

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Bins collection is rubbish, say residents of Oban flats

DAVID MCPHEE  
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RESIDENTS in Soroba are up in arms over the state of the communal bins in Colonsay Terrace, which were overflowing with rubbish on Sunday and were not scheduled to be emptied for a further 11 days.

The bins are situated next to a children's play park.

The situation has arisen just weeks after Argyll and Bute Council moved to collect general refuse every three weeks, instead of two, in a bid to save money.

Concerned locals say the full-to-capacity bins are over-shadowing the hard work they have put in to renovating a community garden situated close by.

They are also worried that the exposed rubbish will attract vermin and seagulls, as well as posing a health hazard to children who play in the park.

Soroba resident George Berry contacted *The Oban Times*, saying: 'I just want it resolved. They can't possibly go on with a three-weekly collection.'

'They ask you to take pride in your estate and they do this and it just rips the heart out of you. I don't care what they say, all you have to do is look at the pictures and that tells you that there is no way that we are

copied. No way at all. Bins are overflowing, the blue bins are full, and there is no room to put rubbish anywhere, and we have got another week and a half before our bins will be uplifted. I'm outraged.

'To add another blue bin or a couple of blue bins will not solve the problem because the blue bins they are going to uplift are full of all types of rubbish.'

'People have said to themselves, "Stuff this, we're not just going to use them for cardboard and paper" and they are piling everything into them now.'

'What we need is more of the normal waste bins and blue bins if they are going to do the three-week system. I am not saying don't do it - what I am saying is provide us with more bins.'

'A lot of hard work went into decorating the community garden in Soroba. It was looking lovely and now due to the fact that the bins in Soroba are not being uplifted until December 21, the place is a bloody disgrace.'

Mr Berry added: 'No matter what happens, don't have a go at the bin lorry boys. It's not their fault. All they are doing is following their code of conduct at work and doing what they are told.'

Colonsay Terrace tenant Joe



Soroba activist George Berry illustrates the problem of the already overflowing bins ... 11 days before the scheduled emptying.

Barr said at the weekend: 'The bins were full when they were collected once per week, never mind this.'

'We are going to get rats and it would not surprise me if the seagulls had this all ripped up.'

Jean Campbell added: 'When it gets to this stage, it is not healthy. I just want to know where I am supposed to keep my rubbish.'

'I don't have transport to

take stuff to the dump. It's a disgrace.

'We are paying council tax. What are we going to do for the next 11 days?'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Roddy McCuish said: 'I am 100 per cent behind the residents of Soroba. This cannot continue. We must find a solution and the only way we can find that solution is working with the residents, Argyll Com-

munity Housing Association (ACHA) and the council. 'In the short term, we have organised for a bin lorry to go up. However, this is only the short term. We have to look for a longer term solution.'

A spokesman for ACHA said: 'We have asked for a timeous bin uplift to be taken forward as a matter of urgency in order to address this situation.'

'The association is concerned

that if this is not dealt with quickly then we could have substantial amounts of refuse stacked on the streets because there is nowhere for it to go.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have arranged for additional uplifts to deal with the overflowing bins and are working in partnership with ACHA to identify areas where additional bins can be stored.'

'This situation has now dragged on for far too long. 'It is ironic that the person making the rules about rubbish is clearly flouting the legislation himself.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council declined to comment, saying: 'The council does not comment on individual cases.'

### TIMESLINE

#### M&S still wants to move into Oban

MARKS and Spencer has told *The Oban Times* it is still 'very interested' in the former Lidl site in Oban, but to date there is no further news.

A spokeswoman said she would update the newspaper early in the New Year as information becomes available.

It is likely that the store would be a 'Simply Food' branch of the chain store.

#### Give gifts to the less fortunate

PEOPLE in Oban will be able to donate gifts to those less fortunate for the next three days, as Tesco in Oban is running a collection on behalf of the Hope Kitchen.

The Christmas gift collection starts today (Thursday December 15) and will also take place tomorrow and on Saturday.

There will be a designated drop-off point at the front of the store, where customers can attach tags. Ideally, gifts should already be wrapped when they are handed in.

#### Put pen to paper for Christmas

OVER Christmas and New Year *The Oban Times* is asking readers to turn their hands to writing short stories of no more than 500 words and poems of no more than 15 lines. Deputy editor Martin Laing and chief reporter Louise Glen will then read through entries and publish the best in a future edition of the newspaper and online. Entries should be sent to lglen@obantimes.co.uk before January 6.



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## Councillor under fire over dumping

A COUNCILLOR representing Oban, Lorn and the Isles is coming under fire from residents for dumping waste around his home in North Connel, writes Louise Glen.

Iain S MacLean, an independent councillor, was issued with an informal enforcement agreement to clear up the area around his property almost a year ago, but at the time of going to press had failed to do so.

*The Oban Times* contacted Mr MacLean for a comment but he did not want to say anything about the situation. It is understood a formal

notice will now be issued against Mr MacLean unless the area is cleaned up.

North Connel residents are furious that while everyone copes with three-weekly bin collections and managing their own rubbish, the councillor is allowed to dump waste around his house.

It is understood Mr MacLean has had numerous opportunities to clear the items, which include rusting cars and building debris.

One resident told *The Oban Times* he had been in touch with the planning department, which is dealing with the complaint, and was told

that an agreement had been reached with Mr MacLean more than a year ago. But nothing had been done.

Asking not to be named, the man said: 'I have reported this situation to Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green, who are councillors in my ward, and I have also taken it to Roddy McCuish, who is the area chairman.'

'They have all agreed with me that this is a terrible state for anyone to be living in.'

'It is an absolute eyesore. Abandoned cars around the property, Herras fencing and building rubbish.'

'The council has agreed with

me and the other residents who have complained. But to date nothing has changed. There simply cannot be one rule for the one person because they are an elected councillor and another for everyone else.'

'This situation has now dragged on for far too long.'

'It is ironic that the person making the rules about rubbish is clearly flouting the legislation himself.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council declined to comment, saying: 'The council does not comment on individual cases.'

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OT

## Minister to visit islands

ISLES MP Angus MacNeil has been notified that the UK Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property is scheduled to visit the Hebrides next year.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe is expected to visit the islands in May 2017 to discuss renewable energy opportunities.

This follows the UK government's recent announcement that remote island wind projects would not be eligible for support in the next Contract for Difference Auction – a vital means of support to make projects sustainable.

A consultation has been launched by the UK government, which will run until



the end of January, to look at whether island wind projects should be treated differently to onshore wind projects which do not currently receive support.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I welcome the minister's plans to visit the Hebrides and see for herself the potential there is for renewables here and to meet those planning projects in the islands.'

'I have also been asked to meet Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, prior to the end of the consultation and I hope he, too, will take up the offer to visit the islands. I would encourage as many groups, agencies and individuals locally to respond to the consultation.'

'The meeting timescale – four months after the close of the consultation – is a little surprising, but I hope the minister will have some more positive news on island renewables during her visit.'

'The announcement that island projects would not be included in the next CfD round was hugely disappointing and a real blow to the islands and so I hope that the new year will bring about some more positive progress.'

To respond to the UK government's consultation, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-treatment-of-non-mainland-gb-onshore-wind-projects>.

# Kittiwake numbers on St Kilda at risk of 'collapse'

KITTIWAKE numbers on St Kilda have plummeted to their lowest level ever, with experts fearing that the population is at risk of collapse.

The National Trust for Scotland carries out yearly monitoring of the archipelago's bird population. Across the seven monitoring sites this season there was just one kittiwake nest, and one chick hatched – which later died.

Now the heritage and conservation charity fears that it is witnessing the decline of the Atlantic's most significant seabird sanctuary. After a century of growth, populations are rapidly falling. As well as kittiwakes, the populations of fulmars, guillemots, puffins and razorbills are also threatened.

Dr Richard Luxmoore, senior nature conservation adviser at the trust, said the decline signalled ongoing changes in the marine environment, par-



Hirta, in the St Kilda archipelago, has seen bird numbers diminish.

ticularly the plankton that are vital to the marine food chain.

'Seabirds are essentially part of the marine ecosystem. Although they breed on land they spend most of their life out at sea and they can tell us a lot about its health,' he said.

'In the past 30 years, plankton communities have shifted northward by 1,000 kilometres,

more than the distance from Edinburgh to Paris, and it's having a huge impact. If vegetation shifted by a similar distance, there would be pandemonium, but because it's happening in the sea we tend not to notice.'

This year's seabird survey recorded significant declines across most species. To highlight the issue, the trust has

produced a film about its work on St Kilda, which explores the complex factors affecting seabird numbers, including predation from great skuas, or bonxies.

Seven of the seabird species found on St Kilda are geographically significant and four of them – the northern gannet, Atlantic puffin, great skua and Leach's storm-petrel – are important on a worldwide scale. Monitoring looks at breeding abundance as well as breeding success. The first shows more gradual changes to an overall population while the seasonal success – or not – of fledglings can indicate short-term fluctuations.

Dr Luxmoore added: 'The message that seabirds are bringing back to us about the marine ecosystem is extremely worrying. We used to think that the tiny organisms in plankton were quite immune to climate

change. But their shift in range combines with decreased abundance of up to 70 per cent, so it's not surprising that the seabirds that depend on this are being left high and dry.'

'If the inhabitants of St Kilda were to come back now nearly 90 years after their evacuation and see the cliffs that were once teeming with seabirds now almost empty, they would be horrified to see what has happened on the island where they once lived.'

The NTS video, St Kilda – Facing the Change, can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/183845187/9315a431fb>

The Trust operates a dedicated fundraising appeal, called 'Love our Islands', to support important conservation and ecological work on St Kilda and in the longer term to help support the island and coastal places and communities in its care.

## Initiative honoured with award

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar, the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership and Hi-Trans have been recognised for the ground-breaking work that has been undertaken to promote community engagement at the Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards Scotland 2016/17.

Using a participatory budgeting approach, the contracts for public transport services in Uist and Barra were opened up for more involvement from the community throughout the procurement process.

Community councils, youth councils, bus users and members



Helen Mackenzie with the award.

of the community were able to identify and vote on priorities and evaluate proposals received from bus operators so that contracts could be awarded.

Plenty of feedback has been received since the contracts were put in place and, in Uist, community councils, supported by Uist Council for Voluntary Service, are now taking an active role in engaging with people prior to the summer 2017 timetables being put in place.

Speaking on a visit to Stornoway last week, local government minister Kevin Stewart congratulated the partners on the award.

He said: 'It is extremely encouraging to see new projects which seek to use Community Choices Budgeting to put people at heart of decision-making for their communities. These contracts show what can be done using the procurement process as means of giving people real power over the services they receive. My congratulations to the comhairle and the partners on this award.'

Leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Angus Campbell, added: 'The comhairle is committed to promoting community engagement and I am pleased that the comhairle and its partners in the OHCPP and Hi-Trans have been recognised for the excellent work they undertook.'

## Epic walker Mull's over his expedition

A YOUNG man's epic walk around the coast of Britain brought him to Tobermory last week and the locals were delighted to host the adventurer for a couple of nights.

Alex Ellis-Roswell visited Tobermory Lifeboat Station as part of his epic 9,000 mile coastal walk in aid of the RNLI.

Alex visited Tobermory Lifeboat Station's fundraising team, before joining the volunteer crew on exercise in the Sound of Mull.

Alex has undertaken the test of endurance, choosing to walk 9,000 miles around the coast of the Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Raising money in aid of the RNLI.

Starting the walk at Margate in Kent on August 3, 2014, since then he has covered 5,000 miles, visited around 150 lifeboat stations, 18 islands and worn out seven pairs of boots.

With 4,000 miles still to go, Alex expects to complete his epic walk in the summer of 2018.

Despite enduring one of the wettest winters on record in 2015, Alex remains extremely positive about the remaining 4,000 miles.

During the few days on Mull Alex raised

£852.25 so far, with the Tobermory to Craignure leg still to go. To follow Alex on his amazing adventure go to [www.facebook.com/alexellisroswell](http://www.facebook.com/alexellisroswell), and if you wish to contribute to his fundraising effort please go to [www.bt.com/DonateToLifeboats](http://www.bt.com/DonateToLifeboats).

He has visited 150 lifeboat stations, 18 islands and worn out seven pairs of boots



Alex Ellis-Roswell is raising funds for the RNLI with his epic walk.

## Town pulls together to save Tobermory fireworks

AFTER very nearly being cancelled due to lack of funds, the Hogmanay fireworks display organised to take place in Tobermory on Mull is now set to go with a bang after a huge community effort.

Funded entirely by donations, the fireworks have become the highlight of the street party around the town's clock to bring in the New Year. An announcement was made last

week from the organisers that there was a serious shortfall in funding, and unless £2,000 was raised the fireworks would not go ahead.

The town got to work almost instantly – a raffle was organised, with local businesses donating goods, as well as an online donation site being set up.

In less than 24 hours the target was smashed, with the excess going

toward next year's Hogmanay display.

Online fundraising coordinator Joanne MacLean said: 'I had no doubt that our great community would pull together and raise the necessary funds. The £2,000 target was achieved within nine hours!'

'Thank you to everyone who donated, and continues to donate.'

One of the organisers of the fireworks, Geoffrey Gallagher added:

'What a fantastic community we live in – there are far too many businesses and people to thank – and we can now look forward to giving everyone in the town a real show.'

Donations can still be made via [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joanne-maclean-4](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joanne-maclean-4).

The street party kicks off around 10pm on 31 December, along Tobermory's Main Street.

## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Festive Bowmore

FATHER CHRISTMAS made an early appearance on the island this year when he arrived in Bowmore on December 3 to officially switch on the village's Christmas lights.

Being from cooler climes, the seasonal visitor appeared unfazed by wind and steady rain, which also seemed to have little effect on the large number of spectators in attendance in Morrison Square.

Equally undaunted by the elements were the Ella Edgar dancers, who provided the entertainment for the switch-on, along with Bowmore Primary School Gaelic choir, led by Alison Gray and the high school pipers.

The Bowmore Christmas lights were inaugurated last year and provided by local civic-minded donors, trades and business people, and the innovation was masterminded by the local sports committee, which continues to be the moving force behind the venture.

Thanks to all these efforts the village's shore and main streets are looking particularly festive, as is the main square which houses the Christmas tree provided by the local authority.

On the morning of the switch-on,



Several crowned heads were among the Bowmore Primary School pantomime cast.

members of the Round Church held their Christmas-themed coffee morning in the village hall. Thanks to outstanding local support, the church coffers have been swelled by £900.

### St Andrew's ceilidh

ISLAY high school pupils celebrated our patron saint at a tuneful and lively ceilidh in the school's assembly hall on November 30, St Andrew's night.

Fiddler Simon Moran and his mu-

sical cohorts kept all on their toes, the Ella Edgar dancers were at the nimble best and the school's young and talented pipers raised the roof.

The pleasing voices of the Royal National Mòd-winning Coisir Og Ghàidhlig Ìle, steered by Arlene McKerrill, enhanced the entertainment, as did the input from soloists, duettists, instrumentalists and a vigorous trad band.

Hot soup kept out the winter chill and most did justice to haggis, neeps and tatties, along with much succulent homebaking.

What an apostolic Galilean fisherman would have made of this most traditional of Scottish fare is open to conjecture!

All monies raise at the ceilidh will help to finance the school's forthcoming expedition to Zambia and Botswana.

### School panto

BOWMORE Primary School's take on *Sleeping Beauty* provided a panto with a twist when they presented it to enthusiastic audiences at the village hall last week.

This was a fast and colourful production played at a brisk pace by uninhibited youngsters who pulled out

all the stops and had the audience responding promptly when required. A plethora of royal personages, all rejoicing in local titles, would have filled several palaces and an unkindness of ravens added to the variety.

The baddie came in the evil presence of the scheming Maleficent while the sinister and brooding Darth Vader and his heavily armed storm troopers had the audience well and truly in their sights.

Anything is possible in a panto and even some of the dwarves from *Snow White* were signed up for the Bowmore production.

The Fairy Godmother worked her magic and, as happens in all the best pantos, the baddies got their just deserts, a semblance of order was restored and all lived happily ever after. Oh yes they did! Turn to pages 14 and 15 for more.

### Christmas greetings

AS THIS is my last letter before you all get stuck into the turkey and trimming, can I wish you a peaceful and joyous Christmas. Nollaig Chridheil dhuibh uile.

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

### ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL



ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SERVICES : EDUCATION

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980

#### CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend their local school; however, parents may make a written request to place their child in any school under the management of the education authority. Such a request is referred to as a placing request.

Information concerning the authority's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and at the Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

Placing requests for session beginning August 2017 should be sent to the Executive Director of Community Services, Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000) by 17 March 2017 for primary and secondary schools.

#### Gaelic Medium Education

Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tisee Primary School, Tisee; Salen Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, By Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon. For further information on Gaelic Medium Education please contact Catriona Garvin, Education Support Officer: Gaelic, [catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

Parents who are interested in such provision are advised to register at the Gaelic Medium School in their area in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 2 January 2017.

Parents of children due to start school in August 2017, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 2 January 2017.

#### ANN MARIE KNOWLES

Acting Executive Director - Community Services



# Drug dealer hid heroin in body

## POLICE FILES

AN OBAN drug dealer has been found guilty of supplying 10g of diamorphine recovered from his rectum.

Shane Kenny, 27, of 3 Shore Street Flats, Shore Street, Oban, pleaded not guilty to a charge of possessing diamorphine, a controlled class-A drug, with intent to supply, at Lorn and Islands General Hospital.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last Wednesday that PCs Paul MacMillan and Danny MacBeth apprehended Kenny at Longsdale Road on May 12.

PC MacMillan said: 'I observed Shane Kenny walk towards Atlantis Leisure. I thought it was odd to see him there. My suspicions were raised when a green car parked up. I am aware the driver is a heroin user.'

'Shane walked directly to the car. I believed he was approach-

ing the car for the purpose of conducting a drug deal.'

As he moved to detain Kenny, PC MacMillan added: 'I observed Shane quickly turn his body to us. He brought his hand up to his mouth and put an item in his mouth. He denied he had taken anything or that he had anything on him.'

Defence agent Kevin McGinness said: 'There is no clear link between Shane Kenny and the car. It can be accidental.'

PC MacBeth responded: 'I formed the impression it was more than a coincidence.'

Kenny was arrested and taken to hospital for observation.

PC MacMillan said: 'He was told he would be remaining in hospital until any drugs he took passed through.'

He added that Kenny eventually admitted: 'I have got it, and it is up my \*\*\*\*.'

Two packages of diamorphine powder were retrieved, weighing 3.5g and 6.88g.

DC Greig Baxter, a drugs specialist in Police Scotland's Stop Unit, said both quantities were a 'known deal' of a quarter and an eighth of an ounce, which when split into 70 to 80 'tenner bags' could be sold for more than £900.

DC Baxter said: 'If someone has that amount of heroin, it is to supply it. If you are a chronic heroin user, you will use it.'

'If you have a heroin addiction, you are looking at one to two tenner bags a day; a chronic user is three to six tenner bags.'

'It is very common for users and suppliers to secrete heroin in the anus, in a vessel such as a Kinder egg, where the toy is thrown away. If you are a chronic user, you are going to have to pull down heroin four or five

times a day. It is going to have repercussions.'

'The likelihood of a user stockpiling is very unusual. All the factors indicate to me it is not someone who uses it for personal use.'

Mr McGinness said: 'There was no Kinder egg in this case. A package is not going to be as troublesome as a Kinder egg.'

'There is an incentive for a heroin user to reduce the risk of detection.'

DC Baxter responded: 'The overwhelming urge to get heroin is the biggest urge in the world.'

'If you are using it at that level, it is a hand to mouth existence. They will be begging, stealing, any way that they can have £10 for a tenner bag of heroin.'

'If there is nothing in the house, then that rings alarm bells.'

'If they were a chronic user, you would tend to find the place in chaos, and you would expect there to be paraphernalia. I would expect someone to have the tooter, the foil, the injection - what we call "the works".'

'Taking the stand, Kenny said: 'I was heading to see my cousin. I have never seen [the driver] before in my life.'

After Kenny admitted using heroin for 'about seven or eight years', Mr McGinness asked him: 'Have you stored heroin in your anus before?'

'Yes', Kenny replied, 'every time I have heroin on me,' explaining he did not want to risk losing his house if the drugs were found at home.

Fiscal Eoin McGinty asked: 'You were using the equivalent of five to six tenner bags a day, but you can function?'

'You had 100 tenner bags and

you stuck them up your anus - you did not get stuck into it?'

'I was planning to,' Mr Kenny said.

Mr McGinty concluded: 'You seem to have lots of willpower and restraint. It does not add up.'

Defence witness Dr Iain McPhee, senior lecturer at the Centre for Alcohol and Drugs Studies at UWS, said: 'My position is it is someone who is involved in a small-scale commercial operation or self-sufficient personal use.'

However, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC told Kenny: 'I am in no doubt as to your purpose in all this and I find you guilty as libelled. I am giving active consideration to a custodial sentence.'

She deferred sentence for reports until January 31. Bail was continued.

POLICE in Oban are looking for information regarding a blue van that was kicked and dented outside Combie Court, Oban.

The incident, which damaged the van's rear panel, took place between December 11 and 12.

**A MAN was assaulted in Wetherspoons, Oban, on Sunday December 11.**

**Police in the town are appealing for witnesses. If anyone has any information, they should contact constable Chris Edwards.**

A 56-YEAR-OLD woman has been reported for stealing from Tesco in Oban last Saturday.

**TWO MEN were caught in possession of cannabis near George Street last Friday, with the pair both receiving a police warning.**

POLICE are seeking information regarding graffiti that has been sprayed on to the side of a house in Rhuvaal Road, Oban.

The graffiti was carried out between December 9 and December 10. Inquiries into the incident are ongoing and anyone with any information is being asked to contact Constable Greenlaw.

**A 33-YEAR-OLD man was stopped after he was caught travelling 25mph over the speed limit on the A82, near the Bridge of Orchy.**

**The man, who was travelling at 85mph, has been reported to the procurator fiscal.**

A 51-YEAR-OLD man has been charged with dangerous driving following a collision between a tractor and a parked car on the A819.

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Clockwise from left: Blake Connelly, seven, Amelia Connelly, three and Bayden Connelly-Scott, six; Lions Jim Edge, Raymond Wallace and Alex Milligan; Lauren Williams-Bale with her son Jack, two; Nadine Darrah and her daughter Jessica, 16 months.



## Christmas comes early as Santa visits the Lions

CHRISTMAS came early for children in Oban this year - or at least Santa Claus did, as they were able to meet the man in red at the annual Oban and Lorn Lions Club's Santa's Grotto, writes David McPhee.

The grotto is held in the Royal Hotel over

two Saturdays in the run up to Christmas, as it has been for the past 30 years.

'It is going really well,' Alex Milligan of Oban and Lorn Lions said during the event. 'We were here last Saturday as well and it was really busy. We have been doing this since we started 30 years ago.'

He added: 'The Royal Hotel has been really good to us over the years.'

Since the Oban and Lorn Lions began, the club has raised almost £500,000, which has gone back in to the community through donations to various local charities and organisations.

## Cocaine dealer is jailed for 32 months

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to 32 months in prison for dealing cocaine.

James Adam Richell, 31, a prisoner in HMP Low Moss, admitted supplying cocaine, a class-A drug, between July 21 and October 21 at 22c Shuna Terrace, Oban.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on December 6: 'Police received intelligence. A warrant was executed. On walking in they noted the accused was on his hands and knees smoking heroin. He shouted to his wife, "I am going to get five years for this".'

During a police search, Mr McGinty said: '£1,260 was found at the top of a cupboard.'

'There were multiple bags of white powder, and there was a white bag sitting on top of a set of digital scales. The white powder was tested positively as cocaine.'

He added that 16 paper packages worth £640 and five knotted bags, each worth £245, were also recovered.

'There was paraphernalia indicating onward supply, a notebook with a tick list, multiple empty wraps were located under the sink.'

Defence agent Liam Robertson said: 'There is no dispute with the facts. Mr Russell recognises a custodial sentence is inevitable.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC sentenced Richell to 32 months, reduced from 48 because of his guilty plea, backdated to October 24, and ordered the money to be forfeited.

Contact the newsroom:  
Call 01631 568000  
Email editor@obantimes.co.uk

## Pensioner blames town seats after breaking leg

AN ELDERLY couple have complained to Argyll and Bute Council after both were hurt when they collided with part of the new public seating in Oban town centre.

The couple, who do not wish to be named, claim the benches in Oban town centre pose a danger to the public after the man broke his leg and spent almost a fortnight in hospital.

The couple from Kilmichael Glassary told *The Oban Times* that the benches on George Street pose a danger as the ends extend beyond the seats and can be easily overlooked because they are below eye level.

The man, who is in his seventies, said he was knocked off balance on October 21 after colliding with the bench's extended shelf. He then fell



heavily and fractured his femur, requiring surgery and a 12-day stay in hospital. His wife also collided with the extension on her way to the ambulance.

He said: 'Kindly passers-by were very helpful and the ambulance staff, then and later, were outstanding, as were the hospital staff in Oban and

Queen Alexandra Hospital.' He also thanked the kindness of a friend from Kilmartin, who gave his wife a lift home, laden with luggage, after the last bus had departed.

The town centre seating has an arching silver structure with a small table area at the end of each of the seats. It is this part of the seating that caused the problem.

It is understood the designer benches cost somewhere in the region of £750 each.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have taken immediate action to make the plinths more visible by adding "be aware" tape (pictured).'

'Our contractor has been instructed to make changes to the design and this will happen in due course.'

## More cuts would be 'catastrophic'

THE LEADER of Argyll and Bute Council has appealed to the Scottish Government asking it to think carefully before a new round of cuts.

As the budget for 2017-2018 is prepared, Councillor Dick Walsh said a further cut will be 'catastrophic' for the people of Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Walsh added: 'There is no doubt that a further cut to local authority funding by the Scottish Government of the same magnitude as last year will have drastic consequences for Argyll and Bute.'

'Last year the government cut our funding by £10 million, or 3.5 per cent. This, coupled with increasing additional service pressures, had a huge impact on services and we had

to make a number of decisions we would rather not have had to make.'

'Our communities are experiencing at first hand the impact of these cuts and, if we were to receive the same cut this year, I am in no doubt it would be catastrophic.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is the second highest employer in the area. If the Scottish Government was to impose a further funding reduction of 3.5 per cent, that would equate to 210 more job losses at Argyll and Bute Council.'

'That is 210 less people delivering services and 210 less people spending money in the local community. Argyll and Bute's local economy can do without that kind of knock-on effect.'

## £3,000 fine for cannabis

A DRUG dealer has been fined £3,000 at Oban Sheriff Court.

John Allan McLean, 56, of 13 Kinloss Court, High Valleyfield, Dunfermline, was found guilty in November alongside Geoffrey Gladwell, 53, of 2 Dun Bheag, Ruaig, Tiree, of possessing 400g of cannabis with intent to supply, after police detained them at a car park by Corran Brae, Oban, on January 6 following a tip-off.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC had fined Gladwell £3,000, and deferred sentence on McLean until December 6 for reports. Last week she also sentenced McLean to a fine of £3,000, and imposed a forfeiture order for £932 found in his possession.

She told McLean: 'You can kiss goodbye to the £932.'

## Argyll and Bute Council PLANNING OUR FUTURE CONSULTATION

EVERYTHING MATTERS. WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU?

Councils' funding from the Scottish Government is expected to be significantly cut again next year. This will mean more change to what we can do and how we work.

**Argyll and Bute Council delivers a wide range of services for communities and the area as a whole.**

**Everything we do matters.**

**We would like to know what matters most to you, so we can match the work of Argyll and Bute Council to what matters most to our residents, in as far as funding reductions allow.**

Please take a few minutes to give us your views.

**You can get involved by visiting**  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planningourfuture](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planningourfuture)

Printed copies of our consultation are available in our libraries and Customer Service Points or by contacting us at [planningourfuture@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planningourfuture@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or on **01546 604 171**

Please take the time to tell us what matters most to you.

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**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

# Oban parents campaign for Gaelic school

LOUISE GLEN  
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OBAN parents have launched a campaign for a dedicated Gaelic-medium school.

The parent council says it has received support from both Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government.

Parents of Oban's Gaelic pupils have asked Argyll and Bute Council to develop a consultation on the future of Gaelic education in Scotland in order to apply for funding.

In Glasgow, Gaelic-medium education has boomed after the local authority built a school with provision for pupils aged three to 18 years in the city. The capacity for the school is almost 500 pupils.

Parents in Oban want a standalone Gaelic-medium school and are willing to go all the way to Holyrood to make sure the language thrives in the town.

With 65 pupils currently receiving Gaelic education in Oban – 51 in the primary classrooms and 14 in pre-school – the demand for children to

be taught in the unit is on the rise.

But the parents have pointed out the challenges to the current teaching facilities, including a lack of classroom space, no dedicated nursery space, and that full immersion in Gaelic is impossible due to the minority nature of the language within the campus.

The report from parents claims: 'We have met with support from both Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government, who have informed us that they would consider an approach from the council looking for support via the Gaelic Schools Capital Fund, and that the more notice they are given in this regard, the more they will be able to plan accordingly.'

'We see this as an extremely encouraging show of support.'

'Our young Gaelic-speaking generation are very much the future of Gaelic in Argyll and Bute, and carry with them the legacy of Argyll and Bute's Gaelic heritage.'

Chairwoman of the parents' group Claire Wilding said:

'We brought up our request [at a recent meeting of councillors] and Councillor Roddy McCuish spoke for all eight councillors stating he couldn't see any reason why they would not all support us, which is great to hear.'

'We are working hard to promote ourselves in the town to raise awareness in the community, and let everyone know how many kids we have in the two classrooms at Rockfield – 51 in primary one to seven with 14 in Sgoil Araich – as our research has told us that people think there are only a handful of Gaelic-medium school pupils.'

Asked if Argyll and Bute Council would support an application for a dedicated Gaelic school, a spokesman for the local authority said: 'We are pleased that our Gaelic education facilities in Oban are being well used and that they continue to meet the needs of children.'

'Going forward, should the need increase, we will consider the best options to continue to deliver Gaelic education.'



Santa Claus with helper (Catherine Carswell committee member) distributing prizes.

## Memorable Christmas lunch

THE Oban and Lorn District Seniors Club treated its members to a memorable Christmas lunch at the Oban Bay Hotel on December 5, when it was presented with a cheque for £2,415.

Funded by the Crerar Hotels Trust and Oban Rotary Club, the occasion was a great success

with Santa Claus distributing gifts and prizes and Christmas cake provided by the ladies of Oban Inner Wheel.

Neil MacKay, Tom Adams and Michael Garvin provided the music, accompanied by the beautiful singing of Tracy Wilson.

The staff and management of

the Oban Bay Hotel went out of their way to make this a very festive and memorable lunch.

After the meal, Oban Rotary Club provided transport home for those who needed it, and the committee would like to thank all concerned without whose help it would not be possible to organise such an event.



Oban Bay Hotel manager David McGhie presenting the cheque for £2,415 to Helen Jackson, president of Oban and Lorn District Seniors Club.

## Pupils take the lead in digital initiative

PUPILS at St Columba's School, Oban, have been awarded the title of Digital Leaders.

The school has been working in partnership with iTeach, an education company that supports staff and pupils to embed the use of technology into their curriculum, which has helped to train some of the pupils to ensure that they can, amongst a wide range of things, troubleshoot and create video tutorials to support other pupils and staff.

Every child in the school has their own iPad which is used to support them in all areas of the curriculum and to

ensure that the children in St Columba's have the very highest standard of digital skills possible.

On Saturday (December 3) the school started its festive family fun with the annual family Christmas bingo.

With lots of fabulous prizes, face-painting, reindeer food, personalised gifts and more, everyone who attended had a great time. There were lots of festive outfits, including babies Eilidh and Sam dressed as Mr and Mrs Claus, with mums Christine and Carolyn.

The event raised £460 and the school would like to thank everyone who supported it.



Having fun at the bingo were Eilidh and Sam, with their mums.

## At Random

MARTIN LAING  
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

### Let's back Oban Live

THERE has been a gratifying response from the public to the launch of Oban Live event, set to take place in 2017.

Hundreds of people rushed to snap up the early-bird tickets, especially those with an extra discount thanks to a promotion in last week's *Oban Times*.

And the unveiling, exclusively in the December 1 issue of this paper, of the first six acts for the June 2 and 3 festival promises a cracking weekend of music. Those initial acts include Skipinnish and, of course, Skerryvore, pictured, who had the vision to stage the first event – already now the biggest in Argyll – following their Decade concert in 2015.

Hats off to the Skerryvore boys for organising the whole thing and funding it, in no small part, from their own pockets.

As we revealed last week, Oban Live brings an estimated boost to the local economy of more than £1 million, and at very little cost to the public purse.

Admittedly, the local authority has a diminishing pot to support public events financially but there can be few festivals in the region more deserving of council funding than Oban Live.

Other occasions benefit from council cash contributions – including the National Mòd, Cowal Gathering and Helensburgh and Lomond Winter Festival – and rightly so. They are important dates in the Argyll calendar and



part of the fabric of our communities. Skerryvore should make an application for funding support as well – and the council should do what it can to ensure Oban Live gets as much financing as possible.

### Pillar of the community

THE bedrock of successful communities are the selfless volunteers who work for the benefit of others.

One of the most notable in Oban has been Graeme Pagan who has devoted 14 years to the charity Mary's Meals.

Graeme stepped back – at the age of 80 – from his volunteering last week. And wasn't there a splendid response on social media after *The Oban Times* posted our story about Graeme's efforts for Mary's Meals, the Dalmally-based charity that ensures children in developing nations are fed at school.

Among the comments were the following plaudits: **Sandra Robertson** wrote: 'Enjoy your retirement Graeme!

Thank you for all the help you gave me in times past'; **Arlene Campbell** said: 'Such a lovely man'; **Morag Gillespie** posted: 'A wonderful Ambassador for Mary's Meals'; and **Alexander Clark** added: 'Great service to the community.' They are all bang on the money. Well done, Graeme, and all the other charitable souls who give their time freely.

### Scourge of drugs

AND, finally, well done also to the police officers involved in bringing Shane Kenny (see report on page three) to justice. As we report this week, he is the lowlife who was caught with heroin intended for supply in the Oban area.

Chief Superintendent Grant Manders, the divisional commander for Argyll area, has said previously that tackling drugs is among his top priorities.

We are lucky to have a police force that is so robust in its determination to catch the drug dealers. Drugs wreck the lives of addicts but are also the cause of much crime that blights the lives of others. Keep up the good work.

### What do you think?

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

## Future shines bright for candle entrepreneur

A Strachur woman known as 'The Candle Fairy' is celebrating one year in business selling her all natural creations. Unique, beautifully fragranced and inspired by nature, KMR Candles are the brainchild of Glasgow native-turned-country girl Rebecca MacRaid. 'The candles are all handmade at my home in Strachur,' Rebecca said. 'They are eco soya wax, biodegradable and vegan friendly with a non toxic aroma.'

Rebecca's candles are available online at [kmrcandles.co.uk](http://kmrcandles.co.uk) and locally at fine retail outlets such as Button Nose Boutique, the Eco Store in Dunoon, Benmore Botanic Garden shop and Loch Fyne Oysters, as well as at craft fairs and festivals around Scotland. But the Candle Fairy's magic is also making a splash further afield. 'I've had a candle back stage of America's Got Talent, and the make up artist Wendi San George tagged it on Instagram. I also have a celebrity who is known to purchase them,' she shared.

'I work around my three kids, Kayci, Max and Ryan, at home, and my husband Neil works away. I am still breastfeeding my youngest, which is great, as I can always be here for him while following my dream – and also avoiding the major child care costs!'

Rebecca creates candles for every occasion and taste, and she can personalise them for weddings or with photographs. Her Ailments line is especially popular, with soothing scents for everything from insomnia to slimming. Look for her Valentine's Day range out soon. KMR Candles offer extraordinary value for the money. The medium size, which provides over 60 hours of burning, is £18, and the large, with 300 hours burning time is £30. Her Loch Fyne oyster shell tealights are £5 for one or £18 for a gift box.

'I would love to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged me to grow,' said Rebecca. 'The future is certainly shining bright for KMR Candles!'

## Order now in time for Christmas!

Sensational range of themes and aromas to suit every occasion and budget - the perfect gift.

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Tel: 07554 008212 [www.kmrcandles.co.uk](http://www.kmrcandles.co.uk)

Also available from Button Nose Boutique (Oban), Loch Fyne Oysters, Eco Shop Dunoon, Hunters Quay Post Office & Shop and Benmore Botanical Garden Shop (Nr Dunoon).

KMR Candles  
HANDMADE IN SCOTLAND

# Send a Christmas card to Billy

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

THE family of Connel veteran Billy Irving are asking people to send him a Christmas card in his Indian jail, where he and five other British pirate hunters are awaiting an appeal against their five-year sentence for alleged firearms offences.

Billy and his family were left in 'limbo' again in November after an Indian appeal judge deferred his verdict without naming a date.

According to reports from Madras High Court, Justice A M Basheer Ahamed reserved his judgement after hearing the

appeals of the six British ex-servicemen, 14 Estonians, three Ukrainians and 12 Indians who are challenging the five-year sentence imposed on them on January 11 for being onboard the US anti-piracy vessel MV Seaman Guard Ohio, which was detained in 2013 for allegedly entering Indian territorial waters illegally with unlicensed arms and ammunition.

Billy's fiancée, Yvonne MacHugh, wrote on their Change.org petition page, entitled British Foreign Secretary: Free the Six British veterans from Indian Jail: 'As I sit here tonight writing Christmas cards, and reading the ones I've

already received, I cannot help but think about Billy and the lads in prison.

'Not a second goes past that I don't think about them.

'But at this time of year it always feels a lot harder to comprehend they are in prison.

'This will be their second Christmas in Puzhal Prison and their third Christmas spent in India, away from friends and family.

'At this point, while we wait for a verdict, there is very little else we can do.

'I did think however that there is something we can all do to brighten up the long, monotonous days the men spend

in prison, and spread some Christmas cheer to our men in Chennai.

'When writing your cards this year, why not write one more? Pop it in an envelope and send it to one or all of the men in India.

'Whether you know them or not, I am more than sure a Christmas card would be the very thing to reassure them that despite being in prison they've not been forgotten.'

Yvonne then listed their names - Billy Irving, John Armstrong, Nick Dunn, Nick Simpson, Paul Towers and Ray Tindall - and gave their postal address as: Office of Superintendent, Central Prison 1,

Puzhal, Tamil Nadu, Chennai, India, 600066.

On the appeal, Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara, a campaigner for Free the Seaman Guard Ohio 6, said: 'The family have been left in limbo. It is like wading through treacle. I sincerely hope there is an end to this.'

There were fresh grounds for hope, he said, because the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) told campaigners at their sixth meeting that the case was not now being treated as 'a national security issue' but as 'a run of the mill infringement'.

'There might be a favourable

judgement,' he added, 'but we have been here before.'

'They [the FCO] say, "We cannot affect the judicial system".

'At some point, they have to say: 'This is an absolute travesty'.

'It is such an obvious case. 'These men have been in three years and the appeals are still being heard.

'Now we are back waiting and waiting. I suspect the Tamil system ferociously protects its judicial independence from central government.

'These men have been caught up in a maelstrom of Indian politics: they have been caught in the crossfire.'

## TIMESLINE

### Stay healthy over the coming winter

NHS 24 is urging people across Scotland to look after their health this winter with a few simple steps that can help to avoid illness and take the pressure off busy NHS Scotland services over the festive holidays.

The Be Healthwise advises people that stocking up on over-the-counter medicines, checking any repeat prescriptions and ordering only what is needed to cover the holidays can help to avoid or deal with the most common winter ailments.

It is also a good idea to know GP surgery and local pharmacy opening hours over the festive break.

### Lucky winner had the unique code

FOLLOWING *The Oban Times* unique code competition, we had one lucky winner. Mrs J Cleave of North Connel, who won £50.

### Expect delays on A83 at Cairndow

MOTORISTS using the A83 at Cairndow are being warned they face disruption next week.

Works on the route began on Tuesday December 13 and will take approximately four days to complete.

The works at Cairndow are scheduled to take place between 7am and 7pm during weekdays only, and will involve the resurfacing of a section of trunk road approximately 800m long at Cairndow hill.

### Oban to host youth theatre auditions

SCOTTISH Youth Theatre is planning to form a new national ensemble and is inviting 16- to 25-year-olds to register for an open audition at the Rockfield Centre in Oban on February 11. There is no participation fee. Registration is now open at Scottish Youth Theatre's website [www.scottishyouththeatre.org](http://www.scottishyouththeatre.org).

## Pupils are at the cutting-edge of digital world

PUPILS from primary schools across Argyll and Bute recently descended upon Inveraray for a cutting edge digital leader event.

Organised by Argyll and Bute Council's Learning Technologies Team, the event saw 244 pupils from more than 40 local primary schools take part in a number of workshops aimed at training pupils to become digital leaders who are able to support their peers and, perhaps even teachers, with technology in schools.

Supported by iTeach, workshops included training in leadership, digital creation, designing, coding and programming.

The council's education spokesman, Councillor Rory Colville, said: 'This was an innovative and inspiring event.'

'It enabled pupils to apply the skills they learn in school to work context. With a growing number of employment opportunities for young people with an interest in digital technology, and more and more jobs relying on it, it is important that young people are confident in using technology.

'The young people who attended were extremely engaged in the work and their own learning. I look forward to seeing this great work developing further, with digital leaders supporting their peers in their own schools.'

The event ended with a prize draw for two mini drones.

The winning primary schools were Dalintober and Kilmolan.



Youngsters from across Argyll and Bute attended the digital leader event.

## Research show education improving

EDUCATION across Argyll and Bute is continuing to make progress, with a number of successes highlighted at the council's Community Services Committee on Thursday last week.

Improvements have been made to early years settings, with 93 per cent receiving 'good' or above grades from the Care Inspectorate by the end of June.

Members of the committee heard how the number of young people going on to a positive destination, such as further education, employment or training, after leaving school currently stands at 92.7 per cent. Looked-after young people are increasingly entering positive destinations too, with 88.2 per cent in 2015, compared with 68.4 per cent in 2014.

In the past year the council, in partnership with Argyll College UHI, West College



Councillor Rory Colville.

Scotland, local employers and secondary schools, offered a variety of 56 skills for work courses to 535 young people. A total of 1,535 pupils also accessed wider achievement qualifications, including the Saltire Awards Scheme, Duke of Edinburgh and basic food hygiene.

Individual schools and staff have also excelled, with a num-

ber of schools winning national awards and staff members receiving professional awards.

The council's policy lead for education, Councillor Rory Colville, said: 'I firmly believe that success can only be achieved through the hard work and dedication of every member of our staff, our children and young people, and our communities. They are our greatest assets and I offer my sincere congratulations and thanks to them all.'

'While much has been achieved across the service during the past year, we recognise that further important improvements are still being taken forward as part of our ambitious change programme.'

'The council is committed to improving education services across the area and has already started implementing a number of positive initiatives, including a detailed five-year plan.'

The council aims to develop approaches to engaging children and young people in shaping the quality of their learning experiences through the progression of Our Children, Their Future, the official launch of which will take place in January.

That vision will be delivered for all children through the following six key objectives:

- Raise educational attainment and achievement for all;
- Use performance information to secure improvement for children and young people;
- Ensure children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;
- Equip young people to secure and sustain positive destinations and achieve success in life;
- Strengthen high quality partnership working and community engagement;
- Strengthen leadership at all levels.

## Attacker warned he is facing jail term

A MAN is facing a prison sentence after an assault in Oban which left his victim unconscious and disfigured.

Garry McIvor, 31, of 4 Ulva Road, Oban, pleaded guilty to head-butting the man on August 22, causing him to fall to the ground, and then kicking him on the head to his unconsciousness and severe injury and permanent disfigurement.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court that on December 6 the incident occurred after the complainer and his friend had left a local bar.

Mr McGinty explained: 'During the course of their walk, he kicked over a traffic sign, and the accused remonstrated with them, and the complainer replied with words to the effect, "Who do you think you are speaking to?"

'There was not any further interaction between them, but as the complainer reached the

junction of George Street and Stevenson Street, the accused head-butted the complainer.

'He fell to the ground and as he remained on all fours, the accused kicked him on the head which rendered him unconscious.

'The accused walked away and the complainer remained motionless for four minutes.'

After an ambulance was called, Mr McGinty said the complainer's girlfriend 'found her partner unconscious with their friend, and contacted the police.'

The complainer was taken to hospital and received four stitches to a three-centimetre laceration on his forehead, and remained there overnight for observation.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred sentence for reports until January 30.

She told McIvor: 'You should be under no illusion a custodial sentence is a realistic option.'

## Save Big this Christmas with Gordons Chemists!

Advertorial

With top brands available at a fraction of their RRP, find out why thousands of people in Scotland go to Gordons Chemists and #GiftWithConfidence.

This week at Gordons Chemists we have two fantastic fragrances both available at less than half price! Hugo Deep Red EDT 90ml is £22.00, saving you £30. Hurry, because these fragrance offers end Sunday 18th December.

The Garnier Miracle skin set will have you believing in Christmas miracles as it revitalises your skin to keep it looking younger and smoother from first use, only £11.99 - saving you £8! Or you can give the gift of skincare with the striking Nivea Skin Pure moments set - great value at only £3.99.

Get him something he'll love for the less with the Man Stuff ultimate six pack, a unique set with all he needs to fill his toiletry bag for £5.99. Keeping with the theme of gifts under a tanner, the cool Old Spice original body set has £2.50 off at only £3.99 and the stylish Nivea Mens wash kit is only £9.49, saving you £3.

Keep up to date on our weekly offers and more on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/gordonsdirect](http://www.facebook.com/gordonsdirect). To see more of our amazing offers, pick up our 32 page Christmas Gift Guide in store.

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\* Offers available until Sun, 18th December



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OT

## North Connel and Benderloch

FISH farming firm Dawnfresh recently hosted a 'Taste your Local Fish' afternoon at North Connel Hall.

Everyone was welcome to attend this free event to sample delicious locally-farmed trout. Donations were accepted for hall funds.

A CAROL service was held on Thursday December 8 at St Oran's Church, Connel, in aid of Christian Aid's festive appeal.

This Christmas, 65 million people across the world are searching for safety and refuge as they have been forced out of their homes by violence and fear. It is hoped money raised at the service will help light the way to a better future for these people.

THE POPULAR pop-up café in Benderloch Church Hall on Friday afternoons has raised funds for many causes, including Ardochattan churches.

Proceeds from the café on Friday December 16 will be donated to Home Start Lorn. Enjoy some good company and fine baking while supporting local charities.

Everyone is welcome to 'pop in' between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

## Tiree

TO ENSURE the continued success of the Tiree Wave Classic, it is vital organisers gain an insight into the public perception of the event to report back to its funders.

Last year the group was grateful to Tiree Community Development Trust, which carried out a survey to gauge public feeling.

This year the survey has moved online with those taking part being entered into a prize draw.

Once 50 online surveys have been included, names will be drawn from a hat to win a wetsuit, a hooded sweat-shirt or an item of windsurfing equipment.

Anyone who would like to take part should visit the Tiree Wave Classic's Facebook page.

## Kilmore

KILMORE Community Council held a family evening in the hall to celebrate turning on the outside tree Christmas lights.

Mulled wine and nibbles were enjoyed by a large turnout of residents, with one lucky child winning the draw to turn on the tree lights. Santa arrived with gifts for all the children.

The New Year dance will be held in the hall on Saturday January 7, 2017.

The 100 Club draw was also held. Winners: A Houston, £100; M Griffin, £300 and S Grieve, £500.

## Colonsay

ORGANISERS of the Colonsay Book Festival have announced the line-up of authors for the sixth annual Hebridean literary celebration.

The two-day event will take place on Colonsay in the Southern Hebrides on April 29 and 30 2017. This year's programme marks the return of Alexander McCall Smith, million-selling author of *The Ladies' Number One Detective Agency*, 44 Scotland Street and the Isabel Dalhousie books, who helped launch the Colonsay Book Festival in its inaugural year in 2012. Joining him are Masterchef winner and cookery writer-turned-novelist Sue Lawrence, crime writer and novelist Karen Campbell, historian and journalist James Hunter, Glasgow Makar Jim Carruth and his Edinburgh Makar counterpart Christine de Luca. More information at [www.colonsaybookfestival.org.uk](http://www.colonsaybookfestival.org.uk).

## Western Isles

LIBRARIES in the Western Isles have launched a community film club, as part of a Scotland-wide innovative pilot project run by Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC).

The £190,000 initiative was made possible through Creative Scotland as part of their film strategy and aims to improve the provision of film and moving image education across Scotland.

As well as Western Isles Council, other participating authorities include City of Edinburgh Council, Falkirk Community Trust, Midlothian Council, Culture North Lanarkshire and South Ayrshire Council.



Some of the Dunbeg pupils with the shoeboxes.

## Dunbeg boxes up festive cheer

GENEROUS Dunbeg Primary School pupils collected 40 boxes of gifts this year for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal.

For 50 years the UK charity Blythswood Care has given practical help for those in need, from children up to the elderly, across Europe, Africa and Asia.

Every year it makes a Christmas shoebox appeal, asking people to donate shoeboxes packed with essential items, such as toothbrushes, soap, screwdrivers, sewing kits, kitchen utensils, stationary and socks, and small luxuries like toys, sweets and make-up, to distribute to those in need.

Dunbeg Primary School head teacher Sine MacVicar said: 'We are delighted to have sent in 40 boxes this year for this very worthy cause.'

'These boxes are already on their way to war torn countries where they will mean so much to families who otherwise receive very little at Christmas.'



Above: Achaleven Primary School pupils and staff pose in their Victorian dress. Left: Playtime at Achaleven's Victorian day.



## School turns back time to celebrate 150 years

ACHALEVEN Primary School in Connel held the ultimate throwback Thursday recently by hosting a Victorian day.

The school celebrates its 150th birthday this year, so they turned back time and discovered what a typical day would be like around the time the school opened.

Everyone, staff included, dressed for the occasion, and there were some bemused looks on the faces of the pupils when they went into class to see their desks laid out in rows.

The school was quiet compared to normal during class time and everyone was relieved when break time arrived so the children could have a go trying Victorian games such as marbles, jacks and the ageless skipping rope - and the staff could take a break from being so stern.

Millie in primary 5 pupil reflected: 'I didn't really

know what to expect. First we lined up, boys separate from the girls, and we went into class and had to stand behind our chairs. When work started it was easy for the older ones but harder for the younger ones so when they got stuck we had to show them. When someone came in the room we had to stand up.'

Lily, also from P5, added: 'We did something called drill. It's really just flapping your hands around the place. Then we did some arithmetic - it's like maths but easier. Then we went out for break and I played with the skipping rope. After break we did some reading and it was so easy.'

Their classmate Hannah said: 'We all curtsied to Mrs Burt and the boys took of their hats on our way into school. We all read the same book and for writing we wrote on

slates and we wrote things like cat. Mostly all we did was copy. Our school opened 150 years ago in 1866.'

The school will be celebrating throughout the school year, and looking at how village and school life has changed throughout the past 150 years.

Ellie Cooper, the school's clerical assistant, explained: 'They have already been looking at the archive school registers and it is fascinating to recognise family names and changing factors such as the influx of evacuated children to the area.'

'In the spring there will be an exhibition of photographs and the school will be open for past pupils to visit. If you have any old photos or stories then please contact the school on 01631 710529 or via their website on [www.achaleven.argyll-bute.sch.uk](http://www.achaleven.argyll-bute.sch.uk).'

## Lewis

LEWIS crofter Donald MacSween - or Sweeny as he is better known to many - captured the imagination of BBC Alba viewers last year as he tried to turn his passion for crofting in to a full-time occupation.

A year on, BBC Alba returns to *The Croft* for a new six-part series to see how his plans for year two are progressing.

Sweeny, from Ness on the Isle of Lewis, was given his croft by his parents as a 21st birthday present. He's had an interest in animals and crofting since he was a boy, spending a lot of time with his grandfather and his parents on the land.

Joining him in early spring, Sweeny can be seen gathering the sheep in from the moor ahead of lambing.

Having expanded his flock from 60 to 80, it will be a particularly busy time for

him and his dad, who is never too far away to lend a helping hand.

Hens and eggs were the main focus for Sweeny in turning his croft into a diverse business venture and hens are still at the forefront of its development. With the hens now two years old, egg production has decreased and Sweeny needs to consider buying new hens. Despite this, there are still a steady number of eggs being distributed to local shops.

Many crofters diversify to make a living, and this programme follows Sweeny as he discusses plans to increase his pig stock. With three pregnant sows now on the croft, it will hopefully not be long before this is a reality.

The Croft/An Lot, a six-part series produced by MacTV for BBC Alba, started on Monday (December 12) at 8.30pm.

## MORVERN lines

### Why history matters

I AM OFTEN asked what is the point of history and why does it matter what happened long ago?

The answer is history is inescapable and, far from being a 'dead' subject, it connects things through time and encourages people to take a long view or, as Winston Churchill once famously said, 'the farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see'.

History has made us what we are. The decisions and actions of our ancestors have shaped the land and locality we live in. Whatever you look at has roots in history. Have you ever wondered why we eat with knives and forks but some other cultures use chopsticks? History will tell you; it is being made every day.

I am a great believer in hands-on-history. Not long ago the past was something that came down to us by word of mouth or through reading dusty text books and acres of dull script. These days, when most people can't recall what they did the day before, let alone remember what their grandparents told them about their grandparents because it isn't on Facebook or Twitter, we need physical reminders to touch the past, see it, scent it, hear it or hold it in our hands.

The best example I know of is a story told to me by the late Lord Macleod of Fiunary (1895-1991) about his first memory of the island of Iona.

He said: 'When I was a boy of nine we went over to Iona. My father said, "I want you to talk to Mrs Mac Cormick. She is 85 years old and I think you should shake hands with her". So I shook hands with her, a little embarrassed. My father said, "Now I'll tell you why. When she was nine years old she shook hands with a Mrs Campbell, who was then 85 years of age, and Mrs Campbell, when she was nine, stood on this jetty and watched the ship going down the Sound of Iona carrying Prince Charles Edward Stewart back to France after Culloden".'

'Now that', said 85 years later, 'was a wonderful education in history - two handshakes away from Bonnie Prince Charlie.'

I had a similar experience on Lismore in June 1992 when I was invited to the celebrations to commemorate the 1,400th year of the death of St Moluag, the first Bishop of Argyll.

A service, led by one of his successors, the Right Rev George Henderson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, was held in the old cathedral (Parish Church) and attended by local people and Church of Scotland and Episcopalian clergy, some of whom had travelled a great distance to be present.



The late Alastair Livingstone of Bachuil, hereditary keeper of St Moluag's staff. Photograph: Julian Calder.

Central to the unique event was Alastair Livingstone (1914-2008) carrying St Moluag's ancient pastoral staff, called the Bachuil Mor from Latin baculum (staff) and Gaelic mor (big).

St Moluag was an Irish monk who left the Abbey of Bangor in 562 AD to create a Celtic monastery on Lismore. When he died 30 years later, his ornate staff was kept on the island and held in great veneration. Today the staff, which rests in an illuminated recess specially created for it in Bachuil House, is a plain curved blackthorn stick, 34-inch long, slightly turned up at one end, containing a number of small bronze tacks or headless nails still holding little pieces of an inner bronze sheath.

The staff became so important in the following centuries as a relic that guardians, or keepers, were appointed to take care of it. When St Moluag died, his descendants, called 'Coarbs', became hereditary Keepers of the Bachuil Mor and were rewarded with a feudal barony confirmed in 1544 by Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll.

'From time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary', Alastair Livingstone's family fulfilled that role and still hold the title, Baron of the Bachuil, 'by the Grace of God'.

With all this in mind, it was with reverence and respect that I took St Moluag's staff in my hands from Alastair Livingstone in Bachuil House on June 25, 1992. It was awesome to think that when the mighty Roman Empire was crumbling, when the Prophet Mohammed was a boy, when King Harold fell at Hastings, when Bruce had the brooch of Lorn ripped from his shoulders at the Battle of Brander, this holy staff was 'working its magic' on Lismore.

According to local tradition, St Moluag's staff had miraculous powers. It has been claimed that where it was present, it ensured safety at sea, truth on land, a safeguard against disease and, as long as its keepers honoured the hereditary trust placed in them, if taken away or stolen, it would always find its way back to Lismore.

A few weeks ago Bachuil House was advertised for sale in *The Oban Times*, giving rise to concern in the local community that the Bachuil Mor might leave Lismore forever. Of all the miracles attributed to the staff there is surely none more hoped for now than its ability to return to the place where it undoubtedly belongs should it be necessary.

Iain Thornber  
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We want you to join Scotland's fight against fire by following our winter safety tips:

- Keep portable heaters away from curtains and furniture, never use them for drying clothes, and turn them off before going to bed.
- Never leave an electric blanket switched on when you're in bed unless it is marked 'suitable for all night use'. Check the blanket, plug and flex for damage and, if in doubt, don't use it.
- Unplug fairy lights and electric Christmas decorations and blow out candles when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Leaving cookers unattended or being distracted while cooking is the most frequent cause of fire in the home. Never

cook hot food while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- Most fatal fires are caused by smoker's materials. Don't smoke in your chair or in bed if you've been drinking or you're feeling tired.
- Check your smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms are working and replace batteries if necessary. Use Christmas as a reminder to clean them and remove dust.
- If you have a chimney make sure it's swept this winter and use a fire guard where necessary.
- For more advice on how to keep your home safe from fire this winter visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk/winter](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/winter)

If you know an older person and are worried about their safety this winter why not look in on them and make sure they get the support that's available through a free Home Fire Safety Visit?

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OT

# Furious response greets news of rise in Corran Ferry fares

ELLIE FORBES  
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HIGHLAND Council budget papers leaked last week indicate that fares on the Corran Ferry could increase by 10 per cent.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter told *The Oban Times* he had seen the draft budget proposals which were leaked to the media on Thursday.

He took to Facebook to say: 'Leaked, the Highland Council budget papers propose another staggering 10 per cent increase of fares on the Corran Ferry. I am amazed this can be even contemplated after all the local community has said about the impact of fare increases.'

He later said a senior council officer had confirmed to him the increase was part of the council's current budget proposals.

Mr Baxter said that the council now sees the Corran Ferry as 'income generation to raise cash for the council - they must think there is a river of gold running through the Corran Narrows'.

A spokesperson for the council said that the document is of 'draft budget proposals' and that 'no decisions have been made'.

Mr Baxter said he had seen an 'enormous response from the community. People are worried,

especially those who use the ferry to go to Fort William on a daily basis. Alongside the community, I hope we can show enough opposition to the plans, and I hope the council sees sense - enough is enough.'

Chairwoman of Sunart Community Council Denise Anderson said: 'We were very concerned to hear about the alleged fare increases, and at the last meeting resolved to work closely with neighbouring communities to oppose another rise for what is already one of the most expensive ferry crossings in Europe.'

'The implementation of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) has seen a dramatic reduction in traffic travelling to Mull via Lochaline, with passengers using the Oban-Craignure route to Mull due to the expense of Corran crossing. This has impacted on some local businesses and we fear another increase will further deter visitors to the area, as well as penalising residents.'

Michael Foxley, a councillor in the area for 26 years, said: 'There has been more than a 40 per cent increase in ferry fares in the past three years. Talk of increasing them further is totally and utterly unacceptable.'

'The council has still not carried out an Equality Impact Assessment which is, in fact,

required by law. It needs to work out how an increase in fares could impact people. The council is ignoring this and it's at their peril.'

'This will affect tourists, but my key concern as a councillor was always for the people who live and work in the area and use the ferry every day. There are a lot of people for whom using the ferry is a significant cost - people who use it daily to go to work in Fort William and further.'

When asked how he thought people would respond to a further increase, Mr Foxley said: 'I think there will be very real anger from people.'

Councillor Baxter added: 'If you buy a book of 30 tickets for the ferry it works out at £2.25 a journey compared to £8.20. But if this were to increase, a single journey would cost around £2.60.'

People took to Mr Baxter's Lochaber Voice Facebook page to comment on the proposal calling it 'disgusting,' 'unfair,' 'absurd' and 'a disgrace'.

Some said it would 'kill the tourism trade', questioned if the council represents residents in Morvern and Ardnamurchan, and claimed the price of a journey on the Corran Ferry would be the same as going from Kilchoan to Tobermory - a 35-minute journey.



A JOINT effort between staff, pupils and the Lochaber community has seen a 414-square tapestry put together at Caol Primary School.

Primary four teacher Jennifer Easson came up with the idea about a year ago to celebrate the opening of the new school. Her idea came from fond memories of making one when she was in primary seven.

Ms Easson said: 'My P4 class worked with all the kids from the school, staff and members of the community on the project, as each

group had a different theme for their squares.' They focused on outdoor learning, Caol, Fort William, Lochaber, the Highlands and Scotland.

The children have been working on their squares since February, with the primary four pupils helping support the younger children with researching their topics. Ms Easson, along with her mum, then hand-stitched each individual square over the October holidays. The 414 square tapestry now has pride of place in the school for everyone to see. Picture: ABrightside Photography

## 12 years for chainsaw attacker

A CRAZED man who attacked his ex-girlfriend's elderly parents with a chainsaw days after she split up with him has been jailed for 12 years.

James MacDonald almost hacked off John MacPherson's arm after bursting into the pensioner's home in Caol and threatening to kill the victim's daughter, Tracey.

The High Court in Edinburgh heard how the 48-year-old stood in the family's living room revving the chainsaw before turning it on 74-year-old Mr MacPherson's terrified wife, Flora.

Mr MacPherson tried to save his 63-year-old wife and was left with massive injuries as MacDonald attacked him.

Judge Lord Boyd heard how the couple told each other they loved one another as John feared he was going to die.

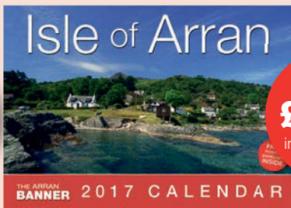
Details of the horror attack emerged last month as MacDonald admitted the attempted murder of Mr MacPherson and other charges. Sentence had been deferred for the court to obtain reports about MacDonald's background. □ Police reaction - page three.



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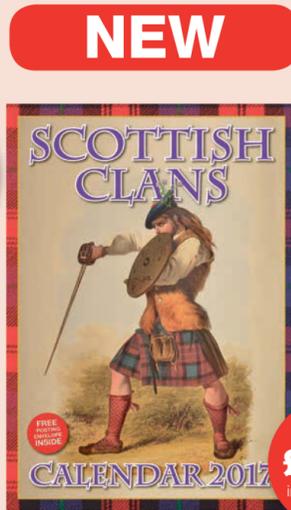
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# Paid advertising on roundabouts

**ELLIE FORBES**  
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THE Highland Council has approved plans for advertising on the A830 roundabout at the Blar Mhor, despite objections from the community. Planning permission was granted at the South Planning Applications Committee on Tuesday (December 13). The application, which came from the Highland Council as part of an initiative to raise

revenue for the local authority, faced objections from Kilmallie Community Council (KCC), which raised a number of safety concerns at the time of the application in August. In a letter of objection, the community council said: 'The only purpose of the signs is to attract the attention of motorists. Any distractions at roundabouts will create additional risks. 'With the recent spate of tragic accidents on our trunk roads, and particularly the A82,

Transport Scotland and Highland Council should be doing all they can to improve safety rather than doing things that will increase risk of accidents.' But Transport Scotland did not raise any safety concerns. A spokesperson said: 'The safety of the trunk road network is our priority and, when the Highland Council approached us about the introduction of roundabout sponsorship, we agreed to the scheme in principle with each roundabout to

be reviewed according to its location, signs' sizes and type of sponsor to ensure that safety is not compromised.' The community council also said: 'We have had strong feedback from the community that people do not want this area to be covered in advertising notices. If such notices are promoted by Highland Council, this is likely to encourage others, including more unauthorised notices. 'These signs are a bit like dropping litter in that once

there are some, then people think it is acceptable and it rapidly increases.' KCC added that advertising on the roundabout would undermine the efforts of groups such as Banavie in Bloom, Corpach in Colour and the Kilmallie Christmas lights fund, who work to improve the 'visual character of the area'. The council and Transport Scotland have now come up with a draft agreement about the signs.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson said: 'This objection/observation by Kilmallie Community Council, with whom I work closely as a local councillor, shows how difficult it is for the public and many councillors to fully understand how perilous the finances of Highland Council are. 'If the council can increase income streams, then it just may be able to keep on staff, helping spread money through the economy of the area.'

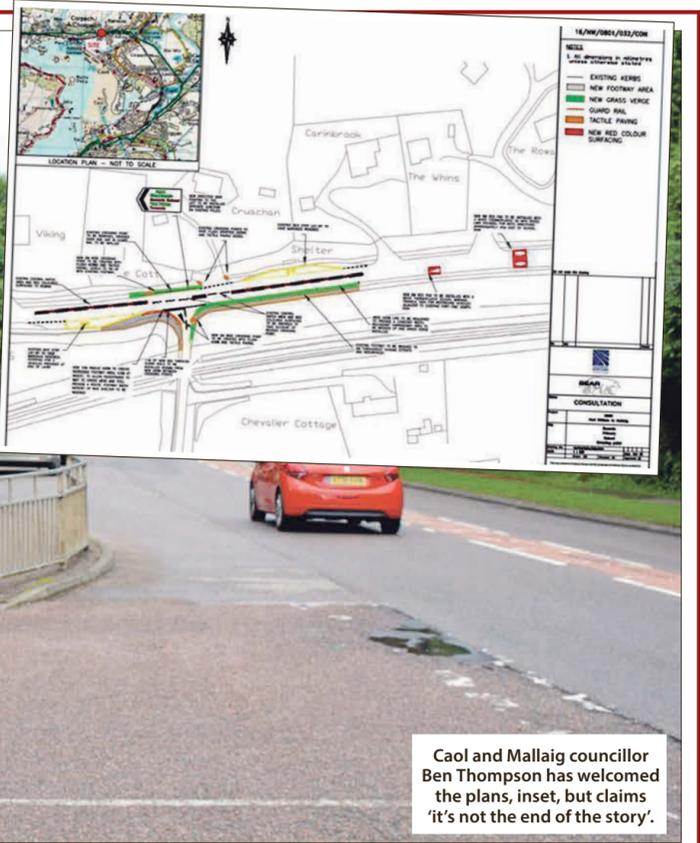
## POLICE FILES

BETWEEN 4pm on Friday December 9 and 10am on December 10, a blue Volkswagen Passat which was parked unattended on Kennedy Road, Fort William, was damaged when its back window was smashed. Anyone with information in relation to this incident is asked to contact police on 101.

BETWEEN 10pm on Thursday December 8 and 8am the following day, a Trek Marlin mountain bike was stolen from the stairwell of Loch Linnhe Buildings in Fort William. The bike is a white 2015 model, has 24 gears, front suspension, silver bottle cage, and front and rear lights. Anyone with information is asked to call officers on 101.

## Kath's cards are for cash

A LOCHABER woman is again on a quest to get people to recycle their used Christmas cards. Kath Johnston is encouraging people to donate their used Christmas cards to her so she can upcycle them, turning them into gift tags to raise money for the British Heart Foundation (BHF). Kath had a huge quantity of used cards donated last year and created nearly 15,000 tags that were distributed to 14 BHF shops, including the one in Fort William, raising more than £1,200 for the charity. You can take your old cards to the reception desk at the Alexandra Hotel or to Kath directly at 119 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore, Fort William, PH33 6TX. Alternatively, Kath can arrange to pick them up. Contact her on 01397 703689.



Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson has welcomed the plans, inset, but claims 'it's not the end of the story'.

## Safety proposals for school junction are unveiled

PLANS to improve safety at the Banavie Primary School junction have been unveiled. The school's parent council received drawings from Transport Scotland earlier this week outlining plans to narrow the A830 carriageway at the existing patrolled crossing, shortening the crossing distance and reducing the speed of vehicles. The existing crossing of the A830 is an average of 11.4m wide, with the proposed crossing width narrowing to 7.4m. A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'We shared our proposed design to improve safety at the Banavie Primary School junction with the head teacher, parent council and other community representatives this week, following a productive meeting held in July to understand the issues at the junction. 'Our proposed plans include narrowing the road at the existing patrolled crossing to reduce vehicle speeds and the time it takes to cross the road, which will

make it easier and safer for those wishing to cross. 'We are also working with utility companies with regards to timescales and have asked stakeholders for their views on undertaking works during the Easter break to minimise disruption for the school. We are looking forward to receiving feedback on our proposals and suggested timescales.' But Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson has said that, while the proposal is to be 'welcomed', it is 'not the end of the story'. He said: 'The crossing should be a pelican crossing like the A82 at Inverloch. The A830 has less traffic but higher traffic speed. I'll certainly keep pushing for pelican crossings here and elsewhere on the A830.' Mr Thompson told said: 'It frustrates me that Transport Scotland's trunk road policy prioritises maintaining vehicle speeds over pedestrian safety in rural Highland villages. This is especially a

problem where the trunk road is the only road right through the middle of a village, as it is in many Highland villages. 'The council leader, Margaret Davidson, has recently raised this issue with Humza Yousaf, the Scottish transport minister. I'm pushing to rebalance the priority back towards vulnerable local users, especially where primary-age kids are regularly involved.' Louise Pescod, from the school's parent council, added: 'We have built up a good relationship with Transport Scotland after working with it over the past year on this and I am pleased with the progress. This is a way forward for us - something positive is finally happening and it's a step in the right direction. 'The volume of traffic coming through Banavie and Corpach will continue to increase and we need to be proactive, not reactive. 'The parents I have spoken to are on board and want to push on with the plans now.'

## Music fest planned for Fort

FORT WILLIAM is to welcome a new music and culture festival next year. Highland Tribes will take place at the Nevis Centre on July 15. The festival will take place over two stages at the centre. On the main stage, audiences can find 'bigger and more interactive bands, which include some of the biggest tribal drum bands in the country and beyond'. The smaller stage will be in the acoustic lounge, where people can hear new up-and-coming acts from around the Highlands. The festival is now looking to hear from musicians who would like to perform at the event. Violinists, guitarists, drummers, pipers and others can all now apply to appear on one of the live music stages. To find out more about how you can apply, head to <http://www.highlandtribes.co.uk/applications-now-open-for-musicians>. Highland Tribes has also launched a 57th Nevis Fund to help the centre battle funding cuts. Every ticket sold at the event will include a five per cent levy which will then be donated to the centre for maintenance and restoration.

## Police welcome jailing of violent chainsaw attacker

SENIOR police officers have welcomed the sentencing of chainsaw attacker James MacDonald on Tuesday at the High Court in Edinburgh. Police Scotland released the following statement shortly after MacDonald was jailed for 12 years for the attack on John MacPherson and his wife Flora in July. Detective Chief Inspector Michael Sutherland said: 'Police Scotland acknowledges the custodial sentence received by James MacDonald today. 'MacDonald's victims suffered a terrifying, violent



James MacDonald.

ordeal within their own home, somewhere they ought to feel safe at all times. 'The mental and physical harm caused by MacDonald's actions will have a lasting impact on his victims, who

are to be commended for their bravery throughout the investigation and court proceedings. 'Acts of such violence are fortunately rare in the Highlands and are understandably distressing for the entire community. We extend our gratitude to the residents of Caol for their support during our inquiries. 'Our message to violent offenders is clear: this behaviour is absolutely not acceptable and we will carry out rigorous investigations to ensure those responsible for such acts are swiftly brought to justice.'

## Police say ATMs are safe to use

POLICE have confirmed 'all is well' with cash machines in Fort William after they had been put out of use following concerns of suspicious activity. The automatic teller machines (ATM)'s outside Morrisons had been covered by police tape and put out of commission after a member of the public reported the appearance of an unusual message on screen during a transaction on December 8. A spokesperson for Lochaber police said: 'We sent an officer down to Corpach after



concern was raised but there was nothing to report. An engineer has checked the machines at Morrisons and they

are also fine. The machines were out of action for a couple of days but all is well now.' Picture: ABrightside Photography.

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## Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

If there is one issue that has got people in Oban talking over the past few weeks, it has been the change to refuse collections from every two weeks to every three weeks.

On the one hand, the council is between a rock and a hard place. With budgets cut to the bone, councillors had the difficulty of trying to find ways to make the money go further without losing key services.

But there can be no doubt that cutting bin collections to every three weeks just isn't working. Not only is it unpopular, but as our front page story highlights this week, it is impacting on communities such as Soroba, where they seem to have too few bins to cope with the amount

of rubbish being generated. Bins are full to capacity long before the bins are due to be emptied and the overspill has the potential to attract rats and seagulls. With the bins situated close to a children's playpark, it is hardly surprising the community are upset.

However, hats off to the local councillors and ACHA who have stepped in and organised for an extra bin collection after being made aware of the situation.

This is great news in the short-term, but a long-term solution needs to be found, because while it is right to encourage increased recycling to reduce the refuse going to landfill, the reality is it is not going to happen overnight.



## Days gone by – Taynuilt in 1991

The clock turns back not too far this week, in fact only to 1991, and the Taynuilt Games. In this photograph, Lord Gray is leading the parade through the village, complete with pipe band.

### Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON  
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#### Glasgow 'greetings' for a Highland gent

GLASGOW has for many years been renowned for the great welcome and kindness of its people.

The slogan 'People Make Glasgow' seems to be emblazoned on every mode of public transport, every public building, and every bus-stop advertising board from Pollokshaws to Partick.

The famous Glaswegian charm was in evidence a couple of weeks ago when a highlander, who shall remain nameless, made the trip down to the city to come to our Tide Lines show in the art school.

This gentleman had left his car in a multi-storey car park and was given a token with which he had to pay on return.

After the gig, fairly late at night, he and his family walked back to the car park and quickly found out that teachers and state-of-the-art, modern car parking technology should not really mix.

He was unsure which way to put the token into the slot – but considered himself to have four different options: downside up, upside-down, front to back and back to front.

### Social media

OUR story about an increase in fly-tipping, especially in the Dunbeg area, touched a nerve with readers.

Carol Needham complained: 'I don't normally comment on things like this and would never condone fly tipping but with 3 weekly bin uplifts and charges for everything else then do you blame them?'

'I have a family of 6 my eldest child being an adult and I burn all paper ect in the fire, recycle what I can, and I avoid products that have lots of packing and generally I have way more rubbish than fills 2 green bins, but I get there, I can see a rise in flytipping spoiling beautiful Oban in the years

He tried all four, and none of them worked.

In his moment of desperation, and assuming himself to be stuck in Glasgow forever with no access to his motor, he was approached rather suddenly by a man with very handy local knowledge.

'Oi, ya maniac!' shouted the Glaswegian. 'It goes in sidey-ways!'

Perplexed, our highland protagonist did a double take at the small token.

'Gies it here, ya maniac,' said the Glaswegian.

'Ah'll dae it fur ya.'

With this, the chap slotted the token perfectly into the machine, sighed, muttered 'maniac' one more time under his breath, and was gone.

Ah, the warmth of the Glasgow people was so keenly felt that evening by our highland gent, who was later to comment that, since his last trip to Glasgow for a dance 20 years previously, the Glasgow dialect had changed slightly, and 'maniac' was obviously now the greeting of choice.

### What's on

Saturday December 17: The Highlanders' Club dance in the Partick

to come by these ridiculous 3 week collections, council think they are encouraging people to tip less they are actually encouraging the opposite and although I would never condone or do it myself I cannot blame those who do.'

Chloe Louise Brown offered: 'It's just as bad along the railway line fence in Connell in the woods, probably the same in most places it's a disgrace.'

Tracey Reid posted: 'You should see longdale terrace it's worst.'

Jean Gibson wrote: 'This will only get worse with 3 week pick ups and people in rural communities living so far from recycling centres.'

Burgh Hall to the music of Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band from 8pm till 11pm.

Wednesday January 4: Seisean-ciùil Gàidhlig / An Lochran Gaelic music session in the Lismore.

Saturday January 7: Glasgow Skye Association New Year family ceilidh in the Crawford Hall.

Friday January 27: The Glasgow Uist and Barra Association New Year dance in the Glasgow University Union.

Wednesday February 1: Seisean-ciùil Gàidhlig / An Lochran Gaelic music session in the Lismore.

Thursday February 2: Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar spring concert in the Ellangowan Social Club.

### Pub scene

Park Bar.  
Friday December 16: Martainn Skene.

Saturday December 17: Robert Nairn and Donald Macrae.

Sunday December 18: Scott Harvey.

Islay Inn.

Friday December 16: Twist of Fate.

Saturday December 17: Parting Glass.

Wednesday December 21: quiz night.



AND reports that youth engagement police officer Claire Brown wants to set up a new youth club in Oban drew a number of comments for and against the idea.

Louise Kilmurray Marshall said: 'It's not a youth club they need, this is what brings in the drugs and drink, I can vouch for this!!!! They need a work unit, something interesting for them to do. E.g. Mechanical work, painting, decorating, joinery ect.'

Ian Lockhart suggested: 'If people stopped opposing a bike / skate park then maybe just maybe young people would find something they can use and make a hobby of.'

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

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

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

### We must stand up and fight against quarry

Sir,  
Love it or hate it, we all know the words of the unofficial Scottish national anthem: 'O Flower of Scotland, when will we see your like again? That fought and died for your wee bit hill and glen.' And it goes on: 'Those days are past now, and in the past they must remain.'

Oh, would that it were so. But it isn't. It is happening in Glen Creran right now and we must rise up and defend our land once again.

This proposed quarry development is environmental vandalism and should be resisted by every means available to us, including, if necessary, robust direct action. The effect on the landscape and rare and protected flora and fauna will be devastating. The effect on local roads and on the lives of the residents and visitors will be catastrophic.

Dominique Collinet, the absentee landlord, a Belgian national reputedly resident in Luxembourg, wants to turn Glen Creran into an industrial area for his own private profit and he must be stopped for the sake of future generations. Our heritage is at stake here.

Furthermore, there is no need for this development.

There are already established quarries at Benderloch and a huge one at Bonawe, which is an object lesson for what will happen to Glen Creran if we don't stop it.

And before anyone tries to tell you otherwise, the number of new jobs created by this proposal will be tiny. The game isn't worth the candle, especially when weighed against the detrimental effects on ecology, tourism and related activities.

But we cannot trust the planners to stop this proposal. Their track record reveals at best the most appalling incompetence and at worst something far more sinister, especially where big business is concerned.

The notorious Connel debacle is but the latest in a catalogue of planning disasters so far as the built environment and the lives of ordinary citizens are concerned – the very things the planners are employed to protect.

In any event, the lesson is clear: we must take matters into our own hands. And that means political action, to force the planners to do the right thing and stand up for Scotland and its people, not big business and globalised private interests.

If the Scottish Government doesn't intervene immediately to halt this proposal in its tracks, then its majority party will lose all credibility.

What is the SNP about if it isn't committed to preserving our heritage in the teeth of foreign exploitation?

And Glen Creran is an absolutely classic case. Lose this one and they will have lost the lot. People are very angry about this latest proposed violation, and it would behoove our representatives, both locally and nationally, to take heed and act accordingly.

John Gosling,  
Siskin, Barcaldine.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

GED IS E AMANNAN dripeil a' th'anns an Nollaig is anns a' Bhliadh'n Ùr a dh'aindeoin gach uallach a dh'fhaodadh a bhith nan lùib, 's e cuideachd amannan sona agus toilichte a th' anna dha mòran.

Ach gu mì-fhortanach chan eil sin fìor dha na h-uile idir mar a tha naidheachdan an t-saoghail a' dearbhadh le aithrisean air sgrìos agus bròn chogaidhean agus suidheachadh èiginneach nam feadhna a tha ri fulang nan lùib.

Nach truagh an fhianais air mac an duine gum bheil sinn cho fada air falbh bho shìth eadar-nàiseanta 's a bha sinn riann, agus gum bheil na mìltean mòra air feadh an t-saoghail a' bàsachadh le dìth bìdh is aire.

Tha duilgheadasan eaconamach a' cur a truaighe buileach air cùisean is dùthchannan feadh an t-saoghail a' strì ri crìonadh beartais agus an cuid sluaigh a' fulang fo bhuaidh ghearraidhean sheirbheisean de gach seòrsa.

Sin gu ìre mar a tha sinn fhìn ann an Alba is dà riaghaltas a-nise dol a bhith gar fàsadh le cisean, ged nach eil fàs làidir eaconamach sam bith ri fhaicinn. 'S dòcha gur ann ri linn

### Reduction in MPs is disproportionate

Sir,  
All political parties spin but when they state an untruth they should be called out. In *Westword* (the community newspaper for West Lochaber and the Small Isles) our SNP MSP Kate Forbes writes: 'The Westminster government is taking retrograde steps by reducing the number of MPs in the Highlands from three to two.'

This propaganda is a travesty. The total number of MPs at Westminster is being reduced and there are cuts in each of the constituent nations (Scotland is losing six MPs).

But the decision to reduce disproportionately the number of MPs from the Highlands is being taken in Edinburgh, not London. It's all there for anyone to see on the website of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, Edinburgh.

Denis Rixson,  
Fank Brae, Mallaig.

### Why are our sports teams struggling?

Sir,  
It is with sadness that we are witnessing the sorry standard of our football teams in recent times. It is not just our national team that is grim, it has also happened in the amateur game and in rural areas.

Here on the islands, the standard of play in past 20 odd years has also deteriorated and is nowhere near the high standard of the 1960s and 1970s, and that is despite sports facilities and all kinds of support being available in our education system in recent years.

I have also witnessed the same fate happening in the local Highland games athletic competitions in the summer months. Those standards have fallen to the extent that I do not attend the games any longer.

Then again, I have also noticed an apathy in life in general in comparison to the generation of some 40 or 50 years ago.

I believe this is not just a minor problem, but a major one. It is really painful to watch, when you have witnessed live on pitches the high standards of players such as Jim Baxter, Denis Law, Jinky Johnstone and so on in the professional game and many others, locally and nationally, of similar standards in the amateur circles.

We simply have no talent anymore and the get-up-and-go factor seems to be missing. However, hope springs eternal but will we have to wait until eternity to see it happening again?

Angus Campbell,  
Garrynamonie, South Uist.

### Urgent action needed to stop speeding cars

Sir,  
I would like to raise the issue in the strongest way possible of the speed of traffic at the Banavie Bridge area which has been raised several times in the past and nothing has been done. This is

mainly due to the extreme speed of the traffic on this part of the road coming from the Blah and Corpach.

A couple of days ago, at dusk, I was cycling back from the town and spotted a lump on the road. I stopped and discovered it was a large otter which had been run over. It was still warm but dead as I tried to resuscitate it. I picked it up just as a large timber wagon came speeding down from Corpach. He would never have been able to stop. I laid the otter on the grass.

However, I digress. The speed of traffic is my main concern at this particular area. Many people cross the road with children, pushchairs, people with disabilities, cyclists, horse riders, dog walkers and so on. I am quite surprised that no-one has ever been killed like that poor otter, but it will happen. Also cars, cyclists and other vehicles join here from the Gairloch road.

We need speed bumps, traffic cameras or something to act as a calming influence before someone is killed.

I do not exaggerate the speed of this traffic along this route. Something has to be done as there's not even so much as a zebra crossing.

Ken Johnson,  
Serendipity, Banavie.

### Gathering was a celebration of Jura

Sir,  
The annual gathering of the Glasgow Jura Association was held on Friday November 11.

Vice-president Dr Alasdair Watson presented Charles Renwick with his silver president's medal commemorating 35 years as president of the association. Robert Robertson entertained the gathering with his singing and was presented with a tie from the Isle of Jura Rugby Club.

Lorraine Kelly and Sarah, Duchess of York, sent messages of goodwill to the association, both having visited Jura recently.

Dr A K Watson,  
6 St Mirren Street, Paisley.

### RAF men were likely to be footballers

Sir,  
My attention was brought to last month's photograph of an RAF team.

I have a large collection of RAF Oban photos but I do not recognise any of the men – although that is not surprising given the numbers present at that time in Oban.

I can say that this is a photo of one of the teams in the RAF Oban Station Football League. Each of the main hotels where the RAF were billeted had its own team. This is likely to be from the Marine Hotel, season 1941/42 and formed of personnel from No. 21 Squadron who were based in Oban then with Catalina flying boats.

I have similar photos of other teams in the league. The original photo may provide more recognisable faces.

Neil Owen,  
Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul

uallaichean bith-beò a tha uimhir buailteach leigeil le tlachd àm Nollaige ciall àbhaisteach a chur an dàrna taobh agus iad fhèin a leigeil ann am fiachan a bhios nan uallach dhàibh fad mhiosan romhpa.

Le cinnt tha leithid sin a' tachairt bitheanta aig an àm seo den bhliadhna agus theagam gur ann an uairsin a thuigear gu meallta 's a dh'fhaodas cairtean-creideis a bhith.

Ach bu dòn dhuinne bhith gearan an coimeas ris na tha nam fògarraich a' sireadh beatha ùr agus sìth, neo an fheadhainn a tha a' fulang gort. Ge b' e dè cho beag 's a bhiodh an tiodhlac, bu mhath cuimhneachadh air na daoine sin fad na bliadhna, agus feuchainn ri an suidheachadh a leasachadh anns a h-uile dòigh is urrainn dhuinn.

Tha e doirbh a chreidsinn gum bheil ceudan mhiltean chloinne ann an Alba a' fulang bochdainn aig an àm seo fhèin, agus cha b' iongnadh naire a bhith air luchd-poilitigs bho gach pàrtaidh à leithid de shuidheachadh.

Ged a dh'fheumas deasbad agus cronachadh phoileasaidhean a bhith aig crìdh saoghal phàrtaidhean riaghlaidh agus dùbhlain nach saoil-

amaid gum biodh aonta eatarra a tha-obh cuid de cheistean cho bunaiteach ri leasachadh bochdainn chloinne, agus gum d' rachadh dèiligeadh ris gum dàil.

Nuair a stèidhicheadh an Riaghaltas ùr seo ann an Alba, chaidh a ghealltainn gum biodh iad ag èisteachd agus a' dèanamh dicheall gus co-obrachadh a dh'ionnsaigh math an t-sluaigh gu lèir.

Saoilidh mi nach eil sin idir cho follaiseach 's a dh'iarrainn, agus bu mhath an tiodhlac Nollaige e dhan dùthaich nan dèanadh Buill-Pàrlamaid nas lugha shlaicheadh eadar-phàrtaidh agus barrachd cho-obrachaidh!

SADLY, this is not a season of happiness for everyone and it is important throughout the year to remember those suffering hardship here and in other places.

Scotland's best Christmas gift would surely be more cross-party parliamentary co-operation for the benefit of the country.

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

### Your letters

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

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

be printed. 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.

# BUSINESS NEWS

TO ADVERTISE IN OUR BUSINESS SECTION PLEASE CALL OUR SALES TEAM ON 01631 568000

## Award marks crowning glory for hairdresser

THE AWARD-WINNING Avalon Hair and Beauty Salon in Oban has notched up another accolade to add to its collection.

Salon owner Jackie Den Heijer was crowned the colour technician of the year at the Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards 2016 in front of 600 professionals from across the country.

The Oban-based business was also shortlisted in the hair salon of the year category, as well as having staff members Natalie Pacitti and Elaine Boyce shortlisted for beautician of the year and junior stylist of the year respectively.

'Winning colour technician of the year was a complete shock,' Jackie said. 'I was up against some of Scotland's best

and most sought-after stylists, most of whom have years on me.'

'To be given this award means so much and has proven that hard work really does pay off.'

'This is absolutely a collective award though - we all put our heart and soul in to our services for each and every person who sits in our chairs.'

'We all work together to make sure that clients leave delighted, and without my team this award wouldn't have been possible.'

'I have the most amazing team.'

'Each one of them works so hard to make sure our clients leave having had the best salon experience possible. Just being nominated is an honour.'

'To have my team recognised,

and shortlisted as some of the best in Scotland is an indescribable feeling.'

'The commitment and talent that they show on a daily basis is outstanding and I am honoured to have such an awesome team.'

Avalon was chosen as the hair salon of the year at the Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards in both 2014 and 2015.

And it was named the hair and beauty salon of the year earlier this year at the Scottish Independent Retail Awards 2016.

Jackie added: 'Avalon continues to grow at an outstanding rate and we are moving in to a very exciting 2017 and looking forward to taking our clients, old and new, on the journey with us.'



Jackie Den Heijer was crowned the colour technician of the year.

## Minister in meeting with fishing bosses

FISHING industry leaders met with UK immigration minister Robert Goodwill MP on Tuesday to discuss crew shortages.

This meeting followed on another on November 4 when MP Angus MacNeil met Mr Goodwill together with Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara, who also represents fishing communities. At this meeting, the minister agreed to meet with fishing industry leaders before the end of the year.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I am pleased that Mr Goodwill has kept to his word and met with fishing industry leaders, who included representatives from the Western Isles.'

'The West Coast is in need of fishing crews and the UK government, rather than blocking the economy, must help it in line with the wishes of Scotland, the islands and fishing communities. This is a huge test of understanding for the UK government as everybody can see the sense in this. The fishing industry is suffering because of a lack of crew. This meeting allowed for the fishing industry to make a direct plea to the immigration minister.'

## Firms are losing £19,000 in energy

BUSINESSES in Argyll and Lochaber are wasting around £19,000 on average each year through energy inefficiency, according to figures from Zero Waste Scotland.

Scottish Government loans of up to £100,000 are available to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them make positive efficiency changes, subsequently saving themselves money by reducing waste.

Examples include installing LED lighting, better insulation, boiler upgrades and renewable technologies, and can range in scale and cost with unsecured funding of £1,000 to £100,000 available.

In addition to financial assistance, businesses also receive their own Resource Efficient Scotland expert adviser to help them make their plans a reality and help with each step of the project.

Zero Waste Scotland chief executive Iain Gulland said: 'We know many businesses share our vision of maximising resource efficiency and keeping costly waste to a minimum, and often it's the initial investment needed that's the missing ingredient.'

'The SME loan fund is a great way for enterprises to make optimum use of energy, water and waste under expert guidance at no extra cost - ultimately delivering savings while helping the environment.'

For more information and to apply, visit [www.resourceefficientscotland.com/SMEloan](http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com/SMEloan).

## People urged to watch out for wet and dry rot

A NATIONAL trade body is urging householders in Oban to be vigilant for wet and dry rot.

Wet and dry rot thrives in damp and humid conditions and this year's weather pattern - comprising of a short winter, a deluge of rain in spring and a warm summer - provides the perfect conditions for it to take hold.

According to the Property Care Association (PCA), issues with dampness can impact on a property's structure if not properly addressed.

More details are available at <http://www.property-care.org/homeowners/timber-treatment>.



The Taynuilt Hotel is being rebranded and will focus on fine dining.

## Double rosette restaurant relaunches

ONE OF Scotland's most exciting young chefs, John McNulty, is relaunching the Taynuilt Hotel, where he is chef/patron, as The Taynuilt: Etive Restaurant with Rooms in 2017.

John bought the traditional coaching inn in 2012 and renovated it, opening a restaurant - the Snug - to great acclaim.

Now, after four years, with a loyal foodie following and two AA rosettes under his belt, John has not only outgrown The Snug but wishes to refocus on the food aspect of the business.

As a result, he is set to move the restaurant to a larger dining room which

will reopen in early 2017. The new name pays tribute to the original, historical coaching inn with a nod to nearby Loch Etive.

The Etive will be a showcase for John's cooking and will be an intimate fine dining experience with only 20 covers, ensuring diners receive the very best of Scottish food, hospitality and service.

The dining room itself will be an inviting space which will exhibit the history of the hotel across the traditional stone walls, while the floor has been stripped back to the original floorboards.

The old Snug restaurant will be converted into a private dining and tasting area.

Menus will concentrate on provenance. John intends to use only local suppliers, where possible, and produce from the established kitchen garden, as well as creating dishes using the onsite smokery.

Meat will be respected with much of the animal being used across the menu. John enjoys creating an element of theatre for his diners, so expect some elements of surprise.

And resident sommelier David Lapsley, of The Wine Closet, will be on hand to provide expert wine pairings.

John said of his new endeavour: 'I'm incredibly excited to be opening The

Taynuilt: Etive Restaurant with Rooms. Our corner of Scotland has one of the most well supplied natural larders in the country, and I'm very proud to be championing the local produce of this area.'

'Cooking and creating delicious food is my passion, and to be able to do that in such a beautiful part of the world is a dream. I'm looking forward to welcoming old and new visitors into The Taynuilt: Etive Restaurant and Rooms and sharing this new project with them.'

In addition to the Etive, guests who wish for something more casual will be able to enjoy a separate menu in the hotel lounge.

## Event highlights business opportunities

SSE, along with some of its principal contractors for Stronelaig wind farm, hosted a business opportunity event in Fort Augustus at the start of the month.

Around 100 local and UK businesses attended the event to find out more about maximising the benefits and opportunities related to the construction of the Stronelaig wind farm in the Great Glen near Fort Augustus.

Corinna Scholes, SSE's project liaison manager, said: 'This event is a continuation of SSE's strategy to engage early with the local community and local businesses when developing and constructing a wind farm.'

'Following previous successful business events for our other wind farms in the Highlands, we wanted to make sure we gave local

businesses the best opportunity to work with us to build Stronelaig.'

Joining SSE's Stronelaig team on the day were RJ Macleod, Vestas, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, Balfour Beatty, BAM Nuttall and Siemens, as well as members of SSE's Open4Business Highlands and Islands team.

Open4Business was created in 2012 as a way of providing local companies with a simple and free way to view and bid for opportunities relating to SSE's projects in the region. Since its launch, Open4Business has awarded over £35 million in the Highlands region and this looks set to continue as main construction is expected to get underway at Stronelaig in Spring 2017.

NB Civil Engineering, based in Inverness, is just one of the local businesses who have been awarded contracts through the Open4Business portal. The business is sub-contracted by RJ Macleod Contractors Ltd and has worked closely with them on a number of wind farms across the Highlands.

Keith Leslie, managing director of NB Civil Engineering, said: 'We employ 28 local people of which 80 per cent are sub-contracted to R J Macleod. Without their support and continued business opportunities through Open4Business, we could not retain all our employees.'

In addition to opportunities provided by Open4Business, communities are benefiting from SSE's projects in the Great Glen with local shops and hotels seeing an increase in trade during the

low-season from November to March.

One such local business is the Lovat Hotel in Fort Augustus, who attributes 40 per cent of winter business to SSE and its sub-contractors. Martynas Salkauskas, reservations manager at the hotel, said: 'We really appreciate the trade SSE's projects bring. Although the area enjoys a busy summer thanks to tourism, the area quietsens down during the winter months and projects such as SSE's wind farms mean we have continued footfall throughout the seasons.'

For more information opportunities related to Stronelaig wind farm, visit [sseopen4business-highlands.com](http://sseopen4business-highlands.com). If you would like to find out more information on the Stronelaig project, visit [sse.com/Stronelaig](http://sse.com/Stronelaig).

**Avalon**  
Hair & Beauty

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR CLIENTS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HOPE 2017 BRINGS YOU ALL GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

We are delighted to announce at **The Scottish Hair and Beauty Awards 2016** this year's **Colour Technician of the Year** went to our very own **Jackie Den Heijer**. A big thank you to everyone for your support.

Give the gift of beautiful hair and skin this Christmas. Call in and shop our extensive range of gift ideas and products and treat yourself and your loved ones.

WELLA | T: 01631 563964 | M: 07919 187230 | E: [avalonoban@btinternet.com](mailto:avalonoban@btinternet.com) | f | THE SCOTTISH HAIR & BEAUTY AWARDS WINNER

## Broker is best in land

INSURANCE broker Clark Thomson, which has an office in Oban, is this year's winner of the Scottish Financial Services Award.

The company was recognised for bucking the trend towards centralisation and achieving outstanding growth by delivering a local and personalised customer experience through a Scotland-wide branch network and strong client relationships.

From its origins in Perth more than 50 years ago, Clark Thomson has expanded throughout Scotland and now has offices around the country.

Presenting the award, Sue Dawe, Ernst and Young partner and head of financial services in Scotland, said: 'Our industry is led by those with an innovative

and entrepreneurial vision of best-in-class service and being distinct in the market is imperative to success.'

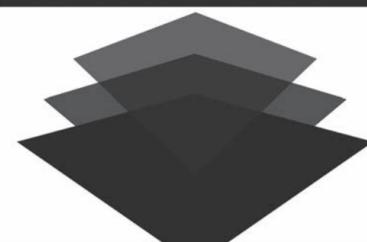
'Clark Thomson has been bold and held its nerve to resist the trend of centralisation and has excelled as a result. Its extensive geographical footprint with branches across Scotland, coupled with its attentiveness to customers, has proved to be an important, differentiating approach which has led to significant growth.'

Receiving the award at a dinner in Glasgow last month, Ben Bailey, managing director, said: 'I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of the whole Clark Thomson team. The mark of a great business is to constantly reinvent and develop.'



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# Arena

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

## Burns classic tours schools

HUNDREDS of primary school pupils across Argyll will rehearse and perform an opera based on Robert Burns's iconic poem *Tam o' Shanter*. Scottish Opera's annual primary schools tour hits the road in January 2017 with *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter*, a show created to re-introduce young people to the works of the celebrated

Scottish national bard. Schools are provided with high quality teaching resources, including a teachers' support pack, to help introduce the songs from *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter* to pupils in advance.

A team of Scottish Opera performers and arts education specialists then

spend a day rehearsing and preparing the pupils for a choreographed, fully-costumed performance of *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter* for family and friends.

Argyll performance dates are Tuesday February 7 at Kilninver Primary School and Wednesday February 8 at Dunbeg Primary School.



## Manran head for Oban ahead of Scottish tour



MANRAN, the Gaelic supergroup, are making an appearance on December 30 in Oban. And for fans attending the gig there is an excellent extra treat.

Copies of the band's new album *An Da Là - The Two Days* will be exclusively on sale almost three weeks before the official launch.

Ewen Henderson said he was looking forward to the turn-of-the-year gigs before the band

head for the Barrowland (for the official album launch on January 20), and a tour in Germany before a Scotland-wide tour to promote the album.

Fiddle player Ewen, who is from Fort William, said the tour and the new songs are reflected in the Gaelic connotation of the album's title. *The Two Days* means great change in Gaelic - something that Ewen says has been happening to the

band over the past two or so years. Ewen said: 'Since the last time we went into the studio we are quite different in both the make-up of the band and the music we are producing.'

'This time, instead of going into the studio for a block of three weeks we developed the album over a much longer period of time.'

'While we have been writing and recording for the album we

have also been playing some of the tracks to our audiences.'

*The Oban Times* has had a sneak preview of the album and it is something any fan will not want to miss. The band are playing in the Corran Halls on December 30 supported by Tide Lines (a collaboration between former Skipinnish musicians Robert Robertson and Ross Wilson).

□ Skipinnish rock Lewis - review on page 24.

## Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant

### Interested in some fine wine for Christmas?

HAVING recently been a finalist at SLTN's Wine Personality of the year award our sommelier David has a tasting treat in store. We will be hosting a tasting of our Christmas fine wine list on Friday December 16 from 8pm to 10pm (booking only 01866 822437). You will be able to order on the night with wines ready for collection or delivery on December 20. If you would like a copy of

the wine list, please message us and we will send it to you. Any orders must be paid for in full at the time of order to guarantee Tuesday 20th delivery. You can book a space at the tasting by messaging us or calling reception on 01866 822437 or enquiries@taynuilthotel.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you, David Lapsley, Sommelier.



Main Street, Taynuilt PA35 1JN Tel: 01866 822437

## Angus releases new album

OBAN singer-songwriter Angus Smith and his band North 56 released their new album *One Day* on December 8.

The former Mòd gold medallist's second album, the first of own compositions, is described as 'a new and unique Celtic rock sound, with original songs and tunes in Gaelic and English'.

Angus, a retired physics teacher at Oban High School, said his 13 songs 'speak of hope, of love, of our shared humanity and identity, with a spiritual longing evident in the lyrics'.

Vocalist and guitarist Angus was joined at the launch in Oban's Olive Garden by the five-

piece rock band North 56, comprised of Dave Hobbs on bass, Finlay MacDougal on guitar, Ian Coates on drums, Ewan MacDonald on keyboards and John Turnbull on the accordion.

Together they played a selection from the album, including *Anna Damsa*, 'a simple song of the joy of life, music, dance and the ceilidh', inspired by Angus's daughter Anna, while his other daughter Keira has also inspired a reel called *Oran Keira*.

Another song on the album, *Tha mi seo*, which speaks of the revival of the Gaelic language through children, was judged best new Gaelic song at the first Seinn



Angus Smith and North 56 perform at the launch.

Seo Festival in Stornoway. Angus was also a finalist in the CalMac Culture Music 2016

competition earlier this year. The 13-track album, recorded by Finlay

Wells at Nutshell Music in Oban, is available locally at musicscotland.com.

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# FRIENDS & FAMILY WEEKEND

THURSDAY 15TH - SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER



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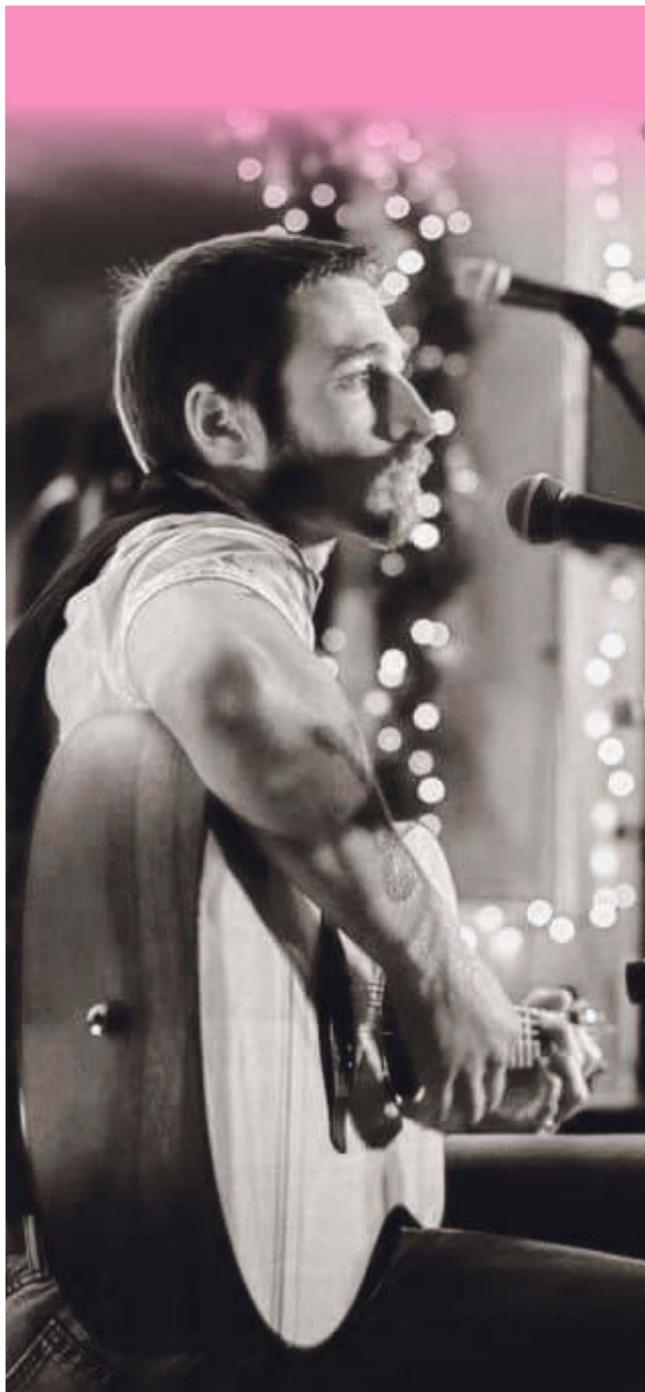
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\*Offer available at Ellis Brigham Mountain Sports, Fort William only valid Thursday 15th December - Sunday 18th December. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer of discount.





## Single-minded idea to help musician Guy

THE latest single from Oban band The Signal Fires hits online stores tomorrow (Friday December 16).

The new track, *Enemy*, will help to raise funds for local musician Guy Forteith, pictured, who is currently raising money for stem cell therapy.

John Hausrath from the band said: 'When we started out a few years back we used to road test our material at a local open mic night where we met Guy, who himself is a musician and songwriter.'

'We got to know him over the years and his struggles with multiple sclerosis. Earlier this year, Guy decided to start raising funds for stem cell therapy. It is an expensive treatment but has shown some amazing results. Guy feels strongly that this treatment would vastly improve his life.'

'He has already put on a concert featuring local musicians who all gave their time and talent for free. We were unable to perform at the concert and really wanted to do something to

help. While we were in the studio starting work on *Enemy* we approached Guy with our idea and he was delighted.'

John continued: 'At its heart the song tells of how we all have our own demons or "enemies" to deal with that perhaps people on the outside aren't aware of.'

*Enemy* will be available from all the major online music retailers such as iTunes and Amazon from tomorrow (December 16) and all money from download sales of the track will be passed directly to Guy for his appeal.

John said: 'We are normally fairly low key about our music and tend not to make a big fuss, but as this song is for such a good cause we wanted to promote it using any means available to us.'

'The more singles we sell, the more money we can help raise for Guy, it really is that simple. We're not looking to benefit from this in any way. It just seemed like a decent thing to do for a friend.'

# OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

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Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

Friday 16 - Thursday 22 December

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM |

12A | 150 MIN  
Sat: 18:20, Sun: 19:30  
The adventures of writer Newt Scamander in New York's secret community of witches and wizards seventy years before Harry Potter reads his book in school.

KIDS CLUB: ELF | PG | 100 MIN

Sat: 11:00  
Children's Classic. After inadvertently wreaking havoc on the elf community due to his ungainly size, a man raised as an elf at the North Pole is sent to the U.S. in search of his true identity.

MOANA | PG | 133 MIN

Fri: 16:15, Sat: 16:00, Sun: 12:15, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:15  
From Walt Disney Animation Studios comes "Moana," a sweeping, CG-animated feature film about an adventurous teenager who sails out on a daring mission to save her people.

PARENT & BABY - ELF | PG | 100 MIN

Tue: 11:30  
Parent & Baby Screening! Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available.

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY | PG | 153 MIN

Fri: 18:45, 20:00, Sat: 13:15, 17:00, Sun: 14:00, 20:00, Mon: 17:00, 18:45, Tue: 20:00, 21:00, Wed: 17:00, 18:45, Thu: 20:00, 21:00  
3D: Fri: 17:00, Sat: 14:00, 20:00, Sun: 11:00, 17:00, Mon: 20:00, Tue: 17:00, Wed: 20:00, Thu: 17:00

'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story' is the first film in the new standalone movies from Lucasfilm. It tells the story of how a group of unlikely heroes unite to undertake a daring and seemingly impossible mission to steal the plans for the Death Star.

SILVER SCREEN - THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS |

12A | 153 MIN  
Sun: 14:30  
Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3!

A lighthouse keeper and his wife living off the coast of Western Australia raise a baby they rescue from an adrift rowboat.

SULLY | 12A | 116 MIN

Fri: 21:30, Sat: 21:00, Sun: 17:15, Mon: 21:30, Tue: 18:45, Wed: 21:30, Thu: 18:45

On January 15, 2009, the world witnessed the "Miracle on the Hudson" when Captain "Sully" Sullenberger (Tom Hanks) glided his disabled plane onto the frigid waters of the Hudson River, saving the lives of all 155 aboard. However, even as Sully was being heralded by the public and the media for his unprecedented feat of aviation skill, an investigation was unfolding that threatened to destroy his reputation and his career.

## Pupils create that festive feeling

PUPILS of Port Ellen Primary School got creative last week at their annual Christmas fair.

The children, as part of their enterprise class, created all the gifts

themselves, such as Christmas baubles, snowman fairy cakes, handmade candleholders and even finger puppets designed as baby Jesus and the three wise men.

The day was rounded off when the pupils were given the opportunity to meet Santa Claus in his grotto, which was surrounded by wrapped presents.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**A fundraising Soup Lunch**  
in aid of  
**Oban Pipe Band**  
will be held in  
Oban Pipe Band Hall  
Shore Street  
on Saturday 17th  
December 2016  
From 12 noon - 2.00pm  
Admission : £3.00  
Scottish Charity No SC004610

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club  
**Hot Supper Dance**  
with  
**Iain Anderson**  
Scottish Dance Band  
Friday 6th January 2017  
7.30pm - late  
The Royal Hotel. Tickets: £15  
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For tickets contact  
01631 562077/  
07979 520792

**An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Chruachain**  
**CHRISTMAS CEILIDH**  
(Stovie Supper)  
Fear an Taighe: Duncan MacNeil  
Rachel Deans, Krista MacInnes  
Taynuilt Primary School  
Full supporting programme, pipers & dancers  
Saturday 17th December  
Taynuilt Village Hall - 7:30pm

## malt OF THE month

SPONSORED BY  
**Ben Nevis Distillery**  
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**Arran Malt 10 year old**  
46% vol  
Approximately £32



Arran Whisky had not come across my radar until I popped into a shop in Tarbert in late November and the man in there, James Hamilton, a former resident of the island is mad keen on the stuff. James is probably descended from the Earls of Arran, but he claims to be related to the other end of the social hierarchy. I could tell from the outset that he was a multi millionaire. I mean who has the guts to set up a whisky shop in Tarbert. Alongside the whisky - not just from Arran, he has a whole gantry of delights. When I asked him about a particular whisky he dived into a cupboard fit for Narnia and pulled out the last bottle

of my second favourite whisky of all time. I would have loved to buy it, but it was too rich for my blood. So, with James in mind (and spending my first few days ever on the island) I asked the distillery on Arran for a nip to write about. They duly obliged with six. How kind. Five unfiltered non-peated and one peated from the relatively young distillery on the island. My favourite was the mature-and-full-of-flavour 18 year old. This is a whisky fit for Christmas. Full of cinnamon, and orange and deliciousness. What a find in the week before the festive season. If you want something

unique for Santa then I think he would really appreciate some of this. I think that the Tarbert Earl of Hamilton - as I now like to call him - would make a good Santa. The other five were kind on the palate, the 10 and 14 year olds were very drinkable, the Port finish was rich and creamy, the Maderia finish was perfect for a party. Aside from the 18 year old, I was drawn to the Machrie Moor - named after the peaty landscape on the Isle of Arran. So all in all, the Earl, the shop and the whisky were all a delight to find.

*Louise Glen*



**Jaconelli's Fish Diner**

### Reader Offer 25% Off

Terms and Conditions

\* Offer is valid daily between Noon and 5pm • Offer applies to 2 people dining  
• Offer does not apply to drinks and desserts (except knickerbocker glories which are!)  
• Offer valid until 31st December 2016



Jaconelli's Fish Diner at Lomondgate on the A82 is launching a new concept in dining on the move – the Scottish version of the American diner and to celebrate, they are offering Oban Times, Campbelltown Courier & Argyllshire Advertiser readers a 25% discount.

Jaconelli's Fish Diner is the brainchild of Lawrence Jaconelli, whose family has run cafés in the West of Scotland since 1924.

*“ At Lomondgate Services, many of our customers are on a journey and - just like drivers in the States - are looking for a good quality, value for money meal but don't want to interrupt their journey for too long. ”*  
Lawrence Jaconelli

Jaconelli's Fish Diner was runner up in Scotland's Best Newcomer in the prestigious Scottish Entertainment and Hospitality Awards.

[www.jaconellisfish.co.uk](http://www.jaconellisfish.co.uk)  
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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

## What's the best gift you can give this Christmas?

**Love Oban** Gift Vouchers can be redeemed at over 80 businesses throughout Oban and are valid for 12 months! Check out **Love Oban** on Facebook for Christmas promotions and Festive Headliners. You can buy your **Love Oban** Gift Vouchers from:

**The Sports Shop, Argyll Square**  
**Webster of Oban Photographic Centre, 122-124 George Street**  
**Bid4Oban, Stevenson Street**




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# Arena

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



## Oban pantomime is a show-stopping winner yet again – oh yes it is!



A LOCAL panto would not be the same if it were not full of recognisable references, a dig at the local establishment and a well-known cast.

Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club's biennial offering at the Corran Halls in Oban, December 8-10, ticked all of those boxes – to use a cliché they would be proud of – and more.

This production of Alan McHugh's *Dick McWhitting-*

*ton* has more double entendres, clichés and puns than Stanley Baxter had roles as a panto dame.

Set in Oban, of course, the action initially centres on Marmaduke's (David McClure) Oban Sweetie shop, run by mother Senga (George Hamilton), the pantomime dame, and son Sandy (Emma Law), the fool, who is in love with Marmaduke's daughter Melody (Bárbara Guimares)

– the love interest. Serving up the largest portion of double entendres is Senga, who is trying to woo Marmaduke with her sweet talk.

But onto the scene crashes a wickedly good Queen Rat (Carol Evans) who threatens to spoil the town's appearance with her army of rats (drawn from the junior members of the drama club) who have been set loose on the town from Millpark.

None of this is lost on the audience, who are included in the performance from the curtain up, thanks to a falsetto-sounding good fairy in blaring pink, Magical Meg (Colin Felgate), fae Dunbeg – it's a pantomime, so it has to rhyme.

Meg invites the audience to help Oban get rid of Queen Rat by calling for Dick McWhittington (Jamie Rodgers), who is on his way

to London to seek his fortune, to return post-haste with the reward of being made chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council if he succeeds. Cue hoity-toity 'oohing'.

He is duly recalled, delivered of a speaking Kitty cat (Ellen Mackechnie) to help him and several kittens (also junior members of the drama club) but all does not go according to plan. The last of the sweeties in Marmaduke's shop,

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**MacPhail's MUSIC**

## A legend in the making

I promised a number of weeks ago to write a piece on Gary Innes, the new voice of BBC Radio Scotland's *Take the Floor*. He has now bedded himself in and has a good number of probationary programmes under his proverbial belt so the timing is now perfect to deliver on my pledge.

As referred to in last week's article about Na Trads, *Take the Floor* picked up the award for Trad Music in the Media. There was a cracking picture of Daniel Gillespie from Skerryvore presenting the award on our behalf.

Skipinnish sponsor the award but had a gig in Campbeltown so missed the party this year. In the picture receiving the award were Robbie Shepherd, Gary Innes and Jennifer Cruikshank. The photo reflected perfectly the positivity of *Take the Floor*'s current chapter of change.

Robbie represented the rich history and gravitas the programme carries and the familiarity and affection with which it is held; Gary represented the charismatic, youthful energy of its new dawn; and Jennifer, the steady experienced hand of knowledge and expertise at the helm keeping continuity – and sparkle – through the turn of the tide. The picture was also a reminder of what a fine celebration the night was – the glow on Gary and Daniel's faces wasn't just down to the awards they had picked up.

From Spean Bridge, Gary is one of life's high achievers, and he excels and whatever he turns his hand and energy to. Music and shinty are dominant strands in his life and his passion for both is obvious. He retired from playing shinty in 2014 and is widely recognised as being one of the finest players of his generation.

He has been a professional musician most of his working life and I got to know him in this regard when he recorded his debut album *How's the Craic?* on Skipinnish Records back in 2005. Since then, through hard work, talent, ambition, charisma and focus, his musical trajectory has shown a fast rise. With a strong solo career and places in various bands, most notably Mánran, he is now, as with shinty, one of the most successful musicians of the age. With a new solo album on the way and a busy diary with Mánran, this shows no sign of slowing down.

His move into broadcasting I predict to be similarly successful. What Gary lacks in experience he will more than make up for with commitment and energy. I was speaking to him recently and asking how he was getting on. With characteristic exuberance and panache, he said he is enjoying it even more than he expected and although he is very aware of the massive shoes he has to fill, he is loving getting back to his 'box and fiddle' roots.

I foretell that Gary will pick up many awards for broadcasting over the coming years and when he retires from the BBC – probably as director general – at around the age of 80, he will be held with the same respect and affection that was shown to Robbie Shepherd last weekend. Gary Innes is a broadcasting legend in the making.

**Gary Innes & The Nevis Centre**  
Present

## The Lochaber Christmas Carol Concert

Various schools attending  
17th Dec. Door open 7pm, start 7.30pm.  
Adults £10,  
Under 15s £5

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**Across**

- 1 One in arms (4)
- 3 Intensify (8)
- 9 Pittance (7)
- 10 Abrasive (5)
- 11 Church member (12)
- 13 Inn (6)
- 15 Fortune (6)
- 17 Double-reeded oboe (7,5)
- 20 Division of an army (5)
- 21 Farewells, night nights (3-4)
- 22 Raw sugar liquid (8)
- 23 Bed board (4)

**Down**

- 1 Money owed that is not collectable (3,5)
- 2 Buckwheat pancakes (5)
- 4 Organisations (6)
- 5 The one thing that will always let you down (8,4)
- 6 Overseas post (7)
- 7 Bounce back to you (4)
- 8 Hair removal method (12)
- 12 Game board (5,3)
- 14 Underside of an abdomen (7)
- 16 Functional (6)
- 18 Relating to those living in a palace (5)
- 19 Idea is not as it seems (4)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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Photographs above, Kevin McGlynn. Photographs below and left, Emma Law.



destined for Sultan Vinegar (Dougie MacKenzie) and his daughter Babs Sultana (Kerry McClure) in Morocco are stolen by the rats, as is a diamond necklace for Melody's birthday and Dick is framed with the theft. Many songs, silly sketches, chocolate-related puns, a shipwreck, a harem of dancers (from Adele Askew School of Dance), 'behind-you' calls and a few 'oh no it isn't' chants later and the right characters have fallen in love with each other, the audience has duelled over a song while scenes are shifted and

the baddies have chased the goodies around the hall to end up with the final curtain call on the happy ending. All credit to the cast for their hard work in pulling off this most effective of local pantomimes, to the stage crew, dancers and young cast members, whose quick-change abilities helped them to fill a number of parts. Director Jack Degnan should be applauded for pulling together the pieces of this rousing pantomime which sets off Oban's festive season in good spirits.

**Inverawe Smokery Shop & Café**  
**OPEN December 9th – 24th**  
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**Win an amazing three island day out for two**  
 You can't wrap a puffin but you can 'gift' one this Christmas

West Coast Tours and Staffa Tours are giving readers the chance to win 2 Three Isles Tour gift vouchers worth £120 as the perfect Christmas present for their nearest and dearest this Christmas. So, if you fancy giving someone special a day to remember in 2017, now's your chance to win this special prize. The Three Isles Tour is an amazing day out which takes in three unique Inner Hebridean islands – Mull, Iona and Staffa. Leaving Oban on the Cal Mac ferry, you will transfer at Craignure to a West Coast Tours coach which will take you through stunning scenery of Mull while you enjoy live commentary about the island and the sights you'll see. At Fionnphort you will hop on to the Staffa Tours boat over to Staffa where you will spend around an hour exploring the beauty of Fingal's Cave and, between April

and early August, have the chance to meet the island's Puffin colony, before heading to Iona for 2 hours to enjoy its sights and the tranquil atmosphere of this wonderful island. Then it's back on the West Coast Tours coach to Craignure for the return ferry to Oban. Gift vouchers for the Three Isles Tour and other brilliant day tours to Mull, Iona and beyond are available at [www.westcoasttours.co.uk](http://www.westcoasttours.co.uk).

To enter, simply answer the following question correctly and send the completed form to The Oban Times, Island Day Out Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Please include your answer, name, telephone number and email address. The winner will be notified by telephone and email. Entry deadline Tuesday 20th December. Good luck!

**Question: What island is Fingal's Cave on? a) Mull b) Iona c) Staffa**

Answer..... Telephone.....  
 Name..... Email.....  
 Address.....  
 Please post your entries to The Oban Times, Island Day Out Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by the closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday 20th December, 2016. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.  
 Tick this box if you do not wish to receive information, including special offers, from West Coast Tours & Staffa Tours.

Terms and conditions 1. Vouchers are valid for 2017 season (April until October) only. 2. Vouchers have no cash value and must be redeemed for Three Isles Tour tickets only. 3. Tour bookings are subject to availability.

**Your Personal Christmas Greetings**

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**  
 to all our Friends, Relatives and neighbours. Mr William & Mrs Mary Carroll, Inveraray

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**  
 to all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Mary Henderson, North Connel

**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
 Much Love and good wishes to everyone at this time. Iain and Rena

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**  
 to all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Maude MacColl, Salen

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**  
 to all our relatives, friends and neighbours from Alasdair and Peggy MacCuish

**DUGALD GILL**  
 thinking of you and wishing all my friends a blessed Christmas and New Year. Provost Sinclair Road, Thurso.

**COLIN MACINDEOR, ARDRISHAIG**  
 would like to wish all his relatives, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**JOHN AND ANN MACLEAN**  
 would like to wish all their relatives, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas.

**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
 to all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Margaret MacLeod, Oban

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**  
 Gordon and Margaret Pearson wish all friends, Pearson Cousins and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**BBC ALBA**

**A' cur 's a' Buain**  
 Listings for Thursday 15 – Thursday 22 December 2016

**DIARDAOIN 15 DÙBHLACHD**  
 THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER  
 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming  
 19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)  
 20.00 **An Là** – News  
 20.30 **UR | NEW: Ceann an Rìgh** – revealing the face of Robert the Bruce  
 21.00 **UR | NEW: Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach** – the work of the Scotstar transfer service  
 22.00 **Tiree Music Festival 2016** – music from Trail West  
 22.30 **UR | NEW: Billie Holliday** – a roller-coaster life  
 23.25 **Binneas – Na Trads** – Tom Orr

Scottish dance Band (rpt)  
 23.30 **Ar Duain** – world music series with Mary Ann Kennedy (rpt)

**DIHAOINE 16 DÙBHLACHD**  
 FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER  
 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming  
 18.35 **Machair** (rpt)  
 19.00 **An Là** – News  
 19.25 **Is Blàth an Fhuil / The Blood is Strong** – Archive series. Episode 2 (rpt)  
 20.15 **Sgeul Slàinte** – Nurses share their memories (rpt)  
 20.30 **An Lot** – back on the croft with Donald MacSween – Episode 2 (rpt)  
 21.00 **An Dotair Mòr** – the legendary Dr Alex Macleod of North Uist (rpt)  
 22.00 **Horo Gheallaidh** – Celtic Music Sessions (rpt)  
 23.00 **Coolmhor@Piping Live** – features Ross Ainslie and Ali Hutton (rpt)  
 23.30 **Tiree Music Festival** – music from Trail West (rpt)

**DISATHAIRNE 17 DÙBHLACHD**  
 SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER  
 16.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming  
 17.05 **BE0 | LIVE: Football** – Morton v Hibs  
 19.30 **Machair** (rpt)  
 19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)  
 20.00 **Ar Duain** – World music – Episode 3 (rpt)  
 20.30 **Lugh Mi** – guests and their favourite books (rpt)  
 22.00 **Football: Hearts v Partick Thistle**  
 23.00 **Stevie Wonder** – documentary (rpt)  
 23.50 **Binneas** – Malinky (rpt)  
 24.00 **Dha Gordon a-mhàin** – the life and music of Gordon Duncan (rpt)

**DIDÒMHAICH 18 DÙBHLACHD**  
 SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER  
 16.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming

18.30 **Seachd Là** – News Review  
 19.30 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual praise and music (rpt)  
 20.00 **Eòrpa** – News and Current Affairs from around Europe (rpt)  
 20.30 **Ceann an Rìgh** – revealing the face of Robert the Bruce (rpt)  
 21.00 **Opry an Iuir** – Irish Country Music (rpt)  
 22.00 **Football: St. Johnstone v Motherwell** (rpt)  
 23.00 **Billie Holliday** – a roller-coaster life (rpt)  
 23.50 **Binneas** – Cathy Ann MacPhee & Maggie MacInnes (rpt)

**DILUAIN 19 DÙBHLACHD**  
 MONDAY 19 DECEMBER  
 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's programming  
 20.00 **An Là** – News  
 20.30 **UR | NEW: An Lot** – Donald MacSween and his crofting life – Episode 2  
 21.00 **UR | NEW: Trusadh: An Aghaidh Mhòr** – the story of Aviemore

22.00 **Hebridean Celtic Festival** – Open Day Rotation (rpt)  
 22.30 **Fuine na Nollaige** – a festive feast (rpt)  
 23.30 **Coolmhor@Piping Live** – music from the Piping Live festival (rpt)

**DIMÀIRT 20 DÙBHLACHD**  
 TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER  
 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's programming  
 18.25 **UR | NEW: De a-nis?** – Festive edition  
 20.00 **An Là** – News  
 20.30 **UR | NEW: Lugh Mi** – Guests and their favourite books  
 21.00 **Opry an Iuir** – Country Music (rpt)  
 22.00 **Trusadh: Aviemore** – a look at the history of the town (rpt)  
 23.00 **Sin Thu Fhèin** – Finlay MacLeod meets the late Angus "Ease" MacLeod (rpt)  
 23.30 **Alleluia!** – spiritual music, song and verse (rpt)

**DICIADAIN 21 DÙBHLACHD**  
 WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER  
 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's programming  
 20.00 **An Là** – News  
 20.30 **UR | NEW: Eòrpa** – news from around Europe  
 21.00 **Skipinnish** – On and off the road with Skipinnish (rpt)  
 22.00 **UR | NEW: Ceòlmhor @ Piping Live** – Episode 2  
 22.30 **Hebridean Celtic Festival** – Open Day Rotation (rpt)  
 23.00 **Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach** – the Scotstar Transfer Service at work (rpt)

**DIARDAOIN 22 DÙBHLACHD**  
 THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER  
 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming  
 20.00 **An Là** – News  
 20.30 **Bonn Còmhraidh** – the original Gaelic Current Affairs service - Episode 5 (rpt)  
 21.00 **UR | NEW: Scotstar: Teasairginn Eiginneach** – Scotstar transfer service – Episode 2  
 22.00 **Tiree Music Festival 2016** – Highlights  
 22.30 **Stevie Wonder** – documentary (rpt)  
 23.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)  
 23.30 **Ar Duain** – world music series with Mary Ann Kennedy – Episode 3 (rpt)

# The 11th hour of Christmas

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IT'S THE 11th hour and the time for procrastination is over. You may be one of the millions of Brits who wait until 'Panic Saturday' - that is, the last Saturday before the big day.

It may be too late to order gifts online or it may cost extra to have it shipped quickly. And if you haven't planned that special festive meal yet, you'll be rushed off your feet at this point. Either way, it's time to look local to save Christmas this year, and with so many wonderful shops, services, restaurants and charities offering everything you need for a bountiful and festive holiday, you'll have everything under control.

### Be a local hero

Why buy local? Besides the fact that they are your neighbours, spending with local shops boosts the local economy. Research shows for every £1 spent with a small business, 62p stays in the local economy, compared to 40p with large chains. Shopping local is also the more ethical choice, as they often support local farmers, producers and makers, and this means your gift won't have eaten up thousands of miles on its journey to you. Local shops also sell one-off gifts that will be sure to make a lasting impression. You might get a better deal, and will always get better advice with a local shopkeeper - after all, they are experts on everything they sell.

### Give an experience

What do you give the person who has everything? What about something they won't toss in the closet along with the Christmas jumper, such as an experience that you can enjoy together? Oban and Lorn are full of exciting adventures to be had, from marine centres to canyoning adventures, from boat excursions to kayak lessons. Or what about something indulgent - a spa day or a candlelight dinner at that restaurant they have always wanted to try? If they love music, grab tickets for that big concert and get ready to be a Christmas hero.

### Gift cards are on trend

In the past, gift cards or vouchers were a real Christmas no-no. But more and more people are appreciating a gift they can choose themselves, and while it is still a no-no to give cash, choosing a gift card from a shop or service you know they love is just as thoughtful as an item you pick out yourself. Salons, grocers, clothing stores and gift shops all offer festively presented gift cards for every taste and budget - and even better, you won't have to fight for the last one.

### Give the gift of giving

If too much 'stuff' is causing you grief, helping others in need during the festive season is a great way to put your money to good use. Donate to a charity close to the receiver's heart, whether it's fighting cancer, hunger or loneliness, and everyone will feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

### Forget the meal madness

Everyone loves a big festive meal together, but not everyone has the time (or gumption) to do the shopping and spend all day in the kitchen. This year, resolve to finally enjoy the family get together and let someone else do the cooking and cleaning. We are spoiled for choice here when it comes to Christmas and Boxing Day dining options, whether you prefer a lavish four-course meal or a roast buffet. If you are still determined to host the party, hit local shops and grocers for all the food, fixings and decorations, but let them do some of the work, such as pre-made dips, pates, smoked fish, local ales, cheese, chocolates and sweets.

### 11th hour festive recipe courtesy of Loch Leven Hotel

#### Dark Chocolate and Chocolate Mousse

**Chocolate mousse**  
500 g Dark Chocolate  
375 g Anglaise  
150 g Semi Whipped Cream

#### 200 g White Chocolate

Roasted on 120 degrees until golden brown - chilled and chopped

**Mix 1**  
Cream  
Milk  
Half Castor Sugar  
Heat up all of above

Vanilla pod

**Mix 1 + Mix 2** Temper then heat up on 83 degrees

Melt Chocolate in a double boiler and add anglaise  
Mix-chill  
Then mix in whipped cream and set for 2-3 hours  
Garnish with mulled wine poached plums or berries



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## NFUS meets minister to stress its Brexit priorities

WITH three months to go until Brexit is triggered, NFU Scotland has used a Westminster meeting to reaffirm its priorities as the UK looks to negotiate an exit from the European Union.

A team from NFU Scotland, including president Allan Bowie, chief executive Scott Walker, director of policy Jonnie Hall and parliamentary officer Clare Slipper, met David Jones MP, Minister of State at the recently created Department for Exiting the European Union, on Monday December 12.

At the meeting in London, the union laid out what it believes needs to be done to secure productive agriculture in Scotland.

Mr Bowie said: 'The UK government is already in the process of establishing its priorities and it is vitally important that we engage with it now and make sure it is clear on what Scottish farmers and crofters want.

'There is strong recognition that Scottish agriculture's needs from Brexit negotiations will differ from the rest of the UK and that this must be a factor under any future arrangements. There are already marked differences between different parts of the



Allan Bowie, right, with Brexit minister David Jones MP.

UK. In Scotland, for example, we have opted to use part of our existing support package to target key sectors such as beef and hill sheep, and the ability of Scotland to make such decisions will clearly need to be maintained.

'While assurances have been given about support levels during the Brexit negotiating period, we pressed the case for funding levels to be maintained once we are outside of the EU and that they go hand-in-hand with an agricultural policy, fo-

cused on active production, that fits with Scottish agriculture's needs.

'That requires a future UK agricultural policy that is truly representative of all parts of the UK and recognises the differences and the drivers

of the industry in Scotland. We must make the most of the opportunities for our farming, food and drink sectors that Brexit presents. We can support jobs and grow income but only if we prioritise the needs of farming.

'The importance of a trade deal with Europe, future trading arrangements with the rest of the world and access to non-UK labour were all issues discussed in our valuable discussions with the minister.

'And Scotland's requirements go further, stretching into research funding and capacity to underpin innovation; the protection of branding for renowned Scottish products; and the regulatory framework that governs standards.

'We thank the minister for his time today. Speaking to the right people at the right time is going to be key in the months ahead. Big decisions will be taken that will determine the future of agriculture for generations to come.

'The NFUS will make sure that the people deciding our future will hear what we need and want.'

## Clarity over suckler support

THE Scottish Government has written to NFU Scotland providing clarity on the eligibility of calves from dual purpose cattle breeds for inclusion in the Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme.

Writing to the livestock committee, the Scottish Government has stated that calves from dual breeds such as Montbeliarde or Fleckvieh, which are part of a suckler beef herd, can be claimed as part of the scheme.

From the union's understand-

ing, the calf's mother must not be part of a milking herd but must be suckling its calf for it to be eligible for support.

Farmers claiming calves from dual purpose breeds will be asked to provide evidence the calves are part of a suckler herd.

If members are unsure about their claim to the scheme, they are advised to contact their local RPID office for clarity. It is important to ensure all animals being claimed are eligible.

The deadline for claims is December 31.

## Argyll students top the class

ARGYLL students Ruairidh MacKinnon and Claire Simonetta studying agriculture at the SRUC - Scotland's Rural College, both received prizes at the Ayr campus awards ceremony.

The Allan Carruth Prize for the best second-year case study was awarded to Ruairidh and

the SRUC prize for the best third-year student in agriculture was awarded to Claire.

Both have connections with Mull where Ruairidh completed his apprenticeship with Donald and James MacGillivray at Pennygowan, and Claire farms with her partner near Ulva Ferry.

## Given a taste of Loch Etive

SOME 40 residents from Oban and around Loch Etive enjoyed a free tasting event last week at which they sampled a range of food made from fresh trout produced by fish farming company Dawnfresh.

The event took place on Thursday December 8, with local people sampling a range of hot and cold trout products freshly prepared onsite by a chef at

North Connel Village Hall. All of the trout on show was farmed from one of Dawnfresh's nearby sites on Loch Etive.

Dawnfresh has five sites at different points in Loch Etive, from Port na Mine in the east to Ardchattan House in the west. The farms operate in harmony with the environment, are sustainable and support the rural economy.

## Around the markets

OBAN Livestock Centre, Tuesday December 6.

Oban - Caledonian Marts sold 1030 Suckled Calves, Store, Breeding & OTM Cattle at Oban Livestock Centre.

Bullocks (571) sold to average 225ppkg, selling to 343ppkg for a 294kg Limousin from R Cunningham, Neriby, Isle of Islay and to £1100 for a 372kg Charolais from C McKinnon, 4 Kilkenneth, Isle of Tiree.

Heifers (401) sold to average 208ppkg, selling to 444ppkg for a 304kg Limousin from R Currie, Low Dunasherry, Tayinloan and to £1350 for the same beast.

Caledonian Marts Ltd would like to thank the following sponsors who contributed to the success of our show in Oban on 6th December 2016:

Elanco Animal Health, Reid and Robertson, Donald McKay (Haulage), Hamilton Bros, D & J Campbell (Haulage), NFU Oban, Ian Murrie (Haulage), Saulmore Catering, Kerries Tyre Service, James D Bilsland.

The judge on the day was Mr James Graham, Mains of Burnbank, Blairdrummond, and the following were his results.

Overall Champion went to R Currie, Low Dunasherry, Tayinloan, for a 304kg Limousin heifer which sold for £1350 to the judge himself.

Reserve Champion went to I A Torrance, Starchmill, Isle of Islay with a 382kg Charolais bullock which sold to £1020 to Kirsty & Andrew Morton, Lochend, Denny.



Oban Livestock Centre was packed for the annual Christmas show and sale last week.

Single Bullock Calf from Mainland  
1st - DW Semple, Dippen, Carradale (346kg) £1100 to A R Waddell Ltd, Herdmanston, Pencaitland  
2nd - R Wright, Woodend, Fort William (368kg) £920 to A & AS Dunlop, Southbar, Inchinnan  
3rd - D W Semple, Dippen, Carradale (376kg) £1020 to A R Waddell Ltd Single Heifer Calf from Mainland  
1st & Overall Champion - R Currie, Low Dunasherry, Tayinloan  
2nd - R Currie, Low Dunasherry (324kg) £1300 to A Jolly, Clyne Farm, Straloch, Aberdeenshire  
3rd - D MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch (324kg) £1220 to H Buchanan, Creagan, Benderloch Single Bullock Calf from Islands  
1st & Reserve Champion - I Torrance, Starchmill, Isle of Islay  
2nd - RSPB Islay (316kg) £1000 to A & AS Dunlop, Southbar, Inchinnan  
3rd - C McKinnon, Kilkenneth, Isle of Tiree (372kg) £1100 to A R Waddell Ltd, Herdmanston, Pencaitland Single Heifer Calf from Islands  
1st - I MacInnes, Ruaig, Isle of Tiree (350kg) £1150

to A Jolly, Clyne Farm, Straloch  
2nd - J MacCormick, Balnagown, Isle of Lismore (334kg) £950 to Cauldshiel Cattle Company, Haddington, East Lothian  
3rd - I MacInnes, Ruaig, Isle of Tiree (420kg) £1120 to M/s McKinnon, Blackhouse.  
Pen of 4 Bullock Calves  
1st - R Cunningham, Neriby, Isle of Islay (231kg) £780 to J & A Cowie, Nicholson Park, Fordyce  
2nd - I A McDonald, Balgrundle, Isle of Lismore (308kg) £750 to D A Watt, Cairntack Farm, Belhelvie  
Pen of 4 Heifer Calves  
1st - R Cunningham, Neriby, Isle of Islay (281kg) £760 to J & N Blaylock, Hallburn, Longtown  
2nd - D W Semple, Dippen, Carradale (327kg) £840 to Miller & Sons, High Gameshill, Stewarton  
3rd - I Campbell & Sons, Strongorm, Balvicar (281kg) £640 to D G Watt, Cairntack Farm, Belhelvie.  
Other Leading Prices:-  
Bullocks per Head  
£1100 Rhoine (Belgian Blue)  
£800 Low Dunasherry (Lim)  
£1080 Baligarve (Lim) &

4 Kilkenneth (Char) £1050 RSPB Islay (Char) £1010 & £1000 Neriby (Lim)  
£990 Tomaig (Lim)  
£980 Woodend (Lim) & Barcaldine Home Farm (Lim)  
£960 Barcaldine Home Farm (Lim)  
£950 Low Dunasherry (Lim)  
£940 Achnacreebeag (Lim)  
£930 Tomaig (Lim), Neriby (Lim) & Achnacreebeag (Lim)  
Heifers per Head  
£1200 Dippen (Char)  
£1000 Low Peninver (Belgian Blue)  
£940 Neriby (Lim) & Dunach Estates (Sim)  
£930 Low Peninver (Aberdeen Angus)  
£920 Tyree (Lim)  
£900 Dippen (Char)  
£890 Iochdar (Sim)  
£880 Barcaldine Home Farm (BB)  
£860 Barcaldine Home Farm (Lim)  
£820 Rhoine (BB)  
£800 Low Dunasherry (Lim)  
Bullocks p/kg  
344p Neriby (Lim)  
339p Tyree (BB)  
338p Neriby (Lim)  
309p Tyree (BB)  
297p Kilkenneth (Char)  
293p (twice) Neriby (Lim)  
290p Tyree (BB)  
288p Neriby (Lim) & Low



There was keen interest in the judging of the competition as well as the selling.

Dunasherry (Lim) 284p 283p + 282p Ruaig (Lim)  
277p Achuran (Lim)  
276p Baligarve (Lim)  
Heifers p/kg  
359p Dippen (Char)  
270p East Hynish (BB) & Neriby (Lim)  
268p Ardachy (Lim)  
265p + 263p Neriby (Lim)  
262p (twice) Low Dunasherry (Lim)  
259p Tyree (Lim)  
257p Dippen (Char) & Neriby (Lim)  
255p Ardachy (Lim) & Low Dunasherry (Lim)  
254p Dippen (Char)  
Breeding Cattle (56) sold to £1000 twice for In-Calf Heifers from D McColl Jnr, Mid Farm, Isle of Lismore.  
Leading Prices:-  
Cows with calves at foot  
£800 Dunach Estate  
£720 Ensay (Isle of Mull)  
In Calf Cows  
£680 + £650 Frackersaig (Isle of Lismore)  
£620 24 Garrygall (Isle of Barra)  
£540 26 Glen (Isle of Barra)  
OTM Cows (55 sold)  
Luig - £670 Scammadale Sim - £650 Ballard (Isle of Coll)  
Sim x - £540 Scammadale Luig x - £500 Scammadale & Slaterich (Isle of Kerrera)  
£500 Ballard (Isle

of Coll)  
Shorthorn - £460 Glenmachrie  
ISLAY - Monday December 5.  
United Auctions held their annual Christmas sale of all classes lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart when 2,543 was sold.  
All classes, in keeping with current market trends, proved slower to sell.  
Lambs sold to a top price per head of £71 for Texel Cross from Coille Farm and to 161 pence per kilo, also Texel Crosses from Islay Estate.  
Principal lots and prices. Top prices per head lambs. SUFFX:  
£61.00 - Kilchiaran : £59.00 - Bayview : £58.50 - Kintra : £57.00 - Octofad : £55.00 - Coille.  
TEXX:  
£71.00 - Coille : £69.00 - 7 Claddach : £66.00 - 6 Bayview : £65.00 - Whiteroom : £62.50 - Keills : £61.00 - Islay Estates : £60.00 - 6 Bayview : £60.00 - Gartloist.  
CHEV  
£46.50 - Duich.  
CROSS  
£56.50 - Duich.  
BF  
£56.50 - Kilchiaran : £55.00 - Ceannacroic : £50.50 - Keppols : £49.50 - Kilchiaran.

EWES  
SUFFX:  
£65.00 - Smaladh : £55.00 - Kilchiaran.  
TEXX:  
£71.00 - Islay Estates : £68.00 & £54.00 - 6 Bayview : £50.00 - Lossit.  
CROSS  
£60.00 - Portantruan.  
BF  
£38.50 - Kilchiaran.  
Top prices per kilo lambs. SUFFX:  
150p & 149p - Kilchiaran : 146p - Duich : 145p - Islay

Estates : 144p - Kintra. TEXX:  
161p - Islay Estates : 160p - Ardbeg & Keills : 159p & 152p - Gartloist.  
CHEV  
136p - Duich.  
CROSS  
138p - Duich.  
MULE  
133p - Duich.  
BF  
142p & 141p - Kilchiaran : 135p - Keppols : 133p - Ceannacroic, Keppols and Kilchiaran.



The auctioneers were John Kyle and Ally Logan with Nan McGinty, Tracey Cormack, Laura Bailey, Soffi Keenan and Karen Harrison.

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**BUT DON'T ALL 4X4S DO THE SAME THING?** Unfortunately, they don't. That's why we only make proper 4x4s. Our Symmetrical AWD technology is different because the power is continually and actively distributed to the individual wheel or wheels with the best traction. Meaning that, unlike other 4x4s, you'll have superior grip, control and power in the most adverse driving conditions

imaginable. Mud, wet fields, sand, rocks, snow – you name it. What's more, Symmetrical AWD technology comes as standard throughout the range with the

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Heroic levels of grip, ample boot and cabin space, thoughtful, practical details. Body control is impressive and with the huge amounts of grip on offer lets you dispatch B-roads enthusiastically and traverse slippery fields confidently.

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What a practical, capable car this is. It's Subaru's flagship vehicle, selling in the hundreds of thousands worldwide and it's one that perfectly reflects the brands' core values. It's hugely able on the road, nearly imperious off it, has acres of space inside and cabin quality has moved up a notch too.

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So whichever Subaru you choose, you can be confident that you'll be able to take on anything. Give

Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Offer ends 31.12.16. Subaru Finance is a trading style of International Motors Finance Limited, registered office at Charterhall House, Charterhall Drive, Chester, Cheshire, CH88 3AN. Every vehicle marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd, excluding WRX STI, is covered by a 5 Year/100,000 mile (whichever comes sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year / 60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the Importer. Vehicle shown Impreza 1.6i RC Manual, manufacturer's OTR price £17,995.00 with optional special paint finish. Without special paint finish £17,495.00. OTR price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Prices correct at time of going to print.

# All for a good Claus: LAND ROVER builds compact Christmas cabin for Santa

- Tiny 'Christmas cabin' fits in the back of compact Discovery Sport SUV.
- Ingenious structure measures just 3.5m2 and can sleep two adults.
- Withstands freezing Lapland temperatures with minimal impact on environment.
- Tested by 12-times Everest climber Kenton Cool for Santa's peace of mind.

TOP SECRET LOCATION, December 8, 2016: Santa's chilly grotto could be consigned to Christmas past thanks to Land Rover's engineers. They have created a cosy cabin that can be transported for a much-needed festive getaway – it fits inside a Land Rover Discovery Sport compact SUV.

The cleverly designed cabin has space for two adults to sleep snugly in North Pole temperatures as low as -20°C. It folds down to fit in the rear of Land Rover's top-selling Discovery Sport, so Santa could even fit it on his sleigh this Christmas.

Land Rover engineers carefully used every bit of the versatile Discovery Sport's 1,698-litre rear load space to carry the wooden cabin's components. Even the glove box, cup holders and door bins were filled with nuts, bolts and festive decorations fit for Santa himself.

The Christmas cabin was tested in Land Rover's own cold-climate chamber, in which all Land Rovers are subjected to sub-freezing temperatures, by mountaineer and 12-times Everest climber Kenton Cool. It was then transported by Discovery Sport – not sleigh – to its final secret location in the heart of the frozen wilderness.

Kenton Cool said: 'There is a growing trend for off-grid living and "wilderness cabins" and only Land Rover could create a go-anywhere cabin like this. The design is cleverly engineered and incredibly robust, making it perfect for remote locations across the world.'

The Discovery Sport has been on sale for two years, and is Land Rover's biggest-selling model, with more than 100,000 vehicles sold so far in 2016. Designed for active lifestyles, it features generous luggage capacity, innovative storage solutions and configurable 5+2 seating. Land Rover prioritised head-, knee- and shoulder-room when designing the vehicle, ensuring excellent interior space in all derivatives thanks to a wheelbase of 2,741mm.

Helen Ali, vehicle package team leader, said: 'We wanted to create a Christmas cabin for Santa, in a truly Land Rover way. The spacious and versatile Discovery Sport was perfect for this project. The seats can be folded flat at the push of a button from the load space, which is wide and square and there are plenty of hidden storage spaces like the area under the front cup-holders.'

'Building a cabin that utilised all these features was a lot of fun. We could have built this in one of our bigger models, but we wanted to prove just how versatile the baby of the Discovery family truly is.'

Land Rover engineers made a virtual model of the cabin to get the most from every millimetre of space. Then they worked with specialist Danish architects LUMO to build it from sustainable materials. Designed to have a minimal impact on the environment, it rests on 212mm wooden struts that exactly match the Discovery Sport's ride height.

The cabin shares several features with Discovery models, including an optional tailgate seat on the deck. The wide horizontal door opening is inspired by the vehicle's full-length panoramic roof and provides epic landscape views. There's a solar charger on the roof, while lights and a kettle can be connected to the Discovery Sport's 12V power socket.

Land Rover packaging engineer Muhammed Malik helped design and build the cabin. He said: 'Anything that wears the Land Rover badge has to be capable and versatile, with beautiful, simple design. Our cabin also had to be sustainable and easily transportable. We are used to working with VIP clients at Land Rover, but this was definitely one of the most unusual.'

Land Rover will be using the cabin over the next few years to support ongoing partnerships and upcoming events, and it will be making appearances through its network of Land Rover Experience centres.



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# RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

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## Assistant De-licing Systems Manager

Over the coming years Marine Harvest has announced plans to invest over £100 million to integrate and grow its farming and fish feed production business in Scotland. We are proud of our 50 year heritage in the Scottish Highlands and Islands and the support we have from local communities and our dedicated workforce.

This year has marked the arrival of new non chemical methods in lice treatment. We currently operate 3 Hydrolicing systems. A further 2 systems, including a Thermolicer, are due to be in operation this year. These machines are proving highly effective for the non-chemical removal and capture of sea lice.

Due to the current incumbent leaving the Company, we are currently looking to recruit a suitably qualified, experienced and highly motivated individual to take on the role of Assistant De-licing Systems Manager in this new and specialised area in farming. The post brings with it significant responsibility and the appointed Assistant De-licing Systems Manager will be required to be flexible in terms of total hours worked, in order to satisfy the demands of the role.

Potential candidates should possess several years' salmon farming experience, have a sound understanding of fish husbandry and have the ability to problem solve using their own initiative. Good communication & planning skills and a high degree of computer literacy is also essential. The post also requires a high level of technical ability and competence in order to fault find and train operators in the operation and maintenance of the systems. It is also a requirement of the post that the incumbent be an effective deputy for the Manager as and when required, assisting with the man-management of the operators and the coordination and logistics of the treatment vessels. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake significant travel as required.

If you have the drive, commitment and enthusiastic personality that is required for this interesting, important and novel role, coupled with the relevant experience, please apply in writing, no later than Friday 23rd December 2016, stating your reasons for applying and your relevant skills and experiences to: Gillian Dempster, Human Resources Advisor, Marine Harvest Scotland, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX.

Email: [gillian.dempster@marineharvest.com](mailto:gillian.dempster@marineharvest.com)

Informal enquiries can be addressed to Sean Anderson, De-licing Systems Manager, Marine Harvest Scotland, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX

E-mail: [sean.anderson@marineharvest.com](mailto:sean.anderson@marineharvest.com)



## Seawater Farm Manager Lewis & Harris

Marine Harvest Scotland is the largest producer of Atlantic salmon in Scotland. The Company employs a workforce of over 600 throughout the Highlands and Islands and produces over 50,000 tonnes of salmon annually. Our farming operations are based in Fort William and the Company prides itself in being a major employer of skilled people and strives to produce high quality, healthy and nutritious seafood in the most sustainable way.

Over the coming years Marine Harvest has announced plans to invest over £100 million to integrate and grow its farming and fish feed production business in Scotland. We are proud of our 50 year heritage in the Scottish Highlands and Islands and the support we have from local communities and our dedicated workforce.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Seawater Farm Manager on one of the Companies sites in Lewis or Harris.

As Farm Manager you will be responsible for the day to day planning and running of your site. Reporting to and working closely with the Area Manager the successful candidate will ideally already be a Farm Manager within the aquaculture industry, or an experienced Assistant Manager that is keen to progress into management, with proven ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice and operating in a safe and well maintained working environment.

Essential skills will include the ability to manage and motivate staff, first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake travel and work on any of the Companies sites as required.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from a salary package befitting the significance of this role, including bonus and the opportunity to develop their career within Marine Harvest.

If you have the drive, commitment and enthusiastic personality that is required for this role, please apply in writing stating your reasons for applying and your relevant skills and experiences to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX by 31st January 2017.

**The Scottish Salmon Company**  
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

**Scotland's Business of The Year is looking for a...**

**ASSISTANT HARVEST MANAGER**  
**Toward, Dunoon**  
**Competitive salary dependent on experience**  
**...to join our team of passionate aquaculture professionals.**

We are currently recruiting for an Assistant Harvest Manager. This role will assist and provide support to the Harvest Manager in maintaining the daily harvest process and operations, to enable delivery of a quality product within the defined targets. Applicants will have previous supervisory experience, be well-motivated, proactive individual with a positive and flexible approach to driving continuous improvement within the team. The successful candidate will also assist in ensuring site compliance with all Food Hygiene, Health & Safety, Environmental and Animal Welfare legislation. Hours are 40 per week, Sunday to Thursday evenings starting at 10pm. Please note normal working hours may vary to meet the harvest plan. A full clean driving licence is also essential for this position. The Scottish Salmon Company is 100% focused on Scotland. We produce our salmon with a pride recognised at home and around the World. We require passionate individuals dedicated to delivering the highest standards in all aspects of our business from animal husbandry to customer service. In return we offer a competitive salary package within a successful and innovative company committed to sustainability. To apply and/or request a detailed job specification please use the contact details below. Please note applications are requested by CV and covering letter.

**Angela Gibson, HR officer,**  
**The Scottish Salmon Company**  
**Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8HB**  
**Tel: 01499 600 430 [angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com)**  
**Closing date for applications: Monday 12 December 2016**  
**[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)**

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WINNER 2015

## THE COMMISSIONERS OF NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSES require a

### Base Supervisor

The Northern Lighthouse Board - [www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk) - is the General Lighthouse Authority for Scotland and the Isle of Man, established by statute to provide, maintain and inspect marine aids to navigation throughout its waters.

Based at the Commissioners' facilities in Gallanach Road, Oban and reporting to the Marine Operations Manager, the successful candidate will supervise a team of Base Assistants. The post holder will be required to work a Monday to Friday pattern from 0800 hours to 1635 hours.

The preferred candidate will be able to supervise the efficient and safe delivery of base operations and buoyage services, and support management and operations assistants to meet the needs of NLB and commercial customers.

To be successful in this role you will have had strong supervisory experience along with mechanical and electrical experience as well as crane operations.

Salary range is from £26,712 rising to £29,388, depending on performance. Additional benefits include generous leave arrangements, career average occupational pension scheme and corporate gym membership.

For further details and an application pack (Closing date 22nd December 2016) please e-mail [jobs@nlb.org.uk](mailto:jobs@nlb.org.uk) or write to: - HR Department, Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street, EDINBURGH, EH2 3DA.

## HIJOBS HIJOBS RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT HIJOBS HIJOBS RECRUITMENT

### Caledonian MacBrayne

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is currently recruiting for the following seasonal positions:

### Third Officers, Third Engineers, Deck Ratings and Retail Staff

Calmac Ferries Ltd is a multi-award winning business serving some of the most beautiful parts of Scotland. With over 30 ferries, we provide lifeline services to the islands and peninsulas on Scotland's West Coast.

Our excellent benefits package includes a competitive salary plus a generous annual leave entitlement. You could also take advantage of free ferry travel for you and your family.

To view further details of all our current vacancies, and details of how to apply, please visit our website at:

[www.calmac.co.uk/careers](http://www.calmac.co.uk/careers)

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

**Join the Blue Revolution**

*The future is in the ocean - just beneath the surface. Only two per cent of the food produced in the world originates from the ocean.*

**Marine Harvest Scotland**  
**Graduate Management Training Programme**

Are You a Graduate Looking for a Rewarding Career in Salmon Farming?

Our Graduate Management Training Programme provides a unique opportunity for you to fast-track a career into salmon farming.

Our 2 year programme provides experience in every part of our salmon farming business including service departments, fish-processing, finance and overseas.

We are looking for talented graduates who are ambitious, adaptable and capable of making a difference for a rewarding career in aquaculture.

**Graduate Training programme**

In order to apply for a place on our Graduate Training Programme you must:

- have or predicted to achieve 2.1 entry level or merit at Masters Level in any discipline, although preference will be given to biological sciences and aquaculture.
- have a full UK driving licence
- be aspired to be a future manager / leader;
- have the drive to stand out from the crowd.

If you possess the above skills and qualifications we can offer you:

- a place on the 2 year Graduate Management Programme
- a starting salary of £21,000

Please apply in writing, stating your reasons for applying to: Vicky Ferguson, HR Manager, Marine Harvest Scotland, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX  
Email: [vicky.ferguson@marineharvest.com](mailto:vicky.ferguson@marineharvest.com)



## Gas Compliance/Planned Maintenance Manager

Helensburgh, Dunoon or Oban

Salary £27,087 - £31,867

35 hours per week

Permanent position

Argyll Homes For All Ltd. requires a qualified person to fulfil Gas Compliance duties and to manage our Pre-Planned Maintenance contracts. ACS Qualifications are essential. Previous experience in supervision of Operatives is desirable.

For more information, please contact Phil Burn on 01546 605 824

For further details and to apply visit the recruitment section of our website [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk)

CVs are not accepted.

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 30 December 2016



## Uist Reserves Warden

Salary £22,073 to £23,912

Based Uist or Benbecula

We are seeking a dynamic and organised person with experience of crofting/farming and a keen interest in wildlife to join our small team doing big things for some of the UK's rarest species and habitats. As Uist reserves warden, you will lead on the delivery of habitat management across the islands. Good communication skills are essential as you will be liaising with crofters/farmers and the general public on a regular basis.

You will be responsible for delivering practical habitat management through agri/environment schemes, contractors and volunteers, ensuring high standards of health and safety, as well as assisting with biodiversity monitoring.

You will manage volunteers and also be involved in the administration of the reserves. You will need to be a good team player who is good at communicating with internal and external stakeholders, but you will also be able to lone work & use your initiative to solve problems. We are looking for someone who has experience in farming/crofting practices and habitat management techniques

Closing date: 13 January 2017. Interview date: 30 January 2017

For further information and to download an application pack please visit our website [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) or email [nsro@rspb.org.uk](mailto:nsro@rspb.org.uk)

Let's give nature a home in Scotland

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no 207076 and Scotland no. SC037654

## Scottish Canals

### Crinan

We are looking for a Team Leader to support the Operations Supervisor at the Crinan Canal in the daily management of the operational teams.

Information about Scottish Canals and full details of the role, including the role description, hours of work and remuneration, can be viewed on our 'Join Our Team' section of our website at [www.scottishcanals.co.uk](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk)

To apply for the role, please send your CV and a

Covering letter to [recruitment@scottishcanals.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@scottishcanals.co.uk)

Closing Date: 20th December 2016

## HIJOBS RECRUITMENT

## North Argyll House

### Care Home

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG

We are recruiting for the following positions

### Senior Care Officer

Part time permanent post

### Care Assistant

Full time permanent post

### Domestic Assistant x 2

part time permanent post

For an application form contact Manager

Morag A Telfer 01631 562168

## HIJOBS HIJOBS RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT



## Experienced Excavator Operator required for Forestry Ground Prep Operations in Argyll

This is a full time position with excellent pay and conditions for the correct person. Please contact, Fraser Dykes on 07711545638 or [fraser@amdcontractservices.co.uk](mailto:fraser@amdcontractservices.co.uk)

# RECRUITMENT

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **HIJOBS**

# PUBLIC NOTICES

Call now to place an ad in our Public Notice section. Tel: 01631 568000

Is the future of Gaelic important to you?

**Board members are sought for Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

An application pack and full details on this and other public appointments can be found at the public appointments website [www.appointed-for-scotland.org/](http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org/) Scottish Ministers welcome applications from groups currently under-represented on Scotland's public bodies, such as women, disabled people, ethnic minorities and people aged under 50.

Applications to be submitted by closing date of Friday the 6th of January at noon. Appointed on merit; committed to diversity and equality.

A bheil cor na Gàidhlig cudromach dhuibh?

**Thathar a' sireadh bhall ùra airson Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

Gheibhear pasgan-iarrtais agus fiosrachadh iomlan mun dreuchd seo agus mu dhreuchdan poblach eile air an làrach-lìn shònraichte airson dreuchdan poblach: [www.appointed-for-scotland.org/](http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org/)

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba a' cur fàilte air iarrtasan bho dhaoine nach eil air an riochdachadh chun na h-ìre a bhite an dùil ann am buidhnean poblach na h-Alba, leithid bhoireannaich, daoine ciormarach, mion-shluaigh cinneachail agus daoine a tha nas òige na 50.

Se an ceann-latha airson iarrtasan, Dihaoine 6mh Faoilleach 2017 aig 12f.

A' fastadh dhaoine a rèir cho airidh 's a tha iad; a' cur iomadachd is co-ionannachd air adhart.



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## HGV Mechanic

We are an independent commercial repair garage based in Oban & we are currently looking for a qualified HGV mechanic to join our busy work shop. We are looking for an individual who has the ability to work on a varied fleet of vehicles & trailers for both local & national customers.

Duties will include:

- Periodic maintenance & safety inspections to DVSA standards and completion of relevant paperwork
- Diagnostic skills (both mechanical & electrical)
- Attending breakdowns & repairs at roadside
- Preparation & presentation of customers vehicles for MOT
- Working as part of a team in our busy workshop
- Must hold a full, clean driving licence (HGV an advantage not essential)

In return we offer a competitive hourly rate, along with a workplace pension. The option of overtime is available at an enhanced hourly rate.

For more information please contact Susan on 01631 564099

## HIJOBS HIJOBS RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/04984/FUL	Fort William Primary School	Achintore Road, Fort William	Change of use of former primary school building into office, archive & record store
16/05177/FUL	Oakburn, Spean Bridge		Erection of house
16/05304/FUL	Lag-Na-Lion, Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan, Acharacle		Erection of house, formation of vehicular access, installation of septic tank and soakaway
16/05316/FUL	Land 850M NE of The Tattie House, Isle of Rum		Installation of 6m telecoms mast and cabinet for community broadband project
16/05372/FUL	Land 80M SW of Allt Beag, 12A West Tirindrish, Spean Bridge		Erection of house
16/05383/FUL	Sundolitt Ltd, Unit 9, Annat Point Industrial Estate, Corpach, Fort William		Proposed installation of LPG gas supply (12x2 tonne underground vessels)
16/05392/FUL	Site 260M North West of Achnabobane Farmhouse, Spean Bridge		Erection of house, garage and annex, installation of septic tank and soakaway
16/05398/FUL	Lochan Cottage Guest House, Lochyside, Fort William		Change of use from Class 7 (guest house) to Class 8 (residential institution)
16/05401/FUL	Land 60M SW of Tighian, Upper Inverroy, Roy Bridge		Erection of house, installation of septic tank and soakaway
16/05410/FUL	Gorsten Cottage, Ardour, Fort William		Change of use from derelict cottage to agricultural store
16/05411/LBC	Gorsten Cottage, Ardour, Fort William		Change of use from residential to agricultural store
16/05432/FUL	Mingarry Park Guest House & Self Catering Lodges, Acharacle		Erection of house
16/05493/FUL	Land 100M North East of Glenbeg, Acharacle		Remove existing building and erect 3 warehouses for whisky storage

**Time period for comments is 25 days. For application 16/05411/LBC, time period ends on 17 January 2017.**

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/03111/PP	Erection of storage building.	Argyll Agricultural Engineers Glenhelach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4BH	Oban Area Office
16/03184/PP	Erection of storage building	Factory Glenegedale Industrial Estate Glenegedale Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7AS	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
16/03196/PP	Change of use of exhibition and café area to form office and storage, change workshop to form welfare facilities and change store and restroom into office	The Columba Centre Fionnphort Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA66 6BL	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull
16/02864/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent To Tigh Na Mara Port Aggin Aggin Argyll And Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Port Appin
16/03201/PP	Internal and external alterations including; erection of replacement shed, external steel staircase to side elevation, formation of deck areas and installation of external extractor flue.	Loch Melfort Hotel Arduaire Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XG	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
16/03159/PP	Installation of external wall insulation and re-painting of render (retrospective)	3 And 4 Shore Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SH	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
16/03160/PP	Installation of external wall insulation and re-painting of render (retrospective)	6 Shore Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SH	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
16/03242/PP	Installation of sewage treatment plant	Land At Tigh-An-Lochan Kilchrenan Tainuitt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HD	Sub Post Office Tainuitt

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION**

**EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL**

It is customary for children to attend their local school; however, parents may make a written request to place their child in any school under the management of the education authority. Such a request is referred to as a placing request.

Information concerning the authority's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and at the Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

Placing requests for session beginning August 2017 should be sent to the Executive Director of Community Services, Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000) by 17 March 2017 for primary and secondary schools.

**Gaelic Medium Education**

Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tree Primary School, Tiree; Salen Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, Oban; and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon. For further information on Gaelic Medium Education please contact: Catriona Garvin, Education Support Officer: Gaelic, [catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

Parents who are interested in such provision are advised to register at the Gaelic Medium School in their area in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 2 January 2017.

Parents of children due to start school in August 2017, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 2 January 2017.

**Ann Marie Knowles, Acting Executive Director - Community Services**

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**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**

Mr John Henry Dalrymple Bridges has registered the croft 3A Uragais, Uragais, Isle of 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 the 18th August 2017.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C321.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mr David Hugh Bennett has registered his croft Auchnacraig, Pennygown, Auchnacraig, Pennygown & Torosay 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 21st August 2017.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C3317.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Bid4Oban Notice to Oban Residents**

Please note that the Hogmanay Fireworks Display will take place from McCaigs Tower at midnight. Roads in the direct vicinity will be closed for 30 minutes at this time. This applies to Laurel Road, Duncraggan Road down to the junction with Ardconnel Road

**Enjoy and stay safe this Hogmanay**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 OBAN TRANSIT BERTHING FACILITY, NORTH PIER, OBAN BAY, FIRTH OF LORN**

Notice is hereby given that Argyll & Bute Council (per Fairhurst) has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the installation of the Oban Transit Berthing facility at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
North Pier, Oban	56° 24.814' N	005° 28.581' W
Bay, Firth of Lorn	56° 24.892' N	005° 28.703' W
	56° 24.950' N	005° 28.731' W
	56° 25.001' N	005° 28.694' W
	56° 25.027' N	005° 28.652' W
	56° 25.029' N	005° 28.544' W
	56° 25.023' N	005° 28.501' W
	56° 24.947' N	005° 28.470' W
	56° 24.944' N	005° 28.497' W
	56° 24.941' N	005° 28.496' W
	56° 24.944' N	005° 28.468' W
	56° 24.923' N	005° 28.439' W
	56° 24.887' N	005° 28.516' W
	56° 24.866' N	005° 28.483' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: MCMS No. 06111

Argyll & Bute Council (per Fairhurst)

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MOORINGS FOR TWO CONCRETE CAISSONS, CORPACH OLD PAPERMILL PIER, LOCH LINNHE**

Notice is hereby given that Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd (per Wallace Stone LLP) has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of moorings for two concrete caissons at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Corpach Old Papermill Pier, Loch Linnhe	56°50.406'N	005°07.916'W
	56°50.401'N	005°07.758'W
	56°50.320'N	005°07.896'W
	56°50.323'N	005°07.790'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Marine Harvest, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 06146

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd (per Wallace Stone LLP)

**Carnoch or Carnoch Common Grazings Formal intimation under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993**

Notice is hereby given that Williamina Isobel McFadzean has applied to the Scottish Land Court for an Order authorising resumption of approximately 0.084 acres (0.034 hectares) of the common grazings of the township of Carnoch or Carnoch. The purpose of resumption is to regularise the position whereby the area described has been used for many years as part of the site of the dwellinghouse and garden ground known as Braehead Cottage, Tigh A Phuir, Glencoe, PH49 4HN, in order to allow the sale of the whole property.

On 9 December 2016 the Court appointed this intimation by newspaper advertisement and ordered the Applicants to send to the Clerk to the Grazings Committee copies of the Application, associated productions and the Court's Practice Note No. 4 (which emphasises the need for crofters to protect their own rights). The Court ordered any shareholder or other person having a legal interest who opposes the Application or who wishes to claim compensation or a share in value of the land to be resumed, to lodge Answers, including details of any such claim, with the Principal Clerk, George House, 126 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4HH within twenty-one days from the date of the final advertisement. Copies of the Application, productions and Practice Note have been sent to Simon J Nadin, Mountain Way, 13A Carnoch, Glencoe, Ballachulish, PH49 4HS and these documents may be inspected either there, at the Court's offices in Edinburgh, or at the offices of the Agents. Copies of the Practice Note may also be obtained from the Principal Clerk (Tel: 0131 271 4360). It should be noted that any further Orders of the Court, including the Final Order, will be intimated to those persons who have lodged answers to this advertisement and to the Clerk to the Common Grazings Committee. Copies of any further Orders may be obtained from the Principal Clerk upon request.

McIntyre & Company, 38 High Street, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 6AT  
01397 703231 Agents for Applicants

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS**

David & Mrs E B Kershaw Glenmore, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 0.476 ha - Site for an existing dwelling house 74414

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 13 January 2017 - Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

Mr T Bryson 65 Ormsaigbeg, Craigard 0.15 ha - site for a proposed new development 70642

Condition - With fencing conditions. Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber** will be holding a surgery on Monday, December 19th December from 2.00pm - 3.00pm in his Constituency Office, Mamore House, Fort William, PH33 6BA All welcome and no appointments necessary.

**BREEDON**

**BLAST AT BANAVIE QUARRY**

**MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER**

**BETWEEN 12:00 - 14:00hrs**

# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

✔ LETTINGS ✔ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ✔ SALE ✔ PROPERTY REVIEWS ✔ PROPERTY NEWS ✔ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

## Hints for selling your home in winter

While the number of properties available remains reasonably stable, the winter months can provide an opportune moment for buyers to focus their property search. For those willing to brave the chill, the winter market can also bring a greater sense of commitment from both sides to complete the sale, as people tend to make life-changing decisions in the New Year.

**First impressions count** – the outside of your house is the first thing that potential buyers will see, and in the winter front gardens and paths can look particularly drab. Make sure your front garden is up to scratch by painting any weather-beaten walls and replacing any frost-bitten plants.

**Run an open house** – buyers can often be put off house hunting during the coldest months, as the prospect of walking the streets looking at properties is not appealing. However, sellers can make this work to their advantage by running well-advertised open-house days during the winter. This will help attract committed and focused buyers, who will be grateful for your offer of a warm drink and a slice of home-made cake.

**Keep it warm** – it's simple but important: make sure that your home is well-heated while viewings are taking place. Plus, allow time for the house to warm up. If you know you're going to be rushing home from work to oversee a viewing, it's a good idea to set the heating timer so it comes on an hour before the buyer arrives. Buyers will also be interested in how well the heating system works, so if you have a particularly cold room it could be worth ensuring it is better insulated during the winter chill.

**Check your lights** – another simple tip is to ensure your home is lit well. Buyers will be even more attuned to the mood of the house in winter, and without much sunshine to brighten things up, it's important that you make sure all your bulbs are working to show off your home at its best. Safety-conscious buyers may also be impressed by outside lights and security lights, so invest in those if you are able.



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Situating at Morar close to the beach, this furnished 2-bedroom cottage has been newly decorated and is available for long-term rental. £550 per calendar month. Deposit and references will be required. Contact [touganeil@aol.co.uk](mailto:touganeil@aol.co.uk) for further details/photographs/viewings.  
Landlord Ref. No. 246686/270/11431

## Keeping warm this winter – top tips

Leading care at home company Mears is giving this information to older people across Scotland as we head into a cold winter.

Lynsey Young service manager for Mears in Oban, says: 'We want to ensure that older people in our communities and people with medical conditions affected by cold temperatures are aware of the simple things they can do to stay warm this winter. Our support workers are out and about in all weathers looking after those people in our communities we support. But it's great to have a bit of neighbourly help too.'



1. It helps to be a good neighbour, so pop in on anyone nearby who you know to ensure they are keeping well in the colder spells we might have this winter, and to provide a bit of company to someone you know in your community.
2. Mears suggests – to keep warm, you keep your home at a regular temperature of between 18 and 21 degrees C.
3. To keep warm and keep your bills manageable – shut doors to any rooms you don't use.
4. Wear several thin layers of clothing, rather than just one thick layer.
5. Close your curtains in the evening as soon as it becomes dark. At this time of year the sun goes down officially even before 4pm in the afternoon in most parts of Scotland – it's getting dark really early.
6. Curtains help to stop the heat you've generated escaping and prevent draughts from windows.
7. Some of you may already have had the flu jab – it's a good measure to prevent ill health and available from your doctor's surgery every year.

8. Ask your energy provider if they have any special rates for the elderly and for any extra benefits on offer to help pay for additional heating if it's an exceptionally cold winter ahead. And we have already seen some really frosty mornings.
9. Avoid placing furniture in front of radiators in your central heating system, to let the heat from the radiator permeate your room and function at its best.
10. Wrap up warmly, whether reading a book, listening to the radio, or in front of the TV – with a shawl an extra blanket or a fleece or a throw, which have become popular in recent years with all age groups.
11. Drink hot drinks to keep your body heat up – hot chocolate, a cup of tea or coffee, and even a mug of hot soup will help.

Mears provides care at home across the UK, on contracts to the local authorities. It has a large team of support workers whose daily tasks are to make life easier for those continuing into old age, and living in their own homes, who might need a bit of extra help.  
Mears care provides care and support at home to over 40,000 people each week across the UK, providing a trusted, flexible service to support people's different needs. Its services include respite care, re-enablement care following an episode of illness or stay in hospital, domiciliary care for day to day domestic and personal support, live-in 24 hour care as well as palliative care.

## It's time to talk turkey!

**Although the property market is quieter in the run up to Christmas, now is the time to start making plans for 2017. Contact us today to find out how we can help you.**

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[william.banham@bellingham.co.uk](mailto:william.banham@bellingham.co.uk)  
[bellingham.co.uk](http://bellingham.co.uk)

### House price index shows 3.4 per cent increase in average prices in Scotland

The latest publication of the UK House Price Index (UK HPI) shows that the average price of a property in Scotland in September 2016 was £143,006 – an increase of 3.4 per cent on the previous year and an increase of 0.2 per cent when compared to the previous month. This compares to a UK average of £217,888, which was an increase of 7.7 per cent over the year and an increase of 0.2 per cent when compared to the previous month.

Across Scotland, all property types showed an increase in average price when compared with the previous year, with detached properties showing the biggest increase of 4.4 per cent to £249,247. Registers of Scotland director of commercial services Kenny Crawford said: 'The percentage increases in average house prices in Scotland, while below the UK average, have been showing steady growth, with month-on-month increases in every month this year apart from February. Average prices have been steadily increasing on a year-on-year basis, too, with only one drop in average price being recorded in the past three years. This was in March of this year.'

Interestingly, the HPI also reveals that the average price for a property purchased by a former owner occupier was £171,454 – an increase of 3.7 per cent on the previous year. The average price for property purchased by a first-time buyer was £115,552 – an increase of 3.1 per cent on the previous year. The average price for a cash sale was £132,032 – an increase of 3.5 per cent on the previous year – while the average price for property purchased with a mortgage was £148,075 – an increase of 3.4 per cent on the previous year.

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**Properties for sale**

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<p><b>Falls Crescent, Connel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious Detached House</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms + WC</li> <li>Partial views of Loch Etive</li> <li>Popular village location</li> <li>Garden &amp; Integrated Garage</li> <li>EPC Rating - C78</li> </ul> <p><b>£35K UNDER MR VALUE</b> <b>£290,000</b></p> <p>A modern and spacious detached house located in the popular village of Connel in Argyll. The property offers bright and spacious rooms, practical layout and partial views over Loch Etive and the hills beyond.</p>	<p><b>The Steading, Camas Inas, Acharacle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached House</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Loch side location with mooring</li> <li>Stunning views</li> <li>Set in approx. 2.5 acres</li> <li>EPC Rating - E48</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £380,000</b></p> <p>The Steading - This spacious loch side three bedroom extended steading complete with mooring, set in approx. 2.5 acres with panoramic views across Loch Sunart. Originally an old byre dating back to the 1800s the property has been extended and modernised to create a spacious and practical home.</p>	<p><b>Strongarbh Park, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached House</li> <li>3 / 4 Bedrooms</li> <li>Elevated situation</li> <li>Views over Tobermory &amp; Sound of Mull</li> <li>Private Garden</li> <li>Holiday Rental Potential</li> <li>EPC Rating - D67</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £250,000</b></p> <p>A 3 / 4 bedroom one and a half storey detached house occupying an elevated situation within a quiet residential area in upper Tobermory enjoying views over the town and towards the Sound of Mull. This well presented property offers spacious rooms in a practical layout.</p>	<p><b>Glenelg, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid Terraced House</li> <li>5 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Detached Workshop</li> <li>Central location</li> <li>Walking distance to amenities</li> <li>EPC Rating - F35</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £240,000</b></p> <p>A deceptively spacious 5 bedroom mid-terrace house in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. The property comprises a small porch which leads to a spacious lounge dining room on the ground floor with the kitchen and family bathroom at the rear. Upstairs there are 5 bedrooms with 1 ensuite shower room.</p>
<p><b>Whinfield, Glenmore Road, Oban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached house</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Quiet location</li> <li>Lovely views over Oban</li> <li>Well maintained property</li> <li>EPC Rating - F33</li> </ul> <p><b>OIEO £200,000</b></p> <p>Whinfield is a detached 3 bedroom property situated in an elevated position overlooking Oban. The house would make an ideal family home with its excellent location on Pulpit Hill, great layout and well proportioned rooms.</p>	<p><b>Falls View Apartments, North Connel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Floor Apartment</li> <li>2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Views of Connel Bridge &amp; Loch Etive</li> <li>Sought after location</li> <li>Private parking</li> <li>EPC Rating D65</li> </ul> <p><b>UNDER OFFER</b> <b>OIRO £180,000</b></p> <p>5 Falls View Apartments - A modern ground floor apartment located in the popular settlement of North Connel overlooking Connel Bridge and the falls of Lora. This well maintained two bedroom apartment is presented in walk in condition, forming part of an attractive block of four apartments.</p>	<p><b>Airport View, Crossapol Isle Of Tiree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached Croft House with Workshop</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 1 Shower room</li> <li>Spacious rooms</li> <li>Central island location</li> <li>Far reaching views</li> <li>EPC Rating - F25</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £170,000</b></p> <p>Airport View is a traditional croft house located on the beautiful Isle of Tiree. This spacious detached house offers generous reception rooms with 3 spacious bedrooms, external workshop space and large garden and drive.</p>	<p><b>Rockfield Road, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Floor Flat</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom</li> <li>Situated in a popular residential area</li> <li>Private front and rear garden</li> <li>Excellent first time buyer property</li> <li>EPC Rating - F40</li> </ul> <p><b>REDUCED PRICE</b> <b>OIRO £110,000</b></p> <p>51 Rockfield Road offers excellent family sized accommodation within easy reach of Tobermory town centre. Situated a short walk from the Main Street, the ground floor flat has a lounge, kitchen/diner, 3 double bedrooms and a family bathroom.</p>

# LOCAL SERVICES

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 LOAD LINER HARD PLASTIC New Ford Ranger Wildtrak. Has fitted 12v waterproof socket. On rear of wheel arch, brand new. Unused, £99.99 Telephone 07766 577095.  
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 ROOF BARS genuine VW roof bars with keys to fit Mk 4 Golf five door model, £45 Telephone 07825 643617.  
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 WINTER TYRES 4 Falken, 185/65R14, used for 1 month, £180 Telephone 07775 444315 Fort William.

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**£600**  
 01631 563507

£50 Telephone 07771 887468.  
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2 SIX YEAR OLD potted Camellia shrubs. Would make lovely Christmas presents, £20 each Telephone 01546 600045.  
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COMPUTER DESK (solid) light wood, very good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 570392.  
 SMALL DESK light wood effect, 3 drawers, very good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 570392.

**KITCHEN AND BATHROOM**

WOODEN TOWEL HOLDER 3 ft high, 28 inches long, £5 Telephone 07429 490241.

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 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](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

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NORTHERN DIVER DRY SUIT size M.L.R. Would fit a guy upto 6 ft of medium build. Size 9/10 feet. No repairs or scuffs. Seals are perfect. Great suit, £99.99 Telephone 07766 577095.

**MOBILITY**

MOBILITY SCOOTER with canopy, Lochgilhead Area, £300 no Telephone 07786 925491.

**MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT**

HELMET Motorcycle helmet used once, immaculate, £10 Telephone 01631 566429.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

NEW BEGINNERS VIOLIN in case unused gift including book, full size, suit beginner, £35 Telephone 01631 566429.  
 UNUSED ACOUSTIC GUITAR Westfield mid-night blue guitar in case plus beginners book and DVD, immaculate, £60 Telephone 01631 566429.

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ELC WOODEN DOUBLE SIDED EASEL Excellent condition. Pink pastel-Chalkboard one side/wipe-clean magnetic whiteboard on other. Paint pots and paper too. Oban, £15 Telephone 07795 180964.

**WANTED**

**SHELLFISH WANTED**  
 Cockles from 'B' waters with registration document, also large winkles, will collect, Loch Leven Shellfish.  
 01855 821444 OR 07785 346231.

TELESCOPE (second hand) Ross, Three Draw. Telephone 01546 603262 evenings.

**THE PINK LADIES DAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU...**

The Pink Ladies Day was held on Friday 9th December at The Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray. A day of friendship, pampering, good food and company for women who have or are recovering from breast cancer. Each guest brought along a close friend to share the day with. We had 50 women there this year! We could not have done it this year without the Loch Fyne Oysters team of 12 that raised over £4,000 undertaking the 3 Peaks Challenge just for us!  
 We cannot thank you enough.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the following individuals and businesses that played a huge part in beautifying, pampering and relaxing our ladies. All of you did this out of the kindness of your hearts! The Pink Ladies day is only as special as it is because of you:

LeeAnne Fraser - Make-Up Artist, Joanne Coleman - Make-Up Artist, Niki Currie - Make Up-Artist, Rie Emmers - Oncology Massage Therapist (IRIS), Liz O'Neill - Oncology Massage Therapist (IRIS), Ruth Moody - Yoga Teacher, Paula Roberts - Reiki Practitioner, Morag Mathie - Meso Vytal therapist, Gail Proudman - Meso Vytal therapist and medical tattooist, Honor McCutcheon and her wonderful team of 8 Dunoon Grammar School students in nails, hair and beauty, Arlene Allan for her candle sales! West Coast Motors for help with transport, LJ Fair Photography for capturing moments

And thank you also to our amazing Goodie Bag Contributors...

Co-Op Dunoon, Morrisons Dunoon, Tesco Oban, Walkers Shortbread, Trinity Hairdressing, Oban, KMR Candles, Oban Chocolate Company and the lovely Liza Bourne who paid for the chocolates! The Gem Box Oban, Juno Gallery, Dunoon, DGS hair and beauty salon

Thanks also to the fantastic team at The Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa and special friends Joanna Brennan, Lynsey Anderson, Jan Ferguson, Arbonne and the Captain Tortue team - thank you, we had a blast

Love to all our Pink Ladies and here's to next year xxx

**PERSONALS**

**LAFFERTY - November 5, 2016**

Fearghas and Natalie (née Graham) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their first child Murray Ellis at the R.A.H on November 5, 2016. Sixth grandchild for Dougie and Allison Graham, Oban and the second for Joe and Chris Lafferty, Dundee.

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# Skippinish play sell-out gigs in Lewis

'S ANN aig an àm seo dhen bhliadhna a chitheadh sibh na còmhlan-ciùil cèilidh as fhearr air cuairtean na Nollaige agus b' e Oidhche Shathairne an còthrom dha mhuinntir Leòdhais Skipinnish fhaicinn agus a bharrachd air an turas sònraichte aig HebCelt b' e seo a' chiad thuras dha Norrie MacIomhair a bhith dhachaigh leis a' còmhlan is bha e follaiseach gun d' tàinig muinntir Leòdhais a-mach a thoirt taic dha. Bha na Leòdhaisach fortanach dha-rìribh dà chuirm fhaighinn ann an talla Barbhais - cèilidh teachlaich san fheasgar agus dannsa san oidhche.

Chaidh mise dhan dà chuirm agus a h-uile càil a chluinntinn agus feumaidh mi càntainn 's math gun deach. Bha Skipinnish ann an gleus fad na h-ùine ged be na chluich iad. Airson cèilidh an teaghlach rinn iad dà leth mu thrì cairteal na h-uarach gach fear 's cha do stad iad bho cheann gu ceann. Bha gach leth làn ciùil agus òrain leis na h-òrain aca fhèin le òrain Runrig nam measg cuideachd.

'S e oidhche caran mi-chaillear a bh' ann 's mar sin cha robh fhios agam am biodh mòran a' tighinn a-mach ach cha do chuir an aimsir stad orra idir. Bha an t-àite meadhanach làn agus chòrd an oidhche riutha uile.

'S e buidhean eadar-dhealichte a nochd air an làr san oidhche le daoine nas sine na 16 an lathair. Feumaidh mi àideachadh nach eil mi cinnteach mu dannsaichean far am faicear deugairean fo aois 18. Ach aon rud a mhothaich mi an oidhche ud, bha na deugairean air an làr fad na h-ùine a' dèanamh nan dicheall air gach port 's fonn a chluinneadh iad. Bha an talla luma làn le daoine, 's e 'sell out gig' a bh' ann mus do thòisich e 's chuir a' còmhlan barrachd ticeadan aig an dòras agus 's math gun d' rinn iad sin. Thàinig barrachd 's barrachd chun talla as dèidh dhaibh a bhith a-muigh airson diathad na Nollaig sa bhaile. Mar sin mus do ruig deireadh na h-oidhche cha b' urrainn dhut gluasad.

Chan eil e cumanta dà thachartas a chuir air dòigh san aon

àite ach dhomhsa dh' obraich glè mhath e, a' toirt comhrom chan ann a-mhàin dhan inbhich ach son teaghlachan a bhith an lathair 's gnàth-eòlas fhaighinn air an ceòl aca.

IT'S THIS time of year when the best ceilidh bands make their tour round the West Coast and last Saturday it was the turn for Lewis to receive Skipinnish.

It was the first time that Norrie 'Tago' Maciver has played the local halls since joining Skipinnish after a stint as a solo performer. And it was evident that the local community turned out to support him. We were fortunate to have two gigs put on by the band - a family ceilidh in the evening and a dance later in the night.

I went to both events and I am glad that I did. For me Skipinnish were on point with whatever they played.

The family ceilidh was in two 45-minute sets that were packed full of songs from start to finish. They gave the crowd a mixture of their own songs and a few Runrig covers thrown in.

The night itself was fairly miserable weather-wise and I did think it would hinder the turnout, but that was short-lived. The hall was fairly busy and from the feedback, everyone greatly enjoyed it.

It was a fairly different group of people turning out for the dance later in the evening, with the age limit being 16 and over. I must admit I am always wary of dances with under-18s but I must say that the floor was never empty and the younger ones did their best strathspey or barn dance to every song and tune they heard.

The hall was jumping with people and it was a sell-out before it began so the band decided to put more tickets on the door, and that to me was a good decision. More and more people turned up from town after their Christmas dinner parties.

It is not commonplace now for bands to put on two shows in the same place but I think it worked well and gives not only the adults a chance to hear their music but younger ones and families too.

Rick Hannaway



Skippinish delighted audiences, both at the ceilidh and, later, at the dance, with both events busy despite fears the bad weather would keep people away. Pictured: top, the band in full flow; below left, Skippinish are all smiles; centre, the floor was jumping; and right, the Lewis audience were in fine form.

## O'Come All Ye Faithful

A full guide to your local church services this festive season.

### 'For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'

IN A few short days, Christians will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and churches across Argyll invite you to join in the celebrations.

From choirs to Christingles, families can take time out of their busy holiday schedule to reflect on the spiritual significance of the season at one of the area's many festive services.

St John's Cathedral in Oban will celebrate Christmas with music and reflection at their 'Silent Night, Holy Night' service on Monday December 19 at 7.30pm. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held Thursday December 22, and on Christmas Eve the bible story will be told in the 'Well Good News' service at 3pm.

Oban Baptist Church presents Carols with Candlelight on Sunday December 20 at 6.30pm, with mince pies and mulled cordial on offer.

Families are welcome to the 10th annual Christingle service at Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland on Friday December 16 at 6.30pm. Each child receives a Christingle - an orange that has a candle set in it with a ribbon and sweets. During the service the lights are dimmed and the Christingles lit, and the congregation will hear the Christmas story and sing carols. The young people lead the nativity service on Sunday December 18 at 10.30am. Then on Christmas Eve at 7pm they will hold a family Christmas Eve worship - which comes with a guarantee from organisers

that children will then go straight to sleep until at least 9am! On Christmas Day there is a 10.30am family service.

Iona Abbey will hold regular morning services through Christmas in the Abbey Church, and special evening service times can be found at [iona.org.uk/island-centres/the-abbey](http://iona.org.uk/island-centres/the-abbey). Highlights include a Prayer for Healing service at 9pm on December 20, followed by Christingle on December 22 at 2pm. On the 23rd at 7.30pm they will hold a contemplative Taizé-style service. The public is welcome to join the church of their choice this Christmas, and with so many beautiful old churches in the area, residents are spoiled for choice when it comes to finding a magical candlelit atmosphere in which to celebrate the season.

**St Mary's Fort William**

**Mass of Christmas Night**  
Christmas Eve 10pm (carol service 9.45pm) (No Midnight Mass)

**Christmas Morning**  
Mass 10.30am

Christmas Services in Fort William & Lochaber

VISITATION AT TAYNUILT

Canon Fraser wishes you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas & New Year

Saturday 24th December  
Carols at 11.30pm  
followed by midnight mass

Sunday 25th December  
10.30 a.m. Christmas Mass

ALL WELCOME

KILMORE & OBAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Christmas Services

Friday 16 December

Christingle 6.30pm for all the family

Sunday 18 December

Advent 4 10.30am Nativity for all the family  
Followed by coffee and cake for Christian Aid

Saturday 24 December

Christmas Eve 7.00pm for all the family, 9.00pm Kilmore  
Watchnight 11.30pm

Sunday 25 December

Christmas Day 10.30am

For more information please contact the Church Office, Mon-Fri 9am-1pm  
Tel: 01631 562405  
E Mail: [obancofs@btinternet.com](mailto:obancofs@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.obanchurch.com](http://www.obanchurch.com)

St. Columba's Cathedral Oban

Monsignor James L MacNeil

Wishes you all a peaceful, holy and Happy Christmas Season

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER

6:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass  
followed by Blessing of the Crib

11.30 p.m. Carol Service  
followed by Midnight Mass

SUNDAY 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

All Welcome

ST ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

High Street, Fort William

Saturday 24th December  
11.45pm Midnight Mass  
And Blessing Of Crib

Sunday 25th December  
10.45am Family Eucharist

All Are Welcome

Registered charity no: 214779  
Scotland SC009259

The Salvation Army Community Church,  
18-20 Stevenson Street,  
Oban PA34 5NA

Tel: 01631 563652 or 07501 655 954

We would like to thank all our supporters for their continuing generosity and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please join us for a time of Celebration and Fellowship at 11am on Christmas morning. NB. There will be no Worship Service on Jan 1st.

Oban Congregational Church

Church will be open

Thursday 22, Friday 23  
and Saturday 24 between 2pm - 4pm

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and hope to see you.  
Rev Ken Hunter

DEATHS

**BUCHANAN** - Peacefully at Eadar Glinn Care Home, Oban, on Friday December 9, 2016, aged 83 years, Christina Teresa Buchanan, beloved wife of the late Donald, dearly loved mum of Michael and Douglas, dear sister of Peggy MacVicar. May she rest in peace.

**CAMPBELL** - Donald Thorburn (Bishopton). Peacefully at Accord Hospice, Paisley on Monday December 5, 2016. Donald, deeply loved husband of Linda. Adoring father of Kirsty and Donald and father-in-law of Dave and Laura. Doting Pop to DREW and Eva. Funeral service to be held at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar on Tuesday December 20 at 11.30am. All family and friends welcome. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund or Accord Hospice, Paisley.

**JOHNSON** - Peacefully at his daughter's Oban home, with his family by his side; on December 3, 2016 after an illness borne bravely and with great dignity; Robert Alexander Johnson (Bobby), aged 77 years, formerly of Lerwick, Shetland. Beloved husband of the late Peggy Johnson; loving dad to Shiralene, Cameron and the late Robert and cherished father-in-law to Tony. There is a link death cannot sever. Love and Remembrance last forever.

**MACFADYEN** - Peacefully in the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on December 10, 2016, Angus Snr, formerly of Braglenmore Farm, beloved husband of the late Marion, much loved father to Mary and Angus, father-in-law to Eddie and Rosemary, devoted grandad and great-grandad. Sorely missed. Funeral service to take place from Oban Parish Church on Friday December 16 at 1pm thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery.

**MACKENZIE** - Margaret, Toberonochy, Isle of Luing. Passed away peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on December 6, 2016, in her 85th year. Beloved wife of the late Donnie, mother to Janet, Christine and Dawn. Much loved gran and great-gran.

**MACMILLAN** - On December 7, 2016, peacefully at home, Donald MacMillan, in his 89th year, beloved husband of the late Eva MacDonald, much loved father of Margaret, John, Neil and the late Yvonne, a dear father-in-law and grandpa of Yvonne Young. Funeral service and interment was held at Glen Shira Cemetery, Inveraray, on December 14. Special thanks to Rev Roderick Campbell for officiating, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services and to all who paid their last respects.

**NEILSON BELL** - Iona Anne Neilson Bell, née Clark, aged 41 years, died very suddenly on December 3, 2016 at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock. Iona was a beloved wife of 20 years to Danion, mum to Reuben and Taliah, she was the much loved daughter of Helen and Archie Clark, Oban, a dear sister to Alan, sister-in-law and auntie. Iona will be missed greatly by all her aunts, cousins, family, friends and colleagues. She was the kindest and brightest of them all a light in a dark world. Her faith and service to others will be remembered by all who knew her. The funeral service took place at St. Marnocks Church, Kilmarnock on December 14, 2016 with interment at Drongan

cemetery. ISAAH 57-2 - Those who walk uprightly enter into his peace; They find rest;

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**MACLACHLAN** - Annemarie and Jon would like to thank family and friends from near and far for their support, cards, flowers and kind wishes on the death of their dear Don. Most especially for their heartfelt remarks and fond memories of Don. Special thanks to the Belford Hospital for the care given to Don and to Tweeddale Surgery for their support afterwards. To Shiona, Colin and Serena for the beautiful flowers, Scott Greenlees of John McLellan & Co who provided an excellent professional service. Thanks to Rev Richard Baxter, Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church for a beautiful service, both there and at the Crematorium. £604.34 was collected to be shared by the British Heart Foundation and Belford Hospital. Annemarie and John x

**MACLACHLAN** - Chrissie and family sincerely thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent sad loss of Ian. Thanks to Rev Gordon Mair and Rev David Kirk for a comforting and personal service and Rev Christopher MacRae and Rev Fiona Ogg for visitations. Grateful thanks to Drs McAdam and Swan, all staff at Pines Medical Centre and District Nurses. Thanks also to Scott and staff of J McLellan for their caring and professional service and to Kilchoan Community Centre for the catering. Finally thanks to everyone who paid their last respects and generously donated £552 which will be divided equally between Kilchoan Parish Church and Kilchoan Community Minibus Fund.

**McSHERRY** - The family of the much loved late Maureen McSherry, Roy Bridge, wish to thank friends, neighbours, her patients and the community for sympathy and support on her tragic and sudden death. Thanks to Mike McFall for his help and services and the Roy Bride Hotel for catering. A special thank you to Monseigneur Thomas Wynne, Peter Rose and St Margaret's Choir for a beautiful service; further enhanced by the music in Cille Choirill Cemetery. Also to the many mourners who travelled from across the UK and Denmark. A donation of £500 has been made to the local Diabetes Endowment Fund at the Belford Hospital.

**MAY** - James and the family of the late Chrissie May would like to thank everyone for their cards, kind expressions of sympathy and support on their sad loss. Thank you to all who looked after Chrissie during her stay at Lynn Court. Special thanks to all staff of Ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care and kindness to Chrissie in her final weeks. Thank you to Catriona and staff at Hamish Hoey's for the efficient service and help and Rev. Dugald Cameron for a lovely service. Thank you also to the staff at the Olive Garden for an excellent buffet.

MEMORIALS

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of a dear father, Lachlan, who passed away on December 14, 1994. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. Deep in my heart you will always stay Loved and remembered every day You always walk beside me every day Unseen, unheard but always near

Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Inserted by his loving daughter Margaret.

**GALBRAITH** - In loving memory of my dear wife Katherine who passed away December 17, 2013. Love and miss you constantly, always in my thoughts. Rest in peace lovely girl - Your loving husband John Mum we love and miss you always - J.J, Paul and Katie.

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of a dear mother, granny and great-granny, Jenny died December 12, 2003. Also remembering loved ones gone before and since. Sadly missed. - Tommy, Nellie and family.

**HOWE** - In loving memory of Betty, who died on December 18, 2014. She walks beside us every day, unseen and unheard but always near. - From all the family xxx

**MACCOLL** - Remembering my dear husband and our much loved dad, Charlie, on the first anniversary of his passing on December 16, 2015. Missed so much every day But forever in our hearts. - Mairi, Fiona and Calum.

**MACCOLL** - In loving memory of a dear brother and uncle Charlie, who passed away on December 16, 2015. Always in our thoughts. - Ewen and family.

**MACCOLL** - In loving memory of my dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle Charlie, who died on December 16, 2015. Sorely missed. - Allan, Mary and family.

**MACDONALD** - Neil. Lost off the oil rig 'Thistle Alpha' in the North Sea on December 17, 1976 aged 25. Always loved; never forgotten.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of a dear mum, granny and great granny Flora, who passed away on December 21, 2015. One year has passed since that sad day. You closed your eyes and slipped away. You left us

quietly without a fuss. And broke the hearts of all of us - Angus, Lachie, Margaret, Christine, Fiona, Linda, Alastair and all their families.

**McKINNEY** - In loving memory of our dear sister Marjorie, who died December 15, 2003. Forever in our thoughts. - Jessie and Pat.

**McKINNEY** - In loving memory of Marjorie, dear mum and granny who died on December 15, 2003. Always in our hearts, never forgotten. - Drew Walker and family.

**NICOLSON** - Precious memories of our dear mother and grandmother Christina Stewart who died December 19, 1985, also our dear sisters and aunts, Mima MacAulay, who died December 30, 1989 and Mary McTaggart, who died August 23, 2011. Time passes memories stay. Quietly remembered every day. Sadly missed by all the family.

**SIMMONDS** - In loving memory of my dearly loved husband, dear dad, grandad and great grandad, William David Simmonds, passed away December 20, 2013. RIP. Memories are like leaves of gold They never tarnish or grow old Locked in our hearts you will always be. Loved and remembered for all eternity. Love and miss you every single day. - Your loving wife Sheila and family, 9 Kennedy Court, Caol, Fort William.

**Oban Times** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

MEMORIALS

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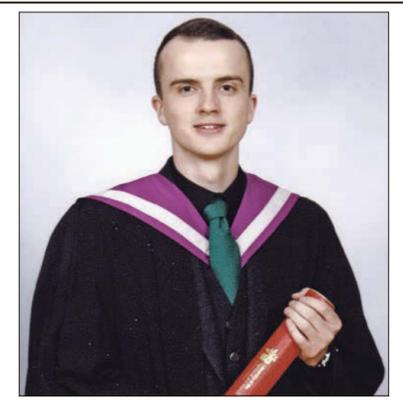
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GRADUATION



**CHLOE MCGHEE**  
Graduated from University of Stirling with a BSc Nursing with Merit. Chloe is the daughter of Tony and Linda of Fort William and is currently working in the Royal in Aberdeen.



**RICHARD CAMERON MACLEOD**  
Graduated recently from Perth College University of the Highlands and Islands with a First Class Honours Degree in Aircraft Engineering. Richard is the son of Steve Macleod, Lochside and Susan Jane Ross, Caol and is the grandson of Patsy Macleod, Caol and Ian and Helen Ross, Caol. Richard is currently working for Highland Councils, Lochaber Leisure Centre and will decide over the coming months if he wants to continue studying towards a Masters Degree or pursue a career relative to his current qualification. Congratulations on your achievement.

WEDDING



**KERR - HILL**  
Married on October 22, 2016 at St. Modan's Church, Benderloch, Amanda Louise, eldest daughter of John and Morag, granddaughter of the late Willie and Flora Kerr and of Gillian and the late Stewart McKenzie formerly of Furnace to David, middle son of Duncan and the late Anne and grandson of Babs and the late John Hill and the late Jim and Bridie Gibbons, Coatbridge. A reception was held in Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Obituary — 1942 - 2016  
**Colin Galbraith**

COLIN Galbraith, 74, of Eildon, Longsdale Road, Oban, passed away on Sunday November 27 after a long battle with oesophageal cancer, only 11 weeks after his wife, Lynn Galbraith, died suddenly. He was cremated on Wednesday November 30 following a short family service.

Mr Galbraith was born on Tobermory, Isle of Mull, in February 1942. In 1991, Mr Galbraith moved to Oban with Lynn. They opened the Esplanade Post Office in July of that year and ran it together for 24 years.

Mr and Mrs Galbraith only retired from the Esplanade Post Office in February 2015.

Mr Galbraith was a well liked and respected postmaster who will be truly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his son, Robert, and granddaughter, Sinead.



Thought for the week

'Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.'  
(Philippians 2:4)

A wonderful time of the year is Christmas! What precious memories it kindles of what Christmas meant to us in childhood. Of course, much of that was the simple reality that there were presents on the horizon. As we grew up, we discovered that the true joy of Christmas is not in the getting but in the giving. Fulfilment is found in generosity.

The Christmas story lays the deep foundation for this in pointing us to the generosity of God. The coming of Christ was the loving action of God to put things right in the world. When we receive the Christ who has come, we, too, become motivated to give ourselves for the sake of others.

Current political rhetoric invites us to 'make America great again' or 'put the Great back into Britain'.

This greatness, however, all too often turns out to be a matter of selfishness. It is about protecting our own interests from others whom we perceive as a threat.

The Christmas story points us in a different direction. It invites us to give of ourselves for the sake of others, especially the vulnerable and needy.

It assures that this is the pathway on which true joy will be found.

**Kenneth Ross**  
Parish Minister,  
Netherlorn

Churches release modern retelling of Nativity to highlight asylum seeker plight

MARY and Joseph find seeking asylum in the UK - new video released

This Christmas time, a new Nativity video is imagining the welcome Mary and Joseph would receive if they arrived in the UK seeking asylum. As children across the country participate in their own retelling of the Christmas story, the video uses child actors to play the Holy couple negotiating the harsh realities facing those seeking refuge on our shores.

The video shows Mary and Joseph struggling to get by in temporary accommodation, while the three wise men are taken in to custody by the police before they are able to deliver their gifts. The film is released as the latest UK Government figures, for September, show Scotland had 3,245 asylum seekers who were receiving accommodation and/or financial support of less than £6 per day.

The 'A Very British Nativity' video is part of a joint church

campaign to challenge hostile attitudes towards asylum seekers.

The Church of Scotland's Rev Dr Richard Frazer said: 'We have repeatedly called for a deeper generosity on the part of the UK Government in offering a welcome to refugees and asylum seekers. We have shown our own commitment by creating a Refugee Coordinator post to work in this area until at least 2020.'

'We believe we should treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves and that human rights and human dignity are universal.'

'We fear there is a 'war against sanctuary' which the UK Government is expressing through eroding legal rights for asylum seekers and threatening to penalise the children of people without appropriate documentation to discourage migration.'

Martha, aged 8, who attends a Methodist Church and played Mary in the film said:

'Mary must have felt tired because she did so much walking with her suitcase and her baby. She would have been sad because she couldn't find a home and worried about her baby. I think people should watch this film. We all need to help people who have left their home because something bad has happened.'

The film was produced by a coalition of four Church denominations in the UK: the Church of Scotland; the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

Grace Pengelly, the film's director and a policy adviser for the churches, said:

'Our Churches are very concerned about the degrading treatment and challenges faced by asylum seekers in the UK.'

'It is sometimes all too easy to forget that many seeking asylum have already experienced a great deal of trauma. Rather than providing the standard of care that we would wish for ourselves, many aspects of the UK's asylum system appear to add to the suffering already endured by those seeking refuge.'

'Our hope is that in seeing this film people will be more aware of how hard this Christmas will be for some of the poorest members of our society.'

'A Very British Nativity' launches the day after the release of the Government's quarterly migration statistics, which show that that in September in Scotland 3,245 asylum seekers received accommodation and/or financial support of less than £6 per day.

Across the UK the figures show 37,958 asylum seekers received support from the Government's National Asylum Support Service, in September, which means they qualify for accommodation and/or financial support of less than £6 per day. The report also reveals that so far in 2016, 45 per cent of appeals made by asylum seekers were allowed, indicating that the system currently in place is struggling to adequately assess the needs of asylum seekers.

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# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

THE FIRST major event of the 2017 shinty season takes place this Saturday as the draw is made for the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

## Macaulay cup draw preview

THE DRAW for the 2017 Artemis Macaulay Cup will be made live on Oban FM on Saturday December 17.

The draw will start at 6pm and will be the main feature on the radio station's Sports View programme.

The tournament's unique format sees the top eight placed league teams from the North and South at the end of each season qualifying for an area knock-out draw which culminates in a North v South final at Mossfield, Oban.

The Artemis Macaulay Cup was first presented by then *Oban Times* editor Flora Macaulay in 1947 when Newtonmore were the first winners. They have gone on to record 11 triumphs, the last in 2015.

Kingussie have won the trophy most times, however, with the last of their 23 wins coming in 2010. Kyles Athletic have lifted the trophy 12 times.

Kinlochshiel are the current holders. Their 5-3 victory over Inveraray this year was their first major trophy success.

The 16 qualifying teams are the same as last season.

The South will be represented by the following:

Aberdour, one of the newer sides to this competition, were probably given the toughest draw in the South last season - away to Kyles Athletic. They lost that match 8-0 and will be hoping for a more favourable pairing this term.

Ballachulish may have dropped down to shinty's third tier for next season, but Donald Wilson's side will be keen to test their young players against higher division competition.

Bute beat Oban Celtic in the first round last year after a replay and were only edged out 3-2 by finalists Inveraray in the quarter finals. They will be difficult opponents whoever they draw this time around, especially on their own pitch.

Glasgow Mid Argyll could be one of the dark horses in the race to reach the 2017 Macaulay Cup final.

Their second place finish in the Marine Harvest National Division last season has earned them another crack at the game's top flight. GMA reached the quarter finals last year before being swept aside by Kyles Athletic.

Inveraray have a good recent record in the Macaulay Cup. They first won the trophy in 2001. Further successes followed in 2008 and 2009 and they powered through to the final last year, beating Oban Camanachd, Bute and Kyles Athletic along the way.

The final proved a step too far though. Their last success in 2009 saw them defeat Kingussie 4-3. A Ronald Ross hat-trick that day had Kingussie 3-1 ahead, but two from Garry MacPherson and a Scott Robertson goal levelled the final at 3-3 before Grant Griffin scored an injury time winner.

Kyles Athletic were the last South winners of the Macaulay Cup. This was in 2013 when they beat Newtonmore 4-3 after a superb final. Newtonmore's Danny MacRae twice cancelled out goals from Thomas Whyte and Roddy MacDonald. David Zavaroni put Kyles 3-2 in front, only for Glen MacKintosh to draw Newtonmore level for a third time.

A second goal from Roddy MacDonald on 72 minutes proved to be the winner.

Oban Camanachd's most recent appearance in the final was in 2012 when they lost to Glenurquhart.

The last of their five competition wins came in 1995 when they beat Fort William 2-1 with goals from Dougie MacIntyre and Gussie Campbell wiping out Deek Cameron's effort.

The low-point of Oban Camanachd's successful 2016 season came in this tournament as they lost 3-2 to finalists Inveraray in the first round at Mossfield.

Oban Celtic will look to take the momentum from their 2016 Marine Harvest South Division 1 success into this coming year. They have five Macaulay Cup wins to their name, including a particularly fruitful period in the 1960s when they came out on top in 1961, 1964, 1965 and 1969. Their other success - their first - came in 1950.

The North teams to go into Saturday's draw are:



Kinlochshiel, winners of the 2016 Artemis Macaulay Cup. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.

Fort William, whose triumph in the 1991 Macaulay Cup was historic as it was the An Aird club's first senior success.

The side, captained by Astie Cameron, faced Oban Camanachd in the final after beating top sides Kingussie and Skye Camanachd along the way.

The final was tied at a goal apiece after extra-time so the outcome was decided on penalties. It eventually took 16 penalties to separate the sides. Drew McNeil scored the crucial sudden death penalty after failing to convert during the initial round of spot-kicks.

The final was refereed by Jimmy Kerr, who also refereed the 1992 Camanachd Cup final and is a brother of current referee Dunkie Kerr.

Glenurquhart have also much to thank the Macaulay Cup for as this tournament was also their first senior success in 2012.

Their run that year saw them get past Kilmallie, Kingussie and Fort William, before beating Oban Camanachd 6-0 in the final.

Record winners Kingussie enjoyed their last success in 2010 with a 4-3 extra-time win over Inveraray. All four Kingussie goals that day were scored by Ronald Ross with Neil Andrews and a Russell McKinlay brace counting for Inveraray.

Last year's tournament ended in the first round following a narrow 2-1 defeat to rivals Newtonmore at the Dell.

Holders Kinlochshiel will go into this year's competition with confidence. They secured their first senior trophy in 2016 when they beat Inveraray 5-3 in the final at Mossfield.

Lochaber would dearly love a Macaulay Cup success. A first round 5-3 defeat to Lovat at Balgait ended their interest last year. They were also edged out 3-2 in the opening round by Kingussie at Spean Bridge in 2015.

Lovat last won the tournament in 1953 when their record-breaking team swept the boards.

After impressive wins against Lochaber and Newtonmore last season, they went down 3-0 to Kinlochshiel in the semi-finals.

Newtonmore were 2015 winners, beating Inveraray 3-1 in the final. Evan Menzies and

two from Steven MacDonald counted for Newtonmore, with Lewis MacNicol getting the Inveraray goal.

Newtonmore lost out to Lovat in the second round last year and the Macaulay Cup was the only first team trophy they failed to win in 2016.

They will start this year's tournament as one of the favourites.

Skye Camanachd's reward for a 1-0 first round win over Glenurquhart at Blairbeg last season was a home meeting with neighbours Kinlochshiel.

'Shiel were 4-3 winners following a thrilling cup tie and it was their closest match on the way to lifting the trophy.

Skye will have new co-managers Willie Cowie and Peter Gordon at the helm for the first time this season. The islanders and Fort William are the only two North clubs who will play in both the Macaulay and Ballicore Cups in 2017.

The 2017 Artemis Macaulay Cup final will take place at Mossfield, Oban.

## Camanachd Cup sponsor search

AS FAR as New Year resolutions go, finding a new sponsor for the 2017 Camanachd Cup will be a priority for the Camanachd Association.

It's been mooted that a £30,000 bounty will secure sponsorship of shinty's blue riband event.

Out-going Camanachd Association chief operating officer Torquil Macleod said: 'There's huge goodwill towards shinty. On one hand there's the game's history and culture, whilst there's also a romantic view of the game. Even those with a vague awareness of shinty will have a positive view on the Camanachd Cup and all it entails.'

The Camanachd Cup is one of sport's oldest and most iconic trophies. Shinty is embedded within countless communities and is one of the country's most indigenous sports but what are the benefits to any prospective sponsor?

Torquil continued: 'There are obvious profile benefits for a new sponsor, including live television coverage and coverage in local, national and social media.'

'The Camanachd Cup final itself offers a unique hospitality experience and a great day out and it should be on the bucket-list of any sports fan.'

The chance to sponsor the Camanachd Cup is a rare opportunity.

Marine Harvest has been faithful sponsors for other shinty competitions and they move into their 30th year supporting the game in 2017.

Glenmorangie were the first Camanachd Cup sponsors. Their association with shinty

stretches back to the 1976/7 season when they pledged £1,000 for the sole advertising rights for the Camanachd Cup Final and home shinty/hurling internationals.

Glenmorangie became the main sponsors of the Camanachd Cup in 1983. SSE Scottish Hydro grabbed the baton in 2006, beginning a partnership which lasted until 2015.

The 2016 Camanachd Cup ran without a sponsor and that is something the game's governing body hopes to rectify.

John Sloggie made honorary member

A NOMINATION from Glengarry Shinty Club that shinty stalwart John Sloggie be made a Camanachd Association honorary member was unanimously agreed at the recent Camanachd Association annual general meeting.

John Sloggie has been a shinty referee for many years, a highlight coming in 2001 when he took charge of the Camanachd Cup final in which Kingussie beat Oban Camanachd 2-0 in Glasgow.

John and his wife Mabel have manufactured the famous Munro Camans for many years after taking over from Willie Munro from Dunoon who was the original Munro Camans maker.

## John Sloggie made honorary member

John Sloggie made honorary member

## Fort William ladies seek new coach

FORT William Ladies are on the look-out for a new coach to manage the team in 2017 and beyond.

The club, which finished second in Marine Harvest South Division 2 last season, is keen to make a speedy appointment and anyone interested in taking on this challenge should contact club members Elaine Wink or Katherine Ann Gall.

Kinlochshiel mark successful season

ARTEMIS Macaulay Cup winners Kinlochshiel marked an historic season at their player of the year awards evening at the Lochalsh Hotel.

Keith MacRae was the main award winner in a season in which he celebrated a return to the international fold. MacRae was selected as both the players' player of the year and the committee's player of the year giving him the Duncan MacRae Cup and the Kenny Wilson MacRae Cup.

The Tommy MacKenzie Cup for second team player of the year went to Seamus Lane.

There were joint recipients of the Ian 'Dubh' Fraser Shield for U21 player of the year accolade as last year's winner Oliver

MacRae shared the prize with Seamus Lane - his second award of the evening.

The Willie MacRae Memorial Cup for youth player of the year went to Stuart Anderson.

Top players at Glenurquhart

GLENURQUHART are another club who have confirmed their prize winners for the 2016 shinty season.

Scotland captain John Barr was given the first team player of the year award. Barr has been a consistent performer in the side all season and has shown great commitment, travelling from places including Norway to play games. Another dedicated player, Duncan Fraser, picked up the second team player of the year award. First team regular James Hurwood was young player of the year. There was also recognition for Hayley Hunter who was the Glenurquhart Ladies player of the year.

STRATHGLASS have announced their player of the year awards for the 2016 shinty season.

David Balharry's side finished second in Marine Harvest North Division 1 last season and have applied to the Camanachd Association to play National Division shinty next season. They also hope to restore their second team to league shinty in 2017. Strathglass Ladies finished third in Marine Harvest North Division 2 last season behind champions Lovat who beat them in the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final.

Hamish Myers' performances earned him the senior player of the year prize.

Donna MacKenzie picked up the award for Strathglass Ladies player of the year whilst Joni Strachan was the Strathglass Ladies most improved player of the year. The Cannich club will announce their youth award winners in the new year.

## Lovat searches for new manager

LOVAT has advertised for a new first team manager to replace John MacRitchie.

John, who had a previous term as Lovat first team co-manager with James Gallacher, informed the club's committee of his intention to stand down and the Balgait side has taken immediate steps to identify his successor.

Lovat has invited applications from appropriately experienced people to take on the first team management role. The closing date for anyone interested is Friday December 16.

The highlight of John's tenure was undoubtedly the 2015 Camanachd Cup success when a Kevin Bartlett brace helped them beat Kyles Athletic 2-1 at Mossfield.

The team finished seventh in the Marine Harvest Premiership last season, only behind Kingussie and Glenurquhart on goal difference, following an injury ravished year.

John MacRitchie will continue as Lovat club president and he has a prominent part to play in the club's new pavilion project.

He is expected to lead the team for a final time in the 2017 Lovat Cup match against Beaulay at Braeview Park on Monday January 2.

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The Tommy MacKenzie Cup for second team player of the year went to Seamus Lane.

There were joint recipients of the Ian 'Dubh' Fraser Shield for U21 player of the year accolade as last year's winner Oliver

year, as his second team player of the year.

Bute primary schools had a particularly successful season and this was acknowledged with youth coach Ian McDonald winning the Donella Crawford Award for Youth and Schools at the recent Marine Harvest Shinty Awards.

## No surprise at Inverness event

THE 2016 Inverness player of the year award winners have been confirmed.

It was no surprise Scotland U21 forward Charlie MacDonald was rewarded for his fine performances in the Marine Harvest National Division last season with both the senior and U21 player of the year awards.

Ewen MacKinnon was also amongst the honours as the former Skye Camanachd player got the nod as second team player of the year. Ruairidh MacKay was the Inverness U17 player of the year, whilst William MacKinnon, Ewen MacKinnon's son, was U14 player of the year.

## Inveraray keeper makes his mark

INVERARAY held their player of the year dinner dance at the Inveraray Inn.

Scotland U21 goalkeeper Scott MacLachlan was the first team player of the year, with captain Allan MacDonald the first team top scorer.

South U17 player Ruairidh Graham was the club's most promising young player of the year in 2015 and this year the youngster was named second team player of the year. Niall Shaw was the second team's top scorer.

Another South U17 player, Ross Montgomery, who was the second team player of the year last year, was this year's most promising youth player.

## Club members' lifesaving training

TEN DUNADD Camanachd members took part in emergency lifesaving and defibrillator training at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

The course was delivered by regional development officer Euan McMurdo as part of Heartstart Camanachd's initiative to give every shinty club across Scotland training on these vital skills as well as access to a defibrillator. Course content is provided by Heartstart Scotland and Lucky2BHere and aims to either up-skill or provide new knowledge and confidence to participants to enable them to save lives.

Dunadd has now been invited to fundraise for a defibrillator as part of the Camanachd Association's club accreditation scheme.

## Remembering Jack Asher

THE JACK Asher Memorial Tournament will take place at the Garscube Sports Complex, Glasgow, on Saturday January 28.

Jack Asher, who was a Glasgow University honorary president, former club captain (1958-59), and a renowned shinty player and referee, died in June 2015. He received a Blue for his shinty exploits with the university and took up refereeing when his playing career ended. Despite losing an eye in an air rifle accident aged 12, he went on to become one of the game's top referees.

He was the man in the middle in three Camanachd Cup finals - in 1972 when Newtonmore beat Oban Celtic 6-3 in Glasgow, two years later when Kyles Athletic overcame Kingussie 4-1 in Oban and 1994, as a 64-year-old, when he officiated at the final in Inverness when Kyles Athletic defeated Fort William 3-1.

## Bute Shinty Club's prize night success

BUTE handed out their annual shinty awards at a social event at the Marine Harvest National Division side's clubhouse.

South U17 player Ryan Craig is proving to be a key player in Ted McDonald's senior team and he was presented with both the first team manager's player of the year and the young player of the year awards.

Bute reserve team manager David Kilpatrick selected Andrew McLachlan, who was part of the South U14 squad this

## Winter league sees excellent shooting at Tarbert Gun Club

THE DECEMBER leg in Tarbert Gun Club's winter league team shoot saw 50 shooters turn out in perfect weather.

Scoring was high in these conditions among the 10 teams. Ally McDonnell broke all 50 targets, but close behind was Campbelltown's Scott MacAllister who lost one target.

Also shooting well is the new captain for this year, Lynn MacDonald, who managed to beat her dad Norman by some distance.

Overall, Roy Laird's team increased their lead – but there is still plenty to play for in this season's winter league.

Results: Class A: 1. Ally McDonnell, 2. John Weir, 3. Bob McCall.

### Shooting

Class B: 1. Andrew MacDonald, 2. Ian Winnard, 3. Ronald Jenkins and Jonathan Gargan.

Class C: 1. Scott McAllister, 2. Jack Campbell, 3. Akram Khan.

Class D: 1. Andrew Gall, 2. Steve Sloan, 3. Archie Currie.

Class E: 1. Stephen MacSparran, Michael Harvey, 3. Matthew Peden, 4. Shaun Doy.

Teams: 1. Roy Laird, Stewart MacAllister, Akram Khan, Andrew Gall and Stephen MacSparran.

2. Niall Wilson, Jonathan Gargan, Scott MacAllister, Ian Currie and Michael Harvey.

# Saints face tough test in West of Scotland Amateur Cup

OBAN Saints stop/start season continued last Saturday with the late cancellation of their Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy second round match against Port Glasgow Old Boy's Union.

The early indications were that the grass park at Parklea had managed to withstand the heavy rain during the week however, with the Saints squad on the mini-bus and ready to depart, word came through from Port Glasgow that Inverclyde Council had declared the surface unfit for play leading to the tie being postponed for a second time.

Saints final match of 2016 is an away trip to the familiar surroundings of East Kilbride. Saints have made the journey to Scotland's first new town four times already this calendar year and have yet to taste defeat. Cup wins against East Kilbride Rolls Royce and East Kilbride FC Amateurs were followed up with a league win against the Rolly and a highly creditable draw for a severely depleted Saints side against eventual Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division Champions East Kilbride FC Amateurs.

Saints opponents for this Saturday's West of Scotland Amateur Cup fourth round tie are Central Scottish Amateur Football League high fliers, and old friends, East Kilbride.



Dene Cassells just fails to connect with this header during the friendly match with East Kilbride held at the rugby pitch in July. Report and photo: Derek Black

With only two defeats in 18 competitive fixtures, East Kilbride are in fine form, which has them sitting currently in fourth place in the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division – the league's only unbeaten team, besides runaway leaders Colville Park.

East Kilbride's recent league inactivity due to cup commitments has seen them overtaken by Harestanes and Cambusnethan Talbot in the league race, however four games in hand leaves them well placed to mount a serious challenge in what looks to be a fascinating battle for second place behind odds-on title favourites Colville Park.

East Kilbride showed their class to take the scalp of the seemingly invincible Colville Park in the Central Scottish Amateur Football League

Bunrigh Trophy third round before succumbing to their first defeat of the season in the semi-finals of the same competition, against the impressive Southside of Division 1A.

East Kilbride's only other reverse so far came last Saturday in the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup against another of Saints great friends Greenock High School Former Pupils. After a 1-1 draw in Greenock East Kilbride failed to capitalise on home advantage tumbling out of the cup after a goal in each half from the men from the tail o' the bank.

Saints and East Kilbride have a friendship going back many years with the South Lanarkshire boys regular pre-season visitors to Oban. Saints hold the upper hand in recent years fighting back from a 2-0 half time deficit to win 3-2 in 2015 before battling out a highly

entertaining 0-0 draw in this year's July encounter.

With a place in the fifth round of the West of Scotland Cup at stake friendships will be put aside for the afternoon where the tie must be decided. If the sides cannot be separated after 90 minutes extra time and penalty kicks will be required to decide who will progress.

Manager Alex Craik will be hoping to have a strong squad to choose from for this important cup match.

Saints have been drawn at home to Westdyce in the 5th round of the Scottish Amateur Cup. The game will be played at Glencruitten on Saturday January 7.

The Aberdeenshire side reached the 5th round after defeating Fife's Strathmiglo United 2-0 in a replay last Saturday. The first game ended in a 1-1 draw.



Shooters David Hay-Thorburn, Lynn MacDonald, Bill Bidmead of Carradale and Matthew Peden.



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## Dates announced for the 2017 Scottish Rally Championships

THE 2017 ARR Craib MSA Scottish Rally Championship is beginning to take shape, with the welcome announcement that ARR Craib will continue as title sponsors of the series for the 2017 season.

ARR Craib Managing Director Eddie Anderson confirmed the Aberdeen-based logistics company's commitment to the Scottish Rally Championship at the awards evening held at the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow

on November 26. Alongside ARR Craib, the championship is pleased to confirm that tyre giant Pirelli will also continue its partnership with the SRC, and it will be joined by Coltel Communications and REIS

Motorsport Insurance, who have signed partnership agreements with the SRC for the 2017 season.

The championship is also pleased to announce the calendar for the 2017 season, which will consist of seven rounds all held on gravel.

### Kick-off

The Snowman Rally will once again kick off proceedings, before the series heads south for the Border Counties in March, then back north for the Speyside Stages in April. Next up, the championship joins the MSA British Rally Championship for the Scottish Rally which moves from its traditional June date to May for 2017.

June's Argyll Stages is a welcome addition to the calendar, and will see the series head over the Cowal peninsula to Dunoon for a welcome return to the stages around the town – the first time in 20 years.

The Grampian Stages, which



Connel's Shaun Sinclair.

was crowned the best event of the 2016 championship at Saturday's award ceremony, stages the penultimate round, while the Castle Douglas-based Galloway Hills Rally plays host to the final round and championship finale.

The ARR Craib MSA Scottish Rally Championship is the premier motorsport series north of the border, and it has produced many great champions in its almost 50 year history, such as Drew Gallacher, Ken Wood, Colin McRae, Andrew Wood, David Bogie and Jock Armstrong.

The full 2017 calendar, including dates and locations is as follows:

- February 18: Snowman Rally, Inverness
- March 18: Border Counties Rally, Jedburgh
- April 22: Speyside Stages Rally, Elgin
- May 20: Scottish Rally, Dumfries
- June 24: Argyll Stages Rally, Dunoon
- August 12: Grampian Stages Rally, Aberdeen shire
- September 9: Galloway

### Rallying

Hills Rally, Castle Douglas. The ARR Craib MSA Scottish Championship launch event will take place at Autosport International, the world's largest Motorsport Show, which is held at the NEC Birmingham on January 12-15, 2017.

You can keep up to date with the SRC via the website www.scottishrallychampionship.co.uk or through Facebook and Twitter (@MSA\_SRC).



John MacCrone from Mull.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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### Competition rules

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The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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The Oban and Kilmarnock under-18 players photographed after last Saturday's exciting game at Glencruitten. Photos: Stephen Lawson

## Oban prove too strong for Killie

**Oban Lorne U18s** 17  
**Kilmarnock U18s** 5

OBAN Lorne U18s hosted their first home game in a month at the weekend when the visitors were Kilmarnock.

The young Killie team made the journey to Oban for the first time to play at Glencruitten, which was in great condition considering the time of year.

Referee Stephen Downie got the game under way, with a large crowd of senior players watching their future teammates, along with many of the sponsors left over from the successful lunch which was held in the clubhouse.

Oban got off to a good start with their defence strong and using the ball well when in possession. The game was played between the 22m lines while both teams tried to find gaps.

Kilmarnock's sizeable pack were trying to smash through, but the Oban boys' defensive system worked well. There was impressive work in the tackle from Owen Pickering, who was playing out of position on the wing and Xzava Rush, operating as a second row for the day, led to some clever turnovers.

A back row of Lorne Sinclair,

Jack Strachan and Daniel Speirs caused all sorts of problems in loose, which helped to break down the Kilmarnock defence.

James Divers, playing at scrum half, was making tackles like a blindside flanker and bossing the defence to put Kilmarnock under pressure.

Oban showed some good composure to switch the play 5m out which allowed Strachan to power down the blind side for the opening score. David Cameron attempted the extra points but it went wide.

Kilmarnock were quick to respond and marched down field to Oban's 22m. They had to work hard to get across the line, but with a strong pack rumbling the ball forward a score was inevitable.

After being held up over the line, a No8 pick led to numerous rucks and eventually the defence let Kilmarnock in to even the score. No extra points were kicked.

It was Oban's turn to return the favour and Andrew Pretswell and David Cameron made breaks through the centre with strong running and, taking advantage of loose play, Oban were able to make the most of the possession and put Kilmarnock under pressure. In a clean

break down the left wing, Oban set up an attack in the Kilmarnock 22 and once again it was a switch in direction that allowed Strachan to crash over for his second try. This time David Cameron added the extras to make the score 12-5.

The second half was a much cagier affair with Kilmarnock opting for an aerial attack to try to get through the Oban defence. Oban were not used to defending from a kicking team but the back three of Alex Houston, Niall Gemmill and Murdo MacLennan did well to field the kicks and counter.

The game was played through some rough weather which led to many scrums and the pace dropped as both teams struggled to retain possession.

Coach Murray Hamilton had the luxury of substitutes and made some changes, bringing on Andrew Ritchie and moving Murdo MacLennan to centre while Cameron received treatment. The spectators may have cleared the sidelines but both teams persevered and it was Oban who got the break. With only five minutes remaining Cameron returned to the field and was on the end of the line to squeeze in the corner for the final try. The conversion was



Jack Strachan dives over the line for one of his two tries for Oban.

wide but the try provided a little breathing space.

Oban were able to receive the kick-off return and see out the remainder of the game.

Man of the match was James

Divers with a solid performance in defence and attack. Jack Strachan is also worthy of a mention for scoring twice – and it was the first game he did not have to come off for a bleeding nose!

A big thank you to Kilmarnock for making the journey. The Under-18s have one more game in this league at home to Cartha Queens Park RFC this Saturday, kick off 1.30pm.



It was end to end stuff in a cracking match.

## Mull in amazing fightback

ISLE of Mull came back from behind with 13 men to beat Cowal on Saturday, placing their joint top of BT West division 4.

They say revenge is best served cold, and the conditions at Dunoon were certainly that. Mull had lost to Cowal in the home leg of this fixture by the last kick of the game in an extremely close-fought match, and were extremely eager to win this one.

Windy conditions and the occasional showers added to this intriguing showdown. Mull kicked off, withstood some early pressure and were awarded a penalty. Putting them ahead with a successful kick was Finlay Carmichael. With Oban not playing, Mull were delighted to see him back representing his island for the day. Shortly after, Tony Haunschmidt received an offload

from David Downham out of the scrum and powered his way through the mid-Argyll defence to make the score 8-0 to Mull.

Cowal then upped the pressure, scoring two penalties and a try. Despite showing valiant defence, Mull's lack of substitutes took its toll early and the heavy conditions underfoot did not help. Despite conceding another try (Cowal intercepting the ball and running three-quarters the length of the pitch), the islanders managed to pull it round and on-form Tony Haunschmidt got on the score sheet again after quick tap off a penalty.

The half-time whistle saw the Muileachs 20-13 down and all to play for in the second half.

The restart saw an even, hard contest. The team had slight reshuffle with Salen's James Gibbons and Malcolm MacDougall

moved up to the forwards. Some magic from Finlay Carmichael stepping found a gap in the Cowal line, and converting the try saw the score 20-20.

Within a matter of minutes, however, the Muileachs were down to 13 men. Kilchoan's Ross Rankin went off injured after a gritty performance in the front row, and Callum Maceachern was shown the yellow card after an apparent illegal tackle.

In a hugely dramatic ending, Mull withstood Cowal pressure and, with time expired, Sean Black scored a try with an intercept and a 100-metre sprint to put the final score at 20-25. To come back and win from 20-12 with 13 men was pretty special. The victory puts Mull joint top of the league. Their last game of 2016 is against Hyndland this Saturday at 2pm.

### Scottish AFL results and fixtures

#### Football

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, fourth round – Lochgilphead Red Star 2, Claremont 1; Jimmy Marshall Trophy, second round – Inverclyde v Campbeltown Pupils postponed; Port Glasgow OBU v Oban Saints postponed; Premier Division 2B – Tarbert v FC Argyll postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, 4th round – East Kilbride v Oban Saints.

### Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures

#### Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under-13s 1 v Dumbarton Riverside 3. Scoring for Saints was Thomas McCrindle.

Kilpatrick 0, Under-14s 2. On target for Saints were Ruairidh Munro and Neilly Russell.

Kilpatrick 1 v Under-15s 4. Aaron McKay, Aidan McPhee, Kenni Gray and Craig Millar got the Saints goals.

Regional Cup – Bargeddie Colts 3, Under-16s 4. Saints goalscorers were Rory Dowd, Sandy Welsh, Cameron Kerr and Sol Smith. Under-17s no game.

Saints Under-13s are away to Renton this weekend. The other youth teams have no games.

## Boost for Oban Ladies' promotion chances

A SURPRISE 15-5 home defeat to Howe of Fife by previously unbeaten Annan Ladies on Sunday has significantly boosted Oban Ladies' chances of promotion to National League 1.

Oban Ladies currently sit top of the league with a one-point margin over Howe of Fife, having won five and drawn one of their six fixtures this season.

The team is back in action on Sunday January 15 with a home game against Grangemouth.

#### Oban Lorne v Kilmarnock

OBAN Lorne suffered another postponed fixture on Saturday with a call-off by Kilmarnock due to a lack of a front row.

This was a blow for the Green Machine, who have not played since November 5 due to recent games being postponed against Helensburgh and Irvine.

The Green Machine will look to put the disappointment of the past few weeks behind them with a visit to league leaders Newton Stewart this Saturday. The teams have not yet played each other this season.

The first home game of 2017 for Oban Lorne is on Saturday January 7 with a 2pm kick off against mid-table Annan.

#### BT West Division 4 Glasgow Uni Medics v Argyll and Bute

ARGYLL and Bute's away fixture to league leaders Glasgow Uni Medics was postponed due to a lack of available players. Argyll host local rivals Cowal RFC at Glencruitten this Saturday in the last game of this year, with a 2pm kick-off.

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**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday December 15, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am					pm						
Thur	00.08	0.8	06.06	4.2	12.46	0.7	18.36	4.1	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	00.54	0.6	06.49	4.2	13.34	0.8	19.19	4.0	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	01.39	0.6	07.33	4.1	14.21	1.0	20.02	3.8	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	02.24	0.8	08.16	3.9	15.09	1.2	20.45	3.5	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	03.11	1.0	09.01	3.6	16.00	1.5	21.32	3.3	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	04.00	1.3	09.49	3.4	16.55	1.7	22.28	3.1				
Wed	04.52	1.5	10.47	3.2	17.58	1.9	23.51	3.0				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**WEATHER**

Thursday	Light cloud Moderate south easterly winds Temperatures 6°C to 7°C.
Friday	Light cloud Light south westerly winds Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Showers on Sunday Winds strong south westerly Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

now incorporating  
**LOCHABER  
NEWS**

## Festive fun in Lochaber



# Furious response greets news of rise in Corran Ferry fares

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

HIGHLAND Council budget papers leaked last week indicate that fares on the Corran Ferry could increase by 10 per cent.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter told *The Oban Times* he had seen the draft budget proposals which were leaked to the media on Thursday.

He took to Facebook to say: 'Leaked, the Highland Council budget papers propose another staggering 10 per cent increase of fares on the Corran Ferry. I am amazed this can be even contemplated after all the local community has said about the impact of fare increases.'

He later said a senior council officer had confirmed to him the increase was part of the council's current budget proposals.

Mr Baxter said that the council now sees the Corran Ferry as 'income generation to raise cash for the council - they must think there is a river of gold running through the Corran Narrows'.

A spokesperson for the council said that the document is of 'draft budget proposals' and that 'no decisions have been made'.

Mr Baxter said he had seen an 'enormous response from the community. People are worried,

especially those who use the ferry to go to Fort William on a daily basis. Alongside the community, I hope we can show enough opposition to the plans, and I hope the council sees sense - enough is enough.'

Chairwoman of Sunart Community Council Denise Anderson said: 'We were very concerned to hear about the alleged fare increases, and at the last meeting resolved to work closely with neighbouring communities to oppose another rise for what is already one of the most expensive ferry crossings in Europe.'

'The implementation of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) has seen a dramatic reduction in traffic travelling to Mull via Lochaline, with passengers using the Oban-Craignure route to Mull due to the expense of Corran crossing. This has impacted on some local businesses and we fear another increase will further deter visitors to the area, as well as penalising residents.'

Michael Foxley, a councillor in the area for 26 years, said: 'There has been more than a 40 per cent increase in ferry fares in the past three years. Talk of increasing them further is totally and utterly unacceptable.'

'The council has still not carried out an Equality Impact Assessment which is, in fact,

required by law. It needs to work out how an increase in fares could impact people. The council is ignoring this and it's at their peril.'

'This will affect tourists, but my key concern as a councillor was always for the people who live and work in the area and use the ferry every day. There are a lot of people for whom using the ferry is a significant cost - people who use it daily to go to work in Fort William and further.'

When asked how he thought people would respond to a further increase, Mr Foxley said: 'I think there will be very real anger from people.'

Councillor Baxter added: 'If you buy a book of 30 tickets for the ferry it works out at £2.25 a journey compared to £8.20. But if this were to increase, a single journey would cost around £2.60.'

People took to Mr Baxter's Lochaber Voice Facebook page to comment on the proposal calling it 'disgusting,' 'unfair,' 'absurd' and 'a disgrace'. Some said it would 'kill the tourism trade', questioned if the council represents residents in Morvern and Ardnamurchan, and claimed the price of a journey on the Corran Ferry would be the same as going from Kilchoan to Tobermory - a 35-minute journey.



A JOINT effort between staff, pupils and the Lochaber community has seen a 414-square tapestry put together at Caol Primary School.

Primary four teacher Jennifer Easson came up with the idea about a year ago to celebrate the opening of the new school. Her idea came from fond memories of making one when she was in primary seven.

Ms Easson said: 'My P4 class worked with all the kids from the school, staff and members of the community on the project, as each

group had a different theme for their squares.' They focused on outdoor learning, Caol, Fort William, Lochaber, the Highlands and Scotland.

The children have been working on their squares since February, with the primary four pupils helping support the younger children with researching their topics. Ms Easson, along with her mum, then hand-stitched each individual square over the October holidays. The 414 square tapestry now has pride of place in the school for everyone to see. Picture: ABrightside Photography

## 12 years for chainsaw attacker

A CRAZED man who attacked his ex-girlfriend's elderly parents with a chainsaw days after she split up with him has been jailed for 12 years.

James MacDonald almost hacked off John MacPherson's arm after bursting into the pensioner's home in Caol and threatening to kill the victim's daughter, Tracey.

The High Court in Edinburgh heard how the 48-year-old stood in the family's living room revving the chainsaw before turning it on 74-year-old Mr MacPherson's terrified wife, Flora.

Mr MacPherson tried to save his 63-year-old wife and was left with massive injuries as MacDonald attacked him.

Judge Lord Boyd heard how the couple told each other they loved one another as John feared he was going to die.

Details of the horror attack emerged last month as MacDonald admitted the attempted murder of Mr MacPherson and other charges. Sentence had been deferred for the court to obtain reports about MacDonald's background.

Police reaction - page three.



### Nevis Range Mountain Gondola

**MEET SANTA** in the Snowgoose restaurant 12noon - 2 pm, Sat 17 & Sun 18 Dec, chocolate gift for children. Facepainting and badge making, Gondola ticket required.

**FESTIVE LUNCHES** with all the trimmings in the Pinemartin, Sat 17 - Sat 24 Dec, and the Snowgoose, Sat 17 & Sun 18 and Thursday 22 - Sat 24 Dec.

## Parents vent anger at teacher shortage

AN MSP has raised alarm that Higher pupils in Lochaber may soon face exams without receiving the appropriate support.

Kate Forbes has called for urgent solutions from Highland Council (HC) after it was revealed that pupils attending the region's biggest high school, are set to face exams on the Higher level course - despite having never been taught by a subject specialist in the new school term.

Next month scores of pupils on the Higher and National Five computing studies courses at Lochaber High School will face their January prelims, and the school has not had a specialist teacher for that particular subject since the summer.

Two attempts to recruit a teacher have been unsuccessful, but Ms Forbes believes HC could have shown greater urgency and initiative by providing interim measures

such as having another computing studies teacher deliver the course by video conferencing facilities.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch first raised concerns more than a month ago with HC's Bill Alexander. Three lunchtime sessions have been arranged with West Highland College staff for senior students only but, she said, while this was a step in the right direction, it would be more difficult to identify gaps in students' learning if pupils are not receiving input from a specialist teacher.

On Monday this week HC said it had 'identified' a teacher with 'experience' of the subject who would begin a new role after the festive break. However, based on conversations with parents, Ms Forbes said it is understood this person is unable to mark computing studies exam papers

and a teacher from Kinlochleven High will 'support assessment, moderation and NABs'.

She added: 'I and many parents remain very concerned that their children's Higher or National Five qualifications are at risk because there is no computing studies teacher at Lochaber High School.'

HC's director of care and learning, Bill Alexander, said that the challenge of recruiting teachers is not new. Accordingly, head teachers often require to be creative and pragmatic in finding local solutions.

He added: 'The school has identified a teacher with experience of computing studies, and priority is being given to pupils sitting the Higher and National 5 courses. A member of staff from another school, as well as West Highland College, is providing support.'

### Sandy MacDonald

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# Multi-million-pound contract secures jobs at Hebrides range



The South Uist facility is the UK's largest missile range.

**MONICA GIBSON**  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

NEWS of a multi-million-pound contract which will help secure jobs at a Hebridean range for the next 11 years has been welcomed by a council leader.

Last week an agreement between MOD and QinetiQ worth an estimated £1 billion was announced.

QinetiQ conducts test and evaluation of military and civil platforms, systems, weapons and components on land, at sea and in the air for the UK Ministry of Defence and the new deal will extend the Long-Term Partnering Agreement (LTPA) between the two bodies, committing approximately half the core LTPA revenues until March 31, 2028.

As part of the accord, QinetiQ revealed it will invest approximately £95 million in modern tracking equipment, instrumen-

tation and range infrastructure at the MoD Aberporth and MoD Hebrides ranges.

Comhairle leader and chairman of the Uist economic taskforce, Councillor Angus Campbell, heralded the development.

He said: 'The announcement is very welcome news indeed.

'I have been involved in the work of the economic taskforce for many years alongside various agencies and community representatives who have fought a hard and determined campaign to secure such jobs.

'The security and the importance of this announcement

for the skilled workforce and the Uist economy, cannot be overstated. As we often hear – the loss of one job in Uist is the equivalent of 200 jobs in Glasgow, so I am delighted that the future of the Hebrides range

in Uist has been secured until 2028 and wish the workforce all the very best for the years to come.'

The Hebrides range is the UK's largest missile range. It lies on the north-west part of the island of South Uist and consists of a 'deep range', for complex weapons trials and in-service firings; and an 'inner range', for ground-

based air defence campaigns. Earlier in the year it had been thought as many as 19 of the 148 posts at the range would be cut as QinetiQ sought to reduce its workforce. The company had declined to give details of redundancies at any of the sites before it held a consultation spanning six weeks.

Steve Wadey, QinetiQ CEO, said the contract is a huge step forward in keeping the armed forces up to date and maintaining its safety and operational advantage to address current and emerging threats through the next decade and beyond.

He added: 'Our investment demonstrates that we are committed to transforming our ways of working with both UK MoD and wider industry, to deliver air ranges and test aircrew training that are relevant and competitive for the UK armed forces as well as government and industry customers around the world.'



Angus MacNeil.

## Minister to visit islands

ISLES MP Angus MacNeil has been notified that the UK Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property is scheduled to visit the Hebrides next year.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe is expected to visit the islands in May 2017 to discuss renewable energy opportunities.

This follows the UK government's recent announcement that remote island wind projects would not be eligible for support in the next Contract for Difference Auction – a vital means of support to make projects sustainable.

A consultation has been launched by the UK government, which will run until the end of January, to look at whether island wind projects should be treated differently to onshore wind projects which do not currently receive support.

Mr MacNeil said: 'I welcome the minister's plans to visit the Hebrides and see for herself the potential there is for renewables here and to meet those planning projects in the islands.'

'I have also been asked to meet Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, prior to the end of the consultation and I hope he, too, will take up the offer to visit the islands. I would encourage as many groups, agencies and individuals locally to respond to the consultation.'

'The meeting timescale – four months after the close of the consultation – is a little surprising, but I hope the minister will have some more positive news on island renewables during her visit.'

'The announcement that island projects would not be included in the next CfD round was hugely disappointing and a real blow to the islands and so I hope that the new year will bring about some more positive progress.'

To respond to the UK government's consultation, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-treatment-of-non-mainland-gb-onshore-wind-projects>.

## Historic moment as island's first legal stills arrive

TWO copper pot stills arrived on the Isle of Raasay in Scotland last week following a long journey from Italy.

The arrival of the stills was a huge milestone in the construction of R&B Distillers, which will be launching its first distillery on the island in late spring 2017.

The two stills – one 5,000-litre wash still and a 3,500-litre spirit still – were manufactured by Frilli in Tuscany and custom made for the Isle of Raasay distillery. The stills' provenance is the reason that R&B Distillers is also sourcing Tuscan wine casks for the whisky.

The stills travelled by sea and road to Raasay and, because of their huge size, only at night. Now on the island, they are housed in the distillery's huge production hall.

R&B Distillers co-founder Alasdair Day said: 'It's all very exciting and ever-real now. Seeing the stills wrapped up and leaving Italy...it definitely looks like Christmas is coming early to our Raasay distillery.'

In June this year R&B Distillers commenced its endeavour to build the first legal distillery on Raasay and plans to open and begin production in late spring next year.

The island's Victorian villa and ex-hotel, Borodale House, has stood empty since 2006 and will now be converted into a visitor centre and luxury members' accommodation with the adjacent distillery.



The stills are unloaded in Raasay, where R&B Distillery founder Alasdair Day was interviewed.

The distillery will be independently owned and operated and is expected to generate employment for up to 10 per cent of the island's 120 residents.

Having subsequently secured grants for the

distillery build from the Food Processing Marketing and Co-Operation grants scheme, and the Highlands and Islands Enterprise, for the development of a visitor centre, construction is now under way.



## Megan candles light up charity

AN ISLAND mum has been invited to make bespoke candles for an international children's charity run by Sarah Brown.

Mum-of-three Megan Macdonald, who started off making candles for her children's teachers a year ago, has now been asked to create a unique scented candle for Mrs Brown's charity, Theirworld, after the former Prime Minister's wife became a fan of her Sandwick Bay Candles.

Mrs Brown placed a large order for candles earlier this year after a friend of Megan, who works as chief of staff to Gordon Brown in his capacity as United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, gave one of Megan's earliest soy candles to Sarah Brown via her husband.

That was followed by an even bigger order in June, when Mrs Brown also asked Megan, who lives in Lewis, if she would be interested in creating a festive candle for the charity.

Thirty-five-year-old Megan, an occupational therapist in the Western Isles Hospital, said: 'It's absolutely jaw-dropping. It's so exciting.'

'At the end of the day, I am an OT living in Stornoway, making candles on my kitchen table.'

'The possibility that this could be going to UN leaders is mind-blowing.'

Megan supplied 250 mistletoe-inspired candles called Promise, which are being sold exclusively through the website, [www.theirworld.org](http://www.theirworld.org).

A spokeswoman for Theirworld said: 'We asked Megan to make the candle because they are beautifully made and natural. Sarah loves the mistletoe concept and thinks the candle is fresh, zesty and warm.'

Mum to Neeve, seven, Marley, six, and Samuel, 18 months, Megan first experimented with the candles as gifts for her daughters'



Mum-of-three Megan Macdonald is now supplying her handmade candles to Sarah Brown's children's charity.

teachers at Stornoway Primary, where they are in Gaelic-medium education.

She said: 'I started making them in September last year because I had a candle kit in my cupboard.'

'Then I thought about Christmas for the teachers and I got the kids to make the labels. It was literally a wee tin with a plain sticker on it and a picture of a Christmas tree and I got the girls to write on them.'

Encouraged by the responses, Megan decided to try a proper production

run in February – and immediately found herself in business.

Megan's candles are now stocked in KJ Macdonald Chemists, Uig Community Shop and Stornoway Airport.

Theirworld is a global charity which aims to help all children fulfil their potential by carrying out research, projects and campaigns, with a particular focus on education.

The charity has worked in countries including Nigeria, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey.

## Website promotes safety

MEMBERS of the public can find out what is being done to tackle drowning prevention in Scotland through a new website.

On average over the past three years, there have been 50 accidental fatalities and 29 suicides in Scottish waters each year.

Water Safety Scotland, set up by RoSPA in 2014, aims to understand the risks around water in Scotland to tackle this issue through a number of channels.

The group, made up of 30 organisations including local authorities, charities and the Scottish Government, has relaunched its website – [www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk](http://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk) – to make it more user-friendly and accessible for members of the public.

Water Safety Scotland is currently working on a response to the UK-wide Drowning Prevention Strategy, drawn up by the National Water Safety Forum, which will be launched in March.

## Raasay store wins national award

A COMMUNITY-OWNED store on Raasay has been crowned the winner of a national award.

Raasay Community Stores recently won the Scotland Award at the Rural Community Ownership Awards in London.

The shop, which is a cornerstone of the community, received the award from the Plunkett Foundation which helps communities-owned enterprises.

## Comhairle is recognised for initiative

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar, the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership and Hi-Trans have been recognised for groundbreaking work undertaken to promote community engagement at the Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards Scotland 2016/17.

Using a participatory

budgeting approach, the contracts for public transport services in Uist and Barra were opened up for more involvement from the community throughout the procurement process.

Community councils, youth councils, bus users and members of the community were able to identify and vote on priorities and evaluate

proposals received from bus operators so that contracts could be awarded.

Plenty of feedback has been received since the contracts were put in place and in Uist community councils, supported by Uist Council for Voluntary Service, are now taking an active role in engaging with people prior to the summer 2017 time-

tables being put in place. Speaking on a visit to Stornoway last week, local government minister Kevin Stewart congratulated the partners.

He said: 'It is extremely encouraging to see new projects which seek to use Community Choices Budgeting to put people at heart of decision-making for their communities.'

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# Paid advertising on roundabouts

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

THE Highland Council has approved plans for advertising on the A830 roundabout at the Blar Mhor, despite objections from the community. Planning permission was granted at the South Planning Applications Committee on Tuesday (December 13). The application, which came from the Highland Council as part of an initiative to raise

revenue for the local authority, faced objections from Kilmallie Community Council (KCC), which raised a number of safety concerns at the time of the application in August. In a letter of objection, the community council said: 'The only purpose of the signs is to attract the attention of motorists. Any distractions at roundabouts will create additional risks. 'With the recent spate of tragic accidents on our trunk roads, and particularly the A82,

Transport Scotland and Highland Council should be doing all they can to improve safety rather than doing things that will increase risk of accidents.' But Transport Scotland did not raise any safety concerns. A spokesperson said: 'The safety of the trunk road network is our priority and, when the Highland Council approached us about the introduction of roundabout sponsorship, we agreed to the scheme in principle with each roundabout to

be reviewed according to its location, signs' sizes and type of sponsor to ensure that safety is not compromised.' The community council also said: 'We have had strong feedback from the community that people do not want this area to be covered in advertising notices. If such notices are promoted by Highland Council, this is likely to encourage others, including more unauthorised notices. 'These signs are a bit like dropping litter in that once

there are some, then people think it is acceptable and it rapidly increases.' KCC added that advertising on the roundabout would undermine the efforts of groups such as Banavie in Bloom, Corpach in Colour and the Kilmallie Christmas lights fund, who work to improve the 'visual character of the area'. The council and Transport Scotland have now come up with a draft agreement about the signs.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson said: 'This objection/observation by Kilmallie Community Council, with whom I work closely as a local councillor, shows how difficult it is for the public and many councillors to fully understand how perilous the finances of Highland Council are. 'If the council can increase income streams, then it just may be able to keep on staff, helping spread money through the economy of the area.'

## POLICE FILES

BETWEEN 4pm on Friday December 9 and 10am on December 10, a blue Volkswagen Passat which was parked unattended on Kennedy Road, Fort William, was damaged when its back window was smashed. Anyone with information in relation to this incident is asked to contact police on 101.

BETWEEN 10pm on Thursday December 8 and 8am the following day, a Trek Marlin mountain bike was stolen from the stairwell of Loch Linnhe Buildings in Fort William. The bike is a white 2015 model, has 24 gears, front suspension, silver bottle cage, and front and rear lights. Anyone with information is asked to call officers on 101.

## Kath's cards are for cash

A LOCHABER woman is again on a quest to get people to recycle their used Christmas cards. Kath Johnston is encouraging people to donate their used Christmas cards to her so she can upcycle them, turning them into gift tags to raise money for the British Heart Foundation (BHF). Kath had a huge quantity of used cards donated last year and created nearly 15,000 tags that were distributed to 14 BHF shops, including the one in Fort William, raising more than £1,200 for the charity. You can take your old cards to the reception desk at the Alexandra Hotel or to Kath directly at 119 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore, Fort William, PH33 6TX. Alternatively, Kath can arrange to pick them up. Contact her on 01397 703689.



Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson has welcomed the plans, inset, but claims 'it's not the end of the story'.

## Safety proposals for school junction are unveiled

PLANS to improve safety at the Banavie Primary School junction have been unveiled. The school's parent council received drawings from Transport Scotland earlier this week outlining plans to narrow the A830 carriageway at the existing patrolled crossing, shortening the crossing distance and reducing the speed of vehicles. The existing crossing of the A830 is an average of 11.4m wide, with the proposed crossing width narrowing to 7.4m. A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'We shared our proposed design to improve safety at the Banavie Primary School junction with the head teacher, parent council and other community representatives this week, following a productive meeting held in July to understand the issues at the junction. 'Our proposed plans include narrowing the road at the existing patrolled crossing to reduce vehicle speeds and the time it takes to cross the road, which will

make it easier and safer for those wishing to cross. 'We are also working with utility companies with regards to timescales and have asked stakeholders for their views on undertaking works during the Easter break to minimise disruption for the school. We are looking forward to receiving feedback on our proposals and suggested timescales.' But Caol and Mallaig councillor Ben Thompson said that, while the proposal is to be 'welcomed', it is 'not the end of the story'. He said: 'The crossing should be a pelican crossing like the A82 at Inverloch. The A830 has less traffic but higher traffic speed. I'll certainly keep pushing for pelican crossings here and elsewhere on the A830. Mr Thompson told said: 'It frustrates me that Transport Scotland's trunk road policy prioritises maintaining vehicle speeds over pedestrian safety in rural Highland villages. This is especially a

problem where the trunk road is the only road right through the middle of a village, as it is in many Highland villages. 'The council leader, Margaret Davidson, has recently raised this issue with Humza Yousaf, the Scottish transport minister. I'm pushing to rebalance the priority back towards vulnerable local users, especially where primary-age kids are regularly involved.' Louise Pescod, from the school's parent council, added: 'We have built up a good relationship with Transport Scotland after working with it over the past year on this and I am pleased with the progress. This is a way forward for us - something positive is finally happening and it's a step in the right direction. 'The volume of traffic coming through Banavie and Corpach will continue to increase and we need to be proactive, not reactive. 'The parents I have spoken to are on board and want to push on with the plans now.'

## Music fest planned for Fort

FORT WILLIAM is to welcome a new music and culture festival next year. Highland Tribes will take place at the Nevis Centre on July 15. The festival will take place over two stages at the centre. On the main stage, audiences can find 'bigger and more interactive bands, which include some of the biggest tribal drum bands in the country and beyond'. The smaller stage will be in the acoustic lounge, where people can hear new up-and-coming acts from around the Highlands. The festival is now looking to hear from musicians who would like to perform at the event. Violinists, guitarists, drummers, pipers and others can all now apply to appear on one of the live music stages. To find out more about how you can apply, head to <http://www.highlandtribes.co.uk/applications-now-open-for-musicians>. Highland Tribes has also launched a 57th Nevis Fund to help the centre battle funding cuts. Every ticket sold at the event will include a five per cent levy which will then be donated to the centre for maintenance and restoration.

## Police welcome jailing of violent chainsaw attacker

SENIOR police officers have welcomed the sentencing of chainsaw attacker James MacDonald on Tuesday at the High Court in Edinburgh. Police Scotland released the following statement shortly after MacDonald was jailed for 12 years for the attack on John MacPherson and his wife Flora in July. Detective Chief Inspector Michael Sutherland said: 'Police Scotland acknowledges the custodial sentence received by James MacDonald today. 'MacDonald's victims suffered a terrifying, violent



James MacDonald.

ordeal within their own home, somewhere they ought to feel safe at all times. 'The mental and physical harm caused by MacDonald's actions will have a lasting impact on his victims, who

are to be commended for their bravery throughout the investigation and court proceedings. 'Acts of such violence are fortunately rare in the Highlands and are understandably distressing for the entire community. We extend our gratitude to the residents of Caol for their support during our inquiries. 'Our message to violent offenders is clear: this behaviour is absolutely not acceptable and we will carry out rigorous investigations to ensure those responsible for such acts are swiftly brought to justice.'

## Police say ATMs are safe to use

POLICE have confirmed 'all is well' with cash machines in Fort William after they had been put out of use following concerns of suspicious activity. The automatic teller machines (ATM)'s outside Morrisons had been covered by police tape and put out of commission after a member of the public reported the appearance of an unusual message on screen during a transaction on December 8. A spokesperson for Lochaber police said: 'We sent an officer down to Corpach after



concern was raised but there was nothing to report. An engineer has checked the machines at Morrisons and they are also fine. The machines were out of action for a couple of days but all is well now.' Picture: A Brightside Photography.

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## WHAT'S ON

KILMALLIE Singers' annual choir service will take place in the Dun-cansburgh MacIntosh Church on December 17 from 7.30pm.

Conducted by Ruth Stewart, Jennifer Skene will play clavichord, accompanied by May MacIntyre on organ and the final item this year will be the 'see amid the winter's snow'.

Tickets for the show, which has been taking place for 30 years, will be available from choir members and at the door. Contact Hilary Dyer for more.

**SANTA is set to make a special visit to Fort William this weekend. On Saturday he will be at Costa Coffee, so go along to meet Santa, Mrs Claus and their elves between 11am and 2pm. The event is part of fundraising for Mod 2017, which will be held in Fort William.**

GARY INNES and the Nevis Centre will be presenting the Lochaber Christmas carol concert this weekend. Joining Gary will be Lochaber High School's pipe band, big band and folk band, as well as some Lochaber primary school choirs. Doors open at 7pm on Saturday for a 7.30pm start. Tickets can be bought at the Nevis Centre now.

**CHILDREN'S parties will take place in Fort Augustus on Saturday in the village hall. Pre-school, nursery P1 and P2 festivities will be from 1pm to 2.30pm, and P3 to P7 will have their party from 3pm to 5pm. Invitations have been sent. If you have not received one, call 01320 366646.**

LOCHABER Music School's Christmas concert will take place on Sunday afternoon, December 18, at 3pm in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge. Enjoy choral, orchestral, ensemble and solo items performed by some of Lochaber's most talented young musicians.

It will be followed soon after 4pm by home-baked seasonal refreshments and a fundraising raffle in the Roy Bridge Village Hall.

All money raised will help fund classes for the music school's 155 pupils during the coming year.



Caol Primary School has held its annual Christmas pantomime. This year's production was *Aladdin* with all 134 upper school children getting involved with the show. Head teacher Steven Hamilton told *The Oban Times*: 'This year's show was led by some fantastic singing from our choir and infants. There were the usual bad jokes, audience participation and great songs. Everyone loved the show, cast and audience, and we would like to thank the staff and pupils for all their hard work.' Pictures: ABrightside Photography.



## Pensioners' festive treat

SOME 54 Senior Citizens from Spean Bridge and Achnacarry enjoyed festive fare at Russell's Restaurant, Smiddy House, Spean Bridge, in two sittings on Wednesday and Thursday last week, December 7 and 8.

They were both said to be 'very pleasant occasions, with good company, attentive service and a high-quality dining experience, which was enjoyed by all'.

Even Santa was able to take a break from his busy Christmas schedule to pay a visit, although not by sleigh but by black cab, and distribute presents for all. The committee are extremely grateful to all who supported them. Pictured are organiser John Fotheringham, Santa and Robert Bryson, the co-owner of Smiddy House.

Picture: ABrightside Photography.

# Santa makes a private visit for autism group



The children meet Santa at the Lochaber Autism Support Group's Santa's grotto. Picture: ABrightside Photography

LOCHABER Autism Support Group hosted a Santa's grotto at the weekend for all the children to enjoy.

Some 11 youngsters attended the event, where they decorated gingerbread, played with toys and met Father Christmas.

Amie-Louise Wallace, who set up the group two years ago, said that taking the children to grottos in town could involve waiting in queues with lots of people and noise in an unfamiliar environment.

'A lot of the time parents avoid going as it would just be too stressful for the kids and then they would miss out.'

'By bringing Santa Claus to us for a private grotto meant we could avoid all of these prob-

lems,' she said. Amie-Louise said the group, which has 14 children members in total, was set up as there is a 'real need for some kind of parents' network and somewhere for our children to go as there is a huge lack of activities in the area for our children'.

She continued: 'We fund-raise and arrange everything ourselves. We meet on the first Saturday of every month and arrange other activities during the school holidays.'

'We can be contacted on LochaberAutism@hotmail.com. Everyone is welcome whether they have a diagnosis or are just going through the process.'

She added: 'All the children did really well taking their turn to see Santa.'



## Kilmallie kids entertain

KILMALLIE children spread the story of Christmas with a special performance last weekend.

The congregation of Kilmallie Free Church was entertained by Sunday School youngsters who showcased the 'Hush, there's a

baby' nativity. The church will also be holding a Christmas Carol Service, open to everyone on Sunday December 18 at 5.30pm and a service starting at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Future shines bright for candle entrepreneur

A Strachur woman known as 'The Candle Fairy' is celebrating one year in business selling her all natural creations. Unique, beautifully fragranced and inspired by nature, KMR Candles are the brainchild of Glasgow native-turned-country girl Rebecca MacRaild. 'The candles are all handmade at my home in Strachur,' Rebecca said. 'They are eco soya wax, biodegradable and vegan friendly with a non toxic aroma.'

Rebecca's candles are available online at [kmrcandles.co.uk](http://kmrcandles.co.uk) and locally at fine retail outlets such as Button Nose Boutique, the Eco Store in Dunoon, Benmore Botanic Garden shop and Loch Fyne Oysters, as well as at craft fairs and festivals around Scotland. But the Candle Fairy's magic is also making a splash further afield. 'I've had a candle back stage of America's Got Talent, and the make up artist Wendi San George tagged it on Instagram. I also have a celebrity who is known to purchase them,' she shared.

'I work around my three kids, Kayci, Max and Ryan, at home, and my husband Neil works away. I am still breastfeeding my youngest, which is great, as I can always be here for him while following my dream - and also avoiding the major child care costs!'

Rebecca creates candles for every occasion and taste, and she can personalise them for weddings or with photographs. Her Ailments line is especially popular, with soothing scents for everything from insomnia to slimming. Look for her Valentine's Day range out soon.

KMR Candles offer extraordinary value for the money. The medium size, which provides over 60 hours of burning, is £18, and the large, with 300 hours burning time is £30. Her Loch Fyne oyster shell tealights are £5 for one or £18 for a gift box.

'I would love to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged me to grow,' said Rebecca. 'The future is certainly shining bright for KMR Candles!'



**Order now in time for Christmas!**

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Tel: 07554 008212 [www.kmrcandles.co.uk](http://www.kmrcandles.co.uk)

Also available from Button Nose Boutique (Oban), Loch Fyne Oysters, Eco Shop Dunoon, Hunters Quay Post Office & Shop and Benmore Botanical Garden Shop (Nr Dunoon).



## Senior citizens gather for Christmas lunch



Senior citizens from the Plantation were treated to a special Christmas lunch last weekend. The Plantation senior community gathered at the Alexandra Hotel on Saturday December 10 for their annual festive lunch. The event was hosted by members of the Plantation Community Association, who took the citizens out for their festive lunch. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## View from the Chamber



LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce and the Outdoor Capital of the UK are proud to support the Fort William Mountain Festival 2017 in collaboration with presenting partner Jottnar and sponsors Three Wise Monkeys Climbing and the Nevis Landscape Partnership.

Join us in the outstanding Pinemarten café bar on Wednesday February 15, 2017, at 5.30pm, with views over the Nevis Range Mountain Resort, for the launch of the 2017 Fort William Mountain Festival.

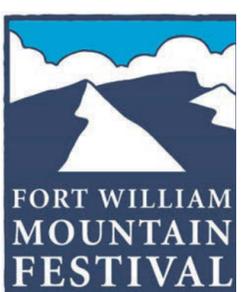
Take a gondola ride, then start your night watching the torchlight descent of Aonach



The mountain festival will be spectacular.

Mor by ski and mountain bike followed by a night with Nevis Landscape Partnership, to hear the headline speaker, extreme sports enthusiast and adventurer Dean Dunbar.

In 2015, Dean talked at the Fort William Mountain Festival about his life as a registered blind adventurer. He's back in 2017 to talk about his most recent adventures on his



stand-up paddle-board, both with sighted guides and on his own.

During his fascinating event, view his short film on stand-up paddling (SUP) and find out why paddling blind can make things a tad trickier. This will be followed by a Q and A session.

To find out more please visit [www.mountainfestival.co.uk](http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk)

# Motorist banned and fined after dangerous manoeuvres

A FATHER of two was branded a danger to the public as he was handed a two-year ban from driving.

Terrence McCarvill, 44, was slammed by Sheriff William Taylor last week (December 7) as he was found guilty of dangerous driving by repeatedly driving on the wrong side of the road and overtaking on blind bends between Glencoe and Fort William.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard the guest house owner from Foyers had been travelling from Glasgow homeward when the offences happened. Three witnesses – including an off-duty

police officer – gave accounts of how they had been ‘harassed’ and ‘confused’ by McCarvill’s driving.

One said she feared she might lose her life.

Detective Constable Joseph Newson told the court he came across McCarvill when he turned left onto the A82 on March 9, about half a mile away from Ballachulish.

He said McCarvill had been driving far too close to his car and had pulled out 12 to 20 times over the course of a four-mile stretch.

‘To begin with, I thought the driver was going to overtake but

half way through I was at a complete loss,’ DC Newson said.

The 38-year-old said the car was so close behind him that he could not see its headlights in his rearview mirror.

However, it was when he saw McCarvill eventually overtake two cars on a bend up ahead that he got in touch with the police control room despite it being his day off.

Margaret Buchanan, from Spean Bridge, said she was travelling with her partner and children when she suddenly saw McCarvill’s lights in the wing mirror.

She then watched McCarvill

driving behind her brother who was travelling in the car in front.

Scared that he was going to push her brother and sister-in-law, Nicky McPhee, off the road, she contacted them and the police by phone.

Ms McPhee, 25, told the court if her husband had braked a little, McCarvill would have been through the back of the car and into her children.

She said the ordeal must have lasted 10 minutes but it felt like a lifetime.

Following the phone calls to the police, McCarvill was eventually cautioned by pa-

trolling officers at the West End car park.

In court, he defended himself by saying he had driven with the fire brigade for 10 years, that he had advanced driving licences and he believed he could read the road better than others.

However, Sheriff Taylor was not convinced and said there were three cars whose passengers all independently thought something very wrong was happening and that ‘tailgating’ seems to be an appropriate word to use.

The sheriff added: ‘The conclusion I have is of someone

who is not being careless but of someone just being dangerous. One driver wanted to call the police and another passenger thought she was going to be killed.

‘The present example is one of extremely bad driving which easily could have involved a fatality. An off-duty police officer and young members of the public were all in danger – not to mention other vehicles.’

Alongside the disqualification, the sheriff fined McCarvill £500 and said the fact he thinks he knows how to read the road better than anyone else makes him a danger to the public.

## Funds pour in for Mòd

FUNDRAISING for next year’s Mòd is said to be ‘going very well’.

More than £300 was made at the late-night Christmas gathering in Fort William when Santa was at Costa Coffee with his elves meeting all the children.

Committee member Ann-Marie MacRae does monthly raffles at Caol Community Centre bingo on the first Thursday of every month, making £140 on average each time.

Ann-Marie said: ‘Fundraising is going very well and local businesses have been very supportive with raffle prizes and donations.’

The next big fundraiser will be on March 4, 2017, when Manran, Tide Lines and The Full Floor Ceilidh Band will be playing in the Nevis Centre.

Ann-Marie added: ‘I am running another huge raffle for this so any raffle donations from business would be very much appreciated.’

## Refugees are set to arrive

THE HIGHLAND Council is getting ready to welcome a second group of Syrian refugees to the Highlands.

The council has agreed with COSLA to take up to 25 to 30 families over the period of 2015-2020, subject to the confirmation of available housing, health services and education provision in single locations.

Leader of the local authority, Councillor Margaret Davidson, said: ‘We expect to receive the second group of refugees in the early months of next year and we are doing everything we can to be ready to support them adjust to their new lives in the Highlands.’

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Reclaim the night is a national march organised by London Feminist Network to combat sexual violence.  
Picture: ABrightside Photography

## Marchers ‘reclaim the night’

A MARCH to promote gender equality in the Highlands took place earlier this month.

Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland (RASASH) and Lochaber Women’s Aid (LWA) staff and board members were joined by colleagues from public sector agencies, volunteers, supporters and members of the public on the march to ‘reclaim the night’.

Before setting off along Fort William High Street on December 1, Melody McIndoe, of RASASH, thanked everyone for coming along to march and read out some statistics about the number of women who are sexually assaulted and raped each year.

Ms McIndoe said the recording of these crimes is at the highest level seen since

1971, the first year for which statistics on comparable crime groups are available. Furthermore, only three per cent of reported rapes result in a conviction.

Deirdre Coull, from LWA, said: ‘We could have travelled to Glasgow, Dundee or Edinburgh to take part in a large march in the city, but we wanted to bring the “reclaim the night” message to Fort William.’

‘We are delighted that so many people turned out to show their support for the cause.’

Liz Fotheringham, LWA board member, said: ‘This was the first Highland reclaim the night march and it was a great success.’

‘The march successfully brought the issue of women’s right to walk safely

at night to the attention of the people of Lochaber. We are proud to have gathered 44 men, women and children together and I would love to see this becoming an annual event.’

Ms McIndoe added: ‘We are still told that walking alone at night is an irresponsible thing for women to do, that if a woman is wearing a short skirt she’s asking to be harassed. This march is about saying enough is enough and it’s exciting to be able to bring that platform to the Highlands.’

Many of the marchers gathered in the Hub on the High Street after the walk and enjoyed a bowl of soup and a chance to chat to other participants and learn more about the work of both support organisations.

## Driver forced police to slam on brakes

A MAN was fined £500 after admitting driving in a dangerous manner and without a valid licence or insurance near Fort William.

Tiezhu Liang pleaded guilty to driving dangerously on the opposing carriage on the A82 near Torlundy on July 20 this year when he appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court last week (December 6).

The 32-year-old from London was seen by officers in an unmarked vehicle attempting to overtake when it was not safe to do so, forcing the driver of a campervan which was trav-

elling in the opposite direction to take evasive action.

The court heard both vehicles were travelling along the road around 50 miles an hour when he braked sharply, that he narrowly missed colliding with the campervan and that the police car also had to slam on the brakes.

Fiscal Martine Eastwood said after being pulled over, police officers discovered Liang only held a provisional licence and had not been displaying red L plates. Furthermore, the vehicle was rented under a female’s name which meant

he did not have insurance. The court also heard Liang’s child was in the car and was not securely fastened in an appropriate manner.

Solicitor Hamish Melrose explained Mr Liang had been on holiday in Scotland, travelling with his wife and accompanied by his mother and father-in-law when the offences occurred.

The grandparents and the child were in the back seat when the child became distressed so Mr Liang’s wife had asked him to drive and they removed the child from the car seat in a bid to calm him down

Mr Melrose said: ‘The accused mistakenly thought the insurance covered the car itself as is practice in China rather than the individual but he accepts responsibility for the offences.’

Sheriff William Taylor handed Liang a £500 fine and disqualified him for having or obtaining a driving licence for six months.

And he added: ‘It must have been pretty obvious when you were going through the formalities of hiring the vehicle that you were not to drive this vehicle.’

## Community rally to ensure campaign success



Raising funds for Ryan Whiteford and Emily Campbell were Liz MacMillan, Korrine MacMillan, Pamela Hendry and Ayla MacMillan.  
Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

AROUND £2,000 has been raised for two Lochaber children diagnosed with cancer.

As reported in *The Oban Times* last week, community fundraiser Liz MacMillan held a bottle stall for three-year old Ryan Whiteford on Saturday (December 10).

But last week Liz said she would also raise money for 15-year-old Emily Campbell, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma. A JustGiving page has also been set up for Emily, with £1,444 raised so far.

Liz said: ‘This is such a hard time for both families but with all our support we can hope-

ly take some of their financial burdens off them.’

At the fundraiser in Caol on Saturday, Liz and the team raised £494.35, which Liz made up to £500.

The Co-op in Caol, where the bottle stall was set up, did a bucket collection which raised £290. Another £410 was collected by Liz, £200 came in from raffle tickets, and £581.18 was raised by close friend Pamela Hendry, taking the total to almost £2,000.

Liz took to Facebook saying: ‘Thank you so much everyone. My target was to reach £1,000 for each family.’

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FW

## Fort William

THE REVEREND Kiki MacRae was guest speaker at the latest meeting of Fort William's Scottish Women's Institute.

Mr MacRae spoke about his trips to Rwanda in 2014 and earlier this year. On his first visit, Mr MacRae was visiting The Good Samaritan Project funded by the Scottish Bible Society. He spoke of how members of the local churches cook and feed the patients and their visitors in the hospital and the training of women in various crafts, including basket making, sewing and agriculture enabling them to support themselves and their families.

He said one of the aims of the project is to bring people together from both sides of the genocide conflict when one million people were murdered in 100 days.

This year the reverend returned to Rwanda with players from Tranent Colts Football Club to encourage football among children in remote parts of the country.

The speaker was thanked for his 'thought provoking' talk by Kathie White.

The next meeting of the group will be on Monday January 9 at 7.15pm in the Montrose Centre, Inverloch, where Jim Blair from the geopark will speak on the Lochaber landscape.



The Re-Act Lochaber volunteers who helped get the lorry loaded on Tuesday. Photo by ABrightside Photography.

## Lochaber digs deep for world aid charity

PEOPLE in Lochaber have helped fill a 20 foot container full of donations for charity Re-Act Scotland.

The Re-Act lorry was in Corpach, Fort William, on Tuesday with volunteers from the Lochaber branch helping to load the vehicle, which was headed back to Edinburgh. On the load was 289 baby and children's clothing and toy packs, 182 sacks of warm coats, clothes, shoes, blankets, prams, travel cots, toys, toiletries, which are now all headed for Samos in Greece.

Lorraine Wheelan from Re-Act Lochaber told *The Oban Times*: 'Having the Re-Act lorry is a huge help to us. Normally once our container is full we have to pay about £150 to get a van to take the stuff down to Edinburgh, but now we can have it picked up.'

With the Lochaber container now empty, the charity is urging people to help fill it up again before the lorry comes back to Fort William in January.

To donate to the Re-Act Scotland lorry, which travels around the world delivering much needed aid, go to <https://chuffed.org/project/re-act-truck-fund>

Visit the Re-Act Lochaber Facebook page to find out more about fundraising and volunteering.

A CHARITY bag pack in Morrisons has raised more than £1,000 for Care Lochaber.

Fourteen volunteers gave up their time on December 1 to take part in the bag pack, raising £1,240.65 for the charities community car scheme which provides a door-to-door driving service for people who cannot access public transport.

They particularly want to help those without extended family support and consider it important to fill the gaps where no other services exist.

Charity Manager, Lara Van de Peer, said: 'This money is a tremendous boost for us and will help us to continue providing a service which a growing number of the local community are accessing. A huge thank you to all our volunteers for helping out and to everyone who donated.'

To find out more about Care Lochaber's community car scheme, or if you would like to register as a volunteer driver, please contact 01397 701222.

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### THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

ADVERTISEMENTIAL

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is committed to reducing the number of injuries and deaths involving older people over winter and reducing the number of fires due to cooking, smoking materials and alcohol over the festive period.

We want you to join Scotland's fight against fire by following our winter safety tips:

- Keep portable heaters away from curtains and furniture, never use them for drying clothes, and turn them off before going to bed.
- Never leave an electric blanket switched on when you're in bed unless it is marked 'suitable for all night use'. Check the blanket, plug and flex for damage and, if in doubt, don't use it.
- Unplug fairy lights and electric Christmas decorations and blow out candles when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Leaving cookers unattended or being distracted while cooking is the most frequent cause of fire in the home. Never

cook hot food while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- Most fatal fires are caused by smoker's materials. Don't smoke in your chair or in bed if you've been drinking or you're feeling tired.
- Check your smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms are working and replace batteries if necessary. Use Christmas as a reminder to clean them and remove dust.
- If you have a chimney make sure it's swept this winter and use a fire guard where necessary.
- For more advice on how to keep your home safe from fire this winter visit [www.firescotland.gov.uk/winter](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/winter)

If you know an older person and are worried about their safety this winter why not look in on them and make sure they get the support that's available through a free Home Fire Safety Visit?

Have a safe Christmas!



Some of the artists who performed at the first pop up ceilidh at 'Mod Corner'. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

## Pop in and help raise Mòd cash

'IT'S ALL about the craic, fun and raising awareness of the Mòd coming to Fort William' was how Isabel Campbell described the town's new Mod shop.

Fort William is gearing up for the Royal National Mòd coming to the area next year, with the opening of 'Mòd Corner' on the High Street.

And to get the ball rolling, Mod shop convener Isabel Campbell has been talking to *The Oban Times* about their pop-up ceilidhs.

'We are operating out the Buzz Project shop, which has a grand piano, stage area and room to put on teas, coffee and homebaking,' said Isabel.

Volunteers will be hosting a ceilidh and musical entertainment every Saturday – including Christmas Eve – until Christmas from 2pm-4pm.

'It costs a lot of money to bring the Mod to Fort William next year, so we are trying to raise some money.

'We've called it Mòd Corner, just to

be a bit different, and locals walking down the high street can pop in or people who are on holiday can come in and see what our Scottish culture is all about. This Saturday we have a lot of performers coming. Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society will be popping in and we have accordianists, fiddlers, pipers and singers.'

There will also be a raffle on Christmas Eve. The shop will close over Christmas and re-open in April selling Mòd merchandise.



The school receives its Green Flag.

## Green Flag and computer work earns praise

KINLOCHLEVEN Primary School pupils have been congratulated for their 'renewed' green flag status.

Head teacher Heather Thomson said: 'Eco Schools were particularly impressed with how our eco activities are well-integrated into the curriculum and calendar through our focus on outdoor learning and events such as our whole school and community fairtrade breakfast.

'They were pleased to hear that we had been monitoring progress well, using the data gathered as part of our maths work, establishing useful

partnerships, with the Lochaber Environmental Group for example, and sharing our successes with the wider community via the school blog and social media.

'We were warmly commended for our promotion of Fairtrade in school and for our community litter picking ventures, undertaken in conjunction with the local high school.

As well as the green flag work, the school also took part in the Hour of Code event.

Head teacher Heather Thomson signed up to the global initiative

which aims to prepare children for the technological needs of the future.

Each child had the opportunity to become a computer programmer for an hour using programmes such as 'Kodable' and 'Code Combat', all of which teaches them to write lines of basic code. Even nursery pupils had a go.

Ms Thomson said: 'We were proud to be part of such a huge global event and the school will be offering an after school coding club starting in January to further develop these skills.'



The children meet up with the actors after their performance of Mother Goose.

Pictures: ABrightside Photography.



Alan Grey plays Mother Goose in this year's performance.

## Panto fun for Banavie pupils

PUPILS at Banavie Primary School enjoyed a 'captivating' performance of *Mother Goose*.

This year the school held host to an Eden Court production of the pantomime on Tuesday December 7.

Cast members included Alan Grey, Mother Goose, Martin Haddow as Squire Skinflint, Mark McMinn as Jack Goose, Cara Von Schiervick as Alice Baker and Kirsty Stewart as Fairy Fair.

The school said: 'It [the pantomime] was very professional, an excellent production and the children sat captivated all the way through.'

## MORVERN lines

### Why history matters

I AM OFTEN asked what is the point of history and why does it matter what happened long ago?

The answer is history is inescapable and, far from being a 'dead' subject, it connects things through time and encourages people to take a long view or, as Winston Churchill once famously said, 'the farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see'.

History has made us what we are. The decisions and actions of our ancestors have shaped the land and locality we live in. Whatever you look at has roots in history. Have you ever wondered why we eat with knives and forks but some other cultures use chopsticks? History will tell you; it is being made every day.

I am a great believer in hands-on-history. Not long ago the past was something that came down to us by word of mouth or through reading dusty text books and acres of dull script. These days, when most people can't recall what they did the day before, let alone remember what their grandparents told them about their grandparents because it isn't on Facebook or Twitter, we need physical reminders to touch the past, see it, scent it, hear it or hold it in our hands.

The best example I know of is a story told to me by the late Lord Macleod of Fiunary (1895-1991) about his first memory of the island of Iona.

He said: 'When I was a boy of nine we went over to Iona. My father said, "I want you to talk to Mrs Mac Cormick. She is 85 years old and I think you should shake hands with her". So I shook hands with her, a little embarrassed. My father said, "Now I'll tell you why. When she was nine years old she shook hands with a Mrs Campbell, who was then 85 years of age, and Mrs Campbell, when she was nine, stood on this jetty and watched the ship going down the Sound of Iona carrying Prince Charles Edward Stewart back to France after Culloden".'

'Now that', said 85 years later, 'was a wonderful education in history – two handshakes away from Bonnie Prince Charlie.'

I had a similar experience on Lismore in June 1992 when I was invited to the celebrations to commemorate the 1,400th year of the death of St Moluag, the first Bishop of Argyll.

A service, led by one of his successors, the Right Rev George Henderson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, was held in the old cathedral (Parish Church) and attended by local people and Church of Scotland and Episcopalian clergy, some of whom had travelled a great distance to be present.



The late Alastair Livingstone of Bachuil, hereditary keeper of St Moluag's staff. Photograph: Julian Calder.

Central to the unique event was Alastair Livingstone (1914-2008) carrying St Moluag's ancient pastoral staff, called the Bachuil Mor from Latin baculum (staff) and Gaelic mor (big).

St Moluag was an Irish monk who left the Abbey of Bangor in 562 AD to create a Celtic monastery on Lismore. When he died 30 years later, his ornate staff was kept on the island and held in great veneration. Today the staff, which rests in an illuminated recess specially created for it in Bachuil House, is a plain curved blackthorn stick, 34-inch long, slightly turned up at one end, containing a number of small bronze tacks or headless nails still holding little pieces of an inner bronze sheath.

The staff became so important in the following centuries as a relic that guardians, or keepers, were appointed to take care of it. When St Moluag died, his descendants, called 'Coarbs', became hereditary Keepers of the Bachuil Mor and were rewarded with a feudal barony confirmed in 1544 by Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll.

'From time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary', Alastair Livingstone's family fulfilled that role and still hold the title, Baron of the Bachuil, 'by the Grace of God'.

With all this in mind, it was with reverence and respect that I took St Moluag's staff in my hands from Alastair Livingstone in Bachuil House on June 25, 1992. It was awesome to think that when the mighty Roman Empire was crumbling, when the Prophet Mohammed was a boy, when King Harold fell at Hastings, when Bruce had the brooch of Lorn ripped from his shoulders at the Battle of Brander, this holy staff was 'working its magic' on Lismore.

According to local tradition, St Moluag's staff had miraculous powers. It has been claimed that where it was present, it ensured safety at sea, truth on land, a safeguard against disease and, as long as its keepers honoured the hereditary trust placed in them, if taken away or stolen, it would always find its way back to Lismore.

A few weeks ago Bachuil House was advertised for sale in *The Oban Times*, giving rise to concern in the local community that the Bachuil Mor might leave Lismore forever. Of all the miracles attributed to the staff there is surely none more hoped for now than its ability to return to the place where it undoubtedly belongs should it be necessary.

Iain Thornber  
[iain.thornber@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.thornber@btinternet.com)

FW

# Bins collection is rubbish, say residents of Oban flats

DAVID MCPHEE  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS in Soroba are up in arms over the state of the communal bins in Colonsay Terrace, which were overflowing with rubbish on Sunday and were not scheduled to be emptied for a further 11 days.

The bins are situated next to a children's play park.

The situation has arisen just weeks after Argyll and Bute Council moved to collect general refuse every three weeks, instead of two, in a bid to save money.

Concerned locals say the full-to-capacity bins are over-shadowing the hard work they have put in to renovating a community garden situated close by.

They are also worried that the exposed rubbish will attract vermin and seagulls, as well as posing a health hazard to children who play in the park.

Soroba resident George Berry contacted *The Oban Times*, saying: 'I just want it resolved. They can't possibly go on with a three-weekly collection.'

'They ask you to take pride in your estate and they do this and it just rips the heart out of you. I don't care what they say, all you have to do is look at the pictures and that tells you

that there is no way that we are coping. No way at all. Bins are overflowing, the blue bins are full, and there is no room to put rubbish anywhere, and we have got another week and a half before our bins will be uplifted. I'm outraged.

'To add another blue bin or a couple of blue bins will not solve the problem because the blue bins they are going to uplift are full of all types of rubbish.'

'People have said to themselves, "Stuff this, we're not just going to use them for cardboard and paper" and they are piling everything into them now.'

'What we need is more of the normal waste bins and blue bins if they are going to do the three-week system. I am not saying don't do it - what I am saying is provide us with more bins.'

'A lot of hard work went into decorating the community garden in Soroba. It was looking lovely and now due to the fact that the bins in Soroba are not being uplifted until December 21, the place is a bloody disgrace.'

Mr Berry added: 'No matter what happens, don't have a go at the bin lorry boys. It's not their fault. All they are doing is following their code of conduct at work and doing what they are told.'



Soroba activist George Berry illustrates the problem of the already overflowing bins ... 11 days before the scheduled emptying.

Colonsay Terrace tenant Joe Barr said at the weekend: 'The bins were full when they were collected once per week, never mind this.'

'We are going to get rats and it would not surprise me if the seagulls had this all ripped up.'

Jean Campbell added: 'When it gets to this stage, it is not healthy. I just want to know where I am supposed to keep my rubbish.'

'I don't have transport to take stuff to the dump. It's a disgrace. We are paying council tax. What are we going to do for the next 11 days?'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Roddy McCuish said: 'I am 100 per cent behind the residents of Soroba. This cannot continue. We must find a solution and the only way we can find that solution is working with the residents, Argyll Com-

munity Housing Association (ACHA) and the council. 'In the short term, we have organised for a bin lorry to go up. However, this is only the short term. We have to look for a longer term solution.'

A spokesman for ACHA said: 'We have asked for a timeous bin uplift to be taken forward as a matter of urgency in order to address this situation. 'The association is concerned

that if this is not dealt with quickly then we could have substantial amounts of refuse stacked on the streets because there is nowhere for it to go.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have arranged for additional uplifts to deal with the overflowing bins and are working in partnership with ACHA to identify areas where additional bins can be stored.'

## TIMESLINE

### M&S still wants to move into Oban

MARKS and Spencer has told *The Oban Times* it is still 'very interested' in the former Lidl site in Oban, but to date there is no further news.

A spokeswoman said she would update the newspaper early in the New Year as information becomes available.

It is likely that the store would be a 'Simply Food' branch of the chain store.

### Give gifts to the less fortunate

PEOPLE in Oban will be able to donate gifts to those less fortunate for the next three days, as Tesco in Oban is running a collection on behalf of the Hope Kitchen.

The Christmas gift collection starts today (Thursday December 15) and will also take place tomorrow and on Saturday.

There will be a designated drop-off point at the front of the store, where customers can attach tags. Ideally, gifts should already be wrapped when they are handed in.

### Put pen to paper for Christmas

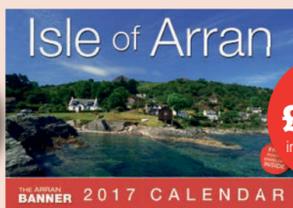
OVER Christmas and New Year *The Oban Times* is asking readers to turn their hands to writing short stories of no more than 500 words and poems of no more than 15 lines. Deputy editor Martin Laing and chief reporter Louise Glen will then read through entries and publish the best in a future edition of the newspaper and online. Entries should be sent to lglen@obantimes.co.uk before January 6.

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# Scottish Calendars 2017



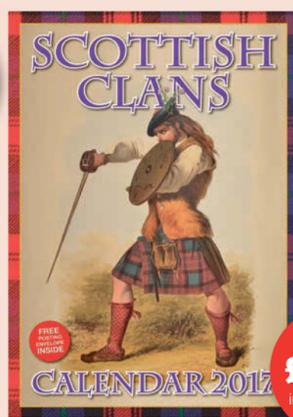
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# Drug dealer hid heroin in body

## POLICE FILES

AN OBAN drug dealer has been found guilty of supplying 10g of diamorphine recovered from his rectum.

Shane Kenny, 27, of 3 Shore Street Flats, Shore Street, Oban, pleaded not guilty to a charge of possessing diamorphine, a controlled class-A drug, with intent to supply, at Lorn and Islands General Hospital.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last Wednesday that PCs Paul MacMillan and Danny MacBeth apprehended Kenny at Longsdale Road on May 12.

PC MacMillan said: 'I observed Shane Kenny walk towards Atlantis Leisure. I thought it was odd to see him there. My suspicions were raised when a green car parked up. I am aware the driver is a heroin user.'

'Shane walked directly to the car. I believed he was approach-

ing the car for the purpose of conducting a drug deal.'

As he moved to detain Kenny, PC MacMillan added: 'I observed Shane quickly turn his body to us. He brought his hand up to his mouth and put an item in his mouth. He denied he had taken anything or that he had anything on him.'

Defence agent Kevin McGinness said: 'There is no clear link between Shane Kenny and the car. It can be accidental.'

PC MacBeth responded: 'I formed the impression it was more than a coincidence.'

Kenny was arrested and taken to hospital for observation.

PC MacMillan said: 'He was told he would be remaining in hospital until any drugs he took passed through.'

He added that Kenny eventually admitted: 'I have got it, and it is up my \*\*\*\*.'

Two packages of diamorphine powder were retrieved, weighing 3.5g and 6.88g.

DC Greig Baxter, a drugs specialist in Police Scotland's Stop Unit, said both quantities were a 'known deal' of a quarter and an eighth of an ounce, which when split into 70 to 80 'tenner bags' could be sold for more than £900.

DC Baxter said: 'If someone has that amount of heroin, it is to supply it. If you are a chronic heroin user, you will use it.'

'If you have a heroin addiction, you are looking at one to two tenner bags a day; a chronic user is three to six tenner bags.'

'It is very common for users and suppliers to secrete heroin in the anus, in a vessel such as a Kinder egg, where the toy is thrown away. If you are a chronic user, you are going to have to pull down heroin four or five

times a day. It is going to have repercussions.'

'The likelihood of a user stockpiling is very unusual. All the factors indicate to me it is not someone who uses it for personal use.'

Mr McGinness said: 'There was no Kinder egg in this case. A package is not going to be as troublesome as a Kinder egg.'

'There is an incentive for a heroin user to reduce the risk of detection.'

DC Baxter responded: 'The overwhelming urge to get heroin is the biggest urge in the world.'

'If you are using it at that level, it is a hand to mouth existence. They will be begging, stealing, any way that they can have £10 for a tenner bag of heroin.'

'If there is nothing in the house, then that rings alarm bells.'

'If they were a chronic user, you would tend to find the place in chaos, and you would expect there to be paraphernalia. I would expect someone to have the tooter, the foil, the injection - what we call "the works".'

'Taking the stand, Kenny said: 'I was heading to see my cousin. I have never seen [the driver] before in my life.'

After Kenny admitted using heroin for 'about seven or eight years', Mr McGinness asked him: 'Have you stored heroin in your anus before?'

'Yes', Kenny replied, 'every time I have heroin on me,' explaining he did not want to risk losing his house if the drugs were found at home.

Fiscal Eoin McGinley asked: 'You were using the equivalent of five to six tenner bags a day, but you can function?'

'You had 100 tenner bags and

you stuck them up your anus - you did not get stuck into it?'

'I was planning to,' Mr Kenny said.

Mr McGinley concluded: 'You seem to have lots of willpower and restraint. It does not add up.'

Defence witness Dr Iain McPhee, senior lecturer at the Centre for Alcohol and Drugs Studies at UWS, said: 'My position is it is someone who is involved in a small-scale commercial operation or self-sufficient personal use.'

However, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC told Kenny: 'I am in no doubt as to your purpose in all this and I find you guilty as libelled. I am giving active consideration to a custodial sentence.'

She deferred sentence for reports until January 31. Bail was continued.

POLICE in Oban are looking for information regarding a blue van that was kicked and dented outside Combie Court, Oban.

The incident, which damaged the van's rear panel, took place between December 11 and 12.

**A MAN was assaulted in Wetherspoons, Oban, on Sunday December 11.**

**Police in the town are appealing for witnesses. If anyone has any information, they should contact constable Chris Edwards.**

A 56-YEAR-OLD woman has been reported for stealing from Tesco in Oban last Saturday.

**TWO MEN were caught in possession of cannabis near George Street last Friday, with the pair both receiving a police warning.**

POLICE are seeking information regarding graffiti that has been sprayed on to the side of a house in Rhuvaal Road, Oban.

The graffiti was carried out between December 9 and December 10. Inquiries into the incident are ongoing and anyone with any information is being asked to contact Constable Greenlaw.

**A 33-YEAR-OLD man was stopped after he was caught travelling 25mph over the speed limit on the A82, near the Bridge of Orchy.**

**The man, who was travelling at 85mph, has been reported to the procurator fiscal.**

A 51-YEAR-OLD man has been charged with dangerous driving following a collision between a tractor and a parked car on the A819.

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Clockwise from left: Blake Connelly, seven, Amelia Connelly, three and Bayden Connelly-Scott, six; Lions Jim Edge, Raymond Wallace and Alex Milligan; Lauren Williams-Bale with her son Jack, two; Nadine Darrah and her daughter Jessica, 16 months.



## Christmas comes early as Santa visits the Lions

CHRISTMAS came early for children in Oban this year - or at least Santa Claus did, as they were able to meet the man in red at the annual Oban and Lorn Lions Club's Santa's Grotto, writes David McPhee.

The grotto is held in the Royal Hotel over

two Saturdays in the run up to Christmas, as it has been for the past 30 years.

'It is going really well,' Alex Milligan of Oban and Lorn Lions said during the event. 'We were here last Saturday as well and it was really busy. We have been doing this since we started 30 years ago.'

He added: 'The Royal Hotel has been really good to us over the years.'

Since the Oban and Lorn Lions began, the club has raised almost £500,000, which has gone back in to the community through donations to various local charities and organisations.

## Cocaine dealer is jailed for 32 months

AN OBAN man has been sentenced to 32 months in prison for dealing cocaine.

James Adam Richell, 31, a prisoner in HMP Low Moss, admitted supplying cocaine, a class-A drug, between July 21 and October 21 at 22c Shuna Terrace, Oban.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinley told Oban Sheriff Court on December 6: 'Police received intelligence. A warrant was executed. On walking in they noted the accused was on his hands and knees smoking heroin. He shouted to his wife, "I am going to get five years for this".'

During a police search, Mr McGinley said: '£1,260 was found at the top of a cupboard.'

'There were multiple bags of white powder, and there was a white bag sitting on top of a set of digital scales. The white powder was tested positively as cocaine.'

He added that 16 paper packages worth £640 and five knotted bags, each worth £245, were also recovered.

'There was paraphernalia indicating onward supply, a notebook with a tick list, multiple empty wraps were located under the sink.'

Defence agent Liam Robertson said: 'There is no dispute with the facts. Mr Russell recognises a custodial sentence is inevitable.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC sentenced Richell to 32 months, reduced from 48 because of his guilty plea, backdated to October 24, and ordered the money to be forfeited.

Contact the newsroom: Call 01631 568000 Email editor@obantimes.co.uk

## Pensioner blames town seats after breaking leg

AN ELDERLY couple have complained to Argyll and Bute Council after both were hurt when they collided with part of the new public seating in Oban town centre.

The couple, who do not wish to be named, claim the benches in Oban town centre pose a danger to the public after the man broke his leg and spent almost a fortnight in hospital.

The couple from Kilmichael Glassary told *The Oban Times* that the benches on George Street pose a danger as the ends extend beyond the seats and can be easily overlooked because they are below eye level.

The man, who is in his seventies, said he was knocked off balance on October 21 after colliding with the bench's extended shelf. He then fell



heavily and fractured his femur, requiring surgery and a 12-day stay in hospital. His wife also collided with the extension on her way to the ambulance.

He said: 'Kindly passers-by were very helpful and the ambulance staff, then and later, were outstanding, as were the hospital staff in Oban and

Queen Alexandra Hospital.' He also thanked the kindness of a friend from Kilmartin, who gave his wife a lift home, laden with luggage, after the last bus had departed.

The town centre seating has an arching silver structure with a small table area at the end of each of the seats. It is this part of the seating that caused the problem.

It is understood the designer benches cost somewhere in the region of £750 each.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We have taken immediate action to make the plinths more visible by adding "be aware" tape (pictured).'

'Our contractor has been instructed to make changes to the design and this will happen in due course.'

## More cuts would be 'catastrophic'

THE LEADER of Argyll and Bute Council has appealed to the Scottish Government asking it to think carefully before a new round of cuts.

As the budget for 2017-2018 is prepared, Councillor Dick Walsh said a further cut will be 'catastrophic' for the people of Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Walsh added: 'There is no doubt that a further cut to local authority funding by the Scottish Government of the same magnitude as last year will have drastic consequences for Argyll and Bute.'

'Last year the government cut our funding by £10 million, or 3.5 per cent. This, coupled with increasing additional service pressures, had a huge impact on services and we had

to make a number of decisions we would rather not have had to make.'

'Our communities are experiencing at first hand the impact of these cuts and, if we were to receive the same cut this year, I am in no doubt it would be catastrophic.'

'Argyll and Bute Council is the second highest employer in the area. If the Scottish Government was to impose a further funding reduction of 3.5 per cent, that would equate to 210 more job losses at Argyll and Bute Council.'

'That is 210 less people delivering services and 210 less people spending money in the local community. Argyll and Bute's local economy can do without that kind of knock-on effect.'

## £3,000 fine for cannabis

A DRUG dealer has been fined £3,000 at Oban Sheriff Court.

John Allan McLean, 56, of 13 Kinloss Court, High Valleyfield, Dunfermline, was found guilty in November alongside Geoffrey Gladwell, 53, of 2 Dun Bheag, Ruaig, Tiree, of possessing 400g of cannabis with intent to supply, after police detained them at a car park by Corran Brae, Oban, on January 6 following a tip-off.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC had fined Gladwell £3,000, and deferred sentence on McLean until December 6 for reports. Last week she also sentenced McLean to a fine of £3,000, and imposed a forfeiture order for £932 found in his possession.

She told McLean: 'You can kiss goodbye to the £932.'

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Plus THE FINEST FESTIVE WINES TRAVEL MEN A BREED APART DRUM ANRG CASTLE'S GARDENS JAMES THOMSON'S UNFASHIONABLE GENIUS

30 Our unbeatable Christmas gift guide

LIVING OFF THE LAND - A top chef reveals how to forage for, and then cook, a memorable Christmas feast

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## Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

It is hard not to feel sympathy with people who are regular users of the Corran Ferry, which crosses Loch Linnhe and links Lochaber to Ardgour.

A leaked document has revealed that the Highland Council is considering a hefty 10 per cent increase in ferry fares as it looks to offset budgetary contractions.

As we report today, should this rise – which is way above inflation – go ahead, it would mean users of the Corran Ferry being dealt yet another blow, having already seen their costs increase by a whopping 40 per cent in three years, according to one former councillor, Michael Foxley.

That said, and given the ongoing and seemingly endless age of austerity in which we live, it is also hard not to have some sympathy for the local authority. It operates under an imperative from the Scottish Government that means it has to make savings year on year, and it is right that it must examine all areas of spending to see where best value can be achieved.

However, there must be fairness in the budgeting system, and penalising the residents and businesses which use the Corran Ferry yet again by hiking the fares is a step too far. The people are justified in their anger and opposition to this retrograde move.



## Days gone by – Taynuilt in 1991

The clock turns back not too far this week, in fact only to 1991, and the Taynuilt Games. In this photograph, Lord Gray is leading the parade through the village, complete with pipe band.

### Glasgow Letter

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

#### Glasgow 'greetings' for a Highland gent

GLASGOW has for many years been renowned for the great welcome and kindness of its people.

The slogan 'People Make Glasgow' seems to be emblazoned on every mode of public transport, every public building, and every bus-stop advertising board from Pollokshaws to Partick.

The famous Glaswegian charm was in evidence a couple of weeks ago when a highlander, who shall remain nameless, made the trip down to the city to come to our Tide Lines show in the art school.

This gentleman had left his car in a multi-storey car park and was given a token with which he had to pay on return.

After the gig, fairly late at night, he and his family walked back to the car park and quickly found out that teachers and state-of-the-art, modern car parking technology should not really mix.

He was unsure which way to put the token into the slot – but considered himself to have four different options: downside up, upside-down, front to back and back to front.

### Social media

OUR story about an increase in fly-tipping, especially in the Dunbeg area, touched a nerve with readers.

Carol Needham complained: 'I don't normally comment on things like this and would never condone fly tipping but with 3 weekly bin uplifts and charges for everything else then do you blame them?'

'I have a family of 6 my eldest child being an adult and I burn all paper ect in the fire, recycle what I can, and I avoid products that have lots of packing and generally I have way more rubbish than fills 2 green bins, but I get there, I can see a rise in flytipping spoiling beautiful Oban in the years

He tried all four, and none of them worked.

In his moment of desperation, and assuming himself to be stuck in Glasgow forever with no access to his motor, he was approached rather suddenly by a man with very handy local knowledge.

'Oi, ya maniac!' shouted the Glaswegian. 'It goes in sidey-ways!'

Perplexed, our highland protagonist did a double take at the small token.

'Gies it here, ya maniac,' said the Glaswegian.

'Ah'll dae it fur ya.'

With this, the chap slotted the token perfectly into the machine, sighed, muttered 'maniac' one more time under his breath, and was gone.

Ah, the warmth of the Glasgow people was so keenly felt that evening by our highland gent, who was later to comment that, since his last trip to Glasgow for a dance 20 years previously, the Glasgow dialect had changed slightly, and 'maniac' was obviously now the greeting of choice.

### What's on

Saturday December 17: The Highlanders' Club dance in the Partick

to come by these ridiculous 3 week collections, council think they are encouraging people to tip less they are actually encouraging the opposite and although I would never condone or do it myself I cannot blame those who do.'

Chloe Louise Brown offered: 'It's just as bad along the railway line fence in Connell in the woods, probably the same in most places it's a disgrace.'

Tracey Reid posted: 'You should see longdale terrace it's worst.'

Jean Gibson wrote: 'This will only get worse with 3 week pick ups and people in rural communities living so far from recycling centres.'

Burgh Hall to the music of Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band from 8pm till 11pm.

Wednesday January 4: Seisean-ciùil Gàidhlig / An Lochran Gaelic music session in the Lismore.

Saturday January 7: Glasgow Skye Association New Year family ceilidh in the Crawford Hall.

Friday January 27: The Glasgow Uist and Barra Association New Year dance in the Glasgow University Union.

Wednesday February 1: Seisean-ciùil Gàidhlig / An Lochran Gaelic music session in the Lismore.

Thursday February 2: Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar spring concert in the Ellangowan Social Club.

### Pub scene

Park Bar.  
Friday December 16: Martainn Skene.

Saturday December 17: Robert Nairn and Donald Macrae.

Sunday December 18: Scott Harvey. Islay Inn.

Friday December 16: Twist of Fate.

Saturday December 17: Parting Glass.

Wednesday December 21: quiz night.



AND reports that youth engagement police officer Claire Brown wants to set up a new youth club in Oban drew a number of comments for and against the idea.

Louise Kilmurray Marshall said: 'It's not a youth club they need, this is what brings in the drugs and drink, I can vouch for this!!!! They need a work unit, something interesting for them to do. E.g. Mechanical work, painting, decorating, joinery ect.'

Ian Lockhart suggested: 'If people stopped opposing a bike / skate park then maybe just maybe young people would find something they can use and make a hobby of.'

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### We must stand up and fight against quarry

Sir,  
Love it or hate it, we all know the words of the unofficial Scottish national anthem: 'O Flower of Scotland, when will we see your like again? That fought and died for your wee bit hill and glen.' And it goes on: 'Those days are past now, and in the past they must remain.'

Oh, would that it were so. But it isn't. It is happening in Glen Creran right now and we must rise up and defend our land once again.

This proposed quarry development is environmental vandalism and should be resisted by every means available to us, including, if necessary, robust direct action. The effect on the landscape and rare and protected flora and fauna will be devastating. The effect on local roads and on the lives of the residents and visitors will be catastrophic.

Dominique Collinet, the absentee landlord, a Belgian national reputedly resident in Luxembourg, wants to turn Glen Creran into an industrial area for his own private profit and he must be stopped for the sake of future generations. Our heritage is at stake here.

Furthermore, there is no need for this development.

There are already established quarries at Benderloch and a huge one at Bonawe, which is an object lesson for what will happen to Glen Creran if we don't stop it.

And before anyone tries to tell you otherwise, the number of new jobs created by this proposal will be tiny. The game isn't worth the candle, especially when weighed against the detrimental effects on ecology, tourism and related activities.

But we cannot trust the planners to stop this proposal. Their track record reveals at best the most appalling incompetence and at worst something far more sinister, especially where big business is concerned.

The notorious Connel debacle is but the latest in a catalogue of planning disasters so far as the built environment and the lives of ordinary citizens are concerned – the very things the planners are employed to protect.

In any event, the lesson is clear: we must take matters into our own hands. And that means political action, to force the planners to do the right thing and stand up for Scotland and its people, not big business and globalised private interests.

If the Scottish Government doesn't intervene immediately to halt this proposal in its tracks, then its majority party will lose all credibility.

What is the SNP about if it isn't committed to preserving our heritage in the teeth of foreign exploitation?

And Glen Creran is an absolutely classic case. Lose this one and they will have lost the lot. People are very angry about this latest proposed violation, and it would behoove our representatives, both locally and nationally, to take heed and act accordingly.

John Gosling,  
Siskin, Barcaldine.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

GED IS E AMANNAN dripeil a' th'anns an Nollaig is anns a' Bhliadh'n 'Ur a dh'aindeoin gach uallach a dh'fhaodadh a bhith nan lùib, 's e cuideachd amannan sona agus toilichte a th' anna dha mòran.

Ach gu mì-fhortanach chan eil sin fìor dha na h-uile idir mar a tha naidheachdan an t-saoghail a' dearbhadh le aithrisean air sgrìos agus bròn chogaidhean agus suidheachadh èigèinneach nam feadhna a tha ri fulang nan lùib.

Nach truagh an fhianais air mac an duine gum bheil sinn cho fada air falbh bho shìth eadar-nàiseanta 's a bha sinn riamh, agus gum bheil na mìltean mòra air feadh an t-saoghail a' bàsachadh le dìth bìdh is aire.

Tha duilgheadasan eaconamach a' cur a truaighe buileach air cùisean is dùthchannan feadh an t-saoghail a' strì ri crìonadh beartais agus an cuid sluaigh a' fulang fo bhuaidh ghearraidhean sheirbheisean de gach seòrsa.

Sin gu ìre mar a tha sinn fhìn ann an Alba is dà riaghaltas a-nise dol a bhith gar fàsadh le cisean, ged nach eil fàs làidir eaconamach sam bith ri fhaicinn. 'S dòcha gur ann ri linn

### Reduction in MPs is disproportionate

Sir,  
All political parties spin but when they state an untruth they should be called out. In *Westword* (the community newspaper for West Lochaber and the Small Isles) our SNP MSP Kate Forbes writes: 'The Westminster government is taking retrograde steps by reducing the number of MPs in the Highlands from three to two.'

This propaganda is a travesty. The total number of MPs at Westminster is being reduced and there are cuts in each of the constituent nations (Scotland is losing six MPs).

But the decision to reduce disproportionately the number of MPs from the Highlands is being taken in Edinburgh, not London. It's all there for anyone to see on the website of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, Edinburgh.

Denis Rixson,  
Fank Brae, Mallaig.

### Why are our sports teams struggling?

Sir,  
It is with sadness that we are witnessing the sorry standard of our football teams in recent times. It is not just our national team that is grim, it has also happened in the amateur game and in rural areas.

Here on the islands, the standard of play in past 20 odd years has also deteriorated and is nowhere near the high standard of the 1960s and 1970s, and that is despite sports facilities and all kinds of support being available in our education system in recent years.

I have also witnessed the same fate happening in the local Highland games athletic competitions in the summer months. Those standards have fallen to the extent that I do not attend the games any longer.

Then again, I have also noticed an apathy in life in general in comparison to the generation of some 40 or 50 years ago.

I believe this is not just a minor problem, but a major one. It is really painful to watch, when you have witnessed live on pitches the high standards of players such as Jim Baxter, Denis Law, Jinky Johnstone and so on in the professional game and many others, locally and nationally, of similar standards in the amateur circles.

We simply have no talent anymore and the get-up-and-go factor seems to be missing. However, hope springs eternal but will we have to wait until eternity to see it happening again?

Angus Campbell,  
Garrynamonie, South Uist.

### Urgent action needed to stop speeding cars

Sir,  
I would like to raise the issue in the strongest way possible of the speed of traffic at the Banavie Bridge area which has been raised several times in the past and nothing has been done. This is

mainly due to the extreme speed of the traffic on this part of the road coming from the Blah and Corpach.

A couple of days ago, at dusk, I was cycling back from the town and spotted a lump on the road. I stopped and discovered it was a large otter which had been run over. It was still warm but dead as I tried to resuscitate it. I picked it up just as a large timber wagon came speeding down from Corpach. He would never have been able to stop. I laid the otter on the grass.

However, I digress. The speed of traffic is my main concern at this particular area. Many people cross the road with children, pushchairs, people with disabilities, cyclists, horse riders, dog walkers and so on. I am quite surprised that no-one has ever been killed like that poor otter, but it will happen. Also cars, cyclists and other vehicles join here from the Gairloch road.

We need speed bumps, traffic cameras or something to act as a calming influence before someone is killed.

I do not exaggerate the speed of this traffic along this route. Something has to be done as there's not even so much as a zebra crossing.

Ken Johnson,  
Serendipity, Banavie.

### Gathering was a celebration of Jura

Sir,  
The annual gathering of the Glasgow Jura Association was held on Friday November 11.

Vice-president Dr Alasdair Watson presented Charles Renwick with his silver president's medal commemorating 35 years as president of the association. Robert Robertson entertained the gathering with his singing and was presented with a tie from the Isle of Jura Rugby Club.

Lorraine Kelly and Sarah, Duchess of York, sent messages of goodwill to the association, both having visited Jura recently.

Dr A K Watson,  
6 St Mirren Street, Paisley.

### RAF men were likely to be footballers

Sir,  
My attention was brought to last month's photograph of an RAF team.

I have a large collection of RAF Oban photos but I do not recognise any of the men – although that is not surprising given the numbers present at that time in Oban.

I can say that this is a photo of one of the teams in the RAF Oban Station Football League. Each of the main hotels where the RAF were billeted had its own team. This is likely to be from the Marine Hotel, season 1941/42 and formed of personnel from No. 210 Squadron who were based in Oban then with Catalina flying boats.

I have similar photos of other teams in the league. The original photo may provide more recognisable faces.

Neil Owen,  
Oban.

Ailean Caimbeul

amaid gum biodh aonta eatarra a tha-obh cuid de cheistean cho bunaiteach ri leasachadh bochdainn chloinne, agus gum d' rachadh deiligeadh ris gum dàil.

Nuair a stèidhicheadh an Riaghaltas ùr seo ann an Alba, chaidh a ghealltainn gum biodh iad ag èisteachd agus a' dèanamh dìcheall gus co-obrachadh a dh'ionnsaigh math an t-sluaigh gu lèir.

Saoilidh mi nach eil sin idir cho follaiseach 's a dh'iarrainn, agus bu mhath an tiodhlac Nollaige e dhan dùthaich nan dèanadh Buill-Pàrlamaid nas lugha shlaicheadh eadar-phàrtaidh agus barrachd cho-obrachaidh!

SADLY, this is not a season of happiness for everyone and it is important throughout the year to remember those suffering hardship here and in other places.

Scotland's best Christmas gift would surely be more cross-party parliamentary co-operation for the benefit of the country.

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

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## Fort 'fell apart' in thumping

Keith	7
Fort William	2
Highland League	

### Football

FORT WILLIAM remain firmly rooted at the bottom of the Highland League after yet another thumping defeat last weekend.

Saturday's (December 10) defeat at Keith sees them remain on a meagre six points after just two out of 21 games, one point behind second bottom Strathspey Thistle.

The Fort received a massive boost pre-match with the news that former Fort favourite Sean Ellis, who is now based in Australia, has signed a short-term contract to play while he is home for the Christmas holidays.

The Fort got off to the perfect start against Keith, taking the lead in only the third minute.

Striker and top goalscorer, Scottie Davidson, fired in a stunning angled drive for his 12th goal of the season.

But a quickfire double from the home side saw them go up 2-1 before returning star man Sean Ellis scored a brilliant solo effort to make the half-time score 2-2.

The second half was one to forget for the visitors, as Keith fired in five goals without reply.

Fort William manager Ally Ewen said: 'Individual errors cost us dearly today. We came out 2-2 at half-time. We had a solid start to the second half but then it fell apart. It's simply not good enough.'

Next up for the Fort are Formartine United at home, this Saturday (December 17) at 3pm.



Fort William Football Club Under-13s have received their new strips. Gerry Hallas of Lochaber Building Services (LBS) presented the new strips to members of the team as part of his sponsorship of all of the club's junior teams.

## Alleycats top the scratch division

### 10-pin bowling

AFTER week six of the Lochaber Building Supplies' 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats remain in the lead of the scratch division with 27 points.

They are followed by British Legion Fort William on 21 points. Rotavators and The Shambowls are next, both on 15 points.

In the handicap division, British Legion Fort William stay on top with 21 points despite losing 5-0 to the Shambowls.

Rotavators and Alleycats are next with 17 points.

Individually, the best game in week five was a 200 from Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats).

Other good games came from Ron Gretton (Rotavators) with 176, Ben Weller (Don't Give A Split) also with 176 and Brian Stewart (Don't Give A Split) with 171.

Whitelocke also had the top handicap game of 236 and the top two game scratch series with 355, while Colin Pinkett (Mis Fits) had the top two game handicap series of 442.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats with a scratch game of 520 and two game scratch series of 1033 while Rotavators had the top handicap game of 761 and The Shambowls had the top two game handicap series of 1473.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 165 followed by Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 159 and Ben Weller (Don't Give A Split) on 146.

## Club lottery numbers

### Lottery

THE winning numbers at Ballachulish shinty lottery this week (December 11) were 5, 18 and 19. Steve Wright from Oban had the correct numbers and won the £800 on offer. Next week's draw will revert to £200.

THERE were no winners in the Caol Community Centre bingo lotto this week. The numbers for the draw were 1, 2 and 7. With no winners, the jackpot is up to £800 for next Sunday's draw.

LYNN INNES has won £400 on the Caol Regeneration lottery last week (December 8). The winning numbers were 5, 10 and 20. Today's draw jackpot will be £100.

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club's winning numbers for last Thursday's draw were 4, 5 and 11. There was no winner so today's draw jackpot is up to £300.

## Indoor football results

### Indoor football

Fiorentina Turner 8, The Stoaters 2; The Goons 5, Inverloch 2; Ballatasaray 2, Portoway 8; Nevis Range 2, HW Energy 3; Doghouse Thistle 5, The Young Team 3.

## Ash is voted cricket club's top player

ASH ANJUM has been voted senior player of the year for the Fort William Cricket Club.

The club held its AGM on December 9, where Ash received his award.

The club said: 'This was a well deserved award for Ash who had impressed with bat and ball.'

Other awards went to Tom Findlay, junior player; John

McIver, most improved player; and Kev O'Meara, clubman.

Chairman Davy Duncan reported on another season of steady improvement with some good performances

against the strongest teams in the league.

Winter practice continues on Tuesdays at Lochaber High School from January, 5.15 to 6.30pm. All welcome.



Amanda Blackhall, left, was first female and Tom Smith first male.

## Strong field takes part in hill race

LOCHABER Athletic Club's winter league continued last Sunday at Erracht for the Beinn Bhan Bash hill race.

A strong field of 64 runners took to the start line in blustery and unusually mild conditions.

The racing was close with the three leading ladies all finishing within one minute of each other.

Amanda Blackhall triumphed after overhauling several competitors with very quick descent to reach the finish in 52:07.

Lisette Walter was close behind, only 40 seconds back and Lyndsey Shaw merely three

### Athletics

seconds further behind her.

In the men's it was similarly tight racing. Ewan Thorburn was first to reach the turn but was hauled in by Tom Smith on the steep grassy slopes of Beinn Bhan.

Tom took the win in 38:17 with Ewan second 25 seconds back and John Yells in third.

First junior was Clyde Williamson in 46:35.

The next event is at Torlundy on Boxing Day for the Cruim Leacain hill race.



Lochaber Ladies 2nd shinty team has been presented with the WAC Marine Harvest Development League trophy. Steve Bracken of Marie Harvest presents Claire Delaney, left, and Shanna Michie of the Lochaber Ladies 2nds with the award, accompanied by team members, back row, left to right, Anna Beradelli, Kayleigh Graham and Kira MacDonald, with coach Michael Delaney. Front row, left to right, are Carla Beradelli, Rebecca McLean and Megan Campbell. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

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**WEATHER**

Thursday Light cloud  
Moderate south easterly winds  
Temperatures 6°C to 7°C.

Friday Light cloud  
Light south westerly winds  
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday  
Showers on Sunday  
Winds strong south westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.



**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday December 15, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am				pm							
Thur	00.08	0.8	06.06	4.2	12.46	0.7	18.36	4.1	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	00.54	0.6	06.49	4.2	13.34	0.8	19.19	4.0	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	01.39	0.6	07.33	4.1	14.21	1.0	20.02	3.8	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	02.24	0.8	08.16	3.9	15.09	1.2	20.45	3.5	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	03.11	1.0	09.01	3.6	16.00	1.5	21.32	3.3	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	04.00	1.3	09.49	3.4	16.55	1.7	22.28	3.1				
Wed	04.52	1.5	10.47	3.2	17.58	1.9	23.51	3.0				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate