

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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# Rubbish row rumbles on

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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RATS, rubbish and an increase in fearless foxes have all been on the rise since bin collections moved from once a fortnight to once every three weeks, say *Oban Times* readers.

The council claims there has been an increase in people recycling items – but visitors to Moleigh, the local authority's waste disposal and recycling centre, say it is full to overflowing with general waste.

Claims that weekly collections in Soroba were going to be reintroduced were confirmed by a council insider who said: 'The people who made the decisions about the bins were not the people doing the job and therefore the scheme set up for Soroba was never going to work.'

The demand for second green bins has been so high that the local authority has now run out of them and is waiting for more to be delivered.

The council insider said: 'People in Soroba have seen people from outside the area drive up and dump into the communal bins – it is a disgrace.'

A statement from Argyll and Bute Council issued before Christmas said bin collections would remain the same over the festive period, however, reports from all over Oban and Lorn would suggest many people felt this was not the case.

The local authority said: 'Bin collection days will remain the same over the new year period.'

'The civic amenity site at Moleigh, Oban, will be closed on January 1 and 2 but will be

open from 10am to 2pm on Tuesday January 3.'

Fiona Vick posted on *The Oban Times* Facebook page: 'Remain the same? They haven't even emptied our green bins since Tuesday 27 (when scheduled) been out on the road since Monday night.'

'Reported twice and all I got was leave the bins out. This is not the bin men's fault! It's the council's fault.'

'Soroba is going back to weekly collections too, so why is everyone not going back to the same! Can't treat some people differently than others. We all pay council tax, we all should have an equal service.'

Donna Macaulay was in the same position as many others who were using the dump much more regularly to get rid of waste.

She said: 'Should put everyone back to fortnightly collections, having weekly for some and what we've been getting is outrageous.'

'I'm having to take stuff up to the dump myself all the b\*\*\*\*\*y time.'

While reader Rebecca Cressey added: 'Not collected! Have not remained the same, have been tightening their belts to the detriment of the collections.'

'[the council is] too tight to pay for bin men during holiday times, always fobbed off with lorry breakdown, shambles!'

Residents throughout Oban are claiming that bins have not been collected in areas such as Bay View Road, around the tower, Taynuilt, Connel and North Connel. One woman, who did not want to be named, has started taking pictures of

the dead rats she is finding near her home. She believes this is due in part to the increased rubbish sitting outside people's houses.

She said: 'I have never seen anything like it. A mouse, yes, but not a huge big rat running all over the place. What next – botulism, the plague? Give us back our bin collections now.'

Other people in outlying areas are reporting 'hissing' foxes when they are disturbed while breaking into discarded general waste next to bins.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council's new refuse and recycling collection service has led to an increase in recycling.'

'The new model – keeping recycling collection services as they are and moving to a three-weekly schedule for general (green) bins was introduced first on Mull at the start of October then in the rest of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles in late November.'

Chairman of the local area committee Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'We are aware of general concerns in the Soroba area.'

'We've been in discussions with the housing association and are looking to create space for additional large recycling bins. We'll put an extra run on this week and will monitor the situation.'

'We'll also be arranging meetings with residents to clarify things and remind people of the various recycling options available to them.'

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## Still going strong at 104!



Betty Paxton with some of the many flowers she received on her birthday. 17\_101Betty01

A WOMAN in Oban celebrated her 104th birthday last week and revealed the secret to longevity might be hard work, writes *David McPhee*.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Paxton was born on December 30 1912 in Craignish, 25 miles south of Oban.

The centenarian said at first she didn't have a secret but then disclosed 'maybe it is hard work'.

Betty, who is one of seven sisters, travelled all over the world

with her husband because of his job.

She has visited Europe, Africa, America and Australia, although she doesn't have a favourite as she 'admired them all'.

'I am fine for my age,' she said. 'I am an old woman now, but I was treated well and I have enjoyed it [life].'

'I had some good friends and I love to hear about them, even now.'

'I was born in Craignish but

I have been in Oban for a long time. My children [Doreen, Claire and James] were all educated in Oban, before going off to university.'

'We were brought up well as children,' she added. 'We were strong. We were farmer's children. We could do anything boys could do.'

'We had to do it and we did it with a vengeance. We never grudged being given hard work and I would not have had it any other way.'

## TIMESLINE

### Man arrested over alleged assault

AN ALLEGATION of serious assault on Hogmanay (December 31 into January 1) has led to a 20-year-old man being charged.

The police were alerted to the incident at Combie Court, Oban, and later arrested the Oban man.

The man was due to appear in court yesterday, Wednesday.

### OAP lucky after car rolls across A85

A PENSIONER was thanking her lucky stars on Tuesday afternoon after the parked car she was sitting in rolled across the verge of the A85 near to the Halfway House Filling Station.

Locals got out of their cars and directed traffic while one helped the woman to the safety of the garage where she was met by the driver of her car who immediately jumped into the car and drove it from the verge.

It is understood the car had an automatic handbrake.

### Have your say in consultation

THERE is still time to have your say as part of Argyll and Bute Council's consultation.

Councillor Dick Walsh, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'These are tough times for councils. Our Scottish Government funding continues to be cut, so we must continue to make changes to our work. We'd like therefore to hear from as many people as possible about what [services] matters most.'

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## Storm throws up Oban mystery

RESIDENTS near McCaig's Tower in Oban started 2017 with a bit of mystery, writes *Louise Glen*.

Cars in the area were covered with a fine dusting of a creamy, yellowy-coloured powder.

At first residents believed the powder was fallout from Storm Barbara or Conor. The police office in Oban said they believed it may be residue from fireworks, while others said it was dust from Glensanda Quarry.

On some cars and windows it looked as though people had thrown bags of flour over

the paintwork – and this is what led people to report the matter to the police.

The police initially believed the culprit was much closer to home. A police spokesman said: 'We had a number of complaints to us about damage to cars over Hogmanay and New Year.'

'After investigation it is believed some of the damage may have been a creamy yellow dust perhaps in the aftermath of the storms and from the residue of the fireworks.'

However BID4Oban manager Derek Connery said he believed the residue was on

the cars prior to the fireworks, as some damage was reported as early as Friday morning – a day before the main fireworks were set off at Hogmanay.

Deposits of dust were also found at Taynuilt, Kilmelford, Lerags and readers as far away as Perthshire were also reporting they had been victims of the dust.

Readers said they had ruled out the dust being from the Sahara as that was usually red, and they thought the dust from Glensanda would have materialised before last week, with previous experiences of dust in the town having been grey.

So it looked like the mystery would continue, with some people who experienced the fine powder saying they will take it to SAMS to find out if they can shed any light on the matter. However, Mr Connery's investigations appear to be spot on, as the Met office has confirmed the film was yellow dust from the Sahara 2,500 miles away.

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# Trees will have to be removed from park

AS PART of the start to the £3.3 million Hermitage Park regeneration and conservation project, Argyll and Bute Council and Friends of Hermitage Park have organised a tree walk this Saturday (January 7), to update people on the work about to begin and explain why some of Hermitage Park's trees have to be removed.

A contractor is set to be appointed to start the work that will regenerate the Helensburgh park with improvements, including a new pavilion, a fountain plaza on the site of the old mill-pond, extensive conservation of the war memorial, new paths and lighting, interpretation panels, a new children's play area and a demonstration garden.

A tree survey, which included the use of an aerial drone, provided detailed information about the condition and shape of the park's trees. It identified around 70 that need to be removed because they are dead, dying or diseased, in poor shape, out of scale or planted too close together.

Councillor Ellen Morton, Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for infrastructure, said: 'When the regeneration is complete, Hermitage Park will be a showcase green space. The removal of the dying, diseased and poor trees at this stage will make room for new trees to be planted as part of the project. We are also working with a number of local groups to recycle the timber from the trees that are felled.'

Fiona Baker, chairwoman of the Friends of Hermitage Park, added: 'While it is sad that some of the big and old trees need to be felled, having reviewed the tree surgeon's survey, we understand that there is really no other option. We believe it is in the best interests of the park and its future and the new trees that will be planted will grace the park for many years.'

Anyone interested in taking part in the tree walk should meet at the Sinclair Street entrance of Hermitage Park at 2pm on Saturday January 7.

The regeneration of Hermitage Park has secured funding of £3.3 million. £2.3 million awarded by the Heritage Lottery, Parks for People fund. Other funders include the War Memorial Trust, Sustrans, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund and the Friends of Hermitage Park.



Clockwise from left: St Kilda's resident don their best clothes; a ferry boat is packed; Christina Ann McQueen (centre), daughter of Finlay McQueen, outside the factor's house, St Kilda, c 1913; a copy of the census document; and St Kildans with Soay sheep.



# Ancient island census sheds light on way of life on St Kilda

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A 250-YEAR-OLD census showing the earliest recorded list of the population of the island of St Kilda has been discovered thanks to work by the National Records of Scotland.

The census lists 90 people living on the island on June 15, 1764 – 38 males and 52 females, including 19 families and nine individuals. After listing their names, the census says that they each ate '36 wild fowls eggs and 18 fowls' (seabirds) a day, an overall daily consumption of 3,240 eggs and 1,620 birds.

The document was discovered among the papers of Clan Maclachlan

during cataloguing by the National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS), the branch of the National Records of Scotland which holds historical papers held in private hands in Scotland.

It is not known exactly why the census was taken, or by whom, but it is likely it was made to contribute to a wider report on the Hebrides.

Until now, the oldest known record of the population dated from 1822. As the later document included ages, it is possible to track five residents of St Kilda who appeared on both censuses, 52 years apart.

The 1764 census also includes the ancestors of the final five families to be evacuated from the island in 1930

– the MacQueens, Fergusons, Gillies, MacDonalds and MacKinnons.

Dr Alison Rosie, registrar of the National Register of Archives for Scotland, said: 'This document sheds new light on the history of St Kilda and the families who lived there, and gives us an insight into their lives more than 250 years ago.'

'Through it, we can trace individuals back 50 years earlier than the next surviving census, and many of the people listed were the ancestors of the families who left the island in 1930.'

'One of the most fascinating aspects of working for the National Register of Archives for Scotland, which celebrates its 70th birthday this year, is the potential for discovering new and exciting

documents like this, often in unexpected places, and then drawing them to the attention of historians and the public.'

Donald Maclachlan of Clan Maclachlan said: 'The document was found as part of a hoard of papers – around 13 large boxes. When I heard from Charlie Maclachlan of Maclachlan the younger that they had been found, I asked to see some of them and the first document I pulled out dated from 1590. I realised the time had come to call in the professionals.'

'The team from NRAS had the papers spread out all over the dining room of Castle Lachlan – which is not a small room – and went through them, gasping a bit, before explaining that they would need more than an

afternoon to evaluate them, boxing them back up and taking them away. A year and half's study produced a 79-page catalogue of everything we have.'

'There's some very interesting material about Clan Maclachlan history in there, of which this St Kilda document is just one part.'

Culture secretary Fiona Hyslop added: 'Many people are fascinated by the history of St Kilda, and this census gives us a new insight into the history of the island and its people, which will now be available to researchers thanks to the work of National Records of Scotland.'

'Discoveries such as these add great depth to our culture and heritage, helping us to understand more about our nation's story.'

# Student Molly runs to fund jungle journey

A MULL student endured an 'advent run' last month – clocking up the same number of kilometres as each date – to raise money for her final year of studies in the jungle.

Molly Crookshank, a third-year animal biology student at Edinburgh Napier University, is fundraising to do research for her final year project in Mexico's Mayan jungle, through Operation Wallacea, in June this year.

Operation Wallacea is a conservation research organisation which relies on student volunteers joining expeditions. It gives students a chance to research abroad and follow their passion, getting an insight of the real world and what their future holds. Throughout the six weeks, ecologists, academic researchers and field specialists will advise Molly on her final-year project completing her degree.

'I will be studying large mammals such as jaguars and pumas by collecting data over six weeks,' Molly explained. 'This will include looking at the impact of human interference and how

this is disrupting the food chain, which has a knock-on affect to the biodiversity of the jungle.'

'In order to fundraise, I have been doing an advent run which has involved running one km on December 1 and each day I have increased the distance by a kilometre, going all the way to Christmas Day when I ran 25km. The last three runs were on the Isle of Mull with support from my family. My grandmother has lived on Mull for 25 years, which has been our second home.'

'If by any luck I make anything extra, I will donate all the money to Operation Wallacea, as I believe this company gives students the best experience and success for their degree and future career.'

'My passion has always been with animals, therefore it would mean everything to me to get this amazing opportunity to start my future career.'

You can donate via Molly's Go Fund Me webpage called Operation Wallacea 2017-Mexico.

**I will study large mammals such as jaguars**

Molly Crookshank



Molly Crookshank is heading for remote Mexico.

# Projects share out £600,000 windfall

ALMOST £600,000 has been handed out to 14 community-led projects across Argyll and the Islands.

The money, which is issued as part of Argyll and Bute Council's LEADER programme, is awarded to projects that support economic growth and development.

The grants are awarded by the Local Action Group (LAG).

Iain MacInnes, chairman of LEADER LAG, said: 'I am pleased to see these awards being made, helping to strengthen and support the local economy within Argyll and the Islands.'

'The community-led focus of LEADER recognises the unique natural and cultural heritage within our area. Despite recent uncertainties over EU funding, I am pleased that LEADER funding will continue over the next few years.'

Virginia Sumsion, from Food from Argyll, said: 'The LEADER funding has enabled Food from Argyll to take on long-term developments which will benefit food and drink producers in the area as well as helping with infrastructure and depopulation issues.'

Other projects that have benefited from the programme include Taynuilt Sports Council; Access Improvement Works, Marketing Mull and Iona; Iona Marketing Organisation, Argyll Food Producers; Developing and Growing Argyll Food Economy, and Tieve Community Business Ltd; Gott Bay Moorings.

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## Harris Tweed extends its global reach

HARRIS Tweed has been given a new global platform through a unique collaboration between the British Fashion Council and Google.

The digital site, British Fashion, aims to bring new talent into the industry by creating 'a single destination to educate and inspire future generations of young fashion creatives, designers and students'.

It has already been viewed by tens of thousands of fashionistas in more than 30 countries and reported on by scores of leading publications including *Vogue*, *Elle* and *Drapers*.

Shawbost-based Harris Tweed Hebrides is one of the select band of leading British fashion and textiles companies which were invited to take part in the project alongside other leading icons and brands ranging from Burberry and Vivienne Westwood to Alexander McQueen and Victoria Beckham.

Surrounded by such august company, the Harris Tweed Hebrides promotional video - which features many of the workforce at Shawbost mill, Isle of Lewis, as well as home weavers - is so far the eighth most-watched on the site, around the world, and has attracted a large number of inquiries for further information.

Amit Sood, director of Google's cultural institute, said: 'British fashion has such a unique and revered place within the international fashion industry and is hugely rich in context, characters, icons and stories. It's been a joy to work on this project and bring its distinct textures and tales to life through technology, so that now even more people around the world can enjoy it.'

Harris Tweed Hebrides brand development director, Margaret Ann MacLeod said: 'We welcome every opportunity to educate the next generation of designers and consumers in the unique qualities of Harris Tweed.'

'The power of Google will ensure our video and the story of Harris Tweed are communicated to a new and influential audience so we were delighted to be invited to take part in this elite project.'

The site can be found at <http://g.co/britishfashion>

# Lagavulin marks 200 years with special Islay legacy

LOUISE GLEN  
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INVESTMENT to mark the 200th anniversary of Lagavulin will ensure Islay's status at the heart of Scotland's story is secured and shared with the world.

Whisky producer Lagavulin concluded its bicentenary celebrations on Hogmanay 2016 by launching a special one-off single cask edition of just 522 bottles to raise funds to invest in Islay community projects as part of the distillery's legacy to the island community.

All proceeds from the legacy bottling will be distributed to local projects, including a donation of £310,000 for Islay Heritage.

The funding will support Islay Heritage in its mission to build a comprehensive story of Islay's past based on the island's archaeological sites and monuments. This will include enhancing accessibility and interpretation of these sites for everyone to enjoy. Lagavulin will also donate £60,000 to sup-

port the Finlaggan Trust, which is responsible for maintaining the island's most famous historical site at Finlaggan, the home of the Lords of the Isles.

The Lagavulin 200 legacy will also make significant contributions to other Islay groups



Georgette Crawford, Lagavulin distillery manager.

including the local swimming pool, cyber café, arts and festival organisations as well as a new partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to restore and conserve peatlands on the island, adding up to a total community legacy

of £580,000. Nick Morgan, Diageo Head of Whisky Outreach, said: 'We have had a fantastic year celebrating the 200th anniversary of Lagavulin, both on Islay and with the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who adore the whisky. 'Islay and its remarkable local community are at the heart of Lagavulin, that's why we were determined there should be a legacy from the anniversary which would directly benefit the island and its people. 'We believe our contribution to Islay heritage is not only of great significance to the island itself but is an important contribution to conserving and promoting the history and heritage of Scotland, which is particularly fitting given that 2017 is Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.'

Steven Mithen, trustee of Islay Heritage and Professor of Archaeology, said: 'Islay Heritage is hugely grateful to the Lagavulin 200 Legacy for the support it is providing to further our knowledge about the archaeological sites and

monuments on Islay. This investment in our heritage will greatly benefit both the local community and visitors to the island. 'While some of Islay's sites and monuments are very well known and accessible, others are virtually unknown, difficult to find and rarely visited. There are no doubt many more waiting to be discovered which will help tell us more about not only Islay's story but that of Scotland, Europe and the path of human culture. 'We are delighted that Lagavulin shares our vision to reveal Islay's past so that it can be explored and enjoyed by everyone.'

The Lagavulin 200 legacy donation to Islay Heritage coincides with 2017 being designated as Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

The Lagavulin donation to activities and organisations supporting heritage of the island, and specifically to Islay Heritage, has been welcomed by Scotland's leading heritage and tourism organisations.

THE OWNER of the Oban Bay Hotel has handed over £20,000 to a charity that works to save the lives of children suffering from a rare brain cancer.

The Crerar Hotels Trust granted the money to Funding Neuro. The money will pay for a clinical trial into a new treatment for the highly aggressive brain tumour Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

DIPG is a brain cancer mostly affecting children between the ages of six to 10 and has been considered untreatable.

After diagnosis, a child's average life expectancy is just nine months; no child has ever survived DIPG. Professor Steven Gill has devised a method of treating DIPG by surgically implanting a micro-catheter into the brain, which delivers drugs directly into the tumour, known as Convection Enhanced Delivery.

He is currently treating a group of youngsters on compassionate grounds with stunning results: average life expectancy has doubled from nine to 18 months and a number of children's tumours have dramatically shrunk.

Crerar Hotels operate 14 hotels and inns across the UK, 13 of which are based in Scotland. The Crerar Hotels Trust has now awarded more than £7 million in grants over the last 16 years.

## Trust aids tumour trial

# Oban racer's drive to make a difference sees her recognised in New Year's honours list

ALMOST 1,200 people received an award in this year's New Year Honours list, including Oban's Susie Wolff, writes David McPhee.

The honours recognise the achievements of a wide range of extraordinary people across the UK.

This year's list includes famous faces such as Andy Murray and Mo Farah, who both received knighthoods for their services in their respective sports, as well as Victoria Beckham who received an OBE for her contribution to fashion.

Oban's Susie received an MBE for her services to women in sport. The 34-year-old racing driver retired from the sport last year, however, not before she established a Dare to be Different initiative, which aims to increase female participation in all areas of racing.

She said: 'I am humbled to receive an MBE in recognition of my service to women in sport. 'Like any female competitor, I simply aspired to compete on a level playing field and was able to chase that dream thanks to the never-ending support of my family and all those who backed me along the way. 'This is a recognition of their efforts as much as my own. Now my focus is on passing that support and belief to the next generations of young women who dare to be different in chasing their motorsport dreams.'

Three women from Argyll were honoured with a BEM. Margaret Ann Worsley from Tیره received the honour for her voluntary service to the community of the island.

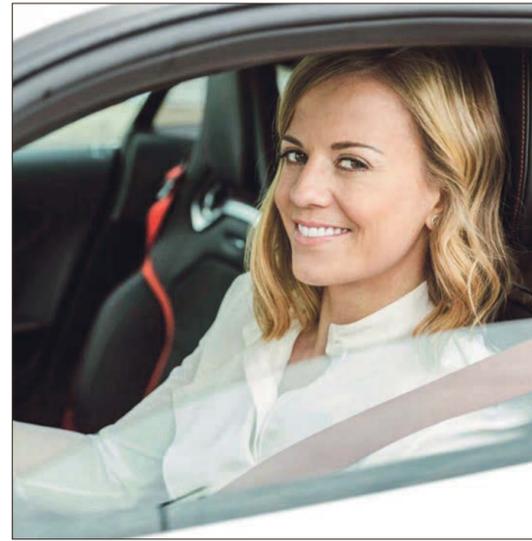
Sheila McCallum from Lochgilphead also received a BEM for her service to music in Mid

Argyll, as did Marjory Mackenzie Jagger, the manager of Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers Service, for her service to young people and the community in the Inner Hebrides.

John Campbell of Glenrath Farms, who is originally from Strachur, received a knighthood for his services to farming and charitable service to entrepreneurship.

Former Williams driver Susie Wolff received an MBE for her services to women in sport.

John Campbell of Glenrath Farms, who is originally from Strachur, received a knighthood for his services to farming and charitable service to entrepreneurship.



Former Williams driver Susie Wolff received an MBE for her services to women in sport.

## Magic moment

AN OBAN Slimming World manager has got 'the magic touch' when it comes to weight loss according to TV presenter Stephen Mulhern.

Amanda Thomson, who manages the weight loss groups in Oban, was delighted to meet the *Catchphrase* presenter at the annual Slimming World awards.

Ms Thomson said meeting Stephen Mulhern was a wonderful way to round off a great 12 months.

'Every week I feel so lucky to play even a small part in people's achievements,' she said. 'I felt very honoured to represent all of the Slimming World groups in Oban when I met Stephen.'

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## Government cash boost to transform care services

THE SCOTTISH Government is investing £1.84 million in Argyll and Bute to 'transform health and social care services', writes Sandy Neil.

The Integrated Care Fund (ICF) is a three-year source of funding from 2015 to 2018 to help health and social care partnerships (HSCP) support investment in integrated services.

Its key purpose is to 'act as a catalyst for transforming health and social care services through focusing on anticipation, prevention and early intervention, and maintaining people's health and well being', an HSCP spokesperson explained.

Argyll and Bute HSCP has received £1.84 million in the first year and of this £1.04 million was directed towards building on health and social care services across the region.

This year's funding, the spokesperson added, will support a range of work such as 'management and prevention of falls - preventing people ending up in hospital; self management - assisting and empowering patients to manage their condition; reablement - helping people to regain the ability to look after themselves; an integrated equipment store/care and repair team - enhancing the scale and range of equipment and response time to support people in their own homes and allow safe discharge from hospital.'

The remaining £800,000 was also devolved directly to local communities across Argyll and Bute.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles received £182,348, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay £200,754, Helensburgh and Lomond £196,066 and Bute and Cowal £220,832.

Locality planning groups were established to govern and account for the delivery of the HSCP's strategic plan at a local level, the spokesperson said.

Its review, which was based on need, priority and evidence, agreed that a number of existing local projects would be continuing into 2016/17 and also led to £410,000 being available across the HSCP for new initiatives.

At the beginning of September 2016, the HSCP invited applications from across the third sector, independent sector and the HSCP to apply for this locality funding, and 28 applications were received totalling nearly £731,800.

The successful applicants for 2016-17 in Oban, Lorn and the Isles are Oban Link Club, Oban Youth Café, Hospital Outreach Preventative Support, Coll Healthy Options, Island Based Carer Support Services, Lorn Healthy Options, Lorn Medical Centre, and Appin Community Transport Scheme. Successful within Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay are Islay and Jura Health and Care Hub and Kintyre Befriending.

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## Prestigious Italian Wine Dinner

Seven course meal with paired wines presented by Joseph Johnston of Tenuta San Leonardo

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£80 per person, booking essential Call 01631 562087 to book or purchase vouchers for a loved one

OT

## Gift scheme is all present and collect

A GIVE A GIFT collection in Tesco in Oban helped to donate more than 80 presents to the Hope Kitchen.

The local charity was able to hand out the gifts to those less fortunate, thanks to the Christmas gift drive.

The collection took place from three days from Thursday, December 15, and was positioned at a designated drop off point at the front of the store.

Staff at Tesco Oban with the donated gifts, alongside Lorraine MacCormick, left, manager of the Hope Kitchen.



## TIMESLINE

### Mobile signals are restored to masts

A NUMBER of mobile phone users in Oban experienced a loss of signal on Christmas Day due to adverse weather conditions.

However, two masts, in the Oban and Achnaloich area, were restored on December 26 and a third mast in Kilmiver was fixed on December 27.

An O2 spokesman said: 'Due to the recent weather conditions over the Christmas period, some masts in and around Oban experienced damage and loss of power.'

### Community council holds first meeting

**GLENORCHY and Innishail Community Council will meet for the first time in 2017 on January 11 at 7pm in Dalmlach Community Centre.**

The community council will unveil the Rural Watch Scheme, as well as discuss other local issues. Members of the public and representatives of other community groups and schools are very welcome.

### Hotels urged to get TV licence

AFTER a bumper year for the tourism industry in Argyll and Bute, TV Licensing is looking ahead and appealing to hotels, guesthouses, and bed and breakfasts in the area to make sure they are correctly licensed.

For smaller hotels and guesthouses, the cost of a TV Licence is £145.50 a year – the same amount as a private house. Go to [www.tvlicensing.co.uk/hotels](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/hotels).

# Film-makers flock to Gaelic movie project

**SANDY NEIL**  
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A RECORD number of promising and talented film-makers have submitted entries to FilmG, the national Gaelic short film competition.

This is the ninth year of MG ALBA's competition – and more young filmmakers and school groups are going it alone, without the help of FilmG tutors, than ever before.

Overall there were 105 entries, including 56 film entries in the Youth section and 25 in the Open category.

Newly introduced prizes for Best Sports Commentary and Best Script also attracted exciting entries on top of the films, and the organisers predict that judges will have some tough decisions to make over the coming couple of weeks.

It is also hoped this year's People's Choice award will attract the

usual stir and last year's record number of votes can be beaten.

All film entries can be viewed online and voting for films is now open until February – before the winners are announced at FilmG's annual awards ceremony, at The Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow on February 17.

Year on year, the FilmG competition theme inspires budding filmmakers of all ages to try their hand making a short film. This year's theme 'Strì', which means to endeavour or conflict, is motivating a wide variety of interpretations such as Oban High School's comedy take on Masterchef and the Bake-off, 'Croustons is Cardmom' with the hilarious Ollaidh Oraindsear (Orange Ollie) played by Calum McLuckie at the helm.

It seems FilmG 9 is the year of the spoof, with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's TV Course students giving us their own take on well-known Gaelic shows and Ardnamurchan High School and community

group Tàirneanaich, from the West Side of Lewis, giving BBC ALBA the Gogglebox treatment.

This year's theme prompted a number of documentaries too, such as Plockton High School's film which follows the incredible work of Highland Hospice and their own efforts to raise funds for the charity. Especially moving is Kerr Gibb's documentary 'Tabobh Eile Duilghe' (Through the Hardship) which follows the work of Italian charity, Operazione Colomba, as they support Syrian refugees in north Lebanon.

There has been a strong response to the newest award for Best Sports Commentary, including from Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula, with seven of their pupils covering the Billy MacNeil Cup Final following a taster workshop with sports broadcaster Alex O'Henley.

Iseabail Maactaggart, director of strategy and partnership at MG ALBA, said: 'This is a significant

increase in FilmG entries overall and that is incredibly exciting. New categories like sports commentary have been particularly successful, and that is good news too. We want to see more Gaelic speaking talent creating more Gaelic digital content – this demonstrates that FilmG is an effective way to nurture that.'

'We're now looking forward to the judges sitting down to view the films. They'll have some very tough choices to make when deciding which entries make the final shortlists.'

Project Manager Moira Pugh was extremely pleased to see such a number and such a variety of entries: 'There really has been a tremendous level of engagement with this year's competition.'

'We are delighted to see filmmakers of all ages making all sorts of films, from historical dramas to mobile phone comedies to sports commentaries that will have fans on the edge of their seats.'

## Fraud team nets £80,000 in first year

A TEAM set up to tackle fraud in Argyll and Bute has recovered almost £80,000 in its first year.

Argyll and Bute Council's Corporate Fraud Investigation Team (CFIT) formed in October 2015 and is responsible for investigating revenue and benefit fraud, council tax, non-domestic rates and other corporate fraud. It also

acts as a single point of contact for ongoing housing benefit fraud investigations.

At the end of its inaugural year of operation in September, the team had detected £175,000 of fraud and successfully recovered almost half of that figure (£79,535) with work ongoing to recover the remainder.

The council has now agreed that

the two investigators, who have been temporary until now, should be made permanent on the basis of them being self-financing.

'If our CFIT had not been in place, a significant amount of fraud would have gone undetected and fraudulent activity would no doubt have carried on,' Councillor Dick Walsh, leader of the council,

said. 'Our small team is carrying out extremely important work and achieving great results. It has already proved its worth.'

The team was formed after the transfer of the council's housing benefit fraud team from the council to the Department for Works and Pensions single fraud investigation team.

## At Random

**MARTIN LAING**  
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### CalMac is right to put public safety as its top priority

THERE was, unfortunately, considerable disruption to many people's travel plans over the festive period.

Mother Nature vented her fury with a brace of storms, dubbed Barbara and Conor. Sure enough, as Robert Burns wrote in the splendid Tam O' Shanter, 'The wind blew as 'twad blawn its last; The rattling showers rose on the blast.'

For islanders, especially, it was a concerning time as they contemplated getting home for Christmas and travelling to visit family and friends elsewhere.

The team at CalMac came in for a bit of verbal abuse but they did their best in difficult conditions to keep the ferries sailing and potential passengers informed.

There is a feeling in some quarters that the company is too quick to cancel sailings but its position is that public safety is always its first priority.

While it is understandably dismaying for people who can't make their planned journeys, CalMac is correct to focus on public safety – and that of its crews – during bad weather.

### Housing association delivers quality affordable homes

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has been getting a bit of a verbal kicking from some over its plans for new housing in the Glenshellach area of Oban.

Critics have accused ACHA of over-developing the area and building 'low quality' homes. It's a no win situation for the housing association.

The bottom line is that Oban – and elsewhere in Argyll – needs many more affordable homes for local people.

As Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, says in this week's letters (page eight), the new residents of the most recently completed houses are 'delighted' with their properties.

No, they are not luxury villas or the finest looking structures or likely to be showered with



The Tarbert to Lochranza ferry MV Catriona remains tied up to shelter from the storms.

architectural prizes. But they are the type of housing the area needs urgently and in an area close to amenities where people want to live.

### Waste collection system has now descended into a farce

THE hot topic of Argyll and Bute Council's waste collection system will simply not go away.

More and more people are angry about the ongoing debacle of the bins and when they are supposed to be emptied.

I have heard countless complaints from individuals who just have no idea any more when their bins – both the recycling and general – are supposed to be collected.

And the council has said and done almost nothing to rectify this mess.

It's high time the council's senior team grasped this rotting nettle and sorted this out ... starting with a return to fortnightly collections.

### 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 [milaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:milaing@obantimes.co.uk).

## MORVERN lines

### Saving the banner

DURING the Gulf War, a headline caught my attention. It was about a young Kuwaiti soldier who took his life in his hands to recapture a regimental tank flag taken by the enemy during a skirmish on the Iraq border. As the details emerged, it reminded me of a stone in Kiel graveyard, Morvern, and a story connected with it that used to be told in the parish many years ago of an 18-year-old man called Donald Livingstone who rescued his clan banner at Culloden in 1746.

Donald Livingstone, better known locally as Domhnall Mollach (Gaelic for 'hairy Donald') was born in 1728 at Savary near Finlary, on the shores of the Sound of Mull. The Livingstones first arrived in Morvern from Appin through Mull many centuries ago. Although they were tenants of the Duke of Argyll, who owned most of the parish at the time of the '45, Donald and his four brothers, one of whom was the great-great-grandfather of Dr David Livingstone, the famous missionary and explorer, were Jacobites and fought under the Stewarts of Appin.

At Culloden, the Stewart Regiment, numbering about 300, were in the front line along with the Camerons and the Athol men. As soon as the battle began, they charged, breaking through Barrell's (4th) and Munro's (37th) at the front of Cumberland's army. Passing through them, they continued to surge forward but, coming under heavy fire from three other artillery regiments, were forced back. The charge stopped, the Highland line was shattered and the battle was over in



Donald Livingstone revealing the Stewart banner to his mother at Savary. From a painting by Skeoch Cumming.



Donald Livingstone's gravestone, Kiel, Morvern.

less than an hour. The Appin Regiment lost 92 men and 65 were seriously wounded.

Some clan historians say the Carmichaels were the hereditary standard-bearers of the Stewarts of Appin, while others maintain it was the Livingstones, 17 of whom were killed defending the colours. Be that as it may, neither recorded fact nor tradition is divided as to what happened next.

Donald Mollach from Morvern saw the blue and yellow banner lying on the ground and, rushing forward under fire, ripped it from its staff, wrapped it round his body and took to his heels. On the way off the battlefield, he was struck on the chest by a musket ball which knocked him off his feet but only because of the impact as the folds of the banner acted as body armour. A little while later, a riderless horse trotted by and Donald managed to get into the saddle. Two English dragoons saw him riding away and went after him. He dealt with one and frightened the other off.

Donald eventually found his way home to Savary still with the banner, but soon he had to hide it and take to the hills himself when 200 of the Argyll Militia arrived in the parish looking for Prince Charles Edward Stewart and known Jacobite sympathisers. For months, he was constantly on the move, resting in caves during the day and being supplied with food by friends at night. When the soldiers left and life returned to some form of normality, Donald retrieved the banner and returned it to his grateful chief in Appin.

The banner remained in the Stewart family who, by some odd freak of fate, also acquired two colours of the Hanoverian Barrell's 4th Regiment whom, it will be recalled, fought against the Appin men at Culloden. In 1930, all three banners were given to the Stewart Society on condition they were to be kept together and that in any account of their recognition was to be given to Donald Mollach. The following year they were presented to the Scottish National Military Museum in Edinburgh Castle and laid up with full military honours. There they stayed until 1998 when the director of the new National Museums of Scotland, who was casting round for exhibition material, wrongly removed them because he considered them to be 'appropriate' for a public display on the Jacobites.

Donald Mollach died at Savary in 1816 and was buried beside his parents in Kiel, Morvern. The spot is marked by a magnificent sculptured monument and a metal plaque placed there in 1983 during a special service of commemoration attended by clan chief Sir Dugald Stewart of Appin and Baron Alastair Livingstone of Bachuil, Lismore, one of Donald Mollach's descendants.

The newspaper report of the Kuwaiti soldier who rescued the regimental flag in Operation Desert Storm made no mention of whether he received the thanks of his commander or what became of the flag. Perhaps one day his story, too, may be written up and recorded for posterity among his people, just as Donald's was all these years ago.

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# Overwhelming number of objections to Glen Creran gravel quarry plan

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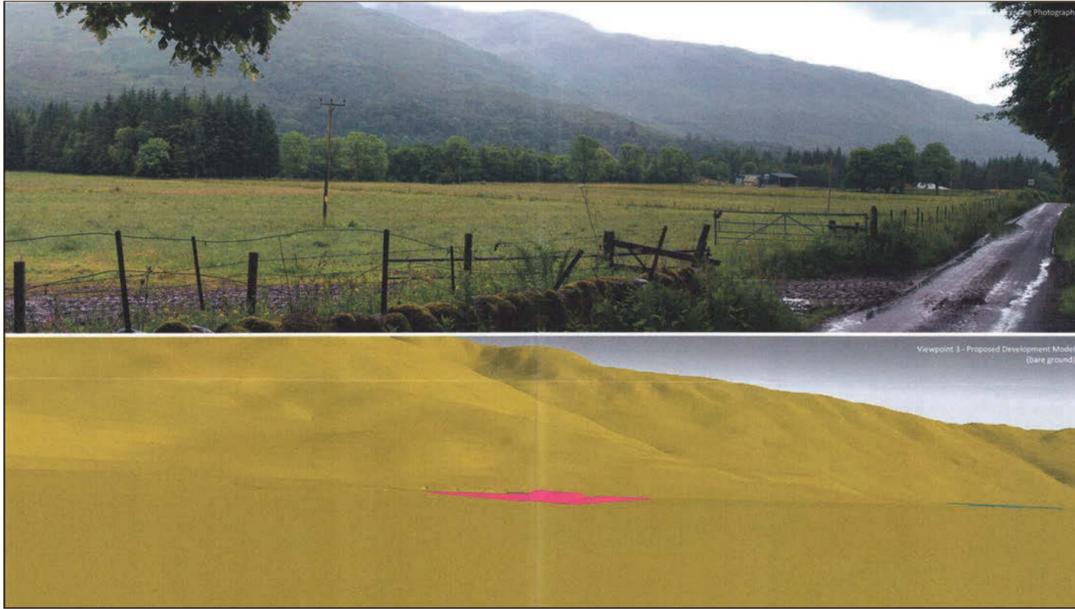
MORE than 1,100 objections have been lodged against a plan to build a sand and gravel quarry at Glasdrum, Fasnacloich, on the Glen Creran Estate.

Argyll-based applicant A & L McCrae Ltd, which mines aggregates at Barrachander Quarry near Kilchrenan, lodged a planning application in November for the 'development of a quarry allowing for the extraction and processing of sand and gravel and the final restoration of land'.

Around 80 people packed Appin Village Hall in June for a pre-application community council meeting, when all but four members of the public voted against the plan as proposed by A & L McCrae's agent Dalgleish Associates.

With the application now closed for comment, Appin, Connel, and Duror and Kentallen community councils have all objected to the quarry, arguing it would breach the local development plan.

Duror and Kentallen chairman Jonathan Baxter wrote: 'There is a presumption against any quarry activities unless there is an exceptional shortage of materials within a 30-mile radius of Glen Creran. There are already quarries that can provide the



The site of the proposed new quarry.

same materials: Connel, Benderloch, Bonawe, Barrachander and Glensanda. Within the Lorn development plan you are required to exhaust all current reserves before you can consider another quarry.

'We also understand Glen

Creran will be used for inert material, in other words 'a dumping ground'. This will mean even more lorry movements. The approach road is single track and very narrow. Residents are extremely concerned an accident will occur.'

On Appin's behalf, convenor Charles Steuart Fotheringham objected: 'The proposed development brings no benefit to the Appin community and would indeed detract from its economy by causing harm, particularly to a key tourist destination.'

Connel's secretary Roger Ashforth added: 'If this proposal is allowed, the result will be the continued industrial encroachment into Argyll's beautiful and historic glens and countryside. This will have a detrimental impact on our important tourist

income. The additional traffic density will strain our already inadequate roads, including Connel Bridge, and exacerbate road safety issues along the main road through Connel.'

Oban North and Lorn councillor Kieron Green objected, arguing there is 'insufficient evidence of demand for sand and gravel in the local area' plus 'inadequate' roads for the proposed volume of extraction and 'the location in a sensitive and scenic area'.

Noting the 'overwhelming' local objection, councillor Julie McKenzie also added her fears over depopulation: 'Already tenants have been moved from their homes due to this proposal.'

'Further depopulation will be inevitable as the landowner has already made it clear to residents this is the starting point for a 25-year project that would see this quarry progress from one end of the glen to the other.'

Rev Alexander Stoddart, minister in Duror and Kentallen, said: 'I understand the landowner is not resident locally, therefore their interest is purely financial and they wouldn't have to tolerate any inconvenience unlike local residents.'

Sailing legend Rev Bob Shepton agreed: 'It would appear to be pure greed on behalf of the landowner riding roughshod over strong and considerable lo-

cal opinion against the quarry.' Scottish actress Gerda Stevenson asked: 'How can our nation, and our government, allow such a supreme asset to be destroyed and plundered for the profit of a single individual?'

Further afield, Professor Donna Rae Hirt of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design said authorities would be 'ill-advised to go through with this rape of the beautiful, vulnerable land God gave to Scotland to enjoy and protect.'

'I will cancel my projected vacation to Scotland and never return again if you allow this perpetration.'

'I will furthermore discourage anyone I know who is thinking of travelling to Scotland, not to do so if this ominous plan is carried out.'

While the vast majority were objections, there were a few supporters.

Ross Hodson of MacLeod Construction, 'the largest builders based in Argyll and a heavy user of quarry materials', welcomed 'transporting materials a shorter distance'.

'There is a need and demand for quarry products and materials particularly sand and gravel in North Argyll,' he said.

'Economic supply of building materials helps stabilise construction costs making it more economical to build new homes.'



Every little helps

**WIN**  
**£100**  
of Tesco Vouchers

**Christmas can be an expensive time of year, so how does winning £100 of Tesco shopping vouchers sound?**

The Oban Times is again testing its readers' local knowledge with the second part of our fun quiz. One lucky reader with the correct answers will win this fantastic prize of **£100 of Tesco vouchers courtesy of Tesco, Oban**. So put your feet up, grab yourself a cup of tea and see how many you can answer. Good luck!

1. How old is the MV Bellnahua that moves back and forth between Luig and Cuan Ferry?  
A: .....
2. What is the name of the former Oban bar that people would get trapped in?  
A: .....
3. Who is the Oban author who used to work on the trains and whose works have included one about a school choir and one that was made into a film starring Samantha Morton?  
A: .....
4. Which well known folk band is associated with Taynuilt?  
A: .....
5. Which road on Arran was designed by the famous architect Thomas Telford?  
A: .....
6. Where were cannonballs made for the Battle of Trafalgar?  
A: .....
7. What film involved a shooting location on Mull with Sean Connery and a lot of red wool?  
A: .....
8. What is the local pub called in Lerags Glen?  
A: .....
9. What does the Gaelic word 'Dochas' mean, as incorporated in Lochgilphead's coat of arms?  
A: .....
10. Name the glen that the famous Kilmore waterfall runs through.  
A: .....
11. What is the monument that stands on Kerrara?  
A: .....
12. Where is the SS Breda shipwrecked?  
A: .....
13. Where in Mid Argyll could the Glendarroch Distillery have been found?  
A: .....
14. What does the Gaelic name for Oban (An t-Oban) mean?  
A: .....
15. Members of local drama groups Spotlight Musical Theatre Group and Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club appeared as extras in a couple of episodes of a BBC remake of the voyages of a West Coast skipper back in 1994. What was the name of the skipper?  
A: .....
16. Which actor starred as the famous skipper?  
A: .....
17. What year was the famous OBANG?  
A: .....
18. Tobermory is the largest town on which Island?  
A: .....
19. Name of the film shot partly in Glen Nevis (Fort William) about a Scottish hero which starred and was directed by the star of the original Mad Max films?  
A: .....
20. What is the name of the island off Dunollie point?  
A: .....
21. What length is Loch Fyne?  
A: .....
22. In which cemetery is a distant relation of Harry Potter author J K Rowling buried?  
A: .....
23. What does the name Bealach An Righ mean?  
A: .....
24. What is the name of the building which houses Argyll and Bute Council headquarters?  
A: .....
25. In which year was *The Oban Times* first published?  
A: .....
26. Plockton was the location for the police TV drama *Hamish MacBeth*, which ran from 1995- 1997. Which Scottish actor played Hamish?  
A: .....
27. How many steps must be climbed to reach the top of Inveraray Bell Tower? a. 140 b. 282 c. 176  
A: .....
28. The Clachaig Inn in Glencoe is justifiably famous in its own right, but for a few months, just above the inn on a high hill there was another building occupied by a famous fictional gamekeeper and keeper of the key. Who was he?  
A: .....
29. Which Argyll museum is currently raising funds for an ambitious £6.7 million redevelopment?  
A: .....
30. When was Oban Distillery established?  
A: .....
31. Where can this carved stone dedicated to famous Inveraray writer Neil Munro, creator of 'Para Handy', be found?  
A: .....
32. What is the name of Oban Winter Festival's mascot?  
A: .....
33. In 1980, Flash Gordon came to save the universe. Flying out of Ashaig airfield on Skye (doubling for America), which famous actor played 'The Man at the Airfield' as the plane took off?  
A: .....
34. Which former Arran resident who was involved in the suffragette movement was known as The Little General?  
A: .....
35. On which historic building can you find these splendid gargoyles?  
A: .....
36. Which castle was seized by Robert the Bruce and also held Bonnie Prince Charlie's heroine Flora MacDonald prisoner for a short time?  
A: .....
37. Which island hosts a special shark festival?  
A: .....
38. On which island was there a major discovery of fossilised dinosaur footprints in 2015?  
A: .....
39. Who was known as the 'only bad chief of Clan MacLean' and where is he buried?  
A: .....
40. In which century was Dunstaffnage Castle built?  
A: .....



To enter, fill in your answers to each question using the space provided, complete the coupon below and send to The Oban Times, Tesco Quiz Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by noon, Thursday January 12.

Name ..... Telephone .....

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Terms and conditions: Winners with the correct answers will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. The closing date for entries is noon, Thursday January 12, 2017.



## Kilgraston School is a leading boarding and day school for girls aged five to 18.

In November 2016, Kilgraston was named 'top performing independent school for Advanced Highers' by best-schools.co.uk. This comes after Kilgraston girls achieved an outstanding set of results in August 2016. At Advanced Higher, 90.5 per cent of grades were A-B against a national average of 59.3 per cent, 36 per cent of girls are now studying a STEM undergraduate course and 100 per cent of girls were accepted into their choice of university. Kilgraston has an exceptional reputation for girls gaining entry into top Scottish universities. In 2016, over 70 per cent of girls went on to study at universities in Scotland, including St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow.



Kilgraston has something to inspire every young woman. We are a school with traditional values but with a modern and forward-looking perspective on education. Education is not just about exam success – developing interests and talents, nurturing an understanding of different cultures, and emphasising our personal responsibility as global citizens are vital. As such, a Kilgraston girl benefits from a wealth of opportunities to extend and enrich her educational experience. We offer more than 50 extra-curricular activities, and enjoy modern, state-of-the-art facilities including a science centre, sixth form study centre, excellent boarding accommodation, 25m swimming pool, all-weather astro-turf pitches and Scotland's only school equestrian centre.

Kilgraston's first open day of 2017 is on Saturday February 4 between 11am and 2pm. Families are invited to join us, meet staff and pupils and tour our outstanding facilities.

To register or for further information contact Mrs Amanda Johnstone: [admissions@kilgraston.com](mailto:admissions@kilgraston.com) | 01738 815523

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## Glenalmond College

2017 sees the start of an exciting new phase of development for Glenalmond College. Two new boarding houses will open in September, improving the provision for junior pupils and creating new places for girls within a new girls' house.

Cairnies, Glenalmond's new junior house, will provide boarding and day boys aged 12 to 14 with a level of pastoral support specifically suited to younger pupils. Close to the outdoor classroom, the woods, Glenalmond's golf course and with its own playing fields, Cairnies will provide an excellent base for junior year groups.

The new girls' house, Goodacre's, also opens in September 2017, and will be home to girls aged 12 to 18. This house is in the very heart of the school and will enable Glenalmond to expand its girls' boarding and day provision to meet increasing demand.

The opening of these new houses is matched by developments in the academic side of the school, centred on the Glenalmond Learning Project, which continues to raise academic attainment, ambition and excellence across the school.

New curriculum developments have included the introduction of Mandarin alongside GCSE and A Level computer science, and the timetable has changed to increase the time devoted to teaching and academic study.

Glenalmond College's warden (head teacher), Elaine Logan, said: 'Together, these developments mark an important new stage in the life of Glenalmond College, and herald a period of growth for the school.'

### Opening September 2017

**New junior house**  
for boys aged 12-14

**New girls' house**  
for girls aged 12-18

To arrange to visit Glenalmond College, to look round the boarding houses and meet our staff and pupils, please contact our Head of Admissions, Mike Jeffers, on **01738 842144** or [registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk](mailto:registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk)

[www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk](http://www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk) | Glenalmond College | inspiring learning

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## Dollar Academy

Founded in 1818, Dollar Academy is thought to be the oldest co-educational day and boarding school in the world, and has a reputation as one of the country's best performing schools.

Dollar is a full boarding and day school for boys and girls aged five to 18, set in 70 acres of sports fields and grounds. The many facilities include a swimming pool, rifle range and fitness suites, alongside auditorium venues, classrooms and specialised teaching areas for science, music and the arts. Enjoyment of learning is the ethos at the heart of this academic school, which aims to promote an environment where pupils gain real satisfaction from a commitment to study.

Firmly grounded in the strengths of a broad Scottish education, pupils at Dollar study the Scottish curriculum and work towards Highers and Advanced Highers. Exam results speak for themselves, with an excellent 86 per cent A-B pass rate at Higher and 96 per cent of leavers going on to university.

At Dollar, activities beyond the classroom are seen as highly significant in the development of young people and the school is famous for its world championship-winning pipe band. More than 160 pupils practise the instrument and tuition is available at all levels, with the opportunity to participate in national competitions and perform around the world. The sight and sound of the pipes are synonymous with Dollar Academy – during the summer term, each day begins with the massed pipes and drums practising on the school lawns.

Dollar Academy is a popular option for Scottish families. Entry can be arranged at any stage in a child's education. Boarding scholarships and fee-assisted places are available for hard-working and ambitious children.



### Assessment and Examination Dates for Entry 2017

Dollar is one of the UK's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys and girls aged 5-18 years.

Our 2017 entrance examinations and bursary assessments will be held on Saturday 28 January, 2017.

Applicants are welcome for every year group. To register, or for more information, contact us:

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### Strathallan – Green space, a home from home and an exceptional breadth of opportunities for boarders and day pupils alike

Located in the heart of Perthshire but with easy access to Edinburgh and Glasgow, Strathallan's green and leafy campus expands to more than 153 acres. It includes some of the best facilities of any school in Scotland and provides the setting for day and boarding pupils to take every advantage of the exceptional breadth of activities available to them.



At Strathallan, our ethos is to provide opportunities for every pupil to excel; in practice, that means ensuring that each individual, no matter what their passion or interest, is supported to do well, achieve their personal best and, importantly, enjoy their time at school. It is an approach which leads to a rich diversity of pupil experience and some exceptional achievements – academically, in sports, the performing and creative arts and other areas.



Across the school, pupils can choose from more than 80 activities which include everything from fencing to debating, clay pigeon shooting to dance. Strathallan has carved out an excellent reputation for sports, both traditional team sports but also in individual activities. Teams are frequently to be found on the podium and individuals have claimed medals in skiing, tennis, badminton, swimming, golf, karate and more, with many representing Scotland and GB. Music and the performing arts are flourishing too and are set to strengthen with the recent addition of a state-of-the-art dance and drama studio.

Strathallan is also a school with strong family values and a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, something that benefits enormously from the fact that the majority of staff live on site. Our day pupils are part of the same houses as the boarders, creating a solid foundation for developing friendships in and out of school.

From Riley, our junior house, upwards, our visitors tell us they get a real sense of Strathallan when they meet our pupils and see the school for themselves. We encourage you to do the same and welcome visits at any time of the year.



### STRATHALLAN Opportunities for all to excel

for ages 9 to 18

At Strathallan we motivate and inspire young people to make the most of their individual abilities and interests.

Enjoying a beautiful rural campus, less than an hour from Edinburgh airport.

Achieving excellent results - in academic work, in sports and the arts.

Extending a warm welcome from our community of staff, boarding and day pupils.

#### Open Morning

(Entry for ages 9+)  
Saturday 4th March 2017, 10am - 1pm

#### Scholarships and Bursaries Available

For more information or to book a visit please contact our Admissions Department admissions@strathallan.co.uk 01738 815003



Registered in Scotland as a charity number SC009003

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strathallan.co.uk

### Why do parents send their children to independent schools in ever-growing numbers?

Parents choose to send their children to independent schools for many different reasons, including choice, diversity and excellence. Above all, they choose independent schools because they feel a particular school will best serve their child and his or her social and educational needs.

All independent schools in Scotland have their own unique ethos and values, but they share a common goal of encouraging each individual pupil to be all that they can be, and to make the most of their time at school. Independent schools enjoy a reputation for excellence, providing a broad curriculum, consistently good exam results, a positive learning environment and a wealth of co-curricular activities. Being independent gives each school the freedom to provide the best possible

education for the benefit of its pupils. Consequently, many schools have developed individual strengths that complement the excellence that is the hallmark of the sector.

The choice of mainstream schools is wide and there are also special schools that provide care and education for children with additional support needs.

The statistics are compelling – the Scottish Council of Independent schools provides at least £47 million annually in fee assistance, with 26.4 per cent of all pupils receiving some form of assistance; 88 per cent of SCIS pupils go on to higher education, with 25 per cent continuing their studies outside of Scotland. According to numbers from SCIS and the Scottish Government, there is one teacher for every 8.7 pupils in SCIS schools, compared to one to 13.7 in state-funded schools.

SCIS schools educate more than 31,000 children of mixed abilities from diverse backgrounds. The focus of independent schools has always been, and remains, delivering individual educational outcomes for pupils of all abilities.

### Lomond School – Making every moment count



My time to shine.

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- Scholarships and Bursaries available

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lomondschool.com  
admissions@lomondschool.com



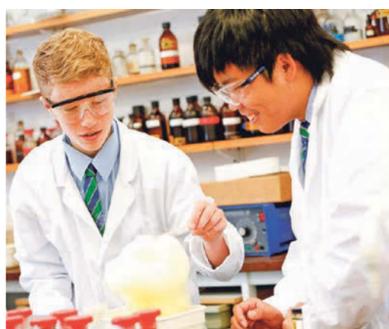
EVERY parent knows childhood is a precious time and most agree that it's over far too fast. At Lomond School, we make every moment count.

Our dedicated staff deliver a traditional and rigorous academic programme, but that's just the start of the story. We know that children who are happy will work hard and achieve all that they can. Our rich and varied curriculum offers pupils special experiences which enthuse, build character and foster a love of learning.

Small classes ensure that pupils are challenged and supported by staff who know them well, ensuring that they not only get off to the best start but also that they develop memories and relationships that will stay with them for life. Our boarding house, Burnbrae, offers a home from home for pupils from Scotland, the UK and further afield.

Boarders are housed in modern, purpose-built facilities where they are looked after by a dedicated and professional pastoral team. Boarders play a key role in the life of the school and their weeks and weekends are busy and purposeful.

A great education should never be a race to the finish line; it is the journey which lays the foundation for your child's life ahead. For more information, please contact our registrar at admissions@lomondschool.com.



## 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

Despite the havoc caused by Storm Barbara and Storm Conor over Christmas, the biggest hooley in Argyll remains the row over general waste collections, which continues to generate complaints.

While the council intimated that rubbish collections would remain the same over the festive period, many people complained, including via our Facebook page, that their bins had not been emptied, which was particularly vexing because so much more extra rubbish was generated over the holiday week.

However, the good news is that the council has announced that recycling has increased.

There is no doubt we all want recycling to increase. It makes sense given landfill costs, not to mention the damage so much rubbish is doing to the planet. But the current three-weekly cycle for waste collection is not working and the council needs to have a rethink.

If people haven't already done so, now is the time to have your say on bin collections and other council services via the council's consultation. See P1 for details.



## Days gone by – 1957

This week we go back to August 12, 1957, and a photograph of Dom Capaldi, who notched up 21 years of service as a warden at Ratagan Youth Hostel in Kintail. Dom, who was Glasgow-born to parents of Italian descent, spent his entire 21 years at Ratagan apart from brief periods as a relief warden elsewhere.

### Glasgow Letter

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



### A right Carry On at Celtic Connections

I WOULD like to start this week's column by wishing readers of the Glasgow Letter all the very best for 2017.

January is always a massive month for Glasgow as the city is transformed by the Celtic Connections festival which begins this year on Thursday January 19 with an opening night concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, with Laura Marling and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra plus special guests.

I am looking forward to including details of the what is on at the festival over the coming weeks, and hopefully managing to take in a couple of concerts.

The talent on display at the festival is always awesome; but it is the craic in the evenings after the concerts that makes Celtic Connections so unique. With so many musicians from around the world gathering in one city, and usually in the same hotels, the sessions are not surprisingly fearsome!

One must be careful, however, when partaking in the joy of a Celtic

Connections after-party that one is not spotted by journalists, who are always keen to relate tales of mischief and nonsense!

Last year, for example, I was walking to the Holiday Inn with a big group of folk in the small hours of the morning when I spotted in a newsagent's window a huge, cuddly teddy tiger. In the spur of the moment, taking leave of my senses, I decided to buy it (for a ridiculously extortionate price) and take it to the party.

As we approached the Holiday Inn, two pipers in our group decided to strike up and pipe us into the hotel bar. As soon as we all entered the bar, an impromptu strip the willow began. With nowhere to put my tiger, I elected to dance the Strip the Willow with it.

As Burns would say, the night drove on with sangs and clatter, and eventually I awoke in my bed later that morning with this great big teddy tiger lying comfortably on my couch. I suddenly realised I had parted with my cash too easily whilst in good spirits, and felt so daft at having lumbered myself with this useless tiger.

At exactly this point, the phone rang. It was my auntie. "Did you get the tiger home safely?" she laughed.

It turned out my appearance with the tiger the previous night had been documented in *The Herald* that very morning!

They say that no publicity is bad publicity – but don't expect to get away with anything at Celtic Connections!

### Iain MacDonald

SADLY, due to the sudden death of committee member, Iain MacDonald, the Clydebank Highlanders have decided to cancel the ceilidh on Friday January 13.

Iain's funeral will be at Clydebank Crematorium on that day at 2.30pm.

Special thoughts and condolences are extended by the association to his brother, Ronnie, and other members of the family.

### What's On

**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.



**Donna M Macaulay sent her a reply, saying:** 'That's wild eh! Should put everyone back to fortnightly collections, having weekly for some & wt we've been getting is outrageous! I'm having to take stuff up to the dump myself all the bloody time!'

**Rebecca Cressey commented:** 'Not collected! Have not remained the same, have been tightening their belts to the detriment of the collections, too tight to pay for bin men during holiday times, always fobbed off with lorry breakdown, shambles!'

**Suzy Anderson said:** 'Pointless having a calendar when they don't stick to it, bins are overflowing.'

**Peter Taylor added:** 'Remain the same? What, like "One day, Someday, Sometime, Never"?''

**While Millie Bouschier complained:** 'we have 3 bins full and rubbish at our door step!'

**Ashley Mckerron said:** 'still waiting on my green bin getting collected'

**Mutt Nut:** 'So our recycling bin was due to be collected on Dec.29th. Still waiting. Tomorrow our household waste bin due to be collected, so we will all have both bins out tomorrow. Perhaps we should all find out how much we pay per collection and then ask for a refund of our Council Tax for each failed pick up?'

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.

### Quite right to have road signs in Gaelic

Sir,  
In *The Oban Times* of December 22, you included a letter querying the value of bilingual road signs.

I would suggest that for the vast majority of places in the Highlands (and indeed for a good number of places elsewhere in Scotland) such signs are not really bilingual at all, since these places only have Gaelic names.

The Gaelic names are real words, usually describing physical features of the places, while the English version is a meaningless jumble of letters, providing no more than a phonetic guide to the approximate pronunciation of the real names.

I have no idea what regulations govern the size and content of road signs, but it would be ludicrous not to have the correct names as the priority.

It is hard to believe that tourists can cope with signage in different languages elsewhere in the world, but become hopelessly confused when faced with a sign in Gaelic, especially when it comes with a convenient pronunciation guide which they can use as the place name.

**D MacKenzie,**  
5 Glasdrum Grove, Fort William.

### Places are hard to identify in Gaelic

Sir,  
How I agree with Lewis Morrison (Letters, December 22) on bilingual road signs.

I wonder if, like me, he had trouble identifying Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain when it first appeared on road signs. It appears it must be remarkably close to Campbeltown or, perhaps, that should be Baile Campbell but I have searched Ordnance Survey and other maps back to 1801 and can find no place of that name in the area or any loch called Chille Chiarain. A similar search of Admiralty charts also drew a blank.

I finally found a map of the early 1600s using the name. There is, of course, the area of Kilkerran in the south of Campbeltown but why would the road signs point to a suburb rather than the main town? If we must have Gaelic signs, let us at least be up to date. I used to think that An Gearasdan held the prize as the most useless road sign in the world but Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain must take over that crown.

**John Carmichael,**  
6 Maryfield Road, Broughty Ferry.

### Have your say on council's budget

Sir,  
Following the decision by the Scottish Government once again to restrict the amount it gives to local councils, it appears that Argyll and Bute councillors are faced with making further cuts to our services.

The council has begun a process of consultation to find out what residents think are the most important services they provide and where the cuts should be targeted. I urge all residents

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



BLIADHNA MHATH ÙR dhuibh uile agus mòran dhiubh!

'S iomadh rud a b' fheàrr leam fhaicinn na Ameireagaidh is an Ruis a' maoidheadh air càch a chèile às ùr, agus ged 's fhurasta a thuigsinn carson a bhiodh Barack Obama mì-thoilichte ma tha dearbhadh aige gun robh an Ruis a' feuchainn ri buaidh a thoirt air taghaidhean Chinn-suidhe Ameireagaidh, tha e doirbh fhaicinn de am feum a tha e a' dèanamh le bhith a' cruthachadh sgaraidhean dioplòmasach 's gun aige ach beagan sheachdainean air fhàgail na dhreuchd. Tha e a' toirt cothrom dha Trump e fhèin a nochdadh mar gheustair eadar-nàiseanta, gu cinnteach iomhaigh nach do choisinn e gu ruige seo, nuair a ghabhas ean thairis agus a ni e aonta ùr le Putin agus an Ruis.

'S dòcha gun robh cuid agaibh mar a bha sinne a' cur seachad ùine laghach cuide ri oghaichean thairis air am Nollaige agus suas chun na Bliadhna Ùire, agus dh'fheumamaid greis a thoirt a' cluicheadh caochladh

to have their say. The survey can be found at [www.argyll-bute/planning-ourfuture](http://www.argyll-bute/planning-ourfuture).

**David Pollard,**  
Salen, Isle of Mull.

### Quality houses are badly needed in Oban

Sir,  
Through your columns could I comment on your article on the new homes approved for Glenshellach in *The Oban Times* (December 22).

Could I first of all thank the 121 people who wrote letters of support for Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) planning application for six new homes. They stand side by side with those who desperately need housing in this town and the quality construction jobs that go with it.

I couldn't help but notice an objector's critique of ACHA's homes as 'low quality'. If the party concerned could contact me, I would be happy to show him or her the homes that the Reverend Dugald Cameron officially opened in Glenshellach last week. They are large, well-spaced, four-bedroom family homes. They are fitted with air-source heat pumps for energy efficiency, with kitchens you can sit down to a family meal in and additional utility rooms to meet the growing family's needs. The gardens are also of such a substantial size to allow parents a space to play safely with young children.

At a personal level, I have been touched by the thanks and the goodwill expressed to me by the families that have moved in and they are delighted with their new homes. With the greatest respect, they are the most important parties in this equation.

As I said at the opening last week, ACHA's work will not be done until we provide the homes that are needed for families in Oban and elsewhere who are living in insecure, inadequate and bad housing.

We look forward to continuing with that ambition in 2017.

**Alastair MacGregor,**  
Chief executive, ACHA.

### Has anyone else been caught for parking?

Sir,  
I wonder if any of your readers have come across similar problems.

I recently went to Morrisons on a Saturday afternoon at about 4pm. I got my shopping and left after 45 minutes.

The next morning on my way to work in Skye, I went to the bottle bank in the Morrisons car park and deposited a few bottles. This would have been about 7.15am and my stay was only for two minutes. A week later, I got a very threatening letter telling me I had left my car overnight in the car park and had to pay a fine of £70.

I won't be paying this but was concerned that more vulnerable customers, such as pensioners, may feel intimidated to pay up. I am shocked both by Morrisons associating itself with a car park management company – Parking Eye – which appears little better than a cowboy and its method of monitoring cars in its car park or

more accurately the lack of it.

**John MacDonald,**  
Argyll Road, Fort William.

### Lochaber projects deserving funding

Sir,  
With regard to the recent announcement of government infrastructure funding, I would like to suggest a lead from all interested groups in Fort William.

As the advertised outdoor capital of the UK, there are dynamic groups at work here. The objective would be for funds to be directed at projects such as an end of life hospice, a replacement Nevis bridge and a relief road to the B830, with compensation to local landowners affected.

With more than 400,000 annual visitors, and growing, our beautiful area needs this serious attention.

**N and J A MacLean,**  
Fort William.

### SNP cannot be blamed for nuisance calls

Sir,  
I am sure many of us must sympathise with the frustration of Joyce Vickers being plagued with nuisance calls (Letters, December 22).

An elderly friend has had up to 27 of these calls in one day between BT landline and BT mobile phones. Poor internet coverage in Scotland is, of course, another big BT gripe.

I am not at all sure what Nicola Sturgeon can do, however, as telecommunications and internet matters are reserved to Westminster. In a similar vein, and regarding the recent calls for the resignation of transport minister Humza Yousaf when a couple of trains broke down, transport matters are also reserved to Westminster.

Perhaps too many of us have been too quick to criticise the Scottish Government when we have not allowed ourselves to look behind the lurid headlines in the press and on TV.

It is worth spending half an hour reading through Schedule 5 of the Scotland Act 1998 to appreciate just how little of a wee pretendy parliament with wee pretendy powers we have actually been granted.

**George Loudon,**  
13 Riverside Road, Kinlochleven.

### New Year with gusto

Sir,  
As a regular visitors to Oban, my wife and I have, in the past, been disappointed in the decline in the way the town marked the Bells, especially the contribution (or lack of it!) by the Cal-Mac ferries and Northern Lighthouse vessel, which at one time sounded in the New Year with gusto.

However this year we must say things were much improved. The fireworks were superb and the ships horns gave a much more enthusiastic fanfare.

Thank you Oban for marking Hogmanay with greater enthusiasm and we are already looking forward to the 500-mile trip north for the next one.

**Neil and Tina Parsonson**

Ailean Caimbeul

a b' fheàrr cùisean an t-saoghail a ghluasad air adhart ann an dòigh a bhiodh sìtheil agus buannachdail dhan chruinne-cè. Cha chreid mi nach e sin mo phrìomh dhùrachd dhan t-saoghal bho thoiseach 2017 air adhart, agus ged 's dòcha a chanas cuid gur e amas gun dòchas a th' ann, saoilidh mi mar a bi amas againn a dh'ionnsaigh co-luadar sìtheil tha fios is cinnt nach tachair e!

A GAME WE ENJOYED with grandchildren over the festive period involved attempting to identify words spoken by a competitor wearing a plastic frame in their mouth which prevented normal enunciation. Great fun, and it was surprising how quickly we became accustomed to new sounds and learned to understand them.

For 2017 and forwards I wish that world leaders might listen, understand, and cooperate in the best interests of mankind and his environment!

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

### Social media

FOLLOWING our post that bin collection days were to remain the same over the new year period we had a number of people responding.

**Fiona Vick said:** 'Remain the same? They haven't even emptied our green bins since Tuesday 27th (when scheduled) been out on the road since Monday night! Reported twice and all I got was leave the bins out!'

'This is not the bin men's fault! It's the councils fault. Soroba is going back to weekly collections too, so why is everyone not going back to the same!'

'Can't treat some people differently than others, we all pay council tax we all should have an equal service.'

### Press policy

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

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

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

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a 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.

### 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.

# Incredible story of woman's life journey aired on TV

ELLIE FORBES  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

A DOCUMENTARY charting the journey of a Spean Bridge woman's life from a Dublin mother to adoption in Lochaber and her quest to find her half sister has aired on television.

The incredible story of Gladys Johnston, which has been kept hidden away for more than 30 years, has finally come to light in an emotional BBC Alba programme.

Gladys, who was born in a Dublin suburb in 1936 to a young unmarried Irish woman spent three years in the protestant orphanage Bethany Home before she was adopted by Mary and Duncan Cameron of Acharacle in 1939.

Gladys discovered she was adopted at the age of 12 and while the news initially upset her she decided it would be best to forget about it and move on.

But following the death of her adoptive parents, she took on the daunting task of searching for her birth mother.

After tracking down her birth certificate, which revealed she was born Gladys Mabel to Dorothy Patton or Murphy, Gladys also discovered her mother had gone on to have a second child, who, remarkably, was also named Gladys.

On April 1, 1986, Gladys met her sister, Gladys - 'Glad' as she is known - for the first time.

Speaking of her first phonecall with Gladys, Glad said: 'Mum called me Gladys because she was reading a book at the time and the heroine's name was Gladys.'

Gladys said: 'Well she must



Gladys, left, with her half sister who is also called Gladys, but known as Glad, when the pair were filming for the BBC Alba documentary. The half sisters met for the first time on April 1, 1986 after Gladys tracked down her mother's birth certificate and found she had gone on to have another child. They believe they were named after the heroine in a book their mother was reading at the time.

have been reading that book for a heck of a long time.'

Through talking to Glad, Gladys also discovered that she knew some of her brother-in-law's family who were from Fort William.

Glad recalls how her mother was often sad and she could never understand why.

'She took the secret of me to



It was really lovely to watch

her grave. When I walk down the street and see people with a child about that age, I think, God, it must have been so hard for my mother to give up her three-year-old child,' said Gladys.

Gladys believes her mother called her second daughter by the same name as her own private way of remembering her - she

could say her name every day. Having found her sister, Gladys gave up on her search into her birth mother, but 30 years later decided to look into it again.

She explained: 'I have a very quizzical mind and I couldn't stop until I had all the answers.'

During the making of the programme Gladys is taken back

to Ireland where she retraces her childhood.

Gladys, who was a correspondent for *The Oban Times* for more than 40 years, said: 'I feel that I am a survivor because the year I was born lots of children died in Bethany Home from neglect.

'This is why the whole story is so important to me, because lots of people will now realise what happened in those days - how cruel it was for children in homes - nowadays it's so much easier.'

Gladys watched the programme with her family and friends on Hogmanay, saying it was 'very emotional.

She added: 'My family watched it and they thought it was excellent.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Gladys said she has had a lot of feedback from people in the street and her phone has 'rung off the hook'.

'I find it very interesting the way people have responded to it. I feel like I am giving people inspiration to find their roots, maybe I am opening a book for others,' she said.

'It's nice that people are taking an interest in my story and thinking if she can do it then so can I.'

Gladys' daughter Fiona said: 'It was really lovely to watch and so good that mum got peace of mind.'

The documentary explores Gladys' relations further down the line as she tries to trace her great grandmother, grandmother and grandfather, and although Gladys still doesn't know who her biological father was, she said she will continue to search.

Gladys is on BBC iPlayer and will be repeated on BBC Alba tomorrow (January 6) at 10pm.



Marjory Jagger, BEM.

## Skye woman is awarded BEM

A WOMAN from Skye has been recognised in the New Year Honours List.

Marjory Jagger has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to young people and the community in the inner Hebrides.

The accolade has been given largely for her work as manager with Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers (SLYC).

According to the SLYC, 16 years ago Marjory was approached by a young carer asking about services available to young carers locally. After research highlighted a lack of support in the area, Marjory set up a group for six youngsters. The organisation now supports more than 60 young carers every year.

A spokesperson from SLYC said they were beyond delighted and extremely proud of Marjory adding: 'Marjory is untiring in her work with and for the youngsters. They enjoy a weekly group suited to their age and a fun respite outing each school holiday. She has done a great deal to raise awareness of the needs of young carers and has taken the lead in fundraising and in completing very demanding major funding applications.'

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www.facebook.com/obantimes

## Thought you'd seen the last of our cracker deals? Think again! Gordons chemists january sale now on!

You loved our incredible deals over the Christmas period and Gordons Chemists have no intention of letting up, with even lower prices on top brand products in our January Sale.

If you are braving the cold this January be sure to protect your skin with the excellent Nivea Men Active skincare range - half price this month! Or stay in and stock up on household products at great prices, Surf Capsules (10pk) & Dettol Anti-Bacterial Laundry Cleanser (1 Litre) are both only £1.99!

Save big with £2.50 off Sure Anti-Perspirant (250ml) now only £1.49. Or pick up all your Bathroom essentials for less than a pound - Nivea Deodorant (150ml), Nivea Handwash (250ml) and Nivea Shower Cream (250ml) are all only 99p!

If, like us, you have decided its "New Year New You!" you'll find the same great prices on our health boosting range of products. We can help you stop smoking with our range of Niquitin patches (7PK) and lozenges (60pk) reduced to £9.99 to help you stay in control.

Is your resolution is to lose a few pounds? The XLS weight loss range can give you the support you need to reach your goal. The XLS Appetite Reducer, XLS Max Strength and XLS Fat Binder tablets are all half price at Gordons Chemists this January!

If, despite all your healthy resolutions, illness does unfortunately strike Gordons Chemists have got you covered! Selected lines of Bronchostop of cough medicines which use traditional herbal medicines to relieve any kind of cough are 1/3 off.

Mum & Baby essentials are reduced too! Stock up with Pampers Baby Dry Small Packs, now only £2.99 or Johnson's Gentle Cleansing Wipes (6 X 56 packs) for only £3.99 - sure to keep you going well into the New Year.

Keep up to date on our weekly offers, competitions and more on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/gordonsdirect](http://www.facebook.com/gordonsdirect).

You can also follow us on Twitter & Instagram @gordonschemists

With 9 stores across Scotland, we have a store near you, or if you want to beat the crowds, you can get our great deals online at

[www.gordonsdirect.com](http://www.gordonsdirect.com)

## January Sale

**Half price or better**  
Nivea Q10 Anti-Wrinkle Range

**Half price**  
XLS (Selected Lines)

**Half Price**  
Nivea Men Active Range

**only £2.00**  
Oral B 3D White Toothpaste 75ml & Pro-Expert Mouthwash 500ml

**1/3 off**  
Bronchostop (Selected Lines)

**only £2.99**  
Corsodyl Daily Range

**£1.49**  
save £2.50  
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# Arena

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

## Jingle all the way at high school's Christmas dance

OBAN High School's annual Jingles, Christmas Dance was a hit with youngsters as the Corran Hall was full to capacity. Soft drinks and nibbles were served to sustain the youngster from the upper school. Held on

Thursday December 17 the town was buzzing with youngsters in their best dresses and kilts before, and after the event. Torrential rain did not stop the youngsters wearing high heels to the dance and bare feet home.



### Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

**Lochgilhead** Thu 5 - Sat 7 Jan  
**Tarbert Loch Fyne** Mon 9 - Tue 10 Jan  
**Gigha** Wed 11 January

**Storks** (U) 90 mins  
Charming family comedy with some welcome sharp humour. "... manic gags and screwball pace ..."  
Rolling Stone  
05/01 at 5.30pm, 07/01 at 2pm, 09/01 at 5.30pm, 11/01 at 5.30pm

**Bridget Jones's Baby** (15) 123 mins  
"... a fizzy delight." Rolling Stone  
05/01 at 8.30pm, 09/01 at 8.30pm

**I, Daniel Blake** (15) 100 mins  
Winner of the Palme d'Or and directed by Ken Loach. "... a work of scalding and moving relevance."  
Variety 06/01 at 5.30pm

**Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them** (12A) 133 mins  
Eddie Redmayne stars in visually spectacular Harry Potter spin-off. "This highly entertaining twist on jazz age America breathes fresh life into the Potter franchise" Guardian  
06/01 at 8.30pm, 07/01 at 5.30pm, 10/01 at 5.30pm

**Sully** (12A) 96 mins  
Directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Tom Hanks. "thrilling, heart-in-mouth stuff" Scotsman  
07/01 at 8.30pm, 10/01 at 8.30pm, 11/01 at 8.30pm

Book now at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults and £5.50 Concessions



### Eye to eye with John Wallace

At this time of reflection on the past year I have been thinking about lectures I have attended and articles I have read in the past 12 months that profoundly changed my way of thinking about patient treatments. The area of biggest change in thinking has been in the treatment of "lazy eye" (properly called amblyopia) and squint. Many years ago Nobel Prize-winning research found the vision area of the brain mainly consists of cells that need input from both eyes to function properly. For some reason

in "lazy eye" there is a miss-match of information being sent to the brain from our two eyes and "binocular competition" develops. Our brains don't like this and to eliminate the competition the brain suppresses, or switches off, the information being sent from one eye. This can be by allowing one eye to turn in or out so this "squinting" eye is not seeing the same as the other eye. It can also be by switching off the connections within the brain for information from one eye. The revolution

### A Time for Reflection

in thinking is that squints do not cause "lazy eye" and are, in fact, in 95 per cent of cases nothing to do with an ocular muscle problem but are a response by the brain to this binocular competition. This means that the best way of treating squints is by treating the vision problem that is causing the underlying information miss-match and seldom by surgery.

Many eye-care professionals sadly still believe it is impossible to treat "lazy eyes" after the age of seven years. Evidence about "neural plasticity" has changed dramatically recently. It is now common place to successfully treat adults with "lazy eye" and squints and also patients with traumatic brain injury at any age. It just takes more time in older patients.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
**Wallace Optometrists**  
The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic  
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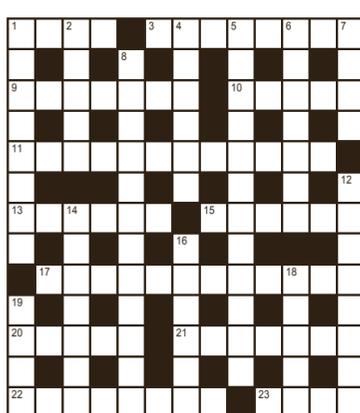
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- Across
- Compelling (4)
  - Caution (8)
  - One who is famous (7)
  - Beat (5)
  - Childhood hurt, experienced at the beginning of a new enterprise (7,5)
  - Subject test for those in their late teens (1,5)
  - Marketing ploy (6)
  - Not agreeing (12)
  - One with a cover story (5)
  - Strips (7)
  - Bracket (8)
  - Method of sending a note (4)

- Down
- Woven letters (8)
  - Language of South Africa (5)
  - Unearth from the deep (6)
  - Not heading home (7-5)
  - Huge (7)
  - Go on this without much preparation (4)
  - Destroying (12)
  - Where acts are seen (5,3)
  - Snob (7)
  - Classic sports car, one to fear? (6)
  - Group not having the support of a large company (5)
  - After-bath powder (4)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION





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Friday 6 January – Thursday 12 January

**PASSENGERS | 12A | 136 MIN**

Fri, Sat: 15:00, 20:15, Sun: 12:30, 17:30, Mon, Tue: 16:30, 19:15, Wed: 16:00, 17:00.

On a routine journey through space to a new home, two passengers, sleeping in suspended animation, are awakened 90 years too early when their ship malfunctions. As Jim (Chris Pratt) and Aurora (Jennifer Lawrence) face living the rest of their lives on board, with every luxury they could ever ask for, they begin to fall for each other, unable to deny their intense attraction... until they discover the ship is in grave danger. With the lives of 5000 sleeping passengers at stake, only Jim and Aurora can save them all.

Parent and Baby Screening: Tues 11.30 (Lights dimmed. Baby changing available)

**RSC LIVE: THE TEMPEST | 12a | 210 MIN**

Wed: 19:00

On a distant island a man waits. Robbed of his position, power and wealth, his enemies have left him in isolation. But this is no ordinary man, and this no ordinary island. Prospero is a magician, able to control the very elements and bend nature to his will. When a sail appears on the horizon, he reaches out across the ocean to the ship that carries the men who wronged him. Creating a vast magical storm he wrecks the ship and washes his enemies up on the shore. When they wake they find themselves lost on a fantastical island where nothing is as it seems.

**BALLERINA | U | 119 MIN**

Fri: 12:30

Children's animation. Set in 1879 Paris. An orphan girl dreams of becoming a ballerina and flees her rural Brittany for Paris, where she passes for someone else and accedes to the position of pupil at the Grand Opera house.

**KIDS CLUB: BALLERINA | U | 119 MIN**

Sat: 12:30

**SILVER SCREEN: A UNITED KINGDOM | 12a | 131 MIN**

Sun: 14:30

Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! Tea and cake £1.50. Prince Seretse Khama of Botswana causes an international stir when he marries a white woman from London in the late 1940s

**MOANA | PG | 133 MIN**

Fri: 2:30, Sat: 2:30

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.

**THE BIRTH OF A NATION | 15 L 140 MIN**

Fri, Sat: 17:45, Sun: 17:00, Mon, Tues: 19:00, Wed: 19:30

Set against the antebellum South, THE BIRTH OF A NATION follows Nat Turner (Nate Parker), a literate slave and preacher, whose financially strained owner, Samuel Turner (Armie Hammer), accepts an offer to use Nat's preaching to subdue unruly slaves. As he witnesses countless atrocities - against himself and his fellow slaves - Nat orchestrates an uprising in the hopes of leading his people to freedom.

**SULLY | 12A | 116 MIN**

Fri: 20:00, Sat: 20:00

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.

**ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY | 12A | 153 MIN**

Fri: 17:00, Sat: 17:00, Mon, Tue: 16:00,

3D: Fri: 12:00, Sat: 12:00, Mon: 14:45

'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.



**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

The Oban Times New Year Cinema Offer

Tuesday night screenings only

In association with Oban Phoenix Cinema

The Oban Times is celebrating the arrival of 2017 with an amazing offer for its readers! Shake off those post-Christmas January blues and head on down to Oban Phoenix Cinema with our buy-one-get-one-free offer for Tuesday night screenings. Valid until January 24, 2017. Booking essential.

Kids feeling gloomy that Christmas is over? Treat them to a FREE Kid's Club movie - valid until Saturday January 28, 2017. Kid's Club showings are every Saturday morning. Booking essential. Admits one child. Parents go for £1.

To book, take your completed coupon along to Oban Phoenix Cinema, 140 George Street, Oban. You can find details of films and times in this issue of The Oban Times or online at www.obanphoenix.com. If you are a digital subscriber - we don't want you to miss out! Give us a call on 01631 568000 and we will give you details on how you can claim the offer.

**FREE KID'S CLUB ADMISSION**

This voucher entitles the holder to one free child admission to Oban Phoenix Cinema Saturday morning Kid's Club. Valid until Saturday January 28, 2017. Booking essential. Parents go for £1. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Fill in your details and take to Oban Phoenix Cinema to book in advance. One voucher per one admission. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Whilst tickets last.

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**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

This voucher entitles the holder to one free admission to any Tuesday night screening with purchase of one full paying ticket. Offer valid until Tuesday January 24, 2017. Booking essential. Fill in your details and take to Oban Phoenix Cinema to book in advance. One voucher per one admission. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Whilst tickets last.

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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

# Arena

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

## Good crowd at accordion and fiddle club meeting



Nicky McMichan and Gus Millar who played at the fiddle and accordion club in December 2016.

A GOOD crowd gathered at the Inveraray Inn for the December meeting of Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Guest artistes were to have been the Donald MacLeod Trio but bandleader Donald fell victim to the dreaded 'lurgy' so was unable to make it.

However his two accomplices, Nicky McMichan on accordion and Gus Millar on drums, didn't let the club down, so the trio became a duo.

The faithful Fyne Folk got the evening under way with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard with a couple of pipe marches and a lovely selection of Irish waltzes.

Jake and Agnes stayed on stage and Jake played his 'moothie' with some fine toe-tapping sets. It was then the turn of Nicky and Gus to finish off the first half with a fine selection of tunes.

Fyne Folk started off the second half and then Jake, Agnes, Nicky and Gus delighted the audience with a marvellous couple of sets – sounding just like another guest band. Nicky and Gus entertained for the rest of the evening and then Fyne Folk joined them in a wee stramash bringing the club to a close for 2016.

Next week, to see the New Year in, it's the Archie MacAllister Trio – no strangers to the club – so a cracking night in store.

## Traditional bands delight revellers during festive period

OVER the festive period traditional music bands brought their award-winning shows to Oban and Lorn, as well as various islands and not to mention the Hogmanay Party in Oban.

Manran, Skipinnish, Skerryvore and Tide Lines all played in the area, including one mega gig in Fort William to round off the musical year. But it was Western Isles band Ho Ro that had the hardest gig, lugging equipment from one

venue to another to meet all the demands of its public.

The annual outing for Skerryvore to Dalmally Community Hall was described by one local as 'the biggest thing that happens all year'.

The band played a full set to a capacity crowd that danced well into the wee hours.

Tide Lines really got the crowd going in the Corran Halls. It is doubtful if anyone could describe the band as anyone's

warm-up act as the quartet headed up by Robert Robertson from Fort William and Ross Wilson from Bunnassan played a superb set in various genres including *Shut up and Dance with me*.

Manran were exceptional – Ewen Henderson on vocals really set the stage alight and of course who can resist Gary Innes' box playing or wide smile.

Skipinnish, the full band, with Norrie McIvor on vocals, was superb fun with some

people at the annual Hogmanay party managing to sing and dance for the three-and-a-half hours the boys took to the stage.

The finale was what looked to be a trad scene music dream with a superb line up at the Nevis Centre in Fort William.

Martin Gillespie, of Skerryvore, told his followers on Facebook: 'Well that's the winter tour over for another year. What a night in the Nevis Centre to finish off.'

## Taynuilt carol singers boost MS centre funds by generous £250

ON SUNDAY December 18, a dozen hardy souls sang Christmas carols around Taynuilt village and raised an

impressive £250 for Oban MS Therapy Centre.

Organiser Davy Paterson would like

to thank John and the staff of Taynuilt Hotel who kindly laid out mince pies and mulled wine at the end of the

evening. Thanks also go to the people of Taynuilt who donated generously towards this worthwhile cause.

## Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.



Get in touch with your stories at [bodach@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:bodach@obantimes.co.uk)

## Intriguing images of curragh – the oldest type of boat still in use on British rivers

IN *THE Oban Times'* rich archive, I found intriguing images of the oldest type of boat still in use on British rivers, the curragh, in action on a loch near Kilmartin Museum 20 years ago.

Bowl-shaped and flat-bottomed like a walnut-shell, the curragh would be one of the few things recognisable to a visitor to our times from the Bronze Age.

The currach or curragh in Scots and Irish Gaelic, or coracle in Wales and England from the Welsh *cwrwgl*, was for centuries used for transport or fishing. Typically they were oval in shape, made of a framework of split and interwoven willow rods, tied with willow bark, with an outer layer of animal skin such as horse or bullock hide, with a thin layer of tar to make it fully waterproof, and a plank of wood for a seat. Each coracle is unique in design, tailored to the water conditions where it was built and intended to be used, whether in rivers, lochs or seas.

Coracles could go into very shallow water because of their small draught, and they are also very stable – as they need to be if the fisherman is hauling up a struggling salmon. Weighing between 25 and 40 pounds, they are so light and portable they can easily be carried on your shoulders and hung outside your cottage door.

They are an effective fishing vessel because, when powered by a person skilled in the art of 'coracling' (paddling a coracle), they hardly disturb the water or the fish, and they can be easily manoeuvred with one arm, while the other arm tends to the net, with two coracles to a net. When a fish is caught, each hauls up an end of the net until the two coracles are brought to touch, and the fish is then landed, using a priest or knocker to stun it.

The coracle is propelled by means of a broad-bladed paddle, which traditionally varies in design between rivers. It is used in a sculling action, with the blade describing a figure-of-eight pattern in the water. The paddle is used towards the front of the coracle, pulling the boat forward, with the paddler facing in the direction of travel.

The Celts were using seafaring coracles in Julius Caesar's day, and voyagers in the western seas in Irish currachs may have reached the New World centuries before Columbus. According to legend St Brendan the Navigator, the sixth century Irish patron saint of mariners, travellers, elderly adventurers, whales and canoes who brought Christianity to Lorn, sailed a curragh of oak and tanned hides to America, 900 years before Christopher Columbus in 1492.

Around the same time, so one of many stories go, an Irish chieftain named Columba became embroiled in a copyright dispute over the 'Cathach of Columba', the earliest example of Irish writing, causing the slaughter of thousands of soldiers. Overwhelmed by remorse, Columba left Ireland to atone by winning as many souls for Christ as had been lost in battle.

Driven into exile, in 563AD Columba ploughed the stormy, dangerous seas to Scotland in frail wicker and hide coracles with 12 sea-faring monks to convert the pagan Picts to Christianity. His mission landed at last on Iona, at Port-na-Curaich ('the Cove of the Coracle'), and atop Carn Cul-Ri-Erin ('the Cairn of the Back-to-Erin') Columba scanned the southern horizon, satisfied Ireland, Erin, was out of sight.

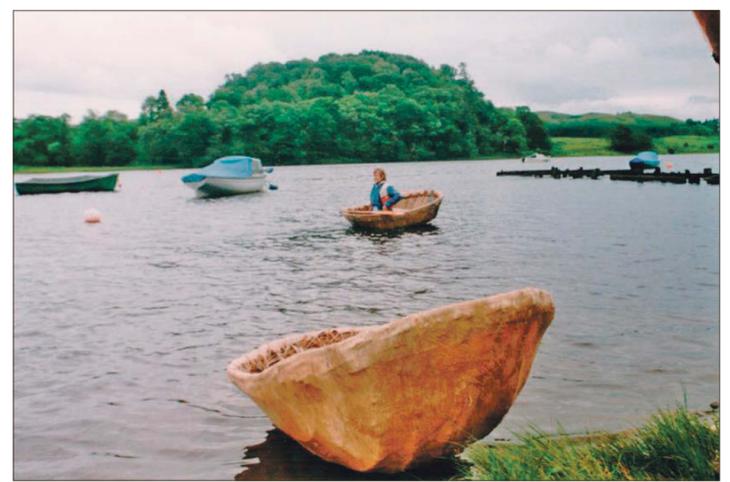
'The first historical reference to coracle use in Scotland is from 1487 when net fishing rights were granted to coracle users,' writes Dawn Susan on the Scottish Basketmakers' Circle website, Woven Communities: 'There are also historical references to coracles on the Tay, in Glendochart, in Fife, and in Ross-shire. Oral tradition says coracles were used to ferry people across Loch Dunvegan in Skye from one of the prophesies of 'Coinneach Ohdar', that Clanranald had boats of hide

with him at Loch Moy at the end of the 15th century and that coracles were in use in Argyll.

'Coracles were used on the Spey in the eighteenth century for a different purpose ... the timber trade, when the native Scots pine forests of the Strath Spey were being cut down and sold. The rafts of timber were guided down the river by men in coracles to the sea – a distance of twenty to thirty miles. This was dangerous and skilled work as the Spey is one of the fastest rivers in Britain. It shows how well designed these small craft were to survive such conditions.

'Coracles were also used in the Western Isles. The willow framework was known as 'crannaghal'. This last name has continued in its use in Uist to mean a frail boat.'

Coracles have not been seen in Scotland for 150 years, but they were in use in Ireland until the late 1940s. They are, however, found nowadays in three Welsh rivers, the Teifi, the Towy and the Taf, where they are used for net fishing. The Coracle Society, formed in 1990, promotes the use and history of these craft, and seeks to preserve and protect the tradition of old coracle makers and users, and the National Coracle Centre can be found at Cenarth Falls, Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed.



Curragh at Kilmartin open day.

BBC ALBA

## A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 5 January – Thursday 12 January 2017

### DIARDAOIN 5 FAOILLEACH

THURSDAY 5 JANUARY  
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming  
19.05 *Thomas Telford – A' togail Na Gaidhealtachd* – Telford's Highland legacy (rpt)  
19.50 *Binneas* – Duncan Chisholm (rpt)  
20.00 *An Là* – News  
20.30 *Bonn Còmhraidh* – Episode 7 of the original Gaelic Current Affairs series (rpt)  
21.00 *DIY le Donnie* – Donnie MacLeod is back with more DIY tips (rpt)  
21.50 *Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber* – music (rpt)  
22.00 *UR | NEW: Air an Rathad* – it's all about the cars!

22.30 *UR | NEW: Last Days of the Romanovs* – the Romanov's assassination  
23.20 *Fraochy Bay* (rpt)  
23.25 *Slàinte Mhath* – songs about whisky (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 6 FAOILLEACH

FRIDAY 6 JANUARY  
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming  
18.35 *Machair* (rpt)  
19.00 *An Là* – News  
19.25 *Binneas* – Duncan Chisholm (rpt)  
19.35 *BEO | LIVE: Hibs v Dundee United*  
21.50 *Cuirim@Celtic* – Moving Hearts (rpt)  
22.00 *Gladys* – an incredible journey of discovery (rpt)  
23.00 *An Lot* – life on the croft – Episode 4 (rpt)  
23.30 *Air an Rathad* – cars, cars and more cars! – Episode 1 (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 7 DÙBHLACHD

SATURDAY 7 DÙBHLACHD  
16.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming  
19.00 *Machair* (rpt)  
19.25 *BEO | LIVE: Rugby: Glasgow v Blues*  
21.30 *Ceòl Eithne Ni Uallachain* – celebrating a musical legacy  
22.30 *Jimmy Johnstone* – the story of a Scottish football legend (rpt)  
24.00 *Bha mi Latha Samhraidh* – When Stornoway was Dancing (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNACH 8 FAOILLEACH

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY  
16.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming  
19.00 *Alleluia!* – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)  
19.30 *Leugh Mi* – guests and their favourite books – Episode 4 (rpt)  
21.00 *Fuine* – Cooking for a dinner party (rpt)  
20.30 *Bonn Còmhraidh* – Episode 7 of the original Gaelic Current Affairs series

(rpt)  
21.00 *Farpaisean Chon-chaorach* – Sheepdogs (rpt)  
22.00 *A gu U – Am Faca Tu?* – a nostalgic look at Glasgow Episode 1 (rpt)  
23.00 *Last Days of the Romanovs* – the story of their assassination (rpt)  
23.50 *Cuirim@Celtic* – Moving Hearts (rpt)

### DILUAIN 9 FAOILLEACH

MONDAY 9 JANUARY  
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's programming  
19.10 *Clann a' Chogaidh Mhòr* – Small hands in a big war – Episode 1 (rpt)  
19.30 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)  
19.55 *Earrann Eachraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)  
20.00 *An Là* – News  
20.30 *UR | NEW: An Lot* – Donald MacSween and his crofting life – Episode 5  
21.00 *Trusadh: The Leverburgh Lifeboat* (rpt)  
22.00 *UR | NEW: Port* – making musical connections in Limerick

22.30 *Manran* – follow one of Scotland's top bands (rpt)  
23.30 *Air an Rathad* – the car show (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 10 FAOILLEACH

TUESDAY 10 JANUARY  
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's programming  
19.00 *UR | NEW: Co-Sheirm* – archive music from choirs and soloists  
19.30 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)  
19.55 *Earrann Eachraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)  
20.00 *An Là* – News  
20.30 *UR | NEW: Leugh Mi* – Guests and their favourite books  
21.00 *UR | NEW: Farpaisean Chon-chaorach* – Sheepdogs  
22.00 *Trusadh: The Leverburgh Lifeboat* (rpt)  
23.00 *Sin Thu Fhèin* – Finlay MacLeod meets John Angus Mackay (rpt)  
23.30 *Alleluia!* – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 11 FAOILLEACH

WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY  
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's programming  
19.05 *Clann a' Chogaidh Mhòr* – Small hands in a big war – Episode 1 (rpt)  
19.30 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)  
19.55 *Earrann Eachraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)  
20.00 *An Là* – News  
20.30 *Fuine* – cooking comfort food (rpt)  
21.00 *Bruadair a' Bhàis* – drama documentary (rpt)  
22.00 *Gaol@Gael* – Gaelic match-making! – Episode 1 (rpt)  
22.30 *Port* – musical connections in Limerick (rpt)  
23.00 *DIY le Donnie* – more DIY tips (rpt)  
23.50 *Hebridean Celtic Festival* – music (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 12 FAOILLEACH

THURSDAY 12 JANUARY  
17.00 *Prògraman na Cloinne* – Children's Programming  
19.00 *Co-Sheirm* – archive music from choirs and soloists (rpt)  
19.30 *Speaking our Language* (rpt)  
19.55 *Earrann Eachraidh* – History Shorts (rpt)  
20.00 *An Là* – News  
20.30 *Bonn Còmhraidh* – Episode 8 of the original Gaelic Current Affairs series (rpt)  
21.00 *DIY le Donnie* – Donnie MacLeod is back with more DIY (rpt)  
21.45 *Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber* – music (rpt)  
22.00 *UR | NEW: Air an Rathad* – it's all about the cars!  
22.30 *UR | NEW: Ice Road Rescuers*  
23.15 *Hebridean Celtic Festival* – Lau (rpt)  
23.30 *Òran Òir* – Gaelic song archive (rpt)

# Killin Hogmanay celebrations

NEW YEAR celebrations in Killin started with the children of the village parading through Main Street carrying lanterns they had made in a workshop on December 17.

The parade ended at The Killin Hotel where the children showed off their creations to the hotel guests before having them judged by one of the visitors to the hotel.

First prize went to Naomi Grant, second prize to Iona Lafferty and third prize to Liam Mullen.

The whole event was organised by Mrs Alma Walker with help from parents.

Later local people and visitors gathered at the Falls of Dochart to welcome in 2017 and were treated to a magnificent display of fireworks that lasted for 20 minutes and looked spectacular over the water with the Falls of Dochart in spate after the rain earlier in the day. Thanks go to Charlie Grant and his band of helpers who organised such a great event.



Right: Fireworks lasting more than 20 minutes brought in 2017.

Far right: A lantern parade through the streets of Killin was caught on camera by Ron Allner.



## MacPhail

# Aims and dreams of a new year

To be plunged deep into the dark drudgery of January straight from the highs and happiness of Christmas and New Year celebration is a pendulum swing of extremes that we shock our emotions with year after year.

One positive aspect of this otherwise bad dream of bland anti-climax is the custom to renew perspective and to give time and thought to goals we hope to achieve in the coming year and to the action we need to take to begin the journey towards these endeavours.

The concept of the so-called New Year's resolution is one that attracts much scorn, criticism and lampoon, but my view on the custom is a very positive one. Anything that brings aspiration - of any kind - to the forefront of our consciousness has

to be a good thing. The over-arching drive behind nearly all these individual aims is the road to happiness and fulfilment.

We humans are a terrible lot for trapping ourselves in the caves of convention and are reticent to change the courses which the circumstances of our lives so far have lead us to, even if we are unsatisfied in them.

So, I say, make the resolutions to begin your voyage, whatever that may be. Join the gym, learn to cook, change your job, lose weight, put on weight, climb Ben Cruachan, learn to knit, start a business, shut a business, give up smoking, start smoking, be richer, be poorer, socialise more, live like a hermit or learn to play the trumpet - whatever it is you want to do, fire on, and if it doesn't work, or

your goals change in the process then adjust your course accordingly.

Conversely, if your aim is to keep living exactly the way you are just now and keep doing what you are doing, you've probably already 'cracked it', so that is exactly what you should continue to do. Some of the most contented people I have met are in this category.

Aims and dreams are the primary catalyst for progress in life and to make plans to follow them is a 'no-lose' quest. Adhering to your New Year's resolutions may not last and goals may not be achieved, but one thing is sure - if you don't know what your goals are or take no action, you will certainly never attain them. The following is a very simple wee poem on the concept.

### Iceberg

Whatever in your life you are,  
Whatever you do now,  
Whether you have travelled far  
Or same old furrows plough,  
Your past and how you see your soul  
What you think others see  
It matters not to what your goals  
And aims in life should be.

The iceberg that displays above  
Is but the tip that shows.  
What lies beneath in waters deep  
Is where potential flows.  
You hold the world in your hand  
Your dreams are there to take  
To lead the life you yearn to have  
And Golden Journey make.

Deciding where you want to go  
Is where the answer lies.  
Too often we just plod along  
And no one really tries  
See it in your mind and know  
That's where you want to be,  
Then push your boat out from the shore  
And navigate your sea.

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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**The Annual Quiz Night**  
in aid of  
**Oban Pipe Band**  
will be held on  
Friday 13th of January 2017  
at 7:30pm in the Masonic Lodge, Albany Street  
Admission: £3.00 per person (teams can vary from 2 to 6 in number)

**OBAN U3A**  
Tuesday 10th January 2017  
at 10.30am  
Studio Theatre and Café area, Corran Halls, Oban  
This is a monthly meeting and yes it is the second Tuesday of the month this time. Not the first. Our speaker will be, Bob McCulloch with a selection of his great photos of old Oban.

**Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Inveraray Inn  
Wednesday 11th January at 8.00pm  
Guest Artistes  
From Campbeltown  
Archie MacAllister Trio  
Supporting players most welcome

**FREE child ticket PLUS FREE hot drink**

SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES **READER OFFER**

Start off 2017 with an inspiring trip with the family to Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban, with this amazing reader offer.

With The Oban Times' FREE child ticket offer, your little one can get up close and personal with sea life creatures, learn about marine conservation, embrace wildlife and the outdoors at the centre's stunning nature trail, play in the forest playpark and much more - **and you don't need to pay for them!**

**PLUS** - After having so much fun, wind down with a FREE hot drink at the Sea Life Sanctuary Coffee Shop.

Visit [www2.visitsealife.com/oban](http://www2.visitsealife.com/oban)

SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY

**FREE CHILD TICKET**

WITH ONE FULL-PAYING ADULT

Terms and conditions apply. Please present this voucher at the front desk on arrival. Admits one child for free with one full-paying adult to Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban. Vouchers are not accepted online at the Sea Life Sanctuary website. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Voucher valid until February 28, 2017. For children aged 3-15. Under 3s go free. If you are a digital subscriber - we don't want you to miss out! Give us a call on 01631 568000 and we will give you details on how you can claim the offer.

SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY

**FREE HOT DRINK**

AT SEA LIFE SANCTUARY COFFEE SHOP

Terms and conditions apply. Offer applies to any regular sized hot drink from the Sea Life Sanctuary coffee shop, Oban. Excludes Mocha, Double Espresso and Hot Chocolate. Please present this voucher at the coffee shop till point. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Voucher valid until February 28, 2017. If you are a digital subscriber - we don't want you to miss out! Give us a call on 01631 568000 and we will give you details on how you can claim the offer.

**BURNS supper**  
on Friday 27th January

Tickets for this year's Burns Supper will be on sale in the Regent Hotel on Mon 16th, Tues 17th and Mon 23rd between 6 and 7.30pm. We request that wherever possible tickets are purchased on these nights.

Alternatively contact John MacLean on 01631 565519. Please come and support the club.

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

**Superbowl**  
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

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

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Source: Consumers' Choice '16 The Newspaper Society

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closer to home

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**Spectrum soft play area**  
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**The Nevis Centre** An Aird, Fort William  
Tel: 01397 700707 [www.neviscentre.co.uk](http://www.neviscentre.co.uk)

# Review of the year

## July

### Oban Times unmask elephant campaigner



**MASKED AND UNMASKED:** Kay Lang staged silent protests against cruelty to elephants.

MANY people have been mystified over the last six weeks to see someone wearing an elephant mask, sitting silently in random spots throughout Oban, Connel, Appin, Crianlarich and Fort William in all weathers, holding a placard reading 'Kerala Suffering Elephants'.

Drivers and pedestrians

have been doing double takes, questioning whether they have seen correctly – was that an elephant? Who is that? Are there elephants suffering on Kerrera?

Well, finally, following a tip-off, *The Oban Times* unmasked the west coast's undercover elephant protestor.

She is Kay Lang, a 45-year-

old South African who lives in Dunbeg.

Kay, a podiatrist and palliative care worker, was stirred into action a year ago when she stumbled on the Kerala Suffering Elephants Facebook page which is 'dedicated to spreading awareness about the atrocities meted out to the captive elephants in Kerala'.

### Ladies cause a splash with history-making swim from Mull to Oban



For the first time in recorded history, a swim from Mull to Oban has been completed. Gemma Stewart, 34, and Gill Spink, 41, swam the 15-kilometre distance in just under seven hours.

The pair took the plunge on behalf of the Roses Charitable Trust, which each year takes groups of young people from disadvantaged areas on holiday. So far Gemma and Gill have raised £1,500.

## September

### Big-hearted youngster leaves dad in his wake during charity cycle to Fort William



LEWIS MacCuish and his dad Kevin cycled 40 miles from Benderloch to Fort William in under four hours, smashing his fundraising target of £500 to raise £650 for a Scottish chil-

dren's charity. And the eight-year-old was all ready to cycle back again – but his dad had run out of 'puff'.

The father and son were raising money for the Glasgow

Children's Hospital Charity. The pair left from Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch at 7am and only took three hours and 45 minutes to complete the route.

## August

### House problem too close to home for Connel OAP

A CONNEL woman has been left distraught after a planning mistake led to a house being built too close to her property.

Ann Colhart's 28msq extension, which has been there for 14 years, wasn't included in the development plans and has resulted in a house being built nine metres away from her property, when guidelines state it must be at least 18.

The 71-year-old, who has lived in her home for 32 years, first became aware of the problem as plots three and four of the development to expand the village progressed.

Mrs Colhart contacted the planners at the beginning of May and work was halted

as a solution was sought. Mrs Colhart said: 'It's been very stressful and my privacy has been invaded.'

'Everyone who walks in says that it [the nearest house] has to be taken down.'

'People from the village come up to look at it and say this can't be allowed.'

'We never had neighbour notifications about it and, even if we had, I wouldn't have known about distance guidelines.'

Mrs Colhart now avoids being in her extension because when she enters she is forced to look at the housing development.

**Mrs Colhart in her Connel home overlooking the housing development.**



### Oban's Dee makes worldwide sporting history

OBAN Lorne RFC president Dee Bradbury made history at Murrayfield national stadium when she was elected as the Scottish Rugby Union's (SRU) first female vice president.

When the SRU's new president Rob Flockhart, steps down in 2018, Dee will also become the governing body's first woman president since it was founded 145 years ago and the first female in the world to lead a 'tier one' rugby country.

She won a three-way election for the role by 25 votes, securing 98 votes to Ian Barr's 73 and John Davidson's 25 at the SRU's annual general meeting.



**Dee Bradbury at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh.**

## September

### Brave Laura appeals to Oban and Lorn community ahead of lifesaving transplant



**Laura, centre, with firefighters Derek Wilson, Alan Pollock, Alan Robinson, David Roberts and Stuart Allen and friends and fellow students from Oban High School.**

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl from North Connel who suffers from leukaemia is appealing for people to sign up to become a potential lifesaver.

Laura Campbell has been diagnosed with the disease for

the third time in her young life. However, the teenager is on a mission to help as many people as possible.

Laura, who is hoping to receive a stem cell donation in October, is urging people to sign up to

the Anthony Nolan stem cell register.

With the help of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Laura's appeal will take place on September 30. The day will start at Oban High School in the

morning, providing pupils with information and the opportunity to join the register. From 4pm until 10pm, a drop-in clinic will be held at Oban Community Fire Station to allow members of the public to do the same.

# Review of the year

## October

### Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals presented with coveted Queen's Award



MARY'S Meals has been presented with the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the UK's highest accolade for charitable activities.

The charity, which provides a daily meal to more than 1.1 million children in some of the poorest countries in the world, received what is known as the 'MBE for voluntary

groups' at a celebration in its Oban shop on Thursday October 6. Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart MBE, Her Majesty's representative in Argyll and Bute, presented the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the charity which provides a meal to 1,187,104 children every school day.

Accepting the award on behalf of the charity's UK

volunteers was Bill Clifford who helps raise awareness of Mary's Meals by delivering talks on its work.

Bill, 68, from Appin, one of more than 800 Mary's Meals volunteers in the UK, said: 'The work of Mary's Meals is so simple and effective.'

'For a small amount of money, you can give a child a daily meal and education for a year.'

### Audiences and judges blown away by Gaels

THE ROYAL National Mòd in Stornoway was a resounding success - not only for everyone who took part in competitions but also for those who enjoyed the friendships and forged alliances between Gaelic speakers across the globe.

Dingwall Gaelic Choir lifted the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield - a prized possession for any chorister but among the strong competition from this year's choirs - in particular, from a much talked about arrangement from Oban Gaelic Choir.

Lochaber Gaelic Choir gave a stunning performance in the Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy competition and subsequently were rewarded with a well-deserved first place. Second were Portree Gaelic Choir.

Mull Gaelic Choir had a good outing in all competitions, winning the John Lockie Trophy for the highest marks in Gaelic in three competitions (A303, A305 and A306). Many of their solo



Carol MacLean from Tobermory and Hector Mackechnie from Savary, Lochaline, celebrate their huge achievement in winning the Gold Medals at the Royal National Mòd.

choristers also had exceptional performances. Barra Gaelic Choir, conducted by former Oban woman Lisa MacNeil, won the Lorn Shield along with the Mrs C MacDonald Silver Baton for conductor of the

winning choir and the Captain Angus Stewart Trophy for highest marks in music.

Islay, which deserves a special mention, chartered three flights between Islay and Stornoway and brought the largest con-

tingent of choirs from off the island. Organisers' determination paid off with performances for Prince Charles, Lord of the Isles, and winning trophies in the junior, senior and adult singing competitions.

## November

### Fasanta festival shows it's bang on trend

DUNOLLIE'S fourth annual Fasanta textile festival and fashion show adorned Oban with trendy tweed, castle chic and a new Firth of Lorn scarf.

The Fasanta festival, named after the Gaelic for 'fashionable', explores and celebrates Scotland's textile heritage and was inspired by Dunollie House's incredible collection of 200 costumes and textiles dating back four centuries, unearthed in 2011.

The three-day festival, running from Friday to Sunday, October 21-23, featured stalls, workshops, presentations and a catwalk in Oban's Corran Halls and guided tours of Dunollie's historic costumes.

Dunollie organised a primary school project where 100 pupils designed an outfit for a character who might live in Dunollie Castle, such as jesters, knights and cooks. The three winning drawings, by Lucas McLeod, Edie Elliott and Emma Woodcock, were made into outfits and modelled at the fashion show.

The show also displayed the first weave of the new Lorn Tweed.

Dunollie held an open design competition in 2015 to develop



A design by Lucas McLeod of Achaleven Primary School was worn by Liam Byers of Rockfield Primary School; Dunollie's community engagement officer Melanie Davies made two of the costumes and presented the prizes; Edie Elliott of Rockfield, wore her own design 'the gardener's daughter' and Lochnell Primary School pupil Emma Woodcock's maid costume was worn by Jessica Main of Rockfield.

a textile inspired by the Brooch of Lorn.

The winning design by local artist Jennifer Shaw has now inspired a scarf, made by Oban weaver Marilyn Drummond,

which will be known as the Firth of Lorn scarf and woven by the Dunollie Weavers' Group. The pattern will then be developed into a Firth of Lorn tweed, ready for the catwalk in 2017.

### Seil exhibition a triumph of community spirit

A SLATE Islands exhibition entitled, *200 years of island community: people, history, change and renewal, on the isles of Seil, Easdale and Luing*, impressed visitors with its wealth of research at Seil Hall in Ellenabeich over the weekend of October 22-23.

The exhibition, organised by the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust, based in the Ellenabeich Museum, brought together 'a blitz of research' gathered by 10 autonomous teams, comprising at least 25 local volunteers.

Architect Helen Glennie from Seil researched each life and story behind all the names inscribed on the Slate Islands' war memorial, which commemorates local soldiers from Kilbrandon Parish who died during the First and Second World Wars.

'This has taken me two years,' said Helen.

'Thirty-nine men lost their lives in the First World War: 20 per cent of the eligible young men. In a small community, 39 is an awful lot.'

'Most of the men who died in the Somme have no known

graves. I numbered them all one to 39 and put in all the information I could find. I've just been researching as much as I can.'

Ron Hetherington had an idea to complete the display with a model of a trench from the Battle of the Somme, to mark its centenary in 2016.

Three island men - Alan Coutts, George Houston and Bill Clark - set to work constructing the trench, complete with hessian sandbags stuffed with polystyrene, silver spray-painted cardboard as corrugated iron, littered with spent shells, bully beef tins, cigarette playing cards and a fluffy toy rat.



Ron Hetherington and Helen Glennie at the Seil war memorial exhibition.

## December

### Enterprising Barra shop takes hat-trick of honours

A COMMUNITY local produce hub in the Western Isles is in line for a hat-trick of awards - and is inspiring other communities to follow in its footsteps.

Bùth Bharraigh Ltd, based in Castlebay on the Isle of Barra, has won the Scottish Rural Parliament Rural Innovators Award 2016 for best business.

The award recognises projects, people and organisations that improve life in rural communities across Scotland. It has also won the Rural Business Awards 2016 prize for Britain's best community project.

Bùth Bharraigh was also short-listed for the Rural Community Ownership Award and was also a finalist in the Independent Food and Drink retailer of the year category of the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

The community-owned shop, founded by a small group of



Sarah MacLean in Bùth shop.

producers in 2013, sells quality goods and produce from local suppliers in Barra and Vatersay, as well as offering employment, work placements and volunteering opportunities.

Sarah MacLean, managing di-

rector of Bùth Bharraigh, said: 'We are delighted and honoured to have received these awards and it is testament to all our volunteers, producers and staff who have worked so hard to get us where we are today.'

### Lismore family prepares to sell home after 1,500 years

IT IS claimed to be Britain's oldest aristocratic title and church office - older than the Archbishop of Canterbury, dating back to a Celtic saint who founded a monastery on the Isle of Lismore in the Dark Ages - and the only title, besides the Queen's, granted 'by the grace of God'.

Now one chapter in the 1,500-year history of the Baron of Bachuil and 'heir' or Coarb of St Moluag is closing, as another may be beginning.

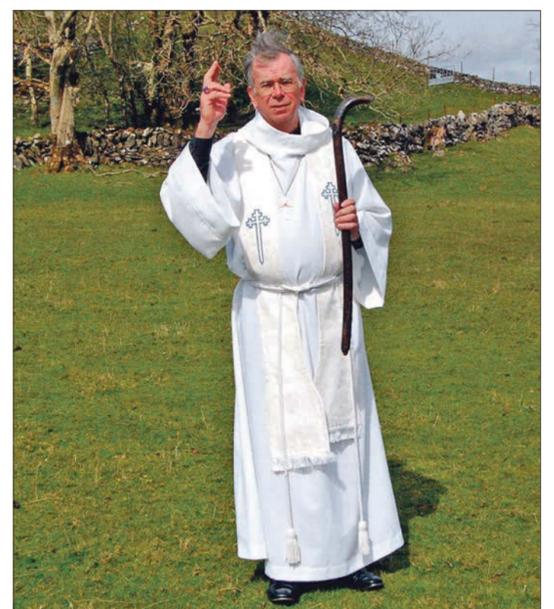
Niall Livingstone of Bachuil, chief of 'Argyll's oldest clan' Livingstone/Mclean and Hereditary Keeper of the Pictish saint's Great Staff or Bachuil Mor, is leaving his ancestral seat of Bachuil House on lands owned by his family since the sixth century - and he hopes to sell it as part of a community buy-out as an island hub.

The 63-year-old Abbot of Lismore said: 'It is a very hard decision after 1,500 years.'

'If this dream can be realised, I think it could be the best thing to happen to the island since the arrival of St Moluag in 562.'

The Baron, who runs Bachuil Country House as an AA four-star guesthouse with his wife Baroness Anita, put the grade-B Victorian seat, plus barn, shed, garage, garden and nearby Hawthorn House on the market for a guide price of £910,000, but then withdrew them to give Lismore Community Trust time to investigate the possibility of launching a buy-out.

Trust chairman Sebastian Tombs said its annual general meeting at Lismore Public Hall endorsed an exploration of the opportunities.



Niall Livingstone of Bachuil with the Great Staff of St Moluag.

# FARMING NEWS

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## Uncertainty to dominate the 2017 farming agenda

By Scott Walker,  
NFU Scotland chief  
executive

THE First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, has recently set out her proposals for Scotland's future relations with Europe after Brexit.

The document lays out the case for the UK, as a whole, to remain within the European single market (ESM) and within the EU Customs Union.

Should the rest of the UK not want to be in the ESM and the EU Customs Union, then differentiated arrangements must be negotiated by the UK with Europe to allow Scotland to remain in the ESM and the EU Customs Union.

Everything about Brexit is complicated and these proposals, in the Scottish Government's own words, are technically and politically challenging. They will require flexibility, pragmatism and support on the part of the UK government and, in due course, our European partners.

Already many commentators are saying that what the Scottish Government is proposing is undeliverable.

But Brexit means we are in unprecedented times. There is no parallel to the negotiations that will take place over the next couple of years between the UK and Europe.

At the opposite end of the spectrum to Scottish Government's wishlist is for the UK to leave the ESM and the EU Customs Union altogether and develop new trading relationships with countries around the world. The terms 'technically and politically challenging' could equally apply to such talks.

So, what does all this mean for Scottish agriculture and Scotland's farmers and crofters?

Firstly, if the UK stays in the



NFUS chief executive Scott Walker says there are challenging times ahead.

ESM and the EU Customs Union, then the UK won't be able to negotiate its own trade deals with other parts of the world. Whether this is good or bad depends upon your view on the capability of the UK to negotiate these deals and whether these deals would be better than anything that can be negotiated by the EU.

Secondly, if (and it is a big if) the UK was willing and able to negotiate differentiated arrangements for Scotland with the EU, what would be the practical implications? How would goods moved through the UK and then on into Europe be

dealt with? Would the administrative arrangements needed in the UK to accommodate such an arrangement be simple and easy or would they be so cumbersome and burdensome that they would negate the differentiated arrangements negotiated for Scotland with the EU?

And, thirdly, there is now a clear battle going on with regard to agricultural policy and where the power to make decisions should reside.

On one side is the Scottish Government saying that those powers to do with agricultural policy that will be 'repatriated' to the UK from Brussels must

be the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament.

On the other side is the UK government, which has designs on having a single UK agricultural policy with regional flexibility.

The big question is what will this mean for the Scottish sector and, of course, what money will go along with these powers?

At the end of the day, funding will be critical. Powers without an appropriate level of funding offers little benefit. Of course, a UK agricultural policy with money but not the flexibility that we require to support productive agriculture in

Scotland would also be useless. So, have we got any more clarity from the First Minister's announcement? The answer is not yet. What we do have is an interesting set of proposals that need to be carefully considered and their ramifications thought through.

Our AGM in February 2017 will offer the perfect opportunity to discuss these issues with our members and to gauge their views and opinions. In the meantime, there is a lot for our board of directors to mull over and much to be discussed with the UK and Scottish Governments in the weeks ahead.

## Agriculture leaders gather over Brexit

A RANGE of stakeholders from across Scottish agriculture have met to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by the UK's decision to leave the European Union.

The meeting, held on December 20 at Ingliston near Edinburgh was the first of many regular discussions which will take place into 2017, and saw Scottish industry stakeholders share their mutual concerns and priorities for Brexit negotiations.

At the meeting, the broad, overarching issues of market access, future agricultural support and movement of labour were discussed – with the group in agreement that all in the Scottish agricultural industry should come together to strengthen the following message to the UK and Scottish governments.

Negotiators must understand the impact of various trade arrangements on the different parts of the agricultural sector, to ensure a favourable outcome

for all. A bottom line is that the Scottish agricultural industry's access to European and global markets must not be compromised, and nor should any future trade deal leave the UK exposed to imports produced at a level lower than the UK's exacting standards.

A solution must be found which allows industry to recruit and retain both skilled and non-skilled labour from outside of the UK for permanent and seasonal posts.

There is concern about market instability and fluctuations in the years immediately following the UK's exit from the EU, which is why the mechanism and structure of agricultural support will be so important.

There will be an ongoing need for agricultural support. It is vital that there is a policy and budget fit to the needs of Scottish agriculture, which can be tailored to our unique farming, crofting and land management practices.

## Union posts a profit as finances improve

NFU SCOTLAND is in good financial shape to face the challenges of Brexit and keeping its farming and crofting members on the front foot.

Accounts for year ending October 31, 2016, show an operating profit of £37,335 compared with a small loss of £18,167 the year before.

This year's annual accounts for NFUS are the first to be produced under new accounting rules. Compliance with accounting standard FRS102 means theoretical gains on investment and property must now be accounted for and this has resulted in unrealised gains of £187,860 for 2016 being included in the accounts.

That has seen the union's reserves (which includes property values and shares) rise in value to £2.7 million because of the FRS102 revaluation.

NFU Scotland chief executive Scott Walker said: 'As we enter a hugely challenging time for the union and Scottish farming, it is important that we do so in robust shape.'

'NFU Scotland remains fully committed to delivering the very best service to its membership. That means assisting individual members through our network of branch secretaries and regional managers, and having a head office team to secure the policies and support that will ensure farming and crofting are fit for the future.'

'While this year has seen a reduction in turnover, savings in expenditure have helped secure a small profit. Those savings have been achieved while NFUS has continued to deliver an exceptional flexible level of service and commitment to its members.'

## Around the markets

CALEDONIAN MARTS LTD, (Tuesday December 27, 2016, at Stirling) had forward 3024 Prime Lambs, Ewes and Tups.

All classes of Lambs easier on the week with the SOQ av 167.4ppk (-10.4ppk otw). Overall average for 2492 sold 164.3ppk (-9.4ppk otw). Top price of the day went to R Downie, Newton of Crathie and Doune Farms both for Beltex lambs at £90 and to 203ppk Newton of Crathie.

Leading Prices:-  
32kg - 39kg Av £58.75 (-4.74 on the week)  
Texel £72.50 Claish or 188ppk  
Cont £66.50 North Moorhouses or 171ppk  
TexX £66 Meadowfield or 172ppk  
Cross £66 Arnprior, 172ppk  
Dechmont

39.1kg - 45.5kg Av £72.15 (-4.39 on the week)

Beltex £87 Doune Farms or 198ppk  
Beltex X £81.50 Newton of Crathie, 197ppk Easter Ochtermuthill  
Cont £80 Meikle Seggie or 187ppk  
Texel £80 Er Garden or 186ppk

45.6kg - 52kg Av £75.46 (-4.77 on the week)  
Beltex £88 Cuiltburn & Er Ochtermuthill or 187ppk  
BeltexX £87 West Lundie or 185ppk  
Texel £87 Meikle Seggie or 181ppk

Texel X £86 Doune Farms, 185ppk Newton of Crathie  
52kg + Av £79.16 (-2.24 on the week)  
Beltex £88 Cuiltburn or 167ppk  
Texel £87 Er Garden or 161ppk

BeltexX £87 Doune Farms or 164ppk  
TexX £82.50 Newton of Crathie or 156ppk  
Other Top Prices:-  
Suff £78.50 Er Buchlyvie, 174p  
Newton of Crathie

Mule £75 Meikle Seggie, 151p  
Er Dullatur  
BF £65 Shankhead, 150ppk  
Mid Rottearns & Bailanstruth  
515 Ewes averaged £55, slightly easier on the week with a plainer show forward. 143 heavy ewes averaging £74.24. 205 export ewes averaged £42.24

Other Leading Prices:-  
Suff £95 West Kirkton  
£94 Over Finlaig  
£92 Bailanstruth  
BF £57 Woodend  
£49 Bailanstruth

£44 Woodend  
Texel £128, £121, £114, £112, £99  
Riverview  
£98 Loanhead  
£97 Flockhouse  
£92 Er Ochtermuthill  
Cheviot

£68 Over Finlaig  
£63 Bailanstruth  
£46 Arnprior  
£45 Over Finlaig  
Cross  
£80 Loanhead  
£76 Parks of Garden  
£73 Kilt and Bailanstruth  
£69 Parks of Garden  
Mule  
£79 Goudigrannet  
£69 Leyden  
£67 Goudigrannet  
£66 Townhead  
Beltex  
£100 Er Ochtermuthill

Tups averaged £45  
Other Leading Prices:-  
£78 Townhead  
£77 Loanhead of Duchally  
£70 Cattle Moss & Inverdunning

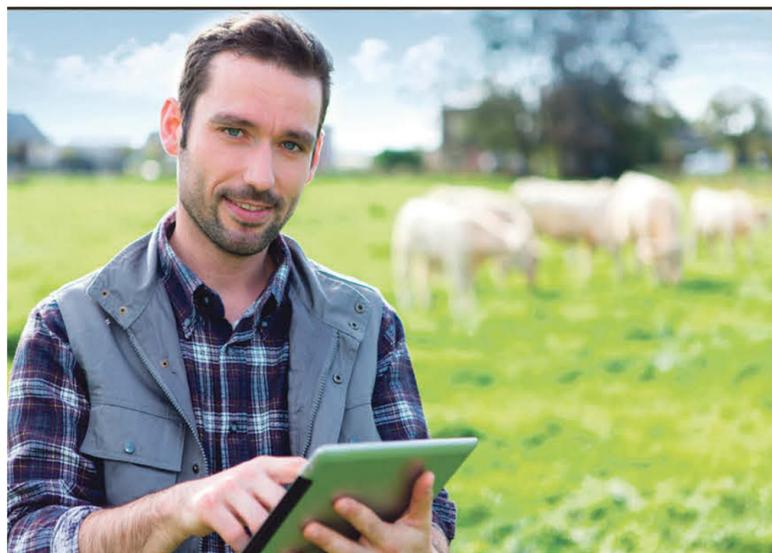
DINGWALL, Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd, (December 27) sold 44 prime cattle.  
Prime bullocks (6) averaged 206.6p (+0.6p) and sold to 215p per kg for a 615kg Limousin cross from Drummond Farm, Evanton and £1,455.30 gross for a 735kg Charolais cross from Shawpark, Glaickmore.  
Prime heifers (38) averaged 208.3p (-0.8p) and sold to 221p per kg for a 540kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Drummond Farm and £1,360.10 gross for a 670kg Limousin cross from Coach House, Dingwall.  
Other leading prices per kg:

Bullocks: Drummond Farm, (LimX), 213p; Shawpark, (CharX), 198p (twice).

Heifers: Drummond Farm, (LimX), 218p; Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, (CharX), 217p; Kinchyle Farm, Scaniport (CharX), & Bridgend Farm, (LimX), 214p.  
Other leading prices per head:  
Bullocks: Drummond Farm, (LimX), £1,395.15; Shawpark, (CharX), £1,346.40.  
Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (SimX), £1,333.50; Easter Sheep Park, Balblair, (AAX), £1,333.20; Drummond Farm, (LimX), £1,333.00.  
DINGWALL, Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd., (December, 27th) sold 414 prime sheep.  
New season lambs (379) averaged 167.6p (-2.2p) and sold to 197.1p per kg for 35kg Beltex

crosses from Drummuie Farm, Golspie and £90 gross for 46.5kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Messrs Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

SOQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (207) averaged 173.3p (+0.4p) per kg. Feeding sheep (35) sold to £40 gross for a Cheviot ewe from Fairview, Nethybridge.  
Other leading prices per head and per kg:  
New season lambs: TexX - Lochdhu, Nairn, £79, South Clunes, Kirkhill, 185.7p; SuffX - Conon Brae Farms & Ankerville, Nigg, £78, South Clunes, 182.1p; BeltX - Torgorm, £77, 193.6p; CharX - Ankerville, £75.50, Easter Sheep Park, Balblair, 163.1p; Mule - Easter Sheep Park, £73.80, 169.7p; Cross - Fairview, £73, 171.8p; BF - Tulloch Farm, Dingwall, £72.50, 167.5p.



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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

## Success for Bidwells graduates

TWO MEMBERS of the Bidwells Scotland team have passed their Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Peter Baker, Inverness, and James Allan, Fort William, completed their period of structured practical training and professional devolvement with Bidwells, one of the UK's leading property consultancies, which culminated in a final assessment in November 2016.

Now fully qualified as rural surveyors, Peter and James are keen to progress their respective careers at Bidwells.

'I recognised that a career in surveying held many opportunities to be involved in land management and the outdoors,' said Peter.

'While studying for my Masters in Land Economy at Aberdeen University, I was fortunate enough to get a job with Bidwells in Inverness where I am now involved with a variety of work including estate management, valuations

and agency work throughout the Highlands and Islands.

'With the APC behind me, I am looking forward to getting involved with new projects and hope to expand my experience in the fields of agency and valuation work.'

A Fort William local, James studied geography at the University of Glasgow and during that time developed a particular interest in land management. He then went on to study a Masters in land economy and rural surveying.

'Being from Fort William, I was keen to return closer to home once I finished my studies. The job opportunity with Bidwells allowed me to come back to the area and work within my field of interest.

'Working with Bidwells has provided me with experience in a number of interesting areas, namely estate and property management and agency. Having passed my APC, I hope to further my experience in these areas and grow within Bidwells, learning from those whom I work alongside.'

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Peter Baker and James Allan are now fully qualified as rural surveyors with Bidwells property consultancy.

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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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## British house prices forecast to grow in 2017

HOUSE prices are set to rise across Britain next year, according to forecasts by estate agent Knight Frank. Growth of 0.1 per cent is expected in Scotland, coming after Britain's housing market beat Brexit predictions of doom this year.

Liam Bailey, Global Head of Research at Knight Frank, said: 'Both the London and wider UK housing markets outperformed expectations following the referendum. After a sharp dip in confidence just after the vote, conditions have improved into the autumn. On most measures the mainstream UK market continues to perform strongly - with annual price growth likely to end this year at five per cent.'

In Scotland the growth of 2 per cent for 2016 is set to fall to just 0.1 percent next year, then up 2.3% in 2018, 2.7% in 2018, and 2.8% in 2020 and 2021. Of course, these calculations do not take into account any effect of a possible second independence referendum which is still unknown, but property still appears to be a good investment even in uncertain times. We will just have to wait and see what 2017 brings!





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<p><b>Baliscate, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached house</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms / 1WC</li> <li>Built 2012</li> <li>Spacious Rooms</li> <li>Excellent Family Home</li> <li>EPC Rating - D66</li> </ul> <p><b>OIEO £240,000</b></p> <p><small>Cala Sona - A spacious 3 bedroom detached house situated above the town of Tobermory on the beautiful Isle of Mull.</small></p>	<p><b>Sheepknowe House, Isle Of Mull</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious detached granite house</li> <li>4 Bedrooms / 4 Bathrooms</li> <li>Built in 1870</li> <li>Excellent B&amp;B Potential</li> <li>Large well maintained garden</li> <li>EPC Rating - F26</li> </ul> <p><b>OIEO £325,000</b></p> <p><small>Sheepknowe House - A substantial detached granite house positioned in a private location within walking distance of the village of Bunnassan on the beautiful Ross of Mull.</small></p>
<p><b>Struan Crescent, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi detached bungalow</li> <li>2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom</li> <li>Modern property</li> <li>Popular residential area</li> <li>Large gardens with driveway</li> <li>EPC Rating - D65</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £155,000</b></p> <p><small>2 Struan Crescent - A deceptively spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow close to Tobermory town centre.</small></p>	<p><b>The Knoll, Oban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached Victorian Villa</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Elevated situation</li> <li>Large decking with views</li> <li>Extensively renovated throughout</li> <li>EPC Rating - D</li> </ul> <p><b>£40K UNDER HR VALUE OIEO £340,000</b></p> <p><small>The Knoll - A beautiful detached 3 bedroom Victorian villa with stunning views across Oban Bay. The property retains many of its original features and has been renovated to a high standard by the current owner.</small></p>

# West Coast **MOTORING TIMES**

✔ DRIVETIMES ✔ SAILING TIMES ✔ GARAGES ✔ CAR DEALERSHIPS ✔ MOTORING NEWS



## WHAT CAR? Reveals Shortlist of Cars Battling for 2017 Car of the Year Crown

Battle commences between 43 newcomers for the prestigious Car of the Year title

SUV explosion means 13 SUVs shortlisted, including five brands' first SUVs

Overall Car of the Year and category winners to be revealed on January 11 2017

awards ceremony on January 11.

The overall Car of the Year award will be given to the best newcomer on the automotive scene with a diverse spectrum of talented new cars competing for the top prize, from the nimble Ford Ka+ city car to the likes of the luxurious Mercedes-Benz S-Class Cabriolet.

UK buyers continue to drive an explosion in the SUV segment and no fewer than 13 new SUVs are also in line for the Car of the Year trophy, including the first SUVs from

Seat, Jaguar, Bentley, Maserati and Tesla.

The expert team of What Car? judges ensure only the cars that deliver on all fronts from driving dynamics and interior quality to refinement and value for money make the final list.

The winner from the 43-strong shortlist will succeed the Audi A4 which took the prize in 2016 and will be named alongside individual category winners and the winner of the Reader Award, the most exciting car of 2017 as voted for by the public.

What Car? editor Steve Huntingford said: 'Over the past 12 months, the global automotive industry has delivered nothing short of excellence, producing new cars that are ever more appealing as well as safer and better for the environment.'

'Although we also await the announcement of our category winners, the all-new cars on our overall winner shortlist have all brought exceptional qualities to the market and richly deserve their place not only here but also on

the shopping lists of motorists.'

Whatcar.com is recognised as one of the UK's leading consumer websites for car purchases and attracts around two million unique visits every month.

Securing the title of What Car? Car of the Year is often a very accurate indicator of sales success, placing the car's talents firmly in the spotlight.

The What Car? Car of the Year awards takes place at London's Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, on January 11.

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## KIA KICKS OFF 2017 WITH SUV EVENT IN JANUARY

- Free servicing on SUVs ordered in January
- Zero per cent PCP offer on MY16 cee'd and Picanto five-door
- £1,000 customer savings continue on Carens, Venga and Sorento
- Free upgrade to Sportswagon on Optima
- Caravan Club offer increased to £1,000 on Sorento

Kia Motors (UK) Ltd is starting 2017 with a wide range of offers across its model line-up.

For private customers looking to buy a new SUV in January, dealerships will be holding an SUV event to showcase the exciting range of lifestyle vehicles Kia has to offer and allow customers to pick the right SUV for them.

They will also now benefit from Kia's servicing package - Care-3, free of charge on models ordered before

January 31 and registered by March 31. The offer is available on all Soul and Soul EV, all-new Niro, all-new Sportage and Sorento models.

For customers looking to buy a new Picanto five-door or MY16 cee'd a great finance offer of zero per cent PCP over three years is available with no deposit between January 1 and March 31.

From January 1 through to March 31 2017, private customers can also benefit

from a £1,000 saving on Venga and Sorento as well as the facelifted Carens - which made its debut at the Paris Motor Show last year.

2016 saw the launch of the All-New Optima Sportswagon.

For customers who cannot decide between the Optima Saloon or this new model, a free upgrade will be available, making both cars available at the same list price from January 1 to March 31 2017.

The Kia Sorento comes

with a £1,000 customer saving as well as free Care-3 for cars ordered in January. In addition, Caravan Club members buying a Sorento privately through the Kia dealer network will benefit from £1,000 towards Kia accessories. All grades have all-wheel drive, hill-start assist, trailer stability assist, reversing sensors and can haul between 2,000kgs and 2,500kgs depending on the version, meaning this SUV is a perfect companion for caravanning adventures.

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We are looking for an enthusiastic, energetic, hands-on General Manager / Management Couple and Head Chef with a proven track record in the hospitality and catering industry. With strong communication and leadership skills, you will build a staff team and great relationships with our customers and the wider community

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**Location: Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon**

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- Ability to participate in an 'Alarm Duty' rota system
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- Candidate must be flexible with regard to hours worked, weekend working will be required
- Be a good team player but have the ability to work alone when required
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To apply for the role, please send your CV and a Covering letter to [recruitment@scottishcanals.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@scottishcanals.co.uk)

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**DUNBEG DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR MASTERPLAN (Argyll and Bute Council reference: 16/03368/MPLAN)**

Link Group Ltd has submitted the above Masterplan to Argyll and Bute Council and will be holding a public event to discuss it at Dunbeg Primary School, Dunbeg, on Friday, 13th January 2017, between 4pm and 7pm.

Further information about the event may be obtained from Paul Houghton of Houghton Planning Ltd, 102 High Street, Dunblane, Stirling, FK15 0ER Tel: 01786 825575 E: [paul@houghtonplanning.co.uk](mailto:paul@houghtonplanning.co.uk)

This is non-statutory consultation event and, whilst all views are welcomed, and will be taken note of, any formal representations about the Masterplan should be directed to Argyll and Bute Council rather than Houghton Planning Ltd. The contact details for representations is Planning and Regulatory Services, Municipal Offices, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, and they should arrive before 26th January 2017.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**  
 Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION**  
**REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS SESSION 2017/2018**

Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018 should be registered for education during the week commencing 16 January 2017.

Parents concerned should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Gaelic Medium Education

Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tiree Primary School, Tiree; Salen Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, by Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon. Further information on Gaelic Medium Education can be obtained from Catriona Garvin, Education Support Officer: Gaelic, [catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

If your child is not registered to attend preschool education within Argyll & Bute Council area you should produce your child's birth certificate when registering for Education. A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or from Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000).

**ANN MARIE KNOWLES**  
 Acting Executive Director: Community Services

**Proposals for new salmon hatchery development, Barcaldine**

**Public Information Event**  
 Thursday 12th January 2017  
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 2-8pm

Any queries may be directed to [recirc-feedback@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:recirc-feedback@scottishseafarms.com) or by contacting our South Shian office on 01631 574000

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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**BIRTHS**

**SMITH** – Christopher and Valerie (nee McCall) are delighted to announce the arrival of Matthew Andrew on December 28, 2016. A wee brother for Emily and Sophie, sixth grandchild but first grandson for Hugh and Netta Smith of Bowmore, Islay and a third grandchild for Tom and Sandra McCall of Pulpit Drive, Oban.

**DEATHS**

**BELL** - John, aged 69. Passed away December 28 peacefully in Ward I of Lorn and Islands Hospital, only son of the late Jimmy Bell and Annie Bell. Much loved brother of Margaret, uncle of great-uncle. Partner of Linda Richmond. Funeral will take place on Friday January 13, in the Parish Church at 1pm.

**COLTHART** – Peacefully at Lorn & Isles Hospital, Oban, January 3, 2017. Mary much loved wife of Alastair and special mum to Angela and James. Sadly missed.

**DOUGLAS** - Andrew (Davros). Suddenly at his brother's home in Porto Colom, Majorca on December 27, 2016, formerly of Lochaline, loving son of Irene and the late John Douglas.

**HENDERSON** – Suddenly at home on December 25, 2016, with his family beside him Abb aged 76. Loving husband, father and grandfather. Sadly missed. Funeral arrangements in due course.

**MACKECHNIE** - John, suddenly at Queen Elizabeth hospital, Glasgow, on December 26, 2016 aged 76 years. John, beloved husband of Christine, much loved dad of Donald, Allan and Graeme. Proud & adoring papa of Christie, Alicia, Arik, Ella, Kian & Lennan. Loved and respected by extended family and friends. Forever in our hearts. Funeral on Saturday, January 14, 11am at Glenorchy and Innishail Parish Church. Family flowers only please.

**ORD** - Peacefully at home on December 28, 2016, in his 40th year, John, James Ord, beloved husband of Karen, much loved father of Ashleigh and Kurtis, Loving son of Joy and David, Sadly missed.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**JACKSON** – Betty and the family of the late James Jackson would like to extend their thanks to all who gave help and support before and after James' death. Heartfelt thanks to the team of nurses who attended to him over the years, to the doctors and staff at Port Appin Surgery and staff of ward B Lorn & Isles Hospital. Thanks to relatives and friends for the cards, visits, phone calls, flowers and all expressions of sympathy, and to all who donated food and helped with catering in the hall. Thanks to all who attended the funeral, to Ross for his music and piper Ronald Telfer. To the Rev. Dr. Iain Barclay our sincere appreciation for his visits to James and for his

moving and fitting service. To Ian Weir for his eulogy we are very grateful. For his dignified and efficient arrangements we thank his nephew Duncan Gunn. The sum of £817 was donated to be shared by Appin Church and Macmillan Nurses.

**MEMORIALS**

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering our mum and nana Jean, called home on December 31, 2013. Loved forever, never forgotten.

- Malcolm, Catherine, Lilian and Ann Marie x  
Love and miss you nana  
- Lee, Megan, Bethannie and Amy x

**CARMICHAEL** - In loving memory of our dear father, father-in-law and grandfather, Neil Carmichael, who died January 4 1993. Forever in our hearts, Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Irene, Donald, Nigel and families, Islay and Glasgow.

**CHILD** - Cherished memories of our wonderful mum Margaret Anne Childs, who passed away on January 4, 2015. Remembering you mum is easy We do it every day Missing you is the heartache that never goes away Love you always.  
- Catherine, John, Lawrence and all the family. Xxx

**FERGUSON** - In loving memory of my dear mother Jessie, who passed away on January 2, 2011. 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. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after.  
- Daughter Anne

**HARDEN** - Walter. In memory of my darling husband who died January 2016. We had many happy years at the Netherlorn Hotel (now Brander Lodge). Deeply loved, sorely missed, Walter lives forever in my heart.  
- Kathy.

**HENDERSON** - In loving memory of our dear mother, granny & great granny Sheila Henderson (nee MacKenzie), who passed away on the December 22, 2014. Also remembering those gone before. Our father Duncan, on May 8, 1988, Alistair, on February 10, 2005 and our nephew and cousin Roddy, tragically taken on September 8, 2010. Always in our thoughts.  
- All the family Fort William, Strontian, Morar, Skye and Lewis.

**JACKSON** - In loving memory of my dear mother Liz, who died so suddenly on January 6, 2006. Always in our thoughts.  
- Love Iain xxx.

**LAUDER** - Precious memories of our darling son Stephen, who died tragically on January 4, 2014. Although the years are passing and we grow older Our memories of you Make our hearts feel stronger The depths of our sorrow we cannot tell Of the loss of a son we loved so well

**ROBERTSON** - Remembering with love my father Colin and mum Maggie, late of Clachan Farm. Never forgotten  
-Margaret

We hide our tears when we say your name But the pain in our hearts is still the same Those sparkling eyes and lovely smile Will keep us warm for a while. So loved and missed .  
- Ma and Dad, Inverness.

**LAUDER** - In loving memory of our dear brother and uncle Stephen, who died January 4, 2014. We will always love and remember you.  
- Billy, Kevin, Gillian and families x.  
Sadly missed in every way.  
- Ann x.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of Eileen dearly loved mum of Philip and treasured daughter of Margaret and sister of Colin and Karen. Taken from us January 6, 2008, also remembering loved ones gone before.  
"To us you were so special, What more is there to say. We only wish with all our hearts, That you were here today."  
- Loved and sorely missed, the family

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of Duncan (Eriskay), much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who sadly passed away January 3, 2013. We thought of you with love today But that is nothing new We thought about you yesterday and days before that too We think of you in silence and often speak your name All we have are memories and your picture in a frame Your memory is our keepsake With which we will never part  
God has you in his keeping We have you in our hearts.  
- Nellie and family xx.

**MACLELLAN** - Short but precious memories of our darling infant son Christopher called to Heaven on January 1, 1991. Our brightest star in the sky Loved forever.  
- Mum, Dad, Craig and Calum.

**MACLELLAN** - With love we remember Christopher Allan, taken from us on January 1, 1991. Always in our thoughts.  
-Inserted by MacLellan family Eriskay, Oban

**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of my two dearly loved sons and our brothers Neil, who died January 3, 2004 and George, who died January 5, 2009 in the Philippines. The calls were sudden The shock severe To lose two sons I loved so dear Love forever.  
- Mum, 29 Glenpane Street xx. Remembering you always Forgetting you never.  
- Ian, Rory, Daniel, Donald, Christine and Marina xx.

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of Johnny who passed away January 3, 2008. Sadly missed by us all. Catherine, John, Karen, Alan and Families. Forever in my thoughts  
-Mum

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of my dear husband George and our dear father who passed away on January 6, 2011. With tender love we will never forget.  
- Margaret, sons George and Lorne and daughter –in-law Helen

**ROBERTSON** - Remembering with love my father Colin and mum Maggie, late of Clachan Farm. Never forgotten  
-Margaret

# Man from Down Under searching for image of Airds House, Appin

A MAN from Down Under is searching for a picture of Airds House in the early nineteenth century to illustrate a book on the work of Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie.

Austin Lovegrove, an honorary principal fellow of the University of Melbourne, is relating the early life of Elizabeth Macquarie and is aware the home is still in use today.

Mr Lovegrove told *The Oban Times*: 'I am contacting you because of my interest in Elizabeth Macquarie (nee Campbell), once of Airds House, Appin.

'In regard to this, I am putting together a collection of antique prints relating to the work of Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie, both of whom took a particularly enlightened approach to the treatment of the convicts during his term as governor of

NSW, 1810-21. Airds House was the home of Elizabeth Campbell before she married Macquarie in 1807. I would like an image, perhaps a very early photograph, of

the house itself, ideally as it would have been in her time. 'My interest in the Macquaries arises from my academic research on sentencing at the Law School,

University of Melbourne, where I am an honorary principal fellow.' Any images of Airds House should be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk.



## Bunessan pupils serenade Santa with Gaelic song

SANTA made a surprise visit to Bunessan Primary School, Mull, in December to personally congratulate P6 and P7 pupils Eva Bonetti and James Edmondson for their winning entries for the Rotary Club Oban's Christmas postcard competition. Santa stayed and met with pupils from

class one and class two before leaving a wonderful box of goodies and heading off to his next appointment. The children at Bunessan Primary School we so delighted to see his cheery face they serenaded Santa with a Gaelic rendition of 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'.



## Thought for the week

**'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'** Lamentation 3:22-23

New Year, and many of us will be looking to 2017 with trepidation. It seems that seldom a day goes past without some new tragedy or atrocity hitting the headlines. Can we really go on believing in a faithful, loving God whose mercies are new every morning? Do we truly believe in a God who became vulnerable, came to earth as a baby and experienced all that human existence could throw at him and who is able to save the world? Or shall we just pack God away amongst the tinsel with the baby Jesus and the rest of the crib figures and sweep him away with the Christmas tree needles and torn wrappings and leftover food? Even for an eternal optimist like myself, I have struggled to find genuine, authentic words of hope and inspiration to share for this year to come. Until, that is, Desmond Tutu's words came to mind:

'Father and friend, Help us to learn that Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; Life is stronger than death; That victory is ours through your forgiving love.'

All any of us can do is to go on believing that for God nothing is impossible, to keep on praying and to try to do something, small though it may seem in the great scheme of things, where we can perhaps with God's help make a difference.

Rev. Joyce Watson, Iona.

## MICT awards HOME-Start £300 to help fund the running of the weekly Home-Start Bumps and Babies group



HOME-Start has been awarded £300 from Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) to help fund the running of the weekly Home-Start Bumps and Babies group held in Salen every Thursday between 10am and 12 in term time. Mally Gower, representing MICT, is pictured presenting the cheque to Sarah Stanley-Wright, Home-Start Co-ordinator on Mull).

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# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

## Shinty review of the season - part 2

The Oban Times looks back on the second half of the 2016 shinty season.

### July

#### Bute Primaries lift MacKay Cup

Bute Primaries beat Newtonmore Primary School 3-2 to win the MacKay Cup at An Aird. Goals from Bute's Leon McMillan and Rory McDonald were cancelled out by Zander Ross and Iain Fraser but Bute's Leon McMillan got his second which meant Bute won primary school shinty's most prestigious trophy.

#### Scotland U17s record double win

Scotland U17s recorded superb wins over Kilkenny U17s and Dublin U17s on their 2016 Marine Harvest Ireland tour. The Scots beat Kilkenny U17s 15-9 at Nowlan Park with Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar, Newtonmore's Iain Robinson and Beaulieu's Robbie Brindle getting goals. Scotland U17s then beat Dublin U17s 16-13 in the second match at Parnell Park. Inveraray's Lewis Montgomery and Iain Robinson and Daniel MacVicar found the back of the net to see off the Irish.

**On the field round-up**  
**Marine Harvest Premiership** Newtonmore finished the month at the head of shinty's top division with Oban Camanachd in second spot. Fort William and Lochaber ended the month in the relegation positions.

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie topped the table for the first time at the end of the month, with Inveraray in hot pursuit.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Strathglass returned to the top of North 1 with Newtonmore seconds just behind.

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

A derby win over Lochside Rovers left Oban Celtic ahead of Aberdour at the top of the division on goal difference.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University continued their march to what seemed like an inevitable championship success.

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Kilmory returned to the top of the table ahead of Tayforth but with a game more played. There wasn't much league shinty played in this division during the month.

#### Camanachd Cup

Kinlochshiel, Lochaber, Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd made it through to the Camanachd Cup semi-finals. Oban Camanachd were drawn to face Lochaber with Newtonmore taking on Kinlochshiel.

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup

Kyles Athletic reached the last four with a win over Glasgow Mid Argyll but suffered a surprised defeat to Inveraray in the semi-finals. Kinlochshiel beat Lovat 3-0 to secure the other place in the final.

#### Balliemore Cup

Kilmallie lifted the 2016 Balliemore Cup with a 6-0 win over Caberfeidh at Blairbeg. Kilmallie took the lead through Mark Graham and two goals late in the first half from Michael Rodger and Mark Graham again put them in control. A 10 minute Liam

MacDonald hat-trick early in the second half put Kilmallie out of sight.

#### Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup

The Newtonmore second team retained the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup with a 6-0 win over the Kingussie second team at the Dell. Duncan Gorman put Newtonmore ahead and a quick-fire Conor Jones brace gave them a 3-0 half time lead. Martin Hall, Iain Robinson and Conor Jones completed the win.

#### Strathdearn Cup

Lochcarron, Fort William, Kingussie and Skye reserves all reached the semi-finals.

#### Bullough Cup

The more fancied Kilmory and Tayforth won their semi-final ties against the Aberdour and Glasgow Mid Argyll second teams respectively.

### August

#### A first for Skye Ladies

Skye Camanachd Ladies won the 2016 Marine Harvest National Division 1 title for the first time after they beat Aberdour Ladies 9-0 in their final league fixture at Silver Sands. Lorna MacRae scored four times; Jenna Beaton helped herself to a hat-trick whilst Caitlin MacLean and Ilana Paterson got the others.

#### Lochaber win Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup

Lochaber won the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup for the first time when they beat Skye Camanachd 4-2 at An Aird. Kirsty Delaney got all four Lochaber goals whilst Lorna MacRae was on the double for Skye. Lovat Ladies beat Strathglass Ladies 7-1 earlier in the day to win the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup.

#### Jones gets on his bike for charity

Kingussie co-manager Russell Jones cycled from Land's End to John O' Groats to raise funds for Lucky2BHere and Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland.

#### Shinty chief to leave

The Camanachd Association announced that chief operating officer Torquil MacLeod, would leave the organisation at the end of the season to take up a new position as development manager with VisitScotland, working in the events directorate in Edinburgh.

#### North U21 take the Caol Cup

The North U21 recovered from losing an early goal to beat the South U21 3-1 at Jubilee Park. Daniel MacVicar put the South ahead but Craig Morrison and a Charlie MacDonald brace gave the North the win.

#### On the field round-up

**Marine Harvest Premiership** Newtonmore remained out in front and Lochaber pulled out of the relegation zone at Skye's expense.

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie stayed top of the division and Glasgow Mid Argyll were ahead of Inveraray in second place.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

The Newtonmore seconds regained top spot from Strathglass.

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Oban Celtic stayed top with



A jubilant Scotland squad celebrate after their 14-5 win over Ireland in October to lift the Marine Harvest Quaiach. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Lochside Rovers on their tail ahead of Aberdour.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University maintained their 100 per cent league record and looked on course for the title.

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Tayforth returned to the top of the table, with Kilmory dropping to second.

#### Camanachd Cup

The 2016 Camanachd Cup Final will be between Newtonmore and Oban Camanachd after 'More defeated Kinlochshiel and the Oban side got past Lochaber in their televised semi-final ties.

#### Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup

At the start of August, Kingussie beat Glenurquhart and Newtonmore defeated Tayforth to set up an all-Badenoch final. By the end of the month, Newtonmore were 6-0 winners in the final.

#### Strathdearn Cup

The Glenurquhart second team beat the Kingussie seconds and Lochcarron edged out Skye after extra time to reach the final.

### September

#### Double North Ladies win

The North were double winners against the South. North U17 won 5-0 with goals from Skye's Katherine Dibble, Lochaber's Natalie MacDonald, Chloe MacLeod from Strathglass and two from Lochaber's Sarah Davie.

The senior meeting was a much closer affair. Skye's Lorna MacRae and Lovat's Laura Gallagher for the North and Aberdour pair Katy Smith and Niamh Donnelly had the score level at 2-2.

However, a second goal from Lorna MacRae with only six minutes remaining gave the North a 3-2 win.

#### Lochaber top Great Glen Sixes

Lochaber High School retained the Shinty Shop Great Glen School's Shinty Sixes at Blairbeg.

The 11-team tournament ended with a close final between Lochaber and Kingussie and a second half Victor Smith strike was enough to give Lochaber a 1-0 victory.

#### On the field round-up

**Marine Harvest Premiership** Newtonmore clinched a seventh successive Marine Harvest Premiership title when they beat Kinlochshiel 7-1 at Kirkton.

It was a sparkling performance with Glen MacKintosh scoring five times.

Skye kept their slim survival hopes alive by beating Kingussie in Portree, but Fort William were relegated.

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie secured the title, beating nearest challengers Glasgow Mid Argyll at Yoker.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

The Newtonmore seconds survived a late scare to beat Kinlochshiel seconds 4-3 at Kirkton, securing the league title in the process.

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Oban Celtic became league winners with an emphatic 9-1 win over the Kyles Athletic second team at Tighnabruaich.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lochcarron's dropped point against the Caberfeidh seconds meant Aberdeen University clinched the title without playing a league game during September.

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

A draw with nearest challengers Kilmory was enough to give Tayforth the title and promotion to South 1.

#### Camanachd Cup

Newtonmore lifted the Camanachd Cup, winning 1-0 in a tight encounter with Oban Camanachd at An Aird, Fort William. This game's decisive moment came after just three minutes with Evan Menzies setting up Glen MacKintosh to score.

Andy MacKintosh's role in a well-oiled Newtonmore defence earned him the coveted Albert Smith Medal for man of the match which was presented by Rene Smith.

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup

Kinlochshiel made history when they finally saw off Inveraray to win 5-3 in the Artemis Macaulay Cup Final at Mossfield, Oban.

Keith MacRae and Jordan Fraser had 'Shiel 2-0 ahead, only for Allan MacDonald and Fraser Watt to restore parity. Jordan Fraser put 'Shiel back in front - all before the half time whistle.

A Fraser Watt penalty squared the final once more but Oliver MacRae and Keith MacRae again gave Kinlochshiel their first senior trophy.

#### Strathdearn Cup

Marine Harvest North Division 2 side Lochcarron lifted the Strathdearn Cup with a 4-1 win over Glenurquhart's second team at Castle Leod.

Glen's James MacPherson wiped out an early Allan MacKay goal and Lochcarron went on to lift the trophy thanks

to a Crisdean Finlayson double and one from Nick Dalgety.

#### Bullough Cup

Tayforth survived a second half fight-back to beat Kilmory 4-3 and win the Bullough Cup at Strachmure.

Tayforth led 4-0 at half time with a Conor Sweeney brace, an Orston Gardner effort and an Andy Scott strike.

Kilmory were a different proposition in the second half though and three quick goals from John Strachan, Steven Walsh and Alex Cunningham got them back in the contest but Tayforth took the spoils.

### October

#### New caps in Scotland squad

Scotland head coach Ronald Ross named his senior squad for the 2016 Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling international against Ireland.

Ross included three new caps: Oban Camanachd's Lorne Dickie, Kingussie's Thomas Borthwick and Lovat's Greg Matheson.

#### Mod Cup win for Skye

Skye Camanachd's second team beat Lewis Camanachd 3-0 to lift the Mod Cup at Shawbost. Peter Gordon, Iain MacLellan and Kenny MacLeod got the goals.

#### Scotland and Ireland do battle

Scotland out-scored Ireland to win 14-5 and lift the Marine Harvest Quaiach following their Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international at the Bught Park.

There were no goals in the match and the Scots stayed in front from early in the game.

Ireland U21 fought off a spirited second half comeback from Scotland U21 to win 30-17 in their encounter at the Bught Park. Skye's Will Cowie and Charlie MacDonald from Inverness scored the Scotland goals.

After three successive wins against Irish opposition, Stuart Reid's Scotland women's squad went down 12-2 to the Dublin women in their match on the Bught Park outside pitch.

#### Marine Harvest shinty awards

The 2016 Annual Marine Harvest Shinty Award winners were announced at a ceremony and dinner at Drumossie Hotel, Inverness.

Marine Harvest's business support manager Steve Bracken made a number of presentations including Coach of the Year - PJ MacKintosh, Player of the Year - Finlay MacRae and Club of the Year - Newtonmore. Oban Camanachd's Iain Hay, Kilmallie's Mark MacPherson, Oban Celtic's Kenny Woth-

erspoon, Lochaber's Michael Delaney, Fort William Ladies' Elaine Wink and Ardnamurchan's Lyndsay Bradley were amongst the other managerial winners. Player prizes included Oban Celtic's Neil Carmichael, Kilmory's Hal Jones, Fort William's Lachie Shaw and Ardnamurchan's Eilidh Ross.

#### On the field round-up

**Marine Harvest Premiership** Newtonmore were given the league trophy following their win over Skye at the Eilan, a result which finally relegated the islanders.

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Kilmallie took receipt of the National Division trophy after a win over Beaulieu at Canal Parks.

The title success means Kilmallie will play top flight shinty next season.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

The Newtonmore second team received the North 1 cup after their derby win over their Kingussie counter-parts.

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Oban Celtic lifted the league title after beating the Kyles Athletic second team at Mossfield in their final fixture.

They also win promotion to the National Division.

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University were presented with the league trophy after their final fixture which saw them beat Inverness at the Bught Park.

### November

#### Managerial changes

There were a number of managerial changes at the end of the 2016 shinty season.

At Glenurquhart, Iain MacLeod took over from co-managers Billy MacLean and Dave Menzies.

Alan MacRae replaced Stephen MacLean at Beaulieu and John MacLeod stepped down at Skye with co-managers Willie Cowie and Peter Gordon taking over.

Kingussie, Lovat and Tayforth remain on the look-out for new bosses.

#### Oban Camanachd U17s win Marine Harvest London Shield

A last-gasp Daniel MacVicar goal gave Oban Camanachd U17s a 3-2 victory over Skye Camanachd U17s to win the Marine Harvest London Shield at the Eilan.

Skye's Ruaraidh MacLeod twice cancelled out goals from Lewis Buchanan and Daniel MacCuish before MacVicar's dramatic winner.

#### Mixed fortunes for Scottish university squads

The Scottish University mens' squad recorded a 28-7 win in their shinty/hurling meeting with their Queens University counterparts at the Dub in Belfast but the ladies lost out in their shinty/camogie meeting with their Queens University counterparts.

#### Skye youths claim Marine Harvest North Division 1 title

Skye Camanachd's U14s clinched the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title after they drew 2-2 with Fort William U14s at An Aird.

#### Lovat Ladies make step up

Lovat won the Marine Harvest North Division 2 title and promotion to the top division in the women's game when they beat Glengarry 6-0 in their play-off match at the Bught Park, Inverness.

### December

#### Strathglass push ahead to Marine Harvest National Division

Strathglass were successful in their application to the Camanachd Association to step up to the Marine Harvest National Division next season.

The Cannich club will also re-introduce their second team in Marine Harvest North Division 2 following increased activity at youth level over the last couple of years.

#### Strachur back in the fold

Strachur will return to senior shinty in 2017 after taking a break last season.

Strachur, with their impressive Strachmure pitch and pavilion, will compete in Marine Harvest South Division 2.

#### Camanachd Association AGM

Representatives from shinty clubs across the country gathered at the West End Hotel, Fort William, for the Camanachd Association AGM.

The need for a Camanachd Cup sponsor, agreement on qualified referees for youth matches, increased membership and insurance fees were discussed whilst Newtonmore's bid to alter the rules surrounding technical areas narrowly failed to win sufficient support.

#### Womens Camanachd Association AGM

The Womens Camanachd Association AGM took place at The Isles of Glencoe Hotel.

It was a fairly straightforward event, boosted by news that two new clubs will be entering competitions next season - Oban Lorn in the league and the English Shinty Association in the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup.

#### Camanachd Association president praises Oban Times' shinty coverage

Camanachd Association President Jim Barr praised *The Oban Times* for their shinty coverage during the 2016 shinty season.

In his annual report, Jim Barr said: 'Many local papers provide extensive coverage of the sport, a reflection of the important role shinty plays in the life of communities across Scotland.'

'Most notably, *The Oban Times* doubled its coverage with a weekly two-page spread providing a comprehensive round-up and preview in each edition throughout the season.'

'We gratefully acknowledge the effort and support of all journalists, photographers and editors who provide shinty coverage within their publications.'

*The Oban Times* was presented with the media award at the 2016 Marine Harvest Shinty Awards.

# Sports review of the year – part two

## July

### Hamilton Accies win D & K Cup

AN UNBEATEN Hamilton Accies left Oban with some silverware after winning the 23rd annual D & K Lafferty Cup.

The winners saw off tough competition in Dundee United, Heart of Midlothian, Alloa Athletic and the only other side to progress through the tournament without losing a game, Oban Saints.

Hamilton finished the tournament on 10 points, with Dundee United finishing second with seven points. Oban Saints finished third with six, with Hearts finishing fourth with two points and Alloa Athletic came bottom of the group with one point.



Hamilton Accies after winning the D & K Cup.

### West Highland Tennis Week at upgraded courts

THE UPGRADED tennis courts at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, were well used as they played host to the 45th annual West Highland Tennis Week.

Around 70 competitors took part in the competition, with 16 of those being from America.

Locals were also involved with 20 of them showing up to play in the Argyll day tournament. 17\_128tennis01



Prizewinners at West Highland Tennis Week.

## August

### Magic McPhee scores maiden GP victory in Czech Republic

CONNEL'S John McPhee produced an outstanding wet weather display to take his maiden grand prix race victory – despite horrendous conditions in the Moto3 World Championship round at Brno in the Czech Republic.

Having provisionally qualified in 11th place the previous day, the Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider was handed an overnight boost of two grid slots after penalties were handed out to a pair of riders ahead who were adjudged to have ridden too slowly.



John McPhee after winning in the Czech Republic.

### Red-and-blacks to face Newtonmore in Camanachd Cup final

Oban Camanachd are through to the 2016 Camanachd Cup final after they defeated Lochaber 4-2 in their action-packed semi-final at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Andrew MacCuish, who was named BBC Alba man of the match by pundit Gary Innes, scored two of Camanachd's goals, with Daniel MacVicar and Daniel Cameron netting the remaining two to see their team through to the final.



Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish.



Newtonmore celebrate winning the Camanachd Cup.

## September

### Oban side lose to early goal in Camanachd Cup final

SHINTY'S 'big day' out ended in success for Newtonmore as they lifted the Camanachd Cup for the 31st time following a tense and keenly-contested 1-0 victory over Oban Camanachd.

The final took place on a sunny day and in front of large crowd in Fort William. Glen MacKintosh scored the only goal of the match in the third minute of play.



Oban Celtic with the South Division One championship trophy.

### Oban Celtic win South Division One

Oban Celtic clinched the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title and promotion to the Marine Harvest National Division with an emphatic 9-1 win over Kyles Athletic's second team in their 3pm throw up at Tighnabruach.



Dougie Vipond.

## October

### Craggy Island Triathlon proves to be another big success

AROUND 500 competitors took part in the annual Craggy Island Triathlon last weekend.

The event, which is organised by Dirty Events, raises money for Oban Mountain Rescue Team. Paul McGreal of Dirty Events said: 'It was absolutely fantastic and the good weather helped. Kerrera being beautiful also helped with the racing.'

One of the participants was television broadcaster and Deacon Blue drummer Dougie Vipond.

### Scotland legend Chris coaches the art of kicking to members of Oban Lorne RFC

A MIXTURE of youth, 1st XV and ladies players were fortunate to attend a specialist kicking session delivered by Scotland legend Chris Paterson at BT Murrayfield last Friday.

The session arranged by Oban Lorne RFC committee member Tommy Sutherland was set up to help Oban centre Alessandro Franzo with his university studies but also acted as a fantastic opportunity for some of the club's players learn from a top level coach.

Oban Lorne RFC would like to thank both Chris Paterson and Scottish Rugby for their help in organising a fantastic day for the players.



Chris Paterson with the Oban Lorne members.

### Isle of Mull win battle of North Argyll

ISLE of Mull Rugby Club secured victory over local rivals Argyll and Bute RFC away from home in an entertaining spectacle for the Oban crowd.

Autumn sunshine and Glencruitten's superb playing surface was the setting for this local derby. The two sides had met only a fortnight before at Garmony and the islanders were feeling quietly confident after their 48-0 victory.

The Muilleachs turned in a first class performance to win this game 33-8.

### MacCrone wins emotional Beatson's Mull Rally

TWELVE months after being involved in the terrible crash which claimed the life of his close friend and co-driver Andy Mort, John MacCrone claimed an emotional win in the Beatson's Mull Rally.

The Dervaig driver, piloting his Ford Fiesta R5 and reunited with co-driver Stuart Loudon, with whom he took victory in 2013, won a thrilling battle with his old rival, nine-time winner Calum Duffy.



Stuart Loudon and John MacCrone.



Mull's Tony Haunschmidt breaks through the Argyll defence.

## November

### Glencruitten golfer sets his sights on turning professional next year

SCOTTISH Amateur Golfer of the Year Robert MacIntyre will spend one more season as an amateur before testing himself on the professional circuit.

Robert was awarded the prestigious amateur of the year accolade after having 'his best year on the course', finishing the season as the leading Scot in the world amateur golf rankings. He is currently in 11th place. 17\_144RobertMacIntyre03



Robert MacIntyre.

### Magnus makes international debut against tough Argentina

FORMER Oban High School pupil Magnus Bradbury made his debut for the Scottish national team at BT Murrayfield on Saturday in Scotland's 19-16 autumn test win against Argentina.

Playing 52 minutes of the nail-biting, last-minute win, Bradbury impressed in his first Scotland appearance with some confident powerful runs, impressive tackling, including a try-saving effort on Argentina's winger Guido Petti.



Magnus after his successful debut for Scotland at BT Murrayfield with Oban Lorne RFC members Allan Wright, Cameron Smith and Murray Hamilton.

## December

### Kyokushinkai grading tests

The Caledonia Kyokushin clubs held grading tests in Oban and Lochgilphead. The Oban grading saw Charlie McLaughlin move up to 3rd Kyu, while his brother Darryl moved up to 1st kyu.

Paul Mackay deserves a special mention as the latest member of the club to gain his 'shodan' - 1st degree black belt.



Charlie McLaughlin, Paul Mackay and Darryl McLaughlin after their recent grading.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £700

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

I Brown  
Seaview Terrace  
Easdale

S MacLennan  
Islay Road  
Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.  
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.  
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.  
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.  
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



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## Saints face Aberdeenshire side in fifth round of the Scottish Cup

**Oban Saints**  
**Westdyce**  
**Scottish Amateur Cup - 5th round**

THIS Saturday at Glencruitten, Oban Saints usher in the Chinese year of the rooster with just their fourth home match of the season so far and their first in any cup competition.

The visitors for Saturday's Scottish Amateur Cup fifth round tie are Westdyce of the Aberdeenshire Amateur Football Association Division Two East who are making their first trip west in Scottish amateur football's most prestigious competition.

Founded in 2012 as a Sunday morning team, Westdyce joined the Saturday afternoon ranks for the 2014-15 season where a second-placed finish in Division Three behind champions Sheddocksley was enough to secure an immediate promotion to Division Two East. Another impressive league campaign followed and only a shock 1-0 defeat to bottom club Continental in their penultimate fixture denied the Inverdee-based club back to back promotions.

Westdyce took out their frustration at the disappointment of narrowly missing out on a place in Division One East with a thumping 8-2 victory over Grammar FP's in the final of the Aberdeenshire Amateur Football Association Barclay Cook Cup to win the fledgling club's first piece of silverware.

Westdyce have continued their good form into the 2016-17 season winning 14 of their 17 fixtures so far.

Westdyce have progressed to the fifth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup for the first time in their short history and are one of just six Aberdeenshire Amateur Football Association clubs still in with a shout of grabbing the big prize.

A first round bye was followed up by a second round regional

section 2-1 home win against Rattray's XI.

Strathclyde Saturday Morning Amateur Football League Division 1A Firhill United were sent back down the A90 on the wrong end of a 5-3 scoreline in round three before Westdyce entered the previously uncharted waters of the fourth round. Awaiting them was an away trip to Fife to face Strathmiglo United of the Kingdom Caledonian Amateur Football Association where a Ryan Fenby goal secured a 1-1 draw on December 3 to set up a replay at Inverdee the following week.

Back on home soil and being under the cosh from their more experienced visitors, Westdyce took the lead in the 23rd minute when Michael Caldwell poked home a Robbie Duncan corner.

A second yellow card for right full back Danny Blanchard after 40 minutes left the home side facing an uphill struggle in the second half.

### Heroic

However, the 10-man Westdyce side produced an heroic performance to keep the Strathmiglo attack at bay before Michael Caldwell made the tie safe with a second breakaway goal.

The fifth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup may be unexplored territory for this Saturday's visitors but it has far more of a familiar feel for the home side. Saints have maintained their interest in the nation's premier cup competition beyond the Christmas and New Year break in nine of the past 12 seasons, including three quarter-finals and last season's semi-final appearance.

This season's road to Hampden began with an extremely tough first round away fixture against former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals Finnart, now of the Caledonian League Division 1B.

Goals from Craig MacEwan,

### Football

Paul Carmichael and a Donald Campbell penalty saw the Oban side progress with a 3-1 victory to round two.

A second round no show from Glasgow and District Saturday Morning League Premier Division outfit Bishopton denied the Saints faithful a home match on October 1 but saw Saints comfortably through to the third round by virtue of a walkover.

The third round draw paired Saints with another recent Scottish Amateur Football League defector FC Clydebank, now of the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Division 1A.

A significantly less assured performance than against Finnart somehow still managed to produce an identical result at Thorn Park, Bearsden, on November 5. Dean Smith, Fraser MacFarlane and Willie Gemmell were on target in a 3-1 win.

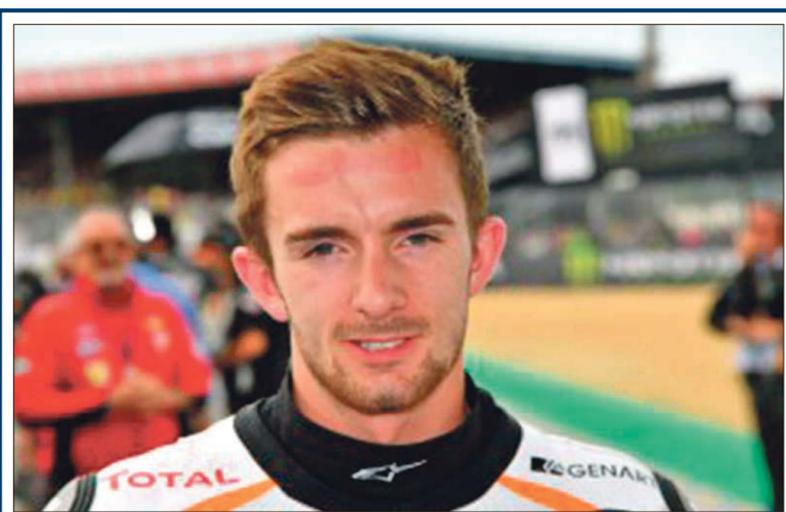
Saints made a rare journey east to face Salvaseen of the Lothian and Edinburgh Amateur Football Association Lothian West Division in their biggest test of the season so far.

With skipper Marc MacCallum calling off through illness, Paul Kerr took the armband and successfully lead his troops into the fifth round against the previously undefeated Edinburgh side. Saints were assured throughout dominating possession and looking solid at the back.

Goals either side of the half time interval from Dean Smith and Ross Maitland saw Saints comfortably through to a much welcomed and eagerly anticipated home tie against Westdyce on Saturday.

Manager Alex Craik hopes to have a full squad to choose from for this important cup fixture

The match kicks off at 2pm at Glencruitten with last season's Scottish Cup final referee Kevin Nolan from Glasgow in charge.



Connel's Moto3 World Championship rider John McPhee.

## John McPhee to lead 2017 Moto3 British Talent Team

CONNEL'S John McPhee will line up on the 2017 Moto3 World Championship grid as part of a new Dorna-supported British Talent Team, riding an HRC factory Honda machine.

The 22-year-old, who has been supported by the Racing Steps Foundation since 2010, scored victory in this season's Czech Grand Prix. He will link up with new team boss Alberto Puig who will manage the team for Dorna.

McPhee will be the sole rider in next year's British Talent Moto3 GP Team, with plans to expand to two riders in 2018 as part of a new ladder for young British talent.

The Racing Steps Foundation will continue to fund a British team in the Moto3 Junior World Championship, part of the FIM CEV Repsol series, and a feeder to the Moto3 World Championship.

Dorna, which is the exclusive commercial and television rights holder for MotoGP, will fund McPhee's challenge, enabling the team to focus on mounting a serious title assault.

'This is a great platform for me to work

### Moto3

towards a serious challenge next season,' said John. 'It will be nice to fly the flag and represent Britain in this way.'

'Riding a factory Honda will really help us. It was as strong as always this year, and it was something that I was aiming for in 2017. It will give us the tools that we need to really move forward quickly.'

### History

'Having Alberto [Puig] involved should really help too. He's got a long reputation in the paddock and a history of working with riders like Casey Stoner and Dani Pedrosa.'

'I would never have reached this stage without the backing of the Racing Steps Foundation, Peter Ball and Mark Keen. I have also been lucky to have the loyal support of some personal sponsors, who have helped me over the years. I'm ever so thankful to them all for all that has been done to get me to this point.'

## Oban Lorne get back in action

### Rugby

#### BT West Division One

#### Oban Lorne v Annan

OBAN Lorne are back in action after the festive break on Saturday January 7 when they take on Annan RFC in West Division 1.

The Green Machine will be hoping to get a winning start to 2017 after a disappointing first half of the season that has left the team sitting second bottom of the league.

With a number of players due to return from injury, coach Corrie Louw should have a strong squad available against Annan who beat Oban 10-0 in the reverse fixture earlier in the season.

The game against Annan is the first of two crucial home games to kick off 2017 with bottom-placed Helensburgh visiting Glencruitten on Saturday January 14.

Two home wins are essential if Oban Lorne have any aspirations of moving away from the relegation zone.

Kick-off this Saturday is at 2pm.

#### BT West Division 4

#### Hyndland v Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute travel to Scotstoun Stadium, the home of Glasgow Warriors this Saturday to take on struggling Hyndland RFC. Kick-off is scheduled for 2pm.

## Kenny to carry on as Celtic manager

### Shinty

OBAN Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon has announced he will continue to run the team this year.

The Oban side were crowned Marine Harvest South Division 1 champions after finishing six-points clear at the top of the table and will play in the National Division this year.

Kenny wasn't sure if he was going to continue running the team because of family and work commitments.

'I'm taking the team again next year,' he said. 'It's going to be hard work with the family and the business, but the senior team and Davie Hamilton are going to help out.'

'We will not win the league,' he added. 'But we will not be the whipping boys.'

'We will definitely hold our own.'

Oban Celtic resume training on January 10 and are looking to add to their 30-strong squad.

The Celtic manager stressed new players are welcome. For more information contact Kenny Wotherspoon on 07786 867123.

## Camanachd hold New Year fixture

### Shinty

OBAN Camanachd will hold their annual New Year challenge match at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday January 7. Throw-up 1pm.

## Macaulay Cup draw throws up exciting fixtures

### Shinty

THE DRAW for the 2017 Artemis Macaulay Cup was made live on Oban FM recently by Gussie Campbell and Davie Hamilton from the Macaulay Association.

Round 1  
Oban Caman v Ballachulish  
Inveraray v Oban Celtic  
Aberdour v Glasgow MA  
Bute v Kyles Athletic  
Kingussie v Lochaber  
Skye v Newtonmore  
Fort William v Glenurquhart  
Kinlochshiel v Lovat.

The final will take place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, on Saturday August 19.

Kinlochshiel are the current holders of the trophy after their 5-3 win over Inveraray at Mossfield last season.



## Susan breaks record at Hogmanay parkrun

THE 20th Ganavan Sands parkrun took place on Hogmanay in challenging weather conditions.

In spite of strong winds and heavy rain, there were 71 participants including local celebrity Susan Partridge, Scottish cross country champion, who has represented Scotland at the Commonwealth Games and Great Britain in the marathon at the European Athletics Championships and World

Top Scottish international athlete Susan Partridge, front row second left, back on home soil for New Year, joins local athletes in horrendous weather for the parkrun held on Hogmanay at Ganavan.

Photo: Kevin McGlynn

### Athletics

Championships. She is a former winner of the Great North Run 10k and has a London Marathon time of 2 hours 30 minutes.

Susan completed the course setting a new female record time of 19 minutes 21 seconds. The male record of 17 minutes 41 seconds is held by Tom Smith, a regular local participant and hill runner.

Runners were given great encouragement from six pipers from Oban High School Pipe Band stationed along the 5k route.

Parkrun, a free, timed 5k run, starts every Saturday at 9.30am from Ganavan Sands car park. It is an event for runners of all ages and stages and for jog walkers too.

## SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES



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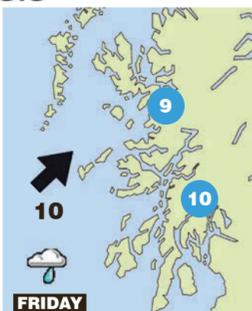
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

### WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with rain during the night  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 5°C to 5°C.

Friday Cloudy with light rain at times  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

Weekend Light rain on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds strong west south westerly  
Temperatures 8°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 January 5, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	04.03 1.4 10.15 3.5 16.50 1.6 22.30 3.2	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	05.06 1.5 11.24 3.4 18.01 1.6 23.42 3.1	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	06.23 1.6 13.00 3.3 19.15 1.6 *** **	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	01.16 3.1 07.43 1.5 14.29 3.5 20.24 1.4	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	02.41 3.3 08.59 1.3 15.31 3.6 21.26 1.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.42 3.6 10.05 1.1 16.22 3.8 22.21 1.0				
Wed	04.31 3.8 11.01 0.9 17.07 4.0 23.10 0.8				

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

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## Incredible story of woman's life journey aired on TV



Marjory Jagger, BEM.

### Skye woman is awarded BEM

A WOMAN from Skye has been recognised in the New Year Honours List.

Marjory Jagger has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to young people and the community in the inner Hebrides.

The accolade has been given largely for her work as manager with Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers (SLYC).

According to the SLYC, 16 years ago Marjory was approached by a young carer asking about services available to young carers locally. After research highlighted a lack of support in the area, Marjory set up a group for six youngsters. The organisation now supports more than 60 young carers every year.

A spokesperson from SLYC said they were beyond delighted and extremely proud of Marjory adding: 'Marjory is untiring in her work with and for the youngsters. They enjoy a weekly group suited to their age and a fun respite outing each school holiday. She has done a great deal to raise awareness of the needs of young carers and has taken the lead in fundraising and in completing very demanding major funding applications.'

ELLIE FORBES  
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A DOCUMENTARY charting the journey of a Spean Bridge woman's life from a Dublin mother to adoption in Lochaber and her quest to find her half sister has aired on television.

The incredible story of Gladys Johnston, which has been kept hidden away for more than 30 years, has finally come to light in an emotional BBC Alba programme.

Gladys, who was born in a Dublin suburb in 1936 to a young unmarried Irish woman spent three years in the protestant orphanage Bethany Home before she was adopted by Mary and Duncan Cameron of Acharacle in 1939.

Gladys discovered she was adopted at the age of 12 and while the news initially upset her she decided it would be best to forget about it and move on.

But following the death of her adoptive parents, she took on the daunting task of searching for her birth mother.

After tracking down her birth certificate, which revealed she was born Gladys Mabel to Dorothy Patton or Murphy, Gladys also discovered her mother had gone on to have a second child, who, remarkably, was also named Gladys.

On April 1, 1986, Gladys met her sister, Gladys - 'Glad' as she is known - for the first time.

Speaking of her first phonecall with Gladys, Glad said: 'Mum called me Gladys because she was reading a book at the time and the heroine's name was Gladys.'

Gladys said: 'Well she must



Gladys, left, with her half sister who is also called Gladys, but known as Glad, when the pair were filming for the BBC Alba documentary. The half sisters met for the first time on April 1, 1986 after Gladys tracked down her mother's birth certificate and found she had gone on to have another child. They believe they were named after the heroine in a book their mother was reading at the time.

have been reading that book for a heck of a long time.'

Through talking to Glad, Gladys also discovered that she knew some of her brother-in-law's family who were from Fort William.

Glad recalls how her mother was often sad and she could never understand why.

'She took the secret of me to



It was really lovely to watch

her grave. When I walk down the street and see people with a child about that age, I think, God, it must have been so hard for my mother to give up her three-year-old child,' said Gladys.

Gladys believes her mother called her second daughter by the same name as her own private way of remembering her - she

could say her name every day. Having found her sister, Gladys gave up on her search into her birth mother, but 30 years later decided to look into it again.

She explained: 'I have a very quizzical mind and I couldn't stop until I had all the answers.'

During the making of the programme Gladys is taken back

to Ireland where she retraces her childhood.

Gladys, who was a correspondent for *The Oban Times* for more than 40 years, said: 'I feel that I am a survivor because the year I was born lots of children died in Bethany Home from neglect.'

'This is why the whole story is so important to me, because lots of people will now realise what happened in those days - how cruel it was for children in homes - nowadays it's so much easier.'

Gladys watched the programme with her family and friends on Hogmanay, saying it was 'very emotional.'

She added: 'My family watched it and they thought it was excellent.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Gladys said she has had a lot of feedback from people in the street and her phone has 'rung off the hook'.

'I find it very interesting the way people have responded to it. I feel like I am giving people inspiration to find their roots, maybe I am opening a book for others,' she said.

'It's nice that people are taking an interest in my story and thinking if she can do it then so can I.'

Gladys' daughter Fiona said: 'It was really lovely to watch and so good that mum got peace of mind.'

The documentary explores Gladys' relations further down the line as she tries to trace her great grandmother, grandmother and grandfather, and although Gladys still doesn't know who her biological father was, she said she will continue to search.

Gladys is on BBC iPlayer and will be repeated on BBC Alba tomorrow (January 6) at 10pm.

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### Lochaber Rotary bags £6,000 for good causes



Lochaber rotarians and helpers gave up their own time to bag pack in Morrisons, Fort William, in the lead up to Christmas.

MORE than £6,000 was raised by Lochaber Rotary Club by bag packing at Morrisons supermarket in Fort William.

A team of more than 25 rotarians supported by family members and helpers bag-packed morning, noon and night over three days leading up to Christmas.

A spokesperson said: 'This is a tremendous figure due to the generous people of Lochaber. A special acknowledgement must go to Ron Gretton who has been fantastic organising and managing the event.'

Club president Paula Ross expressed her thanks for the help she has received since taking up her position, passed on her new year wishes and encouraged members to 'watch

this space' to see what events and organisations will receive support in 2017.

She added: 'Through your contributions, the Rotary Club has helped so many good causes in Lochaber, many of which have been reported in the local press.'

'These include the hugely successful Christmas Festival, the inter-schools young chef programme, local children's autism music therapy support, setting up a new Brownie group, funding the Plantation senior citizens' Christmas lunch, supporting the Kinlochleven PoW event, underpinning the local disability access panel, and this year the money raised from our annual golf tournament passed the £50,000 mark.'

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## MSP puts up motion praising charity

A HIGHLAND MSP has applauded the efforts of Christian charity Blythswood Care after the organisation's shoe box appeal passed the two million milestone.

Kate Forbes MSP put up a parliamentary motion at Holyrood welcoming the news, which has been backed by more than 20 MSPs from various parties.

Thousands of people across Scotland have contributed gifts to Blythswood Care's annual shoe box appeal since the scheme launched back in 1993.

It was recently announced that a 10-year-old boy with special needs, living in a village in Romania, had become the two-millionth person to receive a gift box from the appeal.

This year the shoe boxes have also reached needy people in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine and Pakistan.

Ms Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'Although born and based in the Highlands, Blythswood Care has had a far-reaching impact across the world.'

Blythswood Care chief executive James Campbell added: 'I have seen how happy these boxes make the people who receive them.'

'They are so surprised to receive a present from someone who doesn't even know them.'

'It amazes me that each year so many people put such care into preparing the shoe boxes for us to distribute to people in great need.'

## Sports grants up for grabs

SPORTSCOTLAND is encouraging groups to apply for its sport facilities fund.

Schools and other organisations such as local authorities, area sports associations, sports trusts and charities can apply for funding of up to £500,000.

Grants are available to help with the provision or upgrading of sports facilities that are for the public good and which benefit the community.

The fund supports projects such as the provision, extension or upgrading of sports facilities and changing accommodation. Go to <https://sportscotland.org.uk/funding/sport-facilities-fund>.



The winners pictured with the Skye councillors. Missing from the photo is Mary MacKenzie for the community category.

## Selfless community volunteers are given their just rewards

INDIVIDUALS and schools from the Isle of Skye and Raasay have received recognition for the important contribution they make to their communities during the Eilean a' Cheò civic awards.

This is the sixth year of the awards, which are organised by Skye and Raasay councillors to recognise people from all age groups and walks of life who have contributed to the success and wellbeing of their local communities.

The Community Award was presented to Mary Mackenzie from Kilmuir, a

stalwart of the community council and village hall committee for decades. She was nominated by Kilmuir Community Council.

Nicholas Kelly from Broadford received the Young People Award after being nominated by Broadford and Strath Community Council for working tirelessly with the youth club in Broadford to provide a safe and fun place for young people in south of the island.

Raasay Community Council successfully nominated Roger Hutchinson

for a Sport Award for his contribution to football since moving to the island many years ago. Roger has given of his time to coach the children and young people on a regular weekly basis and has been involved in coaching in Raasay Primary School.

The Arts/Music Award went to the pupils at Dunvegan and Portree Primary schools. The Environment Award went to Alistair McPherson from Broadford, who volunteers with the Broadford and Strath Community Company for

environmental improvements in the area. Susan Walker from Camuscross received the Enterprise Award after being nominated by the Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative, for which she has been a key member.

The chairman of the Isle of Skye and Raasay committee, Councillor Drew Millar, said: 'There is a lot of hard work and voluntary effort that goes unrecognised in the ward and this is a way of showing our appreciation and saying thank you and well done.'

# Location of new hospital for Skye comes under fire

ELLIE FORBES  
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MSPS are set to discuss a petition on the redesign of hospital services on the Isle of Skye with the Scottish Government's health secretary.

Holyrood's public petitions committee has agreed to write to health secretary Shona Robison asking for her response to a critique, written by Professor Ronald Macdonald, about NHS Highland's location plans for a new hospital on Skye.

Broadford was chosen as the location for the main 'hub' of health and social care with Portree having a smaller 'spoke' facility.

But the decision came under fire from the Portree community, and a petition was launched by Catriona MacDonald on behalf of SOS-NHS, which now has more than 4,000 signatures.

After the meeting, Skye MSP Kate Forbes said: 'Professor Ronald Macdonald's critique, which I've read, deserves a response from the Scottish Gov-

ernment and so it's right that the public petitions committee have decided to write again to the cabinet secretary.'

Ms Forbes said: 'At the last meeting of representatives from SOS-NHS and NHS Highland, I asked whether the chief concern was the location of the new hospital, the overall model or the manner in which the consultation was carried out. I was told unequivocally that it was the consultation itself.'

'The key message in all of this is that when changes to services

are proposed, it is the users, which in this case are patients, who must have confidence in the decision-making process.'

Ian Blackford, Skye MP, has previously urged NHS Highland to ensure an operating theatre is incorporated into plans for the new hospital being built in Broadford as well as other measures to 'ensure the highest levels of care in Skye, Raasay and Wester Ross'.

He said: 'As the MP, I do support NHS Highland and their proposals to build a new

hospital in Skye but believe an operating theatre, as in the Belford Hospital in Fort William, is vital and there must be no question that it will be part of the new-build.'

'However, I also want to see the maintenance of services in Portree as part of the hub and spoke model to fully serve the island and the adjacent mainland.'

It is expected that the public petitions committee will make a decision on the petition in the New Year.

## Boundary changes slammed by public

'A REDUCTION in MPs will have a direct impact on the population of Lochaber.'

That was the message from the Kilmallie Community Council's public consultation on boundary changes.

Under the current proposals, Lochaber would be split, with Corpach, Tomonie and Banavie in the new Inverness and Skye constituency, while Fort William, Inverlochy, Caol, Camaghael, Glenfinnan and Mallaig would become part of the Argyll, Bute and Lochaber constituency.

A spokesperson for the community council said: 'Communities would be severed with no regard to heritage, customs, tradition or, for that matter, common sense.'

'Personal contact with your MP is likely to become more difficult due to the distances and difficulty of moving around the constituency, particularly in the winter. Remote government is likely to become remoter.'

More than 30 people attended the event, with almost all were unhappy with the plans.

'How much will this cost? Does this leave us on the periphery again? Has anyone involved in these proposals actually visited the area?' were just some of the concerns raised at the meeting.

The major point of concern was that the area from Fort William to Corpach would have different MPs.

There was also concern that much of Lochaber, including Kilmallie, would no longer be within a constituency with Lochaber in its name.

Kilmallie Community Council is urging voters to contact the Boundary Commission Scotland and contribute to the discussion on these proposals. Submissions must be received by January 11.

Comments can be made at the consultation portal at [www.bcs2018.org.uk](http://www.bcs2018.org.uk). Alternatively by email to [comments@scottish-boundaries.gov.uk](mailto:comments@scottish-boundaries.gov.uk) or write to Boundary Commission Scotland, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD.

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## Comhairle takes on 17 new modern apprentices

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has employed 17 modern apprentices. All apprentices will be fully supported by the comhairle and have training delivered through e-Sgoil, and will work in various departments within the organisation. Comhairle leader, Councillor Angus Campbell, said: 'The comhairle is wholly committed to helping young people in to work and supporting employment and growth. I am delighted that we have taken on so many young people and I wish them every success in their training and I hope that they enjoy the work and their future careers.'

## Group welcomes action on energy

'WE WELCOME the Scottish Government's assistance in helping make the UK government recognise the importance of renewables to the islands' economies.'

That was the response from the second meeting of the Islands Strategic Group which took place on December 19.

Humza Yousaf, minister for transport and the islands, chaired the meeting with the leaders, chief executives and officers of Scotland's three island councils and representatives.

Councillor Steven Heddle, leader of Orkney Islands

Council, said: 'This was a productive meeting and demonstrated the continuing good spirit of engagement with the Scottish Government through this ministerial group.'

'We welcome, in particular, the need for a support mechanism for our abundant and efficient marine and island wind resources to overcome crippling and unfair transmission charges.'

Also discussed at the meeting was the forthcoming Islands Bill. Mr Heddle said he was pleased to see island proofing starting to take place in practice.

He said: 'The discussions around powers for island councils in the bill were constructive, as we continue to stress our case for flexibility and empowerment to develop our economies and support our communities and rich cultures.'

'We welcome the minister's support for working together towards implementing these proposals.'

'I believe this is the most significant piece of legislation for islands since 1974.'

The next meeting of the strategic group is scheduled to be held in February or March 2017.



Councillors met with Humza Yousaf for the second meeting of the Islands Strategic Group.

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Festive farewells were given to, left to right, Doreen Robertson, Ron Hepburn and Janice Gunn.

## Lochaber High School staff bid farewell

'GOODBYE and good luck' was the message to three members of staff on their last day at a Fort William school. Emotions were high at Lochaber High School as Doreen Robertson, Ron Hepburn and Janice Gunn said farewell to their pupils and colleagues. Head teacher Jim Sutherland passed on his well wishes and said: 'Doreen Robertson, a pupil support assistant, is retiring

after being in the school for six years and has completed over 30 years in a similar role with the Highland Council; Ron Hepburn, is retiring after 16 years as head janitor and Janice Gunn, home economics teacher, is moving to another post.' The three 'Christmas Leavers' were presented with cards and gifts from colleagues at a social gathering in the school.

# Firm helps families by auctioning off services

MONICA GIBSON  
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A FORT WILLIAM construction company is hoping an idea to auction off their services to help local families will catch on. Ewan Donnelly, who owns DMD Construction with his twin brother Chris, told *The Oban Times* they had come up with the idea for the auctions a couple of years ago.

It was not until recently, however, that the events gathered pace in a bid to help people who had received sad news on the lead up to Christmas - including the family of Ryan Whiteford who was recently diagnosed with leukaemia.

He said: 'We organised an auction to raise money for a wee fellow called Irwin, as he had taken not well.'

'Ryan Whiteford is the nephew of one of the boys and when the family got the news we thought we'd do something for him and then within a week another wee girl had received similar diagnosis. It is really sad, so the boys and I wanted to do something.'

'What I decided to do is put the job out on Facebook and not ask for a certain price but say the materials cost 'such and such' and so if we could cover that it would be great but that none of the team will take any payment for their time.'

'One of the jobs included 30



Team work by DMD Construction. The company supplied free labour for jobs and had people bid for them on Facebook. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

metres of fencing so that was about £500 for materials but the winning bid was actually £1,250.

'Even the second highest bid was over £1,000 so people have gone above and beyond. All the clients have been lovely, keeping us fed and watered as we work and really digging deep to help.'

Ewan, who became a father for the first time last year added:

'What we're hoping for now is that the idea might catch on because it really is a good way to raise money. If other businesses, construction companies or whatever could do the same it would probably benefit a lot of local people who are maybe going through a hard time.'

'I don't want credit though, I just organise the bids and if my

team finishes a job early and people are willing then I will say let's go and do one of these auction jobs. But there have been times when more than 10 people have turned up to help, giving up their free time and often at the weekends. So even though the reasons for the jobs have been sad, people have stepped up and that is fantastic.'

## Drivers urged to slow down to protect wildlife



A Lochaber resident is urging drivers to take more care to protect otters believing 'we are lucky to have them'.

A BANAVIE resident is asking drivers on the A830 at the Banavie swing bridge to drive slower in a bid to protect rare wildlife.

Susannah Calderan, who lives by the canal at Banavie, was waiting to cross the road at the bridge when she noticed something on the verge. It was a large adult otter, which appeared to have died after being hit by a car. The speed limit on that section of the A830 has recently been lowered to 40 mph, but Susannah said: 'People still drive really fast. Lots of pedestrians find it daunting crossing the road there and it's a problem for wildlife too. We are so lucky to have otters in our area. They use the canal on both sides of the road, so have to cross it somewhere. It looks like a car was too quick for this one.'

Susannah continued: 'Going a bit slower across the swing bridge would increase journey times by so little and makes all the difference to both people and wildlife who have to cross that road.'



Isobel MacPhee, centre, presents a £500 cheque to two Macmillan Nurses.

## Hamper raffle boosts cancer care charity by £500

AN ACTIVE community member has raised £500 for Macmillan nurses this winter with her fifth hamper raffle.

Isobel MacPhee, 72, has been fundraising for the charity for five years now.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* Isobel said: 'I fund-raise every year for Macmillan nurses, raffling off a hamper, which usually has a bottle of alcohol, tinned goods, sweets. This year I got a bottle of whisky from John MacMillan the butcher and then I provide the rest.'

'I go round the community centres, pubs, the auction mart, anywhere I think people will buy tickets.'

'I get a lot of support from people in the area so I would like to thank all those who did buy tickets this year.'

Isobel said the nurses were 'delighted' to receive the generous cheque.

## A generation at risk warns MSP

A HIGHLAND MSP has called for a change in planning laws so that young local couples wanting to live in the region 'might be more important than slow worms, badgers and trees'.

Highlighting a recent study which estimated the Highlands lacked 18,000 young people in the 15-30-year-old bracket, Kate Forbes MSP said the lack of reform to draconian policies could result in a generation being lost and further depopulation.

Kate Forbes MSP said: 'Some view the Highlands and Islands as a place where artefacts take precedence over people. We have a moral, economic and social prerogative to protect our flora and fauna, but there's one endangered species that is greatly at risk - people.'

## Annual award for promoting play

THE HIGHLAND Council is offering a £1,000 award for the group or community that has done the most to promote play.

The annual award, in association with Play Highland, is now open to any school group, charity or community organisation working with children and young people from infants up to aged 18.

The 2016 award was won by Smithton Primary School Outdoor Explorers After School Club and the Green Leaf Garden which developed different play zones.

For further information visit [www.playhighland.co.uk](http://www.playhighland.co.uk). The closing date is noon on February 17.

## Phone help for epilepsy sufferers

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP, Rhoda Grant is re-launching her 2015 campaign to encourage people with epilepsy in the Highlands and Islands to put ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact details on their mobile phones.

If someone has a seizure outdoors the emergency services, or a member of the public, can get in touch with the named family member or friend for medical details and give tailored treatment.

Ms Grant also developed a pilot initiative offering free ICEberg (In Case of Emergency) wristbands to anyone with epilepsy in connection with Epilepsy Scotland, just over a year ago.



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The board with David Ogg on his last day at Nevis Radio.

## Radio manager steps down

THE MANAGER of a local community radio station has stepped down after 12 years.

David Ogg held his final show on Nevis Radio on Friday December 30 and tomorrow (January 6) will be his last official day with the company.

Announcing the news last Thursday, Nevis Radio revealed that as a company and charity it had been looking at options to make itself more financially viable and has held numerous meetings and business reviews. Following one of these reviews, David put in for voluntary redundancy believing it was in the company's best interests that he should move on.

A spokesperson from the company said: 'Following careful

consideration and seeking business and legal advice, the board at Nevis Radio accepted David's offer.'

The company added that David's departure is going to leave a big void and expressed sincere thanks for his service and the skills that he shared. Friends and listeners of the station took to Facebook to pass on their well wishes.

Under the Nevis Radio user name, the company sought to reassure listeners who were concerned about a possible feud between David and Nevis Radio by posting: 'It is vitally important for people to understand there is no ill-feeling here, despite some of the rumours that have grown arms and legs, and we wish David all the best for his future ventures.'



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## Mallaig Primary rewarded for biodiversity with flag

MALLAIG Primary School has been awarded a new Green Flag for Eco Schools from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Keep Scotland Beautiful recognised the school's hard work in reducing waste and energy consumption in the school, and its support in conserving biodiversity in the local area.

The organisation also highlighted the good relationship the school has with the area's fishermen, the RNLI, the RSPB and the Coastal Rangers' Service, and how the children have used these links to create a strong eco ethos in the school.

Head teacher Dawn MacPhie said the school was also 'warmly commended' for community litter picking and anti-dog fouling campaigns, and also for 'our generous support of worthwhile charities like Water Aid.'

Ms MacPhie said: 'As part of our school's eco work, the children have also been collecting donations of food for the Lochaber Food Bank throughout the whole of December.'

'We have been successful in collecting a huge amount of donations, which will be passed onto the Lochaber Food Bank in time for Christmas.'



Pupils at Strontian Primary School and nursery performed their annual Christmas show and nativity to great acclaim. *Captain Hook's Revenge* was filmed by the BBC as part of news about their new school. Donald McCorkindale, from the Strontian Community Building Ltd, said the performance was 'well attended'. Children from the school's primary one to primary four classes and the nursery unit then took part in the school nativity, *Christmas Counts*, to a packed village hall.

## Busy time for pupils at island school

PUPILS at Raasay Primary School had a busy few weeks prior to the Christmas break, with a lot happening in the school.

The children learned about a charity which looks at clean water and sanitation.

Sandra Smith, the previous head teacher, came back to talk to the children about how people die from diseases caused by lack of proper toilet and water facilities.

The children took part in raising money for the charity coming up with a logo, Help Flush Away Poverty, and taking home money boxes which they put in their loo at home encouraging their families to spend a penny by donating each time they went to the toilet.

They raised more than £300, which head teacher Wilma Duncan said was 'fantastic for a small school in a small community. We are now proud owners

of a photograph and certificate of our "twin" toilet block in Kanombe village in Uganda.'

On Friday December 16 pupils and staff from the primary school and nursery took part in the Christmas jumper day in aid of Highland Hospice. They raised a fantastic total of £54.03.

A special visit by Santa to Raasay Primary School also took place, with Santa arriving on his own unique transport - on the back of a tractor with the help of his reindeer Snuffles, because Rudolph was indisposed.

Pictured are pupils and staff along with community members after attending the community carol service organised by the Reverend Rosemary Bungard and, inset, the children show off their certificate for their twin toilet block with a village in Uganda, and meeting Santa.



## MORVERN lines

### Saving the banner

DURING the Gulf War, a headline caught my attention. It was about a young Kuwaiti soldier who took his life in his hands to recapture a regimental tank flag taken by the enemy during a skirmish on the Iraq border. As the details emerged, it reminded me of a stone in Kiel graveyard, Morvern, and a story connected with it that used to be told in the parish many years ago of an 18-year-old man called Donald Livingstone who rescued his clan banner at Culloden in 1746.

Donald Livingstone, better known locally as Domhnall Mollach (Gaelic for 'hairy Donald') was born in 1728 at Savary near Finlary, on the shores of the Sound of Mull. The Livingstones first arrived in Morvern from Appin through Mull many centuries ago. Although they were tenants of the Duke of Argyll, who owned most of the parish at the time of the '45, Donald and his four brothers, one of whom was the great-great-grandfather of Dr David Livingstone, the famous missionary and explorer, were Jacobites and fought under the Stewarts of Appin.

At Culloden, the Stewart Regiment, numbering about 300, were in the front line along with the Camerons and the Athol men. As soon as the battle began, they charged, breaking through Barrell's (4th) and Munro's (37th) at the front of Cumberland's army. Passing through them, they continued to surge forward but, coming under heavy fire from three other artillery regiments, were forced back. The charge stopped, the Highland line was shattered and the battle was over in



Donald Livingstone revealing the Stewart banner to his mother at Savary. From a painting by Skeoch Cumming.



Donald Livingstone's gravestone, Kiel, Morvern.

less than an hour. The Appin Regiment lost 92 men and 65 were seriously wounded.

Some clan historians say the Carmichaels were the hereditary standard-bearers of the Stewarts of Appin, while others maintain it was the Livingstones, 17 of whom were killed defending the colours. Be that as it may, neither recorded fact nor tradition is divided as to what happened next.

Donald Mollach from Morvern saw the blue and yellow banner lying on the ground and, rushing forward under fire, ripped it from its staff, wrapped it round his body and took to his heels. On the way off the battlefield, he was struck on the chest by a musket ball which knocked him off his feet but only because of the impact as the folds of the banner acted as body armour. A little while later, a riderless horse trotted by and Donald managed to get into the saddle. Two English dragoons saw him riding away and went after him. He dealt with one and frightened the other off.

Donald eventually found his way home to Savary still with the banner, but soon he had to hide it and take to the hills himself when 200 of the Argyll Militia arrived in the parish looking for Prince Charles Edward Stewart and known Jacobite sympathisers. For months, he was constantly on the move, resting in caves during the day and being supplied with food by friends at night. When the soldiers left and life returned to some form of normality, Donald retrieved the banner and returned it to his grateful chief in Appin.

The banner remained in the Stewart family who, by some odd freak of fate, also acquired two colours of the Hanoverian Barrell's 4th Regiment whom, it will be recalled, fought against the Appin men at Culloden. In 1930, all three banners were given to the Stewart Society on condition they were to be kept together and that in any account of their recognition was to be given to Donald Mollach. The following year they were presented to the Scottish National Military Museum in Edinburgh Castle and laid up with full military honours. There they stayed until 1998 when the director of the new National Museums of Scotland, who was casting round for exhibition material, wrongly removed them because he considered them to be 'appropriate' for a public display on the Jacobites.

Donald Mollach died at Savary in 1816 and was buried beside his parents in Kiel, Morvern. The spot is marked by a magnificent sculptured monument and a metal plaque placed there in 1983 during a special service of commemoration attended by clan chief Sir Dugald Stewart of Appin and Baron Alastair Livingstone of Bachuil, Lismore, one of Donald Mollach's descendants.

The newspaper report of the Kuwaiti soldier who rescued the regimental flag in Operation Desert Storm made no mention of whether he received the thanks of his commander or what became of the flag. Perhaps one day his story, too, may be written up and recorded for posterity among his people, just as Donald's was all these years ago.

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## Children join music star on stage

MÀNAN accordionist Gary Innes put on a Christmas carol concert with a twist at the Nevis Centre this year.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Gary said the Lochaber Christmas carol concert, which was held on December 17, was 'really good.'

Lochaber High School's pipe band, big band and folk band, as well as some Lochaber primary school choirs, joined Gary on stage.

Gary said: 'It was magic. We would be keen to do it again next year and hopefully it can be something that will grow.'



Banavie Primary School enjoyed getting on stage with Gary to join in with the singing.

## View from the Chamber



REFLECTING back over the past 12 months, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce has had an incredibly successful year.

Membership has grown to just over 200 and the organisation has a new, full-time team in place.

In 2017, the Chamber is committed to improving membership engagement through a wide range of planned events and these will include the popular business forum meetings, which are open to Premium-level members of the Chamber, and the successful Ideas Week event in November.

In addition, there will be the regular monthly networking sessions with the opportunity to showcase your business during these events. If there is a particular event you would like to see the Chamber running (such as employment law, for example), then please get in touch.

The primary objective of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is to represent the interests of the



Fiona McCormick can help with inquiries.

Lochaber business community, and to facilitate networking between businesses to contribute to local economic growth.

The only way this can happen successfully is if members contribute so please take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

If your business is not yet a member, please get in touch with Fiona McCormick, membership and events officer, to find out more membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk or call 01397 705765

# Double initiative brings hope for those in crisis

MONICA GIBSON  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

VULNERABLE people living in Lochaber could enjoy a new sense of hope thanks to the launch of two initiatives.

Born out of the needs of local residents, Lochaber Hope provides help for people to cope with a wide range of sensitive and personal issues.

The charity has been offering support since 2005 but it is now set to expand to include a peer mentoring scheme for young people and a new 'women's space' initiative.

As part of the mentoring programme, Lochaber Hope will recruit and train young people aged between 16 and 24 years old.

They are looking for individuals who can 'spot and refer' peers in the community who are vulnerable or in crisis, and assist them to seek help or to recognise risk and dangers.

A spokesperson said: 'We will provide training and administrative support for the scheme, as well as a drop-in centre where youth mentors can build strong relationships with existing mentors and be supported in their learning in a safe and trusting environment.'

'Women's space' has been launched with the support of the Robertson's Trust and it is a project that will allow women to get together, collaborate and champion their own ideas.

There will be a weekly drop-in beginning on Wednesday January 11 then taking place every Wednesday between noon and 2pm at the Lochaber Hope's new premises on Belford Road.

Lochaber Hope says the drop-ins will be an inspiring, empowering and heart-warming environment offering an opportunity for like-minded women to get together and be creative about the things that really matter to them.

The aim is to give the women of the local community a voice



Creative writing courses are scheduled to begin on January 11 as part of the women's space programme. Taking part are, left to right, Catherine Morrison, Andrea Macdonald, Alyson Smith and Dani Drummond. Below: Alexander Ogilvie and Iona Crew signal hope for the future with peer mentoring for 16- to 24-year-olds. Pictures: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

and to be heard. As it will be a user-led project, the women who become involved will decide how they would like to see the initiative develop in the future.

The spokesperson added: 'This is just the start for the women's space - the rest is up to you. Do you have a great idea or can think of something you would really like to do or learn, but have never had the opportunity?'

'While activities are, at the moment, taking place in Fort William, we would love to involve as many women as possible and would gladly organise spaces around Lochaber. Just let us know.'

For more information or to book a place contact Teresa on 01397 704836 or email teresa.debillot@lochaberhope.org.uk or Dani.Drummond@lochaberhope.org.uk



Amanda Holdaway has discovered a flair for writing poetry.

## Writer Amanda finds release in her poetry

'YOU HAVE to keep your mind busy, or your hands, or both' - that's according to one Roy Bridge woman who has found a new love for poetry.

Amanda Holdaway spent her professional career as an insurance claims investigator.

Originally from Sussex, she moved to Lochaber with her mother 13 years ago and her current home eight years ago.

Amanda describes herself as a creative person who has always had a love for words, but told *The Oban Times* it was when her mother died just over two years ago that she really started writing.

'English and history were my preferred subjects at school,' she said, 'and I received distinction in both of them. I used to write occasionally but it really was sporadic, when the mood took me.'

'I am single so when my mother died it was really just me - and the long dark Lochaber nights were sometimes difficult. I guess I found the writing kind of therapeutic and wrote more and more.'

'At the hardest times, my writing has reflected my mood and has been quite melancholic but I found putting my thoughts down help ease me out.'

'Similarly, if I look out of the window and see a squirrel being silly in the trees, then it can really make me laugh and it is fun to jot it down.'

One of Amanda's first poems was a gift for a neighbour, and the present was appreciated so much that when he told friends and family about it, they started asking for their own.

But despite the increase in frequency, Amanda still

prefers to write by hand. The 58-year-old said: 'My neighbour enjoyed golf so much and one day the words just came to me so I put them together. Next thing I knew I was being asked for poems about a hamster and what not.'

'I love to play with words. I sometimes put words on pieces of paper and can then can draw them together in a way that creates a nice poem - you couldn't do the same with a computer.'

'The other day I was driving in the car and the first line of a new poem came to me so I held on to it in my head and wrote it when I got home. The poems just seem to happen - I don't plan them as such but they certainly bring me joy.'

*The Oban Times* will feature one of Amanda's poems each week, the first of which is here.

**WINTERS' SHOW**  
*Softly falling flakes  
muffle sound  
as they gently touch the ground.*

*Whiteness filling air  
gathers pace  
as more and more join the race.*

*A collision of  
joining hands  
makes a blanket once it lands.*

*Frequently pristine scene  
untouched snow  
only contours left on show*

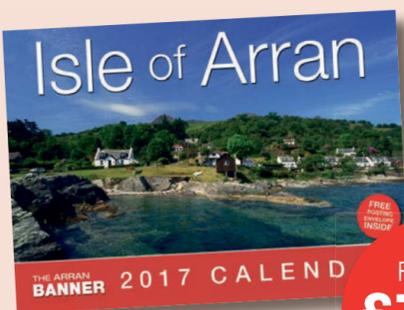
*Prior sights erased  
with coating  
winter's uniform enshrouding*

*Uniquely formed  
every one  
share their fate under the sun.*

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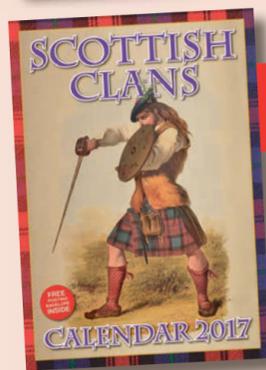
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# Rubbish row rumbles on

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

RATS, rubbish and an increase in fearless foxes have all been on the rise since bin collections moved from once a fortnight to once every three weeks, say *Oban Times* readers.

The council claims there has been an increase in people recycling items – but visitors to Moleigh, the local authority's waste disposal and recycling centre, say it is full to overflowing with general waste.

Claims that weekly collections in Soroba were going to be reintroduced were confirmed by a council insider who said: 'The people who made the decisions about the bins were not the people doing the job and therefore the scheme set up for Soroba was never going to work.'

The demand for second green bins has been so high that the local authority has now run out of them and is waiting for more to be delivered.

The council insider said: 'People in Soroba have seen people from outside the area drive up and dump into the communal bins – it is a disgrace.'

A statement from Argyll and Bute Council issued before Christmas said bin collections would remain the same over the festive period, however, reports from all over Oban and Lorn would suggest many people felt this was not the case.

The local authority said: 'Bin collection days will remain the same over the new year period.'

'The civic amenity site at Moleigh, Oban, will be closed on January 1 and 2 but will be

open from 10am to 2pm on Tuesday January 3.'

Fiona Vick posted on *The Oban Times* Facebook page: 'Remain the same? They haven't even emptied our green bins since Tuesday 27 (when scheduled) been out on the road since Monday night.'

'Reported twice and all I got was leave the bins out. This is not the bin men's fault! It's the council's fault.'

'Soroba is going back to weekly collections too, so why is everyone not going back to the same! Can't treat some people differently than others. We all pay council tax, we all should have an equal service.'

Donna Macaulay was in the same position as many others who were using the dump much more regularly to get rid of waste.

She said: 'Should put everyone back to fortnightly collections, having weekly for some and what we've been getting is outrageous.'

'I'm having to take stuff up to the dump myself all the b\*\*\*\*\*y time.'

While reader Rebecca Cressey added: 'Not collected! Have not remained the same, have been tightening their belts to the detriment of the collections.'

'[the council is] too tight to pay for bin men during holiday times, always fobbed off with lorry breakdown, shambles!'

Residents throughout Oban are claiming that bins have not been collected in areas such as Bay View Road, around the tower, Taynult, Connel and North Connel. One woman, who did not want to be named,

has started taking pictures of the dead rats she is finding near her home. She believes this is due in part to the increased rubbish sitting outside people's houses.

She said: 'I have never seen anything like it. A mouse, yes, but not a huge big rat running all over the place. What next – botulism, the plague? Give us back our bin collections now.'

Other people in outlying areas are reporting 'hissing' foxes when they are disturbed while breaking into discarded general waste next to bins.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council's new refuse and recycling collection service has led to an increase in recycling.'

'The new model – keeping recycling collection services as they are and moving to a three-weekly schedule for general (green) bins was introduced first on Mull at the start of October then in the rest of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles in late November.'

Chairman of the local area committee Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'We are aware of general concerns in the Soroba area.'

'We've been in discussions with the housing association and are looking to create space for additional large recycling bins. We'll put an extra run on this week and will monitor the situation.'

'We'll also be arranging meetings with residents to clarify things and remind people of the various recycling options available to them.'

## Still going strong at 104!



Betty Paxton with some of the many flowers she received on her birthday. 17\_01Betty01

A WOMAN in Oban celebrated her 104th birthday last week and revealed the secret to longevity might be hard work, writes David McPhee.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Paxton was born on December 30 1912 in Craignish, 25 miles south of Oban.

The centenarian said at first she didn't have a secret but then disclosed 'maybe it is hard work'.

Betty, who is one of seven sisters, travelled all over the world

with her husband because of his job.

She has visited Europe, Africa, America and Australia, although she doesn't have a favourite as she 'admired them all'.

'I am fine for my age,' she said. 'I am an old woman now, but I was treated well and I have enjoyed it [life].'

'I had some good friends and I love to hear about them, even now.'

'I was born in Craignish but

I have been in Oban for a long time. My children [Doreen, Claire and James] were all educated in Oban, before going off to university.'

'We were brought up well as children,' she added. 'We were strong. We were farmer's children. We could do anything boys could do.'

'We had to do it and we did it with a vengeance. We never grudged being given hard work and I would not have had it any other way.'

## TIMESLINE

### Man arrested over alleged assault

AN ALLEGATION of serious assault on Hogmanay (December 31 into January 1) has led to a 20-year-old man being charged.

The police were alerted to the incident at Combie Court, Oban, and later arrested the Oban man.

The man was due to appear in court yesterday, Wednesday.

### OAP lucky after car rolls across A85

A PENSIONER was thanking her lucky stars on Tuesday afternoon after the parked car she was sitting in rolled across the verge of the A85 near to the Halfway House Filling Station.

Locals got out of their cars and directed traffic while one helped the woman to the safety of the garage where she was met by the driver of her car who immediately jumped into the car and drove it from the verge.

It is understood the car had an automatic handbrake.

### Have your say in consultation

THERE is still time to have your say as part of Argyll and Bute Council's consultation.

Councillor Dick Walsh, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'These are tough times for councils. Our Scottish Government funding continues to be cut, so we must continue to make changes to our work. We'd like therefore to hear from as many people as possible about what [services] matters most.'

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Save big with £2.50 off Sure Anti-Perspirant (250ml) now only £1.49. Or pick up all your Bathroom essentials for less than a pound - Nivea Deodorant (150ml), Nivea Handwash (250ml) and Nivea Shower Cream (250ml) are all only 99p!

If, like us, you have decided its "New Year New You!" you'll find the same great prices on our health boosting range of products. We can help you stop smoking with our range of Niquitin patches (7PK) and lozenges (60pk) reduced to £9.99 to help you stay in control.

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# Arena

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

## Jingle all the way at high school's Christmas dance

LOCHABER High School pupils enjoyed their annual Christmas disco and dance. S5 and S6 youngsters took to the floor on December 21 and for a number of pupils it was their last school

Christmas dance. Also rounding off the year in style were the S1-S4 pupils who had a Christmas disco the night before. Both nights were a great success.



### Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

**Lochgilhead** Thu 5 - Sat 7 Jan  
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05/01 at 5.30pm, 07/01 at 2pm, 09/01 at 5.30pm, 11/01 at 5.30pm

**Bridget Jones's Baby** (15) 123 mins  
"... a fizzy delight." Rolling Stone  
05/01 at 8.30pm, 09/01 at 8.30pm

**I, Daniel Blake** (15) 100 mins  
Winner of the Palme d'Or and directed by Ken Loach. "... a work of scalding and moving relevance." Variety  
06/01 at 5.30pm

**Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them** (12A) 133 mins  
Eddie Redmayne stars in visually spectacular Harry Potter spin-off. "This highly entertaining twist on jazz age America breathes fresh life into the Potter franchise" Guardian  
06/01 at 8.30pm, 07/01 at 5.30pm, 10/01 at 5.30pm

**Sully** (12A) 96 mins  
Directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Tom Hanks. "thrilling, heart-in-mouth stuff" Scotsman  
07/01 at 8.30pm, 10/01 at 8.30pm, 11/01 at 8.30pm

Book now at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults and £5.50 Concessions



### Eye to eye with John Wallace

At this time of reflection on the past year I have been thinking about lectures I have attended and articles I have read in the past 12 months that profoundly changed my way of thinking about patient treatments. The area of biggest change in thinking has been in the treatment of "lazy eye" (properly called amblyopia) and squint.

Many years ago Nobel Prize-winning research found the vision area of the brain mainly consists of cells that need input from both eyes to function properly. For some reason

in "lazy eye" there is a miss-match of information being sent to the brain from our two eyes and "binocular competition" develops. Our brains don't like this and to eliminate the competition the brain suppresses, or switches off, the information being sent from one eye. This can be by allowing one eye to turn in or out so this "squinting" eye is not seeing the same as the other eye. It can also be by switching off the connections within the brain for information from one eye.

The revolution

### A Time for Reflection

in thinking is that squints do not cause "lazy eye" and are, in fact, in 95 per cent of cases nothing to do with an ocular muscle problem but are a response by the brain to this binocular competition. This means that the best way of treating squints is by treating the vision problem that is causing the underlying information miss-match and seldom by surgery.

Many eye-care professionals sadly still believe it is impossible to treat "lazy eyes" after the age of seven years. Evidence about "neural plasticity" has changed dramatically recently. It is now common place to successfully treat adults with "lazy eye" and squints and also patients with traumatic brain injury at any age. It just takes more time in older patients.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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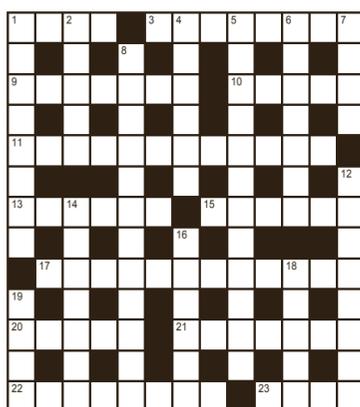
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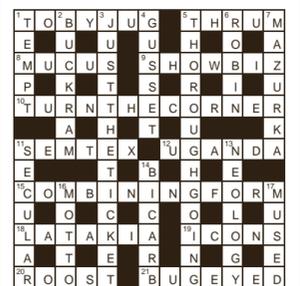
[www.scotsheritagemagazine.com](http://www.scotsheritagemagazine.com)



- Across
- Compelling (4)
  - Caution (8)
  - One who is famous (7)
  - Beat (5)
  - Childhood hurt, experienced at the beginning of a new enterprise (7,5)
  - Subject test for those in their late teens (1,5)
  - Marketing ploy (6)
  - Not agreeing (12)
  - One with a cover story (5)
  - Strips (7)
  - Bracket (8)
  - Method of sending a note (4)

- Down
- Woven letters (8)
  - Language of South Africa (5)
  - Unearth from the deep (6)
  - Not heading home (7-5)
  - Huge (7)
  - Go on this without much preparation (4)
  - Destroying (12)
  - Where acts are seen (5,3)
  - Snob (7)
  - Classic sports car, one to fear? (6)
  - Group not having the support of a large company (5)
  - After-bath powder (4)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION





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Friday 6 January – Thursday 12 January

**PASSENGERS | 12A | 136 MIN**  
Fri, Sat: 15:00, 20:15. Sun: 12:30, 17:30. Mon, Tue: 16:30, 19:15. Wed: 16:00, 17:00.

On a routine journey through space to a new home, two passengers, sleeping in suspended animation, are awakened 90 years too early when their ship malfunctions. As Jim (Chris Pratt) and Aurora (Jennifer Lawrence) face living the rest of their lives on board, with every luxury they could ever ask for, they begin to fall for each other, unable to deny their intense attraction... until they discover the ship is in grave danger. With the lives of 5000 sleeping passengers at stake, only Jim and Aurora can save them all.

Parent and Baby Screening: Tues 11.30 (Lights dimmed. Baby changing available)

**RSC LIVE: THE TEMPEST | 12a | 210 MIN**  
Wed: 19:00

On a distant island a man waits. Robbed of his position, power and wealth, his enemies have left him in isolation. But this is no ordinary man, and this no ordinary island. Prospero is a magician, able to control the very elements and bend nature to his will. When a sail appears on the horizon, he reaches out across the ocean to the ship that carries the men who wronged him. Creating a vast magical storm he wrecks the ship and washes his enemies up on the shore. When they wake they find themselves lost on a fantastical island where nothing is as it seems.

**BALLERINA | U | 119 MIN**  
Fri: 12:30

Children's animation. Set in 1879 Paris. An orphan girl dreams of becoming a ballerina and flees her rural Brittany for Paris, where she passes for someone else and accedes to the position of pupil at the Grand Opera house.

**KIDS CLUB: BALLERINA | U | 119 MIN**  
Sat: 12:30

**SILVER SCREEN: A UNITED KINGDOM | 12a | 131 MIN**  
Sun: 14:30

Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! Tea and cake £1.50. Prince Seretse Khama of Botswana causes an international stir when he marries a white woman from London in the late 1940s

**MOANA | PG | 133 MIN**  
Fri: 2:30, Sat: 2:30

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.

**THE BIRTH OF A NATION | 15 L | 140 MIN**  
Fri, Sat: 17:45. Sun: 17:00. Mon, Tues: 19:00. Wed: 19:30

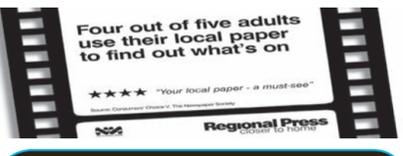
Set against the antebellum South, THE BIRTH OF A NATION follows Nat Turner (Nate Parker), a literate slave and preacher, whose financially strained owner, Samuel Turner (Armie Hammer), accepts an offer to use Nat's preaching to subdue unruly slaves. As he witnesses countless atrocities - against himself and his fellow slaves - Nat orchestrates an uprising in the hopes of leading his people to freedom.

**SULLY | 12A | 116 MIN**  
Fri: 20:00, Sat: 20:00

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.

**ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY | 12A | 153 MIN**  
Fri: 17:00, Sat: 17:00, Mon, Tue: 16:00, 3D: Fri: 12:00, Sat: 12:00, Mon: 14:45

'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.



**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

**PLUS FREE KID'S CLUB TICKET**

The Oban Times New Year Cinema Offer

Tuesday night screenings only

In association with Oban Phoenix Cinema

The Oban Times is celebrating the arrival of 2017 with an amazing offer for its readers! Shake off those post-Christmas January blues and head on down to Oban Phoenix Cinema with our buy-one-get-one-free offer for Tuesday night screenings. Valid until January 24, 2017. Booking essential.

Kids feeling gloomy that Christmas is over? Treat them to a FREE Kid's Club movie - valid until Saturday January 28, 2017. Kid's Club showings are every Saturday morning. Booking essential. Admits one child. Parents go for £1.

To book, take your completed coupon along to Oban Phoenix Cinema, 140 George Street, Oban. You can find details of films and times in this issue of The Oban Times or online at www.obanphoenix.com. If you are a digital subscriber - we don't want you to miss out! Give us a call on 01631 568000 and we will give you details on how you can claim the offer.

**FREE KID'S CLUB ADMISSION**

This voucher entitles the holder to one free child admission to Oban Phoenix Cinema Saturday morning Kid's Club. Valid until Saturday January 28, 2017. Booking essential. Parents go for £1. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Fill in your details and take to Oban Phoenix Cinema to book in advance. One voucher per one admission. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Whilst tickets last.

Name.....  
Email.....

Oban Phoenix Cinema would like to add you to their mailing list for the latest news and offers. Tick here to opt out.

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

This voucher entitles the holder to one free admission to any Tuesday night screening with purchase of one full paying ticket. Offer valid until Tuesday January 24, 2017. Booking essential. Fill in your details and take to Oban Phoenix Cinema to book in advance. One voucher per one admission. Photocopied vouchers will not be accepted. Whilst tickets last.

Name.....  
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Oban Phoenix Cinema would like to add you to their mailing list for the latest news and offers. Tick here to opt out.

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

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



Runners set off on the Aonach Mor uphill race. Photograph: A Brightside Photography.

## Ewan wins New Year's day race

A TOTAL of 123 runners turned out on New Year's day to take part in Lochaber Athletics Club's (LAC) first race of 2017. There were 'ideal conditions' on Sunday for the Aonach Mor

uphill race where Lochaber's Ewan Thorburn was the first male home in a time of 22:37. He was followed by Ochil Hill Runners Alisdair Anthony in 23:20 and Alistair Hodges of

### Athletics

Cambridge and Coleridge Athletics Club in 23:49.

The first female home was Sula Gay, Hunter Bog Trotters, in a time of 27:24. In second place was Morag MacClelland, Hunter Bog Trotters, in 29:30, who was closely followed by Elizabeth Adams, Westies, in 29:46. A spokesperson for LAC said: 'Well done to everyone who took part and massive thanks to organisers, marshalls and timekeepers Corrina, Cammy, Ian, Elizabeth, Rhona, Aileen, Elaine any others I may have missed and Nevis Range and sponsors Run4it, Cotswolds and Vicki Anderson. Many thanks to you all and a happy New Year.'



Locals and visitors took part in the 13th annual Loch Shiel News Year's Day swim, jumping into the waters which were a balmy 7°C.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

## Balmy conditions for annual Glenfinnan dip

IT WAS one of the warmest Glenfinnan dips to date as 37 people waded in Loch Shiel on New Year's day at a balmy 7°C.

The event, which is in its thirteenth year, was attended by lots of spectators and swimmers from as far afield as London, Liverpool and Aberdeen. People took to the water at noon, in front

of the Glenfinnan House Hotel, with some taking on a full swim while others dipped straight in and out.

### Nice day

Morag Hughes, who has taken part in the dip for the last 13 years, told *The Oban Times*: 'It's such a nice day with lots of people taking part and spectating.'

### Swimming

'Lots of people just come to watch and enjoy the fun.'

'This year we had lots of children there, with some two-year-olds just paddling in their wellies.'

## Fort match called off

FORT William were 'gutted' after their home game against Strathspey Thistle last Friday was called off. With Claggan Park waterlogged, the home side had to postpone the match on December 30, the first game that has been called off this season.

Vice chairman of the club David Macdonald said: 'It was a game that had three points written all over it so everyone

### Football

was gutted it was called off.' Fort William's returning star Sean Ellis missed out on his last chance to play for the team as he heads back to Australia.

It has not been confirmed when the game will be rescheduled. The Fort head to Wick on Saturday.

## Siobhan and Ryan win Fraser MacPhee Trophy

LOCHABER High School pupils Siobhan Chambers and Ryan Boyle have been presented with the Fraser MacPhee Ambassador for Sport trophy by Duncan and Rosemary MacPhee.

The trophy is presented annually in memory of their son, Fraser, who died in 2002 while a pupil at Lochaber High School.

Siobhan, an S4 pupil, is a talented athlete who has a particular interest in gymnastics

and trains for seven hours every week.

She helps with coaching gymnastics, tennis and multi-sport activities where she has made an 'outstanding contribution' over the last two years.

### Ambassadors

Siobhan also enjoys climbing and participates in Dance Platform.

Ryan, also an S4 pupil, captained the North of Scotland U14 Shinty team and was named National U14 Shinty Player of the Year in 2015.

He has captained the school team that won the MacBean Cup three times and the MacPherson Cup twice.

Ryan was also an important member of the team that won the Wade Cup at Kingussie this year. Ryan helps out with shinty training for S1 pupils in the school and with U14 training at Fort William Shinty Club.

Both Siobhan and Ryan are also SportScotland Young Ambassadors, promoting sport and inspiring their peers to get involved in sport at the school, at local sports clubs and in the community.

## Plockton High School girls defeat Glenurquhart

### Girls' shinty

PLOCKTON High School's girls' shinty team emerged victorious with a 4-3 win over Glenurquhart.

The girls were on good form and the goal-scorers were Alaina MacLennan (1), Zoe Gordon (1) and Katie MacRae (2).

Head teacher at the school Lindsay Finlay said the win was 'a great way to round off the term'.

'Many thanks to Mrs Coghill and Mr David MacLeod for running the weekly coaching sessions, arranging fixtures and accompanying the team.'

'Girls' shinty has become established over the past couple of years thanks to the adult input and the enthusiasm and commitment of the girls. Well done to all.'



Plockton girls' shinty team.



Siobhan Chambers and Ryan Boyle were presented with the trophy by Rosemary and Duncan MacPhee.

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**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 January 5, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.03 1.4 10.15 3.5 16.50 1.6 22.30 3.2	
Fri	05.06 1.5 11.24 3.4 18.01 1.6 23.42 3.1	
Sat	06.23 1.6 13.00 3.3 19.15 1.6 *** **	
Sun	01.16 3.1 07.43 1.5 14.29 3.5 20.24 1.4	
Mon	02.41 3.3 08.59 1.3 15.31 3.6 21.26 1.2	
Tues	03.42 3.6 10.05 1.1 16.22 3.8 22.21 1.0	
Wed	04.31 3.8 11.01 0.9 17.07 4.0 23.10 0.8	

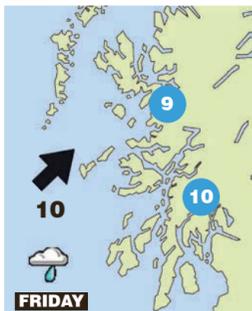
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)



Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

**WEATHER**

Thursday	Cloudy with rain during the night Winds moderate south south easterly Temperatures 5°C to 5°C.
Friday	Cloudy with light rain at times Winds moderate west south westerly Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.
Weekend Outlook	Light rain on Saturday Light rain on Sunday Winds strong west south westerly Temperatures 8°C to 9°C.



Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>			
Oban to Barra/South Uist			Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree			Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay			Moderate