



OT

## New care complex welcomed

HEALTH board officials and members of a project board met to discuss the outline business case for a proposed care complex in Castlebay, Barra – significantly moving the project forward after a delay.

Scottish Government and NHS Western Isles officials also met shortly before Christmas to discuss the facility in Barra called St Brendan's.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan welcomed the news. He said: 'The delays to this important project are something I have raised in the past. It is beyond doubt that the current building has to be replaced.'

'Recent correspondence I have received from the health secretary, Shona Robison, informed me that the government expects NHS Western Isles to submit the outline business case in late spring or early summer.'

'This is very welcome progress and I look forward to learning more details about the timetable when I next meet with the health board.'

Barra Councillor Donald Manford added: 'Myself and other members of the project board had a positive meeting with the health board.'

'I am satisfied that the project seems to have been pulled back on track. There is still a great deal of work that needs to be done and there is a tight timeline. However, we are now moving in the right direction.'

'It is widely recognised that the current hospital is unfit for purpose and that a new facility has been needed for some time.'

## Lifeboat transfers patient from Mull

OBAN lifeboat was launched on Saturday January 21 to assist with a medical transfer from the Isle of Mull.

The Mora Edith MacDonald was requested to launch on service at 2.04am to help the Scottish Ambulance Service with a medical transfer of a casualty from Craignure.

The volunteer crew departed Oban with two paramedics onboard, arriving alongside at Craignure by 2.55am. With the assistance of the Craignure Coast Rescue Team, the casualty was safely transferred to the lifeboat.

Arriving back in Oban by 3.45am, the casualty was transferred on to a waiting ambulance with the help of Oban's Coast Rescue Team.



Islanders hope the vehicle mezzanine on the MV Finlaggan will be repaired next month, increasing its car capacity by 20 per cent for the 2017 summer timetable.

# Island's business hit hard by late summer timetable

**SANDY NEIL**  
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A DELAY in publishing Calmac's summer timetable has cost Islay and Jura's tourist businesses dear, with one reporting a 32 per cent drop in bookings, the islands' tourism group has claimed.

This month Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell welcomed CalMac's 'late' 2017 summer timetable, but added: 'There are some disappointments, including the inability of CalMac to

respond fully to what the Islay communities say they need.'

Jack Fleming, chairman of Islay and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group, expressed relief but added the delay had cost local tourism business. He said: 'The delay in the release was highly detrimental, illustrated by one case of accommodation inquiries being 10 per cent up on the year but actual bookings being 32 per cent down – a common story across the membership.'

'While some of those inquiries will now convert to bookings,

it must also be true many will already have decided to go elsewhere. We simply cannot afford the risks associated with such late publication of timetables.'

'After many years of disruption at peak periods, Easter and summer most recently, we desperately need to establish Islay's and Jura's reputations as convenient destinations. Reliable ferry services and the timely availability of booking, are the foundation of that.'

Jim Porteous, secretary of the Islay Community Council

Ferry Committee, added the community's disappointment that 'CalMac rejected [our] proposal for additional weekend sailings for the full timetable, and that the extra sailings will once again be limited to the months of July and August and special events.'

'The reasons given by CalMac were that last summer these extra sailings on Thursday and Friday evenings were not well used and that Saturdays, which our committee had requested instead of Thursdays, were

currently not possible. The committee informed CalMac that the late extra sailings were unpopular and at inconvenient times for the community and visitors.'

'To obtain significant extra benefit, CalMac would have to negotiate with hauliers to use them for freight, and thereby free up more peak demand daytime space.'

He added: 'CalMac has said that it will be engaging with hauliers, review performance in 2017 and potentially reconsider for 2018.'

## Rare gull settles in Kintyre

READER Nick Fletcher of the Argyll Hotel at Bellochantuy in Kintyre had a very unusual visitor to the beach near his hotel.

Mr Fletcher said: 'Thought you may be interested in an unusual visitor we have to Argyll.'

'This winter we have a Glaucous gull spending quite some time on

the beach at Bellochantuy Bay outside our hotel. From what I can tell, it is a fairly rare sight.'

The Glaucous gull is a large pale gull with white wing tips. Younger birds are creamy white or more biscuit-coloured, depending on age. All have pale wingtips.

It is bigger than a herring gull and bulkier, with a fiercer expression, larger beak and squarer head than the smaller but virtually identically-plumaged Iceland gull.

The gull is rare and only 170 pairs are thought to be in the UK for winter passage.



## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Kildalton Castle

STANDING surrounded by woodland north-east of Port Ellen is the ruined Victorian country house known as Kildalton Castle.

It was designed by architect John Burnet in 1867 and built three years later for local landowner, distiller and politician John Ramsay, who had taken out a lease on the rundown Port Ellen distillery.

Ramsay reversed the fortunes of the ailing distillery, improved the island port's docking facilities and was also a pioneer of whisky exports to the Americas.

His Scots baronial-style home stood then in a 54,000-acre moorland estate and consists of two-storey accommodation wings dominated by a four-storey keep connected to a five-storey tower.

Ramsay also served as a JP, was a deputy lieutenant for Argyll, and was elected as MP for Stirling Burghs in 1868 and as the member for Falkirk Burghs in 1878.

He died in 1892 and the estate and distillery passed to his widow and son who sold the distillery to the Distillers Company in 1920.

Two years later, the Kildalton estate was sold to John Talbot Clifton, a wealthy landowner from Lytham in Lancashire and whose main interests were shooting and world travel.

Some of the animal species he came across during his extensive travels were new to science and, as a result, he gave his name to a type of Siberian sheep and a Canadian marmot.

Clifton was married to the English writer Violet Beauclerk, whose biography of her husband *The Book of Talbot* won her the James Tait Black Memorial prize for literature in 1933.

Talbot Clifton's last venture was

an expedition to Timbuktu in which he was accompanied by his wife. He took ill en route and the couple headed for Santa Cruz in Tenerife where he died of lung cancer in 1928.

Violet had her body embalmed and brought back to Islay, where he was buried on Cnoc Rhaonastil, which overlooks his island home and castle. She eventually left Islay and took up residence in Lytham Hall where she died in 1961.

With her departure from the island, Kildalton Castle's years of steady decline and neglect began.

In the intervening years, portions of a once large estate have been sold off.

There is little doubt that Talbot Clifton's lifestyle made heavy inroads into the family wealth and his sons went on to completely dissipate what remained.

Gradually, the castle building deteriorated and the collapse of the floors and parts of the roof leaves only a shell standing. It is now con-

sidered unsafe and is registered as 'a building at risk'.

Various attempts to restore the building by the Middleton family, current owners of the house and its policies, have come to nothing and it remains today a crumbling reminder of a time and way of life now long gone.

### Distiller's new role

SIMON COUGHLIN, chief executive at Bruichladdich Distillery, is taking over the management of a newly created Whisky Business Unit within the parent group Remy Cointreau.

This follows the French company's recent acquisition of the Domaine des Hautes Glaces in France and the Westland Distillery in America.

The Domaine des Hautes Glaces, a small farm distillery high in the French Alps, grows its own cereals for distillation, while the much

## Piers and harbour study is launched

ARGYLL and Bute Council launched a consultation on fees and charges at its piers and harbours this week.

The current fees throughout Argyll and Bute have never been standardised and the consultation will help to simplify the current system and ensure the long-term future of these key transport links.

Councillor Ellen Morton, chairwoman of Argyll and Bute Council's Harbour Board, explained: 'The 39 piers and harbours owned and operated by the council are vitally important to the local economy, bringing people and goods into Argyll and Bute, and providing local communities with vital transport links.'

'There are substantial costs associated with operating so many differing piers, from the small, unmanned and quiet leisure slips like Keills, south of Tayvallich and Lagg on Jura to the large, busy ferry ports like Craignure on Mull and Rothesay on Bute.'

'In line with good practice, in the interests of ensuring the council is making the most of its assets, a review of fees and charges at our piers and harbours has been carried out. We are now looking to consult with users and members of the public on a set of general proposals.'

'I would encourage anyone with an interest in the council's piers and harbours to take the time to give us their views.'

'The feedback from the consultation will be used to inform the final plans.'

The consultation can be accessed at: <https://www.arygg-bute.gov.uk/consultations/fees-and-charges-piers-and-harbours>.

## Development consultation

WESTERN Isles Council has published its plans for local development and is now asking people to comment. The plan and associated documents forms the comhairle's approach to the development of land in the Outer Hebrides over the next 20 years. The comhairle is inviting communities, organisations, businesses and individuals to have their say.

Go to [www.cne-siar.gov.uk/planningservice/devplanconsultations.aspx](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/planningservice/devplanconsultations.aspx).

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Simon Coughlin

larger American concern in Seattle concentrates on local barley, peat and oak.

The parent company's expansion will draw heavily on Simon's experience at Bruichladdich as it moves forward.

Although he has played a vital part in the distillery's life since its resurrection 2000, he took over the chief executive position when Remy Cointreau bought the distillery in 2012.

While former wine merchant Simon will remain Islay-based, he will be in overall control of the three companies.

Taking over as the new chief executive will be Douglas Taylor, the current global brand director, who has been part of the Bruichladdich team for the past six years.

Hugh Smith,  
4 Flora Street, Bowmore,  
Islay PA43 7JX.  
Telephone: 01496 810 658

## POLICE FILES

TWO men were arrested following an altercation outside the Corran Halls in Oban on Sunday January 22. They were later released from police custody, and reported to the procurator fiscal for alleged assault and obstruction.

**POLICE** are appealing for information after a blue and black Renault vehicle caused an obstruction to the entrance of Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital on Glengallan Road, at 1.45pm on January 23. Anyone who witnessed the incident is invited to call 101 and ask to speak to PC Andrew Hogg at Oban Police Office.

# Opposition MSPs hail victory in vote to save board of HIE

ELLIE FORBES

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**SCOTTISH** Government plans to abolish the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) were shot down at Holyrood last week.

Opposition MSPs have been united in their fight against the SNP plans to scrap the HIE board and absorb it into a Scotland-wide body.

The government was defeated in its plans last Wednesday (January 18) by just one vote as opposition voted 64 to 63 against the SNP.

During the debate, Scotland's cabinet secretary for the economy Keith Brown stated HIE was not solely responsible for much of what has happened in the Highlands, claiming success had come through a joint effort

between the board and the government.

He said: 'One example is the huge Rio Tinto project. Saving those jobs and building on them will have a huge economic impact on the area, given the population sparsity. That was the result of a joint effort between Scottish Enterprise and HIE.'

And SNP MSP Kate Forbes hit back at what she described as 'misleading claims' from opposition MSPs about the future of HIE.

The Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP responded to Conservative MSP Douglas Ross's tweet claiming HIE would be moved to the central belt, saying it was 'downright lies'.

During the debate Mr Ross said: 'Calling Scottish Conservatives liars because we have



MSP Kate Forbes, left, and council leader Margaret Davidson.

taken such a strong position against the SNP's centralisation plans begs the question why we have gained so much support for our opposition.'

Following the debate, Ms Forbes said there was room

for improvement within HIE and hoped that stage two of the government's review would lead to help empowering the enterprise.

She said: 'Let's be clear – HIE is not under threat. It will still

be Highland-centred, Highland-based and Highland-run.

'I'm amazed at the gross exaggeration, empty hyperbole and irresponsible superlatives that have dominated the discussion on HIE's future in the past few months.'

Opposition members have been celebrating the victory.

Labour MSP Rhoda Grant said: 'The government's only aim with this proposal is to continue with its relentless march towards centralisation and control.'

'This government is obsessed with moving power and services south, and repeatedly shows its contempt for the people of the Highlands and Islands.'

'I call upon all Highlanders and islanders to say enough is enough and speak out against this wrong-headed plan.'

And leader of the Highland Council, Margaret Davidson, said: 'This vote sends a strong message to the Scottish Government about its incessant centralising agenda and we would now urge ministers to reconsider their entire approach.'

'We now ask the government to provide guarantees that Highlands and Islands Enterprise will continue to operate on the basis of delivering local decision-making.'

Commenting after the debate Mr Ross said centralisation plans for HIE should now be shelved, and the government should allow HIE to get back to work.

He commented: 'The SNP should listen to local communities, and now parliament, and scrap these ill-thought through proposals.'

## Sky lantern ban is on the cards

A MOTION to ban sky lanterns and helium balloons is being heard at Argyll and Bute Council today (Thursday).

The plan to ban the use of the balloons and sky lanterns is to protect wildlife on the land and in the sea.

Sky lanterns are popular at weddings and to celebrate festivals.

A report to councillors proposes 'that Argyll and Bute agree to ban the use of sky lanterns and helium balloon release from council-owned property in an effort to make the countryside safer for grazing livestock, prevent harm to wildlife at sea and on land, and to protect the environment.'

'The council is asked to delegate to the director of development and infrastructure the authority to put in place arrangements to support his principle.'

### Talk to us

Send your news and photographs to editor@obantimes.co.uk

## TV take on rural housing

A NEW four-part series on BBC ALBA examines the dramatic development of rural housing in Scotland over the years.

In the second part next Monday (January 30), builder Ewen MacKinnon, who has a passion for the beauty of construction, continues his fascinating and revealing journey through Scotland's rural housing landscape - telling a story of place, people and home in *Rural Housing*.

The history of traditional buildings in the Highlands and Islands resonates particularly with people today, with an increasing number are choosing to build new homes using the materials from early 19th century homes and in line with much-loved styles, such as the blackhouse.

Among the buildings visited will be the impressive Isle of Lewis stone structures, the Bosta Iron Age House on Great Bernera, Uig the Norse Mill in nearby Shawbost, the S-shaped house named Oran na Mara on Harris, the Hebridean Earth House on South Uist and the Carloway broch, Isle of Lewis.

These buildings have also inspired numerous impressive new island homes.

Viewers also find out about the fascinating wooden crannogs and there will be a visit to the restored Gearrannan Blackhouse Village on Lewis, which has a new life as holiday accommodation.

*Rural Housing* airs on BBC Alba on Mondays at 8.30pm.

## Council's planning committee fails to make decision on Tiree beach hut – once again

THE FATE of a controversial Tiree beach hut, built at Balevullin without planning permission, is still hanging in the balance – despite councillors meeting for a third time to discuss the matter, writes Sandy Neil.

Tiree entrepreneur Iona Larg, who runs surfing company Blackhouse Watersports on the island, which is billed as 'the Hawaii of the north', submitted two retrospective planning applications for two wooden beach huts at Balevullin beach and at Gott Bay in December 2015.

The Balevullin hut attracted 39 objections and 100 expressions of support, including from TV chef Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, while Gott Bay hut attracted eight objections and 17 letters of support.

Planning officers recommended that Argyll and Bute Council's Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee (PPSL) refuse planning permission as a departure from the Local Development Plan (LDP).

Councillors decided to hold a local discretionary hearing in An Talla Community Hall, Crossapol, Tiree, on November



28. Prior to the hearing, the applicants withdrew the planning application to retain the Gott Bay hut, which has now been removed.

At this meeting, councillors agreed to continue their deliberations until January 18 for an area capacity evaluation (ACE), a study produced by council planners to assess if

a development constitutes an 'exceptional case' to the LDP, and presents 'no unacceptable physical impact upon an identified area of common landscape character'.

A draft report, presented last Wednesday January 18 to the PPSL meeting in Kilmory Castle by head of planning and regulatory services Angus

Gilmore, concluded the Balevullin hut does have a 'materially harmful visual impact'. But councillors again held off making a decision to 'critique' the ACE.

Lomond North councillor George Freeman, who proposed the motion, said: 'It is controversial locally. We want to avoid any potential challenge.' Councillor

Councillors have again put off making a decision about the beach hut on Tiree. Surfing business owner Iona Larg told the *The Oban Times* the decision could mean the end of her business and force the family to move off the island.

Roddy McCuish's motion to decide that day found no seconder and so was defeated.

Speaking afterwards, Iona Larg told *The Oban Times*: 'The saga continues. The main argument is that there is an alternative site but it is not viable.'

Taking the hut away, she said, would also remove 'our ability to do business, and us as a family. I have three children on the island. [With the removal of the hut from Gott Bay] that's half of our business gone already. This is our main business.'

If Argyll and Bute [Council] are serious about population decline and supporting business, we have to do it now, because we are leaving the EU: EU funding will go.

'We are an environmentally-friendly and responsible business that is totally self-funded.'

'We had permission from Argyll Estates, the landowner. The West Coast, Argyll and Tiree has the most consistent surf and it is easily accessible. We have to look at what we have got. We are supporting Tiree tourism on an international level. If we have businesses supporting families on islands, we should be saying, thank you.'



An illustration of what the new facility could look like.



Loganair operates Twin Otter DHC6-400 aircraft on the Barra route, where planes land at the beach airport and where flight times are subject to the tides.

## Plan to increase summer service to Tiree and Barra takes flight

LOGANAIR is to increase services from Glasgow to Tiree and Barra this summer via a new agreement with Transport Scotland.

Extra flights will be added on both routes throughout the peak summer holiday period from June to August, including a total of 17 additional round trips added on the world-famous Glasgow to Barra air link this summer.

The unique service – flown by Loganair operating Transport Scotland's Twin Otter DHC6-400 aircraft – lands on Barra's beach, where flight times are subject to the tides. It is a hugely popular journey for holidaymakers, aviation enthusiasts and locals, and the extra flights will help to meet high demand during the holiday season.

An extra eight flights are also being added on the Glasgow to Tiree route, spread between the Twin Otter aircraft and larger 34-seat Saab 340 aircraft.

Three more flights normally scheduled for the Twin Otter will be flown by the larger Saab 340s to provide extra seats around the time of the Tiree 10K in April, the Tiree Music Festival in July, and a gruelling ultra-marathon which takes place on September 10.

The boost to capacity is a result of feedback from island representatives, who are part of Loganair and Transport Scotland's engagement with communities.

Jonathan Hinkles, Loganair's managing director, said: 'The summer months are always particularly busy for the airline and we've worked closely with Transport Scotland to provide more seats than ever before to Barra and Tiree.'

The Glasgow-Barra, Glasgow-Campbeltown and Glasgow-Tiree air links are extremely important to the remote communities they serve, boosting their economies. All are operated under a

public service obligation commitment by Loganair for Transport Scotland.

Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf MSP said: 'These improvements come following consultation with local communities, so I have no doubt they'll be welcomed by passengers who depend on the public service obligation routes.'

'Not only will there be additional flights for both Barra and Tiree over the busier summer period, Loganair will also amend the timetables to smooth out the impact of the tidal variations at Barra on the Tiree service. This will offer more continuity and certainty for passengers.'

'These air links play a crucial role for the communities they serve and we will continue to have dialogue with island representatives and Loganair to make sure we're offering the best possible service.'

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## Businesses warned of VAT scam

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Trading Standards team is warning local business about a VAT letter scam.

The people behind a previous UK data control scam are now sending out debt collection letters asking for payments. These letters have a German address and are headed 'UK - DATA CONTROL - missing information on your VAT registration number'.

The letter says the sender is looking to update VAT registration numbers. If a business replies to the letter they then receive an invoice asking for £790 per year for three years for inclusion on the UK data control portal.

Councillor David Kinniburgh said: 'We are concerned that local businesses might think this letter is an official communication, and that they may sign and return the form, leading to demands for payments. The letter is not an official communication – it is a scam.'

'If anyone receives such a letter like this and would like advice please call us on 01546 605519.'

## Whisky feis this summer

OBAN, home to one of Scotland's most venerated distilleries, is to be the location for a new whisky festival celebrating the water of life.

The West Coast Whisky Feis will take place in July and is being developed by Euan Finlayson, of Oban Whisky and Fine Wines.

Mr Finlayson said: 'We wanted to create an event that shows off the incredible whiskies that the West Coast has to offer. The aim is to offer a range of whiskies and masterclasses that can appeal to newcomers and aficionados alike.'

For further information, please visit [www.westcoastwhiskyfeis.co.uk](http://www.westcoastwhiskyfeis.co.uk).



Oban Tesco store manager Brian Ross hands over the donated food to Jean MacPherson of Schools Out Oban.

# Tesco boss urges groups to sign up for free food

**SANDY NEIL**  
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OBAN'S Tesco store is appealing for more local charities and community groups to take advantage of free food going to waste each month, and to apply for a share of £8,000 in monthly grants.

Tesco's community food collections' donate surplus food every night to organisations in need of it, but only four have applied in the Oban area so far: Schools Out Oban, Hope Kitchen, Oban Youth Café and Soroba Young Family Group.

Kenny MacCallum, lead fresh food manager, said: 'Every night we look at what stock we will be wasting and we offer a selection to our designated charity that night. We text that charity, "Would you like that donation?", and rather than it going in the bin, they can make use of it.'

The donations include baked goods, fruit, vegetables, pre-packed meat and fish, ready meals, desserts, eggs and products in damaged packaging, but not pre-prepared food such as sandwiches and salads, or alcohol.

'We have four charities that cover five nights,' Kenny continued. 'We have two spaces – we would like it to be seven nights.'

Brian Ross, store manager, added: 'We have given 2,020 meals, just under a tonne of food, since late November. We are throwing stuff in the bin two days a week. We have probably thrown away a tonne.'

'It is a travesty the food that is wasted. If we had seven nights' cover, it would make such a difference in the town. There must be people who are able to take this food.'

Any charity or community group interested in applying should visit [www.fairshare.org](http://www.fairshare.org).

Tesco staff are also urging local groups and charities to come forward and grab a grant via the Bags of Help scheme, which gives cash to local causes from money raised by the 5p carrier bag charge.

Mr Ross said too few local charities and community groups had applied for the grants, which pay out £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 each month via a customer vote in the store, and he hopes many more will come forward.

'There must be local organisations who can do with this cash,' he said. 'Every 5p bag you buy, the money goes back to charity.'

When application numbers increase, Tesco will decrease the size of its regions, which will benefit more local projects.

'It is a huge amount every month, if you think £8,000 could be going locally,' Mr Ross said. 'How many people could have been touched by that?'

Community projects can nominate themselves for a grant, or be nominated by customers. Visit the Tesco Bags of Help website.

## Cab drivers refuse to hike fares

ARGYLL'S taxi drivers have refused to increase their fares for fear of driving customers away.

All 133 of the area's taxi operators from Cowal, Lomond, Oban, Kintyre, Mid Argyll and Bute took part in Argyll and Bute Council's annual opportunity to put up charges but there was unanimous

agreement that 'the market was so poor that no increase should be sought' – 'unless fuel prices jumped substantially', one argued.

However, the council report noted 'a lack of representation or response to the proposed review of taxi fare scales for or against from consultees.'

'A total of 133 were consult-

ed, with four providing written representations.'

At Kilmory Castle last Wednesday, councillors on the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee agreed with the 'general consensus from all taxi meetings and four written responses received that no increases to fares are made'.

## Mòd date announced

THE Oban Provincial Mod 2017 will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3. The syllabus for junior and senior competitions will be available shortly.

The following song and poetry books including CDs are now available in Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls: Beul-aithris Òigrídh, Coisirean Òigrídh, Orain na Cloinne, Órain aon Neach, Beul-aithris Inbhích agus Earranan Ainmichte.

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## At Random

### Another woeful planning decision

THERE is a modern verbal simile gaining traction that refers to 'low-hanging fruit'. It suggests, of course, that something is easily picked off.

It is an appropriate phrase as any other to apply to Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee.

Fast on the back of the planning authority being described in last week's *Oban Times* as 'not fit for purpose' by Connell Community Council comes another woeful decision.

The good people of Connell railed against the planning committee over its decision not to enforce its own rules in respect of housing being built too close to village resident Ann Colthart's home.

Now the committee members have voted to allow the creation of an oil depot within yards of the travellers' site near to Oban Airport.

As we report this week, fuel supplier Oilfash applied to build the oil depot, which will include four storage tanks, at the end of Oban Airport's runway. Across the road are eight pitches in the Ledaig Travelling Persons' Site, leased by Argyll Community Housing Association.

More than 20 objections were lodged, including one from Ardchattan Community Council, on various grounds, including the danger of placing such large amounts of highly flammable fuel so close to homes and the threat to people's safety posed by the oil tankers rumbling to and from the location. There were also representations made by a number of councillors and the area's MP, Brendan O'Hara.

None of this washed with the planning committee.

Don't be misled by the use of the



The new oil depot will be very close to travellers' homes.

term 'travelling persons' site'. It is not a temporary camping ground.

This is, in fact, a residential area. Families live here permanently and their children have to use the tankers' access road to get to and from school.

This is another poor decision and the people at Ledaig deserve better.

### Our roads still have us in for a bumpy ride

THERE has been a fair amount of comment and debate on the state of Argyll and Bute roads after they were branded the worst in Scotland.

It is indisputable that there are some very poor road surfaces and there are many potholes.

Matters have been made worse as a result of the time of year: winter always takes a greater toll on our roads.

However, the council's budget has been the victim of austerity, along with other departments that have been

forced to reduce spending as financial constraints tighten.

It looks like the bumpy ride is to be with us for some time to come.

### Bradburys are a credit to the Oban area

IT WAS a pleasure to meet Dee Bradbury at Stirling County's game against Ayr on Saturday.

Dee, who is vice-president of the Scottish Rugby Union, was there to watch her son Fergus play for the home side. Along with his brother Magnus, a Scotland internationalist, who was also at the game, the Bradburys bring huge credit to Oban Lorne RFC.

### What do you think?

Let me know by writing to me at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4 HB, or by email to [mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk).

## Rockfield Centre gets cash windfall

THE Rockfield Centre in Oban has been granted development funding of £32,423 from the Big Lottery Fund.

The support comes at a vital time in the development of the centre, with work progressing on plans for the main building, which will focus on the four core themes identified from the community – history and heritage, arts and culture, education and enterprise, and community wellbeing.

The community hut in the grounds of the Rockfield Centre is already providing space for a range of activities with demand currently at a premium.

Eleanor MacKinnon, Rockfield's project facilitator, said: 'The funds will enable us to progress all the technical investigations, gain additional specialist advice and support the progression of the strategic plan which are all requirements for the next stage of our journey to fund the main building project.'

Oban Communities Trust has been working to develop the Rockfield Centre since taking ownership of the former primary school building in May 2015.

The aim is to develop a flexible community-owned venue as a centre of creativity in the heart of Oban that serves both local communities and visitors to the town. The centre is a charity and social enterprise which has already created a positive social impact through its activities. A varied programme of events continues to be hosted by the centre and many other partner organisations.

Ronnie Neil, a trustee of Oban Communities Trust, said: 'The Rockfield Centre team is delighted with news of the Big Lottery funding award. This is another positive step along the road to turn the Rockfield Centre vision into reality.'

## Businesses warned of VAT scam

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Trading Standards team is warning local business about a VAT letter scam.

The people behind a previous UK data control scam are now sending out debt collection letters asking for payments. These letters have a German address and are headed 'UK - DATA CONTROL - missing information on your VAT registration number'.

The letter says the sender is looking to update VAT registration numbers. If a business replies to the letter they then receive an invoice asking for £790 per year for three years for inclusion on the UK data control portal.

Councillor David Kinniburgh said: 'We are concerned that local businesses might think this letter is an official communication, and that they may sign and return the form, leading to demands for payments. The letter is not an official communication – it is a scam.'

'If anyone receives such a letter like this and would like advice please call us on 01546 605519.'

## Whisky feis this summer

OBAN, home to one of Scotland's most venerated distilleries, is to be the location for a new whisky festival celebrating the water of life.

The West Coast Whisky Feis will take place in July and is being developed by Euan Finlayson, of Oban Whisky and Fine Wines.

Mr Finlayson said: 'We wanted to create an event that shows off the incredible whiskies that the West Coast has to offer. The aim is to offer a range of whiskies and masterclasses that can appeal to newcomers and aficionados alike.'

For further information, please visit [www.westcoastwhiskyfeis.co.uk](http://www.westcoastwhiskyfeis.co.uk).



Oban Tesco store manager Brian Ross hands over the donated food to Jean MacPherson of Schools Out Oban.

# Tesco boss urges groups to sign up for free food

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN'S Tesco store is appealing for more local charities and community groups to take advantage of free food going to waste each month, and to apply for a share of £8,000 in monthly grants.

Tesco's community food collections' donate surplus food every night to organisations in need of it, but only four have applied in the Oban area so far: Schools Out Oban, Hope Kitchen, Oban Youth Café and Soroba Young Family Group.

Kenny MacCallum, lead fresh food manager, said: 'Every night we look at what stock we will be wasting and we offer a selection to our designated charity that night. We text that charity, "Would you like that donation?", and rather than it going in the bin, they can make use of it.'

The donations include baked goods, fruit, vegetables, pre-packed meat and fish, ready meals, desserts, eggs and products in damaged packaging, but not pre-prepared food such as sandwiches and salads, or alcohol.

'We have four charities that cover five nights,' Kenny continued. 'We have two spaces – we would like it to be seven nights.'

Brian Ross, store manager, added: 'We have given 2,020 meals, just under a tonne of food, since late November. We are throwing stuff in the bin two days a week. We have probably thrown away a tonne.'

'It is a travesty the food that is wasted. If we had seven nights' cover, it would make such a difference in the town. There must be people who are able to take this food.'

Any charity or community group interested in applying should visit [www.fairshare.org](http://www.fairshare.org).

Tesco staff are also urging local groups and charities to come forward and grab a grant via the Bags of Help scheme, which gives cash to local causes from money raised by the 5p carrier bag charge.

Mr Ross said too few local charities and community groups had applied for the grants, which pay out £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 each month via a customer vote in the store, and he hopes many more will come forward.

'There must be local organisations who can do with this cash,' he said. 'Every 5p bag you buy, the money goes back to charity.'

When application numbers increase, Tesco will decrease the size of its regions, which will benefit more local projects.

'It is a huge amount every month, if you think £8,000 could be going locally,' Mr Ross said. 'How many people could have been touched by that?'

Community projects can nominate themselves for a grant, or be nominated by customers. Visit the Tesco Bags of Help website.

## Mòd date announced

THE Oban Provincial Mod 2017 will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3. The syllabus for junior and senior competitions will be available shortly.

The following song and poetry books including CDs are now available in Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls: Beul-aithris Òigrídh, Coisirean Òigrídh, Orain na Cloinne, Órain aon Neach, Beul-aithris Inbhích agus Earranan Ainmichte.

**MARTIN LAING**  
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## At Random

### Another woeful planning decision

THERE is a modern verbal simile gaining traction that refers to 'low-hanging fruit'. It suggests, of course, that something is easily picked off.

It is an appropriate phrase as any other to apply to Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee.

Fast on the back of the planning authority being described in last week's *Oban Times* as 'not fit for purpose' by Connell Community Council comes another woeful decision.

The good people of Connell railed against the planning committee over its decision not to enforce its own rules in respect of housing being built

## Hands off Glen Etive, say mountain lovers

MOUNTAINEERS have called on Highland Council to reject a bid to site a phone mast right next to the road in Glen Etive, one of Scotland's most famed and beautiful glens that leads from the north into Argyll, writes Louise Glen.

Telecoms company EE has sought permission to site a 10metre-high phone mast and ancillary structures at the roadside in the glen, at a prominent corner near the southern end of Buachaille Etive Mor.

Mountaineering Scotland has objected to the planning application, arguing that the mast – and two others being considered for the glen – would be visually intrusive in a landscape that has featured in tourism publicity, and even a James Bond film.

The site is also within the Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Scenic Area.

In its objection, submitted to the Highland Council, Mountaineering Scotland argues that an otherwise largely unspoiled landscape and visitor experience would be compromised.

David Gibson, CEO of Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'Glen Etive is an iconic, beautiful glen within a National Scenic Area – one which offers visitors a fantastic experience of the true wild nature of Scotland's mountains.'

'The mast and infrastructure would render some views utterly ordinary.'

'The proposal is simply unacceptable and is a poor example of a developer seeking an expedient solution.'

'We would expect EE and their parent BT Group to exercise better judgement of the true value of Scotland's landscape, as an asset to be enjoyed by many, not exploited for a quick fix solution. We ask them withdraw the proposal and think again.'

In its objection, Mountaineering Scotland points out that it is clear that a number of alternative locations within the glen could be used – as suggested by Scottish Natural Heritage – which would use the backdrop of the hills to make the visual impact less severe.

It states: 'As an organisation representing those who enjoy a range of outdoor activities, we recognise the importance of effective mobile telecommunications, especially in the context of safety in the hills. However, we believe that in the case of this proposal, that viable alternatives are available to the developer.'

'We object to the proposal and would urge EE and BT Group to think again.'

### Talk to us

Send your news and photographs to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

# Special day aims to raise awareness of young carers

DAVID MCPHEE  
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WHAT do you want to be when you grow up? That is the theme for Young Carers Awareness Day, which takes place today, Thursday January 26.

The Oban-based organisation, North Argyll Young Carers Centre, has more than 100 young carers registered, aged between eight and 18.

The Oban Times spoke to some of them ahead of the UK-wide day of recognition.

One of the children, who wants to be an artist when they grow up, said the group is a good way to meet new people and see your friends, which was the general consensus among the youngsters.

'A lot of people in the group are also young carers,' they continued. 'People who all have something in common.'

A 15-year-old, who volunteers with the service, said: 'It is really helpful. When I was in primary



Some of the North Argyll young carers before going swimming at Atlantis Leisure.

school, I did not understand how my brother needed help.'

'I got annoyed with him when my parents could not help me with homework, so I come here to get help.'

Throughout the UK there are 700,000 young carers. The theme of this year's awareness day is all about helping young carers to achieve their dream jobs or careers.

A 15-year-old, who volunteers with the service, said: 'It is really helpful. When I was in primary

Manager of North Argyll Young Carers Centre Morag MacLean said: 'It is extremely important that we recognise there are young carers in the community.'

'We have more than 100 young carers registered with the service and we know that there are many more out in the communities supporting family members.'

The wider community needs

to know that there are young carers out there in our community and we need to be able to support them in many different ways.'

Maggie Farrell, of North Argyll Young Carers Centre, said: 'It is about equal access. Young carers don't always have the same access because maybe the person's family is caught up looking after someone, or both parents have to be away for treatment.'

'They don't get to do things after school. The Young Carers Centre tries to address the balance. So when they come here they get a break and get to try some new stuff.'

Young Carers service co-ordinator Arlene Colewell said: 'It is about giving opportunities. We try to provide opportunities for young carers – to try different activities in a fun way. It is not about being good, just about having fun with young carers.'

Arlene visits Oban High School on a daily basis in order

to speak with pupils during 'my time'. The pupils can also schedule a meeting with Arlene and speak to her on a one-to-one basis.'

'We have a good relationship with Oban High School,' she said. 'We are lucky. I hear from colleagues in other areas and they are struggling to get into schools. Our young volunteers really look out for the younger ones.'

Maggie and Arlene highlighted transportation as one of the things that the organisation needs help with.

'Because it is a rural area,' Maggie said, 'carers come from all over the place.'

The organisation currently does not have a minibus and has to pay to use one when it organises trips. It currently has one volunteer driver, but is on the lookout for more.

For more information, or to get involved with the service, visit <http://www.northargyllcarers.org.uk>.



Ann Greer and Karen Murphy of WASPI Argyll and the Isles at Kilmory.

## McCaig to turn purple in support of WASPI campaign

MCCAIG'S Tower will turn purple this weekend in order to raise awareness of Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) in Argyll and Bute.

The Argyll and the Isles branch of the organisation has organised 'Paint Your Town Purple' events across the region.

Ann Greer and Karen Murphy, from WASPI Argyll and the Isles, recently gave a presentation at a full council meeting in Kilmory.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish said: 'I proposed we do our best and lit up the tower and some of the CHORD lights purple.'

'They were delighted with this and some people [from WASPI] are coming to Oban this Saturday to attend.'

The colour purple was chosen as it has historically been associated with women's campaigns.

WASPI states that it is a campaign group that fights the injustice done to all women born in the 1950s, who have been affected by the changes to the state pension law.

Although it agrees with equalisation, it does not agree with 'the unfair way the changes were implemented, leaving [the women with] no time to make alternative plans.'



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## O'Hara pledges commitment to memorial day

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment, and in doing so pledged his commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day.

The day honours those who were murdered during by the Nazis during the Holocaust as well as paying tribute to the extraordinary survivors who work tirelessly to educate young people, writes Louise Glen.

Tomorrow (Friday January 27) will mark the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, the site of the largest mass murder in history.

Thousands of commemorative events will be arranged by schools, faith groups and community organisations across the country, remembering all the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

The theme for this year's

commemorations is 'How can life go on?'.

Mr O'Hara said: 'Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity for people all across the country to reflect on the tragic events of the Holocaust.'

'As the Holocaust moves from living history to just history, it becomes ever more important that we take the time to remember the victims and also pay tribute to the survivors.'

'But we must also ensure that we mark the Holocaust firmly in our history otherwise we condemn it to be repeated – discrimination, xenophobia, religious persecution all persist to this day.'

Brendan O'Hara signing the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment.



## Investment in extra teachers praised

THE Scottish Government announcement that there will be an extra £1.5 million investment for more nursery teachers and graduates across Scotland has been welcomed by MSP for Argyll and Bute Michael Russell – with Argyll and Bute set to receive three additional teachers or graduates.

The staff in Argyll and Bute, among 435 nationwide, is part of the wider strategy of tackling the attainment gap and giving every child an equal start in life.

Mr Russell said: 'This new funding is very welcome news for Argyll and Bute, helping to ensure that more children in our most deprived communities are able to benefit from specialised childcare and high-quality early years learning.'

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# Council makes ambitious bids for around £10 million of funding

AMBITION plans to secure £10 million of funding were presented to Argyll and Bute Council at a meeting last Thursday January 19, writes Louise Glen.

Argyll and Bute Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee was updated on the scope of external funding applications to support economic growth projects throughout the council area.

Ongoing projects have secured just over £9 million from external sources such as Historic Environment Scotland, Sustrans and the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

With the council also committing money for these projects – ranging from bus infrastructure upgrades to major town centre regeneration projects – this



Councillor Aileen Morton.

means that every pound of council investment goes further, being multiplied many times with the help of outside funding.

There are also bids in to sources such as the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund as well as

the European Union's European Regional Development Fund for £9,636,058.

Councillor Aileen Morton, policy lead for sustainable economic growth, welcomed the update and the positive work in bringing money into the area. She said: 'The figures are hugely impressive, but it's about so much more than that.'

The council has made a lot of ambitious investments in recent years, and it's always a big decision to spend public money on a given improvement project.

'These council investments give real confidence not just to private investors but to external funding agencies, showing them that our commitment to regeneration and economic growth is equal to theirs, giving them the certainty that their investments will really make things

happen in Argyll and Bute. I cannot emphasise enough how competitive these funds are, and it's a testament to the expertise of our officers, and the ambition of our developments, that we have such a successful track record of securing external investment.'

'The money brought in so far has made a real difference to people in Argyll and Bute, revolutionising town centres and creating jobs. Projects are about people – creating jobs for them, upgrading their town centres, putting measures in which will

make their lives better.'

'It's so encouraging to see the range of our ambition set out in the report which came to yesterday's committee meeting. It's time to talk up the future of Argyll and Bute, one of Scotland's most promising areas.'

OT

**Oban**

OBAN and District Classic Vehicle Club has donated a total of £1,200 from its funds to local causes.

Benefiting from the donations and each receiving a cheque for £400 were Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group, Marie Curie Nurses and local boy Guy Forteith, 23, who was diagnosed with MS at the age of 16 and is hoping to raise £20,000 towards a new stem cell treatment

**Bowmore**

The Mactaggart Leisure Centre.

A BOWMORE charity has received a grant of £4,560 from the Bank of Scotland Foundation to help with staff and running costs of its aqua care therapy project.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprises is just one of the 118 Scottish charities which benefited from the £1,426,180 fund during 2016.

A foundation spokesperson explained: 'More than 30 years ago, parents on the islands were concerned their children lived surrounded by water and so, in 1989, Islay and Jura Community Enterprises Ltd was created to teach children to swim.'

The community raised enough money to convert a redundant whisky bond on the Isle of Islay, creating

the Mactaggart Leisure Centre.

'The leisure centre will provide aqua therapy sessions for those with disabilities or long-term conditions, delivered by volunteers and supervised by trained lifeguards. Not only will the clients benefit from the swimming lessons, it will also offer the carers some much-needed respite.'

Philip Grant, chair of the foundation's board of trustees said: 'Finding the funding to continue operating is a pressure charities regularly face, so we're delighted to provide a grant. The work these charities do is invaluable.'

The second tranche of 2017 for small and medium grants is now open, and charities have until April 7 to apply.

**Mull and Iona**

PRIMARY school pupils from Mull and Iona were challenged by the Iona Cathedral Trust to design a logo that could be used to promote the Iona Abbey Library Project.

A total of 22 entries were received, with first prize being awarded to Leanne McLellan and second prize to Freya Jardine, both of P5 at Iona Primary School.

Highly commended awards were made to Matilda Munro Isabelle Greenfield and Arwin Merritt from Ulva Primary, and Uist Woombie, Kelsie Prentice and Isla MacInnes of Iona Primary.

Leanne's image of a dove, book and Celtic cross adorns a new information leaflet about the project and will also be seen on



Leanne McLellan's winning design.

future project communications. The next milestone in the project will be coming this spring, with the first of the project's creative workshops to be offered on Mull and Iona.

**National park shortlisted for top award**

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs has been shortlisted for the title of National Park of the Year 2017.

It is the only Scottish national park named in the five finalists for the title by BBC's *Countryfile Magazine*.

Now in their sixth year, the BBC *Countryfile Magazine* Awards 2017 are a celebration of the British countryside and its

people, from great heritage attractions and favourite holiday destinations to the best nature reserves and the finest rural pubs.

This year's awards feature 12 categories, launching in the February 2017 issue of BBC's *Countryfile Magazine* and went online on January 19.

Gordon Watson, chief executive of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, said: 'Loch Lomond

and the Trossachs is an incredibly special place with rolling lowland landscapes to high mountains, lochs and rivers, forests and woodlands.'

'It's also a living, working landscape, home to many wildlife as well as offering a huge range of recreational activities for visitors to enjoy.'

The winners are decided by public vote and will be announced mid-March.

Voting is open from January 19 until February 28 2017.

You can vote online on the BBC's *Countryfile Magazine* website [www.countryfile.com/awards](http://www.countryfile.com/awards).

Alternatively you can vote by post, sending in the form printed in the February issue of the publication to BBC *Countryfile Magazine*, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol, BS1 3BN.



The 18th chief of the Macleans of Ardgour.

The present chief, who is 18th in direct line from Donald the Hunter, still lives there surrounded by numerous members of the Boyd clan.

The old chief has left the high ground to the whippersnappers and has replaced his rifle, knife and deer hound with a labrador, a trusty stick and a pair of binoculars. Although he still takes an interest in the pleasures of his ancestor through the stalking adventures of his siblings, his sporting and natural history activities are confined now to some sedate pheasant shooting on the stubble-fields of Moray, hunting foxes in the Kingairloch woods, or adder-watching at the foot of Glen Gour.

'Wail loudly ye women, your coronach doleful, lament him ye pipers, tread solemn and slow; mown down like a flower is the chief of Ardgour, and the hearts of the clansmen are weary with woe.'

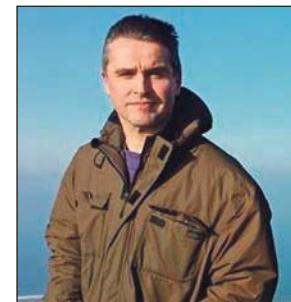
'In peacetime, he ruled like a father amongst us, unconquered in battle was the blade that he bore, but the chase was the glory and pride of his manhood, strong Donald the Hunter, Macgilligan More (The son of the Big Maclean).

'Low down by yon burn that's half hidden with heather he lurked like a lion in the lair he knew well; 'twas there sobbed the red deer to feel his keen dagger, their pierced by his arrow the caizie-cock fell. How oft when at e'en he would watch for the wild fowl, like lightening his coracle sped from the shore; but still, and for aye, as we cross the lone lochan, is Donald the Hunter, Macgilligan More.'

'Once more let his war-cry resound in the mountains, MacDonalds shall hear it in eerie Glencoe, its echoes shall float o'er the Braes of Lochaber, till Stewarts in Appin that slogan shall know; and borne to the waters beyond the Loch Linnhe, 'twixt Morvern and Mull where the tide eddies roar, Macgilligans shall hear it and mourn for their kinsmen, for Donald the Hunter, Macgilligan More.'

'Then here let him rest in the lap of Sgurr Dhomhnall, the wind for his watcher, the mist for his shroud, where the green and the grey moss will weave their wild tartans, a covering meet for a chieftain so proud. For, as free as the eagle, these rocks were his eyrie, and free as the eagle his spirits shall soar, o'er the crags and the corries that erst knew the footfall of Donald the Hunter, Macgilligan More.'

Iain Thorner  
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**Western Isles****Minister confirms visit to Isles**

Angus MacNeil.

WESTERN Isles MP Angus MacNeil met Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Greg Clark last week to press the case for vital UK government support for island renewables.

At the meeting in Westminster, Mr MacNeil discussed the specific challenges facing island renewables with Mr Clark and parliamentary under-secretary for BEIS Jesse Norman.

'We always aim to help out local good causes who sometimes get forgotten about when people donate to the larger national charities.'

He also gave his input to the consultation on future UK government support

for remote island wind projects.

Mr MacNeil said: 'It was a productive and interesting exploratory meeting. Both

Greg Clark and Jesse Norman showed interest in aspects of renewables in the islands, particularly with Mr Clark planning a visit in late February or early March to discuss the way forward and possibilities.

'Obviously with the consultation ongoing the ministers have to remain tight-lipped at the moment and it is difficult to say what the outcome will be, but with the secretary of state planning to visit the islands, it will at least give interested parties an opportunity to state their case.'

Mr MacNeil and Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan discussed the situation with representatives from island community energy groups on Monday ahead of the Westminster meeting.

The UK government's consultation on whether remote island wind projects should be subsidised in future is open for submissions until January 31.

The UK government has already decided to end onshore wind subsidies but is considering whether remote island projects should be treated differently.

**Loch Lomond and the Trossachs**

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park boasts spectacular scenery in a diverse landscape.

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**Colonsay**

A NEW distillery on the Isle of Colonsay expects to bottle and sell its first batch of gin next month.

Wild Thyme Spirits, started by husband and wife entrepreneurs Finlay and Eileen Geekie, who moved to the Hebridean island from Oxfordshire last year, aims to produce 160 bottles of Colonsay Gin for sale next month, at their new house called Tigh

na Urusig, 'Home of the Spirit'.

The name Wild Thyme Spirits is inspired by Celtic folklore, in which 'every house had a Brownie or Spirit, or in Gaelic, an Urusig (oar-isk) to help with household chores', their Facebook page says.

Finlay added: 'Our childhood in Scotland was full of regular holiday trips to the Western Isles, and we did

the same with our children, so we always held a dream of returning to live and work on a Scottish island.

'This business provides us with the opportunity to combine our interest in gin with a desire to create a viable future on the island, and make a significant contribution to the future sustainability and ongoing development of the island economy and community.'

**Kilninver**

Lee McKillop, dressed in her cookie monster onesie, said her cinema trip was 'hot'.

SESAME Street's cookie monster, aka Kilninver Primary School janitor Lee McKillop wearing her onesie pyjamas, raised £537 on her trip to Oban's Phoenix Cinema – five times her target.

Lee dressed as the blue, googly-eyed, voracious biscuit-eating puppet from the US children's TV series Sesame Street, famous for the phrase 'me want cook-

ie', to watch *Star Wars Rogue One* in December.

Lee was raising money for the Sophie North Charitable Trust during the 20th anniversary of the Dunblane massacre, when 16 children, including five-year-old Sophie North, and their teacher, were killed by Thomas Hamilton in a mass shooting at the town's primary school.

To honour Sophie's memory, her father Mick North set up a charity in 2004 that makes three donations each year, on anniversaries of the tragedy in March and Sophie's birthday in October, and in April in memory of Sophie's mum, who died of breast cancer in 1993.

Lee, a friend of Dr North, said: 'I work in a wee primary school myself, and it could have been any of us. I tried to think of something Sophie would have liked.'

Following Julie's pattern, everyone started a heart book fold which would be finished at home. Julie then showed everyone how to make origami flowers by folding, cutting and gluing.

The evening was very hands-on and members

enjoyed developing their creative skills. Julie also displayed some of her book-folded artwork which demonstrated her skill in book folding as well as her arty crafty ideas.

Everyone enjoyed the evening.

**Kilbrandon**

KILBRANDON SWI welcomed book-folding expert Julie Green (Buttercup Green) to its January meeting, held in Seil Island Hall. Julie shared the art of book folding with members, each of whom had brought along a book to fold.

Following Julie's pattern, everyone started a heart book fold which would be finished at home. Julie then showed everyone how to make origami flowers by folding, cutting and gluing. The evening was very hands-on and members

**MORVERN lines****Lament for an old deer-hunter gored to death by antlered stag**

WHAT Cairn Toul is to the Cairngorms, Sgurr Dhomhnall is to Lochaber.

At just under 3,000ft, this conspicuous peak lies between Strontian and Ardgour and, although it lacks the crags and precipices of lofty Ben Nevis, 17 miles to the east, it is one of the grandest mountains in Scotland.

Its Gaelic name means 'Donald's Rocky Peak' and is named in honour of Donald Maclean, the first Chief of Ardgour who was killed by a stag when hunting in its foothills more than 600 years ago. Donald was the natural son of Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Margaret Maclean of Kingairloch.

The story of how he and his henchmen, the Boyds, invaded Ardgour in 1410 is well told by the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean in his wonderful book, *West Highland Tales*. From this source we know that Donald was offered a charter of Ardgour, Kingairloch and the island of Carna by the Lord of the Isles at Ardornish Castle, Loch Aline, if he repatriated a family of MacMasters who had settled there sometime previously.

Donald married the girl next door who was a daughter of Cameron of Lochiel. He loved hunting deer and foxes in the surrounding glens and for this became known in Gaelic as 'Dhomhnall na Sealgair', Donald the Hunter. His son Ewen must have been a renowned archer as he was called 'Ewen of the Feathers', in reference to the flights of the arrows.

Long ago deer were not stalked and shot with rifles as they are today. Instead they were driven into turf and stone enclosures called 'Tigh n Sealg', literally, 'hunting houses', where they were slaughtered by the waiting chief and his guests using dirks, arrows and spears. According to tradition, it was on one such occasion, high in Glen Scaddle on the eastern slopes of Sgurr Dhomhnall, that Donald was fatally wounded. The details are unknown but it is likely that he slipped and was gored by an antlered stag.

He was laid to rest in the ancient graveyard of St Modan's Church at the foot of Beinn na Cille where his descendants are still buried and such was his popularity, his name was given to the hill on which he died.

Sometime in the early 1880s the song-writer Harold Boulton (1859-1935), who gave the world the famous Jacobite song, *Over the Sea to Skye*, passed through Ardgour and heard an old Gaelic poem about Donald the Hunter. So taken was he by the legend that he translated it into English and included it in his *Songs of the North*, calling it *The Lament for the Maclean of Ardgour*.

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# Uist campaign blasts delay over storm deaths inquiry

SANDY NEIL

sneil@obantimes.co.uk

THE Crown Office has apologised for taking more than 10 years to decide whether to hold a fatal accident inquiry into a fatal storm.

Archie and Murdina MacPherson, their children Andrew and Hannah and grandfather Calum Campbell died during the storm of January 2005 when their vehicles were swept off a coastal road in Iochdar, South Uist.

The South Ford Hydrodynamic Study, published in 2012, suggested opening up the South Ford causeway between South Uist and Benbecula and building a bridge across the gap would have eased flooding during the storm.

Coinciding with the tragedy's 12th anniversary, Iochdar Community Council, Stornoway

Uibhist and South Uist councillor Donnie Steele stated: 'Prior to [the causeway's] construction, local people consistently warned blocking the South Ford channel would be a dangerous and reckless act. Regrettably, this warning proved to be correct.'

The original causeway plans incorporated two 15m openings, but this was reduced to only one 15m opening on the Benbecula side in order to save costs.

In October 2016, the decision

not to have a fatal accident inquiry into the five tragic deaths was finally taken, more than 11 years since the loss of lives. This is a scandalous length of time to leave the community in limbo, especially those who had lost members of their families.'

A Crown Office spokesman said: 'We have offered our sincerest apologies to the Campbell

and MacPherson families for the length of time it has taken to deal with this case.'

'Crown counsel decided there is no requirement to hold a fatal accident inquiry (FAI). Crown counsel are satisfied the study has put all the available information in the public domain, including identifying factors for the flooding and recommendations to reduce the risk in the future, and on that basis there is no requirement to hold a FAI.'

The campaigners' said Comhairle nan Eilean Siar now has 'better warning systems, emergency planning meetings', and 'shift[ed] sand and shingle all over the South Ford', but is 'practically ignoring the one recommendation which puts the blame for the build-up of flooding squarely on the South Ford causeway.'

'A larger gap in the causeway

leads to less inundation around lochdar and the south shore of Benbecula. The scientific community have come to the same conclusions as the local community,' it said, in favour of a 'high cost/high impact' opening 250m-long bridged sections of the causeway. Why therefore do the comhairle continue to push other options within the study that are temporary fix at best and at worst a waste of funding? They should instead help the community by gaining the funding for the essential option 10 works.'

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said since 2005 it and the Scottish Government had spent £16.6 million on 'repairs and betterment works'. It added: 'Work has been carried out on escape routes and township road improvements, coastal protection schemes and assorted roadworks.'

'Consistent with one of the key recommendations, we are proceeding with work on the three main elements of the South Ford Flood Risk Management Scheme, which includes the reinstatement and strengthening of Gualan Island and the dune management and flood embankment schemes to the areas of coastline adjacent to Sgoil Lionacleit.'

'This week the comhairle is going out to tender for survey work to be carried out at the South Ford causeway as part of a feasibility study looking at the possibility of creating an additional larger opening in the causeway. The detailed cost of creating the larger opening in the causeway is unknown but estimates range from £10 million to £20 million.'

'The comhairle has lobbied the Scottish Government for additional funding for this project.'

## Cancer charity aims to make women Look Good Feel Better

Beauty specialist Clare Abbott explains why LGFB is now working at the Lorn and Islands Hospital

THE national cancer support charity Look Good Feel Better (LGFB) is now running free skincare and make-up workshops at the Macmillan Day Unit, in Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

LGFB workshops are held throughout the UK and are led by volunteer beauty professionals who take cancer patients through specially designed skincare and make-up sessions, which include instructions on how to look after changes to the skin and to help them define their best features with make-up.

The aim is to improve the wellbeing and confidence of people undergoing treatment for any type of cancer.

The workshops started last year at Lorn and Islands Hospital with Clare Abbott, a qualified 'colour me beautiful consultant', who has previously worked with Look Good Feel Better in its Glasgow-based workshops.

Clare is joined by Donna MacKenzie, a Macmillan clinical nurse specialist at the Macmillan Day Unit within the hospital, Melissa Dean (masterclass co-ordinator) and Dulcie Rowe (masterclass manager), both of whom work for the charity.

This local service is tailored to each patient, who is also given a special gift bag full of



Clare Abbott, left, and Donna MacKenzie will help women being treated for cancer at Oban's hospital.

luxury beauty products. These gift bags are kindly supplied by LGFB and its extensive list of sponsors within the beauty industry.

Look Good Feel Better is the only global cancer support charity created to help women combat the visible side-effects of their treatment. This confidence-boosting service

is available in 26 countries and collectively the charity has supported more than 1.7 million people to date.

More than 165,000 women receive a cancer diagnosis in the UK each year, and LGFB wants to ensure that all of them have the opportunity to benefit from its service.

LGFB runs free skincare and

make-up workshops in more than 88 hospitals and cancer support centres nationwide and more than 250 master-classes are held each year. In 2016, the charity helped 17,500 women and teenagers face to face, with thousands more supported online.

This service is open to any patient who is undergoing can-

cer treatment with the Lorn and Islands Hospital.

For more information or should you wish to join any of the workshops that are held in the hospital each month, please contact Donna at the Macmillan Day Unit at the hospital or send an email to donna.mackenzie@nhs.net or call 01631 789050.

## SAMS has leading role in Arctic research project

SCOTLAND is set to lead the UK's Arctic research over the next five years through major projects worth more than £5 million, led by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

The Dunbeg-based institute won two of the four major research grants in the Natural Environment Research Council's (NERC) £10 million Changing Arctic Ocean programme. SAMS researchers are also involved in the other two projects, led by Leeds and Liverpool universities.

The Arctic has seen the most dramatic changes in climate over the past few decades, with ice melting at a quicker rate each year because of rapid warming. While the daily average global temperature rose by 0.55 degree Celsius from 1979–2000, the temperature in the Arctic rose by 6.42 degrees Celsius for the same period.

The average Arctic sea ice cover for November 2016 set a record low, leading to suggestions that sea ice cover could be at a tipping point, from which the region may not recover.

The two SAMS projects, Arctic PRIZE ([www.sams.ac.uk/arcticprize](http://www.sams.ac.uk/arcticprize)) and DIAPOD ([www.sams.ac.uk/diapod](http://www.sams.ac.uk/diapod)) aim to help understand these changes and how they will affect the climate, ocean properties, marine life and food stocks across the northern hemisphere. They will benefit from SAMS' expertise in marine biology, physical oceanography and marine robotics.

DIAPOD, led by Professor David Pond, will examine the effect of a warming Arctic Ocean on the copepod Calanus,

a small shrimp-like animal that is a vital source of food for seals and whales and commercially-important fish but is believed to be reducing in number.

Arctic PRIZE is led by Dr Finlay Cottier, who holds an adjunct professorship at University of Tromsø (UiT). The project will seek to establish a year-round picture of the Arctic ecosystem, using robotic systems based at SAMS' NERC-funded Scottish Marine Robotics facility to collect data during the relatively unexplored polar winter.

SAMS director Prof Nicholas

Owens said: 'SAMS is synonymous with research in the Arctic, a region that is giving us a window into the pace and effects of climate change.'

'We hope that Arctic PRIZE and DIAPOD will give a unique insight into the extent of these changes and leave us better informed about how we can help nations across the northern hemisphere prepare for the future.'

SAMS will host the UK Arctic science conference in Oban from Tuesday to Thursday, September 19 to 21 this year.



Left, Rockfield head teacher Caroline Fothergill, along with some of the pupils, helped Jean MacPherson hand over a cheque to fund a memorial garden at the Marines' HQ in Arbroath. Jean's brother-in-law Gordon died in the Falklands conflict. At Dunbeg, right, pupils Mya McCormick and Cailean Dairon presented Sergeant Paul MacShannon with a cheque. Sgt MacShannon has an Argyll connection – he comes from Lochdon on Mull – and Gordon MacPherson was a former Dunbeg pupil.



# Meet the Cairns

We've got the keys to 8 Cairngorm Avenue



Lisa is so excited to hear this news at long last. Their hunt for a family home has led to many disappointments but finally they have the keys and are ready to move in.

Lisa and Mike are happily married to one another and have just taken ownership of 8 Cairngorm Avenue, a 20 year old bungalow. The location is fantastic and with the schools close by, supermarkets handy and the countryside just 5 minutes away, it has everything – well almost. "It needs a few tweaks" they say and are keen to put their own mark on it.

Over the next few months we'll be following this lovely couple as they turn No.8 into their dream family home.

We would love you to join them, if you have any questions about their experiences please get in touch.



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Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY

Tel: 01343 545315

6-8 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG

Tel: 01847 894956

Email: [info@cairngormgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@cairngormgroup.co.uk)  
[www.cairngormgroup.co.uk](http://www.cairngormgroup.co.uk)

#MeetTheCairns

# 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

**F**ollowing on from the council's approval of an oil depot at Oban airport, close to homes within a travellers' site, a number of those residents have spoken to *The Oban Times*.

It's hardly surprising that residents at the Ledaig site are upset at the decision. Twenty-four people in total raised objections, including Ardechattan Community Council, councillors Anne Horn, Julie McKenzie and Isobel Strong, and Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara.

Mary MacDonald, who lives at the site with her husband and disabled daughter, explained that when she first heard about it she did not realise it would be

situated so close to her home, potentially impacting on day to day living and the safety of young children walking to the school bus, not to mention the fact that they will be living close to large volumes of flammable fuel.

Because she cannot read or write she was at a disadvantage when it came to objecting to the plans.

However, this should have gone to a hearing. The fact that the planning department's area team leader did not know whether the plans showed a 'burning' blast area should have set alarm bells ringing and made the committee defer any decision until they got an answer. So why didn't they?



## Days gone by – the 1980s

Two of the Oban Times staff were tasked with reminding readers it was time to turn the clocks back. Elaine Black and Carolyn Buchanan, right, are the staff members who were given the task of highlighting the time change. Carolyn is still a popular member of the staff at the newspaper.

### Macphail



### The power of song

THE double-edged sword of being born into an ethnic group whose future existence hangs in the balance gives emotional pendulum swings peculiar to that position.

Along with the dark moments of anger, frustration, guilt, sadness, bitterness and helplessness are equally affecting flashes of pride, connection, hope, harmony and a powerful sense of privilege in belonging to something rich and unique.

Last Sunday night's concert in the Strathclyde Suite of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall provided the foundation for a pronounced swing of the pendulum to the positive end of that vast scale.

*Tiree Song Book* was the title of this Celtic Connections concert, which was supported by the Tiree Association and directed by Mary Ann Kennedy. First performed in May last year at the Tiree Homecoming, it featured songs and tunes linked to Tiree and performed by singers and musicians from the island as well as more widely-known artists from across the country.

The responsive joy and goodwill emanating from the crowd brought the room alive and the comments afterwards were those of an audience awed by the depth of musical tradition.

The concert was a well-crafted



Mary Ann Kennedy directed the very moving *Tiree Song Book* concert.

showcase of the island's rich Bardic culture brought together seamlessly with contemporary tunes and songs. There were many figures of the past whose presence could be felt and the strength of the pride we know they would feel was as much part of the atmosphere as the cheering and clapping of the audience.

Mary Ann Kennedy's father, Alasdair, had his hand on her shoulder by the piano. As John Campbell led the pipers, his father, Lachie Beag, was tuning his drones. As communications master and author Alastair Campbell sounded his pipes,

his brother, Donald, was giving him a mouthful for a late strike in.

Murdina MacLean's clear, beautiful voice lit the hearts of her parents, Rose and Murdoch MacDonald. As Donald Iain Brown introduced the performers his parents, Annie and Lachie, were beaming at having three of their sons on the stage.

As Gordon Rowan set the pipe chanter, his uncle, Kenny MacDonald, was telling him to watch the high Gs. As Anne and Finlay Johnstone played *Am Falbh Thu Leam*, their father and grandfather respectively, Alasdair Sinclair, was singing along with a wide grin and a glint in his eye.

As Daniel from Skerryvore took to the stage his father, Danny Gillespie, gave his shoulder a strong and warm squeeze.

And, during the highlight of the night for myself and for many, when Bernard Smith, backed on accordion by his son, Ian, sang *Lag Nan Cruachan*, I could feel my father, Eachann Mòr, standing beside me filled with pride listening to Bernie singing that song which he had sung for him so many times before.

As he always did, Bernie nailed it, and all the performers and the entire audience – in imagination, in spirit and in person – filled the hall with as collectively positive an energy as I have ever felt in one room.

There is power in song.



to ford then its pothole century down here its literally most of the road that's potholes or falling away and its used for businesses as well

**James Maclean** said: 'Road needs tar done from soroba waterworks right to north argyll house.'

**Gemma MacLennan** wrote: 'Pretty bad! Around the lights coming out of Tesco. Surprised I don't have a puncture yet from the pot holes and not to mention the damage it must be doing to the car.'

**Andy Jones** posted: 'I was on holiday in South Africa last January and some

of the dirt roads had better surfaces than the main road through Oban, especially the bit by the traffic light at Oban High school.'

**James Muir** commented: 'It's getting hard to think where there's a descent bit Road without potholes anywhere in Scotland.'

**Ashley Strang** said simply: 'They are an embarrassment.'

**Laura Monsalve Rossi** wrote: '3 punctured tires since Christmas!!!! I had to buy 2 new tires.'

**Mel Hayes** quipped: 'You've clearly never been to Caithness.'

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

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either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

though was a display by two of the three health professionals present who spouted the biggest load of accountant-speak cow-dung that I have heard in a long time.

It was a total PR exercise in trying to alleviate the plebiscite.

I think everyone knows that the NHS is badly broken and that things will change, and I have no doubt that Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital

will remain open because it is needed by a large and growing population.

But what form it will be in future remains to be seen, so I would advise folks to take out health insurance if you don't have any already. You have been warned.

Praise to chairwoman Marri Malloy and the community council for arranging the meeting and I'm sure that there will be others soon.

**Martin Macintyre**,  
Crucan Cottages, Taynuilt.

### Highlands could lead in health care

Sir,

It's sad that the Highland health board's excellent clinical diagnostic skills do not extend to its administrators.

The

board

could save millions on unnecessary bits of paper simply by switching to the IT systems currently used by the Army Medical Corp at Fort George. Indeed, Fort George's expertise could be used to help NHS Scotland save a billion just by better records management and emailing appointments directly to patients or their families.

The Inverness people must understand that one in 10 hospital beds is blocked by patients who do not require sophisticated help but there is no social care available. Emptying Glasgow beds to a 'step down' local unit such as Oban would reduce waiting times and save cash.

Rather than delaying things for yet another 10 or 20 years, NHS directors must allocate resources to both cut costs and improve patient care — a win for everyone and the Highlands could be the leading healthcare area in Scotland very quickly.

**Mike Foster**,

Sannox,  
Crannag a Mhìnister, Oban.

### SNP cannot be trusted on health service

Sir,

The SNP is spending nearly £80 million a year using private hospitals for the NHS. This is despite assurances the spending would drop, and repeated rhetoric criticising the private healthcare industry.

It shows the SNP is incapable of running the NHS and, while the independent sector is valuable, the Scottish Government should at least admit as much.

It has also emerged that the Scottish Government will be three years late in delivering four trauma centres and it has become increasingly apparent

### Beachd Ailein

#### ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

AN-DÈ AGUS THAR LÀITHEAN

gach taobh dheth, tha daoine air feadh an t-saoghal air a bhith a' cuimheachadh air a' bhàrd ainmeil Albannach Raibeart Burns agus chan eil teagamh nach e an t-urram as aird a gheibh bàrd sam bith gum bi a chuid sgrìobhadhagan gan seinn 's gan athris ceudan bhiadhnaichean aon dèidh a bhàis.

Ghlèidh an t-alt a bh' aig Burns air faclan a shniomh ri chèile a dhinnsé

sgeul neo a chur fhaireachaidhean an cùill airus agus meas luchd-leaghaidh is eisteachd, co-dhùi a bha e a' stiallachadh gaol air boireannach.

Rugadh agus thogadh Burns ann a dhachaigh nach robh air chor sam bith saidhbhir agus dh'fhág sin gun robh, agus gum bheil guire fhearthas, mòr-shluagh feadh an t-saoghal gam faicinn fhèin co-ionann ris agus a' tuigssin is a' creidsinn na chuid dòchais agus feallsanachd air còraichean mhac an duine.

Sin a dh'fhág leithid Auld Lang Syne agus A Man's a Man for A' That cho aithnichte, agus a' dòcha gum bheil seo cuideachd na chomharradh air

nas fhaide bho chèile agus ri lin

creideas ann am poilitigs na làimhe cli feadh an t-saoghal.

Cha b' urrainn dhomh gun a bhith a' smaoineachadh mu na rúdan sin is mi ag eisteachd ri Domhnall Trump agòraid is e direach an dèidh a bhòid-ean a ghàibh mar Cheann-suidhe Ameireagaidh.

Ged a' thoir poilitigs Trump daingeann chun na làimhe deise, che mhòr nach robh cuid de na geallaidean aige mu chumhach a thilleadh chun mhòr-shluagh, agus nach d' rachadh duine a dhiochumhneachadh tuilleadh, nas coltaiche ri feallsanachd na taobh cli.

Ach cha robh fainais sam bith air làmh a' chàideiris a shineadh a' t-saoghal air a' sluaigh mòr nach tug taic dha chuid iomairt; cha robh iomradh air drochaidean a thogail am measg an t-slaughas gun daoinne a thoir ri chèile.

Cha b' iongadh ged a' bhiadh mòran amharasach gur e tuilleadh sgaraidh a thig a' feallsanachd aig a' Cheann-suidhe ùr seo, gun ghuth air a' chunnart gum fág a chuid nàiseantachd Ameireagaidh agus dùthchannan eile an t-saoghal a' fás nas fhaide bho chèile agus ri lin

be printed.

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that the SNP has no idea what the project will even end up costing. This is the latest blow for the scheme, which was meant to be up-and-running last year.

This truly shows the chaos of the project, and the SNP's mishandling of the NHS more widely. Once again we are shown that the SNP can't be trusted with our NHS.

**Alastair Redman**,  
Islay.

### Worrying discovery in water culvert

Sir,

My weekly litter collection between Spean Bridge and Unachan crossroads occasionally comes up with some surprises, as it is usually take-away food packaging, empty energy drinks and beer cans, plastic bottles and cigarette packets.

But my collection on Saturday was rather disturbing when I found a tightly tape-wrapped blue polythene bag containing used engine oil, which was dumped in a water-filled ditch by a lay-by at the above crossroads.

The bag was very heavy and slightly leaking when it was removed.

I can't imagine what kind of person goes to the trouble of doing this when used oil can be taken to the recycling centre in Fort William. The oil would have probably gone unnoticed, flowing into a culvert then open watercourse feeding the River Spean.

Something else unusual was the number of heavy duty protective gloves, mostly of the same make, all found on the grass verge within a space of a few metres. I'm sure the owners of these gloves could be found using DNA fingerprinting. And would they be discarded knowing the damage they could cause to grass-cutting machinery?

Is it just laziness, a lack of knowledge, or both?

**A Robinson**,  
Spean Bridge.

### Holocaust Memorial Day remains vital

Sir,

The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day tomorrow (Friday January 27) is 'How can life go on?', raising challenging questions for individuals, communities and nations in the aftermath of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

Every January, when we listen to the testimony of survivors, we don't just learn a little more about the darkest chapters of human history, we are also reminded of where hatred and bigotry can lead if left unchallenged and unchecked.

Today, that lesson is more important than ever, which is why I urge you to attend the human rights and hate crime seminar at the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway (<http://hmd.org.uk/events/find/Scotland#sthash>).

**Olivia Marks-Woldman**,

Chief executive,  
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Ailean Caimbeul

sin, bruadar Burns air bràithreachas eadar-nàiseanta agus sìth fiù 's nas dorra ruigheachd air.

Feumar cothrom a thoir dha Trump a chuid sgilean stiùridh poilitigeach agus dioplòmasach a dhearbhadh agus gnòimh agus nach bu math gun sealadh a chuid obrach gun robh a h-uile dragh agus teagamh a tha gan nochadh gun stèidh.

Ach a réir coltais that an dùblan sin roimhe dòcha guire 's nach robh ag Ceann-suidhe a bh' air Ameireagaidh nad iomadh bliadhna is na ceudan mhiltean feadh an t-saoghal, agus boireannaich gu sòrraichte, a' togail fianais an aghaidh na chunnacas gu ruige seo de chuid feallsanachd.

AS ROBERT BURNS' memory was being marked worldwide yesterday many will have been nervously conscious of how little interest the 45th US president has so far shown in uniting his country's people, let alone sharing the Bard's toast: 'The whole of humankind!'

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

### 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.

# Art project lands £50,000

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY art studio supporting schools across Lochaber has received a cash windfall of almost £50,000.

Room 13 International in Caol was awarded £49,490 from the Big Lottery Young Start Fund to support its new Generation Creative project.

The charity hopes that the money will help extend the project's reach to children who are not currently able to access the Room 13 facilities.

Fiona Macdonald from Room 13 said: 'The money gives us stability to keep our contract running for our two artists, which is very important, and allows us to develop what we are doing.'

The Generation Creative



Fiona Macdonald with Richard Bracken and Gracie Henderson, Robert Gosling, Katie Robertson and Kaci Hatch.

project will enable Room 13's lead artist, Richard Bracken, to work with children and various contributing artists to develop a programme of delivery for primary and high school students.

Ms Macdonald said: 'We are aware that Room 13 needs to

reach further afield, so we want to link up with other schools in outlying areas. We are looking to create relationships with other primary and high schools to make Room 13 accessible to more children to create the next generation of young artists.'

'We will be looking at how we can best reach young people so there is an opportunity for contributors further afield to get involved and join the team.'

During the project, Room 13 will work with 10 primary schools in the Lochaber area to provide opportunities for children to work alongside professional artists on creative projects. They will also develop and extend the youth volunteer group for people aged 13 to 21 to involve students from the four high schools in the area.

Room 13 chief executive Claire Gibb said: 'The support from Big Lottery provides a welcome boost to the organisation and is a really valuable investment in Lochaber's Room 13 studios.'

'It will allow us develop key aspects of our work with schools and young people at a time when there is more demand than ever for the sort of services our artists and studios can deliver, with less and less provision to support this work.'

'The Room 13 team is looking forward to getting Generation Creative under way.'

One of the many schools to benefit from the Room 13 facilities is St Columba's Primary School in Fort William, which shares a campus with Caol Primary School.

Speaking to *The Oban*

*Times*, head teacher Violet Smith said: 'The children work on art projects, philosophy and learn about artists. The kids can also take school pictures, design postcards and put together small publications.'

St Columba's has worked with the organisation for the past 14 years and Ms Smith said that it is very pupil-led. 'It's really good for the children because it increases confidence. They can become committee members and be involved in decision making,' added Ms Smith.

'It's great for kids who are maybe introverted, or who you wouldn't normally expect to see stand up and talk in front of the class, because once they have been to Room 13 they become more confident in themselves and their class work.'

Schools could get 'cluster' head teacher

MONEY-SAVING plans aimed at saving rural schools from potential closure are to be discussed by councillors today (Thursday January 26).

Proposals regarding the management of schools were first presented to the Highland Council's (HC) Education, Children and Adult Services (ECAS) committee in October 2015.

Today, councillors will discuss management of schools and be asked approve proposals for implementations which could chop £750,000 from HC spending.

The new management arrangements have been initially proposed for schools connected to Kilchuum Academy, Kinlochbervie High, Farr High, Mallaig High, Dornoch Academy and Plockton High.

Changes are also being suggested at Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Invergarry primaries which would see the three schools being served by a single cluster head teacher and three principal teachers – currently Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge share a cluster headteacher and a principal teacher, while Kim Bentley is head at Invergarry.

The cluster appointment is already in existence in Lochaber: Lyndsay Bradley is the associated schools head teacher at Acharacle, Ardgour and Kilchoan primaries.

The meeting is at 10am and can be viewed online.

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## Hedgehogs cool for Caol

Caol school primary one pupils have been busy working on a project about Animals in Winter with their teacher, Mrs Haines. Taking part are, from the left, Maddison Stoddart, Danni MacDonald, Zara Hatch and Zac Jones, who proudly showed off the colourful clay hedgehogs they made.

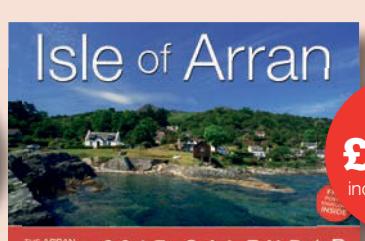
The children have been learning all about what it means to be nocturnal and looking at some examples of animals active after dark. The children then voted to choose which, of the animals they studied, was their favourite, and hedgehogs were the runaway winner. The children then put together hedgehog fact files with all the information they had learned about them and made their clay hedgehogs.



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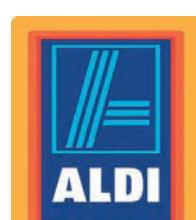


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# Road crossing campaign steps up after yet another near miss

MONICA GIBSON

mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A DISABLED woman who received 'another terrible fright' as she tried to cross the A830 with her guide dog believes there are no excuses left to justify not installing a controlled crossing on the notorious road.

Banavie resident Annette Hobson, who is registered blind and has some trouble hearing, says she has been campaigning for a controlled crossing for 10 years. However, the issue came to the fore once more when she was involved in a near miss on the Fort William to Mallaig stretch near the swing bridge last week.

Ms Hobson said it is ludicrous that there is nothing to help pedestrians cross this road safely, but said the fact that work on the road was being carried out, disrupting the usual



Annette Hobson with her dog Caramel beside the busy A830.

traffic flow, made the situation even more dangerous for her and her dog, Caramel.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I have some use of my eyes but I could not see any signs. The road should have been taped off to prevent people crossing. It

really is a miracle nothing more serious has happened.'

'There is construction work under way to build stores in Fort William on North Road and my understanding is there will be a crossing put there, yet the road here and also near the Co-op

in Corpach are notorious for pedestrians, but it seems BEAR and Transport Scotland don't want to pay the money.'

The issue was again discussed at the Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) meeting on Monday January 23.

The KCC noted that they had still not received a response from BEAR Scotland with regard to a pedestrian survey that was carried out near the Banavie swing bridge last year.

Chairwoman Christine Hutchinson said: 'Annette is probably one of the most vulnerable people when crossing the road but this is an issue which affects lots of people.'

Sergeant Andrew Bilton was at the meeting and explained that the statistics covering how many accidents have happened in the area would need to be considered. He said: 'Near misses are not recorded with us.'

Emma Brown is an engagement officer with the Guide Dogs Association and she has been supporting Annette following the incident last week.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Controlled crossings provide a level of certainty about when it is safe to cross the road, particularly for people with sight loss. Guide Dogs Scotland supports the installation of a controlled crossing at Banavie to allow all residents, including those with sight loss and other disabilities, to access their local community safely.'

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland told *The Oban Times*:

'We're sorry to hear about Mrs Hobson's experience last week. A squad was carrying out drainage works near Banavie swing bridge on the A830 on January 17.

'The works involved a lane closure using temporary traffic signals. Signs were in place asking pedestrians to wait for a biker at either end of the site. One of the team had noted Mrs Hobson with her guide dog and was running towards her to offer assistance when she attempted to cross. He assisted her after the incident. These works are now complete.'

'A study is currently being undertaken by Transport Scotland to look at pedestrian provision on this section of the A830. The study is expected to be completed over the coming few months. We'll then be able to report on the findings to the local community.'

## POLICE FILES

THERE has been an increase in housebreakings throughout the Lochaber area and homeowners are being encouraged to remain vigilant at all times.

As the most recent housebreakings have taken place when homes are unoccupied, police are asking the public to take precautions, such as leaving lights on and asking neighbours to keep an eye on their property while they are away.

Police are also urging people to report any suspicious activity or strange or unknown vehicles.

**A NUMBER of vehicles have been damaged within car parks throughout Fort William.**

**At around lunchtime on January 6, a Dacia Duster was damaged while parked unattended at either the Caol shops car park or outside the Co-op while unattended. It is thought the car may have been struck by another vehicle.**

**The rear window of a Vauxhall Meriva was smashed while parked in the Upper Achintore car park in the Dumbarton Road area overnight between January 17 and 18.**

**A Kia Cee'd was damaged within the Argos/Pound-stretcher car park on North Road on January 22 at 1.45pm. It is believed the damage was caused by another vehicle striking the car.**

POLICE would like to hear from anyone with information after a fridge-freezer was set alight in a garden in Kennedy Road in the Plantation at around 2.30pm on January 20.

**POLICE are keen to identify a man who stopped a blue car on Lundavra Road and spoke to some children at the side of the road at around 5pm on December 29. They are asking anyone with any information relating to this incident to come forward.**

A CHARITY shop's front window on Fort William High Street has been smashed in what police are treating as an act of vandalism.

The window of the PDSA shop was smashed on January 20-21.

Police are investigating the damage and have assured staff and volunteers they will be checking CCTV footage in a bid to find out who is responsible.

Ms Campbell said: 'The whole window has to be replaced. It's mindless.'

Anyone with information should call police on 101.

## Caol children become the hi-tech teachers

PRIMARY seven pupils at Caol have been taking a turn at being the teachers ... by helping older members of the community get to grips with computations.

This inter-generational project, a six-week block of IT lessons, began when Care Lochaber contacted the school, looking to get help for some of the older people they work with so they could learn to use computers.

Care Lochaber is a service designed to enable older residents, as well as those with ill health, mobility issues or isolation, to remain independent through schemes such as the computer skills workshops and also a community car scheme.

The workshops are supported by NHS Highland Community Management Self Development Fund and the aim is to give older people a chance to be sociable and ease loneliness while learning new skills.

Caol head teacher Steven Hamilton said the pupils were 'happy to help' with the initiative and primary seven set aside every Tuesday to teach a computing course.

The children teach IT skills, including how to use the internet, Google maps and such like.

They even finish off each lesson with a cup of tea and, of course, some well-earned biscuits, which the children bake themselves.

Mr Hamilton said: 'It's a great way of getting the children to be teachers and let-



Caol youngsters pass on their knowledge while, inset, Aidan Fordham and Faith Easson teach an adult computing class.

ting them see how different people learn.' He added that it demonstrates to the children that we are always learning, even beyond our school years, and that both the children

and adults are enjoying the project and the classes. 'It's a good confidence booster for the children' he said.

As well as the educational benefits of the

popular project, Mr Hamilton noted that it had also provided the school with extra resources, saying: 'Care Lochaber kindly donated three laptops to the school for the classes.'

## Carbon emissions rise in Lochaber



Susan Carstairs, pictured here with LEG chairman Scott McCombie, spoke about carbon emission levels in Lochaber. Picture: Iain Ferguson/The Write Image

IT MIGHT come as a surprise to learn that carbon emissions in Lochaber are far greater than the national average, but that is the case according to data presented at the latest talk given by the Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG).

Susan Carstairs, board member and former manager of LEG, gathered masses of data, worked out a lot of calculations and made some educated estimations to build a comprehensive picture of emissions in Lochaber.

'I think it's fascinating and it's important to understand what's happening at a local level,' she said.

This was the third talk hosted by LEG, and board member Marian Austin said this was the best attended of these talks to date.

The data showed that Lochaber emissions work out at 17.5 tonnes per person per year, which is well above the UK average of nine tonnes per person per year. This figure is incorporating industrial emissions as well as personal ones.

Lochaber homes and businesses

generate 100,000 tonnes of carbon a year, not including emissions coming from gas use. Emissions from electricity usage are above average, as is the total from homes and businesses.

Transport is a major source of emis-

sions, which is again above average, with a total of 338,000 tonnes being produced annually. This includes transportation of foods (151,426 tonnes annually), largely from fish farms as well as transporting product

from the aluminium smelter and Glensanda Quarry.

Some 5,3738 tonnes of carbon is produced from agriculture annually, 67 per cent of which is due to methane from animals, again a higher figure than the UK average.

Forestry, another major land use in the area, and the removal of trees for wood causes emissions of 483,483t annually.

Damage to peatbogs – for example, for building projects on Blar Mor – is another source of carbon emission in the area.

Ms Carstairs said she would like to get a group together, with householders as well as businesses, to try to come up with solutions to reduce the high emission levels in Lochaber.

She said: 'I would love to see us take this on personally and in the work that we do. The goal is to find ways to do something about this and make it part of what we do.'

She added that more research is needed to look at the impact of tourism on emissions, through traffic.

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

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

### ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL'S SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2017/18

Application forms for grants to community organisations are now available.

They can be accessed by website: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants>

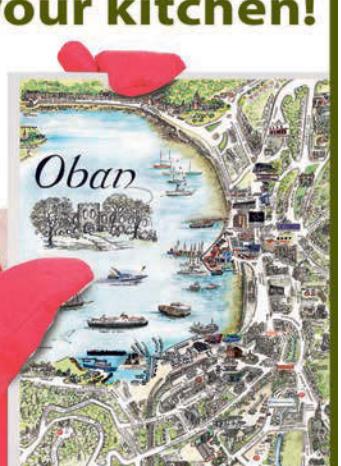
phone: 01369 708669

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Closing date for applications is 10 February 2017.

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Parents campaign for special swimming classes

'POSITIVE talks' are under way between Lochaber Autism Support Group and the Lochaber Leisure Centre to discuss potential additional support needs (ASN) swimming classes for children in the area.

Amie-Louise Wallace, who set up the Lochaber Autism Support Group two years ago, has been canvassing parents in Lochaber who have children with ASN to assess the need of tailored swimming classes.

Amie-Louise told *The Oban Times*: 'A lot of additional needs children cannot attend the normal lessons and there is not an alternative offered by High Life Highland unless you can afford one to one lessons outwith your membership.'

A number of parents contacted

Amie-Louise to express their interest in ASN swimming classes and a few have been speaking to *The Oban Times*.

Mum Katherine Douglass said her children would benefit from ASN swimming classes. She said: 'My two children have a chromosome disorder 22q11 duplication and with this they have additional needs. My son Mark Douglass has a learning disability, development delay, hypermobility syndrome and severe anxiety. My youngest Anna O'Donnell has hypermobility syndrome, problems with her bowel and speech delay.'

'I also have a five-year-old daughter who has anxiety and is waiting to be tested for the same disorder. My children don't socialise well, so ASN

swimming lessons would be fantastic for them.'

Elidh Dunleavy also contacted *The Oban Times* to say her son cannot attend mainstream swimming lessons due to his learning difficulties.

She said: 'I am very keen to see something put in place for children such as Lewis and hopefully, with enough interest, this can be something that's looked into.'

Nikki Jaszcak said there is 'very little to no activities for children with additional needs yet they are the children that most require them'.

While Nikki's eldest son does attend swimming lessons, she said that he struggles with concentration and listening to instructions. She

said: 'The swimming lessons are completely full and Reuben could do with a smaller setting and a little more understanding from the instructors.'

'My younger one, however, has no self-control and cannot function as well in normal sessions so will need these smaller classes tailored to children with extra needs.'

Amie-Louise added: 'The talks are positive and I am hoping by the end there may be a class available that is tailored more for ASN children.'

A High Life Highland spokesperson said: 'We are working with the Lochaber Autism Support Group to identify the requirements for, and then deliver, swimming lessons to children with additional support needs.'

# Arena

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

## Oban Gaelic choir delights ceilidh audience



Mary Catherine MacLean singing the lullaby *Dean Cadalan Sàmhach*

# 2017 FILMG shortlist announced

FilmG, the national Gaelic short film competition, has announced this year's shortlists, with stand-out entries by promising filmmakers, schools, and community groups from all around Scotland making the hotly contested finals.

This year's FilmG attracted more entries than ever before, with many clever, fun and quirky interpretations of the theme 'Strí' (Endeavour/Conflict).

The FilmG jury panels comprised of industry professionals, including producers, directors and scriptwriters from all over Scotland, as well as top sports commentators given the inclusion of the new Sports Commentary category this year.

One of this year's panellists is BeesNees media director, Duncan Macdonald who said: 'It is great to see so many filmmakers of all ages engage in this competition.'

'This year we have seen a wide range of films and individual takes on the

topic and those making the shortlist had a clear narrative and viewpoint. It's not always about technical brilliance – heart and soul come through strongly in the best work.'

FilmG is MG ALBA's Gaelic short film competition aimed at developing new on-screen and off-screen talent for BBC ALBA and new media and is open to anybody over 12 years of age to make up to a five minute short film in Gaelic.

The youth category received 56 entries this year, with a large geographic spread of schools from across Scotland making the shortlist, including Lionacleit School in Benbecula, Plockton High School, Millburn Academy in Inverness, James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh and Calderglen High School in East Kilbride, among the finalists.

With such fierce competition, it is fantastic to see first-time FilmG entrants, Calderglen High School making the shortlist for Best Film, with *Eadar Dà*

*Bheachd*, their humorous take on the theme that sees the class fall out over their ideas for a film they are working on.

Also in the running for Best Film is Gairloch High School's emotional drama, *Brise*, about the devastating effects of illness on a family, which also caught the attention of the judges for Best Script award.

The Best Young Filmmaker shortlist is testament to the breadth of young talent entering the competition, with not only documentary filmmakers such as Eòin Cumming from Laide near Gairloch making the cut for his mountain biking documentary *Strí Ris a' Chiad Chloich*, but also the emergence of creative young animators as S1 pupil Ruairidh MacAlasdair, also from Gairloch, who has been shortlisted for his quirky animated game of hide and seek, in *Falach-fead*.

There were also some superb films shortlisted in the Open category, which includes entries by promising filmmakers over the age of 17, as well as community groups.

The shortlist for the Best Documentary includes the captivating *A' Tuiteam*, by Jessie Ann MacDonald & Paul Steele from South Uist with viewers given an insight into Jessie's life coping with epilepsy. Also, shortlisted for this award is *Taobh Èile Duilghe*, by up-and-coming filmmaker Kerr Gibb from Portree, with his portrayal of the lives of 1.5 million Syrian refugees living in Lebanon. This film also earned him a place on the shortlist for Best Sports Commentary.

With so many great entries, one of the hardest categories for the judges to whittle down was Best Comedy. Making it to the final four however was *Girls, Strí and Macaroni* by Iain Wilson from Staffin, which follows the antics of rapper Ally C and his compadre Calum Kan-y-e. Keen BBC ALBA viewers will have spotted Sabhal

Mòr Ostaig TV Course students' parody, *Cheating Our Language*, which also made the Best Comedy shortlist. The TV course students were not alone in making the cut, with Glasgow Kelvin College's Gaelic learners getting a mention for their comedy, *Leasan*, in which a cruel Gaelic tutor teaches pupils insults when they think they are learning the basics of the language.

As with the Comedy award, many of the category shortlists have been very closely contested, including the new Best Sports Commentary. The four shortlisted commentaries are evenly matched with two boys, Calum MacMillan and Jack MacDonald, who gave us their take on the Billy MacNeil Cup Final, and two girls, Kate Bradley from Ardnahurchan and Christina MacDonald from Skye making the final list. Kate Bradley chose to comment on the women's shiny Valerie Fraser Cup Final, whilst Christina

chose a favourite moment from the semi-final of the same tournament.

Top sports commentator and FilmG judge, Derek Murray, said: 'It was an absolute joy and hugely encouraging to see so many aspiring commentators entering this competition. 'We had a plethora of engaging and informed commentary and those shortlisted would not look out of place on BBC Radio Nan Gàidheal or BBC ALBA. I would be privileged to work beside any of them and who knows, soon we may well get that opportunity.'

All of the shortlists are now available to view online at FilmG Youth and FilmG Open and you can also view all 105 entries in this year's competition.

The winners will be announced at the prestigious FilmG awards ceremony taking place at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow on Friday February.

Keep an eye on FilmG twitter and Facebook for information about tickets.

## Some of the shortlisted entries:



## CHEF PROFILE

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Friday 27 January – Thursday 2 February

A MONSTER CALLS | 12A | 128 MIN

Sat: 12:00, Sun: 14:30

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

A boy seeks the help of a tree monster to cope with his single mum's terminal illness.

KIDS CLUB: SHREK | U | 90 MIN

Sat: 11:30

Children's Classic. After his swamp is filled with magical creatures, Shrek agrees to rescue Princess Fiona for a villainous lord in order to get his land back. (2001)

LA LA LAND | 12A | 148 MIN

Fri: 15:45, 18:30, Sat: 14:30, 15:30, Sun: 11:45, 20:00, Mon: 15:45, 18:30, Tue: 15:45, 18:30, Wed: 16:15, Thu: 16:00

Parent and baby screening: Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available. Tue: 11:30

Mia, an aspiring actress, serves lattes to movie stars in between auditions and Sebastian, a jazz musician, scrapes by playing cocktail party gigs in dingy bars, but as success mounts they are faced with decisions that begin to fray the fragile fabric of their love affair, and the dreams they worked so hard to maintain in each other threaten to rip them apart.

NT LIVE: AMADEUS | 12A | 210 MIN

Thu: 19:00

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a rowdy young prodigy, arrives in Vienna, the music capital of the world – and he's determined to make a splash. Awestruck by his genius, court composer Antonio Salieri has the power to promote his talent or destroy his name. Seized by obsessive jealousy he begins a war with Mozart, with music, and ultimately, with God.

SILENCE | 15 | 181 MIN

Fri: 21:15, Sat: 18:10, Sun: 16:45, Mon, Tue, Thu: 21:15

Two Jesuit priests, Sebastião Rodrigues and Francis Garpe, travel to seventeenth century Japan which has, under the Tokugawa shogunate, banned Catholicism and almost all foreign contact. There they witness the persecution of Japanese Christians at the hands of their own government which wishes to purge Japan of all western influence. Eventually the priests separate and Rodrigues travels the countryside, wondering why God remains silent while His children suffer.

T2: TRAINSPOTTING | 18 | 135 MIN

Fri: 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, Sat: 17:15, 19:45, 21:15, Sun: 12:00, 17:00, 19:30, Mon, Tue: 16:00, 18:30, 21:00, Wed: 16:00, Thu: 16:15, 18:45

First there was an opportunity.....then there was a betrayal. Twenty years have gone by. Much has changed but just as much remains the same. Mark Renton (Ewan McGregor) returns to the only place he can ever call home. They are waiting for him: Spud (Ewen Bremner), Sick Boy (Jonny Lee Miller), and Begbie (Robert Carlyle). Other old friends are waiting too: sorrow, loss, joy, vengeance, hatred, friendship, love, longing, fear, regret, diamorphine, self-destruction and mortal danger, they are all lined up to welcome him, ready to join the dance.



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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 Rose's Highland Fling, 2000 John McCluckie'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 Warmups 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 Lynn

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 Breeze, 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

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# Arena

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

## School pipe band to join Skerryvore for 2017 Oban Live



Oban High School (OHS) Pipe Band will join trad-rock artists Skerryvore on stage at this year's Oban Live music concert.

OHS Pipe Major, Angus MacColl, said: 'We are incredibly honoured to be invited to play on stage with the sensational Skerryvore. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young band members to showcase their talents to an audience of thousands – and in their local town, too. We are all very excited to rehearse with West Coast favourites Skerryvore. All those headed for Oban Live this summer are in for a treat!'

OHS Pipe Band is the last act to be revealed in a busy week of announcements from the event. Announcing live on Oban Live's Facebook page, Mànran, Tide Lines and Trail West all confirmed they will

play Argyll's largest live music event on June 2 and 3 this year. The event also announced that remaining tickets WILL go on sale on Saturday (January 28) at 3pm.

Daniel Gillespie of Skerryvore and Artistic Director for Oban Live added: 'Angus MacColl is a piping legend and a real hero of ours growing up on Tiree learning to play traditional music, so to have him join us on stage in Oban along with his brilliant group of pupils will be a very special collaboration for us. We are also delighted to announce that Trail West, Mànran and Tide Lines will join us in Oban, as not only are they great friends but they are three of the most exciting acts on the Scottish scene today – all bringing their own brand and fusion of West Coast music.'

We still have three more acts

to announce as well as some other special guests so watch this space for more exciting announcements.'

Streaming live from Glasgow's Barrowlands before taking to the stage at Celtic Connections on Friday January 20, Gary Innes of multi-award-winning folk-rock group Mànran said: 'We are delighted to announce that we are coming to Oban Live this year. It was a massive year for Oban Live last year and this year is going to be even bigger. Look forward to seeing you all in June.'

With traditional Celtic roots and songs in both English and Gaelic, Mànran's fiery tunes from fiddle, accordion, flute, uilleann and Highland bagpipes are known to bind powerfully to a rhythm section awash with elements of funk, jazz and rock to create innova-

tive and uplifting instrumental music.

The exciting quartet Trail West soon followed were the second act to reveal that they will be joining the Oban Live line-up this year. With band members hailing from Tiree and South Uist, the music and culture that they were raised in remains a pure and refreshing trademark in the sound of Trail West. Oban Live's audience will be treated to the incredible musicianship of frontline pair Seonaidh MacIntyre and Ian Smith through high-energy tunes and arrangements, accompanied by the multi-instrumental talents of Andrew Findlater and Alain Campbell.

Yesterday (Wednesday January 25), four piece Scottish band Tide Lines were the third act to announce they will play Oban Live this summer. Whilst heavily influenced by

the traditional music of the West Highlands and Islands, their highly eclectic sound is driven by acoustic and electric guitars, with drums and keyboards. Their first single, Far Side of the World, entered the UK download charts ahead of popular tracks by Coldplay, Adele and Beyoncé, less than 24 hours after the band was launched on social media in June 2016. Tide Lines consists of Oban Times columnist Robert Robertson from Lochaber, Ross Wilson from Mull, Alasdair Turner from Alesness, and Fergus Munro from Glasgow.

The acts join a whole stream of talented Scots and Irish artists confirmed for the event, including Admiral Fallow, Roddy Hart and the Lonesome Fire, We Banjo 3, Skipinnish, Skerryvore and the collaboration of Argyll Ceilidh Trail and Ceol an Aire.

Paul Bush OBE, director of events at VisitScotland, said: 'Scotland is the perfect stage for cultural events and EventScotland is delighted to be once again supporting Oban Live, showcasing the very best Scottish and International talent. These additions to what is already a fantastic line-up will capture the imagination of visitors from both the local area and further afield.'



## Why Edwin Morgan's scrapbooks remain inaccessible in a digital world

The creation of a digital collection of the unpublished work of the first Scots Makar, Edwin Morgan, should have been easy. Morgan wanted his scrapbooks, correspondence and handwritten drafts of poems to be publicly available during his lifetime (1920-2010).

And since then, the Edwin Morgan estate and the University of Glasgow – he was a student and lecturer in the Department of English literature – have also tried valiantly to make his unpublished works accessible to the rest of the world.

But today, a web resource is launched explaining the obstacles inherent in current copyright law which have made the digitisation of cultural heritage collections, such as

Morgan's, virtually impossible. The resource, found at www.digitisingmorgan.org, has been developed by Kerry Patterson, project officer for the digitisation of the Edwin Morgan Scrapbooks project at the University of Glasgow, with principal investigator Professor Roman Deazley from Queen's University Belfast, and Victoria Stobie, a PhD student at the University of Glasgow.

This is the first major UK study examining the challenges – both legal and financial – in digitising cultural heritage collections, particularly those from the mid to late 20th century in the current regulatory climate. The difficulties centre on what are described as orphan works – works that are still protected

by copyright law but for which the owner or owners cannot be identified or located.

In the collaborative project between CREATe (the Centre for Copyright and New Business Models in the Creative Economy – a national hub based at the University of Glasgow) and the university library, Ms Patterson warns that current copyright regulations are 'preventing the digitisation of cultural heritage collections'.

'If permissions cannot be secured because rightholders cannot be contacted, institutions may simply avoid socially beneficial uses of these 'orphans', preferring instead to deal with material for which copyright has expired or is easy to clear.

'But, when decisions about the

digitisation of heritage collections are shaped by the copyright status of the material itself, this skews the digital cultural record,' she says.

There is currently a twin-track approach to the problem of orphan works in the UK: an exception which implements the EU Orphan Works Directive 2012 and the Orphan Works Licensing Scheme (OWLS). Both depend upon conducting a diligent search for every single orphan work that is to be digitised, regardless of the nature and scale of the project.

The University of Glasgow project is the first major UK study to consider the concept of diligent search since the Directive and OWLS came into effect.

## Seil panto brings the Bogeyman to life

The Bogeyman of Balvicar, Seil Drama Group's third production, takes to the stage this Saturday, after their sell-out shows of *The Pirates of Puilldohbrainn* in 2015 and *Cinderella of Seil* in 2016.

Written by Wendy Dugdale and John Colston, the panto follows the adventures of Boris the Bogeyman (Jan Wolfe) and Blair (Wendy Dugdale), assisted by Donkey (Jenn Brunner), while they battle arch villain Laird Longjohn of Ardlycapable (John Maclean).

Boris's blissful existence is disturbed when a series of fairytale creatures including Red (Daisy Dugdale) and Pinocchio (Gavin Thorpe) are dumped in his bog. To get his solitude back Boris has to

capture Princess Blair and deliver her to Laird Longjohn to marry.

A merry romp round Seil follows, avoiding the Big Bad Wolf (Mary Freer), with all the usual panto fun – oh, yes, there is – until true love wins the day and the show ends in a singsong.

The programme further explains: 'Cross the Clachan bridge – taking care not to fall into the stream of molten lava below – and you will find yourself on the magical Isle of Seil. But the fairytale creatures who live there are in desperate peril – the evil Laird Longjohn wants to send them into exile, and there's a big bad wolf and a dragon to worry about as well.'

'Who can help them? And who will rescue the beautiful Princess trapped in the castle tower? And what of the mysterious bogeyman who stays in Balvicar bog? Can he fix it? Or will he just eat them all for breakfast?'

Debuting as director, George Houston moves from steering boats to steering the cast. With magical music by Maggie Thorpe, captivating costumes by Helen Glennie, and stunning scenery by Maura Rae and her team, the panto promises a great show for everyone.

There are two performances in Seil Island Community Hall on Saturday January 28, at 3pm and 7pm. The £5 tickets, which include ice-cream and soft drinks, are on sale at Balvicar Stores.

### A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 26 January – Thursday 2 February 2017

#### DIARDAOIN 26 FAOILLEACH

THURSDAY 26 JANUARY

- 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming
- 19.05 **Co-Sheirm** – archive music from choirs and soloists (rpt)
- 19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
- 20.00 **An Lá – News**
- 20.30 **ÚR | NEW: Dealbhán Fraoich** – Heather's Portraits – Episode 2
- 21.00 **DIY le Donnie** – Donnie MacLeod is back with more DIY – Episode 4 (rpt)
- 21.45 **Céol bho Perthshire Amber** – music (rpt)
- 22.00 **ÚR | NEW: Air an Rathad** – it's all about the cars! – Episode 4
- 22.30 **ÚR | NEW: Ice Road Rescuers** – Episode 3

- 23.15 **Hebridean Celtic Festival** – highlights from 2013 – music (rpt)
- 23.25 **Orain Óir** – Gaelic song archive (rpt)
- 23.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

#### DIHAOINE 27 FAOILLEACH

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

- 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming
- 18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
- 19.00 **An Lá – News**
- 19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
- 19.30 **Taigheadais Dùthchail** – Rural Housing – Episode 1 (rpt)
- 20.00 **Co Loisg Air** – revisiting the famous Appin Murder case (rpt)
- 21.00 **Tormod**: Norman MacLean – A Life (rpt)
- 22.00 **Cuirm@Celtic**: The Chieftains, an Dara Ceum (rpt)
- 23.00 **Gaol@Gael** – Episode 3 (rpt)
- 23.30 **Air an Rathad** – cars, cars and more cars! – Episode 4 (rpt)

- 17.30 **DISATHAIRNE 28 FAOILLEACH** SATURDAY 28 JANUARY
- 16.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming
- 17.05 **BEO | LIVE: Football** – Ayr United v Morton
- 19.20 **Céol bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
- 19.30 **Macrair** (rpt)
- 19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
- 20.00 **Órain Óir** – Gaelic songs from the archives – Episode 4 (rpt)
- 20.30 **Leugh Mi** – guests and their favourite books (rpt)
- 21.00 **Seirn** – music from Celtic Connections (rpt)
- 22.00 **Football**: St. Johnstone v Hamilton Accies
- 23.00 **A gu U: An Cuala Tu?** – archive Gaelic music – Part 2 (rpt)
- 24.00 **Women in Blue** – documentary on LAPD (rpt)
- 24.45 **Belladrum 2014** – music (rpt)

#### DILUAIN 29 FAOILLEACH

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY

- 16.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming
- 17.30 **De a-nis?** (rpt)
- 18.30 **Seachd Lá** – News Review
- 19.30 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music an d'verse (rpt)
- 20.00 **Fuine** – cooking for afternoon tea
- 20.30 **Dealbhán Fraoich** – Heather's Portraits – Episode 2 features crofter Ena MacDonald (rpt)
- 21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-chaorach** – Sheepdogs – Episode 4 (rpt)
- 22.00 **Football**: Kilmarnock v Ross County (rpt)
- 23.00 **Rathad na Deighe** – Ice Road Rescuers – Episode 3 (rpt)
- 23.45 **Céol bho Perthshire Amber** – music (rpt)

- 19.30 **Clann a' Chogaidh Mhòr** – Small hands in a big war – Episode 4 (rpt)
- 19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – History Shorts (rpt)
- 20.00 **An Lá – News**
- 20.30 **Leugh Mi** – Guests and their favourite books (rpt)
- 21.00 **ÚR | NEW: Farpaisean Chon-**

- 19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
- 20.00 **An Lá – News**
- 20.30 **ÚR | NEW: Taigheheads** Dùthchail – looks at rural housing in Scotland – Episode 2
- 21.00 **Trusadh** – The Way We Learn (rpt)
- 22.00 **ÚR | NEW: Port** – making musical connections in Belfast
- 22.30 **Sgeulachd Edward Pritchard** – The Human Crocodile – drama documentary (rpt)
- 23.30 **Air an Rathad** – the car show – Episode 4 (rpt)

#### DIMÀIRT 30 FAOILLEACH

MONDAY 30 JANUARY

- 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's programming
- 19.00 **Co-Sheirm** – archive music from choirs and soloists – Episode 4
- 19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
- 19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – History Shorts (rpt)
- 20.00 **An Lá – News**
- 20.30 **Fuine** – cooking with seafood (rpt)
- 21.00 **All That Lies Behind Me** – drama documentary (rpt)
- 22.00 **Gao@Gael** – Gaelic match-making – Series 2 – Episode 1 (rpt)
- 22.30 **Port** – musical connections in Belfast (rpt)
- 23.00 **DIY le Donnie** – more DIY tips – Episode 4 (rpt)
- 23.30 **ÚR | NEW: Ice Road Rescuers** – Episode 4
- 23.45 **Hebridean Celtic Festival** – highlights from 2013 (rpt)

- 22.00 **Chàorach** – Sheepdogs – Episode 5
- 22.30 **Trusadh**: The way we learn (rpt)
- 23.00 **Aiteal** – supernatural Scotland (rpt)
- 23.25 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)

#### DIARDAOIN 1 GEARRAN

WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

- 17.00 **Prògraman na Cloinne** – Children's Programming
- 19.05 **Co-Sheirm** – archive music from choirs and soloists (rpt)
- 19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
- 20.00 **An Lá – News**
- 20.30 **ÚR | NEW: Dealbhán Fraoich** – Heather's Portraits – Episode 3
- 21.00 **DIY le Donnie** – Donnie MacLeod is back with more DIY – Episode 5 (rpt)
- 21.45 **ÚR | NEW: Air an Rathad** – it's all about the cars! – Episode 5
- 22.30 **ÚR | NEW: Ice Road Rescuers** – Episode 4
- 23.00 **Football**: Hamilton Accies v Inverness CT

# Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



In the preface to this year's Celtic Connections programme, Artistic Director, Donald Shaw, writes: 'From out of the dark days of January, it is this extended warmth across 18 days of over 200 shows and 20 venues that makes the atmosphere so special.'

'Unfortunately for me, my January party is on hold because I haven't managed to make it to any of the festival yet!'

I was particularly disappointed to have missed three sold out gigs – the Ceol's Craic and Gaels Le Chèile evening, the Manran and Blazin' Fiddles gig, and The Tiree Song Book.

Many good friends of mine were playing at the Tiree night and I wish I could have managed along.

An extra special night this year

must have been Shooglenifty's *A Night for Angus*. Angus R. Grant was a folk music legend and an incredibly well-loved person, and I am certain that the line-up that the concert reflected that.

There must have been so many people all over the world wishing they could have been there.

It is always so difficult to decide what to attend at the festival. Over the coming weeks, you can catch Gary Innes (with his new album release), Rachel Walker (with her commission, Seudan), Cathy Ann McPhee in concert, or Breabach and Beoga live in the City Halls.

I could not include details of all the wonderful events on offer; but please head to [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com) to have a look for yourself!

## Ian MacDonald

Friends and colleagues from all walks of life attended the funeral of Ian MacDonald – for many years a committee member of Clydebank Highland Association.

Many representatives of the kindred associations (of whom Ian was a great supporter) came along to pay their respects to a kindly giant of a man with a pawky sense of humour.

Ian always ensured everyone attending Clydebank céilidhs was made to feel welcome and part of the 'ceilidh family'.

Although a true 'bankie', Ian loved nothing better than visiting the family home at Haeste in Skye, both enjoying and partaking of the local craic.

He will be sorely missed by all

who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A touching moment in the service was the playing of the pipe tune, *Father John MacMillan of Barra*, composed by Ian's uncle, Norman MacDonald, and played by Robert Wood.

Condolences are extended to Ian's brother Ronnie and all their relatives at this sad time.

## What's On

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

Friday February 11: Ceol is Craic Club Film in the CCA (documentary about Murchadh MacPhàrlain); beginning at 7pm; proceeded by a "comhradh", conversation,

at 6.30pm for learners; and followed by a concert by Na h-Ogánaich.

Friday February 17: The Mull and Iona Association Annual Gathering at 7.30pm in the Glasgow University Union.

## Pub Scene

Park Bar:  
Friday January 27: Scott Harvey  
Saturday January 28: Martainn Skene  
Sunday January 29 Martainn Skene

Islay Inn:  
Friday January 27: Crooked Reel.  
Saturday January 28: The Rag-gals.  
Wednesday February 1: Quiz Night.



# An Lanntair hosts LGBT+ festival

Creative hub An Lanntair in Stornoway is participating in Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Plus (LGBT+) history month this February.

The month-long exhibition is an annual national opportunity to acknowledge, discuss, promote and celebrate the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

With the help of the Scottish Queer International Film Festival, An Lanntair has put together a fascinating programme of events all next month that celebrate LGBT+ culture and encompass film, artist talks, literature, and even karaoke.

Recent research by the Equality Network ([www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Scottish-LGBT-Equality-Report.pdf](http://www.equality-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Scottish-LGBT-Equality-Report.pdf)) has shown that life for LGBT+ communities can be particularly challenging in rural parts of Scotland.

Scott Cuthbertson of the Equality Network said: 'There are LGBT people in every part of Scotland, sometimes forgotten and often with vastly different experiences of inclusion so it's fantastic to see such a diverse mix of film, poetry, and artist talks as part of An Lanntair's LGBT History Month programme.'

'The visibility and inclusion of LGBT history month will hopefully provide a welcome boost to the LGBT community in Stornoway and the Hebrides.'

An Lanntair's programme for 2017 seeks to shine a light on LGBT+ issues, art, writing, film and themes through a diversity of inspiring events for everyone.

As the first ever LGBT history month event on the Isle of Lewis, the programme is all about raising the profile and visibility of LGBT people,

history, lives and experiences. CEO of An Lanntair, Elly Fletcher, said: 'I can't wait to launch this brilliant programme of events for LGBT history month. An Lanntair is an arts centre that sits at the heart of and serves all communities of Stornoway and the wider Outer Hebrides.'

'For me, LGBT History Month gives us a superb opportunity to recognise and celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in our communities.'

'For the team and I here at An Lanntair, this work does not stop at the end of the month – far from it – we are looking forward to continuing to diversify our programme throughout our annual calendar, exploring LGBT+ issues and arts across all our work.'



## A SANDWICH SHORT OF A PIC-NIC

Are you a case?  
Fruit, nut or basket?  
Is a screw loose  
You nutty nit-wit?

Are you as mad  
As hatter or hare?  
Off your head  
Or not quite all there?

Maybe you're potty  
Gormless or barmy  
Completely dotty  
A right raving loony

Have you mislaid  
Marbles or mind?  
These I'm afraid  
You never will find

Do you go round  
The bend or the twist?  
You're really not sound  
In this I persist

Whether you're silly  
Stupid or bonkers  
You commit folly  
Like other plonkers



I still maintain  
Berserk of bananas  
Of sense not a grain  
Despite your endeavours

Well, you daft date  
Not the full shilling  
I must relate  
You have something missing

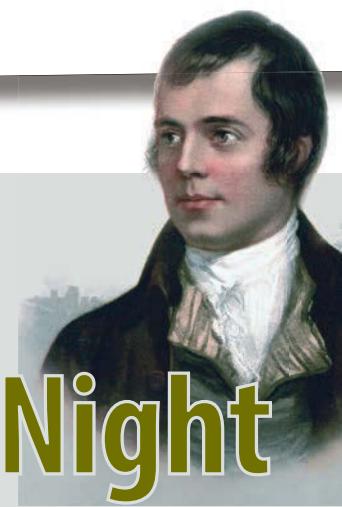
With bats in the belfry  
You're a bird brain  
Or scatter or pea  
Batty I say again

Off your trolley  
Or loosing the plot?  
Acting daffy  
You say you forgot!

Do you seem loopy  
Completely barring  
Or a bit dozy?  
I keep on asking

Which is your head-  
Dense, thick or empty?  
It must be said  
Saw-dust's a plenty!

Perhaps, you're zany  
Or simply plain crazy  
You're certainly insane  
To read this again!



# Dinnae waste a morsel this Burns Night

As planning gets under way for Scotland's annual celebration of the Bard, Zero Waste Scotland is encouraging Scots to make the most of the food they buy and avoid wasting their Burns Night fare.

With simple planning – such as making a shopping list and buying for the number of guests you are expecting – Scots can avoid wasting money and good food. If the "best laid schemes o'mice an' men" on food planning still fall short, there are plenty of ways to save that delicious Scottish scran from waste and make sure not a morsel of your haggis supper goes in the bin.

Zero Waste Scotland's Love Food Hate Waste campaign manager, Ylva Haglund, said: 'Burns Night is a celebration that so many of us love to enjoy and share with family and friends, and it's such a shame to see fantastic Scottish food go to waste. Many people are surprised to hear that once the traditional supper is done there are lots of really easy, tasty dishes you can create from leftover haggis – and save money by making full use of the food you've bought and avoiding another shop.'

James Macsween, managing director of award-winning Scottish haggis producers Macsween, said: 'If your Chieftain

haggis has proven to be too big a portion this year, Zero Waste Scotland's Love Food Hate Waste has some great recipes to ensure that nothing goes to waste. And from haggis nachos to lasagne, there's plenty of inspiration to help you enjoy Scotland's national dish all year round.'

Zero Waste Scotland estimates that every household in Scotland could save around £460 a year simply by wasting less food.

Despite that, Scots throw away the equivalent of 800 million meals every year – enough to feed everyone in Scotland three times a day for 50 days.

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\*source: JCDecaux data 01/04/2014

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# WOMEN in business

**FORGET** about waiting on a glass slipper, women are shattering glass ceilings. In fact, new research by the Centre for Entrepreneurs reveals that female tycoons are twice as ambitious as their male counterparts. They have narrowed the gender gap by six per cent since 2012 and are adding to the economic engine that is entrepreneurship – this according to a Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2014 Women's Report, which confirms that more

than 200 million women are starting or running businesses in 83 economies across the globe. An additional 128 million are running established businesses.

This week, we meet some of those women who are running successful businesses around Argyll and Lochaber. Their stories are inspiring and their business savvy is impressive. Read about how they followed their passions and their own dream jobs.



## Your pet is in good hands with Lochandubh Kennels

Set in secluded woodland 15 miles north of Oban, Lochandubh Kennels was first established in 1992. The family-run business is fronted by Fiona Woodhouse, along with her team of animal lovers.

Fiona tells us, 'our aim is for our dogs stay here to be happy and stress free. We have 24 purpose built kennels, licensed for 40 dogs. We use sawdust in the kennels which keeps them dry and clean and the dogs are walked twice a day through woodland paths. The kennels have double glazed units along the front to keep the bad weather out but the dogs can still see what's going on.'

The cattery was opened in 2007 and it has been designed and



built to the highest specifications. With 8 chalets, licensed for 16 cats, all of their feline clients love the heated beds with spacious runs, it really is a home away from home. There are also facilities to board any kind of small animal including hens. Fiona adds, 'we have a lovely working line of Labradors which my daughter Anna-May and I work at the local shoots.'

## Lochandubh Kennels & Cattery

YOUR BEST FRIEND DESERVES THE BEST  
Open 7 days from 8am to 6pm  
Cuddles are free - and freely dispensed!

Tel: 01631 720311 Barcaldine



## RA Clement - rising to the challenge for charities

Fiona McGlynn is one of the four partners running R A Clement Associates. Having graduated from Glasgow University and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with a Glasgow firm, Fiona joined R A Clement Associates in 1991, becoming a partner in 1999. Although she has specific responsibilities within the firm for HR and "Charity & Audit" clients, she also

works to meet business and individuals' needs for tax and accounting advice. Nowadays this includes advising on the challenges they face in planning for the future and dealing with the current economic environment. The charity and audit team deals with an increasingly complex regulated sector, with recent major changes set to affect many clients no matter how small or large. Fiona said: "With



over 100 clients in the charity sector, we have built up the expertise to enable us to assist clients of all sizes through the challenges ahead."

**R A Clement Associates**  
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

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Payroll: Abacus Services, 8 High Street, Oban PA34 4BG • Tel: 01631 568272

## Achieving more together with Argyll Resources

Argyll Resources Group dates back almost a century, being incorporated in 1919 under the name of John MacLachlan Ltd, the current director's grandfather, explained co director Susan MacLachlan.

'Sons Neil, Colin and daughter Christie continued at the helm over the following decades, with John my husband becoming involved during the 1980's and myself a few years later.'

For a time John's brother, John and sister Jane also played important roles in the mechanical and crane hire side and office management respectively.'

Women have been employed in key roles and contributed greatly throughout the company's development from its construction base to quarrying, ready mix concrete, crane hire, skip hire and recycling, portable toilet hire and bottled gas supply through its West Highland Gas company.



Susan added, 'Pamela Venters, a graduate MA (hons) Accounts & finance, joined in 2002 as our Group accounts manager and with an in depth knowledge of all areas of our business, continues to play a key role in the Company's development. Flexible and versatile and with a great sense of humour, which is a must, she is a great asset to the business.'

Janet Black joined the company this year and assists Pamela with the accounts.

The company continues to invest in Argyll and Lochaber and provide employment and training opportunities to local people.

Argyll Resources Tel: 01631 566370 Email: [enquiries@argyllresources.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@argyllresources.co.uk)

## Argyll Tapestry - the fabric of success

Lizzie Campbell Preston had the most amazing first year at Argyll Tapestries on the esplanade at Oban, finishing on a high during a storm with customers braving this to do their final Christmas shopping. Luckily no water came into the shop and the shop is set fair for the New Year.

Lizzie, trained at The Royal School of Needlework, set up Argyll Tapestries as a shop to sell hand painted tapestry kits and finished works of her own and others. Argyll Tapestries carries out restoration work and new commissions with one of the favourite's being a tapestry of much loved homes interpreted by Lizzie from photographs. Examples of her work can be seen in the shop.

Lizzie is really looking forward in 2017 to welcoming back her wonderful customers from far and wide but especially those surrounding Oban and the Isles, catching up on their lovely tapestry stories, how they started off from encouragement from grandmothers, mothers and aunts and even a few fathers.



## Argyll Tapestry

Home to exquisite tapestry and beautiful soft furnishings  
Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday  
28 Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5PS  
Tel: Lizzie on 07975816400

## Business Gateway - inspiring women in Argyll

Over 20% of Scottish small to medium sized enterprises are majority owned by women. If the numbers of women led businesses were to increase to equal those led by men it would grow the Scottish economy by at least 5% (£7.6 billion).

Women represent nearly a third of entrepreneurs around the world, and this number is expected to keep on growing. Women in the UK are more likely to use the forms of business support available from government bodies, professional services and banks.

Business Gateway offer free confidential advice to anyone looking to start a business or has plans to grow their existing business.

Further to the successful 'Women in Business' discussion panel, hosted



during Argyll Enterprise Week in October 2016, there will be a "Ladies Let's Talk" event at the Oban Bay Hotel on 8 February at 10am hosted by Victoria Ross, Royal Bank of Scotland. To register visit <http://bit.ly/2kaO01p>.

### Meet the Adviser

Do you have plans to start your own business? Plans to develop or expand your existing business?

Business Gateway Advisers can offer FREE advice and support to help you develop your ideas into an effective and practical plan.

To make an appointment or book a place call 01546 604555 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



## Rising stars at D M MacKinnon Solicitors



**Sally Orr**  
I left Oban High School in 1985, gained an BA (Hons) in Design at Gray's School of Art before qualifying as a teacher in Edinburgh. I taught for a couple of years then worked as a designer and latterly director of a UK jewellery company. To escape the relentless commuting, I then worked as office manager for an Architect/Property Development Company before completing the accelerated Law Degree and Diploma in Legal Practice. I moved home in 2010 to work with a local firm before joining D M MacKinnon in 2014. I became a Partner in 2016 and specialise in residential and commercial property matters.



**Louise Fraser**  
I am a former pupil of Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School. After obtaining an MA (Hons) in English Language, I then completed the accelerated Law Degree, both at the University of Glasgow. This was followed by the Diploma in Legal Practice at the Glasgow Graduate School of Law. I returned to Oban and joined D M MacKinnon in 2010 after working for three years in a commercial firm in Glasgow where I specialised in employment law. I became a partner in D M MacKinnon in 2016 and my work currently focuses mainly on employment law and all aspects of conveyancing.

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Tel: 01631 563014  
Email: [info@dmmk.co.uk](mailto:info@dmmk.co.uk)  
[www.dmmk.co.uk](http://www.dmmk.co.uk)

# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS  COMMERCIAL PROPERTY  SALE  PROPERTY REVIEWS  PROPERTY NEWS  LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

## Shared ownership now seen as a key route onto housing ladder

SHARED ownership is now seen as one of the key ways to get onto the housing ladder, a report launched by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and Orbit reveals.

Shared Ownership 2.1, published by the CIH and Orbit, highlights the progress of shared ownership, which offers potential buyers the chance to purchase part of their home and then pay rent on the remaining share.

The report shows the tenure is affordable across the vast majority of the UK, that it is significantly over-subscribed and that the sector has capacity to build many more homes.

It also reveals shared ownership is now one of the best known ways of getting onto the housing ladder, with some 34 per cent of the 2,200 adults polled by Ipsos MORI saying they knew about shared ownership, compared to

32 per cent who knew about right to buy and 28 per cent who knew about the help to buy equity loan.

The latest report comes two years after CIH and Orbit's initial research into shared ownership, which urged the government to invest in building more homes for the tenure. Since then, £4.1 billion of funding has been earmarked to build 135,000 new shared ownership homes and the eligibility criteria have been relaxed.

Gavin Smart, deputy chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, said: 'What this report shows is that shared ownership is now a popular and affordable route for many people in the UK to get a home.'

'As house prices continue to rise, shared ownership is an option for the growing group of people for whom home ownership is

increasingly out of reach, but who don't have the level of need to qualify for social housing.'

'It is pleasing to see more government funding being diverted towards shared ownership as this report makes it clear we need many more homes to cater for growing demand.'

Boris Worrall, executive director of futures at Orbit, said: 'This research shows that shared ownership is gaining real momentum as a popular and well-known route into homeownership for thousands of people who would otherwise be priced out of the market.'

'Government support and the sector's ambition, alongside better marketing and management, indicate an even brighter future for this affordable and aspirational product.'

Other key findings from the report include:

- Some 102,848 shared ownership homes have been built since 2001, with housing associations now managing over 54,000.
- The average age of a shared owner is 33 and their average income is £33,558.
- 85,000 applications were made for the 8,000 shared ownership homes available last year.
- Only 18 per cent of the people surveyed hadn't heard of shared ownership.

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Landlords use letting agents to give them 'peace of mind'

The relationship that exists between letting agents and landlords is a tried and tested one that has stood the test of time, and a new study has shown the most common reasons why landlords choose to work with letting agents.

According to a study by insurance company Endsleigh, one of the most common reasons that landlords will employ a letting agent is simply that they want the peace of mind that comes from the relationship.

Letting agents have industry expertise and take away many of the stresses of letting properties from landlords, which is why 41 per cent of people said they feel they get peace of mind from their relationship with an agent. In fact, 25 per cent even said that they contact their letting agent at least once a week just to make sure that everything is going well.

Other reasons that landlords choose to use a letting agent include the fact that agents have local knowledge they perhaps don't have themselves, which 50 per cent cited as a reason, and 76 per cent said they enjoy the fact that agents are proactive in helping them to find new tenants for their properties.

One of the main reasons that some people said they choose not to use a letting agent is because they believe it can be too costly, but interestingly, the research found that agents actually save landlords money in the long run.

It said that void periods for owners who use an agent are far shorter and fewer than for those who go it alone, and a survey suggests that in these cases letting agents can in fact save their clients an average of almost £2000.



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£450 PCM

2 Bedroom part furnished first floor flat in the modern Riverside Court development, Tobermory. The property comprises 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, large hall store cupboard, lounge/dining room and kitchen. The property is part furnished throughout.

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

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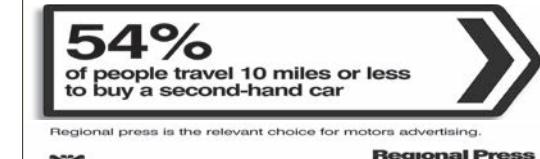
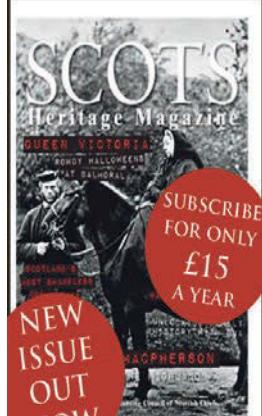
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red 23224 miles	
14 14 Subaru STi Type UK .....	£20500
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14 14 Subaru STi Type UK .....	£21995
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14 14 Subaru STi Type UK .....	£22995
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15 65 Subaru STI Type UK.....	£24995
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15 65 Subaru STI Type UK.....	£25500
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66 Dacia Sandero AMB 1.2, 5Dr, H/B, Silver, Delivery Mileage .....	£7,250
16 Dacia Sandero Amb TCE 5Dr H/B, Silver, 500 Miles .....	£7495
16 Renault Clio Dyn NAV TCE, 5Dr, H/B, White, Delivery Mileage .....	£12,500
16 Renault Megan DYN NAV 1.5 DCi, 5Dr Silver, 1,150 Miles.....	£11,495
65 Dacia Logan Laureate 1.5 DCi, Blue, 10,850 Miles.....	£9250
64 Honda Jazz, ES+ I-Vtec, 1.4, 5Dr, Brown 29,500 Miles.....	£7,450
64 Dacia Sandero stepway Laureate TCE, Red, 12,600 Miles.....	£7850
14 Nissan Qashqai Acenta, 1.2 5Dr, Grey, 10,000 miles.....	£13,150
14 Renault Scenic DYN, 1.5 DCi, T/T, Black, 16,500 Miles.....	£12,650
14 Dacia Stepway AMB TCE, Black, 15,400 Miles.....	£6,750
62/13 Renault Megane DYN, 1.6, Coupe, Silver, 18,000 Miles.....	£9,450
13 Hyundai Active, 1.2, 5Dr, H/B, Grey, 28,000 Miles.....	£5,000
12 Renault Megan I - Music DCI 5Dr H/B, Blue, 59,000 Miles.....	£5,650
11 VW Polo SEL TSI 1.2, 5Dr, Red, 34,000 Miles.....	£7,550
11 Renault Megane Coupe, GT-Line TCE, Blue, 25,000 Miles.....	£6,995
10 Toyota Aygo, 1lt, 1.0 5Dr H/B, Blue, 38,500 Miles .....	£3,950
10 Renault Clio DYN, 1.5 DCI, 3Dr, Beige, 54,000 Miles .....	£3,750
10 VW Polo SE 60, 1.2 5Dr H/B Grey.....	£3,495
09 Honda Civic I-Vtec, 1.8 5Dr H/B, Blue, 55,350 Miles.....	£4,650
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- Ability to use own initiative.
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- Take pride and interest in the business.
- Provide own transport to work.
- Be reliable and punctual.
- Work with us providing an outstanding guest experience.

The contract can be on an employed or self-employed basis and remuneration will be in line with experience and contract basis. This is a seasonal position, the right person will help us to extend the season, and may have the opportunity to return in future seasons.

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**Wage:** TBC (Depends on experience)

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**Responsibilities:** Welcoming customers when entering the shop and ensuring everyone is being looked after. Taking customers registration details and collecting payments.

Handing out brochures when required. Answering all inbound phone calls and emails and or taking bookings. General Admin duties and tidying the shop floor. The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic, confident, friendly, organised, well presented and most importantly reliable. This role is open to Male and Female applicants of 18 years +.

**Enquires:** If you're interested please email or post your CV FAO Ranulph McLauchlan to:

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## North Argyll Carers Centre

North Argyll Carers Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction, on an unpaid basis. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support. The organisation is seeking to recruit highly motivated individuals with excellent interpersonal skills to join our team.

### Assistant Manager (Operations)

37 hours per week - £28,000  
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### Outreach Carers Support Worker

25 hours per week - £20,125 pro rata

Five of the hours are subject to continuation funding

The successful candidates will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG Scheme update check. Use of car and a current driving licence essential for both posts.

Closing date: Friday 3rd February 2017

North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process

For a recruitment pack or further information on both jobs please contact Morag MacLean, Manager on telephone 01631 564422/ 077171647290 or email: [morag@northargyllcarers.org.uk](mailto:morag@northargyllcarers.org.uk)



## Quality and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator

Scottish Sea Farms  
are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon.

We are currently recruiting for a Quality and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator for our Shetland and Orkney regions.

The role will have the following responsibilities:

- To assist Scottish Sea Farms in maintaining a leading industry performance in respect of environmental sustainability, customer assurance and aspects of Health and Safety.
- Working throughout both regions to ensure optimal operation of the QMS system as demanded of customers, retailers and other stakeholders.
- Generating relevance, professionalism and a cross regional standard in the QMS system.

If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we'd very much like to hear from you.

The successful candidate will have proven experience in identifying and managing risk compliance management, preferably within the Aquaculture Industry. You will display a methodical and diligent attitude towards work and possess strong accuracy and attention to detail. You will have excellent interpersonal skills able to manage both internal and external relationships. You will be a proactive, driven individual with experience of dealing with regulators, licensing bodies and other third party suppliers.

In return Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive salary package, depending on experience. The position is based in Scalloway and will involve regular traveling throughout Shetland and Orkney, for which a company vehicle will be provided.

To find out more, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email [angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.

Closing date: Monday 13 February 2017

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# PUBLIC NOTICES



## CLÀRACHADH AIR-LOIDHNE AIRSON CLAS 1 & TRÀTH-IONNSACHADH AGUS CÙRAM-CHLOINNE ANN AN SGOIL – ÚR AIRSON 2017!

Ma bhios ur pàiste còig bliadhna a dh'aois air no ro 28 Gearran 2018, faodar an clàrachadh airson Clas 1.

Tha làn-chòir aig clann a rugadh eadar 1 Màrt 2013 agus 28 Gearran 2015 air àite maoineachadh Tràth-ionnsachaidh agus Cùram-chloinne.

Tha an seisean ùr a' tòiseachadh air 15 Lùnastal 2017.

Tha sinn toilichte innse gun deach pròiseas clàrachaidh ùr a leasachadh airson gun urrainn do phàrrantan is luchd-cùraim clann a chlàrachadh air-loidhne airson àiteachan san sgoil no ann an tràth-ionnsachad agus cùram-chloinne.

'S e an t-seachdain chlàrachadh airson Clas 1 airson sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd

Diluain 30 Faoilleach gu Dihaoine 3 Gearran 2017.

'S e an t-seachdain chlàrachadh airson àiteachan Tràth-ionnsachaidh agus Cùram-chloinne Diluain 13 Gearran gu Dihaoine 17 Gearran 2017.

Nuar a tha sibh air ur pàiste a chlàrachadh air-loidhne, curridh an sgoil fios thugaibh gus inntrigeadh a chur ari dòigh.

Gheibhearr tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu bhith a' lionadh an fhoirm air-loidhne, pròiseas chlàrachaidh, sgriean sgoile, Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig, còmhdaill sgoile agus iarrtasan àiteachan-sgoile, air-loidhne aig [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment) no tadhailibh air a' bhun-sgoil ionadail tron t-seachdain chlàrachaidh.

Faodar fhathast leth-bhreac phàipeir den fhoirm chlàrachaidh a lionadh aig oifis na sgoile ionadail tron t-seachdain chlàrachaidh. Thoiribh an aire gum feum sibh teisteanas-breith ur pàiste agus dearbhadh den t-seòladh agaibh a thoirt leibh ma tha sibh a' clàrachadh aig an sgoil.



## ENROLLING ONLINE FOR PRIMARY 1 & EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IN A SCHOOL - NEW FOR 2017!

If your child will be five years of age on or before 28th February 2018, they are eligible to enrol for Primary 1.

Children born between 1 March 2013 and 28 February 2015 are entitled to a funded Early Learning and Childcare place.

The new session starts on 15th August 2017.

We are pleased to announce that for enrolment into school or early learning and childcare, a new enrolment process has been developed to enable parents and carers to register children for school places online. The P1 enrolment week for Highland schools is Monday 30th January to Friday 3rd February 2017.

For Early Learning and Childcare places it will be Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2017.

Once you have enrolled your child online, the school will contact you to arrange an induction.

Further information on completing the online form, the enrolment process, catchment areas, Gaelic Medium education, school transport and placing requests can be found online at [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment) or visit your local primary school during enrolment week.

A paper copy of the enrolment form can still be completed at your local school office during enrolment week. Please note that if you are enrolling in person at a school, you are required to take your child's birth certificate and proof of your address with you.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
16/05689/FUL	Land 100M SE Of Polgarbh Gairlochy, Spean Bridge	Erection of house, formation of vehicular access, installation of septic tank and soakaway
17/00080/PIP	Glenancross Guesthouse Morar, Mallaig	Erection of two detached houses
17/00045/FUL	Land 360M NE Of Mamore Lodge Mamore, Kinlochleven	A run of river hydro scheme on the Allt Nathrach and associated watercourses
17/00114/FUL	Former Lochside Roman Catholic School Lochside	60no. new dwellings with associated services, roads and landscaping, including an amenity area with play park. Housing to be a combination of two storey villas, bungalows and two and a half storey flats, with a mix of two, three and four beds

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: [epanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:epanning@highland.gov.uk)

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**BREEDON**  
**BLAST AT BANAVIE QUARRY**  
**FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY**  
**BETWEEN 12:00 – 14:00hrs**

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

John Robert MacCallum has registered their croft 15 Airds Bay, Ardgachan & Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 05 October

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C3523.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Karen MacGillivray has registered her croft 16 Moss and Blain, Arisaig and Moidart, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by October 4, 2017.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C3521.

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Gremlin Napier has registered their croft 4 Fanmore, Kilninian & Kilmore on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 20 Sept 2017

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home).

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs J MacGillivray 56, 58 & 59 Banavie, Kilmailie 70594

0.180 ha – site of an existing dwelling house

Condition – With fencing conditions. Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

Mrs J MacGillivray 56, 58 & 59 Banavie, Kilmailie 70595

0.180 ha – site of an existing dwelling house

Condition – With fencing conditions. Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

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Official magazine of the Standing Council of the Scottish Chiefs

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

\*Dr M R Milne  
½ 43 & Pt 45 Banavie, Kilmailie  
0.458 ha – Proposed site for a new dwelling house

73576

\*Applications marked with an asterisk – The Commission will consider in this applications where it is relevant any expressions of demand when deciding whether to issue a Direction

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 24 February 2017 – Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

### DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Mrs J MacGillivray 56, 58 & 59 Banavie, Kilmailie 70594

0.262 ha – site of an existing dwelling house

Condition – With fencing conditions. Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

Mrs J MacGillivray 56, 58 & 59 Banavie, Kilmailie 70595

0.205 ha – site and amenity ground of two log chalets

Condition – With fencing conditions. Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

Mr G. Napier 4 Fanmore, Kilninian & Kilmore 69624

0.093 ha – Site for a dwelling house

Condition – With fencing conditions. Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

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**COAL Now on sale at MacLennan Motors**  
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Will deliver in Oban area call 01631 566 275 for more details

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[info@jamescrockartandson.co.uk](mailto:info@jamescrockartandson.co.uk)  
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Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk).

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## DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

B R E A D M A K E R Morphy Richards, £15 Tel 01546 603245

D I S H W A S H E R Dishwasher, Pro-Action, excellent condition, very

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## FURNITURE

BEDROOM CHAIRS 2 red button back velvet bedroom chairs, VGC, £25 each Telephone 01631 565602

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DRAWERS 2 pine bedside cabinets. 3 drawers, £15 each Tel 01631 565602

LEATHER POUFFES Brown leather pouffes with storage, £10 each Tel 01631 565602

SIDEBOARD Mahogany, excellent storage, good condition, £90ono Telephone 01546 603654 (Eves)

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FIT FLOPS Genuine Fit Flops, brand new, size 6, pewter, cost £60. Call evenings and weekends £50 Tel 01631 562750<sup>2</sup>

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## BIRTHS



## MACKENIE

Brian and Andrea (née Fraser) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Kate on January 16, 2017. Fourth granddaughter for Ian and Cathy Fraser and second granddaughter for Ian and Catherine MacKenzie. Thanks to the midwives in Oban and Paisley.

## DEATHS

**BEATH** - Suddenly at home, on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Ian (Andrew), aged 74. Dearly beloved husband of Betty, much loved father and father-in-law of Andrew and Liz and Anna and Kevin and adored Grandpa to his five grandchildren. Farewell gathering at Argyllshire Gathering Halls at 1.00pm on Wednesday, January 25 and service at Dundee Crematorium at 10.15am on Thursday, January 26. Family flowers only.

**MACVEAN** - Peacefully at her home, Dalvore, Kilmichael Glassary, on January 21, 2017, Elizabeth Janet (Betty) MacVean, née MacDonald, aged 82 years, beloved wife of Alasdair MacVean and loving mother of Eric, John, Angus, Peter and Elizabeth. Dear sister of the late Angus, Margaret, Marjory, Donald, Colin and Ian and a much loved aunt, great aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, today Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 12.00noon, thereafter to Achnahaird Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia.

**McLUCKIE** - On Monday January 23, 2017, at The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, in his 60th year, after a brave battle with Motor Neurone Disease, Peter, finally lost the fight, loving husband of Caroline, devoted father to Gregor, Christopher and Jennifer and adored Seanaid to Summer, Lewis, Emma, Rowan, Katy, Jonathon, and Isla. He will be sorely missed. A Celebration of Life will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Tuesday January 31, 2017, at 1.00pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Retrial collection/donations if desired, will be taken for Motor Neurone Disease Scotland and Ward 7D at The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

**ROSS** - (Kincaig). Peacefully at home on January 22, 2017. Donnie Ross, shepherd of Leat Farm, Kincaig, dearly loved husband of Margaret, loving father to Donnie, Peter, Neil, Eillean and Duncan and doting grandfather of seven. A friend to many who will be sadly missed. Funeral service to take place at Kingussie Parish Church on Monday January 30, 2017 at

12.00 noon and thereafter to Leat Farm, Kincaig. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, for Kingussie sheepdog trials charity may be given at the church door. Enquiries to Jamie R Rodgers Funeral Directors, Tel: 07376110020, email: info@jrrfunerals.co.uk

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**DOUGLAS** - Irene and family both at home and abroad would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming love and support, cards and flowers, following the sudden death of Andrew in Majorca. Also those who travelled from near and far despite the wind and snow to pay their respects. We would also thank Mike McFall for liaising with the repatriation service so efficiently to ensure Andrew arrived home safely to Scotland. Our thanks also to Rev Donald MacCorkindale for his very apt and moving service. Kate Cruickshank for the music, Charles and Sally of Lochaline Hotel for the catering and last but not least Raj for piping Highland Cathedral at the graveside in such atrocious weather. The sum of £200 (plus a silver Canadian \$5 piece) collected, will be donated to Lochaber Macmillan Nurses.

**JOHNSTON** - The family would like to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and everyone who helped during the sad loss of Duncan, a much loved husband to the late Margaret, father and grandfather. Special thanks to neighbours Margaret and Rod Connally for their care and friendship; to Catriona and staff of Hamish Hoey and Son for unfailing support and guidance. Heartfelt thanks to Mgr. James MacNeil for his constant kindness from Duncan's death to the deeply spiritual and dignified Requiem Mass with beautiful music. The sum of £680 has gone to Mary's Meals in Duncan's memory.

**MACCILLIVRAY** - Corinne and Alan Barrie would like to thank Glenisha Care Home in Keith, Moray for all their attentive care, Catriona and all the staff at Hamish Hoey and Sons for their support and highly professional service, Rev. Dugald Cameron for a personal and very appropriate funeral service, the Rowantree Hotel for a lovely lunch and Moreen Gracie at the Flower Basket for their beautiful wreaths, all of which contributed to the success of our dear mother and mother-in-law, Flora MacGillivray's funeral on Friday January 20, 2017. We would also like to thank all her dear friends and relations who attended the service to make it a special and personal, if sad, day.

**MACKENIE** - Christine and family of the late John Mackenzie would like to give thanks to all the family and friends for their cards, support and expressions of sympathy since the sudden death of John. Special thanks to the emergency services in attendance and Ian MacInnes from D and A Munn for providing invaluable help and support. Heartfelt thanks also to the Rev. W T Hogg for making the journey

to deliver such a moving and fitting service, the elders of Dalmally and Innishael Parish Church for their efficiency, Alasdair MacDonald for his music during the service, Iain MacIntyre for the pipes, Moren at the Flower Basket for the beautiful floral tributes and the Dalmally Community Hall Committee for catering after the service. The breathtaking sum of £1735 was donated to be shared between The Macmillan Suite at the Lorn and Islands Hospital and Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland. RIP.

**MACLELLAN** - Ann would like to very sincerely thank all family, friends and neighbours for the many letters, cards, flowers and loving expressions of sympathy and support at the recent untimely loss of John. I also appreciate everyone who made the long journey over to Islay from around Scotland and the South of England, in some cases through snow. I also thank the people of Islay who came to say farewell to John, he would have been very proud. Thank you to Jean and Craig MacAffer Funeral Directors, Islay at piping Highland Cathedral at the graveside in such atrocious weather. The sum of £200 (plus a silver Canadian \$5 piece) collected, will be donated to Lochaber Macmillan Nurses.

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- Mary and family, Glencoe

**MACKELLAR** - Violet. In loving memory of my dear mum who passed away in January 2016. Deep in my heart you will always stay

In my thoughts every day.

- Love Allan xx

**MCOMBIE** - In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, granddad and great-granddad Bert, who died January 31, 2015.

Many a lonely heartache

Many a silent tear

But always a beautiful memory

Of one we loved so dear

Sadly missed.

- John, Teenie and Peter

You are always in our thoughts

granddad.

- Fiona, Fraser and Kevin

When we a star shining bright

we know its granddad Bertie

saying goodbye.

- Kyle and Summer

**POULTON** - Treasured memories of my dad Chris, who died January 30, 2006. Forever in my heart.

- Hannah

**RUSSELL** - Treasured memories of my dear wife Mary died on January 29, 2010. Love never ends.

**RUSSELL** - Treasured memories of our dear mum and nana Mary who died January 29, 2010.

Loved beyond words, missed beyond measure.

- Mhairi, Ian, Katy, Fiona and Morven

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- Kirsty, Steve, Rebecca, Scott and Callan

**SMITH** - Precious memories of Angus, a much loved father, father-in-law and adoring grandpa and great-grandpa, who sadly passed away on January 23, 2013.

Forever in our hearts, always in our thoughts.

- Myrtle, Angus, Isobel, Calum and family

## MEMORIALS

**EDWARDS** - In loving memory of our Mum and Granny Mary Bell, died January 26, 1995, also remembering our Dad and Grandpa Donald, died September 19, 1986. Loved and remembered always.

- Donnie, Anne and family.

**KERR** - Remembering our father, father-in-law, papa and great-papa Willie, who died January 29, 2015.

- Love John, Morag and family x

**KIRSOP** - John, sadly passed away January 25, 2007, steadfast husband, inspirational father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather to his large family. Forever in our thoughts much loved and sorely missed.

- Mary and family

**MACKENIE** - Christine and family of the late John Mackenzie would like to give thanks to all the family and friends for their cards, support and expressions of sympathy since the sudden death of John. Special thanks to the emergency services in attendance and Ian MacInnes from D and A Munn for providing invaluable help and support. Heartfelt thanks also to the Rev. W T Hogg for making the journey

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# Six of the best as Saints overrun Port Glasgow OBU

'If I had any criticism it would be that we have to be more clinical in front of goals'

Port Glasgow OBU	0
Oban Saints	6
Jimmy Marshall Cup - 2nd Round	

LAST Saturday at Parklea Saints began their defence of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy in confident style against one of the stalwarts of the Scottish Amateur Football League Port Glasgow Old Boy's Union AFC.

Port Glasgow OBU celebrated their 110th anniversary in 2016, which is a fantastic achievement, particularly in the current climate of long-established clubs having to fold. True to their motto, Port Glasgow OBU have remained Sure and Steadfast throughout their history and have a long and happy association with the Scottish Amateur Football League.

OBU have admirably chosen not to follow the well worn path to other leagues taken by many long-standing SAFL member clubs, including close neighbours Greenock High School Former Pupils and Gourock Athletic, electing instead to stay with the Scottish Amateur Football League and battle on in search of that elusive promotion to the Premier Division.

The one mile stroll from the changing rooms at Parklea bowling club along the banks of the Clyde to the grass park was a pleasant one made all the better when it revealed a good sized grass park bathed

in January sunshine.

The hosts kicked off but it was Saints who immediately gained possession, with Craig MacEwan winning a free kick 23 yards out and slightly left of centre. Donald Campbell took responsibility for the dead ball but sent a poor effort into the wall. Donald fared slightly better with the rebound getting his shot on target but with insufficient power to trouble Kevin Franck.

Myles McAuley had a run through the midfield halted unfairly by Jordan Axeworthy in the 16th minute. Paul Kerr took the free kick quickly rolling the ball to MacEwan who fed Campbell on the right hand corner of the box. Campbell swung in a good cross looking for MacEwan's run but MacEwan's header, again made difficult by the low sun, looped wide of target.

The Oban side made the breakthrough which their almost complete domination deserved in the 19th minute. Campbell threaded a pass through the inside right channel for Brian Mackay who raced in behind the high OBU defensive line, around keeper Turner and squared to Carmichael who slid in at the back post to poke the ball into the unguarded net.

Saints doubled their advantage five minutes later when Carmichael gave chase to a long diagonal ball from Dene Cassells, beating Craig Hill in a foot race and picking out Campbell, who timed his run to the back post perfectly before calmly stroking home a shot from a tight angle which Thomas McCulloch could only parry across the face of his goal. Fortunately for Saints,

OBU ventured forward for the first time in the 10th minute, with skipper Iain McEwan getting away from Dene Cassells and sending in a shot from a tight angle which Thomas McCulloch could only parry across the face of his goal. Fortunately for Saints,

Carmichael followed this effort up with a strong run on the left supported by Myles McAuley. A 16-yard shot from Myles was blocked, with Craig MacEwan reacting first to the loose ball and curling an effort towards the postage stamp corner which Mark Turner got his fingertips to at the expense of a corner kick. There was again no joy from Campbell's delivery from the right with the home defence comfortably clearing the danger.

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Campbell had strayed offside however referee Jim McNeil

## Football

skipper Marc MacCallum was alive to the danger, getting back to mop up the loose ball ahead of lone OBU striker Kevin Franck.

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Dene Cassells heads this effort over the bar. Match report and photos: Deek Black



Paul Carmichael slides in to connect with this Brian MacKay's cross to open the scoring.



Donald Campbell dinks the ball past OBU keeper Mark Turner to net Saints' second goal.



Craig MacEwan, No 8, seals his hat-trick

## Abigail named in women's Six Nations squad

FORMER Oban High School pupil Abigail Evans has been named in Scotland's 2017 Women's Six Nations Championship squad.

Abigail made her Scotland debut for Scotland in the 2015 Six Nations opener against France.

She will feature alongside 31



Abigail training with the Scotland squad.

other players, including her teammate and Scottish Rugby's first full-time female player Jade Konkel.

Argyll and Bute rugby development officer, Allan Wright, said: 'Having Abigail playing at the top level of rugby in the country is a huge achievement for her personally and also for Oban High School and Oban Lorne RFC's Youth Rugby set-ups, where Abigail was introduced to the game.'

'Her involvement particularly in the Scottish National Women's set-up should act as a big incentive to all girls playing rugby across the country and especially rural areas such as Argyll and Bute.'

'Currently we have girls playing in Oban, Mull, Campbeltown, Islay and Lochgilphead. 'Hopefully some of the girls in these clubs can follow in Abigail's footsteps in the future.'

## Women's rugby

Abigail started playing rugby while at Oban High School when she was 12 years old. She now plays for Hillhead Jordan in the Scottish National League.

Scotland Women will open their campaign against Ireland Women on Friday February 3.

They will play two further matches at Broadwood, which they adopted as their base last year, hosting Wales on Friday February 24 and Italy on Friday March 17.

They will face France on Saturday February 11 in La Rochelle (kick-off 8pm GMT) and England on Saturday March 11 at The Twickenham Stoop.

All 15 Women's Six Nations games will be broadcast live on TV or online to help raise the profile of the championship.

## Robert reaches last four of Australian championship

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre came close to reaching another prestigious final last week, finishing in the top four of the Australian Men's Amateur Championship.

The Glencruitten golfer



Robert MacIntyre

reached the semi-final of the 234-strong tournament, which was held at Yarra Yarra Golf Club.

Upon reaching the final 64 players, the tournament progresses to a head-to-head knockout competition.

MacIntyre, who is ranked 10th in the world amateur rankings, advanced safely throughout the tournament and won his quarter final game against the Australian Travis Smyth.

However, MacIntyre wasn't quite able to mimic the success of his international teammate, Connor Syme, who won the tournament last year.

Even bringing in a secret weapon – fellow Obanite Stuart Fraser, who was Robert's caddy for the day – wasn't enough.

## Golf

He was beaten in the semi-final by Min Woo Lee from Australia by a margin of three and one.

MacIntyre took to social media after the tournament to congratulate Min Woo Lee on his performance and wished him luck in the final.

But his best wishes weren't enough and Lee lost in dramatic fashion when Martias Sanchez came back to win the tournament by one-up.

MacIntyre added: 'Massive thanks to everyone for the support, it means so much. Gutted to have lost in the semi final but, hey, it is all about learning from it and move on.'

# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

# Mactavish, Sutherland, Bullough and Strathdearn Cup draws made

THE DRAWS for the RBS MacTavish Cup, Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup, Bullough Cup and Strathdearn Cup all took place at Highland Print Studio, Inverness, on Monday 23 January.

The draws were made by Alison McMenemy from the Highland Print Studio and Glenurquhart keeper Stuart MacKintosh, who is the player representative to the Camanachd Association.

The venue was selected because Highland Print Studio is about to embark on an exciting venture with the Camanachd Association which will see artists working with shinty clubs to create a series of prints celebrating the contemporary culture and heritage of Scotland's iconic indigenous sport of shinty. The project has received funding from the Highland Culture – Take Pride, Take Part Investment Fund.

Newtonmore went into the RBS MacTavish Cup draw as holders while their second team were 2016 Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup winners.

Tayforth were reining Bullough Cup champions and Lochcarron lifted the Strathdearn Cup last year.

## 2017 Balliemore Cup Draw

The draw for the 2017 Balliemore Cup will take place at 2pm in the Camanachd Association Office, Inverness, on today (Thursday).

All Camanachd Association members are welcome to attend.

## 2017 Camanachd Cup Draw

The final cup draw for the 2017 shinty season, the prestigious Camanachd Cup, will take place in early March when the preliminary round and first round ties will be pulled out of the hat.

The second round draw will be made after the first round ties have taken place.

The 10 Marine Harvest Premiership sides join the competition at the second round stage.

## 2017 shinty fixture list

One sure sign that the new shinty season is just around the corner is the imminent release of the new fixture list.

Camanachd Association operations and events manager

Astie Cameron has confirmed that the 2017 fixture list is due for publication on Tuesday January 31.

The fixture list will include all competitions except the Camanachd Cup, which is drawn on a round by round basis throughout the season.

### Oban Celtic announce pre-season plans

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon has set his side four testing pre-season friendlies throughout the month of February as they prepare for life in the Marine Harvest National Division.

The Oban Celtic squad open with a game against Taynuilt at Ganavan on Saturday February 4.

Marine Harvest Premiership side Glasgow Mid Argyll come to Mossfield to play Oban Celtic on Saturday February 11.

There will also be top division opposition a week later when Kilmallie are the opponents, again at Mossfield.

The ever-popular Robert Wylie Memorial Cup match takes place on Saturday February 25 as Ballachulish come to Mossfield.

Oban Celtic will be out to win back the trophy after Kinlochshiel took it west with a 5-1 win last year.

The throw up times are yet to be confirmed.

Daniel Madje will continue as Oban Celtic club captain this coming season, with Neil Carmichael as vice-captain.

### Oban Camanachd prepare for the new season

Oban Camanachd have resumed training in preparation for season 2017 and hoping to build on last season's success that saw the club finish second equal in the Premier League

and reach the final of the Scottish Cup, losing narrowly to Newtonmore.

With last year's team captain James MacMillan taking a year out in Australia, it was expected that promising youngster Ross MacMillan would be given a chance to establish himself in the first team. However, he has decided to leave the club and play for Oban Celtic next season.

Commented team manager Ian Hay: 'With the team playing in the top flight of shinty, it is important for the players to commit to the training schedule laid down by the club. To this end, we are disappointed to have lost Ross but we wish him well.'

'However, on the plus side, the club welcome back Connor Howe and Matty Rippon, who have shown the commitment required at the level the team play at, as well as showing loyalty to the team manager.'

On going to press both Camanachd and Lochside were trying to arrange much-needed match practice for this weekend.



Alison McMenemy, Director, Highland Print Studio and Camanachd Association Player Representative to the Board, Stuart MacKintosh who made the draw.

### RBS MacTavish Cup

THE RBS MacTavish Cup is contested between north senior clubs and the draw was made as follows:

#### Saturday March 25 First Round

Fort William v Newtonmore  
Strathglass v Lovat  
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie  
Caberfeidh v Skye Camanachd  
Glenurquhart v Lochaber

#### Byes

Inverness  
Kilmallie  
Beauly

The 2017 RBS MacTavish Cup Final will take place at the Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday June 10.

#### Saturday April 15 Quarter Final

Fort William / Newtonmore v Caberfeidh / Skye  
Kilmallie v Inverness  
Glenurquhart / Lochaber v Strathglass / Lovat  
Beauly / Kinlochshiel / Kingussie

#### Saturday May 13 Semi Final

Fort William / Newtonmore / Caberfeidh / Skye v  
Glenurquhart / Lochaber / Strathglass / Lovat  
Kilmallie / Inverness v  
Beauly / Kinlochshiel / Kingussie

is important for the players to commit to the training schedule laid down by the club. To this end, we are disappointed to have lost Ross but we wish him well.

The association previously advertised the post but didn't make an appointment after interviewing four candidates. They have since taken time to review the terms and conditions on offer and the post, based in Inverness, has been re-advertised, now offering an increased salary of between £35,000 and £45,000 depending on experience.

The new chief executive officer will be responsible to the Camanachd Association president and board of directors for ensuring the smooth running of the organisation, marketing and communication.

The role is based at the association's head office in Inverness and the job description and candidate specification are available from the Camanachd Association website www.shinty.com. Any interested applicants can also discuss the post in confidence with Camanachd Association president Jim Barr by calling 07900 052568.

### Camanachd Association step up hunt for new chief

The Camanachd Association has stepped up the hunt for a new chief executive officer to lead the organisation following the departure of Torquil MacLeod after the Association's annual general meeting in November 2016.

### Kilmallie AGM

Kilmallie hold their annual general meeting at Caoil Community Centre tomorrow (Friday January 27).

It is a big year for the Caoil Parks side as Mark MacPherson's senior squad returns to top division shinty.

The AGM starts at 7pm and all are welcome.

### Rory Kennedy is new captain of Newtonmore

Rory Kennedy will captain Newtonmore in the new shinty season.

Kennedy takes the armband from fellow defender and fellow Scottish internationalist Steven MacDonald, who lifted all major honours open to the club last season with the exception of the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

Kennedy has put a time on the sidelines with a serious hand injury behind him and he was a key player in a solid Newtonmore defence which only lost 23 goals in 28 competitive games in 2016.

He is also a mainstay in Ron-

ald Ross' Scotland squad.

The 2017 Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Final will take place on Saturday 29 July and the venue has yet to be confirmed.

### Saturday April 29 Second Round

Fort William / Kinlochshiel v Oban Lorn  
Strathglass / Caberfeidh v Inverness / Lewis Camanachd  
SCOTS Camanachd / Bute v Caithness  
Aberdour v Kingussie / Skye Camanachd  
Lochaber / Inveraray v Glengarry  
Lovat / Kyles Athletic v Beauly / Lochside Rovers  
Newtonmore / Kilmallie / Lochcarron / Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Glenurquhart v Boleskine

#### Saturday June 3 Quarter Final

Strathglass / Caberfeidh / Inverness / Lewis Camanachd v Glenurquhart / Boleskine  
SCOTS Camanachd / Bute / Caithness v Lovat / Kyles Athletic / Beauly / Lochside Rovers  
Fort William / Kinlochshiel / Oban Lorn v Aberdour / Kingussie / Skye Camanachd  
Newtonmore / Kilmallie / Lochcarron / Glasgow Mid Argyll v Lochaber / Inveraray / Glengarry

### Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup

The Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup is a national knock-out tournament for junior teams and the draw was made as follows:

#### Saturday April 8 First Round

Inverness v Lewis Camanachd  
Lochcarron v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Newtonmore v Kilmallie  
SCOTS Camanachd v Bute  
Strathglass v Caberfeidh  
Fort William v Kinlochshiel  
Kingussie v Skye Camanachd  
Lochaber v Inveraray  
Lovat v Kyles Athletic  
Beauly v Lochside Rovers

#### Byes

Aberdour  
Glengarry  
Oban Lorn  
Boleskine  
Caithness  
Glenurquhart

#### Saturday July 1 – Semi Final

Strathglass / Caberfeidh / Inverness / Lewis Camanachd / Glenurquhart / Boleskine v SCOTS Camanachd / Bute / Caithness / Lovat / Kyles Athletic / Beauly / Lochside Rovers  
Newtonmore / Kilmallie / Lochcarron / Glasgow Mid Argyll / Lochaber / Inveraray / Glengarry  
v Fort William / Kinlochshiel / Oban Lorn / Aberdour / Kingussie / Skye Camanachd

The 2017 Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Final will take place on Saturday 29 July and the venue has yet to be confirmed.

sist Young in his new role. Ally MacLeod and Ronald Ross will continue to lead the Kingussie second team.

### Doe MacRae to assist at 'Shiel'

Doe MacRae will assist new Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill this coming season.

MacRae is a well-known figure in shinty circles and Gill has nominated him as his right-hand man as the new management team look to build on the successes of 2016 under former boss Colin Fraser, who was voted out of the managerial hot-seat at the end of last year after leading the team to Artemis Macaulay Cup success and a fourth place finish in the Marine Harvest Premiership – their highest finish ever.

Johnston Gill previously managed the side for a three-year period, leading them to the Marine Harvest North Division 1 title and Balliemore Cup success.

Gill will be without John Don MacKenzie and Duncan 'Ach' MacRae this season as both have joined Glasgow Mid Argyll.

### Aberdour prepare for new season

Marine Harvest South Division 1 side Aberdour will prepare for the new shinty season with four warm-up matches.

Lisa MacColl's Aberdour squad open with a match against Fort William at Silver Sands on Saturday January 28.

They then host Marine Harvest Premiership new boys Glasgow Mid Argyll at the same venue a week later.

After a two-week gap, the Aberdour seconds and the Kyles Athletic seconds meet at Silver Sands on Saturday February 18. Throw up for this one is at 1.30pm.

Then, just seven days ahead

### Bullough Cup

The Bullough Cup is a knock-out tournament for south junior clubs and the draw was made as follows:

#### Saturday May 20 First Round

Kilmory v SCOTS Camanachd  
Kyles Athletic v English SA  
Strachur v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Oban Lorn v Dunoon

#### Byes

Inveraray  
Aberdour  
Lochside Rovers  
Bute

The 2017 Bullough Cup Final will take place on Saturday August 5 and the venue has yet to be confirmed.

### Strathdearn Cup

The Strathdearn Cup is a knock-out competition for north junior teams and the draw was made as follows:

#### Saturday April 22 First Round

Beauly v Glengarry  
Fort William v Caithness  
Byes

Boleskine  
Caberfeidh  
Glenurquhart  
Kilmallie  
Kingussie  
Kinlochshiel  
Inverness  
Lewis Camanachd  
Lochaber  
Lochcarron  
Lovat  
Newtonmore  
Strathglass  
Skye Camanachd

#### Saturday June 17 Quarter Final

Lochaber / Lewis Camanachd v Newtonmore / Lovat  
Strathglass / Inverness v Boleskine / Skye Camanachd  
Beauly / Glengarry / Glenurquhart v Fort William / Caithness / Kinlochshiel  
Lochcarron / Kingussie v Kilmallie / Caberfeidh

#### Saturday July 15 – Semi Final

Lochcarron / Kingussie / Kilmallie / Caberfeidh v Strathglass / Inverness / Boleskine / Skye  
Lochaber / Lewis Camanachd / Newtonmore / Lovat v Beauly / Glengarry / Glenurquhart / Fort William / Caithness / Kinlochshiel

The 2017 Strathdearn Cup Final takes place on Saturday August 12 and the venue has yet to be confirmed.

**BJJ****- an overview**

Brazilian jiu-jitsu (BJJ) is a martial art, combat sport system that focuses on grappling and especially ground fighting. Brazilian jiu-jitsu was formed from Kodokan judo ground fighting (newaza) fundamentals that were taught by a number of individuals, including Takeo Yano, Mitsuyo Maeda and Soshihiro Satake.

Brazilian jiu-jitsu eventually came to be its own art through the experiments, practices, and adaptation of judo through Carlos and Helio Gracie (who passed their knowledge on to their extended family) as well as other instructors who were students of Maeda, such as Luiz Franca. BJJ promotes the concept that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend against a bigger, stronger, heavier assailant by using proper technique, leverage, and most notably, taking the fight to the ground, and then applying joint-locks and chokesholds to defeat the opponent.

BJJ training can be used for sport grappling tournaments. However it can be used in some self-defense situations and does serve its purpose. Sparring (commonly referred to as rolling) and live drilling

# MARTIAL ARTS

## WITH IAIN RODGER

play a major role in training, and a premium is placed on performance, especially in competition, in relation to progress and ascension through its ranking system.

Since its inception in 1882, its parent art of judo was separated from older systems of Japanese jujutsu by an important difference that was passed on to Brazilian jiu-jitsu: it is not solely a martial art, but it is also a sport; a method for promoting physical fitness and building character in young people; and ultimately, a way of life.

Oban's BJJ club is run by Iain (Coogie) Potter who trains under Marcos Nardini. For club info contact Coogie on coogipots@gmail.com

**Kyokushinkai Karate**  
Caledonia Kyokushin classes

teach Kyokushin Karate. Kyokushin is a style of stand-up, full contact karate, founded in 1964 by Korean-Japanese Masutatsu Oyama. 'Kyokushin' is Japanese for 'the ultimate truth'.

It is rooted in a philosophy of self-improvement, discipline and hard training. Its full contact style has international appeal and practitioners have over the last 40+ years numbered more than 12 million.

Anyone interested in learning Kyokushin karate should contact Iain Rodger on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

**Shukokai Karate  
- an Overview**

The Argyll Martial Arts classes teach Shukokai Karate. Shukokai is a style of Karate, based on Tani-ha Shito-ryō, a branch of Shito-ryō developed by Chōjirō Tani in the late 1940s,

and refined by his students, including Yamada Haruyoshi and Kimura Shigeru.

Chōjirō Tani was born in 1921 and started his formal karate training under Miyagi Chōjun, who founded the Gojō-ryō style, while a student at the Doshisha University in Kyoto.

After a few months, Miyagi Chōjun returned to Okinawa and the founder of Shito-ryō, Kenwa Mabuni took over the teaching. Upon graduating from university, Tani began learning Shuri-te and then Shito-ryō from Mabuni as well.

After many years of training under Mabuni and becoming one of his most senior students, Tani received the certificate of succession from him and became the head of Shito-ryō, enabling him to use the name Tani-ha Shitoryu.

Beginners are always welcome at the Argyll Martial Arts classes and if you are interested please contact Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or 01838 200419 or Flo McBurnie on 07765 931902

**Kickboxing  
- an overview**

The Senshi Do kickboxing classes teach (in addition to fitness and self-defence) K-1 style kickboxing. K-1's predecessor Seidokaikan Karate was formed in 1980 by Kazuyoshi Ishii, a former Kyokushin karate practitioner who had formed his own organisation to help promote the best stand-up martial artists.

Seidokaikan arranged several successful challenge events against other martial arts organisations, originally using rules based on the Kyokushin Knockdown karate rules, but gradually adapting and changing closer to kickboxing rules.

In 1993, Mr. Ishii founded the K-1 organisation exclusively as a kickboxing organization, closely cooperating with, but independent from Seidokaikan.

Beginners are welcome at the Oban club and anyone looking for more details should contact Wullie Rodger on senshidokb@gmail.com or 07588 513618.



Cody McCulloch and Angus Files with their Student of the year certificates



## Lewis youngster represents Scotland at Pan Celtic Cross Country in Cardiff

LEWIS athlete, Connor McClean, 19, was the first male islander ever to represent Scotland at junior cross country level when he participated at the Pan Celtic Cross-country event in Cardiff on Saturday January 21.

Connor is currently being trained by Robert Hopkins – father of Callum Hopkins, who finished ninth in the marathon at the 2016 Olympics in Rio, in a time of 2:11:52.

Councillor Norman A MacDonald, convenor of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'This is a fantastic achievement by one of our talented local athletes. Connor has shown a hunger and a willingness to work incredibly hard to achieve

Connor competing in the 1,500m final at the 2015 Island games in Jersey.

**Athletics**

his goals. Robert Hopkins, a former international runner himself, clearly sees the potential Connor has for him to take on his training.

Councillor Charlie Nicolson, the Comhairle's Representative on COSLA Sports, Arts and Culture Committee, said: 'This is truly wonderful news for athletics in the islands and an excellent achievement for Connor himself. I would like to congratulate Connor and his coaches who have put a lot of work in, and indeed all those who are involved in athletics throughout the islands.'

'We have wonderful sporting facilities in the Western Isles which provide a foundation for our young athletes to flourish and meet their potential.'

## Join Team Stroke at the Edinburgh Marathon

THE STROKE Association has guaranteed places for this year's Edinburgh Marathon to be held on Sunday May 28 and would love people to join its team.

It is asking all runners with a charity place to aim to raise a minimum of £450 in sponsorship. To secure your charity place, please register on the Edinburgh Marathon website.

If you already have your own place and would like to fundraise for the charity, please email supportcare@stroke.org.uk or call 0300 330 0740.

All its runners will receive a Stroke Association running vest; a 16-week training plan; weekly emails full of training tips and fundraising ideas; full fundraising support; support from its cheering point on the day and a massage in the post-event charity village.

Fast and flat, the Edinburgh Marathon was

**Marathon**

voted the fastest marathon in the UK by *Runner's World*. It is ideal for your first marathon or if you are looking for a personal best time.

Starting on London Road and Regent Road, the route takes you by the historic Palace of Holyroodhouse and through Holyrood Park. It then goes past Meadowbank Stadium, through Leith Links, along Portobello promenade and then into East Lothian. The marathon finishes at Pinkie Primary School in Musselburgh.

Kirsty Scott, Stroke Association community and events fundraising manager, said: 'There are about 14,000 strokes in Scotland every year and it causes a greater range of disabilities than any other condition.'

## The Patersons of Beauly – Centenary Reflections

ON THURSDAY February 9 at 7.30pm. The Patersons Of Beauly Centenary Reflections on rifles, romance, shinty and First World War will take place.

**Communities**

This illustrated talk at the Highland Archive Centre with Hugh Dan MacLennan

and Margaret Mackay looks at Highland communities 100 years ago.

Family history and lore, an autograph book, sporting activities, music, photographs and military imperatives are all used to illuminate a story of Scotland, Canada and the

**Shinty**

Highlands which resonates to this day.

**World-class**  
Entertainment provided by world-class piper Duncan MacGillivray of Calrossie.



Oban Saints under-16s reached the quarter final of the Central Regional Cup on Sunday, defeating Dalziel Boys Club 4-3 in a thrilling match at Dalziel Park, Motherwell. A great achievement to reach the last eight of the competition from the initial 70+ teams competing. A home tie awaits the Saints against old rivals Dumbarton Utd on the weekend of February 18/19.

## New Year goes off with a bang at Dunoon Clay Target Club

THE NEW Year went off with a bang in all respects. The attendance for this traditional opening shoot of the year was exceptional, with 46 senior, 2 ladies and 3 junior guns taking part. The weather was mixed, but did not affect the standard of the shooting, which was excellent, with five maximum 75 ex 75 scores in the individual rounds. The difficulty was the shortness of daylight, with the last lines shot in near dark conditions.

The John Jacobson Trophy was presented by an American serving at the Holy Loch Base, and is by tradition the first open shoot of the year. It was a period when local shoots had record fields with many keen

**Shooting**

servicemen joining the local clubs. The Cowal clay target clubs continue to welcome entrants from a wide area. It is not easy to run successful shoots and the clubs rely on a small band of helpers, too often the same persons. Clearly the quality of targets and the support organisation is appreciated – evident in the high attendance.

Visitor Alvaro Pieri, Larbert, took the trophy with 146 points from a possible maximum of 150. Donnie MacPhail, Glen-daruel, was second on 145 with a further one point difference to Leighton Reid, Bute, on 144 in third place. Brian McDonough was fourth on 143, and there was a tie for fifth between

For contact details and fixtures see the Club website <http://www.dunoonanddistrict-etc.com/>

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £850

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D Morrison  
Loch Street  
Isle of Lewis  
  
A MacLullich  
Nant Drive  
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 in to The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavallin, 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

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 Wyvern Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Please tape your £1 coin here  
Name .....  
Address .....  
..... Tel No. ....

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:  
The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

## Green Machine lose to Carrick

With two games in hand on the teams above them Oban will be confident of climbing the table in their remaining four league fixtures

Carrick	43
Oban Lorne	27
BT West Division One	

OBAN Lorne made the long trip to Ayrshire on Saturday to take on promotion chasing Carrick RFC in Maybole.

The two sides have met on several occasions in recent years with Oban usually having the upper hand on their rivals. In November the Green Machine recorded a narrow 17-15 win against Carrick despite playing 60 minutes of the match with only 14 men.

The Oban team were confident going into Saturday's game after recording a morale boosting 47-25 win over Argyll rivals Helensburgh last weekend.

Going into the game, Carrick were hungry to for a bonus point win to keep up the pressure on first-placed Newton Stewart, while Oban Lorne were looking for some much needed points to keep in touch of the teams above them going into the closing stages of the season.

Seventeen-year-old back row Daniel Speirs made his first start for the club on Saturday after coming off the bench at half time the previous weekend.

Carrick started the game well and dominated possession and territory in the Oban half in the opening exchanges. The away

defence, however stood firm to deny the hosts of an opening score.

As the defence held firm on the tryline, a couple of silly mistakes further up field eventually let the hosts in for the first try of the day to lead 7-0.

The Green Machine managed to hit back straight away from the early onslaught with a penalty for the hosts being offside and slotted over by stand-off Finlay Carmichael, narrowing the score to four points.

Oban built on this shortly after, with Carrick kicking the ball straight down the throat of Welsh full back Iwan Rhys Roberts who passed the ball out wide to powerful winger Calum MacLachlan, much to the despair of a few Carrick defenders who failed in their efforts to stop the Oban man scoring in the corner. Oban were now 8-7 ahead.

Midway into the half Oban were playing well forcing the home side to give away penalties at the breakdown but were undone with more silly errors. It was some needless mistakes again that let Carrick in for their second try of the day to lead 14-8.

The remaining 10 minutes of the first half was end to end with both sides attacking well. Three penalty kicks were exchanged, two to one in Oban's favour with



Thirty-five enthusiastic Mini Rugby players from Oban Lorne RFC, Etive Vikings RFC, and Isle of Mull RFC attended an indoor training session led by Argyll & But rugby development officer, Allan Wright, and Oban High School modern apprentice, Ellie MacNiven, as well as a good number of local coaches from the mini sections. The training was a welcome addition to the Mini Rugby teams' training that has been ongoing over the winter months. It is hoped that the Mini Rugby clubs can keep up the encouraging playing numbers due to Dalriada Festivals recommencing in February.

Carmichael's six points from the boot taking the score to 17-14 for the hosts at half-time.

For the first 40 minutes Oban had competed extremely well with a team eight places above them in the league table. Coach Corrie Louw encouraged a good start to the second half, unfortunately it came to nothing.

Carrick caught their own kick off at the start of the second half passing the ball wide to score almost immediately extending the deficit to nine points.

Oban pressed for a try and had a good period of pressure on the hosts tryline. Unfortunately possession was given away and Carrick were quick to race up field and score their fifth try of the day.

Things were looking a bit brighter for Oban at this stage with Carrick being brought down to 14 men with a sin binning for persistent infringements as Oban pressed forward.

The numerical advantage should have helped the Green Machine but Carrick dug deep and scored against the run of play extending the lead to 29-17. Carmichael's boot was keeping the away team in touch with another penalty reducing the deficit to nine points.

Oban pressed for a try and had a good period of pressure on the hosts tryline. Unfortunately possession was given away and Carrick were quick to race up field and score their fifth try of the day.

Another try for the home side followed shortly after taking

Oban out of contention at 43-20.

The visitors refused to give up and hit back with a consolation score from young back row player Stephen Povey after some good work in the lineout. This gave a final score of 43-27 in the hosts favour in a hugely entertaining 80 minutes of rugby.

Saturday's result still leaves the men in green sitting 9th in the league table but still in touch with Kilmarnock in 8th place. With two games in hand on the teams above them, Oban will be confident of climbing the table in their remaining four league fixtures.

Glencruitten will hold a potentially league deciding fixture on Saturday February 11 with

### Rugby

first placed Newton Stewart needing a win to clinch the West Division 1 title.

This is a rearranged game from earlier in the season and should attract a big crowd in what is an important match for both teams, particularly that of the visitors.

This Saturday, Oban Lorne will take a break from league duty and face West Division 2 leaders Stewartry RFC in the quarter final of the West Regional Bowl competition.

Saturday's game will be played at Glencruitten with kick off at 1.30pm to allow for extra time if required.

## Friendly fixtures for Under-16s

### Oban Under-16s Kintyre Under-16s Lochaber Under-16s Friendly fixtures

OBAN Lorne Under-16s hosted Argyll rivals Kintyre and Highland visitors Lochaber at Glencruitten on Saturday.

The games were organised to give the Oban team some game time ahead of next weekends cup match against Marr Under-16s and also to give Kintyre and Lochaber a competitive fixture with both teams numbers growing over the course of the season.

First up Oban took on Lochaber under the guidance of referee, local rugby development officer, Allan Wright.

The hosts ran out comfortable 64-0 winners over the course of 40 minutes of rugby. Despite the heavy scoreline there was some great play from the visitors, with a lack of match experience being the only real difference between the sides.

Next up both visiting teams played a short 30-minute game, with the contest finishing 24-22 in favour of Lochaber.

To finish the day, a combined Lochaber and Kintyre side took on Oban who put in a more polished performance than the first game to run out 52-0 winners.

The day was a great opportunity to gain some vital game time for all the players who attended with more local games like these hopefully being arranged between now and the end of the season.

Oban players such as Euan Shearer, Kieron Morrison and Angus Neil impressed on the day with stand-out performances.

This Sunday Oban Lorne Under-16s take on Marr RFC in the first round of the West Regional Cup Competition. The game will be played at Glencruitten. Kick off TBC.

Under-12 girls' rugby

Oban will field an Under-12 girls team for the first time this Sunday as the newly-formed team travel to Edinburgh to take part in an Under-12 Girls Festival at Stewart's Melville R.F.C. Girls rugby is growing faster than ever at Oban Lorne/ Oban High School, with at least nine girls taking part in the new S1 intake for the School of Rugby programme.



Angus Neil dives over to score for Oban Under-16 against Lochaber.

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### Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

#### Youth football

IT WAS a good weekend for Oban Saints with all five youth teams and the senior team winning their games

Results – Ardencaple 1, Under-13s 3. Saints goalscorers were Innes MacDonald (2) and Owen McCorquindale.

Regional Cup – St Cadocs Athletic 0, Under-14s 4. Netting for Saints were Connor Moore (2), Toby MacFarlane and an OG. The boys now face Broomhill in the last 16.

Under-15s 6, Scotstoun Athletic 0. Saints scorers were Craig Millar (2), Jamie Forgrave (2), Aaron McKay and Jude Bain.

Regional Cup – Under-16s 4, Dalziel BC 3. Scoring for Saints were Cameron Kerr (2), Rory Dowd and Gary MacCushie.

Under 17s v Port Glasgow. Netting for Saints were Lewis Buchanan (3) and Andy Ritchie. Next weekend's fixtures: Under-13s v Drumchapel United; Glenvale v Under-14s; Under-15s v no game; Under-16s no game; Helensburgh v Under-17s.

### Scottish AFL results and fixtures

#### Football

LAST Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, fifth round-Lochgilphead Red Star 1, Cambria 4; Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round-Dunoon 4, Drumchapel Colts 2; second round-Port Glasgow OBU 0, Oban Saints 6; Inverclyde v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; 2B-Claremont 4, Tarbert 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division-Campbeltown Pupils no game; Oban Saints v Ferguslie Star; Premier Division 1-Alba Thistle v Dunoon; Premier Division 2A-Rossvale v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division 2B-Tarbert v East End United.

### Saints Under-15s to visit St Mirren

#### Youth football

OBAN Saints Under-15s have no game this weekend so the boys will be travelling to Paisley where they will take part in a training session at the St Mirren FC Academy.

Following the session, the players and coaches will then attend the Scottish Championship match between St Mirren

### Refereeing appointment

#### Football

LOCHGILPHEAD referee Jimmy Listter will take charge of the Scottish Amateur Cup 6th round tie between Eddlewood and Thorn Athletic due to be played on Saturday February 4.



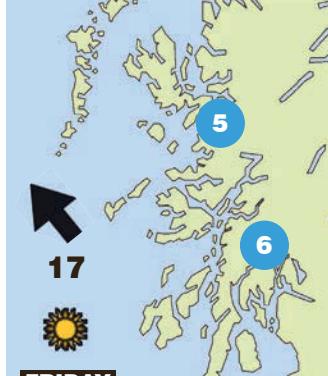
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Oban's Robert Maclaughlin makes a break for the line during the game against Lochaber. Photos: Kevin McGlynn

WEATHER

Thursday Light Cloud  
Winds strong south easterly  
Temperatures 3°C to 5°C.  
Friday Sunny  
Winds strong south easterly  
Temperatures 5°C to 6°C.  
Weekend Cloudy on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds moderate south south easterly  
Temperatures 4°C to 8°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 26, 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	04.51	3.6	11.02
Fri	05.29	3.8	11.41
Sat	00.00	1.0	06.05
Sun	00.33	0.9	06.39
Mon	01.05	0.8	07.11
Tues	01.39	0.8	07.43
Wed	02.15	0.8	08.19

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist  
Oban to Coll/Tiree  
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate  
Moderate  
Moderate



### Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

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## Art project lands £50,000

ELLIE FORBES  
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk



Fiona Macdonald with Richard Bracken and Gracie Henderson, Robert Gosling, Katie Robertson and Kaci Hatch.

A COMMUNITY art studio supporting schools across Lochaber has received a cash windfall of almost £50,000.

Room 13 International in Caol was awarded £49,490 from the Big Lottery Young Start Fund to support its new Generation Creative project.

The charity hopes that the money will help extend the project's reach to children who are not currently able to access the Room 13 facilities.

Fiona Macdonald from Room 13 said: 'The money gives us stability to keep our contract running for our two artists, which is very important, and allows us to develop what we are doing.'

The Generation Creative

project will enable Room 13's programme of delivery for primary and high school students. Ms Macdonald said: 'We are aware that Room 13 needs to

reach further afield, so we want to link up with other schools in outlying areas. We are looking to create relationships with other primary and high schools to make Room 13 accessible to more children to create the next generation of young artists.'

'We will be looking at how we can best reach young people so there is an opportunity for contributors further afield to get involved and join the team.'

During the project, Room 13 will work with 10 primary schools in the Lochaber area to provide opportunities for children to work alongside professional artists on creative projects. They will also develop and extend the youth volunteer group for people aged 13 to 21 to involve students from the four high schools in the area.

Room 13 chief executive Claire Gibb said: 'The support from Big Lottery provides a welcome boost to the organisation and is a really valuable investment in Lochaber's Room 13 studios.'

'It will allow us develop key aspects of our work with schools and young people at a time when there is more demand than ever for the sort of services our artists and studios can deliver, with less and less provision to support this work.'

The Room 13 team is looking forward to getting Generation Creative underway.'

One of the many schools to benefit from the Room 13 facilities is St Columba's Primary School in Fort William, which shares a campus with Caol Primary School.

Speaking to *The Oban*

*Times*, head teacher Violet Smith said: 'The children work on art projects, philosophy and learn about artists. The kids can also take school pictures, design postcards and put together small publications.'

St Columba's has worked with the organisation for the past 14 years and Ms Smith said that it is very pupil-led. 'It's really good for the children because it increases confidence. They can become committee members and be involved in decision making,' added Ms Smith.

'It's great for kids who are maybe introverted, or who you wouldn't normally expect to see stand up and talk in front of the class, because once they have been to Room 13 they become more confident in themselves and their class work.'

Schools could get 'cluster' head teacher

MONEY-SAVING plans aimed at saving rural schools from potential closure are to be discussed by councillors today (Thursday January 26).

Proposals regarding the management of schools were first presented to the Highland Council's (HC) Education, Children and Adult Services (ECAS) committee in October 2015.

Today, councillors will discuss management of schools and be asked approve proposals for implementations which could chop £750,000 from HC spending.

The new management arrangements have been initially proposed for schools connected to Kilchuirn Academy, Kinlochbervie High, Farr High, Mallaig High, Dornoch Academy and Plockton High.

Changes are also being suggested at Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Invergarry primaries which would see the three schools being served by a single cluster head teacher and three principal teachers – currently Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge share a cluster headteacher and a principal teacher, while Kim Bentley is head at Invergarry.

The cluster appointment is already in existence in Lochaber: Lyndsay Bradley is the associated schools head teacher at Acharacle, Ardour and Kilchoan primaries.

The meeting is at 10am and can be viewed online.



04>  
9 771468 629102

## Hedgehogs cool for Caol

Caol school primary one pupils have been busy working on a project about Animals in Winter with their teacher, Mrs Haines. Taking part are, from the left, Maddison Stoddart, Danni MacDonald, Zara Hatch and Zac Jones, who proudly showed off the colourful clay hedgehogs they made.

The children have been learning all about what it means to be nocturnal and looking at some examples of animals active after dark. The children then voted to choose which, of the animals they studied, was their favourite, and hedgehogs were the runaway winner. The children then put together hedgehog fact files with all the information they had learned about them and made their clay hedgehogs.

## Union blasts ambulance shortage

A TRADE union says immediate support is needed for ambulance services in the West Highlands which are 'threadbare and sometimes non-existent'.

Unite regional officer Richard Whyte said members in Skye, Fort William and Caithness are becoming increasingly frustrated and concerned about the dangerous practice of routinely putting emergency ambulances onto long patient transfers to Raigmore Hospital.

He explained: 'There are 400 inter-hospital transfers between Belford and Raigmore a year – that's more than one a day. There are 250 a week from Belford, Broadford and Caithness.'

'There has been a reduction in

patient transfer service where members of staff now work on their own. There has also been a reduction in the number of journeys because Raigmore is asking people, as much as possible, to travel under their own steam, but where patient requires a wheelchair or anything more than an arm to lean on, it is passed on as an emergency.'

He said that amid the changes lessons have not been learned.

'There are occasions where staff are working 12 hours, going home but getting a call in the middle of their sleep to come back out, which is leading to fatigue and low morale.'

'Sometimes before the ambulances can return to their own

communities, they are being sent to cover calls in the Inverness area. And there has been more than one occasion when the service has been threadbare or even non-existent in the north-west.'

'The lack of foresight by ambulance chiefs is astonishing,' continued Mr Whyte. 'God forbid that anything goes wrong when Skye, Lochaber or Caithness is left with little or no emergency cover. This needs sorted now.'

A Scottish Ambulance Service spokesperson said: 'We are aware of pressures on inter-hospital transfers and are working on this with NHS Highland.'

'We are also aware of the need to keep emergency cover in

the area. Calls are responded to based on patient need. This means sending patients the most appropriate response, which, if they have an immediately life-threatening condition such as cardiac arrest, will be the closest available resource.'

'There is a range of responses we can send to emergencies, including air and land ambulances, as well as first responders, and we continue to work closely with our partners and communities to ensure we deliver the safest and most effective service.'

'As part of a £5 million additional investment in the service, we have also recruited 12 staff into new posts across the Highland area since April 2016.'

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Ian Blackford MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Surgery

Friday, 3rd February

9.00am - 10.00am

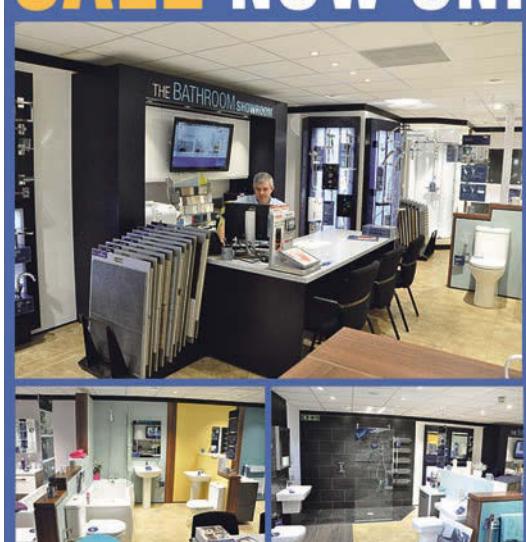
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Angus McCormack, chairman of Point and Sandwich Trust, presenting the cheque to Foyer project leader Rebecca Mahony, centre, and support worker Anna Campbell.

## Homeless youth charity lands £15,000 cash boost

**MONICA GIBSON**  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A CHARITY which helps homeless young islanders can look forward to a brighter New Year thanks to a cheque for £15,000.

The donation is the first half of the £30,000 which Western Isles Foyer will get every year from the wind farm charity Point and Sandwich Trust (PST).

Foyer was set up in 2003 in response to recognition that young people were becoming homeless, whether that was for failing to pay their rent, antisocial behaviour or other reasons.

Rebecca Mahony, project leader for Western Isles Foyer, said: 'We were delighted to receive £15,000 from Point and Sandwich Trust. This will make an enormous impact in our organisation and will also assist us in attracting additional match-funding to help and support some of the most vulnerable people living in our community.'

PST general manager Donald John MacSween said: 'Foyer is Western Isles-wide, addressing a key area for us which is helping young adults who are homeless or in housing need, with supported accommodation, preparation for employment, health and social issues.'

He added: 'I was their first CEO, so for me it's particularly important that we are now in a position to help Foyer ad enable them to carry on the good work that they already do.'

Over the past year Foyer has supported more than 75 young people across all its services. The drop-in service is run from the charity's base at 36 Bayhead in Stornoway and is open Monday to Friday.

Megan Shaw, 23, is one young person indebted to Western Isles Foyer for help and support at a crucial point in her life. Megan, from Lewis, has been involved with Foyer since she was 18 and been in supported accommodation for the past four years. She is now ready to

move on to her own permanent tenancy with Hebridean Housing Partnership.

Megan said Foyer's support had been 'massive', adding: 'When I came here first, I was really withdrawn. I was struggling with depression and all that. My confidence was rock bottom. I didn't have any self-esteem but, through their support with accommodation and college, I've developed and now I am a lot more confident.'

'Foyer were the light I needed to guide me through the darkness.'

Megan successfully completed two college courses at Lewis Castle College and is now working with Who Cares Scotland as a participation assistant, a job for which she is qualified due to her own experiences of care.

'I'm reaching out to young people who are in care or are care-experienced and allowing them to have a voice. Some of them don't feel they have a voice because of all the stigma around being in care.'



Megan Shaw with her Saltire Young Volunteer of the Year award.

## Young people show how to lead the way

PORTREE Active Schools is encouraging youngsters in the area to get involved in a programme that will not only help keep them and their peers fit but that could also provide valuable experience and make their CVs stand out.

High Life Highland's leadership programme uses courses from Sports Leaders UK, a Scottish governing body for sport and youth work.

The programme is open to young people aged 12 to 25 and, although underpinned by leadership in sport and youth work, the benefits can be utilised by young people volunteering in clubs, facilities and schools.

Throughout the programme young adults receive hoodies as awards. The colour of the hoodie received reflects the number of leadership hours which have been dedicated. Navy blue ones are given initially to those who have completed 25 hours of sport or activity leadership, and purple, green, red and grey can be 'achieved' with each additional 25 hours.

Callum Musgrave recently picked up his leadership hoodie. Callum has been supporting the running of primary football in Broadford as well as refereeing at the local soccer sevens tournaments.

More activities have been added to the programme already this year, including gymnastics and dodgeball.

To sign up or for more information, contact sarah.ross@highlifehighland.com.



Callum Musgrave, above, and Jamie Gillies with their hoodies.



Earlier this month Jamie Gillies picked up his leadership hoodie for his volunteering hours with Portree Primary shiny and refereeing at local tournaments.

More activities have been added to the programme already this year, including gymnastics and dodgeball.

To sign up or for more information, contact sarah.ross@highlifehighland.com.

## Finlay sails off to a deserved retirement

A CALMAC services manager from Lewis has hung up his uniform after working for the company for almost half a century.

Finlay Smith, 65, from Great Bernera, has retired after 49 years of service, starting in 1967 as a galley boy on the MG Seaford for David MacBrayne.

Finlay progressed to assistant pantry boy, before spending a number of years as cook. He became the first second steward to serve on the brand new MV Hebridean Isles in 1985.

Finally, he became onboard service manager on the MV Hebrides, covering the Uig-Lochmaddy-Tarbert route, where he became a familiar and popular crew member.

Finlay said: 'I've seen so many changes in the near half-cen-



Donald presents Finlay with a picture of the old MV Hebrides.

tury I've been a part of David MacBrayne and then CalMac, but one thing that has always remained the same is the coming and going of staff and customers – either getting to know people or just passing time with them.'

Retail development manager Donald MacKillop said Finlay would be greatly missed.

## Opposition MSPs hail victory in vote to save board of HIE

SCOTTISH Government plans to abolish the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) were shot down at Holyrood last week.

Opposition MSPs have been united in their fight against the SNP plans to scrap the HIE board and absorb it into a Scotland-wide body.

The government was defeated in its plans last Wednesday (January 18) by just one vote as opposition voted 64 to 63 against the SNP.

During the debate, economy secretary Keith Brown stated HIE was not solely responsible for much of what has happened in the Highlands, claiming success had come through a joint effort between the board and the government.

He said: 'One example is the huge Rio Tinto project. Saving those jobs and building on them will have a huge economic impact on the area, given the population sparsity. That was the result of a joint effort between Scottish Enterprise and HIE.'

And SNP MSP Kate Forbes hit back at what she described as 'misleading claims' from opposition MSPs about the future of HIE.

The Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP responded to Conservative MSP Douglas Ross's tweet claiming HIE



MSP Kate Forbes, left, and Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson.



MSP Kate Forbes, left, and Highland Council leader Margaret Davidson.

would be moved to the central belt, saying it was 'downright lies'.

During the debate Mr Ross said: 'Calling Scottish Conservatives liars because we have taken such a strong position against the SNP's centralisation plans begs the question why we have gained so much support for our opposition.'

Following the debate, Ms Forbes said there was room for improvement within HIE and hoped that stage two of the government's review would

lead to help empowering the enterprise. She said: 'Let's be clear – HIE is not under threat. It will still be Highland-centred, Highland-based and Highland-run.'

I'm amazed at the gross exaggeration, empty hyperbole and irresponsible superlatives that have dominated the discussion on HIE's future in the past few months.'

Opposition members have been celebrating the victory.

Labour MSP Rhoda Grant said:

'The government's only aim with this proposal is to continue with its relentless march towards centralisation and control.'

'This government is obsessed with moving power and services south, and repeatedly shows its contempt for the people of the Highlands and Islands.'

'I call upon all Highlanders and islanders to say enough is enough and speak out against this wrong-headed plan.'

And leader of the Highland Council, Margaret Davidson, said: 'This vote sends a strong message to the Scottish Government about its incessant centralising agenda and we would now urge ministers to reconsider their entire approach.'

'We now ask the government to provide guarantees that Highlands and Islands Enterprise will continue to operate on the basis of delivering local decision-making.'

Commenting after the debate Mr Ross said centralisation plans for HIE should now be shelved, and the government should allow HIE to get back to work.

He commented: 'The SNP should listen to local communities, and now parliament, and scrap these ill-thought through proposals.'

## Highlands and Islands to the fore in film awards

THE Highlands and Islands were well represented in the FilmG national Gaelic short film competition with several entrants from the region making the shortlists across a range of categories.

Lochaber High School pupil Claire Frances MacNeil is shortlisted for Best Young Film-maker for her

documentary *Bodach Na Beinne*. Sgoil Lionacleit and Plockton High School are among the shortlisted schools in the youth category. Callum MacMillan from the Benbecula school is nominated for best actor for his role in *Gearrach an Stiùiriche*.

Stornoway's Nicolson Institute is shortlisted in three categories: best

film, Film G's Gaelic award for *Stri na Dileab*, and Catriona Bain for best actor/actress.

Castlebay pupil William MacDougall is shortlisted for best actor and, with Adam Denhey, for best script for their work *Eilean an Docharta*.

Sir E Scott school pupil Catherine MacDonald is shortlisted for best

young film-maker for her film *Coimhearnach*.

Tairneanaich youth group in Shawbost are shortlisted for best drama and their funny drama *Gàidhealbox* is shortlisted for the community award.

Comhairle's Catriona Stewart congratulated all the pupils.

Full story – page 13.

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# Road crossing campaign steps up after yet another near miss

**MONICA GIBSON**  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A DISABLED woman who received 'another terrible fright' as she tried to cross the A830 with her guide dog believes there are no excuses left to justify not installing a controlled crossing on the notorious road.

Banavie resident Annette Hobson, who is registered blind and has some trouble hearing, says she has been campaigning for a controlled crossing for 10 years. However, the issue came to the fore once more when she was involved in a near miss on the Fort William to Mallaig stretch near the swing bridge last week.

Ms Hobson said it is ludicrous that there is nothing to help pedestrians cross this road safely, but said the fact that work on the road was being carried out, disrupting the usual



Annette Hobson with her dog Caramel beside the busy A830.

traffic flow, made the situation even more dangerous for her and her dog, Caramel.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I have some use of my eyes but I could not see any signs. The road should have been taped off to prevent people crossing. It

really is a miracle nothing more serious has happened.'

'There is construction work under way to build stores in Fort William on North Road and my understanding is there will be a crossing put there, yet the road here and also near the Co-op

in Corpach are notorious for pedestrians, but it seems BEAR and Transport Scotland don't want to pay the money.'

The issue was again discussed at the Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) meeting on Monday January 23.

The KCC noted that they had still not received a response from BEAR Scotland with regard to a pedestrian survey that was carried out near the Banavie swing bridge last year.

Chairwoman Christine Hutchinson said: 'Annette is probably one of the most vulnerable people when crossing the road but this is an issue which affects lots of people.'

Sergeant Andrew Bilton was at the meeting and explained that the statistics covering how many accidents have happened in the area would need to be considered. He said: 'Near misses are not recorded with us.'

Emma Brown is an engagement officer with the Guide Dogs Association and she has been supporting Annette following the incident last week.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'Controlled crossings provide a level of certainty about when it is safe to cross the road, particularly for people with sight loss. Guide Dogs Scotland supports the installation of a controlled crossing at Banavie to allow all residents, including those with sight loss and other disabilities, to access their local community safely.'

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland told *The Oban Times*:

'We're sorry to hear about Mrs Hobson's experience last week. A squad was carrying out drainage works near Banavie swing bridge on the A830 on January 17.'

'The works involved a lane closure using temporary traffic signals. Signs were in place asking pedestrians to wait for a biker at either end of the site. One of the team had noted Mrs Hobson with her guide dog and was running towards her to offer assistance when she attempted to cross. He assisted her after the incident. These works are now complete.'

'A study is currently being undertaken by Transport Scotland to look at pedestrian provision on this section of the A830. The study is expected to be completed over the coming few months. We'll then be able to report on the findings to the local community.'

## POLICE FILES

THERE has been an increase in housebreakings throughout the Lochaber area and homeowners are being encouraged to remain vigilant at all times.

As the most recent housebreakings have taken place when homes are unoccupied, police are asking the public to take precautions, such as leaving lights on and asking neighbours to keep an eye on their property while they are away.

Police are also urging people to report any suspicious activity or strange or unknown vehicles.

**A NUMBER of vehicles have been damaged within car parks throughout Fort William.**

**At around lunchtime on January 6, a Dacia Duster was damaged while parked unattended at either the Caol shops car park or outside the Co-op while unattended. It is thought the car may have been struck by another vehicle.**

**The rear window of a Vauxhall Meriva was smashed while parked in the Upper Achintore car park in the Dumbarton Road area overnight between January 17 and 18.**

**A Kia Cee'd was damaged within the Argos/Pound-stretcher car park on North Road on January 22 at 1.45pm. It is believed the damage was caused by another vehicle striking the car.**

POLICE would like to hear from anyone with information after a fridge-freezer was set alight in a garden in Kennedy Road in the Plantation at around 2.30pm on January 20.

**POLICE are keen to identify a man who stopped a blue car on Lundavra Road and spoke to some children at the side of the road at around 5pm on December 29. They are asking anyone with any information relating to this incident to come forward.**

A CHARITY shop's front window on Fort William High Street has been smashed in what police are treating as an act of vandalism.

The window of the PDSA shop was smashed on January 20-21.

Police are investigating the damage and have assured staff and volunteers they will be checking CCTV footage in a bid to find out who is responsible.

Ms Campbell said: 'The whole window has to be replaced. It's mindless.'

Anyone with information should call police on 101.

## Caol children become the hi-tech teachers

PRIMARY seven pupils at Caol have been taking a turn at being the teachers ... by helping older members of the community get to grips with computations.

This inter-generational project, a six-week block of IT lessons, began when Care Lochaber contacted the school, looking to get help for some of the older people they work with so they could learn to use computers.

Care Lochaber is a service designed to enable older residents, as well as those with ill health, mobility issues or isolation, to remain independent through schemes such as the computer skills workshops and also a community car scheme.

The workshops are supported by NHS Highland Community Management Self Development Fund and the aim is to give older people a chance to be sociable and ease loneliness while learning new skills.

Caol head teacher Steven Hamilton said the pupils were 'happy to help' with the initiative and primary seven set aside every Tuesday to teach a computing course.

The children teach IT skills, including how to use the internet, Google maps and such like.

They even finish off each lesson with a cup of tea and, of course, some well-earned biscuits, which the children bake themselves.

Mr Hamilton said: 'It's a great way of getting the children to be teachers and let-



Caol youngsters pass on their knowledge while, inset, Aidan Fordham and Faith Easson teach an adult computing class.

## Carbon emissions rise in Lochaber

IT MIGHT come as a surprise to learn that carbon emissions in Lochaber are far greater than the national average, but that is the case according to data presented at the latest talk given by the Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG).

Susan Carstairs, board member and former manager of LEG, gathered masses of data, worked out a lot of calculations and made some educated estimations to build a comprehensive picture of emissions in Lochaber.

'I think it's fascinating and it's important to understand what's happening at a local level,' she said.

This was the third talk hosted by LEG, and board member Marian Austin said this was the best attended of these talks to date.

The data showed that Lochaber emissions work out at 17.5 tonnes per person per year, which is well above the UK average of nine tonnes per person per year. This figure is incorporating industrial emissions as well as personal ones.

Lochaber homes and businesses



Susan Carstairs, pictured here with LEG chairman Scott McCombie, spoke about carbon emission levels in Lochaber. Picture: Iain Ferguson/The Write Image

generate 100,000 tonnes of carbon a year, not including emissions coming from gas use. Emissions from electricity usage are above average, as is the total from homes and businesses.

Transport is a major source of emis-

sions, which is again above average, with a total of 338,000 tonnes being produced annually. This includes transportation of foods (151,426 tonnes annually), largely from fish farms as well as transporting product

from the aluminium smelter and Glensanda Quarry.

Some 5,3738 tonnes of carbon is produced from agriculture annually, 67 per cent of which is due to methane from animals, again a higher figure than the UK average.

Forestry, another major land use in the area, and the removal of trees for wood causes emissions of 483,483t annually.

Damage to peatbogs – for example, for building projects on Blar Mor – is another source of carbon emission in the area.

Ms Carstairs said she would like to get a group together, with householders as well as businesses, to try to come up with solutions to reduce the high emission levels in Lochaber.

She said: 'I would love to see us take this on personally and in the work that we do. The goal is to find ways to do something about this and make it part of what we do.'

She added that more research is needed to look at the impact of tourism on emissions, through traffic.

## Parents campaign for special swimming classes

'POSITIVE talks' are under way between Lochaber Autism Support Group and the Lochaber Leisure Centre to discuss potential additional support needs (ASN) swimming classes for children in the area.

Amie-Louise Wallace, who set up the Lochaber Autism Support Group two years ago, has been canvassing parents in Lochaber who have children with ASN to assess the need of tailored swimming classes.

Amie-Louise told *The Oban Times*: 'A lot of additional needs children cannot attend the normal lessons and there is not an alternative offered by High Life Highland unless you can afford one to one lessons outwith your membership.'

A number of parents contacted

Amie-Louise to express their interest in ASN swimming classes and a few have been speaking to *The Oban Times*.

Mum Katherine Douglass said her children would benefit from ASN swimming classes. She said: 'My two children have a chromosome disorder 22q11 duplication and with this they have additional needs. My son Mark Douglass has a learning disability, development delay, hypermobility syndrome and severe anxiety. My youngest Anna O'Donnell has hypermobility syndrome, problems with her bowel and speech delay.'

'I also have a five-year-old daughter who has anxiety and is waiting to be tested for the same disorder. My children don't socialise well, so ASN

swimming lessons would be fantastic for them.'

Eilidh Dunleavy also contacted *The Oban Times* to say her son cannot attend mainstream swimming lessons due to his learning difficulties.

She said: 'I am very keen to see something put in place for children such as Lewis and hopefully, with enough interest, this can be something that's looked into.'

Nikki Jasicka said there is 'very little to no activities for children with additional needs yet they are the children that most require them'.

While Nikki's eldest son does attend swimming lessons, she said that he struggles with concentration and listening to instructions. She

said: 'The swimming lessons are completely full and Reuben could do with a smaller setting and a little more understanding from the instructors.'

'My younger one, however, has no self-control and cannot function as well in normal sessions so will need these smaller classes tailored to children with extra needs.'

Amie-Louise added: 'The talks are positive and I am hoping by the end there may be a class available that is tailored more for ASN children.'

A High Life Highland spokesperson said: 'We are working with the Lochaber Autism Support Group to identify the requirements for, and then deliver, swimming lessons to children with additional support needs.'

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## WHAT'S ON

SPEAN Bridge Golf Club will hold its annual general meeting and awards presentation next month. The event will take place on Saturday February 25 and will include a Texas scramble at 11am. Refreshments, in the clubhouse, will be served between 1pm and 2pm, with the AGM and awards starting at 2pm.

A LOOK back at the aluminium plant which is due for expansion will take place next week at the Lochaber Local History Society talk.

Mick Tighe will be speaking about the Fort William plant's early construction, illustrated by many newly discovered photographs. The talk has been prompted by the finding of many boxes of glass plate slides stored in the factory which have been painstakingly cleaned and reproduced.

All welcome at the Ben Nevis Hotel on Thursday February 2 at 8pm.

MAK-A-DIN will play in Glencoe next month. Gordon and Davy are a lively Scottish and Irish folk duo and will perform at the Clachaig Inn on February 27. All music is in the Boots Bar and starts at 9pm. Free entry. Over-18s.

LEARN how to make healthy meals on a budget with zero food waste. Lochaber Environmental Group will start a six-week block of cooking classes in Caoil Youth Centre starting Wednesday February 1 from 10am-noon. Booking is essential so to secure your place call 01397 700090 or email info@lochaberenviro.org.uk.

THE 325th anniversary of the Massacre of Glencoe will be held on Monday February 13. A remembrance service will be held in St Mary's Church, Glencoe, at 11am, followed by the march to the Massacre Cross at approximately 11.45am.

THE Music Shed Choir starts on Tuesday January 31 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Hall. New members are welcome. The only qualification is to enjoy singing.

## Varied role is dedicated to protecting vulnerable adults

**THE OBAN TIMES**, together with NHS Highland, is running a series of articles putting the spotlight on people who work in healthcare across our area. Answering the questions this week is the health board's lead adviser for adult support and protection, Christine Macleod.

**Q. What does your job involve?**  
A. It's quite a varied role that centres on adult support and protection (ASP). A big part of my job is the advisory role where I am contacted by social workers, team managers and other professionals in relation to more complex cases surrounding ASP. I am also involved in ASP training.

**Q. How long have you been in your role and what attracted you to the position?**

A. I've worked as lead adviser for ASP with NHS Highland since April 2016. I have been a social worker for the best part of 20 years, and I felt I needed a fresh challenge. Prior to



Christine Macleod.

this role, I was seconded to work with the police setting up a new pathway for adult concern referrals, and this increased my knowledge of ASP work which really interested me.

**Q. We often hear of child protection, but less of adult protection. What does it involve?**

A. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is legislation introduced by the Scottish Government to support and protect adults who are more vulnerable to the risk of harm.

**Q. Which adults are most at risk of harm?**

A. Adult support and protection is about the most vulnerable people in our communities, so that may be people with mental ill-health, learning difficulties or older people, although it's important to stress that just because people may fall into these categories doesn't mean they are at risk.

They may be very capable of protecting themselves and have support around them.

However, there are many people who don't have that support or for various reasons are not able to safeguard or protect themselves.

**Q. What type of harm are they at risk from?**

A. It can be harm of any form; emotional, physical, sexual, self-neglect or financial. Financial harm is an issue that has appeared quite a lot recently, where people are being targeted through various scams, whether that be online, over the phone or at their doorstep. Furthermore, in some instances relatives and friends can be guilty of this type of harm. However, this can be harder to identify as people are less likely to speak up about it and alienate their families.

**Q. Why is adult support and protection such an important issue?**

A. As a society, we all have a responsibility to protect vulnerable people, whether they are children or adults, from all forms of harm and neglect.

**Q. Which organisations are represented on the adult support and protection committee?**

A. The committee is headed by an independent chair who isn't associated to any organisation, and consists of senior figures from organisations such as Police Scotland, Highland Council, NHS Highland and Advocacy.

**Q. What are the most rewarding elements of your role?**

A. My role allows me to make a real difference to people's lives, and I like to hear where the legislation has worked and people are feeling safer and living a more comfortable life. However, we need to get the word out to more people – to let service users, carers, families and professionals know that help and support is available.

**Q. How do you switch off from the pressures of your job?**

A. I'm married with three children, so I don't have much free time. My three boys always need dropped off at some sports club, but when I'm not driving around I love to run. I am very lucky that I have a wonderful family and I'm able to switch off from my work.

## Tree dilemma is a rum doo



The tree and its lights are staying up for the foreseeable future.

**MONICA GIBSON**  
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THE Highland Council is to leave its Christmas tree on display in the Parade, Fort William, due to a local pigeon taking up residence in its branches.

Council Community Services staff went to remove the tree and lights but discovered the 'festive fowl' has nested and laid an egg.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) advised the nest and bird could be evicted, but local ward members have taken the decision to leave it and the council will remove the tree once the pigeon has abandoned the nest.

In the meantime, the tree and lights will remain with the lights switched off and a sign will be erected to notify the public why the tree is still in place.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, chairman of Lochaber Committee, said: 'Although the pigeon is not a protected species, myself and fellow ward



Going nowhere: the pigeon is being allowed to sit on its egg for as long as necessary.

members, Councillors Baxter, Gormley and Murphy, decided to leave the bird in peace.

'Who knows, by next Christmas there might also be Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in our Christmas tree!'

## Speeding motorists snared in campaign

AN INCREASE in road policing between Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge saw a number of speeders snared in the area last month.

Fifteen fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers, with five people being reported to the procurator fiscal and a number of others receiving warnings.

Speeding between Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge has been an ongoing issue for the community council for some time but at its December meet-

ing Sergeant Andy Cooper reported that there had been 'considerable road policing activity in Roy Bridge' during both November and December.

Inspector Donald Campbell commented: 'Following recent concerns about speeding raised by residents in the Spean Bridge area, officers have proactively targeted vehicles travelling at excessive speeds, resulting in 15 fixed penalties being issued and five individuals reported to the procurator fiscal.'

Inspector Campbell added that road safety is a top priority for Lochaber police. He said: 'Speeding and other road traffic offences such as drink driving and using a mobile phone behind the wheel have potentially fatal consequences for other road users and pedestrians.'

'Road safety remains a top priority for local officers and Police Scotland nationally, so our message would be: slow down and take care, particularly in and around villages and during wintry weather.'

He said that police would continue to work with the community council to get the message across that dangerous driving is not acceptable in Lochaber. He added: 'By working with community councils, we hope to make the message clear that dangerous and inconsiderate driving is not welcome in Lochaber and officers will take action to help keep our communities safe.'

## Flu vaccinations should be as soon as possible

PEOPLE at risk of flu are urged to get their flu vaccine as early as possible this year.

The latest uptake figures for Highland showed nearly half (44 per cent) of people who are at risk from flu due to an underlying health condition have taken up the offer of the free vaccine since the start of the national immunisation programme in October 2016.

Traditionally, the number of cases of flu can increase during January and February.

The latest uptake figures also highlight that just under two-fifths (41 per cent) of pregnant women not in at-risk groups and almost three-quarters (69 per cent) of those over the age of 65 in the Highlands have received their flu vaccination.

The flu vaccination is being

administered by GP practices until the end of March 2017 as part of a programme which will see more than two million people across Scotland offered the vaccination this winter.

Statistics show that over the past five years around 500 deaths have occurred each winter attributable or related to flu.

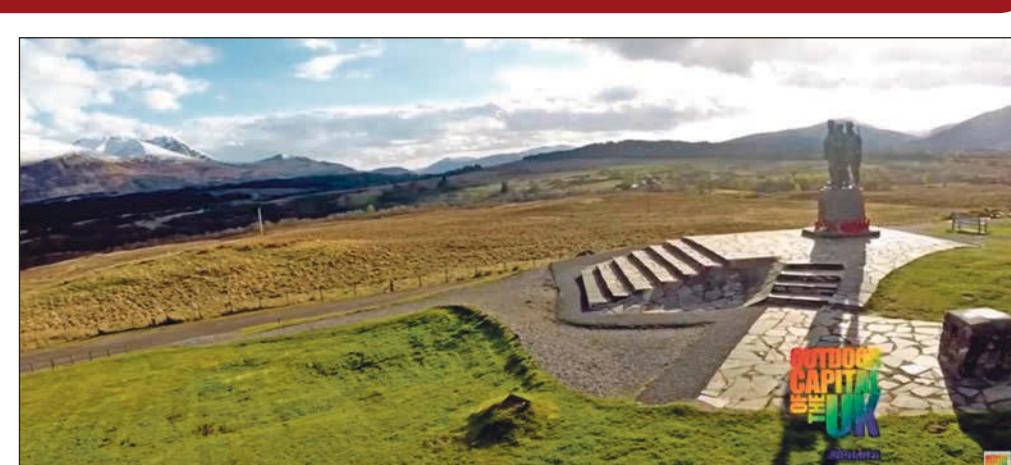
Dr Lorraine McKee, flu immunisation co-ordinator for

NHS Highland, said: 'If you have a health condition, it's so important that you receive the vaccine as you are at higher risk of complications from flu.'

'Anyone who is eligible should make an appointment with their GP practice to get their vaccine as soon as possible. It doesn't take long and provides protection for the rest of this flu season.'

## View from the Chamber

**Lochaber Chamber of Commerce**  
WORKING FOR BUSINESS IN THE OUTDOOR CAPITAL OF THE UK



LOCHABER Chamber of Commerce is in the process of developing the all-new Outdoor Capital of the UK website.

This is an incredibly exciting time for Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. We truly have a site that will increase the exposure of our membership by an incredibly large factor and our partnership with VisitScotland will enable us to draw upon its digital power and expertise to further that exposure to an even greater degree.

Riddel Graham, director of partnerships at VisitScotland,

is coming to the Outdoor Capital of the UK on Friday January 27 between 11am and 2.30pm to speak to local businesses about how VisitScotland's partnership with the Outdoor Capital of the UK website will benefit everyone in the community.

This event is free and open to all members of the public but booking is required. Held in the Mountain Discovery Centre at Nevis Range, this is your opportunity to find out more about the fantastic work that Visit Scotland is doing in partnership with the Outdoor Capital of the UK and how it can benefit your business.

There will be a presentation from Visit Scotland followed by an open discussion and Q&A.

To book tickets, follow the Eventbrite link on our Facebook page.

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ssencommunity

# Community members eager to demonstrate people power

**MONICA GIBSON**

mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS for a new association with the ambition of enhancing social, economic and aesthetic aspects of village life are beginning to take shape.

The purpose of the Nether Lochaber Community Association would be to take on 'more tangible active projects' within the community - for example, the community garden scheme, historical projects and to improve boards along the multi-use park.

Iain Jenner is one of the brains

behind the movement and said the aim is also to help Ballachulish become better connected to itself.

He added: 'Before the A82 was built alongside us, Ballachulish was known for its agriculture and crofting. It was a holiday resort which boasted idyllic strip fields. In the 1900s, the area was booming and had a real sense of pride. We want to get back to that.'

The idea for the association was floated at the memory weekend held in Lochaber Village Hall (see page six for

report). Building on the positive reaction, a meeting was held last Thursday night (January 19) to discuss a way forward.

Mr Jenner said: 'Voluntary Action Lochaber came along and gave us some advice on eligibility for achieving charitable status. The legalities and structure of a SCIO [Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation] and requirements for running such a new group, in terms of meetings, membership, and committee

posts were all discussed.

There are now seven people who are willing to stand as

board members for the new association and a further 30 to 40 who showed their support.'

Mr Jenner told *The Oban Times* that Nether Lochaber Community Council (NLCC) came up with the suggestion of the new association and if successful, the two would still be intertwined.

He added: 'In direct relation to this, NLCC is hoping that agreements with the Forestry Commission regarding the transfer of old buildings at Inchree to the community as assets, and with Lochaber Housing Association,

to release their land holdings at Inchree for community agricultural and horticultural use, will be coming to fruition at the end of this month.

'If all goes according to plan, there will be a huge range of potential activities for community association members to involve themselves in, as of next spring, so we want people to keep spreading the word and encourage others to sign up.'

Mr Jenner explained now the group has the relevant forms, once submitted the application process can take around six to

eight weeks. He added: 'In the meantime, we hope the community council might be able to help us with a start-up fund.'

'We can show willing by perhaps painting the community council benches, or tidying up some of the planters.'

'It would be nice to strike while the iron is hot - even by achieving some little jobs, it will boost morale and show that we are keen to get on.'

For more information and to show your support, find Nether Lochaber Community Council on Facebook.

## Hospital receives positive report

THE Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI) has today (January 18) published its report into an unannounced inspection visit to Belford Hospital in Fort William.

The positive report has highlighted a number of areas of good practice within the hospital and has been welcomed by NHS Highland.

Alison Hudson, lead nurse for North and West Highland, is delighted that the hard work put in by all staff across the hospital has been reflected in the report. She said: 'The inspection team found that the hospital was clean and well maintained, and staff were able to demonstrate their knowledge on a number of infection control precautions and procedures.'

'Communication between ourselves and our patients was commended, with patients telling the inspection team that they were well informed about their care and infection control precautions. There was also good engagement shown between different staff groups.'

Anne Boyd-Mackay, rural general hospital manager, also commended the hard work and commitment of all staff to achieve such a positive inspection report.

The inspection also resulted in one requirement and one recommendation. Work has already begun on the areas identified.

Ms Boyd-Mackay added: 'We have been trialling new documentation which will allow us to show evidence of communication with patients and relatives and we have looked at the authorisation process for ordering with a new method currently being tested.'

The recommendation is to use storage boxes purchased to hold patients' toiletries. Prior to the purchase of these boxes, hospital services staff found it difficult to clean bed spaces due to the amount of belongings long-term patients have with them in hospital.

Staff were keen not to deprive patients of having what they feel is important to them. The matter was raised with infection control, and an agreement was made to purchase plastic boxes with lids that are lightweight, easily cleaned and coloured red for patients with cognitive impairment or sight problems. These were purchased from Amazon.

The boxes are able to be decontaminated and are user friendly. They are cleaned weekly.



The children are trying to find a local courier to take their donations to the collection point.

## Kind-hearted children send 'bags of love' to youngsters in war zone

PRIMARY 2/3 at Lundavra Primary School is sending 'bags of love' to refugees in Syria 'to tell the children they are not forgotten'.

The youngsters, with the help of teacher and deputy head Katrina Kelly filled 20 bags with goodies to send to Aleppo.

Each bag contained pencils and paper, halal sweets, and cuddly and outdoor toys, which many of the children generously donated themselves.

The pupils each wrote a little note to the Syrian children which went in the bags along with coloured pictures.

Miss Kelly said: 'We were quite overwhelmed by the response we had. We were hoping and expecting to gather enough donations to make up five bags but we ended up with 20 and we also had things left over which we donated to local charity shops.'

'The class as a whole decided that they would do something for the Syrian refugees. The children do enterprise and social enterprise projects in which they made and sold things at our Christmas fair to raise money, but it was important to give something back.'

Miss Kelly added: 'I found information about the Bags of Love project on Facebook from UK Action for Refugees. The money we made

selling things at the Christmas fair was used for buying sweets, which had to be halal. As you can imagine, it's not easy to find halal sweets in Fort William, so we had to order them online.'

The class is still trying to find a local courier willing to collect the bags, which need to be sent to Cornwall before being distributed to the Syrian children, the cost of which will be covered by the money raised by the children as well.



Lochaber High School pupils are pictured with Dr Hill, principal teacher of chemistry, Hannah Levene and Ariana Jones.

## Chemistry workshop is a hit with students

LAST week chemistry pupils from Lochaber High School took part in a special practical workshop.

Last Tuesday (January 17), Advanced Higher chemistry pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a spectroscopy workshop offering

them hands-on experience in a range of chemistry techniques they would usually only learn at university.

The pupils looked at infra-red spectroscopy, UV spectroscopy and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

The workshop was organised

by Dr Hill, principal teacher of chemistry, and run by Hannah Levene, Ariana Jones and PhD students from Edinburgh University.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'This helped pupils to gain experience of the technique by making up samples, using the

spectrometers and interpreting the spectra results. Usually in schools, the technique would be taught on a theoretical basis with only reference being made to the equipment. This workshop allowed the pupils to gain experience and understanding of the technique on a practical basis.'

## Mental health staff given specialist training

MENTAL health professionals from across NHS Highland will attended specialist training this week.

The Decider skills training package was developed by cog-

nitive behavioural therapists to improve communication about emotions and self-management between patients, family and staff.

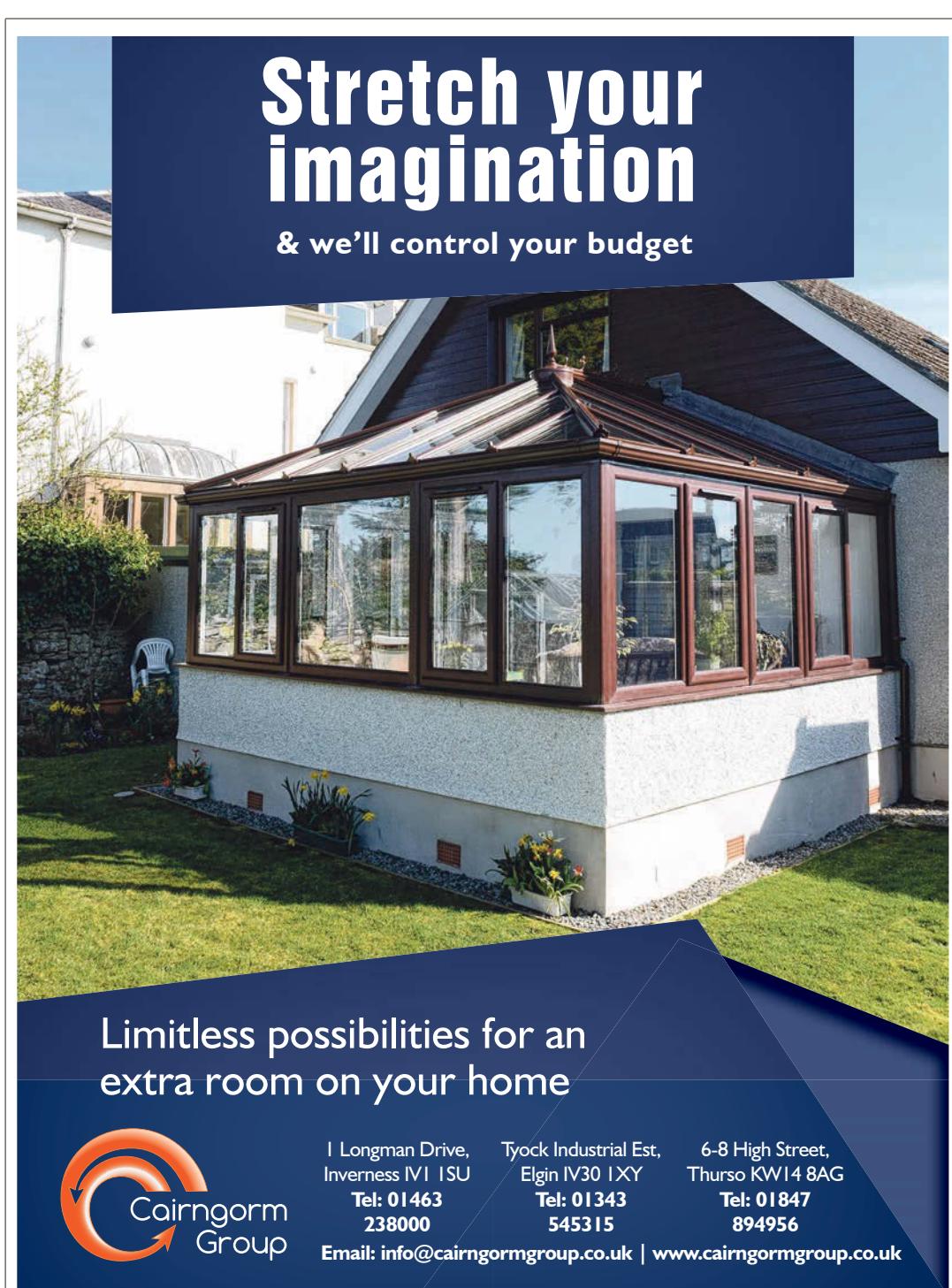
Cognitive behavioural thera-

pists Michelle Ayres and Carol Vivyan, who developed the programme, spent a week in Inverness with more than 250 staff and volunteers.

NHS Highland's community

mental health services manager, Michael Perera, said: 'We were delighted to welcome the trainees to NHS Highland, and the staff who attended gained a lot from the week.'

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**Acharacle**

Pupils from Acharacle Primary School could do with a bit of help to complete their water bottle greenhouse project.

**ACHARACLE** Primary School is collecting plastic bottles in its latest effort to go green.

The school is trying to build a greenhouse but needs a little bit of help in collecting the two-litre bottles required for the eco friendly structure.

Lindsay Bradley, who is associated schools head teacher of Acharacle, Ardgour and Kilchoan primaries, said the project is being overseen by a volunteer parent who runs Acharacle's eco committee and the school's janitor.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) went to the

school to start the project and plans to return when it is coming to a close.

The eco committee said: 'We need your help. At the end of last summer we started building our plastic bottle greenhouse.'

'The LEG team is coming back to school to help us get this finished.'

We would like to do this in time for spring planting.

'But we need lots and lots of two-litre plastic bottles. If you can send your bottles to the school, that would be great. If you are unable to drop bottles in to the school and need us to pick them up, call us.'

**Strontian**

A LOCHABER community has said it is pleased to see the completion of six new homes in the area.

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) announced last Thursday January 19 that six new properties in Strontian have now been built alongside a serviced plot for a self-build home.

And now occupants of the new properties, situated beside the high school in Strontian, are gearing up to move in.

Sunart Community Council said: 'Three of the properties are for social rent with Lochaber Housing Association, and the other

three being for rent to buy. Sunart Community Council is also pleased to see that all of the properties have been allocated to people in need of housing in the local area.'

Kilchoan, Lochside and Mallraig are now also set to benefit from ambitious development plans between HSCHT and the Lochaber Housing Association (LHA), which will see 40 new homes a year built in Lochaber.

In Kilchoan three new homes are now available for social rent, while Lochside, Fort William, has benefited from 10 additional properties.

**Glengarry**

GLENGARRY Community Council met on December 5, 2016.

Items discussed at the meeting included the following...

The Highland Council indicated to the community council that the cemetery paths had been cleaned up and were ready for new chips to be laid. However, on inspection by some of the CC members, along with the local contractor, it was noted that the edging

on the paths and in the car park have not been renewed. The CC said that chips cannot be brought in until all of this work is finished. The secretary is to contact the council and point this out.

The CC has received an estimate for railings at the war memorial and will now apply to the Glengarry Trust for financial help.

Meetings are on the first Monday of every month in the village hall.

For consistency, precision in

**Western Isles**

# Minister confirms visit to Isles

WESTERN Isles MP Angus MacNeil met Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Greg Clark last week to press the case for vital UK government support for island renewables.

At the meeting in Westminster, Mr MacNeil discussed the specific challenges facing island renewables with Mr Clark and parliamentary under-secretary for BEIS Jesse Norman.

He also gave his input to the consultation on future UK government support



Angus MacNeil.

for remote island wind projects.

Mr MacNeil said: 'It was a productive and interesting exploratory meeting. Both

Greg Clark and Jesse Norman showed interest in aspects of renewables in the islands, particularly with Mr Clark planning a visit in late February or early March to discuss the way forward and possibilities.

'Obviously with the consultation ongoing the ministers have to remain tight-lipped at the moment and it is difficult to say what the outcome will be, but with the secretary of state planning to visit the islands, it will at least give interested parties an opportunity to state their case.'

Mr MacNeil and Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP Alasdair Allan discussed the situation with representatives from island community energy groups on Monday ahead of the Westminster meeting.

The UK government's consultation on whether remote island wind projects should be subsidised in future is open for submissions until January 31.

The UK government has already decided to end onshore wind subsidies but is considering whether remote island projects should be treated differently.

**Kinlochleven**

Emma MacFartridge, Ashleigh Carson and Dani Taylor with a cheque for Social Bite

## Students show social responsibility

SOCIALLY-MINDED students have opted to support a business driven by community values rather than profits.

Before Christmas, pupils from Kinlochleven High School decided to raise money for Social Bite, a sandwich shop with a difference.

No matter how big Social Bite grows, no individual will ever get rich from the

business. After staff are paid and costs are covered, every penny of profit is put towards tackling social problems.

The Edinburgh-based outfit's ambition is to grow into a large chain of sandwich shops competing with all of the big brands.

Head teacher Rebecca Machin said the youngsters related to Social Bite's business ethos as it is based on a similar model to the

school's Kinlochleven enterprise, so they decided to donate £123.50 raised at a haunted house event in the school and a dress down day to the cause.

She added: 'Our pupils were really taken by the idea that £5 would provide a Christmas dinner for a homeless person in Scotland. As always, our young people have done us proud. They raised enough

for nearly 25 dinners and hopefully made 25 people feel a little bit more cared for on Christmas Day.'

Zoe Cuthbert, from Social Bite, wrote to thank the school for its participation in the Schools for Social Bite campaign and said:

'We couldn't have done this without your support. Please pass on a massive thank you to the pupils for all their hard work.'

**Spean Bridge**

THE Smiddy House in Spean Bridge has been awarded two AA rosettes for culinary excellence for the 11th year running.

Owners Robert Bryson and Glen Russell have also maintained their four-star gold status with both the AA and VisitScotland for their accommodation.

The AA awards rosettes for consistency, precision in

cooking and also quality of ingredients, and they only consider around 10 per cent of restaurants nationwide to be of a high enough quality to be deserving of one rosette or above.

The couple have been running the restaurant and accommodation since 2003 and Mr Russell attributes their successful maintenance of such high

standards down to hard work.

He said: 'It shows commitment and it's very important that we have maintained consistency over the past 11 years.'

'We support local businesses as much as possible and this is reflected in our menus.'

'Using the skill in the kitchen, we try to showcase

seasonality and the menu is regularly reviewed.'

'The award demonstrates our technical ability in the preparation and delivery of local produce.'

He added: 'We are obviously delighted to be able to continue and be consistent in delivering a quality product.'

'We are one of only a few establishments in Lochaber that have two rosettes.'

**Lochaber**

COMMUNITY members took a walk down memory lane in a special event held in Lochaber Village Hall.

Nether Lochaber Community Council hosted a memories weekend allowing folk to reminisce how the area used to be and how it has changed through the past century.

The event, which took place in the village hall on January 14 and 15, and included a rolling slideshow and prints of photos, maps of the village, history of the area, as well as information

about new projects, was described as a great success.

Iain Jenner said: 'On behalf of NLCC, I would like to thank the many residents who came to visit our memories weekend on January 14 and 15 at Nether Lochaber Village Hall, and made the event such an enjoyable success.'

'In addition, thanks must go to Jennifer Jarl, Stewart Livingston and Lisa Glaze for setting up the exhibition itself; to Elaine Cameron and JJ for the ample supply of home-baking; and to

JJ, LG and others who volunteered their time to serve tea and coffee, and guide visitors around the information tables.'

'So enthusiastic was the reception for our memories weekend slideshow and exhibits that an online archive is to be set up in order to have a permanent record of historic photographs and documents, which residents and friends can access and contribute to.'

'As soon as this is available, a link will be posted on the NLCC's Facebook page.'

## MORVERN lines

### Lament for an old deer-hunter gored to death by antlered stag

WHAT Cairn Toul is to the Cairngorms, Sgurr Dhomhnall is to Lochaber.

At just under 3,000ft, this conspicuous peak lies between Strontian and Ardgour and, although it lacks the crags and precipices of lofty Ben Nevis, 17 miles to the east, it is one of the grandest mountains in Scotland.

Its Gaelic name means 'Donald's Rocky Peak' and is named in honour of Donald Maclean, the first Chief of Ardgour who was killed by a stag when hunting in its foothills more than 600 years ago. Donald was the natural son of Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Margaret Maclean of Kingairloch.

The story of how he and his henchmen, the Boyds, invaded Ardgour in 1410 is well told by the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean in his wonderful book, *West Highland Tales*. From this source we know that Donald was offered a charter of Ardgour, Kingairloch and the island of Carna by the Lord of the Isles at Ardornish Castle, Loch Aline, if he repatriated a family of MacMasters who had settled there sometime previously.

Donald married the girl next door who was a daughter of Cameron of Lochiel. He loved hunting deer and foxes in the surrounding glens and for this became known in Gaelic as 'Dhomhnall na Sealgair', Donald the Hunter. His son Ewen must have been a renowned archer as he was called 'Ewen of the Feathers', in reference to the flights of the arrows.

Long ago deer were not stalked and shot with rifles as they are today. Instead they were driven into turf and stone enclosures called 'Tigh n Sealg', literally, 'hunting houses', where they were slaughtered by the waiting chief and his guests using dirks, arrows and spears. According to tradition, it was on one such occasion, high in Glen Scaddle on the eastern slopes of Sgurr Dhomhnall, that Donald was fatally wounded. The details are unknown but it is likely that he slipped and was gored by an antlered stag.

He was laid to rest in the ancient graveyard of St Modan's Church at the foot of Beinn na Cille where his descendants are still buried and such was his popularity, his name was given to the hill on which he died.

Sometime in the early 1880s the song-writer Harold Boulton (1859-1935), who gave the world the famous Jacobite song, *Over the Sea to Skye*, passed through Ardgour and heard an old Gaelic poem about Donald the Hunter. So taken was he by the legend that he translated it into English and included it in his *Songs of the North*, calling it *The Lament for the Maclean of Ardgour*.



The 18th chief of the Macleans of Ardgour.

The present chief, who is 18th in direct line from Donald the Hunter, still lives there surrounded by numerous members of the Boyd clan.

The old chief has left the high ground to the whippersnappers and has replaced his rifle, knife and deer hound with a labrador, a trusty stick and a pair of binoculars. Although he still takes an interest in the pleasures of his ancestor through the stalking adventures of his siblings, his sporting and natural history activities are confined now to some sedate pheasant shooting on the stubble-fields of Moray, hunting foxes in the Kingairloch woods, or adder-watching at the foot of Glen Gour.

'Wail loudly ye women, your coronach doleful, lament him ye pipers, tread solemn and slow; mown down like a flower is the chief of Ardgour, and the hearts of the clansmen are weary with woe.'

'In peacetime, he ruled like a father amongst us, unconquered in battle was the blade that he bore, but the chase was the glory and pride of his manhood, strong Donald the Hunter, Macgillian More (The son of the Big Maclean).

'Low down by yon burn that's half hidden with heather he lurked like a lion in the lair he knew well; 'twas there sobbed the red deer to feel his keen dagger, their pierced by his arrow the caizie-cock fell. How oft when at e'en he would watch for the wild fowl, like lightening his coracle sped from the shore; but still, and for aye, as we cross the lone lochan, is Donald the Hunter, Macgillian More.'

'Once more let his war-cry resound in the mountains, MacDonalds shall hear it in eerie Glencoe, its echoes shall float o'er the Braes of Lochaber, till Stewarts in Appin that slogan shall know; and borne to the waters beyond the Loch Linnhe, 'twixt Morvern and Mull where the tide eddies roar, Macgillians shall hear it and mourn for their kinsmen, for Donald the Hunter, Macgillian More.'

'Then here let him rest in the lap of Sgurr Dhomhnall, the wind for his watcher, the mist for his shroud, where the green and the grey moss will weave their wild tartans, a covering meet for a chieftain so proud. For, as free as the eagle, these rocks were his eyrie, and free as the eagle his spirits shall soar, o'er the crags and the corries that erst knew the footfall of Donald the Hunter, Macgillian More.'

Iain Thorner  
iain.thorner@btinternet.com

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# Viewpoint



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

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**A**s we report today, there is a genuine issue of concern building over the provision of ambulance services in the north-west, including the Skye and Fort William areas.

The trade union Unite is up in arms over emergency ambulances from the West Highlands being used routinely for long-distance patient transfer journeys to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

Furthermore, the Unite regional officer, Richard Whyte, says members of his union working for the Scottish Ambulance Service are sometimes called out while they are sleeping after 12-hour shifts. Mr Whyte

says, unsurprisingly, that this kind of working practice is causing fatigue and low morale.

For its part, the Scottish Ambulance Service has responded by saying it has recruited 12 additional staff members since April last year as part of a £5 million additional investment programme.

Its spokesperson added that the service is 'aware of the pressures' and is 'working on this with NHS Highland'.

The ambulance crews across the area – and all over the country – perform a life-saving service on a round-the-clock daily basis and do a marvellous job. They deserve better.



## Days gone by – the 1980s

Two of the Oban Times staff were tasked with reminding readers it was time to turn the clocks back. Elaine Black and Carolyn Buchanan, right, are the staff members who were given the task of highlighting the time change. Carolyn is still a popular member of the staff at the newspaper.

### Macphail



### The power of song

THE double-edged sword of being born into an ethnic group whose future existence hangs in the balance gives emotional pendulum swings peculiar to that position.

Along with the dark moments of anger, frustration, guilt, sadness, bitterness and helplessness are equally affecting flashes of pride, connection, hope, harmony and a powerful sense of privilege in belonging to something rich and unique.

Last Sunday night's concert in the Strathclyde Suite of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall provided the foundation for a pronounced swing of the pendulum to the positive end of that vast scale.

*Tiree Song Book* was the title of this Celtic Connections concert, which was supported by the Tiree Association and directed by Mary Ann Kennedy. First performed in May last year at the Tiree Homecoming, it featured songs and tunes linked to Tiree and performed by singers and musicians from the island as well as more widely-known artists from across the country.

The responsive joy and goodwill emanating from the crowd brought the room alive and the comments afterwards were those of an audience awed by the depth of musical tradition.

The concert was a well-crafted



Mary Ann Kennedy directed the very moving *Tiree Song Book* concert.

showcase of the island's rich Bardic culture brought together seamlessly with contemporary tunes and songs. There were many figures of the past whose presence could be felt and the strength of the pride we know they would feel was as much part of the atmosphere as the cheering and clapping of the audience.

Mary Ann Kennedy's father, Alasdair, had his hand on her shoulder by the piano. As John Campbell led the pipers, his father, Lachie Beag, was tuning his drones. As communications master and author Alastair Campbell sounded his pipes,

his brother, Donald, was giving him a mouthful for a late strike in.

Murdina MacLean's clear, beautiful voice lit the hearts of her parents, Rose and Murdoch MacDonald. As Donald Iain Brown introduced the performers his parents, Annie and Lachie, were beaming at having three of their sons on the stage.

As Gordon Rowan set the pipe chanter, his uncle, Kenny MacDonald, was telling him to watch the high Gs. As Anne and Finlay Johnstone played *Am Falbh Thu Leam*, their father and grandfather respectively, Alasdair Sinclair, was singing along with a wide grin and a glint in his eye.

As Daniel from Skerryvore took to the stage his father, Danny Gillespie, gave his shoulder a strong and warm squeeze.

And, during the highlight of the night for myself and for many, when Bernard Smith, backed on accordion by his son, Ian, sang *Lag Nan Cruachan*, I could feel my father, Eachann Mòr, standing beside me filled with pride listening to Bernie singing that song which he had sung for him so many times before.

As he always did, Bernie nailed it, and all the performers and the entire audience – in imagination, in spirit and in person – filled the hall with as collectively positive an energy as I have ever felt in one room.

There is power in song.



to ford then its pothole century down here its literally most of the road that's potholes or falling away and its used for businesses as well

**James Maclean** said: 'Road needs tar done from soroba waterworks right to north argyll house.'

**Gemma MacLennan** wrote: 'Pretty bad! Around the lights coming out of Tesco. Surprised I don't have a puncture yet from the pot holes and not to mention the damage it must be doing to the car.'

**Andy Jones** posted: 'I was on holiday in South Africa last January and some

of the dirt roads had better surfaces than the main road through Oban, especially the bit by the traffic light at Oban High school.'

**James Muir** commented: 'It's getting hard to think where there's a descent bit Road without potholes anywhere in Scotland.'

**Ashley Strang** said simply: 'They are an embarrassment.'

**Laura Monsalve Rossi** wrote: '3 punctured tires since Christmas!!!! I had to buy 2 new tires.'

**Mel Hayes** quipped: 'You've clearly never been to Caithness.'

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.

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.

### Social media

Our report last week that Argyll and Bute roads are officially the worst in Scotland drove many people to comment on The Oban Times Facebook page.

**Rory Brian Craig** complained: 'The roads are horrendous i have popped 2 tires and bent one of my alloys all within the last 3 months! i really don't see why we even pay road tax!'

**Hannah Karpinski** offered: 'Argyll square and traffic lights at High School junction says it all.'

**Samantha Leiper** blasted: 'You havnt seen the single track road from cladich

to ford then its pothole century down here its literally most of the road that's potholes or falling away and its used for businesses as well

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### 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,

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.

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### Your letters

that the SNP has no idea what the project will even end up costing. This is the latest blow for the scheme, which was meant to be up-and-running last year.

This truly shows the chaos of the project, and the SNP's mishandling of the NHS more widely. Once again we are shown that the SNP can't be trusted with our NHS.

**Alastair Redman,**  
Islay.

**Worrying discovery in water culvert**

Sir,  
My weekly litter collection between Spean Bridge and Unachan crossroads occasionally comes up with some surprises, as it is usually take-away food packaging, empty energy drinks and beer cans, plastic bottles and cigarette packets.

But my collection on Saturday was rather disturbing when I found a tightly tape-wrapped blue polythene bag containing used engine oil, which was dumped in a water-filled ditch by a lay-by at the above crossroads.

The bag was very heavy and slightly leaking when it was removed.

I can't imagine what kind of person goes to the trouble of doing this when used oil can be taken to the recycling centre in Fort William. The oil would have probably gone unnoticed, flowing into a culvert then open watercourse feeding the River Spean.

Something else unusual was the number of heavy duty protective gloves, mostly of the same make, all found on the grass verge within a space of a few metres. I'm sure the owners of these gloves could be found using DNA fingerprinting. And would they be discarded knowing the damage they could cause to grass-cutting machinery?

Is it just laziness, a lack of knowledge, or both?

**A Robinson,**  
Spean Bridge.

### Holocaust Memorial Day remains vital

Sir,  
The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day tomorrow (Friday January 27) is 'How can life go on?', raising challenging questions for individuals, communities and nations in the aftermath of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

Every January, when we listen to the testimony of survivors, we don't just learn a little more about the darkest chapters of human history, we are also reminded of where hatred and bigotry can lead if left unchallenged and unchecked.

Today, that lesson is more important than ever, which is why I urge you to attend the human rights and hate crime seminar at the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway (<http://hmd.org.uk/events/find/Scotland#sthash.FSoCKrZ.dpuf>).

**Olivia Marks-Woldman,**  
Chief executive,  
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Ailean Caimbeul

## TIMESLINE

## Mull road closed for a fortnight

THE B8035 on Mull was closed on Monday at Knock Farm near Gruline to allow urgent repairs to Knock Bridge over the River Ba.

The road will be closed for two weeks and Argyll and Bute Council hopes to complete the works within that period but warned it may take longer depending on what the workers find.

Meanwhile, there is an alternative route via the A849 and the southern section of the B8035.

The council has apologised for any inconvenience and will consider what weight restrictions will be necessary in the future.

## Views sought on Gaelic funding

**ARGYLL and Bute Council** has been successful in securing Scottish Government funding to help 'strengthen and grow Gaelic' across the area.

Communities can now help decide how £15,000 could be used. Ideas can be posted and discussed at <https://argyll-bute.yrpsi.org/group/894> until March 6.

## SAMS will lead Arctic project

DUNBEG-BASED Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) is set to lead the UK's Arctic research over the next five years through major projects worth more than £5million. SAMS won two of four major research grants in the Natural Environment Research Council's (NERC) £10 million Changing Arctic Ocean programme. SAMS researchers are also involved in the other two projects. Full story, page seven.

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# Fury over airport oil depot

SANDY NEIL

sneil@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS of a travellers' site near Oban have slammed the council after approval was given for an oil depot within yards of their homes.

The people living at Ledaig, close to Oban Airport, say they fear for their safety and that of their children.

They believe the fuel depot could be a 'hazard' to their homes and children walking to school, but permission was granted by Argyll and Bute Council last week.

Fuel supplier Oilfast applied to build the oil depot, comprising two portable buildings, four storage tanks and a metal fence on council-owned land once used by its roads depot for salt storage, at the end of Oban Airport's runway.

Across the road are eight pitches in the Ledaig Travellers Persons' Site, leased by Argyll Community Housing Association.

Mary MacDonald, who lives at the Ledaig site with her husband and disabled daughter, said: 'When I first heard about it, I did not realise it would be at my front door, so I did not do anything about it until it was too late. I cannot read or write.'

'It is so close. What would be the problem of moving it closer to the airport and have the lorries come in from the airport road?'

'These big lorries that come in, they do not slow down. There will be big contractors coming in.'

'This is a residential area. I think it is going to be a real hazard for children.'

Twenty-four individuals raised objections, including Ardchat-

tan Community Council, which had safety concerns about the proximity of large volumes of flammable fuel so close to the travellers' homes, and the threat HGV tankers posed to children walking to the school bus, dog-walkers and cyclists on the new Sustrans Route 78 cycle path.

Councillors Anne Horn, Julie McKenzie and Isobel Strong, and Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara also made representations.

On Wednesday last week, Argyll and Bute Council's Planning, Protective Services and Licensing (PPSL) committee approved the oil depot.

The planners' report, which urged councillors to grant permission, argued most objections related to the site's use, 'which is not up for consideration'.

It continued: 'The use of the

site for the storage and distribution of oil at the proposed scale does not constitute a material change of use. The determining issue solely relates to siting, layout and design.'

'Sustrans are on record as stating a minor road is suitable for unaccompanied 11-year-olds to use provided there are fewer than 1,000 vehicular movements per day. It is unlikely the proposed development will result in more than 1,000.'

Signs advising motorists of an 'advisory speed limit' would be erected as a condition, it added.

The reports states that the maximum quantity of fuel to be stored would be 243 tonnes.

At the meeting, area team leader Sandra Davies added: 'There is no petroleum to be stored on this site – purely domestic heating oil, diesel.'

Councillor George Freeman

asked if the plans showed a 'burning' blast area, to which Ms Davies replied she would need to check, but 'it could be added as a condition if required'.

Councillor Rory Colville drew attention to the landscaping, saying: 'It seems contradictory that we are planting trees, but not trees that attract birds.'

Angus Gilmore, head of planning and regulatory services, replied: 'We were mindful we did not want to do something that would encroach on the operational area.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish added: 'Because this was a council asset, it was unanimously approved at the area committee meeting to lease the site to Oilfast. This is a very regulated industry and the many issues have been addressed.'

Afterwards, Oban North

and Lorn Councillor Julie McKenzie reacted, saying: 'I am incredibly disappointed the committee did not take this to a public hearing for the travellers to have their say. These are people who cannot read or write.'

She added that Councillor McCuish's argument did 'not stack up'.

She said: 'There was a lack of info at that stage. It was not made clear how close the site was to the travellers. No-one has worked out a blast area.'

Councillor Freeman, she said, had also pointed out an 'anomaly' in the tanks' storage capacity.

She said: 'The planning application was based on 240 tonnes and it is now 370 tonnes. The capacity is almost double that proposed. [Cllr Freeman] asked for an adjournment, but could not get anyone to second him, sadly.'

## Excitement as Marines drop in

THERE was great excitement this week at Rockfield Joint Campus and Dunbeg Primary when the Royal Marine Commandos came to call.

The visit was organised by Jean MacPherson and the Commandos were delighted to drop in to say 'hello' and 'thank you' as Ms MacPherson is a great fundraiser for the Marines. Her brother-in-law, Gordon, was killed on the last day of the Falklands conflict.

Rockfield head teacher Caroline Fothergill, along with some of the pupils, helped Ms MacPherson hand over a cheque to fund a memorial garden at the Marines' HQ in Arbroath in memory of those who have died in conflict.

At Dunbeg, pupils also presented Sergeant Paul MacShannon with a cheque. Sgt MacShannon has an Argyll connection – he comes from Lochdon on Mull – and Gordon MacPherson was a former Dunbeg pupil.

■ More pictures on page seven.

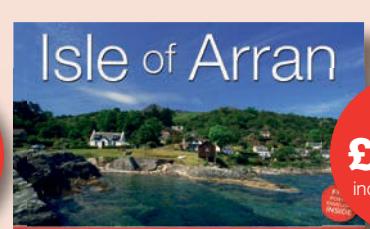


Royal Marine Commandos were warmly welcomed at Dunbeg Primary School. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

## Scottish Calendars 2017



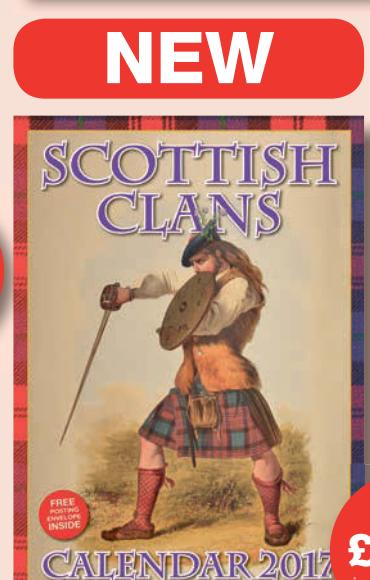
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# Tesco boss urges charitable groups to sign up for free food

SANDY NEIL

sneil@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN'S Tesco store is appealing for more local charities and community groups to take advantage of free food going to waste each month, and to apply for a share of £8,000 in monthly grants.

Tesco's 'community food collections' donate surplus food every night to organisations in need of it, but only four have applied in the Oban area so far: Schools Out Oban, Hope Kitchen, Oban Youth Café and Soroba Young Family Group.

Kenny MacCallum, lead fresh food manager, said: 'Every night we look at what stock we will be wasting and we offer a selection to our designated charity that night. We text that charity, "Would you like that donation?", and rather than it going in the bin, they can make use of it.'

The donations include baked goods, fruit, vegetables, pre-packed meat and

fish, ready meals, desserts, eggs and products in damaged packaging, but not pre-prepared food such as sandwiches and salads, or alcohol.

'We have four charities that cover five nights,' Kenny continued. 'We have two spaces – we would like it to be seven nights.'

Brian Ross, store manager, added: 'We have given 2,020 meals, just under a tonne of food, since late November. We are throwing stuff in the bin two days a week. We have probably thrown away a tonne.'

'It is a travesty the food that is wasted. If we had seven nights' cover, it would make such a difference in the town. There must be people who are able to take this food.'

Any charity or community group interested in applying should visit [www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org).

Tesco staff are also urging local groups and charities to come forward and grab a grant via the Bags of Help scheme,

which gives cash to local causes from money raised by the 5p carrier bag charge.

Mr Ross said too few local charities and community groups had applied for the grants, which pay out £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 each month via a customer vote in the store, and he hopes many more will come forward.

'There must be local organisations who can do with this cash,' he said. 'Every 5p bag you buy, the money goes back to charity.'

When application numbers increase, Tesco will decrease the size of its regions, which will benefit more local projects.

'It is a huge amount every month, if you think £8,000 could be going locally,' Mr Ross said. 'How many people could have been touched by that?'

Community projects can nominate themselves for a grant, or be nominated by customers. Visit the Tesco Bags of Help website.



Oban Tesco store manager Brian Ross hands over the donated food to Jean MacPherson of Schools Out Oban.

## Sky lantern ban is on the cards

A MOTION to ban sky lanterns and helium balloons is being heard at Argyll and Bute Council today (Thursday).

The plan to ban the use of the balloons and sky lanterns is to protect wildlife on the land and in the sea.

Sky lanterns are popular at weddings and to celebrate festivals.

A report to councillors proposes 'that Argyll and Bute agree to ban the use of sky lanterns and helium balloon release from council-owned property in an effort to make the countryside safer for grazing livestock, prevent harm to wildlife at sea and on land, and to protect the environment.'

The council is asked to delegate to the director of development and infrastructure the authority to put in place arrangements to support his principle.'

## Talk to us

Send your news and photographs to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

## TV take on rural housing

A NEW four-part series on BBC ALBA examines the dramatic development of rural housing in Scotland over the years.

In the second part next Monday (January 30), builder Ewen MacKinnon, who has a passion for the beauty of construction, continues his fascinating and revealing journey through Scotland's rural housing landscape – telling a story of place, people and home in *Rural Housing*.

The history of traditional buildings in the Highlands and Islands resonates particularly with people today, with an increasing number choosing to build new homes using the materials from early 19th century homes and in line with much-loved styles, such as the blackhouse.

Among the buildings visited will be the impressive Isle of Lewis stone structures, the Bosta Iron Age House on Great Bernera, Uig the Norse Mill in nearby Shawbost, the S-shaped house named Oran na Mara on Harris, the Hebridean Earth House on South Uist and the Carloway broch, Isle of Lewis.

These buildings have also inspired numerous impressive new island homes.

Viewers also find out about the fascinating wooden crannogs and there will be a visit to the restored Gearrannan Blackhouse Village on Lewis, which has a new life as holiday accommodation.

*Rural Housing* airs on BBC Alba on Mondays at 8.30pm.

## Council's planning committee fails to make decision on Tiree beach hut – once again

THE FATE of a controversial Tiree beach hut, built at Balevullin without planning permission, is still hanging in the balance – despite councillors meeting for a third time to discuss the matter, writes Sandy Neil.

Tiree entrepreneur Iona Larg, who runs surfing company Blackhouse Watersports on the island, which is billed as 'the Hawaii of the north', submitted two retrospective planning applications for two wooden beach huts at Balevullin beach and at Gott Bay in December 2015.

The Balevullin hut attracted 39 objections and 100 expressions of support, including from TV chef Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, while Gott Bay hut attracted eight objections and 17 letters of support.

Planning officers recommended that Argyll and Bute Council's Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee (PPSL) refuse planning permission as a departure from the Local Development Plan (LDP).

Councillors decided to hold a local discretionary hearing in An Talla Community Hall, Crossapol, Tiree, on November



28. Prior to the hearing, the applicants withdrew the planning application to retain the Gott Bay hut, which has now been removed.

At this meeting, councillors agreed to continue their deliberations until January 18 for an area capacity evaluation (ACE), a study produced by council planners to assess if

a development constitutes an 'exceptional case' to the LDP, and presents 'no unacceptable physical impact upon an identified area of common landscape character'.

A draft report, presented last Wednesday January 18 to the PPSL meeting in Kilmory Castle by head of planning and regulatory services Angus

Gilmore, concluded the Balevullin hut does have a 'materially harmful visual impact'. But councillors again held off making a decision to 'critique' the ACE.

Lomond North councillor George Freeman, who proposed the motion, said: 'It is controversial locally. We want to avoid any potential challenge.' Councillor

Councillors have again put off making a decision about the beach hut on Tiree. Surfing business owner Iona Larg told the *The Oban Times* the decision could mean the end of her business and force the family to move off the island.

Roddy McCuish's motion to decide that day found no seconder and so was defeated.

Speaking afterwards, Iona Larg told *The Oban Times*: 'The saga continues. The main argument is that there is an alternative site but it is not viable.'

Taking the hut away, she said, would also remove 'our ability to do business, and us as a family. I have three children on the island. [With the removal of the hut from Gott Bay] that's half of our business gone already. This is our main business.'

If Argyll and Bute [Council] are serious about population decline and supporting business, we have to do it now, because we are leaving the EU: EU funding will go.

'We are an environmentally-friendly and responsible business that is totally self-funded.'

'We had permission from Argyll Estates, the landowner. The West Coast, Argyll and Tiree has the most consistent surf and it is easily accessible. We have to look at what we have got. We are supporting Tiree tourism on an international level. If we have businesses supporting families on islands, we should be saying, thank you.'

## POLICE FILES

TWO men were arrested following an altercation outside the Corran Halls in Oban on Sunday January 22. They were later released from police custody, and reported to the procurator fiscal for alleged assault and obstruction.

POLICE are appealing for information after a blue and black Renault vehicle caused an obstruction to the entrance of Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital on Glengallan Road, at 1.45pm on January 23. Anyone who witnessed the incident is invited to call 101 and ask to speak to PC Andrew Hogg at Oban Police Office.

## Barcaldine fishery plan revealed

PLANS for a £35 million salmon hatchery at Barcaldine have been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.

In July, Scottish Sea Farms, Scotland's second largest salmon farmer, announced its purchase of the Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine, by Loch Creran, where it plans to build a new land-based RAS freshwater facility, or re-circulating aquaculture system, for rearing smolts to transfer to sea farms, creating up to 25 permanent jobs.

A consultation has been underway for six months, the firm's managing director Jim Gallagher said, to 'ensure we will develop the site in a way that also benefits the community and supports sustainable growth.'

This site offers an ideal location providing everything we require in terms of power supply, fresh water and connection to the sea.'

Some demolition has already taken place and, if planning is successful, Scottish Sea Farms hopes to begin construction later this year, with the first fish reared in the new facility entering the water in 2019.



An illustration of what the new facility could look like.



Loganair operates Twin Otter DHC6-400 aircraft on the Barra route, where planes land at the beach airport and where flight times are subject to the tides.

**ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL'S SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2017/18**

Application forms for grants to community organisations are now available. They can be accessed by website: <https://www.arrygall-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants> phone: 01369 708669 email: [communitydevelopment@arrygall-bute.gov.uk](mailto:communitydevelopment@arrygall-bute.gov.uk) Closing date for applications is 10 February 2017.

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WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Plan to increase summer service to Tiree and Barra takes flight

LOGANAIR is to increase services from Glasgow to Tiree and Barra this summer via a new agreement with Transport Scotland.

Extra flights will be added on both routes throughout the peak summer holiday period from June to August, including a total of 17 additional round trips added on the world-famous Glasgow to Barra air link this summer.

The unique service – flown by Loganair operating Transport Scotland's Twin Otter DHC6-400 aircraft – lands on Barra's beach, where flight times are subject to the tides. It is a hugely popular journey for holidaymakers, aviation enthusiasts and locals, and the extra flights will help to meet high demand during the holiday season.

An extra eight flights are also being added on the Glasgow to Tiree route, spread between the Twin Otter aircraft and larger 34-seat Saab 340 aircraft. All are operated under a

public service obligation commitment by Loganair for Transport Scotland.

Minister for Transport and the Islands Humza Yousaf MSP said: 'These improvements come following consultation with local communities, so I have no doubt they'll be welcomed by passengers who depend on the public service obligation routes.'

'Not only will there be additional flights for both Barra and Tiree over the busier summer period, Loganair will also amend the timetables to smooth out the impact of the tidal variations at Barra on the Tiree service. This will offer more continuity and certainty for passengers.'

'These air links play a crucial role for the communities they serve and we will continue to have dialogue with island representatives and Loganair to make sure we're offering the best possible service.'

## Mechanics rev it up in the second half and put Fort to the sword

<b>Fort William</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Forres Mechanics</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Highland League</b>	

A SECOND half defensive collapse saw the Fort hand Saturday's win and points to Forres Mechanics on a plate.

The Fort lost captain Ian Foggo during last Saturday's (January 21) match at Claggan Park to what looked like a serious knee injury in the 20th minute.

Foggo was stretchered off before being transferred to the Belford hospital by ambulance. His leg was later put in a cast



Iain Foggo will be out on crutches for a few weeks.  
Photo: Abrightside Photography

and a spokesperson for the club said he will be on crutches for the next couple of weeks. It is hoped the injury is not as bad as first feared.

The Fort took the lead only minutes later, Ally Stark got on the end of Liam Taylor to fire home from six yards.

Just before half-time, the Mechanics took the lead in 'controversial' circumstances. John Cameron was a full yard offside and the linesman inexplicably waved play on, and when the ball was played into the box Alan Pollock scored with ease.

Then in the fifth minute of

### Football

first half stoppage times, Mechanics took the lead, Stuart Soane making it 2-1 Forres.

But ten minutes into the second half it was 2-2. Top scorer Scottie Davidson was brought down in the box and he then stepped up to fire home his 14th goal of the season.

Just 60 seconds later Davidson passed up a glorious chance to give the home side the lead - when he was clean through on goal with only the keeper to beat, but he couldn't take the opportunity.

It all fell apart for the home side shortly after, when Forres ran riot with four goals in the next 11 minutes - all free headers from just six yards out. Lee Fraser took two, John Cameron and Ross MacPherson all found the back of the Fort net to make the final score Fort William 2 Forres Mechanics 6.

Next up for the Fort is an away trip to current Highland League champions Cove Rangers. The game will be played at Grant Park Lossiemouth.



Forres defenders struggle to contain Fort top goal scorer Scottie Davidson.  
Photo: Abrightside Photography

## Esmond wins Leanachan race

SOME 59 runners finished the Leanachan race on Sunday, a 9.5 mile long, going through Leanachan/Nevis Range forestry tracks. This was the seventh race out of 10 that is in the calendar of Lochaber Winter League 2016/2017.

A long category race in which all the runners must wear or carry full body cover, waterproof top and bottoms, hat and

gloves. It was a cold and cloudy day but everyone kept smiling before and after the race.

The men's category was won by Esmond Tressider LAC in 01:00:27, 2nd place John Yells LAC in 01:01:12, 3rd crossed the finish line Steven Traill LAC in 01:01:42. In the women's category 1st crossed the finish line Lisette Walter in 01:08:39, 2nd Helen Leggett LAC in 01:14:37



The Lochaber Athletics Clubs winter league race, runners set off from the Nevis Range car park.  
Photo: Abrightside Photography.

## Sisters keep it in the family



Sisters Anna MacDonald and Freya MacDonald have been confirmed as players in the Highland district netball squad.

### Netball

A LOCHABER sister duo have been selected for a Highland netball team.

Sisters Anna and Freya MacDonald were successful in their trials for the inaugural Highland netball district team.

#### Confirmed

The Lochaber High School girls travelled to Dingwall on numerous occasions to fight for their places and it has now been confirmed that they will be joining the squad.

Anna and Freya will travel to district days around the country representing the Highlands at netball.

Teacher Miss Chelsea Ewing said: 'The girls have worked so hard and they represent the school and the area brilliantly.'

## Heavy defeat for Lochaber

<b>Lochaber</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Highland Reds</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>BT Caledonia 2NW</b>	

LOCHABER played their first game in two months on Saturday against Highland Reds.

With the split in the league already happened, this game would have no effect on any league standings as Lochaber are in the bottom half and Highland are in the top half.

The game was tight for the first 20 minutes or so, with Highland applying most of the pressure.

That pressure eventually paid



No way through for Lochaber's Callum MacDonald.  
Photo: Abrightside Photography

off for the visitors who broke the deadlock. They were then able to capitalise on some rustiness in the Lochaber defence after a long lay off and scored a few

### Rugby

more tries in quick succession.

The second half saw much more of the same with Lochaber having a few forays into the Highland 22. Callum MacDonald managed to barge his way over the Highland line from a tap penalty five metres from the line to get Lochaber on the score board. The final score was Lochaber 5-Highland Reds 64.

Lochaber will now play Shetland at home on January 28 with a 2pm kick off in the first game of the split.

## Swimmers announce big improvements

LOCHABER Leisure Centre swimmers have announced their big improvements of 2016. They are as follows: 50 Backcrawl - Matteusz 14s, Eilidh 13s, Indigo 11s; 100 Backcrawl - Evie-Jay 30s, Eva 27s, Alistair 19s; 50 Front crawl - Murray 13s, Ben Britton 10s, Lisa 9s; 100 Front crawl - Iona 23s, Kirsty 19s, Jenna and Alice Ann 30s.

Spokeswoman for the swim team, Yvonne Clark said: 'The Eilidh 19s, Eva 18s; 100 Breaststroke - Eva 21s, Laurin 19s, Evan 16s; 50 Butterfly - Sean 15s, Laurin 14s, Freddie 13s; 100 Butterfly - Alice-Ann 31s, Kayleigh 18s, Rhianna 16s; 100 Individual Medley - Sean 51s, Matteusz 27s, Murray and Lisa 23s; 200 IM - Kai 42s, Alistair 35s, Jenna and Alice Ann 30s.

Spokeswoman for the swim team, Yvonne Clark said: 'The

constant improvements in the times made all the hard work worth it and long may it continue.'

'This was well worth all the hard work, well done to everyone for your improvements last year and lets keep on doing every stroke like the last one ... only better.'



The Lochaber Leisure Centre swim team pictured together back in November after competing at an annual Highland schools event.  
Photo: Abrightside Photography

### Swimming

constant improvements in the times made all the hard work worth it and long may it continue.

The winning numbers for the Kilmallie lottery for the draw on January 15 were 1, 5 and 19. There were no winners so the jackpot went up to £700 for the draw on Sunday January 22. The winning numbers for that draw were 6, 15 and 16. There were no winners again so the jackpot goes up to £800 for next week's draw.

Fort William Golf Club's winning lottery draw numbers for Thursday January 19 were 4, 14 and 18. There were no winners so £900 for today's draw (Thursday January 26).

The winning numbers for the Ballachulish shinty lottery on Saturday were 16, 17 and 20. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £800 for next

### Recent results Indoor football

RESULTS from Week 11:  
Inverlochy 4, Ballatasaray 6;  
The Young Team 6, HW Energy 0; Doghouse Thistle 6, Portcawl 1; Nevis Range 4, Fiorentina Turner 9; The Goon Squad 3, The Stoaters 0.

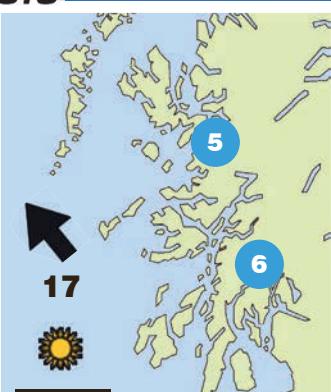


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WEATHER	
Thursday	Light Cloud Winds strong south easterly Temperatures 3°C to 5°C.
Friday	Sunny Winds strong south easterly Temperatures 5°C to 6°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Light rain on Sunday Winds moderate south south easterly Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION							
Date	am		pm				
Thur	04.51	3.6	11.02	1.4	17.07	3.6	23.27
Fri	05.29	3.8	11.41	1.2	17.44	3.8	** **
Sat	00.00	1.0	06.05	3.9	12.19	1.1	18.17
Sun	00.33	0.9	06.39	4.0	12.55	1.0	18.47
Mon	01.05	0.8	07.11	4.0	13.30	0.9	19.16
Tues	01.39	0.8	07.43	4.0	14.04	0.9	19.50
Wed	02.15	0.8	08.19	3.9	14.42	1.0	20.28

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

### Corporate stationery

Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

### Personal stationery

Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
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Campbeltown PA28 6JD  
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British Legion lead handicap division

### 10-pin bowling

AFTER week nine of the Lochaber Building supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats remain in the lead of the scratch division with 35 points followed by British Legion Fort William with 26 points.

Don't Give A Split and The Shambwols are next on 25 points. The handicap division is much tighter where British Legion Fort William stay on top with 26 points despite going down 5-0 to Don't Give A Split. The Shambwols also have 26 points followed by Don't Give A Split on 25 points.

Individually the best game in week nine was an excellent 219 from Pam Weller (Alleycats) which included a run of 4 strikes in a row. Other good games this week came from Gaynor Weldon (British Legion Fort William) with 186, Ben Weller (Don't Give A Split) with 185 and Wendy Brooke (The Shambwols) with 173. Pam Weller also had the top handicap game of 249 and the top two game scratch series of 366. Gillie Mullen (The Shambwols) had the top two game handicap series with 472, which is the season's high.

The best team scores of the week came from Alleycats who had the top scratch game of 643, while Don't Give A Split had the top two game scratch series of 1,216. The Shambwols had the best handicap game of 909 and the top two game handicap series of 1,714 - both seasons highs.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 164 followed by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 157 and Ben Weller (Don't Give A Split) on 152.

### Club lottery numbers

#### Lotto

THE WINNING lotto numbers for the Kilmallie lottery for the draw on January 15 were 1, 5 and 19. There were no winners so the jackpot went up to £700 for the draw on Sunday January 22. The winning numbers for that draw were 6, 15 and 16. There were no winners again so the jackpot goes up to £800 for next week's draw.

Fort William Golf Club's winning lottery draw numbers for Thursday January 19 were 4, 14 and 18. There were no winners so £900 for today's draw (Thursday January 26).

The winning numbers for the Ballachulish shinty lottery on Saturday were 16, 17 and 20. There were no winners so the jackpot is up to £800 for next

### Recent results

#### Indoor football

RESULTS from Week 11:

Inverlochy 4, Ballatasaray 6;

The Young Team 6,