

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8331

Thursday 1 December, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence



Oban Live Local Ticket Offer:

20% off early bird prices

For 48 hours only

See inside for full details plus EXCLUSIVE NEWS on the 2017 line-up

Councillors throw budget ball back in public's court

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

COUNCILLORS say they have 'scraped the bottom of the barrel' to make £1.4 million of efficiency savings – and it will take 'substantial change' to find up to £10 million of savings to balance the books.

A budget consultation set by Argyll and Bute Council is currently asking the public to rank its ser-

vices in order of importance from 12 categories, including education for children, care for vulnerable people, and bin collections.

In a move away from the 'service choices' model of community consultation, this year the local authority looks set to give serious consideration to cutting whole services, as it asks the public: 'Everything matters. What matters most?'

The consultation document is

available between now and January 2017 and will be collated before February to 'inform the [budget] decisions the council takes'.

Described as a 'high level consultation' by executive officer Douglas Hendry, he told a meeting of the full council last Thursday the questions in the document were 'fit for purpose' and 'had to be carried out'.

Councillor Sandy Taylor, leader of the opposition, said: 'It is a survey, not a consultation. It is not going to inform the budget.'

Mr Taylor pointed to one particular question where people are asked to say where they would like to cut funding. The question states: 'Where would you reduce funding?' It then offers five choices – education services; economy, environment and customer support services; social care services; all the above; or other.

Mr Taylor said: 'The high level consultation offers no narrative as to why or how savings could be made or the options people have for making savings.'

Councillor Richard Trail said: 'It is unfair to ask people whether they prefer funding education or roads. I think that we will get very little meaning from what we get back.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, who is part of the cabinet within the ruling group, said: 'It is substantially different to the consultation that went out last year.'

Speaking wryly about national politics, she said: 'The SNP teaches us how to consult on council tax – it raises the payments on certain bands. But the money does not come to the local authority – it goes to central government for it to disperse. It didn't consult anyone on that.'

The Single Outcome Agreement between Argyll and Bute Council and central government – a local planning-for-spending document – limits how much the local authority can actually do.

The leader of the council is stuck between a rock and a hard place with few, if any, ways to raise quick cash.

Fundamental change needs to happen to run an effective council. He can't cut top jobs as they have a statutory role; he can't cut front-line services; he can't reduce payments to councillors as they are all set by government (and would go back to government and not into his pot); but at the same time he can't just get rid of the things he is obliged in law to deliver, or raise the council tax for area spending.

The public have a difficult decision to make in suggesting sweeping change via the council's consultation without any of the information available to our councillors.

But people and organisations must fill in the consultation document and have their say as it will be very difficult to reopen the door after decisions have been made.

ANALYSIS

THESE are the hardest of times for councillors, writes Louise Glen. They signed up to make things better for communities but find themselves having to make tough choices on a further round of spending cuts. There is no flexibility in that spending.

Overall, there is up to £40 million to be saved up to 2020, depending on the budget forecast and the settlement from the Scottish Government. The council tax may well make up 80 per cent of funding for the local authority but it falls short of what is required to deliver the services currently being provided.

The extra money to be collected by central government for higher council tax payments in certain bandings will not be available to the local authority directly.

It is likely this will be dispersed in special project funding streams. One already announced by John Swinney MSP is education.

Cutting money from any area of local government delivery is now very difficult because of the make-up of funding. There is nothing left to spend on anything other than essentials.

Get ready for fun and dames...



BENDERLOCH and North Connell Drama Club were putting the finishing touches to this year's pantomime, *Dick McWhittington*, when photographer Kevin McGlynn caught up with them at the Corran Halls. The curtain goes up on Thursday December 8. To find out more about the show and how you can buy your tickets, turn to page 14.

TIMESLINE

New hope for Billy jailed in India

A VERDICT is expected any day in an appeal to free Connel man Billy Irving and five other British ex-servicemen imprisoned in India on illegal firearms charges.

In 2013, the MV Seaman Guard Ohio's 35-strong crew, protecting commercial ships from Somali pirates off the African coast, were arrested for straying into Indian waters with allegedly unlicensed weapons. In January a judge jailed all for five years, despite their pleas of innocence.

Help spread Hope this Christmas

HOPE KITCHEN is holding a fashion show tomorrow (Friday) at M&Co in Oban.

Lorraine McCormick, service manager at Hope Kitchen, said: 'Every penny raised on the night will be used to provide a Christmas food parcel and a present for the families and children we support. Last December we gave out 92 food parcels in the local area. Oban Distillery is also supporting us and will add to our final total on the night.' The fundraiser starts at 6.30pm and tickets are £5.

Toy sale to aid Rockfield Centre

MACQUEEN Bros Charitable Trust is hosting a toy sale at MacQueen's warehouse on Glengallan Road, Oban, today (Thursday December 1), from 8.30am to 5pm.

All the toys are new and still boxed and the trust says there are huge reductions on retail prices. All proceeds from the sale will go towards Oban Communities Trust's work to develop the Rockfield Centre.



Looking for the perfect Christmas Gift?

What about a 10 session card from Atlantis Leisure?

We offer:

- Swimming
- Soft Play
- Fitness Classes
- Gym
- Indoor Bowling
- Personal Training
- Active for Life

Atlantis COMMUNITY LEISURE

Tel: 01631 566800
www.atlantisleisure.co.uk

Or for a more relaxing gift try Beauty at Atlantis For every £20 voucher get £5 free.

Tiree beach hut battle continues

A BEACH hut on Tiree which is at the centre of a planning row has been given a stay of execution after councillors decided to continue the application for retrospective planning permission until January because they could not come to a decision, writes Louise Glen.

Balevullin Beach hut was the sole topic of conversation at an Argyll and Bute Council planning meeting held on the island on Monday to discuss whether the hut, built without planning permission, should be removed.

Council planning officers had recommended the hut be removed, but during lengthy discussions in a packed An

Talla Community Hall the applicant, Iona Larg, said the enforced dismantling of the hut would destroy her business, one of the few in a growth phase.

Since the hut went up, Ms Larg said: 'My business [Blackhouse Watersports] has grown by 215 per cent. We are internationally renowned and are leading the way in surfing in Scotland. We are at capacity but we won't be extending the hut ... we can only extend the season. We need the beach hut in order to do that.'

The meeting heard that three potential Olympians have been developed from the base at Balevullin. However, a ballot of islanders by the community

council saw two thirds of respondents agree with council's officers that the hut should be removed.

Eoghainn MacLean, an advocate acting for Ms Larg, argued it was down to the six councillors to make a decision on the retrospective application. He said the exceptional nature of the business and its impact should leave councillors in no doubt that the hut should stay.

Councillor George Freeman was one of six councillors and four officers who attended the meeting. He argued the under-18s, the biggest beneficiary group from the hut, had not been asked their opinion.

Speaking on behalf of the objectors, islander Frances Woodhead said it was fantastic what Ms Larg had done with the surfing club, but said the granting of one retrospective planning application gave rise to more people breaking the rules.

Planning committee chairman David Kinniburgh said: 'I am struggling to make a decision here. I know it is a divided community.'

Mr Kinniburgh added that prior to the meeting in January, he wanted all parties to discuss an evaluation of the Balevullin area, and whether the hut could be moved to find a compromise with the community.

Do you know Business Gateway run FREE workshops for existing businesses and start-ups?

Oban workshops happening in December:

Better Business Websites - 15th December - 10am-3pm - a workshop where you find out how you can make your existing website better through it's design content, usability and Search Engine Optimisation.

Introduction to Online Trading - 16th December - 10am-3pm - a workshop covering the basics required to trade online and looking at trading on Online Marketplaces such as Amazon, ebay and Etsy.

To find out more or to book a place on a workshop

T | 01546 604555 E | business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk



The Perfect pre-Dick McWhittington Panto treat

Tel 01631 563628

BOOK NOW

Sunday to Friday
5.30 - 7.30

ALL MAIN DISHES AT THE PRICE OF THE TIME YOU ENTER*

FOR EXAMPLE:
Come in at 5.35 Your Lasagne will be £5.35
Come in at 6.15 Your Garlic Chicken will be £6.15

Any extra toppings added to or replacing the main items listed in the menu will be charged accordingly.

BEAT THE CLOCK AT PIAZZA



Project scoops honour

A PROJECT based on the Isle of Mull has scooped a top prize at the RSPB's Nature of Scotland Awards, which was hosted by BBC Springwatch presenter Chris Packham in Edinburgh last week.

Mull Eagle Watch, which collected the Nature Tourism Award, sponsored by Sustrans Scotland, offers ranger-led visits on the island to view iconic white-tailed eagles at their nest. This year, for the first time, the partnership project is being led by community woodland groups.

The Nature of Scotland Awards are held annually and are organised by RSPB Scotland to reward the most impressive people and projects working to conserve wildlife across the country.

Moray Finch, general manager of the Mull and Iona Community Trust, one of the groups running Mull Eagle Watch, said: 'Mull Eagle Watch and our community woodland partners are delighted and honoured to have won a 2016 Nature of Scotland Award. My congratulations to everyone involved.'

Fears for future of islands dentist

A DENTIST is being sought for Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree, but due to the one-year contract no-one serious about the job will take up the post, says Oban South and Isles Councillor Mary-Jean Devon.

Raising the issue at last Thursday's full Argyll and Bute Council meeting, Mrs Devon said unless the salaried position was extended by NHS Highland, it was highly unlikely anyone would apply for the position with the experience required to carry out the job.



Organisers Claire Noble, Sarah Padley and Kerry Mackenzie, above; the Natural Voices choir entertain, top right; Mull Music Makers perform in Tobermory Chocolate, inset; Pharmacist Julie Walker and Adam Dugdale, right; Stuart Cattanach of the Isle of Mull Soap Company, centre right; and Kelsey and Kyle Malcolm show off their handiwork from the bakery's gingerbread decorating event, far right.



Crowds flock to switch on of lights and to meet Santa

CHRISTMAS came to Tobermory on Friday as crowds watched the annual festive lights switch-on, met Santa and did a bit of late-night shopping.

The weather was mild, as a big crowd gathered round Tobermory's iconic clock tower. The Natural Voices choir sang Christmas songs as everyone eagerly awaited the sight of the Main Street being lit up.

This year saw a marked increase in visitors from all over Scotland who joined Muileachs from across the island. Local school girl Hannah MacLean rang the

bell at 7pm to signal the lights to go on – and the arrival of the festive season in Tobermory.

Work had been going on for weeks prior to the event, with all the lights funded by the community and put up by volunteers. Workmates Claire Noble, Kerry Mackenzie and Sarah Padley coordinated and ran the event.

Claire said: 'It's always a stressful time of the year getting the lights up, but again we've had lots of help from the local community. As well as individual helpers, the local Coastguard, RNLI and fire service all pitched in to give

a hand. I'd like to thank them and everyone who donated to the Christmas lights. This helped us replace everything damaged from the bad weather last year.'

Even Santa found time in his busy schedule to visit the town. In the Free Church, he set up his grotto and told children stories and gave out presents.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, he said: 'I very much enjoyed my visit to Tobermory. The Christmas lights are looking wonderful and will really help me find my way back here on Christmas Eve.'

Tobermory's shops also joined

in the spirit, opening late and dishing out festive cheer in the form of mulled wine and mince pies. The Bakery held a children's gingerbread decorating workshop, Tobermory Chocolate hosted a concert by children from the Mull Music Makers, while the Natural Voices choir continued performing in the Isle of Mull Soap Company shop, whose owner Stuart Cattanach said: 'It's been the busiest Christmas late-night shopping we've had. There is a fantastic atmosphere and we've gone through a record amount of mulled wine this year.'

In charge of fundraising, Sarah Padley added: 'We raise money throughout the year for the upkeep and repairs of the lights, as well as hosting Santa Claus. The lights deal with a lot due to the elements and the salt air so we run bingo nights and children's parties to help toward the cost.'

'Next year we are even trying to produce a Christmas single, with the whole town involved. We need to continue to fundraise so we can keep the lights going. We have a great community who get a lot of enjoyment out of them so any help is gratefully received.'

Marine scientists gather

THE availability of emergency tugs off Scotland's West Coast and the Transocean Winner incident will be among issues discussed by an international environmental group meeting at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) this week.

The KIMO organisation is made up of local authorities from around Europe and its UK board will be in Dunstaffnage tomorrow (Friday).

As well as a presentation from senior SAMS scientist Dr Sheila Heymans, the board will hear about the work of the GRAB Trust and discuss issues around marine litter.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy McCuish, the local authority's representative on KIMO, said: 'To bring such an influential group to Dunstaffnage is recognition of the council's vision to promote research and innovation as a key part of the area's economic prosperity.'

'SAMS and the neighbouring European Marine Science Park are, and will be, a key part of this vision, as they attract high-class researchers to the area.'

'I look forward to showing my colleagues on KIMO UK what Argyll and Bute has to offer in marine research.'

KIMO is committed to the development of sustainable coastal communities by preventing pollution, protecting coastal communities from the impacts of marine pollution and climate change, and representing its member local authorities and associated members at an international and national level.

It acts as a lobby group and allows the sharing of best practice between its 70 member local authorities across Europe. Scottish members include Argyll and Bute, Highland, Western Isles, Orkney, Shetland and Aberdeen.

Island school cashes in for charity

THERE has been a lot going on at Tiree High School, with more than £300 raised for Children in Need from a number of events.

The guess the teddy's name raised £15.20 while the bake sale generated £103.55. And dressing as you please saw the primary children contribute £127, the secondary youngsters £32 and the pre-fives £23.

Meanwhile, the school's harvest hampers were a great success again. Every year the school receives donations for the hampers, which are then delivered by children to members of the community.

The school would like to thank Margaret and the bus, the people who donated goods, the shops that keep the donation boxes and Jan who does such a fine job of making up the hampers.



Some of the pupils who delivered the hampers around the community.

Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

Singer's graduation

Congratulations to Port Ellen contralto Marion Ramsay, who recently graduated with a paralegal degree from the law school at the University of Strathclyde.

Marion plans to continue with her singing career and active participation in choral societies. She already holds post-graduate diplomas in concert singing and opera studies from the RSAMD, now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

She also took first place in the leader singing competition at the Glasgow Music Festival in two successive years.

She was also the recipient of the diploma for western music from the Leeds College of Music and is a Bachelor of Music (Hons) from Napier University.

She has made many concert appearances through the UK and has received critical acclaim for her performance in the premier of Carl Weltsch's *Requiem*.

Two weeks ago she was at the Eden Court Theatre taking part in the Inverness Choral Society's performance of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and will be back in the Highland capital in April of next year to take part in Bach's *Magnificat* and Haydn's *Paukenmesse*.

Marion, whose parents Danka and Donald are well known Port Ellen residents, includes Scots songs in her repertoire and has sung at the Islay Gathering and at the local Smaull Singing School.

We all wish Marion many further successes in both her singing and legal career. She can be contacted at www.marionramsay.com.



Marion Ramsay.

Ballinaby Stone

Like many of its neighbouring islands, Islay has its fair share of standing stones scattered around the various parishes. Some stand proudly on their own, some form groups or circles and, happily, all are well documented.

Among the most impressive of the Islay stones is the Ballinaby monolith on the west coast and positioned north-east of Saligo Bay.

The Ballinaby stone is the tallest of its kind on the island standing at more than five metres. It is reckoned to date back to 2000 BC, which places it in the early Bronze Age. The site contains another stone which is around two metres tall and is reckoned to be all that remains of what would have been a much taller stone. Old records suggest that another similar stone was positioned at the Ballinaby location but today no trace of it remains. It is most likely that it was demolished and used in the building of the stone dyke which surrounds the site.

The original purpose of these stones is shrouded in mystery and remains a topic of debate among archaeologists and historians. They may have been used as astronomical markers, memorials to ancient and forgotten battles or as objects of some religious significance.

Whatever their purpose, they continue to fascinate and remain a dominant if mysterious feature of the local landscape.

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

Fischer
Future Heat
the future is electric

DO YOU SUFFER IN YOUR HOME WITH AN INEFFICIENT HEATING SYSTEM?
THE PERFECT SOLUTION FOR ANY HOME

- Wall mounted or free standing
- Slimline and stylish
- They require no costly maintenance
- Energy efficient
- Each room is controlled independently
- Installed by our own qualified electricians



Complete Heating Guarantee

If our heater does not heat your room to 21°C we'll replace it free of charge*.



High Quality German Engineering

All Fischer Heaters are manufactured by our Master Craftsmen in Germany.



OUTFOX THE WEATHER

For your free no obligation home survey
Contact John McNabb
direct on 07710 - 258855
Or e-mail John@Fischer-futureheat.co.uk

Council start ball rolling on community trust plan

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN library, the Corran Halls and other council-owned buildings across Argyll and Bute are set to be placed into a community trust and run independently of the local authority to turn around a net deficit of £7.828 million.

The decision to progress plans for an Argyll and Bute community trust over the next nine to 12 months were made at a meeting of the council last Thursday.

The 247 people who are currently employed by the local authority in its leisure and library services will automatically transfer to the charitable trust

with pay and conditions and pensions rights intact under an employment law scheme called TUPE, guaranteeing these 'inherited' rights, for two years.

Over the next year, the charitable trust will be developed under a seven-member management board to include elected members and independent people who have experience to take the scheme forward. The board will be appointed as soon as possible.

The council-owned, independent, not-for-profit, arm's-length organisation will see VAT and non-domestic rates savings of £636,000 per year and £8.6 million savings over 25 years.

The charitable trust will see lease agreements between the

council and the trust for each of its venues. It was unclear what would happen to properties that house council services but are not owned by the local authority, such as Oban library.

The trust would 'purchase' administration and support services from the council, and in the early stage this looks as though there would be no charge for the services provided by the local authority.

The council would pay for the trust through a management fee of £5.716 million per year.

The report claims the local authority would be able to apply for external funding that is not available to it under its current set-up. Advisers confirmed that while this was the case, rep-

resentations had not been made to funders such as the National Lottery or Creative Scotland.

Organisations such as Atlantis Leisure, which occupy council buildings and are funded by the local authority to deliver services, will not be part of the scheme. Analysis by consultants Ernst and Young show the combined assets of the local authority have an income of £2.077 million and costs of £9.905 million, a net deficit of £7.828 million.

Councillor George Freeman, an opposition member from Lomond, told fellow councillors: 'It feels as though these measures are being pushed through. We have had no members' seminar or workshop on the subject, and there is a lot to consider. I think

we should delay a decision until members have all the information.'

Councillor Vivien Dance continued: 'These plans are mainly focused on the economics of the plan. We have not focused on the rich culture and heritage of the area and how best to take that forward within this trust.'

Councillors debated the make-up of the board membership and many shared concerns about a 'democratic deficit' on the board, with only three elected members and four independent members, one of whom was the chairman being proposed.

Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'This business case before us today is not a final product - it is a stage on the journey.'

MP and MSP back pensioner's fight for justice

CONNEL resident Ann Colthart, her MP and MSP are all urging the Scottish Government to overturn Argyll and Bute Council's decision to 'ride roughshod over its own planning regulations' when it allowed social housing, built too close to her home due to a planning blunder, to stand, writes Sandy Neil.

Following a public hearing on November 3, councillors on the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee voted five to four to mitigate the shortfall and privacy issues by frosting and fixing the ground floor windows at the rear, moving the top-floor windows to the gable end, and erecting a one-metre high wall and leylandii hedge.

Ann, 72, who is 'determined to fight on', has put her case to the Scottish Government's chief planner, asking him to review the decision.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'I think there has been a clear injustice perpetrated and the failure of the council to remedy this when it had the opportunity adds insult to injury, as did the conduct of the hearing at which three councillors were, at various times, asleep.'

'Ann has a very strong case for having the decision overturned and I will be contacting the minister and the chief planner myself to urge a review of what has happened.'

The area's MP, Brendan O'Hara, said: 'The reality is, the mitigating changes that have been recommended by



Ann Colthart and Argyll MP Brendan O'Hara.

Argyll and Bute's planning committee only compound the problem and nothing can take away from the fact that the council has ridden roughshod over its own planning regulations.

'There has been a catalogue of errors made by Argyll and Bute Council and it has to face that fact and even at this late stage do the right thing by Mrs Colthart.'

Ann has also instructed a QC to consider the legality of the process and the hearing.

She said: 'The planners made mistakes. They might have apologised, but that is not enough. The committee had the opportunity to put things right. I feel they just didn't listen.'

She is also taking her concerns to the Commissioner for Standards in Public Life, alongside other members of the public who attended the hearing. One neighbour told campaigners: 'We elect - and pay for - our councillors to do a job. The majority are excellent but the behaviour of some of the councillors at the hearing on November 3 fell way short of what we are entitled to expect.'

Pipers are on the ball

MEMBERS of Oban High School Pipe Band had the lucky task of piping Barcelona football team into Celtic Park last Wednesday night.

Angus MacColl, Gregor MacDonald, James Divers, Stuart Campbell and Neil MacLean piped the team's bus up Celtic Way to the stadium ahead of the Champions League clash, which Barcelona won 2-0.



Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

Kebababish

GEORGE STREET, OBAN TEL: 01631 563900 or 01631 566885
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT www.kebabishcurryhouse.com

TAKEAWAY

* PIZZAS * CURRIES * KEBABS * BURGERS * MUNCHY BOXES

FREE HOME DELIVERIES ON ORDERS OVER £25 WITHIN OBAN TOWN.



DZRTS

* SHAKES * CAKES * ICE CREAM



BUFFET RESTAURANT OPENING SOON

CHOICE OF: * 16 SALADS AND SAUCES * 12 MIXED CURRIES

* THREE RICES * THREE NAANS * DESSERTS * CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN * GREEN TEA

EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE FOR 1 FIXED PRICE.

1ST AND ONLY BUFFET RESTAURANT IN OBAN.

FREE DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

Need catering?

Let us help you with you with our extensive party menus.

Silver, Gold and Platinum packages available, please call for more details.

**Orders over £25 eligible for free delivery in town centre From 5pm - 11pm.

Additional delivery charges apply outwith Oban

OPEN FOR LUNCH

Opening hours:

Mon- Thu 10am (DZRTS) 11am (takeaway) - midnight
Fri & Sat 10am (DZRTS) 11am (takeaway) - 1.30am
Sunday 3pm - midnight



POLICE FILES

A BOMB disposal squad was despatched from Faslane to SAMS at Dunstaffnage last week after a contractor's remote underwater camera spotted a suspected wartime bomb lying on the seabed near the marina. But divers returning to the same spot failed to locate the tubular object, which SAMS' Dr Anuschka Miller said could have been an old gas cylinder. She said: 'It probably was not a bomb but until you go down, you don't know. We did some emergency planning. We have the NHS decompression chamber here and we have students. We used it as an exercise.'

POLICE have found stolen children's garden toys at a property in North Connel. Officers are appealing for any information, and would like to reunite the toys with their owners.

SOME £500 of agricultural 'red' diesel was removed from a tank at a farm in Appin between November 8 and 22. Anyone with information should contact PC Simpson at Oban police station. Officers urge the public to check security on their fuel stores.

A 19-YEAR-OLD man has been charged with possession of a controlled drug after he was stopped near Glengallan Road early on Sunday morning.

A PURSE was taken from a jacket and other items from a handbag at Glencruitten Golf Club on November 23. Anyone with information should contact PC Greenlaw at Oban police station.

TWO drivers escaped with minor injuries following an incident involving two vehicles on the A85 near Saulmore Farm between Connel and Dunbeg around 12.30pm on November 24. The incident closed the road for up to an hour. One driver was reported to the procurator fiscal.

Planning row kicks of new spat

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW row has erupted between Oban Community Council (OCC) and Oban councillor Julie McKenzie after she accused it and her fellow councillors of 'run[ning] for the hills' over last month's decision to approve the building of more homes at Glenshellach.

Facing objections from residents at a hearing in Glencruitten Church Hall on November 24, Argyll and Bute Council's Planning Protective Services and Licensing

Committee approved an application from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) to build 24 flats at Catalina Avenue and 12 houses by Hayfield.

Following the meeting, Councillor McKenzie, SNP member for ward five Oban North and Lorn, posted on her official Facebook page: 'It's extremely concerning some elected members in ward 4 chose not to back their constituents on this issue. Oban Community Council also put forward no representation on behalf of the residents, despite them requesting their backing.'

It leaves me yet again seriously questioning local democracy.

'Plain English for you - three out of four ward councillors and the community council run for the hills - residents left to fight on their own.'

Glenshellach lies within ward four, Oban South and the Isles, represented by councillors Mary-Jean Devon, Roddy McCuish, Alistair MacDougall and Neil MacIntyre.

Responding on its own Facebook page, OCC called Ms McKenzie's statement 'misleading and full of inaccuracies'

writing: 'You neglect to mention Roddy McCuish could not vote on the issue due to a conflict of interest since he is secretary of ACHA, while Neil MacIntyre could not vote due to a conflict of interest since he sits on ACHA's local committee. Councillors are obliged to consider the interest of the whole community and not just the opinions of the people who attend meetings.'

OCC chairwoman Marri Malloy said in a statement at Monday's monthly meeting that there was also 'no mention of councillor Mary-Jean Devon,

who did speak on behalf of the residents. Councillor McKenzie accused this community council of not turning up for this [hearing] to support Glenshellach residents. We were never asked by either ACHA nor the residents' group for a letter of support, so we were not invited, and, no, we didn't run to the hills. We acted in accordance with the planning group's rules.'

Ms McKenzie, who has not attended Oban Community Council since July, told *The Oban Times*: 'It concerns me greatly that residents of ward 4, Oban

South and the Isles, have had to look to the ward 5 councillors for support with this contentious and important planning issue.'

'It has been clearly evidenced to me that residents of Glenshellach made a forthright appeal to Oban Community Council in their role as a statutory consultee on planning matters to ask for support.'

'My position is clear with regard to Oban Community Council. It is not an easy community council to deal with and, sadly, it appears to have little interest in the views of the people who live in the Oban area.'

Resource centre members are write on with new book



Left to right, standing, literacy and numeracy development worker Brian Marden, William Simpson, Stuart MacQueen, Lachie Johnston, West College Scotland tutor Lynn MacKenzie, Zoe Sutherland, David Gilchrist, Lorne Resource Centre staff Fiona Jackson and Fiona Bonar, and, seated, Mairi Scott, Kathleen MacDonald and Carol Barnett. Above, Lidl manager Alexander MacLeod and author Zoe Sutherland.

THREE members of Lorne Resource Centre in Oban have done exceptionally well after having their stories published in a book.

As part of the Scottish Book Trust's 'mass participation campaign', David Gilchrist, Lachie Johnston and Zoe Sutherland have all had their work featured

in a nationwide anthology which was released as part of Book Week Scotland.

The campaign aims to get people writing on a particular subject, which this year was secrets and confessions. The book, titled *Secrets and Confessions*, was handed out free by centre members to people visiting Lidl this week.

As well as a trip to Edinburgh as guests of the Scottish Book Trust, the trio were also rewarded for their success at the West College Scotland presentation day at Oban Phoenix Cinema.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for community and culture, Robin Currie, said: 'I am delighted that three

members of Lorne Resource Centre have had their work published in this book. This is a wonderful achievement and one which they should be very proud of.'

'The centre has supported the campaign over the past few years as a way of giving opportunities and showcasing the talent that exists within the local area.'

Shoppers urged to stay local

THIS weekend sees the return of Small Business Saturday, when consumers are encouraged to shop locally.

The concept originated in the United States and historically was the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The idea is a simple one: have one day a year where the focus is on small business, the ones who cannot have huge advertising campaigns.

Bid4Oban manager Derek Connery said: 'In Oban we are very lucky to have a lot of small and independent retailers. In fact, it is very easy to become complacent: a visitor to the town recently commented on how good the shopping is here.'

'We are launching the Love Oban Christmas loyalty card. Every time you spend £10 or more, ask the establishment to mark your card, get it marked 10 times and hand it to our office by 5pm on December 22 with your details on it, to enter the draw for two tickets to Oban Live.'

West Highland Gas Ltd.

Put some **CALOR** in your life

LPG gas, cookers and heaters. Verdo Briquettes, pellets, Coal, logs, peat and kindling.

Deliveries direct to your door

ORDER NOW - CALL

01631 566370 (Oban) **01397 701414** (Fort William)

Outlets in Oban, Lochgilhead, Campbeltown, Isle of Mull, Dunoon, Fort William

www.argyllresources.co.uk Email: info@argyllresources.co.uk

Torran Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL
33 Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 6PR

St Columba's kids are in the swim and leading digital way

SOME of the pupils in St Columba's Primary in Oban have been awarded the title of Digital Leaders.

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

Every child in the school has their own iPad that is used to support them in all areas of the curriculum and to ensure that the children in St Columba's

have the very highest standard of digital skills possible.

Some P7 and P6 pupils have managed to achieve the Rookie Lifeguard Bronze Award during their swimming lessons at school.

With the help of fundraising by the Parent Council, all pupils from P3-P7 have an eight-week swimming block every year to ensure that as many pupils as possible are competent swimmers by the time they leave primary school.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the help and support of Atlantis Leisure.



At Random

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk

Let's fight for Ann

ANN COLTHART'S fight goes on - and is, thankfully, gaining considerable momentum.

Ann is, of course, the Connel pensioner who has been wronged by the decision to allow new housing to be built - in flagrant breach of planning rules - too close to her home.

The retired teacher has said she is to take her case to the Commissioner for Standards in Public Life and has instructed a QC to consider the legality of the process and the hearing.

Ann's cause has now been bolstered by the intervention of MP Brendan O'Hara and MSP Michael Russell, both of whom have called for the Scottish Government to review the decision taken by Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee to allow the construction to continue.

Mr Russell was bang on the money when he said: 'I think there has been a clear injustice perpetrated, and the failure of the council to remedy this when it had the opportunity adds insult to injury, as did the conduct of the hearing at which three councillors were, at various times, asleep.'

If the planning committee members were indeed sleeping, as Mr Russell suggests, that is little short of scandalous. How on earth can they make a decision having slept through key presentations during the public hearing?

Ann deserves the widest possible public support. Her campaign is a

multi-faceted and expensive one but she should not be in this position.

Indeed, she is being forced to fight her corner because of bungling incompetence and a refusal to accept the council was wrong.

I, too, add my name to those who believe this decision needs to be reversed.

Welcome news for all

THERE was, understandably, huge relief last week when Rio Tinto announced the sale of its Lochaber operations to a group known as the GFG Alliance.

The new owners, a partnership between SIMEC and Liberty House, paid around £330 million for Rio Tinto's 100 per cent shareholding in Alcan Aluminium UK Limited, which includes the operating smelter, the hydroelectric facilities at Kinlochleven and Lochaber, and all associated land.

As you would expect, there was a widespread welcome at the news from politicians of all hues, and community and civic leaders.

There had been uncertainty for a considerable period over the future of the plant, but the new owners have said they want to keep all the jobs and have hinted at expansion being a possibility.

While the 170 or so people who work there will be justifiably elated at the news, there is a far wider cause for celebration. For make no mistake: this plant is crucial to the broader Lochaber,

Argyll and the Highlands and Islands economy. In a large rural area such as ours, every job is vital as there is a ripple effect through the economy. Local firms and suppliers are also reliant on the plant for their livelihoods, so well done to everyone involved in facilitating the deal.

Soaraway success story

FINALLY, a huge well done to Mull Eagle Watch. We reported last week that the wildlife project had won an Innovation in Tourism Award at the Highlands and Islands Tourism gongs.

And again this week we are delighted to be able to report that Mull Eagle Watch has now added a top prize at the RSPB's Nature of Scotland Awards.

Mull Eagle Watch, which collected the Nature Tourism Award, sponsored by Sustrans Scotland, offers ranger-led visits on the island to view iconic white-tailed eagles at their nest.

It's a brilliant community project that has proved to be groundbreaking and has definitely earned the many plaudits heading its way.

What do you think?

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

EXCLUSIVE: Oban Times reveals first six acts signed up to thrill the crowds at Oban Live 2017



Skipinnish were a huge hit this year.



Admiral Fallow.



Argyll Ceilidh Trail.



We Banjo 3.



Skerryvore.



Roddy Hart and The Lonesome Fire.

Six of the best to star at festival

OBAN LIVE and *The Oban Times* are delighted to exclusively reveal the first six acts confirmed for next year's music festival.

The 2017 event, which takes place on June 2 and 3, includes an exciting collaboration of two Oban bands.

Ceol an Aire and the Argyll Ceilidh Trail will join forces to open the show on Friday June 2, 2017.

Ewan Macdonald from Ceol an Aire said: 'Having seen how incredible last year's Oban Live was, it is a great privilege for Ceol an Aire to have been invited to open Oban Live 2017 with the Argyll Ceilidh Trail.'

'Ceol an Aire was formed following the success of the first Argyll Ceilidh Trail, so it is exciting to now be forming a collaboration with the latest line-up seven years on.

This one-off team are now starting to work on some new songs and tune sets to ensure Oban Live kicks off with a blast.'

Annually since 2010, Oban-based Fèis Latharna has been running the Argyll Ceilidh Trail, a three-week tour of Argyll and the Isles for eight of the area's finest young traditional musicians. The 2016 tour took in a total of 18 gigs, including some fantastic new venues along with some return visits.

More local talent will be added to the bill next year as the event team hunts for an unsigned group in an exciting 'battle of the bands'.

Glasgow's Roddy Hart and



the Lonesome Fire will also take to the stage to perform tracks from their newly released album, *Swithering*, an album co-produced by admired Scottish producer Paul Savage (Mogwai, Emma Pollock, Admiral Fallow).

Since releasing their eponymous album in late 2013, the band have been named International Breakthrough Artist of the Year at the Scottish Variety Awards and also played a five-night residency on The Late Late Show in the US which reached more than 12 million viewers.

Also joining Oban Live's 2017 line-up are Admiral Fallow, a band formed in 2007 by five Glasgow-based music students. They released their adored debut album, *Boots Met My Face*, in 2011 and its widely-acclaimed successor, *Tree Bursts In Snow*, the follow-

ing year. Their extraordinary third record, *Tiny Rewards*, has received many plaudits since its release in May 2015.

Skipinnish and Irish quartet We Banjo 3 are back by popular demand. Feedback from the 2016 Oban Live survey revealed the two bands as the audience's favourites.

It's been a big year for We Banjo 3. Their latest record, *String Theory*, went straight to Billboard world number one. They also played for President Barack Obama on Capitol Hill.

Meanwhile, last year's Friday night headliners, Skipinnish, have been busy working on their new album due for release next year.

The band are well known for their combination of traditional Highland and contemporary sounds.

Finally, Skerryvore return to get the audience jumping to

their unique fusion of traditional music and urban sounds of rock, pop and funk. The band has become an international sensation since forming in Tiree in 2005, selling more than 54,000 albums to date.

The audience will be treated to tracks from the group's new album, due for release in 2017.

The Oban Live team, which includes band members of Skerryvore, will be touring the town today (Thursday) sharing the exciting news at schools and local businesses, and finally arriving at Oban's Station Square for the official event launch.

Locals are invited to join them at 5.30pm for the unveiling of Oban Live's giant Advent calendar. Behind 24 doors will be fantastic prizes, including a pair of VIP tickets to Oban Live 2017, worth £99 each, event merchandise and donated prizes from Oban businesses.

Prizes will be awarded at random via a free raffle. Locals are advised to look out for members of the team handing out free raffle tickets to be in with a chance of winning.

There might even be a wee tune or two from the Skerryvore boys as well.

The event will be weather permitting. Any changes to the launch venue will be posted on the event's social media pages.

The remaining headline acts and dates for the full ticket release will be announced early next year.

www.obanlive.com | Twitter: @obanlive | Facebook: www.facebook.com/obanlive.

Get your tickets for Oban Live 2017 at a special Oban discounted price

READERS of *The Oban Times* will be able to buy tickets to Argyll's largest music event, Oban Live 2017, at a heavily discounted rate before anyone else.

From 11am today (Thursday December 1) to midday on Saturday, readers have 48 hours to take up an exclusive ticket offer. This is in advance of the 'early bird' tickets for the two-day music festival going on sale to the public at noon on Saturday (December 3).

In *The Oban Times* offer, readers are being offered a further 20 per cent off the already discounted early bird ticket price, with prices starting from as little as £20 and two-day adult tickets costing just £48, instead of £60 in the general early bird offer.

Readers can redeem the offer online via an exclusive

website or in person at the Bid4Oban office using a special coupon. Both the coupon and exclusive weblink, along with full details of how to apply for your tickets, can be found by turning to page 18.

With only 48 hours to redeem the offer while tickets last, music lovers are being advised to get in quickly.

The Oban Times has confirmed it will continue its media partnership with the hugely popular event following its success in May this year. Oban Live 2016 attracted 7,800 visitors and was headlined by Grammy award-winning songstress KT Tunstall.

Its impact over the weekend brought in just under £1.1 million to the local economy.

Naomi Hoolahan, head event director for Oban Live, said: 'The local community has been incredibly supportive

of Oban Live 2016 and the Decade event in 2015, where it all began. As a token of our appreciation for the amazing support we have had, we are delighted to offer those living in and around Oban this extra special ticket opportunity.'

Neil Mackay, Oban Live's community event director, added: 'We are excited to announce that early next year we will be giving a local Oban or Argyll band the chance to open Oban Live 2017 in a fantastic competition. Plus, expect to see more of the Oban Live team in the town in the lead up to the event as we plan to work with schools, pupils and local charities. More details will be revealed in the new year.'

Headline acts are expected to be announced in January and February next year.

To find out how to get your tickets, go to page 18.

Ceilidh raises huge £20,000

A CHARITY ceilidh held on Friday November 18 at the North Connel Hall raised more than £20,000 for CLIC Sargent and the Antony Nolan Trust.

The inspiration for the events was Laura Campbell from Oban, who was diagnosed with leukemia for the third time but, thanks to a stem cell donor, underwent a bone marrow transplant in October.

Laura and her friends began a campaign to recruit more donors to register on the Anthony Nolan stem cell register and many fundraised for CLIC Sargent, which supports young cancer sufferers.

One of the event's army of volunteers, Brege Smyth said, the hall was packed to capacity, with 'excellent dancing all night long' thanks to ceilidh music from Craig McFadyen, Hector McFadyen and Kevin McGlynn, with solo performances by Laura's brother Stuart Campbell on the pipes and Gaelic songs by Barra's Mary-Catherine MacNeil.

Everybody played their part, she explained, and everything at the evening was donated for free: the hall, food, music, £700 in prize money and raffle donations.

She added: 'One hundred raffle books were sold, with 40 books sold by one person at the Dalmally Show. The raffle raised £4,000. Everything was double people's expectations.'

The auction, conducted by Donald Morrison, raised more than £5,000 on bids such as a holiday in a Tiree cottage, a sheep, a carved child's chair, a tufted rug, a weekend in Blair Atholl, a fiddle and Celtic jerseys.

Local primary children also sold cakes around North Connel, raising more than £150, while an anonymous benefactor sent a cheque for £5,000.

'The Campbell family were out in force,' Brege said. 'It was very emotional. Laura and the family would like to say a huge thank you to all involved.'

ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency



Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS:ABS)

**Private homeowner or private tenant?
Council Tax Band A-D*?**
Live in Mull, Iona, Islay, Jura, Coll or Tiree (some parts of Oban and Lomond included)?
If yes to the above you could be eligible for funded insulation measures including loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal and external wall insulation and underfloor insulation.

ALIenergy, based in Oban, are delivering the HEEPSABS programme in your area on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. Scottish Government funding has been awarded to improve the energy efficiency of properties that are deemed to be in fuel poverty.

Please check the ALIenergy website for a full list of eligible postcodes or call us to find out more. Funding is limited and we advise that you register for the scheme as soon as possible.

*Band D must also have a household income below £20,000 and a poor energy efficiency rating

To register call ALIenergy: 01631 565 183
Or contact Home Energy Scotland: 0808 808 2282
Email: heepsabs@alienenergy.org.uk Website: www.alienenergy.org.uk



"Cairngorm Windows were very professional in the fitting..."



"...the aftercare has been superb."

- Mr & Mrs Hurst, Culloden



tougher, warmer, smarter

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
18 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

Barcaldine and Benderloch

A BARCALDINE resident hopes his vision for a Barcaldine community centre comes to fruition. The old bar/café at the Caravan Park in Barcaldine has been identified as a possible site where parents, children and local people could meet up during the day. It could also be hired out for evening functions. A fact-finding exercise to gauge what the community wants is under way. Please send suggestions and comments to breege@journalist.com and they will be forwarded to the team looking into the plans.

BENDERLOCH Church Hall hosts a pop-up café every Friday between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to drop in for teas, coffees and cakes.

Taynuilt

A WHIST drive was held in Taynuilt Village Hall on Friday November 18. Card Master was Jim Grout, Connel. The £146.30 raised was donated to Children in Need. Results: Ladies: 1 Ann Sutherland; 2 Margaret Forbes, Connel; 3 Cecelia Keenan. Consolation: Morag Robertson. Travelling prize: Margaret Forbes. Gents: 1 Brenda MacLean; 2 Christine Allen; 3 Stafford Day. Consolation: Colin Campbell. Travelling prize: Brenda MacLean. The next whist will take place on Friday December 16 in aid of Taynuilt senior citizens' bus outing.

Kilmore

THE NOVEMBER winner of Kilmore's 100 Club was D White, who won £100. Residents gathered in Kilmore Hall earlier this month to bid farewell to Ann and Tom Houston who are leaving Kilmore to settle nearer family. A print of Oban Bay sunset and flowers were presented with good wishes from everyone. Tom was involved with Kilmore Games and the local community and both will be missed.

Oban

FRIENDS of Oban Hospice are gearing up for their annual Light Up a Life show at the Corran Halls on Tuesday December 13 at 7pm, as plans for their new drop-in centre move forward. The event remembers and celebrates the lives of those who have passed on, whether they are friends, relatives or neighbours. The lights on a tree outside the Corran Halls will be switched on and people are invited to remember loved ones by sponsoring a light, as well as entering a name in the annual dedication book which will be displayed in Oban library in the new year.

Sponsorship forms have been sent to all households in the Lorn area and these can be returned to the Friends' stall in Tesco between Monday December 5 and Friday December 9, from 10am to 4pm. Along with the work of the Friends, Oban Hospice continues to support a number of people and their families in the town and surrounding area who suffer with either a terminal or long-term condition. There are currently 50 people receiving support or advice, who continue to live in the community. In 2017, Oban Hospice is optimistic that it will be able to open up a new cen-

tre in the town to provide information, support and various therapies to those people suffering with cancer and other long-term conditions. For this service to operate successfully, it will require the appointment of a manager and a good team of volunteers and it is hoped that these people will be recruited soon. Further information about this development will be provided in the new year as the hospice continues to make progress in establishing the new centre, working in close partnership with other agencies, both statutory and voluntary. Over recent years the number of active Friends has decreased and anyone interested in supporting their fundraising efforts would be more than welcome. Friends meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Church Centre, Glen-cruitten Road, Oban. On behalf of Oban Hospice and the Friends of Oban Hospice, chairman David Entwistle said he would like to thank the people of Oban and Lorn for their continued support and offer his best wishes for Christmas and 2017.



Park Primary School girls and former pupil Susie Wolff at Knockhill Racing Circuit.

Park school girls dare to be different

GIRLS from Oban's Park Primary School dared to be different on a visit to Knockhill Racing Circuit near Dunfermline. Dare To Be Different was started by retired British racing driver and former Park Primary School pupil Susie Wolff to encourage girls into motor racing and promote the message that

gender doesn't limit your choices. Its mission is to drive female talent in male-dominated environments and professions. Park's P6 and P7 pupils reported: 'We made a hover craft, experienced go-karting, learned how to do a pit stop, participated in a fitness routine and took part in an interview with

Sky Sports. Some of us got on the STV news. It was an amazing day that we will never forget.' The girls also wrote a song and performed a dance routine, called Dare To Be Different, which they taught to the rest of the school. It can be viewed on the Park Primary School website.



Easdale primary pupils, staff and guests at the school's remembrance service.

Easdale Primary School remembers

EASDALE Primary School held a memorable Remembrance Service on Armistice Day on Friday November 11, thanks to the work of local volunteers. Helen Glennie spent two years investigating the life stories behind each of the 39 soldiers named on the Kilbrandon War Memorial, who died in the First World War. Her research filled an entire wall at the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage

Trust exhibition in Seil Hall in October, exhibited beside replicas of the war memorial and a trench from the Somme, built by island volunteers based on an idea by Ron Hetherington. The exhibition moved to Easdale Primary School for a Remembrance Service, led by Lieutenant Colonel Tim Sinclair of Clachan, Seil, as P7 pupil Dylan Macdonald reports: 'Helen Glennie, Ron Hetherington

and Colonel Tim Sinclair came into give us a talk on Remembrance and showed us a display. Helen told us about some of the people who were from Seil, Easdale and Luig who died in the First World War. Tim told us about why we do remembrance and what it is for, as well as why we wear poppies. Tim came in his uniform and told us about his medals and rank. 'On November 11 we held our Remembrance Service in the hall. Local members of the British Legion joined us, as well as some parents. They were able to view the display and children talked about those lost in the war. Then we had two minutes silence. Tim laid a wreath and pipes were played. Adults were then able to stay for tea and coffee after the service. Thank you to Mr Peter Biset for the photographs.'

Museum team wins Gaelic award

MUSEUM nan Eilean at Lews Castle, Stornoway, was recognised as a driver of economic activity at this year's Scottish Gaelic Awards in Glasgow on November 16. The Gaelic as an Economic Asset award was accepted by Councillor Alasdair MacLeod, chairman of the Sustainable Development Commit-

tee at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and Nick Smith, the comhairle's heritage manager. The award recognises progress in realising the economic value through the use of Gaelic, a key feature of the new museum at Lews Castle where Gaelic is the primary language of interpretation. Mr Macleod said: 'This award is

a tremendous endorsement of the quality investment that has gone into Museum nan Eilean by the comhairle and project partners to deliver a modern, iconic museum space. I would like to pay particular tribute to the dedicated and visionary input of the museum team who brought this challenging project to fruition.'

Luig centre wins third accolade of the year

LUING'S Atlantic Islands Centre picked up its third award this year in Glasgow, winning The Herald Society Community Project of the Year 2016 Award.

The community hub was built in May 2015 by Isle of Luig Community Trust to help regenerate and improve the quality of life on the island and to stem its decline in population. The centre, open seven days a week, puts on cultural events all year round, with a café and restaurant, shop and exhibition spaces giving insights into life on Luig and the other Argyll Islands.

Since opening, it has trebled the number of visitors to Luig, created six full-time jobs, and motivated 36 regular volunteers who donate 1,000 hours of work per month. Birgit Whitmore, the trust's events coordinator, said: 'Our varied programme of over 50 theatre, concerts, talks, workshops and social events has proved very popular, helped by almost £15,000 funding from Creative Scotland. 'The educational benefits include courses on bread making, cookery, felting, jewellery making, geology, natural history, business start-up and writing. This has led to over 20 partnerships with education, arts, science, natural history, tourism, heritage, council and social enterprise organisations, such as the Lorn Islands Partnership.'

This year the centre also won the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award 2016 in March and the Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Social Enterprise of the Year Award in September. Birgit added: 'Winning these awards is a tremendous achievement for the people



Left to right: Isle of Luig Community Trust treasurer Alastair Fleming; Newsquest events director Lyndsay Wilson; trust vice chairman Normal Bissell and presenter Janice Forsyth of BBC Radio Scotland at The Herald Society Awards ceremony in Glasgow.

of Luig and is the result of a great deal of hard work by our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. We would like to thank them all for making this possible.'

MORVERN lines

An old disease and other human characteristics

THE 'HALF-SHUT hand' is an old expression I heard on Mull the other day.

It is a medical condition related to the hands and fingers which causes one or more fingers to bend into the palm of the hand. It can affect one or both hands and sometimes the thumb, as a result of a palmar fibromatosis in which the fingers cannot be fully straightened.

Another name for it is 'Viking's fingers' as it is particularly common in Norway and other Northern European countries. Its medical name is 'Dupuytren's contracture' or 'disease' named after the renowned French surgeon Baron Guillaume Dupuytren (1777-1835), who first operated on it in the 19th century.

Why there are more cases in Scandinavia is unclear but it is likely to have a genetic basis as it is found in families. There are an estimated 10 million Americans with Dupuytren's so it is found in most countries. It is also associated with several diseases and risk factors such as smoking, alcoholism, diabetes, low body weight and heavy manual labour. The genetics is complicated and is unlikely to be a single gene suggesting multiple factors at play. It is mostly found in older people, but can occur younger.

Some years ago the University of Liverpool carried out DNA research into the distribution of Nordic people in the UK with 'Mac' surnames who had been resident in the west of Scotland for generations.

Mull was one study area and produced several folk with clear bloodlines originating in Southern Sweden. This is proof, if any is needed, that when the Vikings raided and traded from their Scandinavian homelands across wide areas of northern, central and eastern Europe and into Argyll between the 8th and the 15th centuries, they brought Dupuytren's disease with them.

Ancient Greek and Roman literature contain no reliable records of anything resembling the disease.

The Icelandic sagas of the 12th and 13th centuries describe a number of 'miracle cures' two of which could well have been for Dupuytren's. I can find no evidence of it in early Anglo-Saxon and Gaelic medical literature although, since the 15th century, the flexed fingers of adult male pipers have been known as 'the Curse of the MacCrimmons'.

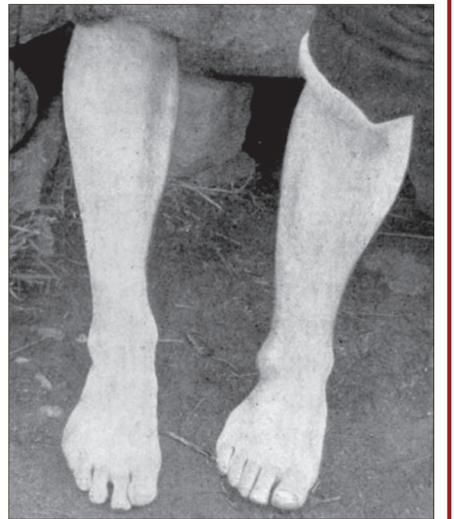
The tale goes that in the 16th century the MacCrimmon pipers were second only in fame and legend on Skye to the MacLeods of Dunvegan.

There are many stories as to how the curse arose. Some say the MacCrimmons were cursed by a widow whose only son was taken by the press gangs. Others tell of a MacCrimmon woman by the name of Annag who was punished by the removal of several fingers for giving piping secrets to her MacPherson boyfriend.

Whoever performed the curse, everyone is agreed the angry woman foretold that the MacCrimmons would cease to be the official pipers to the MacLeods and would leave the isle of Skye forever.

And so it came to pass. The fingers of the MacCrimmon men bent so far into their palms that they became unable to play the bagpipes any more. And from that day to this, any piper who suffers from Dupuytren's disease will say he has been affected by 'the curse of the MacCrimmons'.

There are other physical characteristics to be found in families throughout the Highlands and islands. For example, it is said in Moidart the lineal descendants of the old MacDonald of Clanranald line have one eye larger than the other. Nowadays, however, it is known eyes can be different in size and shape, causing them to appear asymmetrical. In many cases, one eye will be narrower than the other, while the other looks more rounded. A droopy eyelid, or ptosis, as it is known by doctors, can happen naturally in individuals or be caused by migraines, nerve issues, an eye infection or an allergic reaction. A droopy eyelid can also be caused by aging, but be present at birth.



The development of the St Kilda's foot, right.

On St Kilda, some men had abnormally thicker ankles and wider spread toes than their mainland contemporaries, brought about by years of snaring and catching puffins and other seabirds on the great crags and steep cliffs of Hirta, Soay and Boreray. Were they born with these or did they develop them?

The Fletchers, who came to Mull from Glen Orchy in the 17th century, were arrow-makers and archers to the Maclean chiefs. The surname is of English, Scottish and Irish origin and is the occupational name for an arrow maker or seller of arrows, derived from Old English 'Fulcher' which led to the Gaelic name 'Mac an Fhleisteir' the arrowsmith's son.

The late Dr John Corbet Fletcher (1912-1976), Morvern's esteemed GP, used to say the Mull Fletchers were an aristocratic sort of family and were rewarded by the Macleans of Duart with a village on the shores of Loch Ba called Bradhadail in recognition of their services. He used to hold out his right hand and point to his little finger curled inwards. It appeared deformed but was apparently a feature developed by arrow-making and carried down from one generation to another.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Stoddarts

WE HAVE XMAS COVERED

2 WHEELS AND 4 IN STOCK ALL AGES & SIZES

HELMETS, GLOVES ETC. ALL IN STOCK

NEW 2 WHEEL

STOMP JUICE BOX3 3 SPEED SEMI-AUTO 4 STROKE £725
STOMP SS120R 4 SPEED MANUAL 4 STROKE £890
HONDA CFR120F 4 SPEED MANUAL E/START 4 STROKE £1,999
STOMP Z3 140 4 SPEED 4STROKE £1,050 BIG WHEEL £1,150

NEW 4 WHEEL

STOMP FOX 70 FULLY AUTOMATIC C/W ELECTRIC START £850
QUADZILLA R100 FULLY AUTO WITH REVERSE, E/START £1,400
QUADZILLA PRO SHARK 100 WATER COOLED, RACING SUSP, E/START £1,550
STOMP JACKAL 150 3 SPEED SEMI AUTO E/START, CARRIERS £1,550

USED 2&4 WHEEL

STOMP JUICEBOX3 AS NEW 3 SPEED £575
HONDA CRF70 EXCELLENT CONDITION SEMI AUTO £890
QUADZILLA STINGER 300 ROAD LEGAL 16 PLATE 48MILES ONLY £2,500

ALL ABOVE PRICES INC.VAT, ALL MACHINES ARE FULLY PREPARED AND READY TO GO, DELIVERY ARRANGED.

CONTACT US NOW AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

STODDARTS
TEL: 01631 564176 / 07799 692072
john.stoddarts@btconnect.com

Stop the Quarry! in Glen Creran, Appin



A Public Open Message to

BARON DOMINQUE COLLINET

As a Belgian stated to be resident in Luxembourg at Companies House and only in Scotland for very limited periods, you are therefore dependent on local people to keep you informed. It is possible therefore that you may not be aware of the anger this application has caused, or the huge number of objections, which now total more than 1,000. As the landowner you have granted permission for this and would be receiving income and other advantages. You are therefore perceived to be ultimately responsible in the eyes of the public and as a result many of the objections are directed specifically at you personally. We are therefore asking you to reconsider this project and put an end to it. **It is not too late.**

A Public Open Message to

A&L McRae Ltd

Alistair McCrae & Linda McCrae

Whilst we realise that you are in the quarry business, we see that the last accounts on public record at Companies House for SC 243281 March 2015 show profit and loss account and shareholders funds in excess of £2,600,000. You have stated this is a 'small quarry' and therefore it is reasonable to believe that it is unlikely to be critical financially to your business. You will be aware that as a Scottish company you depend on the goodwill of Scottish people, and many of them may feel you are not acting here in the best interests of our communities. We are therefore appealing to you to reconsider this application and withdraw it in the light of the public outrage seen so far. **It is not too late.**

What are the Facts?

Dalglish Associates, the agents for A&L McRae Ltd, stated to the *Press and Journal* on 21 November 2016 that "...all of the issues raised by the local and wider community, during the pre-application consultation stage, have been addressed...".

Based on our understanding of the planning application we cannot see how this statement can be accurate other than on one item. At the meeting it was pointed out to Dalglish Associates that badgers were in the quarry area. This was angrily rejected by them and denied in public. Subsequently, the person concerned produced the evidence. Following that, you have now found the badgers and adjusted the quarry area footprint.

What are the consequences that are impossible to mitigate?

Dumping of Inert Waste

A&L McRae Ltd are licensed waste disposal operators and in their planning application stated that the quarry will need to receive 40,000 tons of inert waste, dumped there from external sources to bring it above the water table after the sand is extracted. This is completely unacceptable in a highland glen that is designated as an area of panoramic beauty under the LORN plan.

Noise

The ambient noise level in Glen Creran is extremely low and far below the national average. If a quarry were to be created it is inevitable that the diggers, graders, crushers and gravel trucks will be very audible.

Visibility

In the event that this is allowed, it will be impossible to block the visibility of a quarry to the many hillwalkers who climb the munros of Glen Creran. This will discourage tourists and reduce income for the area.

Road Access

Glen Creran road is a narrow single-track road with no adequate passing places for large 40-ton trucks. There are blind bends, no pavements, no public transport, and the roads are frequented by walkers, cyclists, including children and elderly people who may be hard of hearing. If two trucks meet coming from opposite directions there will be nowhere for either of them to reverse into safely. The road was never designed for heavy gravel trucks and eventually a serious accident will occur. This will also discourage tourist and reduce income for the area.

Dust

Sand stockpiles could be blown in the prevailing winds which are frequent in this area in dry weather. There have been allegations made that this can result, over a long period, in Silicosis, a form of lung cancer. The effects may not be seen for a long period but with young children living in the glen the risks are simply not worth taking to 'make money'. This risk is clearly set out on the NHS website.

Light Pollution

The working hours in winter months will require artificial lighting. This will cause light pollution where normally there is total darkness. This could be disturbing to the protected species that live in Glen Creran as well as the local population.

Flooding

The quarry site is located very close to the River Creran in a SEPA flood plain. If it floods it will be nearly impossible to avoid pollution of the river and Loch Creran. This would be damaging to a salmon river and a disaster for the loch, a Marine Protected Area that has outstanding living reefs. This point alone should prevent a quarry being created.

Protected Species

If a quarry is built in Glen Creran the protected species will be affected. A quarry site is not an island and everything is inter-linked.

Lorry Movements

The risks cannot be mitigated of the extra 1,500 to 2,000 movements of 40-ton trucks through the villages of Barcaldine, Benderloch, Connel and Taynuilt, which all have primary schools, back to the 'sister' quarry owned by A&L McRae Ltd, in Kilchrenan, where it would appear to us that the main purpose of the quarry in Glen Creran is to allow them to produce concrete.

Tourist Pounds

Overall there is no doubt this would affect the image of Argyll in general and also ignoring the LORN plan sends a very bad signal for the future. Of all the incoming objections, many of them have come from outside Scotland, from tourists, on whom we depend for income.

Argyll and Bute Planners

...will no doubt take notice of these issues which cannot be mitigated, in a designated Area of Panoramic Beauty in the LORN local plan, where there is a presumption against quarries.

How can you comment and place an objection?

Directly to Argyll & Bute:

planning.olandi@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Quote Ref: 16/02911/MIN

Through our website:

www.quarryprotest.com

By post to:

Argyll & Bute Council, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW
Quote Ref: 16/02911/MIN

Deadline!

We are advised that for the best effect comments and objections should be submitted not later than 6 December 2016.

Who has published this?

This advertisement has been placed and paid for by Tony and Jackie Kersley and Lesley and Harvey Wolfinger with the support of the residents and community of Glen Creran and Appin.

oban WINTER FESTIVAL goes with a bang

THIS year's Oban Winter Festival ended with a bang, as fireworks lit up the sky above McCaig's Tower, writes David McPhee.

Obanites and visitors to the town gathered by the north pier and along Stafford Street to watch the colourful display, which started at 6.45pm.

Before the fireworks, there was an brolly parade, where children, accompanied by their parents, braved the cold conditions in order to show off their bespoke umbrellas.

The parade left the Corran Halls at 5pm, with Oban High School Pipe Band leading the way.

Behind the pipe band was a sea of colourful umbrellas that had been decorated especially for the event.

Everyone marched down the street, before making their way to Oban Distillery, where they could wait for the fireworks to begin, with food to eat and fire jugglers to watch.

The 10-day festival, now in its sixth year and a celebration of Oban's unique culture and community, ran from November 18-27.

The event had something for everyone, with food and craft markets, juggling, parades, whisky tasting, haggis tasting, dance shows, heritage tours, roller discos, a ceilidh and other forms of family fun, all within easy travel distance in the town centre.

'It was amazing,' said Pamela Lockhart, one of the event organisers. 'Everyone enjoyed it. It's a community event, it's for everyone. It's like everyone is on the committee; everyone helps and makes things happen.'

'Attendance at markets was much higher than before. In the first weekend there were 2,000 people through

the markets on the first day and on there second there were 1,825 - just at the distillery alone.'

Pamela added that the performers, which were sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms, came from all over the UK.

The ice queens, who walked around the town on stilts and dressed in white, came from Liverpool, while the man who balanced on top of a ladder with no support, Pete Anderson, made his way from London.

Other street performers included human statues, juggling, fire dancers, a town crier and, of course, Coolio the snowman.

Santa Claus also made an appearance at the festival during its first weekend, accompanied by his reindeer.

The reindeer parade, which was sponsored by Bid4Oban, took place on the first night of the festival, with the Christmas streetlights being switched on and fairground rides positioned at Station Square and at the Corran Halls to entertain the children.

Derek Connery, Bid4Oban manager, said: 'I have been blown away by it [the Winter Festival]. Once again it was a busy week helping Oban to grow both nationally and internationally. It's easy to see why the volunteers of the festival have won so many awards.'

The volunteers recently found out that they were selected as the best cultural festival at the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Tourism Awards.

Organiser, Pamela Lockhart, said that she was both shocked and delighted to find out that they won the award.

More photos pages 12 and 13



L I M I T E D E D I T I O N

The Official **JOLOMO** Deluxe Calendar **2017**

John Lowrie Morrison O.B.E.

Announcing an exciting new calendar of John Lowrie Morrison's images for 2017.

Available from:

The Jolomo Studio, www.jolomo.com 01546 870303

Alba Fine Art, www.alba-artshop.co.uk 01631 563645

And other selected outlets.

The artist's royalties will be donated to support **The Mackintosh Appeal**

**THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST**

£17.99
PLUS POSTAGE.

Jolomo

Vote of no confidence in committee leader is lost

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A VOTE of no confidence in the leader of one of Argyll and Bute Council's most influential committees was shot down after more than an hour of wrangling at a full council meeting last week.

In the tense atmosphere at Kilmory last Thursday, two op-

position members called for the resignation of Ellen Morton, convener of the environment, infrastructure and development committee.

Councillor Bruce Marshall said he was proposing the vote of no confidence because of the extraordinary behaviour of the convener at a meeting on Thursday November 10, where he was not given permission to speak by her,

and an ill-judged and 'inaccurate' press release about Rothesay Harbour in the same week.

Council leader Dick Walsh defended his colleague, saying: 'She is strong, efficient and dutiful in her role.'

At one point the council broke into disarray when Bute councillor Robert MacIntyre would not be silenced by executive officer Douglas Hendry, as he

gave a vitriolic speech about the Mrs Morton.

Mr Hendry censored Mr MacIntyre, saying he would have him removed from the council chamber.

Mr MacIntyre, who suffers from ill health, said: 'Would you remove a cripple?'

He continued: 'He [Mr Hendry] can say what he likes but I can't say what I like.'

Mr Hendry replied: 'What I am asking you to do is allow the business of the council before councillors to continue in the normal way.'

Councillor Marshall said: 'It is vindictive drivel that is normal in this chamber.'

The vote of no confidence was lost by 10 votes to 18 members who supported an alternative motion backing Mrs Morton.

MSP opens extension at nursery

AN EXTENDED section of a nursery in Oban was officially opened by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell last Saturday, writes David McPhee.

Oban's 1st Steps Nursery had an extension built onto the original school building, which was constructed in 1888, in order to provide the children with more space.

After cutting the ribbon, Mr Russell said: 'Nursery education is the most important way in which we begin to start successful lives, and nurseries such as this one give great opportunities and are central to the Scottish Government's plans to ensure every child has the best start in life.'

Ann Burke, nursery director, said: 'It's really good. We are absolutely delighted and we asked the children what it should be called and Jack said it should be called second steps.'

'The parents are thrilled with it. You



can see the way it's built – it will let the children free flow.

'My husband and I consider ourselves to be looking after this building, so we try the best we can to restore it.'

Oban's 1st Steps Nursery has 15 members of staff, including full-time and

part-time employees, who look after more than 40 children from the ages of three months to five years.

This is the second nursery Ann has owned. Before moving to Oban, the Dunfermline-born woman opened one in England. But after her husband,

who was born in Oban, left the Scots Guards, they moved to the town.

The building was originally opened in 1888 as a school. However, it was later gifted to the church, before Ann and her husband bought it in 1998, after it had lain dormant for four years.

PRE-FESTIVE CLEAN



CHRISTMAS is approaching and it's time to give your home a new clean from top to bottom. Getting your house spotless and guest-ready is such a chore for most of us. To help, we've got a 7-Day 'One Day at a Time' Plan. Rely on this plan to break housecleaning tasks into doable segments. By accomplishing a few major tasks each day, all that will be left is a bit of last-minute shine before your guests walk through the door.

DAY ONE

Walk through your home with a visitor's eye, making notes of any imperfections you may be used to, but guests may notice. Turn do-it-yourself tasks into a do-it ourselves effort—gather family members, go over the plan, and assign chores. For those big jobs, consider calling in a professional—after all, you already have a full holiday schedule, so why not have a service clean the carpets, sweep the chimney or take care of any number of items on your list?

DAY TWO

Take care of those chores that often make it to the bottom of the priority list. Wash windows and vacuum window screens, damp-mop baseboards. Launder and press window and shower curtains and bedspreads. Again, a professional service can help here, such as getting those windows sparkling inside and out, saving you from this drudgery and leaving more time for shopping and cooking.

DAY THREE

Deep-clean bathrooms and medicine cabinets (yes, people will look). Straighten bedrooms; remove clutter and store out of sight.

DAY FOUR

Wash throw rugs; set aside so they are nice and fluffy for party day. Straighten coat closet, making room for guests' coats.

DAY FIVE

Clean range or stove top, surfaces, and grates. Clean refrigerator, making

room for party foods. Wipe down all large and small appliances and kitchen cabinet exteriors. No time for the dirty work? Why not call a professional house cleaner to take care of your drudgery?

DAY SIX

Dust all surfaces, including bookshelves, tops of framed photos and art. Dust ceiling fans. Clean kitchen sinks and dish drainer. Sweep entryway, polish the doorknob, and decorate the entry with seasonal touches.

DAY SEVEN

Clean trash receptacles and add fresh liners. Wipe the bathroom using household cleaner and paper towels. Wipe down bathroom mirrors and counters. Give the toilets a swish. Hang fresh towels and put out fresh hand soap. Vacuum carpets and dry-mop wood floors. Fluff sofa cushions and pillows. Decorate with special touches, such as flowers or candles. Get ready to party!

new start HIGHLAND
For a FREE collection in any area call 01463 715615

Donate your unwanted furniture and household goods to New Start Highland.

ZERO WASTE Scotland

COAL

Now on sale at MacLennan Motors
15b Crannog Lane, Oban

Winter Special
25kg bags of Doubles & Trebles
3 bags for £22

Will deliver in Oban area
call 01631 566 275 for more details

OBAN CHIMNEY SWEEP
FOR ALL YOUR CHIMNEY SWEEPING REQUIREMENTS:
Domestic & Commercial Wood Burning, Multi Fuel / Open / Biomass Flues, CCTV Inspections, Pre-install Surveys, CSA Registered member, Fully Insured, Good Clean Service, Covering all of Argyll.

For more information contact Roddy on:
07786 963279
01631 563664
boltnfix@hotmail.co.uk

Chimney Sweep Academy

ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES

07834 640989
www.argyllchimneyservices.co.uk

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?

- AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM
- OPEN FIRES • WOOD BURNING STOVES
- OIL & GAS FLUES
- AGA & RAYBURN
- BIOMAS FLUES
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

Covering Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Tarbert and Kintyre, sweeping through Argyll

REDUCE

THE HEAT LOSS IN YOUR HOME BY UP TO 98%

That's what you get from our windows and doors. Scientifically proven to reduce heat loss in your home by up to 98% is there really any other option you should consider

Pilkington Energcare Low-emissivity glass (or low-e glass as it is commonly referred to) is a type of energy-efficient glass designed to prevent heat escaping through your windows and doors to the cold outdoors.

Labels: Outside Glass, Argon gas filled cavity, Coating, Inside Glass

Before

After

Above the thermal imaging difference between conventional double glazing and Cairngorms double glazing. Independent study by

ECOSURVEYS
ADVANCED THERMAL IMAGING

Cairngorm Group
tougher, warmer, smarter

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU
Tel: 01463 238 000

Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY
Tel: 01343 545315

18 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG
Tel: 01847 894956

info@cairngormgroup.co.uk
www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

OT

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

There has been intense scrutiny of Argyll and Bute Council's planning department and committee in recent weeks, in large measure because of the highly controversial decision to allow housing, being built too close to a neighbouring property in Connel due to a planning blunder, to stand, albeit with amendments.

Now the committee faces further examination over its reluctance to make a decision on whether or not to grant retrospective planning permission for a controversial beach hut on Tiree.

The committee visited the island to allow members to view the hut, which has divided the community on

Tiree, and has now agreed to delay a decision for another month. Its chairman, David Kinniburgh, was honest enough to state that he is 'struggling to make a decision'. However, that inability to rule on the issue may come back to haunt the already beleaguered committee.

Planning will always be a contentious issue – you are never going to please everyone in situations such as these – but that is what the rules are there for.

It isn't easy when matters are not always straightforward, but it might be better for all concerned if the committee just bites the bullet and makes up its collective mind.



Days gone by – 1988

This week we turn the clock back to October 27, 1988, and the presentation of a certificate of commendation to Kay Simpson by Andrew Peter, senior vice-chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Glasgow Letter

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



Excitement builds for Skye gathering

THE first weekend in December is upon us which, of course, means Christmas is around the corner.

Glasgow has been looking very Christmassy with an icing-sugar covering of frost last week and the Christmas markets getting under way at St Enoch Square and George Square.

Even more exciting than the onset of Christmas, however, is the prospect of the Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering this weekend.

This has been, in general, has been a successful year for the kindred associations, with very busy annual gathering dances and concerts throughout the year.

Only last weekend, for example, the Coll Association had a great buffet and dance with the Drams Ceilidh Band.

Now the Glasgow Skye evening will surely round off the year perfectly.

The singers, who will all be accompanied on piano by Alan Kitchen, are Eilidh Cormack, Catriona MacNeil, James Graham and Calum Alex Macmillan. Ian Smith will give a few sets on the box, and John Gillies will do the same on the pipes.

The Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Ewan Henderson, will be in attendance, and this year's guest of honour is the always entertaining Hugh Dan MacLennan. Trail West will finish the night off from 10.30pm until 2am.

Piping competition success for Christian

CONGRATULATIONS to Christian Gamauf, who won first prize at the Glasgow University Communn Oiseanach's evening of piping in the Park Bar on November 17.

The Oidheche Fhìobaireachd was reinstated a couple of years ago



An Comunn Collach (the Coll Association) had a gathering last weekend.

after a committee member of the Comunn Oiseanach (the Ossianic Society) discovered that an annual piping competition and an annual shinty match were part of the written constitution of the association, which was established in 1831.

Competitors this year were Cameron Sharpe, Callum Watson, Chris Lee, and the eventual winner, Christian. They were adjudicated upon by Calum MacCrimmon of Breabach, and Andrew MacPherson of the Urban Teuchters, the Angus Nicholson Trio and Deoch 'n' Dorus.

It is a great evening every year and it is so good that the current students at the uni are keeping this old tradition of the association alive.

Gaelic service

ST COLUMBA Gaelic Church will be holding communion services on Sunday December 4 in both Gaelic and English. The Gaelic service begins at 10am and the English service at 11.30am.

Both services will be conducted by Rev Angus Smith, chaplain to the oil industry.

What's on

Friday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering in the Glasgow University Union. Concert commencing at 7.30pm.

Sunday December 4: Gaelic service in St Columba Gaelic Church of Scotland at 10am.

Wednesday December 7: An Lochran Gaelic music session (seisean ciùil Gàidhlig) in the Lismore.

Friday December 9: Clydebank Highlanders cèilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Saturday December 10: The Glasgow Skye Association's children's Christmas party in the Renfield Centre, Blythswood Hall.

Pub scene

Park Bar.
Friday December 2: Dùn Mòr.
Saturday December 3: Gunna Sound.
Sunday December 4: Martainn Skene.

Islay Inn
Friday December 2: Twist of Fate.
Saturday December 3: Deep River.
Wednesday December 7: quiz night.

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.

Appalled by planning committee meetings

Sir,
First, may I congratulate you as editor, on your coverage and standard of reporting that has been given to the misfortune experienced by Ann Colthart of Connel.

I attended both sessions, forenoon and afternoon, of the public hearing on Thursday November 3, and was appalled by the manner in which such an important meeting was conducted.

We, the residents of Connel, certainly had our eyes opened to the manner in which the Argyll and Bute Planning Committee functions.

The following morning, comments in the village ranged from: 'That meeting was an absolute shambles'; 'Three of the members were asleep'; 'That chairman should never have made known his intention to support the proposed plans before the vote' and, after the vote, 'That was an absolute stitch-up' – a statement made by three independent individuals. The community council meeting was well supported and many complaints were again made about the public hearing, together with dismay at the blatant neglect of the developers to conduct site meetings to check up on the prescribed building regulations.

A follow-up meeting on November 10 in the main hall in Connel was again very well attended, and the decision was taken to make known to the public, and in particular, to the executives of Argyll and Bute Council, by use of the website and the press just how angry, dissatisfied and, yes, disgusted, are the Connel folk by the manner in which this whole affair has been mishandled.

Claire Grierson,
Creag Dubhan, Connel.

Lochaber loses under Highland Council

Sir,
Once again, the Highland Council has run an electoral process for Fort William Community Council – and, once again, there were insufficient nominations to form a council. This complete disinterest in these lowest-level councils is mirrored across the Highlands and further afield in Scotland. The public have decided that they won't waste their time on community councils.

Politicians, academics and journalists agree that the present system of local government does not deliver democracy. Indeed, it is now generally accepted that we don't have local government, but actually have regional government, which is remote and unresponsive to the needs and concerns of communities.

In the Highlands, we have seen just how effective our Lochaber councillors can be in relation to proposed budget cuts. Eden Court sees its budget cut by £10,000, but the Nevis Centre gets a £75,000 cut. But, of course, Eden Court has a different arrangement with the Highland Council.

Lochaber councillors regularly see decisions taken which disadvantage

Lochaber, but give assistance to the Inverness area. Our Lochaber councillors have not been able to stop the cuts in funding for an indoor sports facility in Lochaber, while watching as Inverness gets a new indoor sports centre.

What we can see is that an area with only seven councillors can always be outvoted (and out-manoeuvred) by their colleagues in the rest of the council.

Some people may say that all this is a result of a Scottish Government with a real and demonstrable animosity towards the unitary authorities, which cuts funding to councils while retaining funds for blockbuster vanity projects such as the new Forth road bridge, or even bringing thousands of acres of heather into public ownership.

Some people even wonder if the Scottish Government is deliberately setting up councils to take unpopular decisions, while central government oozes benevolence and generosity, such as the provision of baby boxes. You may ask me if this is what I think is happening – but I couldn't possibly comment.

Meanwhile, the Highland Council's Commission on Highland Democracy beavers away, wondering how on earth it can make silk purses out of sow's ears. If you take part in this exercise, consider suggesting that democracy in the Highlands would be best served by abolishing the Highland Council, and creating smaller, more responsive units. Then wait for a response.

Duncan Brown,
Chairman, For Lochaber.

Quarry will benefit the local economy

Sir,
Further to the article 'Fury at quarry proposal' (The Oban Times, November 24), yes, we rely heavily on tourism in this area but would the quarry stop the tourists coming?

The nearest natural reserves are over 45 miles away. Would it not be better having another local reserve due to the continual investment in infrastructure in the area? This would save hauling aggregates long distance. A&L McCrae is a company which already employs locals in the area and if planning was granted would no doubt further strengthen this.

The Collinet family have owned Glen Creran Estate for a long number of years and, like many other estates, they need to use the assets they have. They have invested heavily in green power, agriculture and forestry. Directly and indirectly, the local community benefits from the estate.

How many of the objectors actually live and work within a 30-mile radius of Glen Creran and what effect will it have on their daily lives if this was to go ahead? If available, how many would use the local materials for house building and landscaping?

The quarry would be reinstated back to agricultural use at the end of the extraction. There are planning rules and regulations to be adhered to.

Public opinion tried to stop Benderloch quarry at the beginning. It has

been operating for several years now and has not damaged the village but brings employment, as does Bonawe quarry and Glensanda. As a local economy, we need employment which includes agriculture, fish farming, quarrying, forestry and tourism.

Name and address supplied.

Hypocrisy over effect of Brexit on tourism

Sir,
So, tucked away in the bottom right hand corner of page four of *The Oban Times* (on November 17), I find a short article headlined 'MSP fears Brexit could hit tourism'.

On reading it, I nearly choked on my morning cuppa. Apparently Michael Russell MSP has 'his worries about the affect of Brexit on tourism'. It's funny that, because at no time during the 2014 independence referendum did anyone in the SNP or Scottish Government make their concerns known about the effect on tourism in Scotland in the event of separating from the UK.

Here's a fact that is generally reflected throughout Scotland's tourism industry: 60 per cent of our own customers from our tourism business are UK-based and, of that, 80 per cent are from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

We were concerned about the effects on our business and industry of the independence referendum in 2014? Hell yes! Were the SNP and Scottish Government? We don't know the answer to that because no mention was ever made by them of the potential consequences and repercussions of such a split. The SNP do hypocrisy big style – but not, it would seem, irony.

Name and address supplied.

Thanks to all for reindeer parade

Sir,
I would, on behalf of Bid4Oban, like to thank the volunteers who helped this year's Oban reindeer parade to go ahead.

I would like to start with the Oban Pipe Band, and then thank the Rotary Club of Oban for marshalling and helping with the stewarding and reindeer at Station Square. The Oban and Lorn Lions were unable to marshal this year but still brought their tom-bola to raise money for good causes.

Thanks also to the team from Oban FM for the music and announcements. Special thanks to Jonathan from Argyll Hog Roasts who, despite being busy with his stall, still managed to fetch and return the Oban FM trailer.

Thanks to the police and Argyll and Bute Council for the roles they carry out every year, and to the business community of Oban who pay for the parade via their levy.

And not forgetting the star of the show, Santa.

This is a team event and requires all components in order to work.

Derek Connery,
Chief executive, Bid4Oban Ltd.

Ailean Caimbeul

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



THA CUID DEN FHEADHAINN a tha an sàs ann an obair turasachd anns an Eilean Sgitheanach airson gun dealb Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd poileasaidh coileanta dhan ghniomhachas anns an sgìre sin. Chanainn gun dèanadh sin ciall airson caochlathadh adhbhair, agus gun teagamh bhiodh gleidheadh agus a' cur ri rìre na h-aogheachd a gheibh luchd-turais aig mullach na liosta. Mar a bhiodh dùil, bhiodh cuideachd leudachadh ann an eaconamaidh na sgìre na amas cudromach agus a bhith a' cruthachadh chosnaidhean làn-thìde.

Tha linntean bho thòisich daoine ri siubhal dhan Eilean Sgitheanach a dh'annharc maise na h-àrainneachd, agus a chòiseachd mhonaidhean is a shreap bheanntan. Ach 's ann beagan is leth-cheud bliadhna air ais a leudaich obair leabaidh is braicist feadh choimhearsnachdan an Eilein, is daoine a' faicinn cho math 's a dh'fhaodadh seo obrachadh an lùib croitearachd agus chosnaidhean de gach seòrsa eile. 'S iad boireannaich anns a' mhòr-chuid a bha ris an obair throm seo agus thug an t-airgead a bha tighinn a-staigh tomhas mhòr de mhiseachd agus de shaorsa ùr dhaibh. Cha b' e a-mhàin gun d' rachadh aig bean-taighe air an dachaigh a leasachadh agus innealan a cheannach a chuideachadh le uallach na h-obrach, bha a cuid cosnaidh cuideachd a' ceadachadh adhartachadh dhan teaghlach air fad. Le amhorachd a' cur ri cosgais obair-fearainn is stiuic, 's dòcha nach eil e na annas gun do shìolaidh croitearachd le barrachd an eisimeil teachd-an-tìr bho thurasachd. Chan e gum bheil turasachd na nàmhaid dha croitearachd, gu dearbh tha mòran luchd-turais aig am bheil ùidh mhòr ann am faicinn chroitean gan obrachadh, 's e th' ann gum bheil cosnadh leapa is braicist nas cinntiche..

Rinn mi toileachas fhaicinn anns a' Phlana Gàidhlig aig VisitScotland gum bheil a' bhuidheann a' tuigsinn cho luachmhor 's a tha Gàidhlig mar phàirt de dhuilchais nàiseanta Alba, agus gum bheil e a' faicinn na Gàidhlig deatamach ann am margaideachd na dùthcha dha luchd-turais. 'S iomadh oidhirp a rinn mi fhìn fad bhliadhnaichean gun feuchainn ris

an fheallsanachd sin a reic ri prìomh bhuidheann turasachd Alba ach cha deach leam. Tha mi a' faotainn beagan misneachaidh mar sin 's na tha sgrìobhte sa Phlana Gàidhlig aig VisitScotland, ach dh'fhaodadh gniomhan fhaicinn a' nochdadh nas luaithe. Dhearbhaidh rannachadh a rinn iad an-uiridh gum bheil ùidh aig co-dhùit trian de luchd-turais ann an Gàidhlig, agus le brosnachadh barrachd luchd-ionnsachaidh agus cleachdaidh na prìomh amas anns a' Phlana-Nàiseanta, dh'fhaodadh turasachd cuideachadh mòr a dhèanamh. Aig an aon àm 's dòcha gum faodadh turasachd cuideachadh le croitearachd ath-bheothachadh.

AS THE B&B industry expanded in areas such as Skye over the past 50 years, tourism income overtook meagre crofting returns. In many instances, this income replaced crofting. VisitScotland's Gaelic Plan recognises the importance of the language as part of Scotland's heritage and its importance in marketing the country. Implementation of such a policy should help towards the growth in learners and users which is a prime target of the National Plan for Gaelic.

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

Le taic bho



SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.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.

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

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

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

Fundraisers quick to help family in need

MONICA GIBSON
mgibsons@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY is clubbing together to help support the family of a three-year-old boy diagnosed with cancer.

Leesa MacNeil and Paul Whiteford received the heart-breaking news last weekend that their son Ryan has leukaemia.

Ryan, who has a twin brother and two older brothers, was transferred to a Glasgow hospital on Saturday afternoon (November 26) from Raigmore.

While tests showed that Ryan's case is not extreme, he was due to start his treatment yesterday (Wednesday).

Family friend Liz MacMillan was so moved by the news that she took to social media to round up support.

Liz has previously raised tens of thousands of pounds for families in need and had vowed just earlier this month to take a break as she was exhausted.

However, the mother of two told *The Oban Times* she could not stand back and together with



Ryan Whiteford.

friends has decided to help. She said: 'They are just such a lovely family and we knew Ryan wasn't well but my daughters and I were so upset when we heard, we wanted to do something.'

'The aim is to help with the cost of being off work, travel and general living over the next few months. I wanted to do a bottle stall and an adult and children's raffle, and I can tell you this is the most support I've ever had.'

'My phone has just not stopped ringing and I've been inundated with people wanting to help out.'

On the first day following Liz's post, local builders got in touch offering to auction their services

and fencing worth £500, salons have allowed raffles and baking to be sold in shop and a 'lucky number' raffle had already generated more than £200.

Liz, who lives in Caol, added: 'I don't have much but I have two lovely daughters and a lovely husband, and I think all the people who have got in touch just feel the same - whether it be putting your hand in your pocket or organising an event, we want to do something.'

'The hope is if we all work together we will be raise an amazing amount to help this wonderful family. I would like to do a bottle stall and raffles so I am looking for items to use in these fundraisers. Please get in touch if you have any new items or bottles sitting in the cupboard. We would be very grateful for any donations.'

A crowdfunding page to raise money for the family has also been set up by Donald Robertson.

To donate visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Raiseforryan>



Sleigh ride treat for Santa's little helpers

Jack Sprague, 5, from Roy Bridge, and Maria Sutherland, 8, from Upper Achintore, enjoyed a reindeer-drawn sleigh ride along Fort William High Street at the weekend. The two 'elves' were winners of this year's Rotary Club of Lochaber poem competition, after their Christmas poems were selected from more than 80 entries from across Lochaber. For more photographs of the Rotary Club of Lochaber's 'best ever' Christmas fair, turn to page five. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

TIMESLINE

Overnight road closures planned

THE A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan will be closed overnight from Sunday December 4 to Thursday December 8.

The same section of the road will be closed again on Sunday December 11 to Thursday December 15.

The work will take place between 8pm and 6am the following morning.

The A82 partnership say these closures should be the last ones this year.

Leading speakers address workers

NORTH forestry professionals will gather in Fort William tonight (Thursday) to hear from leading speakers on first aid, social media and new industry ideas.

'First Aid, Facebook and Future Growth', organised by the Highlands and Islands Forest Industry Cluster, will be held at the West Highland College UHI in Fort William and has attracted around 50 people. Forestry workers from harvesters, processors and contractors to estate personnel, managers and public sector employees will attend the evening.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Free
The Oban Times West Highland calendar
2017
when you subscribe to The Oban Times*
Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe
*Minimum one year subscription. Print subscriptions only. Calendars issued January.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR OBAN TIMES SUPPLEMENT READERS
SUBSCRIBE TO Scottish Field
ONLY £38.25 SAVE 25%
WITH A FABULOUS SAVING OF 25% (MINIMUM ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION ONLY)

Call +44 (0)1371 851868
Quote SFXMAS16
Scottish Field is Scotland's quality lifestyle magazine featuring articles on wildlife, food, gardens, property, and Scottish history. Every month we have social scene pages plus competitions and our subscribers get the opportunity to review top Scottish hotels.

Scottish Field
GLORIOUS GLASGOW
MIDGE WIRE ON A LIFE LESS ORDINARY
30 Our unbeatable Christmas gift guide
LIVING OFF THE LAND

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

HIRE and SUPPLIES
Great DISCOUNTS on Makita power tools
Helping you stay warm this winter
Mill Lane, Oban PA34 4HA Tel: 01631 566306
online @ www.hireandsupplies.com

Roofing
We've got you covered
FREE
Roofing Estimating Service
Email your plans to: roof.estimate@jewsons.co.uk

DuPont Tyvek Supro
• Supro is a high performance pitched roof breather membrane
• Multi-purpose, heavyweight, reinforced Tyvek grade for use in all supported and unsupported pitched roof applications
FROM ONLY **£65.00** EXC. VAT PER ROLL

Roofshield 50 x 1m
• Water resistant
• Low Vapour Resistance
• Air permeable
• No vapour control layer required
• UV Resistant
ONLY **£109.00** EXC. VAT PER ROLL

Sinclair Dr, Oban PA34 4DR T: 01631 562208
North Rd, Fort William PH33 6TQ T: 01397 700744
JEWSON

Save big
#GiftWithConfidence

£7.99* save £22.01 Halle & Halle Berry Exotic Jasmine 100ml RRP £30.00	£6.99 save £1.00 MAN'STUFF Ultimate 6 Pack RRP £7.99
£9.49 save £3.01 Nivea Men Wash Kit RRP £12.50	£14.99 save £5.00 Real Techniques Ltd Ed Multi Task Set RRP £19.99
£3.99 save £1.00 Technic Get Your Glow On RRP £4.99	£6.99 save £2.99 Rimmel Scandal Eyes Kit RRP £9.98
£8.99 save £3.00 Gillette Mach 3 Turbo Star Wars Set RRP £11.99	£13.39 save £6.60 L'Oréal Men Expert Wake Up Washbag RRP £19.99
£7.99 save £4.01 Maybelline New York Baby Make Me Blush Set RRP £12.00	£20.00 half price Oral B Pro-Expert Stages Frozen & Star Wars was £40.00

* Prices available until 4th Dec
exceptional savings, every day.
www.gordonsdirect.com
16 George Street, Oban

Like like us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

Stay connected
To Argyll and the West Highlands with the new Oban Times

Subscribe today
Visit our exclusive page: obantimes.co.uk/stayconnected
Save **£25*** by going digital
Not all features available in all areas. *Prices compared to a one year print subscription.



Arena

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



oban WINTER FESTIVAL



The Absurdist Pipe Band popped in to the Oban Inn. 17_t49winterfestival07

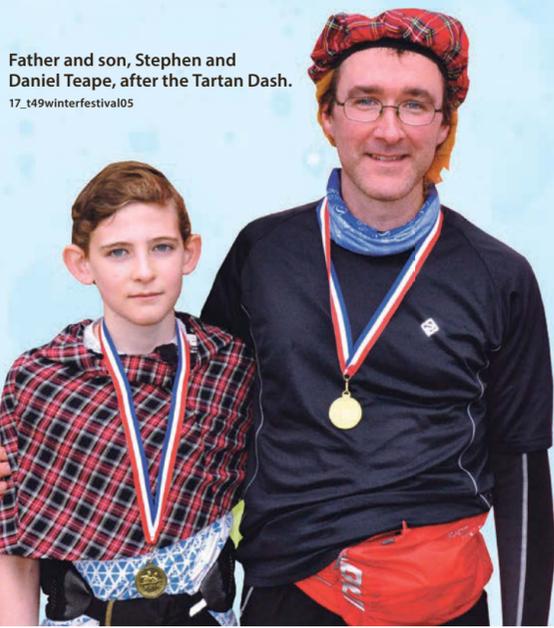


Pete Anderson shows off his balancing skills during the festival. 17_t49winterfestival28

Oban High School Pipe Band leads the way in the Brolly Parade. 17_t49winterfestival18



Dunollie Castle lit up as part of the winter festival in a historic production put together by students working with Dunollie. Picture: Kevin McGlynn



Father and son, Stephen and Daniel Teape, after the Tartan Dash. 17_t49winterfestival05



Father and son, Ewan and Chris Dowd, were well dressed for the Tartan Dash. 17_t49winterfestival04



Elsa (Lori Hannah) and Mya Rippon at Oban Youth Cafe. 17_t49winterfestival02

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

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

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

NOW IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO LOVE OBAN!

SCOTS
 Heritage Magazine SPONSORS

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

AUTUMN EDITION
OUT NOW

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

Across

7 Type of chop (6)
 8 Sleeveless coat (6)
 9 45 or LP (4)
 10 Similarly (8)
 11 A few (7)
 13 Sun block? (5)
 15 Yellow shade (5)
 16 Governing town authority (7)
 18 Next to (8)
 19 Connection from shoulders to
 21 Ingratiate (6)
 22 Renounce (6)

Down

1 Type of monkey (4)
 2 Scanner of set lines to determine price (3,4,6)
 3 Sky darkener (7)
 4 Sudden increase (5)
 5 Unable to see for winter brightness (4-9)
 6 Dictionaries of explaining words (8)
 12 Mistake (8)
 14 Time when the least water is present on the beach (3,4)
 17 Put down (5)
 20 Hood (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	I	F	F	Y	2	C	L	A	3	P	T	4	R	A	P
N	R	K	O	Q	U	I									
S	T	A	G	I	N	G	10	R	E	S	E	T			
C	N	N	N	T	T	A									
1	R	E	C	O	G	N	12	S	A	B	L	E			
I	S	N	U	E	13	C									
14	B	E	D	15	E	Q	U	I	P	16	D	N	A		
E	R	N	R	R	N	N									
18	S	I	N	G	L	E	M	I	N	19	D	E	D		
20	F	L			N	R	A	R	I						
21	T	U	T	S	I	22	O	R	C	H	A	R	D		
A	E	S	W	E	N	L									
23	G	I	R	T	H	I	N	G	24	O	K	A	Y		



Lori Silvan entertains the crowd by dancing with fire. 17_149winterfestival20



The winter festival committee before the Brolly Parade last Sunday. 17_149winterfestival16



Christopher Den Heijer salutes alongside Lori Den Heijer, Anna-May Woothouse and Ian Den Heijer. 17_149winterfestival15



Two Oban police officers try on Oban Times Santa hats. 17_149winterfestival14



Chelsey Macaulay, Finley MacLean, Dexter MacLean and Steven Macaulay model Oban Times Santa hats. 17_149winterfestival13



Chelsey Macaulay, Lindsay MacLean, Dexter MacLean and Finley MacLean before the Brolly Parade. 17_149winterfestival12



The Victorians who hosted the Victorian tea event during the winter festival. 17_149winterfestival11



Two wee ones had brightly coloured brollies for the parade. 17_149winterfestival24



Some of the Oban Pipe Band boys after they performed at the Winter Festival Ceilidh at the Corran Halls last Saturday. 17_149winterfestival08



Sam, Gabriel, Finley and Coolio after the Tartan Dash. 17_149winterfestival03



Nigel Ovens's haggis was chosen as the winner of the people's choice category. 17_149winterfestival10

The ice queens made an appearance. 17_149winterfestival09



Kirsty MacKenzie paints her first face of the day at Saturday's food and craft market at Oban Distillery. 17_149winterfestival25



community-owned and run
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

Friday 2 - Thursday 8 December

ARRIVAL | 12A | 136 MIN
Fri: 20:30, Sat: 18:00, Sun: 16:45, Mon, Wed: 20:30
When mysterious spacecraft touch down across the globe, an elite team - led by expert linguist Louise Banks - are brought together to investigate.

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM | 12A | 150 MIN
Fri: 16:30, Sat: 14:45, Sun: 12:30, Mon, Wed: 16:30
3D: Sat: 12:30, Tue, Thu: 16:30
The adventures of writer Newt Scamander in New York's secret community of witches and wizards seventy years before Harry Potter reads his book in school.

I, DANIEL BLAKE | 15 | 120 MIN
Fri: 18:20, Sat: 20:00, Sun: 18:30, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 18:20
Parent and baby screening: Tue: 11:30
Daniel Blake (59) has worked as a joiner most of his life in Newcastle. Now, for the first time ever, he needs help from the State. He crosses paths with a single mother Katie and her two young children, Daisy and Dylan. Daniel and Katie find themselves in no-man's land, caught on the barbed wire of welfare bureaucracy. Directed by Ken Loach.

KIDS CLUB: SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS | U | 87 MIN
Sat: 11:00
Children's Classic: Snow White, pursued by a jealous queen, hides with the Dwarfs; the queen soon learns of this and prepares to feed her a poison apple.

SCOTTISH MUSSEL | 15 | 114 MIN
Sat: 17:30, Sun: 19:30, Tue, Thu: 20:30
Ritchie is a Glaswegian chancer with low hopes and no prospects. Disillusioned with city life, he goes undercover at a Highland conservation centre to make his fortune as an illegal pearl fisher with the help of his two hapless and accident prone mates, Danny and Fraser.

SILVER SCREEN - A STREET CAT NAMED BOB | 12A | 123 MIN
Sun: 14:30

Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3! Tea and cake £1.50 Based on the international best selling book. The true feel good story of how James Bowen, a busker and recovering drug addict, had his life transformed when he met a stray ginger cat.

THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS | 12A | 153 MIN
Fri: 19:30, Sat: 15:15, 20:30, Sun: 15:30, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 19:30
A lighthouse keeper and his wife living off the coast of Western Australia raise a baby they rescue from an adrift rowboat.

TROLLS | PG | 120 MIN
Fri: 16:15, Sat: 12:30, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:15
DreamWorks Animation's TROLLS is an irreverent comedy extravaganza with incredible music!

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

MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie'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 Cornfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

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

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

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

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

MEET SANTA AND HIS REINDEER!

11TH DECEMBER REINDEER PARADE 11AM £8.00 ENTRY

SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY

Open ALL winter! Fri-Mon 11am-4pm
Barcaldine, Oban, PA37 1SE

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB
Musical Evening on Tuesday, 6 December, 2016 at 7.30 pm
GUEST ARTISTS: Martainn Skene, Railway Club Invertochy, All Welcome
Admission £5.00 ... Tea & Raffle Extra
IN THE EVENT OF A LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION BY ANY GUEST ARTIST THE COMMITTEE WILL FIND AN ALTERNATIVE ARTIST

Christmas Tree Festival
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
Discover the Magic Over 30 Decorated Christmas Trees
2nd, 3rd & 4th December
Fri & Sun 1.30pm-6pm
Sat 10am-6pm
Admission by donation
Hot Drinks & Home Baking

Oban Free Church Soup & pudding lunch
Baking stall
Teas & Coffees
Saturday 3rd December 12-2pm
Free Church Hall
Rockfield Road, Oban
In aid of Fabric Fund

Oban Times LEISURE TIMES

Oban & Lorn Lions Club
Supported by Menzies Distribution Ltd
Invites you to bring the children along to
Santas Grotto
in the Royal Hotel - Oban
10.30am-2.30pm
Saturday 3rd and 10th December
FREE ENTRY
& EACH CHILD GETS A GIFT FROM SANTA

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust
SC041044

TOY SALE!

Brand New - still boxed. Huge reduction on RRP
Toys on sale from £1 - £20 at MacQueen Bros Warehouse
Glengallan Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 564 848
Sale starts Thursday 1st December 2016. 0830hrs - 1700hrs
All proceeds to the Rockfield Centre, Oban Community Trust

OBAN LORNE R.F.C.

Bring in the bells with Oban Lorne RFC

Entertainment - The Duke Boys Disco / Buffet. £10 for Adults
Friends of Oban Lorne RFC welcome
Tickets available at the club or contact Darrell on 0774490265

What's on at The Nevis Centre

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

SPECTRUM
Spectrum soft play area
Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk

Find us on **Facebook**
www.facebook.com/obantimes

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

Arena

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

It's fun and dames for panto as Dick McWhittington tries to take over Oban

BENDERLOCH and North Connell Drama Club present the hilarious panto *Dick McWhittington* at the Corran Halls on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, of December 8, 9 and 10, at 7.30pm and a matinee on Saturday at 2pm.

'The club is performing *Dick McWhittington* exactly 60 years after the club wrote and performed it in Benderloch village hall,' shared club president Emma Law. 'Join our hero Dick McWhittington, his trusty cat Kitty as he seeks fame, fortune and happiness to become chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council – an adventure that sends him sailing from Oban's North Pier to the high seas, heading for Morocco.'

Along the way he will meet many

characters, including Dame Senga and her daft son Sandy (played by George Hamilton and Emma). Looking to stop Dick in his tracks is the evil Queen Rat (played by Carol Evans) as she seeks to take over Oban herself.

'With many obstacles to overcome for Dick along the way, join us to find out what Dick's fate will be,' said Emma.

'There is always room for new members so if you want to try your hand at acting, directing, stage management, joinery, painting, costumes, and so on, come along to the show and leave your details with the front-of-house crew,' Emma said.

Tickets are available from Corran Halls Box office at 01631 567333.



Kirk prepares for 2016 Christmas tree extravaganza

FOLLOWING the community's spectacular display of trees last year, the Friends of St Conan's Kirk at Lochawe are again organising a Christmas tree festival for this first weekend in December.

How many trees will there be this year? Last year 40 decorated trees were contributed. The inside of the kirk looked magical and was featured on BBC Alba and in *The Oban Times* under the heading 'Tree-mendous!'.

This year invitations have been sent out to community groups, businesses, tourist attractions and schools over a wide area from Cairndow to Oban. Everyone decorating a tree has the opportunity to highlight their organisation and have some fun at the same time.

All visitors to the festival are asked to vote for their favourite tree. Whose tree will be the 2016 visitors' favourite?

After admiring all the trees, visitors can relax and take in the Christmas atmosphere while enjoying a hot drink and festive home baking.

On Sunday December 4 the Tarbert Ladies Choir 'sing Christmas', providing very appropriate background music at 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Whenever you visit over the weekend, a very special experience is assured. Children will love seeing all the decorations.

Everyone will be amazed by the detail on the individual trees and St Conan's will look fantastical bathed in the twinkling Christmas lights.

The festival is open in the afternoons of Friday December 2 and Sunday December 4 and all day on Saturday December 3. Entry is by donation. All proceeds go towards the ongoing kirk restoration.

In next week's *The Oban Times* & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

WIN

a Christmas Hamper, courtesy of Lidl worth £150!



Two hampers up for grabs
One winner from Lochaber for Lidl, Fort William store
One winner from Argyll for Lidl, Oban

Full details in next week's *Oban Times*, Dec 8

Dozens of young dancers step up to raise cash for equipment and uniforms

THE sold-out dance show at Atlantis Leisure took place last Saturday, with 70 young dancers taking part.

More than 200 spectators made their way to the main hall for 7.30pm to watch the event.

At the show, there

was also a bake sale, which raised £360 to go towards future dance shows. The money will help buy equipment as well as uniforms.

Jade MacEwan, who was in charge of organising the event and who also teaches some of the

dance classes, said: 'It was good. We had about 70 dancers and that was a combination of highland dancers, hip-hop, ballet and born to move.'

Born to move is a beginners' class and, during the show's interval, spectators were

given the opportunity to go on stage and try out some of the routines.

'It was a great success,' Jade said. 'All the kids enjoyed it. We sold 200 tickets and we also had two dance groups from Oban High School performing.'

All of the dance groups, apart from the two from Oban High School, are classes taught at Atlantis Leisure.

The kids were practicing for this one since the schools went back in August and the next

show will take place before they go back in the summer.

To find out more, or to get involved, call Atlantis Leisure on 01631 566800 or email jade.macewan@atlantisleisure.co.uk.



Taking time out to pose for our photographer were the young dancers. Picture: Kevin McGlynn

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 8th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £19.99

A

B

C

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban

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

JOHN AND JANE SMITH, OBAN
would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a merry Christmas

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

OBAN TIMES, LOCHAVULLIN IND EST, OBAN TEL: 01631 568000

OBAN TIMES, 22 HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003

ONLY £19.99 (inc. VAT.) OPTIONS A,B OR C.

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or Phone in your message quoting your Master Card/Visa Number
Deadline Monday 5th December. To appear Thursday 8th December

*NAME..... A B C

ADDRESS..... PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE

..... TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.

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

20 words maximum
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO PEOPLE AT MACLEOD HOUSE AND LODGE INCLUDING FULL SCOTTISH BREAKFAST AND A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE UPON ARRIVAL



Nestled in the heart of a magnificent and ancient estate, the five-star MacLeod House and Lodge provide unsurpassed luxury accommodation, comfort and service. With its origins in the 15th century, the baronial mansion offers period features while providing modern amenities fit for the 21st Century.



The exquisite nineteen bedroom hotel is adorned with opulent furnishings, fine linens and Italian marble ensembles. With its secret stairways, traditional log fires, whisky snug and spectacular grounds, MacLeod House promises lavish accommodation in a secluded and dramatic location just minutes from the clubhouse and golf facilities.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
Which century does MacLeod House date back to?

Stay to be taken between 1 April and 31 October 2017 subject to availability. Cannot be exchanged or transferred.

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Competitions, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is December 31, 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

Every day is a day for learning in the mountains – even for the most experienced

SCOTLAND'S mountains are a winter playground for thousands of hill-walkers, climbers and mountaineers, with a wide range of experience levels. And examination of the fatal accident statistics for the past year shows it isn't just novices getting into difficulties. Sadly, 20 people have died so far in the mountains this year. Ten of these were either approaching, or on, a technical climb. Three died as a result of avalanche. Three of the others who died had literally spent a lifetime enjoying the hills. With snow on the mountains, Mountaineering Scotland reminds everyone heading out to enjoy the hills to pause, think and prepare for the challenges that face us all in winter. Heather Morning, mountain safety adviser with Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'Shorter daylight hours, dropping temperatures and the first snow on the hills are all good indicators that it is time to think about extra kit in your rucksack. 'Routes will take longer than expected in winter conditions and many people will end up finishing in the dark – so a head torch and spare batteries are crucial. In fact, better still is to carry a spare head torch – as anyone who has tried to change batteries in the cold and dark will testify.' Heather continues: 'If you are heading out on the higher tops, now is the time to add crampons, rigid boots to accommodate them, an ice axe and spare essentials such as hats and winter gloves to your essential kit list.' With temperatures at 1,000m at least 10°C lower than sea level at this time of year – and feeling even lower through the effect of any wind chill – many underestimate how quickly they can

feel the cold, which can turn to hypothermia in less than an hour. Extra layers are essential, such as a synthetic duvet jacket, and an emergency bivvi bag stored in the bottom of a rucksack is highly recommended, just in case you have to be stationary on the hill for any length of time. Those who head to the hills with friends or as part of a group are advised to invest in a lightweight, nylon group shelter. This can provide a snug spot for lunch if the weather is poor and a vital refuge if someone in a group is injured and they have to wait for help to arrive. Want to learn more? Every winter Mountaineering Scotland reaches out to the wider mountaineering community, teaming up with outdoor shops across the country to offer a series of free winter mountain skills talks. Eleven talks are held at venues from Inverness to Edinburgh, designed to give a taster of essential skills for novices and a refresher for seasoned mountaineers. Heather explained: 'We find that an effective way to get the message out to less experienced mountain-lovers or those who want to progress from summer hillwalking to winter mountaineering, is to reach them through our free talks. 'Dealing with winter conditions and avalanche avoidance isn't just a case of buying all the right gear: the right knowledge and experience is crucial.' Mountaineering Scotland also runs a number of subsidised winter mountain skills training courses, and provides further guidance and skills videos, together with details of free talks, on its website at www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and-skills.

Natasha performs at charity reception



Natasha Watson and Colin Flinn, chief executive of the RCET.

A RISING dance star from Taynuilt-based Ballet West, Natasha Watson, 20, gave a moving account of the support she received at a charity reception last week for the Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET) on the occasion of its move to Scotland. The RCET has been supporting the educational needs of children of Scottish armed forces personnel for more than 200 years. Natasha spoke

of the support she received from the RCET and the enormous difference it had made to her. Natasha, now a teacher and choreographer at Ballet West in Taynuilt, regularly performs with Scottish Ballet and English National Ballet and will be dancing the lead role in Ballet West's *Swan Lake* which is touring Scotland early next year, including a performance in Oban's Corran Halls on February 9.

Jaconelli's Fish Diner

Reader Offer 25% Off

Terms and Conditions

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

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

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

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

Lawrence Jaconelli

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

www.jaconellisfish.co.uk

Jaconelli's Fish Diner, Lomondgate Services, G82 2QU. TEL: 01389 732633

Find us on **Facebook**
www.facebook.com/obantimes



"Oh the Caledonian Canal for me..." – Chapter 2

Early on the morning of Tuesday the 15th of November we entered the sea-lock at Corpach. This marked the beginning of the final leg of our voyage to Gairloch, from sea to inland waterway.

The Caledonian Canal is a world-renowned feat of engineering, endurance and hard labour. Built in the early eighteenth hundreds by Thomas Telford and funded by the British Government, one of its main intended roles was to allow the safe passage of Royal Navy ships between

the North Sea and the Atlantic. This was mainly to give the British advantage over the French in the Napoleonic Wars. However, with the Battle of Waterloo ending that series of conflicts in 1815, this primary purpose was made redundant long before the Canal was eventually finished in 1822. By then, the project was twelve years behind schedule and almost a half-million pounds over budget.

We were none the less grateful to Napoleon because even Andrew would have had a job lifting the

boat from Corpach to Gairloch without the aid of the Canal! (He had a sore back that day.) Up the sixty-four feet of Neptune's Staircase we went and with Admiral Lord Stevenson Snr in command, progress was quick and easy – Napoleon would have been dealt with much more swiftly if David Stevenson had been around 200 years ago!

When we were in the fourth of the eight locks lifting us from sea to loch level, Andreas Wolfe of BBC Alba An Là fame emerged from the Moorings Hotel and asked if

he could film us as part of his report on Lochaber Ideas Week 2016. So the St Olave made her Television debut that night! Andreas, who is German, puts mine, and many others ridiculous self-imposed mental block to gaining fluency in Gaelic in perspective. Speaking German, English, French, Italian and Portuguese, he converses in Gaelic with the ease and good humour that is befitting of his friendly nature. As people like Andreas show, learning a language is certainly not complicated but like many significant progres-

sions in life the only thing that is stops it is the simple step to take action.

As we travelled further inland I considered the change from sea, to canal and loch. I have always been strongly pulled by the sea and the feeling of being on it gives indefinable and deep peace. While aesthetically very similar – at times identical – lochs have never had any significant effect on me.

Like love, the sea is at once powerful, peaceful, unpredictable, beautiful, callous, wild, uncontrollable, vast and unfathomable

and it gives and takes away with equal unceasing vigour. In comparison, a loch, like lust is confined, predictable, shallow, without wonder and never can it quench the thirst for fulfilment that we strive for. There are correlations, similarities and overlaps but one can never equal the other.

However, lust and lochs have their place and the St Olave will happily hibernate beside the Stevenson ranch until next spring when again she will be released to plough the Western Ocean in search of dreams.

BENDERLOCH & N. CONNELL DRAMA CLUB

presents Alan McHugh's *Pantomime*

Dick McWhittington

7.30pm – Thu 8th, Fri 9th, Sat 10th Dec
Matinee 2pm Saturday 10th
CORRAN HALLS, OBAN
 Tickets from Corran Halls: 01631 567333
 Adult £10, Conc. £8, Family £30

BBC ALBA

A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 1 December – Thursday 8 December 2016

<p>DIARDAOIN 1 DÙBHLACHD THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 17.00 Prògraman na Cloinne – Children's Programming 17.55 Dè a-nis? (rpt) 19.00 Bailtean Alba – Scotland's towns (rpt) 19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh – History Shorts (rpt) 19.35 Speaking our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Bonn Còmhraidh – Episode 3 of the first Gaelic current affairs TV series</p>	<p>21.00 Gothenburg '83 – Aberdeen FC's memorable victory (rpt) 22.00 Tiree Music Festival 2016 – Highlights 22.30 JFK – 7 days that made a President – the story of JFK (rpt) 23.15 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Ceòl/Music (rpt) 23.30 Blas 2012 – Highlights (rpt)</p>	<p>Quiz (rpt) 23.30 Tiree Music Festival 2016 – highlights (rpt)</p> <p>DISATHAIRNE 3 DÙBHLACHD SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 16.00 Prògraman na Cloinne – Children's Programming 18.30 Seachd Là – News Review 19.30 Alleluia! – Spiritual praise and music (rpt) 19.55 Piping Live Shorts (rpt) 20.00 Eòrpa – News and Current Affairs from around Europe (rpt) 20.30 Bonn Còmhraidh – Episode 3 of the first Gaelic current affairs TV series (rpt) 21.00 Opry an Iuir – Irish Country Music (rpt) 22.00 Football: Hamilton Accies v Partick Thistle (rpt) 23.00 JFK – 7 days that made a President (rpt) 23.45 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael – Weather (rpt)</p>	<p>DILUAIN 5 DÙBHLACHD MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 17.00 Prògraman na Cloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Muir is Tìr – nature and wildlife (rpt) 19.30 Earrann Eachdraidh – History Shorts (rpt) 19.35 Speaking our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Peigi Wood: Na Bannan – a profile of the Bannan star (rpt) 21.00 Trusadh: The Land Raiders – key events in the Lewis land struggles (rpt) 22.00 Port – Conamara - shared musical roots in Connemara (rpt) 22.30 Bothy Life / Bothan nam Beann – Scotland's mountain bothies (rpt) 23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn – Quiz Show (rpt)</p>	<p>TUESDAY 6 DÙBHLACHD TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 17.00 Prògraman na Cloinne – Children's programming 18.30 UR NEW: De a-nis? 19.00 Muir is Tìr – Natural History of Scotland (rpt) 19.25 Earrann Eachdraidh – History Shorts (rpt) 19.35 Speaking our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 UR NEW: Gaisgich na Stoirme – the heroes who take on our extreme weather – Episode 4 21.00 Opry an Iuir – Country Music (rpt) 22.00 Trusadh: The Land Raiders – Lewis land struggles (rpt) 23.00 Sin Thu Fhèin – Finlay MacLeod meets Mairi MacInnes (rpt) 23.30 Alleluia! – spiritual music, song and verse (rpt) 23.50 Piping Live Shorts (rpt)</p>	<p>DICIADAIN 7 DÙBHLACHD WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 17.00 Prògraman na Cloinne – Children's programming 19.10 Muir is Tìr – Natural History (rpt) 19.35 Speaking our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 UR NEW: Eòrpa – news from around Europe 21.00 Balich na h-Airde – the remarkable Smith brothers from Ness, Lewis (rpt) 22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn – music quiz (rpt) 22.30 Port – shared musical roots in Connemara (rpt) 23.00 Gothenburg '83 – remembering Aberdeen's European success (rpt)</p>	<p>THURSDAY 8 DÙBHLACHD THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 17.00 Prògraman na Cloinne – Children's Programming 17.55 Dè a-nis? (rpt) 19.05 Muir is Tìr – Natural history (rpt) 19.30 Earrann Eachdraidh – History Shorts (rpt) 19.35 Speaking our Language (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Bonn Còmhraidh – Episode 4 of the original Gaelic current affairs TV series 21.00 Tartan Pride – the story behind the Scotland v England football match (rpt) 22.00 Tiree Music Festival 2016 – Highlights 22.30 Marilyn Munro – the life and death of the screen legend (rpt) 23.20 Torcuil's Guide to Being a Gael: Biadh/Food (rpt) 23.30 Ar Duain – world music series with Mary Ann Kennedy (rpt)</p>
---	--	--	--	--	---	---

bbc.co.uk/alba | bbc.co.uk/iplayer

The BBC ALBA air a ruith le MG ALBA ann an co-bhuinn ris a' BhBC. | BBC ALBA is run by MG ALBA in partnership with the BBC.



THE BRANDER LODGE
HOTEL AND BISTRO
NOW OPEN

HOGMANAY DANCE

Saturday 31st December 2016

Celebrate New Year with friends and strangers

6:30pm to Midnight, Entertainment 9pm to 12:30am

Bar to 12:45am

£30 per person

Book your table now

Nibbles on arrival with a snifter of Mulled Wine Brander Style

Discounted accommodation in addition to Dinner Dance

Single Room £50 Double Room £80

Bookings: 01866 822 243 Email: info@branderlodge.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

Saturday 3rd and 10th of December

7pm to Midnight, Entertainment 9pm to Midnight

Groups share the space of our new social venue for your Staff Night Dinner Dance.

Bar to 1am

£30 per person

Book your table now

Nibbles on arrival

FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK

'Tis the season to be jolly, indeed, with the sheer variety on offer from quality local producers. Few places in Britain proffer as much choice as the Highlands, such as artisan cheeses, chocolates, organic vegetables, beef, lamb, charcuterie, preserves and smoked fish.

And speaking of fish, as the 'seafood capital of Scotland', Oban and Lorn is renowned for all the bounty that the West Coast has to offer, from luscious oysters and hand-dived scallops to freshly caught fish of all kinds. Your holiday table will be festive and your taste buds will be dancing with such delicious fare, all produced in the Highlands and Islands.

There is more than just seafood, beef and lamb up for grabs. For a traditional flair to Christmas dinner, why not try locally raised venison, pheasant, duck or rabbit? Heather blossom honey is another country treat, perfect for cooking or gift-giving.

Outstanding beverages is another area in which the West Coast excels. Everyone enjoys local fine ales and beers produced right here. And, of course, the holidays wouldn't

be complete without a dram of the aqua vitae. Some of the world's top names in whisky are from the Highlands, drawing their unique bouquet from the peaty land itself. Whisky is best shared, so have plenty on hand and plenty to give as gifts.

Make your Christmas dinner one to rave about all year with choice accompaniments, such as chutneys, jams and preserves, made with love in Argyll and Lochaber. Pates, terrines, cheese balls, dips and other tasty treats will add a special touch to any gathering, from casual to elegant.

Make family traditions even more special

We all have our special family traditions and our own ways of doing things that are passed down from generation to generation. Everyone thinks their roasties are the best, their way of serving the turkey is the only way and their little quirks when it comes to pudding is the ultimate in Christmas cuisine. That's what makes Christmas. But one tradition that we should all get behind is shopping locally for our Christmas produce. After all, this is the most important meal of the year, so you want to ensure it is absolutely perfect.

The supermarket is not the only place you can go to find your turkey and all the trimmings. In fact, we suggest

taste
your
local fish

Voluntary
donations will
be accepted
for village hall
funds

Sample some
of our delicious
locally
farmed trout

When: Thursday 8 December, 4.30pm - 6pm
Where: North Connel Village Hall

It is FREE to attend and
anyone is welcome

We look forward to
seeing you there



Café/Restaurant * Museum & Heritage Exhibitions
Gift Shop * Art Exhibitions * Live Events * free WiFi

Explore our award winning Visitor Centre and enjoy the quality Scottish produce, locally sourced seafood and Luing home baking. A great day out on a Slate Island for everyone. Open daily all year round.

We are open for lunch & weekend evening meals. Tea, fresh ground coffee and home made cakes served all day. Please check our website for menu details, opening hours and upcoming events.

**Christmas lunches/dinners
available from 1 to 18 December,
5 courses £19.95, booking essential.**



For more information or to book please phone 01852 314096.
info@atlanticislandscentre.com www.atlanticislandscentre.com

Winston Churchill Venison
at Balagowan Deer Larder

Now taking orders for Christmas. Venison and
oven-ready pheasant and pheasant breast

Tel: 01369 705 319
Larder: 07879 491 181
Email: info@winstonchurchillvenison.com



**Inverawe Smokery
Shop & Café**

OPEN December 9th - 24th

For the best Smoked Salmon
& Christmas Terrines
Enjoy the café and walks

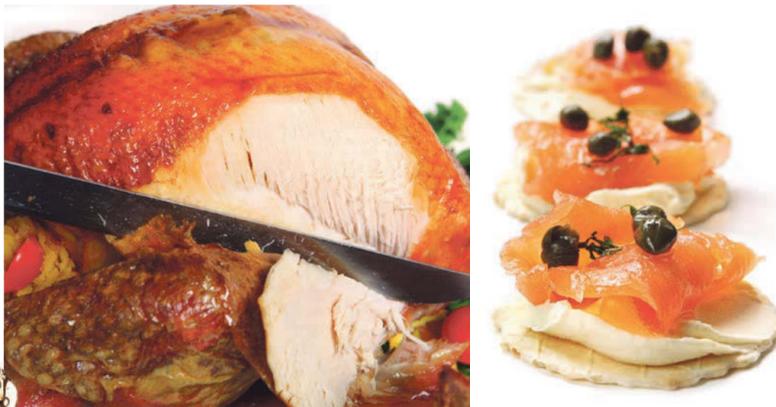
Taynuilt, PA35 1HU Tel 01866 822808





shopping around and looking at your local butcher, baker, grocer, and farm shop – you can often order in advance and pick everything up just before the big day, saving you time queuing in a supermarket, and giving you the freshest food possible. You won't find yourself running out of time and fighting over the last turkey if you do it this way.

Find your taste of the west at producers' markets, grocers and fine retailers, and make your family traditions even more special this festive season!



SUMMIT GOOD THIS CHRISTMAS

BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY
(FORT WILLIAM)LTD,
www.bennevisdistillery.com

Hogmanay at Blasta - £39.95 per person
includes 4 Course Meal, Glass of Prosecco and a ticket for the Hogmanay Ceilidh in the Royal Hotel with the Hector MacFadyen Band



B LASTA
@ The Royal Hotel
Please call 01631 563021 to make a reservation
Pre-bookings only

FESTIVE RECIPE

CREAMY SCALLOP CHOWDER

The rugged Isle of Mull is home to the best scallops in Scotland, if not the world. The secret? They thrive here, where the cold Atlantic mingles with the warm Gulf Stream. This hearty soup recipe is the perfect start to a festive dinner or a light winter supper on its own.

Serves: 4

INGREDIENTS

- 750ml chicken stock
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 1 stick celery, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 potatoes, cubed
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 450g fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 450g hand-dived Mull scallops
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 125ml white wine
- 1 egg yolk
- 225ml whipping cream



METHOD

In a large pot over high heat, combine the chicken stock, carrot, celery, onion, potatoes, thyme, parsley, salt and ground black pepper and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes. Transfer mixture to a food processor or blender, puree until smooth and set aside.

In the same pot over medium heat, sauté the mushrooms and scallops in the butter or margarine for two to three minutes. Add the wine and reserved puree mixture to the pot, reduce heat to low and allow to simmer.

In a separate small bowl, combine the egg yolk and double cream. Mix well and add to the soup. Continue simmering over low heat, stirring occasionally for 10 to 15 minutes.



THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

Your staff have worked hard for you throughout the year.

Show your appreciation and treat them to a fantastic Christmas Banquet, karaoke and disco here at the The Wide Mouthed Frog

The evening starts with a Bucks Fizz welcoming reception, followed by a traditional three course Christmas dinner ended with tea, coffee and mint chocolate, karaoke and disco will round off what will be a great night.

Runs from the 1st - 22nd December
Bookings only, secured with a deposit

Priced at £35 Per head

Wide Mouthed Frog Restaurant with rooms, Dunstaffnage Bay, By Oban, Scotland, PA37 1PX
Tel: 01631 567005 email: enquiries@widemouthedfrog.co.uk

Luxury Festive Dining throughout December

COLUMBA HOTEL - OBAN

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

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

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

OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY
3 courses for only £34.95

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

Old soldier in appeal to trace family of friend

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A SEARCH for the family of an old military pal has led him to the Bridge of Orchy area – and now he is looking for one final push to find him.

Alec Skyes, a corporal in the Royal Army Pay Corps, now lives in Wakefield and says while he knows his friend, Captain Alex Menzies, RAPC, had passed away, but hopes to get in contact with his sons.

Mr Skyes said: 'Early in 1960, I reported to the depot of the Royal Army Pay Corps in Devizes to begin my National Service. I was 22 years old.

'It was the middle of the rugby

season and I soon found myself in the unit and the corps team.

'I soon became friendly with Alex Menzies, who was a career soldier and already held the rank of lieutenant.

'We had a lot in common and remained firm friends long after I had completed my two years.

'Indeed, I was invited to his wedding some two or three years later.

'This was before email so it was the occasional card and letter we exchanged.

'Alex and his wife had two sons. I guess they will be in their early fifties now.

'Sadly, Alex died in his fifties and I lost touch. I would love to get in touch with his family

just to see how it all worked out. I have tried several times to find his family but with no luck. I know his brother was a ghillie in their home area of the Bridge of Orchy. Like me, he will now be an old geezer.

Looking back, Alex is one of the best friends I ever had. He was generous in every way. He was kind and scrupulously honest and supremely loyal. He had a Morris Minor, but he was a terrible driver.

'When I call up Alex, I smile. A smile tinged with a little sadness.'

If anyone has information to pass to Mr Skyes, email lglen@obantimes.co.uk and this will be forwarded to him.



Dunbeg Primary head teacher Sine MacVicar with children who named the street after her, and Link chairman Roy Stirray and Councillor Robin Currie.

Street is named after head teacher

NEW homes at Dunbeg have been officially opened, with the help of primary school children.

Link Group's new development was declared open by Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for housing, Councillor Robin Currie.

The £3.5 million construction of 25 homes for social rent began in February 2015, using £1.6 million funding from the Scottish Government and £646, 593 from the council's housing fund.

Built by TSL Contractors, the homes include one- and two-bedroom flats, two-bedroom semi-detached and terraced houses, and three-bedroom terraced houses.

The properties will all be managed by

Link's subsidiary, West Highland Housing Association. The properties benefit from a biomass heating system and the development has achieved the 'silver standard' in sustainability, which is the first project to achieve this accreditation in this area.

In November 2015, Link invited Dunbeg Primary School to name the street on which the new development is built. The unanimous winner was MacVicar Court, named after the school's long-serving head teacher, Sine MacVicar.

Ms MacVicar said: 'As Dunbeg Primary and the community is such a huge part of my life, it is truly an honour to have my pupils name this new and innovative housing estate after me.'

Tiree fest boosts economy by £1m

THE annual Tiree Music Festival (TMF) this year generated £1 million for the local economy, according to a new report.

On Monday (November 28), festival organisers released details of the annual visitor survey and economic impact report independently conducted by Stirling-based MKA Economics.

The report on the 2016 festival shows TMF generated £951,117 – an overall increase of 51 per cent on the 2015 event. The report also states that if taking multiplier effects into account, it is likely that the economic impact of the event has 'surpassed the £1 million mark for the first time'.



TMF organisers said: 'It is another incredible achievement by the festival that was only formed in 2010 yet has grown rapidly to become a multi-award-winning event that was once again crowned the Best Small Event in Scotland at the Scottish Event Awards in October.'

Brendan O'Hara MSP recently described the festival as a 'cultural coup for the island', commending the directors and team behind the festival for their commitment to the social enterprise event and its importance to the tourism industry of Argyll and Bute as a whole.

The achievements of the festival were raised at the House of Commons in an Early Day Motion by Mr O'Hara.

Tickets for Tiree Music Festival 2017 are on sale now but fans are being warned that discounted tickets sold out in less than three hours last year.

More information on the tickets and the full economic impact report can be found at www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk.

Residents invited to tasting event

RESIDENTS in Oban and around Loch Etive are being invited to a free tasting event next week where they can sample a range of food made from fresh, locally farmed trout produced by fish farming company Dawnfresh.

The event will take place in the North Connel Village Hall on Thursday December 8 from 4.30pm to 6pm.

Dawnfresh has five sites in Loch Etive, from Port na

Mine in the east to Ardcattan House. Dawnfresh is Scotland's largest trout grower and supplies major UK retailers as well as exporting across the globe, promoting the quality of Loch Etive farmed fish worldwide.

It employs more than 550 full-time staff.

Stewart Hawthorn, farming director at Dawnfresh, said: 'This is an exciting range of products for us and we want to ask the local community who

live in and around Loch Etive to come and be among the first people to taste them.

'We consider ourselves to be a real part of the local area and want to share these products with local residents and get their feedback and tell them more about the quality of fish we produce in their community.'

'I hope people will be able to join us for this one-off tasting event and I look forward to welcoming them on the evening.'

Olly Murs plans concert in the Highlands

POP sensation Olly Murs has announced he will perform in the Highlands next summer.

The outdoor show, which forms part of his tour, will be held at Bught Park in Inverness

on Saturday July 22. The singer, who shot to fame on the sixth series of ITV's X Factor, is undertaking an extensive, 20-date outdoor tour of the UK next summer, including Inverness.

Olly's hits include *Heart Skips a Beat* and *Dear Darlin'*.

Tickets go on sale at 9am tomorrow (December 2), from Ticketline. Visit www.ticketline.co.uk or call 0844 888 9991.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

OBAN LIVE
2ND - 3RD JUNE
2017

**EXCLUSIVE A FURTHER
OBAN LIVE LOCAL 20%
TICKET OFFER EARLY BIRD TICKETS**

QUICK! ONLY 48 HOURS TO CLAIM THIS OFFER*

HOW TO BUY YOUR DISCOUNTED TICKETS:
For 48 hours only, from 11am, Thursday December 1, until 11am, Saturday December 3 2016*, Oban Times readers have the exclusive opportunity to get their hands on Oban Live tickets before anyone else and with a further 20% off early bird ticket prices.

There are two ways you can get your discounted tickets to Argyll's largest live music event:

ONLINE
Access hidden Oban Times discounted tickets online by visiting www.obanlive.com/localticket

IN PERSON
You can cut out this coupon and bring it along to
BID4Oban, 43 Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA
between the following times
Thursday December 1: 11am - 7pm
Friday December 2: 9am - 7pm
Saturday December 3: 9am - 11am
Maximum four of each ticket type per order
*While tickets last

*All tickets are subject to the Oban Live terms and conditions which can be found at www.obanlive.com/t&cs. Only available from 11am, December 1 until 11am, Saturday December 3 2016 or until tickets sell out. Maximum of 4 of each ticket type per order. All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult with a valid ticket. VIP tickets are excluded from this offer. All tickets are digital and will be emailed to the purchaser directly. All tickets are non-refundable. Photocopied articles will not be accepted.

My dad looks after people who need extra help in a storm

POWER CUT? CALL 105

Learn more about our free Priority Services Register

Visit ssen.co.uk | Call free on 0800 294 3259 | Textphone services on 0800 316 5457

We're ready for winter. Are you?
[ssencommunity](https://www.facebook.com/ssencommunity)

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

FARMING NEWS

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



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

Tupping time is a chance to compare sheep breeds

By Ewen Campbell,
SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre
research farms manager

TUPPING time is upon us, as is the cold weather and snow. Must have been me talking of having too much grass last month.

We have weighed and condition-scored all our ewes last week, and allocated them in their respective tupping groups. Overall, the ewes are in good condition, reflecting the good grass growth we had through summer and autumn and especially the prolonged period of unusually dry weather over the past few months.

This year across our Kirkton flock we have eight groups of Blackface ewes each running with Blackface tups and four groups of Lleyns each in with Lleyn tups. They are all in individual mating groups so that we can record information on their estimated breeding values (EBVs) to capture the resulting genetic characteristics of the lambs in each breed.

Our high hill flock at Auchtertyre is managed in a more traditional way, with the ewes being gathered into a hill park to make it easier for the tups to locate ewes in season. We have put two Black Welsh Mountain, two Swaledale and 11 Blackface rams with the 500 ewes. It will be interesting to see how they all perform this coming year.

Speaking of performance, we have started to compile



Scottish Blackface and Lleyn lambs in one of our fields.

the results from our Kirkton research flock from the past five years, and I thought it would be interesting to share some preliminary results.

One of the aims of this project was to look at performance differences between the different breeds of sheep within the flock, consisting of 300 Lleyn ewes (a

Welsh upland breed) and 600 Scottish Blackface (which are traditionally seen as well suited to the harsh hill environment). Apart from at mating time, when the animals were mated in single sire mating groups with different rams of various genetic merit, the animals all ran together as a flock throughout each year.

All ewes were mated on the inbye grasslands or in hill parks, and then spent the winter moving between the open hill, hill parks and some of the inbye ground. They were all ultrasound scanned in February at mid-pregnancy, put in different feeding groups according to their expected number of

lambs, and then they were all lambed on the inbye and within the hill parks.

After marking, the ewes with single lambs were sent back on the hill, and those with twins remained on the inbye and hill parks. We then finished the lambs on farm, trying to keep them on grass for as long as the weather and grass availability would allow.

The preliminary results showed that the Lleyns performed as well as the Scottish Blackface ewes in the same hill environment. For example, over the five years, the average scanning percentage was similar between the breeds. Both breeds also had similar amounts of ewe mortality and lambs born dead (around five per cent). At birth, the Lleyn lambs were on average slightly heavier than the Scottish Blackface.

There is a still lot of information to get and details to check, especially since the animals were under two different management systems and we also used different types of rams during the years.

We will also be testing this further over the coming five years where the performance of both breeds will be compared under even more contrasting management systems, making greater or lesser use of the high hill ground during different periods of the year. So, watch this space for more information to come.

Around the markets

ISLAY sale – Saturday November 26.

United Auctions had a catalogued entry of 610 suckled calves and store cattle at their recent annual Christmas sale at Islay Auction Mart. A good offering of quality cattle sold well and in keeping with current mainland values.

Bullock calves sold to average 224 pence per kilo or £699 per head against 218 pence per kilo or £695 per head last year. Heifers sold to average 203 pence per kilo or £626 per head whilst last year's averaged 201 pence or £558 per head.

Influencing the sale averages this year was the fact that 99 per cent of the stock offered for sale was Scotch Assured.

Principal lots and prices. **Top prices per head.**

Bullocks

AAx:

£1060 – Gartacharra : £940(4)

– Lorgba : £900 – Octomore :

£890(5) – Keppols : £880(8) –

Uiskentuie : £820 – Lorgba.

BRBx:

£750 – Bayview

CHARx:

£760 – Gartacharra : £750(8) &

£740(2) – Knocklearach.

LIMx:

£1040(2) & £1030 – Uiskentuie

: £970(2) – Kilchiaran : £960(5)

& £950 – Uiskentuie : £940 –

Kilchiaran : £930(4) – Octofad :

£920(5) – Uiskentuie.

SIMx:

£770(7) – Kilbride.

Heifers

AAx:

£960(5) & £840(5) – Gartacharra :

£830 & £810(2) – Uiskentuie.

CHARx:

£850 – Knocklearach.

HERx:

£780 – Greanan.

LIMx:

£1010 – Uiskentuie : £900 –

Kilchiaran : £890 – Uiskentuie

& Ballychattrigan : £840(4) –

Uiskentuie : £830 – Octofad(3)

& Uiskentuie(3) : £810(6)

– Uiskentuie.

Top prices per kilo

Bullocks

AAx:

255p(16) & 249p(14) – Scar-

rabus : 239p(6) – Cruach :

225p(6) & 224p(3) – Scarrabus.

BRBx:

236p & 228p – Knocklearach.

CHARx:

246p(4) – Cruach : 245p(5)

– Carrabus : 231p(2) – Knock-

learach : 230p – Cruach,

Carrabus & Knocklearach :

228p(2) & 227p(8) – Knock-

learach.

LIMx:

267p(2) – Kilbride : 253p(5)

– Sannaigmore : 252p(3),

250p – Kintra : 250p(2) –

Kilbride : 248p – Smaladh(2) &

Woodend(9) : 246p(2) – Kintra

: 243p(5) – Kilbride : 242p(2)

– Woodend : 241p(6) – Kintra

: 239p(12) – Knocklearach :

239p(5) – Kilbride : 236p(6) –

Knocklearach : 234p – Paire A

Chlissan : 232p(4) – Carrabus.

SIMx:

267p(7) & 230p(2) – Kilbride.

Heifers

AAx:

224p(8) & 219p(27) – Scarra-

bus.

CHARx:

228p(4) – Cruach : 225p –

Knocklearach.

Security the focus at Oban Mart

FARMERS and crofters in Argyll will have the opportunity to obtain advice on farm security and fire safety at Oban's Christmas calf sale.

Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will have a stand at Oban Mart, along with representation from NFU Scotland, on Tuesday December 6 to give members the opportunity to get advice.

Over the past year, NFUS has organised several farm security and fire safety events across the country.

John Dickson, Argyll and Islands regional chairman for NFUS, said: 'Although we are fortunate not to have high rural crime rates in Argyll, we cannot afford to be complacent.'

'Farmers and crofters should be aware of simple, preventive and cost-effective measures that they can put in place to protect their property from fire and theft. With farms and crofts often in more remote locations, they are more susceptible and vulnerable.'

QMS events will help profitability for farms

THE relationship between grass and low costs of production will be the main topic of discussion at the next round of free grazing group meetings organised by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) over the coming weeks.

The main objective of the QMS grazing groups is to improve livestock producers' profitability by maximising the kilograms of meat they produce per hectare by using grass more efficiently.

At the north meeting, Borders grazing group host farmer Jim Logan and group member Alan Cowan, both low-cost cattle and sheep producers, will share their knowledge and experience with local farmers.

They will focus on how they use grass to keep their costs as low as possible, while still maintaining productivity.

The north group will also visit John Scott's Fearn Farm, where he is trialling a range of

winter forage crops to fill the gap in the winter when grass growth stops.

A Perthshire group will also hear about the relationship between grass and low costs of production from pasture-based dairy consultant Andre Van Barneveld. Mr Van Barneveld is based in Ireland and has a background in dairy farming and consultancy in New Zealand.

His key interest is in profit through a strong focus on maximising pasture growth and utilisation, controlling costs, pasture and financial budgeting, maximising production through maximising intakes, conversion efficiencies and farming the right animal.

'Given the industry uncertainties that lie ahead, now is a key time to take stock of how your business is placed for the future,' said Emily Grant, Quality Meat Scotland grassland co-ordinator and

one of the meeting facilitators. Understanding your costs of production is a very powerful tool in helping to make your business more profitable. It allows you to identify and take control over the aspects of your business that you can change.'

Attendance at the workshop is free and lunch is provided. Please note that clean boots are essential for biosecurity.

The north grazing group event is on Monday December 5 from 10am to 3.15pm meeting at the Seaboard Centre, Ballintore, Tain, IV20 1UA.

The Perthshire event is on Thursday December 15 from 10am to 3.15pm meeting at the Birnam Institute, Station Road, Birnam, Dunkeld PH8 0DS.

For further information or to book a place, contact Quality Meat Scotland on 0131 472 4040 or email egrant@qmscotland.co.uk,

Brexit workshops to help farmers

SCOTLAND'S Brexit minister and local MSP Michael Russell will be the keynote speaker at a workshop near Oban aimed at spelling out what breaking away from the EU could mean for farming and crofting in Argyll and Lochaber.

It is part of a series of seminars focusing on what the farming community can do now to prepare.

The aim of these events is to start local farmers and crofters preparing for the big changes that are coming. Making sure that businesses are ready will enable them to adapt more quickly to the post-Brexit industry.

The workshops are being run under the Scottish Government's new Farm Advisory Service (FAS) programme – delivered by specialists and local consultants from SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College.

The workshops will be followed

by four sessions looking at the detail of what businesses can do to prepare, looking at business planning, making best use of assets, the environmental influence and demonstrating public good.

Mr Russell, who will attend the event on Friday December 9 at Kilmore Village Hall, said: 'I am looking forward to meeting farmers in Argyll to discuss the potential implications of an EU exit to agriculture in the area.'

'Europe and EU policy is at the heart of the rural portfolio as EU membership delivers significant economic and social benefits to rural and coastal communities.'

'I recognise that there is considerable uncertainty at present, and my ministerial colleagues and I continue to engage with stakeholders, seek answers from the UK government and fight for the best outcome for Scotland.'

'The EU referendum result

does not diminish our ability or our desire to protect the environment and rural economy and we will continue to work together to create a sustainable future.'

The keynote speaker for the Islay event – two days earlier on Wednesday December 7 at Kilchoman Distillery, Rockside Farm, Bruichladdich – will be Stuart Ashworth, head of economics services with Quality Meat Scotland. And another two workshops are planned for Mull and Mallaig in late January.

Niall Campbell of SAC Consulting in Oban, said: 'These workshops offer an opportunity to hear the latest views on Brexit from industry leaders and gain ideas to help start planning for change.'

The meetings are free but any-one planning to attend should book through the website www.fas.scot/events or by contacting SAC Consulting on 01631 563093.

NFUS sees success for suckler bid

THE NFU Scotland has said its lobbying efforts to allow dual purpose breeds, such as fleckvieh, to be eligible for the Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme, have come to fruition.

In previous years, some dual purpose breeds were eligible for payment. However, in 2015, the new scheme made them ineligible to receive support. However, following efforts from NFU Scotland this has now been reversed. This means farmers can now claim on 2016-born dual purpose-bred calves.

Those claiming dual purpose cattle breeds will need to provide additional evidence to prove they are in a beef production system. These claims will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

NFUS livestock policy manager John Sleight commented: 'We have fought hard over the past year to create a level playing field for fleckvieh beef. It has now been confirmed that all dual purpose breeds in beef systems in Scotland will receive payments.'

NEW VENTURE WITH 170 ATTACHMENTS

MULTI ONE HIGHLAND

07517 544783
01862 811863

for all the latest information or to arrange a meeting please call the number above or email Murray.Kennedy@multionehighland.co.uk

1½ TON KUBOTA MINI DIGGER

360 series, 04 plate.

£3,000

Tel: Oban 01631 710334 or
07796 390411

STOCK REDUCTION

Spring-calving Highland cows in calf to Whitebred Shorthorn, also various classes of Highland x WSH and Highland / Luing x Sim youngstock.

Herdcare scheme accredited Elite health status. Hardy and tick-acclimatised.

Chris Leitch and Helen Mackay, Lagganulva Farm, Isle of Mull.

01688 500245
lagganulva@gmail.com

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER AT 12 NOON

SALE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS AND DAIRY YOUNG STOCK AT ORMSARY FARM, CAMPBELTOWN, PA28 6RN (On behalf of the Firm of M Ronald)

Livestock - 13 Montbelliarde Heifers, 20 Ayrshire heifer stirks (all ranging from 4-17 months), 1 Aberdeen Angus Heifer (10months), 2 BB Bull calves, 1 BB Heifer Calf

Tractors - New Holland T5105 with front loader – reg - SP14 DTO (930 hours), Case JXU 105 Reg SF09 JEV (2417 hours), Case maximum 120 reg – S708 ARZ (3667 hours)

Implements - 50 lots of small tools, Keenan mech fiber 320 feeder (2011) Marshall 8 ½ ton silage trailer (2014), Marshall 8 ½ ton silage trailer (2004), Lely Splendimo disc mower 2.4m (2012), Kverneland 3 furrow rev plough, Ifor Williams livestock trailer, Kverneland Exacta-EL manure spinner (5 yrs old), Amazon power harrow 2.5m with grain seeder, Pz haybale, Twose ballast roller, Mchale 5ft shear grab (2008), Allman 600 sprayer, Chain harrows, Wydale calf milk feeder, Thrle hd 623 steam cleaner, Honda 250 quad bike (2 yrs old, 678 hours), ATV trailer also selection of field gates, troughs, barriers

Inputs - Honda 420 electric shift quad bike (5 yrs old), Logic 4' x 6' trailer, Japa 385 basic firewood processor (15" cut), troughs and ring feeders

Refreshments Purveyed. Pictures can be viewed on our website www.lawrieandsymington.com

Inputs welcome please contact Jim Bennet 07775 754885

LAWRIE & SYMINGTON

Registered Office at Muirglen, Hyndford Road, Lanark, ML11 9AX Tel: 01555 662281 Fax: 01555 665638/665100

E Mail: Lanark@lawrieandsymington.com www.lawrieandsymington.com

West Coast **MOTORING TIMES**

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

MITSUBISHI PAJERO



"M" Reg. 117kmiles. Manual. Diesel. MOT until May 2017. New batteries. Drives well. Very clean.
£1,000 ono

07786835886 (Appin area)

FORD TRANSIT 350 DROPSIDE



Yr 2008, 1 owner, ex bt box van, Brand new dropside body, 81000 miles, with service print out. Good clean pick up.
£6000+vat

Contact 07500786612

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan, any 4x 4 consiered, also non-runners, failures, single or double cab.

Tel: 01250884 306 or mobile 07885203 020

WANTED

All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Tel 07703490572 ask for Robert

Call 01631 568000 to sell your car in our Drivetimes section

2ND HAND CARAVANS FOR SALE OFF SITE



from £500

Phone Port Ban Holiday Park 01880 770 224 or email info@portban.com

WANTED

All Vans / Commercial, All Mercedes, Volkswagen, Ford, Iveco, Nissan, Vauxhall ect. All Types, any size. Luton Vans, Tipper, Chassis Cab. All Sizes, Non Runners, High Milage, Damaged, Rotten, MOT Failures, Write Offs, Declared Scrapped etc. Cash Paid.

Collection anywhere, call for a hassle free sale 07789 855 381

MUNRO'S OF OBAN

MOTs • Servicing • Repairs

All makes of vehicle serviced and repaired. Including Volkswagen & Skoda.

Munro's of Oban, Lochavullin Ind. Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel: 01631 564463
Email: munrosoban@aol.com
Web: www.munrosoban.co.uk

DRIVETIMES NOW ONLY

£32

IF UNSOLD AFTER 1ST WEEK JUST CALL BEFORE TUESDAY 3PM TO GET YOUR SECOND WEEK FREE

Tel: 01631 568000

SCOTS Heritage Magazine

SUBSCRIBE FOR ONLY **£15 A YEAR**

NEW ISSUE OUT NOW

The NEW LOOK Scots Heritage Magazine is an unbeatable read with features on the events which forged this nation, clans, genealogy, great Scots plus a wealth of articles and features on Scottish history and stunning photography

KEEPING SCOTS AT HOME AND ABROAD IN TOUCH WITH THEIR HERITAGE

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com
Official magazine of the Standing Council of the Scottish Chiefs

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

NEW CAR INDEX

ISUZU

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440

VAUXHALL

Autovision
40 Harbour Road Inverness
Tel. 01463 251500
www.scottishvauxhall.co.uk

SUZUKI

Gordon Motors
Uk Dealer Of The Year 2014
Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4BQ
Tel. 01764 652125
Delivery throughout the West
www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors

GREAT WALL

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440

SUBARU

S & S Services
Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440

RENAULT

W.D. Semple
www.wdsemple.com
Inveraray Shore Street
Tel. 01499 302150

Lochgilthead Highbank Park
Tel. 01546 606767 01546 606272

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

MOT DUE?



MOT TESTING, SERVICING & REPAIRS
TYRES & EXHAUSTS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF CARS, 4X4'S VANS

Your car is in good hands at...

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES
Unit 6, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban
Tel: 01631 566502 01631 566470

54% of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car

Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.

Regional Press

WANTED 4X4s FOR CASH

All 4x4 Vehicles, all makes and models wanted. Guaranteed best price, no hassle, free collection anywhere. Land Rover Defender, Discovery, Freelander Range Rover, Vauxhall Brava, Toyota Hilux, Land Cruiser, Mitsubishi, Shogun, L200, Pajero, Nissan Navara, Terrano, Patrol, X Trail, Isuzu Trooper, Rodeo. + All other 4x4 Vehicles, 4X4 Pickups, etc. Single Vehicles or fleet purchases. Any age nearly new or old, any conditions from perfect to written off, non runners, rotten, no MOT, high mileage, blown engine, overheating etc. Cash in hand, no hassle, best cash price guaranteed.

Call today on 07789855381

like us on **facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Oban Times DRIVE TIMES Oban Times DRIVE TIMES

Stay connected

To Argyll and the West Highlands with the new Oban Times digital edition

Visit our page: **obantimes.co.uk/stayconnected**

Save £25* by going digital



Not all features available in all areas. *Prices compared to a one year print subscription.

COLOUR **krisp** print

your life with litho and digital printing

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

01586 554975



JOINT VENTURE PLAN BY . . .

BMW GROUP, DAIMLER AG, FORD MOTOR COMPANY & VW GROUP WITH AUDI & PORSCHE



Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik



Ford Motor Company



PORSCHE



DAIMLER

- **Joint venture to deploy a high-powered DC charging network for battery electric vehicles (BEV) covering long-distance travel routes in Europe.**
- **Power levels up to 350 kW significantly reduce charging time compared to available systems.**
- **Build-up of about 400 ultra-fast charging sites planned in Europe.**
- **Network is based on the Combined Charging System (CCS) standard which uses a connector that is fully compatible with most current and next generations BEVs.**
- **Unprecedented collaboration of the automakers would form a brand-independent network for charging infrastructure.**

about 400 sites in Europe is planned. By 2020, the customers should have access to thousands of high-powered charging points.

The goal is to enable long-distance travel through open-network charging stations along highways and major thoroughfares, which has not been feasible for most BEV drivers to date. The charging experience is expected to evolve to be as convenient as refuelling at conventional petrol stations.

The network will be based on Combined Charging System (CCS) standard technology.

The planned charging infrastructure expands the existing technical standard for AC – and DC charging of electric vehicles to the next level of capacity for DC fast charging with up to 350 kW.

BEVs that are engineered to accept this full power of the charge stations can recharge brand – independently in a fraction of the time of today's BEVs.

The network is intended to serve all CCS equipped vehicles to facilitate the BEV adoption in Europe.

BMW Group

'This high-power charging network provides motorists with another strong argument to move towards electric mobility,' says Harald Krüger, chairman of the board of management of BMW AG.

'The BMW Group has initiated numerous public charging infrastructure projects over recent years. The joint project is another major milestone clearly demonstrating that competitors are combining forces to ramp up e-mobility.'

Daimler AG

'The breakthrough of e-mobility requires two things: convincing vehicles and a comprehensive charging infrastructure. With our new brand EQ, we are launching our electric product offensive. By 2025, our portfolio will include more than 10 fully electric passenger cars. Together with our partners, we are now installing the highest-powered charging infrastructure in Europe,' says Dr Dieter Zetsche, chairman of the board of management of Daimler AG and head of Mercedes-Benz Cars. 'The availability of high-power stations allows long-distance e-mobility for the first time and will convince more and more customers to opt for an electric vehicle.'

Ford Motor Company

'A reliable, ultra-fast charging infrastructure is important for mass consumer adoption and has the potential to transform the possibilities for electric driving,' says Mark Fields, president and CEO, Ford Motor Company. 'Ford is committed to developing vehicles and technologies that make people's lives better, and this charging network will make it easier and more practical for customers across Europe to own electrified vehicles.'

AUDI AG

'We intend to create a network that allows our customers on long-distance trips to use a coffee break for recharging,' says Rupert Stadler, chairman of the board of management

of AUDI AG. 'Reliable fast charging services are a key factor for drivers to choose an electric vehicle. With this cooperation, we want to boost a broader market adoption of e-mobility and speed up the shift towards emission-free driving.'

Porsche AG

'There are two decisive aspects for us: ultra-fast charging and placing the charging stations at the right positions,' says Oliver Blume, chairman of the executive board of Porsche AG.

'Together, these two factors enable us to travel in an all-electrically powered car as in a conventional combustion engine vehicle. As automobile manufacturer, we actively shape our future, not only by developing all-electrically powered vehicles but by building up the necessary infrastructure as well.'

The automobile manufacturers intend to make substantial investments to create the network, underscoring each company's belief in the future of electric mobility.

While the founding partners – BMW Group, Daimler AG, Ford Motor Company and Volkswagen Group – will be equal partners in the joint venture, other automobile manufacturers will be encouraged to participate in the network to help establish convenient charging solutions for BEV customers. The joint venture is also open for co-operation with regional partners.

The joint venture formation is subject to execution of definitive agreements and merger control approval in various jurisdictions.

Stuttgart/Ingolstadt, November 29, 2016 – BMW Group, Daimler AG, Ford Motor Company and Volkswagen Group with Audi and Porsche have signed a memorandum of understanding to create the highest-powered charging network in Europe. The goal is the quick build-up of a sizeable number of stations in order to enable long-range travel for battery electric vehicle drivers. This will be an important step towards facilitating mass-market BEV adoption.

The projected ultra-fast high-powered charging network with power levels up to 350 kW will be significantly faster than the most powerful charging system deployed today. The build-up is planned to start in 2017. An initial target of

ISUZU 100 DOUBLE CAB PLATINUM EDITION

- 2.5 Twin Turbo Six Speed
- Fitted Towpack & Tonneau Cover
- Fitted Alloys & All Terrains
- 3.5 Tonne Towing
- 5 Year Warranty



ONLY
£19,795 PLUS VAT & RFL



Auto Services Perth Ltd
97 Crieff Road, Perth, PH1 2QB Telephone 01738 210000
www.autoservicesperthltd.co.uk Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm | Sat 9am - 12:00 noon | Sun CLOSED



RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Visit hijobs.net FIND A JOB SIGN UP FOR JOB ALERTS GET CAREER ADVICE ADVERTISE A JOB



Marine Husbandry Staff

Location: Sound Of Mull

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry-leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. Following a highly successful and record-breaking performance across our Sound of Mull farms, we are now looking towards the next crop with a view of doing even better. 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.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

Experienced Marine Husbandry Staff
You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of skills including fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety. Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

Trainee Husbandry
Applications are also invited by candidates looking to begin their career in the Aquaculture industry. We are looking for ambitious individuals who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. In return, we will provide you with a Mentor who will guide you through your first months of employment and a detailed training plan that will enable you to kick start your fish farming career.

All positions are full time, working a 40-hour week, Monday to Friday with 1:3 weekend working required on a rota system. In return, we will offer an attractive salary dependent on experience along with pension scheme, life insurance cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme. A current driver's licence is essential.

To find out more, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email recruitment@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing date: Wednesday 7th December 2016.



Freshwater Technician

Location: Coudoran

Scottish Sea Farms are an internationally recognised farmer of superior quality Scottish salmon. We pride ourselves in providing industry-leading and highly personal development paths which build into fulfilling professional careers. 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.

We currently have a vacancy for:

Freshwater Technician
The ideal candidate should have a background in Atlantic salmon freshwater production and can demonstrate competence across a wide range of skills including: fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, grading, vaccinating, egg incubation and feeding systems, whilst being proactive in health and safety. Above all you should have the drive and ambition to further your career through training and development.

Although experience is desirable we would consider applicants with less experience if they have the drive and ambition to develop their career within a growing successful Company.

This is a full time position, working a 39.5-hour week, Monday to Friday with 1:4 weekend working and alarm duty rota system. In return, we will offer an attractive salary dependent on experience along with pension scheme, life insurance cover, occupational health support, subsidised gym membership and cycle to work scheme. A current driver's licence is essential.

To find out more, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email recruitment@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

Closing date: Friday 9th December 2016.



WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

FINANCE OFFICER

[part - time, 20 hours]
Salary circa £30,000 pro rata

West Highland Housing Association is looking to attract an experienced, highly motivated individual for their small finance team. Based in Oban this is a new post that will complement the skills of our existing staff member.

The Association manages around 1,000 properties for rent or through factoring and has a turnover of £3.2m. The successful candidate will have responsibility for a wide range of duties and must be able to demonstrate their sound ability in areas such as:-

- Maintaining the accounting records including; purchase ledger, nominal ledger, and rent transactions.
- Preparation of bank and balance sheet accounts reconciliations.
- Preparation of monthly income and expenditure account analyses;
- Assisting in the preparation of the annual revenue budget
- Assisting in the preparation of quarterly management accounts
- Assisting in the preparation of the year end accounts file;

The successful candidate will be required to operate in an environment, which is subject to continuous improvement and change, therefore, a flexible and enthusiastic approach is necessary. Working as part of a team, the role requires a reliable individual with high standards of accuracy, numeracy and attention to detail, along with excellent communication and IT skills. The role will require to manage other staff.

The position is based in Oban and attracts excellent conditions including 25 days leave per year plus public holidays.

For an Information pack and application form please contact: susan@westhighlandha.co.uk or telephone 01631 566451
Closing date for applications is Friday 9th December 2016.



The Scottish Salmon Company

Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

Scotland's Business of The Year is looking for a...

MARINE OPERATIVES

Loch Fyne Stronachullin & Loch Na Keal Mull

Competitive salary dependent on experience

...to join our team of passionate aquaculture professionals.

We are currently recruiting for Marine Operatives to join our teams based in Loch Fyne, Stronachullin and Loch Na Keal, Mull. Duties will include all the day to day operations of the site including fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Applicants must have good practical and problem solving skills and ideally have marine experience. Previous fish farming experience would be useful, but not essential as training will be provided. A full clean driving licence is also essential for these positions. The Scottish Salmon Company is 100% focused on Scotland. We produce our salmon with a pride recognised at home and around the World. We require passionate individuals dedicated to delivering the highest standards in all aspects of our business from animal husbandry to customer service. In return we offer a competitive salary package within a successful and innovative company committed to sustainability. To apply and/or request a detailed job specification please use the contact details below. Please note applications are requested by CV and covering letter.

Angela Gibson, HR officer,
The Scottish Salmon Company
Arkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8HB
Tel: 01499 600 430 angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: Monday 12 December 2016
www.scottishsalmon.com




Scottish autism

Autism Support Workers

West Of Scotland Area Services
Part- Time and Casual Opportunities available
£7.73 per hour
Reference: SA/411

In this role, you will be an integral member of the support team contributing to and ensuring a high quality of care and support for individuals on the Autism Spectrum and/ or with complex needs within our Oban- West Of Scotland Service. Hours will include supporting in a Saturday Club for children and providing an outreach service to young adults which will include daytime, evenings and weekends.

For more information on the above job, please contact www.scottishautism.org
Closing Date- 9.12.2016
Registered charity number is SC009068

NOW HIRING

The Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary, Oban is now recruiting for roles including Duty Manager and Catering Hosts.

For more information and to apply please visit:
merlincareers.com



North Argyll House

Care Home

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
We are recruiting for the following positions

Care Assistant
Full time permanent post

Domestic Assistant x 2
part time permanent post

For an application form contact Manager Morag A Telfer 01631 562168



Scotia Plant

www.scotiaplant.com

Mobile plant fitter

required for Doosan dealer in Coatbridge, basic 40 hour week, work in and around the West Coast. Excavators, loading shovels, bobcats etc. Salary negotiable. Please forward your CV to info@scotiaplant.com



Enable Scotland

Full and Part Vacancies

£8.25 per hour

For more information please call or text Lori Anderson for an application form on 07889 456531.

Applications can be completed on-line @ www.enablescotlandjobs.org.uk or call into our local office a McLeod Buildings, Lochavullin Road.



Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Oban Bay Harbour Manager

Ref: 898-SB
Circa: £40,000
37.5 hours per week
Oban

CalMac Ferries Limited is a member of a Harbour Management Group which comprises Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd, Argyll & Bute Council, CalMac Ferries Limited and the Northern Lighthouse Board. Amongst its many objectives aimed at improving navigational safety in the area the Group is working towards the establishment of a Statutory Harbour Authority for the whole of Oban Bay, which with around 13,000 large vessel movements per annum, is one of the busiest port locations in the UK which has no single body in overall control. Oban Harbour is the main transport hub on the West Coast of Scotland for lifeline ferry operations, as well as attracting a large number of other commercial and leisure users, including cruise vessels, small ships, yachts, kayaks etc. A number of fishing vessels are also based in Oban.

A Harbour Manager is required to continue to project manage a number of safety initiatives already underway and ensuring the ongoing safe operation of the Harbour, in active collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders, with differing interests. It is anticipated that following the delivery of a Statutory Authority, the Harbour Manager will be required to formally assume overall responsibility for the management of the Harbour, to undertake and regulate marine operations and traffic in a way that safeguards the users, the public, the environment and the harbour infrastructure.

Candidates, most probably having a marine background, will require to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the relevant legislation and guidance, including The Port Marine Safety Code, and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

As the role involves engaging with a wide range of differing stakeholders, strong practical, interpersonal and communication skills, and previous experience in project management are essential. The position is based within Oban Ferry Terminal.

Please apply online at www.calmac.co.uk/careers/careers-at-calmac no later than 11th December 2016.

CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

Registered Nurse - ref: 59305

£13.85 per hour plus enhancements
Campbeltown

You will be required to undertake a broad range of nursing support activities and duties relating to the care of patients with end of life care needs, in the place where they live, usually in their own homes. Therefore, you should have a full driver's license, access to a vehicle and be willing to obtain vehicle insurance covering business use.

To apply by, 2nd December 2016, please go to: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/jobs>




MACLEOD

REQUIRE

JOINERS

FOR FORTHCOMING CONTRACT IN MID-ARGYLL AREA
CITB CERTIFICATE/S & VALID LICENCE ESSENTIAL

APPLICATIONS TO :- STEVE MCCORMICK
TEL: 07919 214993 OR e-mail - lil@mkmacleod.co.uk



aberlour

scotland's children's charity

RESIDENTIAL CARE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Aberlour, one of Scotland's leading children's charities, is coming to the Highlands. We are opening 3 new residential child care homes for the Highland Council in April 2017.

One of these homes will be in the Fort William area so if you work in residential child care or are interested in a career that will help children and young people flourish, please drop in and meet some of our operational and HR staff anytime between 12pm and 7pm on the 7th December, at the Moorings Hotel, Fort William, PH33 6PD.

Alternatively, check out our website at www.aberlour.org.uk/vacancies
A Scottish Guarantee Company No. SC 312912
Scottish Charity No. SC 007991




www.aberlour.org.uk

Stay connected

To Argyll and the West Highlands with the new Oban Times digital edition

Subscribe today

Visit our exclusive page: obantimes.co.uk/stayconnected

- Now available to read on mobile and tablet devices, anywhere, anytime
- NEW feature! Read articles in their own full screen format

Save £25 by going digital

Not all features available in all areas. *Prices compared to a one year print subscription.



PUBLIC NOTICES

Call now to place an ad in our Public Notice section. Tel: 01631 568000

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Mrs Alexandra Duncan has registered her croft known as 2 & 4 Shielfoot, Shielfoot (East End & West), Ardnamurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by August 11, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3300.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT
Donald MacKay has registered his croft 7 Onich, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by August 11, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3286.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION
Mr. J R MacCallum
15 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckkairn
0.2 ha - existing dwelling house.
70824
Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 30th December 2016 - Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

COMING SOON THE OBAN AND LOCHABER 2016 INDEXES

The Oban Index lists telephone subscribers, trades, businesses and services within the Oban area.
The Lochaber Index lists telephone subscribers, trades, businesses and services within the Lochaber area.

www.highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

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
16/04883/FUL	Ardno House, Lettermore, Ballachulish		Formation of letting unit in existing detached garage at Ardno House
16/05144/PIP	Plot 2, Former Caravan Site Faichem, Invergarry		Erection of house. Renewal of permission ref 13/03603/PIP
16/05183/S42	Land 1290M SW of Dal-Ghorn, Ardtoe, Acharacle		Application under Section 42 for varying of condition 1 of permission ref: 15/04743/FUL - To allow continuation of change of use to film set for further year (to 01 September 2018)
16/05186/FUL	White Corries Ski Centre Kingshouse, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Amendment to zip line take off, landing and path to allow for manufacturers detailed design
16/05197/FUL	Luiblea, Tulloch, Roy Bridge		Alterations & extension to house, erection of house and 2 no. detached garages
16/05205/FUL	4A Burnside, Spean Bridge		Amendment to permission 12/04647/FUL, revised dwelling house design for plot 11

Time period for comments is 14 days.
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/03030/PP	Extension to forecourt	Halfway Filling Station Dunbeg Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PX	Oban Area Office
16/03075/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 13/02786/PPP (Site for the erection of detached dwelling house)	Land North West of Bad-Daraich House (Plot 2) Western Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PS	Tobermory Area Office
16/03074/PP	Erection of 6 dwellings (amendment to planning permission 14/01752/PP for Erection of 13 dwellings and detached garages. Formation of new vehicular access roads - revised house types to Plots 1, 4 and 13)	Land North of Cairnmore Barran Kilmore Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
16/02910/PP	Erection of wooden shed for storage and short-term accommodation	Land West of Fire Station Back Road Port Ellen Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
16/03073/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with detached garage and installation of septic tank	Land East of Rhuarbh Croft Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BG	Sub Post Office Port Appin
16/02738/PP	Erection of emergency services network telecommunications equipment compound with 15 metre high lattice tower and associated works	Land East of Ballitarsin Glen Road Bridgend Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA44 7NZ	Sub Post Office Bridgend
16/02979/PP	Alterations and change of use of dwellinghouse to form 5 individual letting units for staff/visitor accommodation, including demolition of conservatory and erection of extension and decking area	Ardsona Lochawe Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1AQ	Sub Post Office Dalmally
16/02987/PP	Upgrading of existing vehicular access	Land South West of Fountainhead Bunnassan Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES
Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 2nd December 2016 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 567854.
Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 16th December 2016 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
He can be contacted by email - Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 01631 562444.

69%
of the business community
read the regional press

Regional Press
CLOSER TO HOME

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Scottish Calendars 2017 *The ideal gift...*

FROM £7.95 including P&P

FROM £7.95 including P&P

FROM £11.95 including P&P

FROM £7.95 including P&P

NEW
FROM £7.95 including P&P

Enjoy Scotland at it's best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. Featuring the breathtaking landscapes, and diverse architecture from around Scotland. New for this year Scottish Clans Calendar, featuring illustrations by R.R. Mclan. Our Scottish Calendars make the ideal gift. To see all the images from our 2017 range visit: www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

order form

I would like to order 2017 Calendars:

Calendar	U.K. inc P&P	R.O.W. inc P&P	Amount
Scottish Field Large	Price	£11.95	£12.95
	Quantity		£
Scottish Field Small	Price	£7.95	£8.50
	Quantity		£
Oban Times West Highland	Price	£7.95	£8.50
	Quantity		£
Oban Times West Highland	Price	£7.95	£8.50
	Quantity		£
Scottish Clans	Price	£7.95	£8.50
	Quantity		£
Total			£

YOUR DETAILS:

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Date _____
Email _____ To receive the 2018 brochure straight into your inbox please enter your email address here

If you wish we can send calendars direct to your friends and family on your behalf. Please provide the following details on a separate sheet: Name, address, your personal message, together with a note of which calendar you would like sent.

PAYMENT DETAILS:

I enclose payment for £ _____ by Cheque payable to Wyvex Media Debit/Credit Card

Card Number _____
Expiry Date _____ Start Date _____ Issue No _____ Security Code (last 3 digits on back of card) _____
Signature _____
Name/Title (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____

ORDER ONLINE AT www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on 01371 851 868 OR POST ALL ORDERS TO:
Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB Trinity House, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

✔ LETTINGS ✔ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ✔ SALE ✔ PROPERTY REVIEWS ✔ PROPERTY NEWS ✔ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

Highest number of first-time buyers in Scotland quarterly since 2007



- Home movers borrowed £1.3bn, up six per cent quarter-on-quarter but down 11 per cent compared to a year ago. This totalled 8,500 loans, up six per cent quarter on quarter but down 12 per cent on quarter three 2015.
- Remortgage activity totalled £890m, up six per cent on the previous quarter and 11 per cent on the same quarter in 2015. This came to 7,300 loans, up four per cent quarter-on-quarter and 11 per cent compared to a year ago.

Carol Anderson, CML Scotland chair, commented: 'First-time buyers continue to be a key driver in the market with more loans advanced to new home-owners than any quarter since 2007. This quarter also saw a four-year high in remortgage activity and quarter on quarter growth in home movers so all lending types have performed strongly over the summer months.'

'This is the first quarter post the EU referendum and the market appears resilient so far. It may take time to gauge the full impact but currently the Scotland market is in good shape and open for business moving forward.'

Scotland house purchase and remortgage lending

There were more loans advanced to first-time buyers in this quarter in Scotland than any other since the third quarter of 2007. First-time buyers also borrowed more this quarter than any other quarter since CML records began.

Affordability metrics for first-time buyers in Scotland remain better than for the UK overall. The typical amount borrowed this quarter remained unchanged from the previous quarter

at £100,000 (£134,900 in the UK overall), and the typical average household income of a first-time buyers increased slightly from £33,600 to £33,700 (£40,500 in the UK overall). This meant the income multiple in Scotland was 3.02, a slight decrease compared to 3.03 the previous quarter and lower than the UK average of 3.54. Affordability metrics for home movers in Scotland similarly remain better than for the UK overall. The amount borrowed this quarter was £135,300 (£172,800 in the UK overall), down from £139,500 the previous quarter. The typical average household income of a home mover was £51,000 (£55,200 in the UK overall), up from £49,700. This meant the income multiple in Scotland was 2.76, down compared to 2.84 the previous quarter and lower than the UK average of 3.27.

In the third quarter:

- Home buyers borrowed £2.2bn for house purchases, up five per cent quarter on quarter but down five per cent year on year. They took out 17,100 loans, up five per cent on the previous quarter but down four per cent on the third quarter 2015.
- First-time buyers borrowed £940m, up three per cent on the second quarter and six per cent on the third quarter last year. This equated to 8,600 loans, up four per cent quarter on quarter and five per cent year on year.

COMMERCIAL

RETAIL OPPORTUNITY

Potential for Freehold or Leasehold

Expressions of Interest are invited in The Ferry Stores (inc. Post Office & Filling Station), Kilchoan, PH36 4LH

Working with the Executors of the late owner and the local community, An Roth Trading Ltd is seeking to gauge commercial interest in this unique retail opportunity which will be sold in 2017.

Expressions of Interest Forms are available from Sian Scott, An Roth Trading Ltd, Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY - Email: sscott@mict.co.uk

Deadline for Expressions of Interest 31st December 2016



Scottish Government
Riaghaidh na h-Alba
gov.scot



HIE
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Scottish Enterprise

Free

The Oban Times
west Highland calendar
2017
west highland calendar

when you subscribe to The Oban Times*

Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe

*Minimum one year subscription.

Print subscriptions only.

Calendars issued January.



TREETOPS, LOCHDON, ISLE OF MULL

A modern detached bungalow situated in an attractive semi-rural position on the edge of Lochdon

- Well-presented detached bungalow
- Off road parking and garage
- Manageable garden
- Views over surrounding countryside
- EPC- D61

OFFERS OVER £225,000



bellingham.co.uk

01631 566122

oban@bellingham.co.uk



Autumn budget statement potential effect on property market in Scotland

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, delivered the UK autumn budget statement, and this week we examine whether there was anything in the assessment of the economy that might directly affect the property market in Scotland.

Mr Hammond announced the establishment of a new £2.3bn Housing Infrastructure Fund to create the infrastructure for up to 100,000 new homes in high demand areas in England as well as announcing the continuation of the government's existing Help to Buy schemes.

While there was not much in the autumn statement that will directly affect the property market in Scotland, it does exist within the larger UK economy and significant changes that affect the overall UK economy do, of



course, have a knock-on effect on the housing market in Scotland. However, we await with interest the Scottish Government's draft budget on December 15, 2016, to see if it will follow suit, or indeed announce any significant changes that will affect the property market in Scotland, with its plans for 2017-2018. We will, of course, keep you informed and report the outcome of the Scottish Government's draft budget when it is announced.



w: www.west-property.co.uk



e: info@west-property.co.uk



t: 01631 569 466 (Oban)

t: 01397 747 123 (Fort William)

Properties for sale / to let LET PROPERTIES NEEDED - LANDLORDS GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERT TEAM TODAY - NOW FULLY MANAGING OVER 150 RENTALS IN ARGYLL & LOCHABER

Falls Crescent, Connel

- Spacious Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms + WC
- Partial views of Loch Etive
- Popular village location
- Garden & Integrated Garage
- EPC Rating - C78

£35K UNDER VALUATION £290,000

A modern and spacious detached house located in the popular village of Connel in Argyll. The property offers bright and spacious rooms, practical layout and partial views over Loch Etive and the hills beyond.

33 Combie Street, Oban

- Top Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom / Shower Room
- Central location
- Excellent rental investment
- EPC Rating - F33

REDUCED PRICE OIRO £59,000

33 Combie Street- A compact 1 bedroom top floor flat close to Oban town centre. This flat comprises a lounge, small bedroom, kitchen and shower room. The property is decorated in neutral colours and benefits from double glazing throughout.

Sheepknowe House, Bunnassan Isle Of Mull

- Spacious detached granite house
- 4 Bedrooms / 4 Bathrooms
- Built in 1870
- Excellent B&B Potential
- Large well maintained garden & lawn
- EPC Rating - F26

OIEO £325,000

A substantial detached granite house positioned in a private location within walking distance of the village of Bunnassan, on the beautiful Ross of Mull. Built in 1870, the property is full of character and has been lovingly maintained by its current owners.

Connel

- Building Plot situated within the heart of Connel
- Highly desirable location, just five miles from Oban
- Planning Permission in Principle for a two storey house
- Convenient for local amenities

NEW TO MARKET OIRO £80,000

This desirable plot is situated in the centre of the village, less than 100 metres from Connel Village Store and Post Office. As well as offering restaurants, pubs, primary school, church, large medical practice and a village hall, Connel benefits from a railway station and regular bus services to Oban, Glasgow and beyond.

25 Stevenson Street, Oban

- One bedroom flat
- Located Centrally in Oban
- Unfurnished First Floor
- Council Tax Band A
- EPC Rating - B84
- Landlord Reg: 342259/130/31461
- Deposit and References required
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£460 PCM

One bedroom flat located centrally in Oban. Open plan living room and modern kitchen with spacious double bedroom and shower bathroom. The property is freshly painted in neutral colours, newly carpeted in living area and comes unfurnished with fridge and built-in cooker.

Airds Crescent, Oban

- Individual roomlet - Shared facilities
- 2 double rooms available
- All utilities included in rent
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- EPC Rating - C71
- Landlord Registration: 429688/130/04181
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£130 per week

INDIVIDUAL ROOMLETS WITH SHARED FACILITIES - 2 furnished double rooms in shared flat in the centre of Oban, available for rental on an individual room basis. Large double room - £130/week. The property is furnished and renovated to a high standard with modern decor.

MacGregor Court, Oban

- 2 bedroom flat
- Unfurnished
- White goods included
- Lift available - Double glazed
- Shared laundry room
- Landlord Reg: 449554/130/11251
- EPC Rating - C71
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£570 PCM

Unfurnished 2 bedroom flat in Oban Town Centre. This property has two double bedrooms with built in storage and a large open plan kitchen and lounge. The kitchen comprises of washing machine, dishwasher and large fridge freezer. There is good storage space and opposite the flat is a separate drying room with pulleys and driers available.

The Glebe, Kilmelford

- Large 3 Bedroom Furnished Bungalow
- Rent excludes Utilities (Storage Heating)
- Landlord registration: 476363/130/16231
- Council Tax (E)
- EPC Rating - E40
- AVAILABLE NOW!

£590 PCM

Spacious 3 Bedroom Fully Furnished Bungalow in Kilmelford. This property is in a popular residential area just 16 miles south of Oban. This property will be available for a winter let only. Downstairs it comprises of a large kitchen with separate dining room, a comfortable lounge, WC and double bedroom.

LOCAL SERVICES

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES
07834 640989
www.argyllchimneyservices.co.uk

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?

- AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM
- OPEN FIRES • WOOD BURNING STOVES
- OIL & GAS FLUES
- AGA & RAYBURN
- BIOMAS FLUES
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

Covering Oban, Lochgilhead, Inveraray, Tarbert and Kintyre, sweeping through Argyll

GAS SUPPLIES

West Highland Gas Ltd. Put some **CALOR** in your life

LPG gas, cookers and heaters
Deliveries direct to your door
ORDER NOW - CALL
01631 566370 (Oban) 01397 701414 (Fort William)

www.argyllresources.co.uk info@argyllresources.co.uk
Torrain Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL
33 Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 6PR

WINDOW BLINDS

Chris Craft window blinds

- FREE MEASURING
- FREE ESTIMATES
- FREE FITTING
- MADE IN SCOTLAND
- MADE TO MEASURE

OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 0800 371250
www.chriscraft.co.uk

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gordon & Strathern Ltd HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Kitchens, Glazing, Windows & Doors, Rooflights, Flat Roofs, Roofline, Porches, Conservatories, Sun Rooms, Extensions, New Builds including Architectural Services
TEL 01631 720074 or 07776402550
sales@homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk
www.homeimprovementsargyll.co.uk

MOBILITY

Tower Mobility

we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters

Mathesons, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage
Full range of packing materials
We store boats, caravans, trailers etc
Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: (01631) 564848
www.macqueenbros.com

TRADE SUPPLIES

TRADE DEALS DEC 2016
Ask in branch for more details...
Sinclair Dr, Oban PA34 4DR
T: 01631 562208
North Rd, Fort William PH33 6TQ
T: 01397 700744
JEWSON

TOY SALE

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust
SC041044
TOY SALE!

Brand New - still boxed. Huge reduction on RRP
Toys on sale from £1 - £20 at
MacQueen Bros Warehouse
Glengallan Road, Oban. Tel: 01631 564 848
Sale starts Thursday 1st December 2016, 0830hrs - 1700hrs
All proceeds to the Rockfield Centre / Oban Community Trust

Say it with style in the Oban Times...

If you have a special person to congratulate or thank; an engagement, wedding or birth announcement to make - or you simply want to tell the world about your child or grandchild's amazing achievements, then make it count with a special announcement in the Oban Times.

It now costs just £20 plus VAT including a photograph.
How lovely to have it in the archives for generations to come.

Get in touch with Louise Steel on 01631 568000 who will be happy to help with your wording.
www.obantimes.co.uk

WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL TRADE LOCAL SWAP LOCAL

FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupon on this page or visit the website and input your details there.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

JVC ADAGIO HIFI black JVC hifi with motorised speakers, cost £600 when it was new, good condition, £50 Telephone 07780 795870.

OBITSOUND M9 SOUNDBAR bluetooth, wireless subwoofer Bluetooth, remote 10 months old, selling due to TV upgrade, boxed, cost £299.95 unmarked, £95 Telephone 07528 479746.

SPEAKER STANDS height adjustable speaker stands in black, as new condition, £30 Telephone 07780 795870.

BICYCLES

BICYCLE RACK for hatchback car, only used once, cost over £50, £30 Telephone 01687 450313.

BUILDING / DIY

WINDOWS old original windows and frames, suitable for use as cold frames etc. Free to uplift (Ardrishalg), Telephone 07780 828875.

CAR ACCESSORIES

BIKE RACK to fit hatchback car, holds 2 bikes. (Ardrishalg), £10 Telephone 07770 828875.

BRAND NEW DOG RAMP still for sale, £30 Telephone 07796 954769.

HEAVY DUTY BATTERY almost new, cost £130, £50 ono Telephone 01546 603559.

LAND ROVER Discovery, Range Rover, pair of Shock Absorbers, new, still boxed, £50 Telephone 01546 603559.

SATNAV TOMTOM GO60 Ppfect condition, little used. Including USB charging cable, instructions and windscreen cradle, £75 Telephone 01631 720425.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

BREAKING RANGE ROVER 4.0 SE, Leather interior, walnut, good wheels and tyres. Cheap parts. £ Telephone 01546 603559.

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS TREES for sale, limited stock, any size, cut to order. Delivery by arrangement. Telephone 01546 510271 or 07887 484307.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

TRESPASS TRAINER STYLE SANDAL Womens new shoes in box, main colour is grey with pink stitching. Generous size 5. £15.00 Telephone 01855831669.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

METAL COMPUTER STAND , £10 Telephone 01631 566654.
XBOX360X + KINECT 250GB
Xbox 360x + Xbox Kinect 360X, 1 remote, 2 game controllers
2 head microphones games all boxed as new condition unmarked boxed, £99.99 Telephone 07528 479746.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

CARPET SHAMPOOER Synergy VGC, £35 Telephone 01855 831383.
COUNTERTOP FREEZER small countertop freezer. Few minor scratches hence price, two years old. Campbeltown, £50 Telephone 07577 222019.
LEC UPRIGHT FREEZER 6.7cuf "A" rating, 4 x baskets, 2 x fast freeze shelves, 60cm wide x 63cm deep (inc. handles) x 150cm high. Perfect working order. £50 ono Telephone 07813 295540.
OVEN AND GRILL new, £25 Telephone 01631 566654.

SHARK UPRIGHT VACUUM

Shark Rotator Lift away vacuum, great suction and lifts away for cleaning stairs. Complete with all tools. Only used a couple of times.
£100
01586 553979

WASHING MACHINE Zanussi washing machine, few years old

but quality brand, will do a good few years yet. Campbeltown, £65 Telephone 07577 222019.

DOMESTIC PETS

GERMAN WIREHAIRD POINTER 7 months old bitch, training started, legally docked and jagged, £1,000 Telephone 01479 861715 Aviemore.
GERMAN WIREHAIRD X POINTER 7 months old bitch, training started, £600 Telephone 01479 861715 Aviemore.
REGISTERED COLLIE BITCH PUP Tri coloured 4 months old, Telephone 07825 038955.
WANTED small adult dog, either sex, good natured. Loving home assured, Telephone 01880 820617.

FARMING EQUIPMENT

TATTOOING PLIARS complete with numbers. Ideal for sheep, cattle, goats etc. Original box, £49 Telephone 01546 603308.

FURNITURE

EXTENDING DINING TABLE and chairs, fair condition, well loved! Med oak colour. Campbeltown, £65 Telephone 07796 954769.
KING SIZE Metal Bed frame (Next) black with brass effect detail, £50 ono Telephone 01546 603559.
LOVELY LITTLE SUITE b uyer can collect today, Campbeltown. Two seater and chair in lovely warm red fabric. Surplus to requirements, £50 Telephone 07796 954769.
MAHOGANY OVAL DINING Table with extension and six chairs, £120 Telephone 07909 794222.

GARDEN

TOP SOIL loaded into your trailer or tipper lorry, FREE Telephone 01631 564848 Call Office Hours.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

HAZEL SHANKS strong, seasoned, semi-dressed, £10 for 6 Telephone 01546 603308.
PATCHWORK & QUILTING good number of quilting & patchwork magazines, excellent condition, full with patterns and designs, call evening, £1 each Telephone 01852 300154.
PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Blue and Pink colours in

stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

PANASONIC DVD RECORDER DMR-ES1 use for recording from TV to disc and for playing DVD and CD. Perfect working order, slight marks to case, box and all contents, £25 Telephone 01813 295540.

HOME FURNISHINGS

BEECH BLIND 38", £10 Telephone 01631 566654.
BEECH BLIND 73", £25 Telephone 01631 566654.
DARK GREEN ROLLER BLIND 73w, £15 Telephone 01631 566654.
METAL HEADBOARD , £20 Telephone 01631 566654.
RUG LARGE CHINESE light floral pattern, size: 380cms x 274 cms, buyer collects (Taynuilt), £75ono Telephone 01866 822071.

HOME OFFICE

2 OFFICE CHAIRS £15 and £10, £ Telephone 01631 566654.
PRINTER HP Officejet Pro 6830 printer plus 2 black and 2 colour ink cartridges, £35 Telephone 01631 567188.
SOLID PINE DESK Hartford range solid pine corner desk by Next. Excellent condition cost £300 will accept £90, £90 Telephone 01631 562272.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

VEGETABLE RACK , £5 Telephone 01631 566654.
WETROOM SHOWER TRAY for tiled bathroom, size 900 x 1100, waste fittings and full fitting kit included, £200 ono, Telephone 01586 553962.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

WII FIT PLUS & SPORTS RESORT Wii Fit plus Sports games. Only used twice and in original boxes. Includes exercise board and console, £50 Telephone 01855 831669.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers,

beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Glen-trool and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban,

PERSONALS

THANK YOU
'Rev. George and Elizabeth Cringles would like to warmly thank all who made donations in lieu of gifts at their recent wedding. The sum of £2,700 was shared between two charities, Mary's Meals and Steadfast Global.'

GOLDEN WEDDING FERGUSON
James and Kay December 3 1966 at St Munda's Church Ballachulish. Congratulations on your Golden Wedding. Lots of love Alison, Ewen, Sally, Ross, Anna and Jack x x

Woman Seeking Man
I am an attractive, slim, blue eyed, blonde haired lady in my early 60s. I have many interests and would like to meet a genuine, respectable gentleman, aged 60-69, possibly for a long lasting relationship.
Please call: 01866 833 338

couplers, 4 sets of quality reeds, recently tuned by John Crawford of Fife and set to Shand Tuning, bellows in VGC with excellent compression, a high quality Italian Accordion, £850ono Telephone 01855 811558?
EXCELSIOR PIANO ACCORDION Professional, 41 plus 120 bass, pearl keys, 11 plus 5 couplers, factory mid, home use only, condition as new, bargain, £1650 ono Telephone 01546 603537?
GUITAR AMP 10watts, perfect condition, £15 Telephone 01631 570955.
SCHUBACH PIANO needs tuned and a little TLC. Free to a good home. Buyer uplifts from Ardrishalg. Telephone 07833 121924.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

SALOMON BOOTS Salomon winter walking/climbing boots. Fully rigid for crampons, insulated, size 9.5. worn once, £80 Telephone 07780 795870.

PET ACCESSORIES

CAT PLAY STATION and a cat scratching post, two level kitten/ small cat play station with hiding/ sleep compartment. Scratching post 24 inches high. Both items are new, £22 Telephone 01855 831669.
DOG GUARD dog guard to fit Vauxhall Astra, like new, £30 Telephone 07780 795870.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

COLOUR PHOTOCOPIING A4/ A3, single/double sided, reduce/enlarge, from originals, files on disk or by email. A4 copies from 25p. Call Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.
ENVELOPES wide range of sizes and colours, sold individually or by the box. Contact Krisp Print, Telephone 01586 554975.

TOYS AND GAMES

BUZ AND WOODY both talking, good condition and video, £30 Telephone 07842 057208.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
Published on 8th December
SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £19.99

A Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all my relatives friends & neighbours from John Smith, Oban

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

C JOHN AND JANE SMITH, OBAN would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a merry Christmas

Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-
OBAN TIMES, LOCHAVULLIN IND EST, OBAN TEL: 01631 568000
OBAN TIMES, 22 HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003
ONLY £19.99 (inc. VAT) OPTIONS A,B OR C.
PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or Phone in your message quoting your Master Card/Visa Number
Deadline Monday 5th December. To appear Thursday 8th December

*NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
..... Tel.....
A B C
PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.
20 words maximum *(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

BIRTHS

GLANCY - Linn (née Breslin) and Scott are delighted to announce the birth of Kerr on September 28, 2016. A wee brother for Struan.

HALLIDAY - Cara (née Breslin) and Ross are delighted to announce the birth of Katie on October 27, 2016. A wee sister for Ella and Euan.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully, at Belford Hospital, on Thursday, November 24, 2016, Angus (Angie) Cameron, (Ex Sgt. Lovat Scouts), aged 97 years. Dearly loved and loving husband of Louie (née MacKenzie, Spean Bridge). Family and friends please meet for Requiem Mass at St. Margaret's R.C. Church, Roy Bridge, today (Thursday) December 1, at 12 noon; thereafter to Cille Choirill Cemetery. Flowers welcome. Donations, if desired, for the upkeep of Cille Choirill R.C. Church and Cemetery can be given at the Church door or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William.

GALBRAITH - Colin. Peacefully at home on November 27, 2016 after a long and dignified battle. Husband to the late Lynn and much loved and respected dad, brother and friend. Will be sorely missed. Funeral at Cardross Crematorium on December 1, 2016 at 12.15pm.

MACLACHLAN - Peacefully at home at Caalmojo, Kilmory, Ardnamurchan on November 28, 2016, Ian beloved husband of Chrissie, much loved father of Catherine, Allan, Morag and Joan. Devoted shennair of his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral service (tomorrow), Friday December 2, 2016 at 1pm at Kilchoan Church. No flowers please, all friends respectfully invited.

MACPHERSON - Henry Aitken (Harry) formerly of Spean Bridge and Fort William passed away peacefully at Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall, Orkney at the age of 89 on November 23, 2016, much loved husband of Helen, father of Heather, Neil, David, Craig, Fiona and Kenneth, grandfather and great-grandfather. Very sadly missed.

MAY - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on November 27, 2016, in her 77th year, Christina (Chrissie), much loved mum of James and mother-in-law to Mairi, a loving granny to Rachel, Shannon and Kirsty, a dear sister and aunt. Sorely missed.

MCLWRAITH - Suddenly at his home, 'Lornoch', Kilmichael of

Inverlussa, Achnamara, by Lochgilphead, on November 21, 2016, Robert (Bob) McIlwraith, in his 74th year, much loved and loving husband of Isabel, née Hatton, beloved father of Ewan, much respected father-in-law of Tanya, a dear cousin and a highly respected and admired member of the local community, and former work colleague to many. Funeral service was held in Kilmorich Parish Church, Cairndow, on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, followed by interment at Kilmorich Cemetery.

MURE - Kenneth Nisbet QC, died peacefully on November 18, 2016 at The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. Kenneth will be sadly missed by his friends, family and colleagues. A funeral service will take place in St Mungo Chapel at Linn Crematorium, Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow on Tuesday November 29, commencing at 3pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. A service will take place in Baugh Church, Tیره, on Friday December 2 at 12 noon and interment in Kirkapoll Cemetery thereafter.

SELBIE - Christina. Suddenly but peacefully at Oban Hospital on November 22, 2016, in her 83rd year surrounded by her family, much loved mum, granny and devoted gran gran to Mackenzie, Aiden, Stephen, Mirren, Beau and Freddie. Laid to rest on Monday November 28 at Pennyfuir Cemetery. Will be sorely missed by family in Oban and Isle of Lewis.

SPROAT - Peacefully on November 27, 2016, Elizabeth, aged 61, beloved wife of the late Harry (Tobermory). Funeral service at Dunfermline North Parish Church on Tuesday December 6 at 12.15pm, thereafter to Dunfermline Crematorium for 1.15pm. Family flowers only but donations in lieu for Tobermory RNLI.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Jessie Cameron, North Ballachulish would like to thank all for cards, phone calls, visits and support following their sad loss. Thanks to Rev Baxter, Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church and Scott and staff at J McLellan & Co for their caring and professional service. Thank you to all who attended the funeral and to Loch Leven Hotel for catering.

CARMICHAEL - The family of the late Dollie Carmichael wish to thank friends and neighbours for sympathy shown to them in their recent bereavement. Thanks to staff at Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, doctors at Connel Surgery, Port Appin

Surgery, all carers both past and present. Special thanks to Rev. Barclay for his service, Ann for the music and to Duncan Gunn for funeral arrangements and all who attended the service from near and far. Special thanks to Mary MacDougall for organising the smooth running of taxis and refreshments in the hall. Thank you also to the ladies for the lovely spread prepared in the hall. The generous donation of £265.00 will be equally split between Port Appin Surgery and The Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home.

FERGUSON - Mary and family would like to thank all the staff on Ward B for caring for Fergie before he sadly passed away. Hamish Hoeyes for all their help and Dugal Cameron for a lovely service. The Rowan Tree for a lovely spread and friends and family for all their kind wishes.

MACKINTOSH - The family of the late Margaret MacKintosh wish to thank everybody for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received following their sad loss. Thanks to Rev Robert Brookes for a lovely service and Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for his help and efficiency, Brander Lodge for excellent catering and to the Piper Iain MacIntyre.

McINTYRE - Julia and family sincerely thank family and friends of the late Sheila for their kind messages of sympathy. We thank Rev. Chris Fulcher and organist for a lovely service; special thanks to Duncan for his rendition of The Iona Boat Song; also Catriona and staff of Hoeyes for their supportive professionalism; the ground staff at Pennyfuir; Moreen at The Flower Basket; Rudi, Susan and staff at Lochnell Arms for their warm welcome; staff at Lynn of Lorne who supported Sheila through her final days. Thanks also to all who contributed to the retiral

collection. £210.30 has been sent to Argyll Animal Aid.

MEMORIAMS

DEMPSTER - In loving memory of my dear husband Archie, who passed away on December 5, 2014. Loved and remembered every day. Your loving wife Anne xx. Rest in peace

DEMPSTER - Second anniversary of Archibald Donald, who passed away on December 5, 2014. No farewell words were spoken. No time to say goodbye, You were gone before we knew it. And only God can tell us why. Anne Marie, Ian, Archie, Raymond and their families, Mallaig and Maryburgh.

GILLIES - In loving memory of Graeme, who died on December 3, 2006. Death leaves a heartache No one can heal Love leaves a memory No one can steal.

- With love Dad, Mam, Scott, Kevin, Cameron and Rory, Ross, Asha, Sandy and Lauren.

LAWRIE - In memory of my grandfather Pipe Major William Lawrie, 8th Argylls on the centenary of his death, November 28, 1916. - Sheila and family.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of our devoted Dad, John, who died November 30, 2010. Those we love don't go away.

They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Elspeth, Iain and families

MACDONALD - Marybell. Precious memories of my loving mum, who passed away on December 1, 2008. Always loved and remembered.

- Angus, Morar.

MACINTOSH - In loving memory of my dear wife, mum and gran, who died on November 27, 1979. - Inserted by her husband Ewen and family, Isle of Barra

MACQUEEN - In loving memory of our dear dad Colin, who was lost at sea November 30, 1990. Love you always

- Yvonne, Richard and Michael

McMONAGLE - Treasured memories of Peter, who passed away on December 3, 2014, a dearly loved husband, father, granda and great-granda. The rolling stream of life rolls on But still the vacant chair Recalls the love, the voice, the smile Of the one who once sat there. - From Phil and families

NEWELL - Flora (Lily) fell asleep November 29, 2011. Very much missed but will be with me always and forever. - Ralph

O'BRIEN - Treasured memories of Valerie, a loving wife mum and grandmother, who died on December 4, 2010. Your memories live on forever in our hearts xxx

- Billy, Louise, Laurence, Olivia, Amelia and Lucia

SMITH - 1930 - December 5, 2015. Alex F. Smith who died on December 5. In our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day

From your loving wife Nan. Dear dad to Alec, Eric, Shirley, Norman and grandchildren. Sadly missed.

TIMMS - Precious memories of our dear mum and loving nana, Sheena, who passed away November 30, 1971.

Also remembering all other loved ones. Treasured thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever

- Catherine, Lachie and family

YEOMAN - In loving memory of Chrissie, a beloved wife, mother and nan, who died November 28, 2014. Sadly missed by all your family - Hamish, Tommy and family

Special mass will mark 200th anniversary of famed cathedral

ONE of Scotland's most famous churches marks its 200th birthday this week. St Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow is the mother church of the Catholic community throughout west central Scotland.

The first mass was celebrated in the Cathedral on December 22, 1816, and, 200 years on, the current Archbishop, Philip Tartaglia, will offer mass to mark the anniversary on St Andrew's Day.

Originally built as 'St Andrew's Chapel' to serve the growing numbers of Highland Catholics coming to Glasgow during the Industrial Revolution, the church was a welcome sight and comforting presence decades later as hundreds of thousands of Irish people disembarked on the banks of the Clyde, fleeing from the famine that blighted their homeland.

In 1878, the church was elevated to cathedral status when Pope Leo XIII restored the Scottish hierarchy, naming an Englishman, Charles Eyre, as

the first Archbishop of the newly restored Archdiocese of Glasgow.

The cathedral was successfully restored and the adjoining cloister garden built in 2011 under the guidance of Archbishop Mario Conti, and today it is one of Glasgow's most visited landmarks.

It continues to serve as a busy city centre parish with daily confessions and masses.

In a letter to mark the anniversary, Archbishop Tartaglia wrote: 'Fittingly, for a great metropolitan cathedral, St Andrew's draws its congregations from Glasgow, from Scotland, and from the nations of the world but, in a typically Glasgow way, still creates a sense of family and community at the liturgies which are celebrated here.

'I love celebrating mass in our cathedral and am very honoured to do so as archbishop, not least because of the wonderful catholicity and diversity of the people who come to worship in St Andrew's.'



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Tel: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Chief reporter
Louise Glen
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

Senior reporter
Sandy Neil
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

Senior reporter
Monica Gibson
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

Trainee reporter
David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

Trainee reporter
Ellie Forbes
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

Trainee reporter
Katie Carabine
reporter@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Director of Advertising
Nicky Murphy
nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising supervisor
Nadine Ross
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Rhona McKillop
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Stephanie Dunstaffnage
sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising executive
Julie Baird
jbaird@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William
Tel 01397 703003

Lochgilphead
Tel 01546 602345

Campbeltown
Tel 01586 554646

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

MEMORIALS

Stokes Memorials
Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years
Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor

- New and traditional memorials.
- Additional lettering.
- Cleaning and renovations.
- Pet memorials.
- Work carried out in any cemetery.
- Free estimates and advice.
- House signs.

312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01369 702162 • Email: fraserdownie.43@gmail.com

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

D & A MUNN LTD.
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | Est. 1880
Owned and run by Ian Munn & Son

Professional and Dignified Service with Courtesy and Respect

Breadalbane Street, Oban Argyll PA34 5NZ
Tel: (01631) 562562 & 562203
Mob: 07778 373 759
email: info@munn-oban.co.uk
www.munn-oban.co.uk

24 hour Family Run Business Repatriation Service

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

Thought for the week

ARE you good at waiting? Well, it depends on for whom or what you are waiting. If it is a pleasant experience that is anticipated, then the waiting can be part of the fun. If it is something potentially difficult, then you can feel dread.

In the run up to Christmas people can feel either. For so much pressure is placed upon us to have a great time and get everything 'right'. Sometimes this is achieved or there can be an anti-climax.

When God-in-Christ was born in our midst, the purpose was not set up what we now regard as the 'traditional' Christmas.

Rather, in the anticipation, the waiting, the arrival and subsequent life of Jesus, much deeper matters were being addressed, as articulated in this prayer from Christian Aid.

God, our hope and our desire, we wait for your coming as a woman longs for the birth, the exile for her home, the lover for the touch of her beloved, and the humble poor for justice.

Our sense of urgency for justice is balanced by the requirement to wait. For those of us passionate to see a fairer world, it is hard but necessary to thank God for 'the darkness of waiting'. For in this time we may learn rather than rush in.

Through prayerful waiting this Advent, we may come to understand the deeper values of love and compassion that are found in God, and lived out in His Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. After nine months in the womb He was born into vulnerability yet, again after waiting time, His life was to change the world for ever.

Rev Dugald Cameron, Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland.

GRADUATION

Jane Brunton
(Fionnphort, Muile) Coisnte BA Barrachta ann an Cànán & Cultar na Gàidhlig bhò SMO Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd & nan Eilean. Pòsta aig Sandy agus màthair do Mhairi, Chrissie & Dougie. Graduated with BA (distinction) in Gaelic Language & Culture from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI.

Jennifer Henderson
Graduated from University of Stirling with a BSc Nursing with Merit. The daughter and big sister of Iain, Caroline and Kathryn and granddaughter of Gregor and Rosemary MacCormick, Appin and Mary and the late Charlie Henderson, North Connel. Currently working at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

JOHN MCLLELLAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

'Scott and his new team keeps funeral firm in caring hands'

Tel. 01397 702128
24 Hour Personal, Caring Service

Dudley Road, Fort William PH33 6JB
www.johnmcllellanfunerals.co.uk

CHARITY DONATIONS

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

Fundraising Office
Macmillan Cancer Support
PO Box 24040 Edinburgh EH3 1DZ
Tel 0300 100 0200
In memory of Dawn Joyce

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Jack Tollan
Birch Hill
Achnacreebeag
North Connel, PA37 1RE

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK
Angel Building
407 St John Street
London EC1V 4AD

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE
Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
Marie Curie Care
Mannin, 2/5 Lismore House
Station Road, Oban
01631 571009

Kinlochleven hosts Enduro World Series qualifier

'The atmosphere was laid back and friendly, the trails trying and technical, and the weather was properly Scottish'

THE ENDURO World Series qualifier at Kinlochleven was always going to be a great race. The big mountain environment around Kinlochleven provides some great trails that can stand up to anything. While Kinlochleven is no stranger to hosting enduro races, this one was a bit special being the first Enduro World Series qualifying event to be held in the UK.

Andrew Dodds from DT Swiss, headline sponsors for the race, said: 'This was a great event for DT Swiss to support. The atmosphere was laid back and friendly, the trails trying and technical, and the weather was properly Scottish. I've taken part in several of the No Fuss Events as a racer and it's brilliant to see their ethos carry over into this EWS qualifier round.'

The format for the event had been planned to allow for adverse weather that could be expected in November in the Highlands of Scotland, with two big climbs and three fantastic stages.

Stage one hadn't been used at an enduro before and caught

a number of riders by surprise on Saturday morning. It was a long transition to the start of the stage. Riders climbed out of the village to the reservoir before traversing the hill along to the top of the Leiter Bo Fionn path. The stage itself consisted of steep switch-backs, some technical steps and some flat out traverses, with plenty of opportunities to buck riders over the bars. It was definitely a stage that demanded concentration and respect.

Snow cover

The early arrival of winter in the days prior to the event added a new and interesting dimension to the riding. The snow cover made line choice just that wee bit bolder than riders were used to.

The snow conditions did not detract from the racing with the temperature not being quite cold enough to freeze the ground, although plenty cold enough to freeze fingers and toes.

Stage two was located on the bottom part of the Ciaran Path, a stage that hadn't been used for a while and was quickly

Mountain biking

remembered for its demanding climbs mid stage and its amazing finish bringing riders back to the village.

The newly refurbished Ice Factor was the event HQ for the weekend, the provision of a great menu and quality coffee in a warm and relaxed atmosphere was exactly what riders needed before the final climb of the day.

The final stage of the race was the well known Loch Eilde Path – wide open hillside with a plethora of line choices and an almost perfect gradient on the first half before descending into the tree line. At one point the path gets tighter and line choice is restricted to the big ruts sculpted by the years of motorcycle trials action.

Joe Connoll took the win with Ian Amstermuhle only eight seconds behind. They were the only riders to break the 14-minute barrier. The top 20 riders were separated by only two minutes. Chris Hutchens kept himself inside the top 10,



This breathtaking view of Loch Leven met the riders on the descent during the recent Enduro World Series event held at Kinlochleven.

Photo and report: Paddy Cuthbert, littlehousemedia

finishing in ninth overall and winning the hardtail category. In the senior ladies' category, Roz Newman took the win in all three stages with Janey Kennedy in second and Nicola Fell in third.

Chris Ball from the Enduro World Series was at the race and reported: 'Scotland excelled itself this past weekend, with fresh snow, eye-watering views and some of the most de-

manding trails in the world. No Fuss ran an incredibly relaxed and fun race in some of the most challenging conditions imaginable making it a trip to Kinlochleven to remember.

'Congratulations to the winners who automatically qualify for a place in the 2017 World Series, to all of the EMBA members who have scored valuable world ranking points and to all the riders who braved the

conditions and got out there.

'In conclusion, it was a great and memorable race, memorable in so many ways. Kinlochleven is always a great riding experience.

'The backdrop which is often described as Scotland fjord land is spectacular, and with autumnal colours and snow cover it was incredible.

'The stages were always going to be a challenge and with the

addition of the snow cover this added to the intensity. It was a pretty equal split to which was the favourite on race day between stages one and three.'

Spook Munro, from No Fuss Events, said: 'The Sportident Air system really has enhanced our events in 2016 with another faultless set of results and some really close battles. It has been the perfect race to end our busy 2016 calendar.'



OBAN Spartak 2005s (under-12s) travelled to Lochgilphead to play Campbeltown Pupils Youth 2005s at 11-a-side. Both Argyll teams are looking forward to next year when this age group will move from seven-a-side to 11-a-side football and used this as a training game playing three 30 minutes with the focus purely on the kids and giving them a chance to play 11s. In what turned out to be a superb advertisement for youth football in Argyll, the game was evenly contested throughout with coaches from both sides agreeing it was a very worthwhile exercise and are planning to host another exchange in early 2017.

Vital cup games coming up for Saints before the festive break

REGRETTABLY, the slight thaw in the weather conditions arrived too late to save Oban Saints' scheduled trip to Port Glasgow last Saturday.

A Friday afternoon pitch inspection found the grass pitch at Parklea playing fields to be frozen, ruling out any chance of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy second round match between hosts Port Glasgow Old Boys' Union and cup holders Saints going ahead.

This second consecutive enforced lay-off is far from ideal preparation as Saints build up to the biggest two fixtures of the season so far.

The lead up to the Christmas and New Year break sees the Scottish Amateur Cup and the West of Scotland Cup reach the fourth round stage and the draws in both major cup competitions have been particularly unkind to Saints.

East in the Scottish

First up is a trip to Edinburgh's West End this Saturday to face Salvesen of Lothian and Edinburgh Amateur Football Association's Lothian West Division.

Playing their home matches at Forrester High School close to Sighthill public park, Salvesen are currently on a 16-match winning streak in all competitions, racking up 75 goals in the process.

Their impressive run has taken them to the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur

Cup where they will face last season's beaten semi-finalists Oban Saints and also the last 16 of the East of Scotland Cup where they have a home tie against Stirling and District Premier Division leaders Callander Thistle.

Following a successful spell in the Sunday morning leagues, Salvesen joined the Lothian and Edinburgh Saturday section in 2015, immediately winning promotion from the Edinburgh West Division to the Lothian West Division.

Currently occupying second place, three points behind Shotts Thistle, Salvesen have two games in hand over the league leaders whom they have already beaten in the league and knocked out of the Scottish Amateur Cup at the second round stage.

Saints recent away form has been patchy to say the least and a marked improvement will be required if they are to successfully negotiate this substantial fourth round hurdle.

East Kilbride in the West

The task facing Saints in the fourth round of the West of Scotland is even more daunting where they travel to face Central Scottish Amateur Football League high fliers East Kilbride.

With only one defeat in 16 competitive fixtures, East Kilbride are also in a rich vein of form which has them sitting currently in second place in the Central Scottish Amateur

Football League Premier Division as 'best of the rest' behind runaway leaders Colville Park.

After taking the scalp of the mighty Colville Park in the Central Scottish Amateur Football League Bunrigh Trophy third round, East Kilbride suffered their only defeat of the season so far two weeks ago in the semi-finals of the same competition against the impressive Southside of Division 1A.

Saints and East Kilbride are old friends with the South Lanarkshire boys regular pre-season visitors to Oban.

This year's friendly on July 30 ended goal-less after 90 entertaining minutes in front of a healthy crowd at Glenclruitten.

Like Saints, East Kilbride



Oban Saints manager Alex Craik.

Football

are also through to the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup where they will face another of Saints' great friends – Greenock High School Former Pupils in what is sure to be one of the ties of the round.

The same can also be said of Saints' visit to East Kilbride in the West of Scotland Cup which would certainly not look out of place in the latter stages of the competition.

In a bid to get some much needed game time ahead of their two crunch fixtures, Saints tried to arrange a friendly match last night (Wednesday) against West of Scotland Amateur Football League Premier Division new boys South Lochaber Thistle but unfortunately the match had to be called off on Tuesday as the 3G pitch at Kinlochleven wasn't available so manager Alex Craik will have to go in to the vital Scottish Cup tie against Salvesen without having played a competitive match for three weeks.

However, the Saints gaffer is still confident his team can get a result in Edinburgh on Saturday.

He said: 'The players enjoyed our run to the semi-final in the Scottish Cup last season and are desperate for a repeat. Hopefully I will have a full squad to choose from for this important fixture.'

Glendaruel and Colintrave Gun Club

Shooting

THE Glendaruel and Colintrave Gun Club held the inaugural Argyll Vintners' Open Shoot on Saturday November 19 when 36 seniors and one junior competed on a mainly dry and frosty day.

Two events took place: a 50-clay target 'down the line' competition, shot over two rounds, and a winner-takes-all eight-target pool trap shoot. As well as the usual cash prizes, the first eight places received generous 'liquid prizes' from the sponsor.

John Gilchrist, Campbeltown, maintained his usual good form to take first place with 145 points from a possible maximum of 150 points. David Milton, Dumbarton, was

second with a score of 141, and Derek Street, Dunoon, tied for third place with Alan Brown, Bute, on 140.

There was close scoring for the remaining places with Nick MacFarlane, Lochgilphead, 139; Donny McPhail, Glendaruel, 136; Angus MacDonald, Duror, 135. Seventh place was a tie between Kenny McGillivray, Dunoon; Ian Dawson, Kilbirnie; Leyton Reid, Bute; and William McDermott, Bute.

The trophy for the best score by a member went to Derek Street, Dunoon, who also received a prize of a leisure experience, with food and drinks, for four persons at the Portavadie Marina and Spa.



Prize-winners of the Argyll Vintners Shoot at the Glendaruel and Colintrave Gun Club. Left to right are David Milton, Derek Street, Kenny McGillivray, James Scott, Alan Brown, Josh Cowan, Richard Deane, Nick McFarlane and John Gilchrist.

Youngsters through to last 16 of Scottish Cup

OBAN Saints Under-15s marched into the last 16 of the Scottish Cup with a recent hard-fought 2-0 win over Donside Juniors who had made the long trip from Alford near Aberdeen for the game played at Oban community pitch.

Goals from Euan Finlay and Aaron McKay made sure the Oban side were in the draw for the last 16 of the competition where the young Saints outfit have been drawn at home this Saturday to the Jimmy Johnstone Academy.



Saints' striker Aidan MacPhee on the attack with team-mates Jordan Norman and Cameron Clark looking on. Photo: Kenny Gray



SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Camanchd Association holds AGM

REPRESENTATIVES from shinty clubs across the country gathered at the West End Hotel, Fort William, for the Camanchd Association's annual general meeting on Friday November 25.

Members were told association's accounts were 'fragile' and it may be necessary to dip into reserves.

The association is particularly keen to secure a sponsor for the Camanchd Cup. The 2016 blue riband event was the first time in 35 years where there was no sponsor. This will leave a gap in the 2016 accounts and it was confirmed the association is seeking £30,000 to secure a new sponsorship deal.

The focus of this year's meeting, however, was on the 2015 audited accounts where turnover had dropped to £584,986 from £601,119 the previous year.

This can largely be put down to a drop in grants and sponsorship.

There was increased spend on development and coach education, wages, office costs, office expenses, advertising and promotions which led to an overall deficit of more than £8,000, against a surplus of almost £35,000 the previous year. Reserves at the end of December 2015 stood at just over £124,000.

The Camanchd Association has been unable to find a replacement for chief operating officer Torquil MacLeod. A first round of interviews failed to identify a successor and the post will be re-advertised early in the New Year.

The package on offer may be altered as there is a view within the association that the new incumbent must be able to match Torquil MacLeod's events management skill-set.

A special resolution put forward by Newtonmore, seeking a relaxation in the rules surrounding pitchside technical areas for televised semi-final and final matches, just failed to achieve the required 75 per cent support.

Newtonmore proposed that, to aid communication with players, team managers be allowed out of the designated technical area from time to time to communicate with their players, returning after a reasonable time or as requested by the fourth official / referee.

With an overall voting strength of 27 votes, Newtonmore required the support of 21 members to succeed. However they fell frustratingly short with 20 members or 74.7 per cent backing their resolution.

Therefore substitutes, support staff and coaches must stay within this area for the duration of the game unless authorised to leave by the referee or fourth official.

The only exception is for substitutes who are allowed to move outwith the designated area to warm up.

There was agreement to Glenurquhart's amendment to the ordinary resolution proposed by the Camanchd Referees Association which sought to help increase the number and standard of referees available to officiate youth shinty matches.

The Camanchd Referees Association proposal would have set a requirement that, as a condition of entry, every club with a senior team is required to identify at least two club members, separate and distinct from the referees currently officiating at senior level, who are either qualified as foundation referees or enrolled to attend a foundation referee course and who will commit to refereeing youth games for their home club or any other youth games as required.

The amendment from Glenurquhart restricted the requirement to clubs to identify

just one new official to assume this role. The amendment was agreed so the Camanchd Referees Association proposal was not taken forward. Members also approved an increase in adult membership fees from £15 to £20 and youth membership fees from £5 to £6. The increases came about because of costs incurred through the compulsory introduction of company pensions, anticipated additional VAT payments and a drop in commercial revenue following a year in which the Camanchd Cup was without a sponsor. Club and affiliate fees and competition fees remain unchanged and there was agreement to an increase public liability cover.

The AGM also formally elected Willie MacDonald from Fort William and Steven MacKenzie from Beaulieu as company directors. Willie MacDonald will continue in the post of youth director with Steven MacKenzie having special responsibility for communications.

Oban Camanchd raised its displeasure at changes to age eligibility rules at U14 level.

Strathglass have ambitious plans

Strathglass have announced plans which they hope will build on their successful 2016 season in which they finished second in Marine Harvest North Division 1.

Had they finished top, the Cannich club would have been eligible for a play-off against south winners Oban Celtic to see who would replace Ballachulish in shinty's second tier.

They have made a special application to the Camanchd Association join Kenny Wotherpoon's side in the Marine Harvest National Division next season.

It was confirmed at the Camanchd Association AGM that the Strathglass proposal will be considered at a meeting on Monday December 5.

If, as seems likely, they are successful, the Marine Harvest National Division will become a nine-team league next season - six of whom will be based in the North.

Strathglass also hope to reintroduce their second team in Marine Harvest North Division 2 following increased activity at youth level over the last couple of years.

Strachur return to senior shinty

Strachur will return to senior shinty in 2017 after taking a break last season.

Strachur, with their impressive Strachurmore set-up, will compete in Marine Harvest South Division 2.

The move is likely to lead to Kilmory, who finished second in the south's second tier at the end of the 2016 shinty programme, being promoted to Marine Harvest South Division 1 along with champions Tayforth.

Strachur's re-entry into senior shinty would be a fitting tribute to club stalwart Donald 'Donut' MacDonald who died recently.

Lochaber Camanchd annual awards

A number of player of the year awards were made at Lochaber Camanchd's annual dinner dance at the West End Hotel, Fort William, on Saturday November 19.

Lochaber full-back Lachlan Campbell was named senior team player of the year following his final season for the first time.

It was a family affair for the Campbells as Lachlan's son Max Campbell collected the U14 player of the year prize,

whilst his sister Aileen Campbell's performances in goal for Lochaber Ladies secured her a double - the Ladies player of the year and the supporters' player of the year.

This was the first time one of the Spean Bridge side's ladies had collected the latter award.

There was also recognition for Claire Delaney who was the ladies most improved player of the year, whilst Shana Michie's performances this year earned her development player of the year.

Keith Neville picked up the second team accolade whilst North U17 player Findlay MacDonald was tops for Lochaber U17s for the second year in a row.

Ryan Andrews was the club's most improved U14 player of the year.

2017 Artemis Macaulay Cup

With the 2016 shinty season completed, the line-up for the 2017 Artemis Macaulay Cup is known.

This tournament is the only one in senior shinty to be played on a regional basis, guaranteeing a final between a north and south side.

Eligibility is based on the previous year's league placing with the top eight clubs in the south in one half of the draw and the top eight clubs in the north in the other grouping.

The south teams will be the same as those who competed last season.

There are just two south teams from last season's Marine Harvest Premiership - Kyles Athletic and Oban Camanchd - although they did finish in second and third place respectively so they will be strong contenders.

The full list of teams to represent the south is: Aberdour, Ballachulish, Bute, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Inveraray, Kyles Athletic, Oban Camanchd and Oban Celtic.

It's the same again in the North as the eight top division clubs - including relegated Fort William and Skye Camanchd - go into the hat.

The north will be represented by: Fort William, Glenurquhart, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Lochaber, Lovat, Newtonmore and Skye Camanchd.

The final at Mossfield is usually televised and Kinlochshiel are the current holders having beaten Inveraray 5-3 in last year's final.

The 2017 Artemis Macaulay Cup draw will be made live on Oban FM on Saturday December 17. The draw will start at 6pm on the Sports View programme.

Lovat Ladies set for top flight challenge

Lovat Ladies have a big season ahead after their play-off win over Glengarry Ladies earned them a place in Marine Harvest National Division 1 next season.

Gemma Bell has been an integral part of the Lovat Ladies set up since the club was first formed.

Originally from Fisceavaig on the isle of Skye, she moved to Glasgow to study and broke into the Glasgow Mid Argyll side in 2003 as a 19-year-old before going on to feature for the Yoker side until 2008, winning the ladies game's most coveted prize - a Valerie Fraser Cup winner's medal - along the way.

Reflecting on the play-off triumph, Gemma said: 'We had a fairly strong squad for the Glengarry game. The match was a bit like the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final against Strathglass in that when we gathered momentum, we were difficult to stop. We



Eoghan Stewart, left, with Helen Carmichael, Provost of Inverness, and Norman MacLeod from STV News who was compere for the evening.

Eoghan Stewart and Iomain Cholmcille recognised by Highland Council

HIGHLAND Council recognised shinty work undertaken by Ales Academy Gaelic teacher Eoghan Stewart at their annual awards at Smithton Free Church, Inverness, on Thursday October 17.

Communities across the Highlands were invited to nominate staff who they felt deserved special recognition for their work and Eoghan was nominated for running The Cupa Iomain na h-Oige - a national shinty competition for primary schools run through the medium of Gaelic.

Working in partnership with the Highland Council's Gaelic team and Highlife Highland, Eoghan organised a national shinty event for P4 - P7 Gaelic medium pupils from schools across Scotland, taking the language out of the classroom.

Sports category

The event took place in Newtonmore and was held entirely in Gaelic. FilmG saw this as an opportunity to include a sports category within this year's FilmG competition and after speaking with Eoghan, they filmed the competition and provided commentary on the young Gaels' heroes.

Teams from Newtonmore, Lochaber, Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh took part and, after a competitive day's play, the Newtonmore youngsters were victorious in the shinty competition with Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar being presented with the Duais Gàidhlig for commitment to the language.

In his nomination, Seumas Charity said: 'This is the next generation of shinty players and Gaelic speakers and it's vital they see the rich

connection between sport and language from a young age.

'Gaelic medium education has been important to the growth of the sport in many areas and we are keen to tap into that energy.'

He added: 'Iomain Cholmcille is an innovative project and we feel Eoghan Stewart has been the driving force and inspiration behind it and therefore are of the opinion that he and Iomain Cholmcille are worthy of an award within this category.'

With the evening's compere Norman MacLeod from STV News on hand, Inverness Provost Helen Carmichael presented Eoghan with his award.

Speaking after the event, Eoghan Stewart said: 'It's a massive honour personally and it was very humbling to receive this award on the same night as some incredible projects. The aim has always just been to get people speaking Gaelic and playing shinty together and I hope we can continue to promote the language and sport.'

Eoghan Stewart has been the key figure behind Iomain Cholmcille since its inception in 2008 and he went on to say: 'We are really proud of what we've achieved over the last decade with Iomain Cholmcille. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped with the project in that time and hopefully we can continue to go from strength to strength with the Gaelic International Series and Cupa Iomain na h-Oige for Gaelic medium pupils as well as other projects. The message to shinty players with Gaelic is to use it as often as possible. Gaelic and shinty can gain strength from each other.'

have really clicked this season. Getting Laura Gallacher back playing in the team and having Fiona Urquhart has been a real boost, whilst some other players have moved back into the area.'

Gemma acknowledges the role played by current head coach Charlie Mainland and said: 'Charlie's input has been testament to the team's success.'

'He usually works his life around our fixtures but, of course, the play-off game wasn't scheduled at the start of the season and he was travelling back from Poland when the match took place so it was nice to win it for him.'

'We were all delighted when Charlie was named North Division 2 Coach Year of the Year at the recent Marine Harvest Awards. He creates such a good atmosphere within the squad and although he makes us work hard, he's also very patient with us.'

It's all a far cry from a cold November Sunday afternoon in 2010 when some interested Lovat players gathered for a first training session at Balfgate. Gemma Bell and her friend Gillian MacDonald, whose shinty loyalties lie in Tighnabruich, had previously starred for GMA but had both relocated north to the same village.

After a season with Strath-

glass, they decided to set up Lovat Ladies.

Gemma continued: 'We played our first matches in 2011 but they were really developmental games to gain experience.'

'We played our first season proper in the league in 2012 and to win the league and cup double just five years later is excellent.'

'When we set out, we just wanted to establish ourselves as a team.'

'I think we could have hoped to win one of these honours this year but we never imagined we'd get our hands on both of them.'

When the dust settles on the play-off victory, there comes the sobering realisation that Lovat will play in the top tier in 2017, lining up against big guns Badenoch and Strathspey and Glasgow Mid Argyll as well as the newer kids on the block, Lochaber and Skye Camanchd who swept the boards between them this season.

The Spean Bridge side won the Valerie Fraser whilst the islanders claimed the league title. Gemma said: 'It was agreed at the end of last season that whoever won the north and south divisions would take a place in the Marine Harvest National Division 1 for the 2017 shinty season.'

However it's not clear who will join Lovat, as Gemma explained: 'The south division was won by the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team. They cannot be promoted as their first team plays in the top league. Fort William came second in that league and it would be great to see them promoted so that we are both new teams in the top flight which wouldn't make it so daunting.'

Gemma has a sense of realisation for what lies ahead adding: 'It's going to be a big step up for us.'

'For a start, there will be more travel with trips to Glasgow, Skye and Fife. We'll also be playing 10-a-side instead of 8-a-side so we'll need at least a couple more players who are committed to seeing out the season.'

On the other hand, playing 10-a-side shinty instead of 8-a-side is a more logical format on the field of play and I'm sure our players will enjoy that. You're not just looking to hit the ball long out of defence all the time.'

'We look at both Skye Camanchd and Lochaber and see the strides they have made whilst playing in the top league and we want to try and do the same.'

Gemma points out Lovat also

has an eye to the longer term. 'Some of our players have come to the game for the first time in their 20s but we have also set up a pathway where the budding stars of the future literally have the opportunity to play from the tail end of nursery school, through the primary school years and into their teens.'

'The potential has always been there and it's worth pointing out that our current keeper Hannah Eaton is only 15 years old.'

Off the field, Lovat's plans for impressive new changing rooms for the ladies are progressing well.

There will be experience laced through the fledgling Lovat side. As well as Gemma's GMA stint, Fiona Urquhart played with Glengarry until 2010, whilst Nikki Grant and Laura Gallacher also represented the Craigard side.

Gemma was also joined by Caroline MacLean and Laura Gallacher in the All-Stars team, made up of players from outwith the top division, which added to the scheduled fixtures in the senior division this year.

Skye Camanchd AGM

The 2016 Skye Camanchd annual general meeting takes place at the Skye Camanchd Clubhouse on Saturday December 3.

The AGM starts at 2.30pm and, in a change from normal practice, it will be followed by the Skye Camanchd Social Club AGM where there will be reflection over another busy year for the social club.

There will also be some shinty action earlier in the day as the club host the annual Ewen Morrison Memorial Cup match between North Skye and South Skye. Throw-up is at noon.

The day's events will be followed by a social evening and curry night.

Fort William dinner dance

Fort William's annual dinner dance takes place at the West End Hotel, Fort William, on Saturday December 3.

The An Aird club's player of the year awards will also be announced. Proceedings start at 6.30pm.

Lochaber Ladies success

There were celebrations at Spean Bridge as the Lochaber Ladies second team were crowned Marine Harvest Development League Champions on Saturday November 26.

The Lochaber colts were presented with the trophy and medals by Marine Harvest Business Manager Steve Bracken with Women's Camanchd Association Publicity Officer Siobhan Thomson also in attendance.

Tayforth seeks new manager

Tayforth are on the look-out for a new manager.

The club has sought applicants for the position which offers the chance to lead the side in Marine Harvest South Division 1 next season.

Former Glenurquhart player Ewan Menzies led the team to the Marine Harvest South Division 2 title last season, winning that division's manager of the year award.

However, with back-to-back Bullough Cup successes also to their name, the club's annual general meeting agreed to seek a new manager who will aim to lead Tayforth to National Division shinty by 2018.

The closing date for applications to secretary Andrew Scott is Friday December 9.

Caledonia Kyokushin tournament, including Senshi Do Kickboxing and Argyll Martial Arts
The annual karate tournament was held on Sunday November 20 at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre and was a great success with competitors from Argyll Martial Arts, Senshi Do Kickboxing and Caledonia Kyokushin all coming together to take part.
A special thank you must go out to all the children and parents who attended and made the day the success it was.
When asked what his thoughts were on the day, Senshi Do Kickboxing coach Wullie Rodger had this to say: 'A superb day all in. Thank you so much to Iain Rodger

for putting on another great tournament.'
Argyll Martial Arts coach Kenny Gray had the following to say: 'Another great day for the kids (and adults) who took part in the event, many of whom were taking part in their first tournament.'
Argyll Martial Arts coach Andrew Lawson, who took part in the adult Kata section, had this to say: 'I would like to thank Caledonia Kyokushin for a very well organised event. A big thanks to Iain for organising, Wullie for the photos and all the judges for their hard work on the day.'
Argyll Martial Arts coach Andy Buchanan, who also took part in the adult Kata section, said: 'An enjoyable and well or-

MARTIAL ARTS

WITH IAIN RODGER



Pictured are the medallists at the Caledonia Kyokushin tournament held at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre on November 20.



Mina Ritchie and Campbell Shaw.



Angus Files, left, and Robbie Bratton.



Referee iain Rodger looks on as Jodie Robertson and Andrew Fraser fight it out.



Cody McCulloch, kicking.



Euan MacLean, right, impressed as he took part in his first BJJ adult competition.



Connor MacLean, right, in action at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre.

fought matches to eventually take second place.
Well done, Darryl!
Anyone wanting more details on Kyokushinkai Karate classes should contact Iain on iain@ikku.co.uk.

BJJ
Oban BJJ travelled to Meadowbank Stadium on November 19 with a small team to enter the Scotia Cup winter leg.

Dawid Loukil took gold in the blue belt heavyweight category, but the stand-out performance of the day went to 16-year-old Euan MacLean, who entered the adult division as there were no other juveniles. This being his first ever competition, he did far beyond what was hoped for, submitting two men, then losing by a point to just miss out on a medal. He earned high praise from other coaches and competitors and is definitely a name to look out for in the BJJ circuit in 2017.

Classes continue to do well and the club will have its final seminar of the year on the December 10 with Professor Marcos Nardini. Beginners are welcome to try the seminar or the club's beginner classes every Friday from 7pm to 8pm.
For more information, contact coach Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com.

Kyokushinkai Karate

Club coach Iain Rodger and fighter Darryl McLaughlin drove south for a national tournament on November 13 in the Phoenix Centre, Sutton.
Darryl, 15, won through the early rounds with some hard-

organised day in a great facility. The competition ran like clockwork and was fully enjoyed by a good appreciative audience. Each and every individual should be applauded for their efforts with some travelling a good distance to take part.'

Results: (AMA = Argyll Martial Arts, SDKB = Senshi Do Kickboxing, CK = Caledonia Kyokushin).
Kumite (fighting): Under 8s - 1 Douglas Cameron AMA; 2 Ally McIntyre AMA; 3 Logan Galbraith SDKB.

Age 8-10 years low grades - 1 Campbell Shaw CK; 2 Arran Crawford CK; 3 Mina Ritchie CK.
Age 8-10 high grades - 1 Cody McCulloch SDKB; 2 Billy Bratton SDKB; 3 Connor MacLean SDKB.

Age 11-13 low grades - 1 Darcy Curran CK; 2 Algy Ritchie CK; 3 Donald Robertson CK.
Age 11-13 high grades - 1 Charlie McLaughlin CK; 2 Angus Files SDKB; 3 Robbie Bratton SDKB.

Age 14-15 high grades - 1 Jodie Robertson CK; 2 Darryl McLaughlin CK; 3 Finlay Lawson AMA.
Kata (set patterns): Junior

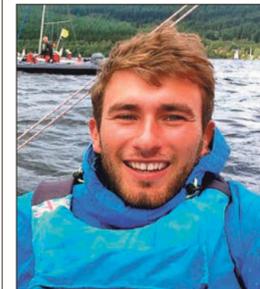
Lorenzo heads for World Cup

Sailing

FRESH from competing for Great Britain at an event in Tokyo Bay - the sailing venue for the next Olympics - Lorenzo Chiavarini is heading back home to Mid Argyll for a short break.

Lorenzo competed for GBR in the Laser class in Japan, finishing overall in silver medal position.

The Enoshima Olympic Week event also provided a valuable opportunity for the nation's top sailors to become



Lorenzo Chiavarini.

more familiar with the 2020 Olympic setting.

After spending a few days with his family beside the Crinan Canal, 22-year-old Lorenzo set off for Melbourne on Sunday November 27 to sail for GBR in the World Cup final.

The top 20 sailors are selected for this competition from a series of five events during the year, including Miami, Hyeres in France, Weymouth and Qingdao, China.

Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s no game; Regional Cup - Under 14s 2, St Peters 2. Connor Moore netted both Saints goals. The Oban side won through 3-2 on penalties. Hitting the back of the net from the spot for the Oban youngsters were Ruaridh Munro, Ryan Barclay and Szymon Chmielecki. Kilpatrick v Under 15s, postponed; Under 16s 6, Baljaffray 0. On target for Saints were Keir MacLean (3), Cameron Kerr (2) and Scott Mossman. Under 17s v Port Glasgow Juniors, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Glasgow Red Star Athletic; Under 14s v Hillwood; Scottish Cup - Under 15s v Jimmy Johnstone Academy; Ardencaple v Under 16; Under 17s v Port Glasgow Juniors.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £500

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



We have a winner
Congratulations to Duncan Campbell from Dunbeg who has won the jackpot of £4050

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.
If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Name

Address

..... Tel No.

Stay connected
To Argyll and the West Highlands
with the new Oban Times

Subscribe today
Visit our exclusive page:
obantimes.co.uk/stayconnected

Save £25* by going digital
Not all features available in all areas. *Prices compared to a one year print subscription.



Oban side holds awards night



Oban Camanachd manager Ian Hay presents Daniel MacVicar with the first team goal of the season award.



Robert Alexander was the Lochside Rovers player of the year. He is pictured with Rovers' manager Gareth Evans.

OBAN Camanachd had plenty to celebrate at their annual awards night held at Oban Lorne Rugby Club last Saturday.

The Mossfield Park club have just had one of their most successful seasons in recent years, including a Camanachd Cup final appearance for their first team and London Shield and MacQuiston Cup successes for their under-17 side.

The player of the year ceremony was of particular interest with several contenders. However, Lorne Dickie's fine performances throughout the season, which also caught the eye of Scotland head coach Ronald Ross and earned him a Scotland cap, secured Lorne the main prize of the night.

The first team goal of the season was scored by Daniel MacVicar against Lochaber in the 4-2 Scottish Cup win in the televised semi-final win at the Taynuilt Sports Field. MacVicar's strike made it 3-1 on 48 minutes after Andrew MacCuish picked up possession on the Oban left and he played a

Shinty

great cross to the edge of the D where Daniel MacVicar allowed the ball to run across his body before slamming it into the net, past a helpless Callum MacDonald in the Lochaber goal.

The Oban Camanachd second team, Lochside Rovers, recognised the performances of Robert Alexander, who also made some appearances in the senior side, and he was named their player of the year. The Lochside Rovers Endeavour award went to Chris Eccleston.

Second year

Daniel MacVicar collected the Oban Camanachd under-17 player of the year award for the second year in a row. Craig Kilpatrick picked up the under-17 award for endeavour.

There was also a second successive under-14 player of the year award for Daniel Sloss, although this year he shared the honour with Euan Logan. Iain MacFarlane was the most improved under-14 player.



Lorne Dickie was Oban Camanachd player of the year.

Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Daniel MacVicar was the Under-17 player of the year. He is pictured with coaches Scott Buchanan, David McCuish and George Easton.



The Lochside Rovers Endeavour Award went to Christopher Eccleston.



Iain MacFarlane was the most improved under-14 player.



Euan Logan and Daniel Sloss were joint winners of the under-14 player of the year award. They are pictured with coaches Brian Logan and Stephen Sloss.

Bradburys keep it in the family

Rugby



Fergus Bradbury.

OBAN Lorne's Fergus Bradbury followed in his brother Magnus's recent success by turning out for Scotland U19s development squad in their international friendly fixture with Georgia's U20 side.

The game was played in Meggetland stadium in Edinburgh with Bradbury selected to start in the front row after some good performances with Stirling County this season.

Scotland almost completed an incredible comeback from 18-0 down, eventually losing out 21-17.

Bradbury continued his representative fixtures by playing for West U20s in their trial game with East U20s held at the indoor pitch at Oriam, Scotland's sports performance centre.

The match was Scotland's first full contact contest to be played indoors. The match was set up as a trial for Scotland's U20 squad ahead of their upcoming Six Nations campaign in the New Year.

Meanwhile, Fergus's older brother, Scotland international Magnus turned out for Edinburgh in their 27-19 defeat away to Ospreys in the Pro 12.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Jimmy Marshall Cup, second round - Port Glasgow OBU v Oban Saints (holders), postponed; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils 2, Goldenhill 3; Premier Division 1 - Kings Park Rangers 1, Dunoon 4. Premier Division 2A - Millbeg Villa 1, Lochgilphead Red Star 2; Tarbert, no game.

This Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, fourth round - Salvesen v Oban Saints; Dunoon v Baillieston; Premier Division; Premier Division - East Kilbride v Goldenhill; Motherwell Thistle v Caampbeltown Pupils; Premier Division 2A - Carlton YM v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division 2B - Port Glasgow v Tarbert.

Opening scores Over 35s football

OPENING scores at the start of the new over-35s indoor league season. Taynuilt 7, Teachers 3. Coasters 5, Emergency 1. DK Lafferty 11, Teachers 3. Clements 2, Emergency 1.

Green Machine back in action with an away match in Irvine

BT West Division 1 Irvine v Oban Lorne

Oban Lorne RFC will return to league action this Saturday after an absence of almost a month as they travel to face struggling Irvine RFC in Ayrshire.

The game will be a welcome return to action for the Green Machine, who are desperate for a competitive game after their recent BT West Shield game against Helensburgh was cancelled as the visitors could not raise a side.

This Saturday's match in Irvine is a huge game for both clubs as the two teams are sitting near the foot of the Division 1 table. Oban, sitting in ninth place with 14 points, could leapfrog their opponents with a positive result on Saturday.

The teams met earlier in the season at Glencruitten with Oban grinding out a deserved 16-10 victory.

Irvine RFC have raised a few eyebrows around the rugby community in recent months

with a controversial signing policy bolstering the club's first XV squad.

A mystery backer has financially provided the club with some high profile signings as they look to rectify their poor early season form.

Former Fijian international Nicky Little is among the Irvine signings alongside Welsh capped centre Matthew Robinson.

BT West Division 4 Argyll and Bute v Clydesdale

Argyll and Bute RFC welcome West Division 4's bottom-placed side, Clydesdale RFC, to Glencruitten this Saturday for the second meeting between the sides this season.

Argyll won 44-24 at Clydesdale earlier in the season in what was only one of three games the visitors have fulfilled this season due to a lack of numbers.

If this week's game goes ahead, Argyll will be confident of recording a big victory. Kick-off 2pm at Glencruitten - TBC.

Rugby

BT Women's National League 2

Helensburgh v Oban Lorne

Table-topping Oban Lorne Ladies are back in action this Sunday as they make the short journey to take on Argyll rivals Helensburgh RFC. Oban recorded a big 38-0 win over Helensburgh earlier this season in the Burgh's first ever 15-a-side ladies match.

Oban have impressed in the league ever since and currently sit in first place with four wins and a draw from the five matches played. Training sessions this season have seen some impressive numbers with around 20 ladies training twice per week under head coach Corrie Louw.

Kick-off is 2pm this Sunday at Ardencaple, Helensburgh.

Youth rugby Under-13 and Under-14

Oban's U13 rugby team trav-



Oban Under-13 team pictured at Strathaven last weekend.

elled to take on Strathaven RFC on Sunday in their latest West League fixture. It was the hosts Strathaven who won the game 28-17 despite a fantastic performance from the Oban side. Alex MacPherson, in particular, was a stand-out performer on the day and was awarded Oban's man of the match.

Other notable performances from the team included P7 players from Etive Vikings RFC Louie MacFarlane and Fergus Taylor.

Oban U14s' game away to Garroch on Sunday was postponed due to a frozen pitch. The U14 team have an away game to Glasgow Hawks this Sunday.

Under-16 and Under-18

Both Oban's U16 and U18 teams are back in action this weekend. The U16s travel to Campbeltown on Sunday to take on Kintyre and Lochaber in a friendly fixture.

The Oban U16 side have been very impressive this season,

winning the majority of their games and running the likes of Glasgow Hawks very close in home and away performances. Oban U16s play their last league game before Christmas on Sunday December 11 away to Waysiders Drumpellier.

Oban's U18s make the trip to Anniesland to take on Glasgow Hawks on Saturday.

The U18 team have picked up momentum over the course of the season and should travel to Glasgow with a healthy squad confident of picking up a result.

The next home game for Oban U18s is against Kilmarnock on Saturday December 10.

Girls

Oban High School's girls teams are in action this week starting with an U18 Scottish Cup tie on Wednesday at home to Biggar.

The U15 girls are taking part in a festival at Scotstoun Stadium on Friday evening prior to Glasgow Warriors home game against Munster in the Pro 12.

School

Oban's S1, S2 and S3/4 school teams take on Mearns Castle School in Newton Mearns this Thursday in the latest round of the T4 Schools Conference.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds moderate west north westerly
Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.

Friday Cloudy
Winds light southerly
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds light north north easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday December 1, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	00.38 1.2 06.32 4.0 12.51 1.3 18.40 3.9		Ardershaig	-5.35 Mallaig +0.25
Fri	01.11 1.2 07.04 3.9 13.26 1.4 19.12 3.8		Campbeltown	-5.30 Portree +0.55
Sat	01.42 1.3 07.38 3.8 14.00 1.5 19.43 3.7		Crinan	-0.47 Tobermory +0.16
Sun	02.12 1.4 08.13 3.7 14.36 1.6 20.19 3.5		Islay Port Ellen	2.00 Dover +5.30
Mon	02.47 1.6 08.53 3.6 15.21 1.7 21.01 3.3		Lochboisdale	+0.30
Tues	03.33 1.7 09.43 3.4 16.19 1.8 21.55 3.2			
Wed	04.33 1.7 10.48 3.3 17.32 1.9 23.05 3.1			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

THE NORTHERN EDITION OF THE OBAN TIMES

Established 1861 No 8331

Thursday 1 December, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence

now incorporating
**LOCHABER
NEWS**

Oban Live Ticket Offer:



20% off For **48 hours** only
early bird prices

See page 18 for full details

Fundraisers quick to help family in need

MONICA GIBSON
mgibsons@obantimes.co.uk



Ryan Whiteford.

A COMMUNITY is clubbing together to help support the family of a three-year-old boy diagnosed with cancer.

Leesa MacNeil and Paul Whiteford received the heart-breaking news last weekend that their son Ryan has leukaemia.

Ryan, who has a twin brother and two older brothers, was transferred to a Glasgow hospital on Saturday afternoon (November 26) from Raigmore.

While tests showed that Ryan's case is not extreme, he was due to start his treatment yesterday (Wednesday).

Family friend Liz MacMillan was so moved by the news that she took to social media to round up support.

Liz has previously raised tens of thousands of pounds for families in need and had vowed just earlier this month to take a break as she was exhausted.

However, the mother of two told *The Oban Times* she could not stand back and together with

friends has decided to help. She said: 'They are just such a lovely family and we knew Ryan wasn't well but my daughters and I were so upset when we heard, we wanted to do something.'

'The aim is to help with the cost of being off work, travel and general living over the next few months. I wanted to do a bottle stall and an adult and children's raffle, and I can tell you this is the most support I've ever had.'

'My phone has just not stopped ringing and I've been inundated with people wanting to help out.'

On the first day following Liz's post, local builders got in touch offering to auction their services

and fencing worth £500, salons have allowed raffles and baking to be sold in shop and a 'lucky number' raffle had already generated more than £200.

Liz, who lives in Caol, added: 'I don't have much but I have two lovely daughters and a lovely husband, and I think all the people who have got in touch just feel the same - whether it be putting your hand in your pocket or organising an event, we want to do something.'

'The hope is if we all work together we will be raise an amazing amount to help this wonderful family. I would like to do a bottle stall and raffles so I am looking for items to use in these fundraisers. Please get in touch if you have any new items or bottles sitting in the cupboard. We would be very grateful for any donations.'

A crowdfunding page to raise money for the family has also been set up by Donald Robertson.

To donate visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Raiseforryan>



Sleigh ride treat for Santa's little helpers

Jack Sprague, 5, from Roy Bridge, and Maria Sutherland, 8, from Upper Achintore, enjoyed a reindeer-drawn sleigh ride along Fort William High Street at the weekend. The two 'elves' were winners of this year's Rotary Club of Lochaber poem competition, after their Christmas poems were selected from more than 80 entries from across Lochaber. For more photographs of the Rotary Club of Lochaber's 'best ever' Christmas fair, turn to page five. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

TIMESLINE

Overnight road closures planned

THE A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan will be closed overnight from Sunday December 4 to Thursday December 8.

The same section of the road will be closed again on Sunday December 11 to Thursday December 15.

The work will take place between 8pm and 6am the following morning.

The A82 partnership say these closures should be the last ones this year.

Leading speakers address workers

NORTH forestry professionals will gather in Fort William tonight (Thursday) to hear from leading speakers on first aid, social media and new industry ideas.

'First Aid, Facebook and Future Growth', organised by the Highlands and Islands Forest Industry Cluster, will be held at the West Highland College UHI in Fort William and has attracted around 50 people. Forestry workers from harvesters, processors and contractors to estate personnel, managers and public sector employees will attend the evening.



20% OFF BLISS
POCKET SPRUNG MATTRESS AND DIVAN SET

Blindcraft makes all the difference

Highland BlindCraft Beds
www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk
39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness

Telephone 01463 233662
OPEN Mon - Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm
Charity no: SC030764

Chairman told HIE will continue

THE CHAIRMAN of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) says he is 'fully confident about the future of the organisation' despite growing fears HIE will be scrapped.

Responding to reports this week speculating about the agency's future following the Scottish Government's review of enterprise and skills bodies, Professor Lorne Crerar said he had had absolute reassurance from the government that HIE will continue in its present form.

The comments followed Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills John Swinney's announcement to replace HIE with an 'overarching board' covering the whole of Scotland.

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant tabled a motion in the

Scottish Parliament calling for a debate on the decision to disband the board.

She said: 'It is utterly appalling that on the day the Scottish Government has a debate Supporting and Strengthening Scotland's Island Communities they have just axed the very board which was set up to do this.'

'This is a badly thought through, wrong-headed decision which must be reversed.'

But both Ms Grant and fellow Labour MSP David Stewart have been accused of 'hypocrisy and opportunism' after it was revealed they voted in favour of the motion welcoming the first stage of a review into HIE.

Kate Forbes MSP said: 'I am absolutely incredulous that a month after the

report on HIE's future was published, opposition MSPs have chosen political opportunism over hard facts. Worried people have asked me if HIE is being shut down and once they've heard the facts they wonder who is making the outlandish claims of HIE's demise.'

'The basis on which opposition MSPs think they know better than the chairman of HIE, the First Minister of Scotland and the public report on HIE is unknown.'

Responding to the claims Ms Grant told *The Oban Times*: 'I, and my Scottish Labour colleagues, will continue to work to protect the communities of the Highlands and Islands by fighting for an autonomous Highlands and Islands Enterprise.'

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES FUNDING

On behalf of The Life Changes Trust, Lochaber Care & Repair is hosting a funding information workshop at the Ben Nevis Hotel on the 6th December 2016 starting at 10am and finishing at 2.00pm.

The Life Changes Trust is an independent charity set up with a Big Lottery Fund endowment of £50 million to improve the lives of two key groups in Scotland: people affected by dementia and care experienced young people.

The Trust is making available a second phase of funding of £2 million for Dementia Friendly Communities.

Applications will open on the 17th January 2017.

To find out more about the funding workshop or to reserve your place please contact Jenny MacKay

Telephone 01397 702530 or email info@lochabercareandrepair.org.uk

Bookings should be made by Monday 28th November as places are limited.

Please inform us if you have any dietary requirements.



THIS WEEK

Give Us A Ring

Your local bell ringers are looking for new members!

Come one, come all, to the Tulloch Ringing Centre on Tulloch Farm - 4 miles east of Roy Bridge. Discover the challenge of the best ever team-based hobby in Scotland. Become part of the family of Scottish Ringers www.tullochbells.com, and get the chance to visit some amazing places.

Open Ringing Week
Thursday Dec 1 - Wed Dec 7th
from 10am - 12noon, 2-4pm and 7-9pm daily

FW

TIMESLINE

Sudden deaths not suspicious

POLICE have confirmed the sudden deaths of two pensioners on Lewis are 'not being treated as suspicious'.

Morag (Maureen) MacMillan, aged 67, and Donald MacMillan, 73, were found dead outside their home at Gravir, South Lochs, on Friday November 18.

Police in the Western Isles have confirmed that after a full investigation into the circumstances, their deaths are not being treated as suspicious.

Detective Inspector Richard Baird said: 'The tragic and untimely deaths of Mr and Mrs MacMillan have understandably shaken the local and wider communities of the Western Isles and our sympathies extend to everyone who knew the popular and highly-respected couple. Officers would like to thank members of the local community for their support and co-operation during the investigation.'

Reports have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Sign up to deter doorstep callers

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar trading standards officers remind island residents they can say no to doorstep callers by displaying a sign on their door or window.

The signs are available from Doorstoppers campaign page on the comhairle's website www.cne-siar.gov.uk.

Doorstep sellers ignoring the displayed signs may be committing an offence and should be reported to Trading Standards on 01851 822694 or the Police on 101.

Doorstoppers signs may also be available at council offices, libraries and police stations in the Western Isles.

Growing frustration over cost of postal surcharges

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

FRUSTRATION is growing as the 'postcode penalty' continues to leave Highland and island residents paying more for parcel postage.

Lochaber man Randal Coyne, who has lived in Arisaig for 18 years, says the pricing strategies for deliveries in the Highlands is 'absolutely ridiculous'.

And MP Ian Blackford is now calling for a universal pricing structure on commercial parcel deliveries to stop penalising businesses in the Highland and Islands.

The call comes after the MP wrote to Parcelforce managing director Gary Simpson on behalf of a constituent who was asked to pay a postal surcharge by one of his suppliers near London as they were unwilling to absorb the additional cost imposed on them by the recently privatised company.

Mr Coyne said: 'Lochaber isn't the cheapest place in Britain to live and I think this is just an extra burden which people could do without. We are being punished as an area and these

companies are making an unfair discrimination against people who are not best equipped to pay an extra loading.'

In response to Mr Blackford, Parcelforce Worldwide claimed additional costs levied on deliveries to the Highlands and Islands were justified as other parts of the UK are easier and cheaper to reach.

In calculating the amount to be charged the UK has been split into three specific areas: zone one England, Wales and parts of Scotland, zone two the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and zone three, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Isles of Scilly.

These zones take into account their cost of delivery, with higher prices applied to the Highlands and Islands (zone two) due to distance and difficulty to reach. However, packages being sent from zone two to addresses in zone one do not attract an additional tariff, even if taking exactly the same route.

A Parcelforce spokeswoman said: 'Parcelforce Worldwide goes further than any other carrier in the UK to recognise the needs of Scotland's remote

and rural communities. It does not apply zonal charges for southbound goods from any part of Scotland in a direct effort to support businesses in the north of Scotland. Parcelforce Worldwide also has a single Scotland-wide tariff for all goods being sent within mainland Scotland. Again this is aimed at supporting customers in remote areas. With all major express parcel carriers in the UK, there is a zonal charge applied to goods being sent from outside Scotland to the North of Scotland. This zonal charge reflects the additional cost of delivering these goods. Without an element of zonal charging, Parcelforce Worldwide would not be able to sustain a UK-wide network. Our sister company, Royal Mail, as the Universal Service provider, provides a universal service offering one price across the UK.'

Speaking about their pricing strategies DHL said: 'At DHL Express UK our UK domestic prices are the same across the whole of the UK, meaning customers in the Highlands of Scotland would not be subject to additional charges when sending parcels to the south of England.'

'The Scottish Highlands and Islands are considered remote areas where we incur additional operational costs that we recover with our Remote Area surcharge. The surcharge is based on the destination postcode for UK domestic shipments.'

'Whilst some companies charge based on origin and destination, our surcharge only applies to destination. Any higher charges for deliveries to consumers living in the Scottish Highlands will be dependent on whether or not the retailer passes this cost on.'



Randal Coyne says that the pricing strategies are discriminating against people in the Highlands.

Island firm reaps reward for research

A LIFE sciences business from the Isle of Skye is reaping the rewards of investing in research and development.

Dunvegan-based Gaeltec Devices Ltd received an approval of £331,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to employ an R&D manager, develop new products and promote them in domestic and international markets.

As a result, new and innovative medical devices serving niche markets have been developed and launched over the past three years.

One of these is a specialised catheter for the treatment of horses with irregular heartbeats. There is a growing global demand for these throughout the veterinary world and Gaeltec is the only company making them.

Gaeltec has also launched the Cullin Nanologger, named after the famous mountain range on Skye. It is a portable medical device worn by patients to record physiological information for up to 24 hours. It is typically used to assist in the diagnosis of human gastrointestinal and urological disorders.

Derek Apps, R&D manager at Gaeltec Devices, said: 'HIE's support has been essential in getting us to where we are today. Its advice in other areas, including intellectual property rights, has also been of great value.'

Head of business growth at HIE Alison Gainsford added: 'The high quality jobs at Gaeltec are of vital importance to the social and economic sustainability of Dunvegan and the surrounding area.'

Appeal for second emergency boat

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has called on the UK Government to use part of a new fund for Civil Resilience and Community Safety, announced in last week's Autumn Statement, for a second Emergency Towing vessel (ETV) based on the west coast of Scotland.

Comhairle leader councillor Angus Campbell said: 'We have long campaigned for the reinstatement of a second ETV on the west coast of Scotland. This is the perfect opportunity for the UK government to use what would equate to less than two per cent of this fund to protect the lives of mariners and the environment.'

Trust to create new Skye township



An overview of Gillean where the new crofting township is to be created.

A LANDS trust is to create a new crofting township on the Isle of Skye with high hopes it will 'help maintain' the way of life.

Landowner Clan Donald Lands Trust (CDLT) has bought three crofting units in Tarskavaig through property consultants Bidwells, with two of the units being specifically promoted at a discounted rate to young local individuals or families who live on the Sleat peninsula.

Jan Wallwork-Clarke of the CDLT said: 'The trust is keen to encourage new crofters to branch out on their own and by offering a specially discounted

rate for young local individuals and families, we hope we can help retain skills and traditions as well as offering a route to a lifestyle and income unique to land management in the highlands and islands.'

'We have worked alongside the community to devise a proposal which complements and enhances the locality and we are very excited to offer such a unique opportunity. Croft revenues will be reinvested to assist in the running of the estate alongside the Clan Donald Lands Trusts visitor attractions at Armadale that include Armadale Castle and Gardens and the Museum of the Isles.'

Challenge success for maths pupils

ARDNAMURCHAN youngsters did their school proud this week when they took part in the Scottish final of the Entprising Maths Team Challenge in Glasgow.

Third-year pupils Ben Gregg, Alistair Tait, and fourth-year students Ella Christian and Kay Christian, made up the Ardnamurchan maths team who, after winning the regional finals in Inverness in September, went on to compete in the national finals at the Glasgow Science Centre. The team spent the day puzzling over maths problems and came 13th out of the 64 schools that competed.

A school spokesman said: 'For Ardnamurchan High School to win the Inverness heat was a great achievement. To come 13th in the final, where all the schools that came higher were much bigger schools, was a real testament to the hard work and excellent team effort of Ella, Kay, Ben and Alistair, their supportive parents and their maths teacher, Mr Aitken.'



The Ardnamurchan team did well at the national maths challenge in Glasgow.

Glenfinnan man's warning over parking charge scam

THE OBAN TIMES has been alerted to a parking ticket scam making the rounds in Lochaber.

Glenfinnan resident John Barnes was contacted by UK Parking Control Ltd (UKPC) to say that he must pay a parking charge of £90 for illegal parking.

He received two separate emails from the company in just two days.

John described the email as giving an option to click on a link which showed images of the alleged illegal parking and other documentation. However, he did not do so because of his suspicion that it was a scam.

UKPC subsequently put a fraud alert on its website stating the company 'does not send parking charges by email' after being

alerted to a number of these 'convincing emails' entitled parking charge reminder.

It warned: 'The bottom of the email asks victims to click on "payment options and photos" for more information - a link that is likely to contain malware. If you receive one of these emails, delete it, do not download the attachment and report it to us.'



Fischer
Future Heat
the future is electric

DO YOU SUFFER IN YOUR HOME WITH AN INEFFICIENT HEATING SYSTEM?

THE PERFECT SOLUTION FOR ANY HOME

- Wall mounted or free standing
- Slimline and stylish
- They require no costly maintenance
- Energy efficient
- Each room is controlled independently
- Installed by our own qualified electricians





GUARANTEE

Complete Heating Guarantee

If our heater does not heat your room to 21°C we'll replace it free of charge*.



High Quality German Engineering

All Fischer Heaters are manufactured by our Master Craftsmen in Germany.



Excellent

TRUSTPILOT



OUTFOX THE WEATHER

For your free no obligation home survey

Contact John McNabb

direct on 07710 - 258855

Or e-mail John@Fischer-futureheat.co.uk

POLICE FILES

POLICE are appealing for information about a crash on the A82 at Glencoe.

The incident, on Sunday November 20 at 1pm, involved a grey Subaru.

A SIGN at Camusdarroch car park, Mallaig, was deliberately damaged some time between November 20 and 21.

SOME time between 7.30pm on November 25 and 9.45am on November 26 the side of a Volkswagen Golf parked in Nain Crescent, Fort William, was damaged.

BETWEEN 11am and 11.45am on November 26 a blue Volkswagen Passat was damaged while parked in Mallaig.

The car sustained front bumper damage consistent with having been struck by another vehicle while parked at the West Bay car park.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact the police on 101, Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Group steps up its school campaign

TWO GROUPS are coming together this weekend to bolster a community's attempt to build their own school.

To mark the launch of their share offer, Strontian Community School Building Limited is joining forces with Sunart Community Company for a Christmas auction tomorrow (Friday). Taking place in Strontian Village Hall from 6-11pm, there will be a variety of items under the hammer, a family ceilidh and a buffet.

Trust still on track with land plans following smelter deal

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A TRUST hoping to embark on the largest community land ownership is still 'very much in the frame', according to its board members.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust (ELLCT) has been campaigning to take control of around 120,000 acres of land in Fort William.

The land is associated with the aluminium smelter owned by Rio Tinto, which last week announced an agreement to sell its Lochaber assets to GFG Alliance (SIMEC and the Liberty House Group) for £330 million.

After the announcement, John Hutchison from ELLCT said: 'We are delighted the jobs and the future of the smelter are secure. We have been in touch with Rio Tinto throughout and will be meeting with them and Liberty Aluminium Lochaber in the very near future to discuss our proposals.'

The trust told *The Oban Times* that a meeting was held last Thursday (November 24) when ELLCT put forward a pitch for what it would like to do with the land following any community buyout. While the ideas suggested stem from the series of meetings held around the catchment area earlier in the year, the trust says it has also looked into the value of the land, what it has been used for and what it could be used for.

A trust spokesperson said: 'The meeting was very positive. The land has great potential and we are delighted to hear about the expansion plans - that not only have jobs been safeguarded

but that there is real ambition for the creation of hundreds of more jobs and to bring more industry to the area.

'Previously, we were dealing with representatives in Montreal but now we are actually sitting down with the right people and having discussions face to face. That is a big deal.'

The spokesman added: 'The Scottish Government is keen to back us because if we were to look after the land it would take them a huge step towards their target of one million acres of land owned by communities by 2020.'

'Our aims also complement the idea of Fort William being the outdoor capital and instilling some community confidence in our future. This is an excellent opportunity.'

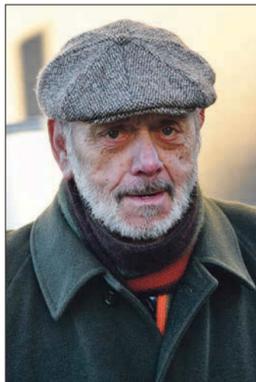
While the reaction to news of the sale has been largely positive among councillors, MPs and businesses, the trust believes there may still be scepticism from some cautious community members.

The introduction of the pulp and paper industry was hailed as a great thing for Corpach when the Wiggins Teape mill opened in 1966. With it came investment and infrastructure but, when the company downsized and eventually closed the mill in 2005, it signalled an end to the rejuvenation in the Highlands.

However, despite such reservations, the trust believes the social and economic benefits of the promised investment are worth taking at face value.

In a statement, Sanjeev Gupta, GFG Alliance strategic board executive chairman, said: 'This is a significant boost to our

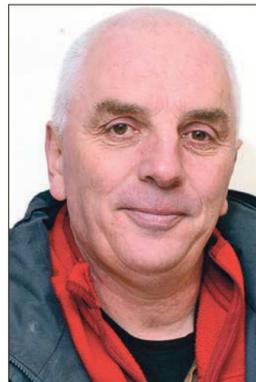
Lochaber residents welcome Rio Tinto sale



Drew Purdon, from the group For Lochaber, said: 'The retention of the jobs is good for the area and that revenue will still be coming in. But it's too early to say if the rest is good for the town.'



Gwyn Moses from Kinlochleil said: 'It's great to have all the jobs saved, and to see companies investing in the local area is positive.'



Gordon Cuthbertson from Kinlochleven said: 'I am really glad that people's jobs are safe - I think that's the main thing. It will be interesting to see what the East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust will do now. If there are to be other jobs to come out of it, then it can only be a good thing.'

renewables portfolio and will be another major step towards reducing our carbon footprint in metals production.

'This is a natural next step for us in our Scottish investment programme and is a springboard for wider manufacturing growth, creating many more jobs in Scotland. We are grateful for the continuing support of the Scottish Government and for their far-sighted approach to industry.'

According to Rio Tinto, the agreement includes a payment

on completion of £180 million, plus an additional payment of £150 million no later than February 28, 2017.

The plan now for the trust is to regain momentum and continue to increase its membership.

More meetings will be planned for the second week in January where ideas are to be streamlined and 'serious conversations' will take place about what to do next.

To become a member of ELLCT, visit <http://www.eastlochaberlaggan.scot>.

LOCHABER MP Ian Blackford has welcomed the announcement that the Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) smelter has been sold.

Mr Blackford said: 'I am delighted at the outcome.'

'As one of the major employers in Lochaber, it is great news the smelter will continue to operate. This will secure jobs not only on the site, but bring stability to the spectrum of local businesses who supply the smelter. I believe the intention of GFG Alliance is to invest in growth opportunities that will allow the prospect of additional job opportunities over time.'

The MP also offered his assistance to the new owners in 'seeking the best outcome not only for themselves but their employees.'

Mr Blackford added: 'I would also like to congratulate the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise for the important roles they played in the process and the support they have shown GFG Alliance.'

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSPs David Stewart and Rhoda Grant, who supported a petition to save the Lochaber smelter earlier this year, welcomed last week's news.

Mr Stewart said: 'As the last remaining aluminium smelter in the UK, its continuation is vital for the future of the railway, the local economy and the hundreds of spin-off jobs in the supply chain.'

Ms Grant added: 'It has to be good news for the future of aluminium smelting in the area and I'm delighted that the deal will safeguard 150 jobs at the plant.'



We are delighted to hear about the expansion plans.

East Lochaber and Laggan Community Trust.

Kebabish

GEORGE STREET, OBAN TEL: 01631 563900 or 01631 566885
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT www.kebabishcurryhouse.com

TAKEAWAY

* PIZZAS * CURRIES * KEBABS * BURGERS * MUNCHY BOXES

FREE HOME DELIVERIES ON ORDERS OVER £25 WITHIN OBAN TOWN.



DZRTS

* SHAKES * CAKES * ICE CREAM



BUFFET RESTAURANT OPENING SOON

CHOICE OF: * 16 SALADS AND SAUCES * 12 MIXED CURRIES

* THREE RICES * THREE NAANS * DESSERTS * CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN * GREEN TEA

EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE FOR 1 FIXED PRICE.

1ST AND ONLY BUFFET RESTAURANT IN OBAN.

FREE DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

Need catering?

Let us help you with you with our extensive party menus.

Silver, Gold and Platinum packages available, please call for more details.

**Orders over £25 eligible for free delivery in town centre From 5pm - 11pm.

Additional delivery charges apply outwith Oban



Opening hours:

Mon- Thu 10am (DZRTS) 11am (takeaway) - midnight
Fri & Sat 10am (DZRTS) 11am (takeaway) - 1.30am
Sunday 3pm - midnight



FW

WHAT'S ON

THE NEXT meeting of the Fort William branch of the Scottish Women's Institute is on Monday December 5 at 7.15pm in the Montrose Centre, Inverlochy.

The speaker will be Reverend Christopher 'Kiki' MacRae who will talk about his visit to Rwanda.

LOCHABER Showstoppers and the Great Glen Swing Band are taking to the stage for their annual cabaret nights at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William.

The cabaret shows will take place tonight and tomorrow night (December 1 and 2).

Tunes from musicals and movies, plus swing, blues and rock-and-roll classics will all feature in the programme.

For tickets email info@lochabershowstoppers.co.uk or phone 01397 705176.

PUPILS from St Columba's RC Primary School, Fort William, will stage their Christmas concert on Wednesday December 14 at 1.30pm and on Thursday December 15 at 7.30pm.

INVERLOCHY Primary School is organising a Santa's Grotto on Thursday December 8.

The annual event offers youngsters the chance to meet Santa, while the adults can pick up some Christmas presents at the craft stalls, have fun at the games stalls, enjoy homebaking with tea and coffee, and also take part in a raffle. There will also be face and nail painting, snacks and juice.

Santa's Grotto is an annual event to raise money for the school fund which pays for school trips and new classroom supplies.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes



Ava Fitzsimons, 3, left, and Olivia Standen, 4, both from Fort William.



The lights near Kilmallie were switched on by Grace Wegner and Jack Boyd on November 18. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

Crowds out in force to see festive lights switched on



Above: Lilly Robertson, 7, and Sandy Halewood, 8, switched on the Christmas lights in Cameron Square, Fort William this year.

FORT WILLIAM residents turned out in force on Friday night as the town's annual Christmas lights switch on took place.

The High Street was packed with families and friends who came together to enjoy a visit from Santa and see Cameron Square's Christmas tree lights light up.

With a number of the town's shops open late, music from Ardnamurchan High School pupils and face painting by Lochaber Showstoppers, the night was popular with everyone.

Lilly Robertson, 7, and Sandy Halewood, 8, were all smiles as they switched on this year's Christmas lights.

Corpach was also illuminated last week - by festive lights as well as good nature. The Christmas tree lights were switched on by two children from local schools on November 18. Grace Wegner, 11, from St Columba's Primary School and Jack Boyd, 8, from Banavie Primary School did the honour. Grace was nominated by teacher Mrs MacLean for being enthusiastic and helpful, particularly to the little ones during their transfer from Lochside Primary, while Miss Beck nominated Jack for being happy, considerate, kind and helpful in class.



Right: Showstoppers put on karaoke at the new Oban Times High Street office. Left to right: Karen Hosie, Rebecca Lynn Thom, Kara Scott and Liz Falconer. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Left: Face painter Claire Hageman puts the finishing touches to the artwork on Shayla Linfield. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



Six and a Bit, from Ardnamurchan High School, performed at the lights switch on.



Santa was in Fort William High Street to switch on the Christmas lights.



West Highland Gas Ltd.

Put some **CALOR** in your life





VERDO



CALOR Gas
4.5kg Butane



LPG gas, cookers and heaters. Verdo Briquettes, pellets, Coal, logs, peat and kindling.

Deliveries direct to your door

ORDER NOW - CALL

01631 01397
566370 701414

(Oban) (Fort William)

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

www.argyllresources.co.uk Email: info@argyllresources.co.uk

Torrans Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL
33 Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 6PR

Popular surgeon mourned

TRIBUTES have been paid to a 'gifted, skilled and dedicated' Lochaber surgeon who has died.

Sarah Prince, who died last week, started work with NHS Highland as a rural general surgeon fellow in July 2009.

Her husband Patrick is a consultant physician at the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

On hearing news of Sarah's passing, Gill McVicar, director of operations for NHS Highland's north and west operational unit said: 'I was greatly saddened to hear of the death of Sarah Prince. Sarah was a gifted, skilled and dedicated surgeon, whose contribution to healthcare in Lochaber has been immense.'

'She was passionate about what she did and in raising awareness of the opportunities and challenges of remote and rural healthcare, and in development of local services.'

Sarah and husband Patrick organised and ran an international conference in Fort William last year focusing on remote and rural healthcare, although Ms McVicar said 'her influence in this regard was felt every day'.

She continued saying Sarah was 'popular amongst staff and also a much respected teacher, as the many messages from junior doctors who have passed through Belford will testify.'

'She was enthusiastic and deeply committed to the support and development of trainees and colleagues. Sarah's friends and colleagues in NHS Highland are devastated by her loss, she will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Patrick, their families and friends.'



Tributes have been paid to popular surgeon Sarah Prince.

Doors open on new Oban Times Fort William office

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

THE OBAN TIMES officially opened its new Fort William High Street office.

Lochaber business owners and contributors gathered with staff at the office last Friday to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter for the northern edition of the newspaper.

Group editor Susan Windram said she was delighted the newspaper now has an office on the High Street, adding: 'we are visible and now feel like we are part of the community.'

'This investment highlights our commitment to Fort William and Lochaber, and while the northern edition now has more news and sport from Lochaber than ever before, we have plans to expand this over time.'

John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community



Susan Windram, Oban Times group editor, front centre, with staff and guests at the opening of the new Fort William office. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

Council said: 'The opening was good social occasion to meet the staff as well as a networking opportunity with other organisations and contributors.'

'Having our local newspaper on the High Street will allow the community easy access to engage with the reporters on the important issues of the day.'

Highland and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant said: 'It was lovely to be able to pop into the new office and meet the reporters and staff face to face.'

'The location of the office is excellent and will bring it much closer to the community and I look forward to popping in again, although I'm sure there won't be mulled wine on the go every day.'

Cheryl MacRae from the West Highland College UHI said: 'We have exciting learning opportunities available in all of our 10 West Highland College UHI Centres throughout Lochaber, Wester Ross and Skye, so it's great to have a new look Oban Times to get that message out there and a bright dynamic team at the newspaper to help us do that.'

Anita Maclean from Lochaber Womens Aid said: 'We are pleased to see an Oban Times presence on Fort William High Street and we are looking forward to working with them to raise awareness of important social issues that have an impact on the daily lives of our local community.'



An audience with Santa was a bit overwhelming for little Jess Rowe, when she visited his grotto at the Rotary Club of Lochaber Christmas Festival.



Skyлар Dibsdales and her Dad Ryan enjoy a pretend trip in an original Ford Model T with Chris Robinson of the Bronze Model T Group.



Congregations came together at a 'Messy Church' stall with crafts for children, which Ross and Sophie McCorkindale from Ardnamurchan enjoyed.

Santa takes leading role at festival

SANTA arrived in Fort William on Saturday morning for the Lochaber Rotary Club's ninth annual Christmas festival.

Accompanied by his little helpers, Jack Sprague from Roy Bridge and Maria Sutherland from Upper Achintore, Santa and the team of Cairngorm reindeer left from Cameron Square and paraded along the town's High Street, led by the Pipe Band and the Ben Nevis Allstars, and watched by hundreds of spectators.

The elves were picked from a Lochaber-wide poetry competition sponsored by The Oban Times which attracted more than 80 entries from primary school pupils.

Local firm Ferguson Transport and Shipping funded the cost of the reindeer and chose the winning poems.

Santa and his entourage ended their trip at the Nevis Centre where the Rotary Club had organised a 75-stall craft and food market together with Santa's grotto, a buskers' corner, hot chestnut stand and bouncy castle.

Club president Paula Ross said: 'It was a fantastic day with a real festive atmosphere. The feedback from the stallholders was positive.'

'The Lochaber public showed their support for the event with their feet - with

people travelling from Ardnamurchan, Kinlochleven, Mallaig and Invergarry as well as Fort William and the local area.'

'The raffle alone raised more than £1,500 and, at one stage in the early afternoon, the main hall was packed. We estimated that almost 3,000 people attended and it also had a beneficial effect on the town's High Street. It was probably our best festival ever.'

Paula added: 'I would like to emphasise that the profit from today's event will be used in its entirety for local charities and good causes.'

'Because all Rotarians give their time

voluntarily, we have no administrative or other overheads, so the public can be assured that every penny raised will be directed to worthwhile local projects and organisations and other causes meriting our support.'

'Finally, I would like to thank the generous year-on-year support from the terrific Lochaber public, the funding support from Ferguson Transport and the sponsorship from The Oban Times for our poetry competition.'

'Next year will be our tenth festival and we're planning something special to mark the event.'

Appeal for businesses to invest more in young people

BUSINESSES in Lochaber can now spend less to invest more in the future of young workers.

Developing the Young Workforce West Highland (DYWWH) and Investing in young people (IIYP) are

urging companies to seek accreditation which will help them recruit, retain and develop the workforce.

IIYP has funding of up to 50 per cent available for organisations achieving accreditation before the end of March

2017. In addition, DYW West Highland has £6,000 available, meaning that becoming an Investor in Young People could be free of charge.

Marine Harvest Scotland was one of the first in Lochaber to achieve IIYP ac-

creditation. Vicky Ferguson, human resources manager at the company said: 'There are a wide range of jobs available for young people in aquaculture and we firmly believe in developing the skills of our young people.'

Salmon farming charter welcomed

THE LEADER of the Highland Council has welcomed the launch of a charter aimed at growing the economies of salmon farming communities.

The Community Engagement Charter launched by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) formalises how companies invest and engage with the local communities where salmon farms are located.

Councillor Margaret Davidson, Aird and Loch Ness, met with Anne MacColl of SSPO and Gilpin Bradley, owner, Wester Ross Salmon, and learned about the industry's support of and commitment to local communities and the regional economy.

Anne MacColl said: 'As an industry we have always been engaged with local communities. The time is right to make a public commitment to maintaining this support and enhancing it.'

Ms Davidson said: 'I was delighted to hear how the salmon industry is working with local communities across the Highlands to grow the local economy. This is a really good example of bringing industry and local communities together. Developing a strong community engagement ethos is of huge benefit to both parties so I welcome the launch of the Community Engagement Charter by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation.'

Gilpin Bradley, owner of Wester Ross Salmon, said: 'It is crucial to communicate properly with the public about salmon farming and the benefits it brings - not only for the consumer but also for local farming communities, the surrounding environment and supporting the sustainable way of maintaining the stocks of our most precious fish.'

The salmon farming sector employs a total of 727 people in the Highlands and last year spend £13.8m in capital investment in the area, in addition to £80m in spending with local industries.

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS:ABS)

**Private homeowner or private tenant?
Council Tax Band A-D*?**

Live in Mull, Iona, Islay, Jura, Coll or Tiree (some parts of Oban and Lomond included)?

If yes to the above you could be eligible for funded insulation measures including loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal and external wall insulation and underfloor insulation.

ALIenergy, based in Oban, are delivering the HEEPSABS programme in your area on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council. Scottish Government funding has been awarded to improve the energy efficiency of properties that are deemed to be in fuel poverty. Please check the ALIenergy website for a full list of eligible postcodes or call us to find out more. Funding is limited and we advise that you register for the scheme as soon as possible. *Band D must also have a household income below £20,000 and a poor energy efficiency rating

To register call ALIenergy: 01631 565 183
Or contact Home Energy Scotland: 0808 808 2282
Email: heepsabs@alienergy.org.uk Website: www.alienergy.org.uk

"Cairngorm Windows were very professional in the fitting..."

"...the aftercare has been superb."

- Mr & Mrs Hurst, Culloden

1 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU Tel: 01463 238000
Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin IV30 1XY Tel: 01343 545315
18 High Street, Thurso KW14 8AG Tel: 01847 894956

info@cairngormgroup.co.uk | www.cairngormgroup.co.uk

TIMESLINE

Cash exchange scam warning

POLICE are urging Highland shops and supermarkets to be on their guard following a report of a money exchange fraud.

The scam involves a person asking a member of staff to exchange a large sum of money for them into smaller notes. They deliberately confuse the staff member to obtain more money than they came in with. The most recent incident, in Inverness last week, resulted in the suspect gaining a three figure sum.

Sergeant Richard Ross advised: 'I would urge all business owners to ensure their staff are aware and alert to this type of scam and, in particular, to watch out for anyone asking to exchange large amounts of money.'

Drivers warned of bridge delays

MOTORISTS are being warned of disruption at Dornie New Bridge on the A87.

New parapets are being installed and improvements made to barriers on the approach to improve bridge safety. The improvements will be carried out between 8am and 6pm each day for six weeks starting tomorrow (December 2). The work will be suspended from December 24 until January 8.

The bridge will remain open to motorists, with temporary traffic lights in place. The parapet works will be done sequentially, with the footpath adjacent to the parapet being replaced closed.

Pedestrians will still have access across the bridge using the footpath on the opposite side.

Keep windows clear in winter

POLICE in the Highlands have issued winter driving advice.

Road Policing Inspector Angus Stewart said: 'With the current low temperatures, we are reminding drivers that before starting a journey they should clear any ice or snow from all the windows on their vehicles.'

'Drivers should also make sure the interior glass is demisted thoroughly before starting their journey.'

Advice was also given with regards to the low winter sun and reduced visibility.

FW

Raasay

RAASAY Primary School pupils are enjoying a new after-school sports club. Primary three to seven youngsters have joined the club which is run by high school students Alastair McGowan, Ewan Gillies and Robin MacLeod who have recently completed young leadership training provided by Sarah Ross, Active Schools co-ordinator. A school spokesperson said: 'The pupils are thoroughly enjoying the experience and the feedback from all the participants has been very positive. Many thanks to our parent volunteers who will be in attendance each week and to Alastair, Ewan and Robin for applying their leadership training within their own community.'

THE PUPILS have also been studying the seashore as part of the John Muir Trust award.

Their hard work culminated in the pupils being awarded a Discovery Certificate from the trust in recognition of their achievements.

The award, presented during a parent open afternoon in the school, recognises the importance of discovering, exploring, conserving and sharing in wild places and the children shared their learning with their parents on the day.

THE SCHOOL raised £118.42 for Poppy Scotland after pupils gave up their own time to carry out a door-to-door collection. They also attended the poppy day memorial service at the war memorial.

RAASAY Primary School is helping to 'Flush Away Poverty'.

Sandra Smith visited the school to talk to pupils about a charity which is helping to provide poor communities around the world with proper sanitation and toilets.

The school was keen to be involved and the pupils took home 'Spend a Penny' boxes which their family and friends were encouraged to donate to when they went to the loo.

A total of £240 – enough to build a school toilet block in a poor community – was raised.

The school will receive a photograph and certificate of their twin toilet.

THIS year's school Christmas play will be held on Friday December 9.

Entry is free and will include a raffle and refreshments.

Banavie and Spean Bridge



Pupils from Banavie Primary School take part in the reading challenge.



Spean Bridge Primary School pupils get busy writing stories.

TWO LOCHABER primary schools have teamed up to take part in the First Minister Challenge.

The Scottish Government initiative encourages schools to organise reading challenges throughout the year to instil a greater love of reading and books.

Pupils can engage with reading and share their experiences with other pupils and other schools.

Spean Bridge Primary School has teamed up with Banavie Primary School for the most recent challenge, to see which school can read the most books.



A team of volunteers made up hundreds of Christmas shoeboxes in Kilmallie Free Church Hall, in preparation for their journey to Kosovo. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Lochaber spreads festive cheer to Kosovo

A HUGE effort from the Lochaber community has seen 714 shoe boxes filled and sent to Kosovo as part of the Blythswood shoebox appeal.

Lochaber Blythswood co-ordinators Kenny and Barbara Matheson, who also run the shop in Caol, were joined by volunteers from Kilmallie Free Church to sort through the donations and get them organised for

sending abroad. Kenny and Barbara, who have been co-ordinators for about 30 years, said: 'We want to thank everyone who contributed to this year's shoebox appeal, Kilmallie Free Church hall for giving us the space to do this, and the Footwear Department for saving up boxes for us. Everyone has been an amazing support so thank you.'

Schools in the area, alongside members of the wider community, donated shoe boxes filled with toiletries, stationery and clothes, to be sent to Kosovo. Kenny, who dropped the 714 boxes off at Blythswood headquarters last week said he believed the charity had between 9,000 and 11,000 donations heading off to Kosovo, with 12,000 going to Romania.

UK recognition for Locheilnet

STAFF and volunteers at Locheilnet, a community company providing high-speed broadband in rural Lochaber, has been named runner-up in the UK Rural Business Awards.

Locheilnet was founded in 2012 by Chris Pellow.

Confined to her home after a serious illness and with no broadband, Chris did some research and discovered that pilot projects delivering wireless broadband were being set up and working well.

Within months, she had a pilot, funded by Highland Council, and had broadband installed to 15 houses in Locheilside.

Further substantial fund-



Back row, left to right: Nick Shore, Jackie Wright and Viv Macdonald. Front: Janet Sidgwick, Chris Pellow and Sandy Edmond. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

ing from Ardgour Area Fund, Marine Harvest, Foundation Scotland, SSE and First Port helped with significant expansion during 2013-2014 and the formation of Community Broadband Scotland allowed the company to develop services in several other rural areas.

Today Locheilnet has more than 350 customers in the area and is set to expand even further.

Locheilnet's chairwoman, Jackie Wright said: 'To be recognised at this UK national level is testament to the hard work and effort our team puts in at all hours of the day and night to deliver broadband.'



Youngsters held a gym-a-thon to raise money for new equipment for the childcare centre in Inverlochty.

Inverlochty

INVERLOCHTY toddlers have raised £230 for new toys, equipment and resources for the Early Learning and Childcare Centre at Inverlochty Primary School.

The childcare centre held a sponsored gymathon last week to raise money for new equipment.

Centre manager Carole Graham said: 'The children had a fabulous day. It was fantastic

and they were all so excited about the gym-a-thon.'

Children from the centre had been practicing balancing, rolling and bouncing in the gym at Inverlochty Primary School before the event. Ms Graham added the day was a great way to 'showcase what the children had learned as well as promoting general health and well-being'.

Thanks went to the P6 buddies for their help on the day.

Fort William barber a cut above the rest



John Wilson in his barber's shop in Fort William.

A FORT William barber is a cut above the 'big guys' as an anonymous nomination sees him shortlisted for a national award.

Barber shop owner John Wilson was shocked to hear news of his nomination for the Scottish hair and beauty awards, and is still to find out who put him forward.

John, who has a shop in Station Square, Fort William, has been shortlisted in the Best Barber, North of Scotland category and will find out if he has been

crowned the winner at a black-tie event on December 4 in Glasgow.

He said: 'This nomination has come as a total surprise and I have yet to discover who put me forward. To be shortlisted as a finalist by a panel is in itself an honour and to be chosen on the evening would be the pinnacle of my career.'

'To think that a little one-man barber shop can compare with the big guys is all down to my great Lochaber customers.'

Onich

A SPECIAL remembrance day service was held for the Reverend David Railton at St Brides Church in Onich.

An English vicar, Reverend Railton was the creator of the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. He served in France during the First World War and later retired to Onich.

He died in 1955 after falling from a moving train at Fort William railway station and was laid to rest at St Brides Church, not far from his home near Loch Linnhe.

Martin Thompson, a veteran of the 1st Queens Dragoon Guards, read about Reverend Railton and had a banner made. He, along with five other veterans, their wives and Reverend Railton's grandson, J Railton, brought the banner north to St Brides church.

On Saturday November 12, as the sun was setting, the banner was piped to the grave, carried by Mr Thompson. The veterans and Reverend Railton's grandson then held an all-night vigil at his graveside before presenting the banner to St Brides at a service the next day.



The banner lies on the grave of the Reverend David Railton at St Brides Church.

MORVERN
lines

An old disease and other human characteristics

THE 'HALF-SHUT hand' is an old expression I heard on Mull the other day.

It is a medical condition related to the hands and fingers which causes one or more fingers to bend into the palm of the hand. It can affect one or both hands and sometimes the thumb, as a result of a palmar fibromatosis in which the fingers cannot be fully straightened.

Another name for it is 'Viking's fingers' as it is particularly common in Norway and other Northern European countries. Its medical name is 'Dupuytren's contracture' or 'disease' named after the renowned French surgeon Baron Guillaume Dupuytren (1777-1835), who first operated on it in the 19th century.

Why there are more cases in Scandinavia is unclear but it is likely to have a genetic basis as it is found in families. There are an estimated 10 million Americans with Dupuytren's so it is found in most countries. It is also associated with several diseases and risk factors such as smoking, alcoholism, diabetes, low body weight and heavy manual labour. The genetics is complicated and is unlikely to be a single gene suggesting multiple factors at play. It is mostly found in older people, but can occur younger.

Some years ago the University of Liverpool carried out DNA research into the distribution of Nordic people in the UK with 'Mac' surnames who had been resident in the west of Scotland for generations.

Mull was one study area and produced several folk with clear bloodlines originating in Southern Sweden. This is proof, if any is needed, that when the Vikings raided and traded from their Scandinavian homelands across wide areas of northern, central and eastern Europe and into Argyll between the 8th and the 15th centuries, they brought Dupuytren's disease with them.

Ancient Greek and Roman literature contain no reliable records of anything resembling the disease.

The Icelandic sagas of the 12th and 13th centuries describe a number of 'miracle cures' two of which could well have been for Dupuytren's. I can find no evidence of it in early Anglo-Saxon and Gaelic medical literature although, since the 15th century, the flexed fingers of adult male pipers have been known as 'the Curse of the MacCrimmons'.

The tale goes that in the 16th century the MacCrimmon pipers were second only in fame and legend on Skye to the MacLeods of Dunvegan.

There are many stories as to how the curse arose. Some say the MacCrimmons were cursed by a widow whose only son was taken by the press gangs. Others tell of a MacCrimmon woman by the name of Annag who was punished by the removal of several fingers for giving piping secrets to her MacPherson boyfriend.

Whoever performed the curse, everyone is agreed the angry woman foretold that the MacCrimmons would cease to be the official pipers to the MacLeods and would leave the isle of Skye forever.

And so it came to pass. The fingers of the MacCrimmon men bent so far into their palms that they became unable to play the bagpipes any more. And from that day to this, any piper who suffers from Dupuytren's disease will say he has been affected by 'the curse of the MacCrimmons'.

There are other physical characteristics to be found in families throughout the Highlands and islands. For example, it is said in Moidart the lineal descendants of the old MacDonald of Clanranald line have one eye larger than the other. Nowadays, however, it is known eyes can be different in size and shape, causing them to appear asymmetrical. In many cases, one eye will be narrower than the other, while the other looks more rounded. A droopy eyelid, or ptosis, as it is known by doctors, can happen naturally in individuals or be caused by migraines, nerve issues, an eye infection or an allergic reaction. A droopy eyelid can also be caused by aging, but be present at birth.



The development of the St Kilda's foot, right.

On St Kilda, some men had abnormally thicker ankles and wider spread toes than their mainland contemporaries, brought about by years of snaring and catching puffins and other seabirds on the great crags and steep cliffs of Hirta, Soay and Boreray. Were they born with these or did they develop them?

The Fletchers, who came to Mull from Glen Orchy in the 17th century, were arrow-makers and archers to the Maclean chiefs. The surname is of English, Scottish and Irish origin and is the occupational name for an arrow maker or seller of arrows, derived from Old English 'Fulcher' which led to the Gaelic name 'Mac an Fhleisteir' the arrowsmith's son.

The late Dr John Corbet Fletcher (1912-1976), Morvern's esteemed GP, used to say the Mull Fletchers were an aristocratic sort of family and were rewarded by the Macleans of Duart with a village on the shores of Loch Ba called Bradhadail in recognition of their services. He used to hold out his right hand and point to his little finger curled inwards. It appeared deformed but was apparently a feature developed by arrow-making and carried down from one generation to another.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Stoddarts

WE HAVE XMAS COVERED

2 WHEELS AND 4 IN STOCK ALL AGES & SIZES

HELMETS, GLOVES ETC. ALL IN STOCK

NEW 2 WHEEL

STOMP JUICE BOX3 3 SPEED SEMI-AUTO 4 STROKE £725
 STOMP SS120R 4 SPEED MANUAL 4 STROKE £890
 HONDA CFR120F 4 SPEED MANUAL E/START 4 STROKE £1,999
 STOMP Z3 140 4 SPEED 4STROKE £1,050 BIG WHEEL £1,150

NEW 4 WHEEL

STOMP FOX 70 FULLY AUTOMATIC C/W ELECTRIC START £850
 QUADZILLA R100 FULLY AUTO WITH REVERSE, E/START £1,400
 QUADZILLA PRO SHARK 100 WATER COOLED, RACING SUSP, E/START £1,550
 STOMP JACKAL 150 3 SPEED SEMI AUTO E/START, CARRIERS £1,550

USED 2&4 WHEEL

STOMP JUICEBOX3 AS NEW 3 SPEED £575
 HONDA CRF70 EXCELLENT CONDITION SEMI AUTO £890
 QUADZILLA STINGER 300 ROAD LEGAL 16 PLATE 48MILES ONLY £2,500

ALL ABOVE PRICES INC VAT, ALL MACHINES ARE FULLY PREPARED AND READY TO GO, DELIVERY ARRANGED.

STODDARTS
 TEL: 01631 564176 / 07799 692072
 john.stoddarts@btconnect.com

CONTACT US NOW AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

FW

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

There was, understandably, huge relief last week when Rio Tinto announced the sale of its Lochaber operations to a group known as the GFG Alliance.

The new owners, a partnership between SIMEC and Liberty House, paid around £330 million for Rio Tinto's 100 per cent shareholding in Alcan Aluminium UK Limited, which includes the operating smelter, the hydroelectric facilities at Kinlochleven and Lochaber, and all associated land.

As you would expect, there was a widespread welcome at the news from politicians of all hues and community and civic leaders. There had been uncertainty for a

considerable period over the future of the plant, but the new owners have said they want to keep all the jobs and have hinted at expansion being a possibility.

While the 170 or so people who work there will be justifiably elated at the news, there is a far wider cause for celebration. For make no mistake: this plant is crucial to the broader Lochaber economy.

In a large rural area such as ours, every job is vital as there is a ripple effect through the economy. Local firms and suppliers are also reliant on the plant for their livelihoods, so well done to everyone involved in facilitating the deal.



Days gone by – 1988

This week we turn the clock back to October 27, 1988, and the presentation of a certificate of commendation to Kay Simpson by Andrew Peter, senior vice-chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Glasgow Letter

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



Excitement builds for Skye gathering

THE first weekend in December is upon us which, of course, means Christmas is around the corner.

Glasgow has been looking very Christmassy with an icing-sugar covering of frost last week and the Christmas markets getting under way at St Enoch Square and George Square.

Even more exciting than the onset of Christmas, however, is the prospect of the Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering this weekend.

This has been, in general, has been a successful year for the kindred associations, with very busy annual gathering dances and concerts throughout the year.

Only last weekend, for example, the Coll Association had a great buffet and dance with the Drams Ceilidh Band.

Now the Glasgow Skye evening will surely round off the year perfectly.

The singers, who will all be accompanied on piano by Alan Kitchen, are Eilidh Cormack, Catriona MacNeil, James Graham and Calum Alex Macmillan. Ian Smith will give a few sets on the box, and John Gillies will do the same on the pipes.

The Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Ewan Henderson, will be in attendance, and this year's guest of honour is the always entertaining Hugh Dan MacLennan. Trail West will finish the night off from 10.30pm until 2am.

Piping competition success for Christian

CONGRATULATIONS to Christian Gamauf, who won first prize at the Glasgow University Comunn Oiseanach's evening of piping in the Park Bar on November 17.

The Oidheche Fhìobaireachd was reinstated a couple of years ago



An Comunn Collach (the Coll Association) had a gathering last weekend.

after a committee member of the Comunn Oiseanach (the Ossianic Society) discovered that an annual piping competition and an annual shinty match were part of the written constitution of the association, which was established in 1831.

Competitors this year were Cameron Sharpe, Callum Watson, Chris Lee, and the eventual winner, Christian. They were adjudicated upon by Calum MacCrimmon of Breabach, and Andrew MacPherson of the Urban Teuchters, the Angus Nicholson Trio and Deoch 'n' Dorus.

It is a great evening every year and it is so good that the current students at the uni are keeping this old tradition of the association alive.

Gaelic service

ST COLUMBA Gaelic Church will be holding communion services on Sunday December 4 in both Gaelic and English. The Gaelic service begins at 10am and the English service at 11.30am.

Both services will be conducted by Rev Angus Smith, chaplain to the oil industry.

What's on

Friday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association annual gathering in the Glasgow University Union. Concert commencing at 7.30pm.

Sunday December 4: Gaelic service in St Columba Gaelic Church of Scotland at 10am.

Wednesday December 7: An Lochran Gaelic music session (seisean ciùil Gàidhlig) in the Lismore.

Friday December 9: Clydebank Highlanders cèilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

Saturday December 10: The Glasgow Skye Association's children's Christmas party in the Renfield Centre, Blythswood Hall.

Pub scene

Park Bar.
Friday December 2: Dùn Mòr.
Saturday December 3: Gunna Sound.
Sunday December 4: Martainn Skene.

Islay Inn
Friday December 2: Twist of Fate.
Saturday December 3: Deep River.
Wednesday December 7: quiz night.

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.

Appalled by planning committee meetings

Sir,
First, may I congratulate you as editor, on your coverage and standard of reporting that has been given to the misfortune experienced by Ann Colthart of Connel.

I attended both sessions, forenoon and afternoon, of the public hearing on Thursday November 3, and was appalled by the manner in which such an important meeting was conducted.

We, the residents of Connel, certainly had our eyes opened to the manner in which the Argyll and Bute Planning Committee functions.

The following morning, comments in the village ranged from: 'That meeting was an absolute shambles'; 'Three of the members were asleep'; 'That chairman should never have made known his intention to support the proposed plans before the vote' and, after the vote, 'That was an absolute stitch-up' – a statement made by three independent individuals. The community council meeting was well supported and many complaints were again made about the public hearing, together with dismay at the blatant neglect of the developers to conduct site meetings to check up on the prescribed building regulations.

A follow-up meeting on November 10 in the main hall in Connel was again very well attended, and the decision was taken to make known to the public, and in particular, to the executives of Argyll and Bute Council, by use of the website and the press just how angry, dissatisfied and, yes, disgusted, are the Connel folk by the manner in which this whole affair has been mishandled.

**Claire Grierson,
Creag Dubhan, Connel.**

Lochaber loses under Highland Council

Sir,
Once again, the Highland Council has run an electoral process for Fort William Community Council – and, once again, there were insufficient nominations to form a council. This complete disinterest in these lowest-level councils is mirrored across the Highlands and further afield in Scotland. The public have decided that they won't waste their time on community councils.

Politicians, academics and journalists agree that the present system of local government does not deliver democracy. Indeed, it is now generally accepted that we don't have local government, but actually have regional government, which is remote and unresponsive to the needs and concerns of communities.

In the Highlands, we have seen just how effective our Lochaber councillors can be in relation to proposed budget cuts. Eden Court sees its budget cut by £10,000, but the Nevis Centre gets a £75,000 cut. But, of course, Eden Court has a different arrangement with the Highland Council.

Lochaber councillors regularly see decisions taken which disadvantage

Lochaber, but give assistance to the Inverness area. Our Lochaber councillors have not been able to stop the cuts in funding for an indoor sports facility in Lochaber, while watching as Inverness gets a new indoor sports centre.

What we can see is that an area with only seven councillors can always be outvoted (and out-manoeuvred) by their colleagues in the rest of the council.

Some people may say that all this is a result of a Scottish Government with a real and demonstrable animosity towards the unitary authorities, which cuts funding to councils while retaining funds for blockbuster vanity projects such as the new Forth road bridge, or even bringing thousands of acres of heather into public ownership.

Some people even wonder if the Scottish Government is deliberately setting up councils to take unpopular decisions, while central government oozes benevolence and generosity, such as the provision of baby boxes. You may ask me if this is what I think is happening – but I couldn't possibly comment.

Meanwhile, the Highland Council's Commission on Highland Democracy beavers away, wondering how on earth it can make silk purses out of sow's ears. If you take part in this exercise, consider suggesting that democracy in the Highlands would be best served by abolishing the Highland Council, and creating smaller, more responsive units. Then wait for a response.

**Duncan Brown,
Chairman, For Lochaber.**

Quarry will benefit the local economy

Sir,
Further to the article 'Fury at quarry proposal' (The Oban Times, November 24), yes, we rely heavily on tourism in this area but would the quarry stop the tourists coming?

The nearest natural reserves are over 45 miles away. Would it not be better having another local reserve due to the continual investment in infrastructure in the area? This would save hauling aggregates long distance. A&L McCrae is a company which already employs locals in the area and if planning was granted would no doubt further strengthen this.

The Collinet family have owned Glen Creran Estate for a long number of years and, like many other estates, they need to use the assets they have. They have invested heavily in green power, agriculture and forestry. Directly and indirectly, the local community benefits from the estate.

How many of the objectors actually live and work within a 30-mile radius of Glen Creran and what effect will it have on their daily lives if this was to go ahead? If available, how many would use the local materials for house building and landscaping?

The quarry would be reinstated back to agricultural use at the end of the extraction. There are planning rules and regulations to be adhered to.

Public opinion tried to stop Benderloch quarry at the beginning. It has

been operating for several years now and has not damaged the village but brings employment, as does Bonawe quarry and Glensanda. As a local economy, we need employment which includes agriculture, fish farming, quarrying, forestry and tourism.

Name and address supplied.

Hypocrisy over effect of Brexit on tourism

Sir,
So, tucked away in the bottom right hand corner of page four of *The Oban Times* (on November 17), I find a short article headlined 'MSP fears Brexit could hit tourism'.

On reading it, I nearly choked on my morning cuppa. Apparently Michael Russell MSP has 'his worries about the affect of Brexit on tourism'. It's funny that, because at no time during the 2014 independence referendum did anyone in the SNP or Scottish Government make their concerns known about the effect on tourism in Scotland in the event of separating from the UK.

Here's a fact that is generally reflected throughout Scotland's tourism industry: 60 per cent of our own customers from our tourism business are UK-based and, of that, 80 per cent are from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

We were concerned about the effects on our business and industry of the independence referendum in 2014? Hell yes! Were the SNP and Scottish Government? We don't know the answer to that because no mention was ever made by them of the potential consequences and repercussions of such a split. The SNP do hypocrisy big style – but not, it would seem, irony.

Name and address supplied.

Thanks to all for reindeer parade

Sir,
I would, on behalf of Bid4Oban, like to thank the volunteers who helped this year's Oban reindeer parade to go ahead.

I would like to start with the Oban Pipe Band, and then thank the Rotary Club of Oban for marshalling and helping with the stewarding and reindeer at Station Square. The Oban and Lorn Lions were unable to marshal this year but still brought their tom-bola to raise money for good causes.

Thanks also to the team from Oban FM for the music and announcements.

Special thanks to Jonathan from Argyll Hog Roasts who, despite being busy with his stall, still managed to fetch and return the Oban FM trailer.

Thanks to the police and Argyll and Bute Council for the roles they carry out every year, and to the business community of Oban who pay for the parade via their levy.

And not forgetting the star of the show, Santa.

This is a team event and requires all components in order to work.

**Derek Connery,
Chief executive, Bid4Oban Ltd.**

Ailean Caimbeul

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



THA CUID DEN FHEADHAINN a tha an sàs ann an obair turasachd anns an Eilean Sgitheanach airson gun dealb Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd poileasaidh coileanta dhan gh-nìomhachas anns an sgìre sin. Chanainn gun dèanadh sin ciall airson caochlathadh adhbhair, agus gun teagamh bhiodh gleidheadh agus a' cur ri rìre na h-aogheachd a gheibh luchd-turais aig mullach na liosta. Mar a bhiodh dùil, bhiodh cuideachd leudachadh ann an eaconamaidh na sgìre na amas cudromach agus a bhith a' cruthachadh chosnaidhean làn-thìde.

Tha linntean bho thòisich daoine ri siubhal dhan Eilean Sgitheanach a dh'annharc maise na h-àrainneachd, agus a chòiseachd mhonaidhean is a shreap bheanntan. Ach 's ann beagan is leth-cheud bliadhna air ais a leudaich obair leabaidh is braicist feadh choimhearsnachdan an Eilein, is daoine a' faicinn cho math 's a dh'fhaodadh seo obrachadh an lùib croitearachd agus chosnaidhean de gach seòrsa eile. 'S iad boireannaich anns a' mhòr-chuid a bha ris an obair throm seo agus thug an t-airgead a bha tighinn a-staigh tomhas mhòr de mhiseachd agus de shaorsa ùr dhaibh. Cha b' e a-mhàin gun d' rachadh aig bean-taighe air an dachaigh a leasachadh agus innealan a cheannach a chuideachadh le uallach na h-obrach, bha a cuid cosnaidh cuideachd a' ceadachadh adhartachadh dhan teaghlach air fad. Le amhorachd a' cur ri cosgais obair-fearainn is stùic, 's dòcha nach eil e na annas gun do shìolaidh croitearachd le barrachd an eisimeil teachd-an-tìr bho thurasachd. Chan e gum bheil turasachd na nàmhaid dha croitearachd, gu dearbh tha mòran luchd-turais aig am bheil ùidh mhòr ann am faicinn chroitean gan obrachadh, 's e th' ann gum bheil cosnadh leapa is braicist nas cinntiche..

Rinn mi toileachas fhaicinn anns a' Phlana Gàidhlig aig VisitScotland gum bheil a' bhuidheann a' tuigsinn cho luachmhor 's a tha Gàidhlig mar phàirt de dhuilchais nàiseanta Alba, agus gum bheil e a' faicinn na Gàidhlig deatamach ann am margaideachd na dùthcha dha luchd-turais. 'S iomadh oidhirp a rinn mi fhìn fad bhliadhnaichean gus feuchainn ris

an fheallsanachd sin a reic ri prìomh bhuidheann turasachd Alba ach cha deach leam. Tha mi a' faotainn beagan misneachaidh mar sin 's na tha sgrìobhte sa Phlana Gàidhlig aig VisitScotland, ach dh'fhaodadh gniomhan fhaicinn a' nochdadh nas luaithe. Dhearbhair rannachadh a rinn iad an-uiridh gum bheil ùidh aig co-dhùì trian de luchd-turais ann an Gàidhlig, agus le brosnachadh barrachd luchd-ionnsachaidh agus cleachdaidh na prìomh amas anns a' Phlana-Nàiseanta, dh'fhaodadh turasachd cuideachadh mòr a dhèanamh. Aig an aon àm 's dòcha gum faodadh turasachd cuideachadh le croitearachd ath-bheothachadh.

AS THE B&B industry expanded in areas such as Skye over the past 50 years, tourism income overtook meagre crofting returns. In many instances, this income replaced crofting. VisitScotland's Gaelic Plan recognises the importance of the language as part of Scotland's heritage and its importance in marketing the country. Implementation of such a policy should help towards the growth in learners and users which is a prime target of the National Plan for Gaelic.

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

Le taic bho



SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.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.

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

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

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

Councillors throw budget ball back in public's court

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

COUNCILLORS say they have 'scraped the bottom of the barrel' to make £1.4 million of efficiency savings – and it will take 'substantial change' to find up to £10 million of savings to balance the books.

A budget consultation set by Argyll and Bute Council is currently asking the public to rank its ser-

vices in order of importance from 12 categories, including education for children, care for vulnerable people, and bin collections.

In a move away from the 'service choices' model of community consultation, this year the local authority looks set to give serious consideration to cutting whole services, as it asks the public: 'Everything matters. What matters most?'

The consultation document is available between now and January

2017 and will be collated before February to 'inform the [budget] decisions the council takes'.

Described as a 'high level consultation' by executive officer Douglas Hendry, he told a meeting of the full council last Thursday the questions in the document were 'fit for purpose' and 'had to be carried out'.

Councillor Sandy Taylor, leader of the opposition, said: 'It is a survey, not a consultation. It is not going to inform the budget.'

Mr Taylor pointed to one particular question where people are asked to say where they would like to cut funding. The question states: 'Where would you reduce funding?' It then offers five choices – education services; economy, environment and customer support services; social care services; all the above; or other.

Mr Taylor said: 'The high level consultation offers no narrative as to why or how savings could be made or the options people have for making savings.'

Councillor Richard Trail said: 'It is unfair to ask people whether they prefer funding education or roads. I think that we will get very little meaning from what we get back.'

Councillor Aileen Morton, who is part of the cabinet within the ruling group, said: 'It is substantially different to the consultation that went out last year.'

Speaking wryly about national politics, she said: 'The SNP teaches us how to consult on council tax – it raises the payments on certain bands. But the money does not come to the local authority – it goes to central government for it to disperse. It didn't consult anyone on that.'

Get ready for fun and dames...



BENDERLOCH and North Connell Drama Club were putting the finishing touches to this year's pantomime, *Dick McWhittington*, when photographer Kevin McGlynn caught up with them at the Corran Halls. The curtain goes up on Thursday December 8. To find out more about the show and how you can buy your tickets, turn to page 14.

TIMESLINE

New hope for Billy jailed in India

A VERDICT is expected any day in an appeal to free Connel man Billy Irving and five other British ex-servicemen imprisoned in India on illegal firearms charges.

In 2013, the MV Seaman Guard Ohio's 35-strong crew, protecting commercial ships from Somali pirates off the African coast, were arrested for straying into Indian waters with allegedly unlicensed weapons. In January a judge jailed all for five years, despite their pleas of innocence.

Help spread Hope this Christmas

HOPE KITCHEN is holding a fashion show tomorrow (Friday) at M&Co in Oban.

Lorraine McCormick, service manager at Hope Kitchen, said: 'Every penny raised on the night will be used to provide a Christmas food parcel and a present for the families and children we support. Last December we gave out 92 food parcels in the local area. Oban Distillery is also supporting us and will add to our final total on the night.' The fundraiser starts at 6.30pm and tickets are £5.

Toy sale to aid Rockfield Centre

MACQUEEN Bros Charitable Trust is hosting a toy sale at MacQueen's warehouse on Glengallan Road, Oban, today (Thursday December 1), from 8.30am to 5pm.

All the toys are new and still boxed and the trust says there are huge reductions on retail prices. All proceeds from the sale will go towards Oban Communities Trust's work to develop the Rockfield Centre.



ANALYSIS

THESE are the hardest of times for councillors, writes Louise Glen. They signed up to make things better for communities but find themselves having to make tough choices on a further round of spending cuts. There is no flexibility in that spending.

Overall, there is up to £40 million to be saved up to 2020, depending on the budget forecast and the settlement from the Scottish Government. The council tax may well make up 80 per cent of funding for the local authority but it falls short of what is required to deliver the services currently being provided.

The extra money to be collected by central government for higher council tax payments in certain bandings will not be available to the local authority directly.

It is likely this will be dispersed in special project funding streams. One already announced by John Swinney MSP is education.

Cutting money from any area of local government delivery is now very difficult because of the make-up of funding. There is nothing left to spend on anything other than essentials.

The Single Outcome Agreement between Argyll and Bute Council and central government – a local planning-for-spending document – limits how much the local authority can actually do.

The leader of the council is stuck between a rock and a hard place with few, if any, ways to raise quick cash.

Fundamental change needs to happen to run an effective council. He can't cut top jobs as they have a statutory role; he can't cut front-line services; he can't reduce payments to councillors as they are all set by government (and would go back to government and not into his pot); but at the same time he can't just get rid of the things he is obliged in law to deliver, or raise the council tax for area spending.

The public have a difficult decision to make in regarding sweeping change via the council's consultation without any of the information available to our councillors.

But people and organisations must fill in the consultation document and have their say as it will be very difficult to reopen the door after decisions have been made.

Free west Highland calendar 2017
when you subscribe to The Oban Times*
Visit www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR OBAN TIMES SUPPLEMENT READERS
SUBSCRIBE TO Scottish Field **SAVE 25%**
ONLY £38.25
WITH A FABULOUS SAVING OF 25% (MINIMUM ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION ONLY)

Call **+44 (0)1371 851868**
Quote **SFXMAS16**
Scottish Field is Scotland's quality lifestyle magazine featuring articles on wildlife, food, gardens, property, and Scottish history. Every month we have social scene pages plus competitions and our subscribers get the opportunity to review top Scottish hotels.

Stay connected
To Argyll and the West Highlands with the new Oban Times digital edition
Subscribe today
Visit our exclusive page: obantimes.co.uk/stayconnected

HIRE and SUPPLIES Great DISCOUNTS on Makita power tools
Helping you stay warm this winter
Mill Lane, Oban PA34 4HA Tel: 01631 566306
online @ www.hireandsupplies.com

Roofing We've got you covered
FREE Roofing Estimating Service
Email your plans to: roof.estimate@jewsons.co.uk

DuPont Tyvek Supro
• Supro is a high performance pitched roof breather membrane
• Multi-purpose, heavyweight, reinforced Tyvek grade for use in all supported and unsupported pitched roof applications
FROM ONLY **£65.00** EXC. VAT PER ROLL

Roofshield 50 x 1m
• Water resistant
• Low Vapour Resistance
• Air permeable
• No vapour control layer required
• UV Resistant
ONLY **£109.00** EXC. VAT PER ROLL

Sinclair Dr, Oban PA34 4DR T: 01631 562208
North Rd, Fort William PH33 6TQ T: 01397 700744 **JEWSON**

Save big #GiftWithConfidence

£7.99* save £22.01 Halle & Halle Berry Exotic Jasmine 100ml RRP £30.00

£6.99 save £1.00 MAN'S TUFF Ultimate 6 Pack RRP £7.99

£9.49 save £3.01 Nivea Men Wash Kit RRP £12.50

£14.99 save £5.00 Real Techniques Ltd Ed Multi Task Set RRP £19.99

£3.99 save £1.00 Technic Get Your Glow On RRP £4.99

£6.99 save £2.99 Rimmel Scandal Eyes Kit RRP £9.98

£8.99 save £3.00 Gillette Mach 3 Turbo Star Wars Set RRP £11.99

£13.39 save £6.60 L'Oréal Men Expert Wake Up Washbag RRP £19.99

£7.99 save £4.01 Maybelline New York Baby Make Me Blush Set RRP £12.00

£20.00 half price Oral B Pro-Expert Stages Frozen & Star Wars **was £40.00**

* Prices available until 4th Dec
exceptional savings, every day.
www.gordonsdirect.com
16 George Street, Oban

GORDONS CHEMISTS

Like like us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

Fort 'gutted' at defeat in Fraserburgh

Football

Fraserburgh	3
Fort William	2
Highland League	

FORT William were 'gutted' not to have taken home anything from Saturday's match against Fraserburgh.

The Fort were defeated 3-2 at Saturday's match despite a 'tremendous' performance.

The home side took the lead in the ninth minute through Paul Campbell.

But it didn't take long for the Fort to equalise, Ally Stark heading home his first Fort goal after a brilliant cross from Jack Lingard.

There were chances at both ends but the teams went in level at the break.

However, two goals from Bryan Hay and Aiden Combe saw the home side establish a two-goal lead, but the Fort then pulled one back.

Fort's top scorer, Scottie Davidson, waltzed past three defenders before firing a shot into the top corner from 18 yards for his 11th goal off the season.

Fort manager Ally Ewen said after the game: 'The lads were tremendous today, and we are gutted not to have taken anything from the game.'

Next up for Fort is a home game against high flying Buckie Thistle at Claggan Park on Saturday.

Have a go at table tennis

Table tennis

THE FORT William Table Tennis Club will be playing until December 19 and restart on the January 9 next year.

'But in the meantime, don't just sit there thinking I wouldn't mind having a go at that - come and give it a go. In fact, bring a friend,' said a club spokesman.

The club play every Monday evening from 6.45pm to 9pm and the first session is free to see if you like it.

If you need more information, ring Jim on 01397 706600.

Winning numbers Lottery

WINNING numbers for the November 27 draw of Ballachulish shinty lottery were 12, 14 and 19. No winners again this week, so a £600 draw next week.

Numbers 5, 6 and 18 were the winners for the November 24 draw of the Caol Regeneration lotto. There were no winners so jackpot of £300 for next week.

Catherine Woods, Corpach, has won the Fort William golf lotto draw.

Ms Woods won £1,000 in the November 24 draw with the numbers 11, 14 and 18.

There is £100 available for the next draw on December 1.

Caol Community Centre bingo lotto numbers for this week's draw are 7, 12, and 18. No winners so jackpot up to £600 next week.

Bowled over at Railway Club annual prizegiving

FORT WILLIAM Railway Bowling Club has held its annual presentation of trophies in the Railway Social Club Inverlochy.

Winners were: two bowls competition, Robert Hunter; runner-up, Kevin Douglas; Gents singles, Kevin Douglas; runner-up, Eddie Downs; Ballot pairs, Martin MacLeod and Trica Miller; runners-up, George MacKay and Jim Bell.

Nominated pairs, Allan MacDonald and Robert Hunter; runners-up, Agnes Boyle and Eddie Downs.

Mixed pairs, Alan Lawrie and Liz French; runners-up, Agnes Boyle and Eddie Downs.

Boxing

President's competition, Eddie Downs and Kevin Douglas; runners-up, Peter Black and Liz Kennedy.

Club champion, Bill Clarke. Senior champion, Alan Lawrie.

Upgrading
The club members are busy during the out of season period upgrading the green, carrying out the job themselves.

Anybody who wishes to help them with sponsorship to help pay for the project would be gratefully accepted



Bill Clark who won the club championship for the Fort William Railway Bowling Club and received his trophy at the club's annual presentation of trophies at the Railway Social Club, Inverlochy.



Above: prize-winners at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club's annual presentation of trophies held in the Railway Social Club, Inverlochy. Photos: Anthony MacMillan Photography

Alan Lawrie of Kinlochleven who won the senior singles championship and received his trophy at the Fort William Railway Bowling Club's annual awards presentation.



Stephen now a qualified boxing judge

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club have been working hard behind the scenes to keep the club moving forward and none more so than Stephen McManus, who has now completed and passed all the training and tests to become a fully qualified boxing judge.

Stephen has spent the past few months travelling around the north of Scotland attending shows as a probationary judge at boxing shows.

After a certain amount of bouts his scores were studied and compared to the actual results by a Boxing Scotland official to ascertain if his scoring has been accurate. Stephen received a glowing

report. After this was done he travelled to Aberdeen to sit a boxing rules test which he passed with flying colours.

About 25 years ago, Stephen was a Scottish schoolboy champion himself, so comes into his role with good pedigree and understanding of boxing.

The big plus for the club is that every boxing club in Scotland has to have a working official, which is what Stephen has become, if they want to hold boxing shows in their home town. This bodes well for the club as their next show is scheduled for May 13 next year in the Nevis Centre.

Club coach Charlie Anderson said:

'Stephen has done tremendously well to achieve these qualifications this year. One of the difficult things about studying for the rules test is that the rules are constantly changing. AIBA [the sport's governing body] regularly update the rules and Stephen makes sure to keep on top of this.'

'As far as we are aware, Stephen is the first person from Fort William to achieve this honour for decades, if not ever, so we are all delighted with the progress he is making.'

There was also bad news for the club, as Scottish and GB champion and European silver medallist Cameron Whyte has had

Boxing

to withdraw from two internationals in the next few weeks against England and then Wales due to injury.

The club are always looking for new members and anyone from nine years to a 109 years is welcome.

The club is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5.15pm to 6.45pm for nine- to 16-year-olds, and 6.30pm to 8pm for over-16s.

The club are situated in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate and can be contacted on their Facebook page for more details.



Senior moment for Brian

Brian Gillespie, right, has won the golf senior medal final. Brian was presented with the trophy by Ian Robertson, captain of the club, at the weekend. Photo: Iain Ferguson

Presentation to Davie Corrigan

Shinty

RONALD Ross, manager of the Scottish senior international shinty team handed over a presentation caman and replica international strip to Davie Corrigan following his departure from Marine Harvest.

Davie was a familiar figure at the Marine Harvest shinty/hurling internationals for many years where he ran the salmon barbecue raising hundreds of pounds for local charities.



Davie Corrigan receives a presentation caman and replica strip from Scottish senior international manager Ronald Ross. Photo: Abrishtside Photography

British Legion firing on all cylinders 10-pin bowling

AFTER week four of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats lead the scratch division with 17 points followed closely by British Legion Fort William on 16 points who beat Alleycats this week 3-2.

Don't Give A Split and The Shambowls are next, both on 10 points.

In the handicap division, British Legion Fort William are the new leaders with 16 points after beating previous leaders Alleycats 5-0.

Alleycats fall to second place on 12 points followed by Rotavators and Don't Give A Split on 10 points.

Individually, the best games in week four were 164 from Ben Weller (Don't Give A Split) and Tony Weldon (British Legion Fort William).

Tony Weldon also had the top handicap game of 224. The top two-game scratch series went to Ben Weller with 307 while John Rosie (Rotavators) had the top two-game handicap series of 418.

The best team scores of the week came from Don't Give A Split with a scratch game of 528 and two-game scratch series of 1,048 while Rotavators had the top handicap game of 776 and top two-game handicap series of 1,500.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Pam Weller (Alleycats) with 166, Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 149 followed by Ron Gretton (Rotavators) and Ben Weller both on 143.

Druimfada Chase Athletics

THE DRUIMFADA Chase took place at the weekend with 71 contestants running in the glorious winter sunshine.

John Yells of Lochaber Athletics Club (LAC) came home first in a brilliant time of 49 minutes 5 seconds closely followed by Peter Henry (Deeside Runners) 49:31 and Tom Smith (LAC) in third 49:36. Tom was also first MV40.

First lady home in an excellent 15th overall position was Lisette Walter (unattached) in 1:00:13 followed by Joanne Foley (unattached) 1:03:15 in second and first FV40, with Amanda Blackhall (LAC) coming in third. Ali Kennedy was first MV50 and Emma Pearce was first FV50, while Michael Connolly led home the MV60s.

Organisers said: 'Well done to everyone who ran and thanks to all the marshals, helpers and timekeepers. Also thanks to Scottish Woodlands for their help.'

Sammy's indoor league results Indoor football

RESULTS - Ballatasaray 3, Fiorentina 10; Turner Portowey 8, The Young Boys 3; Nevis Range 5, Inverlochy 2; The Stoaters 7, HW Energy 1; The Goon Squad 2, Doghouse Thistle 7.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday	Light rain Winds moderate west north westerly Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.
Friday	Cloudy Winds light southerly Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds light north north easterly Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday December 1, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm			
Thur	00.38 1.2 06.32 4.0 12.51 1.3 18.40 3.9	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	01.11 1.2 07.04 3.9 13.26 1.4 19.12 3.8	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	01.42 1.3 07.38 3.8 14.00 1.5 19.43 3.7	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	02.12 1.4 08.13 3.7 14.36 1.6 20.19 3.5	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	02.47 1.6 08.53 3.6 15.21 1.7 21.01 3.3	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	03.33 1.7 09.43 3.4 16.19 1.8 21.55 3.2				
Wed	04.33 1.7 10.48 3.3 17.32 1.9 23.05 3.1				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate