concert

LOCHABER music school are holding their Christmas concert at 3pm on Sunday in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge.

It will see festive orchestra and choir musical performances, plus a raffle and refreshments in Roy Bridge village hall immediately afterwards.

There are some things you can't do with
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Digital Edition
but you can **save 64%**
on an annual subscription
obantimes.co.uk/digital

*Calculated against the cost of a printed annual subscription of £58 per year which includes postage and packaging.
Please note this product does NOT work on Kindle, iPad or Tablet. Requires PC or Mac with access to the internet (Broadband recommended) with an internet browser that supports Flash.

West Highland Gas Ltd.

Put some **CALOR** in your life
LPG gas, cookers and heaters
ALSO
Wood briquettes, pellets, coal,
peat logs & kindling

Deliveries direct to your door
ORDER NOW - CALL
01631 564050
Torrangorm Industrial Est., Oban

Outlets in Oban, Lochgilphead, Isle of Mull, Dunoon, Fort William

Argyll Resources Group www.argyllresources.co.uk

An apple a day helps Park primary's fruity festival



IN THE EYE: Brooke McCloskey sees the apple of her eye, one of the entries in the largest apple competition. 16_148apple01



FRUITS: Primary four pupil John Turnbull enjoys the fruits of his labour, as he shows off his entry in the fruit hat competition. His hat was decorated with a selection of real fruit. 16_148fruit01

OBAN'S Park primary school celebrated the fourth anniversary of its school orchard with a day of fantastic fruity fun. Apple Day, held on Thursday, November 20, was a chance for the children to get enthusiastic about fruit and vegetables and help to learn where food comes from.

Activities on the day included a bake-off, fruit hat competition, largest apple competition and funniest looking fruit and vegetables, amongst others. Principal teacher of Primary four/three, Ilona MacLaurin, said: 'We had an Apple Day fair where we had stalls with apple jam, apple juice tasting,

an apple hunt, apple toss, apple bobbing and longest apple peel. 'The children all really enjoyed it and it gives the school a chance to put the orchard to good use.' The orchard was launched in 2010 after the school received a grant through the School Orchards project, organised by

charity Grounds for Learning, which is dedicated to enhancing outdoor learning and play for children in Scotland. Pupils and staff would like to thank local businesses Lidl, Aldi, Tesco and J M Breckenridge for donating apples to the school for some of the activities.

Boxing clever helps those without this Christmas



PRESENTS: Some of the pupils from Dunbeg primary school who made up shoe boxes for the Blythswood Care appeal, which sends items to less-fortunate people around the world. 16_149dunbeg01

DUNBEG primary school pupils got into the Christmas spirit recently, preparing charity donations to help less-fortunate people around the world. For the 10th year in a row the north Lorn school is donating to the Blythswood Care shoe box appeal, filling a box with items such as toiletries, station-

ery, sweets, clothes and toys for disadvantaged people this Christmas. Rachael Sinclair, who is in primary six, said: 'It made me sad to read about the children we are donating to because they don't get gifts for Christmas - they have nothing but we have loads.'

Last year the appeal sent 118,000 boxes to different locations including Romania, Serbia, Moldova, Hungary and Pakistan. The boxes made up by the Dunbeg children were due to be collected this week to be shipped off in time for Christmas.

High praise for budding poets at Oban school as work published in anthology

POETRY written by pupils at St Columba's primary school in Oban is to be published in a national poetry anthology to be released next year. The budding writers entered the Out of This World poetry competition, organised by Young Writers, and were asked to create an imaginative poem on any theme which demonstrated

a command of ambitious vocabulary, imagery, similes, alliteration and other poetic techniques. The primary five/four pupils chose to base their poems on space, while primary six/seven chose the theme fireworks. The school was absolutely delighted to return from the October holidays to the

news that every single entry from St Columba's Primary School had been selected for publication in a national poetry anthology, which will be released in January 2015. The pupils received certificates acknowledging their good work as well as a kind letter, complimenting them on the style, imagination and writer's craft demonstrated.



POETS: The pupils of primary five/four and primary six/seven with their certificates received from the Young Writers for the Out Of This World competition

Book Bug shares fair with learners

LITTLE Learners' nursery had a Book Bug session at the weekend as part of its Christmas fair. There was a range of activities for the children to take part in at the fair, including a baking stall, making bags of reindeer food for Santa, face painting, and making Christmas decorations. Book Bug, a character from the Scottish Book Trust, visited the nursery during the fair on December 7 to read stories with the children. Louise McRae, senior nursery practitioner, said: 'The fair was a great day, very successful and a lot of fun for the children and staff.'



BUG: the nursery children meet Book Bug



like us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

GLENGALLAN

The industrial heart of Oban



Over the last 40 years JDP has grown to become one of the largest suppliers of house building, construction, drainage and civil engineering products in the UK.

JDP are part of Tessengerlo Group, a worldwide organisation that has over 7,500 employees in more than 20 countries across the globe. Together our manufacturing capabilities, technical knowledge and extensive product ranges makes us one of Europe's leading experts throughout our industries.

10-11 Glengallan Ind Estate, Glenshellach, Oban, PA34 4HG
 Tel 01631 706417 Fax 01631 569404 Email oban@jdpipes.co.uk
 Opening Times: Monday 8:00am - 5:00pm
 Tuesday 8:00am - 5:00pm Wednesday 8:00am - 5:00pm
 Thursday 8:00am - 5:00pm Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm
 Saturday Closed



SOLAR THERMAL | SOLAR PV
GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS
AIR TO WATER HEAT PUMPS
AIR TO AIR HEAT PUMPS
BIOMASS | MVHR

BATHROOM CLEARANCE SALE NOW ON

PTS
 Plumbing Trade Supplies
 7e Glengallan Road | Oban | PA34 4HG
 Tel: 01631 567640 | Fax: 01631 569808
facebook.com/ptsrenewables twitter.com/ptsrenewables

The Oban business landscape at Glengallan Industrial Estate is shaping itself as the industrial heartbeat of the town. Within Glengallan you will find some of the area's most established and forward-thinking companies, ranging in expertise from home improvements to mechanics. This week, *The Oban Times* looks at four such innovative companies, who offer a range of services. JDP is one of the largest civil engineering and house building companies in the UK. It is part of the

Tessengerlo group, which boasts 7,500 employees worldwide but its location in Oban means the attention to a local customer base is first class. PTS Renewable Energy Solutions offers an array of renewable heating solutions. In fact the services are so comprehensive, it can be a one-stop-shop for advice and support in finding a more efficient way to heat your property. Smaller, but emerging, companies in the industrial estate are quickly making a name for themselves too. V&C Autocare

does what it says on the tin: the business can give your car a thorough clean, inside and out, or add a few extras to leave it looking like a million dollars. It can also offer vinyl wraps, giving your pride and joy a completely different look. The vinyl wrap process can also be used in your home, thanks to Home Wraps, which is also based at Glengallan. The newest trend in home improvements, Home Wraps can re-decorate your rooms quickly - and cheaply. Contact the company to find out how!



Valeting, Vehicle Livery, Signwriting, Vinyl Wraps + Rally Graphics

10% OFF GIFT VOUCHERS
 the perfect gift this xmas

Unit 2, Gengallan Ind Est, Oban, Tel 01631 358006
 Mob: 07708660943



KITCHEN • BEDROOM • BATHROOM

Why Replace, When we can WRAP

Doors, Cabinets, Fridges, Bath Panels, Bathroom/Bedroom Furniture, Appliances and Much More!

The Newest Trend to Home Improvements. Why Spend a FORTUNE on a NEW Kitchen, Fridge, Bathroom/Bedroom furniture? SAVE ££££ and get your Existing Furniture Vinyl Wrapped in any Colour/Style YOU want. Limited only by YOUR Imagination

Tel: 01631 358006
 Email: homewraps@hotmail.com

SSEPD provides the missing link

RESIDENTS of Jura, Islay and Colonsay will have a more secure electricity supply this winter after the new subsea cable serving the islands was laid successfully. Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) completed installation of the cable, which is the only connection between the electricity distribution system on the mainland to the islands, at the weekend. The cable was laid across the Sound of Jura from Carsaig Bay, Tayvallich to Lealt Bay on Jura.

Police seek witness to Mull fuel thefts

POLICE are seeking the help of islanders on Mull as they attempt to trace thieves who made off with red diesel from the yard at TSL Contractors Ltd. The theft of the diesel from a digger and a dumper truck happened some time between 5pm on December 2 and 7.45am the following day. Anyone with any information, or who saw any suspicious activity in the area, can contact PC David Turner at Craignure police station or Oban police on 101.

Police warn drivers ahead of checks

POLICE will be stopping drivers on Oban Esplanade between 3.30pm and 6pm today (Thursday) to highlight the changes to the drink-drive limit. Officers will also be checking that vehicles are safe to be on the road and reinforcing other road safety messages. The legal blood alcohol limit was reduced from 80mg to 50mg in every 100ml of blood on Monday.

Appin and Lismore opt-out ahead

OUT-of hours medical care in Appin and Lismore will be arranged by NHS 24 as of February next year, it is anticipated. Appin Surgery recently announced it would be opting out of out-of-hours cover, meaning the on-call doctor for the area will be based in Oban.

Talking about elderly care

OLDER people are being encouraged to live longer happier lives, and to do that a partnership initiative between the public, private and community sectors wants people to be involved in keeping fit and healthy. The Reshaping Care for Older People (RCOP) project is an opportunity for working out how people stay connected to their communities as they grow older and into old age. A conversation café held last Thursday in Glencruitten church hall in Oban was buzzing with ideas and potential plans for people approaching the 'third age'. Fiona Sharples who is currently heading up the service for NHS Highland wants everyone to have the opportunity to speak about what they want from services for older people. A questionnaire, available from GP surgeries and the hospital to allow people to give a view, will involve the way that

the activities and services for older people are provided. Already, in the three years since the RCOP project started there has been a step change in the way professionals interact and signpost between each other. Fiona explains: 'Really positive things are happening between professionals and patients. For instance someone who might admit to their GP that they are lonely might be given information and advice on where they might want to meet other people, as well as the support to attend those meetings.' One of the many successes of the activities underway already is the reablement service from the occupational health team at the hospital. Linda Currie, an occupational therapist, explains that the service is not for everyone but there are ways in which someone who has had a care package can continue to do tasks alongside

a carer. Linda said: 'Regaining confidence is an important part of getting back to doing things in older age. Sometimes after an incident or injury people are left

with some of that confidence taken away.' RCOP wants to design a service that allows people in older age to fulfil their ambi-

tions while keeping active and healthy. The consultation will remain open until January 2015.



CONVERSATION: Older people are at the heart of the ambitions for services to keep people healthier and active for longer. 17_150cafe01

Last week on the beat for Oban career cop

A POLICE officer who admitted he had to 'get a map out' when he was posted to Oban after his initial training has gone on to serve his entire career in the town. Sergeant Mike Wood, who officially retires on Christmas Eve, arrived in Oban in 1990 as a probationer, having served seven years in the Royal Military Police. The Edinburgh-born officer admitted Oban was a step into the unknown but he came to enjoy his career in 'a beautiful part of the country'. He said: 'It was the ideal place to start my police service. You don't get the same volume of crime you would get in the cities

but you get a broader range of experiences. I enjoyed my service here and it gave me all the challenges I needed.' Among these 'challenges' was the limited technology available to police officers in the early 1990s, compared to nowadays. 'When I started we typed our own reports and there was one computer for the entire office,' said the 51 year old policeman. 'The signal from our personal radios wouldn't reach the station if we were in Soroba or at the top of the Bealach an Rìgh. That was as far as the signal would reach.' But although he has seen many changes in the police force,

sergeant Wood admits there is one thing that has remained the same: the police officers. 'I have found that throughout my service the people I work with are all committed and dedicated to the job. It is very much a vocation, rather than career choice.' Highlights, he said, included attending the G8 Summit at Gleneagles in 2005 as part of the security team and being involved in the security around Camp Zeist during the trial of the Lockerbie bombers. In 1996 sergeant Wood was given the chief constable's high commendation after pulling a man from a burning house in Soroba Road.



Oban police inspector Julie McLeish thanks sergeant Mike Wood for his 24 years of service in Oban. 15_150mike01

Production at Glensanda grinds to a halt

GLENSANDA quarry suffered disruption to operations this week as maintenance to equipment and adverse weather held up production. The primary crusher at the site, owned by Aggregate Industries, required vital repair work, which meant constant crushing of new material at the quarry was

put on hold at the start of the week. A spokesman for Glensanda, which is situated on the Morvern peninsula, would not confirm what date the crusher broke down, but said the company hoped it would be fully operational again by Saturday. The high winds and rain also postponed ship load-

ing on Wednesday as a 'weather bomb' hit the West Highlands. The spokesman said the secondary crusher was still operational and the workforce would carry out general maintenance work on the site while the main crusher was being repaired.

Eye to eye with John Wallace

A Time For Giving

Christmas is almost here, though judging by the television adverts it has been with us for several months. I am getting more like Scrooge every year but Christmas seems to have become a festival of indulgence rather than a time of giving. I don't think I am alone in these views and the bowl of humbugs on my reception desk has had to be replenished several times a day. Anyway, enough of my rant about the lack of Christmas spirit!

I was brought up to believe Christmas was about children and the celebration of a new life. According to the TV adverts the only way to make our kids happy is to give them the latest computer game system costing several hundred pounds. To many parents this is possibly a "gift too far" which they can ill afford. One gift parents can give their children is the gift of clear comfortable vision. This particular gift is a win win for everybody. Thanks to the NHS eye examinations for children are free. It is even possible to have "free" fashionable glasses for our kids thanks to the NHS. Not only will our kids enjoy the latest computer game much more when they can see it clearly but, much more importantly, we will be giving them the best possible tool for the future... clear comfortable vision.

I see lots of youngsters and last week I had three with significant eye problems. What was truly galling was that the parents also had significant vision problems and had been aware for some time their kids were not seeing well. Children's eye-care has been free to the patient since 1947 thanks to the NHS! We have no excuse for not ensuring our youngsters can see well. Make the most of the holidays. Book your child in to see your optometrist.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
Wallace Optometrists
 The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic
 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
 www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

Cadets celebrate 40 years with anniversary dinner

OBAN high school squadron air cadets held a special dinner at the weekend, to celebrate the organisation's 40th anniversary in the town. The dinner, held at the Oban Bay hotel on Saturday, was attended by around 30 guests, including Jim Leggat, who is Regional Commandant for the Air Training Corps Scotland, and Graham MacQueen of MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust. The night was organised by Chris Taylor, who is Pilot Officer and Squadron Adjutant for the squadron, based in Tweeddale Street. Chris said: 'I'd like to thank

everyone who came along. It was a good chance for a lot of people to meet up. 'It's the first time we've done

this but we are all keen to do it again in subsequent years, to raise the profile of the cadets.'



Pictured are the guests at the Oban Bay hotel who met for the Oban High school squadron air cadets 40th anniversary dinner on Saturday. 16_150cadets01

Fort William man jailed after punching victim

AN OLD feud which led to a drunken fight has resulted in one man spending six months in jail. Christopher Standen of 68 Lochaber Road, Fort William, was sentenced at the town's sheriff court on Tuesday, after pleading guilty to repeatedly punching a man, striking him on the head and attempting to stamp on his

head at a previous hearing. Sheriff Richard Davidson said he 'was not prepared to tolerate' the behaviour of the 28 year-old, who fought with the complainer on MacRae's Lane, Fort William in the early hours of June 22. Defending solicitor Hamish Melrose said Standen had fallen out with the victim in the past and had been provoked before

the incident when his opponent threatened his family but Sheriff Davidson said this did not justify the attack. During sentencing the sheriff added: 'If you had given him a single punch I would have had slightly more sympathy but that's not what happened. This is not the behaviour of a rational human being and not behaviour I'm prepared to tolerate.'

Islands discrepancies fuel petrol price outrage

A WESTERN Isles MP has demanded answers about the way petrol prices are set, following complaints from North and South Uist residents who say they are paying much more than those on Lewis. The wholesale prices of unleaded and diesel have fallen by around 13 and 7 pence per litre respectively since July, but drivers on the islands feel that this has not been reflected on their forecourts.

Some claim there is up to 20 pence a litre of difference between prices on the Uists and on Lewis, which has prompted Angus MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, to write to fuel wholesalers Certas Energy and Highland Fuels for clarification on changing price patterns. He said: 'Questions have to be asked and clarity sought as to why there is such a huge price difference in the cost of fuel in

different parts of the Western Isles. 'We all know retailers have to make a profit and smaller stations will have greater pressures and higher costs. 'However, what many constituents want is information on whether retail margins are remaining broadly the same and that profits are steady and fair.' Both Certas Energy and Highland Fuels were unavailable for comment on the issue.

Challenging topics for Oban speakers

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club enjoyed an entertaining evening recently, when chairman Tom Clegg introduced his speakers, who were challenged to research different subjects. The speakers at the meeting on December 4 were Peter Mills who spoke about the gold rush in the Klondike region of Yukon, Martin Wilson who discussed the Kilauea volcano, and Frank Walton, who spoke about light, time, and gravity. After the talks, chairman Eamonn Arthur looked for answers to six different questions from Guido Faccenda, Jim Fraser, Bill Leech, Archie McPhail, John Maclean and Willie Melville. Timekeeper for the evening was Nick Maclean, and Roy Wood gave the general evaluation. The group's next and final meeting of 2014 will be held on December 18 at 8pm.

Oban playpark first phase date set

THE DATE the first phase of Oban community playpark will be completed has been revealed, July 2015. The organisers now want the community to think about the type of equipment that's needed for the park. Designs and costs of equipment can be found on the groups website and in Atlantis Leisure.

Tree planting plan takes root

KILFINAN Community Forest Company (KFCF) has launched a campaign allowing people to plant a tree within the community forest in honour of a loved one. For £20, a contributor can 'sponsor a sapling', to be planted into the community woodland, or alternatively they can pledge £75 to include an engraved dedication plaque, mounted onto hardwood and sited by their sapling. Proceeds will go towards building a tree nursery in Kilfinan Community Forest, which will house young saplings to eventually be replanted into the native woodland, which was largely destroyed by last winter's storms. For further information, visit <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/sponsor-a-sapling>.

FLOORSHOP

Wishing all our customers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year

Offcuts, carpets to suit all budgets
 blinds
 Comfortable beds
 Free measuring service

call in and see what ranges we have and what is on special offer

Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

Like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

The ideal gift... 2015 Calendars

The Oban Times
 2015 west highland calendar

Oban Times West Highland £7.75 (inc. UK P&P)

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call 01371 851 868

Everest
 Making more of your environment

TRIPLE GLAZING AVAILABLE ON SOME WINDOWS AND DOORS

Also available Garage Doors, Patio and Bi fold doors, Porches, Flat Roofs, Gutters, Fascias, Soffits, Bargeboards, Driveways

ASK ABOUT SPECIAL DEALS

Contact Consultant Peter Ramsay
Tel 07816 934364

Residential and Commercial enquiries welcome

THE BARN
rustic bar & restaurant

- Xmas Party Nights 12/13 Dec - live music - menu from £20pp
- Xmas Party Nights 19/20 Dec - Karaoke - menu from £20pp
- Xmas Party package add £20pp for bed and brunch lodge deal
- Lodges and Barn Bar are open throughout Festive Season
- Hogmanay party - Dinner, Brass Monkeys, midnight bonfire, fireworks!

Wellies welcome - we're a true country pub!

Live music on Sundays (from 3pm)

Open from 5pm DAILY from Monday 22nd December (closed Xmas Day)

www.cologin.co.uk Call us on 01631 564618

Organic biscuits from *Mull*
available from the best shops & cafes in Argyll

Island Bakery
ESTD 1982

www.islandbakery.co.uk



ICE FACTOR

It's Always Adventure Weather!
AT ICE FACTOR - THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ICE CLIMBING

The UK's Premier Mountain Activity Centre

- Outdoor Rock Climbing
- Mountaineering
- Indoor Ice Climbing
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Aerial Adventure Course
- Cafe and Restaurant
- AND LOTS MORE!

www.ice-factor.co.uk 01855 831100
Kinlochleven, Lochaber, PH50 4SF

McEwens
EST 1868
DEPARTMENT STORE

George Street, Oban
Monday - Saturday
9.30am - 5pm
Now open Sundays
in December
11 - 4pm

Christmas Sale
UP TO 50% OFF
NOW ON
SELECTED LINES, SELECTED DEPARTMENTS

Christmas

WITH Christmas just around the corner this is the guide to getting ready for the festive season with presents and gifts galore - not to mention those last minute bookings to get the party started.

Left your Christmas shopping until the last minute? Don't panic - there are still plenty of great gifts to be had on the high street.

Left your Christmas shopping until the last minute? Forgotten to pick up a festive gift for someone in your life? Maybe you've ordered something online - but you're worried they won't deliver before the big day. Don't panic - there are still plenty of great gifts to be had out there.

And to choose the best gifts here is how to make up your mind in ten hand gift ideas:

1. Gift vouchers - particularly the ones that keep shopping local are an ideal present for those people who are just too difficult to buy a present for.
2. Socks - an oldie but a great one, or some super sexy tights if you are feeling really close to someone. You can't beat a thick denier to keep out the wind.
3. Sweets - plenty places in town where there are real treats in store of heat.
4. Some of the more expensive gifts might make for a last minute family gift.

You Save this Christmas

£9.99
YOU SAVE £10.01
TECHNIC COSMETIC CASE
RRP £20.00

£16.99
YOU SAVE £6.50
GILLETTE PROGLIDE STYLER SET
RRP £23.49

£4.99
YOU SAVE £5.00
AGLOW CANDLES
RRP £9.99

£99.99
YOU SAVE £20.01
BABYLUSS CURL SECRET
2667U
WAS £120.00

£18.00*
YOU SAVE £33.00
DKNY MEN EDT 100ML
RRP £51.00

£12.00*
YOU SAVE £28.00
VERA WANG PINK PRINCESS EDT 30ML
RRP £40.00

£7.99
YOU SAVE £2.00
SNUGGLE ME FROG
RRP £9.99

£9.99
YOU SAVE £10.01
NIVEA LADIES SILKY SMOOTH SET RRP £20.00

Available 8th - 14th Dec
*While Stocks Last

GORDONS CHEMISTS
www.gordonsdirect.com
16 GEORGE STREET, OBAN

Ten tips for a cosy home

Cooker Boiler £2498 +VAT
Trade discounts available

Piping Hot
Boilers Cookers Stoves

01327 307130

93 KW PELLET BOILER
£6578 +VAT
EARN £9287 PER YEAR!!
WITH RHI SUBSIDY
www.pipinghotstoves.com
Multi fuel stoves from £500
Piping Hot Cookers specialises in wood fired/ biomass stoves, cookers and boilers covering the whole of the UK.
Call us on 01327 307130
Straight answers, and the right advice is our speciality.

1. Use tin foil. One way to prevent unnecessary heat loss from radiators, particularly on those attached to external walls, is to use heat reflective aluminium foil behind the radiator.
2. Thick curtains are one of the main ways to protect a house from losing heat through the windows. Close curtains as soon as dusk falls will maximise a house's potential to retain heat.
3. It's important to try to use as much natural - and free - heat as possible, so let in the sunlight.
4. Stop heat being lost up the chimney. It's now fairly common to have fireplaces that are merely decorative. If a fireplace is not being used consider a chimney balloon.
5. Draught excluders are one lesson people can learn from previous generations. The stuffing can be almost anything from rice and lentils to gravel.

ARE YOU COLD IN THE WINTER, HAVE UNCONTROLLABLE HEATING, OR JUST FED UP WITH YOUR BILLS?

IF SO WE COULD HAVE THE ANSWER!
Many hundreds of people across Scotland have now benefited from our energy efficient electric heating systems.

TOP QUALITY GERMAN CHAMOTTE CLAY CORE HEATING AT THE BEST PRICES
GERMAN HEATERS from only **£610**

We have been supplying our German Chamotte Clay Core Heaters throughout Scotland for over three years from Glasgow & Elgin. Working with clean electric, these heaters simply plug in! They have been particularly well received from former storage heater owners, who had become increasingly frustrated with high running costs, lack of control and often poor heat output. Many dual meter householders on THTC are unaware that they pay an enhanced rate for their "standard" supply (over 30% in some cases) for the likes of cooking television, lighting and the additional evening heating, often required when storage heaters run cold. We can advise you on controlling these high costs.

Existing oil, gas or LPG system owners can save by using just one of our heaters as a supplement to their existing system. This enables them to turn off their primary heating for a much longer period over the spring, summer and autumn, or resolve cold spots. If your system is on its last legs, why not look at a complete system change and not only save on your heating costs but also say goodbye for ever to maintenance charges.

Ideal with extensions or conservatories, why spend money extending an existing heating system when ours can be simply plugged in! Special low levels heaters available for under low window sills.

Available in any colour, on castors, feet or fixed to the wall and with a variety of size and power options AND with an extended guarantee these heaters could be the answer for you.

We have hundreds of happy customers, perhaps you could be next!

ELSCO HEATING LTD GLASGOW AND ELGIN
For more details and a FREE info pack on this and our other efficient electric heating systems
www.elsco.co.uk or phone 01343 819676
THE ONLY SPECIALIST SUPPLIER OF GERMAN CLAY CORE HEATERS BASED IN SCOTLAND

6. Clear radiators. Try and avoid placing large pieces of furniture in front of them.
7. Putting a shelf above the radiator, especially for high ceilings, this can also help channel the warmth.
8. Cover bare floorboards. Floors account for as much as 10 per cent of heat loss if they're not insulated.
9. Insulating the whole house professionally. People on certain benefits or those who privately rent a home, may be eligible for help with energy-saving home improvements under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) - a government energy efficiency programme.
10. Setting timers on heating is important. If it's very cold, the timer should be set to switch the heating on earlier, rather than turning the thermostat up to warm the house rapidly.



HOT DIAMONDS
Sterling Silver & Real Diamonds

Real diamonds in every design...

The Iona Shop
2 Queens Park Place - OBAN - Argyll - PA34 5RS
Tel. 01631 562071 www.ionashop.com

Gift Vouchers available!

FINE ROGERSON FOOTWEAR
CLEARING SHOP

George Street, Oban & shops throughout Scotland. www.rogersonshoes.com

Festivities



- If there is something that you really want our advertisers might be able to get things in quicker that you can have them delivered to your home.
- Look at what other people are buying and get something a wee bit more unusual – or put two or three smaller things together to make a hamper.
- You are quite likely to need some spare presents to have in the house just in case those people you didn't expect to see come to your door bearing gifts. Having a few last minute items in store is always a good idea.
- Give the gift of joy this Christmas – and for some people that might mean a night off from cooking and having someone else do the dishes for you.
- Why not book a Christmas Eve meal with your family with one of our advertisers? Relaxing the night before Christmas can make all the difference the following day.
- Relax, our advertisers have got it covered – so enjoy having a great look at what is on offer.

Great Gift Idea - Vouchers for Adventure!

SEGWAY EXPERIENCE
Tour Voucher
£25/Child £30/Adult

ACTIVITY VOUCHER
Valid for over 20 amazing Glencoe Activity outdoor Adventures!
Denominations from £20 up

Open all year!
Purchase vouchers on-line at www.GlencoeActivities.com or call 07860 558005
Email info@GlencoeActivities.com

Christmas All Wrapped Up



With these amazing festive gift offers you'll have Christmas 'All Wrapped Up'



TRADITIONAL SMOKE SALMON
Hot smoked and cold smoked salmon from our local smokehouse.
Tradition oak smoked no electric kilns (John Ogden)
VERY Competitively Priced
Phone Orders 07881 418565 / 01631 569937

THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND
A subscription to the 'Friend' is the perfect treat to brighten any woman's day. Each week, you will receive an issue filled with captivating fiction, a dash of crafts, a sprinkling of gardening and of course a good dose of tempting recipes. Plus, subscribe today and you will receive a FREE GIFT with every order.



How to order Tel: 0800 318 846 (8am-9pm, 7days)
www.dcthomsonshop.co.uk
Please quote promo code: STAR



THE SCOTS MAG
Subscribe and join more than 250,000 readers worldwide who choose The Scots Magazine as their definitive source of all things Scottish. Each issue is packed with entertaining and informative features on Scotland's people, places, culture and leisure. Get 12 issues from as little as £22 and receive a FREE Tartan Hipflask set, worth £15.99!

How to order Tel: 0800 318 846 (8am-9pm, 7days)
www.dcthomsonshop.co.uk
Please quote promo code: STAR

AFTERSHOKZ SPORTZ 3 £50
AFTERSHOKZ SPORTZ M3 £70
AFTERSHOKZ BLUEZ 2 £90



AfterShokz have revolutionized headphones of the future. The unique open ear design using patent pending bone conduction technology offers more than just increased comfort when worn at length; it permits users to hear ambient noise, heightening awareness and fostering safety, particularly critical during outdoor activity.

AfterShokz Sport headphones are sweat and water resistant, and fit all smart phones, iPhones, iPods and MP3 players.

The Sports Shop (Oban) Ltd. T. 01631 562050
E. thesportshop-oban@btconnect.com



Something different this Christmas, variety of bespoke pieces to suit all pockets.
RONI'S CHAINSAW ART
Kilmore, Oban.
Find us on Facebook or call
01631 770206 / 07748 41945

THE BEANO
The Beano is Britain's number one fun comic! With a subscription, you're guaranteed your weekly helping of mischief, mayhem and, above all, the cheeky energetics of the red and black icon Dennis the Menace, and has troublesome sidekick Gnasher! For every new order, you will receive a FREE Beano Comic Maker Kit.



How to order Tel: 0800 318 846 (8am-9pm, 7days)
www.dcthomsonshop.co.uk
Please quote promo code: STAR

THE ISLAY WOOLLEN MILL CO. LTD
An eclectic selection of Tweeds, Tartans, Caps, Rugs, Scarves, Ties, Country Clothing & Bags. The Islay Woollen Mill is situated just off the main Port Askaig road near Bridgend. The Mill is owned and run by Gordon and Sheila Covell and produces an excellent range of top quality woven fabrics.



Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday
Tel: 01496 810563 www.islaywoollenmill.co.uk



TRIAL FLIGHT EXPERIENCE VOUCHERS

Vouchers can be sent by post or electronically – perfect for the last minute gift!
Prices from an amazing £69.99!

Highland Aviation Tel: 01667 460361
www.highlandaviation.com

what's on

THE OBAN TIMES
FREE EVENT LISTING

THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER
Ramblers Walk, Am Meall circuit - Glencoe, Contact 01855 821279 A Christmas Musical Evening with Dalriada Singers, Furnace Village Hall, 7.30pm Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm
FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER
Oban Art Society Talk/Demonstration, Lorn Resource Centre, Oban, 7.30pm
SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER
Christmas Fayre, Kilmallie Community Centre, Proceeds for upgrading of centre, 11am-3pm Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 11.30am Santa at the Royal Hotel, Oban, 11am-3pm Soup Lunch in aid of Oban Pipe Band, Pipe Band Hall, Shore St, Oban, 12-2pm Ramblers Walk, Ben Laga & Meall nan Each, Contact 01855 821279 Meet Santa at Arduaine Garden, Arduaine, By Oban, 1-3.30pm
SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER
Rotary Club of Oban, Charity Carol Concert, Corran Halls, Oban, 3pm Meet Santa at Arduaine Garden, Arduaine, By Oban, 1-3.30pm
MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER
Lochaber Natural History Society, Lecture "Glen Loy" by Jon Mercer, Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, Book for sale, 7.30pm O.L.D.S Club Christmas Dinner, Oban Bay Hotel, 6pm for 7pm
WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
Nativity Play and Carols, St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, All welcome, 7.30pm

Email details of your event titled 'What's On' to whatson@obantimes.co.uk

Tiree bands battle it out at Trad Awards

TO THE ill-informed it would seem like a classic battle of the bands as Skipinnish and Skerryvore go head-to-head for a best live act award this weekend.

The Three bands are joined by Peatbog Faeries and Gavin Marwick's Journeyman Spectacular in the live act category for this Saturday's MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

But far from exuding a fierce rivalry, the bands - two of the most popular in the West Highlands of Scotland - insist they will be the first to buy a round, should the other win.

Skerryvore, who celebrate their 10th anniversary next year, have had a busy end to 2014. Their fifth album, Chasing the Sun, the content of which is inspired by summers on Tiree, was released in September. The album's promotional tour follows a month-long European tour in August, with the band also having recently completed a tour of England.

Unfortunately, the group will be playing a show in Gartmore on the night of the awards, so will be unable to attend.

Accordianist Daniel Gillespie said: 'It was quite surreal when we found out we would be up against Skipinnish and we have had a good laugh about it.'

'Unfortunately, we won't be there on the night but will see them for a double-header gig in Fort William on January 2. Maybe one band will be buying the other a drink!'

'There's no big rivalry; I think it is great to have two Tiree bands nominated in what is one of the main awards of the night.'

'The Peatbog Faeries, who are also nominated have had an amazing year, so I think the category is too close to call.'

Skipinnish frontman Robert Robertson said a busy year of live gigs would be topped off perfectly with the Scots Trad Music Award, but said Skerryvore would also be worthy winners.

Skipinnish, whose Christmas download single, 'December', was launched on Monday, have had a hectic 2014, promoting their album Western Ocean, the single Walking on the Waves, and playing for Team Scotland at a Commonwealth Games party.

Robert said: 'I know the Skerryvore boys and Angus [MacPhail] from our band and the Gillespie brothers have been friends for years.'

'It's not a rivalry, it will just add to the craic if one of us wins.'



DECEMBER: The new song by Skipinnish was released on Monday.

Can December make Christmas number one?

A CHRISTMAS number one for a west coast band hasn't been achieved since 1977 with Wing's hit Mull of Kintyre.

However, a band based in Oban have decided to give it a go with their new track, December, a festive love song from Skipinnish.

The track, which has already entered the UK singles chart, albeit quite high up the rankings, became number one in the world music chart after its release on Monday morning.

Lead singer Robert Robertson said: 'This is a song about lost love in the winter time.'

The song was written by Robert and Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish ceildh house.

A video for the promotion of the tune can be viewed on the band's official Facebook page.

The video was filmed by Dol Eoin MacKinnon of Scalpay.

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Source: Comscore, Check V, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
Closer to home



FRIENDLY RIVALRY: Skerryvore go head-to-head with Skipinnish this weekend.

Denzil takes his writing talent Stateside

DENZIL Meyrick hopes America will love his Scottish crime thrillers after signing a publishing deal with U.S publisher Pegasus.

The former Campbelltown Grammar pupil, whose debut novel Whisky From Small Glasses and sequel The Last Witness received rave reviews in the UK, is delighted to have made a foothold in North America, with his books becoming available there in October next year.

He said: 'I am delighted to have been taken on, this is a massive step forward for me. The American book market is the biggest in the world and there is huge potential for success.'

'Pegasus has published great Scottish authors like Iain Banks and that is very inspiring.'

'As well as paperback sales there is the potential for hardback sales to the extensive public library system in America.'

Denzil's third book in his crime series, Dark Suits and Sad Songs, is set in the fictional town of Kinloch, a place startlingly like Campbelltown, and will be available in spring of next year.



Denzil Meyrick's Scottish crime thrillers will be released in America next autumn. 20_48denzil01

Highland Mary's burial place is smartened up

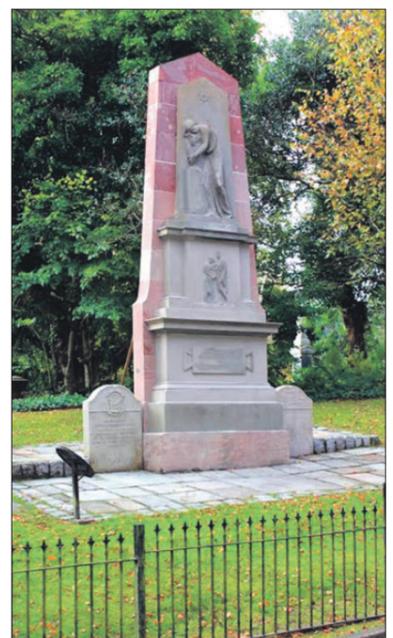
THE burial place of 'Highland Mary' Campbell, from Campbelltown, one of the great loves of Robert Burns, has been refurbished.

Mary died, aged 23, at Greenock in October 1786 from a bout of typhoid fever, then plaguing the town.

When her remains were reinterred in the town's South Street cemetery in 1920, and an infant's coffin board was found close to her grave, the gossipmongers soon spread it around that she had died in childbirth, however there is no proof whatsoever that Mary Campbell was pregnant when she died.

Norrie Paton who is a resident of Campbelltown, said: 'My wife and I last visited Mary's grave in May of last year but the monument had fallen into a real sad state over many years.'

'Now, the president of Greenock Burns Club has sent me pictures showing a vast improvement to the monument.'



REFURBISHED: Mary Campbell's monument in Greenock.

Ballet West

Romeo + Juliet

The Tragic Romance

Corran Halls

23rd & 24th January 2015 - 7.30pm
Tickets £14 / £12

Tel: 01631 567333
www.balletwest.co.uk

The ideal gift... 2015 Calendars

Scottish Field Large £11.75 (inc. UK P&P)

Scottish Field Mini £7.75 (inc. UK P&P)

The Oban Times 2015 West Highland £7.75 (inc. UK P&P)

Arran Banner Isle of Arran £7.75 (inc. UK P&P)

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call 01371 851 868

Your Personal Christmas Greetings

SEASON'S GREETINGS to all friends and relatives from The Lord MacLean of Bentalla

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year to all my friends. From Molly MacLean, Craignure.

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year to all my relatives and friends from John McVean, Kilchurn View, Dalmally

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year to all our relatives and good friends from Geraldine and Sammy

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR Violet MacGillivray wishes all her friends and family a very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year to all my relatives and friends from Hamish MacMillan, Appin.

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year to all our relatives and friends. Mima and John McNab, Lochaline

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year to all our relatives, friends and neighbours and thanks for help during Alice's illness. Davie and Alice Allan, Inverlochty

SEASON'S GREETINGS Nollaig chridheil agus bliadhna mhath u' bho Micheil agus Josephine.

Meet the artist

Sue Douglas

SUE Douglas is a full time author who lives on the west coast of Scotland.

A wee bit of your own biography and your history. As an only child with no other youngsters nearby, I found writing about imaginary situations an ideal way to spend my free time.

Thanks to an excellent young English teacher in secondary school I quickly moved on to creating longer stories for my own enjoyment, investing in an electric typewriter during my teens.

Moving to the Oban area in the 1990s, I continued to write while caring for elderly relatives. At this time I was also reading a fair number of books by authors such as Jilly Cooper, Cynthia Harrod-Eagles, Fiona Walker and a variety of crime writers.

The current position that you are in and the work you are doing at the moment.

Now a full-time author I describe my books as romantic fiction but hasten to add that I endeavour to make them more realistic by including humour or somewhat darker elements.

For instance, my last book, Dream On, featured a female assassin. However, of all my heroines, the one I would most happily swap places with is Janie, the conscientious barrister from The Waterwoman's Gift, a mystery entwined with fantasy.

Most people can identify with romance so, using it as a base, I fuse the other elements to provide almost believable escapism.

Who are your influences and inspirations?

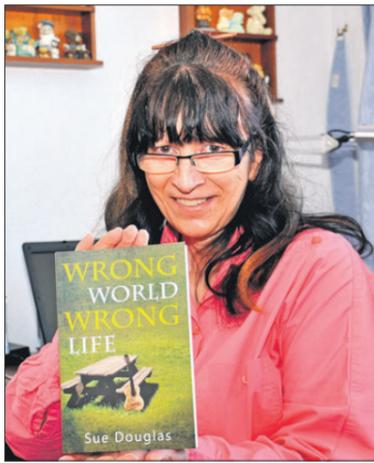
Inspiration for plots can come from the most unexpected source: a personal experience, a magazine photograph, a line from a song, an unwanted item given to a charity shop or even a property guide.

Who encouraged you to do your work?

In 2010 I was encouraged by my partner to send a copy of my first book to a publisher.

Now three years and seven publications later, my eighth title, Time Won't Tell, will be available from December 19.

This new book is again a romance but with an unexpected twist.



Where do you work best?

Most of my books have been written and proofread in my conservatory and I am looking forward to checking my ninth book there as well, hopefully early next year when the weather will be a little warmer.

What do you want to do in the future?

Readers' comments and the support from many people in the Oban area and beyond now encourage me to continue writing. One reader admitting they had never read fiction before my first novel but now enjoyed a variety of books.

Another comment was how a reader liked a book with no boring parts to skip over.

I could not imagine not writing, it is almost second nature to me. After a couple of days without putting pen to paper I would be wondering what was missing. Temporarily living a life you are in control of is very satisfying.



OBAN ACCORDION and Fiddle club held its monthly meeting at the Royal Hotel recently, enjoying a good turnout. A crowd of around 50 people gathered on December 4, with special guests for the evening accordionist Iain Anderson and his band, who travelled up from Glasgow. 16_1503accordion01

Concert Review - Fires of Love

Saturday November 29, 2014

A HIGHLY successful Mid Argyll Arts Association (MAAA) concert was held in the Parish Church, Lochgilphead, last Saturday.

The concert featured a varied programme of songs and wind instrument items from the 30-year period immediately before the 1603 Union of the Scottish and English Crowns.

This choice of Renaissance music was presented by the quartet, The Fires of Love - with lutes, guitar, a range of recorders and 16th century percussion instruments providing an authentic backing for the fine selection of songs, ballads and solo lute and wind items.

The songs were performed by soprano Frances Cooper. With superb stage presence and ever expressive singing, she brought out to the full the period music's dramatic and poignant nature.

As the generous programme unfolded, we were drawn into and fascinated by the musical world of Shakespeare over 450 years ago. Jonathan Hugh-Jones, playing second lute and woodwind, with the occasional vocal, was an enlightening compeer for this journey in time, and his informative introductions conveyed a wealth of historical facts to illuminate the musical and artistic life in 16th century England and Scotland.

We learnt that France provided much of the poetic

and musical influence in Scotland at this time, while the English court followed the fashion of all things Italian - particularly solo and duet music for the lute.

Skilfully and seamlessly, the moods changed from melancholy to joyful love and all stages in between.

Scotland's Alexander Montgomerie led the way in providing verse and texts to be set for voice, lute and guitar, whilst England's John Dowland wrote music as poignant and moving today as it was when written, notably I Saw My Lady Weep and a lively duet set of lute variations.

Gordon Ferries, renowned as a leading UK exponent of the lute and guitar, was equally beguiling in the fast intricate fingerwork of The Queen's Table and the slow melancholy of Rest Sweet Nymph. Marcus Claridge captured the authentic spirit of the period percussion style with his Renaissance long drum, and other instruments including the bodhran.

The first half concluded with lively music from Act three of Shakespeare's As you Like It, with Frances's lovely soprano voice transporting the audience back to the Globe Theatre with O Sweet Oliver.

One hour later, contrasting songs from Hamlet, including Tomorrow is St Valentine's Day and Bonny Sweet Robin brought this highly original and ever fascinating evening's entertainment to a satisfying close for the audience.



FIRES OF LOVE: The church setting was most appropriate for the quiet, subtle nature of this musical renaissance.

Seven Days

lee@obantimes.co.uk

Highlights of things to do this week

Thursday 11

What: Gaelic conversation group
Where: Furan at the Corran Halls
Time: 7pm
How much: free
Gaelic conversation group for all levels of fluency. Come along and brush up on your Gaelic language skills or if you want to start learning Gaelic for the first time. Every Thursday night.

Friday 12

What: Joy - a Christmas celebration
Where: Dalmailly Station
Time: 10-5pm
How much: free

To celebrate the joy of making and the delight of what Christmas is all about come and visit Dalmailly Railway Station this December. Refreshments will be available. Mary's Meals will have a nativity scene on the platform.

The Posting will have a range of locally made crafts on show. There will be working demonstration of different types of felt making and other crafts throughout the three weeks.

Small groups can be booked in with advance notice! Travel by train to the door of the station from Glasgow to Oban to experience a Victorian Christmas with a difference.

A fun way to celebrate this festive time of year, the Christmas entertainment will run throughout the whole of December until the 22nd, on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 10am-5pm, or by appointment at other times.

Saturday 13
What: Coll and the Cosmos
Where: Isle of Coll
Time: All day
How much: £90 including accommodation

Coll and the Cosmos is a new stargazing weekend break on the Isle of Coll which makes the most of the island's incredible dark skies. The break has been specifically designed to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. No prior knowledge of astronomy is needed; organisers bring you the best of the night sky in a way that is fun and easily understandable. Coll and the Cosmos is a collaboration between Coll Bunkhouse and Cosmos Planetarium. Using state of the art technology to deliver an amazing stargazing learning experience in a fantastic location. Its six metre indoor planetarium is a fully digital, 360° immersive multi-media theatre experience, ideal for taking a journey through the solar system and learning about a range of astronomical subjects.

Sunday 14
What: Santa's Grotto
Where: Tesco
Time: 10am - 4pm

Oban Toy Cupboard will be running a Santa's Grotto at Tesco on both Saturday and Sunday 10am til 4pm. Wee ones are invited along to meet the big man at one of the busiest times of the year for him. Yet he is making the good boys and girls of Oban a priority in order that he gets all their requests spot on.

Monday 15
What: Carols by Candlelight
Where: Bowmore Primary School

The quintessential event for the people of Bowmore at Christmas time. All the favourite carols led by the kids of the school.

Tuesday 16
What: English conversation classes
Where: Oban Library
Time: 2 - 4pm
How much: free

Free English conversation practice for non-native adult learners of English from beginner to intermediate levels. For more information, call Patricia Slater on 01631 567794

Wednesday 17
What: Nativity Action Song
Where: Ardgor Church
Time: 2pm

Ardgor Church is the venue for the school nativity play, followed by Community Carol singing led by the Ardgor primary pupils.

Screen Machine
Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Fort William Thurs 11 - Sat 13 December
What We Did On Our Holiday (12A) 95 mins 11/12 at 5.30pm
"Heart-warming family comedy." The Herald
Interstellar (15) 166 mins 11/12 at 8pm, 13/12 at 8pm
"Bold, beautiful, cosmic adventure story." Time Out
Ghostbusters (12A) 105 mins 12/12 at 5.30pm Re-mastered for its 30th anniversary.
Game Girl (18) 149 mins 12/12 at 8pm
"Wickedly confident Hollywood thriller." Time Out
The Boxtrolls (PG) 100 mins 13/12 at 8pm
"splendidly inventive children's animation" Guardian
Frozen Sing-Along (PG) 108 mins 13/12 at 5.30pm
"Really really brilliant." Radio Times

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. Concessions £5.50.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Penguins Of Madagascar
Thurs 11th 14.10, 16.20, 18.30, 20.30
Fri 12th 16.20, 18.30
Sat 13th 14.10 3D, 16.20, 18.30
Sun 14th 14.10 3D, 16.20, 18.30
Mon 15th 16.20, 18.30
Tues 16th 16.20, 18.30
Wed 17th 16.20, 18.30
Thurs 18th 16.20, 18.30

The Imitation Game
Thurs 11th 16.00, 18.20, 20.40
The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies
Fri 12th 13.10, 16.40, 20.00 HFR 3D
Sat 13th 16.40 HFR 3D, 20.00
Sun 14th 13.10, 16.40, 20.00 HFR 3D
Mon 15th 13.10, 16.40 HFR 3D, 20.00
Tues 16th 13.10 HFR 3D, 16.40, 20.00 HFR 3D
Wed 17th 16.40 HFR 3D, 20.00
Thurs 18th 13.10 HFR 3D, 16.40, 20.00 HFR 3D
Fri 12th 14.00, 20.30
Sat 13th 20.30
Sun 14th 20.30
Mon 15th 14.00, 20.30
Tues 16th 14.00, 20.30
Wed 17th 14.00, 20.30
Thurs 18th 14.00, 20.30

My Old Lady
Sat 13th 12.00 Sun 14th 12.00

Frozen: Sing-Along
Sat 13th 12.00 Sun 14th 12.00

Penguins Of Madagascar (U)
Super spy teams aren't born...they're hatched. Discover the secrets of the greatest and most hilarious covert birds in the global espionage biz: Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private. These elicits of the elite are joining forces with a chic undercover organization, The North Wind. Led by handsome and husky Agent Classified (we could tell you his name, but then...you know). Together, they must stop the villainous Dr. Octavius Brine, from destroying the world as we know it.

The Imitation Game (PG)
Behind every code is an Enigma. He's the man that helped crack it. Based on the real life story of legendary cryptanalyst Alan Turing, the film portrays the nail-biting race against time by Turing and his brilliant team of code-breakers at Britain's top-secret Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, during the darkest days of World War II. An intense and haunting portrayal of a brilliant, complicated man, The Imitation Game follows a genius who under nail-biting pressure helped to shorten the war, and in turn save thousands of lives. Directed by Morten Tyldum with a screenplay by Graham Moore, the film stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Rory Kinear, Alan Leach,

Oban Phoenix Cinema Tel: 01631 562905 - Box Office: 08719 025752

Mathias Gold (Kevin Kline) is a down-on-his-luck New Yorker who inherits a Parisian apartment from his estranged father. But when he arrives in France to sell the vast domicile, he's shocked to discover a live-in tenant who is not prepared to budge. His apartment is a viceroy - an ancient French real estate system with complex rules pertaining to its resale - and the feisty Englishwoman Mathilde Girard (Maggie Smith), who has lived in the apartment with her daughter Chloé (Kristin Scott Thomas) for many years, can by contract collect monthly payments from Mathias until her death.

Frozen Sing-A-Long (PG)
Oban Phoenix Cinema presents Frozen: The Sing A Long!
Get your vocal chords in tune for this Winter Wonderland Adventure, sit back and 'Let it Go'! You the audience can be the stars!
Feel free to dress up as your favourite character and be a Snow Queen for the day or Olaf the snowman, the coolest iceman ever!
It's the most popular comedy-adventure to hit the big screen this year and you are guaranteed a great time. Come on an epic journey to find Anna's sister Elsa, the Snow Queen and put on to her icy spell.
Soooooo...do you wanna build a snowman....?

LOOK!
your customers do
this advert could be seen by over 35,000 people every week*
promote your business with
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
call our sales team today
01631 568000

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban and Lorn Lions Club
SANTA
Royal Hotel
11.00am - 3.00pm
December 13th & 20th
Supported by Oban Express

A soup lunch in aid of Oban Pipe Band will be held in Oban Pipe Band Hall Shore Street on Saturday 13th December 2014 12 noon - 2.00pm Admission: £3.00

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £15.71 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page Please ask for details

ROTARY CLUB OF OBAN Charity Carol Concert
Corran Halls, Oban
Sunday 14th December at 3pm
Admission by donation

OBAN ART SOCIETY Talk/Demonstration by Sarah Cresswell Pencil & Charcoal (portraits of horses, dogs and other furry friends) 12th December 2014 The Lorn Resource Centre, Soroba Road, Oban, 7.30pm to 9.30pm Visitors very welcome

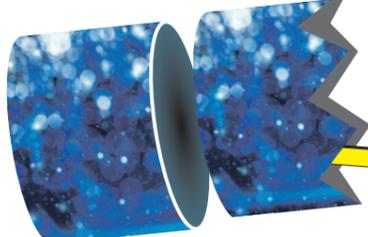
To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

OBAN FM
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com
your local radio station
For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

Oban FM Community Radio, 132 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS
MONDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning with Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drietime with Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle
TUESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1300 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drietime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey
WEDNESDAY:
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drietime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
THURSDAY:
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100, Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drietime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight
FRIDAY:
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn
SATURDAY:
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowscher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
SUNDAY:
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Alan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

Christmas Crackers

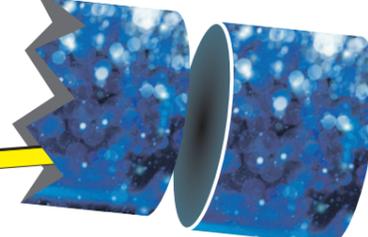
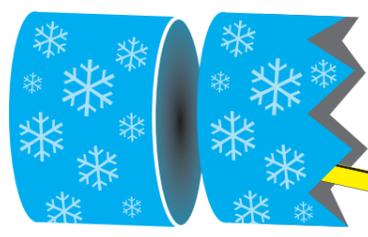


OBAN Fish & Chip SHOP RESTAURANT

The Oban Fish & Chip Shop presents
THE ULTIMATE FISH AND CHIPS
A Christmas Restaurant Special

Beer battered Haddock, Cod or Halibut
 Hand cut chips fried in goose fat,
 our own delicious pea-puree.
 Our own luxury tartar sauce and tomato ketchup.

www.obanfishandchipshop.co.uk
 116 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NT

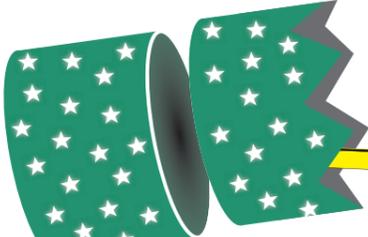
Give the world this Christmas
with Eric Smith World Travel gift vouchers

worldchoice

Why not spend them on this great offer?
 32 night Caribbean Cruise from Greenock on Black Watch, sailing 10 November 2015, arrive home to Greenock 12 December inside twin from £92 per night, £2969 per person last few cabins at this rate *subject to availability

from as little as £50 to £5000

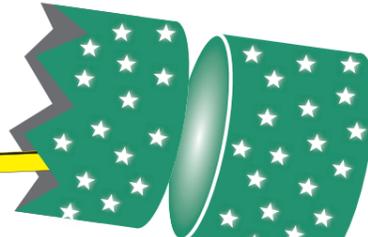
ABTA The Travel Association
 Eric Smith World Travel, 10 Argyll Square, Oban Tel: 01631 566818/9 email: eric@gowestravel.co.uk web: www.gowestravel.co.uk

Support Your Local Business This Christmas

Love Oban Vouchers

LOVE OBAN
 BID4OBAN



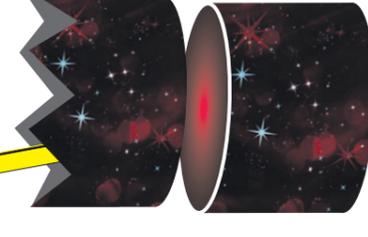
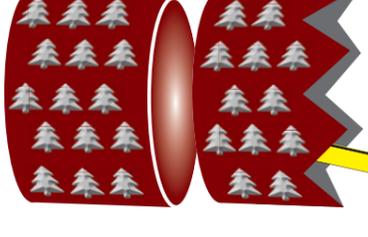

D&G FLOORING SHOWROOM NOW OPEN

CARPETS • VINYL • LAMINATES • HARDWOODS • RUGS

TOP CARPETS AT THE TOP OF THE TOWN
 From £6.99/sq m² & vinyls from £7.99/sq m²

OPENING HOURS:
 Monday - Wednesday 9.00am - 5.30pm
 THURSDAY 9.00am - 9pm
 Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
 Saturday 9.30am - 2.30pm

PARKING AT REAR NURSERY LANE, OBAN TELEPHONE: 01631 570451

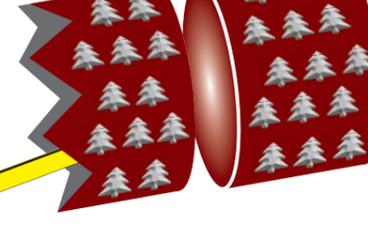
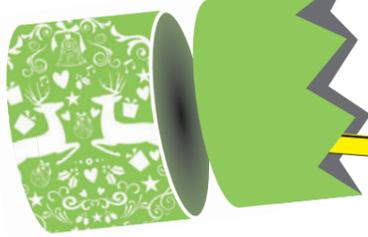



OBAN STOVE CENTRE

COMPLETE IN HOUSE FITTING SERVICE

HETAS Sales stock now available

Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU Tel: 01631 564790 Fax: 01631 562919 info@obanstovecentre.co.uk

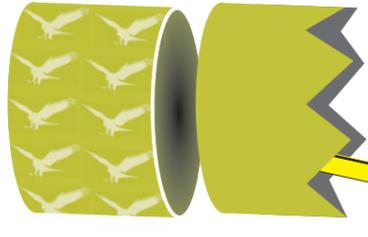
Merry Christmas

HO, HO, HO a jolly great offer!

£99.00* for 6 months

17 Lochavullin Road Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL 01631 565000

Fit4less by energie
 the smart affordable gym

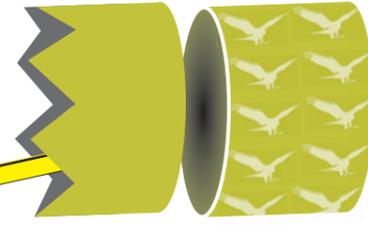



The TYNDRUM INN

Bookings now being taken for Christmas
 Winter Menu now available
 Call for dinner, bed and breakfast rates
 SKY sports / BT Sport: All the games live

Up and Coming Events
 Sat 13th Dec Karaoke Mon 22nd Dec Karaoke/Disco 9pm till late
 Sat 27th Dec Karaoke/Disco 9pm till late
 Sun 28th Dec Rileys Pool, Darts & Dominoes Competition 12 noon till late
HOGMANAY Band TBA, Piper & Fireworks 1st Jan 2015 Karaoke 6pm till late

Food & Drink available all day
 Bookings & Information: Tel - 01838 400219 Email info@thetyndruminn.co.uk



Raibert classed as Mod royalty after 68 years' involvement

IF there is such a thing as Mod royalty, Raibert McCallum would be one of a proud dynasty. The Campbeltown man is an unmistakable presence at the annual Celtic gathering - he has just made his 68th consecutive appearance - and can still be seen conducting a massed choir. Raibert's father, Malcolm G McCallum, was a music teacher at Campbeltown Grammar and conductor of Campbeltown Gaelic Choir, winning the prestigious Lovat and Tullibardine Shield a remarkable 13 times. His brother Calum was also a keen pianist and organist and involved in Campbeltown's music scene.

On his return from this year's Royal National Mod in Inverness this year, Raibert, now 76, confessed that singing is 'in the blood'. He said: 'I was taught to sing before I could walk and have been involved music all my life. Singing has been more than a hobby for me. "When I worked as a taxi driver in Glasgow I would regularly work nights so that I could sing and conduct during the day, and my wife used to say to me, "You turn your work into your hobby and your hobby into your work". "That's not far from the truth - the singing has been a life's work for me."

ic singing has been rewarded with countless medals from regional and national Mods. He said: 'My first national was at Perth in 1947 when I was nine years old and singing with the Campbeltown Junior Gaelic Choir. "In 1952 I moved up to the senior Gaelic choir and sang with them for 13 years. "Like many young men at the time in Kintyre I was a keen footballer but nothing could beat the buzz of performing at the national Mod for titles. "I loved every Mod, they were all special to me as a celebration of Gaelic culture."



CONDUCTING: Glasgow Hebridean Choir at a regional Mod in East Kilbride in 1993.

bert was a distinguished Gaelic soloist, finishing runner-up for the Gold Medal, the main solo singing prize, in 1962. In 1965 Raibert began conducting with Campbeltown and District Ladies Choir, before his move to Glasgow saw him form the Glasgow Hebridean Choir in 1968, a real source of pride for him. He said: 'There were people from all over the Highlands and Islands, and the choir took a long time to build up but when it did we had a lot of success. "Most notably we won the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield three times - in 1985, 1986 and 1992 - a huge honour for myself

and the choir. So much hard work goes into it throughout the year and it becomes something of an obsession. "We had a great time at other competitions too, appearing at the Isle of Man's Pan-Celtic Festival in 1988. We used our Gaelic skills to perform in the indigenous Manx tongue, a Celtic language related to Gaelic. It was a real challenge but we still managed to win a prize.' Raibert said the Mod had changed over the decades. 'It has become more modern and professional,' he stated. 'The quality of the music has always been of an extremely high standard but the way the event is

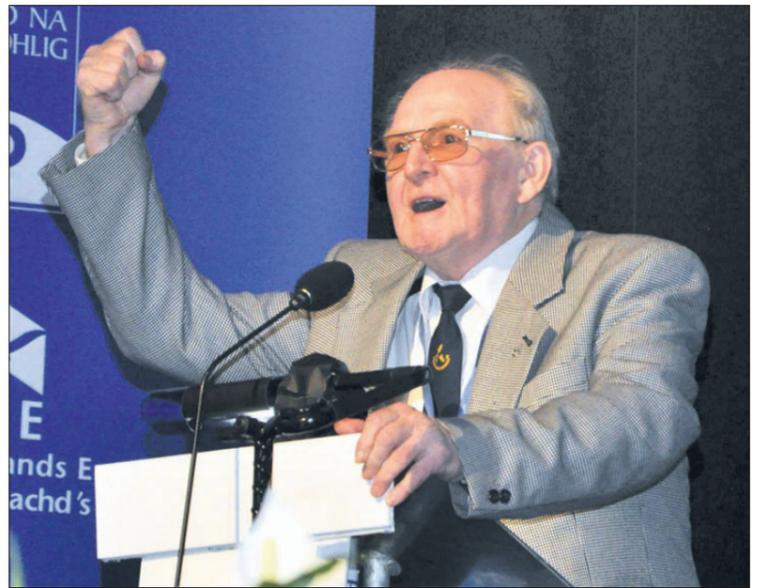


COMPETING: Raibert as a 25-year-old at the Perth Mod

presented is much slicker. "Importantly, it has retained its traditional essence, culturally and linguistically, and remains an important celebration of Gaelic culture.' Since his last Mod as a conductor in 2000 Raibert has divided his time between adjudicating at regional competitions and taking singing lessons at Drumlembie Primary, adding: 'Nothing compares to competing but it is nice to pass on my skills to young people. "They are the future of the Gaelic language and of the Mod itself.'

Since his last Mod as a conductor in 2000 Raibert has divided his time between adjudicating at regional competitions and taking singing lessons at Drumlembie Primary, adding: 'Nothing compares to competing but it is nice to pass on my skills to young people. "They are the future of the Gaelic language and of the Mod itself.'

compares to competing but it is nice to pass on my skills to young people. "They are the future of the Gaelic language and of the Mod itself.'



PROUD: Raibert addresses the crowd at this year's Mod in Inverness

 <p>ARDNAMURCHAN ESTATES Call Ardnamurchan Estate on 01972 510208 email: escape@west-highlands.co.uk www.west-highlands.com</p>	<p>Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown PA28 6JD Tel: 01586 554975 email: staff@krispprint.co.uk</p> <p>krispprint www.krispprint.co.uk</p>	<p>Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Tel. 01631 567190 Female Helpline 08001 214685 Male Helpline 08000 320399 support@ab-rc.org.uk</p> <p>ARGYLL & BUTE RAPE CRISIS www.ab-rc.org.uk</p>
 <p>Telephone: 07474181994 Email: info@mackenziemarinemaintenance.co.uk www.mackenziemarinemaintenance.co.uk</p>	<p>The RITCHIE'S Of The Sea RITCHIE'S OF ROTHESAY, ISLE OF BUTE, SCOTLAND TEL & FAX: 01700 505414</p> <p>SMOKING FISH ON THE ISLE OF BUTE SINCE 1888 www.ritchiesofrothesay.com</p>	<p>GLENORCHY LODGE HOTEL Dalmally, Argyll Scotland, Tel: 01838 200952 www.glenorchylodge.co.uk info@glenorchylodge.co.uk</p>
<p>JAMIE KERR COMMERCIAL FISHING Live prawns and squats in time for Christmas jamiek34@hotmail.co.uk 07746618654</p>	<p>Thistlecrafts 13 Raemoir Rd, Banchory, Aberdeenshire www.thistlecrafts.com beverly@thistlecrafts.com 01330 822054</p>	<p>Wylie+ Bisset, LLP 4 High Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4BG Tel: 01631 562478 Download the Wylie & Bisset App www.wyliebisset.com</p>
<p>C. Hodge Fencing www.argyllwoodfuels.com 01631 563271</p>	<p>NEW LOOK POWER WASH ROUGHCASTING AND POWER WASH CLEANING 0800 999 8092 / 07596 869092 www.newlookpowerwash.co.uk info@newlookpowerwash.co.uk "Don't wait for a slip.... get a grip!"</p>	<p>THE GLEN Follow us on Facebook for regular updates and what's on! Soroba Road, Oban CONTACT 01631 586002 EMAIL forbesmchardy@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>Islay Woollen Mill Co. Ltd Tel: 01496 810563 www.islaywoollenmill.co.uk</p>	<p>Backwoodsman Engineering Ltd Barcaldine OBAN Argyll PA37 1SG Tel/Fax 01631 720539 email sales@backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk www.backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk</p>	<p>MR WOOD'S FOSSILS Edinburgh's famous fossil shop www.mrwoodsfofossils.co.uk</p>
<p>Graham Scott DipFA FINANCIAL ADVISOR For a NO OBLIGATION FIRST MEETING 07738 121549 or graham@aplusfa.com www.aplusfinancialadvice.com</p>	<p>Get The Oban Times 40p! for only 40p! Subscribe today! Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital</p>	<p>Fusion RECYCLED PLASTIC PRODUCTS Tel: 01631 720730 www.fusionrecycled.com</p>



Farming

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



Land reform consultation exercise welcomed

LANDLORDS 'who actively and positively manage and engage with their crofting tenants and people on the ground' should have nothing to fear from the Scottish government's recently announced proposed land reforms.

The Crofting Commission has welcomed the formation of a Land Reform Commission, new powers for ministers to intervene where ownership is a barrier to sustainable development and the removal of business rate exemptions from sporting estates.

Crofting Commissioner David Campbell, who represents the interests of landlords of crofts on the board of the Crofting Commission, said: 'These important proposals should not hold fear for those landlords who actively and positively manage and engage with their crofting tenants and people on the ground.'

'It is hoped that these propos-

als would encourage greater collective participation between crofting landlords and tenants, particularly in developing benefit from underused common grazing areas across the crofting counties.'

The introduction of business rates for shooting and deerstalking estates would also more than treble the Scottish Land Fund from £3 million this year to £10 million a year from 2016, said the crofting commission.

'The increased Scottish Land Fund will allow for those communities currently actively progressing buy outs to aid their ambitions to the benefit of crofting,' said Mr Campbell.

'The Crofting Commission looks forward to the forthcoming consultations and the opportunities they may create in helping to secure the future of crofting.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP, Alasdair Allan, has also welcomed

the launch of the consultation.

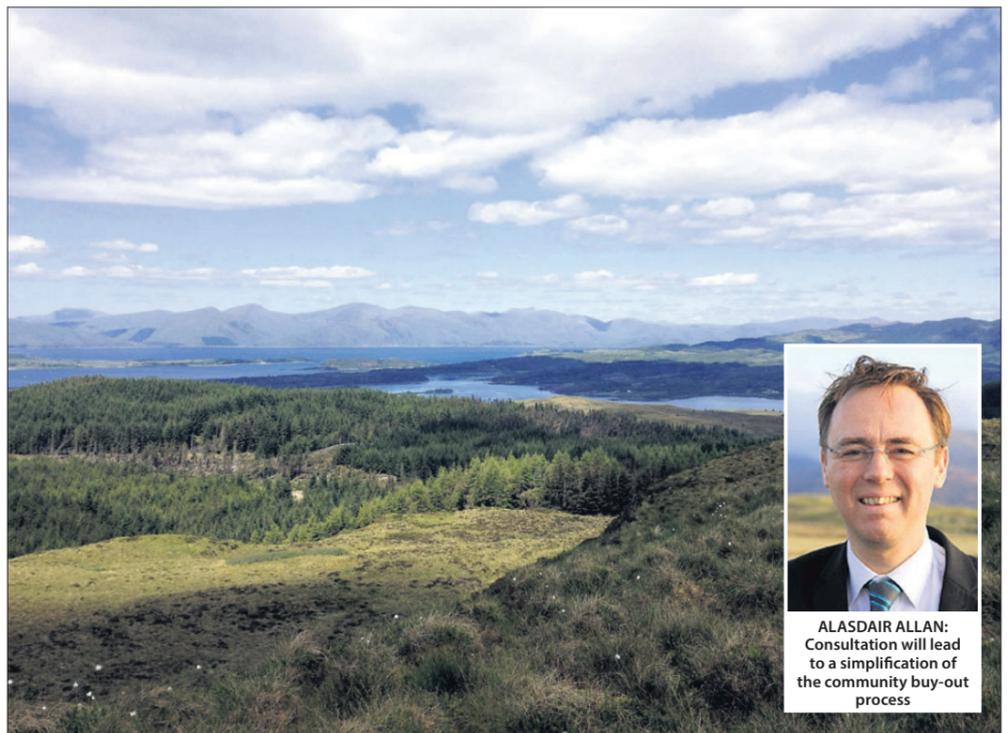
He said: 'This consultation will hopefully lead to a simplification of the process for a community seeking to make a buyout of its land.'

'A community land buyout can be a long and complicated process for any community and anything that can be done to make the task more manageable for small communities has to be a good thing.'

'The trebling in size of the Scottish Land Fund is also something which is important in allowing other communities across Scotland to benefit from funding to allow them to progress their own buyouts.'

'Fragile communities need to be able to develop and to take charge of their own destiny, like has successfully happened in a number of communities in the Western Isles.'

'With other land buyouts being



ALASDAIR ALLAN:
Consultation will lead to a simplification of the community buy-out process

REFORM: the consultation process has begun on the Scottish government's proposals for land reform

considered at present in other areas of the islands this sign of commitment from the Scottish government can only be good news.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'In launching the document Aileen McLeod, the minister responsible for land reform, was absolutely

right to draw attention to the need for land to deliver greater public benefits, through a democratically accountable and transparent system of rights that promotes fairness and social justice, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. 'That is the task we now have to undertake as a nation and it will

be all the better if it is informed by a strong public debate about land and the public interest and about how we make land work for the benefit of everyone.'

'No one has anything to fear from that debate and in fact rural and island Scotland (including Argyll and Bute) has much to gain from land reform.'

The 'Future of Land Reform in Scotland' consultation seeks views and input on the draft Land Rights and Responsibilities Policy and proposals for a Land Reform Bill.

To find out more visit <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/land-reform-and-tenancy-unit/land-reform-scotland>

Farming unions discuss action to tackle dairy crisis



Farming union representatives who met to discuss the UK's dairy crisis.

NFU Scotland met with representatives from the rest of the UK's farming unions at Ingliston on Monday to tackle the crisis in the dairy sector.

Hosted by NFU Scotland, its dairy team was joined by representatives from NFU England and Wales, NFU Cymru, Ulster Farmers Union and staff from the unions' Brussels office.

There was recognition that while there may be no quick fix to the problems faced across the UK dairy industry, activity at a national, UK and European level could make a difference and drive stability and confidence.

Following the meeting, it was agreed that at UK union level, work will be done to:

* Ensure any price cuts are proportionate, that when the

market turns farmers quickly see the benefits;

* Encourage Europe and the UK to increase promotional activity to promote exports and generate import substitution;

* Re-assess the EU intervention price to ensure it is an effective safety net and not simply a crash mat;

* Develop financial management and insurance 'tools';

* Lobby for tax incentives to accommodate the volatile nature of farming; and,

* Wherever possible and sensible, efforts will be increased to work collaboratively together.

Gary Mitchell, NFU Scotland milk committee chairman who organised the meeting said: 'Although the markets continue to react to the global supply

and demand imbalance, we will continue to ensure price cuts imposed on farmers are proportionate and properly explained by all milk purchasers.'

'It remains imperative that the dairy supply chain shares the responsibility and consequence of weak markets and works to limit any long-term damage to our dairy sector.'

'The lack of transparency in the liquid sector needs to be addressed, as does the seemingly slow response of retailers to wholesale and farm gate cuts. While the retail price of cheese and butter on shop shelves has risen year on year, wholesale prices for these staple products have crashed by 30 to 40 percent. Growing retailer margins at a time of farm gate cuts is an issue the unions will

challenge.

'The issue of volatile markets must be addressed and the European Union has tools at its disposal.'

'Promotion of dairy products is also key. UK ministers must tackle a dairy balance of trade deficit of £1.357 billion. Of the 732,000 tonnes of cheese we use, 432,000 is imported. In terms of butter, of the 205,000 tonnes we eat, 105,000 tonnes is imported.'

* First Milk, which produces Mull of Kintyre cheese, has announced it will be cutting price for its manufacturing pool by 1.1 p per litre and for its liquid pool by 1p litre from January.

That is on the back of cuts in recent months because of decline in global demand for dairy products.

Young farmers from North Argyll to meet up again

THE NORTH Argyll Young Farmers Club has recently been re-established and is once again part of the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Club (SAYFC), following a successful meeting on November 27.

John Gillies is new chairman of the club, which currently has

15 members. John said: 'We are so pleased to be up and running again and are looking forward to running our first stock-judging on January 16th Oban auction mart. It's great to bring SAYFC back in to North Argyll.'

National chairman Laura Fleming said: 'It is fantastic to

welcome North Argyll back to SAYFC, and a brilliant way to end a phenomenal year.'

'The club are very enthusiastic and I look forward to welcoming them to our competition and events in 2015.'

The next meeting is on December 20 at 7pm at Palace Hotel

in Oban. All new members are welcome.

The North Argyll YFC will kick off their syllabus with the stock-judging event at Oban Auction Mart on January 16, when they will learn more about the skills required to take part in the competition.

OBAN Livestock centre held its Christmas show and sale of store cattle, suckled calves, bulling heifers, breeding and over 30 months cattle this week. Pictured at the sale on Tuesday is a heifer of East Hynish farm from A H MacDonald. 15_150mart01



rsabi

Help for Heating Fund

"£300 to help stay warm this winter!"

Have you worked on the land and are worried about heating costs this winter?

Contact RSABI to find out more about our Help for Heating Fund.

"We have money available and a determination to help"

Call us in confidence on 0131 472 4166 or visit www.rsabi.org.uk for further details.

SRUC invite you to a Farmers' Workshop at Royal Hotel, Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4BE

"Control of Johne's Disease in Cattle". Complimentary soup and sandwiches. Wednesday 17th December 6.45 pm

To register: 01463 246061 or Email jobaughan@sruc.ac.uk

COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES

TIMBER DIRECT from OUR SAWMILL

Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available

For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

W M Burns

Blaircochrane Farm, West Linton, Peeblesshire

Visit our new website www.burnstractors.com

All used tractors and plant wanted from 1960 to 2014

Call Nigel Burns on 07766522751 for immediate inspection and payment

D R ALEXANDER & SON

Main Distributors for Ifor Williams Trailers in Gairness & Inverness

Keoltag, REAY, Gairness KW14 7RE

Tel: 01847 811365

19 Seafield Road, Longman Industrial Estate INVERNESS IV1 15G

Tel: 01463 248268 MOB: 07710637078

FULL RANGE OF NEW IFOR WILLIAMS TRAILERS & HORSEBOXES

COMMERCIAL, PLANT, STOCK, TIPPER, UNBRAKED, CAR TRANSPORTERS

Selection of Used Trailers All Fully Serviced

For Details Please View Our Website www.dralexanderson.co.uk

Full Servicing Facilities Available/Large Stock of Genuine Ifor Williams Spare Parts

Wallace Power Services Ltd

Diesel Generator Repair, Service & Sales

The Standby Power Specialists

- New and used diesel driven generators in stock
- New PTO driven generators up to 85kva
- Fully automatic mains failure systems supplied and installed
- Repairs, parts and servicing for all makes of generators

Tel: 01389 762741

Mob: 07789 740728

www.wallacepower.co.uk

CAP payments system video demo on line

FARMERS and crofters across Scotland are being invited to view a demonstration video about a new online system for rural funding called Rural Payments and Services.

The new system, which replaces Rural Payments Online, is due to launch soon and will deliver nearly £4 billion of support to Scotland's farming, food and rural sectors over the next five years alone.

Cabinet secretary for rural affairs Richard Lochhead said: 'We need a new online system for the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to be implemented next year, as it is radically different to the existing policy.'

'Rural Payments and Services has been specifically designed to make submitting an application or claim much clearer, simpler and smarter and I am pleased it remains on track to launch soon.'

'It is really important that farmers and crofters familiarise themselves with the new system, and the demonstration video is a great way to do this.'

'My officials are writing to farmers and crofters to let them know that the demo video is available to view online and I urge everyone to watch it over the coming weeks.'

'Farmers and crofters will also need to register to use Rural Payments and Services once it goes live and my officials will write again shortly with more information about what to do and when.'

'By having application and claim forms, guidance and up-to-date map and boundary information all in one place, the streamlined and secure Rural Payments and Services should save our hard-working farmers and crofters time, hassle and paperwork.'

'We will be encouraging as many people as possible to use the new system once it is up and running, but recognise that this may not be suitable for everyone.'

'That is why help and advice is available from local area offices.' Three short films guide customers and agents through what's coming at www.itscoring.ruralpayments.org



like us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

Business

editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

Oban's Seafood Temple for sale

THE AWARD-winning Oban restaurant the Seafood Temple has been placed on the market. The restaurant was established around 10 years ago, after the original owner took a traditional sandstone Georgian toilet block and restored the property with the addition of a full glass front. The premises are situated at Dunggallan Park on Gallanach Road, on the seafront, with views looking over the water to the island of Kerrera. The current owner Eilidh Smith, who has owned the restaurant for approximately four years, has decided to sell the business, following an unforeseen change in personal circumstances.

Fort dive centre tests new tool

FORT William's Underwater Centre has been used as the testing ground for a pioneering new tool in the oil and gas industry. The hand-held 'Waveblade' is designed to make it easier for divers and remotely operated-vehicles (ROVs) to remove unwanted marine algae from pipes, using tiny vibrating blades. The Underwater Centre on Loch Linnhe was specifically chosen for the trial operation due to its depth, varying weather conditions and extensive training facilities. Olivia Gemmill from the centre said: 'Divers have been able to test the Waveblade in challenging conditions; in varying degrees of visibility that replicates what happens offshore.'

Make the most of festive promotion

WITH the festive season underway, advisers with Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway are on hand to help local entrepreneurs make the most of the marketing opportunity it presents. One of the most important aspects of running a successful business is understanding and maintaining a loyal customer base. Businesses can tap into the potential of their current customer base by finding ways to boost customer loyalty including initiatives such as reward schemes, discounts or seasonal promotions. Anyone looking for support with marketing their business should get in touch to find out how Business Gateway can help. Contact the local Business Gateway team on 01546 604 555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Self assessment deadline looms

ARGYLL and Bute council's Business Gateway is reminding anyone in self-employment that the deadline for self-assessment online submissions is midnight on January 31 2015. Normally anyone registered as self-employed with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) needs to complete a tax return to tell HMRC about their income and capital gains or to claim tax allowances or reliefs. To help those filing returns, HMRC has produced a set of free online seminars. You need to register in advance for a live webinar, but the session is then recorded and made available to view after the event. As well as signposting support with Self Assessment, Business Gateway offers free workshops on bookkeeping, which explain how good bookkeeping, and understanding what documents and records you must legally have, can help you establish a successful and profitable company.

Rising stars win green awards

A RISING star of the renewables sector from Argyll and an island wind energy project in the Western Isles were among the winners at the Scottish Green Energy Awards. North Connel man Robbie Macdonald was presented with the Rising Star Award at the ceremony in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, where Barra and Vatersay Community Wind Energy Project was also awarded the Best Community Project Award.

Robbie, 26, who now lives in Glasgow, is a project manager with renewables company Nautricity and was recognised for his work in the development of tidal power turbines. Robbie was previously recognised in 2011 for designing an offshore access system. The Strathclyde University graduate said: 'I was very happy to receive the Rising Star award, which has convinced me that I am able to forge a career within renewables. Perhaps there is now a bit more pressure on me to do well in this sector but I think there is a strong renewables industry in Scotland and I will try and make my mark here.'

“ I will try and make my mark here ”

Robbie Macdonald
Nautricity project manager

The Barra and Vatersay Community Wind Energy Project has developed a 900kw, community-owned turbine and is looking at ways of tackling fuel poverty on the islands. Councillor Alasdair Macleod, chairman of sustainable development, said: 'I would like to congratulate all concerned with the Barra and Vatersay project. 'This is a great example of a community working together to use the fantastic renewable development opportunities we have here in the Western Isles. 'I sincerely hope that many more communities use this as an example of what can be achieved through community partnership and innovative thinking.'



RISING STAR: North Connel's Robbie Macdonald was recognised for his work with Nautricity

European expert from Argyll delivers key speech in Venice



CONFERENCE: VisitScotland's David Adams McGilp presented a paper at a European conference on coastal and maritime tourism

ARGYLL'S tourism director has been advising European experts on managing competition in the water. At an event, held in Venice, VisitScotland's David Adams McGilp, from Mid Argyll, advised international delegates on the planning for space around European waters up to 200 nautical miles from the coastline, to pontoons, ports and harbours - and how they can be well managed. Throughout the world, the west coast is viewed as a place for extensive tourism development, and that is enshrined in the action plans of both Argyll and Bute and Highland councils.

Speaking after the conference, Mr Adams McGilp said he was delighted to share his knowledge about developments in marine planning in Scotland with international delegates. He was previously involved in developing facilities through the European Union's Malin Waters project, which funded more than 20 pontoons and marinas in Scotland and Northern Ireland. David, a regional director with VisitScotland, said: 'My presentation focused on managing priorities on the use of marine space. It emphasised that Scotland's marine planning embodies important principles such as a presumption of mixed use

facilities, unless it can be demonstrated that certain combined activities would be dangerous or impossible. There is also the right of unencumbered access to the marine environment for tourism, recreation and leisure activity even in Marine Protected Areas. 'Scotland's common-sense approach was of particular interest to delegates from other member states, some of which are developing complex zoning for different types of maritime activity, and will rely on legislation and regulation to enforce it. 'In Europe, Scotland is regarded as leading the development of coastal and maritime tourism development, which includes

inland waterways and freshwater entities.' David delivered positive news to the international delegates in that in the future, he believed, there would be many more opportunities to deliver joint recommendations between industry and tourism which would encourage sustainable growth in the sector. The European Commission held its fourth Maritime Spatial Planning Conference on Coastal and Maritime Tourism in Venice on November 27. David will contribute to the next conference in Brussels in the spring, and has been invited to address the ministries of tourism in Croatia and Slovenia.

Camman maker aiming to be big player in shinty market

A RETIRED joiner has turned his love of Scotland's oldest sport into a business after taking over a local shinty stick maker. Bobby Crowe, 65, from Inellan, Dunoon, coached shinty to local children for years and after retiring wanted a new challenge. Knowing that Heron Camans had closed due to the owner retiring, Bobby enquired about buying the business. Over a year ago he officially purchased the business and since then has been working hard to attract old and new customers. Bobby said: 'Shinty has been in my family for generations and the teams I coached always used Heron Camans sticks. 'I found out it was closing as the owner was retiring. With my joinery background I felt I could learn how to make shinty sticks so I asked about buying the company. 'The previous owner agreed to train me in how to make sticks that were equal in quality to his and in May 2013 I took control of Heron Camans. 'Since the business had been closed for a while, a lot of customers had begun going elsewhere so although I was taking it over, it was like I was starting from scratch. In the last 18 months I've been focusing on letting people know that we are back and I've spent a lot of time talking and demonstrating to old, existing and potential customers

the quality of our sticks. Bearing that in mind, I am really pleased with how we are doing as it is better than I expected.' With orders coming in from the Highlands, Cornwall, Nottingham and even Australia, Heron Camans is steadily building a strong base and Bobby hopes to expand on this in 2015. Receiving support from Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway service, Bobby is looking forward to developing the business further and continuing to promote shinty. He added: 'We've gained a lot of work from word of mouth and working with Business Gateway we hope to expand on our marketing. 'Ideally I would like to begin using a lot more local wood so that's something I'll be looking at over the next year.' Donald Melville, business adviser, Business Gateway said: 'Bobby has resurrected an established business that was going to disappear and is steadily making his own mark on it. We have been working with Bobby, discussing and advising on a number of issues and we will continue our relationship as Heron Camans develops next year.' To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business call 01546 604 555 or visit www.bgateway.com



CRAFTSMAN: Shinty caman maker Bobby Crowe

Oban firm nets pen order worth £700K

AN ORDER for fish pens worth £700,000 has been placed by Scottish Sea Farms with Oban-based business Fusion Marine, adding to an existing £1 million spend agreed in October this year. This latest contract is part of an ongoing expansion and investment programme by Scottish Sea Farms and will provide the company with new fish pens for sites including Kishorn and equipment for its hatchery at Knock. The additional spend comes on the back of a £1 million pound investment with Fusion Marine for fish pens for new Scottish Sea Farms sites in Orkney. This latest contract will get underway shortly and a number of other businesses will benefit from this investment, with Scottish hauliers, hotels and

hire companies all used during the completion of the project. Scottish Sea Farms managing director, Jim Gallagher, said: 'This latest contract, coupled with our £1 million pound order in October, demonstrates our ongoing commitment to using Scottish suppliers. We have been working with Fusion Marine for a number of years now. 'We are also recruiting at many of our sites, with skilled jobs available for local areas where employment is often scarce.' Stephen Divers, managing director of Fusion Marine, said the latest contract had come at a time when the company had taken on new staff and invested in new equipment. He added: 'Salmon farming plays a crucial role in helping support the rural west coast economy.'



INVESTMENT: The new Fusion Triton pen is being developed for Scottish Sea Farms

Get the best from your business with help from Business Gateway.

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute



West Coast MOTORING TIMES

DRIVETIMES NOW ONLY
£30
 IF UNSOLD AFTER 1ST WEEK JUST CALL BEFORE TUESDAY 3PM TO GET YOUR SECOND WEEK FREE
 Tel: 01631 568000

DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS



Scotland's most established Renault dealer

New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

14 Renault Captur Dyn Medianav, DCI 1.5 Ivor, Delivery Mileage.....	£15,950
14 Skoda Fabia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Silver, 14,000 Miles.....	£10,650
63 Skoda Octavia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Grey, 11,250 Miles.....	£14,750
13 Dacia Duster Ambience, 1.5 DCI, Grey, 3600 Miles.....	£11,950
13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles.....	£7,250
13 Ford Fiesta Zetec, Auto, 1.6, 5dr Blue, 10,250 miles.....	£9,850
61 Renault Kangoo Exp, 1.6 SDR Red, 8,500miles.....	£6,250
11 Renault Megane dyn hatchback, 1.6 silver, 6,300k miles.....	£7,750
11 Renault Kangoo Exp, 1.6 Auto, Grey, 16,000 miles.....	£6,750
59 Renault Scenic Dyn, DCI 105, Blue, 52,000 miles.....	£6,500
59 Renault Clio 1.5DCI, 3 dr, White 38,000 miles.....	£5,650
57 Suzuki SX4 DDIS, 5 Dr Hatchback, 1.9 Diesel, Blue, 54,000 miles.....	£4,495
07 Renault Laguna DCI Est, Silver, 70,000 miles.....	£3,450
58 Honda CRV 2.0 SE Auto, Blue, 55,000 miles.....	£8,500
58 Renault Scenic Conquest, DCI, Orange, 62,000 miles.....	£5,500
08 Fiat Doblo 1.9D Active Blue 52,000 miles.....	£3,850
55 Toyota Yaris 1.3 Colour Collection, 3Dr, Silver, 47,000 miles.....	£3,250
54 Honda CRV Sport Vtec 2.0 Itr Blue, 91,000 miles.....	£3,950

COMMERCIALS

61 Kangoo Sport, 1.5DCI, 65K Miles.....	£5,750 plus VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivaro DCI Van.....	£8,000 plus VAT
60 Renault Kangoo ML19, DCI, White, 54,000 miles.....	£5,500 plus VAT
06 Ford Transit Connect Diesel, 31,000 miles.....	£4,850 inc. VAT

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR

- Peugeot 1.4 Est
- Renault Scenic 1.5 DCI
- Renault Laguna Diesel Est
- Citroen Picasso 1.6

New Dacia range available for test drive today!

CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES FIND US

W.D. Semple
 VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER

Approved Renault Dealer
 www.wdsemple.com
 Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150 Fax: 01499 302281
 Lochgilphead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767 Fax: 01546 606272

NEW DACIA DUSTER AND SANDERO NOW IN STOCK

Dacia NOW AVAILABLE
 The New Dacia Range from **£5,995***

Dacia Sandero = from £5,995*	Dacia Sandero Stepway = from £7,995*
Dacia Duster = from £8,995*	Logan MCV Estate = from £6,995

Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate TCe 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

Kerrie's Tyre Service

WINTER TYRES NOW IN STOCK
FREE WINTER CHECKS

Also
 • Batteries
 • Brakes

• General Servicing
 • Exhausts

24 hour breakdown service
 Quarry Road, Oban
 Tel/Fax: (01631) 570000

URGENTLY REQUIRED

4X4s
 TOP PRICE PAID
 INSTANT COLLECTION
 AND PAYMENT
 ANY AGE AND CONDITION

CALL: 07711 573308 OR 01250 872424

WANTED

Motor homes, caravanettes and camper vans, all makes or models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07923 091694 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

Honda Jazz SE

2006 1.4 Auto
 21000 miles
 MOT 1 Dec 2015
 FSH, Very clean car.
 £3250 o.n.o.

Tel 01880 820222

WANTED

4 x 4's, all makes and models, Toyota, Landrover, Mitsubishi, high miles no problem, MOT or not, instant decision, same day payment.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07923 091694 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

WANTED ALL 4 X 4'S

Toyota, Mitsubishi, Landrovers etc, mileage no problem. Distance no object. Specialise in Vauxhall Brava and Isuzu pick-ups.

Telephone 07789 138028

2004 Rover 25 si

Under 64,000 miles, only 2 owners, road tax until end of may 2015, MOT exp June 2015.

£1250 o.n.o.

Tel 07775 203930

WANTED ALL 4 X 4'S

Any year or condition, would consider any kind of pick-up or jeep, will collect and pay cash.

Telephone 07925 715321

WANTED

All 4 X 4 Vehicles any make or model, from 1990 to new, also high mileage, non runners, MOT failures etc considered. Finance settled, top cash prices paid, instant payment and collection.

Tel: 07546 788945

VW Caddy Van

2007 1.9 SDI
 110k, 12 months
 MOT, New tyres
 Good condition.
 £2800 o.n.o.

Tel 07738 064384

E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Macpherson family

61 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN Equiper, 5dr Car, 2.0 DDi Auto, Espack, Alloy, Met Silver, 80K.....	NO VAT £14,450
60 MITSUBISHI L200 Triton, Double Cab Pickup, Manual, Leather, Alloy, Black, 35K.....	£12,950
60 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN SWB, Equiper, Commercial, 2.0 DDi Auto, Espack, Alloy, Met Silver.....	£9,750
09 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal, D/Cab Pickup, Auto, Leather, Sat Nav, Roll Bars, Rear Cover, Black, 50K.....	£11,950
09 MITSUBISHI L200 Anrok, D/Cab Pickup, Manual, Towbar, CD Player, Met Green, 40K.....	£8,950
03 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN Sport 1.8 Sport, 5 Dr, 5 Speed, Manual, Leather, Espack, Alloy, Met Grey.....	NO VAT £8,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Anrok, Single Cab P/U, New Shape, Manual, Low Road Tax, Met Silver.....	£4,950
05 MITSUBISHI L200 Anrok, D/Cab Pickup, Manual, Tow Bar, Lined, Met Blue.....	£4,250
11 NISSAN NAVARA Acenta, D/Cab Pickup, Manual, Espack, Alloy, Met Grey, 35K.....	£11,450
05 NISSAN NAVARA Outlaw Plus, D/Cab P/U, 6 Speed Manual, Heated Leather, Sunroof, Black, 90K.....	£9,950
05 NISSAN NAVARA Outlaw, D/Cab P/U, Manual, Espack, Alloy, Met Grey, 80K, NO VAT.....	£9,950
07 NISSAN NAVARA Marmot, D/Cab Pickup, Manual, Alloy, Espack, Met Silver, 45K.....	£9,950
05 NISSAN NAVARA Acenta, D/Cab Pickup, 6 Sp Manual, Heated Leather, Sat Nav, A-Bar, Met Blue.....	NO VAT £7,250
04 NISSAN NAVARA L200, D/Cab Pickup, Manual, Espack, Alloy, Met Red.....	NO VAT £4,950
11 TOYOTA HILUX HLZ, D/Cab P/U, Manual, Espack, Air Con, Met Green, 38K.....	£10,950
09 TOYOTA HILUX HLZ, D/Cab P/U, Manual, Espack, Air Con, Met Green, 38K.....	£10,950
59 FORD TRANSIT 260 SWB Van, 5Dr, Espack, P/U Lined, White.....	£9,450
09 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, Semi HiTop Panel Van, 6Speed, Espack, Roof Rack, White, 80K.....	£9,250
08 FORD RANGER Super Cab P/U, 4WD, C/W High Capacity Canopy Fibre Workshop, White.....	£7,750
08 FORD TRANSIT 350 D/Cab, Alloy, Dropside Tipper, Towbar, Direct Council, Yellow, 80K.....	£7,950
08 FORD TRANSIT 350 D/Cab, Alloy, Dropside Tipper, Towbar, Direct Council, Yellow, 80K.....	£7,950
07 FORD TRANSIT 350, 115hp, 5dr Cab, Alloy Dropside Tipper, C/W Max Lift Crane, Direct Council.....	£7,950
07 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, Alloy Dropside Tipper, 1300 Body, Tail Lift, White.....	£5,750
06 FORD TRANSIT 350, Crew Cab Pickup, 115HP Alloy Body, Removable Cargo Sides, White, 45K.....	£5,550
04 FORD RANGER, XLT, D/Cab Pickup, Manual, Espack, Alloy, Towbar, Met Silver.....	£3,750
06 MERCEDES SPRINTER 318 CDI, MWB, 4dr Panel Van, Manual, Rear Fibre Workshop, White, 90K.....	£14,950
06 MERCEDES SPRINTER 318 CDI, MWB, 4dr Van, Manual, SLD, Rear Fibre Workshop, White.....	£9,950
01 MERCEDES C200, Kompressor, 3 door Coupe, Auto, Full leather, Alloy, Met Silver.....	NO VAT £2,950
06 VW TRANSPORTER, 11 Seat, Bluebird Mercedes, Auto, Wheel Chair Access, Blue, Direct council.....	£12,950
06 VW CRAFTER CR35 MWB, HighTop Van, 6sp, SLD, P/U Lined, White, 50K, Choice.....	£9,450
06 VW CRAFTER CR35 MWB, HighTop Van, 6sp, SLD, P/U Lined, White, Direct Council.....	£7,950
06 VW CRAFTER CR35, Crew Cab Dropside Tipper, Espack, Manual, Alloy Tow Bars, Blue, 50K, Choice.....	£9,950
06 VW L35 LWB Crew Cab Dropside Tipper, Alloy Tail Lift, Direct Council, Green, Only 15K.....	£7,250
05 VW L35 LWB Alloy Dropside Tipper, 1300 Body, Direct Council, White.....	£5,950
09 VAUXHALL ASTRA Van, 1.7 CDTI Manual, Espack, P/U Lined With Bulkyload, White.....	£4,950
09 VAUXHALL COMBO CDTI, Crew Van, Twin Side Doors, 5 Seats, White, 70K.....	£4,750
06 CITROEN BERLINGO, Multi Space, Wheel Chair Access, Manual, Espack, Met Silver.....	NO VAT £4,750
10 KIA SHARON 600 MLE, 5dr Side Taper Body, Masser cab, Towbar, Ret, 12000 HRS, Choice.....	£4,250
ROMAQUIP Alloy Serrbody Roll On OR, ON H/R Diesel Engine, Very Clean, Direct Council.....	£3,950

Many other vehicles in stock All above vehicles plus VAT at 20%
 Kilwinning, Ayrshire
 Tel: 01294 554098 or 077696 88110
 Fax: 01294 554560
 www.emcommercials.co.uk

Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux

Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 081 8989
adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Motoring Classifieds

Gunns Garage
 Tyneribbie, Appin PA38 4DB
 For all your servicing and mechanical needs.
 Contact us on 01631 730279

MacDougall's Garage

24HR BREAKDOWN AND RECOVERY
 REPAIRS, FUEL OILS TYRES
 MOT TEST CENTRE

We'll get you home
 We are certified to B.S.P.A.S.43 for recovery work
 Corrie Glen, Fionnphort Tel: 01681 700294

MUNRO'S

MOTs • Servicing • Repairs
 All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired.
 Including Volkswagen & Skoda.

Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
 Tel: 01631 564463
 Email: munrosofoban@aol.com
 Web: www.munrosofoban.co.uk

Call now to advertise your business in the Motoring Classifieds section Tel: 01631 568020

The ideal west coast cruising base.
 Book your winter storage/afloat/ashore now.

Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com www.craobhmarina.co.uk

CRAOBH MARINA

BAILEY PAGEANT IMPERIAL



2004, 2 berth, 16/17 ft, easy towed, Luxury toilet and shower, blown heating, cooker and hob, waste water tank, all equipment. Very good condition for year.
£2,250 o.n.o.

Tel 07788 505224

NISSAN ALMERA SX

2005, Hatchback, 1500cc, petrol, 60,000 miles, MOT October 2015, electric windows, CD, parking sensors, alloy wheels.

£1,200 o.n.o.

Tel: 07960 504683

WANTED

Wanted 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.

Telephone: 07703490572 ask for Robert

TOYOTA RAV4



2.0L AUTO PETROL
63K miles
MOT until Oct 2015.
4 wheel drive.
£2500 o.n.o.

Tel 07825 638452

Volvo 850SE 2.5cc Estate



One owner - non smoker.
Ex Condition.
87520 miles.
Service/Maintenance records. MOT 23/9/15.
£1200 o.n.o.

Tel 01770 302148 (Arran)

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles
Landrovers, any 4x4, Toyotas, Nissan, considered. Also non-runner and accident damaged, MOT failure, single or double cab. Genuine people to deal with.

Telephone 01250 884306
Mobile 07885 203020

Range Rover 4.0 SE Auto



Petrol 1997,
1 years MOT.
£1495

Tel 07780 334584

CAT V40 Forklift



1990, 2 tonne,
4.4m lift,
Ready to work.
£4000 o.n.o.

Tel 07876 797104

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

All cars fully serviced and MOT'd by ourselves

05 VW LT35 95TDI LWB CAMPER VAN 3 BERTH 45,000 MILES
PHONE FOR FULL DETAILS £7,200 ONO
59 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 5DR BLACK 47,000 MILES
CUSTOMERS PROPERTY £5,495
09 FORD FUSION 5DR STYLE GREY 13,500 MILES £3,650
05 CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5DR SILVER 63,900 MILES
CUSTOMERS PROPERTY £2,175
08 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 1.8 DIESEL 40,000 MILES£4,400+VAT
08 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 DIESEL 77,000 MILES£3,750

MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales

Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

LixToll GARAGE ALL NEW WEBSITE: www.lixtoll.com
(Online Shop Now Open)

Lix Toll Garage Ltd Killin, Perthshire, FK21 8RB
Tel: 01567 820 280

OVER 40 DEFENDERS IN STOCK COVERING THE FULL RANGE
NFU Discount available on New Defenders

NEW ISUZU D-MAX RANGE NOW AT LIX TOLL
5 years Warranty | 125,000 miles
3.5 Tonne Towing

BASC DISCOUNT AVAILABLE ON NEW ISUZU'S
Lix Toll shop now open online for all you mail order parts
4X4 Hire now available




ALIVE TUNING Safety Devices Patriot Products REDBOOSTER.COM

Everything Land Rover and Isuzu, Sales, Parts, Accessories, Hire, Service and Repair.

For further information contact sales@lixtoll.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ Lix Toll Garage

NEW CAR INDEX

ISUZU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440

Great Wall
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440

SUBARU
S & S Services
Old Bridge Road,
Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080
01292 880440

SUZUKI
Gordon Motors
UK Dealer Of The Year 2014
Comrie Rd, Crieff,
Perthshire PH7 4BQ
Tel. 01764 652125
Delivery throughout the West
www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors

RENAULT
W.D. Semple
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray
Shore Street
Tel. 01499 302150
Lochgilphed
Highbank Park
Tel. 01546 606767
01546 606272

DACIA
TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

Find your next property at westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

Property Classifieds

Woodburning Stoves

AFFORDABLE Country Kiln

Woodburning & Multifuel stoves
Delivered Nationwide
01560 483966
www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

Surveyors and Valuers

BLACK & KING
Surveyors & Valuers

Oban-based, property consultancy offering independent, expert advice to businesses and individuals throughout Argyll, Lochaber and the West Highlands and Islands.

Enquiries & information:
www.blackkingproperty.co.uk
Tel: 01631 562637 Mobile: 07711 955845

TO LET

LONG LET MORVERN HILL, OBAN
2 bedroom furnished house, available mid Jan 2015 suitable for professional couple or family, £550 pm plus deposit and utilities, sorry no DSS, references required.
Landlord Registration 81093/130/13410.
Telephone 07796508424.

Eider - 2 bedroom - waterfront property
Widgeon - 1 bedroom waterfront property
Mallard - 2 bedroom
Sited by the waterfront in Ardfern, we have a one bedroom and 2 two bedroom cottages for long or short term let.
Please contact Ruth on **01577 866866.**

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax

New rates will see 49,000 buyers pay less tax on new homes.

Proposed new tax rates are set to benefit first-time buyers and those at the lower end of the housing market, it was confirmed today.

The rates for the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) - which will replace UK Stamp Duty Land Tax from April 2015 - were announced as part of the Scottish Government's draft budget 2015/16.

The tax will be the first to be introduced by the Scottish Parliament in 300 years and will change the way people pay tax on property purchases.

The new rates will only be payable on the portion of the total value which falls within each band. This contrasts with the 'slab' structure of stamp duty under which the higher tax rate is payable on the whole purchase price when a threshold is crossed.

The rates will also:

- Take 5,000 additional house purchases out of tax by ensuring that nobody will pay tax on the first £135,000 of their house purchase - £10,000 higher than the current stamp duty threshold;
- Ensure that no tax will be payable on 45 per cent of transactions;
- Reduce the tax charge relative to stamp duty for a further 44,000 house purchases up to £325,000 and
- Ensure that 90 per cent of homebuyers will either pay less or the same amount as they would under current arrangements.

The two devolved taxes will be collected by Revenue Scotland and are expected to bring in an estimated £558 million in 2015-16. Scotland's block grant will be adjusted to recognise that these tax

receipts will flow directly to Holyrood and not to the Treasury in London.

Finance Secretary John Swinney said: 'At the heart of our budget is a strong determination to make Scotland a prosperous and fairer country and the new tax powers give us the opportunity to underpin these values.

'The Land and Buildings Transaction tax is the first tax created by the Scottish Parliament in 300 years. We now have the chance to apply the principles set out by Adam Smith - that there must be certainty, convenience for the taxpayer and efficiency of tax collection and, most relevant to the proposals which I announced today, that taxes should be proportionate to the ability to pay.

'The old stamp duty was outdated - causing unfair tax hikes at set property prices. This led to the market being distorted

John Clegg & Co

KINACHREACHAN FOREST
Near Dalmally, Argyll
222.28 Hectares / 549.25 Acres

Lot 1 142.03 Ha/350.96 Acres Offers Over £525,000
Lot 2 71.65 Ha/177.05 Acres Offers Over £175,000
Lot 3 4.14 Ha/10.22 Acres Offers Over £35,000
Lot 4 4.46 Ha/11.02 Acres Offers Over £30,000

FREEHOLD FOR SALE IN 4 LOTS OR AS A WHOLE
A well-located commercial forest comprising predominantly Sitka spruce, with an established internal forest road linking with the public road network. Attractive lochside amenity woodland included, offering a diverse mix of broadleaves, with access to Loch Awe and surrounded by outstanding scenery. Sporting rights included.

As a Whole Offers Over £765,000

2 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2AS
Tel: 0131 229 8800 Email: edinburgh@johnclegg.co.uk

and led people to try to avoid tax.

'Our proposed residential transaction rates will be more proportionate to the house price, and means that the tax is fairer as it is based more closely on the buyer's ability to pay.

'The increase in the level before paying tax will also benefit around 5,000 homebuyers a year - helping first time buyers and improving the affordability of starter homes. This new approach will benefit the majority of Scots, 90 per cent of homebuyers will either pay less or the same amount as they would under current arrangements.

'For example, a couple buying their first home for £140,000 will pay £100 under the new system, £1,300 less than the stamp duty charge which applies now. A family buying a new home for £260,000 will pay £3,300 under the new transac-

tion tax - that's a saving of £4,500 compared to stamp duty.

'New taxation and borrowing powers are a step forward but I believe that the Scottish Parliament should be responsible for the full range of taxes levied in Scotland. This way we can continue to drive forward prosperity and fairness in Scotland for all of our citizens.'

There are some things you can't do with **The Oban Times Digital Edition** but you can **save 64%** on an annual subscription

obantimes.co.uk/digital

*Calculated against the cost of a printed annual subscription at £58 per year which includes postage and packaging. Please note this product does NOT work on iPhones, iPads or Tablets. Requires PC or Mac with access to the internet (Broadband recommended) with an internet browser that supports Flash.

Fish Farmer Magazine

EDITOR

Based Edinburgh or Oban

Industry Leading Magazine and Web sites

As Editor you will be responsible for managing the day to day production of the monthly print title "Fish Farmer" as well as sourcing and contributing daily news and analysis to the websites (fishfarmer-magazine.com and fishupdate.com) and associated social media.

You will continue to develop the printed publications and fully evolve all aspects of the business to include a comprehensive digital strategy.

The position requires a proactive approach from concept and strategy through to fulfilment. This includes the need for full liaison with the commercial team in order to maximise revenue from all platforms including online and offline company profiles and commercially led features.

In addition you will need to work closely with the senior management team to develop all products to their full commercial value.

You will enjoy a competitive salary, contributory pension scheme, healthcare and a generous holiday allowance.

Closing date for applications is Friday 23 January 2015

Apply by sending your CV, covering letter and present salary by post or e-mail to: Alison Arden Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB. ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



Exciting Times You could be part of it

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE



BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent newspaper publishers.

You would be part of a small, highly motivated team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships, and 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 apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

The Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY - Be a Lay Judge in the Summary Criminal Justice of the Peace Courts

Are you a person of integrity, honesty and understanding who wants to serve their community? Then why not volunteer to become a Justice of the Peace (JP) in the Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde.

JPs are lay judges who sit in the summary criminal Justice of the Peace courts in Scotland along with a legally qualified adviser providing advice on law, practice and procedure. The lay judge decides on the sentence to be imposed and on guilt or innocence following trials. JPs come from a wide range of backgrounds and occupations. They are women and men from all walks of life.

JPs are voluntary, unpaid appointments although they do receive reasonable travel expenses etc. Most employers allow time off with pay or you can claim loss of earnings.

Time Commitment: The minimum requirement is 12 sittings per year although this may fluctuate depending in which court you sit as well as how much court business is anticipated. You must also be able to complete a minimum of 12 hours training per year.

To apply you need to be resident in or live within 15 miles of the Sheriffdom. A programme of induction training will be provided to successful applicants.

Current vacancies in North Strathclyde are as follows:-

JP Court	Number of JP vacancies
Paisley	6
Dumbarton	2
Kilmarnock	4
Argyll and Bute	2

For further information and an application pack please go to www.jp.scotland.gov.uk or contact Pauline Miller: Pauline.miller@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or on 0131 244 0357.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 9 JANUARY 2015

Scottish Ministers welcome applications from groups currently under-represented within the Scottish Judiciary, such as women, disabled people, ethnic minorities and people aged under 50.

Appointed on merit; committed to diversity and equality

Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde



argyllshire advertiser
Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

Reporter

An enthusiastic, multi-skilled Reporter is required to join weekly newspaper, the Argylshire Advertiser, part of the award-winning Oban Times newspaper group.

Joining the team at the Lochgilhead office, Mid Argyll, the successful candidate will have a solid foundation in journalism, good leadership qualities, excellent communication skills, a great deal of energy and at least two years experience. A full driving licence is essential.

This is an exciting opportunity with excellent salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send a covering letter of application with CV by email to: ali@obantimes.co.uk



Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group is seeking to recruit 3 candidates to fulfil the roles outlined below. These positions will be based at our seawater cage farms on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt.

Fish Farm Technician - Loch Etive

The role of Fish Farm Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

Fish Farm Yardman/Technician - Loch Etive

The role of Fish Farm Yardman/Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

As well as carrying out various duties of a Farm Technician, the ideal candidate will also be carrying out the role of Farm Yardman. Such responsibilities include maintaining the yard area and storage facilities in a safe and orderly fashion. Also carrying out daily safety checks on the forklifts and carry out routine maintenance on forklifts and other engines. There will be offshore work when required.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential. Experience of operating tele-handlers is a necessity and experience of routine maintenance is not necessary but advantageous. The successful candidate will have the ability to work autonomously and as part of a team.

Farming Administrator - Loch Etive

You will support the work of the farm staff in providing friendly and office based services, including being the first point of contact of the farm for all visitors and callers. You should have excellent office administration skills along with expertise in Microsoft Office.

Key accountabilities of the role include:-

- Input data on to Meractus software programme giving farming control, monitoring and planning;
- Maintain a rolling 6 month staff rota showing holidays, absence, etc;
- Keep employee records up to date and monitor and track absence;
- Learn and maintain knowledge of Codes of Good Practice on finfish farming, Freedom Food, quality Trout UK & Global Gap standards;
- Maintain visitor site PPE clothing is fit for purpose & ready for use;
- Support and assist the Farm Manager with administrative tasks in preparation for meetings.

All positions above are full time, working a 40 hour week. Beyond the nature of the roles of Farm Technician and Technician/Yardman, the post holder(s) would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business, this will include weekend cover on a rota basis.

If you are interested in applying for any of the positions above, please send your CV to hr@dawnfresh.co.uk

Scottish autism

West of Scotland Area Services - Oban Saturday Club

Casual Support Workers (SA/90) £7.65 per hour

Autism Practitioner (SA/91) 6 hours per week £16,510 - £18,687 (pro rata for part time)

Scottish autism seeks to promote and provide care, education, support and opportunities for individuals with autism of all ages throughout Scotland.

We are currently looking for enthusiastic and committed Casual Support Workers and an Autism Practitioner with an interest in developing a career working with people on the Autism Spectrum within West of Scotland services.

For more information on the above jobs, please visit our website: www.scottishautism.org

Closing Date: 22nd December 2014

Registered charity number is SC009068

CAMPBELL'S DAIRIES

Van Driver required for night work

based in Lochgilhead

Apply to 01546 600144

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

ORMSARY FARMERS EXPERIENCED SHEPHERD

An experienced shepherd is required to be responsible for the management of Hill and Lowground flocks at Ormsary Estate in Argyll.

The successful candidate should be an enthusiast with initiative and the ability to work as part of a team on this busy estate.

Good dogs are required together with knowledge of relevant record keeping.

An attractive employment package including a modern family house and pension is offered for this position.

Ormsary is a diversified estate with excellent local community and schooling facilities.

Apply with CV and references to:

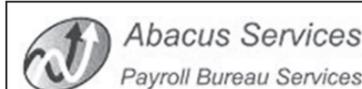
Archie McArthur, General Manager, Ormsary Farmers, Ormsary Estate Office, Lochgilhead Argyll, PA31 8PE
Email: archie@ormsary.co.uk



Old Manse, Onich, Inverness-shire PH33 6RY
Tel: 01855 821202 E-mail: office@onich.co.uk

FM Administrator
We are currently looking to recruit a Permanent, Full Time, Facilities Management Administrator.

Own Transport required due to our location. Salary £13,000-£15,000. Two bedroom flat to rent in Ballachulish if candidate is relocating. Please contact Maree using the details above for further information.



Payroll Assistant

Abacus Services (part of R A Clement Associates) are looking for a payroll assistant to join the busy payroll office in Oban. Candidates must have a "can do" attitude and experience in processing payrolls is essential. Salary commensurate with experience.

Please apply in writing, enclosing your C.V. to Helen Clark, Office Manager at R A Clement Associates, 5 Argyll Square, OBAN, PA34 4AZ or by email to hc@raclement.co.uk

HIGHLAND FASTENERS Sales Assistant

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated individual to join our small but efficient team. Full time, permanent upon successfully completing a trial period.

Apply with CV to sales@highlandfasteners.com
FAO: Alastair

HIGHLAND FASTENERS LTD.
23-25 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA



Carers Direct Limited are an independent provider specialising in care at home.

We are looking for Carers to work in the Oban Area.
Rate of pay from £8.50/hour - variable hours.
Alternate weekends essential. Car driver essential SVQ 2 preferred, training provided.
Application forms from 01631 569 550.
Registered with Scottish Care Commission.
Applications subject to PVG Scheme vetting.

NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
Tel. 01631 562168

We are looking for a compassionate and caring person for care of the elderly and have a vacancy for a full time care assistant. Permanent contract.

Experience not necessary as training will be given. £6.99 to £8.34 per hour depending on qualifications. For an application form phone Manager Morag A Telfer.

LOCHGILPHEAD MEDICAL CENTRE

A temporary vacancy for a part-time post has arisen at Lochgilhead Medical Centre. This post will last provisionally until 31st March and is based in Furnace Surgery. The hours are 18 hours weekly worked on a Monday and Tuesday and the hourly rate of pay is £9.16. The successful candidate should have word processing skills and previous reception skills would be an advantage. The closing date for applications is 28th December 2014. For further information or to apply please contact:

Muriel Miller, Practice Manager On 01546 462002

TARBERT AFTER SCHOOL CARE MANAGER

Working as part of a team to help provide a safe, fun and stimulating environment for the children in our setting. 20 hours. Monday to Friday 2 - 6pm

Applicant must possess relevant SVQ level 3 qualification in Childhood Practice as minimum and be willing to undertake further training to fulfil requirements of Scottish Social Services Council. Successful applicant/s will be required to comply with PVG Scheme in Scotland and register with the Scottish Social Services Council.

Closing date Wednesday 31st December 2014

For application pack contact Sheila Campbell, **Tarbert After School Care** scampbell0301@btinternet.com 01880 820247

There are some things you can't do with **The Oban Times** Digital Edition but you can **save 64%** on an annual subscription obantimes.co.uk/digital

*Calculated against the cost of a printed annual subscription at £58 per year which includes postage and packaging. Please note this product does NOT work on iPhone, iPads or Tablets. Requires PC or Mac with access to the internet (Broadband recommended) with an internet browser that supports Flash.

EVERY WEEK IN THE OBAN TIMES, WE HAVE A SELECTION OF LOCAL SERVICES TO ADVERTISE HERE, PLEASE CONTACT 01631 568000 OR ADVERTS@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

BLINDS

Chris Craft
window blinds

FREE MEASURING
FREE ESTIMATES
FREE FITTING
MADE IN SCOTLAND
MADE TO MEASURE

OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 0800 371250
www.chriscraft.co.uk

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gordon & Strathern Ltd
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Roofline Fascias, Soffits & Gutters
Conservatories/Porches
GRP/Flat Roofs Replacement Sealed Units
Garage Doors Doors & Windows
Carports and Door canopies

Ronald or Lachie 01631 720074 or 07776402550
gordon961@btinternet.com

OBAN BLINDS

Oban-Blinds

Vertical Blinds • Roller Blinds
Blackout Blinds • Venetian Blinds
Free Measuring and Estimating Service

Vast range of Domestic and Commercial blinds
Telephone: Donald Cameron
07979 826614
Email: oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ARGYLL & ISLES
CHIMNEY SERVICES

07834 640989

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?

AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM
OPEN FIRES - WOOD BURNING STOVES
OIL & GAS FLUES
AGA & RAYBURN
CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

Covering Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Tarbert and Kintyre, sweeping through Argyll

LOCAL SERVICES

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage
Full range of packing materials
We store boats, caravans, trailers etc
Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848
www.macqueenbros.com

STOVES

OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Experienced and Established Suppliers of Heizomat Biomass Boilers

TRADE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

Scotland's Premier Stove, Spares & Flue Suppliers

Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU Tel: 01631 564790

MOBILITY

Tower Mobility

we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters

Mathesons, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

Like us on facebook

CHIMNEY SWEEP

OBAN CHIMNEY SWEEP BOLTNFIX

Covering all of Argyll
All solid fuel appliances
CCTV Inspections

T: 01631 563 664 M: 07786 963 279
boltnfix@hotmail.co.uk

DRAINAGE

BLOCKED DRAIN?

Drain and septic tank survey, installations and repairs
Call 24/7 - 01369 840367
Your No 1 for drainage in Argyll
ABEL Drainage & Groundworks
www.aandbel.co.uk

WHISKY TRADING

Fox Fitzgerald Whisky Trading Ltd are always looking to purchase casks of whisky from Islay or elsewhere; friendly and reliable service with best prices paid for whisky of all ages.

WE BUY CASKS OF WHISKY. BEST PRICES PAID.

Fox Fitzgerald Whisky Trading Co Ltd
Contact us for more info on: 07736632749 or eamonn.jones@foxfitzgerald.co.uk
www.foxfitzgerald.co.uk www.sellyourcask.com

SLATING AND ROOFING

NEIL MACINTYRE
SLATING AND ROOFING
ALL REPAIRS
MISSING SLATES - CEMENT WORK - INSURANCE
PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL

01631 571173
07831 532824

public notices

First registration of a croft.
Mr Duncan MacKay has registered his croft at Ardtoe, Acharacle, Ardnamurchan and Sunart, 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 14 August 2015.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C697.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 SLIPWAY WORKS, IONA

Notice is hereby given that Argyll & Bute Council has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of existing slipway repair works and temporary slipway works, Iona:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Iona Slipway	56° 19.823' N	006° 23.442' W
	56° 19.829' N	006° 23.465' W
	56° 19.831' N	006° 23.445' W
	56° 19.821' N	006° 23.463' W
	56° 19.818' N	006° 23.495' W
	56° 19.823' N	006° 23.442' W
	56° 19.820' N	006° 23.442' W
	56° 19.815' N	006° 23.494' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Iona Post Office, Isle of Iona, PA76 6SP
Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: 05390
Argyll & Bute Council

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A84 TRUNK ROAD (BALQUHIDDER STATION) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2014

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 50 mph speed limit on that length of the A84/A85 Stirling to Crianlarich Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 256690,720658) 340 metres or thereby north east of its junction with the extended centre line of the C33 Kingshouse and Balquhiddier road in a north easterly direction to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 257640,721216) 100 metres or thereby north east of its junction with the extended centre line of the access to Balquhiddier Braes, a distance of 1.115 kilometres or thereby. Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 11th December 2014 until 19th January 2015 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF; and The Village Shop, Strathyre, FK18 8NA.
Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Robert McTaggart, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A84/RMC by 19th January 2015.
A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/traffic-orders.
G EDMOND
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02675/MIN	Extraction and processing of hard rock aggregates from existing borrow pit	Land South of Succoth Lodge Dalmally Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
14/02737/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land North West of Ichrachan House Tainuill Argyll and Bute PA35 1HP	Sub Post Office Tainuill
14/02738/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land North West of Ichrachan House Tainuill Argyll and Bute PA35 1HP	Sub Post Office Tainuill
14/02764/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Plot 2 Ardreckish House Ardreckish Dalmally Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
14/02827/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South of Marnbeg Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02552/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access.	Plot 3 Land North of The Surgery Rockfield Road Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02835/PP	Variation to two holes of golf course (amendment to planning permission 13/02656/PPP) - Construction of 18 hole golf course and additional practice hole to form part of the Ardfin Sporting Estate	Ardfin Estate Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XX	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.
Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

One call.

Cover it all.

Your advert.
Every Scottish weekly.
A bigger Scottish audience than Britain's Got Talent*.

mediaforce scotland
0131 555 7407
local-scotland@mediaforce.co.uk

Cover 21 All is an amalgamation of CN Media Group, DC Thomson, Dundee-based Newspapers, EAR Inglis, Johnston Press, Oakley Media Group, Rozema Media Group, Scottish Provincial Press, Trinity Mirror Regional, Wiggins Press and Wynne Media reaching over 1.6 million readers.
This package can only be purchased through Mediaforce. *Source: GB TCE 2013 Q4 (July-October 2013)

First registration of a croft.
Mrs Flora MacConnell has registered her croft Upper Kilchattan, Colonsay 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 20th August 2015.
Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0428.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

ARGYLL AND BUTE BY-ELECTION

OBAN NORTH AND LORN WARD
23 OCTOBER 2014
RETURNS AND DECLARATIONS AS TO CANDIDATES' EXPENSES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Returns and Declarations as to Candidates' Election Expenses, including the accompanying documents, in respect of the above Election held on 23 October 2014 may be inspected at Argyll and Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT, between the hours of 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday).
The fee payable for a copy of any such Return, Declaration or document shall be at the rate of 20p for each side of each page.
SALLY LOUDON, Returning Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT.
December 2014

69%
of the business community read the regional press

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>
Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/04405/FUL	Plot East of Cuil Cottage, Duror	Erection of house (renewal of 11/00943/PIP)
14/04449/542	Craiglea, 70-71 Camaghale, Fort William	Removal of Condition 1 of planning permission LO-1997-364 to allow separate sale of Craiglea Cottage from Craiglea
14/04472/FUL	Costa Coffee, Unit 3, 98-104 High Street, Fort William	To place tables and chairs on the pavement outside the unit for customers to use

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION

N McCallum
1/2 14 & 17 Balevullin, Tiree
0.12 ha - Site for a dwelling house
4.86.53629

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.
Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

69%
of the business community read the regional press

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

M Porter and A Porter trading as G & M Porter of West Carrabus, Bridgend, Islay PA44 7AX is applying for a licence to use West Carrabus, Bridgend, Islay, PA44 7PX as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 1 trailer. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS
www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk



BUY LOCAL

SELL LOCAL

TRADE LOCAL

SWAP LOCAL



FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupon on this page or visit the website and input your details there.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

SONY 3-WAY SPEAKERS quality pair of speakers, 235 x 470 x 265mm, 6 ohm. 2 x 15cm units & 1 x 2.8cm tweeter. Dark wood. Approx 7.5kg each. Great Sound! £25 Telephone 07544 541313.

BICYCLES

CHILD'S BIKE Ridgeback MX Mountain 20. Suitable for 4 - 10 years, can deliver locally, £35. Telephone 07747 17838(Oban)

LARGE BOYS SCOOTER green/black boys scooter with brakes. Suit 8+ years. Excellent condition. Great Christmas present, £40 Telephone 01397 702067.

RALEIGH GENTS BIKE 3 speed gears, rack. Traditional style. £40 Telephone 01852 200256.

RIDGEBACK MX 16 CHILDS BIKE good quality, silver, 16" bike, aluminium frame, suitable for approx 5-7 year old depending on height, we paid £150 new, £60 Telephone 01546 810262.

TODDLER TRIKE with parent handle. Suit boy or girl, excellent condition. Great Christmas present, £15 Telephone 01397 702067.

BOOKS

4 X CHILDRENS BOOKS by Gerald Durrell, brand new books from the "Puppy Tales" series, retail price £2.99 each, selling all four for £5. Great for Christmas Stocking, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

BRIC-A-BRAC

PORCELAIN 14 PIECE DINNER SET Black with gold trim. Some pieces excellent and others unused. (Greenock), £40 incl postage Telephone 01475 726360.

BUILDING / DIY

2 KITCHEN WORKTOPS granite effect, one is 1 metre wide breakfast bar length 3 metres. The other is 60cm wide length 3 metres. May split, £60 for two, Telephone 01631 566697 or 07810 834460.

SHOWER TRAY new, unused white 1200 x 900 left hand offset quadrant low profile resin shower tray. Waste, riser feet and trim panel included, £40 Telephone 01631 720713.

CAR ACCESSORIES

ROOF RACK used roof rack bars, for vehicles with fitted roof rails, £10 Telephone 01631 720713.

ROOF RACK used SAAB 95 roof rack, fits SAAB mounting points, £15 Telephone 01631 720713.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

WINTER TYRES Nokian WR A3 205/55 R16 H 94XL on steel rims 16"x6J5 stud PCD 112 ET50mm. Good tread. Fit 2011 Skoda Octavia VRS, set of four, £150 Telephone 01631 564954.

CHRISTMAS

SOFT TOY WRAPPED IN BASKET brand new limited edition soft toy in basket with chocolate bar. Perfect for stocking or secret Santa gift. 4 choices, £5 each Telephone 07881 464991.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

6 PAIRS QUALITY LEATHER SHOES 3 - 3 1/2 heels assorted sizes and colour. Would separate, £90 Telephone 01499 302791.

6 PRS BOYS SHOES SIZE 4 once worn, Mckenzie black school, Adidas Predito football boots, Cabrini trainers, Vans black canvas, white trainers + boots, good condition, £10 Telephone 07868 481242.

BARBOUR QUILTED JACKET ladies, black, as new condition, £45 Telephone 07809 678443 (Oban)².

BLACK EVENING DRESS Joseph Ribkoff, size 16/18, silver trim, short sleeves, worn twice, £30 Telephone 01499 302791.

BLACK PADDED COAT ladies down and feather coat, knee length, Berghaus, ladies 8-10,

as new, £70 Telephone 07809 678443 (Oban)².

BLANKET WITH SLEEVES fleece leopard print blanket that can be worn round shoulders also due to 2 sleeves incorporated into it, £4 Telephone 07881 464991.

DOLCE & GABBANA SKIRT excellent condition. Modern, Short, Brown Tweed, dropped waist with pleats. Size 10-12, £15 Telephone 01852 300478.

ITALIAN SUIT in pure new wool in perfect condition. Jacket 36" Trousers 30" including belt. Navy blue with pin stripes. Professionally dry cleaned. (Greenock), £55 incl postage Telephone 01475 726360.

JOHN ROCHA CAPE COAT grey black red check, size(L)16, £15 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES 3/4 CREAM MAC with stud trim, size 16, £15 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES BLACK LEATHER BOOTS size 7, never worn, cost £100 selling for, £40 Telephone 07765 357138 Campbeltown.

LADIES BLACK MILAN leather Italian jacket, size 20, £60 Telephone 07765 357138 Campbeltown.

LADIES BOOTS all good quality, size 6. Brown leather 3" heel cuff trim with 3" chain trim on cuff, zip up. Browns/suede/ fur boots, zip up with fur and suede cord trim, flat. Black leather, 3" heels, zip up. Grey leather boots with grey suede trim, pull on 3 1/2" heel, size 40, brand new, still boxed. Would separate, £95 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES CAPE STYLE 3/4 COAT belted, black and white check. John Rocha size 16(L), £15 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES FULL LENGTH CASHMERE Coat, navy, size 14/16, length from nape to hem 42ins(107cm). Tailor made from designer pattern. Full pleated back with half belt, double breasted, lined in mauve shaded poly/silk, £50ono Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES SUIT in Chinese silk brocade made up in Vogue original pattern. Jacket size 14/16, skirt 30" waist, 42" hip. Pencil style with back vent width around hem 36". Fabric colour is coffee with mauve/gold/black design, £50 Telephone 01499 302791.

MENS CARDIGAN JACKET Marks & Spencer thick soft ribbed outer material with fleece lining. 2 pockets in black. Size XXL can be washed at 30 degrees, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

MERCEDES T-SHIRT in black with Petronas and AMG logo on chest and MB logo on sleeve. Men's small. Brand new. (Greenock), £10.00 incl. P & P Telephone 01475 726360.

NEW GIRLS JACKET New Look Aviator style jacket. Brown with fur lining. BNWT. Age 9-10yrs, £7 Telephone 01397 702067.

NEW GIRLS JACKET Hooch black leather look fitted jacket. Age 9-10years, £7 Telephone 01397 702067.

NEW GIRLS JACKET New Look hooded girls jacket with black/white check lining in hood. Age 9-10 years, £7 Telephone 01397 702067.

OLIVE GREEN SWIMSUIT with gold stud trim, size 38DD. Generous fitting, brand new, £10 Telephone 01499 302791.

PACHAMAMA LADIES HOODY dark blue, 100% wool, fleece lined, brand

new, £30 Telephone 07809 678443 (Oban)².

SIZE 6 LADIES KNEE HIGH BOOTS black boots, high zip, faux leather look, slightly pointed with 1" wedge at front, thin high heel 4.5 inches, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

PARTY/PROM/BRIDESMAID DRESS new and tagged, burgundy red satin, modern bodice & A line, fully lined. A bargain for Christmas, £25. Telephone 01852 300478.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

PLAYSTATION MOVE starter pack, move controller and camera, £7 Telephone 07868 481242.

SONY PSP SonyPSP + hard and soft cases and 18 games, eg, Little Big Planet and Assassins Creed, £40 Telephone 07868 481242.

XBOX 360 GAMES Assassins Creed 3, Assassins Creed Brotherhood, Assassins Creed Revelations, £10 Telephone 07868 481242.

XBOX 360 GAMES Halo 3, Halo ODST, Halo 4, Halo Reach and Halo Wars and Halo Combat Evolved Anniversary, £25 Telephone 07868 481242.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

50CM UNDER-COUNTER FRIDGE with instruction manual. Hardly used, £45 Telephone 01546 886355.

BOSCH DISHWASHER excellent condition, £50 Telephone 07810 207742 Tarbert.

BOSCH FRIDGE FREEZER in very good working order, fridge light needs replacing. Full size fridge with half size freezer, height 49", £90 Telephone 01855 831669.

DIMPLEX CONVECTER HEATER As new. Dimplex DXE 30TI. Timer + Thermostat. Max. 3000w, £20 Telephone 01852 300478.

GEORGE HENRY CARPET WASHER Vacuum Cleaner, in excellent condition and excellent working order, £75 Telephone 01852 314021.

OVEN, HOB, COOKER-HOOD electric oven has brushed steel exterior, electric black hob, cooker hood size 60cm. All in good working order, £140 Telephone 01855 831669.

FURNITURE

3 SEATER & 2 SEATER cream leather sofas, £90 Telephone 01631 566697 or 07810 834460.

CHAISE LOUNGES Ikea Ektorp chaise lounge. Needs a new cover available from Ikea, £50 Telephone 07828 730964.

CHEST OF DRAWERS pine, good condition. Reason for sale, downsizing. Buyer collects, £30 Telephone 01631 566952.

CHILD'S CHAIR Ikea Poang style with removable washed covers. Immaculate condition, light wood with cream covers, £7 Telephone 01631 720674.

CONSOLE/DINING TABLE dining table which folds to a console. Dark wood, very nice, £40 Telephone 07828 730964.

DISPLAY CABINET solid, light wood with three shelves and two glass doors, two drawers. Excellent condition, height 182cm, width 80cm, £95 Telephone 01631 720674.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED double divan bed, can be collected on 16th Dec, £99 Telephone 07828 730964.

KING SIZE BED mattress and headboard, in good condition. Reason for sale, downsizing. Buyer collects, £40 Telephone 01631 566952.

MEDIA UNIT solid light wood with two glass drawers and two drawers on right side. Slate inlays. Good condition, length 130cm depth 55cm, £55 Telephone 01631 720674.

SINGLE BED with mattress, little used, £30 Telephone 01866 833264.

SINGLE BED & HEADBOARD single bed in vgc with side storage drawer and pine headboard, £70 Telephone 01855 831669.

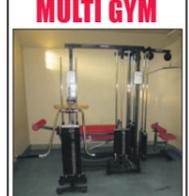
SMALL WHITE WOOD painted pedestal dining table, £20 Telephone 01866 833264.

SOLID PINE CABIN BED comes with set of drawers, bookcase and desktop, £30 Telephone 07810 207742 Tarbert.

SOLID PINE HI-SLEEPER double bed with ladder, £15 Telephone 07810 207742 Tarbert.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

FOUR STATION PROFESSIONAL MULTI GYM



Can be seen at Old Police Station, Castlehill. Best offer by 6pm on Wednesday 10th December secures.

Telephone 01583 830111 or 07785 542811 to arrange viewing.

NON MOTORISED TREADMILL as new, £25 Telephone 01838 200475².

VIBRO GYM Vibration plate series 200, excellent condition, £99 Telephone 01546 870601.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SONY STEREO REORDER Sony Reel to Reel TC-630 Solid State with pre recorded tapes. Motor needs attention or ideal for spares. Spean Bridge area, £60 Telephone 01397 712009.

TV TABLE AND STORAGE UNIT good condition from Argos, £40 Telephone 07828 730964.

HOME FURNISHINGS

2 X BRAND NEW OXFORD Pillow Cases, still in wrapper, white with small bluebell pattern, 50% cotton, 50% polyester, £4 Telephone 07881 464991.

BLANKET/TROW brand new, gorgeously soft blanket or could be used as a throw, cream with coloured circles, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

DOUBLE FLEECE FITTED SHEET keep cosy this winter with a fleece fitted sheet to sit under your normal bed sheet, fits double bed, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

LIGHTING BAR 2 metres long with 6 lights, £20 Telephone 01583 431683.

RED CARPET / SHREIBER WARDROBE nearly new carpet plus hall carpet red in colour £85. Shreiber bedroom wardrobe system in good condition free to good home. Telephone 01866 822251.

JEWELLERY AND WATCHES

LADIES ROTARY WATCH with gold and silver bracelet. Mint condition, unwanted gift. Boxed with a sweep second hand, £38 Telephone 01631 710663.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Ft. William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

DIGITAL PHOTO FRAME with New Windows that displays JPEG. Boxed and unused. (Greenock), £15 inc. postage Telephone 01475 726360.

DOMAIN NAME FOR SALE thetartanhotel.co.uk and thetartanhotel.uk Offers in the region of £30,000. Telephone 07733 080339.

OLIVETTI ECR7100 TILL 6 months old, extra till rolls, £40 Telephone 01583 431683.

PRICE LABELLER Danno price labeller with reels of small sticky labels, £15 Telephone 01583 431683.

MOBILITY

STAIR LIFT electric, practically new, used occasionally for 3 months. Buyer collects, £400 Telephone 07833 604038².

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

"BRAIDWOOD" UP-RIGHT PIANO cosmetic damage but plays well. Regularly tuned. Must be uplifted from Tarbert. Free. Telephone 07810 207742.

WESTFIELD ELECTRIC GUITAR solid body type complete with guitar stand, suit novice. Spean Bridge area, £60 Telephone 01397 712009.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

CHILDRENS GOLF CLUBS INCL BAG set of childrens' golf clubs including bag, hardly used. Tarbert area, £20 Telephone 07788 748554.

ICE AXE Austrian Stubai-Blue Star, hardly used, £25 Telephone 01852 200256.

KIDS SKIS 130cm Dynastar Team kids carver skis, black and yellow. Good condition, £45 Telephone 01866 822591.

KIDS SKIS 120cm Elan XR Series kids carver skis, red, good condition. Bases waxed, £45 Telephone 01866 822591.

KIDS SKIS 120cm Dynastar Legend kids carver skis. Ex-rental so bindings easily adjusted. Tops scratched but bases good, £40 Telephone 01866 822591.

SALAMON SKI BAG a double ski bag, hardly used, in good condition. Spean Bridge, £20 Telephone 01397 712009.

PET ACCESSORIES

CAT PLAY STATION brand new play station, approx 24" wide & 48" high. Would suit a small

to medium sized cat, £20 Telephone 01855 831669.

HAMSTER CAGE AND ACCESSORIES Rotastak cage and coloured connecting tubes plus various other hamster accessories. Can deliver 10 miles from Oban/Taynuilt, £25 Telephone 01866 822760.

PHOTOGRAPHY

D50 CAMERA BODY plus YXTM battery pack and magic lantern guide. Boxed and in excellent condition, £60 Telephone 01397 702067.

NIKON 35MM CAMERA Nikon Zoom 310 AF QD 35mm camera with camera case. Boxed and in excellent condition, £25 Telephone 01397 702067.

NIKON BATTERY PACK -Multi power battery pack MB-D200. Boxed and in excellent condition, £50 Telephone 01397 702067.

SILVER NIKKOR LENS f/4-f/5.6G. Boxed and in excellent condition, £50 Telephone 01397 702067.

ZEISS IKON CONTINA 35mm camera in brown leather case. Collectors camera in excellent condition, £40 Telephone 01397 702067.

TWO COUNTER CASES each one metre long, glass tops and storage. One front entry, one rear, £50 each Telephone 01583 431683.

TOYS AND GAMES

AIR HOCKEY TABLE perfect Christmas gift, collection Connel, £30 Telephone 07501 471315.

DOLL'S PRAM Lilac Blue Check, excellent condition, Age 3+, £15 Telephone 01546 603472.

DOLLS PRAM Wicker dolls pram with pink gingham trim hood and cover. Suit age 3+. Excellent condition, £10 Telephone 07715 105816.

DUPLO BOX OF BRICKS AND TRAIN 2 boxes Duplo bricks and train set. Willing to sell separately, £10 Telephone 07715 105816.

PINK PIANO & PINK GUITAR Excellent Condition, age 3+. £15 Telephone 01546 603472.

POOL TABLE unwanted pool table, no space left, collection Connel, perfect gift for Christmas, £50 Telephone 07501 471315.

SELECTION OF NEW TEDDYS brand new small teddies, including Shawn the sheep, Lady from Lady & The Tramp and Andrex Puppy, £2 each Telephone 07881 464991.

WOODEN DOLLS HOUSE little used unpainted dolls house with wooden furniture and characters. In very good condition, £20 Telephone 01631 566197.

WANTED

ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL we uplift scrap cars, copper, brass, lead etc. Smaller quantities considered. Telephone 07435 589701.

OLD BRITISH MOTORCYCLES BSA, Aerial or Velocette, barn or shed finds, any condition accepted, retired local enthusiast. Telephone 01528 544307 after 6pm².

TUTOR REQUIRED OBAN AREA for 2nd year pupil to cover Maths and English. Please reply to PO Box 4, Oban Times Ltd, Oban, PA34 4HB²

PERSONAL NOTICES

Merry Christmas
Etive and Henry Black will not be sending Christmas cards this year but will make donations to charity. We wish all friends a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Oh no Donald
The Big 50 is now here, where did all the years and hair go??

THANK YOU
Ewen & Katie MacLeod would like to thank family and friends for the lovely cards, flowers, gifts and telephone calls they received on their golden wedding anniversary.

ALASDAIR B MACGILP
Garden, Forest & Estate Machinery Specialists
Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead
Will no longer be trading from Friday 12th December 2014.
We would like to thank our customers for their support and loyalty over the past 40 years. A special thanks to Lynne and Pete for all their help and support. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

THANK YOU
John and Shirley would like to say a heartfelt thank you for the many beautiful and generous gifts we received on our wedding day.

THANK YOU
Bunty MacPhail Knock would like to thank everyone for their kindness and assistance this year and sends her good wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Get The Oban Times 40p!
for only 40p!
Subscribe to our digital edition for one year
Subscribe today!
Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

Happy Birthday
Happy 18th Cameron
Lots of love Mum, Lorraine, Granny, Grandpa and Maimie xxx

HAVE A CLEAROUT IN TIME FOR XMAS AND EARN SOME EXTRA CASH
Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES classifieds section
FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100
to place your advert simply call 01631 568000 or visit www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

BIRTHS

GRAY - LEACH - Kirsten and Andrew are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Niamh Jessica Leach on December 3, 2014. Many thanks to the midwives in R.A.H. Paisley and Oban for all their care. First grandchild for David and Pamela and Andrew and Helen.

DEATHS

BROWN - Peacefully, on Sunday December 7, 2014 in the extraordinary care of Abbeyfield Nursing Home, Margarita Brown, aged 92 years, formerly of Spean Bridge, Corpach, and latterly Caol. Precious Mam of the late Judith. Treasured aunt, great-aunt and great-grand-aunt to all her nieces and nephews. She will be sadly missed. Friends and family please meet for Requiem Mass at St. John's R.C. Church, Caol on Monday 15 December at 1pm. Flowers welcome and donations, if desired, to Abbeyfield Nursing Home. All welcome to Caol Community Centre following Mass for memory sharing of this unforgettable lady. Deo Gratias. Arrangements by John McLellan Funeral Directors.

MACLEOD - Campbell, beloved husband of Margaret, father to Sandy and Mhairi, seannair to Kimberley, Kaitlynn, Fearnie and Fergus. Peacefully passed away at home on December 3, 2014 with his devoted family around him. Will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

MEMONAGLE - At the Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on December 3, 2014, in his 82nd year, Peter McMonagle, beloved husband to Phil, a much loved dad, grunda and great-grunda. Rest in Peace.

MEMONAGLE - Mary Ann O'Neill (née Buchanan) at home in Thornhill on December 3, 2014. Beloved wife to Billy and adored mother of Mandy, Mary, Hugh, Cathie, and Agnes and mother-in-law to Robert and Petra. Doting grandmother to Christopher, Ewan, Moira, Amanda, Aaron, William, Ciara, Jo and Ali, Rowan, Uisdean, Ruth and great-granny to Kira and Fae. Funeral service to be held at Perth Crematorium on Friday December 12 at 3pm thereafter to the Lion and Unicorn in Thornhill to share a sandwich and a memory.

SINCLAIR - Peacefully on November 22, 2014 at Islay Hospital, Donald McNaughton of Coillabus Farm, Port Ellen, aged 87 years, dearly loved husband of Nancy, much loved father of Margaret Rose, Donald John and Anne Lillias and proud Papa of Graeme, Ross, Fraser, Calum and Helen. Funeral service took place at St Johns Church, Port Ellen on Thursday November 27, 2014, thereafter to Kilmartin Cemetery.

SMITH - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on Friday December 5, 2014, in his 85th year, Alexander Farquhar Smith (Alex), beloved husband of Nan, dear father of Alex, Eric, Shirley and Norman a much loved grampa and great-grampa. Sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Colin Cameron would like to thank everyone for the many cards and expressions of sympathy received following their sad loss. Our sincere thanks to Linda Anderson and the staff of Glenaray Ward for their excellent care. Thanks to Rev Cliff Acklam for his comforting service, John Holt for his lovely choice of music, Kilmartin Hotel and Lochgoilhead Hotel for excellent catering, and to Morna for the beautiful floral tribute. Thanks also to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their professional and caring service, Iain Campbell for playing the pipes and the representatives of the Argyll Branch of the Retired Police Officers Association. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside, especially those who travelled a great distance, it was much appreciated.

The collection for Glenaray Ward raised £400.

CARMODY - The family would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of their dear Auntie Ina. Thanks for the kind help she received at home and in hospital. Thanks to Hamish Hoey & Sons and the Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service.

Special thanks to those who paid their last respects at the service and graveside and for donations made to Argyll Animal Aid.

MACLEAN - Donald (Dodo) MacLean and family wish to sincerely thank all those who attended Requiem Mass and the many sympathy cards. Special thanks to medical staff, doctors and nurses for their care and compassion. Also Dr Massey who looked after Margaret over the years. Thanks also to Fr Donald MacKinnon for his moving service and comfort over the last few weeks and Mike McFall for his professionalism.

SMITH - The family of the late Jessie Smith wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers following their sad loss. Special thanks to the staff of Ward B at Lorn and Islands Hospital and staff of R.A.H. Paisley for their care and attention. Thanks also to Rev Chris Fulcher for a

'Superheroes' come to the rescue to raise money for Children in Need

PUPILS at Eoligaray primary school on Barra held a fundraising event in aid of Children in Need as they came to school dressed in superhero costumes and pyjamas.

The children also donated their toys, books and games and spent the morning baking a variety of beautiful cakes.



Eoligaray upper primary pupils (P4-6) with their fantastic array of homemade cakes.

All of the donated items and the baking were sold, by the children, to members of the public.

In addition to the fundraiser, the children participated in various activities and asked friends and family to sponsor them.

Money raised amounted to £237.32.

comforting funeral service and Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements. The sum of £838.33 was collected for Oban Hospice.

MEMORIAMS

BUNTING - In loving memory of my mother Jessie, who died 1980, my stepfather Willie, who died 2003 and my brother Arthur died 2001. Forever in our thoughts. - Alasdair and family.

CAMERON - In loving memory of a dear husband and father Lachlan, who died December 14, 1994. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. - Mary and Margaret, Balevullin, Tiree.

FORBES - MACLENNAN - Precious birthday memories on December 11, 2014 of both a beloved husband and father, Harry and adored brother and uncle, Norman. Forever in our hearts. - Joan and family.

GALBRAITH - In loving memory of my dear wife Katherine who passed away December 17, 2013. So privileged that you were my wife, I love and miss you every day. Rest in peace my lovely girl. - Your loving husband John.

GALBRAITH - Mum we love and miss you always. - JJ, Paul and Katie.

GIBSON - Fondest memories of a dear mother, granny and great-granny, Jenny died December 12, 2003 also remembering other loved ones. Sadly missed. - Tommy, Nellie and family.

HAY - Memories of Robert who died December 13, 1998. We hold you close within our hearts and there you shall remain to walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again. - From all the family.

LAMBERT - In loving memory of my dear wife Joey who died on December 6, 2003. Always on my mind and in my heart. - Jimmy.

LESLIE - In loving memory of our pop and wee grampa, Henry, who passed away on Friday 13 December, 2013. Reunited once more with our mom and granny, Mary, who passed away on April 28, 2007. We miss you both so much. In our hearts and thoughts always. - Alex, Moira, Caitlin and Rowan.

Allison and April ordained as elders in parish ceremony



DURING worship in Ardchattan Kirk, North Connel, on November 23, Allison Davies and April Barron were ordained as elders to the Church of Scotland in the parish of Ardchattan. Allison and April are pictured outside Ardchattan Kirk with the Rev Jeff McCormick and other members of the Kirk Session.

MACINTYRE - In memory of Joe (McCombie) a loving husband, dad and grandad who passed away on December 11, 2004. You left us quietly your thoughts unknown. You left us memories we are proud to own. Sadly missed. - Wilma and family, Oban and Motherwell.

GRANDAD Joe we miss you and love you. - James and Jordan.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear father Hugh MacIntyre, who passed away December 9, 1970. R.I.P. The years pass but memories stay. Loved and remembered always. - Inserted by his loving daughter Flora.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of Katie Ann MacKinnon, Bayview, Isle of Egg, who died December 13, 2013. A dear mother, granny and great granny. Always in our thoughts. - Charlie, Catherine and family, Fort William and Edinburgh.

MACLEAN - Rose. In loving memory of our dear mother and granny, passed away December 15, 2011. We hold you close within our hearts and there you shall remain, to walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again. - Love John, Sandra, Maggie, Janet and Kirsten.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of our dear mother Christina who passed away on December 14, 2012 and our dear father Colquhoun who passed away on February 13, 1994 with precious memories of them both. - William and Christine.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of my dear mother Agnes who died December 14, 2008. Dear are the memories, silent they stay. Distance or time cannot take them away. - Inserted by her loving daughter Ann, Erskine.

McKINNEY - In loving memory of Marjorie, our dear sister and aunt who died December 15, 2003. Forever in our thoughts. - From family home and away.

McTAGGART - In loving memory of my partner Roseanne McTaggart (née Lagan), who died December 8, 2013. Always in our thoughts. - Donnie, Scott, Fiona, Eilidh and Hannah, Fort William and the rest of the family.

RICHMOND - In loving memory of our dear father and grandfather, John Richmond, 9 Lismore Crescent, Oban, who passed away on December 13, 1973. The love of a wonderful father is something that always lives on. Filing the days with sweet memories long after his presence is gone. You still feel the warmth of his caring his wisdom will never depart. For the love of a wonderful father forever lives on in our heart. - Inserted by his ever loving son Victor, daughter-in-law Anne and grandchildren Yvonne and John, Bermuda.

SANDISON - In loving memory of our precious son Liam Sandison. Gone are the days we used to share. But in our hearts you are always there. The gates of memory will never close. We miss you more than anyone knows. With tender love and deep regret. We who love you will never forget. - Love and miss you Mum, Dad, Aaron and Cameron.

SANDISON - In loving memory of our dear grandson Liam. Your presence we miss. Your memory we treasure. In our hearts you will stay forever. - Love Gran and Granda.xx

SANDISON - In loving memory of our darling Liam, grandson, nephew and cousin, who died December 10, 2006, aged 4. Thinking of you Liam. But that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and the days before that too. We'll think about you tomorrow and as the years come and go. We'll think about you forever. Because we love you so. All our love. - Granny and Granda, Claggan, Auntie Linda, Uncle Angie, Lisa and Sean. xx

STEWART - In loving memory of our beloved parents and grandparents Ann Campbell, passed away December 12, 1982 and Angus passed away October 7, 1994. Always loved and remembered. - Inserted by Mavis, Rena, Nancy, Angus and families, Islay and Canada.

SANDISON - In loving memory of our dearest grandson Liam. Your presence we miss. Your memory we treasure. In our hearts you will stay forever. - Love Gran and Granda.xx

SANDISON - In loving memory of our darling Liam, grandson, nephew and cousin, who died December 10, 2006, aged 4. Thinking of you Liam. But that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and the days before that too. We'll think about you tomorrow and as the years come and go. We'll think about you forever. Because we love you so. All our love. - Granny and Granda, Claggan, Auntie Linda, Uncle Angie, Lisa and Sean. xx

STEWART - In loving memory of our beloved parents and grandparents Ann Campbell, passed away December 12, 1982 and Angus passed away October 7, 1994. Always loved and remembered. - Inserted by Mavis, Rena, Nancy, Angus and families, Islay and Canada.

STEWART - In loving memory of our beloved parents and grandparents Ann Campbell, passed away December 12, 1982 and Angus passed away October 7, 1994. Always loved and remembered. - Inserted by Mavis, Rena, Nancy, Angus and families, Islay and Canada.

STEWART - In loving memory of our beloved parents and grandparents Ann Campbell, passed away December 12, 1982 and Angus passed away October 7, 1994. Always loved and remembered. - Inserted by Mavis, Rena, Nancy, Angus and families, Islay and Canada.

STEWART - In loving memory of our beloved parents and grandparents Ann Campbell, passed away December 12, 1982 and Angus passed away October 7, 1994. Always loved and remembered. - Inserted by Mavis, Rena, Nancy, Angus and families, Islay and Canada.

STEWART - In loving memory of our beloved parents and grandparents Ann Campbell, passed away December 12, 1982 and Angus passed away October 7, 1994. Always loved and remembered. - Inserted by Mavis, Rena, Nancy, Angus and families, Islay and Canada.

STEWART - In loving memory of our beloved parents and grandparents Ann Campbell, passed away December 12, 1982 and Angus passed away October 7, 1994. Always loved and remembered. - Inserted by Mavis, Rena, Nancy, Angus and families, Islay and Canada.

MEMORIALS

OBAN MEMORIALS
A & D MacLean
Master Sculptors
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban
Design and prices on request
LETTERING AND RENOVATING
DONE IN ANY CEMETERY
TEL: 01631 563123 / 565269

find us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

The Oban Times & West Highland Times
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week.

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

News Editor
Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Emma Crichton
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Louise Lee
lleee@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Steven Rae
srae@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter
Gordon Webster
gwebster@obantimes.co.uk

Web Co-ordinator
Marian Miller
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Executive
Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive
Danielle Martin
dmartin@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive
Toni MacIntyre
tmacintyre@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive
Shannon Feaks
sfeaks@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William
Tel 01397 703003

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345

Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646

Arran
Tel 01770 302142

www.obantimes.co.uk

GRADUATIONS

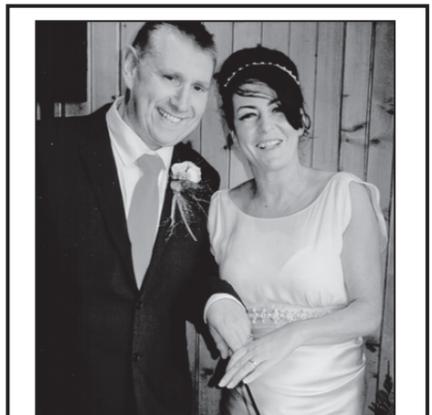


Rachel Billimore graduated on June 30, 2014 at the University of Strathclyde in the degree of Master of Engineering in Naval Architecture with Ocean Engineering. Rachel is the youngest daughter of Colin and Elizabeth, granddaughter of the late Effie and Donald MacLennan, Isle of Coll and a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High School.



Alice Martha Cameron graduated from University of Stirling with a BSc in Nursing. Daughter of Hamish and Frances Cameron, Glencoe and grand-daughter of the late Philip and Helen Carty, Glasgow and Iain and Betty Cameron, Glencoe. Alice is a former pupil of Glencoe Primary and Kinlochleven High Schools.

WEDDINGS



LAFFERTY - CAMPBELL
Denise Lafferty and Donald Campbell were married on Saturday September 20, 2014 at the Oban Bay Hotel where they celebrated with family and friends.



HANNAH - STEWART-MACLEAN
Dr Neil Hannah married Dr Carolyn Stewart-MacLean on August 16, 2014 in Byron Bay, NSW. Neil is the son of George and Julia of Seil. Grandson of Frances Hill and the late Robert, Seil and Barra and of Jessie Hannah and the late John, Bonnybridge. Carolyn is the daughter of Geoff and Monica, Queensland.

CHARITY DONATIONS

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermodie Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Angel Building 407 St John Street London EC1V 4AD

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS
YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyves Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyves Media Limited and the Advertiser on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to discontinue any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.
Published by Wyves Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Tel: (01631) 568000 Fax: (01631) 568001 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wyvesmedia.co.uk

OT



Athletic club members don their glad rags for Christmas party

Members of Lochaber Athletic Club swapped their mucky trainers and shorts for smart suits and dresses last Friday when they held their annual Christmas dance in Fort William's Alexandra Hotel. A special meal, drinks, presents and music were on offer for the runners, who enjoyed a rare get-together in from the cold. 20_150athleticparty01

Successful brothers Cross Country

THREE brothers from Lochaber Athletic Club all shared success at the north cross country championship race. The event held in Dores held on November 29 saw Craig MacLean win a silver medal in the mens under 20s race, while in the under 17s his siblings Bruce and Ewan MacLean came ninth and 18th respectively. This meant Lochaber missed out on a team bronze award by only three points. Isla MacKay won the womens under 20s race, finishing the six kilometre course in 22 minutes and 39 seconds.

Gooners on top Indoor football

THE GOON Squad have extended their lead at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league to five points, after defeating their closest rivals Lochaber Leisure 4-0 on Sunday. The Volley had the biggest win of the week with a 6-1 destruction of Portowcy, while Ali Young's team won 7-3 against Inverlochly United. Other results that weekend in the Nevis Centre were Barowcy 5-4 HWE, Nevis Range 4-7 Barcelochy, Harlem Globe Stoters 3-2 MHB and Fiorentina Turner 3-2 Outer Milan.

'Messi' signs short-term deal at Fort William FC

FORT William manager Calum MacLean was delighted to announce the signing of a player he has dubbed 'the Messi of Fort William'. Former fans' favourite Sean Ellis has returned to the club on a short-term contract until the middle of January while back from his home in Australia over the festive period, and will be joined by ex-Fort captain Stuart

Vance, who has also joined for the same period. Ellis formerly played at Claggan Park from 2007-2012 as a left midfielder, but may now slot into a position behind the strikers. MacLean said: 'Sean was, in his day, one of the best players in the Highland League, so we are delighted to have him. 'He could make a massive difference in a short time, I call him

Football

the Messi of Fort William. 'In his day he could win a game on his own, its just a pity we can't have him for longer.' The two new boys are the latest of several new signings for Fort, who are enjoying one of the finest runs in their history on the pitch, winning their last three matches in a row for the first time since 2002.

The signings also come as a great boost following the disappointing postponement of last Saturday's match at home to Deveronvale, once again due to a waterlogged pitch.

The club's next fixture is away to Turriff United this Saturday, who sit second-top of the league, but MacLean remains optimistic his side can stay unbeaten.

He said: 'The call-off was the last thing we wanted but there's nothing we can do about it.

'Turriff haven't lost a game this season and have won six games on the trot, but we are confident. 'We will go and attack and give it our best shot.

'It will be good to test the boys against a top side to see how far we've come and hopefully we can take something.

'We would be delighted with a point in this one.'



HAPPY MANAGER: Fort William manager Calum MacLean thinks his two new short-term signings can help maintain the team's spectacular recent run 20_150calummaclean01



Prizes hand out at Spean Bridge Golf Club

SPEAN Bridge golf club held their annual awards presentation on Friday, with John MacPhee receiving the club championship scratch trophy.

Padraig McNeil won the club championship handicap prize, while the ladies club champion was Aeleen Campbell.

Mens winners: Club Championship scratch, John MacPhee; Club Championship handicap, Padraig McNeil; Stableford pairs, Angus Morrison and William Atkinson; Stableford singles, John MacLennan; Greensome Cup,

John MacLennan and William Atkinson; McLaren Trophy, Ken Dalziel; Bogey Cup, Ian Graham; Drummond Cup, Colin Davidson; Edbroke Trophy, Colin Davidson; Hotel Trophy scratch, John MacLennan; Hotel Trophy handicap, Scott Graham; Captain's prize, Allan Reid; Pairs Trophy, Callum Coltart and David Langan; Bell Cup, Gary Martin; Kenning Cup, Ronnie Turbitt; Gordon Pearson Trophy, Ronnie Turbitt; 3-man Texas Scramble William Atkinson, Ronnie Turbitt and Kevin Fraser

Golf

Ladies winners: Club Championship, Aeleen Campbell; Ferguson Cup, Aeleen Campbell; Handicap Championship, Sheila Cameron; Charlie Taylor Cup, Sheila Cameron; Winter League, Mary Robson and Tricia McIvor; Ecletic, Mary Robson and Julie Fraser

Mixed winners: Mixed Doubles, Sheila Cameron and Kenny Dalziel

Good turnout for Glencoe winter league race

THERE was a great turnout for West Highland Wheeler's winter league third round race at Glencoe last Sunday despite some hail and thunder.

Liam Moynihan was the winner this week, by almost a four-minute margin, in a course that was part-road, part-forest track. James Shirley came second

dead-on at 41 minutes, with Fergus Lamb a close third on 41 minutes and 30 seconds.

The highest-placed lady was Hannah Barnes on 47 minutes and 38 seconds.

The West Highland Wheelers kids winter league second round also took place in Glencoe that same day.

Overall winner Alasdair Poll was the overall winner, whilst in the 10 to 12 age category Evan MacDonald came first and Joe Lennon second.

Charlie Henshall came first in the eight to 10 group after an epic battle with second place Cory Muir.

Out of the under eights, Kyler MacLeod was first over the finish line, followed by Toby Jackson second.

Cycling

The next race will be an outing to the Nevis Range to blow away the Christmas cobwebs on December 28.

Adults top 5 finishers: 1 Liam Moynihan 36:10; 2 James Shirley 41:00; 3 Fergus Lamb 41:30; 4 Tom McMahon 44:04; 5 Brych Hensman Martin 45:40

Kids results: Over 12 yrs; 1 Alasdair Poll 12:55; 10-12 yrs; 1 Evan MacDonald 14:31; 2 Joe Lennon 15:44; 8-10yrs; 1 Charlie Henshall 13:43; 2 Cory Muir 13:57; 3 Josh Parton 17:17; 4 Angus Thompson 17:20; 5 Cole Jackson 17:28; 6 Hayden MacMillan 22:06; Under 8 yrs; 1 Kyler MacLeod 17:28; 2 Toby Jackson 20:21; 3 Sean Cane 21:33.



THIRD RACE: The West Highland Wheelers adults prepare to get their third race of the season underway at Glencoe.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1350

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
J Young
Achnabreac Lodge
Lochgilthead
A Livingstone
Cnoc na Faire
Islay



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name
Address
Tel No.

Oban Athletic dump Wolves to march on in West Cup

The half time team talk was simple keep the ball on the ground and keep playing as a team

Oban Athletic	2
Winlinton Wolves	1
West of Scotland Cup - 4th round	

WINLINTON Wolves from the Ayrshire premier league were the visitors to Oban on Saturday to take on Oban Athletic in the fourth round of the West of Scotland Cup.

The game had to be switched from Mossfield due to the heavy overnight rain to the all-weather pitch at Oban High School.

Athletic won the toss and were playing with the wind at their backs, which for large parts of the game was gale force along with heavy rain which made things difficult for the players.

The Oban team started the match on the front foot, adapting

to the conditions better with Ryan Campbell, Scott McMillan and Paul Carmichael winning tackles and playing the ball out wide to Shaun Ford on the right and Stephen Fox on the left.

On five minutes Stephen Kelly passed the ball through to Kris Gilles but his shot went just wide of the target.

Pressure

Alan McIlroy, in goals for Wolves, was unable to kick past the halfway line due to the wind and as a result Oban were keeping the pressure on the away team defence who were being well marshalled by Ryan Dodd.

With the strong wind some of the through passes were going too quickly for Kris Gilles who had difficulty controlling the

Football

ball. The visitors nearly took the lead when a shot came back off the crossbar then keeper Graham Douglas made a fine save.

With five minutes to go in the first half and on a rare attack Wolves won a corner after a good tackle on the right by Andy Smith.

The ball was crossed into the box and was cleared by Craig Campbell but it fell to Ewan Farrell who crossed first time onto the head of David Gilles who bulleted a header goalwards.

Graham Douglas got a hand to the ball but could not stop it from going over the line. The half time team talk was



BROUGHT DOWN: Stephen Kelly is brought down in the box for a penalty. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

simple, keep the ball on the ground and keep playing as a team.

The second half started with the home side taking control of the game and were rewarded in the 52nd minute.

Steven MacLeod played the ball to the feet of Stephen Kelly on the half way line. Stephen beat three players before making a run into the penalty area where he was tripped and referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot.

Kris Gilles stepped up to take the penalty and sent the keeper the wrong way stroking the ball into the right hand side of the goal.

Andy Smith and Ryan Campbell were starting to dominate and were setting up chances for

Paul Carmichael and Kris Gillies.

Kris had a great chance when he found himself through one-on-one with the keeper but the Wolves' netminder came out on top on this occasion making a fine save.

Next up was Paul Carmichael who was played through by Scott McMillan only to see his shot go just past the post.

The Winlinton back four were struggling with the pace and commitment from Athletic at this point and with 10 minutes remaining a through ball from Ryan Campbell found Paul Carmichael. The away team claimed offside but Paul did not hang around as he sprinted away from his marker and curled a shot into the top left hand corner of the net for a well-taken goal.

Wolves pressed forward pushing

more players into attack crossing balls deep into the Athletic goal area but the home defence of Steven MacLeod, Craig Campbell, Andy Smith and Stephen Kelly were in great form clearing their lines time after time and when the referee blew the final whistle it was a jubilant Athletic squad who celebrated a hard-fought but deserved 2-1 victory.

Manager Donald Campbell was delighted with the win and the team's performance and credit to all the players in the squad especially the younger players Craig Livingstone, Alan Buchanan and Maxwell Onyongo who all have a part to play in the coming fixtures. On going to press Athletic hadn't been allocated a game for this Saturday.



CELEBRATIONS: Paul Carmichael is mobbed by his teammates after scoring the winning goal

Pam holds highest scratch average

AFTER week nine of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league Ardtoe/Nevis Radio lead the scratch division with 38 points while Alleycats have jumped to second place with 37 and the Creeps dropped to third on 36 points.

Meanwhile, in the handicap division, Rotavators have held the top spot despite going down 5-0 to Alleycats in the Nevis Centre on Sunday night. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio are in second place on 34 points followed by Council and

Alleycats on 32 points.

The top individual game came from Dave Cameron of Council with 179. Other good scores came from Tony Whitelocke, Alleycats, with 173 and Darren Duncan, The Creeps, with 170.

Tony Whitelocke also had the top two game scratch series with 337 and Kevin Lane of British Legion Fort William C had the top handicap game of 246 and the top two game handicap series of 425. Alleycats rolled the top scratch

Ten pin bowling

team game of the week with 612 and the top two game scratch team series of 1171 (the season's high). The Creeps had the top handicap team game of 833 and the top two game handicap team series of 1567.

The highest scratch average is currently held by Pam Weller of Alleycats on 155 followed by Tony Whitelocke, also of Alleycats, with 150 and Stewart Duncan of The Creeps on 145.

Artemis Macaulay Cup draw

The draw for the 2015 Artemis Macaulay Cup was made live on Oban FM by Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy MacCuish along with Fraser Inglis and Davie Hamilton from the Macaulay Association. The final will take place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban on Saturday August 22.

Round 1

- Bute v Oban Camanachd
- Inveraray v Glasgow Mid Argyll
- Kyles Athletic v Glenorchy
- Oban Celtic v Ballachulish
- Fort William v Lovat
- Kilmallie v Kinlochshiel
- Kingussie v Lochaber
- Newtonmore v Glenurquhart

Round 2

- Bute / Oban Camanachd v Oban Celtic / Ballachulish
- Inveraray / Glasgow Mid Argyll v Kyles Athletic / Glenorchy
- Kilmallie / Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore / Glenurquhart
- Kingussie / Lochaber v Fort William / Lovat

Semi Final

- Bute / Oban Camanachd / Oban Celtic / Ballachulish v Inveraray / Glasgow Mid Argyll / Kyles Athletic / Glenorchy
- Kilmallie / Kinlochshiel / Newtonmore / Glenurquhart v Kingussie / Lochaber / Fort William / Lovat.

Triple badminton succes for Caol Primary

IT WAS a triple success for Caol primary school pupils at a badminton competition as three children won medals.

The inter-school event at Lochaber high last Tuesday saw Alfie Duncan win first place of the 52 participants, and his classmate

Robbie Brown in second, while Freddie Fulford from Spean Bridge took third. Callie Rodgers from Invergarry



WINNERS: Prizewinners from Lochaber's primary six and seven badminton tournament. From left: Freddie Fulford, Alfie Duncan, Robbie Brown, Callie Rodgers, Anna MacDonald and Abbie MacFadrigue.

Badminton

was top of the girls' competition, with Anna MacDonald from Caol in second and Abbie MacFadrigue, Ballachulish, in third.

Organised

Other schools at the primary six and seven event, organised by Active Schools, included Banavie, Fort William, Inverloch, Fort William RC, Kinlochleven, Lady Lovat, Lochyside, Roy Bridge and Upper Achintore.

Alison Martin, Active Schools coordinator for Lochaber, said: 'Many thanks to Lochaber high school for hosting the competition and to all those who helped and supported on the day, in particular to the senior pupils who refereed the games.'

Death of a true shinty legend

FORMER Kyles Athletic player Tom Nicolson, passed away peacefully on Friday December 5.

His funeral will be on Friday December 12 at 11am in Kyles Parish Church, Kames, Tighnabruich.

Hugh Dan MacLennan pays tribute:

Another shinty legend has sadly passed away and with the immense loss of Tommy Nicolson of Millhouse and Kyles, one of the finest players of the modern era. Tommy passed away just past his 75th birthday, after a lengthy illness.

A seven times Camanachd Cup winner (they don't count runners-up medals in Tighnabruich) 'wee Tommy', as he was known to all and sundry, left his mark on the game in more ways than can be noted here.

Small in stature he may have been, but this was a giant of the game, no doubt about it. As fine a bearer of the Nicolson name and tradition as can be found,

a grandson of the legendary Olympic athlete T R Nicolson, he may well be remembered for Donald MacKay's magnificent award-winning photo from the 1978 Camanachd Cup Final.

Taken by the great Donald MacKay, it, to most people, featured another legend, John MacKenzie of Newtonmore. What is less well-known is that the 'real' picture actually included Tommy, who had never strayed too far from John all afternoon at Claggan (John tells the story a little bit more colourfully and forever shared a great friendship).

Three legends rolled into one really. A shepherd and farmer, Tommy had the traditional Tighnabruich engine, the magnificent spirit of the Kyles of Bute and the camaraderie and bonhomie one expects in one of shinty's great homelands.

His first great impact on the game was when he scored all three goals for Kyles in the 1962 Camanachd Cup Final. His

playing career ended as the '70s did following a great series of matches against Newtonmore.

On a personal level he once cost Glasgow University an advanced place in the Sutherland Cup final when he single-handedly turned a game at Garscadden having come from full-back to full forward. I know that to my cost as I was the university custodian he severely embarrassed on that day.

Tommy's passing is a huge loss to the Kyles shinty fraternity and his immediate family circle.

His daughter, Lorna and son, Neil, brothers, Bobby and Ian and dearest wife, Maggie know that more than anyone and will feel that sense of loss beyond all imagining.

From the equally blue and (snowy) white Newtonmore, John MacKenzie paid this simple tribute to his great foe and comrade in arms, the warmth of which belies the intensity of their rivalry when meeting in epic clashes of the ash.

Shinty

He said: 'The final whistle has blown for one of the greatest legends of our game but our sporting exchanges are still deeply etched in my memory. A true sportsman indeed, every touch of the ball spelt danger for any opponent and never once did he have to resort to anything else other than playing the game.'

'Sincere condolences to all associated with Kyles Athletic Shinty Club. A legend and my great lifelong friend has gone, but will never be forgotten! When will we see his likes again?'

There will be a lot of reminiscing and a lot of laughs no doubt at the Parish Church in Kames on Friday at the funeral service for all that the shinty community will gather from far and wide to pay their solemn respects. He deserves, and would have wished for no more.



LEGEND: Kyles Athletic legend Tommy Nicolson, right, and his great friend and foe John MacKenzie of Newtonmore in action during the 1978 Camanachd Cup final held at Fort William.

Coach education courses and workshops for 2015 pre-season

Shinty Coaching

THE Camanachd Association is pleased to promote the initial Coach Education Calendar for 2015.

The courses available include Foundation Coaching Certificate in Shinty, UKCC Level 1 Coaching Certificate in Shinty, UKCC Level 2 Coaching Certificate in Shinty and the new Fitness Training/Injury Prevention workshop.

This is a major opportunity for clubs/schools to encourage their coaches to improve their ability to provide quality coaching for the players.

Players are also invited to take part in the practical element of the Fitness Training/Injury Prevention workshop so they can experience the practices.

1) Saturday January 17: Foundation. Course Fee £30. Oban High School Soroba Road, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4JB Theory and Practical: 12noon - 6.00pm

2) Saturday/Sunday January 17/18/25: UKCC Level 2. Course Fee £100. Craigmorie Centre, Glenurquhart High School, Drumnadrochit, IV63 6XA. Theory and Practical: 9.30am to 6.00pm each day. (Follow up coaching assessment at the candidates Club/School. Date agreed with candidate)

3) Wednesday January 21: Foundation Pt2. Course Fee £30. Queen Anne High School, Broomhead Parks, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 0PQ. Theory and Practical: 6.00pm to 9.00pm

4) Saturday/Sunday 24/25th January: UKCC Level 1. Course Fee £100. Craigmorie Centre, Glenurquhart High School, Drumnadrochit, IV63 6XA. Theory and Practical: 9.30am to 6.00pm each day. (Follow up coaching assessment at the candidates Club/School. Date agreed with candidate)

5) Saturday/Sunday January 31/February 1: UKCC Level 1. Course Fee £100. St Ambrose High School, 65 Townhead Road, Coatbridge, ML5 2HT. Theory and Practical: 10.00am to 6.00pm both days. (Follow up coaching assessment at the candidates Club/School. Date agreed with candidate)

6) Sunday February 1: Fitness Training/Injury Prevention. Free. St Ambrose High School, 65 Townhead Road, Coatbridge, ML5 2HT. Theory: 10.30am - 12.30pm Practical: 1.30pm - 3.30pm (Open to all players)

7) Sunday February 8: Fitness Training/Injury Prevention. Free. Lochaber High School, Camaghael, Fort William, Inverness-shire PH33 7ND. Theory: 10.30am - 12.30pm. Practical: 1.30pm - 3.30pm (Open to all players)

8) Sunday February 22: Foundation. Course Fee £30. TBC: Edinburgh University. Theory and Practical: 09.30am-4.00pm.

The Level 1 and 2 courses are United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) accredited and all courses have been developed in relation to the United Kingdom Coaching Framework and the principles of Coaching Scotland.

For further information and application forms, please contact: Graham Cormack, Coaching and Performance Development Manager 01463 715931 (w) - 07894 588538 (m) Camanachd Association, Alton House, 4 Balfour Road, Inverness, IV3 8JN or e-mail - graham.cormack@shinty.com



GET INTO CHRISTMAS AT THE SPORTS SHOP

THE SPORTS SHOP
TEL: 01631 562050 thesportshop-oban@btconnect.com

Spend over £50 and get a free £5 gift voucher

Spend over £100 and get a free £10 gift voucher

HURRY! Promotion ends 24th December

4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ

Air of optimism at Oban Camanachd AGM

Shinty

THERE was an air of optimism at the Oban Camanachd AGM with the news that the club were back in the premier league, added to the under-14s retaining the national McMaster Trophy.

The club also reported it was healthy financially, although running four teams and the costs for equipment and training facilities are increasing.

With little or no change in the club's personnel the meeting concluded that both on and off the field of play it was a solid foundation whereby the club could establish itself in the premier league.

The club won a league double at this year's Marine Harvest Awards with team manager Gussie Campbell and his coaching staff winning manager of the year for National Division One and Daniel Cameron winning the league's player of the year award. Cameron was also named Camanachd's player of the year.

Campbell will again lead the team in 2015, with Ian Hay as assistant manager.

Gareth Evans and David MacCuish will take over the running of Lochside Rovers, while Scott Buchanan, David MacCuish and George Easton will coach the under-17s. The under-14 management is to be confirmed.

Players of the year: Oban Camanachd - Daniel Cameron; Lochside Rovers - Alan MacDougall; under-17s - Ryan Gillies; under-14s - Craig Kilpatrick.

The AGM took place at The Glen, Soroba Road, last Tuesday and was attended by more than 30 members.

The following office bearers were elected at the meeting: president - Alan Dunning; vice-president - Gareth Evans; secretary - Christine Lind; treasurer - Fiona Livingston; lotto convenor - Duncan MacMillan; child protection - Katrina Robertson.

Cairnbaan rink wins Holland Memorial Trophy

Indoor bowls

WINNERS of the Gary and Robert Holland Memorial Trophy, hosted by North Connell bowling club, was the rink from Cairnbaan, skipped by A. MacKay.

His team, made up of C. Clark, R. MacLean and J. Clark, beat Connell in the final at the conclusion of a tournament that attracted 12 rinks.

The beaten finalists were skipped by F Ronald, with S Carr, M Carr and R MacLeod.

Oban Squash Club hands out the trophies

OBAN Squash Club had a season decider against rivals Fort William at the weekend, their biggest battle with the club to date.

After eight matches between May and December, Fort William were ahead by one game.

After much tension on the court, it was soon clear that Oban were not going to lose the game on home turf, coming through winners with a scoreline of 15-5.

Jubilant Oban coach Colin MacNiven said it was the best team the club had had since its 'golden era' of the Heath

Sell-out grudge fight is a big hit with fans



FORMER CHAMPION: Wullie Rodger, who is a former World United Martial Arts super heavyweight champion.

Let's get ready to rumble!

FIGHT fans in Oban will be treated to one of the most anticipated martial arts bouts in the history of the town this weekend - a sell-out grudge match, all in aid of a children's charity.

Two of Oban's most successful martial artists, Robert Neil of the Shotokan-style Oban Karate Club and Wullie Rodger of Senshi Do Kickboxing Oban, will go head-to-head in front of a capacity crowd at the Corran Halls on Saturday.

Although the fight is for charity, there has been a war of words between the two in the build-up to the fight, which will feature rules that combine aspects of their respective styles of karate.

Impressive pedigree

Both competitors have impressive pedigrees and competition records.

Wullie is former World United Martial Arts (WUMA) super heavyweight champion of Britain, but has not been competing much over the past year.

Robert has been competing regularly, having won gold in the

over-35 Masters Kumite at the Scottish Karate Grand Prix in January.

The bout will raise funds for Glasgow's Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital, where Robert's son, Seoras, underwent major heart surgery in 2011.

Thanking

He was only one week old when he had to be airlifted from Oban hospital to Yorkhill for the life-saving surgery, and Robert organised the bout as a way of thanking the hospital and staff.

Robert said: 'I'm looking forward to the event and hope many people can come along and give each of us support. It will be an exciting and challenging bout for two competitive fighting athletes.'

'Both Wullie and I have been in training to see who will be local champion on the day.'

'I feel pretty confident at winning on the day and I am sure Wullie has a similar mind set of the outcome - game on!'

The fight starts at 1pm on Saturday.



CONFIDENT: Robert Neil, who practises Shotokan-style karate, organised the bout to raise funds for Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Oban Squash Club hands out the trophies

OBAN Squash Club had a season decider against rivals Fort William at the weekend, their biggest battle with the club to date.

After eight matches between May and December, Fort William were ahead by one game.

After much tension on the court, it was soon clear that Oban were not going to lose the game on home turf, coming through winners with a scoreline of 15-5.

Jubilant Oban coach Colin MacNiven said it was the best team the club had had since its 'golden era' of the Heath

brothers, and paid credit to his side for pulling off a great win.

After the event there was a dinner and prize giving in the Royal Hotel, where Fort William's captain presented Oban Squash with their trophies.

Trophies for club events throughout the year were also awarded, with Neil Frazer crowned Oban Squash club's men's champion and Jackie Kersley ladies' champion.

Celtic say no to National Division move

OBAN Celtic will not play in shinty's National Division next season, after a vote by club members.

The club had been invited to consider joining the National Division, shinty's second tier, despite finishing third in the regional South Division One last season.

The expansion of the premier league to 10 teams means there are vacancies in the National Division for the 2015 season. But at a meeting last Thursday Oban Celtic decided to remain in South Division One.

President David Hamilton explained:

'We would rather go up as champions of South Division One, than be put into the National Division for the sake of making up the numbers - that's what the Camanachd Association want us to do.'

'We would like to be there [National Division] but we want to get there on merit. If we get promoted on merit and we fail, then we gave it our best shot but if we were put there and we fail, then there's no answer for that.'



SPECIAL DELIVERY: Tom Nun presents the Christmas cheque to Catherine Ann MacCrae.

Par for the course for Catherine Ann

TOBERMORY Golf Club vice-captain Tom Nun, a postman by day, was able to deliver some extra cheer for Christmas to Catherine Ann MacCrae, the lucky winner of the club's new 'Par for the Course' annual draw.

Members of the '64 club' pay £64 per year to help the club fund machinery replacement.

Fifty per cent of all money received is ploughed

back into monthly and yearly prizes, including November draws for £1,000 and £500.

Some numbers are still available to anyone who would like a chance to win next year's Christmas gift.

Push for mountain runners to be properly prepared

THE POPULARITY of fell and mountain running has led to fears for runners' safety in the harsh conditions of the Highland's winter mountains.

A push for runners to take sensible measures is being highlighted by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCS).

Heather Morning, of MCS, said: 'Fell running can take people into some unforgiving terrain and weather conditions and they really do need to be properly prepared for their own safety.'

Real danger

'Hypothermia is a real danger for those too lightly clad to withstand a change in the weather or inactivity brought about by injury or getting lost or benighted.'

'Weather conditions and visibility can change quickly, so check the forecast and plan your clothing and kit for the worst case of having to sit and wait if injured.'

'Plan your route in advance and let someone know where and how long you will be. Give extra consideration to water crossings,

Mountain running

ascents and descents if very wet, icy or snowy.'

'Know how to navigate in reduced visibility.'

'Carry a map of your intended route area, including escape routes, a compass, whistle, a lightweight bivvy bag and basic first aid kit. If on a long run - i.e. over two hours - have a strategy for fluid and energy replacement.'

'Equipment needs to be adapted for each and every run.'

'Take waterproof top and trousers (windproof on dry days), a hat and gloves with you.'

'Wear or carry extra warm top and bottom layers in winter and cold or wet summer days.'

'In winter months a torch with a good running beam is an essential addition. Also consider spikes or running crampons that are compatible with your shoes. Some people advocate a larger pair of shoes for thicker socks and warmer feet.'

Saints face tough test in West of Scotland Cup

Football

OBAN Saints return to action on Saturday with a tough trip to face Central Scottish League Premier Division high flyers Harestanes in the fourth round of the West of Scotland Cup.

The Kirkintilloch side are widely considered to be one of the best amateur teams in Scotland at present so this will be a massive test for the Oban boys.

Harestanes are presently sitting second in the highly competitive Central Scottish Premier Division, three points behind leaders Colville Park, but with two games in hand.

Saints, who are sponsored by D & K Lafferty, Contractors, played Harestanes in the Scottish Cup a few years ago with the teams drawing in Oban before a last minute goal in the replay knocked the Oban side out of the competition.

Manager Iain Jackson hopes to have a full squad to choose from for this important fixture and one thing is sure, his players will definitely be up for the challenge.

Iain said: 'We haven't produced anything like the form we were in last year when we won the league and cup double, but this game, if we can win it, might just kick-start our season, although we are under no illusions it is going to be a very difficult fixture for us.'

The match will take place at Merkland Park, Kirkintilloch with a 1.30pm kick off. It has to be finished on the day with extra time and penalties, if required, to see who goes into the draw for the fifth round.

Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Cup 4th round: Craighill 5, Campbeltown Pupils 0; Premier Division - Oban Saints no game; Premier Division Two - Lochgilhead Red Star 0, Easthall Star 1; Division 1B - Tarbert 8, Whitehill 3.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup 4th round - Harestanes v Oban Saints; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Busby; Premier Division Two - Centre v Lochgilhead Red Star; Division 1B - Milton of Colquhoun v Tarbert.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s v Dumbarton United postponed.

Broomhill 2, Under 14s 7.

Scoring for Saints were Rory Dowd (3), Scott Mossman (2), Cameron Kerr and Sol Smith.

Whitecraigs 1, Under 15s 12.

On target for the Oban side were Lewis Buchanan (3), David Cameron (3), Beppe Lopez (3), Daniel MacCuish, Kenneth MacDonald and Ruairidh Horne.

Ardencaple 6, Under 16s 3.

Saints' marksmen were Evan MacLellan, Zander Kilmurray and Jay Cooper.

Under 19s v EDFC postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Dumbarton Riverside v Under 13s; Whitecraigs v Under 14s; Under 15s v Ardencaple; Under 16s v Drumchapel United; Milngavie v Under 19s.

find us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds strong westerly
Temperatures 1°C to 6°C.

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 11, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	02.24	1.2	08.09	3.8	15.02	1.7
Fri	03.05	1.4	08.48	3.6	15.45	1.9
Sat	03.49	1.6	09.30	3.5	16.34	2.0
Sun	04.37	1.8	10.19	3.3	17.31	2.1
Mon	05.31	1.9	11.24	3.2	18.37	2.1
Tues	00.41	3.0	06.29	1.9	12.57	3.2
Wed	02.05	3.1	07.30	1.9	14.15	3.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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

FREE Lochaber Supplement

Inside A 16 page supplement celebrating Lochaber industry

RENT TO BUY SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED IN LOCHABER

New housing cash welcomed

LOCHABER families struggling to buy homes will be given a helping hand thanks to a £3 million investment by the Scottish government.

The Rural Rent to Buy housing scheme - which currently allows tenants to buy houses for less than their market value after renting them for five years - is to be widened to include more Lochaber communities following the cash boost, making houses affordable to those who do not have the funds to buy immediately.

The system, run by the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT), sees tenants given a cash return to use as a deposit to buy their house at the end of the renting period.

Several houses - three in Arisaig, one in Acharacle and one in Invergarry - are currently being built as part of the initiative, using land provided by Lochaber Housing Association, with plans for another three in Strontian and one in Mallaig to be constructed next spring.

More similar detached and semi-detached homes are planned in the future for other yet to be decided parts of the Highlands following the £3 million extra funding from the government, which comes on top of a £30 million cash boost given last week to the Help to Buy (Scotland) scheme.

Blair Allan, chief executive of Lochaber Housing Association, believes HSCHT's scheme will be a great help to people locally.

He said: 'We are delighted to be working with the HSCHT to deliver these properties, which are an innovative and attractive way to enable families in housing need to access affordable housing. We think it could have a lot of mileage in our area; Lochaber is a difficult place to get into and there has been a lot of squeeze since the recession plus increased demand for holiday homes.'

The Rural Rent to Buy scheme in the Highlands has employed local contractors to build properties, which is hoped will benefit the local economy.

Ronnie MacRae, chief executive of HSCHT, said: 'The Scottish government's approach to increased rural development is hugely helpful and this scheme is proving extremely popular with individuals, contractors and communities. The scheme is based entirely on loan finance which has the potential to be recyclable and provide social and economic benefit to rural communities for the longer term.'

However Fort William resident Carolanne Lawrie, who has struggled to find a house in the area, believes the rent to buy scheme should include properties within her hometown rather than villages outside if it is to help people.

She said: 'If it was to include Fort William itself it would make a difference for those needing homes but not anywhere else.'

'Lack of housing seems to be an ongoing problem for everyone here.'

For more on Miss Lawrie's story, turn to page 3.



Corpach sparkles at lights switch-on

FESTIVE FUN: Ellie Dennison, eight, left, from Lochside primary school and Kieran MacEachan, five, of Banavie primary were well wrapped up when they switched on the Christmas tree lights at Corpach on Friday. A large crowd braved cold and icy weather for the ceremony, before heading to Kilmallie hall for warm refreshments 20_150xmaslights01

TIMESLINE

Mallaig man remanded in custody on driving charges

A MALLAIG man has been remanded in custody after he drove a truck under the influence of alcohol and without a licence or insurance.

Allan Morrison, of 1 Blaven View, admitted the charges, committed on Thursday December 4, when he appeared in Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday.

Fiscal deputy Ruairidh McAlister told the court a policeman said he finished his shift at 6.30pm and saw the 38-year-old cleaner's tipper go out of control on the main A830 road through Mallaig before skidding on a roundabout and crashing in to a bollard.

He added: 'The accused was not apprehended at the time but a few days after the incident he gave himself up voluntarily and was taken to Fort William police station.'

Defending solicitor Gerry Sweeney said Morrison had been drinking following an argument with his partner and had 'reacted badly'.

He added: 'Rather than dealing with the issue in a responsible way he went to a local bar and drank alcohol.'

'He understands he has a difficulty with alcohol and knows he has to do something about it.'

Sheriff Richard Davidson called for a background report on Morrison, who will be remanded in custody until the case calls again in January.

He said: 'You had already been disqualified from driving for previous offences and, if you won't accept that, the alternative is a more serious punishment.'

Lightning knocks out lighthouse

ARDNAMURCHAN lighthouse was knocked out of action by a bolt of lightning during severe weather in the West Highlands on Sunday morning.

The building was struck during fierce thunderstorms in the early hours of the morning, causing the light to go off and the emergency back-up beam to come on.

Northern Lighthouse Board technicians visited the site the following day and reinstated the main lamp, which will continue to be observed until the stormy weather subsides. While the back-up light can guide ships, it does not have the same range as the main system and is in a fixed position as opposed to moving.

Fort man guilty of two sexual assaults

COURT REPORTER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A FORT William man will be put on the sex offenders' register after he was found guilty of two counts of sexual assault.

Ian Bruce, of 28 Kennedy Road, was told he could face prison for touching two women on their breasts. Sheriff Richard Davidson also found the 47-year-old supermarket worker guilty of exposing and touching himself in front of the victims and another woman, all on the night of May 20.

During the trial on Monday, Fort William sheriff court heard

Bruce had joined the three friends, who can't be named for legal reasons, at a house in the town where they had been drinking. He denied all charges, saying in court he had exposed himself and touched one woman's breasts after encouragement.

Giving evidence, Bruce said: 'I was a bit merry, I had a lot to drink. They said 'we have seen [named other men] so what are the chances of seeing mine?' So I stood up and pulled down my trousers.'

'She [one of the victims] was rubbing and squeezing her breasts and I went over and put my hands under her top, over her

bra, she didn't do anything to stop me.'

But during her evidence, the first witness said she was 'uncomfortable' when Bruce exposed himself and did not want him to touch her.

She said: 'He exposed himself in the kitchen, had his hands at his crotch and was moving them up and down. I was really uncomfortable and just wanted to leave. I was waiting for someone to pick me up and was gathering my stuff together when he came up behind me and put his hands up my top.'

'I pushed him away and ran into the hall.'

Another witness said she saw this happen and when the two women left her home Bruce touched her breasts and attempted to put his hands down her trousers.

She added: 'I was on my phone and he came up behind me and put his hands up my top then tried to put his hand down my trousers.'

'He only got to just below the waistband. He had one hand on my breast and one at my trousers.'

Fiscal deputy Ruairidh McAlister called Bruce's defence 'ridiculous and incredible' but defence solicitor

Hamish Melrose insisted he was responding to encouragement from the women.

Sheriff Davidson found Bruce guilty of all charges and deferred sentencing until January 6 for background reports.

He said: 'This behaviour suggests to me that you are a throwback of the bad old times when men thought they could abuse women and get away with it.'

'Your behaviour was completely and utterly unacceptable. Given the nature of these offences and the fact there are three of them I must be explicit that you could face a prison sentence.'

LOCHABER ACTION ON DISABILITY
A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

COMMUNITY CAFE
(You can find us opposite Caol Post Office, Glenloy Street, Caol)

Our small local community café is open six days a week, manned by two part time paid members of staff and a good supply of volunteers. The refurbishment of the café has made it a cosy, friendly and a relaxing place to meet with a variety of home made cooking and beverages on offer.

Because of its location in a small and busy shopping centre, the café attracts locals and visitors alike. The Great Glen Way, a walking and cycle route, also runs past our door, giving a welcome break. You can sit outside, relax and enjoy the scenery (stunning views up the Loch), children can play on the grass outside the café.

Monday - Friday 9.30 - 3.00pm :: Saturday 9.30 - 12.30pm

Chef's Special
Homemade Soup, Toastie and a cup of tea / coffee £3.80

Afternoon Special
Homemade scones and a cup of tea / coffee £2.10

Hot or Cold Roll and Drink of your choice
(1 filling) £2.70, (2 fillings) £3

VOLUNTEERS AND KNITTERS WANTED
If you have any enquiries contact us on 01397 701171

Lochaber Action on Disability
Lochaber District

Lunch Club
Freshly prepared two course home-made cuisine

Every day: Monday - Friday
Arrive for 12.30pm
Served at 1.00pm

£4.70 per head

Come along and enjoy our open friendly manner at
Caol Community Centre
ALL AGES WELCOME

L.A.D.'s fully accessible transport available on request.

Give us a call on 01397 701171 and ask for Laura or just turn up and give us a try!



Seafood firm names new boat in Mallaig

A NEW fish farm boat was officially named during a ceremony in Mallaig.

The Beinn Airfin, a namesake of the highest peak on the isle of Muck, will be used as a service vessel for seafood company Marine Harvest's £3 million investment on the island, including installing a salmon farm and building houses for staff.

Rosie Curtis, the company's salmon farm manager at Laga Bay in Loch Sunart, officially named the boat at the ceremony in Mallaig Harbour last Wednesday.

OFFICIALLY NAMED: Rosie Curtis prepares to christen Marine Harvest's new boat as colleagues look on 20_150boat01

S & S Services
UK's No.1 Subaru & Isuzu Dealer
Heathfield, Ayr. Tel: 07831 808702

XV CROSSOVER
Range from **£21,995** OTR

ISUZU D-MAX
Range from **£14,749** CVOTR

STEED S
Range from **£14,998+VAT**

John, Brian and the team at S&S Services would like to wish all their customers a merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Your number one dealer and your local Subaru, Isuzu & Great Wall experts. Excellent finance packages available. Call us now on 01292 880090 or John on 07831 808702
www.sandservices.co.uk

SPECIAL XMAS OFFERS AVAILABLE

JOIN US AT THE BIGGEST AND BEST HOGMANAY SHOW IN THE NEVIS CENTRE

Hogmanay at the Nevis Centre is as much a Lochaber tradition - as bringing in the New Year with the bells and Auld Lang Syne - except this year it is going to be very much better!

Doors will be open from 9.00pm, with entertainment from award winning local band 'Wonderland' starting at 9.30pm running through until 11.30pm when the World renowned Fergie Macdonald takes the stage to see you through the bells and into 2015 with his own brand of rip-roaring ceilidh music.

PARENTS URGE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TO FILL VACANT KINLOCHLEVEN HIGH SCHOOL POSITION TO AVOID 'CATALOGUE OF DISASTERS'

Urgent call for new school head

GORDON WEBSTER
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THE LEADER of a parents association at Kinlochleven high school has urged Highland Council officials to fill the vacant head teacher position to avoid a future 'catalogue of disasters'.

Stewart Borland, chairman of the school's parent council, is concerned that there has been no replacement for headmaster John McGilp, who left his post in April, and that academic performance is suffering as a result.

A job advert was placed for the position earlier in the year but no-one applied. Gordon Milne has since taken

charge as acting head, but has had to juggle the post with his job as a chemistry teacher, repeating a similar situation two years ago when he covered Mr McGilp's duties while the latter was temporarily employed in another post.

Mr Borland says this most recent episode has left the chemistry department short-staffed.

Along with Andrew Baxter, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamuchan, he met with Highland Council's head of education services Jim Steven to raise the matter.

Mr Borland said: 'Since September 2012, when John McGilp left for a temporary post in Thurso, Kinlochleven high

has been suffering from staff shortages.

'The only respite came during Mr McGilp's return from July 2013 until April 2014.

'We are reliving the same problems the school had last time - it's like the movie Groundhog Day.

'We've been pushing to get the job advertised but the council processes are incredibly slow.'

Mr Borland believes that the initial job advertisement failed because Highland Council reduced the salary from its previous level.

He added: 'How can we expect someone to move here for a drop in salary?'

'Job sizing and cost cutting can't be at the expense of our

children's education and their future.

'There is money there - education should and must be a priority.'

Councillor Baxter said: 'We are impressed on the head of education the urgency of finding a head teacher and that we can't allow the current situation to just keep drifting along as it has in the past.'

However, Mr Borland said he has learned the job vacancy will be re-advertised and that temporary staff may be employed at the school until a new head teacher starts.

Highland Council's education services department had made no response as *The Oban Times* went to press.



GONE: former head teacher John McGilp left Kinlochleven high school in April and has yet to be replaced

Serious crime down by 20 per cent

SERIOUS crime in the Highlands and Islands has dropped by 20 per cent in the last year, according to a new report.

Chief superintendent Julian Innes, divisional commander, announced a significant reduction between April and October this year.

Violent crime has dropped by 29 per cent, sexual crimes are down by 28 per cent and crimes of dishonesty and fire raising have reduced by 19 per cent.

Road safety has also improved in the same period, with the number of people killed and seriously injured on roads down by six and 25 respectively on last year's figures.

Chief superintendent Innes said: 'The overall reduction in crime is encouraging and reflects not only the work by our officers and staff, but also the partnership work which is particularly strong in this area.'

'Road policing continues to be a key priority for the local policing plan and the reduction in casualties is also welcome.'

'While we welcome these encouraging figures, there's no room for complacency and we remain committed to continue working alongside our partners and with our communities to build on the positive results.'

David Alston, Highland Council's deputy leader, also welcomed the report.

He said: 'A reduction in crime is a good news for people in the Highlands. This is a very safe place to live.'

As well as a reduction in deliberate fire raising, Scott Hay, Scottish Fire and Rescue's local senior officer for Highland, announced a drop in accidental house fires. These incidents were down from 36 in 2013 to 32 this year and Mr Hay said staff visits to homes had prevented a number of fires. He added: 'We have been consistent in our delivery of free home fire safety visits over the past five years and it is pleasing to note a reduction in accidental dwelling fires. We deliver around 4,000 visits each year. We target the most vulnerable people in the communities of Highland area, particularly those who would benefit most from fire safety advice and information.'

Grant backing for heating project

FUEL poverty in a Lochaber village is to be tackled with a £24,000 grant awarded to Highland Council.

All local authority housing in Caol, Fort William, as well as two new schools and a community centre being built, will be connected to a new low carbon heating system with fixed supply costs run by the council.

The Scottish government is funding the Caol District Heating Project to provide heat to 296 properties, all of which are not served by the gas grid.

Holyrood energy minister Fergus Ewing announced funding for the Lochaber contract along with 16 other green energy projects across Scotland.

He said: 'We have an ambition to put communities at the heart of local energy systems.'

'We want a renewable energy market where community stakes are the norm and local groups can come together to design local energy systems that suit their needs.'

Letter spreads the word for 20 years

MALLAIG and the Small Isles community newsletter West Word has surpassed a milestone 20 years of publication.

Politicians from across the country, including Charles Kennedy MP and former Scottish first minister Alex Salmond, have paid tribute to the Morar-based production which printed a special anniversary edition last month.

Alex Salmond said to the magazine: 'I send my very best to all West Word staff, past and present, for their hard work and commitment in making this paper the success it is.'

'It's a valued source of information and continues to be a voice for the people after 20 years.'

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Couple's angst at housing search

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A FORT William couple think they 'would be better off not working' as they have struggled for more than a year to find a home in the town.

Carolanne Lawrie and Beth MacDonald say they have tried to secure a private let but the competition is too high and after asking the council for help were told they could wait up to 10 years before receiving a house or flat.

The frustrated pair, who work in local bars, said they could declare themselves homeless but could pay up to £7,000 for emergency accommodation as they both have full-time jobs.

Miss MacDonald, 21, said: 'We've tried everything and we don't know where to turn anymore.'

'People seem to come here from other places and get a flat straight away but we've lived in the area our whole lives and can't get anything.'

'We're living between our parents just now but we both work late nights and it's not fair to them when we're coming in late and need to get showers or want to watch TV. It's not like we're trying to live for free, we both work really hard and just want somewhere of our own.'

A Highland Council spokeswoman said there was



WAITING: Carolanne Lawrie, left, and Beth MacDonald are at their wits end with the Fort William housing shortage 20_f50housing01

currently a waiting list of 708 people in Fort William.

She added: 'There is currently insufficient stock to meet demand. However, new build

projects will begin to ease the burden.'

But Miss Lawrie, 28, said: 'People who have children and haven't worked a day in their

lives get flats straight away and I'm not saying they shouldn't have them but we shouldn't be in a position where people feel like they're better off not working.'

'If you're unemployed you're told you need to go out and get a job but if we were both on benefits and went homeless we'd have a flat in six months.'



MAKING WAVES: turtles and dolphins were just some of the marine animals pupils from Upper Achintore primary school learned about when they were joined by Matt Barnes of the Marine Conservation Society

Wildlife experts lead marine workshops

MORE than 300 primary school pupils in Fort William enjoyed a visit from wildlife experts for a series of marine education workshops.

Children from Caol, Fort William and Upper Achintore primary schools were captivated by talks on aquatic mammals and seabirds given by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Marine Conservation Society and other groups.

More importantly, the

classroom talks focussed on how humans affect the marine world and how the marine world affects humans, mentioning issues such as pollution.

Judith Bullivant, RSPB Scotland's West Highland and Islands education officer, said during the visit two weeks ago: 'These days offered a fantastic opportunity for local pupils to benefit from the knowledge and skills of our marine magic team and we were delighted with the response from staff and pupils.'

Severe weather warning issued

SCHOOLS and transport services were thrown into chaos across the Western Isles following a severe weather warning issued on Tuesday.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, gales of up to 90mph were expected throughout Wednesday, with police advising the public not to travel unless absolutely necessary.

All schools, nurseries, depots, libraries, museums, sports and leisure centres in the Hebrides were to close, with bus services restricted, while the Skye Bridge was closed to high-sided vehicles from Tuesday.

Manor House Hotel Restaurant

Wine Tasting Dinner January 29
Presented by Eva Franceschi of Inverarity Wines
7 Course Dinner with Wine Pairings - £69
A unique Christmas Gift Voucher
Gallanach Road · Oban · 01631 562087
www.manorhouseoban.com

There are some things you can't do with
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Digital Edition
but you can **save 64%**
on an annual subscription
obantimes.co.uk/digital



FESTIVE FUN: Some of the cast of the Kinlochleven high school panto on stage 20_f50panto01

Curtain up on community panto

PERFORMERS from four to 70 years old were involved in a special community Christmas pantomime at Kinlochleven high school, showing for four nights between last Wednesday and Saturday.

'Peter Pandemonium' saw schoolchildren and teachers from the high school and the adjacent

primary taking part, with high school fifth year pupil Esme Leitch playing Peter and technical teacher Graeme Martin playing Captain Hook. Sell-out crowds for three out of four nights enjoyed the show, which had plenty of laughs, local twists plus added elements of Bollywood and popular television show Gogglebox.

Lochaber music school hosts festive concert

LOCHABER music school are holding their Christmas concert at 3pm on Sunday in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge.

It will see festive orchestra and choir musical performances, plus a raffle and refreshments in Roy Bridge village hall immediately afterwards.

CORRAN HALLS CARPARK

STARTS @ **7.00pm**

HOGMANAY IN OBAN

BRIAN HUGHES AND HIS BAND

The Works Cool an Ate **CRACKIN CRAIC**

NICKY MACINNES PERFECTLY FLAWED

BALLET WEST OUTREACH **CHARLOTTE LAWSON**

The allocation of tickets is available from Friday 12th December
They will be distributed over the next few weeks, only available at Oban Filling Station & Corran Halls.
Sponsors: Jewson oban, Argyll & Bute Council, Common Good, Bids, Sinclair Plant & Contracting, Neil McGougan Joiner & Building Contractors Ltd

Oban hospital service cut claims denied

LOUISE LEE

lle@obantimes.co.uk

NHS HIGHLAND has denied claims that Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital will lose services to Fort William as the health board looks to balance its books.

Oban community council chairwoman Marri Malloy fears NHS Highland will move services between the towns if a new hospital is built in Fort William.

And her concern over services is shared by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, who criticised NHS management and said he was getting an increasing number of complaints about the range of services available in Oban.

Mr Russell said: 'It is vital as many services as possible are delivered locally by the NHS and I am concerned at what appears to be a reduction in such services at the hospital in Oban.'

'I am getting an increasing number of complaints about the failure of NHS Highland to provide the range of health services that people want and have a right to expect across Argyll.'

'I am continuing to press these issues with them and with the health minister.'

'The ambitions for patients held by our excellent local

health staff as well as their tireless efforts to treat them in their own community are all being undermined by NHS management and that needs to stop.'

Mrs Malloy said: 'They are selling us down the river with the hospital.'

'My fear is the NHS is going to build a great new hospital in Fort William and more and more services will be provided there until there is nothing left in Oban.'

'Is NHS Highland running it down to pay off its debt?'

'Everyone tells me that is not the case.'

'But until we start getting our services delivered in Oban then I am not convinced.'

'As far as I see it the hospital is being cut back. The staff in the hospital are second to none.'

'It is beautifully clean, a wonderful hospital and yet more and more people are being sent to hospitals in Glasgow. Why do we not get the consultants to come to us?'

Over the past few weeks a number of issues about the hospital, including maternity services, consultant-led clinics and surgery, have been raised by patients and their families with *The Oban Times* and the community council.

An NHS Highland spokesman

said: 'The staff at Lorn and Islands hospital are very experienced and provide a wide range of services to the public in Oban and surrounding areas.'

'There has been no reduction in the number of outpatient appointments and inpatient/day case appointments within the hospital.'

'Demands have been made in recent weeks for ultra-sound scans for pregnant women to be brought back to Oban after they were stopped last year due to changes in training, qualification and supervision requirements.'

The spokesman said: 'Women have always travelled to Glasgow for their 12-week CUB (combined ultrasound and biochemical) scan and their 20-week anomaly scan.'

'We have, however, established a working group to look at scanning generally across Argyll and Bute to see if we could provide more services locally and this group will be reporting back in the next couple of months.'

He said there had been a small increase in the number of babies born in the hospital, believed to be around 40 babies in 2013.

He added: 'Pregnant women are risk-assessed and follow a specific pathway either to Glasgow or Oban.'



HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE: Friends of Oban Hospice and board members Kathleen Black, left, and Joyce Millar attended the Light Up a Life event

Lights shine in Oban in memory of loved ones

PEOPLE from across Oban and Lorn gathered at the Corran Halls on Tuesday to turn on lights in memory of loved ones they have lost.

The Light Up a Life event, organised by Friends of Oban Hospice, allows people to sign a book of remembrance and place a candle light in memory of their nearest and dearest.

Asked whether the annual

event was more of a solemn occasion, or one of hope, Margaret MacLean of Friends of Oban Hospice said: 'It is a bit of both. An occasion of solemn remembrance but also one of hope. Some people stay afterwards to mix with others and share their thoughts with others in a similar position.'

'It is an important event for the area. We started nine

years ago and we see a lot of the same people coming back year after year; it means a lot to them.'

After the welcome from Oban Hospice board chairman David Entwhistle on Tuesday evening, there were readings from board member Iain MacIntyre and Rev Ken Hunter and music from Ken Harrower and Oban high school pupils.

TIMESLINE

Friends host event for stranded Billy

FRIENDS of a man 'stuck' in India as he makes his way through the legal system are organising a fundraising night for him on January 24.

Billy Irving, formerly of Campbeltown, and the crew of the MV Seaman Guard Ohio were released following their arrest on piracy charges but an appeal is slowly making its way through the court system and he has no passport to leave the country.

It is a year since Billy has been paid and his partner, Yvonne MacHugh, who lives in Connel, is due to have their first child in February.

His friends in Campbeltown have now decided to hold a fundraising night for him in the town's Victoria Hall.

Co-op shop denies it is on the move

JUST a week after closing its store in Soroba Road, The Co-operative group has quashed rumours it is moving into premises on George Street in Oban.

The Co-op said it had no plans to move into the former Blockbuster store on the corner of William Street.

But The Oban Times understands the company is looking for other premises in the town.

Fish farm plans in meeting spotlight

A MEETING will be held tonight (Thursday) at Ardrachattan primary school, to discuss the planning application on Loch Etive by fish farm company Dawnfresh.

Organised by Ardrachattan community council, the meeting will involve a presentation and question and answer session with a Dawnfresh representative.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Disruption as high winds and rain batter the West Highlands

TRAVEL was disrupted and schools closed as high winds and rain hit the West Highlands this week.

The Western Isles suffered badly, with a power cut just before

7am on Wednesday, prompting all schools and nurseries to be closed for the day.

Commuters also suffered as the Glasgow Queen Street to Oban train was cancelled, and Cale-

donian MacBrayne reported cancellations or disruption to 25 of its ferry routes on Wednesday morning.

Winds were expected to peak on Wednesday afternoon.



4.9%APR representative.

Our best ever loan rate. Exclusively for TSB customers.

At TSB we only give personal loans to our existing customers, because we want to help them thrive.

And at this expensive time of year we're offering our best ever rate of 4.9% APR representative on loans between £7,500 and £20,000.

So if you're a TSB customer and would like to take advantage of this rate feel free to get in touch.

You know where to find us.

call | click | visit

Local banking for Britain



Our loans are available to TSB Current Account Holders who have held a TSB current account for 3 or more months. Lending is subject to status and lending criteria. Borrowers must be aged 18 or over and UK resident. TSB Bank plc. Registered office: Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland No. SC95237. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under registration number 191240. We subscribe to the lending code: copies of the Code can be obtained from www.lendingstandardsboard.org.uk. TSB Bank plc is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Ambitious social housing target

INVESTMENT in social housing in Argyll should see 110 homes built every year for the next three years.

Presenting the programme last week to Argyll and Bute Council, councillor Robin Currie said it was ambitious but achievable and it was good news for people looking for housing, good news for the house building industry and good news for the economy of Argyll and Bute.

Mr Currie continued: 'To me the construction sector is crucial to the economy and investing in house building is absolutely paramount.'

'I'm particularly pleased Argyll and Bute Council will contribute nearly £9 million over the next three years in getting new units built all over Argyll and Bute and the contribution per unit will increase from £22k per unit to £25k per unit as this will enable housing associations to keep rents at affordable levels and make the houses more energy efficient.'

Police hunt boat battery thieves

BOAT batteries worth around £100 have been stolen from Dunstaffnage Marina but police have narrowed down the time of the incident to a 13-minute window.

The theft of up to 12 batteries occurred between 9.40am and 9.53am on Saturday November 15. Police in Oban are particularly interested in speaking to the driver of a white Ford Transit van in relation to the incident but anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area should contact police on 101.

Probe into yard container theft

A CONTAINER at MacLachlan's yard, next to Oban auction mart, was broken into sometime between November 14 and December 5.

Oban police are investigating the theft and would encourage anyone with information to get in touch. The incident, police said, is not necessarily linked to break-ins on consecutive weekends at Glengallan Industrial Estate last month.

Man arrested on vandalism charge

A MAN who was thrown out of an Oban town centre pub was subsequently arrested by police for alleged vandalism and disorder.

The 20-year-old was ejected from the premises and arrested at 1.30am on December 7.

He is subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Doors set to open on Santa's grotto

SANTA Claus will be in Oban's Royal Hotel this Saturday and next, to hear what the town's children would like for Christmas.

The grotto, organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club and supported by Oban Express, will run from 11am to 3pm on both days.

SAME DAY, TWO DIFFERENT VIEWS OF OBAN



SAME DAY, two different views of Oban. The first is the one residents would like visitors to see - that of a beautiful esplanade where a rainbow falls behind the cenotaph. Scenic, idyllic and beautifully clean and tidy.

The other is of overflowing bins. It was taken in Soroba but could have been taken in a number of areas in Oban.

Have your say on our Facebook page about these two very different images of Oban.

Winter cheer as Oban sees a 'second season' emerge

EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

MORE winter events and a change in visitor habits have seen Oban develop what some are calling a 'second season', as hotels reported full occupancy at a typically quiet time of year.

Work by BID4Oban and the emergence of Oban Winter Festival, alongside the arrival of the Scottish Rural Parliament in Oban saw a busy November in the town.

The weekend of November 28 - 30, the St Andrew's Day climax to Oban Winter Festival, was particularly busy with Oban Bay Hotel and the Regent Hotel both fully booked on the Saturday night.

The winter festival committee reported a facebook reach of 39,000 people over the first

weekend (November 21 - 23), compared with 8,000 the previous year and many events, such as the St Andrew's Day ceillidh, were sold out.

Hayley Tucker, head receptionist at Oban Bay Hotel said 'We were particularly busy in the build up to the winter festival. I have worked in the hotel industry for a good number of years and normally October is when you see a decrease, but our reservations have been steady throughout winter.'

Steven Reffin, manager of the Royal Hotel, said: 'Oban, in general, is a busier place for a longer amount of time. Previously you would have the October holidays then it went dead for two months until Christmas, and then quiet again until Easter'

'Now, we maybe have two weeks

in January when it is quiet but the rest of the year is busy. We now employ 60 staff all year round as a result.

'I'm not sure if we got a direct benefit from the winter festival but it all adds to the vibrancy of the town, which attracts people here, and Oban is also marketing itself better.'

'Traditionally, Oban businesses relied on a busy summer-only season, but the recent trend has led to some retailers counting on a 'second season' during winter.

Graham Fraser of Alba said: 'People now like taking minibreaks in the UK and decide at the last minute, so the town has to have events on in winter because of that. Oban Winter Festival has been a slow burner but it is gathering momentum and we felt the shop was much busier this November. People

liked the late-night shopping and events in town and I believe next year will be bigger and better.'

Alister Jackson of Jackson Bros Butchers agreed the traditional summer-only season was an old fashioned idea.

He added: 'The two weekends during the winter festival definitely gave the town a lift; it seemed to create something that wasn't there before.'

Neil Mackay, BID4Oban events manager, said Oban would be even busier next year as the business group leads Oban 2015 Year of Culture, food and drink, a series of events throughout the calendar year. He said: 'This year BID4Oban has worked very hard with partner organisations to encourage business in the shoulder and winter months (September to February).'

'Fireworks, the reindeer

parade, and working with the rural parliament and the winter festival has seen very pleasing improvements in both the retail and visitor footfall.

'This November has underlined how crucial good events are to the economy of Oban.'

Calum Ross, acting chairman of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association disagreed that Oban was enjoying a 'fully-fledged second season' but said events like the winter festival helped businesses during a traditionally quiet time of year.

He added: 'The other thing that brings visitors out of season is the concept of the voucher scheme deals, like Itison and Secret Escapes.'

'If accommodation providers can work with voucher companies and get extra volume to the town, everyone benefits.'

Child allowed in home while drugs were used

AN OBAN woman who held a party in her house after which a young man was found dead in her bed has plead guilty to allowing a child to be in her house while drugs were being used.

Arlene Clarke, 28, of Scalpay Terrace in Soroba, Oban, also pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis at her home in April this year.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday: 'The circumstances of this offence tragically involved a death within her home.'

'On Sunday April 6 the accused had a party at her home address that was attended by the deceased and a number of others and that went on most of the night and into the morning of April 7.'

'It was accepted that during the course of that drugs were taken.' He said everyone left the house apart from the young man who was in the accused's bed while she was in the living room asleep or unconscious on the sofa.

At around 12.30pm a child came into the flat and tried to rouse Clarke and then left, only

to return around 5.30pm to find Clarke falling 'in and out of sleep on the sofa', said Mr McGinty.

'The buzzer to the flat went and [the child] let two people into the flat [the child] knew were there the evening before.'

'While [the child] was there, they smoked cannabis in the kitchen and then left.'

The court heard that when Clarke tried to rouse the man around midnight she discovered he was dead.

Mr McGinty said that while there was a traumatic call to

paramedics, the child was allowed to remain in the house.

'The accused had the presence of mind to go through the deceased's pockets and remove drugs which were then discarded,' he added.

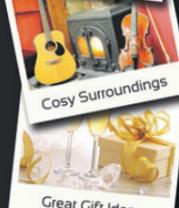
When the house was searched by police the cannabis was found in the kitchen.

Defence solicitor Laura McManus said it had clearly been a very tragic incident with repercussions for not only Clarke but the family of the young man. She said it had since been

revealed that the young man's death was 'not a drugs death but death by pneumonia'. She said the child was not supposed to be in the house but had let themselves in and when the cannabis had been smoked in the kitchen, the child had been in a different room.

Fining Clark £100 for possession of cannabis and placing her under a community payback order, with 175 hours of unpaid work, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'The whole circumstances of these two offences are very unpleasant.'

The Galley of Lorne Inn
Ardfern, Argyll ★ www.galleyoflorne.co.uk
Located 30 mins drive from Oban on the lochside at Ardferrn

Festive Dining
Hogmanay Dinner & Live Music - £39.50**
Delicious 5 course menu with toe tapping music to the Bells
Festive Specials throughout December
The best local seasonal produce with all the trimmings
Real Ales, Connoisseur Whiskies & Fine Wines

Gift Vouchers
Available from £25.00
The perfect Christmas gift for friends or relatives

Call to Book on:
01852 500 284
One of TripAdvisor's best rated Inns on the West Coast

Follow us online:
f t g+

There are some things you can't do with




The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Digital Edition
but you can **save 64%**
on an annual subscription
obantimes.co.uk/digital

*Calculated against the cost of a printed annual subscription at £58 per year which includes postage and packaging.
Please note this product does NOT work on Kindle, Nook or Tablets. Requires PC or Mac with access to the internet (Broadband recommended) with an internet browser that supports Flash.

More action needed against foul owners

A GUEST house owner says council staff fall foul in not issuing any enforcement notices against dog owners.

Valerie Bichener of Thornloe guest house in Oban says she has called the local authority on numerous occasions to make a complaint.

She said: 'On an almost daily basis we were finding dog mess on our path up to our guest house. It was being walked in and generally not pleasant.'

'Over a matter of months we emailed, phoned, lodged complaints with Argyll and Bute Council about the lack of action and frankly wondered if the dog warden existed.'

'Finally he phoned and said he had driven up Albert Lane and could not see a problem and could we let him know whose dog was causing a problem. Talk about asking us to do his job. I have photos of a dog we have chased out of our garden several times who then barks at our gate if it is closed. It is not just here that there is a problem we also have problems with fouling outside the Scout hall.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We have two environment wardens covering the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area. They have a great number of duties including car parking, litter and

dog fouling enforcement; handling commercial waste agreements and licences, as well as some enforcement, pest control, control of dog work, investigating fly tipping, dealing with abandoned vehicles and following up public complaints by carrying out amenity inspections.'

'Patrols are on-going and, as resources permit, joint patrols with the wardens and the police take place. Our warden service can be used most effectively when they are given quality information by concerned members of the public.'

'The difficulty is in actually catching dog owners who do not clear up once their pet has fouled. The public can play their part by contacting our customer service centre and providing information, which will help our wardens catch the perpetrators in the act.'

'If any member of the public feels uncomfortable providing the name and address of the person failing to clean up after their dog, they can provide the exact location this occurs - a street, a particular grassland area, the approximate time the dog owner exercises their pet in this area and a description of the dog. This key information can be provided anonymously.'

Tiree festival a big boost for island

NOW IN its fifth year, Tiree Music Festival is continuing to have an increased benefit to the island's economy, according to a new report.

The festival, which was named Best Small Event in the UK last month, was held at An Talla in July, to a sell-out crowd of 1,600 people.

Published by consultancy firm MKA Economics, the report showed that an extra 100 people visited the island compared to 2013, a total increase of seven per cent, and an increase of 28 per cent over two years since 2012.

Figures also show that 94 per cent of those attending the festivals were visitors to Tiree, again an increase from the past two years.

While there is likely to be a fan base that has returned to Tiree for the event, three out of 10 of those who responded to the survey were newcomers to the island.

The estimated average spend per visitor was £298.66, a 13 per cent increase on 2013, which works out at around 1,500 visitors injecting £450,379 to the island's economy.

The figures were taken from an online visitor survey conducted in September, asking attendees to give information about their visit, which garnered 663 responses.

Figures also show that 98 per cent of those attending would return to the island for a future visit. The 2015 festival will be held from July 17-19.



IN MEMORY: A fundraiser will be held in memory of dancer Eilidh MacInnes who passed away earlier this year.

Highland dancers honour teacher

HIGHLAND dancers in north Argyll will come together in memory of a teacher who lost her battle with cancer earlier this year.

The Eilidh MacInnes school of dance Christmas show will see Glencruten church hall light up her life on Tuesday December 16 at 6pm.

The dance school will present prizes to pupils who have passed dancing exams this year alongside special awards for best competitor, most improved dancer and dancer with most potential.

Organisers are planning to hold a raffle and a cake sale with all proceeds from the evening going to DMI Cancer Trust.



West Highland Gas Ltd.

Put some **CALOR** in your life

LPG gas, cookers and heaters
ALSO
Wood briquettes, pellets, coal,
peat logs & kindling

Deliveries direct to your door

ORDER NOW - CALL

01631 564050

Torrangorm Industrial Est., Oban

Outlets in Oban, Lochgilphead, Isle of Mull, Dunoon, Fort William





www.argyllresources.co.uk

FW

Air of optimism at Oban Camanachd AGM

Shinty

THERE was an air of optimism at the Oban Camanachd AGM with the news that the club were back in the premier league, added to the under-14s retaining the national McMaster Trophy.

The club also reported to be healthy financially, although running four teams and the costs for equipment and training facilities are increasing.

With little or no change in the club's personnel the meeting concluded that both on and off the field of play it was a solid foundation whereby the club could establish itself in the premier league.

The club won a league double at this year's Marine Harvest Awards with team manager Gusie Campbell and his coaching staff winning Manager of the Year for National Division One and Daniel Cameron winning the league's player of the year award. Cameron was also named Camanachd's player of the year.

Campbell will again lead the team in 2015, with Ian Hay as assistant manager.

Gareth Evans and David MacCuish will take over the running of Lochside Rovers, while Scott Buchanan, David MacCuish and George Easton will coach the under-17s. The under-14 management is to be confirmed.

Players of the year: Oban Camanachd - Daniel Cameron; Lochside Rovers - Alan MacDougall; under-17s - Ryan Gillies; under-14s - Craig Kilpatrick.

The AGM took place at The Glen, Soroba Road, last Tuesday and was attended by more than 30 members.

The following office bearers were elected at the meeting: president - Alan Dunning; vice-president - Gareth Evans; secretary - Christine Lind; treasurer - Fiona Livingston; lotto convenor - Duncan MacMillan; child protection - Katrina Robertson.

Cairnbaan rink wins Holland Memorial Trophy

Indoor bowls

WINNERS of the Gary and Robert Holland Memorial Trophy, hosted by North Connel bowling club, was the rink from Cairnbaan, skipped by A. MacKay.

His team, made up of C. Clark, R. MacLean and J. Clark, beat Connel in the final at the conclusion of a tournament that attracted 12 rinks.

The beaten finalists were skipped by F. Ronald, with S. Carr, M. Carr and R. MacLeod.



find us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Sell-out grudge fight is a big hit with fans



FORMER CHAMPION: Wullie Rodger, who is a former World United Martial Arts super heavyweight champion.

Let's get ready to rumble!

FIGHT fans in Oban will be treated to one of the most anticipated martial arts bouts in the history of the town this weekend - a sell-out grudge match, all in aid of a children's charity.

Two of Oban's most successful martial artists, Robert Neil of the Shotokan-style Oban Kar@e Club and Wullie Rodger of Senshi Do Kickboxing Oban, will go head-to-head in front of a capacity crowd at the Corran Halls on Saturday.

Although the fight is for charity, there has been a war of words between the two in the build-up to the fight, which will feature rules that combine aspects of their respective styles of karate.

Impressive pedigree
Both competitors have an impressive pedigree and competition record.

Wullie is former World United Martial Arts (WUMA) super heavyweight champion of Britain, but has not been competing much over the past year.

Robert has been competing regularly, having won gold in the

over-35 Masters Kumite at the Scottish Karate Grand Prix in January.

The bout will raise funds for Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital, where Robert's son, Seoras, underwent major heart surgery in 2011.

Thanking
He was only one week old when he had to be airlifted from Oban hospital to Yorkhill for the life-saving surgery, and Robert organised the bout as a way of thanking the hospital and staff.

Robert said: 'I'm looking forward to the event and hope many people can come along and give each of us support. It will be an exciting and challenging bout for two competitive fighting athletes.'

'Both Wullie and I have been in training to see who will be local champion on the day.'

'I feel pretty confident at winning on the day and I am sure Wullie has a similar mind set of the outcome - game on!'

The fight starts at 1pm on Saturday.



CONFIDENT: Robert Neil, who practices Shotokan-style karate, organised the bout to raise funds for Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Oban Squash Club hands out the trophies

Squash

OBAN Squash Club had a season decider against rivals Fort William at the weekend, their biggest battle with the club to date.

After eight matches between May and December, Fort William were ahead by one game.

After much tension on the court, it was soon clear that Oban were not going to lose the game on home turf, coming through winners with a scoreline of 15-5.

Jubilant Oban coach Colin MacNiven said it was the best team the club has had since its 'golden era' of the Heath

brothers, and paid credit to his side for pulling off a great win.

After the event there was a dinner and prize giving in the Royal Hotel, where Fort William's captain presented Oban Squash with their trophies.

Trophies for club events throughout the year were also awarded, with Neil Frazer crowned Oban Squash club's men's champion and Jackie Kersley ladies' champion.

Celtic say no to National Division move

Shinty

OBAN Celtic will not play in shinty's National Division next season, after a vote by club members.

The club had been invited to consider joining the National Division, shinty's second tier, despite finishing third in the regional South Division One last season.

The expansion of the premier league to 10 teams means there are vacancies in the National Division for the 2015 season. But at a meeting last Thursday Oban Celtic decided to remain in South Division One.

President David Hamilton explained:

'We would rather go up as champions of South Division One, than be put into the National Division for the sake of making up the numbers - that's what the Camanachd Association want us to do.'

'We would like to be there [National Division] but we want to get there on merit. If we get promoted on merit and we fail, then we gave it our best shot but if we were put there and we fail, then there's no answer for that.'



Tom Nun presents the Christmas cheque to Catherine Ann MacCrone.

Par for the course for Catherine Ann

TOBERMORY Golf Club vice-captain Tom Nun, a postman by day, was able to deliver some extra cheer for Christmas to Catherine Ann MacCrone, the lucky winner of the club's new 'Par for the Course' annual draw.

Members of the '64 club' pay £64 per year to help the club fund machinery replacement.

Fifty per cent of all money received is ploughed

Golf

back into monthly and yearly prizes, including November draws for £1,000 and £500.

Some numbers are still available to anyone who would like a chance to win next year's Christmas gift.

Push for mountain runners to be properly prepared

Mountain running

THE POPULARITY of fell and mountain running has led to fears for runners' safety in the harsh conditions of the Highland's winter mountains.

A push for runners to take sensible measures is being highlighted by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCS). Heather Morning, of MCS, said: 'Fell running can take people into some unforgiving terrain and weather conditions and they really do need to be properly prepared for their own safety.'

Real danger
'Hypothermia is a real danger for those too lightly clad to withstand a change in the weather or inactivity brought about by injury or getting lost or benighted.'

'Weather conditions and visibility can change quickly, so check the forecast and plan your clothing and kit for the worst case of having to sit and wait if injured.'

'Plan your route in advance and let someone know where and how long you will be. Give extra consideration to water crossings,

ascents and descents if very wet, icy or snowy.'

'Know how to navigate in reduced visibility.'

'Carry a map of your intended route area, including escape routes, a compass, whistle, a lightweight bivvy bag and basic first aid kit. If on a long run - i.e. over two hours - have a strategy for fluid and energy replacement.'

'Equipment needs to be adapted for each and every run. 'Take waterproof top and trousers (windproof on dry days), a hat and gloves with you.'

'Wear or carry extra warm top and bottom layers in winter and cold or wet summer days.'

'In winter months a torch with a good running beam is an essential addition. Also consider spikes or running crampons that are compatible with your shoes. Some people advocate a larger pair of shoes for thicker socks and warmer feet.'

Saints face tough test in West of Scotland Cup

Football

OBAN Saints return to action on Saturday with a tough trip to face Central Scottish League Premier Division high flyers Harestones in the fourth round of the West of Scotland Cup.

The Kirkintilloch side are widely considered to be one of the best amateur teams in Scotland at present so this will be a massive test for the Oban boys.

Harestones are presently sitting second in the highly competitive Central Scottish Premier Division, three points behind leaders Colville Park, but with two games in hand.

Saints, who are sponsored by D & K Lafferty, Contractors, played Harestones in the Scottish Cup a few years ago with the teams drawing in Oban before a last minute goal in the replay knocked the Oban side out of the competition.

Manager Iain Jackson hopes to have a full squad to choose from for this important fixture and one thing is sure, his players will definitely be up for the challenge.

Iain said: 'We haven't produced anything like the form we were in last year when we won the league and cup double, but this game, if we can win it, might just kick-start our season, although we are under no illusions it is going to be a very difficult fixture for us.'

The match will take place at Merkland Park, Kirkintilloch with a 1.30pm kick off. It has to be finished on the day with extra time and penalties, if required, to see who goes into the draw for the fifth round.

Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Scottish Cup 4th round: Craigshill 5, Campbeltown Pupils 0; Premier Division - Oban Saints no game; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star 0, Easthall Star 1; Division 1B - Tarbert 8, Whitehill 3.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup 4th round - Harestones v Oban Saints; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Busby; Premier Division Two - Centre v Lochgilphead Red Star; Division 1B - Milton of Colquoun v Tarbert.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s v Dumbarton United postponed.

Broomhill 2, Under 14s 7. Scoring for Saints were Rory Dowd (3), Scott Mossman (2), Cameron Kerr and Sol Smith.

Whitecraigs 1, Under 15s 12. On target for the Oban side were Lewis Buchanan (3), David Cameron (3), Beppe Lopez (3), Daniel MacCuish, Kenneth MacDonald and Ruairidh Horne.

Ardencaple 6, Under 16s 3. Saints' marksmen were Evan MacLellan, Zander Kilmurray and Jay Cooper.

Under 19s v EDFC postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Dumbarton Riverside v Under 13s; Whitecraigs v Under 14s; Under 15s v Ardencaple; Under 16s v Drumchapel United; Milngavie v Under 19s.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1350

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel No.

GET INTO CHRISTMAS AT THE SPORTS SHOP
 THE SPORTS SHOP
 TEL: 01631 562050 thesportsshop-oban@btconnect.com
 Spend over £50 and get a free £5 gift voucher
 Spend over £100 and get a free £10 gift voucher
 HURRY! Promotion ends 24th December
 4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ



Athletic club members don their glad rags for Christmas party

Members of Lochaber Athletic Club swapped their mucky trainers and shorts for smart suits and dresses last Friday when they held their annual Christmas dance in Fort William's Alexandra Hotel. A special meal, drinks, presents and music were on offer for the runners, who enjoyed a rare get-together in from the cold. [_f50athleticparty01](#)

Successful brothers Cross Country

THREE brothers from Lochaber Athletic Club all shared success at the north cross country championship race. The event held in Dores held on November 29 saw Craig MacLean win a silver medal in the mens under 20s race, while in the under 17s his siblings Bruce and Ewan MacLean came ninth and 18th respectively. This meant Lochaber missed out on a team bronze award by only three points. Isla MacKay won the womens under 20s race, finishing the six kilometre course in 22 minutes and 39 seconds.

Gooners on top Indoor football

THE GOON Squad have extended their lead at the top of the Ali Young indoor football league to five points, after defeating their closest rivals Lochaber Leisure 4-0 on Sunday. The Volley had the biggest win of the week with a 6-1 destruction of Portowcy, while Ali Young's team won 7-3 against Inverlochy United. Other results that weekend in the Nevis Centre were Barowcy 5-4 HWE, Nevis Range 4-7 Barcelochy, Harlem Globe Stoters 3-2 MHB and Fiorentina Turner 3-2 Outer Milan.

'Messi' signs short-term deal at Fort William FC

FORT William manager Calum MacLean was delighted to announce the signing of a player he has dubbed 'the Messi of Fort William'. Former fans' favourite Sean Ellis has returned to the club on a short-term contract until the middle of January while back from his home in Australia over the festive period, and will be joined by ex-Fort captain Stuart

Vance, who has also joined for the same period. Ellis formerly played at Claggan Park from 2007-2012 as a left midfielder, but may now slot into a position behind the strikers. MacLean said: 'Sean was, in his day, one of the best players in the Highland League, so we are delighted to have him. 'He could make a massive difference in a short time, I call him

Football

the Messi of Fort William. 'In his day he could win a game on his own, it's just a pity we can't have him for longer.' The two new boys are the latest of several new signings for Fort, who are enjoying one of the finest runs in their history on the pitch, winning their last three matches in a row for the first time since 2002.

The signings also come as a great boost following the disappointing postponement of last Saturday's match at home to Deveronvale, once again due to a waterlogged pitch.

The club's next fixture is away to Turriff United this Saturday, who sit second-top of the league, but MacLean remains optimistic his side can stay unbeaten.

He said: 'The call-off was the last thing we wanted but there's nothing we can do about it. 'Turriff haven't lost a game this season and have won six games on the trot, but we are confident. 'We will go and attack and give it our best shot. 'It will be good to test the boys against a top side to see how far we've come and hopefully we can take something. 'We would be delighted with a point in this one.'



HAPPY MANAGER: Fort William manager Calum MacLean thinks his two new short-term signings can help maintain the team's spectacular recent run [_f50calummaclean01](#)



Prizes hand out at Spean Bridge Golf Club

SPEAN Bridge golf club held their annual awards presentation on Friday, with John MacPhee receiving the club championship scratch trophy.

Padraig McNeil won the club championship handicap prize, while the ladies club champion was Aeleen Campbell.

Mens winners: Club Championship scratch, John MacPhee; Club Championship handicap, Padraig McNeil; Stableford pairs, Angus Morrison and William Atkinson; Stableford singles, John MacLennan; Greensome Cup,

John MacLennan and William Atkinson; McLaren Trophy, Ken Dalziel; Bogey Cup, Ian Graham; Drummond Cup, Colin Davidson; Edbroke Trophy, Colin Davidson; Hotel Trophy scratch, John MacLennan; Hotel Trophy handicap, Scott Graham; Captain's prize, Allan Reid; Pairs Trophy, Callum Coltart and David Langan; Bell Cup, Gary Martin; Kenning Cup, Ronnie Turbitt; Gordon Pearson Trophy, Ronnie Turbitt; 3-man Texas Scramble William Atkinson, Ronnie Turbitt and Kevin Fraser

Golf

Ladies winners: Club Championship, Aeleen Campbell; Fergusson Cup, Aeleen Campbell; Handicap Championship, Sheila Cameron; Charlie Taylor Cup, Sheila Cameron; Winter League, Mary Robson and Tricia Melvor; Ecletic, Mary Robson and Julie Fraser

Mixed winners: Mixed Doubles, Sheila Cameron and Kenny Dalziel

Good turnout for Glencoe winter league race

THERE was a great turnout for West Highland Wheelers' winter league third round race at Glencoe last Sunday despite some hail and thunder.

Liam Moynihan was the winner this week, by almost a four-minute margin, in a course that was part-road, part-forest track. James Shirley came second

dean-on at 41 minutes, with Fergus Lamb a close third on 41 minutes and 30 seconds.

The highest-placed lady was Hannah Barnes on 47 minutes and 38 seconds.

The West Highland Wheelers kids winter league second round also took place in Glencoe that same day.

Overall winner Alasdair Poll was the overall winner, whilst in the 10 to 12 age category Evan MacDonald came first and Joe Lennon second.

Charlie Henshall came first in the eight to 10 group after an epic battle with second place Cory Muir.

Out of the under eights, Kyler MacLeod was first over the finish line, followed by Toby Jackson in second.

Cycling

The next race will be an outing to the Nevis Range to blow away the Christmas cobwebs on December 28.

Adults top 5 finishers: 1 Liam Moynihan 36:10; 2 James Shirley 41:00; 3 Fergus Lamb 41:30; 4 Tom McMahon 44:04; 5 Brych Hensman Martin 45:40

Kids results: Over 12 yrs; 1 Alasdair Poll 12:55; 10-12 yrs; 1 Evan MacDonald 14:31; 2 Joe Lennon 15:44; 8-10yrs; 1 Charlie Henshall 13:43; 2 Cory Muir 13:57; 3 Josh Parton 17:17; 4 Angus Thompson 17:20; 5 Cole Jackson 17:28; 6 Hayden MacMillan 22:06; Under 8 yrs; 1 Kyler MacLeod 17:28; 2 Toby Jackson 20:21; 3 Sean Cane 21:33.



THIRD RACE: The West Highland Wheelers adults prepare to get their third race of the season underway at Glencoe.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
 DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
 T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
 Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds strong westerly
Temperatures 1°C to 6°C.

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate north westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 5°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds light south westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 11, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	02.24	1.2	08.09	3.8	15.02	1.7
Fri	03.05	1.4	08.48	3.6	15.45	1.9
Sat	03.49	1.6	09.30	3.5	16.34	2.0
Sun	04.37	1.8	10.19	3.3	17.31	2.1
Mon	05.31	1.9	11.24	3.2	18.37	2.1
Tues	00.41	3.0	06.29	1.9	12.57	3.2
Wed	02.05	3.1	07.30	1.9	14.15	3.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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

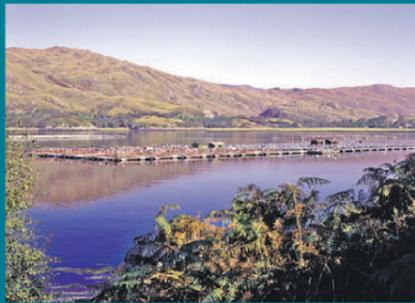
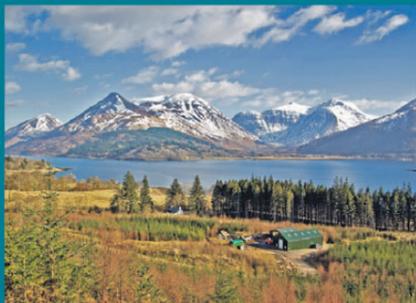
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

LOCHABER



ATWORK

Celebrating local industry



Playing a vital role

I am delighted to introduce our first venture into the rich and vast industrial landscape of Lochaber, which highlights the remarkable work of a select number of key businesses in the region.

The ethos of The Oban Times is 'Life is local': most people live their lives locally with 89 per cent spending half or more than half of their time and money within 10 miles of their homes.

Lochaber's geography and strong sense of history means that buying local is the preferred option for many; local companies can deliver levels of service and accountability that reassures people to use them time and time again.

Local businesses play a crucial role in communities providing valued jobs and injecting income into the region - something worth considering when making, purchasing and procuring products.

Many of the businesses featured also have strong and proud family traditions and connections to Lochaber and this in turn brings about sustainable growth, strengthened by each successive generation. Core values and high standards of service, reliability and competitiveness are maintained ensuring continued success and appeal for the future.

All the companies featured in this supplement not only play vital roles in the economy but add to the social well-being of the area. Their professionalism and unique local knowledge give them the edge required to survive in a competitive environment.

The Oban Times, your local newspaper, is immensely proud to support and highlight all the businesses in this supplement.

Alister Bennett
Managing Director
The Oban Times.

Lochaber is big country. And it is blessed with a business community and a workforce that has big ideas, a big capacity for invention and a big appetite for hard work. The passion, energy, vision and commitment of businesses striving and thriving in this rugged landscape is clearly evident and inspiring.

The range of skills and diversity of activity is highly impressive as you will see when you turn the pages of Lochaber at Work. This vibrant, vigorous industrial and business sector is the lifeblood of the region, and why the people of Lochaber can look forward to the future with purpose, pride and confidence. The Oban Times delights in publishing good news - and good news stories don't come any better than this.

Pauline McCart,
Sales Director,
The Oban Times.

A Wyvex Media publication
Lochavullin Industrial Estate,
Crannog Lane, Oban,
PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

A land filled with extraordinary, enterprising people

A personal view from Iain Thornber, a man born and bred in Lochaber



What is so special about Lochaber? The answer is its beauty, history and, above all, the people who live and work amongst its 1,750 square miles.

Far from the smoking city, sea-jostled and swept by the Atlantic winds, Lochaber, the land of 'bens, glens and heroes', shoves hard against the ocean and the isles at the end of the tourist short and northward haul. Its boundaries extend to Glencoe in the south, Invergarry in the north and west to the islands of Muck, Eigg and Rum. At its heart is Ben Nevis, the United Kingdom's highest mountain and of course Fort William, 'capital' of Lochaber District.

But this is no giddy, glittering fairyland. Lochaber stands alone among Highland communities for

the sheer scale and diversity of its numerous industries. A century and more ago the coming of the railway to Fort William and improved harbour facilities at Mallaig heralded the opening up of the area to an increasing number of industries and businesses which have gone from strength to strength.

Thanks to local landowner, the late Mrs Cameron-Head of Inverailort who donated the site, Marine Harvest, began production at Lochailort in 1965 and is now one of the world's leading seafood company offering farmed salmon and processed seafood to customers in more than 70 countries.

Another major employer is Nevis Range a few miles north of Fort William. Skiing had been enjoyed on Aonach Mor since the 1930s, predominately by local skiers. However it was not until 1968 that the area's full economic potential was recognised and in August 1986, thanks to the foresight and drive of managing director Ian Sykes, councillor Colin Neilson,

to competitive and environmental factors. It is no longer just a winter ski area, but is an internationally acclaimed venue for mountain biking. The Underwater Centre, at the head of Loch Linnhe beside Fort William, was established in the 1970s to provide commercial diver training and underwater trials facilities. Divers from the Underwater

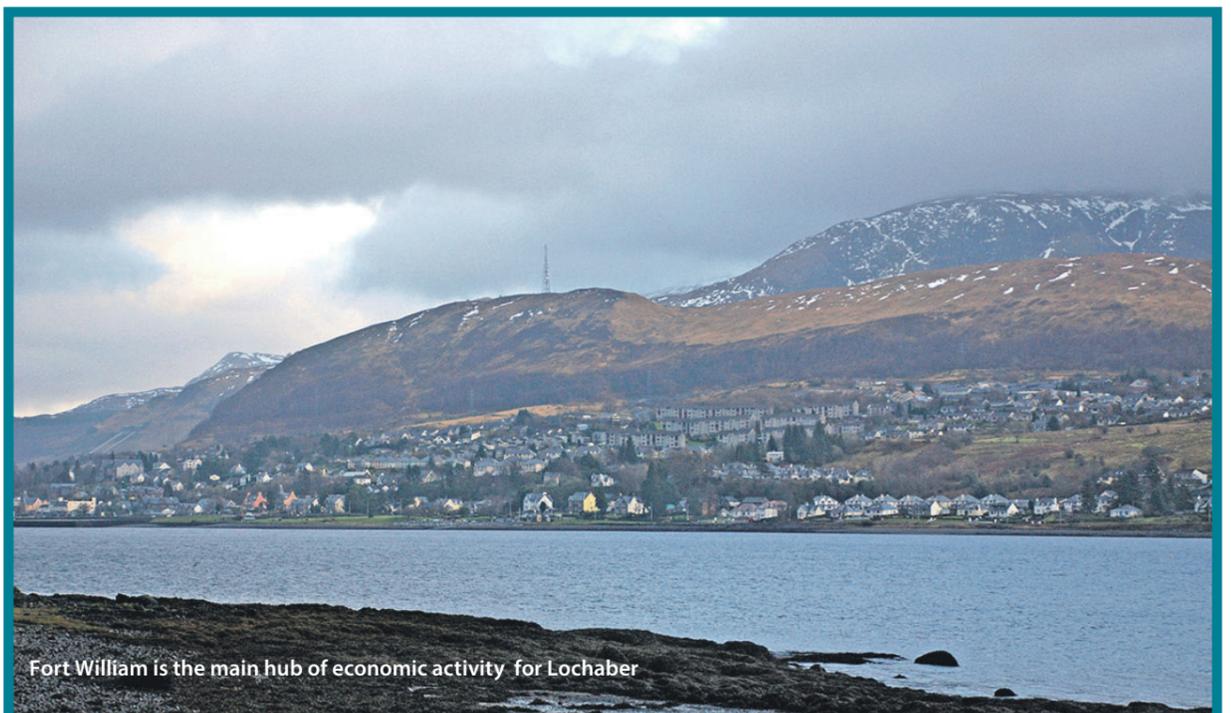
Centre assisted in Russia's worst submarine disaster in August 2000, when the nuclear-powered Kursk sank in the Barents Sea. All 118 on board died when a faulty torpedo failed and exploded, causing the vessel to sink.

Throughout Lochaber, these and dozens of other businesses run by some of the most enterprising, dedicated and extraordinary men and women in the world, work together in support of this fascinating area of Great Britain.

"But this is no giddy, glittering fairyland. Lochaber stands alone among Highland communities for the sheer scale and diversity of its numerous industries."

Iain Thornber

chairman of Lochaber District Council and its chief executive David Blair, the project to develop Aonach Mor won approval from the Highland Region's planning committee. The centre continues to evolve in response



Fort William is the main hub of economic activity for Lochaber

New courses equip students for the world of business

West Highland College UHI is a key player in the business community in the West Highlands

NEW COURSES FOR 2015

West Highland College UHI focuses on developing courses that prepare its students for the world of work, while developing their entrepreneurial skills enabling them to create their own business start-ups.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the college's unique School of Adventure Studies, where students from all over the world take advantage of the inspirational landscape and access to adventure sports to study honours degrees such as Marine and Coastal Tourism*, Adventure Tourism Management or Adventure Performance and Coaching* in Fort William.

The College is currently recruiting for a new Masters in Ecotourism starting in February 2015, designed to allow individuals to work with industry professionals and academics to gain specialist knowledge of the tourism industry in our local area of outstanding natural beauty.

There are 20 University of the Highlands and Islands degree programmes which can be studied in any of the college's 10 centres throughout Skye, Lochaber and Wester Ross. These courses are delivered by a combination of video conferencing and virtual learning environments, which means that students can access a wide range of degrees without having to incur the expense of moving away from home.

The college is also developing new courses in

- Computing and Digital Media - with over 10,000 unfilled vacancies annually in the IT industry, the college is working to meet the demand for skilled workers in this sector
- HNC in Professional Cookery* in response to the need for qualified chefs in the hospitality sector.



- NC Shipping and Maritime Operations* in Mallaig to complement its successful Maritime Skills course.
- HNC in Music* - a progression from its NC Music to the University of the Highlands and Islands BA (Hons) Applied Music - preparing students for a career in the creative and cultural sector.

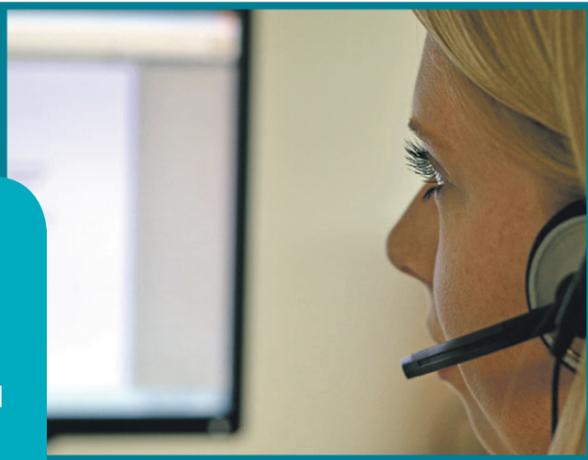
RESEARCH, CONSULTANCY AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research (CRTR) is the UK's leading outdoor tourism research centre, with a huge network of overseas colleagues, clients and collaborators and an

“What makes Lochaber great is the unique mix of the heritage, the landscape and the people who live and work in this area of outstanding natural beauty. The College works with our partners to create relevant further and higher education opportunities to help build a skilled workforce in this area.”

Lydia Rohmer, Principal & Chief Executive

impressive portfolio of activity built up since the centre's inception in 2012. Undertaking a range of activities, from academic and applied research to participation in transnational projects, the centre is uniquely placed for tourism research in Fort William - the Outdoor Capital of the UK. The centre conducts projects for a range of Scottish businesses as well as companies in Iceland, Norway and across the European Union. The centre's director, Dr Pete Varley has recently been engaged by the European Commission to advise on adventure tourism development in Europe. Small businesses often find it difficult to fully scope their operating environment in order to enhance their strategies - but the research centre can help businesses to flourish by providing strategic direction, product development



advice and route-to-market consultancy. Examples of recent clients include ski resorts, the Scottish mountain biking industry, guides, destination marketing organisations and hotels.

'We have just returned from Norway where the centre worked with local co-hosts to hold its third International Adventure Conference.

'This was an amazingly successful event, with over 300 delegates from 26 countries around the world, and underlines the huge range of colleagues we regularly engage with and our position in the industry'. To this end, Dr Varley has established

the Adventure Tourism Research Association (ATRA) with over 150 members worldwide, its own journal and the aforementioned conference programme.

FUNDED PHD SCHOLARSHIP IN ADVENTURE TOURISM

CRTR was recently awarded a PhD scholarship, co-funded by the Moffat Charitable Trust and the University of the Highlands and Islands Development Trust. The PhD topic is 'Examining hospitality and adventure tourism: soft skills and natural knowledge'. The scholarship commenced in late 2014 and will assist in professionalising this industry sector.

*subject to validation.



Business Enterprise Solutions & Training

DO THE BEST FOR YOUR BUSINESS WITH WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI

BEST Business Enterprise Solutions and Training) is West Highland College UHI's business development department. BEST deliver commercial training across the West Highlands - using the college's 10 centres whenever possible, ensuring that businesses and individuals can be supported locally.

With an ever-expanding portfolio of over 50 courses - ranging from IOSH Working & Managing Safely to RYA and STCW 95, First Aid, Food Hygiene, CSCS and Chainsaw Operation - BEST has delivered training for more than 1900 participants to date.

Roddy MacPhee, BEST Business Development Manager, and his team based in both Fort William and Portree, will work with individual businesses to identify any specific training needs within the company and recommend courses that meet those needs.

So, whether in disciplines such as IT including Microsoft Office Specialist, or Management including workshops in Marketing, Finance and HR and the VQ in Management, BEST will endeavour to deliver training locally wherever possible, even to business premises.

The BEST team would be delighted to meet potential clients to discuss their requirements. Contact them on:

business.whc@uhi.ac.uk

01397 874874

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/business

Logistic Solutions, Suc

Alasdair Ferguson Managing Director



'The growth has been beyond expectations'

FERGUSON Transport & Shipping has doubled in size in the last two years.

'The growth has been beyond expectations,' said Alasdair Ferguson, managing director of the family-owned company.

'We are delighted with how things are going but it is all credit to the staff, employees, managers and the other directors,' he said.

The company has seen huge investment in the last decade, with shipping and rail freight added to its growing logistics operation and at the heart of this is the customers.

'Our customers have grown, therefore we have grown with them,' said Mr Ferguson. 'We have taken the steps to provide the facilities to do the job for our customers.'

He sees a buoyant economy in the Lochaber area, with large industries like aluminium smelting, aquaculture, forestry and timber production all investing heavily.

But there is no room for complacency, with an urgent need to address the skilled jobs market that is being created on the back of this investment.

'We need to focus on growing people,' said Mr Ferguson. 'There is a shortage of skilled people particularly in the engineering, HGV driving and marine sectors.'

He said there needed to be a long term plan to work with the schools up and down the west coast and the colleges to produce the right skilled labour force and keep the young people in the area.

'We offer apprenticeships and traineeships in all our departments. Training on the job allows people to move up the ladder in our company.'

Other challenges also include improving infrastructure, particularly the notorious A82 Glasgow to Inverness trunk road that connects Lochaber with the Central Belt and the rest of the Highlands.

'It is important that we continue to lobby the government about infrastructure. The A82 is our lifeline to central Scotland.'

'We have a responsibility to bring it to the top table of the governments both in Scotland and the UK.'

'By integrating rail and sea, we are taking some lorries off the roads but the long term economy depends on good road, rail and sea links.'

FIFTY-five years ago in Ardrishaig, Archie and Anne Ferguson could not have begun to visualise where their fledgling haulage company would be today.

But with 60-plus trucks and 150-plus trailers covering circa nine million kilometres a year, six vessels travelling around the west coast, to the Western Isles, Northern Isles and Ireland and 175 employees from HGV mechanics to transport planners and marine staff to marketing administrators, Ferguson Transport & Shipping is a company with a sweeping vision.

Around five years ago it became clear that Ferguson Transport & Shipping needed more space to be able to expand its operations, create purpose-built, modern maintenance facilities and offices and be closer to some of its biggest customers.

The rapidly expanding operation had outgrown Spean Bridge, where it had been since 1974, and the company bought over the former auction mart at Corpach to act as its headquarters and maintenance and training hub.

While still a family-run business, Ferguson Transport & Shipping works in partnership with multi-national blue-chip companies, as well as small and medium-sized companies, to provide all-encompassing logistic solutions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The people who work at Ferguson Transport & Shipping are very important to the directors, siblings Alasdair Ferguson, Leslie Innes, Carol MacKinnon and Jack Ferguson, and the communities those staff come from.

Indeed, within the staff are 12 family members, including six from the third-generation.

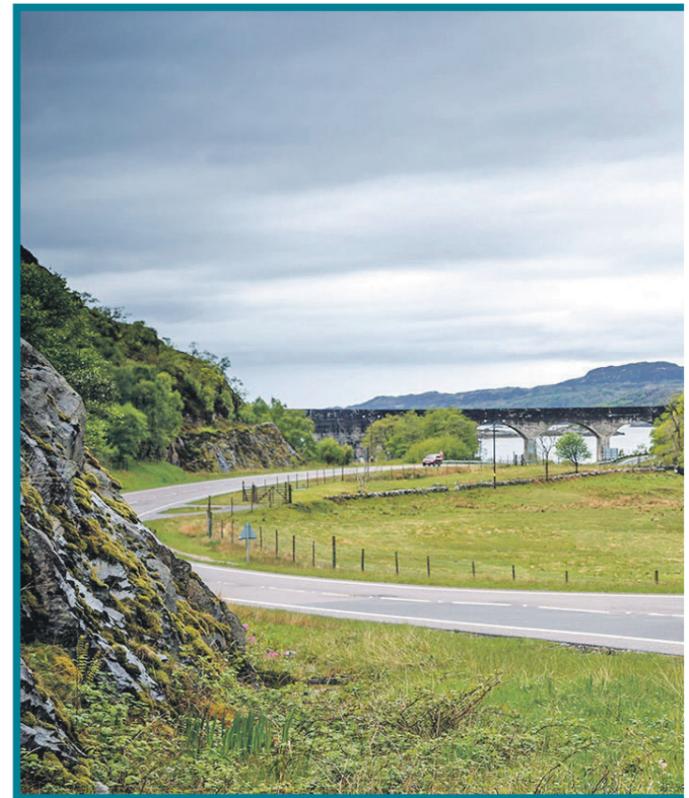
The company recognises the dedication of its staff by providing training, allowing people to progress their careers and acknowledging long service.

Alasdair Ferguson and his family recognise that providing good quality jobs in Lochaber and beyond is important - particularly in more remote areas such as Kishorn, Mallaig and Kyle of Lochlash and since 1997 has been Investors in People accredited.

Ferguson Transport & Shipping also supports community activities from charitable events to promoting the road safety message in schools to sponsoring sporting activities.

Last weekend, the company was delighted to be able to help the Rotary Club of Lochaber's Christmas Festival in Fort William by sponsoring Santa's sleigh and reindeer.

And the previous week Ferguson's took part in Lochaber Ideas Week, a week-long event celebrating business, education and the community.



ROAD

Ferguson Transport & Shipping has 60-plus commercial vehicles as well as plant of all shapes and sizes on the roads across the UK and more than 80 drivers, with all the appropriate certification, training and licences required, on its staff.

Operations include:

- General, specialised ADR, forestry and aquaculture haulage;
- Curtain siders, flats and pin trailers, swap bodies and skeletal trailers;

- Lifting gear - a side-lift container trailer (one of only four in Scotland);
- Plant and machinery movements;
- Vacuum tanks and waste management.

All are modern vehicles and during 2014 the company took delivery of 15 Euro 6 trucks which have the most stringent European emissions standards to date.

These are backed by a purpose-built maintenance facility at Corpach, including a Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) test lane, tachometer centre, four truck and trailer bays, welding and fabrication shop and paint and panel-beating shop which are available to clients as well.



FERGUSON
TRANSPORT & SHIPPING
ESTABLISHED IN 1959

- ROAD HAULAGE
- RAIL
- SHIPPING
- PORT FACILITIES
- STORAGE & WAREH
- CRANEAGE

Successful with Partners



the Central Belt,' says Alasdair Ferguson, managing director of Ferguson Transport & Shipping.

The company saw an opportunity with BSW Timber Group's multi-million pound expansion of its Corpach site to take out a long-term lease on the rail terminal adjacent to the sawmill to create an intermodal freight hub. 'From April/May next year we hope to take logs by rail, as well as timber, to reduce road miles and continue with our aspirations for integrated road, rail and sea operations,' says Mr Ferguson.

The company carried out trials in 2012 and now offers rail distribution throughout the UK from Corpach via Grangemouth, where it works closely with WH Malcolm Rail Terminal.

'We can load from a lorry to train with a secure load using swap bodies,' explains Mr Ferguson.

'We continually liaise with our customers to ensure that they can get the maximum volume on the wagons.'



SEA

IN 1998, it occurred to managing director Alasdair Ferguson that the company was missing an opportunity by not delivering by sea – especially as many of its customers were in the aquaculture industry.

In 2004, Ferguson Shipping bought its own vessel, the Harvest Anne and now has six vessels – five multi-purpose workboats, which have bow ramps to allow beach/slipway landings where there may be no pier, and a bulk self discharge general cargo vessel.

Now 90 per cent of fish feed deliveries are made by sea, via port and warehousing facilities at the company's own port at Kishorn and also Mallaig to the west coast of Scotland, the Western and Northern Isles as well as trading in the Republic of Ireland.

KISHORN PORT

KISHORN Port, with its huge dry dock, is where one branch of the future lies for Ferguson Transport & Shipping.

In early 2000, the company moved on to the former oil platform manufacturing yard and the deep-water port now has two large warehouses, can take in vessels from anywhere in the UK and Europe, transfer bulk feed, road salt, pallets, timber, ADR products for the aquaculture industry, stone and aggregate, has integrated freight facilities, can handle ro-ro shipping and offers overnight berthing.

With 45 hectares,

including a quarry and concrete-making facilities onsite through its partner Leiths (Scotland) Ltd, Kishorn has been identified as lending itself to offshore wind manufacturing, assembly and fabrication, operations and maintenance, oil and gas and decommissioning. In a joint venture with Leiths (Scotland) Ltd, Kishorn Port Limited (KPL) was set up to bring together the quarrying, concrete and construction materials expertise of Leiths with the port, shipping and transportation skills of Ferguson Transport & Shipping.



MOT testing is carried out by the DVSA one day a week, avoiding the necessity of sending vehicles to Glasgow or Inverness, a service which is available to other HGV users in the area.

'Our company takes safety and compliance responsibilities very seriously,' says Alasdair Ferguson, managing director.



RAIL

'OUR aspirations are to take rail freight in to Corpach and have a feed system into



Ferguson Transport & Shipping Awards:

- 2003 Business of the Year Award, by Fort William and District Chamber of Commerce
- 2005 Highlands & Islands Business of the year from HIE
- 2005 Scottish Haulier of the Year, presented by HRH Princess Anne at the Scottish Transport News Awards
- 2008 Crown Estate, Marine Business Award for work regenerating Kishorn Port
- 2014 Best Family Business of the year at the Highlands Business Awards (shortlisted)
- 2014 Great Local Employer of the Year Reward at Lochaber Ideas Week
- 2015 Scotland's Environmental Haulier of the Year from Scottish Transport News

OUSING

Ferguson
 Transport & Shipping
 Integrated Freight Facility
 Annat
 Corpach
 PH33 7NN



T: 01397 773840
 F: 01397 773850
 E: enquiries@fergusontransport.co.uk
 E: enquiries@fergusonshipping.co.uk
www.fergusontransport.co.uk



Talking business



Bruno Beradelli
Chairman,
Lochaber
Chamber of
Commerce

Fort William is a vibrant hub with a diverse economy. Key industries include the manufacture of aluminium, agriculture, forestry and timber production, food and drink, aquaculture, renewable technologies, civil and marine engineering, construction, digital media and tourism, plus many other sectors.

Building on a long tradition of innovation, commercialisation and entrepreneurial dynamism, Lochaber has a broad range of sectors and a thriving export market with an impressive global reach.

In energy, with an abundance of natural energy resources, it is a natural fit for Rio Tinto Alcan's only operational site in the UK.

Our natural abundance of water and wood are also being used increasingly in biomass and hydro renewable energy schemes.

The export of farmed fish products is represented by large companies such as Marine Harvest.

In manufacturing as well as aluminium and food products, timber also plays a role of national importance.

In oil and gas the UK government, through the Oil and Gas Strategy, wants to ensure that companies such as the world renowned The Underwater Centre are able to exploit the exciting opportunities available in the oil and gas sector.

The Underwater Centre has a truly unique facility which emphasises that Scottish companies are at the cutting edge of world technology when it comes to providing support to the oil and gas sector.

The recent roll-out of Super-fast fibre broadband in Fort William offers huge benefits to local businesses and will help our local economy to flourish. Better, faster communications help businesses to grow and stimulate job creation.

The arrival of fibre broadband means firms can do more online at faster speeds and on multiple devices.

The diversity in the economy of Lochaber and the strong and innovative companies we have in place locally are too numerous to mention in a short article.

Safe to say that we are not only an extremely popular tourist destination, but also a bustling hotbed of industry which is well placed to continue to grow and adapt for the future.

HWEnergy – Spreading warmth through wood



HWEnergy's head office at Torlundy

As awareness of renewable energy grows and more businesses are moving away from reliance on fossil fuels, one company that recognised the advantages very early on is HWEnergy, based in Torlundy, Fort William. HWEnergy (then known

the Highlands including hotels, community organisations and rural businesses. Their clients include Argyll Holidays, Auchrannie Resort, Duke of Gordon Hotel, Coul House Hotel and many rural estates. In recent times they have delivered successful projects

with major blue chip companies including Sky and the Co-operative Food and worked with prestigious clients like the Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle.

For MD Bruno Beradelli "Switching to biomass allows our customers to save up to 40% against oil and LPG and drastically reduce carbon emissions. Those cost savings have a direct impact on the bottom line, allowing businesses to invest in growth and ensure they are sustainable.

"As a business we are all about sustainability both for our customers and for our own business"

Bruno Berardelli
Managing Director
HWEnergy

as Highland Wood Energy) installed their first biomass system in 2003. In the past 11 years they have grown steadily to be at the forefront of biomass in Scotland and now have a team of 45 staff with installation and service engineers based across the country and a second office in Bellshill near Glasgow.

Specialising in providing a full turnkey service, from the design, through to installation, service and fuel supply, the company works with many businesses and organisations in Argyll and

"In the first fourteen months we have spent £23,000 less on oil. The house has never been so warm and it is costing me less – what could be better than that?"

Stuart Macpherson,
owner of Coul House
Hotel.



The biomass boiler house at Lochaber high school

We have our own wood chip processing plant in Lochaber and work with other providers nationwide which means fuel is sourced and produced locally, helping create a circular economy."

Many public bodies are now also turning to biomass. HWEnergy are currently working on a dozen projects with North Ayrshire Council and provide a full "heat supply" service to more than 70 systems for Highland Council. In this arrangement HWEnergy take care of all aspects of the biomass system from servicing to fuel supply and only bill the client for the heat used, at an agreed price per kWh. For the customer that means they receive a similar service to any utility provider without the need to think about servicing their boiler and with the added bonus of fixed pricing and in-built performance guarantees.

Berardelli says "As a business we are all about sustainability both for our customers and for our own business. That is why the heat supply model works so well because it lets our customers focus

on their day jobs running their businesses and organisations and lets us focus on ours which is making biomass work for them. As long as we continue to deliver results for our customers we will continue to have a business that can grow and prosper."

For further information about biomass for your business contact Alasdair Miles on 01397 706412, e: Alasdair.miles@hwenergy.co.uk

"This project has been excellent for us as it has allowed us to deliver a 40% reduction in our heating costs as well as saving around 100 tonnes of CO2 per annum. We purchase heat from HWEnergy which means we don't have to worry about sourcing fuel or undertaking any maintenance or servicing. ..We are very pleased with the service that HWEnergy provide and enjoy a real partnership with them."

Alan Baird, Hanover
Housing Association

Lochaber powerhouse helping to fire up Highland economy



“Know your numbers’ is a fundamental precept of business”

Bill Gates’ famous quote can be adapted to any industry, but the sentiment applies to some better than others.

For Rio Tinto Alcan in Fort William, the only aluminium smelting plant still operating in the UK, numbers present an impressive array of statistics that clearly state the aluminium production plant’s importance to industry in the Highlands - and indeed the UK.

A £50 million investment in its smelting plant in 2010/11 means that a workforce of 160 can produce 46,000 tonnes of aluminium in one year, contributing over £10 million per annum for the economy of the Highlands.

Such numbers may be an eye-opener for those who know little about this powerhouse, situated in the shadow of Ben Nevis. Yet, in financial terms, the business stands alongside the famous Munro as one of Lochaber’s main economic generators.

One man counting on the plant’s continued prosperity is Jim Beattie, Rio Tinto Alcan Lochaber’s communications and external relations manager.

‘The site is very important

to Lochaber,’ he said. ‘We contribute over £10 million for the Highland economy, employ 160 people and through contractors and service industries we support another 400 jobs.

‘In 2010/11, at the cost of £50 million, the plant was modernised, so we are here to stay.’

Such a long-term commitment from a global company to a local area is not as bold a statement as it seems, for the plant Rio Tinto Alcan operates has been part of the Lochaber landscape for the best part of 100 years.

In 1929 The British Aluminium Company Ltd completed the hydro construction programme of dams and pipe work to carry millions of litres of water to the new aluminium smelters at Fort William and Kinlochleven.

While the smelter in Kinlochleven no longer exists, the contribution in hydro power from its Black Water dam is integral to Rio Tinto Alcan’s operations in Fort William.

Hydro power brought aluminium to Lochaber and is a key element of why Rio Tinto Alcan’s Fort William site remains hydro-powered today.

Water is gathered in the company’s dams at Laggan, Spey and Treig and comes down a 15-mile tunnel before flowing into the plant’s five 20-megawatt AC turbines via pipes that can be seen scaling down Ben Nevis.

This power is used to smelt a raw material, alumina, which arrives in Lochaber by rail from Blyth, Northumberland. The smelting process produces 12-tonne ingots, aluminium alloys that can be transferred by road and sea to customers all over the UK and Europe.

Not only does the hydro power keep production costs competitive in a global market, this clean and sustainable form of energy allows the company to reinforce its commitment to health and safety and the environment.

The scheme is maintained by a team of eight engineers employed by Rio Tinto Alcan, a team that typifies the range of employment opportunities in engineering and IT for people in Lochaber at Rio Tinto Alcan.

Mr Beattie said: ‘We are always looking for new people here but there are lots of opportunities within Rio Tinto as a worldwide company.

‘We run an extensive training programme for our staff and promote continuous development in their career, identifying areas where we can move them forward.

‘The length of service our employees give us tells its own story - some have been here for more than 40 years.’

Companies with

operations spanning the world are often quickly accused of ignoring the communities in which they operate - not so, Rio Tinto Alcan.

‘We are always conscious of giving back to the community,’ said Mr Beattie. ‘We are committed to delivering economic and social benefits to both the company and local communities.

‘We sponsor the Ben Nevis Race and for the

“Lochaber is a great location for our operations to produce one of the most recyclable metals from renewable energy.”

**Jim Beattie
Rio Tinto Alcan Lochaber’s communications and external relations manager**

past few years we have backed a science programme which involves up to nine primary schools in the area. Scientists based in Edinburgh give lectures to around 450 children, introducing them to science and maybe inspiring the engineers of the future.’

How many of these children grow up to become engineers, or take up employment at Rio Tinto Alcan Lochaber, is one number the company cannot calculate.

But with the plant long since considered part of the furniture in terms of Lochaber’s industrial landscape, and as a strategic piece of Rio Tinto Alcan’s global jigsaw, these youngsters can count on the plant being there should they want the opportunity.

Talking business



Charles Kennedy

MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber

It really is a great honour to serve as the local MP for Lochaber. Hailing from Lochaber, and living here all my life, I am all too aware of the challenges that we face. However, regardless of background the first question asked of me is often the same;

“Charles, times have been tough. How can we get things back on track?”

The number one issue is clear: the economy. That means jobs and growth; that means supporting small and medium enterprises to ensure local businesses can thrive. As a proud member of the Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, I can certainly say that the challenges faced by local businesses are constantly on my mind and thus reflects the work I seek to do in parliament. It is therefore more than welcome that this supplement has given the opportunity to write about what is being done to help business throughout Lochaber.

I recently had the privilege to speak at the Highland Construction and Property dinner in aid of Highland Hospice funds.

Meeting and speaking with a range of businessmen and businesswoman struck home to me not only the challenges that they have faced but the importance of both their hard work and resilience throughout the tough economic times that we have all faced. We are now seeing, month on month, growth across the Highland and UK economy and every new job created is welcome news. As a result, unemployment has fallen to 1.1% of the working population across Lochaber. That is credit to the drivers of economic growth. That is credit to our local businesses.

It is therefore only right that the coalition government has sought to support businesses. The government, for example, has increased the National Insurance Employment Allowance.

The allowance is worth up to £2,000 off the National Insurance bill for every employer and is open to all local businesses and charities. Using the benefit means a business could now hire someone on £22,400 a year, or four people working full-time on the minimum wage, or ten 18-20-year-olds full-time and not have to pay any employer National Insurance contributions.

Since it was introduced in April, 1,400 businesses across my constituency of Ross, Skye and Lochaber have taken advantage of this crucial discount. So, whatever the size or location of the business or charity, I would urge local businessmen and businesswomen to apply for Employment Allowance.

Marine Harvest a of aquaculture de

As it heads into its 50th anniversary year, Scotland's largest farmed salmon producer continues to lead the way in developing the aquaculture industry and maintaining the highest standards

This commitment was recognised earlier this year when Marine Harvest Scotland was honoured at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's annual awards dinner. The Highlands and Islands Enterprise Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation recognised the company's ongoing commitment to delivering a strong and sustainable industry. It particularly focused on Marine Harvest's feed trial unit and smolt hatchery at Lochailort, which celebrated its first anniversary this year.

The company is

currently developing plans for another similar hatchery at its site at Inchmore, Glenmoriston.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'We are delighted that our work in developing this new hatchery as well as our efforts to constantly improve our standards of husbandry are being recognised with this award.'

'We are determined that salmon farming will continue to thrive in Scotland. We need to constantly improve and ensure we maintain the highest standards as we build a long-term sustainable industry.'

'It's particularly heartening to have an award from the SCDI, an organisation which is so highly regarded across Scotland and in the Highlands and Islands.'

Meanwhile Marine Harvest is continuing to develop a project to use wrasse, sometimes known as "cleaner fish", as an alternative to chemical treatments to combat sea lice. Early trials have been successful and more work is underway on wrasse feeding methods and husbandry techniques before the use of wrasse is rolled out across all the company's farms.

TOP AWARD FOR FARM TECHNICIAN

A farm technician at Marine Harvest's Inchmore hatchery at Glenmoriston has won a prestigious award for people studying for qualifications in aquaculture.

Simon MacLellan was presented with his award by Scottish Minister Angela Constance at the Lantra Learner of the Year Awards at Dunblane Hydro earlier this year.

The 26-year-old from Drumnadrochit joined Marine Harvest in 2011 and has just completed an SVQ Level 2 in Aquaculture at Inverness College UHI. Simon's manager had studied for the SVQ Level 3 previously and recommended it to him as a good way to learn

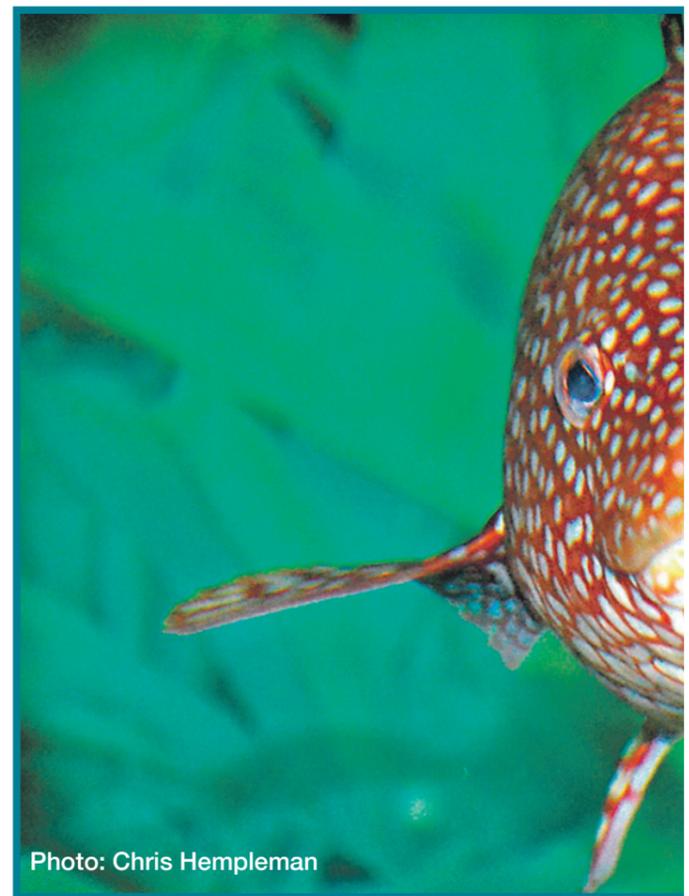


Photo: Chris Hempleman

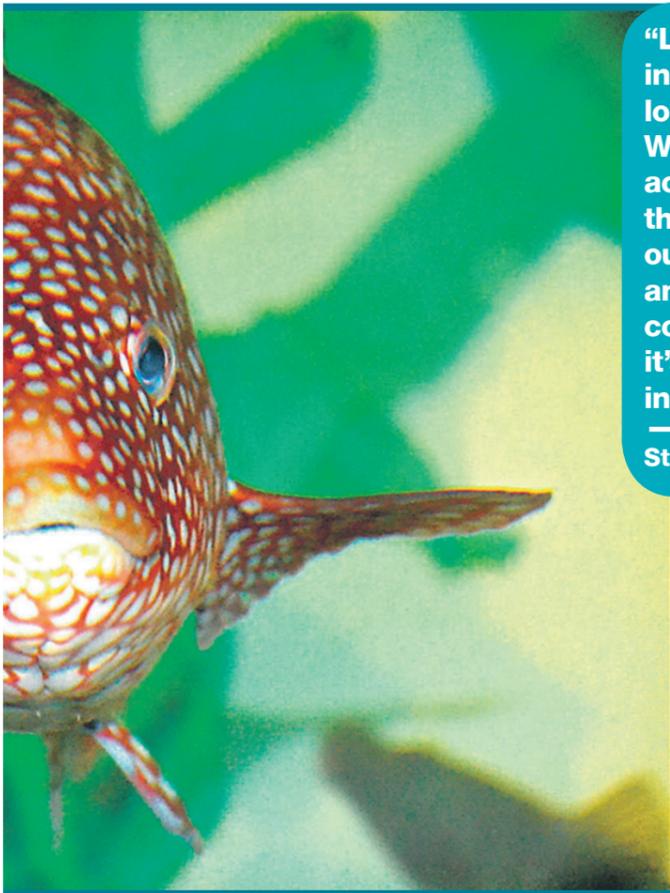
more about the industry. He now hopes to move on to study the SVQ

Level 3.

After his win Simon said: 'I'm absolutely delighted



t the forefront velopment



“Living and working in a beautiful location like the West Highlands gives access to some of the best unrivalled outdoor attractions anywhere in the country. And basically it’s hard to beat living in Lochaber.”

Steve Bracken

years to come.’

Lantra’s Learner of the Year Awards celebrate the achievements of young people and new entrants within Scotland’s land-based and aquaculture industries.

This year Lantra received a record number of nominations across 13 award categories, the highest number since the awards were launched in 2003.

MUCK SALMON FARM GOES LIVE

Marine Harvest’s newest salmon farm is now up and running.

The new farm off Muck is part of an £80m investment programme by Marine Harvest Scotland to meet the growing demand for Scottish salmon.

It’s one of the first so-called “Open Sea” farms which are planned for the waters of the West Coast.

Stocked with smolts grown in the new hatchery at Lochailort, the farm employs six full time, permanent workers who will soon be based on the island.

Some of the staff, including the manager, are moving to the island, so opening the farm has involved building new

homes for them.

Five new houses are currently under construction and due to be completed shortly. They are suitable for families in the hope that the development of the farm will also help to sustain the local primary school.

Marine Harvest has also established a community fund to help support local initiatives.

The farm is made up of 10 circular pens, each one 120m in diameter. Up to 4,000 tonnes of fresh salmon will be grown in the pens every two years.

The salmon are fed from a 300 tonne feed barge on the site. The farm will be serviced by sea with smolts and feed delivered by boat. Once grown, the salmon will be transported by well boat to the harvesting station at Mallaig and then by road to Fort William for gutting.



with the award and I am so happy to have been put forward for it and to win.

‘I’d like to say thank you to Marine Harvest for giving me the opportunity to study for the SVQ and to Murray Stark and Owen Davis for helping me with materials. I joined the company with no experience of aquaculture and combining working on the job whilst studying the SVQ has helped to give me the knowledge to progress.

‘I’m really glad to have made the choice to work in aquaculture and particularly Marine

Harvest.’

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: ‘We’re really pleased for Simon as this is a major achievement. He thoroughly deserves the award as working and studying at the same time is always a challenge.

‘The aquaculture industry has changed and developed since its earliest days and now offers a great employment opportunity for young people and a great long-term career.

‘We look forward to watching Simon’s progress with us in the



Fact File

- Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is the largest salmon farming company in Scotland producing more than 48,000 tonnes in 2013.
- The company has four hatcheries, five freshwater loch sites and 46 sea farms situated in the Western Isles, Skye, Argyll, Wester Ross and Lochaber. Live fish are harvested at Mallaig and processed at the Blar Mhor processing plant in Fort William. In total more than 600 employees are employed at these locations.
- Marine Harvest was the first company in Scotland to farm Atlantic salmon producing the first fish in 1971.
- Marine Harvest holds the Royal Warrant for the supply of fresh farmed salmon to Her Majesty the Queen.
- The company has held the prestigious Label Rouge quality accreditation in France since 1992.
- The main markets for Marine Harvest fresh salmon are the UK, France, USA, Poland and China.
- All Marine Harvest farms, harvest station and processing plant are audited and approved under the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Freedom Food animal welfare scheme.

Glenfinnan viaduct brings m

ONE OF the country's best known landmarks, it has starred in Hollywood films and features on Bank of Scotland £10 notes.

It also attracts thousands of camera-wielding tourists to Lochaber every year who play a vital part in the local economy.

At 416 yards long, with 21 arches towering 30 metres off the ground, Glenfinnan viaduct carries the Fort William to Mallaig West Highland line round a sharp horseshoe bend at a stunning location on the shores of Loch Shiel. Built between 1897 and 1901 by contractor

Sir Robert McAlpine, it was one of the world's biggest mass concrete engineering projects ever undertaken.

Glenfinnan viaduct also overlooks another famous landmark, the Glenfinnan Monument, which commemorates the uprising of the Jacobites in 1745, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie and now has its own visitor centre. Today the viaduct is arguably just as famous as the monument, but

this was not always the case.

Tourist interest in the area reached new levels in 2002 when the viaduct was featured extensively in the blockbuster movie 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets', in which stars Daniel Radcliffe and Rupert Grint chase the Hogwarts Express train in a flying car.

Filming continued here for two more Potter sagas and also took place on the shores of Loch Shiel and other locations further north, including Morar.

Almost overnight, movie fans from all over the world began to descend

on the small Highland village and a footpath trail was eventually built through the adjacent hills to cater for the scores of visitors desperate to photograph the structure.

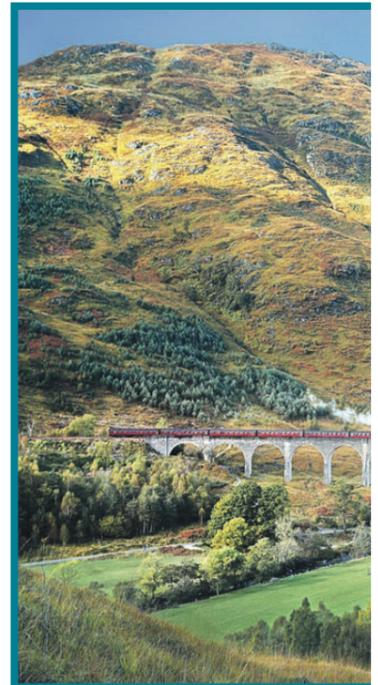
The viaduct would go on to appear in other films and television series such as 'Stone of Destiny' and 'Monarch of the Glen', but it was Harry Potter which really captured the nation's imagination.

Not only that, tourists also got the chance to travel over it in style onboard the Jacobite steam train, as it is named, which now runs every summer on the Fort

William to Mallaig line. Steam returned to the rails in 1984 as part of a new initiative by British Rail and such was its popularity that it has continued to run every year since.

Private operator West Coast Railways eventually took over the trains and expanded them from running three days a week to seven, following the 'Harry Potter effect'. In 2011, it went one step further to include two separate trains a day during the peak holiday season.

Their value to the local economy is massive, especially at Fort William



WHAT IS SMART: SCOTLAND?

SMART: SCOTLAND provides grants to help you carry out R&D.



WHO IS IT FOR?

SMART: SCOTLAND funding is available to SMEs in **all sectors** developing innovative and challenging technology.

WE SUPPORT PROJECTS ALL OVER SCOTLAND



WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Since 2009 we have funded

332 projects

We've provided:

£35.1million

which helped the successful companies invest a further

£73.5million

on SMART: SCOTLAND projects in total



We've supported the projects shown below:



The ground breaking iLimb, Touch Bionics

The award winning full carbon wheelchair, Imagine

Affordable natural fibre insulation, Kraft Architecture

Downhole oil pump technology, ZiLift

BEFORE YOU APPLY

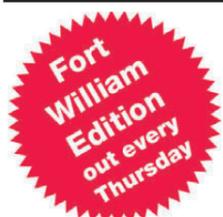
you need to be able to demonstrate

- ✓ What the **commercial prospect** is and the **route to market**
- ✓ You have the necessary **expertise and resources** to make the project a success
- ✓ You own, or have rights to, the **intellectual property** the project is based on or will result in
- ✓ Both the **project and the business** are **financially viable**



Find out more and apply here:

www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/smart-scotland/overview



The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

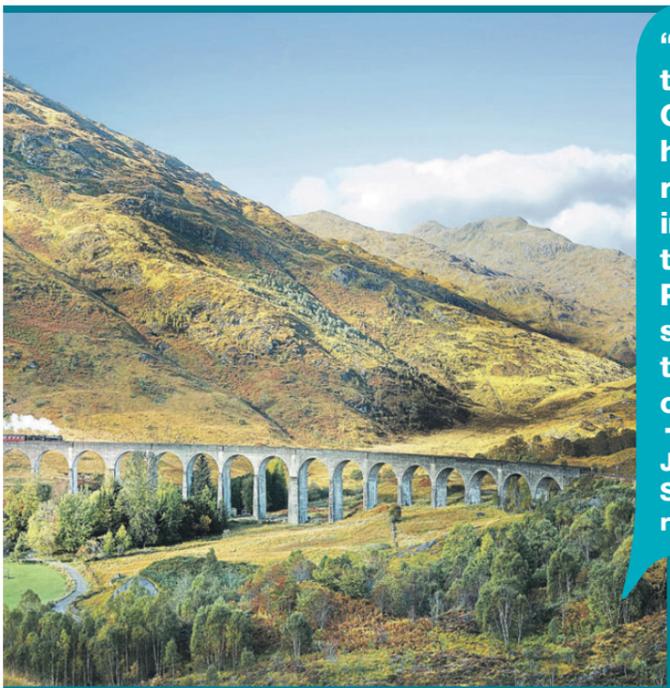
Bringing you the latest **LOCAL** business news

Also available in digital format

Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital



ovie star status to Lochaber



“Gliding effortlessly through its landscape, Glenfinnan viaduct has tamed the rawness of concrete into a gracious image that, thanks to Harry Potter, is now a signature of Scotland to people the world over.”

John Yellowlees
ScotRail external relations manager

and Mallaig, where hundreds of passengers spend time before departure strolling round the craft shops, museums

and fine restaurants. The Glenfinnan experience is not lost on ScotRail either, with regular diesel services often stopping on the viaduct to give passengers time to enjoy the view.

ScotRail external relations manager John Yellowlees believes the location is one of the jewels in the crown of Britain’s rail network. He said: ‘Gliding effortlessly through its landscape, Glenfinnan viaduct has tamed the rawness of concrete into a gracious image that, thanks to Harry Potter, is now a signature of

Scotland to people the world over. ‘And the view from the viaduct of Bonnie Prince Charlie hailing Loch Shiel as it stretches to seeming infinity is the ultimate jaw-dropping moment on the most scenic of railway journeys.’

The West Highland extension line from Fort William to Mallaig was completed in 1901 to transport huge quantities of fish from the west coast and provide a lifeline for remote rural villages. One of the last major railways to be built in the British Isles, it was also one of the most expensive and difficult

and a member of the construction team - Sir Robert McAlpine’s son Malcolm - was almost killed while drilling through a section of rock. Eleven tunnels had to be bored through the most rugged of landscapes, along endless miles of sharply curving track and steep gradients, to provide the ultimate test for even the most skilful of train drivers. Glenfinnan station museum today tells the full story of this legendary railway, one of many attractions in what can only be described as a celebrated yet still tranquil corner of the western Highlands.

Should your business have a mobile app?

Mobile apps could be the key to developing your business and increasing sales, but are they necessary, and what makes a good app? Linnhe Creative has the answers

A recent study showed that people spend 162 minutes per day on their mobile phones; and shopping on smartphone and tablet has increased by 18 per cent in the past year alone.

Because of this advertisers are serious about the mobile trend, with reports that UK mobile advertising spend is set to overtake newspaper advertising revenue in 2014 as more people use their mobiles for news.

An app can transform sales, marketing and business.

Apps can be used on a variety of devices; across tablets, phones and laptops. As of June 2014 there were around 1.2 million of them in both

the Apple AppStore and Google Play, with around 30,000 quality apps launched every month.

As more and more people use mobile devices, an app could be a useful way to promote your brand across platforms, and ensure a consistent, secure presence across them all.

If deployed well, apps can transform business efficiency, significantly reduce costs and generate valuable data and analytics which might not ordinarily be available.

New technologies and developments in data mean that mobile apps can improve customer experience. For example, using GPS tracking, an application can gather

data about where a customer spends most time in a shop, so a retailer can target special offers accordingly.

Apple’s iBeacons technology uses tracking technology that helps a phone show notifications of items nearby that are on sale, and it can enable payments at the point of sale where customers don’t need to remove their wallets or cards to make payments.

Depending on your business, it may also be worth considering developing an app that directly generates income, either through a charge to download or via in-app purchases for upgrades or subscriptions. This is a popular model with

games, but is also used with news and magazine apps that charge to access their content.

Alternatively, a mobile optimised website may be a better option. For many businesses, especially start-ups with low marketing budgets, you can ensure your customers have a direct link to your product or service from their mobile device.

Websites can be created using responsive design technology that can alter the format based on which device is being used. They can be a little more expensive than a traditional website, but this may provide what you need without the costs associated with a full app development.



For small businesses, there are other ways of marketing your services that may be even more cost effective. Registering on Google+, Google Maps and online directories can really help up your business’s presence online and on mobile.

Crucially, the purpose of creating an app should be to help push your business forward. Contact the team at Linnhe Creative to discuss what approach is best for your business. We specialise in creating business applications focussed on delivering great user experiences.

Expertise and experience for a better future – The Underwater Centre, Fort William



The award-winning Centre, one of the world's leading subsea training and trials facilities, has recruited for a number of additional roles this year, providing a wide range of new expertise and experience to its fast-growing student population.

There has also been a significant increase in the number of students over recent years: 2014 will see more than 610 students pass through its doors, undertaking courses including ROV, air and mixed gas diving, diver medic and assistant life support technician – the highest annual number of students the Centre has had in its 40-year history. Some 85% of air diving students secured jobs in the industry in the first three months following graduation, and air diving courses are fully booked until March 2015.

Steve Ham, General Manager of the Centre, works closely with the sector, listening carefully to its wants and needs, and ensuring that the courses on offer are in line with market requirements. As a result, the Centre is constantly updating its courses to ensure it provides industry with the appropriately skilled personnel the sector requires.

As demand from the global oil and gas sector for skilled and competent commercial divers and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) pilot technicians continues to increase, The Underwater Centre in Fort William has risen to the challenge by investing considerably in new staff, equipment and courses



This year has seen the Centre launch two new courses – both of which are world firsts. The Commercial Enriched Air Nitrox Course was created specifically for commercial diving contractors to help prove the competency of their personnel in the use of Nitrox for air diving. The Work Class ROV Operations Course has been a unique collaboration with key ROV industry players, established because the industry identified that there is a significant skills shortage which needs addressing. As a result, hardware for the course and the course syllabus itself was provided by industry. The syllabus includes ROV industry familiarisation, high voltage awareness, an introduction to hydraulics, working at height training, ROV operations from a vessel, piloting an observation class ROV and work class Triton XL26 ROV in a marine environment, and an introduction to ROV maintenance.

Towards the end of last year, the Centre took delivery of three new vessels to meet the demand for its commercial diving and ROV pilot technician training courses, including two Argyll ferries – the Loch Sunart and Loch Scavaig – and the Ben Crom, which is used as a workboat to support trials, and as a vessel companies can hire

to train their own staff.

One of the ferries has been fitted out with a work class ROV, tether management system (TMS) and supporting launch and recovery systems (LARS) for use on the new course. Steve said: 'The skills shortage in the oil and gas sector continues to be a priority for many in the industry. One of the challenges we face is that many commercial divers and ROV pilots are self-employed and so pay for their own training. These individuals are investing a lot of money and, as such, it is vital that they can be sure they will receive the most up-to-date training in a contextual environment to prepare them to be successful in this industry.' Steve continued: 'We have an important role to play in ensuring that the sector is provided with the highly-trained people it needs, and that we work closely with major companies to ensure we do this. At The Underwater Centre, we take our responsibility to our students and the industry very seriously. We are constantly developing our courses to benefit our graduates and the companies they go on to work for.'

'Given the specialised training we provide and the unique facilities we have here in Fort William, a large proportion of the around 80 staff we employ are highly skilled. Not only

do we provide training and testing facilities, we also look after the personnel when they are here; we have a really effective hospitably team too. As a result, the roles at the Centre are very diverse, whether as part of our marine operations team – which we are currently recruiting for – diver trainers, boatmen, as well as our house-keeping and restaurant teams.'

Meanwhile, The Underwater Centre has experienced one of its busiest years of subsea trials, with a number of companies utilising the purpose-built subsea training and trials facility to ensure optimum testing is carried out of new industry equipment. These companies are testing some of the most advanced equipment in the subsea industry, and the world. Recent trials carried out have been for sectors such as fibre-optic cable laying, through-water communications, oil and gas, civil nuclear and scientific research.

Steve adds: '2015 is already shaping up to be another busy year for us; we look forward to welcoming individual UK-based and international students to train with us, and companies completing new equipment trials. As a result, we're pleased to provide our own input into the local economy by bringing in such a large number of people to the area for extended stays.'



A hive of activity where invention and industry is encouraged to flourish

Although Lochaber may be famed for its rugged, majestic scenery, it is no rural backwater. From multi-nationals, to businesses competing in a global market, to small niche specialists, Lochaber is a veritable hive of activity. It is no accident of fate that a national train operator chose to locate its major call centre in the heart of Lochaber.

ScotRail took the bold decision in 2005 to abandon the familiar territory of the Central Belt to set up its national contact centre in the Ben Nevis industrial estate in Fort William.

And for the rail company bosses the move has proved to be hugely

successful. They cited the 'enthusiasm of the local enterprise and council teams and the high quality and availability of the local employment pool' as the prime engines that drove them to Lochaber.

Fort William was chosen as the location ahead of many other places in the country due to what ScotRail described as 'the first port of call for any train travel enquiries, ticket sales or customer relations queries from the public'.

The centre now employs around 60 staff and plays a key role in keeping passengers and rolling stock on the move throughout Scotland. Lochaber's industrial



Ferguson Transport & Shipping, from its humble origins, is now one of the main drivers of the Lochaber economy

landscape is stunning, and one site that leaves a lasting impression is that of Rio Tinto Alcan's massive aluminium smelter which includes several pipelines running up the slopes of Ben Nevis used to draw hydroelectric power.

This landmark site has been a major employer around Fort William ever since it opened in 1927 and it has survived several failed German bombing raids during World War Two. A fake smelter was even constructed at nearby

Torlundy to fool the bombers.

The scenery has fired the imagination of the business community, with small family businesses taking root to become much larger players on a regional and national scale. There can be few better examples of this than Ferguson Transport & Shipping.

Demographically, the population of Lochaber has increased in the last ten years in line with the rest of Scotland.

The last census in 2011 showed Fort William had a population of 10,437, up from 9,980 ten years previously, while the Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross region was

39,107, increased from 36,962.

And despite an ageing population, Fort William itself has a relatively large number of young people, with some 55.8 per cent of townspeople in the 0-44 years age category.

Furthermore, 73.7 per cent of those between 16 and 74 in Fort William are said to be economically active, i.e., working or actively seeking employment.

Of that amount, 55.9 per cent are in full-time employment, 24.6 per cent part-time and 11.2 per cent self-employed, while the rest are either jobseekers or full-time students, thus underlining the point that Lochaber is a real hive of activity.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

At Highlands and Islands Enterprise, we support ambitious people who have the drive to develop their businesses and create new opportunities for their communities.

FIND OUT MORE

www.hie.co.uk



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean

**FOR SALE/
TO LET**
Ref:AR(73)

the **complete** property service



On the instructions of Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Industrial

**UNIT 2, ANNAT POINT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
FORT WILLIAM, PH33 7JR**



- Manufacturing Unit with Car Parking
- Suitable for varied uses including food/fish processing
- Use Class 4, 5 & 6
- 916.54sq.m/9866sq.ft or thereby over ground and first floors
- Offers over £300,000 + VAT
- Alternatively £45,000 per annum + VAT to lease on FRI terms



EPC=E

ALL ENQUIRIES TO

Graham + Sibbald
4 Ardross Street, Inverness IV3 5NN
Tel: 01463 236 977 Fax: 01463 224 886
Email: inverness@g-s.co.uk

www.g-s.co.uk

Talking business



Danny Alexander MP

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

For the past few weeks, I have been working on the government's autumn statement.

While the economy is growing, and jobs are being created in record numbers, especially here in the Highlands, there is a lot more to be done to keep our economy on track.

The big focus is infrastructure, which is one of the big economic powers already devolved in Scotland. But I do wish the Edinburgh government would show the same level of commitment to improving Highland infrastructure, such as upgrading the A82 and improving the west coast rail line.

The Scottish government has the funds to help boost business in Lochaber and get on with growing our links to the rest of the UK much more quickly than they are.

We are also providing significant additional funds to support the National Health Service next year. The £2bn of funds across the UK will help Scotland, though again it is the politicians in Edinburgh who decide how the money is used.

The Scottish parliament is about to get a lot more powers, and rightly so. The extensive plan for home rule for Scotland within the United Kingdom, put together by the Smith Commission, is great news for Scotland.

The plans go much further than those set out by any of the parties before the referendum. It more than meets the commitments made by politicians of all parties - myself included. It's Vow Max.

Lochaber and the Highlands have lost out within Scotland for too long. This has got worse under the centralising policies of the Scottish government.

The north is Scotland's economic powerhouse. The renewables sectors, the Outdoor Capital, tourism and whisky are some of our most successful local industries. But our infrastructure has been neglected by a central belt focussed government for far too long.

To get the most from Scotland's new tax powers, the Scottish government will have to use its considerable powers to support growth.

As a Highland MP, I am proud to have played a leading part in shaping the policies that are unlocking that growth.

But there is one other area of unfinished business from the Smith Commission - devolution within Scotland. Scotland has become one of the most over centralised areas in the world. It's time to hand power back to communities, reversing the shift of power to the central belt over public services like police, fire, and health.

Emergency Action Training

A Fort William couple who have a heart for helping people and making sure they are safe have just added to their portfolio of training

While they don't shout about it, Laura and Paul Macadam-Slater of Emergency Action Training are expertly experienced and trained in all forms of statutory training.

They've now added food safety to the list of staff training that can be offered to individuals and businesses or in a support capacity.

The couple also want to hear from community groups and carers who might benefit from one of the many training opportunities they provide.

Laura and Paul say they've always had an interest in first aid and health and safety issues, therefore, they are passionate about their training business and making sure people get the most up-to-date information developed from best practise and personal experience.

The couple both served in the Royal Navy, where as they say 'you can't just call the fire service', so also have fire-fighting experience and more than 30 years in the catering industry - alongside being long-term volunteers in a number of organisations. To top it all the ability to deliver positive programmes in a wide range of subjects makes Emergency Action Training the go-to people.

As Laura explains, there is a compulsory nature to the first aid, resuscitation, health and safety at work, fire safety, lifting and handling courses or indeed the newly established food safety course which the couple offer - but they are delivered in a form that suits the customer, in an interactive way.

Laura said: 'People seem

to enjoy our presentations because of the huge amount of training equipment we have and the extra knowledge we can pass on due to our background.

'We are first aiders but we also have huge amounts of

give people examples because we are not teaching from books we are teaching from experience.'

Paul said: 'If someone wants a course then it will be provided at a date suitable for them.'



practical experience. We share our experiences with the people who come on our courses.'

The couple set up the business three years ago in Laura's home town of Fort William.

With more than 20 years of experience providing first aid at numerous public events, both large and small, there are very few situations that would be new to them.

Laura continues: 'The courses we offer are the difference between life and death not only for those people who do the course for work - but for everyday life.'

Paul says the courses the couple design meet national requirements and at the same time can be tailored to suit the requirements of the learner.

'We teach from the heart. In our teaching we can

all workplaces including those with less than five employees and must also now cover customers or guests.

As of October 2013 all HSE approved First Aid courses changed to SQA and OfQual qualifications. The company is registered to teach all of the new courses, in its new formats within Scotland, England and Wales.

Fire Training

Fire Safety training for staff, in Scotland, is a legal requirement under Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended, and the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006, while in England and Wales it is a legal requirement under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. In short if there are fire extinguishers, staff have to have training.

Food Safety

The Food Safety Act 1990 (amended), Regulation (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs and the Food Hygiene (Scotland) (England) (Wales) 2006 require all food handlers receive training in food handling practises.

Health and Safety Policy, Risk and Fire Assessments

Run a hotel, hostel, restaurant or bar?

The company is able to undertake the time consuming task of writing a fire risk assessment, health and safety policy and all the related risk assessments.

If required, the company can also make quarterly inspections of premises to ensure documentation is up to date and inspections have been carried out.

Twenty-five years of success at Nevis Range

On December 19 1989, a new Lochaber business opened its doors to the public, adding its name to the list of top world-wide destinations for outdoor activities

Nevis Range has never looked back with its excellent ski-ing and ever expanding range of attractions, world class downhill bike tracks, 'high wire adventure' in the tree tops, superb dining in the Pinemarten at ground level or Snowgoose restaurant on top of the hill and, of course, the spectacular views.

The initial project to capitalise on Lochaber's natural resources can trace its roots back to the late 1970s when several large local employers either closed up or embarked on a process of staff reduction. Worried about what this meant to the overall economy of the area, a group of local businesses, together with the then district council and funding agency officials, met to discuss how to counter these losses by creating new work.

One member of the committee was Ian Sykes, a keen outdoors man, who, with a group of similarly-minded friends, had founded Nevisport in Fort William. Outdoor

activities was a growing market and the business was expanding not only in size but due to popular demand into ski gear. Seeing this interest, he put forward the idea of a ski centre in the hills near Fort William as a way of securing local employment and attracting more visitors to the area, thereby adding

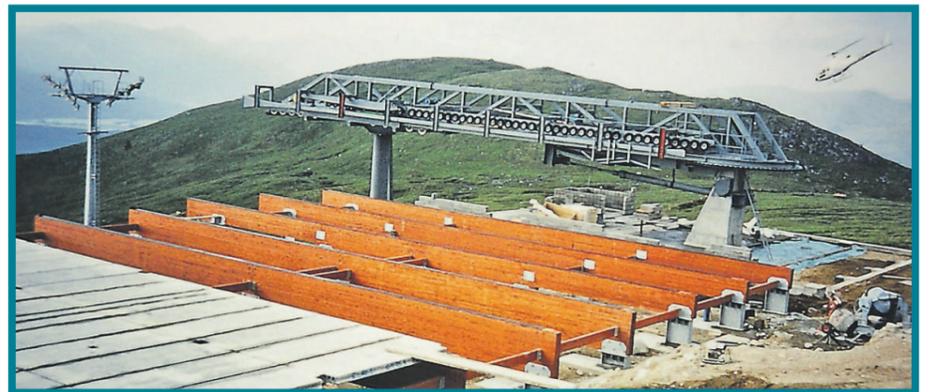
'Close to one year from start of work, Nevis Range opened with snow on the hills and a line of keen skiers waiting to try out the World's newest ski-ing attraction'

to the overall Lochaber economy. The committee agreed and the idea of Nevis Range was born. However, despite constant, positive activity from the committee with full backing of local businesses, including a commitment of £1 million to the project (raised in just two weeks) it would

be almost another 10 years before it was ready for business.

During this period the committee, largely using its own funding, commissioned surveys to establish where exactly the centre should be built, how the slopes could be accessed and the necessary infrastructure to support potential users. All of this was crucial in ongoing negotiations with government funding agencies and politicians in seeking support for the venture and after eight years it ended up in the hands of the Scottish Development Agency (SDA), which gave the necessary approvals for the project to start in earnest.

Austrian company Dopplemeyer was selected to take on the engineering project, making the gondolas and all associated equipment, with building work undertaken by Morrison Construction



which employed mainly local people and sub-contractors.

The whole project was estimated to take a year and as if to prove the good judgement behind the location, (although it was a bit of a hindrance at the time) construction of the gondola towers and ski tows was delayed by heavy snowfall, eventually getting underway by digging through 10 feet of snow to start on the foundations.

As luck would have it, the deep snow of winter was followed by a spectacularly good summer which in the lighter nights allowed around-the-clock shifts to catch up on lost time.

Construction was also a very exciting time for everyone involved, with workers lifted by helicopter to sites up the hill every day with all



materials, from pylons to concrete also being delivered by air. On several occasions special heavy lift helicopters were also brought in for larger items, such as the main beams forming the base of the top station restaurant and visitor centre. These were specially designed and made of extra strong laminated wood to bring them within the weight limits required to be transported by air.

One of the larger items causing much amusement on site was the very large septic tank, which was so bulky that the pilot had to wait for wind-free weather and make a series of short hops at the base of the hill to establish the correct

centre of gravity for a safe lift.

Close to one year from start of work, Nevis Range opened with snow on the hills and a line of keen skiers waiting to try out the world's newest ski-ing attraction.

A ski school was opened on day one and this has led to a generation of Lochaber skiers, with many of those early learners now returning with their own children.

In testimony to Nevis Range and its working environment, many of the original staff are still there, 25 years on and, like the tens of thousands of visitors who take to the slopes every year, still enjoy every minute.



£350 CASH BACK IN DECEMBER*

CORSA LTD EDITION†

£189 PER MONTH



OTR	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	DEALER CONTRIBUTION
£13,388	£599	£1471
AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FINAL PAYMENT	MONTHS
£11,318	£4689	36
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	0% APR REPRESENTATIVE	
£13,388		

We're ready for winter...
ARE YOU?

ANTARA EXCLUSIV FWD PETROL

FROM £14,995



MOKKA EXCLUSIV†

£263 PER MONTH



OTR	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	DEALER CONTRIBUTION
£17,250	£999	£713
AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FINAL PAYMENT	MONTHS
£15,538	£7286	36
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	0% APR REPRESENTATIVE	
£18,226		

FULL RANGE OF NEW AND USED CARS IN STOCK TODAY

Year	Make	Model	Colour	Mileage	Price	Year	Make	Model	Colour	Mileage	Price	
13 63	Vauxhall	ADAM	Papa Don't Peach	2318	£11795	12 12	Vauxhall	CORSA	5dr Hat 1.2i Vvt Active A/c	Glacier White	13479	£7995
13 63	Vauxhall	ADAM	PumpUp The Blue	1745	£9998	12 12	Vauxhall	CORSA	3dr Hat 1.2i Vvt Limited Edtn A/c	Magma Red	17172	£8495
14 64	Vauxhall	AGILA	Blaze Red	12	£8995	14 64	Vauxhall	CORSA	3dr Hat 1.0 Sting Ecoflex	Glacier White	8	£8695
14 64	Vauxhall	AGILA	Steel Silver	12	£8995	12 12	Vauxhall	CORSA	5dr Hat 1.2i 16v Active A/c	Flame Red	14000	£7995
14 64	Vauxhall	AGILA	Moroccan Blue	7	£8995	11 61	Vauxhall	CORSA	3dr Hat 1.2 Vvt Ld/ed A/c	Black Sapphire	9200	£8495
14 64	Vauxhall	AGILA	Moroccan Blue	8	£8995	14 64	Vauxhall	CORSA	3dr Hat 1.2i Vvt Limited Edtn A/c	Casablanca White	16	£11995
14 64	Vauxhall	AGILA	Mocha Coffee	5	£8995	14 64	Vauxhall	CORSA	Sting 1.0 12v 3dr Ecoflex	Glacier White	5	£8695
14 64	Vauxhall	AGILA	Moroccan Blue	15	£8995	11 61	Vauxhall	CORSA	5dr Hat 1.2i Vvt Excite A/c	Flame Red	17500	£7295
13 63	Vauxhall	ANTARA	Carbon Flash	7141	£16995	11 61	Vauxhall	CORSA	3dr Hat 1.2i Sxi	Flame Red	19000	£6495
14 64	Vauxhall	ANTARA	Olympic White	12	£20995	12 12	Vauxhall	CORSA	5dr Hat 1.2i Vvt Active	Flame Red	11736	£7995
14 64	Vauxhall	ANTARA	Olympic White	16	£20995	12 62	Vauxhall	CORSA	5dr Hat 1.2i 16v Active A/c	Lime Green	12124	£7995
14 64	Vauxhall	ANTARA	Summit White	28	£20995	11 61	Vauxhall	CORSA	Excite Ac	Glacier White	16710	£6495
14 64	Vauxhall	ANTARA	Carbon Flash	15	£21495	14 14	Vauxhall	CORSA	Se	Blue	10228	£9495
13 63	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Sovereign Silver	1035	£12991	13 63	Vauxhall	CORSA	Se	Flame Red	10785	£8995
14 14	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Summit White	1125	£13995	13 13	Vauxhall	CORSA	Cdti Ecoflex S/S	Glacier White	8114	£9594
14 14	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Power Red	668	£15995	13 63	Vauxhall	CORSA	Cdti Ecoflex S/S	Sovereign Silver	10139	£10554
10 60	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Silver Lake	36772	£9995	14 14	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	Hat 2.0cdti 163 Ld/ed Efx	Carbon Black	2035	£18995
10 60	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Carbon Flash	45426	£7995	11 11	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	4dr Sal 2.0i T Sri Au	Silver Lake	23160	£8995
13 63	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Sovereign Silver	11623	£10995	13 63	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	Se Cdti Ecoflex	White	4936	£16694
14 64	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Silver Lake	19	£13990	13 63	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	Design Cdti Eco	Flip Chip Silver	13225	£14495
14 64	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Olympic White	8	£13990	11 61	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	Sri Nav	Carbon Flash	35000	£8495
14 64	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Carbon Flash	17	£13990	11 61	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	Sri Cdti	Asteroid Grey	27712	£9995
14 14	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Power Red	14853	£13995	12 12	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	Sp/tr 2.0cdti 160 Exclusiv	Carbon Flash	32367	£11495
14 14	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Summit White	10221	£13495	10 60	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	5dr Hat 2.0cdti 160 Exclusiv	Olympic White	48600	£8995
11 61	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Tecnical Grey	10300	£10495	10 10	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	4dr Sal 2.0cdti 130 Exclusiv Au	Olympic White	32784	£8995
13 13	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Deep Sky Blue	8539	£10995	13 63	Vauxhall	INSIGNIA	Elite Nav Cdti E	Grey	14121	£17995
11 11	Vauxhall	ASTRA	Power Red	30389	£7995	12 62	Nissan	Juke	Tekna	White	9801	£12495
14 14	Vauxhall	Astra Coupe	Carbon Flash	1025	£21995	11 61	RENAULT	Laguna	Monaco Gp Dci	White	36697	£10995
13 63	Vauxhall	COMBO	Polar White	11756	£11994	14 14	Vauxhall	MERIVA	5dr 1.4i Vvt 100ps Tech Line	Glacier White	4267	£11795
13 63	Vauxhall	COMBO	Polar White	4236	£10194	14 14	Vauxhall	MERIVA	5dr 1.4i Vvt 100ps Tech Line	Glacier White	5	£12745
13 63	Vauxhall	CORSA	Flame Red	28	£8992	14 14	Vauxhall	MERIVA	5dr 1.4i Vvt 100ps Tech Line	Flame Red	5122	£11995
13 63	Vauxhall	CORSA	Glacier White	7031	£7995	12 62	Vauxhall	MERIVA	5dr 1.4i Vvt 100ps Tech Line A/c	Silver Lake	11300	£9495
13 63	Vauxhall	CORSA	Magma Red	5863	£9991	12 12	Vauxhall	MERIVA	Active Turbo	Carbon Flash	18802	£7995
14 14	Vauxhall	CORSA	Glacier White	12	£8995	13 63	Vauxhall	MOKKA	Exclusiv S/S 4X4 Tu	Silver	4231	£14995
14 14	Vauxhall	CORSA	Glacier White	28	£8995	14 14	Vauxhall	MOKKA	Se S/S	Carbon Flash	11457	£16995
14 14	Vauxhall	CORSA	Glacier White	56	£8995	14 14	Vauxhall	MOKKA	Se Cdti S/S 4X4	Black	11875	£19495
13 13	Vauxhall	CORSA	Glacier White	9316	£7990	14 14	Vauxhall	MOKKA	Tech Line Cdti S/S	Grey	13985	£17795
12 12	Vauxhall	CORSA	Technical Grey	19000	£6995	14 14	Vauxhall	MOKKA	Se Cdti S/S 4X4	Silver	11589	£19495
13 63	Vauxhall	CORSA	Black Sapphire	15395	£6995	14 14	Vauxhall	ZAFIRA	Tourer 2.0 Cdti 130 Exclusiv	Summit White	5528	£18995
13 13	Vauxhall	CORSA	Glacier White	9824	£6995	14 64	Vauxhall	ZAFIRA	5dr 1.8i 16v 140ps Exclusiv	Sovereign Slvr	16	£14195
14 64	Vauxhall	CORSA	Glacier White	1375	£8495	10 10	Vauxhall	ZAFIRA	Design	Silver Lake	37000	£7795
14 64	Vauxhall	CORSA	Carbon Black	102	£11495	11 61	Vauxhall	ZAFIRA	5dr 1.6i 16v Excite	Blk Sapphire	38174	£7995
12 62	Vauxhall	CORSA	Waterworld	5201	£8995	14 64	Vauxhall	ZAFIRA	5dr 1.8i 16v 140ps Exclusiv	Sovereign Slvr	15	£13695
						13 63	Vauxhall	ZAFIRA	Tourer Se Cdti	Silver	16614	£14995

Autovision Inverness 01463 251500

40 HARBOUR ROAD, INVERNESS IV1 1LY



www.scottishvauxhall.co.uk - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

* FOR NEW AND USED RETAIL VEHICLE PURCHASES FROM 6TH - 31ST DECEMBER † VAUXHALL ASSOCIATE PRICES PLEASE CONTACT FOR DETAILS

VAUXHALL