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Parking chaos to strike as holiday season begins

LOUISE GLEN
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THE first action of the new council group in Oban should be to sort out parking, says former council leader Roddy McCuish.

Parking chaos is bringing the town to a standstill, say business owners and BID4Oban's chief executive Derek Connery.

Councillor McCuish agrees that issues with finding a parking place have now become so difficult the only solution may be to build a multi-storey car park.

Argyll and Bute Council has agreed to consult with the public about Oban parking next month, before introducing new rules in the town. If agreed, this will bring charges to areas that were previously free, including charges at Lochavullin car park.

Last month a further 20 spaces were temporarily removed from the North Pier – which has brought the town's hotel business to its knees.

One hotel owner said: 'While everyone in the trade is looking forward to the new pontoons and visitor centre being completed, coping with a lack of parking in the town is becoming a problem.'

'At the moment the number of solo travellers coming to the town in their own vehicles is increasing. Often people are finding nowhere to park.'

'The machines are not accepting the new £1 coins, which means we are inundated with people looking for change.'

'Last week 10 cars that parked next to the fencing on the North Pier were issued with tickets. I doubt they had anywhere else to park. It will effect the reputation for visitors.'



Clan chiefs on the march make history

More than 30 clansmen and clanswomen marched to the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle on Monday May 8 to mark a hugely momentous occasion in Scotland's history books. This was the first time that Scotland's clans have been welcomed into the castle since the Highland clans marched to Edinburgh to lay siege to the castle during the Jacobite uprisings in 1745. The gathering was organised by the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

'Perhaps while the work is ongoing the council might like to take things easier or maybe even offer free parking until the situation is resolved.'

There are also reports of accommodation providers picking visitors up from Pennyfuir cemetery in order to allow their guests to find a parking space.

Increased business and reduced parking for CalMac staff in the town also means an urgent solution has to be found, argues BID4Oban chief executive Derek Connery, saying: 'It has

to be remembered that, while Oban is a central town, many of the people who work here live in rural areas and commute in.'

'The hard facts are that many people are employed in the hospitality sector and will be on wages towards the lower end of the pay scale. This means that paying for parking could potentially cause huge problems for people. It is certainly placing workers at an economic disadvantage.'

'I think that as the town gets busier and busier, parking becomes more and more of an issue

for visitors and residents. While Oban brings in the majority of the revenue, it does not get much of the benefit of that money.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish told *The Oban Times* that he agreed with the comments of business owners, and said solutions were needed to resolve the problems.

Mr McCuish said: 'I hope the first action of the new area committee should be to find a solution for parking in the town.'

'I have always advocated that we set a parking revenue target

for Oban, Lorn and the Isles [in order to pay a fair share to the local authority] and anything over and above that should come directly back into the area.'

'We also need another solution which may be a multi-storey car park on land that the council already owns.'

A council spokesperson confirmed that coin-operated parking meters will be replaced or upgraded in time for the old £1s going out of circulation in October.

The spokesperson continued:

'Due to the ongoing work to construct the berthing and associated maritime facilities, car parking in the area of the North Pier may be limited at times.'

'Drivers are asked to park considerately and safely while the work is ongoing.'

'This regeneration will be a real boost to marine facilities in the area and benefit the economy, and have been widely welcomed by the local community.'

'We will be consulting with members of the public on car parking in the town next month.'

INSIDE YOUR OBAN TIMES THIS WEEK

Having a blast

JURA Coastguard had their hands full after they were called out to an unexploded device and the rotting carcass of a huge minke whale. Full story – page two.

Knifeman jailed

A MAN wielding a knife and chasing people through a busy Oban hotel has been jailed for more than two years. Full story – page three.

No schools close

ARGYLL and Bute Council has pledged not to close any of its primary schools – including the smallest rural ones – despite pupil rolls continuing to fall. Full story – page four.

Stay Alive on A85

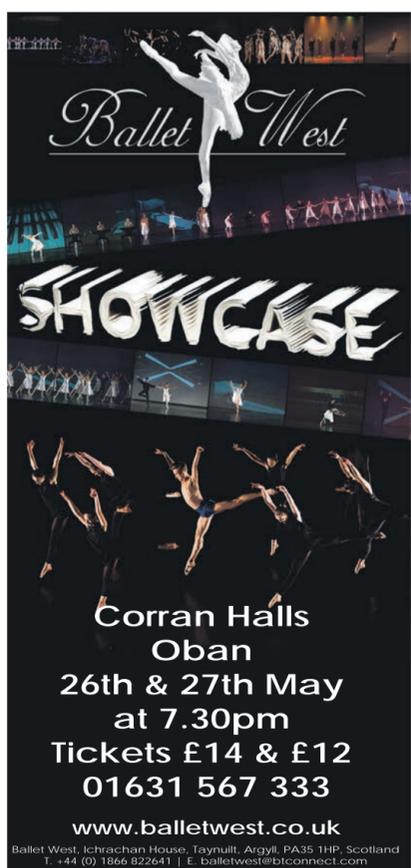
SUPPORT continues to be voiced for *The Oban Times'* campaign for improved safety measures on the road between Oban and Connel. Full story – page five.

The new council

THE dust has settled following last week's local authority election. Find out who's who in the new Argyll and Bute Council. Full story – page five.

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Dunbeg school already close to full

DUNBEG Primary School is closer to capacity than council figures suggest, leading to questions over how it can cope with the influx of new houses in the Dunbeg masterplan, writes Sandy Neil.

The 'statement of intent', approved in April, envisions 300 new homes built between 2017 and 2022 in the first phase, and 605 overall beyond 2022.

In a door-to-door campaign, Dunbeg residents called for a new, bigger school, as well as safer access at the 'dangerous' A85 junction and an upgraded Kirk Road before another brick is laid, reiterated at Dunbeg Community Council on Monday evening.

'The school needs to be addressed now. Nobody could give us the numbers,' said chairman Sean MacIntyre, who is planning a new petition to get the council 'to take our concerns seriously.'

'He continued: 'Argyll and Bute Council are not listening. They are just hand-picking what they want for the houses to get through.'

When the Dunbeg masterplan was unanimously approved, councillors heard the education department was satisfied it could accommodate new children at the existing school, and there would 'not be an issue for child spaces.'

According to council figures, which we published last week, Dunbeg Primary was just under

half empty, with a role of 78 pupils, and a capacity of 141.

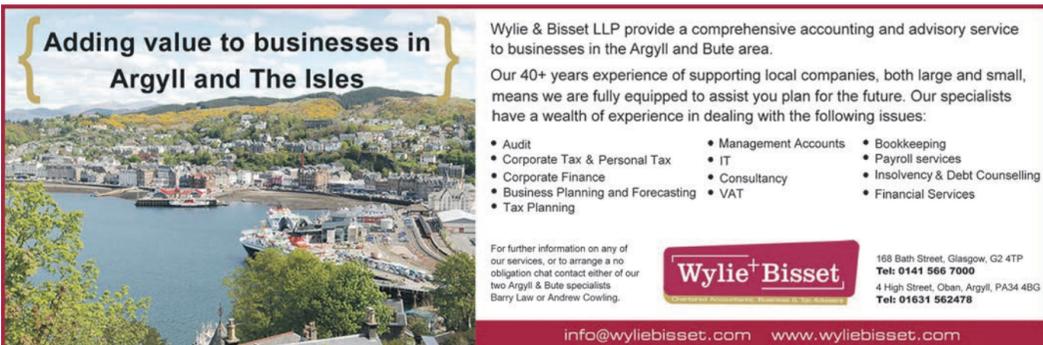
But *The Oban Times* understands Dunbeg Primary's actual role, including the nursery, currently stands at 90 pupils – with numbers due to expand to 98 this August.

Moreover, we also understand the school's capacity is only 116 pupils, rather than 141. This means in August, before any of the 300 houses are built, the school is already close to capacity, with space for only 18 more children.

The council later corrected its statement, saying the school indeed has 90 pupils, but it confirmed there was still room for 141 – a capacity unknown at the school, leaving questions, how will it

accommodate the extra 25 pupils, and how is capacity are calculated?

The education department said in the masterplan report: 'In the short term, the modest level of population growth in the Dunbeg catchment area will be addressed by ensuring there is provision in the existing primary school. The existing capacity, of which there is some, will be augmented by prioritising catchment pupils over placing requests and remodelling the inside of the school. In the medium term, with the further development of 300 homes, consideration will be given to any identified requirement to increase the current school capacity. This may include allocation of existing capital budget resource.'



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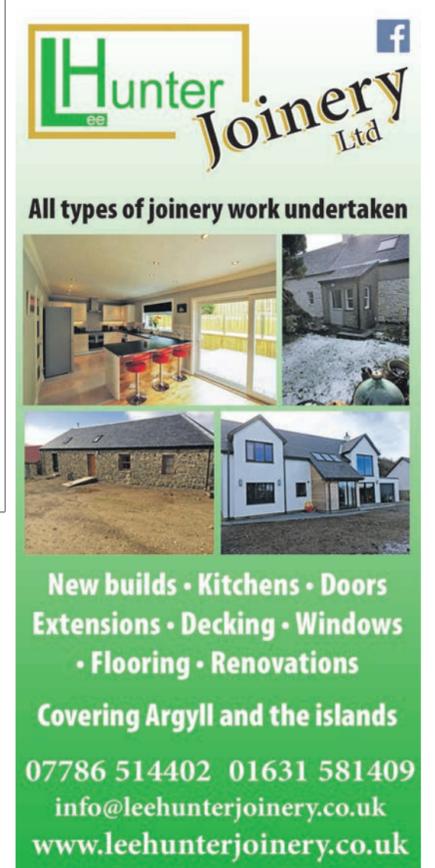
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OT

Tiree killer whale was poisoned with toxic PCBs

THE POST-mortem examination on a killer whale washed up on beach on Tiree last year has found it to be the 'most contaminated on the planet', leading scientists to predict its pod living off Scotland's West Coast will become extinct.

The Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme, managed by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), found the killer whale had one of the highest levels of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) pollution ever recorded.

The adult killer whale – identified as a well-known animal named 'Lulu' – died after be-

coming entangled in creel rope in January 2016, but subsequent analysis undertaken over the past year has shed further light on her case.

The SRUC statement explained: 'Analysis of Lulu's blubber revealed PCB concentrations 100 times higher than the accepted PCB toxicity threshold for marine mammals. High PCB levels are linked to poor health, impaired immune function, increased susceptibility to cancers and infertility.'

'Work undertaken in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen found Lulu was at least

20 years old. Based on analysis of the ovaries, it appears that she never reproduced, despite being much older than the average age for maturity in killer whales.'

'These findings do not bode well for Lulu's small pod. This small group is usually seen off the West Coast of Scotland, and numbers only eight individuals. These individuals never interact with other groups of killer whales, nor has a calf been recorded within the group in the 23 years it has been monitored.'

Dr Andrew Brownlow, head of the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme and veteri-

nary pathologist at SRUC, said: 'Previous studies have shown that killer whale populations can have very high PCB burdens, but the levels in this case are some of the highest we've ever seen. We know Lulu died from becoming entangled, but, given what is known about the toxic effects of PCBs, we have to consider that such a high pollutant burden could have been affecting her health and reproductive fitness.'

'Lulu's apparent infertility is an ominous finding for the long-term survivability of this group. With no new animals being born, it is now looking

increasingly likely that this small group will eventually go extinct. One of the factors in this group's apparent failure to reproduce could be their high burden of organic pollutants.'

'Once PCBs get into the marine environment, they are difficult, if not impossible, to remove. They accumulate through food webs and persist over time.'

The SRUC also said there was a growing concern among many cetacean scientists that, unless a more proactive approach is taken to assessing and decontaminating PCB-contaminated sites to stop these pollutants leaching into the

marine environment, then the effects seen with this small group of killer whales on the west of Scotland could become evident in many more iconic marine mammal species.

All dead strandings in Scotland should be reported to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (www.strandings.org).

The strandings project was set up in 1992, led by SRUC, funded by Marine Scotland and DEFRA. The project aims to collate, analyse and report data for all marine mammals (cetacean and seals), marine turtle and basking shark strandings.



Laura Ellen Anderson.

Author to tour island schools

AUTHOR, illustrator and graphic novelist Laura Ellen Anderson is to visit schools in the Western Isles between May 15 and 19.

London-based Laura is the creator of the popular *Evil Emperor Penguin* graphic novel series and the illustrator for many other books.

This tour will see Laura lead a bespoke and interactive comic workshop for P4-7 and S1 pupils that focuses on creating comic characters, plot and story boards.

Laura said: 'I'm very much looking forward to the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour.'

'I can't wait to share my enthusiasm for comics and creativity with the schools and hope that my comic workshops will inspire and encourage pupils to create their own stories and comics, and, of course, we'll have lots of fun and silliness in the process.'

The tour is sponsored by Scottish Friendly Assurance and organised by Scottish Book Trust.

Laura's dates are: Monday May 15, 9.15am Sgoil an Rubha, Bayble, Point, Isle of Lewis; 1.45pm, Stornoway Primary School; Tuesday May 16, 10.30am, Sgoil nan Loch, Lochs; 2.30pm, Laxdale Primary School, Laxdale; Wednesday May 17, 10.30am, Pàirc School, Gràvir, Lewis; 2.30pm, Sir Edward Scott School, Tarbert, Harris; Thursday May 18, 10.30am, North Uist School; 2.30pm, Balivanich Primary School, Isle of Benbecula; Friday May 19, 10.30am, Castlebay Community School, Barra; 2.50pm, Eoilgarry Primary School.

It's all in a day's work as Jura Coastguard team has a blast

SANDY NEIL
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IT WAS a busier day than usual for Jura Coastguard, finding an explosive dead whale and exploding an even nastier beachcombing surprise.

Station officer and postie Graeme Lindsay was, like others in Jura Coastguard, 'knackered' after a hard day's work that April afternoon, having mowed the island's airstrip below Knockrome.

Then a call came in that a dangerous flare had been spotted washed up on a beach near Barnhill – 18 miles away at the island's rugged 'unget-at-able' northern tip, where George Orwell wrote his dystopian novel *1984*.

All but one of Jura's 12-strong Coastguard team were despatched to find the incendiary hidden somewhere in the wild, difficult terrain, with one member changing hats to also serve as a policeman.

'It was a good turn-out,' Graeme said. 'One of the guys used to do mine clearing in Africa, so we have a bit of expertise. Nasty things flares. Fumes from the white phosphorus are



The bomb squad detonate the explosive and Coastguard examine the dead minke whale.



quite dangerous, and if it sticks to your skin it keeps burning.'

After two hours of searching, they located the foot-long military flare on the shore, and called in the bomb squad. 'It's a very remote part of the country,' he said. 'It's probably once

in a generation that someone was down there.'

The Royal Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal team arrived the next day. 'They put explosives round it, and we retreated,' Graeme recalled. 'It was a massive blast. The

explosion was heard across the water on the mainland, about four or five miles away. The exciting part was the bits of phosphorus flying off.'

It was all part of the service. 'We saw it, we called the bomb squad, they exploded it,' he

said. 'Then it was back home for tea and medals. One of the bomb disposal guys came back on holiday because he loved it so much.'

But the Jura Coastguard adventures hadn't yet finished: on the same day as the flare

alert, another call came in reporting a large whale – possibly a minke – rotting at Jura's even more unget-at-able north-west coast near Glengarrisdale.

One curious follower of the Jura Coastguard's Facebook page wondered how the team could get rid of the whale, given their recent experience of controlled explosions.

However, 'it would probably explode on its own,' Graeme thought. 'This one was so remote it was not a danger.'

'If it's still alive and exhaling you have to be very careful near the blowhole. There are some nasty bugs on it.'

'You can end up in hospital if you breathe it in. That's why we cordon them off when we find them.'

If anyone does find a live, stranded whale, and is a man, they are advised not to talk to it.

'A woman's voice soothes them,' Graeme explained, 'but a man's voice stresses them out.'

The first point of contact is the British Divers Marine Life Rescue hotline, and, in the meantime, visit its website for advice on what to do and what not to do.

West misses out on Whisky Galore!

A NEW map promoting all the film locations in the Whisky Galore! remake has been published for tourists by VisitScotland, but the Hebrides – the scene of the original film, novel and event it is based on – does not feature at all.

Only one Argyll and Bute location makes it in: Luss on the banks of Loch Lomond.

Based on the real-life sinking of the *SS Politician* off the coast of Eriskay in 1941, and the subsequent seizing of thousands of bottles of whisky by islanders, Whisky Galore! is a celebration of a nation's love for the 'water of life'.

How many of the cargo ship's 28,000 cases of malt whisky were taken by the sea or 'salvaged' by



The new version of Whisky Galore! stars Ellie Kendrick, Eddie Izzard and Gregor Fisher but ignores the West Coast where it all happened.

the islanders of Eriskay, Barra, the Uists and Lewis will perhaps never be known.

Compton Mackenzie's popular 1947 novel inspired an Ealing comedy directed by Alexander Mackendrick in 1949, which was shot almost entirely on location in the Outer Hebrides. Barra

stood in for the fictional Outer Hebridean islands of Great Todday and Little Todday.

The film details the islanders' gloom as their wartime rationing of whisky runs out, their joy as the laden cargo ship *SS Cabinet Minister* runs aground, and their tricks to evade the

buffoonish Home Guard commander Captain Waggett.

The film was released in the US as *Tight Little Island* and in France as *Whisky A Go Go*.

But Gillies MacKinnon's new version makes use of locations elsewhere in Scotland, including the Borders, Aberdeenshire,

Argshire, Glasgow and Fife but only one in Argyll and Bute: Luss Village Hall.

Gregor Fisher, who plays postmaster Macroon, said: 'I've been in this business for 40 years and I can honestly say this was one of the nicest, if not the nicest, jobs I've ever had. There

were no negatives about it. On a seven-and-a-half-week shoot in Portsoy, it rained for half a day max, and even then it was very light drizzle. Half the community is in the film. It was a joy.'

The film was released in Scotland on May 5 and will be out in the rest of the UK on May 19.



Garmony House.

Garmony House is up for sale

ONE of Mull's finest Georgian buildings, Garmony House near Craignure, is up for sale for offers over £550,000.

Originally a 16th-century cottage enlarged for a Georgian 'gentleman of the clan Maclean', the five-bedroom period home is set in 1.59 acres of farmland, with views over the Sound of Mull.

Estate agent Bell Ingram says it could make 'a charming bed and breakfast' on the 'highly popular tourist destination' of Mull.

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Rampaging knifeman is jailed

A KILMELFORD man who went on a drink- and drug-fuelled rampage with a knife in an Oban hotel, punched and chased an employee, and threatened to throw him off the roof, has been jailed for 28 months.

Andrew Davidson, 21, of 38 The Glebe, Kilmelford, pleaded guilty to assault on September 29, 2016, plus two further charges of having a knife without reasonable excuse or authority, and of uttering threats of violence to a police officer, and threats of a sexual nature towards his wife.

Andrew Davidson appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday May 8 with his brother, Christopher, also accused of the first two charges, but dismissed after his not guilty pleas were accepted.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said 120 guests were in the hotel, and the employee was in staff accommodation with his girlfriend when, at around 11.30pm, Andrew Davidson, accompanied by Christopher, entered reception carrying a fire extinguisher, demanding to see 'another member of staff who was not on duty'.

'[The employee] repeatedly asked the accused to stop shouting,' Mr McGinty added, but Andrew Davidson refused, shouting: 'If you call the police, I will come back with another 10 guys, and I will kill you.'

'As [the employee] was attempting to phone the police, the accused pulled the phone cable from the wall,' Mr McGinty continued. 'The accused punched

[the employee] repeatedly on the head. In the confusion, the accused then produced a knife.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC described the knife as 16 to 18 inches long, with a blade two-thirds that length. The fiscal said: 'He then passed the knife to his brother. That knife was then taken from the accused's brother, and hidden by a member of staff.'

'The guests were ushered back to their rooms,' Mr McGinty added, and the employee and his girlfriend ran from the reception back to their flat, but 'they had been followed by the accused, who began to shout outside the door and began to kick and bang at the door. The door was broken open, having been struck by the fire extinguisher.

'Fearing for themselves,' Mr McGinty continued, the couple 'climbed out of a window and onto a roof. [She] thought her life was in danger. The accused caught up with [the employee]. He was repeatedly punched and kicked on the head. During the assault he was told repeatedly he would be thrown off the roof.'

The court heard it was the first floor roof of the restaurant. Once caught by police, the accused shouted: 'Get off me you pig b*****. I know you.'

At Oban police office after his arrest, Mr McGinty said: 'He repeatedly referred to the police officer's wife by name. He said, "I know your wife", and mentioned her first name.' The court heard he then uttered threats of a sexual nature towards her, adding: 'I know where you live. Just wait till I am out. I will end you.'

Mr McGinty added: 'The accused seemed off his head on something. "He looked off his nut" was the phrase used.'

Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'He was out of control because of an excessive consumption of alcohol and drugs. He had been taking cocaine. This was a habit that had started in prison. His recollection is not very clear.

'He realises he is at a crossroads. He had made serious efforts to turn his life around. He has weaned himself off drugs for the past two to three months and he has obtained employment.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'I do not think

there is any need for a report. I have a clear narrative, as well as a full schedule of convictions.'

'This was disgraceful behaviour. The incident lasted a long time: you continued your aggressive behaviour from the hotel to Oban police station. It involved threats of a serious nature. It is fortunate for you [the employee] did not suffer any injury.'

She imprisoned Andrew Davidson for 24 months for assault, six months to run concurrently for having the knife, and an extra four months to run consecutively for making sexual threats to the policeman's wife. 'I take a serious view of this,' she said. 'Police can expect abuse - that goes with the job. But this goes above and beyond that.'

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Iain MacNicol

Assault charge

ABOUT 9.45pm on Monday May 1, in a flat in Ulva Road, Oban, a disturbance occurred and a woman was assaulted. Subsequently, a man aged 21 was charged with assault. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Cocaine found

ABOUT 1.50am, on Friday May 5, in George Street, Oban, a man aged 21 was stopped and searched and was allegedly found to be in possession of a small quantity of cocaine. The man was arrested, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Abusive behaviour

ABOUT 9pm on Saturday May 6, a man was reported as behaving in an abusive manner and shouting and swearing at a bus stop in Argyll Square, Oban. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Vehicle damaged

ABOUT 11.30pm on Sunday May 7, at Stevenson Street, Oban, a white Mini Cooper motor car was damaged by having someone jump onto the bonnet. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Speeding offences

ON MAY 1 and 6, at various places on the A85 between Dalmailly and Tyndrum and also on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy, three car drivers and two motorcyclists, all men, were stopped and charged after allegedly driving at excessive speed. All were the subject of reports to the procurator fiscal.

■ If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Van driver was seven times limit

A VAN driver who hit a car waiting at the Fishnish ferry while almost seven times over the legal limit for alcohol has been banned from driving for 32 months and fined £500.

Donald Milne Kearney, 61, of Flat 2, Seanivan Banavie, Fort William, pleaded guilty to driving a van on the A884 Fishnish Ferry Road, Mull, on Sunday April 30, after consuming so much alcohol that a test measured 142mg in 100ml of his breath, when the legal limit is 22mg.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Monday May 8: 'Three witnesses were sitting in their car waiting for a ferry. The time was 4.55pm. As they sat there, a van collided with the rear of their vehicle, causing damage to both vehicles. It was abundantly

apparent he was under the influence. He failed a roadside breath test.'

Defence agent Jane McLaren said: 'He has been employed by BT as an engineer. He has resigned. I have advised him he will lose his licence for quite some time.'

'He advised me he did drink a large amount of alcohol on Saturday night and early Sunday morning. He tells me he did not have anything on the Sunday.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'A heroic quantity must have been drunk. It is amazing he is still alive.'

There was a 'high level of culpability', she said, adding: 'It is seven times the legal limit.' She disqualified Kearney for 32 months and fined him £500, to be paid within 28 days.

Barra airport to get eight more services

LOGANAIR is to offer another eight services between Barra and Glasgow this summer, in addition to the 17 extra rotations it announced in January.

The schedule will be enhanced during May and June, following a surge of bookings for the route.

The carrier has seen a 38 per cent growth in reservations to Barra during the peak June-August season compared to the same period in 2016. It is also

reporting a 13 per cent increase in bookings to Stornoway and Benbecula, while there is a 26 per cent rise in tickets from the Western Isles to Glasgow.

The service lands at Barra's beach airport, where flight times are subject to the tides. It's a hugely popular journey for holidaymakers, aviation enthusiasts and locals alike, and the extra flights will help to meet high demand during the holiday season.

Music everywhere proves we are awash with talent

WHAT a fabulous weekend we've had. The good weather brought everyone out - and made them happy - so what more could you ask for, writes *Oban ambassador Kay MacDonald*.

I was lucky enough to bump into a wandering accordionist called 'Jock the Box' who was really entertaining. I'd never heard Highway to Hell played on the accordion before and I loved it.

We were also lucky enough to have a young piper busking at Chalmers corner with more traditional fare, which was fantastic and could be heard all along George Street.

Music really brings the town alive and we have such a wealth of talented young performers. I'm hoping to see and hear a lot more of them as the summer goes on.

If you're a fan of live theatre, then Oban Phoenix Cinema is the place to be with three National Theatre Live performances this month.

The first is one Obsession and is being broadcast from the Barbican Theatre in London and stars Jude Law. And the line-up until the end of August includes greats like Peter Pan, Andre Rieu and Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?.

Another Phoenix on the horizon is the arrival in Argyll at the end of the month of the Phoenix Choir which will be playing in St John's Cathedral, among other places.

In fact, music of all kinds seems to be a feature of the summer with Oban Gaelic Choir hosting an event called Storras in the Corran Halls in June as well as all the talented musicians we have every weekend in the local pubs.

We're awash with talent. And that's not forgetting Oban Live, which is only three weeks away.

Did you spot where last week's photo was? Look up next time you're passing The Anglers Corner.

I'd always been so mesmerised by the Native American fisherman I never noticed. This is an easy one ... honest!

WHERE IS THIS?



3,000 sign Sound of Jura fish farm petition

A PETITION against plans for the Sound of Jura's first fish farm at Dounie, south of Crinan, has attracted 3,000 signatures.

Kilmelford-based Kames Fish Farming Ltd submitted an application in November for a SEPA licence for 12 circular cages, each 100m in circumference, to rear a maximum of 2,500 tonnes of fish to meet demand, create six jobs and secure other positions in the family business operating in Loch Melfort for 45 years.

However, a local campaign group called Friends of the Sound of Jura objects that the site is unsuitable, arguing that wildlife could be harmed by the industry's 'soaring' use of pesticides to 'unsuccessfully' control sea lice, uneaten food and faecal effluent.

One objector, wildlife cameraman John Aitchison, said: 'Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura was designated a Marine Protected Area (MPA) to protect the critically endangered flapper skate. 'The location is just 200m from one of the deepest troughs in the Sound, and therefore near the skate. No-one knows what effect this much effluent or pesticides will have on them.'

Another objector, environmental adviser Richard Luxmoore, said chemicals used by fish farms were 'highly poisonous to birds and mammals and all are toxic to crustaceans, such as lobsters and prawns. Chemicals are being used to less and less effect and quantities build up in the sediments near the fish farms.'

Lochgilphead Angling Club member Mark Smith added: 'The Scottish Government's own scientific evidence shows wild sea trout and salmon are badly affected by the high levels of sea lice present around fish farms. Putting this fish farm close to the mouth of a spawning river is irresponsible and is likely to result in

“No-one knows what effect this will have”

John Aitchison
Wildlife cameraman

the extinction of these wild fish in the River Add.

'This has already happened in most other rivers up the West Coast but it shouldn't be allowed to happen here. A healthy river not only supports wild fish but also anglers and related local businesses such as bed and breakfasts and tackle shops.'

Ross Appleyard, owner of a beat on the River Add and Kirnan Holiday Cottages, said: 'If this farm goes ahead then the impact on the River Add would be huge. Our holiday business attracts hundreds of visitors a year who want to see these fish in the wild. The jobs these tourists generate for the local area in the service industry far outweigh the few jobs the fish farm would bring in.'

Philip Price, of Ardfern-based Loch Visions, added: 'My own and many of our area's businesses are based on the sustainable use of the sea, and on Knapdale's great natural beauty. There are many more jobs in tourism than the few that fish farm expansion can create.'

Local fisherman Hans Unkles said: 'I have concerns the bay would be closed to creel boats and scallop divers. I'm not against fish farms, but it's the last of the areas not to contain fish cages and there is good reason for that - it's not a safe place to put one.'

A SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency) spokesperson said the application had received 80 representations, and it had extended the consultation period to seek further information from the applicant.

Kames Fish Farming's managing director Stuart Cannon said the company was continuing 'site surveys and scientific modelling to assess the suitability of the site in Salem Mor bay', and that the reported findings 'so far supports the application to SEPA for a CAR licence'.

The next stage requires a 'thorough' environmental impact assessment 'to ensure that all potential impacts are considered and, if necessary, any mitigation measures'.

'Kames Fish Farming hopes this evidence will help to allay concerns that have been raised and allow greater understanding of the actual impact of the proposal rather than perceived ones,' said Mr Cannon.



Kevin McGinness has been in training since January for his arduous challenge.

Solicitor takes on daunting military challenge

A SOLICITOR in Oban will run 10 miles with a 16-kilogram backpack on to raise money for Oban High School after it helped his son.

Kevin McGinness will travel to Colchester on May 21 in order to take part in the run, which is organised by the army.

The 50-year-old said: 'My son, David, went to Oban High School and it was a difficult cir-

cumstance. He had to change school in his final year - he had to change from Dingwall to Oban half-way through.

'Oban High School was absolutely amazing in teaching my son and providing him with an excellent education. They were very welcoming.

'I am really grateful for what Oban High School did.'

The E Thornton and Co solicitor has been training for this event since the end of January.

He wants to raise the money so the school can purchase equipment and materials to benefit the pupils.

'The school did so much for my boy,' he added. 'So I wanted to do something by a way of thanks.'

'They were so supportive. It was a difficult situation. They

had to accommodate what he was doing, with what they could offer.'

Anyone who would like to donate can do so by searching E Thornton and Co on social media and following the link.

Or by visiting https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kevin-mcginness-1?utm_id=66&utm_term=xyaAJ6wdG.

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OT

No primary closures planned

SANDY NEIL
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

THERE are no plans to close any primary schools in the region, Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed, following a report into pupil numbers.

The study of Oban, Lorn and the Isles' 26 primary schools, which vary in size from five pupils in Kilchattan to 318 at Rockfield in Oban, revealed pupil rolls rose by an average of 10 per cent over the five years between 2012 and 2017.

However, some have experienced 'significant falls', the report stated, while others saw

'very large increases'.

The steepest decline was felt at Coll's Arinagour Primary School, which dropped 33 per cent from 27 to 18 pupils, followed by Barcaldine's fall by 53 per cent from 17 to eight. Luig also decreased 33 per cent from 12 to eight, Easdale fell 25 per cent from 28 to 21, and Bunessan reduced in size by 23 per cent from 44 to 34.

The smallest pupil rolls were recorded at Ulva (10), Lochdonhead (nine), Kilchrenan (nine), Barcaldine (eight), Lismore (eight), Luig (eight), and Kilchattan (five). Overall, Mull's primary school roll has

remained 'steady', the report added, but there are 'significant falls' in Dervaig, down 21 per cent from 24 to 19 pupils, and Lochdonhead, which fell 31 per cent from 13 to nine.

The *Oban Times* asked Argyll and Bute Council what plans it has to reverse the schools' declining pupil numbers, and if it was considering any closures. A spokesperson responded: 'The council has no plans to close any schools in Argyll and Bute.'

'The council is committed to encouraging economic growth and regeneration in the area. We want to make Argyll and Bute a place people choose

to live, learn, work and do business. Our aspiration is to ensure that Argyll and Bute is the best place in Scotland for our children to grow.'

Other primary school rolls rose dramatically over the same five-year period. Achaleven is up 200 per cent from four to 12, Iona went up 171 per cent from seven to 19, and the larger primaries are also growing: St Columba's rose by 18 per cent from 81 to 96, Lochnell by 23 per cent from 101 to 124, Park by six per cent from 230 to 245, with the largest, Rockfield up seven per cent from 298 to 318.

Welcoming these rises in

pupils numbers, and attributing that to population growth, Argyll and Bute Council said it did not expect any of these schools to reach capacity in the near future. It stated Lochnell's capacity stands at 154, Park's at 330, Rockfield's at 590, and St Columba's at 198.

A spokesperson added: 'We carry out regular reviews of our school rolls and future pupil numbers are considered on the basis of the number of births in the area and the possible impact of net migration.'

Gaelic is increasing in popularity, with all the area's Gaelic primary schools growing pupil

numbers: Rockfield is up 37 per cent from 37 to 51, Tiree up 38 per cent from 21 to 29, Salen up 41 per cent from 32 to 45, and Strath of Appin Gaelic Primary School up 25 per cent from four to five.

Argyll and Bute Council said it was committed to supporting and developing Gaelic, and to 'encouraging families to move to our beautiful area, encourage school leavers to remain here; and encourage students to move to the area to study and then remain here to work. We want to ensure that Argyll and Bute is the best place in Scotland for children to grow up'.

Pamela, nine, cleans up beach instead of fun

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl is doing her bit to keep Ganavan Sands in Oban clean, opting to pick up litter instead of 'having fun'.

Pamela, a pupil at the town's Park Primary School, was taking advantage of the hot weather by going to the beach, where she noticed that a rabbit hole was blocked by rubbish.

It was then that Pamela told her mum that she wanted to clean the beach.

Mum Aga Ingram said: 'I wasn't really surprised too much when she said it as she is always very kind and helpful, but what was surprising was that she was willing to give up having fun on such a great day.'

'We just want her to know that it's really nice to be kind to others.'

Pamela and her mum originally took a ball to play with at the beach, but Pamela instead wanted to help as 'she felt sorry for all the sea creatures'.

Aga added: 'Lucky, I had some gloves and a bag. We walked through the beach and picked up the plastic.'

'She was quite disappointed how people can leave so much mess in such a beautiful place.'

At a school assembly, they were discussing cleaning beaches, but Pamela isn't yet of age to participate in school clean-ups.



Pamela chose not to play but instead donned gloves her mum provided and picked up plastic and other litter.



Dunollie collections inspire new artworks and projects

ONE of the most fascinating things about Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds is how the ancient collections are inspiring new, innovative projects today.

Jacobean bed hangings were the inspiration behind a series of new embroidery workshops for the community, Oban High School students have been uncovering local tales in the archives to inspire creative projects and Victorian recipes are now on the Kettle Garden Cafe's menu.

Artist Alice Strange has created a number of recognisable art

installations throughout Oban, including The Catch which featured as part of Oban's Festival of the Sea and saw 900 textile fish hung along Oban Esplanade in 2015.

On a visit to Dunollie's 1745 house museum, Alice's attention was drawn to Hope MacDougall's large wooden spoon collection. She said: 'I was particularly interested in how the humble wooden spoon became a signifier for Hope's thoughts or memories, simply by things being pinned on a map at its point of origin.'

Ms MacDougall was the aunt to the current clan chief, and started her collection in the 1950s. She amassed thousands of items before her death in 1998. Her keen interest was the ordinary working and domestic lives of the people of Scotland.

The collection spans a wide range of traditional crafts, skills and professions, including agricultural practices, early distilling, shoe makers, travelling camps and many more. Each of the items is backed up with clear documentation of its origin, its

owners and often Miss Hope's own research.

After a visit to the 1745 house, the concept of a unique art installation at Dunollie soon began to take shape for Alice, who headed to the studio to create a series of 68 spoons, each containing its own individual Tyvek label. 'The attached labels contain phrases, numbers, symbols and equations which have significance for me, so it could be interpreted as a self-portrait,' she explained.

Alice installed her creative work titled *The Answer is Blowing*

in the Wind (referring to the series of philosophical questions posed by Bob Dylan in his famous song) in the Faerie Garden at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds at the beginning of May, and the exhibition will be on display for visitors all season.

Alice hopes the community as well as visitors to Dunollie will go on to add to the colourful display.

She said: 'I hope the installation will develop into a wider community portrait as visitors hang their own specially-created spoons in the trees, using decoration or

labelling to capture significant thoughts or experiences.'

Dunollie plans to host a 'clan month' in August to celebrate the Year of Archaeology, Heritage and Culture through a series of events including wooden-spoon decorating. This season will also be the last chance to catch the current Hope MacDougall exhibition on display, as the team at Dunollie is working on a new exhibition of childhood for 2018.

Alice's next installation will be featured in the Oban Chocolate Company on the Esplanade.

Rockfield project in £9,400 windfall

OBAN Communities Trust has received a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for a project – Journey to the little bay – An t-Òban – based at the Rockfield Centre.

The project has been given £9,400 to start a cultural heritage project which will enable the centre's heritage volunteers to build on their research and oral recording skills but also be supported to engage others and share local heritage in new ways for everyone to enjoy.

Volunteer Mhairi Ross said: 'This is fantastic news for our Heritage Hunters group. It will enable us to build on our archive of oral recordings of the social history of our town.'

'We love where we live and know there are so many gems to discover about our past. This project will enable us to share our heritage and history with a wide audience.'

This project is part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

The Rockfield Centre is one of the Tesco's Bags of Help charities now in store at the Oban and Lochgilphead branches.

Bags of Help is Tesco's community grant scheme where money raised from the five pence bag charge is being used to fund thousands of projects in communities across the UK.

This is a public vote whereby tokens are slotted into the charities' box and has been an amazing fundraiser for a wide range of community projects.

With seven weeks for people to vote with their bag tokens, Oban Communities Trust is encouraging everyone to support the Rockfield Centre.

Oban open art exhibition showcasing local creativity was held last weekend at the Rockfield Centre.

This second open art exhibition featured 40 local artists and welcomed 250 visitors over the weekend, with more than £400 raised for the Rockfield Centre.

Next date for the Oban fiddle workshops is May 20 from 2pm to 4pm at the community huts. If you don't have a fiddle and would like to play, email Rhona on arts@therockfieldcentre.org.uk.

Let's Make a Scene will next take place on May 26 with an open mic night for new music and spoken word performance regulars and new performers.

A small PA, three mics, an electro-acoustic guitar and a stage piano are there to use or if performers prefer they can bring their own instruments and play acoustically.

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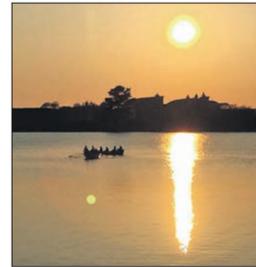
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Sea cadets are on the crest of a wave

SOME Oban Sea Cadets recently attended a weekend of intensive boating instruction in Inverness.

It was a superb weekend of fun and practical instruction on power boat handling and canoeing. They also took part in a rowing competition, but were unfortunately beaten at the preliminary stage by an astonishing performance from Campbeltown Sea Cadets, who went on to take second place in the overall event.

Congratulations to Cadet Chloe Campbell, 1st Class Cadet Kate Home, 1st Class Cadet Connor George, and 1st Class Cadet Aaron McCall, who successfully completed their RYA Level 1 Power Boat. 1st Class Cadet Christopher Den Heijer completed and passed his British Canoeing qualification paddle power level 1, which was



a combination of sea kayaking, river canoeing and Canadian canoe handling procedures.

Oban Sea Cadets continue to provide fun and adventure activities resulting in cadets achieving quality training and gaining nationally recognised qualifications.

For further information contact Oban Sea Cadets at obanacadet@gmail.com



Chloe Campbell, Connor George, Kate Home and Aaron McCall, and, left, having fun on the water at Dunstaffnage.

WHITE VAN Man

OVER the past few years, countless thousands of pounds have been spent on cycle tracks throughout the west of Scotland, eventually linking all the way up to Inverness.

I am a bike owner but never cycle in Oban as the last time I tried to, I found it a very unpleasant experience.

There's nothing nicer than to load our bikes into the van and head up to the cycle path at Benderloch.

However, last week, while on the road to Appin, I witnessed



a group of cyclists, including minors, who were determined not to use the cycle path 10 yards to their left. They point-

blank refused to move to the side of the road, protecting themselves and allowing traffic to pass safely. Many of the drivers did not know the road and were unsure about overtaking.

So what is the point of these cycle paths when you come across this kind of selfishness by cyclists?

Is it time to change the law so that cyclists on a road next to a bike path can be fined?

Or is it time that cyclists should also have to pay road tax and be insured? That would

perhaps deter cyclists from using our roads and stick to bike paths

If you are cycling on a road, be aware of vehicles stuck behind you and don't cause frustration for drivers, many of whom are working. This is what can cause accidents.

And drivers need to remember to think once, think twice, think bike.

Let's all get to our destinations safely. It makes sense.

George Berry

Game on as negotiations begin to form new council

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

SCOTLAND'S oldest councillor was last week re-elected to Argyll and Bute Council at the grand age of 89.

Donnie MacMillan will be 94 at the end of this council term but says there is no chance of him slowing down.

Mr MacMillan is a Royal Air Force veteran involved in the aftermath clear-up of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb in Japan.

Back home in Argyll, he worked on transport lorries during the war, and afterwards in a career as a breadman, a shopkeeper and 'a few other jobs'.

'Oor Donnie', as he is affectionately known, has served the council since 1980 - a grand total of 37 years.

He was re-elected to his Mid-Argyll ward last Thursday.

Constituents say he is a 'hard-working councillor', and maintains a daily routine of walking along Lochgilphead's main street, and visiting staff in council offices.

He puts his success down to never sending an email, instead choosing to make personal calls to the heads of council service - often waiting outside offices for bosses to return from meetings.

Mr MacMillan was one of 21 councillors re-elected to the local authority. He is part of the 10-strong Independent group.

In Oban, Lorn and the Isles area councillors Roddy



Clockwise from top left, Donnie MacMillan, Roddy McCuish, Mary-Jean Devon, Elaine Robertson, Julie McKenzie and Ellen Morton.



McCuish, Mary-Jean Devon, Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green, all independents, were re-elected. Two SNP councillors were elected: Julie McKenzie kept her seat and Jim Lynch took a seat in Oban South and Isles. Two conservatives, Jamie McGrigor and Andrew Venard, were also elected - one in each ward.

Former Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor said he was delighted to win his 'first ever election' - previously having earned his seat through the regional list.

The council is, at the time of going to press, locked in a battle for leadership of the local authority.

The biggest group in the council is the SNP with 11 councillors but this falls short of the 19 required to lead the council.

The SNP has said it will not work with Conservative members.

Previous disagreements may stop an alliance being made by all 10 Independent councillors and the current SNP group, although Dougie Philand and George Freeman

have previously agreed to work with any group.

A motion of no confidence against former deputy leader Ellen Morton (Lib Dem) in the dying days of the previous administration makes it unlikely that she will want to align herself with the SNP, though it is possible.

In Argyll and Bute, of which there are six, have historically worked well with the Conservative and Unionist group, of which there are nine members - one of whom is ambitious twenty-something

Alistair Redman from Islay.

Common practice is for the biggest group to try to form an administration.

The SNP group issued a press release earlier this week inviting 'leader of the Independents' Roddy McCuish to form an administration with the SNP.

However the former council leader refuted he was the leader.

Mr McCuish said: 'I am not the leader of the Independents on the council.'

'The SNP has to date not asked me if I was the leader of that group and has caused some embarrassment by sending out this press release.'

'I want to make it very clear that I have not been approached to be the leader of the Independent group.'

The future leader will emerge over the next few days, but it will not be confirmed until the first council meeting.

Councillors are asking for a first meeting as soon as possible, maybe as early as next Thursday.

At that point further leadership and provost contenders may come forward.

It is unlikely that Ellen Morton will want to be the leader of the council, as she has turned down the position in the past.

While another contender, Alan Reid, Lib Dem, will find it difficult to juggle being council leader having been confirmed as the party's candidate for the general election.

Etive fish farm breaches rules

A LOCH Etive fish farm is being investigated by Scotland's pollution watchdog for an 'unpermitted use of a pesticide' to control sea lice, which campaigners say coincided with a rise in dead fish.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has launched a probe into Dawnfresh, one of the UK's largest producers of fish and seafood, following a breach of its pollution licence, 'where consecutive bath treatments with azamethiphos were carried out at Etive 6 less than 24 hours after the first treatment. These treatments are not in compliance with the site's CAR [Controlled Activities Regulations] licence.'

'Appalled' anti-fish farm campaigners from the Friends of Loch Etive (FoLE) group stated the release of the organophosphate, which is 'highly toxic to marine crustaceans such as crabs, prawns and lobsters', will have 'risks serious harm' in Loch Etive.

A FoLE spokesman said: 'It isn't that long ago, when Dawnfresh first applied for this new farm, that it was insisting that the new farm would not need to treat for sea lice at all. Now it appears that they cannot treat for sea lice without breaching their pollution control licences, damaging the wildlife of Loch Etive.'

According to a leaked document, SEPA said the treatments occurred on 'a number of occasions in October, November and December 2016'. FoLE has pointed to a 'simultaneous spike in farmed fish mortalities'.

'Azamethiphos, when used incorrectly, can also kill the farmed fish,' the spokesperson said. 'Data recorded by SEPA on the weight of dead fish that have been removed from Dawnfresh farms during each month of 2016 shows that across Loch Etive as a whole, mortalities reached 50 tonnes per month in November, mostly at the Etive 6 farm.'

'The increase in mortalities at

the Etive 6 fish farm occurred in the same month as the unpermitted use of azamethiphos by Dawnfresh.'

Dawnfresh's farming director Stewart Hawthorn said: 'It is disappointing that a protest group which claims to be interested in protecting Loch Etive and the people around it has chosen to seek national media headlines rather than simply approach us directly first.'

'The information which the group quotes is accurate but it is not confidential. We would have been happy to share it with them and discuss it in detail to increase their understanding and reassure local people that Dawnfresh always seeks to protect the natural environment while generating extensive local employment and investment. All they had to do was ask.'

'In 2016, we recorded a historically low number of sea lice in Loch Etive thanks to taking a more proactive approach to the problem. Unfortunately, there were six instances on one of our sites where we did not meet our usual high standards in the technical implementation of a treatment.'

'This is particularly frustrating for us because SEPA has confirmed that, without these very small number of errors, the site would have been rated as "excellent" in environmental compliance. We will be working with SEPA and our own team to ensure we have the lowest possible impact on the environment in the future.'

'Overall, we are proud of our record of environmental compliance. The other three operating sites on Loch Etive achieved ratings of excellent (two sites) and good (one site). Two further sites will not be operated again precisely because we do not feel we can do so while meeting the highest standards of environmental protection.'

Who is owner of engraved stick?



Alan MacGregor with the stick he found.

A MAN from Connel who stumbled upon an engraved stick while walking his dog is appealing for the owner's descendants to get in touch, writes David McPhee.

Alan MacGregor was walking at the sports pitch in Connel, where upgrades are taking place, when he discovered the item. He said: 'I kicked it and thought, "What's that?" And the silver bit appeared.'

The engraving on the stick reads: 'Presented to Mr J Murray as a mark of much esteem by staff at Parkmore Distillery 08.02.1930.'

Mr MacGregor added: 'It was covered in mud so I cleaned it off and read it, and thought that seems pretty interesting.'

'The thing that has gripped me is how did it get there? How did it get from Dufftown to Oban? It would never have been unearthed if the boys had not dug up the park.'

'If a descendant comes along and says that's my family member, they can have it.'

Mr MacGregor says he has been offered a bottle of whisky for the stick by Dufftown Whisky Museum, but is would prefer it went to a descendant of Mr Murray.

Parkmore Distillery, in Dufftown, hasn't been in operation since 1931.

If anyone has any information regarding the stick or Mr Murray, contact The Oban Times on 01631 568000 or email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Action urged on dangerous road

INVESTMENT into a number of hot-spot areas that cause frustration for drivers on the A85 could ease some of the problems on the road, two former councillors have said.

Supporting the Stay Alive on the A85 campaign, former elected members Allan McKie and Neil MacKay said the lack of representation on the council's committees had led to the wrong decisions being made for communities who live on the road.

Both men urged anyone newly elected to the council to get involved in planning and for the chairmanship of planning to be equally spread for all the areas.

Former councillor McKie said people, while he was campaigning on their doorsteps,



had told him that during the morning and evening rush hours drivers they were waiting up to 25 minutes to get out of the Dunbeg junction onto the A85.

Mr McKie said: 'With investment onto the roads that feed onto the A85, lives would be saved. A roundabout would slow down traffic and ease so many problems on the road.'

Mr MacKay, also a former councillor, criticised current elected members for not sitting

on the planning committee, thus allowing decisions being made beyond the area, 'without any understanding of the policy decisions'.

As an example, the men used the recent authorisation of the Dunbeg masterplan for an extra 300 houses. They said the decision will have an ongoing effect on the traffic using the A85.

'Yet a roundabout was not included as part of any planning gain or condition, meaning the pressure on the fragile A85 will be further congested,' Mr MacKay said.

The two agreed that current problems for drivers are leading to frustration, and at times risk-taking on the road.

One driver who contacted *The Oban Times* explained: 'I know

that I pulled out too quickly onto the road this morning - but that was after waiting for almost 20 minutes to get from Dunbeg onto the main road for my daughter getting to her first exam.'

'There is no way that an extra 300 houses are going to ease the load onto the road. And while I feel guilty about a near miss and feeling like I had to pull out onto the road because of time constraints and cars behind me - next time there might be an accident.'

'I am hoping that someone will read this and say that lights or a roundabout be put in at the junction to stop all this crazy driving - including my own.'

To sign the Stay Alive on the A85 petition, go to www.obantimes.co.uk/stayalive85.

The Oban Times petition for safety improvements on the A85.

People in North Argyll have lost far too many friends and family in accidents on the A85 between Oban and Connel.

IF YOU SUPPORT US, PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

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OT

Portavadie



Scottish Opera will be on its boat, the Murray McDavid, and specially adapted trailer below.

SCOTTISH Opera's Pop-up Opera is back on the road in 2017, and takes to the waves on Scotland's first floating opera house, the converted pilot cutter Murray McDavid.

This year there will be performances of A Little Bit of Pirates of Penzance and A Little Bit of Bubble McBea, on Scottish Opera's fully accessible travelling opera house – a specially adapted trailer designed to look like a miniature Theatre Royal Glasgow. Each bite-sized production is brought to life by a narrator, singers, musicians and a series of colourful illustrations.

There will also be special shows for schools in marinas down the Clyde, and at

Portavadie Marina on June 18, with shows at noon, 2pm and 4pm.

Pop-up audiences can also catch these 25-minute shows, plus another A Little Bit of La Bohème, A Little Bit of Pirates of Penzance and A Little Bit of Bubble McBea, on Scottish Opera's fully accessible travelling opera house – a specially adapted trailer designed to look like a miniature Theatre Royal Glasgow. Each bite-sized production is brought to life by a narrator, singers, musicians and a series of colourful illustrations.



Dalmally



John Burke, left, was presented with a photograph by Kenny Black.

DALMALLY Community Company marked the retirement of one of its longest-serving members with a presentation at its April meeting.

John Burke served as the secretary of the voluntary organisation since its foundation more than 15 years ago, and has also been the treasurer.

Mr Burke's efforts have impacted many community projects, in particular Dalmally's now thriving community centre.

'John was instrumental in gaining the funding for the Dalmally Community Centre, and for managing the cash flow during the building,' explained Kenny Black, who takes over as secretary. 'The whole community has benefited from his diligence and perseverance.'

The committee thanked Mr Burke for his efforts and long service, and presented him with a photograph (by local photographer Kenny Gray) of the Dalmally bridge and monument.

Seil



The bikers pose outside the Oyster Bar in Seil.

Vulcan Riders stump Seil pub

THE Vulcan Riders are not a bunch of clones of Mr Spock from the original Star Trek programmes, but owners of Kawasaki Vulcan Cruiser motorcycles.

They invade Ellanabeich on the Isle of Seil every year in April to hold the annual general meeting of their club.

Five years ago, on their first visit, the island residents were a bit wary of the bunch of hairy bikers

taking over the local pub, The Oyster Bar, on the Saturday evening, but word had spread about a pub quiz and it was enjoyed so much that the Vulcan Riders (Scotland) were invited back the next year.

The latest visit two weeks ago was up to the usual standard and the new landlords of the Oyster Bar were very welcoming.

The leader of the bike group and quizmaster Peter

Truscott issued a special challenge.

If anyone in the bar, whether in a quiz team or not, could answer one particular question, he would buy a round for the whole pub.

Fortunately for him, nobody knew the answer to his question about military history in Britain.

The money raised in the quiz all goes to charity; this year the Lee Rigby

Memorial Fund gained £90 and the RNLI collecting can also received generous donations. In the course of one year recently, the Vulcan Riders raised £460 for the air ambulance and £86 for the RNLI.

When asked if the bikers would be back, Peter said: 'We are happy to come back next year and are delighted we have been asked to return with the now traditional quiz night.'

Tiree

AN 'INCREDIBLE' four Tiree High School pupils have been shortlisted for the Edinburgh Festival Schools Poster competition.

To celebrate the Fringe's 70th anniversary, Scotland's young people will inspire the design of the official Fringe programme, printed into 395,000 copies and distributed to 44 countries.

Congratulating the pupils, art teacher Shona Johnston said: 'This is a prestigious and fiercely competitive open project which is given out to all Scottish schools with an average annual entry figure of 6,000 plus.'

'The shortlist is whittled down to approximately 150 designs which will be displayed throughout the summer from June 6 in Dy-



Tiree High School's fab four shortlisted for the Edinburgh Festival's poster competition. Left to right: Maurice, Jemma, Liam, and, inset, Iona.

namic Earth, Edinburgh, where millions of visitors will view their submissions. You can also view them online from the middle of

May when the Edinburgh Festival site goes live.

'To give a sense of perspective on how amazing their win is, in 25 years of

teaching I have had four pupils shortlisted so to have four winners in one year from our tiny school is nothing short of incredible.'

Lochgair

SCOTTISH Water has completed a project to enable growth in the Argyll village of Lochgair, on the shores of Loch Fyne.

The £470,000 investment, which began in September 2016, involved the increasing of waste water treatment capacity in the village

with the installation of new larger septic tanks.

Growth in the area had been restricted due to the incapacity of the existing waste water treatment facility.

The project involved the installation of two new 30 cubic-metre septic tanks and associated infrastructure,

which was carried out for Scottish Water by contractor Corrie Construction Ltd, of Fort William.

Fred Bruce, convener of West Loch Fyne Community Council, added: 'I welcome completion of this important project in Lochgair. It is good news for the community

because it will enable growth and that's something that is important to any small, rural community like ours.'

Grass-seeding on the site will take place over the next few weeks and Scottish Water has agreed with the community to buy shrubs to be planted in the area.

Hebrides



Beluga II is expected to sail into Oban on May 17-18.

GREENPEACE'S ship Beluga II has set sail on a two-month scientific voyage around Scotland's coastline, investigating the impact of ocean plastic pollution on some of the UK's most beautiful landscapes and iconic wildlife.

With studies showing that 90 per cent of seabirds have ingested plastic, scientists and campaigners aboard the vessel will explore the front line of plastic pollution, from gannets and razorbills on the Bass Rock, to basking sharks in the Hebrides and seabird colonies on the Shiant Isles.

Throughout May and June, the crew and scientists from Greenpeace's research laboratories, based at Exeter University, will be aboard Beluga II to carry out sea surface sampling for microplastics, survey remote beaches for pollution and investigate seabird nests for plastic

during hatching season. The expedition will take in sites of stunning beauty and biodiversity, including the Bass Rock, Gunna Sound, Mull, Rum, Eigg, Skye and the Shiant Isles in the Outer Hebrides.

Ariana Densham, oceans campaigner at Greenpeace UK, said: 'With 12 million tonnes of plastic ending up in our oceans every year, there's never been a more important time for us to understand the impact of plastic pollution on our most-loved wildlife.'

'With 16 million plastic bottles being dumped every day in the UK alone, we need serious action from major soft drinks companies in reducing their plastic footprint.'

'And we need to see government action on introducing bottle deposit schemes, to reduce the amount of plastic ending up in our environment.'

Lismore



Many islanders attended the launch of the display of Ted and Elizabeth Odling's art at the Gaelic Heritage Centre.

A PLANT and produce sale will be held in Lismore public Hall on May 27 to raise money for the Lismore Community Trust Fund.

It is an event where people can buy, sell or swap plants, seedlings, home produce and crafts. Teas, coffees and snacks will be available.

A retrospective exhibition of the work of artists Ted and Elizabeth Odling is also on at the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre on the Isle of Lismore until October 31.

Ted and Elizabeth lived and worked on the

West Coast of Scotland throughout their careers of more than 50 years, and they spent the past 25 years of this time on Lismore Island. Their work covers a wide span including landscape and still life painting, murals, instrument making, and embroidery and quilts.

The Lismore Heritage Centre lies three miles from the Port Appin passenger ferry slip at Point and 2.5 miles from the Oban ferry slip at Achnacroish. The museum and cafe at the centre are open seven days a week from 11am to 4pm.

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At Random

Surprise, surprise ... electoral upset

SO, THE dust has settled on the local election held last Thursday.

The biggest surprise was that people were surprised at some of the individuals elected to serve on Argyll and Bute Council.

The poll contrived to produce some unexpected successes, particularly Andrew Vennard, for the Scottish Conservatives in ward five, Oban North and Lorn. Mr Vennard managed to see off the challenge of the SNP's Breege Smyth, who many pundits predicted would be elected.

But if plebiscites of recent times have proved anything, it is to expect the unexpected (think Brexit and the US presidential election of last year).

The make up of the local authority now looks to be intriguing with a finely balanced political composition.

The SNP has the biggest party representation, with 11 elected members, but is closely followed by the Conservatives on nine. However, there is a very healthy cadre of independent councillors – 10 of them – and half a dozen Lib Dems, so the major parties may find it difficult to pass policies.

There is a point of view – to which I would subscribe – which holds that councils should not be run along party political lines.



The inadequate crossing at Lochnell Primary School

That said, it is wishful thinking to hope for anything else.

What is most important is that our councillors – old and new – realise that they are elected to represent the interests of local people – not their party bosses in the cities.

We will hold them to account for their actions.

Village deserves safer crossing

ROADS are a hot topic these days, with much emphasis on safety – or the lack of it.

We at *The Oban Times* have been campaigning hard for measures to be taken to reduce the accident rate on the A85 between Oban and Connell.

Now, as we reported last week

and again this week, parents of children at Lochnell primary are genuinely fearing for their wee ones' safety in accessing the school from the car park across the busy A828.

I drive up through Benderloch on a regular basis and can testify to how busy the road can be, particularly at peak times.

As one parent – D J Barr – told us, there are around 160 child traverses of the road every day. And other parents have spoken to us about the 'nightmares' they have regarding their children's safety.

I certainly would not want my children to have to cross this trunk road twice a day.

BEAR Scotland, which manages and maintains the road, has said it considers the current crossing arrangements to be appropriate.

MARTIN LAING
mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



No, they are not. The good folk of Benderloch want a pelican (traffic lights) crossing. How hard can that be to install?

It would be tragic if it takes a serious accident to get BEAR Scotland to act.

What is the truth about Dunbeg?

WE WERE assured by the council last week that there is plenty of capacity for additional pupils at Dunbeg Primary School, given the prospect of as many as 600 new houses being built in the area.

However, we now learn that the council's figures have been called into question. The council says the school capacity is 141 with a current roll of 78. Our source says the capacity is, in fact, 116 and the current roll is 90, and expected to rise in August to 98.

Is someone in the council lying to push through the planning application?

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.

Hunt for the Spanish Armada comes to Mull

SANDY NEIL
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DO YOU look a bit too Mediterranean for Mull? Do you have family stories of an ancestor from Spain shipwrecked in Scotland after the Spanish Armada?

Then Dr Kirsten MacLeod, a lecturer at Edinburgh's Napier University, would be interested to hear your tales for her research project and documentary film when she visits Mull next week from May 16-19.

Dr MacLeod, a Scot from Skye, was once told by a boyfriend's mother: 'You must be from the Armada.' At first she didn't have a clue what the lady was talking about, until she started researching the forgotten history of the famous campaign.

At least two defeated Spanish galleons, carrying many hundreds of sailors and soldiers fleeing the English Channel via Scotland before heading back to Spain, foundered off Mull and Fair Isle, the island between Orkney and Shetland, in 1588.

Historical accounts tell of 600 'Spaniards' departing Edinburgh for the Low Countries on July 25, 1589, but it's a mystery what happened during the intervening months on these islands.

Oral histories, passed down in families, tell of some Spaniards staying and fathering children. In Orkney, there is a family called the Costies, which they think comes from 'Costa', a Spanish surname.

Dr MacLeod explained: 'The islands of Mull, Westray and Fair Isle all have distinct local histories that relate to the Armada. This project seeks to involve local people in the telling of these Armada histories.'

'It would be fascinating if we could trace some survivors of the Armada, and find families who are descendants of those who were saved in Scotland.'

This story of the Armada started on July 21, 1588, when a Spanish fleet of 130 to 140 ships, led by the Duke of Medina Sidonia and carrying approximately 7,000 sailors and 19,000 soldiers, set sail from La Coruna.

King Philip of Spain had Pope Pius V's blessing to wage a 'holy war' to reinstate Catholicism



Dr Kirsten MacLeod wants to trace descendants of the Spanish soldiers and sailors who were on Mull.

in England. But 10 days later, his imperial fleet was defeated by Elizabeth I's warships, commanded by Sir Francis Drake, in the English Channel off Plymouth.

The Armada fled up the east coast of England, but Drake called off the chase at the Firth of Forth on August 12. The Spanish fleet took a route home to Spain around the north of Scotland, west coast of Ireland and into the Bay of Biscay. But on the way almost half of the fleet was lost as shipwrecks, mostly off Ireland but a few sunk in Scottish waters.

The San Juan de Sicilia, one of the biggest ships in the Armada commanded by Don Diego Tellez Enriquez, arrived in Tobermory Bay on September 13, 1588, with approximately 343 men on board.

Then, mysteriously in November, the San Juan de Sicilia exploded and sank with some men on board, 300 yards off what is

Scotland uniquely gave Spanish sailors asylum

Dr Kirsten MacLeod

now the New Pier in Tobermory Bay.

William Asheby, the English ambassador at the Court of King James, wrote to Francis Walsingham, spymaster to Queen Elizabeth I, that the San Juan de Sicilia had been blown up. Blame fell on the MacLean clan chief and an English plot, for MacLean had commanded the Spanish to help raid neighbouring islands.

Around 600 'Spanish' were

mustered in Edinburgh on July 25, 1589, and were transported home. What was left of the San Juan de Sicilia's crew arrived two days later. In all, only 60 vessels and 10,000 men made it home to Spain.

Rumours of gold on board the San Juan de Sicilia fuelled numerous diving expeditions, and there is now very little of the wreck left. But what interests Dr MacLeod, she says, is the remnants in people's memories on Mull, and in the communities around the second wreck in the Northern Isles.

The El Gran Grifon, led by Captain Juan Gomez de Medina with 43 sailors and 243 soldiers on board, sheltered and lodged in rocks off a Fair Isle Bay on September 27, 1588. All 300 Armada men made it ashore, outnumbering the local population, but 50 Spanish men subsequently died on Fair Isle, buried in the 'Spaniards grave'. The remaining crew waited a

month before being shipped to Shetland and then to Orkney and Anstruther in Fife, where James Melville, minister of Anstruther, granted them asylum and relief. Later the Spaniards were shipped across the Forth to Edinburgh and onto Spain in summer 1589.

'Some men made it back to Edinburgh with the help of local people and were given safe passage back to Spain,' Dr MacLeod said. 'Scotland uniquely gave Spanish sailors asylum. In Ireland, they were taken as prisoners of war and slaughtered. It is a message for our times: how we deal with strangers in our midst.'

You can catch Dr MacLeod on her tours of Mull, Westray and Fair Isle, gathering personal histories and knowledge of the Spanish Armada, to uncover the myths and the stories about Spanish on the West Coast. Her email is K.Macleod2@napier.ac.uk.

Things get close between Mike & Lisa in the kitchen at No 8...

Excuse me Mike, can I get into that drawer?

I love our new house but I would love a new modern kitchen...

and more space. We could do with an extension...

You know who we should give a ring? Cairngorm Group

Yeah, sorry Lisa this kitchen's just too small!

Cairngorm Group should be able to accommodate both our need for more space and a new kitchen. Now where's the phone?

MORVERN lines

The bay of the walled enclosure

WE HAVE all seen them: small nondescript buildings crumbling away by the side of the road, which you wouldn't give a second glance among the timber and glass 'palaces' that pass for houses these days.

But don't dismiss them altogether as many of them have an interesting history. One of the best examples in Morvern is on the south shores of Loch Sunart between Achleek and Liddesdale on Laudale Estate.

Camus na h-Airbhe (pronounced camus na hay riv) is a very old Gaelic place name meaning the bay of the walled enclosure. The enclosure was built to corral sheep, cattle and goats before they were taken away by boat. In it there is a cottage probably dating to the beginning of the 1800s.

Originally the gable walls would have been round and covered with thatch. It would have had a low fireplace in the middle of the floor with a hole above through which the smoke escaped. Wooden shutters, instead of glazed windows, kept out the worst of the wind and rain. Peat and turf, brought from the hill above, and occasionally the odd piece of driftwood washed ashore in the bay, provided the only fuel as trees were scarce and kept for making boats, ploughs, carts and other agricultural tools.

In 1841, there were 59 people living in 10 houses around Camus na h-Airbhe. Most of the adult males were crofters and fisherman occupied in



The house at Camus na h-Airbhe.

tilling the land, raising sheep, cattle and goats, and catching and curing fish or working in the lead mines across the hill in Glen Dubh or at Strontian.

Loch Sunart was once famous for the quantity and quality of its herring. A visitor to the area in 1845 recorded seeing 500 boats simultaneously herring fishing in the loch. Many of them would have been open skiffs no more than 16 feet in length and must have been an imposing sight when all hoisted their brown sails.

Although life was hard in those days, the inhabitants of Camus na h-Airbhe fared better than many of their contemporaries. Living close to the open sea loch, they had an unlimited source of nutritious shellfish, herring, sea-

trout and salmon and, more importantly, the opportunity to sail beyond the confines of Loch Sunart to trade and barter.

Paul Graham, who lived in Camus na h-Airbhe with his aged parents, became so successful in the mercantile trade that he was soon able to build them a large new house across the bay at Achleek. He was also the owner and master of a 58-ton sailing ship called the Jessie of London which carried mutton, wool, hides, beef, timber, barrels of herring, and lead from the Strontian mines to Glasgow, Ireland and even as far south as Liverpool. The remains of the old stone quay where the Jessie of London was loaded can still be seen in the bay below the

house. Paul Graham's legitimate back-haul cargo consisted of salt, tobacco, Archangel tar and machinery for the lead mines.

His illegitimate freight was grain for making whisky.

Paul's son, Angus, was a well-known distiller in the area. As the making of whisky for private use was, and still is, illegal, it had to be done by stealth although the local laird was inclined to turn a blind eye because when all else failed it was only by the profits from their stills that his tenants and crofters managed to pay their rent.

The real danger came from the excisemen who were based in Tobermory with a fast cutter ready to follow up the first offending report. To avoid this

disturbance, Angus made his whisky in a hollow in the hills above Camus na h-Airbhe, close to the burn of that name which runs past the cottage and into the sea.

When the equipment was not in use, it was kept out of sight in a recess known as 'the hole of the black pot'. Angus Graham's whisky was no fine malt. His great-grandson, John (1884-1966) who sampled it as a boy, described it to me as 'like fire in your throat and Hell let loose in your belly'.

Many tales used to be told around the local firesides of how the Grahams escaped the law and of little barrels of whisky being left behind the walled enclosure in the night. Once, to avoid being caught, Angus walked across Loch Sunart on the ice but would not risk the return journey.

During the winter of 1888 the Jessie of London broke her moorings and was wrecked on the shore near Strontian. Paul and Angus died and their traditional lifestyle was replaced by large-scale sheep farming. Angus's sons took up shepherding and the walled enclosure was used for clipping and treating sheep with butter and Archangel tar in a messy process called smearing.

The house became a wool shed but, in the 1980s, when the sheep were taken off the surrounding estate, it was converted into an office and store for a salmon farm. It was restored in 2011 and is now an attractive holiday letting cottage.

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#MeetTheCairns

Company supports community hall

A FISH FARMING company which employs more than 40 people in Argyll has handed over a cheque to a village hall as part of its programme to support initiatives which enhance communities.

Dawnfresh, which has six sites in Scotland, including three in Argyll, made the award as part of its commitment to supporting the communities around its farming operations.

The cheque for £1,000 was handed to members of the North Connell hall committee by Martin Collins from Dawnfresh, who lives in the village and works on Loch Etive as site manager. The money will be used to fund activities for local people in the hall and for the general upkeep and maintenance.

Commenting on the presentation, Alison Hutchins, farming operations development manager for Dawnfresh, said: 'We provide significant investment in the area around all of our sites,

be that in our supply chain, our staff and skills or directly in the community. We want to play a role in growing and supporting the area and are always seeking new ways to do that.

'North Connell hall is a vital part of the community and acts as a focal point for local people to gather, as well as being a venue for groups of all ages to meet so is exactly the kind of project that Dawnfresh is looking to support.'

Fiona McCormick said: 'It is always welcome when local companies like Dawnfresh try to support community resources such as the North Connell hall and the committee thanks them for their assistance.

'This contribution will allow us to support activities for local people, especially children and young people in uniformed organisations to take place in the newly renovated hall as well as helping with the general upkeep and maintenance of the building itself.'



Left to right at the cheque presentation were Fiona McCormick, Ewen MacKerchar, Martin Collins, Rev Jeff McCormick, Donny Campbell and Tony Jones.

Oban staff become dementia friendly

AS THE nation marks Dementia Awareness Week (May 15-21), the team at Specsavers in Oban is becoming qualified to better understand the needs of customers suffering from dementia.

Specsavers employees nationwide are completing Dementia Friends training, an initiative run by the Alzheimer's Society. In doing so they become recognised as a Dementia Friends, with a badge to wear on their uniforms to indicate their increased level of dementia awareness to customers.

Ken Macdonald, store director of Specsavers in Oban, said: 'Being more aware of dementia is an incredibly positive development for our team and our offering to customers.'

'I always thought dementia was all to do with someone's memory - but it is much more than that. By uncovering the truth about dementia, it really opened my eyes to how at Specsavers, when performing our daily duties, we can all take a little time to support and care.'

The training covers all aspects of dementia and discusses how it affects people in different ways. With particular relevance to Specsavers, it also describes how senses can be affected, including sight and hearing.

Those with dementia commonly experience problems with their sight and visual perception, causing them to misinterpret the world around them. Some sufferers can experience hallucinations. On top of that, research has revealed that almost half of dementia patients in care homes are wearing glasses with the wrong prescription, leading to increased isolation and confusion.

Business is icing on the cake



Rachel Parker's business is winning recognition.

Rachel gets a taste of the high life at awards

AN OBAN-BASED entrepreneur has been given national recognition for her business.

Rachel Parker received the accolade for her Oban-based business Rachel's Gluten Free, which sells gluten-free baking and supplies to restaurants, cafes and tearooms in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area.

The Converge Challenge is Scotland's leading company creation competition for staff, students, and recent graduates of Scottish universities.

Rachel, who lives in Oban and is a student at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) UHI at Dunstaffnage, will go through to the final of 23 after being shortlisted from 212 applicants.

Rachel is the only finalist from the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). The winner will be announced on Thursday September 28.

Rachel said: 'I am delighted that my business has been recognised by a panel of industry experts. It

is also a fantastic opportunity for me to develop my skills and ideas through their residential Entrepreneurial Training Programme.

'I established Rachel's Gluten Free to give people on a gluten-free diet a choice. Having coeliac disease can be very inhibitive, especially when eating out or with friends.'

'We are now in the tourist season and this week is Coeliac Disease Awareness Week.

'A significant number of people must follow a gluten-free

diet and it is important for Oban that tourists who are gluten-free have a choice.

'Tourists are attracted to Oban's many businesses and Rachel's Gluten Free offers local restaurants and cafes the opportunity to offer handmade, quality gluten-free baking made in Argyll.'

'I look forward to the next stage of the competition, to developing my skills and my business, and continuing to serve Argyll with quality gluten-free baking.'

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Fort climber to reach new heights in Kyrgyzstan

KATIE CARABINE
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A LOCHABER climber who for the past three years has been helping the Ben Nevis North Face Survey team reach remote and near-inaccessible plant life is to take her skills to the mountains of Kyrgyzstan.

Sally Hudson, a qualified astrophysicist, will study and report on the alpine plant life high in the remote Djenghi-Djer Mountains.

Her expedition will be supported by an award from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant – a memorial run by the John Muir Trust to celebrate the lives of two legendary mountaineers from Edinburgh, who were both presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.

On returning to Lochaber, 29-year-old Sally plans to visit schools and colleges to describe her experiences and encourage future adventurers.

She said: 'I am absolutely delighted to be a recipient of the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant, and find it difficult to express just how grateful I am to be considered deserving of such an award.'

'It has been a dream of mine to climb new summits in an unexplored area of Kyrgyzstan. To now be doing it with the support of the John Muir Trust is an honour.'

'The grant is a huge boost to the expedition and will go a long way to help myself and the rest of the team achieve our goals.'

Lochaber climber Sally Hudson will be travelling to Kyrgyzstan to report on Alpine plant life in the mountains.



THIS WEEK'S WALKS

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Meeting point for walks is the car park at the Ben Nevis Woollen Mill for departure at 8am.

Further information available at www.nevishillwalking.club or by contacting the club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783.

up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and you can try before you buy. You can walk three times with the club before joining.

Further information at www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk

Sunday May 14

Aonach Eagach/ the Notched Ridge, Meall Dearg/Red Hill (Munro 953m) and Sgorr nam Fiannaidh/Peak of the Fian Warriors (967m Munro)

Park in the layby on the A82. Climb steeply on a good path up the SE ridge of Am Bodach (943m).

From the summit descend W to a sudden and exposed drop of about 20m and scramble down this on good holds.

A path continues along the narrow crest and a rocky slope leads to Meall Dearg (953m).

Continue westward keeping mainly to the crest. Most of this section involves scrambling on sound rock, not technically difficult, but exposed in places.

The scrambling ends at the col E of Stob Coire Leith (940m). Ascend to its summit and continue to Sgorr nam Fiannaidh (967m).

To descend, head westwards over the relatively flat summit to NN134582. Descend the rocky slopes of the NW ridge and pick up a path, which continues down to meet the well-worn path up the Pap of Glencoe. Turn left and follow this down to the old road.

Transport required at the end of the walk on the old Glencoe Road. This walk covers a distance of 9km and a height of 1140m.

Wednesday May 17

The club AGM will be held at the Hub café on Fassifern Road, Fort William from 7-9pm.

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet

Friday May 12

Nevis Range – Wades Road Circuit.

Forest tracks and a section of General Wades Road make up this interesting circular walk. We should get good views of the North Face of Ben Nevis, weather permitting. Lunch/refreshments at the Pinemarten after the walk.

An easy leisurely grade walk covering 8.1km. Meet at 9.40am at Ben Nevis Highland Centre.

Contact Helen Critchley on 01397 712346.

Saturday May 13

The Saddle, Sgurr na Sgine and Faochag, Glen Shiel.

A classic mountain walk in splendid scenery, with a grade 1, three-star scramble. Rated one of the best expeditions in Kintail.

There is the option to avoid scrambling and also to have an evening meal before or during the journey home.

A strenuous grade walk covering a distance of 13km and a height of 1490m.

Meet at Fort William woollen mill at 8.30am.

The walk leader is Andrew Gilbert on 07808 924722.

Thursday May 18

Carn Dearg (South East), Glen Roy.

One of three Corbetts in the vicinity of Glen Roy with the same name, this one forms part of a pleasant circuit with great views and a varied interesting terrain.

This moderate plus grade walk covers a distance of 14km and a height of 670m.

Meet at Fort William woollen mill at 9.15am.

The walk leader is Anne Jones on 07770 434114.

Conservation charity appeals for help tracking the Orange-tip butterfly throughout Argyll

A WILDLIFE charity is asking for the public to help track one of Scotland's most distinctive spring butterflies – the Orange-tip.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the first nationwide survey of this species and Butterfly Conservation Scotland is marking this by asking anybody who sees one of these iconic butterflies to let them know by visiting www.butterfly-conservation.org/scottishorangetip

The Orange-tip is one of the few butterfly species that has been increasing in numbers over recent years, bucking the trend found in the 2015 'State of UK Butterflies' report, that



The Orange-tip butterfly can now be more regularly seen on the West Coast.

Photograph: Iain H Leach

The Orange-tips have been found to be declining more rapidly in rural areas and so town and city sightings of the species would be particularly useful.

The male butterfly has a very distinctive appearance, giving the species its name, with its white wings with the orange tips.

Females do not have these tips, but along with their male counterparts, they do have green mottled colouration on the undersides of the wings.

Urban Butterfly Project officer Anthony McCluskey said: 'It's a real joy to see Orange-tips flying in so many places in the spring time. They're only on the

wing for about six weeks in May and June, so we are asking the public to keep an eye out for them now and to let us know if they see any.'

In Scotland, Orange-tips mostly lay their eggs on two flower species. In damper places they choose Cuckoo-flower, otherwise known as Lady's Smock, a common sight along roadsides, but in drier areas the caterpillars will feed upon garlic mustard.

The Orange-tip survey forms part of the Urban Butterfly Project, a three-year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage.

almost three quarters of UK species had declined in the past 40 years.

This increase is due in part to

their recent spread into Scotland, moving to more areas of the Highlands and other rural locations.

Visitors to help with red squirrels survey

LOCH Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is asking for visitors and residents to help monitor endangered red squirrels in the area.

Scotland's first national park is working with the Heritage Lottery-funded Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project launched by the Scottish Wildlife Trust to protect and strengthen the red squirrel population within the park.

Members of the public are being asked to help by reporting sightings of both red squirrels and their grey cousins online.

It is the larger grey squirrels which are largely responsible of the endangerment of the red, as they compete for food and space, and also carry squirrel-pox, which is often fatal to the red squirrels.

Protecting the red squirrels is one of the park's five 'Wild Challenges' for Wild Park 2020, the park authority's biodiversity action plan.

Alan Bell, conservation manager at Loch Lomond and The

Trossachs National Park, said: 'We are working to protect our red squirrels and by creating good habitats free of grey squirrels we are also encouraging them back into areas where they haven't been in a while.'

'The annual survey helps us to identify where red squirrels and grey squirrels are and helps us to know where to focus our efforts.'

The survey is now under way using feeder boxes to identify the areas where the red and grey squirrels are in the park.

Mary-Anne Collis, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project officer for Argyll, Trossachs and Stirlingshire, said: 'Having almost 40 different areas that we are checking both in and around the national park means more than 200kg of peanuts were delivered to help entice the squirrels to come and say hello.'

'We really rely on locals and visitors to let us know what is happening so that we can focus our efforts where they are needed.'

'There are still some areas where you can find both red and grey squirrels and that includes some areas of the national park.'

'While the majority of the squirrels spotted are red there are still a few grey ones, particularly on the southern edges of the park.'

'We are very keen to know what squirrels are about and would love people to record their sightings of both red and grey squirrels on our website.'

To report a sighting of red squirrels go to scottishsquirrels.org.uk

Visitors to the park are being asked to monitor red squirrels.

Photograph: Stephen Willis/ Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels



LOCHABER YACHT CLUB



NOW that spring has sprung and the brighter nights are here, the sailing season has started and activity is well under way at Lochaber Yacht Club.

The first race of the season, frostbite, took place last month, with some excellent sailing conditions making for an eventful race.

The club's annual fitting-out supper saw new and existing members enjoy an evening of good food, wine and company.

Tom McClean, the first man to complete a solo Atlantic crossing in a rowing boat, was the guest speaker at the dinner, and he entertained with many stories,

including his solo crossing, as well as crossing the Atlantic in the smallest sailing boat shaped like a bottle, which can be found behind West Highland College in Fort William. He also told of how he claimed the tiny 'island' of Rockall.

The yacht club will be running a series of both adult and junior beginner courses this summer. The adult dinghy RYA level 1 course will be held over two weekends - May 13/14 and May 20/21, while the junior course will follow on June 17/18.

More information can be found on the yacht club website: www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

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Viewpoint



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

The concerns being expressed by residents, visitors and businesses over a shortage of parking spaces in central Oban are very understandable.

There are, undeniably, problems with finding somewhere to park in the town centre. Indeed, hotel guests at establishments such as the Columba and new Perle (formerly the Caledonian) have genuine difficulty locating anywhere to park close to their accommodation.

The very fact that guests are being advised to park at Pennyfuir cemetery and be transported into town by their hotels is highly unsatisfactory for all concerned.

As a result, these visitors are parking in whatever spaces they can find around the town centre. That has a knock-on effect for residents who have paid for council parking permits but cannot find spaces close to their homes.

The problem has arisen, in part at least, because of the work that is ongoing at the car park by the Columba Hotel in relation to the new pontoons being installed at the North Pier. That is a short-term problem (and only a small part of the issue) that will be resolved when the work is complete but, with the high season almost upon us, a long-term solution is needed urgently.



Days gone by – Oban Police Squad

Oban's police squad, date and place unknown, submitted by Kenny MacLachlan, son of one of the officers pictured, Iain MacLachlan, who is standing second from the left. To curry favour, the officers' children were named after the chief constable, at that time Kenneth MacKinnon, Kenny explained. He wondered how many more Kenneths there were out there, as sons of Oban police squad.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



I WAS astounded by the level of disappointment experienced by the drudgery of viewing the newly released re-make of *Whisky Galore*.

One of the most factually amazing stories, which inspired one of the best comic novels, which in turn was the seed of one of the finest film comedies of the 20th century, has been well and truly torn to bits, mixed up, had the guts of it removed, been blindly thrown back together with an end result that is as funny as filling in a tax return with toothache.

Throughout the duration of the film, not once did I even crack a smile, far less laugh. My fellow audience members concurred with only a few nervous and short ripples of embarrassed chuckle throughout the duration of around 200 attendees.

There is a very fine line when caricaturing an ethnic group in comedy, and Compton MacKenzie in his book and the makers of the original Ealing Studios film hit the balance perfectly.

The suspension of disbelief was allowed to flow throughout both book and film, and the portrayal of islanders, albeit with essential comic exaggeration, was authentic.

Not so with the new one. It has lost all sense of authenticity of characterisation with regards the islanders and what

is left is a sneering, snide, arrogant interpretation of a very clever and able population and is, in fact, verging on being racist. Even the policemen, customs officials and crew of the SS Politician lack enough realism to be able to carry the story.

The script was so poor, that I wonder whether the writers actually got the jokes of the original. There were a number of scenes where the story carried the general situation but the actual punch lines had been removed – or worse, put in the wrong place!

For example the look on Joseph MacRooin's face in the original when Captain Waggett is happy to accept lemonade instead of a dram, is a classic moment. The scripting for this scene in the new version is as if the nuances and numerous contributing parts and subtleties of comic genius in the original went totally over the heads of the re-makers.

With a better script Eddie Izzard would have made an excellent Captain Waggett and likewise with Gregor Fisher's portrayal of the wily post-master Joseph Macrooin, but even a cast of good actors could not drag this dull mess into anything close to comedy. The additions of weak narrative threads as an attempt to add drama, brought the end result even further away from amusing.

The music, too, was a sorry shadow of the original, with the only highlight, in fact the only highlight of the entire film, being when there was a shot of Fergie MacDonald playing the button box.

But not even Fergie was enough to save this film. Mairi MacInnes's singing was, as always, beautiful, but the track was just not right for the intended purpose.

I have watched the original many times and have laughed out loud every time throughout. It has inspired some very notable escapades, and always puts one in the mood for a good dram! The new one is enough to put me off drinking whisky!

As therapy I am going to take my accordion and go to Castlebar Bar for a week with Andy and Micheal from the Watersay Boys! In fact, it would be a good move for the makers of this dripping wet blanket of a film to do the same. They might then get what the original book and the film was about.

If you are going to take the mickey out of islanders, you should make sure you understand them and make sure it is funny.

What the makers of this disastrous drudge have done is akin to adding half a pint of Fanta, some tomato ketchup and a bag of marshmallows to an aged and beautiful single malt.



Social media

There were a lot of messages of congratulations as councillors were re-elected and newly elected to Argyll and Bute Council on Thursday.

Glenda Macleod: I saw Elaine digging and sweating to sort out a garden at Longdale... I always said to my manager son don't ask your staff to do what you are not willing to do ... and I think Elaine has done that ... good luck to her.

Donna Macculloch: Well done Andrew Vennard.

Christine Hamilton: Well done Julie for SNP and well done Elaine Robertson.

But not everyone was happy...

Kathryn Webster: O m g why Scotland? Why? Sad, sad day.

Laura Wathey: SNP have had more

than enough time to turn things round and over the years have proved they are no better or worse than any of the other parties, personally I don't know who to be more concerned about Conservatives or the Nationalists.

Peter Miller: Was surprised there were not many Green. If there had been, the picture might change as we are getting Elaine has done that ... good luck to her.

Vincent Thomas Muir: Overall the tactical voting of the 'NO' voting sheeple across Scotland has made these local elections farcical. Methinks

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

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

Gazelle is designed to kill wildlife

Sir,
With reference to Tim Liddon's letter (*The Oban Times*, April 27), can I remind readers that it was Mr Liddon who, in Round and About (Mull) in March, referred to Gazelle as a herbicide.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) class the active ingredient acetamiprid as a 'highly hazardous pesticide', due the nature of its ability to kill not only weevil but a whole range of innocent insects such as bees, flies, aquatic life and affect small mammals.

Gazelle is technically referred to as a biocide. It is a very strong neurotoxin designed to disrupt the communication between nerves and muscles: it is designed to kill.

May I also remind Mr Liddon that our swallows, bats, wrens, cuckoos, dunnocks, warblers, woodpeckers, buzzards, hen harriers, otters, eagles and our wild plants ultimately all depend on these insects to support the ecosystems here on Mull and in turn the multi-million-pound eco tourism industry which many of the locals depend on, including CalMac. The local economy does not depend on forestry.

Neonicotinoid-treated plants are poisonous. Insects only need to make contact with contaminated soil, feed on the plant or its liquids exuded through guttation. Acetamiprid is highly soluble in water and volatile. In October 2016 the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) expressed concerns about this particular substance in surface run-off water being used by private water supplies for consumption.

Belgium (2016) has asked the European Chemicals Agency for a public consultation regarding this substance due to its 'persistence and toxicity' and the UN in January 2017 published a large document voicing its concerns at the indiscriminate use and implementation of regulations around the world of pesticides.

There are rumours that all of these neonicotinoids will be banned in Europe this year.

Because it is currently licensed in the UK does not mean that it will continue for much longer or that it is safe or that it is being used at the recommended dilutions.

I have asked in writing from Mr Liddon where the tree stock is coming from and what concentrations are being used to treat the trees. But to date I have had no response. Are these trees from Scottish nurseries? Who is monitoring concentrations of chemicals? Are the planting team locals or from Europe?

Tilhill was also unable to answer any questions regarding long-term environmental impact at Pennyghael at the Mull Community Council meeting in Craignure on April 11.

Regarding climate change, may I remind Mr Liddon that grasslands also sequester carbon dioxide but the soil cannot if its micro organisms are destroyed through neonicotinoid contamination?

J L Laura,
Langamull, Isle of Mull.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CUIRIDH MI GEALL gum bheil cuid agabhse a cheart cho ciontach rium fhin air a bhith a' gleidheadh rudan de gach seòrsa airson caochladh adhbharan, agus gu dearbh aig amannan gun fhios carson.

Gabhaidh cuid de thasgaidhean tuigsinn gun teagamh, leithid an t-seann achainn obair-àiteachais is tractaran air an tug mi iomradh air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, agus tha mòran dhaoine air cruinneachaidhean iongantach a dhèanamh thar bhliadhnaichean agus tha leithid sin air leth inntinneach agus fiosrachail.

Chithear cuideachd air iomadh prògram telebhisean mar a tha iudh ann an stuth àrsaidh a' sìor fhàs agus mar a tha luach ga chur air an t-seòrsa rudan a chunnaic mòran againn gan tilgeil chun na sìtig.

Bha sin a' tighinn nam inntinn nuair a leugh mi gun bheil na miotagan bogsadh leis an do bhuaicinn Muhamadh Ali farpais bogsadh àrd-thruimead an t-saoghail thairis air Joe Bugner ann an 1975 gu bhith air an reic aig rup ann an Lunnainn Diluain seo tighinn. Bidh mòran de

There are alternatives to toxic pesticides

Sir,
As a long-term forestry contractor, I am 100 per cent pro forestry.

I do, however, have serious concerns about certain directions of travel within the industry. For today, however, I would like to comment on the use of neonicotinoids and other insecticides to treat commercial transplants, mainly conifers.

This is happening throughout the Highlands and islands with very little public awareness.

The problem is there are several solutions to the problem of weevil attack that are far less reliant on chemicals such as these.

These are being trialled on a very small scale, relatively, within the industry.

However, at present in this country there is no investment in the development of alternatives (such as waxes, barriers, repellents, attractants) coming from the big forestry companies directly to the nurseries.

Having spoken extensively with many in elevated positions within the industry, my assessment for those interested is as follows.

As each generation of chemical (all described as 'safe') is banned, the industry puts itself in a position of dodging bullets. If all environmentally harmful chemicals are banned tomorrow will the whole industry collapse?

Some effort is being put into trialling alternatives but these alternatives suffer from a lack of sufficient investment. Nurseries offer them while making financial losses.

There seems to me to be a curious lack of interest by the industry in the harmful effects of these chemicals on both environment and contractor health. There is a lack of knowledge and ensuing complacency. Why, for instance, does no-one ever mention that rodents, deer and rabbits consume large numbers of chemical treated trees each year?

My position is we must stop working to minimum guidelines and push hard to create an industry the next generation can be proud of. Forestry should take much more seriously its responsibility to the delicate environment where it is practiced. Also towards the people who live and work in or near its operations.

I care passionately about this beautiful country and I want to see a thriving and healthy forestry industry adding value in all ways. I do not want an industry whose main goal is ever increasing profit to the detriment of both environment and local quality contractors.

R Watt,
Forestry consultant.

Naval base is of little economic benefit

Sir,
I see that Argyll and Bute Council website has a press release claiming credit for an increase in population within the area of 240.

This was picked up and analysed by the Lochside Press. It was not impressed and wondered if the 15 families of Syrian refugees taken in on Bute may account for most of that number.

I thought about it some more and added in the story from the Ministry of Defence about the benefits of the new submarines being based in Faslane. There are now three out of a planned seven in service at the base.

The story was that these submarines would bring thousands of new personnel and a great boost to the local economy.

Almost half are in service here and after years of population reductions we now have an increase of 240 this past year.

Some of these new sailors may have moved home and be counted among the population but most are more likely in service accommodation inside the base and travelling home to their permanent abode elsewhere. They should not be counted as a benefit to Argyll and Bute.

If you look behind the story, trumpeted as good news and as a result of work by the council, the truth is that there is still an ongoing and persistent problem of an ageing population. Many indigenous young people have to move and take accommodation elsewhere to find decent employment which continues the shrinkage of the working-age population.

Let's not any longer listen to, or believe, the continually repeated and exaggerated stories about the enormous benefits to Argyll and Bute from the base in Faslane.

The number of locals employed within the base is regularly shrinking; it is now a fraction of what it was 10 or 15 years ago and the contractors that run it are seeking to reduce the numbers still further.

The navy no longer moves large numbers to the area but prefers to increase the internal accommodation and have the sailors live there Monday to Friday and travel home at weekends.

Dougie Blackwood,
1 Douglas Drive, East Helensburgh.

Praise for unsung hero of the road

Sir,
Having written in February on the subject of litter, I couldn't agree more with the letter from Nicola Holt (*The Oban Times*, April 13) about litter and the impression it gives to visitors.

However, my reason for writing this time is to say a huge thank you to the man who collects litter and tends the verges, practically on a daily basis and in all weathers, between Oban and the Halfway House filling station.

He has made such a difference to that part of the approach into Oban. In expressing appreciation for his efforts, I know I speak on behalf of others.

It's just a shame some irresponsible people continue to throw litter out of their vehicles on this stretch and elsewhere.

Shirley M Scott,
Saligo, North Connel.

Ailean Caimbeul

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

luchd-leantainn bogsadh a mhiannaicheadh leithid de chuimhneachan air an t-sabaid mhòr a bh' anns an Merdeka Stadium, Kuala Lumpur ann am Malaysia air a' chiad latha de Iuchar 1975.

Rinn Ali a' chùis air Bugner ann an sabaid dusan cuairt còrr air dà bhliadhna roimhe ann an Las Vegas, agus ged a bhuaicinn e leis na comharran a b' àirde thar nan còig cuairt deug san dàrna farpais seo eatarra, bha cuid de luchd nam meadhanan a' fàgail air Ali gun robh e car gealtach agus a' seachnadh sabaid gu cruaidh le Bugner. Chan eil teagamh nach e pàirt cudromach de dh'eachdraidh an spòrs a tha anns na miotagan agus le làmh-sgrìobhaidh an dithis chleasachan orra tha dùil aig Sotheby's gum faodadh gun ruig iad seagad mìle not aig an rup! A rèir coltais chaidh a' bhriogais ghoirid a bh' air Ali san t-sabaid le Eanraig Cooper ann an 1963 a reic airson seachd mìle not aig an rup mu dheireadh a bh' aca.

Thug seo uile orm smaoinneachadh air an t-seòrsa rudan a bhios mòran againn a' gleidheadh mar chuimh-

neachain air feadhainn a th' air falbh agus nuair a bheir mi fhin sùil mun cuairt na garaids chì mi mar eisimpleir cuid de na h-innealan saoirsneachd a bh' aig m' athair, agus taobh a-staigh an taighe tha soithichean is dealbhan is iomadh faoin-sheud chudromach eile.

Tha e math gum bheil leithid sin de dh'iomhaighean phractaigeach, agus de dh'arratras, againn air cuimhne a chumail ach aig deireadh cùise saoilidh mi fhin gur e rùn *Abou Ben Adhem* a b' fheàrr uile. Sin cuimhne mar neach aig an robh meas air a chochreutair!

THINKING of collectors possibly bidding more than £60,000 for a pair of Muhammed Ali's boxing gloves next Monday led me to think of the many ways we all remember people. James Hunt's poem *Abou Ben Adhem* always appealed to me, and Ben Adhem's wish to be remembered as 'one who loves his fellow man'.

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

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breast cancer now



Tough Mudder Scotland Presented by Merrell is back at Drumlanrig Castle in 2017

Breast Cancer Now is the UK's largest breast cancer charity, created by the merger of Breast Cancer Campaign and Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

What is breast cancer?

Breast cancer is the name for cancers that start in the breast. It is the most common cancer in the UK.

Around 50,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year in the UK, including around 4,600 in Scotland. Breast cancer survival is improving, yet there are still around 1,000 UK women who die of breast cancer every month.

Breast cancer in men is rare, with around 350 men diagnosed each year in the UK. However, it's still important that it is caught early and there are signs and symptoms that men can look out for.

What are the signs and symptoms of breast cancer?

Everyone's breasts are different, and your breasts can change with age and at different times of the month. It's important to get to know how your breasts normally look and feel so it will be easier to spot if there are any unusual changes for you.

If you do spot any unusual changes to your breasts, you should get them checked out by your doctor.

Finding out about breast cancer signs and symptoms can help you understand what breast changes to look out for.

Lumps are vital to look out for, and for many women the first sign or symptom of breast cancer is a lump in their breast. But many women have breast lumps and most of them are benign (not cancerous), and there are other important signs and symptoms too.

Join our Tough Mudder team and take on the world famous 10- to 12-mile obstacle course, testing your strength, stamina and mental grit.

Date: Saturday and Sunday June 17 and 18
Event fee: £25
Minimum sponsorship: £300
Distance: 10 to 12 miles

Overcome hills, fire, mud and electricity in this exhilarating world class obstacle course that puts team work above finisher rankings.

Sign up as individual or team today and become a Tough Mudder for Breast Cancer Now!

Returning to the fantasy land of Drumlanrig Castle, this fantastic venue offers dark woodland trails, thick mud and lung-busting hills. With easy access from both Glasgow and Stirling, grab your friends and sign up today. Join #TeamNow at Tough Mudder

Scotland and you'll receive an exclusive Breast Cancer Now T-shirt, access to our training zones to get you ready for those obstacles and all the fundraising support you need from the team to help you reach your fundraising target.

Visit www.breastcancer.org/get-involved for more information on Tough Mudder and loads of ideas for other ways to get involved in support and fundraising.

Lawrence Cowan, from Breast Cancer Now, said: 'We really appreciate all of our amazing supporters who raise vital funds for our pioneering research. Every pound is progress towards our goal of stopping women dying from breast cancer by 2050.'

'From Tough Mudders to bake sales and everything in between, every fundraising event or challenge makes a real difference.'



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017 SHOWS

WEST ARDNAMURCHAN SHOW

Kilchoan
Friday, July 21

TIREE SHOW

Rural Centre, Crossapol
Friday, July 21

KINTYRE SHOW

Anderston Park, Campbeltown
Friday, August 4

BUNESSAN SHOW

Bunessan School Ground, Mull
Friday, August 4

LORN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Tralee Beach, Benderloch
Saturday, August 5

SALEN SHOW

Glenaros Showfield, Mull
Thursday, August 10

ISLAY, JURA & COLONSAY SHOW

Bridgend, Islay
Thursday, August 10

MID-ARGYLL SHOW

Kilmory, Lochgilphead
Saturday, August 12

SUNART SHOW

Strontian Showfield
Saturday, August 12

APPIN SHOW

Tynribbie Croft, Appin
Saturday, August 19

DALMALLY SHOW

Mart Park, Dalmally
Saturday, September 2

It's Show Time



2017 is shaping up to be a fantastic year for agricultural shows.

With its long, curved horns and touselled auburn coat adorning many a shortbread tin, the hairy Highland cow is one of the most distinctive and enduring symbols of rural Scotland, and amid all today's talk of wilderness, it is an apt reminder that this is also proud farming country, a fact that villages and towns throughout the region celebrate with a summer fixture, the agricultural show.

These events are the much-anticipated forum for serious farmers to show off their carefully-bred and -reared livestock, from those Highland bulls and heifers, to sheep, poultry, and even llamas, in the hope of winning prizes that are far more about reputation than reward. They are also a much anticipated social occasion, bringing together visitors and residents of all ages.

Most shows include competitions in trade and craft categories, from making jam and knitting, to carving sticks and growing vegetables, with the work submitted on display for the public to browse throughout the day. They are lively, good-natured events, but the competition is tough.

Agricultural shows are a highlight of the West Coast's social calendar. These events are important for the farming community, but they are also an entertaining day out for the family. They celebrate everything to do with agriculture and the countryside, and feature the usual demonstrations and judging of farm animals, as well as parades, music, arts, crafts, food and fun activities. Stalls offer local fare, pipe bands provide the soundtrack and the atmosphere is always festive.

As well as being a chance to socialise with like-minded folk, exchange views and news and maybe partake of a dram or two, these shows have a serious side to them. They are an opportunity to showcase stock, add to their value if rosettes come their way and assess the competition.

Some shows are known for their sheep stock judging, where the animals are brought off the hills, cleaned up and inspected, talked over and examined with great detail.

Fleeces are brushed and fluffed, horns are polished and hooves cleaned before they are turned into the ring where they are scrutinised by not only the judges, but neighbouring farmers and shepherds.

Other shows are known for their cattle, such as Dalmally, where Highland cattle from folds all over the country are brought for judging in the hopes of taking away the supreme champion title, or Kintyre,

where dairy farming is so important to the community.

Other shows are smaller, but no less important to their communities, affording a way to gather, showcase crafts, home produce, baking and let off steam after a long winter.

West Ardnamurchan Show and Sport

Friday July 21

Enjoy a fantastic family fun day in beautiful surroundings at Kilchoan's well-established show and sports day. The agriculture show runs from 9.30am to noon, with all the main events starting at noon.

Attractions include an all-day barbecue and bar, the senior and junior heavy events, junior sports, children's amusements from 11.30am, the pet parade and races, tug-o-war, stalls, baking and horticulture competitions, senior and junior road races, and the show dance which is on from 9pm until 1am with entertainment from the Dunmore Ceilidh Band.

For more information, go to at <http://westardnamurchannews.blogspot.com>.

Kintyre Agricultural Show

Friday August 4

Kintyre Agricultural Society runs the annual Kintyre Agricultural Show on August 4, which has been going strong for more than 100 years. Being a strong dairy farming community in Kintyre, this is one of the few shows in the area to have a strong dairy cattle competition.

Held at Anderston Park in Campbeltown, the day includes a pipe band, sheep, cattle and rare breeds judging, tug-o-war and a dog show.

Bunessan Show

Friday August 4

The Bunessan Agricultural Show on the Ross of Mull on August 4 is one of two agricultural shows on the island. And, while it may be smaller scale than some of the mainland shows, it is no less busy or entertaining, with a wide range of competitions to cover all interests.

Held at Bunessan school, there is stock judging, as well as a full competition list for those with other interests, including home-baking, handicrafts, gardening, preserves and a children's section.

Lorn Agricultural Show

Saturday August 5

The Lorn Show will be held August 5, and has gone from strength to strength following a move in 2012 from Dunstaffnage back to Tralee beach, where common grazing land is used to host the show looking over the magnificent Tralee Bay.

Open from 10am to 5pm, this is a popular show with both the farming community and the surrounding villages and the entries into everything from the horsemanship competitions to the dog show reflect that. The morning is given over to the serious business of stock-judging and the afternoon sees everyone let their hair down a little, with stalls, light-hearted competitions, children's activities, dancing and a pipe band providing entertainment.

Salen Agricultural Show

Thursday August 10

Held August 10, the Salen show is Mull's second agricultural show of the year, this time at Salen showground at Aros and is one of the highlights of the farming year.

Alongside the stock judging, horse show, food and craft stalls, and dog show is the popular terrier racing and horticultural and produce tent showcasing the island's talent. Visitors and locals alike look forward to this fun day out for the entire family.

Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show

Thursday August 10

As the name suggest, this show draws competitors and visitors from the three islands to Bridgend on Islay.

This year's show is held August 10, and alongside the stock judging of sheep, pigs, cattle and horses, there is also a gymkhana, side stalls of food, crafts and other goods, a pipe band, dog show and plenty to keep the children occupied. The céilidh dance in the evening is always a popular way to wind down after the day's events and usually goes on into the wee hours.

Mid Argyll Show

Saturday August 12

Mid Argyll Show is a major event for the farming community in the area with stock judging of cattle, sheep, dogs, horses, ponies and poultry.

There is a display of vintage tractors and a well-supported pet show.

And there will be a wonderful new attraction at this year's show when four sets of coach and horses will be at the event.

Mid Argyll Pipe Band will play and the trade stands will feature everything from gifts to heavy farming equipment.

Sunart and District Agricultural Show

Saturday August 12

Loch Sunart provides the lovely backdrop for Sunart's annual show on August 10 at Strontian show field, where stock judging of cattle, sheep and poultry takes place alongside crafts and home produce. The show starts with a pipe band parade, while around the show ring girls and boys will take to the boards for the Highland dancing competitions.

A special feature of this year's show will be an after party dance featuring Trail West. Always a family-friendly and fun show, it is the highlight of the local social calendar and a must-see for visitors to the area.

Appin Agricultural Show

Saturday August 19

The setting for Appin Agricultural Show has to be near the top of the list of the most picturesque, looking out as it does over Loch Linnhe to Castle Stalker. Held on August 19, this is the Appin Show's 60th anniversary. This small but perfectly formed show is renowned for its after-show dance in the village hall, but during the day it is a focal point for the community, with a good show of stock, including from the island of Lismore, and a variety of entertainment, from children's sports and dancing to young farmers testing their strength.

Dalmally Agricultural Show

Saturday September 2

The final agricultural show in the West Highlands calendar on September 2, the Dalmally show at the village's mart is known for its Highland cattle competitions, with entries from all over Scotland.

At this well-attended show, visitors will enjoy a wide variety of attractions such as the ever popular shinty match, trade stalls, stock judging and terrier racing. The judging includes Highland and commercial beef cattle, blackface sheep, dogs, poultry, baking and preserves, as well as displays of handicrafts and horticulture.

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West Ardnamurchan Show & Sports
Friday 21st July 2017

Enjoy a fantastic family fun day in beautiful surroundings at Kilchoan's well established Show and Sports. Agriculture Show runs from 09:30 to 12:00 and all the Main Events start at 12:00.

Attractions include: All Day BBQ & Bar; Senior & Junior Heavy Events; Junior Sports; Children's amusements start 11.30 am; Pet Parade & Races; Tug-o-War; Stalls; Baking & Horticulture Competitions; Senior & Junior Road Race; Show Dance starting at 9pm till 1am (The Dunmor Ceilidh Band)

More information online at <http://westardnamurchannews.blogspot.com>

Tiree Show
Friday 21st July 2017

Rural Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree

Judging from 10.30am all female line up of Judges for our 2017 Show. CATTLE, SHEEP, HORSES, PONIES, CLYDESDALES, POULTRY, PETS, TRACTORS, HOME INDUSTRIES, CRAFTS, SIDESTALLS

Main attraction - Mark Wylie with THE DRAKES OF HAZARD sheep dog and duck display team. This entertaining sheepdog and duck demonstration will perform twice at the Show.

Adults £5, Children 5-16yrs £2, Under 5s Free

Show Dance to follow with THE GUNNA SOUND CEILIDH BAND Tickets £10

www.tireeshow.co.uk

Kintyre Agricultural Show
Friday 4th August 2017

Anderston Park, Campbeltown
Gates Open 8am

Dairy & Beef Cattle, Sheep, Clydesdales, Horses & Ponies
Old Tractors & Dogs

Entry: Adults £6.00, Children £3, Family Tickets £12.00
Free Parking

BUNESSAN SHOW
Friday 4th August 2017

Bunessan School Ground
Gates open 9.30am

Traditional Highland and Island Agricultural Show
Entry: Adult £4.00, Conc £2.00, Car Parking £2.00

Licensed Dance to follow in Village Hall
Trail West Band 9pm

Lorn Agricultural Show
Saturday 5th August 2017

Common Grazing's Tralee, Benderloch
Showfield opens 9.00am
Amazing venue on the beach at Tralee, All the usual attractions + many more

Find us on Facebook at Lorn Agricultural Show

Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society
SALEN SHOW
THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST 2017

SHOWFIELD AT GLENAROS
GATES OPEN 10AM

ENTRY ADULT £5, CONC £3, FAMILY £14
BBQ TO FOLLOW

Islay, Jura & Colonsay Agricultural Show
Thursday 10th August 2017
Bridgend, Islay

Judging starts 10am

Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Dogs, Flowers & Vegetables, Baking, Handicrafts and Childrens Competition.

Clan Stunt Show, Woodcarver, Pipers, Highland Dancers, Caricature Artist, Heavy Events, Shearing, Vintage Vehicles, Stalls & Games, Pet Corner

Adults £6, OAP & Children under 16 £3
Under 5's free, Family Tickets £15

MID-ARGYLL SHOW 2017

Saturday 12th August at Kilmory, Lochgilphead
Showfield Opens at 9am

All the usual competitions plus a few new ones!
WONDERFUL NEW ATTRACTION
Four sets of coach and horses will be at the show

www.mid-argyllshow.co.uk

Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out

Saturday 12th August 2017
Strontian Showfield
Judging Commences 9.30am

Sheep, Cattle, Poultry and Dog Show
Local Crafts, Highland Dancing, return of the Horse show and so much more
Including Bubbles the Clown!
Pipe band commencing at 12.30pm

Adults: £ 5, Child: £2
Family: £12, Concession: £3

60th Annual Appin Agricultural Show
Saturday 19th August 2017
Tynribbie Croft, Appin
Judging Starts 10am

Sheep, Cattle, Highland Cattle, Dog show, Clydesdale Horse Display, Childrens' Games / Races, Handicrafts, Floral Art, Flowers and Veg, Highland Dancing, Vintage Engines, New hill race and poultry section this year. PLUS Lots More!

Entry: Adults £ 5.00, Children & Conc £3
Free Parking

Dalmally Agricultural Show
Saturday 2nd September 2017
The Mart Park, Dalmally
Gates open 9am

Highland Cattle, Main Ring Attractions, Trade Stands
Something for all the Family!

www.dalmally-show.co.uk

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NORTH OF ENGLAND TYPE - ROBERT RAINE, Townfoot

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More photographs from the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival with more on page 25



The trophy winning Highland dancers from the morning session of Saturday's competition. 17_t18highlanddancing01



The dancers from North Aberdeenshire who won the Scottish Area Finals for the fifth year in a row. 17_t18highlanddancing04

Above:

Primary schools Scots song competitors, left to right: Lori Den Heijer, Feorlin Renton, Ealasaid MacLean, Rose MacInnes, accompanist Alan Kitchen, Bethan Neil, Alyss MacDonald, Karyn Black and Sophie Houston. 16_T18_H&I M&D Fest_Singing_01

In the primary schools' Scots song contest, left to right, Lori Den Heijer came second, Feorlin Renton third and Ealasaid MacLean first, with adjudicator Martin Wilson. 16_T18_H&I M&D Fest_Singing_02

Left, Holly Renton, 16, from Inveraray came first in the Scots song secondary 3+ category, followed in second place by Maria Clark, 14, from Oban. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Singing_03

Brodie Sloss from Oban won the Scots and classical song classes, secondary 1-2. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Singing_04



The Debra-Ann School's Ghost Tours of the Royal Mile came second in the choreography set theme. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Choreography_05



The Argyll and Bute team that competed in the Scottish Area Finals at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday. 17_t18highlanddancing02

Budapest Cafe Orchestra

tour the Highlands

Christian Garrick and the Budapest Cafe Orchestra are embarking on a Grand Tour of the Scottish Highlands and Islands this summer.

The orchestra were established in 2009 and since 2011 have performed some 120 concerts across Scotland, with this being their seventh annual consecutive tour, which began on May 9 in Peebles and ends in Johnshaven in September.

From Peebles, the orchestra will travel north to Turriff and Dornoch before playing in a few venues on the Orkney Isles and then making their way back down the West Coast towards Portree where they will play at the Aros Centre on Sunday May 21. They will then play at Arisaig's Aros Hall on Tuesday May 23 and then Tobermory's Aros Hall on Wednesday May 24.

They will be playing the traditional folk and gypsy-flavoured music from across the world which they are known for – Balkan and Russian numbers combined with jazz and swing, and Romanian and Hungarian tunes given a fresh twist, as well as ballads and even pieces from film and television scores.

The group have also built up a repertoire of traditional Gaelic tunes after collecting them over their several tours of their adopted spiritual home.

This tour will coincide with the release their latest album, *Fifty Shades Of Goulash*, which is also out this year.

Further information, tour dates and ticket sales available on the orchestra's website: <http://www.budapestcafeorchestra.co.uk>.

WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT TRUMP TURNBERRY AND DINNER AT IL TRAMONTO AT 1906

Situated on the enchanting Ayrshire coast is the iconic Trump Turnberry, a Luxury Collection Resort, Scotland. First opening its doors in 1906, it is steeped in rich history and heritage and features unforgettable views across Championship golf links to Ailsa Craig and the Isle of Arran. Following a multi million pound renovation, all of the bedrooms have been lavishly refurbished, and now feature opulent marble bathrooms, freestanding bathtubs and sparkling chandeliers. Enjoy long walks on Turnberry beach, relax in The Grand Tea Lounge with a glass of fizz or make your way to The Spa at Turnberry to unwind from the stresses of everyday life.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
In what year did the Turnberry hotel first open?

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Ltd, Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is May 31, 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd, 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.

BBC ALBA

A' cur 's a' Buain

Listings for Thursday 11 May – Thursday 18 May 2017

DIARDAOIN 11 CÈTEAN
THURSDAY 11 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – history shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep8
21.00 **UR | NEW: Gàidhlig Obar Dheathain** – Gaelic in Aberdeen
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)
22.30 **UR | NEW: Billy the Kid**
23.20 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)
23.35 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 12 CÈTEAN
FRIDAY 12 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.35 **Machair** (rpt)
19.00 **An Là** – News
19.25 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
19.30 **Gach Creutair Beò** – Vets in Scotland – S4, Ep11 (rpt)
20.00 **Nationwide an Alba: An Taobh an Iar** (rpt)
20.45 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)
21.00 **Midweek: An-diugh** (rpt)
22.00 **Seirm** – Music from Celtic Connections (rpt)
23.00 **Fonn Fonn Fonn** – Music Quiz (rpt)
23.30 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 13 CÈTEAN
SATURDAY 13 MAY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Siubhlachan** – Time Traveller (rpt)
19.35 **Machair** (rpt)

19.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)
20.00 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)
20.25 **Binneas – Na Trads** (rpt)
20.30 **Sàr-sgeòil** – The Thirty-Nine Steps (rpt)
21.00 **Niteworks: Obair Oidhche** – Niteworks live in Glasgow (rpt)
22.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – Hamilton v Motherwell
22.55 **U2** (rpt)
23.45 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)
24.00 **Gun Sgot?** – Pub quiz (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 14 CÈTEAN
SUNDAY 14 MAY
16.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
18.30 **Seachd Là** – News Review
19.30 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)
20.00 **Fuine** – Breads – Ep2 (rpt)
20.30 **Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep8 (rpt)
21.00 **Farpaisean Chon-chaorach** (rpt)
22.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – Kilmarnock v Inverness CT

23.00 **Billy the Kid** (rpt)
23.55 **Fraochy Bay** (rpt)

DILUAIN 15 CÈTEAN
MONDAY 15 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **An Gearradh Chruaidh** – The Castle Grounds (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **Air an Lot** – The Croft (rpt)
21.00 **Trusadh – An Galair Diomhair** – Living with Crohn's disease (rpt)
22.00 **Hòro Gheallaidh** (rpt)
22.30 **Gàidhlig Obar Dheathain** – Gaelic in Aberdeen (rpt)
23.30 **Fonn mo Bheatha** (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 16 CÈTEAN
TUESDAY 16 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.05 **Na Droghairean** – Scottish History (rpt)
19.30 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – History Shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **UR | NEW: North Coast 500** – Le Anne London
21.00 **Farpaisean chon-chaorach** (rpt)
22.00 **Trusadh** – An Galair Diomhair – Living with Crohn's disease (rpt)
23.00 **Trusadh** – Cearaidh tro Bliadhna – Follows Crohn's disease sufferer (rpt)
23.30 **Alleluia!** – Spiritual music and verse (rpt)

DICIADAIN 17 CÈTEAN
WEDNESDAY 17 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.00 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** – Reminisces of Sailors (rpt)
19.15 **An Là** – News
19.25 **Championship Playoffs 2017**
21.45 **Ceòl bho Perthshire Amber** (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW: Fuine** – Recipes for something different
22.30 **Horo Gheallaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – Dundee v Inverness CT

DIARDAOIN 18 CÈTEAN
THURSDAY 18 MAY
17.00 **Prògraman Chloinne** – Children's programming
19.10 **Iomall nan Tonn** (rpt)
19.35 **Speaking our Language** (rpt)
19.55 **Earrann Eachdraidh** – history shorts (rpt)
20.00 **An Là** – News
20.30 **UR | NEW: Cearcall** – Look back through 80's programme, Cearcall – Ep9
21.00 **Gladys** – Gladys Cameron's journey to discover her Irish roots (rpt)
22.00 **Rapal TBH** (rpt)
22.30 **Ceòl aig a' Chaisteal** (rpt)
22.55 **Sgeul Seòlaidh** (rpt)
23.00 **Scottish Premiership Highlights** – St Johnstone v Hearts (rpt)

Making a dram out of a crisis

The Outer Hebrides' first whisky festival, On the Rocks, will be held on the Isle of Eriskay, scene of the true *Whisky Galore!*, on midsummer weekend.

The SS Politician wrecked on the rocks between Eriskay and South Uist in 1941, risking the loss of 250,000 bottles of whisky on board, which the war-rationed islanders were determined to save from

the waves – and the taxman. The story inspired Sir Compton Mackenzie's classic novel *Whisky Galore!*, and an Ealing comedy set on Barra directed by Alexander MacKendrick, re-made into a new film starring Gregor Fisher and Eddie Izzard, which released in Scotland last Friday.

The festival will be hosted by the island's village hall and local pub, Am Politician, on June 24-25, serving Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky's range of *Whisky Galore!* malts and blends, topped up by Isle of Harris gin.

The Isle of Harris Distillery will also run masterclasses, and introduce its 'new make spirit', destined to mature into the Isle of Harris Single Malt, called The Hearach. Its managing director, Simon Erlanger, said: 'The distillery was established to

support the economies not only of Harris, but of all the Outer Hebridean islands. One day it would be marvellous to see the Outer Hebrides recognised as a new whisky region of Scotland.'

The weekend will also feature the Outer Hebridean premiere of *Whisky Galore!*, with Barra and Uist's finest traditional musicians, including Gaelic singer Mairi MacInnes, who sings *Gairm Na h-oidhche* (*Calling the Night*) on *Whisky Galore!*.

Piper and whistle player Alana MacInnes joins fiddler and singer Eilidh Shaw to lead the weekend's Ho-ro- gheallaidh sessions, while ceilidh band Sorradale will tear up the dance floor on midsummer's night. One of the most beautiful and romantic traditional songs was written in praise of the island, *The Eriskay Love Lilt*.

There will also be an exhibition of artefacts from the SS Politician and examples of Eriskay's unique knitted jumpers used to identify fishermen at sea, as well as readings of Father Allan MacDonald, the 19th-century Roman Catholic priest, poet and folklore collector who lived on Eriskay.

Welcoming Eriskay's whisky festival, VisitScotland's island manager Alan MacKenzie said the new film has a strong link with the island's history and culture. 'Scotland is rightly famed the world over for our traditional music, ceilidhs,



Islanders of the fictional Hebridean island of Todday struggle to save as many of the shipwreck's 26,000 cases of whisky as they can.



Men of Isle of Harris Distillery waiting for their single malt to mature.

songs, poetry and storytelling, not forgetting our warm hospitality,' he said. 'This festival encapsulates what makes the Outer Hebrides such a draw for visitors from all corners of the globe.'

Eriskay is also famed for the beautiful jewel-like colours of the water, machair and sandy beaches, including Coileag a'Phrionnsa (the Prince's Cockle Strand), where Bonnie Prince Charlie took his first step onto Scottish soil to launch the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion. Eriskay also boasts rich wildlife from corncrakes and otters, to their very own Eriskay

ponies – there are only 400 of them left on the planet.

Euan Shand, chairman of Duncan Taylor Scotch Whisky, said: 'I loved the original film and, over 30 years ago, wanted to create whiskies that would celebrate the original *Whisky Galore!* story. The Eriskay midsummer festival gives us a perfect opportunity to celebrate the remake of the film in this stunning part of Scotland.'

In the words of Para Handy in Neil Munro's tales the Vital Spark: 'So pack up your clarsach and away let us go to the land of the Haderum Ho...'



Sent from Heaven: Gregor Fisher, who plays postmaster Macroon in the 2016 remake of *Whisky Galore!*, finds a bottle of amber nectar washed ashore from the shipwrecked SS Cabinet Minister.

Renowned choir brings its music tour to Argyll

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir is a busy mixed-voice choir of 120-plus singers performing up to 40 concerts per year from major concert halls to cathedrals and remote island venues.

The choir continues the legacy of its illustrious predecessor, the Glasgow Orpheus Choir 1901-1951, and this year the Phoenix celebrates 116 years of choral excellence. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Co-op Funeralcare, the GPC is now able to participate in an increas-

ing number of concerts in aid of many worthwhile causes.

Under its conductor, Marilyn J Smith MBE, and accompanist and depute conductor, Cameron Murdoch, the choir performs a wide range of music from choral standards to new music and often featuring delightful solo performances by choir members.

Its concerts in Argyllshire this month support a number of charities and the intention is to return to a number of the venues in the future to add to its praised series

of postcard CD recordings which raise much needed funds for these buildings or organisations. Venues already supported include the Italian Chapel in Orkney, St Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow to support St Andrew's Hospice Airdrie and Iona Abbey, which is visited on this tour. Join the choir at a series of memorable concerts and performances – all welcome.

The organisers would like to thank Co-op Funeralcare who sponsor the choir and make it all possible.

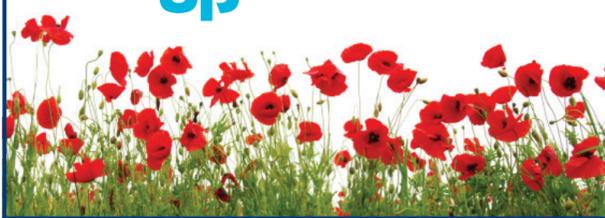


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- OBAN: St John's Cathedral Friday 26th May 20.00**
CHORAL MAJESTY: with Magnificent Music for all Tastes
Tickets £8 includes donation to Hope Kitchen & St John's
 - IONA: The Abbey - Saturday 27th May 14.30**
CHORAL SPIRIT: with Music for the 'Holiest of places in Scotland'
Historic Scotland Entry - retiring collection for the Iona Community
 - LOCHGILPHEAD: Church of Scotland - Sunday 28th May 14.00**
CHORAL CELEBRATION: for John Lowrie Morrison CBE from the GPC
Free Entry - Retiring collection for The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Scotland
 - OBAN: St Columba's Cathedral - Sunday 28th May at 18.30**
CHORAL VESPERS: to include Psalm 150 and Religious Music
Free Entry - Retiring collection for Hope Kitchen & St Columba's
 - LOCH AWE: St Conan's Kirk - Monday 29th May at 14.30**
CHORAL PURITY: with music from the Classics
Tickets £6/£5 Friends of St Conan's with All Proceeds to St Conan's Kirk Restoration
- Tickets for St John's & St Columba's at Oban Music or for St John's & St Conan's at the GPC Box Office on line at www.wegotickets.com
There are TICKETS at the DOOR for all CONCERTS

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Friday 12 - Thursday 18 May

FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12A | 155 MIN
Fri: 16:00, 18:15, 21:00, Sat: 12:00, 15:00, 20:30, Sun: 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, Mon: 16:00, 18:15, 21:00, Tue: 16:00, Wed: 16:00, 18:15, 21:00, Thu: 16:00, 18:15

Parent & Baby Screening! Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available. Tue: 11:30
When a mysterious woman seduces Dom into the world of crime and a betrayal of those closest to him, the crew face trials that will test them as never before.

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 | 12A | 157 MIN

Fri: 21:15, Sat: 21:00, Mon: 21:15, Tue: 19:30, 21:15, Wed: 21:15,

3D: Tue: 16:30
Set to the backdrop of 'Awesome Mixtape #2', Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 continues the team's adventures as they traverse the outer reaches of the cosmos. The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family as they unravel the mysteries of Peter Quill's true parentage.

KIDS CLUB: MOANA | PG | 133 MIN

Sat: 11:30
Children's Classic, Entry £2.
Three thousand years ago, the greatest sailors in the world voyaged across the vast South Pacific, discovering the many islands of Oceania. But then, for a millennium, their voyages stopped – and no one today knows why.

Moana is about an adventurous teenager who sails out on a daring mission to save her people.

NT LIVE: WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLF? | 12A | 210 MIN

Thu: 19:00
In the early hours of the morning on the campus of an American college, Martha, much to her husband George's displeasure, has invited the new professor and his wife to their home for some after-party drinks. As the alcohol flows and dawn approaches, the young couple are drawn into George and Martha's toxic games until the evening reaches its climax in a moment of devastating truth-telling.

SILVER SCREEN - THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE | 12A | 147 MIN

Silver Screening - 'Last Chance to See' - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £3!
Sun: 14:30
In 1939 Poland, Antonina Zabińska and her husband, Dr. Jan Antonina Zabiński, have the Warsaw Zoo flourishing under his stewardship and her care. When their country is invaded by the Nazis, Jan and Antonina are stunned and forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck.

SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | U | 120 MIN

Sat: 16:15, Sun: 12:00
In this fully animated, all-new take on the Smurfs, a mysterious map sets Smurfette and her best friends Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty on an exciting and thrilling race through the Forbidden Forest filled with magical creatures to find a mysterious lost village before the evil wizard Gargamel does.

THE BOSS BABY | U | 120 MIN

Sat: 14:00
DreamWorks Animation and the director of Madagascar invite you to meet a most unusual baby. He wears a suit, speaks with the voice and wit of Alec Baldwin, and stars in the animated comedy, DreamWorks' The Boss Baby.

THEIR FINEST | 12A | 137 MIN

Fri: 18:45, Sat: 18:30, Sun: 17:15, Mon, Tue, Wed: 18:45, Thu: 21:00
A British film crew attempts to boost morale during World War II by making a propaganda film after the Blitzkrieg.

WHISKY GALORE! | PG | 118 MIN

Fri: 16:00, Sat: 18:00, Sun: 19:45, Mon, Wed, Thu: 16:00
During World War II, the tiny Scottish island of Todday runs out of whisky. When the freighter S.S. Cabinet Minister runs aground nearby during a heavy fog, the islanders are delighted to learn that its cargo consists of 50,000 cases of whisky.

Your local radio listings

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: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11:00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime, 18:00 Drivetime, 19:00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20:00 John McLuckie's Show, 21:00 David Cullen Show, 23:00 station close, midnight Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 10:00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13:00 Macky on FM, 15:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19:00 Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20:00 Elaine Lamb, 22:00 Northern Soul with Gordon Cove, midnight Clyde 2.

WEDNESDAY: 08:00 AM on FM, 08:10 Breakfast Show, 09:00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10:00 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 11:00 Comfort Zone, 12:00 Comfort Zone, 13:00 Clyde 2 15:00 Elaine Lamb, 17:00 Drivetime, 17:30 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19:00 Country Meets Rock & Roll with Len & Ken, 21:00 Gordon's Grooves, midnight Clyde 2.

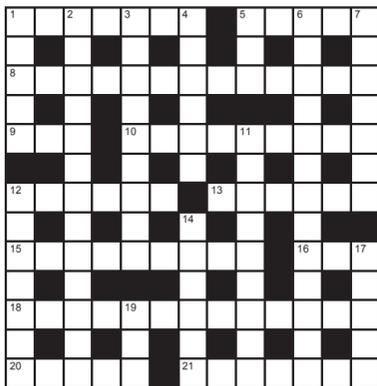
THURSDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13:00 Elaine's Time Capsule, 15:00 Gordon Covey, 17:00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19:00 Christine's Collection, 21:00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

FRIDAY: 08:00 Breakfast with Laura, 10:00 Teeny and Tiny, 13:00 Clyde 2 17:00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 18:45 Sports View, 19:00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 20:00 Lewis Binham.

SATURDAY: 08:00 Breakfast show with Archie Darling, 10:00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Cosher, 13:00 Clyde 2 18:00 Sports View with the Dream Team, 19:00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20:00 Dave Lewis, 22:00 Margo till midnight, midnight Clyde 2.

SUNDAY: 09:00 Sunday morning with Breege, 11:00 Sunday Morning with Archie, 12:00 Sunday Brunch, 13:00 Clyde 2 16:30 Archie Darling, 18:00 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 19:00 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 21:00 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott, 23:00 Station close, midnight Clyde 2.

THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Gossip (7)
 - Strange (5)
 - Last time! (4,3,3,3)
 - Spoiled (3)
 - Chatting about naughtiness (7,2)
 - A destroyer (3,3)
 - Nice place to buy (3,3)
 - Employee tasked with the smooth running of the business (9)
 - Tree fruit (3)
 - Where all may not be as it seems (5,8)
 - Howling beast (5)
 - One who exacts satisfaction for something (7)

- Down**
- Devastating explosive (1-4)
 - Clumsy (8-5)
 - Chipped ID (5,4)
 - Off-peak calls! (6)
 - What person? (3)
 - Bell tone sounding (6,7)
 - Shades with age (7)
 - Make tipsy (9)
 - Song night at Christmas (7)
 - Layers (6)
 - Not our (5)
 - Large water mass (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

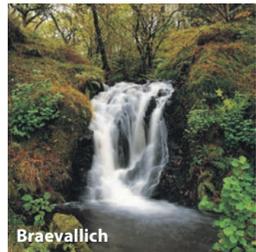


Arena

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

A bumper weekend for visiting Scotland's gardens

by Yvonne Anderson



Braevallich



Strachur House

Garden visitors are in for a huge treat this weekend. Our famous rhododendrons, magnolias and azaleas are at their glorious peak, fruit trees are blossoming, bluebells and primroses carpet our woodlands. The scent of freshly-cut grass and the joyous sound of birdsong hint at long days of summer. Scotland's Gardens offers a great opportunity to explore nearly 500 gardens and support over 200 charities, large and small.

When garden owners decide to open their private garden for charity, they choose a time, months in advance, when their gardens will look at their most vibrant. This is a calculated guess, based on years of previous experience and would be a

reliable theory except for one powerful factor. The weather.

This weekend, here are some stunning gardens opening their gates in aid of various charities.

Sat/Sun 13/14 May, 1pm-6pm Dalnashean, Port Appin.

Camelias, Rhodies and Magnolias, views to Lismore and Loch Linnhe, ponds and azaleas. There are two more open gardens to enjoy. Drumneil for mature trees, rhododendrons, deciduous azaleas and a small Victorian walled garden. Kinlochlaich Nursery Garden has a huge variety of plants to see and buy.

Sat/Sun 13/14 May, 1.30pm-5pm Knock Cottage, Lochgair.

Specimen rhododendrons and shrubs, woodland, waterfall and

loch. Take in Crarae Garden which has an impressive display of rhododendrons, waterfalls, pools, and varied wildlife. Nearby Inveraray Castle Garden is outstanding.

1pm-5.30pm Braevallich Farm, by Dalmally.

Two beautiful gardens with specimen rhododendrons and azaleas, woodland burns, waterfalls, primula and meconopsis, mixed herbaceous and a kitchen garden. Traditional glen garden, pretty burns with waterfalls, peaceful open vistas.

Sat/Sun 20/21 May, 1pm-5.30pm Strachur House Garden.

Native woodland walks, ancient yews and maples, species roses, wild flowers, rare shrubs and wildlife.



Wrestling event to be held in Oban on May 18

An American-style wrestling event is coming to Oban next week.

The World Wide Wrestling League is bringing its top stars to the Corran Halls on May 18 at 6.30pm.

At the event, wrestler Mike Musso will get the chance to avenge the promotion after his opponent Mackie took The World Wide Wrestling League to court on the ITV Show Judge Rinder.

Mackie, who was suspended for terrifying fans, said his suspension was unjustified and unsuccessfully claimed a loss of earnings.

Musso has taken it upon himself to stand up for the integrity of the wrestling promotion and its fans by vowing to put an end to Mackie's tirade personally.

Also in action will be the popular Irish women's star, and current W3L women's champion Leah Owens who will do battle with former W3L women's champion Sara.

Former tag team champions will also collide in Oban as Games N' Gaines (Kevin Williams and Jason Reed) tackle the Noble Lions (Johnny Lyons and Lucian Maynard Smith).

Doors open at 6.30pm with the first match set to take to the ring at 7pm. Tickets are currently on sale from www.W3LWrestling.com and the Corran Halls box office priced £13, £11 and £37 for a family of four.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Sunny Lochgoilhead

The sun shone on Lochgoilhead last weekend for the second annual Gig in the Goil - a unique festival that is geographically handy for those based in Glasgow but also very Highland.

Festival goers were sunning themselves in the beer garden, there was a selection of fantastic bands, and the stunning location made the weekend a resounding success - and people have already paid their deposits for next year.

Off his trolley

A friend of mine, Iain Beggs from the island of Barra, was departing Glasgow on Friday afternoon to drive up to Gig in the Goil.

Before he left, he stopped off at Asda in Govan for some supplies. In the supermarket, he bumped into an acquaintance who was also heading to Lochgoilhead.

Standing in the queue for the till, Iain (or Beggs, as he is affectionately known) thought his friend was directly behind him. Looking at the contents of their trolley, he spotted a particularly appetising pack of pork chops.

Grabbing the package out of the trolley, he waved them in the air, crying: 'Oh, so you're going to be cooking us some pork chops this weekend then!'

The realisation then struck him that he was not, in fact, speaking to his friend but had instead waved the chops in the face of a very confused elderly lady from Govan.

Iain made his apologies, went back out into the sunshine, and headed up the A82 to Lochgoilhead with a hilarious story to tell everybody - and leaving behind an extremely baffled Govan cailleach.

Clydebank ceilidh

Clydebank Highland Association

recently held its annual ceilidh in aid of Erskine.

Although audience numbers were disappointing, the those in attendance (including veterans from Erskine) enjoyed singing and music of the very highest calibre and showed their appreciation to all the artistes.

The chairman was the Rev Jonathan Fleming, chaplain for the hospital. Sheena Walker, Eilidh Cormack, and Norman MacKinnon sang in both Gaelic and English. Beth Street gave lovely renditions of songs from the shows and all were ably accompanied by Kirsteen Grant. Alasdair MacPhail's music on the accordion had feet tapping and the ceilidh got off to a rousing start from pipers, Robert Wood and Ian MacPhee.

The association is extremely grateful to all who donated money and raffle prizes to this very worthy cause and also to those who donated miniatures and bottles of whisky and wine to the

veterans - making sure they all went home happy. The amount raised will be announced at a later date.

The AGM of the association will be held in the Asbestos Group on Wednesday May 17 at 7.30pm.

Glasgow Skye

The Glasgow Skye Association's closing concert, The Wee Skye, was held on Saturday April 29 in the Crawford Hall, with Alasdair MacMillan as the genial and entertaining chairman.

Piper John Gillies and singers Màiri McGillivray, Sheena Walker, Seumas Campbell, and Norman MacKinnon were all in fine form. The star of the evening, however, was young accordionist, Ryan Corbett, who mesmerised the audience with his brilliant playing.

The final function of the Skye session is the social evening in the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock, on Friday June 9 at 7.30pm. As this is a function with a high tea, the

secretary, Karen Campbell, needs to let the hotel know the numbers attending and their meal choices and special dietary requirements by Monday June 5.

Mull and Iona Association AGM

The Mull and Iona AGM will be held on June 7 in An Lèanag, Mansfield Square, at 7pm.

The association received a good response to last year's pledge for new committee members, and is consequently fortunate enough to have sustainable committee numbers.

This committee is always looking for keen and committed new members as it turns its attention towards the 2018 gathering.

Last year's Mull and Iona gathering was a resounding success and, through the ticket sales and the raffle, the association raised a large sum of money that will be distributed among

local island groups and charities to be decided upon at the forthcoming AGM.

For any more information about the Mull and Iona, contact themullandiona@gmail.com.

What's on

Thursday May 11: Comunn-an- Taobh-an- Iar annual general meeting in the Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie.

Thursday May 18: Donald Black album launch in the College of Piping, Otago Street.

Friday May 26: The Uist and Barra Association annual general meeting in Lourdes Secondary School.

Wednesday June 7: The Glasgow Skye Association annual general meeting in Partick Burgh Hall.

Pub scene

Islay Inn.

Friday May 12: Crooked Reel.

Saturday May 13: The Raggals.

Passionate about plants? Go to M&M Nursery's Open Day

Deep in the heart of Argyll, on the banks of Loch Awe, lies a small family run business specialising in Scottish grown perennials.

A true hidden gem, M & M Nursery is situated in Eredine, eight miles from Ford and 15 miles from Cladich.

Opened in 2012, the family are often found travelling around Argyll delivering plants and exhibiting at local shows. The beautiful centre holds over 21 different varieties of azaleas, 16 different varieties of heathers, pieris and roses, plus a small selection of various shrubs.

The mild temperate climate of the Gulf Stream plus the slightly acidic soil, allows many plants to thrive and our home grown

perennials are hardy enough to survive the harsh winters.

If you are passionate about plants or just starting your garden-

ing adventures, their experienced staff are on hand to help. Call in during the open days on May 15 to 17, from 11am-8pm.



M & M NURSERY OPEN DAY

Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th May - 11am-8pm

Home grown perennials acclimatised to Scottish weather.

M and M Nursery, Braevallich, Loch Awe, PA33 1BU
T: 01866 844247, Email: michelleleiper@btinternet.com



Step aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley...

...for a great day out!

Book online at waverleyexcursions.co.uk
call 0845 130 4647 or book at Oban Information Centre

Sailing from OBAN North Pier

4 Lochs & Whirlpool SATURDAY June 3 Leave 12.30pm back 6.30pm
Fare: 4 Lochs & a Whirlpool £35 SC £31

Castles & Ceilidh SATURDAY June 3 Leave 7.30pm back 10pm
Fare: Evening Showboat £19 Groups of 10+ only

Iona & Iona Abbey SUNDAY June 4 Leave 11.30am back 7.30pm
Fare: Visit Iona £41 SC £39

Tobermory Isle of Tiree MONDAY June 5 Leave 10am back 7.30pm
Fares: Visit Tobermory £33 SC £31
Tiree £41 SC £39 Cruise Gunna Sound £43 SC £41

Sailing from TOBERMORY

Tiree Cruise Gunna Sound MONDAY June 5 Leave 12pm back 5.45pm
Fares: Visit Tiree £31 SC £29
Cruise Gunna Sound £33 SC £31

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/obantimes

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

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

Superbowl
open everyday from
12 noon until 10pm



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

OBAN BACH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
will give a short CONCERT
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, OBAN
SUNDAY MAY 14th 2017
at 3.30 pm
Vivaldi: Gloria
Pergolesi: Magnificat
Telemann: Little Suite in D
SEAT WITH PROGRAMME
(OBTAINABLE AT THE DOOR)
£6-00. CONCESSIONS £5-00

VOTE NOW FOR YOUR TOP 20!

bonnie babies



013

 Fergus Blair
 8 months
 Oban

014

 Hallie Gunn
 2 years
 Dunbeg

017

 Harley McMahon
 14 months
 Lochgilphead

023

 Seoras McNab
 6 months
 Oban

031

 Lily Macfadyen
 12 months
 Islay

062

 Freddie Dunn
 2 years
 Oban

065

 Harlow Davie Rae
 15 months
 Oban

067

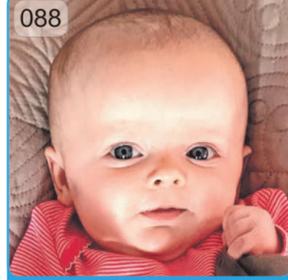
 Kaylyn Poppy Confield
 4 months
 Corpach

069

 Aaryn-John Barr
 7 months
 Fort William

087

 Lacey Masson
 2 years
 Oban

088

 Amelia Macmillan
 6 months
 Oban

090

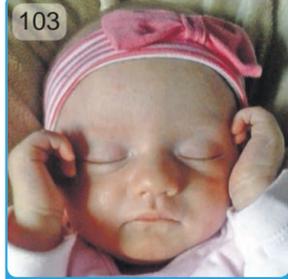
 Isla Grace Cameron
 14 months
 Inverlochty

091

 Olivia Fisher
 13 months
 Tobermory

093

 Eachann Brown
 2 years
 Oban

103

 Carla Louise Craik
 9 months
 Oban

104

 Finn Andrew Harkins
 19 months
 Fort William

105

 Cievah Baker
 16 months
 Islay

111

 Cole Collins
 14 months
 Portree

119

 Calleigh Kennedy
 22 months
 Fort William

120

 Ellie-Louise Gemmell
 16 months
 Connel

125

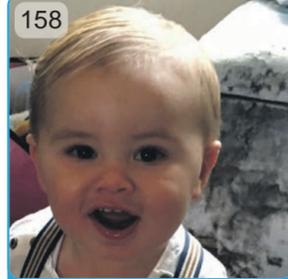
 Hope Cairns
 13 months
 Glencoe

149

 Donny Kerr
 2 years
 Oban

151

 Lyra Simone Black
 7 months
 Oban

158

 Ronnie Ewen MacDonald
 17 months
 Dunbeg

163

 Calum Alexander Brown
 2 years
 Tobermory

170

 Ruaridh Cameron
 6 months
 Ardrishaig

179

 Jessica Grieve-McCaffrey
 2 years
 Caol

182

 Kayla MacLean
 5 months
 Oban

184

 Naomi Allan
 12 months
 Fionnphort

191

 Callum Black
 10 months
 Oban

The winner will receive
£500
 of Tesco vouchers!

Every little helps

Congratulations to the babies and toddlers who made our top 30, as voted by the public. The winner will receive a whopping £500 of Tesco vouchers.
 Readers now have the difficult job of voting for the top 20 bonniest babies and toddlers. You can vote by simply completing the coupon provided on this page and sending it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. You may also hand in votes to our Fort William office, 22 High Street. Votes must be received by 9am on Monday, May 15, 2017. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We'll also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to all babies and toddlers!

Closing date for votes is 9am, Monday May 15, 2017

VOTING COUPON LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

I would like to vote for:
 Baby number*:
 Baby's name:

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.
 *Baby number must be supplied.
 This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.
Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.
You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.



Terms & conditions: The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 9am Monday, May 15, 2017. Please note that voting only applies to readers of the PRINTED VERSION of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times. You cannot vote online or through the digital edition for this competition. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.obantimes.co.uk/bonniebabies. Customer services: 01631 568000. Votes counted from each round are carried over.



HIGHLAND CALENDAR

Highland Games 2017

Glenfinnan Gathering & Highland Games

Annual games held in the shadow of the Glenfinnan Jacobite Monument.

Saturday 19 August 2017

Adults £7; children & concessions £3
Car parking free.



THROUGHOUT the land, dancers and pipers are rehearsing, athletes and heavy athletes are stepping up their training and Highland games committees are holding meeting after meeting to make sure that everything runs smoothly on their big day.

Highland games have a long and storied history in Scotland. They began as a way for kings and clan chiefs to select their entourage. The fastest runners were chosen to deliver orders or messages and rally the clans, while the strongest men became personal bodyguards. The hammer throw and the shot putt started as Highland sports, and are now part and parcel of the international sporting circuit. The best dancers and pipers were employed to entertain in the chief's household and compose tunes and dances that exalted the virtues and war victories of the clan.

When not at war, the clans would hold competitions between their athletes, dancers and pipers, who could garner great honours for the clan through their feats. Eventually, whenever there was any large gathering, horse fair or market, games might be held as part of the overall festivities.

After the 1745 Rebellion, Highland sport, dress and music were banned, but by the 1820s, games began to creep in once again. Under Queen Victoria, tartan made an official comeback and the modern Highland games began to evolve.

Highland games are now celebrated all over the world as those of Scots descent and those who just love the Scottish spirit take up the hammer and caber and proudly wear tartan. In fact, the biggest games in the world are held in Highland, North Carolina, in the United States.

But for the authentic experience, visitors won't want to miss true Highland games. Dancing, piping, track and field, and races are exciting to watch and hear. Participants can even join in, as many games feature foot races or other events for audience members.

Kenmore Highland Games
Kenmore Sports Field
5 July 2017
5.30pm - 9.30pm
Heavy Events, Track Events, Highland Dancing, Hill Race, Children's Races
Contact: Sarah Kelly
Tel: 01887 830281
or mobile
07754 497889

CAMPBELTOWN HIGHLAND GAMES 2017
Saturday 13th May 11am onwards
There will be lots of fun activities for the whole family to enjoy.
Entry fee: Adult: £5.00, Child: £3.00
If you wish to take part in any of the activities, please go to the secretary's tent. This will be free of charge.

Campbeltown Highland Games

Saturday May 13

Campbeltown Highland Games will be held May 13 on the hospital field at Limecraigs, making it easy for locals and transport to reach. There is a small admission fee, but it'll all be worth it to see local athletes doing the town proud. The fun kicks off at 11am with events including track and field, Highland dancing, heavy events, shot-putt, children's entertainments and, of course, the ever popular beer tent.

Helensburgh Highland Games

Saturday June 3

The Helensburgh Games are linked to the Colquhoun and MacAuley clans, whose chiefs alternate the duties of clan chieftain. Traditional competitions such as the dancing and athletics are on show, with the heavies events such as caber tossing attracting competitors from all around the UK. The spectators can even get in the act by competing in race events for old and young alike, with prize money in play. The Helensburgh games started in 1889 with the modern version kicking off in 2008. It's a highlight of the season for both locals and visitors, and in 2011 was featured on *The One Show*.

Lorne Highland Games

Sunday June 25

The fun-filled day is back again this year. Staged in Oban, at Mossfield Park, the games are locally known as The People's Games. The games have all the favourite elements of a good Scottish Highland Games including caber tossing, hammer throwing and tug-o-war - all the action you'd expect from a top event.

You can even take part in the track and field events or just relax and enjoy the Highland dancing competition or pipe band displays.

There will be afternoon teas, a licensed tent, various attractive stalls and even the dog show is back.

It is a family fun day out that everyone can enjoy.

Kenmore Highland Games

Wednesday July 5

The Kenmore Highland Games organised by the Kenmore and District Sports Association was started in 1972. Known locally as the 'friendly' games, it welcomes everyone who cares to join in with this small community in their annual event.

Held at the Kenmore Sports Field, events include Highland dancing, heavyweight events, piping competitions, open foot races and Throwing the Tirinie Stone - an almost spherical stone found on Tirinie Farm, Kenmore weighing 101lbs.

Inveraray Highland Games

Tuesday July 18

Inveraray Highland Games will be hosted this year on July 18. This is one of the big ones, held in the shadow of Inveraray Castle at Winterton Park. It features the world caber tossing championship so expect to hear accents from all over the world.

His Grace the Duke of Argyll leads the parade to the games field through the Royal Burgh with Inveraray and District Pipe Band playing. There is also cycling and wrestling included on the packed programme. There's so much going on and the events begin at 9am.

Mull Highland Games

Thursday July 20

Erray Park, Tobermory, has the Sound of Mull and the hills of Ardnamurchan as its backdrop making it a perfect place to hold Highland games. Events held include heavyweights, light field events and Highland dancing.

The park is also a great place to begin - and end - a hill race with the pipe band playing and spectators cheering the runners home. Mull games always has a great atmosphere and that extends to the trip there are back on the ferry. Make sure you get your tickets booked in advance as the boats are always packed on games day.

Taynuilt

Saturday July 22

Who is going to make it to the top of the greasy pole and who is going to break the record for throwing the Nant stone?

Taynuilt Highland Games will be held this year on July 22, hosting a variety of different events include piping, field, dancing and track. Taynuilt has a reputation for being a friendly games, attracting many foreign tourists. The organisers always encourage people to join in the competitions. The piping contest always attracts some of the best. The games begin at 11am and the march to the games field is led by Oban Pipe Band.

Cowal 2017
Don't miss the most spectacular, Highland Games in the WORLD!

Fantastic Family Fun
Dunoon, 24th - 26th August, 2017

Gig at the Gathering, Friday 25th August, 7pm.
Tickets on sale but hurry!

www.cowalgathering.com

"The Friendly Games"
Helensburgh & Lomond Highland Games
Saturday 3rd June 2017

Rugby Grounds, Rhu Road Higher, Helensburgh G84 8JZ - 10:00am
Novice Heavyweights & Highland Dancing - 12 Noon
Opening Parade & Ceremony by Games Chieftain
Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss, Bt & Hector MacAulay Chief of Clan MacAulay - 12:30 pm

Open Heavyweights, Senior and Youth Foot Races, Highland Dancing, Scottish Wrestling, Hill Race included are - Scottish 22lb Shot Put, British 90m and Scottish 200m foot races.

Over £7000 prize money Many family attractions,
Trade / food stalls - Beer tent
Free shuttle bus service from Pier car park to Games

SOUTHEND HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 22nd July 2017
5.30pm for 6.00pm
Southend Playing Field
Under 16 half mile race.
Voucher Prizes!

Come and enjoy - Highland Dancing demonstrations, Piping, Junior and Senior sports with all the traditional track and field events. Full Kintyre Schools Pipe Band. Beat the goalie. Kite Making and Balloon Tying. Other Novelty Events.
Licensed bar for over 18's with separate soft drinks bar.
Burgers, ice-cream etc available on field.

NOVELTY EVENT - TOSsing THE TYRE (open to all competitors over 16)
There is room for more stalls on the field. Please contact John Galbraith on 830235 or email polliwilline@btconnect.com

ALL COMPETITORS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE OWN INSURANCE.

GAMES 2017



Southend Highland Games

Saturday July 22

There are bigger Highland games with larger crowds but is there another Highland games where people have this much fun or visitors are made to feel so welcome? The tiny village of Southend, down on the tip of the Kintyre peninsula, holds its games in the afternoon into the evening. There are all the traditional field events, piping and dancing and their own tossing the tyre competition. Southend always places an emphasis on children's events and the result is a wonderful family-friendly event with two bars, one with a drinks licence for the over-18s and a separate soft drinks bar.

Skye Highland Games 2017

Wednesday August 9

The games are one of the highlights of the Skye calendar. They are enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year as well as the local population who come from all corners of the island, and beyond, to witness or to participate in this authentic expression of Highland tradition and culture. Although the Skye Highland Games in their present form were inaugurated in 1877, the tradition which they represent goes back hundreds of years before. The origins lie in clan celebrations that included fiercely-contested feats of strength and endurance, together with piping and other forms of entertainment similar to those that can be enjoyed at the games today. A day at the Skye Highland Games is guaranteed to live long in your memory.

Bute Highland Games

Saturday August 19

What better way to start your day at a Highland games than with a trip 'doon the watter' to Rothesay? Bute shows just how games move with the times: today's runners hoping to catch the eye of a chieftain have a 10k road race. Bute always has a reputation for a good turn-out of bands and drum majors. This year's chieftain is Mark Strudwick, prior of the Order of St John Scotland and chairman of the Trustees of the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle.

Glenfinnan Gathering

Saturday August 19

Understood to be the site where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745, join in the games at the annual Glenfinnan Gathering. The march from the Glenfinnan monument to the games field is a traditional start to the afternoon's events at 12.30pm. A full programme of piping, dancing and athletic field events takes place over the course of the afternoon for all ages including the infamous hill race. As well as being able to watch all the events in the main ring, visitors can browse a variety of stall holders offering refreshments, local food and traditional crafts.

Argyllshire Gathering Oban Games

Thursday August 24

The Argyllshire Gathering (Oban games) is one of the grandest Highland games held in Scotland. Held August 24, the event includes some of the biggest dancing, track, field and piping competitions around. The gathering also plays host to one of the world's top piping events; if you've won the gold or silver medal here then you are among piping's elite. These competitions take place over two days during the Oban games week at various venues around the town. The march to the games field has a pipe band made up of the competitors. The Oban ball is traditionally held during games week.

Cowal Highland Gathering

Thursday August 24-26

Welcoming more than 23,000 people each year to one of Scotland's premier cultural events, Cowal Highland Gathering showcases Scotland's great traditions and sports such as pipe band competitions and heavy athletics as well as playing home to the World Highland Dancing Championships. These games are renowned for their unique atmosphere, world-class competitors, a beautiful Highland location and spine-tingling salute to the chieftain. This year will see the event continue to build on the range of family entertainment. In addition to traditional Highland athletics, dance and piping, the gathering offers a full slate of events for a fantastic family day out.

Have you ever wondered why most of the Highland games in Argyll are held in the last two weeks of July? It is so that they coincide with the Glasgow Fair. So many people left to seek work in the big city, and the only time they could make what was a long and expensive journey home was during the annual holiday.

TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES Saturday 22nd July 2017 from 11am

1pm march from Taynuilt Hotel to the sports field led by Oban Pipe Band
Highland Dancing, Piping, Heavy Events, Athletics and Junior events, Hill Race

**THE LORNE
HIGHLAND
GAMES**
MOSSFIELD PARK, OBAN

Sunday 25th June from 11am
Heavy events, track and field, Highland Dancing, Piping, Dog Show, Craft & Produce Tent, fun events and much more.

CASH PRIZES

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GAMES

ADMISSION:
Adults £6 - Child £3 - Family £16
www.lorne-highland-games.org.uk

140th YEAR
**THE ISLE OF SKYE
HIGHLAND GAMES**
Wednesday 9th August 2017
@ The Lump, Portree
Admission: Adults £10 / Children £4
Piping Competitions
Begin Tuesday 8th August 2017
Sailing / Rowing Competitions
Admirals Cup Tuesday 8th August 2017
Rowing Races Wednesday 9th August 2017
(All sailing is weather permitting)
www.skye-highland-games.co.uk

70th Anniversary
**Bute
HIGHLAND GAMES**

Saturday 19th August 2017
Public Stadium • Rothesay • Isle of Bute

Pipe Bands & Drum Majors
Highland Dancing • Heavy Events
Athletic Events • Wrestling
10k Road Race • Junior Shinty

A Great Day Out

www.butehighlandgames.org
info@butehighlandgames.org

**Inveraray
Highland Games**
Winterton Park, Castle Grounds
Tuesday 18th July 2017
Local and Open Events from 9.00 am

SOLO PIPING (Local and Open)
HIGHLAND DANCING (Local and Open)
HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS
(Local and Open)

incl. **WORLD CABER CHAMPIONSHIP
CYCLING, WRESTLING**

**INVERARAY & DISTRICT PIPE BAND
(Grade 1)**
will parade from Church Square to the Games Field led by His Grace The Duke of Argyll at 10.45am
Full Catering Facilities on Field
Trade Stands; Side Shows, Children's Entertainment

ADMISSION: Adults £8.00: Seniors £5.00
Children £3.00: Family Ticket £18.00

FREE PARKING
For further info – tel: 01499 302458
www.inveraray-games.co.uk

**Mull
Highland Games**
Thursday 20th July 2017 10.30am
Erray Park, Tobermory

- Solo Piping - Highland Dancing -
Heavy and Light Track
and Field Events
Scottish Light Field Jumps
Championship

A great day out for all the family
Refreshments available on the field.
Contact: Florence Kirsop
Tel: 01688 302001

The Argyllshire Gathering
OBAN GAMES

Mossfield Park, Oban. THURSDAY 24th AUGUST 2017
March to Games Field leaves Station Square at 10.30am

Oban High School Pipe Band 12pm from Station Square
**HIGHLAND DANCING – TRACK & FIELD EVENTS –
TRADITIONAL HEAVY EVENTS – PIPING**
Tug O' War – Fun Races – Heritage Tent
Trade Stands & Food Stands

**PREMIER PIPING COMPETITIONS AT VENUES ACROSS OBAN
WEDNESDAY 23RD AUGUST 2017**
PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal
MacGregor Memorial Competition Senior Piobaireachd
LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (Former Winners)

Admission £12 Child (under 14) £6
Family Ticket £30
Tickets available at park & Oban Tourist Centre

FARMING NEWS

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Is it now time to name and shame farmers over BVD?

Given the huge commitment Scottish farmers are making to eradicate BVD, NFU Scotland vice-president GARY MITCHELL asks if it is time to name and shame those who risk Scotland's disease-free plans.

LAST week, I met a Scottish Government official who was gathering evidence on my own experience in tackling Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) on my farm which involved identifying any persistently infected animals (PIs).

I took the decision to start tissue tagging more than three years ago as it is the only way to get the BVD status of every cow. In year one we had five or six positive animals. In year two we had four or five positives and in year three we had two or three positive animals. If we remain clear until August, then we will be one full year free of the disease.

The question is: what will I do next? I can stop tissue tagging and move to blood tests on groups of young stock. However, I am reluctant to do this in the short term so I will continue to tag at least until January then review it. I want to be sure that every cow in the herd has had a live calf which has been tissue tagged in this time.

I wish others were as committed.

I was shocked when it was revealed to me that, in Scotland,



Gary Mitchell believes some farmers are not doing enough to eradicate BVD.

there are 382 known PI animals. Worryingly, 140 holdings have two or more and even more shocking is the fact that one holding has 24.

Do these farmers understand this disease? What on earth do their neighbours think?

I am a very simple person and this how BVD was explained to me many years ago. When the calf is being formed in the womb, there is a stage when the immune system must decide what is a good thing for the body and what is bad. If a cow

is exposed to the BVD virus during this period, the cow will transmit it to the womb and the immune system will then take it as a good thing.

I have experienced this through my previous life as a calf rearer, buying and rearing 1,000 calves from up to 30 farms per year.

If the average farm had one PI, I could have had a pen of 20 calves with two PIs. These calves would always take pneumonia first then spread it, the same with scour, but I had no

way of knowing exactly which calves they were. And we all know that even good colostrum management will not change immune status of a PI calf.

That prompts me to ask the question of fellow farmers: if you have a PI, why are you keeping it?

If you are unwilling to remove these animals, then, as an industry, we need all farmers to know just where these PIs are, because they are putting a lot of good work at risk.

Using ScotEID, you can check

the status of neighbouring CPH holding numbers or of an individual animal. You can look up the status of any CPH by going to scoteid.com and click on 'BVD lookup', entering a CPH number will tell you if that holding is negative, not-negative or positive (has a live PI on the holding). It will also tell you the date of the last test on that holding.

I would urge everyone to seek out information on the risks before turning out their breeding stock or sending breeding cattle away for summer grazing.

Vets can also access PI information on behalf of their clients and more joined up work between vets may help farmers with a proper BVD risk assessment before moving cattle to grass lots.

But is there a case for making that information on PIs more publicly available to farmers?

While there may be a significant number of PI animals yet to be identified through our statutory testing requirements, the time, money and effort put in to tackling BVD risks being done by those who fail to get rid of known PI animals.

If Scotland wants to demand a premium on the food we produce, we must always be a step ahead of our competitors.

BVD eradication would be a big win-win for the health and efficiency of our cattle sector but it needs the full commitment of all producers.

Co-op meat pledge is welcomed

THE National Farmers' Union in Scotland has welcomed an announcement last week that all fresh meat sold in Co-operative stores will be British.

NFU food chain policy manager Lindsey Macdonald said: 'This commitment by the Co-op to exclusively stock British fresh meat across an extensive product range is good news for farmers and consumers alike.'

'For a major retailer to deliver 100 per cent British beef, lamb, pork, bacon, ham, chicken, turkey and duck to its customers sends a clear message to other supermarkets on what is achievable when it comes to genuinely supporting the nation's farmers and crofters.'

'For that commitment to also extend into its own-label range of processed foods like pies and sausages is an unparalleled level of support. We are keen to discuss with the Co-op what scope there is for building the Scottish offering within its stores. Last year saw the Co-op launch a Scottish premium bacon range.'

'We look forward to taking this forward when we meet the Co-op at the Highland Show next month.'

Union calls for stability as milk prices falter

NFU Scotland has called for milk buyers to deliver stability to Scottish dairy farmers as farmgate prices come under pressure.

Market signals around commodity prices, production at world and EU levels and global dairy auction, results are all positive and the union is keen that milk buyers give a strong sign to their suppliers that any price cuts now should only be temporary.

This week saw farmer-owned business First Milk reduce prices to its members by between 0.1p and 0.35p per litre – the company's first price cut since last summer.

NFU Scotland's milk policy manager George Jamieson said: 'The dairy market is very finely balanced, with global and regional milk buyers waiting to see how supply and demand balance out going forward.'

'All parts of the dairy chain are watching the market but, given the very serious dent in producers' cash flow, net worth and confidence suffered over the past two years, the response of processors and retailers now is crucial.'

'Strong signals and a clear commitment to deliver a fairer share of the rewards from dairy markets are what is needed. Butter and cream prices remain strong and the cheese trade is only marginally down. High stocks of powder are affecting skimmed milk prices but across the board there are few drivers for drastic price change.'

'While the market has weakened slightly in recent months, dairy futures and the global dairy auction – up 3.5 percent this week – are all suggesting that milk values should at least hold.'

'That optimism is underpinned by solid forecasts for dairy products, including an expected increase in demand from China, and question marks over supply in some major milk regions.'

'The recognised UK dairy market indicators – Actual Milk Price Equivalent (AMPE) and Milk for Cheese Equivalent (MCVE) – have dropped but only marginally. That is encouraging for this time of year as we approach peak production. With AMPE sitting at 27.7p per litre

(-0.1ppl) and MCVE at 31.8p per litre (-0.35ppl), farmgate prices should be around 27.5p per litre depending on the end use for that farmers' milk.'

'First Milk's announcement that it is to reduce its milk prices to members reflects the markets it is in and its board's policy to pay a price that is based on returns month on month. After a very difficult time, when First Milk's prices lagged well behind competitors, much needed progress had raised members' prices to a more competitive level.'

'First Milk's recovery, rationalisation and streamlining has been achieved to a large extent by the poor prices that its farming members have had to withstand over a prolonged period.'

'We know that the new CEO at First Milk, Shelagh Hancock, is keen to add more value where possible. This will be important if members' prices are to aspire to higher levels relative to competitors. NFUS has met with Shelagh and will meet again shortly to discuss how we can work together for the benefit of Scottish First Milk members.'

Farmers are reminded of deadlines

WITH less than a week left to complete 2017 Single Application Forms (SAF), NFU Scotland is encouraging crofters and farmers to prioritise filling out their forms before the May 15 deadline.

And for those looking to meet the greening requirements, the union is reminding them to include the maps of their Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) with the application or risk significant disallowances.

NFU Scotland's Peter Loggie said: 'We can't stress enough to those applying for greening the importance of including a map of your EFA with the application. That map is considered a supporting document which must also be submitted by the May 15 deadline.'

'If the EFA map is missing, the result can be a total loss of the whole greening element.'

'In addition, from this year, a penalty on top of that can be applied, even if all EFA rules have been complied with fully on the ground.'

'We urge all applicants to take this seriously. NFUS is aware of one member who may yet lose out on a significant part of their 2016 support claim because of their failure to supply EFA maps appropriately last year.'

Around the markets

DALMALLY – United Auctions on Saturday May 6 held its annual May sale at Dalmally Auction Mart.

A catalogued entry of 447 cattle and 238 sheep sold to a packed ring of buyers from throughout the country. Bullocks sold to average £825.10 per head or 271.62 pence per kilo against £802.77 or 250.93 pence per kilo at the corresponding sale last year. Heifers sold to average £757.16 per head or 252.02 pence per kilo against £689.08 per head or 229.31 pence per kilo last year. Bullocks sold £1,070 per head from Achnacreebeag and 329.3 per kilo from Knockderry. Heifers sold to £990 from Craig Farm while Kiltvaree led the kilo prices in this section at 342.9 pence. Breeding cattle from Balantyre sold to £1070.

Blackface hoggets from Woodside Croft, Mull sold to £70. Ewes with lamb at foot sold to £74 from Alavahl. Principal lots and prices.

Top prices per head.
Bullocks:
AAx: £930 (4) and £810 (2) – Ardnacross, Mull: £890 (2) and £850 – Ardachy: £850 (2) and £800 (2) – Barnakill.
Blondex: £910 – Ardmaleish.
Charx: £1,040 and £900 (3) – Barnakill: £940 (8) – Auchlyne: £910 (5) and £890 (7) – Ardmaleish: £860 (3) – Tom A Bhioran.
Limx: £1070 (2) – Achnacreebeag: £1,050 (3) – Croftintygan: £1050, £900 and £880 (2) – Ardachy: £1,010 (6), £1,000 (6) and £930 (8) – Tiraghoil: £1,000 – Duallin: £950 – Auchgoyle: £910 – Craignafeoch: £880 (2) – Barbreck: £870 (2) – Ardtraive.
Shx: £860 and £800 (4) – Barnakill: £800 – Cruachan.
Simx: £1,000, £920 – Tiraghoil: £930 (3), £880 (6) – Keilator: £880 – Ardnacross: £880 (3) – Craig Farm: £860 – Ardmaleish: £860 (5) – Ellary: £860 – Tom A Bhioran.

Heifers:
AAx: £720 (2) – Ardnacross.
Charx: £910 (9) – Auchlyne: £890 and £820 – Tiraghoil: £840 (2) – Barnakill.
Limx: £990 and £850 – Craig Farm: £920 – 14 West Gerinish, Uist: £920, £880 (10) and £860 (4) – Tiraghoil: £920 (5) and £890 (3) – Croftintygan: £880 (2) – Ardmaleish: £850 – Craignafeoch.
Linx: £900 (2) – Sthean, Mull:
Simx: £930 and £840 – Keilator: £800 (2) – Dunans: £790 (2) – Tiraghoil: £790 – Duallin.

Top prices per kilo.
Bullocks:
AAx: 298.4 and 262.3 – Barnakill: 285.2 and 260.5 – Ardnacross: 260.7 – Ardachy.
Shx: 329.3, 319.2 – Knockderry.
Blondex: 285.3 – Ardmaleish:
Charx: 307.7, 287.5, 274.7 and 262.3 – Barnakill: 300.4 and 261.1 – Tullochmor: 285.3, 282.5 – Ardmaleish:
Limx: 326, 324.7, 295 and 282 – Barbreck: 311.4 – No10 Eoligarry, Barra: 309.2 and 308.5 – No2 Kiel Crofts: 307.3 and 285.7 – Kiltvaree: 307.1, 293.6 and 281.3 – Aird Farm: 304.5, 303.5 and 296.1 – Ardachy: 294.1 – Innisaig: 293.1 – Ellary.
Luinx: 329.3 – Knockderry:
Shx: 313.4, 298.4, and 274.7 – Barnakill: 280.2 – Ardnacross: 274.1 – Ellary.
Simx: 324.1 and 299.1 – Aird: 319.2 – Knockderry: 309.5, 297.3 and 284 – Ardnacross: 309.2 and 282.2 – Tiraghoil: 288.1 – Inverfolla: 286.2 – Keilator: 280.3 – Ellary.

Heifers:
AAx: 252.6 – Ardnacross:
Charx: 278, 277.2 and 259 – Ardmaleish: 270.5 and 261.7 – Barnakill: 253.6 – Tullochmor.
Limx: 304.2, 289.8 and 271.1 – Barbreck: 302.3 and 278.9 – Aird: 290 and 282.8 – No10 Eoligarry: 279.2
Innisaig: 274.8 – Achnacreebeag: 273 – Auchgoyle:
Linx: 262.4 – Sthean.
Simx: 342.9 and 313.3 – Kiltvaree: 331.3 and 303.9 – Knockderry: 289 – Blarghour: 289 and 287.1 – Ardnacross: 286 and 275.4 – Keilator: 278.9 – Aird Farm: 268.3 – Blairmore.

TREE – United Auctions on Wednesday May 3 held its second spring sale of all classes' cattle and sheep at Tree Auction Mart. A sound trade prevailed throughout in all sections. Bullocks sold to average 236 pence per kilo and to 296 pence per kilo for Simmental crosses from 2 Heilipol while heifers sold to average 239 pence per kilo selling to a top 284 pence per kilo for Shorthorn Cross from Grishipol, Coll. Hoggs from Heilipol Farm sold to £90 and the same home led the Cast Ewe and Ram prices at £93 and £100 respectively.

Principal lots and prices.
Top prices per head.
Bullocks:
Limx: £940 – 44 Linique: £900 – 9 Milton: £900 – 20 West Gerinish: £870 – 44 Linique: £860 (2) – 261 Daliburgh: £860 & £850 – 20 West Gerinish.
Shx: £520 – 20 Balivanich.
Simx: £770 (2) – 1 Drimisdale.

Heifers:
Limx: £820 – 76 Ardnamomie: £810 – 9 Milton: £760 – 20 West Gerinish: £740 – 76 Ardnamomie.
Shx: £700 – 20 Balivanich.

Farrow cows:
AAx: £950 – 11 Eoligarry BRBx: £880 – 136 Stiligarry.
Limx: £1080 – 348 North Boisdale: £950 – 1 Ormiclate: £900 and £870 – 261 Daliburgh: £830 and £810 – 7 Eoligarry.

Simx: £1010 and £980 – 3 Milton: £980 – 261 Daliburgh: £910 – 136 Stiligarry.
Shx: £950 – Mill Croft, Mingarry.
Top prices per kilo.

Bullocks:
Limx: 281p and 265p(2) – 261 Daliburgh: 254p – 20 West Gerinish: 250p – 9 Milton: 249p – 44 Linique: 248p and 247p – 261 Daliburgh: 246p – 20 West Gerinish: 244p – 44 Linique: 243p – 20 West Gerinish.
Simx: 272p(2) – 1 Drimisdale.

Heifers:
Limx: 276p – 20 West Gerinish: 255p – 76 Ardnamomie: 245p – 20 West Gerinish: 245p – 9 Milton: 241p – 76 Ardnamomie.
Farrow cows:
Limx: 137p – 7 Eoligarry: 136p – 261 Daliburgh: 134p – 7 Eoligarry: 133p – 348 North Boisdale: 128p – 1 Ormiclate: 124p – 261 Daliburgh.
Brbx: 135p – 136 Stiligarry.
Simx: 146p – 136 Stiligarry: 134p – 3 Milton: 125p – 261 Daliburgh: 122p – 3 Milton.

Hydro Projects

A private investment company would like to acquire Hydro schemes, in an operational state and hydro projects that have achieved planning permission, and are ready to be built. We will also look at grid constrained projects for future development. Please include as much information as possible, all information will be treated in strict confidence.

Please contact PO BOX 28 Oban Times, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

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House Price Index Scotland

Under embargo until 00:01
Friday 17th March 2017

JAN 2017 | Average House Price in Scotland | **£171,407**

AVERAGE MONTHLY CHANGE: **0.1%**
AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE: **1.5%**

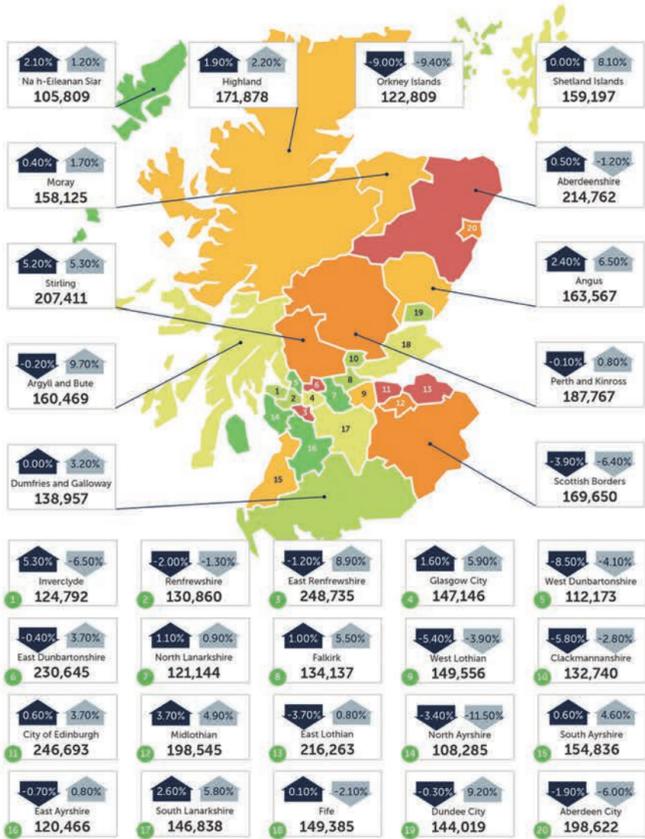
Scottish house prices inching higher

- Prices edge up 0.1% in January and grow 1.5% annually
- New peak in Angus as prices grow 2.4% over the month
- Higher value properties and first time buyers drive transactions and prices
- Six months on, no sign of a Brexit effect

Regional update

Average House Prices in Scotland, by local authority area, comparing January 2016 and December 2016 with January 2017.

▲ AVERAGE MONTHLY CHANGE ▲ AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE



For more information please contact: Sophie Placido, Rostrum Agency (020 7440 8678), Melanie Cowell, LSL Property Services (01904 698860), Richard Sumner, Acadata (020 8392 9082).
For downloads see: <https://www.your-move.co.uk/media-centre>
For full report and methodology see: <http://www.acadata.co.uk/acadataHousePrices.php>

Key Insights

Annual house price inflation in Scotland trails every region in Great Britain, other than the North East. At 1.5%, it's less than half the 3.9% across England and Wales as a whole.

In contrast to England and Wales, however, it's the most expensive property making the running. Eight of the 10 most expensive local authority areas in Scotland, saw increases in prices over the last 12 months. East Renfrewshire, the most expensive area in Scotland, has seen average prices grow 8.9% in the last year to £248,735.

By contrast, more than half the cheapest 10 local authorities have prices lower than they were 12 months ago, with the biggest drop in values over the year in North Ayrshire, down 11.5%. It's now the cheapest area other than Na h-Eileanan Siar. Even Inverclyde, which saw a 5.3% monthly increase in prices in January (helped by its second highest value house sales in the last year), experienced a 6.5% drop in prices over the year. High value sales - in this case two on the Isle of Eriska at over £1 million - are also responsible for the 9.7% increase in annual prices in Argyll and Bute, the biggest increase in the last 12 months. Such sales, though relatively rare (with just 443 sales over £750,00 in the whole of 2016), weigh heavily in parts of the market where transaction activity is limited.

Angus experienced price increases (up 2.4% over the month) with good quality properties in Montrose and Hillside being particularly popular. This can be attributed to the Aberdeenshire market drop over recent years which resulted in more properties coming to the market in Angus as additional sully has counter-acted the slight drop in demand. Buyers also moved south from Aberdeenshire for more affordable housing.

However, Buy to Let investment reduced in Angus in January due to the increased costs and changes in legislation. Ex-council houses in the area are still popular with first time buyers, which allowed sellers of these properties to upsize.

Overall, the primary characteristic of the Scottish market is resilience. The modest increase in January is in line with the annual trend and there's been no noticeable slowdown since the Brexit vote.

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Please call Eddy on 01546 850223 for further detail

Argyll. Otter Ferry.
Traditional 3 bed house on Loch Fyne.
Large garden and attached old post office shop.
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FOR SALE

Guide Price £200,000

GLENCRUITTEN ROAD, OBAN

- Detached House
- 4 Bedroom/2 Bathroom
- Easy walking distance to the town
- Off road parking
- Large Conservatory
- EPC - F33

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MORE FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS ARE GETTING ON THE PROPERTY LADDER



According to a new report from residential chartered surveyors e.surv, the number of first time home buyers in the UK rose for the third consecutive month this year. First time home buyers are now making up more than 21 per cent of the mortgage market, a rise from 16 per cent last year. It seems that newcomers are finding it easier to get on the property ladder and are putting down smaller deposit, at a time when the overall mortgage market has shrunk to some extent. Richard Sexton, director of e.surv said: 'Small deposit buyers, who are often first time buyers, have seen their share of the market grow despite the overall market shrinking between February and March. This is a trend which started at

the end of last year and has continued into 2017, likely buoyed by the number of government schemes and low mortgage rates.'

'A more first time buyer oriented market is good news for all, as new buyers help start chains and allow others to move up the housing ladder, which is vital for a properly functioning property market,' he added.

If you are a currently renting a property but have been thinking of buying your first home, we can help you get on the property ladder. We are seeing increasing numbers of first time buyers in the market in Argyll; the mortgage market is helping with better products for first time buyers and it is great seeing young couples getting on the property ladder! Call our sales team today to discuss your requirements and let us help you find your perfect first home!

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE & TO LET

BATTERY TERRACE, OBAN

- Modern Flat
- 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom
- Great Location
- Ideal Investment Opportunity
- EPC Rating - D56

OIEO £95,000
A bright ONE BEDROOM top floor FLAT located close to OBAN TOWN CENTRE with SEA VIEWS. 4F Ardcornell Terrace - A bright one bedroom, top floor flat only a five minute walk from Oban's bustling town centre. The property has been well maintained by the current owner with neutral colour scheme and modern fixtures and fittings throughout.

DORLINN VIEW, TOBERMORY

- 2 bedroom
- Shower
- Fitted Kitchen
- Landlord Registration
- 33063/130/1030
- AVAILABLE MID JUNE

£490 PCM
Charming 2 bedroom semi-furnished chalet, comprising of 2 double bedrooms, Shower room, combined fitted kitchen and living room. Storage is provided by 2 large storage cupboards in the lounge and built in wardrobes in both bedrooms. Rent excludes Utilities & Council Tax (Band C). Electric Heating. Deposit & References required.

PLOTS AT SCALLASTLE, CRAIGNURE

- 3 Exceptional serviced plots
- Close to Craignure
- Stunning panoramic views
- Ranging from 0.5 to 1.1 acres
- Services on site
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OIEO £90,000
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£300 PCM
SINGLE STUDIO FLAT - A single studio flat in Tobermory town centre. Accommodation is furnished and comprises of living area with fold down metal frame bed and mattress, kitchen area and shower room. Electric heating with key meter. Double glazing throughout. References and deposits required. DSS accepted. Rent excludes council tax (Band A) & Utilities.

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- Detached farmhouse
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- Fitted Kitchen
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£600 PCM
This large 3 bedroom top floor flat located close to Oban town centre offers spacious accommodation with large windows and high ceilings. The property comprises of 2 double bedrooms, 1 single Bedroom, family bathroom, large lounge & kitchen with dining area. Rent excludes council tax (Band C) & utilities. Deposit & references required.

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- Unfurnished
- Central Location
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FORD MAKES IT TWO IN A ROW AT 2017 SGMW KARTING SHOWDOWN

Ford is gaining a firm grip on the coveted trophy for the Southern Group of Motoring Writers' (SGMW) annual Karting Grand Prix.

For the second year running, the blue oval team took first place and 'did the double' with its ace wheelman Jake Cassetta again taking the fastest driver title, while the GP also yielded another record total for charity: £4,815 donated to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT) this year and making it nearly £17,000 raised for charities since the inaugural event in 2104.

Despite being the first team to retain the GP trophy, Ford's victory was not entirely nerveless, as it also collected the most black flag penalties on the night, yet still managed to see off all comers.

Team member and press officer (corporate affairs) Maisie Goldney could barely contain her delight (see the video at <http://www.sgmw.org.uk/video-highlights-from-sgmwkarting-2017>).

She said: 'There was a lot of pressure to come back and take the gold again, and I'm delighted that we've won it. It was a really, really tough race, but it's been so much fun.'

There was a familiar look to Ford's closest challengers though: the Audi team came second to continue a proud record of securing a podium place every time it has entered, while third-placed FIAT, this time partnered with Alfa Romeo, has also notched three podium finishes, including first at the inaugural GP.

Alex Fisk, Audi's digital press officer, spoke for his team afterwards: 'Thank you very much to the SGMW for a fantastic evening. Always a really good night and it's great to see the amount of money that goes to charity.'

SGMW chairman Ian Robertson said afterwards: 'Nobody can disagree that the GP just gets better and better: even more cut and thrust action and yet more support from our PR colleagues in the motor industry, which has enabled us to raise another potentially life-saving sum for a favoured charity.'

'We have donated to air ambulances since we started the event, the brainchild of SGMW members Kevin Haggarty and Massimo Pini and then brilliantly executed by Chris Rees - my immediate predecessor as SGMW chairman.'

'The GP was only intended as a one-off, but it returned by popular demand and is a firm fixture in our calendar.'

'We now have a well-oiled team running it - though there's no drinking on the night! And we continue to build the event too, adding video to the

proceedings as an experiment and extra fun this year, courtesy of Group member Andy Russell.'

Perhaps the best praise of all came from those who weren't even racing or couldn't come along at all to the event.

PSA's press fleet supremo Craig Morrow drove down from Coventry to cheer on the Peugeot and Citroën teams. He said: 'I couldn't drive this year - I've done my back in - but why wouldn't I come anyway? It's just brilliant.'

Chloe Yemm, Renault press officer and team manager on the night for the Renault Nissan Alliance team, said: 'I'm not racing, but I just love it. It has a real buzz and it's a great chance to catch up with people. Fantastic.'

We were also joined by SGMW retired member Graham Fryer, who said: 'I wouldn't miss it - a great spectacle and chance to meet up with old friends.'

Youngest supporter on the night was toddler Ashleigh Hill-Smith, daughter of Toyota team member Theresa, there to cheer on mum and then, unexpectedly, dad Matthew.

Theresa explained: 'I was going to race, but hurt my back in the practice, so Matt - who is in the Toyota product team - stood in for me.' Little Ashleigh didn't seem to mind who she supported, especially when she got her hands on the GP trophy - briefly.

Having competed in 2016 for the first time, when PR chief Mike Orford lavished praise on the event, VW was unable to follow-up this year due to other commitments. Instead, the team took honours with a 'good luck' message plus handsome donation to the charity pot.

And DS Automobiles' head of communications, Kevin Jones - a stalwart of previous GPs - sent a message: 'Heartfelt apologies that I can't be with you on this occasion. Of course, my colleagues are with you from Peugeot and Citroën, and I hope you have another great night.'

The SGMW doesn't enter a team itself, because the GP is intended as a small 'thank you' to industry PR colleagues for the events they stage for group members.

But some members did volunteer for teams who were short of in-house racers: Tyler Ward (Honda), Phill filled a hole in the Renault-Nissan Pickering (BMW-

Porsche). For Tyler it was a very different event to last year when he helped the FIAT team come so close to victory. This year, he and Sean shared Honda's wooden spoon for gaining the second highest number of black flags (see our video).

So, the 2017 podium places were:

1st Ford: Jake Cassetta, John Palmer, Kristian Gilling, Maisie Goldney and Charlotte Ward - they received the SGMW GP trophy based on a splendid Moto-Lita leather-covered sports steering wheel, to be engraved (again) and held for the next year - can they do the hat trick?
2nd Audi: Alex Fisk, Marios Alexandrou, Nick Mitchell and Paul Grayson
3rd FIAT: Darren James, Chris Clubley, Nate Wright and Omid Dehghan
Fastest Lap winners:

1st: Jake Cassetta (Ford) 49.211 seconds
2nd: Rhys Jones (Honda) 49.544
3rd: Chris Clubley (FIAT-Alfa Romeo) 49.966

There was another prize too: a surprise birthday cake for Citroën Head of Communications John Handcock, who chose to attend and drive for his brand rather than celebrate at home. Apparently, it was a 'no brainer' for John: 'Why wouldn't I be here? We all look forward to it and we thank you guys for organising it.'

As usual though, the biggest winner on the night (Thursday 27 April) was the SGMW's charity beneficiary: for the second year running, it was the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT), a cause close to the hearts of all attending, with around half the body's lifesaving calls being to road accidents and missions typically costing £2,700. It receives no Government funding.

Tony Stone, an EHAAT paramedic and a racer on the night, said: 'This is just a brilliant event and, for the second year in a row, the Trust would like to thank you so much for a generous donation. We've also learned some new overtaking techniques from the Ford team...'

More than 80 drivers competed in a full grid of 20 teams at the all-action three-tier circuit at TeamSport, Crawley, with the event comprising a 150-minute endurance race, plus practice session and safety briefing beforehand.

This year's grid (in alphabetical order): Audi, BMW/MINI, Citroën, EHAAT, FIAT-Alfa Romeo, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Lexus, MINI, Mitsubishi, Newspress (also including Jade Wells and Darren Newman from the Subaru press office), Peugeot, Porsche, Renault-Nissan, Skoda, Suzuki, Toyota, Vauxhall, and Volvo.



SGMW karting 2017 - 1st placed Ford team



SGMW karting 2017 - 2nd placed Audi team



SGMW karting 2017 - 3rd placed FIAT-Alfa Romeo team

DRINK DRIVE CASUALTIES RISE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROAD SAFETY ACT



IT'S 50 years ago (May 10, 1967) that a blood alcohol limit for drivers was first introduced in the UK, yet government figures suggest drink drive casualties are on the rise.

Provisional statistics for 2015 (the latest data available) from the Department for Transport indicate that 1,380 people were killed or seriously injured in accidents where at least one driver was over the limit – up five per cent on the previous year.

There has also been a rise in drink drive casualties of all severities. The estimate for 2015 is 8,480 – a three per cent increase compared with 2014.

Police carried out more than half a million (520,219) roadside breath tests in 2015, with more than 60,000 drivers (one in eight of those tested) failing or refusing to take the test.

The Road Safety Act of 1967 set the maximum limit at 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood (0.35mg of alcohol per litre of breath). It became an offence for the first time to drive, attempt to drive or be in charge of a motor vehicle with a blood or breath alcohol concentration exceeding that limit.

The 80mg per 100ml limit was based on evidence that a road accident is more likely to happen at or above this level. But more

recent evidence shows that drivers are impaired below this limit.

With just 10mg per 100ml (one-eighth of the current English limit) you are 37 per cent more likely to be involved in a fatal road accident than when sober. At the lower Scottish limit of 50mg per 100ml of blood you are five times more likely and at the current English limit you are 13 times more likely to be in a fatal crash.

'It has now become socially unacceptable in most circles to drive whilst over the limit,' comments Hunter Abbott, adviser to the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety and managing director of self-test breathalyser firm AlcoSense Laboratories.

'Most people now know that if they go out drinking, they leave the car keys at home, but there's a wide misunderstanding about how long alcohol can stay in the system the morning after. Sleeping does not hit a reset button – you process alcohol at the same rate whether you're awake or asleep. The speed at which alcohol is eliminated varies considerably, influenced by factors such as size, health, metabolism and how much you have eaten.

'So it's easier than you think to unintentionally drink drive the next morning, or to drive

unaware that there is still enough alcohol in your system to dramatically increase your chances of being in a fatal road accident. The only way to know you're clear is either to abstain from alcohol completely or to use an accurate personal breathalyser, which gives detailed alcohol concentration readings.'

Richard Allsop, Emeritus Professor of Transport Studies at University College London, undertook the original statistical analysis that advised then Transport Minister Barbara Castle to determine the 80mg per 100ml limit.

He says: 'None of us knows whether we are one of the thousands of lives saved in Britain over the past 50 years, but as we rejoice for them, we should not forget those who are being killed by drink driving at levels below the outdated limit in England, Wales and Northern Ireland of 80mg/100m.'

The introduction of the police breathalyser in 1967 helped the percentage of road traffic accidents where alcohol had been a factor to drop from 25 per cent to 15 per cent in the first year.

Way back in 1872 it had become an offence to be drunk in charge of cattle, steam engines or carriages – the penalty being a fine up to 40 shillings (£2) or imprisonment with or without hard labour.

Ninety years later, the Road Traffic Act of 1962 made it an offence to drive if your 'ability to drive properly was for the time being impaired' – but no legal drink drive limit was set until 1967.

Prior to that, drink driving prosecutions had relied on subjective tests such as whether you could walk down a white line painted on the floor without wobbling or touch your nose with your eyes shut, along with other observations made by police surgeons and witness statements.

Following the passing of the Road Safety Act on May 10, 1967, the new drink driving law came into force on October 8 that year.

'There is no doubt that decades of government-funded education and enforcement have saved thousands of lives. But we currently have the highest drink drive limit in the developed world. Lowering that limit based on newer research could save many more lives,' concludes AlcoSense's Abbott.

LOCAL COMPANY CELEBRATES 40TH YEAR WITH TOYOTA

HELENSBURGH Motor Sales, which was formed in 1977, has just been presented with its 40-year award from Toyota.

The local company that employs 29 staff at its two sites in Helensburgh and has consistently topped the customer care league in Scotland was honoured to receive the long-service award.

The company represents the Toyota brand in Helensburgh, Dumbarton, Clydebank and rural Argyll.

In a ceremony at Toyota's national conference, the local dealer were presented with their award from Toyota president Paul Van der Burgh.

On collecting the award, Gary Mulvaney, managing director said:

'We have a great team, most of whom have been here for many years.

'That team are the reason our customers come back and recommend us to their friends and family.

'Last year was a special year for us. We collected our first European award for customer care, the Ichiban award; we finished as Scotland's number one Toyota dealer for customer care again – a position we have held for eight years; and in January we were ranked number one in the UK, out of nearly 200 dealers.



'We are very honoured to have represented the Toyota brand since the 1970s and

incredibly appreciative of the support we receive from the communities we serve.'

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

Closing date: Wednesday 17 May 2017

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Marine Husbandry Staff 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. If you are committed to developing our industry and are driven to put your strengths to work we would very much like to hear from you.

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

Closing date: Wednesday 24th May 2017



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For more information, please contact Allan MacDonald on 01546 605877 or email allan.macdonald2@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 26 May 2017

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on 7 June 2017



Lochgilphead

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An Application Form and Job Description / Person Specification can be obtained by emailing the Vicar General at FrRoddyJohnston@aol.com. Completed application forms should be returned by post to: Rev. Roderick Johnston VG, Our Holy Redeemer Church, 71 Kenneth Street, Stornoway, HS1 2DS.

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WE are looking for a new member of our team. Primary role will be turning hire equipment round and will involve work out side as well as internally on hire desk.

The person will have an eye for detail and be able to work alone at times.

You must have a driving licence and be able to tow.

We will require some knowledge of computer key board skills. Training will be given.

Send c v to mam@hireandsupplies.com

Vacancies: Personal Assistants for Independent Living Oban

To work directly for a disabled woman looking for assistance & care. Several posts available
For more info contact Becs Barker:
becsbarker@carrgomm.org or phone 07766925388

Becs works for Community Contacts providing a 'Helping Hand with Self-Directed Support.' Whilst Community Contacts is a Carr Gomm project, these vacancies are not with Carr Gomm but are to work directly for the person looking for support.

Cleaner Required in Glenfinnan

6 Days Per Week

4.30pm to 6.30pm

£8.20 Per Hour

Telephone: 01397 700457

Nursery Practitioner required for a well established Oban Nursery

with knowledge of the 3-5 curriculum

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced childcare professional to develop their role in an established and exciting nursery.

Nursery Apprentice required

We operate a well established apprenticeship scheme and are looking for someone to join our team.

We offer a competitive salary and holiday allowance, welcome applications from all sectors of the community and are an equal opportunity employer.

Contact Ann on 01631 567491 or manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our happy team.

All applicants subject to a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 check



MATERIALS LABORATORY TECHNICIANS/ APPRENTICE TECHNICIAN – WEST REGION, ARGYLL

We are currently seeking to recruit Materials Laboratory Technicians or apprentice technicians based at our West Area laboratory near Oban.

Materials Laboratory Technicians ideally will be candidates who have an interest in the Construction industry and laboratory testing. You will be trained to carry out physical and mechanical testing of; aggregates asphalt and concrete on construction sites, and within an accredited laboratory environment.

Experience in the Construction industry would be an advantage but not essential as training will be given.

The successful candidates will ideally have a minimum Highers, and/or National Certificate level qualifications. A valid UK driving license is essential. We offer a competitive salary, pension scheme and benefits associated with a progressive employer. All applicants must be able to demonstrate their right to work in the UK.

To apply, please forward your current CV to: recruit.northern@breedongroup.com

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HIJOBS
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HIJOBS



Estate Agent and Agency Administrator

Two full time positions have arisen in our Oban Office. We are seeking an Estate Agent and an Agency Administrator.

Although experience would be preferred, it is not essential as full training will be provided. Candidates should be familiar with the geographical area and have a passion for property, be highly motivated and have good communication skills, enthusiasm and be well organised.

A full driving licence and a car are essential. Salary will be commensurate with skills and experience.

Bell Ingram is an equal opportunity employer.

CVs should be sent to:
Carl Warden, Senior Associate,
Bell Ingram LLP, Durn,
Isla Road, Perth PH2 7HF
or carl.warden@bellingham.co.uk



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More photographs from the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival



The Rockfield sessions were popular with musicians. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Rockfield sessions_01



Sarah Fanet playing to a packed fringe event at Oban Chocolate Shop. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival



Piping tutor Angus MacColl gives a lesson at Oban High School on Sunday. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Feis at the Fling_01



Left, Sandy Orr improves her play thanks to fiddle tutor Bronwen Davies. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Feis at the Fling_02



Ceilidh's Homet, featuring Paula Mclean, Jamie McLafferty and Ryan McGlynn, played to Saturday night's Festival Ceilidh. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Festival Ceilidh_01



Left to right, Rab Woods and David Duncan entertained the Olive Garden on Saturday with traditional Scots and Irish music. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Olive Garden session_



Clarsach tutor Becky Hill teaches the next generation. 16_T18_H&I M&D Festival_Feis at the Fling_03

PUBLIC NOTICES

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Public Notice section, please call 01631 568000

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (INVERARAY) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2017

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A temporarily prohibiting traffic on That length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from its junction with Church Square, Inveraray in a northerly then north easterly direction along that part of the trunk road known as Main Street East and then in a north westerly direction along that part of the trunk road known as Front Street West to its junction with the entrance to Inveraray Castle, a distance of 310 metres or thereby. The Order, which is required to facilitate the Inveraray Jail Break Race, and to enable members of the public to watch this event, will be in operation from 1000 hours until 1200 hours on 14th May 2017. The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire service, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes or to acts done with the permission or upon the direction of a police constable in uniform. The prohibitions contained in the order will only be operational when the signage referred to in the order is in place.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route for traffic during the prohibition is not required. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291> For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

J J MORAN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

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
17/01525/PIP	Culdorag Cottage, Onich, Fort William		Erection of house
17/01976/LBC	Achara House, Duror, Appin		Erection of extension and internal alterations (Listed Building Consent)
17/02048/FUL	Sealasdair, Achosnich, Kilchoan, Acharacle		Proposed erection of dwelling house with access, parking and turning
17/02066/FUL	Land 35M West of 2 - 3 Nevis Square, North Road, Fort William		Erection of restaurant with drive through facility including car parking, potential for outdoor seating and associated works
17/02100/FUL	Glen Rowan Farm, Morar, Mallaig		Change of use to general purpose storage buildings

Time period for comments is 14 days, 17/01976/LBC is 21 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Argyll and 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
17/00914/LIB	Demolition of two storey service wing and internal alterations	Greystones Dalriach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5EQ	Oban Area Office
17/01019/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse and erection and replacement dwellinghouse	Isgair Ardentallen Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SF	Oban Area Office
17/01093/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 14/00253/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant and infiltration system)	Land North West Of Torran Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
17/00945/PP	Installation of awning (retrospective)	J Ogdens Seafood Bar Railway Pier Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
17/00962/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank.	Plot South East Of Slivheh No 5 Kilmaluig Kilmaluig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA67 6XB	Tiree Area Office
17/00974/PP	Erection of monastery, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land East Of Kilinian Church Torloisk Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
17/01029/MIN	Extension of sand aggregate extraction operations.	Land South East Of Torrsay Sandpit Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure
17/01036/PP	Installation of external wall insulation and re-rendering of the properties (part retrospective).	2, 3 And 4 An-Craigan Place Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA48 7UF	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
17/01058/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Plot 1 Land West Of Knockalla Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
17/01100/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank.	Plot 2 Land South Of Drimnin Kitchrenan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HF	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
17/00646/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Harbour House Milton Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
17/00915/PP	Demolition of two storey service wing, erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Greystones Dalriach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5EQ	Oban Area Office
17/01041/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/01113/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Land North Of An Taigh Sgoile Heilipol Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION

M McFarlane
116 Achana, Lismore & Appin
0.061 ha - Existing house site
79000

A P Byrne
1 Garvan, Ardgor
0.08 ha - To provide a site for a dwelling house
79079

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 8 June 2017 - Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, AS AMENDED
ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER OR MODIFICATION ORDER
PLANNING PERMISSION FOR ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE WITH ATTACHED GARAGE AT TIGH NA MARA, KILMELFORD, BY OBAN, ARGYLL AND BUTE PA34 4XD
REFERENCE NUMBER: 15/00538/PP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council have made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission.

The Council has been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.

Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to The Scottish Ministers, Planning and Architecture Division, Planning Decisions, 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ not later than 8th June 2017. If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 22nd June 2017 without being confirmed by The Scottish Ministers.

Date 11th May 2017.
Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

First Registration of a Croft

Martin John Hall has registered the croft Stronmilchan (Tombuie), Stronmilchan, Glenorchy & Innishail, on the crofting register held by The Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 13th January 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3842.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Annie Lawson has registered the croft Seaview, Drumclagh, Isle of Colonsay on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 07 Jan 2018. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C3887

Proposed assignment of a croft

Kenneth MacDonald is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 13c Lower Carnach, Lismore & Appin to Paul McFadrig of Tigh Na Hoige, Kentallen, Argyll PA38 4BY. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by (date 28 days from the date of publication of advert)

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

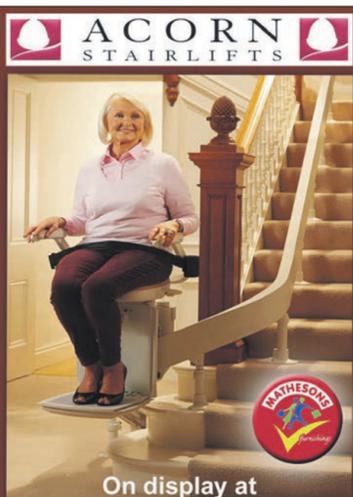
First Registration of a Croft

Linda MacLachlan has registered their croft Part 39 North Ballachullish, 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 January 28, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C4005

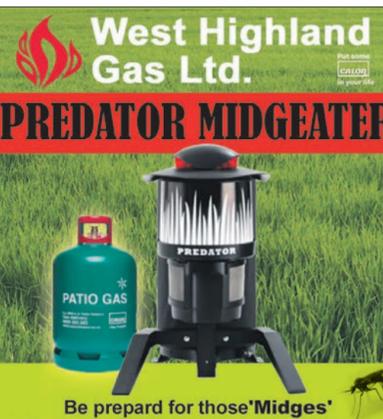
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SUPER KING BED One year old, super king divan base with 4 drawers underneath. In excellent condition, £150 Telephone 07528 300247

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LOST Small black zipped purse, has 2 hearing aids within. Lost in Oban on May 2nd. If found please telephone 01866 844220

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD 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, Glentworth and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or telephone 01371 851868.

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THANK YOU ALL

A big thank you for all the generous donations which were given at the end of the funeral service in memory of William MacPhee on 28th April in the Duncansburgh Church, Fort William.

Some £1,106.60 was kindly donated to Lupus UK and they will receive gift aid of £276.65 on top also which will be a big help for their valuable work.

Many thanks from Stephen, Donald and Julie-Anne plus Lupus UK.

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BIRTHS



CRAWFORD

Grant and Cristina are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son Callan George at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley on May 4, 2017. A wee brother for Caden, second grandchild for Jimmie and Lesley, Oban and ninth for Felix and Rosemarie Mendina, Philippines.

DEATHS

CONSTABLE - Molly Constable, aged 96, former resident of thirty seven happy years on Seil Island passed away peacefully at Bridge House Care Home in Frampton Cotterell, Bristol on Sunday April 30, 2017. Loving mother of Barbie, Judy and Hamish, grandmother to six grandchildren, and great-grandmother to nine children. The funeral service is at Westerleigh Crematorium in Bristol on Tuesday May 16 at 4.15pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Royal British Legion or Alzheimer's Society c/o F Woodruff Funeral Directors at Winterbourne.

CURRIE - Suddenly at home in Grianan Croft, Port Ellen, Islay, on Sunday May 7, 2017, John Archibald (Jurgen), aged 37 years, beloved son of Hughie and Violet née MacIntyre and much loved brother of Hughie, Allan, Robert, and Alastair, also dearly loved nephew, uncle, brother-in-law, and cousin. Sadly missed by all who knew him. Service in the Round Church Bowmore, followed by interment in Kilchoman Cemetery on Saturday May 13, 2017 at 11.30 a.m.

MACCUAIG - Jim (Pony Major) of A&SH died April 30, 2017, aged 77. Laid to rest in Kilnaughton, Port Ellen on Tuesday May 9.

ROBERTSON - Peacefully at Perth Royal Infirmary on Monday May 1, 2017, Elizabeth (Liz), aged 68 years, of Albert Lane, Oban, who fought to the very end. Beloved wife of Malcolm, much loved mum to Dawn. Memorial service in Oban Parish Church on Monday May 15, 2017 at 1.00 pm., to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HENDERSON - Sheila and the family of the late Bill Henderson, wish to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the overwhelming kindness and sympathy shown to them on their recent sad bereavement. Our heartfelt thanks also go to Bobby Corson for providing such care and attention for the funeral arrangements and his support as a friend, Rev Alan Lamb and Rev Father Stan who provided a lovely service and Rev and Mrs Lamb for giving such support to the family. Thank you to the Arisaig Games Committee and the West Highland Hotel for refreshments and beautiful food and to Ann Martin for the use of the Astley Hall. Most of all, thank you to everyone who was a friend to Bill over the years. A retiring collection of £1,110 was raised for the Land, Sea and Islands Centre.

MACLEAN - Morag, Norrie and family wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to all relatives and friends for kind expressions of sympathy and comfort following their sad loss of our dear Iain. Many thanks to the funeral director Billy McClymont and the Rev. Johnny Paton for their professional and sensitive service. Huge thanks to all of you who travelled a distance to pay your last respects. Special thanks also to all of you that helped to make Iain's service such a memorable day, Hector for his great playing of Gaelic airs, Burach Choir for their lovely singing. Ella, Alison and Marylyn for their kind words about Iain, Calum and Alexander for the beautiful pipe music. Also a sincere thank you to all the medics at Dublin Airport for their efforts, and to Ryan Air for their understanding and compassion. The generous sum of £1,132.00 was collected for Burach Choir and Tobermory High School pipers.

MCINTOSH - John, Margaret and Jackie would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all friends, relatives and neighbours for their kind and thoughtful messages of sympathy, cards, letters and flowers received following the sad loss of Susan and to all the doctors and nurses both in Fort William and Inverness who looked after her with such dedication and care during her illness. Special thanks also to Rev Morag Muirhead for her personal and comforting service. To John Lister, Peter MacFarlane and Dr Jim Douglas for their fitting tributes to Susan and to Mike McFall and staff for their kindness and professional handling of the arrangements and to Glen Nevis Restaurant for their excellent catering. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects in the church and at the graveside and very generously donated the sum of £1650 to be divided equally between Tweeddale Surgery, Macmillan Nurses and the Highland Hospice.

MEMORIAMS

BOWMAN - In loving memory of Ian, who passed away May 13, 2015. Always missed but treasured memories of years gone by, keeps him ever close to us all. - Mary and family, Biggar and Tobermory.

CLARK - In loving memory of my dear brother Tommy who died on May 4, 2009. Deep are the memories Precious they will stay No passing of time Shall take them away - Sister Mary Kilinian, Torloisk

GROUNDWATER - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and granny Marie, who passed away May 12, 2014. Loved and remembered always. - John and the family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of a darling son and brother Johnnie, died May 12, 2014 and also a dear husband and father Calum, 'Auch', died August 31, 1997. Your memory is our keepsake With which we'll never part God has you in his keeping We have you in our hearts. - Your loving mum, sister Marie and brother-in-law Calum, Killin and Roy Bridge.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Marilyn MacDonald, passed away May 10, 1998. To live in the hearts we leave behind. Is not to die. - Billy, Morven, William and Andrea.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our mum and gran Nan

MacKay, died May 10, 2012. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you're always there. - Violet, Hugh and families.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and granny Morag, who died May 14, 2002. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. They say it's a beautiful journey from the old world to the new Someday we'll make that journey which will lead us straight to you And when we reach that garden in which there is no pain We'll put our arms around you and never part again. - Donald and family, Tirez and Somerset

MACLEOD - In ever loving memory of my dearest son Donald Martin MacLeod. We grieve for the things that will not be For the days with you we'll never see Never more than a thought away Loved and remembered every day Forever in our thoughts - Mum Peigi, sister Cairin and brother Martin.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of our dad Alexander (Sandy), who died at his home Coire-Leis, Camaghael on May 11, 1974. May you always walk in sunshine And God's love around you glow For the happiness and love you shared with us No-one will ever know We miss you dad. - Your loving daughter Mary and family and son Alex and family.

MCDONALD - (Isobel née McKerrrell). In loving memory of a much loved sister, sister-in-law, passed away on May 17, 2016. You had a smile for everyone You had a heart of gold You left the sweetest memories This world could ever hold Love and miss you every day. - Sarah and Jim.

MILLER - In loving memory of my mum and dad,

Peter died May 13, 2008 and Betty died April 30, 2013. I hold you both within my heart and there you will remain. To walk with me throughout my life until we meet again. "Simply the Best" - Isobel, Cammy and Jacqui xxx

MORRISON - Mary. In loving memory of a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who passed away on May 17, 2004. Forever loved, missed and remembered. - Christina, Banny, Laura, Martin, Sinead and Lewis.

SHAW - Jessie Buchanan (née Campbell), passed away May 6, 2014. Sadly missed. - Joan and Len.

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donald who died March 21, 1985 and Duncan who died May 6, 2003. No words, no verse could ever say How much we miss you every day Precious are our memories of a shen and grampa we will never forget Granddaughters Marie, Caroline, Josephine, Denise, Christopher and all the family.

WALKER - Alan who died suddenly on May 13, 2015. His Smile Though his smile has gone forever And his hands we can not touch We still have so many memories Of the one we loved so much His memory is our keepsake With which we will never part God has him in his keeping We have him in our hearts All our love always and forever. - Caroline, Amy, Leah, Granny, Bindy and Cal.

WATT - In loving memory of our mother, Mary Watt (Maimie), who died May 12, 1984. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts - Catherine and family, Tobermory and Arthur and Sheena and family, Alexandria.

Strathallan School head teacher to take up role in September



Bruce Thompson, who has led Strathallan for the past 17 years. Under Mr Thompson's guidance Strathallan has enjoyed significant academic, sporting and creative achievements. Highlights include an £18 million investment programme which has resulted in extensive new facilities, including a new girls' boarding house, dance and drama studio, indoor tennis facilities and a strength and conditioning suite, as well as classroom and accommodation refurbishment.

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Gordon Mair and his wife Nancy at the retirement party with parishioners of his church. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Farewell as popular Fort William minister retires

FORT William Free Church of Scotland minister, the Reverend Gordon Mair, has retired after 40 years.

Mr Mair enjoyed a retirement party on Saturday May 6 with friends and family to celebrate the end of an era.

The 65-year-old spent 17 years in Lochgilphead before coming to Fort William where he has been for the past 24 years.

After 'wrestling' with the idea of retirement for some time, he said it was a difficult decision.

He said: 'The spiritual wellbeing of the people I have met was always my concern when trying to make my decision. I have built a bond with them which will always remain with me.'

'It's a decision I have been wrestling with for a long time, and I fought it for a while. 'I have been with the ministry for 40 years last October, so I could have left then, but I kept on pushing it and pushing it. 'I asked the Lord for guidance and once I had made my decision there was a surprising degree of peace because I had reconciled with it.'

Mr Mair is now preparing to move to his house in Tain, where he plans to spend his retirement. He said: 'I may have retired but I will not stop preaching. There are quite

a few churches in Tain who want preachers, so I think I will have plenty of invites coming my way.'

'Although the pastoral aspect of my life has passed I certainly won't be idle.'

When asked about some of the highlights of the past 24 years in Fort William, Mr Mair said: 'In 1999 it was my wife and my silver wedding anniversary and the congregation wanted to do something for us, but they kept what they were planning for us.'

'On the night in June, we went down to the house of someone in the congregation but we weren't expecting anything.'

'It was also my birthday, so when we walked through the first door there was a happy birthday sign, and then when we walked through the second there was the whole congregation in the house there to celebrate our anniversary.'

'When the back door opened there was my mother, brother, sister, and mother-in-law who had all travelled a long way to surprise us. That has stuck with me, because people were always so careful and kind to us. I am not often stuck for words, but on that occasion I was.'

With a few things to tie up before he leaves, Mr Mair plans to stay on in Fort William until June.

'I am like a magpie - I

hoard everything,' he said. 'In 24 years of being in Fort William I have only parked my car in the garage once, because it's so full. So a lot of people have been going on about clearing that out. We have asked if we can stay until mid-June to give us time to dispose of things and get packed up.'

'It will be very sad and a wrench to go. I think when the van with our furniture goes and when we have to leave ourselves it will be very hard because that will be the final straw.'

But Mr Mair is leaving a legacy behind him. While the congregation of the Fort William Church is small, his sermons are heard all across the world.

He said: 'While we have always been quite a small congregation there is a tremendous amount of tourists here in the summer who we always welcome.'

'We have sent 2,500 CDs of sermons to people all over the world, in Canada, New Zealand, Australasia and central Africa.'

'We have a huge outreach and send the CDs to people who listen to them all over the world who can't get out to church. They get a CD and the church comes to them. We have to keep preaching up to modern efforts.'

'We accommodate the lonely, the old and the isolated which is why we do it this way.'

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Thought for the week

The power of transformation

WE SEE this especially at this time of year, strikingly in the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly. Undeniably, as a caterpillar, opportunities are limited, potential capped. But when transformed into a butterfly, the sense of freedom is markedly different from that of its former life. God's creation hints

towards a bigger story, a greater truth.

Separate from God, the opportunities to live life as He intended are limited, the potential capped. But when a lost child embraces the gospel of Jesus Christ, something incredible happens - a rebirth, a transformation by God's Spirit. Now, opportunity and potential are no longer

defined by natural limitations, but by God's plans and purposes.

1 Peter 1:23 tells us that in that moment, we are "born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible", and like that butterfly, the transformation opens to us a whole world of new opportunities.

Stuart Lawson
Oban Baptist Church



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Inter-schools tag event is huge success

THE sunshine split the sky at this year's Lochaber inter-schools tag rugby competition as more than 300 pupils from 22 schools, from as far away as Inverie and Strontian, took to the field.

The event, held last Wednesday, was run by Lochaber Rugby Club in conjunction with Active Schools and PE teachers and was once again sponsored by Sportsafe UK Ltd.

In the P4/5 category, Inverloch and Lundavra were the only teams to win all four of their pool games. They were joined in the semi-finals by Invergarry and Banavie, who beat a strong combined team from Ardgour, Acharacle and Kilchoan in a three-way play-off for the last two places.

Lundavra saw off a feisty challenge from Invergarry to win their place in the final, against Inverloch, who scored a last-minute try to

deny Banavie a place. A tense final, with some great play, saw Inverloch scoring the only try of the match to take the title.

Four teams won all their pool games in the P6/7 category, thus earning them their place in the semi-finals.

Lundavra gave a convincing performance to beat Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar, while a combined team of pupils from Ardgour, Acharacle and Kilchoan took the second place by winning against Inverie. In an incredibly hard-fought and well-matched final, Lundavra took a well-deserved win.

In the secondary event, all the teams played each other in a round robin format.

For the first time in many years, Lochaber managed to break Mallaig's stranglehold on the event, and lifted the coveted trophy. Mallaig, under the guidance of retiring PE teacher Alan Cargill, took sec-

Rugby

ond place, with Ardnamurchan in third.

Pauline Donaldson from Lochaber Rugby Club said: 'It's been great to see the level of rugby skills and sportsmanship shown by the pupils today. We hope everyone enjoyed the day, and we look forward to new players inspired by the event coming along to rugby at the club in Banavie on a Saturday morning.'

Active Schools co-ordinator Bridget Thomas added: 'Thanks go to all the Lochaber primary and secondary schools for attending, to the referees from Lochaber Rugby Club who worked very hard all day, many of them taking a day off work to do so, to High Life Highland's Active Schools team and the PE and school staff, without whom this event could not take place.'



Left: Lochaber High School team for the day. Below left: Inverloch Primary School pupils are delighted with their win. And, below: Lundavra Primary School with their trophy. Pictures: Abridgeside Photography.



Rugby club rounds off season in style

LOCHABER Rugby Club held its end of season dinner dance on Saturday but instead of having the traditional formal ceremony members decided to try something new.

With 2017 marking the 20th anniversary of the clubhouse they decided to hold the event there.

And so the event in the tent was born – a hog roast and ceilidh in a big marquee.

With close to 140 tickets sold compared to around 50 for last year's dinner dance, and the weather being fantastic, it shaped up to be a good night.

The event in a tent saw a huge increase in the number of people attending the end-of-season dinner, where Ceilidh Trail entertained.

William Stewart of the club, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Braveheart catering put on a great spread which disappeared in seconds. There were six local musicians from Ceilidh Trail keeping people on the dance floor all evening before everyone still standing at 10pm moved into the clubhouse to continue the evening. 'All in all the club felt the evening was a great success and would like to thank No Fuss Events for the marquee and Dale Monk from the Crofter for everything he provided for the event in the tent.'

Lochaber now has its AGM to prepare for on Thursday May 25 at 7pm at the clubhouse where they would like to encourage all their members to attend.

Annual bike fest is wheelie great

THE West Highland Wheelers (WHW) have held their annual bike festival which aims to provide a fun series of events to encourage people, both young and old, to get out cycling.

The week started off with a mini downhill race, a qualifier for the National Mini Downhill which is held during world cup weekend.

The group had more than 70 riders at the event from all over Scotland.

The following WHW juniors qualified for the final: Alastair Poll (U16), Hamish MacKay (U14), Nina Cameron (U12), Cory Muir (U12), Daniel Parfitt (U12), Kyler Macleod (U10) and Archie Ferguson (U10).

It was also the last of the wheelers' winter league races. A good number of juniors took part and the last race was won by Duncan O'Rourke, with Cory Muir in

second place and Sorley Swabey in third.

The 'wee ones' race was won by Aiden Baltrunas, with Jessica Bamber in second place. The older junior results were: 1 Alasdair Poll, 2 Shaun Macleod, 3 Finlay Dempster.

And the adults' race was won by Gary MacDonald with Ruairidh Wells in second and Neil Wright in third. The first woman home was Gill Barnes.

Last Monday night WHW held a fun night for the juniors at Nevis Range. Twenty children enjoyed a great evening biking on some really dry trails.

The club also held a street race in Inverloch, where 17 juniors raced around a fiendish lap right through the middle of Inverloch. The junior race was won by Hamish MacKay.

Sixteen adults also took part and this race which was won by Liam Hutson. The races were

followed by a barbecue. Two road races were also organised during the week – one at Loch Leven and one at Loch Crearan - with mostly adults participating in these. Both of these races were won by Donald Paterson.

Towards the end of the week a group of adults and youngsters enjoyed another fun night at Nevis Range. They rode some challenging trails including going down the Blue crane and over the newly rebuilt 'Emmy's Bridge'. This was followed by a social gathering in the Pine Marten café.

A spokesperson for WHW said: 'We finished the week off with junior bike club at Glencoe Lochan. The junior bike club is now running until the summer break (on a Saturday morning at Nevis Range). We currently have more than 40 riders. To come along, please first email the club whwkidsclub@gmail.com.'



West Highland Wheelers' festival was a success. Abridgeside Photography.



Hugh Campbell is first to cross the finish line. Picture Sara Bain.

Portree's Hugh makes it four wins in a row

PORTREE'S Hugh Campbell was first – with a time of 36:27 – to cross the line of a new course in the Dunvegan Castle 10K.

The four times winner of the event and five times winner of the Skye half-marathon came in more than four minutes ahead of runner-up Pedro Berredo from Brazil (40:40). Dunvegan's Iain Allan finished with a time of 42:53, just pipping Joseph Lewa of Staffin (43:23) to the third spot.

On Saturday April 29, the day started off with a junior fun run, won by Ross MacLeod. Runner-up was Daniel Warby and third across the line was Lexy MacLeod.

Some 62 runners marched behind young piper Malin Lewis to the start line.

At noon, they tackled the new mixed terrain course which began at Dunvegan Castle, leading towards an off-road trail ascending upwards to the summit of the first hill. Once at the trail, the race dropped down to join the main road and a fast downhill 5k ending through Dunvegan village and back to the castle.

Hugh said: 'This is the first time this course has been set and it was really hard going. It's a slower course with quite an ascent.'

'Once we hit the turning point before 5k we had a strong headwind for the next mile which I probably lost 40 seconds on. I was hoping for around 34 minutes but, given the hillier new course and conditions, I was happy with 36 minutes.'

'I was using the race as a fitness indicator and also a bounce race for next month's Skye Half Marathon where I will be defending the title I won last year. I am pleased with how my preparations are going and I am now moving on to training 70 miles a week for the next five weeks.'

Directing the race for the first time was Dunvegan man Graham Watt. He said: 'We had runners from as far away as Brazil, Norway, England and the east coast of Scotland taking part. The event was to raise charity funds for the local community minibus, used by various groups and pensioners. I am very pleased with how the event went and am confident this can grow into a well-established running event on the athletics calendars.'

The Dunvegan 10K is sponsored by Dunvegan Castle, Therapy Studio, Old School Restaurant, Kennys Garage, Skyeskins, Skyetime, Brae Fasach Gallery and Café and Skye Botanics.

Fort William top of league

FORT William Cricket Club have become joint leaders of the North of Scotland senior league.

A solid batting performance against Northern Counties at the weekend saw Fort go to 206-7 from their 45 overs, with batting honours shared between Ross Lavin (43), Charlie Luxton (31), Ash Anjum (34), Col Jennings (30) and Daniel Davidson (34 not out).

In reply, NCCC were dismissed for 142, leaving Fort winners by 62 runs. NCCC started well, with the openers putting on 31 but the turning point was probably when Edgware was out for 34. Both Ash Anjum and Col Lavin took three wickets, and captain DJ Duncan two.

The middle order collapsed and, despite some resistance from Evans and Lean, there was no stopping Fort gaining another 20 points.

On Sunday a weakened team took on Nairn in a senior cup fixture. There was no stopping Alex Green who scored 151 before taking three for 18 in a comfortable victory. Only DJ Duncan, with an excellent 50, provided resistance with Fort all out for 134, losing by 113 runs.

Fort's captain said: 'We learned a lot this week and are delighted to be at the top of the league. The cup defeat was a disappointment but it's always hard to win with only nine players. Next week we plan to pick up another 20 points.'



Fort William Cricket Club are table toppers. Abridgeside Photography.



All of the players who took part in the Dochie MacKenzie Memorial Cup on Sunday.



Lynda Oxland and John Strettle competed.

Success for Dochie MacKenzie competition



Bob McCulloch and Ron Cordeiro, middle, with Malcolm Croarkin, left, and Andy Graham.

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk

A TENNIS tournament took place on Sunday in memory of Dochie MacKenzie, a former tennis and squash player.

Some 18 players competed in the doubles tournament, with Bob McCulloch and Graham Alexander, who was replaced by Ron Cordeiro in the final, winning the memorial trophy.

They beat Andy Graham and Malcolm Croarkin in the final.

Lynda Oxland, chairwoman of Oban Tennis and Squash Club, said: '[Dochie MacKenzie] was a squash player and he joined

the tennis club and thoroughly enjoyed it.

'He died last year, so we decided because he was well liked and was always laughing and joking we would have a memorial tournament - we had 18 people. Everyone really enjoyed it; it was a lovely afternoon.

'The cup is being shared. We are going to have a squash tournament as well, in either October or November.'

The club also had an open day on Saturday and more than 50 people of all ages attended.

And to cater for this surge in players, Lynda added: 'We have seven new volunteer coaches being trained next weekend.'



Inez Cordeiro and Jeanette Morrison clearly enjoyed the event.



Pupils chart orienteering triumph

TAYNUILT and Barcaldine Primary Schools emerged victorious in the annual orienteering competition held at Dunstaffnage on Friday.

A total of 71 pupils from Achaleven, Kilninver, Arinagour, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt and Barcaldine primaries took part in the event organised by Active Schools and Stramash Outdoor Nursery. Prizes were awarded to the quickest children who found all 12 markers laid around Dunstaffnage using their maps. The results are as follows:

Big Schools Shield: 1. Taynuilt primary, 2. Kilninver primary.

Small Schools Cup: 1. Barcaldine primary, 2. Arinagour primary, 3. Kilchrenan primary, 4. Achaleven primary.

Winners of each age category are as follows.

P4 boys: Archie MacLeod, Kilninver primary. P4 girls: Freya Davis, Arinagour primary.

P5 boys: Sam Love, Kilchrenan primary. P5 girls: Erin MacMillan, Taynuilt primary.

P6 boys: Connor Coombes, Barcaldine primary. P6 girls: Katie MacDonald, Taynuilt primary.

P7 boys: Gregor Warnock, Kilninver primary. P7 girls: Sophie Houston, Taynuilt primary.



SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1600

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

E Wilson
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JA MacDonald
Glen Gardens
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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

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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



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SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

Marine Harvest Media Award winners 2016

Busy weekend of Camanachd Cup first round ties and league action

KYLES Athletic and Kinlochshiel maintained their 100 per cent record in the Marine Harvest Premiership and Caberfeidh, Inveraray, Kilmory and Skye made Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup progress following the shinty action on Saturday May 6.

Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup - first round

**Bute 0
Caberfeidh 5**
Caberfeidh safely negotiated a tricky trip to The Meadows, beating Bute 5-0.

Bute contributed to a decent game, despite only having 12 players available. Their absentees included influential defender Ian MacDonald.

Fine goal-keeping from Bute's Kevin Queen kept the tie scoreless, despite periods of constant Caberfeidh pressure during the first 35 minutes of the game. But the visitors went on to score four times in the remainder of the first half.

Martin MacDonald and Blair Morrison scored twice for Caberfeidh with Kevin Bartlett getting the fifth.

Caberfeidh were slick up front with Scottish international Kevin Bartlett their focal point.

The tie went a bit flat in the second half, influenced perhaps by the fact it was a particularly hot day which sapped the players' energy. Indeed, referee Ross Brown stopped play midway through each half to allow players to take water on board.

Kilmory 6 Taynuilt 0

Kilmory were too strong for Taynuilt, winning 6-0 at MacRae Park.

Alex Cunningham scored twice to put Kilmory 2-0 ahead and his younger brother Andrew Cunningham made it 3-0 before the interval.

Hal Jones scored twice early in the second half with Alex Cunningham completing his hat-trick not long after.

Alex Cunningham's second strike was the pick of the afternoon's goals. Hal Jones ran to get on the end of a long hit towards the corner flag. Jones crossed the ball hard and low towards the penalty spot where Alex Cunningham lost his marker and showed good control before driving a shot home, sending the ball just inside the post.

Aberdeen University v Skye Camanachd W/O
Skye Camanachd were given a walk-over when Aberdeen University were unable to raise a team for their tie at Balgownie.

Inveraray W/O v Tayforth
Inveraray also received a pass into the second round after Tayforth were unable to raise a team for their game at The Winterton.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Kinlochshiel 4 Newtonmore 1

Kinlochshiel confirmed their title credentials by beating reigning champions Newtonmore 4-1 at a warm Kirkton.

Throw-up was brought forward to noon to avoid a clash with a local funeral.

Both starting line-ups were unchanged from the previous Saturday and Kinlochshiel played up the slope in the first half.

Newtonmore were forced to make an early change when Ackie MacRae had to come off for ten minutes to have a cut just above his ear attended to. Fraser MacKintosh came on to join the attack, with Craig Ritchie dropping into the buckshee

back position. The home goal survived a goal-mouth scramble after Fraser MacKintosh showed good control to find Rory Kennedy but his ball into the danger area was eventually cleared.

Kinlochshiel took the lead after 12 minutes. Nice passing saw the ball played through the middle of the Newtonmore defence. John MacRae ran to the right and held off Steven MacDonald before crossing low to Jordan Fraser who lost his marker and slotted the ball past Norman Campbell with the visitors claiming for offside.

Shortly after, a clean strike from Keith MacRae on the Kinlochshiel left nestled in the outside of the side-netting, although keeper Campbell had his goal covered.

Steven MacDonald took a knock in the lead up to MacRae's strike and was able to continue after treatment.

The visitors were disrupted again on the half-hour as Jamie Robinson limped off with what looked like a groin problem and Paul MacArthur came on in his place. MacArthur went to wing centre with Drew MacDonald going to full centre.

Paul MacArthur's first involvement was to launch a terrific shy from the left. The ball fell to Iain Robinson at the back post but Scott Kennedy made a fine save at the expense of a corner.

Newtonmore's Michael Russell was booked for a challenge which upended Keith MacRae on the Kinlochshiel left.

With the game moving well into first half stoppage time, John MacRae cut into the 'D' from the Kinlochshiel right, but collided with keeper Norman Campbell and a free-hit to the visitors was the outcome.

A number of first half stoppages led to more than five minutes additional time at the end of the first half and, with seconds to go, Paul MacArthur challenged Gordie MacDonald on the Newtonmore left. MacArthur sent a high ball into the goal area which looked to be going over the top. The ball dipped at the last minute though and went just under the crossbar to give Newtonmore a fortunate equaliser.

There was just enough time to restart the game before referee Deek Cameron blew for half time.

Both sides made changes at the break. Kinlochshiel had to replace Gordie MacDonald who appeared to hurt his knee in the challenge with MacArthur at the end of the half. Ally Nixon came on in his place and played well. Newtonmore replaced wing forwards Iain Robinson and Craig Ritchie with Fraser

MacKintosh and David Fraser.

Kinlochshiel, urged on by the excellent Donald Nixon in midfield, regained the lead on 57 minutes. Steven MacDonald was penalised for a challenge and the resultant set-piece looked to have come from the training field. The ball was played out to the right and when the ball was crossed to the edge of the 'D', John MacRae lost his marker to steer the ball home.

There was more delight for the home support three minutes later. A Keith MacRae shot from distance was saved with his legs by Norman Campbell but John MacRae reacted first to touch the rebound home.

A net-bound Keith MacRae shot on 70 minutes was inadvertently deflected to safety by one of his own team mates.

Newtonmore, who had switched Rory Kennedy back to full centre by this time, almost reduced the deficit a couple of minutes later. Fraser MacKintosh shot goalwards from around the penalty spot, only for Scott Kennedy to dive across his goal to keep the ball out with his body.

With 15 minutes remaining, Newtonmore's Drew MacDonald was withdrawn and Craig Ritchie came on to take over at buckshee back. Michael Russell went to full back with Steven MacDonald pushed up front, first to wing forward and then to full forward.

However, it was Kinlochshiel who added a fourth three minutes from time. An Ackie MacRae clearance went straight to Keith MacRae who sent the ball high into the net to make it 4-1.

Kinlochshiel are two points behind leaders Kyles Athletic with a game in hand.

Kyles Athletic 5 Lovat 0

Kyles Athletic stay two points clear at the top of the division after they beat Lovat 5-0 at Tighnabraich.

Callum Miller was back in the Kyles starting line-up after a hamstring problem and the full back played the whole match. Grant Irvine also returned to the home squad after a spell out through injury and he started on the bench.

Lovat travelled without Drew Howie and Craig Mainland and the injured Bailey MacKay. Callum Cruden went to full back where he had a good game against Roddy MacDonald.

Lovat played well in the first half but they had nothing to show for their efforts.

Kyles upped the pace after the restart and three quick goals early in the second period put them in control.



Roddy Young, right, celebrates his late winning goal for Kingussie against Oban Camanachd.

Sandy MacKenzie opened the scoring on 48 and Roddy MacDonald made it 2-0 three minutes later.

Sandy MacKenzie got his second on 53 minutes to complete the early second half blitz.

The goals seemed to knock Lovat's confidence and Kyles never looked like losing from then on.

Two late goals put gloss on the win as Grant Irvine netted on 77 minutes and Sandy MacKenzie grabbed a hat-trick goal six minutes from time.

Kyles turned in a good performance. They are back to full strength and Roddy MacDonald has now scored in all nine of their competitive matches this season.

Kingussie 1 Oban Camanachd 0

Just as he did in the corresponding fixture last season, Roddy Young scored a minute from time to give Kingussie a 1-0 win over Oban Camanachd at The Dell.

Kingussie were still without the injured James Falconer and with Lee Bain also missing, Calum Grant was given a first start and he was excellent in the buckshee back position.

Oban Camanachd were missing Scott MacMillan who was working and Connor Howe was another absentee.

Kingussie had chances in the first half. Ryan Borthwick hit the crossbar, Savio Genini had a penalty saved by Gavin Stobbart and Roddy Young sent a shot wide of target.

It was Oban Camanachd's turn to have the better chances in the second half as Matt Rippon hit the bar and Andrew MacCuish hit the post.

The Oban side had a great chance to take the lead on 83 minutes when referee Martin MacLean awarded them a penalty but Aidan MacIntyre sent his effort the wrong side of the post.

Oban Camanachd were made to pay with a minute remaining. The visitors seemed sure to clear a ball in the corner area but Ryan Borthwick chased the defender down and when his opponent was unable to get the ball away, Borthwick won possession and played the ball to Roddy Young who sent a low, 25-yard shot into the bottom corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Kingussie boss Dallas Young was more than happy with the win. 'I'm absolutely delighted,' he said after the game. 'Both sides were going at it throughout the game and I must highlight Ryan Borthwick's role in our goal. He chased a ball that most players would have given up on when the defender looked favourite to clear. He won possession and set up Roddy to score, just like he did in the game last

year. Ryan's contribution left me with a smile on my face. I'm really chuffed and I felt we did just enough to win the game.'

Lochaber 0 Kilmallie 2

Kilmallie earned a morale-boosting first league win of the season, beating Lochaber 2-0 at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber's Barry MacDonald was free of his two-match suspension and started in midfield. Brian MacDonald returned from injury to take up a place on the bench.

Kilmallie's Michael Rodger had served his two-match ban but Aaron Sandison and Liam Cameron were still suspended.

Kilmallie made the stronger start, taking a direct approach from the throw-up.

They got their reward on 11 minutes when Michael Rodger made a long clearance from defence.

The ball fell to Craig MacIsaac who found Duncan Rodger who turned his marker before hitting a low shot just inside keeper Callum MacDonald's left hand post. The ball took a bounce on the hard surface on its way into the net.

Bryan MacKay, who had come off the bench in the opening minute to replace Ryan Stewart who had suffered a knock, scored Kilmallie's second goal on 36 minutes.

Craig MacIsaac got on the end of a corner and fed Duncan Rodger who passed to MacKay who slammed the ball into the roof of the net to make it 2-0.

Kilmallie thought they had a third goal but Bryan MacKay's low strike hit the side stanchion and bounced back into play. Referee John Angus Gillies consulted with his goal judge and disallowed the effort.

With the first half drawing to a close, Craig MacIsaac hit a blistering shot which was well saved by Callum MacDonald.



Action from last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership game between Lochaber and Kilmallie which Kilmallie won 2-0. It was Kilmallie's first league win of the season. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Barr, Neale Reid, Connor Go-labeck and Euan Lloyd.

Fraser Heath was one of Glenurquhart's best players on the day and he opened the scoring on 16 minutes.

Referee Will MacDonald awarded GMA a penalty shortly after but Craig Anderson missed from the spot.

GMA drew level on 28 minutes when Craig Anderson gathered a short corner and dribbled along the by-line into the 'D' where he played the ball across goal where Iain Luke finished.

Glenurquhart were then awarded a penalty when keeper Robert Dunning was adjudged to have kicked the ball. The referee pointed to the spot after consulting his goal judge. The home side were aggrieved, claiming their keeper played the ball with his stick. James MacPherson was undeterred as he slammed home the spot-hit to make it 2-1.

GMA had a lot of possession and territorial advantage in the second half and levelled for a second time on 65 minutes when a Brian Slattery shy ended up in the back of the net, although Glenurquhart's Eddie Tembo may have got the final touch.

Glenurquhart's cause wasn't helped when they had David MacLennan sent off midway through the second half and GMA will be disappointed not to have taken both points.

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu 2 Fort William 2

Fort William missed out on a chance to go top of the Marine Harvest National Division when they drew 2-2 with Beaulieu at Braeview Park.

Beaulieu absentees included Liam Girvan, Connor Ross and Sean Stewart.

Fort William's Bryan Simpson was free of suspension but didn't travel.

Fort keeper Paul MacKay did well to thwart Jack MacDonald before Beaulieu took the lead.

Sandy Elrick and Jack MacDonald combined on the Beaulieu left to set up Ross Forbes at the edge of the 'D' who turned and scored to make it 1-0 with 28 minutes played.

Lewis Clark levelled on the stroke of half time when he got on the end of Calum Shepherd's cross to score.

A low Daniel Lamont shot from 25 yards out on the right put the home side back in front on 56 minutes.

However, Graham Campbell restored parity a minute later when he got on the end of a high ball forward to score.

Both sides hit the frame of the goal in the final third of the match and although Fort William finished strongly, Beaulieu held on to earn a point.

The visitors almost snatched a winner at the death when Calum Shepherd scored, but one of his team mates was ruled offside.

Fort William have a home Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round tie against Oban Celtic this coming Saturday whilst Beaulieu head for Skye in the league.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William 3 Kingussie 4

The Kingussie colts move a point clear at the top of the table after they came from two goals down to beat the Fort William colts 4-3 at An Aird.

Victor Smith on 37 minutes



Alexander Michie, Kingussie, left, and Malcolm Clark, Oban Camanachd, in action in the Marine Harvest Premiership clash at the Dell on Saturday. Photograph: Neil Paterson.



Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

and Jay MacLeod on 48 minutes had the Fort 2-0 ahead. However, Liam Borthwick struck twice on 50 and 53 minutes to make it 2-2.

Cal Brown put Fort William back in front on 62 minutes, but Kevin Thain, who had passed up a couple of chances in the first half, scored on 66 and 70 minutes to give Kingussie a 4-3 win. **Glenurquhart 0 Newtonmore 0**

The Newtonmore seconds and the Glenurquhart seconds shared the points in a 0-0 draw at Blairbeg.

Both teams were under strength and Newtonmore are now a point behind leaders Kingussie but they have a game in hand. This was the Glenurquhart seconds first point of the season.

Skye Camanachd 2 Kinlochshiel 1

An Iain MacLellan goal three minutes from time gave the Skye Camanachd second team a 2-1 derby win over the Kinlochshiel seconds at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Scott MacLean threaded a pass through the Skye defence for Neil Fraser to net the opener on 11 minutes.

A great Ross Gordon run in from the left ended with the youngster confidently knocking the ball home just three minutes after the re-start. There were chances at both ends before Iain MacLellan bundled home the winner on 87 minutes. The win lifts Kenny MacLeod's side to third in the table.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Glenorchy 0 Lochside Rovers 6

Lochside Rovers were back on the road, this time beating Glenorchy 6-0 at Mart Park; a victory which takes them to the top of Marine Harvest South Division 1.

Craig MacDougall scored twice on 10 and 15 minutes, whilst Scott MacMillan, who played as his work pattern prevented him from travelling with the first team, made it 3-0 on 28 minutes.

Lewis Buchanan added a fourth on the stroke of half time. Lewis Buchanan got his second on 49 minutes and Scott MacMillan netted for the second time a couple of minutes before the final whistle.

Col Glen 0 Kyles Athletic 5

The Kyles Athletic seconds returned from Glendaruel with both points following a 5-0 win over Col Glen.

The match was originally scheduled to take place at Tighnabruaich but the venue was reversed during the week.

A Rupert Williamson goal on five minutes settled Kyles into the game and a David Boyle double on 35 and 38 minutes gave them the upper-hand.

Paddy Mulholland on the hour and Kyle McMartin 10 minutes from time rounded off the win.

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Strathglass 0 Glengarry 7

League leaders Glengarry go two points clear at the top of the table after beating the Strathglass second team 7-0 at Cannich.

Raymond Robertson opened the scoring on nine minutes and Daniel MacLennan made it 2-0 on the half hour. A goal glut followed after the break. Raymond Robertson on 49 minutes and Daniel MacLennan six minutes later doubled the visitors' lead.

Raymond Robertson took his tally to four goals with strikes on 70 and 75 minutes with Seven Cameron scoring on 72 minutes.

Lochcarron 1 Lochaber 2

The Lochaber second team came from a goal down to beat Lochcarron 2-1 at Battery Park.

Liam Arnott gave the home



Craig MacMillan, Lochside Rovers, left, and Dylan Cook, Glenorchy, tussle for the ball during their game at The Mart park last Saturday. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

support something to cheer about with a goal after 30 minutes. However, Keith Neville drew Lochaber level on 39 minutes. And it was Neville who got his second on 61 minutes to give the visitors the points.

Inverness 2 Boleskine 1

The Inverness colts defeated Boleskine 2-1 at The Bught Park.

Andy Reid gave Inverness the lead on 43 minutes and Jack Craig made it 2-0 on 49 minutes.

Boleskine's Lewis Smith pulled a goal back on 62 minutes but Allan MacLeod's side stayed in front to secure their second league win of the season.

Lovat 2 Strathspey Camanachd 4

Strathspey Camanachd beat the Lovat second team 4-2 at Balgate.

Strathspey made a blistering start to the game with Struan Ross scoring on seven and 11 minutes and Donald Colville getting a third a minute later.

A Lovat fight-back saw Raymond Rennie pull a goal back on 22 minutes and Connal MacIllechiar made it 3-2 on 51 minutes.

MacIllechiar's goal was a great finish, striking a dropping ball which had spun in the air between Raymond Rennie and the full back.

Lovat went all out for a leveller with Steven Shand in the visiting goal making a number of good saves, particularly from Raymond Rennie.

However, Jonathan Gray made it 4-2 15 minutes from time with a shot from distance which dipped into the roof of the net.

The home side had a late chance to reduce the deficit when referee Scott McNeil awarded them a penalty but Shand saved Rennie's well-struck spot-hit.

Strathspey stay third in the division.

Lewis Camanachd P Caberfeidh P

The match between Lewis Camanachd and the Caberfeidh seconds at Shawbost will be rescheduled for a later date.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Inveraray 5 Bute 0

The Inveraray seconds are now three points clear at the top of the table after they defeated the Bute seconds 5-0 in their noon throw-up at a baking hot Winterton.

The home side started with U18 quartet Robert Wood, Alan Cameron, Andrew Fraser and Lewis Cameron in defence.

They all played well, limiting Bute, who had absentees as their first team were short.

Bute found it difficult to handle the movement of Inveraray

U14 forwards Coll MacKay and Campbell Watt, helped by the experienced David Robertson and Garry MacPherson.

Their play produced three first half goals with Garry MacPherson netting on 16 and 44 minutes, either side of a 27th minute Campbell Watt strike.

Bute made a tactical change for the second half, pulling a forward back to make up a five-man defence.

This eased the pressure on a Bute defence which was well-aided by the experienced Stewart Stirling at full back.

Some remarkable goal-keeping from John Whitelaw helped keep the score-line down.

Inveraray did score twice more through David Robertson on 57 and 60 minutes to make it 5-0.

Oban Lorn 1 Strachur 0

Oban Lorn go second in the division after they beat Strachur 1-0 in a tight match at Ganavan, Oban.

Ewan MacCorquodale got the only goal of the game after 20 minutes, continuing a scoring run which has seen him net five times in Oban Lorn's three fixtures so far.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 5 Aberdeen 0

The Glasgow Mid Argyll reserves move up to third in the table after they secured a 5-0 victory over the Aberdeen reserves in their noon throw-up at Yoker.

Former Kilmallie player Seb MacMillan scored the only goal of the first half after 15 minutes.

Angus MacInnes made it 2-0 on 54 minutes and Connor MacLeod added a third five minutes later.

Connor MacLeod got his second on 80 minutes with Ross Fraser rounding off the scoring five minutes from time.

All throw-ups were 2.30pm unless the match reports states differently.



John MacKenzie, of Inveraray's second team, and Andrew MacLauchlin, Bute seconds, in action at The Winterton on Saturday. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

WCA round-up

The ladies action focused on the Marine Harvest National Division 1 and the opening round of the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup.

Marine Harvest National Division 1

Aberdour 1 Lochaber 4

Lochaber top Marine Harvest National Division 1 after they overcame Aberdour 4-1 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Silversands.

Kirsty Delaney netted twice for Lochaber with Natalie MacDonald and Sarah Davie also scoring. Caitlin MacDonald bagged the Lochaber goal.

Badenoch & Strathspey 2 Fort William 0

Badenoch & Strathspey beat Fort William 2-0 in their 2pm throw-up at The Dell. Jeanette McGregor scored both Badenoch goals.

Glasgow Mid Argyll P Lovat P

The match between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Lovat at Yoker was postponed as Lovat were unable to raise a team.

Lovat have been deducted a point and the match will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Marine Harvest Challenge Cup – first round

Glenurquhart 3 Inverness 4

Inverness beat Glenurquhart 4-3 in their noon throw-up at Blairbeg on Saturday May 6. Hazel Hunter scored all the Glenurquhart goals.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Strathspey 0

Glasgow Mid Argyll defeated Strathspey 2-0 in their 12.30pm throw-up at Yoker. Kirsten Grant and Iona Cooper got the goals.

Tayforth 13 Lorne Ladies 1

Tayforth and Lorne Ladies met in a 1.30pm throw-up at Musselburgh.

An Arabella Kennard hat-trick and doubles from Rachael Addison, Joey Millar and Kirsty McIntyre and strikes from Isla Mackay, Erraid Sinclair, Kathryn MacLean and Ashley Brownlee counted for Tayforth with Alison Ferguson scoring for the Oban side.

Dunadd 2 Ardnamurchan 2

Ardnamurchan won 5-3 after extra-time.

Ardnamurchan edged out Dunadd 5-3 after extra-time in their 1.30pm throw-up at Ardrishaig.

The match finished 2-2 at the end of regulation time before Ardnamurchan surged ahead for the win.

Lucy MacMillan, Kate Bradley, Rachel Ford and a Joanne Ford double gave Ardnamur-

chan the win with Carla Todd, Grace Jeffrey and Nicola Smyth scoring for Dunadd.

Glengarry 6 Lochaber 1

Glengarry beat the Lochaber seconds 6-1 in their 1.30pm throw-up at Craigard.

Joanne Gillanders grabbed a Glengarry hat-trick with Margaret Jane Malcolm, Megan Stewart and Leona Falconer also scoring. Caitlin MacDonald bagged the Lochaber goal.

Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup semi-final draw

THE DRAW for the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup semi-finals was made at Craigard on Sunday May 7.

Lovat will play Skye Camanachd with Lochaber facing Aberdour. Both ties will be played at neutral venues on Sunday June 25.

The draw for the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup quarter-finals was also made:

Cowal & Bute v Tayforth; Glasgow Mid Argyll v Oban Lorne; Inverness v Glengarry; Ardnamurchan v Strathglass. The ties will be played on Sunday May 28.

Youth round-up

Marine Harvest U17 London Shield – Section A: Kinlochshiel overcame Strathglass 3-1 at Plockton High School. WD MacRae and a Duncan Matheson double counted for the home side. Colin Birnie countered for Strathglass. The match between Skye Camanachd Fort William at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, was postponed.

Marine Harvest U17 London Shield – Section B: Kingussie beat Oban Camanachd 5-1 at The Dell. Roddy Young and Dylan Young both bagged braces, whilst Liam Borthwick got the other. Lewis Buchanan scored for the Oban side.

South of Scotland U17 Trophy – MacQuiston Cup: The first round of the MacQuiston Cup took place at Craigard.

Bute, Col Glen, Inveraray and Oban Camanachd all took part in a round-robin series of matches. Oban Camanachd, with two wins and a draw, finished top of the pile, ahead of Col Glen who drew all their three games.

The next round of fixtures is scheduled for Strachurmore on Wednesday May 17.

North of Scotland U17 Trophy – MacTavish Cup: Newtonmore beat Kilmallie 2-0 at the Eilan, whilst Glenurquhart were given a walk-over against Caberfeidh.

Marine Harvest U17 Develop-

ment League – W J Cameron: Skye Camanachd B beat Lovat 13-1 at Balgate. Niall MacPhee scored four times, Jamie MacPhee grabbed a hat-trick and Abby MacLean, Mark MacQueen and Liam MacPhee bagged doubles. Cameron MacMillan got the Lovat goal.

The match between Glengarry and Inverness at Craigard was postponed.

Marine Harvest U14 League, Section A: Kingussie beat Lovat 7-0 at The Dell. Lochaber edged out Newtonmore, winning 7-5 at Spean Bridge. Max Campbell scored six Lochaber goals with Tyler Whyte also netting. Four goals from Brodie MacBain and a Finlay Paterson effort counted for Newtonmore.

Section B: Fort William defeated Ardnamurchan 5-1 at An Aird. Sean MacLellan got the Ardnamurchan goal but Archie MacKinnon, Craig MacDonald, two from Alfie Duncan and a Hamish Shaw strike gave Fort William the win.

Kilmallie overcame Glengarry 7-4 at Canal Parks. Connor MacKenzie and Aiden Love both scored twice for the home side with Ellie Bisset, Ben MacKinnon and Andrew Dingwall also netting. Glengarry's goals came from Cameron Fraser, two, and Finlay Fraser and Joshua Seymour. Section C: Kinlochshiel powered past a young Caberfeidh side with a 17-0 win. Archie MacRae scored six times, Sam Stubbs netted four times, Corin Jack grabbed a hat-trick whilst Mark Whear, Arran Jack, Nathan Stewart and Zander MacRae were also on target. Section D: Inverness beat Glenurquhart 3-0 with Finlay Calder scoring all three goals.

Marine Harvest U14 South League: In the opening round of fixtures, Ballachulish beat Oban Lorn 9-1.

Daniel MacLean got three goals, Lewis Moran scored twice whilst David Wilson, Fraser MacLean, Leon Lawrie and Blair Nicholson got the others. William MacEwen scored for the Oban side.

The matches between Dunoon and Oban Camanachd and Bute and Kilmory will be re-arranged for a later date.

Kingussie High School win MacBean Cup: Kingussie High School won the MacBean Cup at An Aird on Wednesday May 3 beating Glenurquhart High School in a close final which went all the way to penalties.

The Fraser MacPhee Primary School shinty tournament takes place at An Aird on Sunday June 18.

Any teams interested in taking part should contact Niall MacPhee on 07957166152 or email at nail4fort@hotmail.com.

Camanachd Cup - second round draw

THE TULLOCH Homes Camanachd Cup second round draw was made at Eden Court Theatre & Cinema, Inverness, on Monday May 8.

Making the draw were Sandy Grant, director, Tulloch Homes, and Charlie Milner who plays Penny and Lewis Griffiths who plays Johnny in the production of *Dirty Dancing* which is being staged at Eden Court until Saturday May 13.

Details of the draw are as follows: Fort William/Oban Celtic v Newtonmore Skye Camanachd v Kingussie Kinlochshiel v Oban Camanachd Glenurquhart v Lovat Inveraray v Caberfeidh Kilmallie v Lochaber Strathglass/Ballachulish v Kilmory Kyles Athletic v Glasgow Mid Argyll

The ties are scheduled to be played on Saturday May 27. The 2017 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup Final will take place at Bught Park, Inverness, on Saturday September 30.

MacTavish & Celtic Society Cup venues decided

THE VENUES for the MacTavish Cup and Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-finals were decided by the toss of the coin in the offices of Anderson Shaw & Gilbert, Inverness.

The MacTavish Cup semi-final tie between Glenurquhart and Newtonmore takes place at The Eilan on Saturday May 13.

The last four tie between Kinlochshiel and Kilmallie takes place at Kirkton on Saturday May 20 as Kinlochshiel have their 'free Saturday' a week earlier.

The Gregor Cameron Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-finals will take place on Saturday May 13.

Kyles Athletic will play Glasgow Mid Argyll at Tighnabruaich whilst Inveraray face Oban Camanachd at The Winterton.

Fixtures

Saturday May 13 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round

Fort William v Oban Celtic Calum Girvan - 3pm. Strathglass v Ballachulish Martin MacLean - 3pm. **MacTavish Cup Semi Final** Newtonmore v Glenurquhart Deek Cameron - 3pm. **Gregor Cameron Celtic Society Cup Semi Final** Kyles v Glasgow Mid Argyll Lachie Wood - 3pm. Inveraray v Oban Camanachd Graham Cameron

Strathdearn Cup second round

Glenurquhart Brian MacKay Boleskine v Skye Scott McNeil - 1.30pm Fort William v Kinlochshiel Ronnie Campbell - noon Kilmallie v Caberfeidh Steven MacLachlan - noon. Lochaber v Lewis Iain Kennedy - 2pm. Lochcarron v Kingussie John Angus Gillies Newtonmore v Lovat John Matheson - noon Strathglass v Inverness Evan MacRae - noon

Marine Harvest Premiership

Lovat v Lochaber Archie Ritchie Kilmallie v Kingussie Willie MacDonald - 3pm. **Marine Harvest National Division** Inverness v Caberfeidh Andy MacLean Skye v Beaulieu Innes Wood

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kyles Athletic v Bute Ross Brown - noon Glenorchy v Tayforth David Mitchell Col Glen v Lochside Rovers Robert Baxter Taynuilt v Aberdour Des McNulty

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Dunoon v Aberdour Jim Innes Glasgow Mid Argyll v Strachur Euan Pearson Oban Lorn v Bute Neil MacDonald

All throw ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Results

Saturday May 6 Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round

Aberdeen University v Skye P. Aberdeen university unable to field a team. W/O to Skye. Bute 0 v Caberfeidh 5 Kilmory 6 v Taynuilt 0 Inveraray v Tayforth P. Tayforth unable to field a team. W/O to Inveraray.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Glasgow MA 2 v Glenurquhart 2 Kingussie 1 v Oban Caman 0 Kinlochshiel 4 v Newtonmore 1 Kyles Athletic 5 v Lovat 0 Lochaber 0 v Kilmallie 2

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu 2 v Fort William 2

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William 3 v Kingussie 4

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Glenorchy 0 v Lochside 6 Col Glen 0 v Kyles 5

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness 2 v Boleskine 1 Lewis v Caberfeidh P. To be rescheduled Lochcarron 1 v Lochaber 2 Lovat 2 v Strathspey 4 Strathglass 0 v Glengarry 7

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glasgow Mid Argyll 5 v Aberdour 0 Inveraray 5 v Bute 0 Oban Lorn 1 v Strachur 0

Saints continue winning streak

Oban Saints 2
Goldenhill 1
SAFL Premier Division

OBAN Saints continued their good form with a narrow home win over Goldenhill.

The 2-1 victory came courtesy of goals from Donald Campbell and Craig McEwan.

The victory sets up Saints well

for this weekend's clash away at Hillington in the semi-final of the Jimmy Marshall Cup.

Saints were in sparkling form the previous week, slamming six goals past Shawlands.

In the Jimmy Marshall quarter-final, Saints were also sharp in front of goal, finding the net four times as they put Port Glasgow to the sword at Mossfield.



Donald Campbell, who opened the scoring for Saints, sees this attempt saved by the keeper. Pictures: Kevin McGlynn



Craig MacEwan scores the second goal for Saints.



Paul Carmichael causes problems in the Goldenhill defence.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils 1 Motherwell Thistle 2; Oban Saints 2 Goldenhill 1; Premier 1 - Rutherglen 3 Dunoon 3; Premier 2A - Houston 2 Lochgilhead Red Star 2; Premier 2B - Tarbert 0 Duntocher 2.

Next Saturday's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup semi final - Hillington v Oban Saints; Premier Division - Shawlands v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier 2B - Tarbert v Paisley.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results - Oban Saints youth results: Glasgow Red Star 3 Oban Saints Under 13s 2; Oban Saints Under 14s 0 Carolside YC 1; Westerton 0 Under 15s 6.

Oban Lorne 7s are cancelled

Rugby

OBAN Lorne RFC had to call off its scheduled rugby sevens tournament on Saturday May 6 after a number of teams pulled out.

The club's annual dinner is planned to take place this Saturday May 13 in the clubhouse from 7.30pm.

The night will include entertainment from guest speakers, player awards, a presentation by Argyll and Bute Council to former president Dee Bradbury and a three-course meal.

Tickets are available at the clubhouse. All players and supporters welcome to attend.

And the club's annual general meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday May 30, in the clubhouse at 6pm.

Golf: club scores from around Argyll

TAYNUILT Golf Club results. Mixed open played Sunday May 7. Gross winners: 1 Iain MacCalman (Clober GC) / Ann S MacCalman (Taynuilt GC) 74; 2 Donald MacVicar (Glencruitten GC) / Moira MacVicar (Taynuilt GC) 78; 3 David Shanks / Ann Shanks (Dumbarton GC) 82.

Handicap winners: 1 Mark Grant / Liz Mudie (Taynuilt GC) 61 (24); 2 Richard Bergant (Taynuilt GC) / Eive Brown (Dalmally GC) 63 (21); 3 Jim Gallacher / Margaret Gallacher (Blairmore and Strone GC) 64 (20). Ladies' longest drive (7th): Fiona McGlynn (Taynuilt GC); gents' longest drive (10th) Donald MacVicar (Glencruitten GC). Gents nearest the pin (2nd) Jim Gallacher (Blairmore and Strone GC).

Thanks to the Kilchrenan Inn for sponsoring the event.

GLENCRUITTEN Golf

Club's leading qualifiers for the Captain of Dunstaffnage and Isis Trophies on Saturday were David MacLean 77-15=62, Alan Garrett 75-11=64 and Willie McAdam 69-5=64. On Saturday the first round of the Terry Ng takes place along with Cancer Research.

DALMALLY Golf Club gents' results: handicap championship round one: 1 J Livingstone 60 (14), 2 G MacKechnie 65 (7), 3 B Ross 68 (27). Cowan Cup round one: 1 A MacGillivray 63 (10), 2 W Dougal 65 (12), 3 T MacNair 69 (15).

ISLAY golf results Summer League played Wednesday May 3: 1 J Ferguson 42 pts, 2 DMelrose 42 pts 3rd N MacDonald 39 pts. May medal played Sunday May 7: 1 S Johnston net 67, 2 I Farrell net 68, 3 L Gairns net 70.



Winners of the mixed open competition played at Taynuilt Golf Club.

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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 9°C to 16°C.

Friday Light cloud
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

Weekend Light rain forecast
Moderate southerly winds
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

FRIDAY

Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 11, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	05.46 3.8 12.20 1.0 18.09 3.9	** ** *	**	
Fri	00.28 0.9 06.18 3.8 12.53 1.0	18.40	3.9	
Sat	01.03 1.0 06.51 3.7 13.25 1.1	19.12	3.6	
Sun	01.37 1.2 07.23 3.6 13.58 1.2	19.45	3.7	
Mon	02.12 1.4 07.54 3.5 14.29 1.4	20.20	3.5	
Tues	02.48 1.5 08.27 3.3 15.03 1.6	20.58	3.4	
Wed	03.29 1.7 09.06 3.1 15.45 1.7	21.44	3.2	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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HIGHLAND GAMES

CALENDAR 2017



Brothers' flat woes after lift issue scuppers move

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A 55-YEAR-OLD man with Parkinson's disease and his carer brother are having to find alternative living arrangements after learning there is a problem with the lift in a new council housing development.

Norrie Bruce, who has been suffering from the degenerative disease for 10 years, currently lives with his younger brother James in a top-floor flat in Claggan.

Last month the Highland Council allocated the pair a two-bedroom apartment in Tweeddale Building on Fort William High Street.

The flat is one of 22 homes available for council rent thanks to £2.9 million development which was due for completion on April 28.

Describing the move as a 'dream come true', the brothers had already viewed the flat and were looking forward to picking up their keys - only to have the 'dream' taken away from them.

James told *Lochaber Times*: 'We were just about to sign on the dotted line, everything was looking great and then a representative from the council mentioned the lift was unreliable.'

'At that point everything changed. There was no way I could move my brother in there worrying that he would get stuck at any point.'

Previously a keen biker and football player, Norrie says he has more difficulty going down stairs than coming up as he feels weakness in his knees.

He now spends his spare time creating artwork on his computer, saying it keeps him going.

He added: 'The flat was just perfect, it was open-plan with the bedroom looking onto the High Street and the living space looking onto the loch.'

'We would have been so near the supermarkets which would have made life a lot easier.'

'Living in Claggan, I spend £1,600 a year on taxis to and from the town to get things I need day to day.'

'They [the council] said there were problems with the phone in the lift and that it was unreliable. I don't just worry about me though. What about the other people who need to use the lift?'

Norrie added: 'You wouldn't get into a plane knowing it was half finished.'

The *Lochaber Times* contacted Highland Council about Norrie's experience, asking for clarity about the problem with the lift and, given that it is a new build, why is it not being fixed.

A spokesperson for HC said it was the resident's carer who decided not to take the Tweeddale flat, adding that the brothers were not advised against taking it because of the lift situation, and that at no point have members of staff suggested the lift in the building is unreliable.

The spokesperson added: 'They did explain that anyone wholly reliant on the lift could have difficulties escaping unaided in the event of a fire.'

'We must stress that in this case the decision to turn down the flat was made by the carer. Housing staff are working to find a more suitable alternative property.'

On Tuesday, Norrie and James told the *Lochaber Times* that HC had been in touch regarding a flat now available at another development, on Belford Road.

Norrie said: 'They told me a flat Belhaven had become available. I was surprised because previously they said they were all full.'

'The Belhaven flat is ground floor and is opposite the swimming pool which is good for me but I won't have as much independence as I could have had in the High Street and my condition is only going to get worse.'

'We have still to see the flat and people won't be moving in until the end of June.'

'I don't know what would have happened if we hadn't come to the *Lochaber Times* though.'

Six engines tackle glen blaze



The fire broke out on Sunday morning and caused significant damage in the area.
Photograph: Dave Thomas

CHARRED remains and melted belongings were all that were left after a fire broke out at a campsite in Glen Etive over the weekend, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

It is thought a wildfire started in the Lochan Urr area of Glen Etive on Sunday May 7. The fire was still going at 4pm on Monday with firefighters on scene trying to get it under control.

Mark Shone, a stalker at Glen Etive Estate, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'Two campers had lit a

camp fire in the area and it has just taken off because of the dry weather and a bit of wind. They have obviously just taken off and abandoned ship without raising the alarm.'

'After the fire was put out you could see all that was left was a melted tent, cooking pot and a mobile phone.'

'We don't think it was set deliberately but a bit of common sense wouldn't have gone amiss. There is a sign about 100m

from where they camped saying don't light fires in this area.'

Mark said his advice to campers at this time of year would be do not light fires, adding: 'When you're on the hills where there is a lot of grass, fires can spread so quickly, especially if they get a bit of wind behind them. Even disposable barbecues can be dangerous at this time of year.'

For more on this story, turn to page three.

Fort William welcomes second cruise ship

PASSENGERS aboard the Boudicca cruise ship arrived in Fort William yesterday (Wednesday May 10) and enjoyed a host of events organised for them by various Lochaber businesses and volunteers.

The second of seven cruise ships coming to the town this year, the Boudicca brought 500 visitors from Belfast to Lochaber for the day.

Visitors disembarked at the pontoons first thing yesterday morning. Some passengers headed to Glencoe and Anoch Mor on bus tours, while others climbed aboard the steam train to Glenfinnan for part of the day, before getting back on the ship around 5.30pm.

A number of events were planned, including talks from Lochaber Geo-Park, Chocolate Box tastings, an exhibition from the Lime Tree Gallery, piping and some Scottish country dancing.

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company secretary Sarah Kennedy said: 'I have had some great feedback from shops who are really coming on board, and many shops ran special offers for cruise ship passengers.'

'I will be going round the town on Saturday to speak to shop keepers and find out what the feedback is like.'

The *Lochaber Times*, with the Outdoor Capital of the UK made special maps which were handed out to passengers as they came off the cruise ship. The maps detailed the highlights of the Fort William area.



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Lochside demolition stopped after site found to be 'live'

DEMOLITION of the former Lochside Primary School has come to a halt after it was found the site was still 'live', writes *Monica Gibson*.

Diggers appeared onsite on Tuesday April 18 to begin knocking down the building.

The Highland Council and Lochaber Housing Association, working with Highland Small Communities Housing Trust, are redeveloping the site into 60 new homes.

In recent months, the work has been hit with a series of issues.

At the Caol Community

Council meeting on Monday May 8 it was revealed that work stopped after a power surge on site caused problems for nearby households.

Donnie Elder lives near the development and is part of Caol Community Council.

He said: 'There was actually smoke in one home and at least eight houses around Castle Drive were affected. But it could have been a lot worse - someone could have been killed. I still can't understand why the go-ahead was given for the demolition.'

Representatives from Bracewell Stirling Consultants (BSC), architects for the project, had been invited to attend the meeting, but BSC responded with a statement, read out at the meeting, suggesting they attend in June.

Confirming the latest issues, Amanda MacRitchie, partner at the firm, wrote: 'The demolition is presently on hold as two unforeseen items have arisen ... one was the discovery of an additional small area of asbestos ... the second was complications with power isolation to the main

school building which resulted in some of the surrounding properties being accidentally cut off. Direct contact is being maintained with the immediate properties affected.'

'Works will resume once these items are resolved. It is still expected to start the new works in autumn.'

A spokesperson from the Highland Council confirmed to the *Lochaber Times* that it is aware unexpected problems had been encountered during the demolition of the school and these are now being resolved.

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House plans for Tormore 'agreed in principle'

PLANS to build houses in a forest on Skye are progressing well, according to community council members.

Last November, Sleat Community Council consulted with the community on the principle of selling a small number of house sites on land forming part of Tormore Forest.

Archie MacCalman, chairman of Sleat Community Trust (SLT) said: 'The majority of those who attended the consultation agreed in principle that house sales were acceptable in order to re-invest in other community assets and projects.'

'Subsequently, the board of SLT has agreed that three house sites should be created with a view to being sold to fund the redevelopment of the community-owned shop, post office and petrol station at Armadale.

'In addition, the trust would also hope to address the remaining debt burden of its ongoing loan commitments.

'SLT believes addressing this issue and moving the redevelopment of the Armadale site would be a major step forward in making the trust more resilient and self sufficient, as well as guaranteeing the retention of lifeline facilities for the benefit of the community.

'The three sites are located on land forming part of Tormore Forest, beside the public road to Aird, at Capisdal. Currently, the sites are being advanced to planning in principle with Highland Council and the planning applications will be advertised by the council in due course.

'SCT is still considering creating more affordable housing on the community owned site at Armadale as part of the wider redevelopment.'

Government responds to Skye healthcare concerns

MONICA GIBSON
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

PROPOSALS to redesign health care on Skye were carried out in an 'appropriate manner', community councils have been assured.

Health services across Scotland are being re-designed to address sustainability and enable effective best use of available funds and developing practices.

The issue has caused controversy, not least on Skye where NHS Highland plans to build a new hospital in Broadford, a move which, according to SOSNHSKYE, has led to the removal of patient beds in Portree.

This, combined with patients having to travel to the mainland

for treatment and a lack of end-of-life care on the island, led to the group creating a petition for a re-think of the redesign.

In a bid to address some of the concerns, including a perceived lack of transparency by NHS Highland, a meeting was held in Kyle on April 3 where representatives from six community councils met with officials of NHS Highland. As a result of the meeting, Rob Ware of Sleat Community Council wrote to the Health Performance and Delivery Directorate of the Scottish Government on behalf of Glenelg and Arnisdale, Loch Duich, Broadford and Strath, Kyle, Lochcarron and Sleat.

Charlotte Jack of the performance management division of the directorate said that following consideration of

the responses to the public consultation, the proposals for the modernisation community and hospital service had been endorsed.

Ms Jack said Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Shona Robinson had been clear NHS Highland had made a compelling case for change, which was supported by the majority of local stakeholders including clinical staff, planning partners, local people and their representatives. Ms Robinson was content that the proposals were consistent with national policy and would provide modern, fit-for-purpose services for the benefit of all local people in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross and that the proposed

'The Cabinet Secretary was convinced by the Scottish

Health Council, and independent organisation, that NHS Highland conducted this process in a meaningful and inclusive way providing local people with numerous and meaningful opportunities to express their views, said Ms Jack

She concluded: 'The decision to approve the health board proposals has been made and it is now important to move forward and ensure the plans put forward by NHS Highland provide the best possible services for all the people of Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross and NHS Highland have given assurances that they will continue to take this forward with the full involvement of local stakeholders.'

Mr Ware told *Lochaber Times*: 'The meeting was very worth-

while. All the representatives are pleased with the response we have received and to have confirmation the health board acted appropriately.

'We think it is important to look forward now. The hospital in Portree was built in 1935, it is high time for a new one.

'End-of-life care does need to be improved and there are other issues but we are lucky money has been allocated for this project and we need to appreciate the opportunity and not let it pass us by. We never wanted it to be a case of north versus south but all the representatives at the meeting believe Broadford is best placed to serve the needs of many. All it really should come down to is what is best for everyone and we are confident the redesign delivers that.'

Skye MSP supports bid for Staffin homes

SKYE MSP Kate Forbes has welcomed a bid to build six new homes in Staffin by the area's community trust.

Ms Forbes tabled a parliamentary motion, and sent a letter to Highland Council, in support of the plans, emphasising the development of new homes as 'critical for the future'.

If granted, it will be the first development of its kind in the north of the Isle of Skye since the late 1990s.

Ms Forbes said: 'The context to this application is that a study suggested that depopulation could lead to the village's primary school having no pupils within a decade.

'Against this backdrop, building new homes to encourage families to stay, and new ones to settle is vital.

'There are six houses being built, with ownership being divided between the Staffin Community Trust, HHT (Highland Homes Trust) and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association.'

She added: 'The houses are designed for new families moving into the area, or to ensure those with existing ties are able to remain.

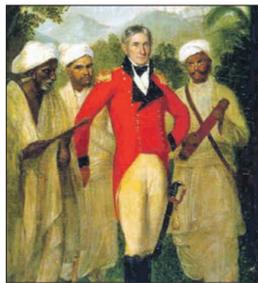
'The community council is in support of the project, interest has been shown in the houses and money has been awarded to the project by the Scottish Land Fund.

'I am of the belief that, in order for the Highlands to flourish, we need to encourage people into the area and for that to take place, we need affordable and sustainable housing.'



Proposed homes have been designed for new families to the area or those with Staffin ties.

An Lanntair wins heritage lottery cash to launch Colin Mackenzie Collection exhibition



Portrait of Colonel Colin Mackenzie, with three of his assistants, by Thomas Hickey.

STORNOWAY arts centre An Lanntair has been awarded £59,900 to host the first exhibition of the Colin Mackenzie Collection, 196 years after his death.

Funding was given by the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver the project which will see the exhibition and a vibrant arts festival, Purvai, run at An Lanntair this August, celebrating the Hebrides' South Asian heritage links and Scotland's 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology celebrations.

The Mackenzie Collection is

the oldest and largest collection of ancient South Asian art, collected by Colin Mackenzie from Stornoway.

Born in 1754, Colonel Mackenzie left the Hebrides for India in 1783.

He led a remarkable life, culminating in becoming the First Surveyor General of All India in 1815, travelling the subcontinent and building an extraordinary collection of objects.

The collection comprises a range of material, including figures intricately carved in

stone, thousands of drawings and sketches from across India and Java depicting ancient monuments, people and customs, maps, coins, and old and precious palm leaf manuscripts.

Items from the collection will be on loan from the British Museum, The British Library and the V&A, and exhibited at Museum nan Eilean at Lews Castle, opening on August 11 and running throughout the autumn until November 18.

Nick Smith, heritage manager at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'It is extraordinary to

think that this important collection has never been shown in Stornoway, Colin Mackenzie's home town.

'Much of Mackenzie's possessions were purchased by the India Office Library upon his death and are now in the care of national institutions.

'The high quality exhibition space at Museum nan Eilean Lews Castle means we now have the opportunity to bring some of this collection to Stornoway for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike, thanks to Catherine Maclean and her col-

leagues at An Lanntair as well as the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.'

As well as the Mackenzie Collection exhibition, the HLF-funded project will also focus on the heritage and stories of South Asian-Hebridean families who settled in Stornoway.

An Lanntair will work with actor, director and playwright, Sudha Bhuchar and photographer and artist Arpita Shah on researching stories of South Asian Hebridean families and their journeys to Stornoway and the islands.



Tommy's Tour heads for Western Isles

NATIONAL dementia campaigner Tommy Whitelaw is launching a tour of the Western Isles to raise awareness of the condition.

Tommy, who lives in Glasgow, was a full-time carer for his late mother Joan who had been diagnosed with vascular dementia. Through supporting his mother, he became a well-known national campaigner.

Tommy's Tour will take place on the following days:

Barra: Wednesday May 31, 1.30pm-2.30pm at Cobhair Bharraigh, Castlebay.

Uists: Thursday June 1, 11.30am at Sacred Heart House, Daliburgh.

Harris: Thursday June 1, Staff and Carers Tea, 7-8pm, Harris House, Tarbert.

Lewis: Friday June 2, opportunity to visit the Clisham Memory Garden from 1pm-1.30pm at Western Isles Hospital, Stornoway.

Ceilidh on the Ward from 1.30pm-2.30pm in Erisort Ward, Western Isles Hospital, Stornoway.

Saturday June 3, a Memory March, hosted by Alzheimer Scotland, will be held from 2pm at the Bridge Centre, Stornoway.

Author to tour island schools

AUTHOR, illustrator and graphic novelist Laura Ellen Anderson is set to visit schools in the Western Isles between May 15 and 19.

London-based Laura is the creator of the popular *Evil Emperor Penguin* graphic novel series and the illustrator for many other books.

This tour will see Laura lead a bespoke and interactive comic workshop for P4-7 and S1 pupils that focuses on creating comic characters, plot and story boards.

The tour is sponsored by Scottish Friendly Assurance and organised by Scottish Book Trust. Laura's dates are: Monday May 15, 9.15am Sgoil an Rubha, Bayble, Point, Isle of Lewis; 1.45pm, Stornoway Primary School; Tuesday May 16, 10.30am, Sgoil nan Loch, Lochs; 2.30pm, Laxdale Primary School, Laxdale; Wednesday May 17, 10.30am, Paire School, Gravir, Lewis; 2.30pm, Sir Edward Scott School, Tarbert, Harris; Thursday May 18, 10.30am, North Uist School; 2.30pm, Balivanich Primary School, Isle of Benbecula; Friday May 19, 10.30am, Castlebay Community School, Barra; 2.50pm, Eoigarry Primary School.

Delays expected due to resurfacing work

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar was expecting to commence the 2017 surface dressing programme in Berneray, Uist on Monday May 8 and continue on to other locations in North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist for a further two to three weeks duration.

Once the works are completed

on the Uists, operations will move to Harris and Lewis around May 25 for a further four to five weeks.

Delays can be expected over this period at work locations including A859 Harris West side, South Lochs, North Lochs, Bernera and Point.

Road users are advised to expect some delays and to comply with temporary speed limits, signage and any traffic management throughout these sites.

The comhairle wished to apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.

These works are obviously weather dependent and so are subject to delays.

Blue Badge eligibility extended

SCOTLAND'S blue badge scheme has been extended to allow people who may mental disorders or a lack of awareness of the world around them and pose a risk to themselves or others in traffic to obtain a blue badge.

The blue badge scheme provides various on-street parking

concessions for people with disabilities.

As part of a pilot now extended until the autumn, people who have conditions such as dementia, autism and down's syndrome, and may lack awareness of danger from traffic, will be eligible for the badge.

People applying for a blue badge under this pilot need to demonstrate they meet the criteria.

A decision on permanent changes will be made at the end of the pilot. For more information on blue badges and the rules and regulations around their use, visit www.mygov.scot

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Community council backs plan as play park moves a step closer

MONICA GIBSON
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A CAMPAIGN to build a new play park in Caol is gaining momentum thanks to community backing.

Damian MacDonald, 32, has been leading the 'Caol Play' project for more than two years.

Over the past few weeks, Mr MacDonald invited as many people as possible who live close to the proposed site near Banavie Road to attend the Caol Community Council (CCC) meeting on May 8 to discuss the project. He also asked those who could not attend but support the project to indicate their backing via social media.

During the meeting, it was explained the existing play parks which are on the shoreline in Caol will be removed due to flood prevention work. These parks will not be replaced but Highland Council has agreed to allocate £50,000 'compensation' towards another play park in the area.



Damian MacDonald, right, with Donny Elder and Kirsty Kyle of Caol Community Council, discuss proposals for the new play park. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Mr MacDonald said progress had also been made with the lease for the site, which had hit difficulties in the past, and that it may soon be possible to start

work on an initial phase, adding: 'What we need is backing from the community council to show that giving this project the £50,000 is the right choice. If

we get the £50,000 then we will hope to have this fund matched by LEADER and once we have £100,000 we will try to build something.'

Jane Young, chairperson for CCC, expressed concern that people who didn't use social media might not have had the opportunity to convey their opinion on whether this particular park is the preferred option.

But Kirsty Kyle, who is also on the CCC committee, pointed out that children from the local schools had been asked, a feasibility study had been carried out and that the plans were made readily available throughout the community. In response, Mrs Young said: 'The fact that people are coming together and trying to do this for the benefit of the community, means the council should try to support it.'

A representative told the *Lochaber Times*: 'For Caol Play we did the feasibility study that demonstrated overwhelming support for upgrading and improving the play area at Banavie Road which is a council-owned site.'

He explained that to be able to apply for external funding

the group had to lease the site and it was in the final stages of securing a 25-year lease.

He added: 'The council has agreed to continue maintaining the play area and the group has identified a number of funding streams it can now apply to.'

'The aim is to secure £150,000 for phase one.'

Alan Henderson, who has recently been reappointed as councillor for Caol and Mallaig, suggested Mr MacDonald apply for some money from the ward discretionary fund and said 'there will be money there'.



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Strontian school plan forges ahead

ANOTHER important milestone has been reached by a community aiming to build its own school.

Strontian Community School Building (SCSB) Limited now owns the piece of land adjacent to Ardnamurchan High School.

SCSB aims to raise £600,000 to complete the first community-owned school project in Scotland, and last December raised £100,000 towards the project ahead of the February 28 deadline.

At an SCSB board meeting on May 2, it was agreed to issue a 'letter of intent' to S & K MacDonald Homes in order that it can proceed with planning permission and other preparatory work.

Reverend Donald McCorkindale, chairperson of SCSB, told *Lochaber Times*: 'We anticipate that very soon we will be in a position to award the contract formally.'

'The timeline is now indicating that within a year Strontian Primary School will be in the new premises.'

Drummer celebrates promotion

A DRUMMER from Fort William is celebrating after being handed a high-ranking position.

Cadet Sergeant Jodie Standen from 1st Battalion the Highlanders ACF has been appointed the Battalion's new Cadet Drum Major for the Battalion's Pipes and Drums.

Battalion the Highlanders ACF is a youth organisation which provides challenging adventure, sporting and community activities aiming to inspire young people to achieve success while having fun at the same time.

Sixteen-year-old Jodie has been a member of the battalion since April 2013 and has progressed through 'green' training which involved shooting, first aid, field-craft and navigation and music training. She is also a cadet instructor and teaches drumming to fellow cadets.

She told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I am delighted to be appointed as the new drum major of the battalion. I hope to further my leadership skills, support younger musicians develop and succeed in their careers as army cadet musicians, and I look forward to representing the battalion in forthcoming events.'

Van driver seven times legal limit

A VAN driver who hit a car waiting at the Fishnish ferry terminal while almost seven times over the legal limit for alcohol has been banned from driving for 32 months and fined £500.

Donald Milne Kearney, 61, of Flat 2, Seanivan, Banavie, Fort William, pleaded guilty to driving a van on the A884 Fishnish Ferry Road, Mull, on Sunday April 30, after consuming so much alcohol that a test measured 142mg in 100ml of his breath, when the legal limit is 22mg.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Oban Sheriff Court on Monday May 8: 'Three witnesses were sitting in their car waiting for a ferry. The time was 4.55pm.'

'As they sat there, a van collided with the rear of their vehicle, causing damage to both vehicles.'

'It was abundantly apparent he was under the influence. He failed a roadside breath test.'

Defence agent Jane McLaren said: 'He has been employed by BT as an engineer. He has resigned. I have advised him he will lose his licence for quite some time.'

'He advised me he did drink a large amount of alcohol on Saturday night and early Sunday morning. He tells me he did not have anything on the Sunday.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'A heroic quantity must have been drunk. It is amazing he is still alive.'

There was a 'high level of culpability,' she said, adding: 'It is seven times the legal limit.'

She disqualified Kearney for 32 months and fined him £500, to be paid within 28 days.

Caol gala day boost

ORGANISERS of Caol Gala Day have a plan to ease their burden and raise cash for others.

This year's event, which is self-funded with the profits being reinvested for the next year, takes place on June 24.

Kirsty Kyle, treasurer of Caol Community Council (CCC), who leads the fundraising efforts, has already raised the £6,000 required for the day.

Alongside Kirsty, a small, hardworking committee is responsible for organising food, entertainment, stalls and ensuring everything goes as smoothly as possible on the day.

Jane Young, chairperson for CCC, explained at the council's meeting on May 8 that organising and manning the stalls can be a struggle due to a lack of volunteers. Mrs Young suggested CCC reach out to schools, charities and organisations to invite them to host a stall.

'This is an opportunity for them to raise money for their own community or project.'

For more information contact k.kyle@btopenworld.com

Emergency crews battle wildfires at weekend

FIREFIGHTERS fought to take control of a number of wild fires that broke out across Lochaber at the weekend, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

A fire in Glen Etive, as mentioned on page one, caused a significant damage to the area on Sunday.

Mark Shone from Glen Etive Estate said they had been left without a phone after the fire melted their line, and there had been wildlife damage with birds nests being destroyed.

He added: 'Our worry just now is how dry the weather is, but rain is forecast for the weekend which will hopefully help.'

Last month The Scottish Wildfire Forum issued a warning saying the risk of wildfire is at its highest at this time of the year.

SWF said: 'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is already working closely with land managers and appealing to tourists and communities

to help reduce the number of fires in a bid to protect the countryside and its residents.'

A fire and rescue spokesman said: 'At 1pm on Sunday May 7, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to a wildfire in Glen Etive.'

'A total of six appliances were subsequently mobilised with firefighters using beaters and water backpacks to tackle the fire, which affected approximately 80 acres of land. The flames were extinguished, however, crews were alerted at 12.34pm the following day to a separate wildfire in the area.'

'Two appliances were mobilised and crews extinguished the flames with beaters and water backpacks. There were no casualties at either incident and firefighters left after ensuring the area was made safe.'

Fire crews were alerted to another fire on Sunday at 1pm north of Invercharnan, Bal-

lachulish. Six fire appliances were sent from Spean Bridge and Fort William to tackle the blaze which stretched across 80 acres of land.

The spokesperson said: 'There were no casualties and crews left the scene at 8.40pm after ensuring the safety of the area.'

A third fire broke out on Sunday near Leven Road, Kinlochleven, at 10.58am.

One fire engine responded, using beaters and water backpacks to control the flames.

'At its height a fire front of approximately 25 metres was spread across a steep hillside,' said the fire and rescue spokesperson. 'There were no casualties and firefighters left the scene at 2.30pm after ensuring the area was made safe.'

The fire that broke out in Glen Etive on Sunday.

Photograph: Dave Thomas.



Nevis Bakery pies are 'golden'



Nevis Bakery production assistant manager Robert Lawrie, right, and baker Leszek Kotowicz with the award-winning pies. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

FORT WILLIAM baker Archie Paterson of Nevis Bakery has won gold at the regional final of this year's Scottish Baker of the Year awards.

The High Street business won a regional gold award and a national bronze for its steak pies.

Owner Mr Paterson said: 'We are extremely pleased to be recognised as one of Scotland's best bakers.'

'We take our business very seriously and use traditional methods and craftsmen's skills to deliver quality every time. But we could not have come this far in the competition without the votes of all of our customers, thank you.'

Mr Paterson, who was a chef in the Lochaber area before setting up the bakery, told the *Lochaber Times*, his steak pie recipe

is one he has been working with since his days in the kitchen. He said: 'We have been winning awards for our steak pies for the last 15 years, and we always pick up prizes at this event.'

'The steak pies are a really popular product and we are pleased to have won.'

Mr Paterson opened the bakery in 1981, with a shop on the High Street and a factory in Corpach, where

the award-winning pies and other delicious treats are made.

Judge on ITV's Britain's Best Bakery, Mich Turner MBE, presented the team from Nevis Bakery with their award at a glittering ceremony in Glasgow.

More than 11,000 customers from across Scotland voted for their favourite bakery products across eight categories.

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FW

WHAT'S ON

Friends of the West Highland Lines will be holding an AGM in Fort William tomorrow (May 12).

Cathy Craig, ScotRail alliance commercial director, and David Dickson, the alliance director for infrastructure, are the main speakers for the event, which kicks off at 2.30pm in the Alexandra Hotel.

For more information contact Doug Carmichael, chairman of Friends of the West Highland Lines on 02631 562915.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) is holding an information stall at the Sustainable Lifestyles Event at UHI, Fort William, on Thursday May 18 from 10am to 3pm.

Staff and volunteers from Lochaber Sensory Care (LSC) for sight and hearing support will be visiting Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish on Monday May 15, from 10.30am until 12.30pm, offering help and advice to residents and members of the public.

They will also supply NHS hearing aid batteries and re-tube and maintain hearing aids.

Stramash is holding a family fun day at its Fort William nursery on May 27 from 11am until 3pm. There will be a bouncy castle, raffle, beat the goalie, archery, marshmallow toasting, baking stall and much more at its premises near BA park.

Car boot and craft tables are available for £10 per table.

To book or for more information contact cameron@stramash.org.uk

Lewis piper James Duncan MacKenzie, of Scottish folk band Breabach, will perform at Nunton Steadings tonight (May 11).

Supporting James will be UHI BA applied music graduates Peach/Skeoch, founding members of Tannara who were nominated for Up-and-Coming Band at the Scots Trad Awards this year. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8pm. Discounted tickets are available online now.

For more details visit: facebook.com/southuistfolkclub

Nether Lochaber Craft Fayre will take place on May 27 from 10am to 4pm.

Cakes and jams, handmade cards, knitted crafts, cushions, jewellery, candles, soup and roll refreshments will be available at the Nether Lochaber in Onich.

Contact Berit for more information on 01397 705539.

Kilmallie Community Centre committee are appealing for gardeners and volunteers to dig in and help in the restoration of the Kilmallie Community Gardens.

The work will start on Saturday May 20, from 10am. Contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040 for more information.

Lochaline's Terra picks up top awards at national games

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHALINE Primary School pupil Terra Grier won two gold and four bronze medals when she competed at the recent Dwarf Sport Association National Games.

Held in Birmingham at the end of April, nine-year-old Terra, who has achondroplasia, a form of dwarfism which mainly affects the long bones, picked up golds in hockey, which she practised for by playing shinty at school, and indoor curling.

She also secured bronze medals in javelin and all of her swimming events- 50m breaststroke, 25m breaststroke, and 25m freestyle.

Speaking to the *Lochaber Times*, Terra's mum Veronique Walraven said: 'Indoor curling is a really disabled-friendly sport



Swimming instructor Janey Walker with a very proud Terra and her medals.
Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

because it's not so much about strength but tactics, so she did really well.'

Terra has been a member of the national games for the past four years and has competed in three. She receives one-to-one swimming lessons once a week at Lochaber Leisure Centre and, on winning her swimming medals, Veronique said: 'I was so proud because she really only learned to swim recently, so swimming 50m is really amazing.'

'I don't think a lot of people realise the difficulties of someone with Terra's condition - she only started to walk when she was three. Everything is so much more complicated for her, so it's

nice to see her compete on a level playing field.'

'What is particularly nice about the games is that the children recognise they are with others who have forms of dwarfism.'

Terra competed as part of the Scottish region, which came third in the national games.

Her mum said: 'There are now regional events in Scotland, but most of them are in Fife, which is a long way for us to go from Lochaline, so we don't get to them much.'

She added: 'I don't think she is a naturally sporty person, but we noticed how much confidence competing gave her, because she can't really compete with the other children at her school.'

Terra plans to compete at next year's games, and is also set to take part in a swimming gala for children with disabilities in Inverness.

Villagers reap rewards of SSDT

VILLAGE halls across Lochaber have been reaping the rewards of the Scottish Six Days Trial.

The iconic event attracts thousands of visitors to the area each year, and the communities which riders pass through during the week have been benefiting from the surge of people.

The Kentallen and Duror Community Centre has provided refreshments and car parking for spectators of the SSDT for many years.

Over the past 11 years the community has produced enormous quantities of soup, sandwiches, scones and cakes, all provided by villagers.

The community field has been improved so that around 450 cars can fit on it. And this year more than £3,000 was raised which will go towards the running, maintenance and improvement of the hall.

Chairwoman of the community hall committee Jan Gibson said: 'Without this annual fundraiser, the community hall would not be able to function in its current fashion and I hope people can see how the hall improves each year.'

'My sincere and massive thanks to all the people who help on and before the day to make this event so enjoyable



both for the trials' spectators and we villagers.'

Last Tuesday Ardgor Memorial Hall held a similar event which raised £370.

New routes passing through Ardgor, in the avenue behind the hall, were introduced last year.

Fifteen volunteers dedicated around 50 hours to making food and cakes for the event.

Hall treasurer Kendra Turnbull told the *Lochaber Times*:

'We need to make £2,000 every year just to cover the running of the hall so everything we raise has to go to that. Anything over and above goes towards the new toilets.'

'It's a really fun event for people and it is good to get fundraising from people out-with the local catchment area, because all of our other events throughout the year are targeting the same people.'

'We had a lot of repeat cus-

tomers from last year, too. It's good promotion for the village hall and great for the village.'

In Kinlochleven the school's parent council raised £1,767 from the Pre-65 event, which will go towards the extra-curricular activities programme.

Rebecca Machin, head teacher at Kinlochleven High School, said: 'I can still remember the first time I saw the list of actual costings for the school trips and activities put on by Kin-

With 450 spaces available, at one point there were none left in the extended field next to Duror and Kentallen community hall.

lochleven High School when I first arrived two years ago, and then the amount that families are asked to contribute - the difference is huge.

'The parent council of Kinlochleven High School does an amazing job, plugging the gap between cost and contribution, making things like the S1 week to Outward Bound and the S3 week with Ocean Youth Trust, where our youngsters get to sail around the Outer Hebrides, affordable and available to all.'

She added: 'This was my third Pre-65 Saturday and I can now proudly say that I have mastered the art of frying eggs and have now passed the landmark of 1,000 cooked and sold.'

'I joined 26 other volunteers that day, pupils and parents, many who came in before or after work to help, to make this a success for our parent council and the school as a whole.'

'It fills me with pride to see so many people coming in to help and it is very humbling to be one of them.'

Lochaber families take part in memory walk

LAST WEEKEND people from Lochaber travelled to Glasgow to take part in a walk to remember family and friends who are no longer here.

Walk Of Hope is a 5k event which took place on May 6 in memory of people who have sadly taken their own lives.

Joyce Wells, who lost her son Gary in 2014, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'A group of eight of us all affected in some way by suicide travelled down on a LAD (Lochaber Action Disability) bus which Caroline Watt drove for us.'

'We left Fort William at midnight. On reaching Glasgow we met up with my sister-in-law and nephew who joined us on the walk.'

'We walked from the darkness (starting 4.15am) into the light, so anyone feeling low and in a dark place knows there is hope and help out there.'

The event was organised by Chris's House (the centre for help, response and intervention surrounding suicide), the first 24-hour non-medical crisis centre in Scotland.

Mrs Wells added: 'Some of our group collected sponsor money for walk.'

'My husband Maurice and I are celebrating our ruby wedding anniversary on May 20 and we are asking all family and friends who are celebrating with us to make a donation to Chris's House rather than buy us a present.'

'At the moment the group has collected more than £1,000 in sponsor money and we will add our donations on to that as well.'

'We would like to thank LAD for use of the bus, Caroline Watt for driving us, and to everyone who has donated to this very worthy cause. If we can raise awareness and let people know help is available and prevent someone committing suicide it makes it worth it.'

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Fort William GP develops guidelines for faster diagnoses of Lyme disease

A FORT WILLIAM medic has developed guidelines to help fellow health professionals diagnose and treat Lyme disease faster.

Dr James Douglas led a campaign to capture incidences of tick bites across Lochaber alongside colleagues from primary care and out-of-hours services, as well as the Belford Hospital's accident and emergency department.

The general practitioner, who works at Tweedale Medical Practice, said the information will be useful across Scotland.

He explained: 'The data capture study in Lochaber is aiming to give us a much more accurate rate in one area.'

'The information will be useful in Scotland and the rest



of the UK for planning the NHS response to Lyme disease.'

He added: 'This is a great example of colleagues in primary and secondary care working together on a project of mutual concern, and of the new GP clusters working on a subject of huge public interest here in Lochaber.'

'The guidelines will not only inform colleagues of how to promptly diagnose a tick bite

and Lyme disease, but improve coding information for admissions to hospital and prevention advice.'

'We are also working closely with Health Protection Scotland on public information and the Forestry Commission on occupational information, including a video with case studies to highlight why prevention of Lyme disease is so important.'

Dr Douglas has long campaigned for greater awareness of Lyme disease and last year he produced a video to demonstrate how to remove a tick safely using a special plastic tick removal device.

The GP said he would encourage everyone to continue to use the great outdoors but take precautions.

View from the Chamber

EMPLOYERS involved in supporting Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) can access significant benefits, whether by providing work experience, mentoring, giving talks and presentations to schools, or inviting young people to tour a business and learn about what they do.

For many businesses, social responsibility and being seen as being part of, and giving back to, their communities is enough benefit, but, there are numerous tangible benefits for a business, beyond 'doing the right thing'. Working with DYW offers businesses 'good news' PR exposure for



participants. This has a knock-on effect on perceptions about businesses by their own team and the wider public. The DYW team will work with companies to create and distribute positive press releases.

Recruiting young people has been

shown to increase commitment and loyalty, meaning that they are more likely to stay with a business, which helps maintain productivity and reduce recruitment costs.

Many businesses use being involved with DYW and its predecessors as a 'long lead' recruitment tool. It's a chance to market a business to the future workforce and get access to the up and coming talent of the future.

For more information and opportunities for you, contact your local DYW West Highland team on 01397 705 765 or email info@dywwesthighland.org.

Onich man feeling less than flush over return of toilet troubles

ELLIE FORBES
eforbes@obantimes.co.uk

AN ONICH man is at his wits end after a blocked sewage pipe has left him unable to use his toilet properly.

Danny Jimack, from Caberfeidh, Onich, told the *Lochaber Times* he has spent more than £1,000 trying to fix a problem that first started six years ago. He claims no-one will take responsibility for the current situation.

The 52-year-old said that in 2010 the sewage pipe under the

A82, which runs from his house on one side of the road to the other side where the septic tank is, broke causing sewage to build up. This was finally fixed in 2011, but the problem has now returned.

Mr Jimack continued: 'In February [2017] I noticed the sewage was starting to build up again. I had had my septic tank emptied last year so I knew it couldn't be full, which is when alarm bells started ringing. I was thinking it must be a blockage in the pipe again.'

'I called Scottish Water

because I knew the pipe would need cleared as it's a health hazard. They came out but said that officially they are not meant to clear the pipe, just empty the tank - but I couldn't even use my toilet.'

Mr Jimack, who is a coach driver earning around £8 an hour, paid a CCTV company to come with a camera and inspect the pipe to try and find out what was going on.

Images showed a huge hole in the pipe under the road.

Mr Jimack claims the volume

of traffic on the A82 is causing gravel to fall through the hole and into the pipe causing another blockage.

Mr Jimack said: 'The CCTV footage found that from my side of the road to about the middle there were several cracks and a huge hole in the pipe where gravel from the road is falling in and has blocked the pipe.'

'The footage showed that where the pipe runs under my garden it is in much better condition because it doesn't have heavy lorries pounding on it.'

'I have called BEAR Scotland, the council, Scottish Water, and my own insurance company, but no-one is taking responsibility for it. I really am at desperation stage now.'

'I don't work my guts off to have to pay this amount of money to try and fix a problem I didn't create.'

'I am using the toilet, but I can't put toilet paper down in case it gets blocked again. I have bought a chemi-loo because I just know it's going to happen again.'

A Scottish Water spokesperson

said: 'Scottish Water takes customer complaints extremely seriously. We are currently conducting an investigation into this matter and cannot comment further at this time.'

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'As the pipe underneath the A82 is not a trunk road asset, it is not the responsibility of BEAR Scotland.'

'Despite this, as the pipe runs beneath the trunk road we will contact Mr Jimack as we are interested to find out what is happening.'

Lochaber cinema team receives cash boost

LOCHABER Cinema Group (LCG) has received £7,500 to help to convert two former retail units in Fort William town centre into a cinema seating 160 people.

The cash, from the Scottish Land Fund, will support stage one of the project which will see architects draw up plans for the site, then a public consultations will be carried out.

Group chairwoman Marie MacPherson said the funding was a 'massive step towards a Lochaber cinema'.

She told the *Lochaber Times* that stage-two funding could be secured later this year if in the next six months the group has enough evidence to support the project.

She said: 'Stage two would cover 95 per cent of the money we need to buy unit five and six, about £175,000, so we would still be about £5,000 short but we are looking into other funding streams such as LEADER.'

In the next two to three months, Ms MacPherson said LCG would hold the first of many public consultations, adding: 'I want to get the architects to draw up plans so we are able to show people to give them a better idea of what we are going to do.'

Last month the group started a children's film club. Films are now being shown every Saturday in Kilmallie Community Centre, Caol Youth Centre, the Buzz Project's Studio Two on the High Street, and the Leven Centre.

The group is now looking for more volunteers to get involved with the children's club to help with the running of the screenings.

To find out more about LCG head to its Facebook page.

New Town team hub opens for business

FORT William Town Team's new headquarters was recently opened in an official ceremony, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

Volunteers received £12,000 last year towards the new hub which now takes pride of place in the Parade, providing the town team with a better base from which to run its Adopt-a-Plot scheme and a community tool-share partnership, in conjunction with Lochaber Environmental Group.

Town team chairwoman Moira Robertson told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We are really excited about the new hub, and hopefully it will be used by the community, charities and non-profit groups, they just need to get in touch through our new website.'

People wanting to get involved in the team's Adopt-a-Plot scheme can borrow tools from the shed to do some community gardening.

Opening the hub on Sunday May 7, Ms Robertson said: 'Thank you to Tesco for all its help. If it hadn't picked us for the funding, and the community hadn't been behind us, we

wouldn't have our new town team hub.' Duty manager at Tesco Fort William Mark MacKenzie said: 'It's been so good to see this project from the first conversation we had and getting the Town Team involved, and seeing it step by step to the finished project.'

Deniel Snaith, who co-ordinated the project, said: 'This is the biggest project financially we have ever worked on, but it is going to service so many things for such a long time.'

Fifteen volunteers took part in the spring clean last Sunday too, with a tidy up of the High Street and the waterfront from Morrisons to the pontoons.

The town team also has 86 hanging baskets sponsored which will be going up in the High Street at the end of May.

The group also has plans to put planters at each end of the High Street and potted trees near the benches in the coming months.

As a thank you to James Kennedy of the town team for painting cinema lane and the side of the *Lochaber Times* office, the *Lochaber Times* has donated £100 to the group.



Tesco duty manager Mark MacKenzie opened the town team hub on Sunday. Photograph: Abridge Photography.

Road partnership welcomes support for 'future proofing' A82

SUPPORT for plans to 'future proof' a vital Highland link have been well received by a road organisation, writes *Monica Gibson*.

The A82 Partnership has been campaigning for upgrades to the A82 trunk road to 7.3 metres in the Tarbet to Inverarnan Scheme.

Highland Council and The Highland and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) has sent letters to Humza Yousef MSP, the minister for transport, and Transport Scotland consultant engineers giving their backing for a road width of 7.3 metres.

The road improvement, which is presently being designed by Transport Scotland's consultant engineers, will upgrade a 17-kilometre section of the A82, the essential infrastructure lifeline for the West Highlands and islands.

Early indications were that the road upgrade would be designed around a six-metre carriageway, but strong representations have been made



Campaigners are urging Transport Scotland to widen the lifeline trunk road to 7.3 metres. Photograph: Abridge Photography

by the A82 Partnership and West Highland businesses that the upgrade should be 'future proof' and designed around a 7.3-metre carriageway.

HITRANS has asked Mr Yousef to ensure that the final design reflects the nationally strategic function of this trunk road.

HITRANS chairman James Stockan said: 'The objective must be to upgrade the A82

with a consistent design along its full extent with a 7.3-metre carriageway plus hard strips, adequate overtaking opportunities and a 60mph design speed outwith settlements.'

Representatives from the A82 Partnership say the plans have also been bolstered by comments made by the Highland Council in a letter to Transport Scotland's consultant engineers stating,

'Highland Council considers a road width of 7.3 metres to be the necessary road width for HGV and coach traffic using the A82. This road width will remove the current barrier where some haulage companies currently avoid the A82 due to the constrained road width.'

Brian Murphy, chairman of the A82 Partnership, welcomed the growing support: 'HITRANS and The Highland Council, in their letters, are reflecting the belief within the community that such a significant investment in our infrastructure should not be constrained by limiting the carriageway width to six metres but ensuring that the demands of the next 30 to 40 years are met.'

'It is essential that this upgrade realises the full economic potential of the West Highlands and islands, including the ambitious plans that the Liberty House Group have for the smelter in Fort William.'

Four new councillors voted to council to serve across region

FOUR new councillors have won seats in Ward 21, Fort William and Ardnarmurchan and Ward 11, Caol and Mallaig, while three existing councillors have been re-elected, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

At the Scottish council elections on Thursday May 5, Andrew Baxter (Independent) was re-elected and Blair Allan (SNP), Ian Ramon (Conservative) and Niall McLean (SNP) elected to serve Fort William and Ardnarmurchan.

Mr Baxter said: 'Over the last five years, I've worked hard to represent our area on the council.'

'I've always taken a no-nonsense approach, speaking my mind and arguing the case for Lochaber at every opportunity, even when that has made me unpopular with council officers or fellow councillors.'

'I said I would continue that approach if re-elected. Local residents clearly supported that approach by re-electing me last Thursday.'

Mr Allan said: 'While I am delighted to have been elected, I am also very grateful for, yet humbled and privileged by, the confidence that the people of the ward have placed in me - I will do my level best to live up to their high expectations. In offering my congratulations to the other successful candidates in Lochaber, I would also like to say how much I am looking forward to working with them to help make Lochaber an even better place in which to live and work.'

Mr McLean told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I am excited to work hard for ward 21 and am very grateful for all the support I have received during the

process. I plan to get out round the ward in the short-term and listen to people's needs and concerns.'

The *Lochaber Times* could not reach Mr Ramon for a comment.

For Ward 11, Ben Thompson (Independent) and Allan Henderson (Independent) were re-elected, while SNP councillor William MacLachlan was newly elected.

Mr MacLachlan said: 'I am delighted to be elected with huge thanks to all who voted for me. Unfortunately I was laid low with a severe flu bug so did not get out and about for over a week, but I'm looking forward to meeting as many people as possible in the months ahead.'

Independent Mr Thompson added: 'I'm delighted to be elected and want to thank those who voted for me. I'm

looking forward to working hard for everyone across my ward. I'm also looking forward to establishing a good working relationship with all the Lochaber councillors - returning and new.'

Mr Henderson said: 'I am delighted that the electorate of Ward 11 have shown confidence and faith in me by electing me to represent them for a third term.'

'Thanks also to all who helped me during the canvassing period, which reminds us just what a beautiful, large and varied ward we represent.'

'I will continue to endeavour to help and be available where possible and continue to fight Lochaber's corner for a fair share as the Highland Council moves to more decentralised working and budgets with more local input.'

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FW

Loch Arkaig

A LOVESICK Lochaber osprey has had a change of luck, with not one but three females now vying for his attention.

Louis, who nests in the Loch Arkaig forest, had been nicknamed Lonesome Louis by Woodland Trust Scotland staff after he was spotted looking forlornly for his mate.

Louis arrived back from Africa on April 10 and staff feared the worst for the

bird until last Friday when a female turned up and they have been paired up ever since. What is more, according to George Anderson, a further two females have tried to muscle in on the action, but Louis is sticking with his original choice.

Mr Anderson said: 'We are now confident there will be eggs hatched in June. We had all but given up hope for him finding a mate so this is fantastic news.'

Strontian



Colin Skeath and nephew Davis Gould Duff.

TWO men attempting to paddle around mainland Britain in an open canoe in aid of a children's charity have set off.

Ex-police officer Colin Skeath, who now lives in Strontian, and his nephew, Davis Gould-Duff, are attempting the challenge in a Swift Temagami open canoe.

The pair set off from outside the Sunart Hotel on Sunday in a clockwise direction.

Strong winds meant the first day of the 2,500-mile trip was strenuous but the sun has been shining since, making conditions fairly comfortable, according to Colin's wife Katrina.

She told the *Lochaber Times*: 'They were both really anxious to set off. We have been preparing for this for a long time so they just wanted to get cracking really.'

'They had some rough seas the first night as they were heading up to Kilchoan so they never managed to go around Ardnamurchan un-

til Monday morning and they stopped on Eigg. They set off again and made it over to Armadale.'

The plan is for Colin and Davis to do two shifts a day. Where possible they will paddle and then find somewhere to stop until the tide changes.

Katrina will meet them approximately every five days to hand over extra food and water, batteries and memory cards for their cameras.

She added: 'The weather has been lovely for them although I had a conversation with them earlier today (Tuesday) and it has been a tough paddle because the wind dropped. They are heading up toward Kyle Rhea and in the direction of Skye Bridge.'

Money raised from the trip will be donated to Forget Me Not children's hospice which supports children with life-shortening conditions and their families. To donate visit <http://canoearoundbritain.com/>.

Glencoe

GLENCOE Folk Museum is getting ready to celebrate its 50th anniversary in style by taking part in a nationwide festival.

The Festival of Museums is an annual event co-ordinated by Museums Galleries Scotland. It showcases Scotland's extensive cultural offering through more than 120 events taking place over one weekend across the country.

This year will be Scotland's largest Festival of Museums and Glencoe Folk Museum is stepping back in time to host a fun-filled day of retro crafts and classic games.

The museum's temporary exhibition celebrates the five

decades of history that the museum has witnessed since opening in 1967 through fashion, technology and local events, and visitors are welcome to add their own photos and memories to the reminiscence board.

Relive the Swinging Sixties by creating tie-dye tops and flower-power headbands, make your own lava lamp, take part in a lifesize Spirograph picture and try some classic 1960s games and toys.

The event takes place on Saturday May 20 from 10am-4pm, with free entry to the museum and a small charge for craft activities.

Visit www.festivalofmuseums.com.



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Lochaber

SWI keeps traditional skills alive

LOCHABER ladies have been learning how to make something new out of something old at the April meeting of the women's institute.

Several members of the Lochaber Federation SWI met at the Salvation Army Hall, Fort William, to learn the craft of patchwork.

Led by Barbara Collins of Lochailort, an expert quilt-maker, the women were shown two different ways of making patterns.

Although most of their materials were new and specifically designed for patchwork, their grannies and great-grannies would have saved old clothing and cut out the less worn pieces to turn into quilts.

On the first day they



Some of the ladies with their crafts.

worked on the well-known log cabin pattern, using strips to make squares which were then sewn together to make larger

pieces until they reached the required size to make into something such as a cushion cover.

On the second day the

ladies sewed a square of material together to make larger squares which were then cut and re-positioned to make a variety of patterns.

Martine Young from the SWI said: 'Barbara was an excellent tutor and her skill and patience were much appreciated by her pupils.'

'The ladies had a lovely time choosing the best fabrics to make their patterns while catching up on the news. It was very satisfying to see the finished squares and what everyone had achieved.'

'It was a real exercise in keeping traditional skills alive, an important aim of the SWI organisation, and recycling, just as necessary now as then, even if for different reasons.'

Fort William



The gents stop for a picture at Fort William Men's Shed before getting back to work. Photograph by Abriside Photography

Men's Shed appeals for a treasurer

THE kettle is always boiling and the craic is always flowing at a social club for men in Fort William but now they just need someone to manage their finances.

Fort William Men's Shed is a place where men can come together to share skills, work on community projects and catch up.

The group meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at its shed' in the Blah Mor industrial estate.

Bruce James, chairman, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'It is just a nice comfy place

where men with time on their hands can come and relax, speak to other men and potter around. We're not all retired but even still, life can sometimes get lonely.'

'Women are better at talking to each other and getting into groups, even if they are only going to the medical centre. Men can sometimes find it hard to open up and there's sometimes conversations that men only feel comfortable having around other men.'

Since the group moved into

the Blah Mor, its members have been working to get the place up to scratch with a bit of help from local businesses and organisations.

Bruce said: 'Age Scotland and the Robertson Trust have been very good to us but a lot of the jobs we have worked on ourselves. We have an IT corner, and were bequeathed a wood lathe, some members mend old motorbikes and we can also sell the items we make, like garden furniture, to help cover our costs.'

A registered charity, The

Men's Shed also organised for a health professional to visit and give the guys a check up.

Bruce added: 'I was pleasantly surprised that everyone took the opportunity to have a MOT. Things are really ticking over at the shed but what we need is a treasurer to make sure we're doing things by the book.'

'If anyone with some experience is interested, they should get in touch and if transport is a problem we can even pick them up from a bus stop.'

Islands

THE Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) has reported record breaking sightings between January and March this year.

There were 118 sightings, totaling more than 431 individual animals, recorded between January 1 and March 31.

Bottlenose dolphins were

reported 12 times over the three months, with encounters in Barra, as well as the Inner Hebrides and around Mallaig.

HWDT also tracks and records individual killer whales and Risso's dolphins using photo identification. During this period, both species were

reported five times across the Hebrides.

Sightings of killer whales were noted around Skye, Mull and the Small Isles.

HWDT relies on members of the public to report sightings of whales, dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks through its website www.hwdt.org.

A spokesperson from the group said: 'We are very keen for people to join in with our community sightings network. By reporting sightings, people contribute directly to a better understanding of the local marine environment. It is really useful citizen science in action.'

Acharacle

A BROTHER and sister who have taken over a cafe in Acharacle are serving up sweet snacks and a sanctuary for students.

Carolanne and David John Cameron took over the Acharacle Tea Room at the end of April. Having grown up in the area, they knew the tea room well and both also have catering experience.

Carolanne said: 'We got the keys a few weeks ago and then opened on April 28 so it has been a bit manic and a quick turnaround but I think the locals appreciate that and are pleased that we are open again.'

'So far everyone has been really positive and saying we are doing a great job and David John and I are beginning to settle in now and are really enjoying it.'

Previously, Carolanne was a youth worker in Strontian



and is currently studying for a health science degree with the Open University.

Recognising that people do not always have a comfortable environment to prepare for exams or complete academic assignments, she and her brother decided to start study groups in the evening.

The 23-year-old said: 'From my youth worker

days, I know the youngsters from Ardnamurchan High School so we ran the idea past them and they thought it was great. The tea room will be open for fourth, fifth and sixth years to come and do some exam preparation with tea, coffee and cake available for £1 each.'

'Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.'

Rum

A REMOTE island community trust has received planning permission to create a community garden.

The Isle of Rum Community Trust plans to build a poly tunnel and the garden. It also hopes to form a community allotment area.

Located on an old tree nursery within the grounds of Kinloch Castle, the trust has had the planning application accepted by

the Highland Council for a temporary period until 2020.

The temporary nature of the application is because the garden will be within the curtilage of the castle, which is a listed building.

Floss Fraser, from the community trust, told the *Lochaber Times*: 'We want to start building the poly tunnel as soon as possible. It will be split up into sections and people will pay for

a wee plot where they can grow their own produce. We are also hoping to plant some fruit trees outside.'

'I think gardening is quite relaxing. Stress levels are not particularly high out here, but everyone can now enjoy eating what they have grown.'

Money made will be put back into the community trust, and used to purchase things such as the fruit trees.

RETRO Roamer

THE ROAMER column was the highlight of a Thursday for many Lochaber readers, and so this week he returns with a timely look back at the events and people that made it into his columns in the mid 1980s ...

'I wouldn't tie him there,' advised the Corpach shop-keeper when the visitor from the Lowlands looped the lead of his large Alsatian around a metal Lyons Maid advertising board on the pavement. 'Oh, he'll be alright,' replied the owner, as he carried on into the shop. Suddenly the Alsatian – and advert – took off like something from Cape Canaveral, and pounded and clattered along the A830. Embarrassed dog owner went off in hot pursuit, and Alsatian – and advert, which, by now looked like 'Lyons Unmade' – were saved and salvaged just along from the hotel. 'You were right,' confessed the embarrassed dog owner' as, this time, he took his dog into the shop.

'A Doberman went one better outside William Low's. One minute it was hitched to a stray trolley outside the supermarket – the next both were off along the High Street, the combination resembling a 'dog and cart'. Then the trolley careered off the pavement and landed on the bonnet of a car parked alongside the Lych Gate. Doberman was taken into custody by its master. Peace was restored, but it could have been a more serious incident.

'Member of visiting USA contingent called in at one of our tartan shops looking for an 'ornamental fork' to match his sgian dubh. For the other leg, I presume. His day started badly, as a result, and got worse. For, at high noon, he and his colleagues visited the police station. 'OK,' said he, 'where do we go to get our rented car back, now that you've towed it away?' The brief and polite police response was: 'We don't pick up cars, sir.' It seems that the motor had been left in the middle of our bustling town, but, after a wander through the High Street, the US party became disorientated. So much so that they had walked past their car en route for the police station to ask for it back.

'Can you picture the look on the face of the home counties driver who announced to the tourist office personnel how pleased he was to reach here in under 10 hours, and could they tell him how to get to his hotel. Only to be advised that the hotel he had booked into was around 200 miles away ... in PORT William in Galloway.

'A lassie in one of the phone kiosks in Claggan, having contacted the exchange for a number, was asked: 'Is there no directory in the box?' Said she: 'No directory? There's no door or windows either.' There was a swift response to this Claggan phone box item. No, not from BT but from a couple of kiosk callers who rang me to advise that the underfoot conditions in the box are such that it should be renamed 'Claggan sewage treatment plant'. A far cry from the days when, according to Gus, there used to be ceilidh-dances in the phone box up Blarmacfoldach.

'There they were at the Morar crossing – British Rail's 'higher authority' and members of Lochaber District Council and Morar Community Council. Just before a train was due, one local asked, 'What speed are the trains supposed to be doing when they approach the crossing?' Came the higher authority officious reply: '10mph.' Then the train went through ... doing 20 at least.



Fort William senior secondary school football team from 1956/57.

'As the last train for An Gearasdan pulled out of Corrouir it left behind a very important passenger. The relief signalman. He should have climbed on board to get into the guard's van. But, somehow, he contrived to get himself stranded. Fortunately his absence was quickly noticed, and train reversed and took him on board.

'This is true. A certain local member of the journalistic profession (all right, then, journalistic game) was reporting on a recent Highland League match at Claggan Park for one of the Sunday papers. When he got through to the Glasgow copytaker he rhymed off: 'Football. Highland League. Fort William v Keith.'

He then started to file his report. But the copy taker interrupted. 'Hey, is V Keith the goalkeeper?' Our local hack, having been allowed to continue, advised: 'Final result Fort William 0, Keith 0.'

He was then about to launch into his match story, but the copy taker got in again: 'You haven't given me the half-time score.'

'A couple of weeks later the same reporter was at Claggan for the Fort William v Rothes game. A snore draw. So, for variety, our hack didn't name the teams. He named the crowd. Honest.

'Did you observe the swimming pool 'annexe' last week? At the end of a particularly rainy day there was nearly a foot of floodwater on Belford Road, across from Belhaven ward.

'Great interest is being expressed in the 'dig' in Cameron Square. And many and varied are the theories put forward as to its purpose. I can dispel some of the conjectures.

1. They are not looking for a secret no-charge cinema tunnel into/out of the all weather centre.
2. A winning, but lost betting slip is not being sought.
3. There is no hidden hoard of the bottle stoppers of MacFarlane's aerated waters, formerly used by the Viewforth gang as marbles, and planked near the side door of the Town Hall.

However, it is entirely possible that the diggers are trying to locate the geyser under the square which has been giving the AWC an endless supply of fresh spring water. It could be, also, that the lead-up to the Rocky Brae is being made more difficult for the Six Days Trialists – not to mention the locals.

'I hear that a local honeymoon couple off to Tenerife are in for a surprise.福, holidaying in the same hotel is a friend of theirs who intends to give them early morning calls each day – so they can go jogging with him.



Overall winner Dougie Lampkin, left, with stage winners Andy Chilton, Jack Price, Jack Shephard, Gary MacDonald with sponsor representative, Sam Haslam.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Lampkin makes history with 11th SSDT victory

ELLIE FORBES
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IT WAS a 'bitter sweet' win for Vertigo rider Dougie Lampkin at this year's Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) as he claimed his 11th victory but fell short of a clean week.

The 41-year-old continued to rewrite history on Saturday, as he picked up the SSDT trophy for an unprecedented 11th time with his best performance to date at the iconic event.

Losing just one mark on the sixth and final day, Dougie equalled the feat of Gordon Jackson who finished on the same score back in 1961.

Going into Saturday May 6 clean, Dougie needed just one steadying dab in the first section at Lower Mamore as his front wheel started to tuck, to run out



Gary MacDonald came in a very respectable seventh after dropping six points on Friday. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

a clear and comfortable winner after staying feet-up in the other 179 hazards.

He said: 'It is quite a bitter sweet feeling really. Obviously it is amazing to win again, and

to record my 11th SSDT victory, but equally I am disappointed at having fallen short at cleaning the whole week. I have thought about that dab far too much today and I am sure it will continue to be on my mind for a few more days yet.

'Looking back I will always question if I needed it, but at the time it was an instinctive thing to do as my front wheel started to tuck. As soon as I started to put my foot down, the front wheel started to straighten itself up, but on the other hand I could have ended upside down and potentially ruined the whole week.

'Equalling Gordon Jackson's single dab ride is something I can be proud of.

'Winning six years in row and making it a hat-trick for Vertigo is just incredible. I can't thank the whole team I have around

me enough, they have played their part again this week. Also having my mum up for the last few days and to be able to share the win with her is very special.'

Almost 300 entrants took part in this year's event which saw Kinlochleven's Gary MacDonald make history by becoming the first Scottish winner of the Pre-65 Trial, held in his home village of Kinlochleven.

Thirty-three-year-old Gary parted with eight marks on Friday May 5 and was unable to challenge the leaders.

Gary came in a very respectable seventh place overall, taking home the Ian Fender Quaich for the best performance by a Scottish competitor who has not won any other trophy, cup or class award.

For full results and trophies visit www.ssd.t.org

Things get close between Mike & Lisa in the kitchen at No 8...

Excuse me Mike, can I get into that drawer?

I love our new house but I would love a new modern kitchen...

and more space. We could do with an extension...

You know who we should give a ring? Cairngorm Group

Yeah, sorry Lisa this kitchen's just too small!

Cairngorm Group should be able to accommodate both our need for more space and a new kitchen. Now where's the phone?

MORVERN lines

The bay of the walled enclosure

WE HAVE all seen them: small nondescript buildings crumbling away by the side of the road, which you wouldn't give a second glance among the timber and glass 'palaces' that pass for houses these days.

But don't dismiss them altogether as many of them have an interesting history. One of the best examples in Morvern is on the south shores of Loch Sunart between Achleek and Liddesdale on Laudale Estate.

Camus na h-Airbhe (pronounced camus na hay riv) is a very old Gaelic place name meaning the bay of the walled enclosure. The enclosure was built to corral sheep, cattle and goats before they were taken away by boat. In it there is a cottage probably dating to the beginning of the 1800s.

Originally the gable walls would have been round and covered with thatch. It would have had a low fireplace in the middle of the floor with a hole above through which the smoke escaped. Wooden shutters, instead of glazed windows, kept out the worst of the wind and rain. Peat and turf, brought from the hill above, and occasionally the odd piece of driftwood washed ashore in the bay, provided the only fuel as trees were scarce and kept for making boats, ploughs, carts and other agricultural tools.

In 1841, there were 59 people living in 10 houses around Camus na h-Airbhe. Most of the adult males were crofters and fisherman occupied in



The house at Camus na h-Airbhe.

tilling the land, raising sheep, cattle and goats, and catching and curing fish or working in the lead mines across the hill in Glen Dubh or at Strontian.

Loch Sunart was once famous for the quantity and quality of its herring. A visitor to the area in 1845 recorded seeing 500 boats simultaneously herring fishing in the loch. Many of them would have been open skiffs no more than 16 feet in length and must have been an imposing sight when all hoisted their brown sails.

Although life was hard in those days, the inhabitants of Camus na h-Airbhe fared better than many of their contemporaries. Living close to the open sea loch, they had an unlimited source of nutritious shellfish, herring, sea-

trout and salmon and, more importantly, the opportunity to sail beyond the confines of Loch Sunart to trade and barter.

Paul Graham, who lived in Camus na h-Airbhe with his aged parents, became so successful in the mercantile trade that he was soon able to build them a large new house across the bay at Achleek. He was also the owner and master of a 58-ton sailing ship called the Jessie of London which carried mutton, wool, hides, beef, timber, barrels of herring, and lead from the Strontian mines to Glasgow, Ireland and even as far south as Liverpool. The remains of the old stone quay where the Jessie of London was loaded can still be seen in the bay below the

house. Paul Graham's legitimate back-haul cargo consisted of salt, tobacco, Archangel tar and machinery for the lead mines.

His illegitimate freight was grain for making whisky.

Paul's son, Angus, was a well-known distiller in the area. As the making of whisky for private use was, and still is, illegal, it had to be done by stealth although the local laird was inclined to turn a blind eye because when all else failed it was only by the profits from their stills that his tenants and crofters managed to pay their rent.

The real danger came from the excisemen who were based in Tobermory with a fast cutter ready to follow up the first offending report. To avoid this

disturbance, Angus made his whisky in a hollow in the hills above Camus na h-Airbhe, close to the burn of that name which runs past the cottage and into the sea.

When the equipment was not in use, it was kept out of sight in a recess known as 'the hole of the black pot'. Angus Graham's whisky was no fine malt. His great-grandson, John (1884-1966) who sampled it as a boy, described it to me as 'like fire in your throat and Hell let loose in your belly'.

Many tales used to be told around the local firesides of how the Grahams escaped the law and of little barrels of whisky being left behind the walled enclosure in the night. Once, to avoid being caught, Angus walked across Loch Sunart on the ice but would not risk the return journey.

During the winter of 1888 the Jessie of London broke her moorings and was wrecked on the shore near Strontian. Paul and Angus died and their traditional lifestyle was replaced by large-scale sheep farming. Angus's sons took up shepherding and the walled enclosure was used for clipping and treating sheep with butter and Archangel tar in a messy process called smearing.

The house became a wool shed but, in the 1980s, when the sheep were taken off the surrounding estate, it was converted into an office and store for a salmon farm. It was restored in 2011 and is now an attractive holiday letting cottage.

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#MeetTheCairns

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Viewpoint



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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

What an inspiration young Terra Grier must be, not just to her classmates, but to youngsters in a similar position to herself.

To win two gold and four bronze medals is a massive achievement for any athlete, but to show such potential at only nine years old is awe inspiring.

The fact that Terra has not only committed herself to a tough regime of training to get where she has, but has done so while living with a disability, just shows her great determination and enthusiasm.

Terra, who has achondroplasia, a form of dwarfism

which mainly affects the long bones, achieved her medals in hockey, curling and various swimming events – three very different disciplines, all requiring different training and commitment.

And let's not forget the coaches, many of whom are volunteers, who will have helped Terra and other children fulfil their potential. Because not only will they have helped them gain sporting achievement, those highs will have instilled confidence and helped them see that with hard work and determination, everything is within their reach, a message we would want to give to all our children.



Days gone by – Oban Police Squad

Oban's police squad, date and place unknown, submitted by Kenny MacLachlan, son of one of the officers pictured, Iain MacLachlan, who is standing second from the left. To curry favour, the officers' children were named after the chief constable, at that time Kenneth MacKinnon, Kenny explained. He wondered how many more Kenneths there were out there, as sons of Oban police squad.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL
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I WAS astounded by the level of disappointment experienced by the drudgery of viewing the newly released re-make of *Whisky Galore*.

One of the most factually amazing stories, which inspired one of the best comic novels, which in turn was the seed of one of the finest film comedies of the 20th century, has been well and truly torn to bits, mixed up, had the guts of it removed, been blindly thrown back together with an end result that is as funny as filling in a tax return with toothache.

Throughout the duration of the film, not once did I even crack a smile, far less laugh. My fellow audience members concurred with only a few nervous and short ripples of embarrassed chuckle throughout the duration from around 200 attendees.

There is a very fine line when caricaturing an ethnic group in comedy, and Compton MacKenzie in his book and the makers of the original Ealing Studios film hit the balance perfectly.

The suspension of disbelief was allowed to flow throughout both book and film, and the portrayal of islanders, albeit with essential comic exaggeration, was authentic.

Not so with the new one. It has lost all sense of authenticity of characterisation with regards the islanders and what

is left is a sneering, snide, arrogant interpretation of a very clever and able population and is, in fact, verging on being racist. Even the policeman, customs officials and crew of the SS Politician lack enough realism to be able to carry the story.

The script was so poor, that I wonder whether the writers actually got the jokes of the original. There were a number of scenes where the story carried the general situation but the actual punch lines had been removed – or worse, put in the wrong place!

For example the look on Joseph MacRoone's face in the original when Captain Waggett is happy to accept lemonade instead of a dram, is a classic moment. The scripting for this scene in the new version is as if the nuances and numerous contributing parts and subtleties of comic genius in the original went totally over the heads of the re-makers.

With a better script Eddie Izzard would have made an excellent Captain Waggett and likewise with Gregor Fisher's portrayal of the wily post-master Joseph Macroon, but even a cast of good actors could not drag this dull mess into anything close to comedy. The additions of weak narrative threads as an attempt to add drama, brought the end result even further away from amusing.

The music, too, was a sorry shadow of the original, with the only highlight, in fact the only highlight of the entire film, being when there was a shot of Fergie MacDonald playing the button box.

But not even Fergie was enough to save this film. Mairi MacInnes's singing was, as always, beautiful, but the track was just not right for the intended purpose.

I have watched the original many times and have laughed out loud every time throughout. It has inspired some very notable escapades, and always puts one in the mood for a good dram! The new one is enough to put me off drinking whisky!

As therapy I am going to take my accordion and go to Castlebar Bar for a week with Andy and Micheal from the Vatersay Boys! In fact, it would be a good move for the makers of this dripping wet blanket of a film to do the same. They might then get what the original book and the film was about.

If you are going to take the mickey out of islanders, you should make sure you understand them and make sure it is funny.

What the makers of this disastrous drudge have done is akin to adding half a pint of Fanta, some tomato ketchup and a bag of marshmallows to an aged and beautiful single malt.



Social media

There were a lot of messages of congratulations as councillors were re-elected and newly elected to Argyll and Bute Council on Thursday.

Glenda Macleod: I saw Elaine digging and sweating to sort out a garden at Longdale... I always said to my manager son don't ask your staff to do what you are not willing to do ... and I think Elaine has done that ... good luck to her.

Donna Macculloch: Well done Andrew Vennard.

Christine Hamilton: Well done Julie for SNP and well done Elaine Robertson.

But not everyone was happy...

Kathryn Webster: O m g why Scotland? Why? Sad, sad day.

Laura Wathey: SNP have had more

than enough time to turn things round and over the years have proved they are no better or worse than any of the other parties, personally I don't know who to be more concerned about Conservatives or the Nationalists.

Peter Miller: Was surprised there were not many Green. If there had been, the picture might change as we are getting Elaine has done that ... good luck to her.

Vincent Thomas Muir: Overall the tactical voting of the 'NO' voting sheeple across Scotland has made these local elections farcical. Methinks

they will eventually shoot themselves in their feet. We'll spend the next five years watching one minority partner jumping into the sack with another before having a lover's tiff and the resultant fallout, next to nil decisions will be amicably arrived at to the cost to our society!

Catriona MacPhail: I have been at many events over last year through school, child's tournaments, WRI, care groups and Breege Smith has been at all of them. Elaine Robertson am sure also is a person for the people as see her also at various places, but so many names above you see just prior to elections and that's not enough. So sorry Breege didn't make it this time.

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

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

Gazelle is designed to kill wildlife

Sir,
With reference to Tim Liddon's letter (*The Oban Times*, April 27), can I remind readers that it was Mr Liddon who, in Round and About (Mull) in March, referred to Gazelle as a herbicide.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) class the active ingredient acetamiprid as a 'highly hazardous pesticide', due the nature of its ability to kill not only weevil but a whole range of innocent insects such as bees, flies, aquatic life and affect small mammals.

Gazelle is technically referred to as a biocide. It is a very strong neurotoxin designed to disrupt the communication between nerves and muscles: it is designed to kill.

May I also remind Mr Liddon that our swallows, bats, wrens, cuckoos, dunnocks, warblers, woodpeckers, buzzards, hen harriers, otters, eagles and our wild plants ultimately all depend on these insects to support the ecosystems here on Mull and in turn the multi-million-pound eco tourism industry which many of the locals depend on, including CalMac. The local economy does not depend on forestry.

Neonicotinoid-treated plants are poisonous. Insects only need to make contact with contaminated soil, feed on the plant or its liquids exuded through guttation. Acetamiprid is highly soluble in water and volatile. In October 2016 the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) expressed concerns about this particular substance in surface run-off water being used by private water supplies for consumption.

Belgium (2016) has asked the European Chemicals Agency for a public consultation regarding this substance due to its 'persistence and toxicity' and the UN in January 2017 published a large document voicing its concerns at the indiscriminate use and implementation of regulations around the world of pesticides.

There are rumours that all of these neonicotinoids will be banned in Europe this year.

Because it is currently licensed in the UK does not mean that it will continue for much longer or that it is safe or that it is being used at the recommended dilutions.

I have asked in writing from Mr Liddon where the tree stock is coming from and what concentrations are being used to treat the trees. But to date I have had no response. Are these trees from Scottish nurseries? Who is monitoring concentrations of chemicals? Are the planting team locals or from Europe?

Tilhill was also unable to answer any questions regarding long-term environmental impact at Pennyghael at the Mull Community Council meeting in Craignure on April 11.

Regarding climate change, may I remind Mr Liddon that grasslands also sequester carbon dioxide but the soil cannot if its micro organisms are destroyed through neonicotinoid contamination?

J L Laura,
Langamull, Isle of Mull.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CUIRIDH MI GEALL gum bheil cuid agabhse a cheart cho ciontach rium fhin air a bhith a' gleidheadh rudan de gach seòrsa airson caochladh adhbharan, agus gu dearbh aig amannan gun fhios carson.

Gabhaidh cuid de thasgaidhean tuigsinn gun teagamh, leithid an t-seann achainn obair-àiteachais is tractaran air an tug mi iomradh air an t-seachdain seo chaidh, agus tha mòran dhaoine air cruinneachaidhean iongantach a dhèanamh thar bhliadhnaichean agus tha leithid sin air leth inntinneach agus fiosrachail.

Chithear cuideachd air iomadh prògram telebhisean mar a tha iudh ann an stuth àrsaidh a' sìor fhàs agus mar a tha luach ga chur air an t-seòrsa rudan a chunnaic mòran againn gun tilgeil chun na sìtig.

Bha sin a' tighinn nam inntinn nuair a leugh mi gun bheil na miotagan bogsadh leis an do bhuaicinn Muhamhadh Ali farpais bogsadh àrd-thruimead an t-saoghail thairis air Joe Bugner ann an 1975 gu bhith air an reic aig rup ann an Lunnainn Diluain seo tighinn. Bidh mòran de

There are alternatives to toxic pesticides

Sir,
As a long-term forestry contractor, I am 100 per cent pro forestry.

I do, however, have serious concerns about certain directions of travel within the industry. For today, however, I would like to comment on the use of neonicotinoids and other insecticides to treat commercial transplants, mainly conifers.

This is happening throughout the Highlands and islands with very little public awareness.

The problem is there are several solutions to the problem of weevil attack that are far less reliant on chemicals such as these.

These are being trialled on a very small scale, relatively, within the industry.

However, at present in this country there is no investment in the development of alternatives (such as waxes, barriers, repellents, attractants) coming from the big forestry companies directly to the nurseries.

Having spoken extensively with many in elevated positions within the industry, my assessment for those interested is as follows.

As each generation of chemical (all described as 'safe') is banned, the industry puts itself in a position of dodging bullets. If all environmentally harmful chemicals are banned tomorrow will the whole industry collapse?

Some effort is being put into trialling alternatives but these alternatives suffer from a lack of sufficient investment. Nurseries offer them while making financial losses.

There seems to me to be a curious lack of interest by the industry in the harmful effects of these chemicals on both environment and contractor health. There is a lack of knowledge and ensuing complacency. Why, for instance, does no-one ever mention that rodents, deer and rabbits consume large numbers of chemical treated trees each year?

My position is we must stop working to minimum guidelines and push hard to create an industry the next generation can be proud of. Forestry should take much more seriously its responsibility to the delicate environment where it is practiced. Also towards the people who live and work in or near its operations.

I care passionately about this beautiful country and I want to see a thriving and healthy forestry industry adding value in all ways. I do not want an industry whose main goal is ever increasing profit to the detriment of both environment and local quality contractors.

R Watt,
Forestry consultant.

Naval base is of little economic benefit

Sir,
I see that Argyll and Bute Council website has a press release claiming credit for an increase in population within the area of 240.

This was picked up and analysed by the Lochside Press. It was not impressed and wondered if the 15 families of Syrian refugees taken in on Bute may account for most of that number.

I thought about it some more and added in the story from the Ministry of Defence about the benefits of the new submarines being based in Faslane. There are now three out of a planned seven in service at the base.

The story was that these submarines would bring thousands of new personnel and a great boost to the local economy.

Almost half are in service here and after years of population reductions we now have an increase of 240 this past year.

Some of these new sailors may have moved home and be counted among the population but most are more likely in service accommodation inside the base and travelling home to their permanent abode elsewhere. They should not be counted as a benefit to Argyll and Bute.

If you look behind the story, trumpeted as good news and as a result of work by the council, the truth is that there is still an ongoing and persistent problem of an ageing population. Many indigenous young people have to move and take accommodation elsewhere to find decent employment which continues the shrinkage of the working-age population.

Let's not any longer listen to, or believe, the continually repeated and exaggerated stories about the enormous benefits to Argyll and Bute from the base in Faslane.

The number of locals employed within the base is regularly shrinking; it is now a fraction of what it was 10 or 15 years ago and the contractors that run it are seeking to reduce the numbers still further.

The navy no longer moves large numbers to the area but prefers to increase the internal accommodation and have the sailors live there Monday to Friday and travel home at weekends.

Dougie Blackwood,
1 Douglas Drive, East Helensburgh.

Praise for unsung hero of the road

Sir,
Having written in February on the subject of litter, I couldn't agree more with the letter from Nicola Holt (*The Oban Times*, April 13) about litter and the impression it gives to visitors.

However, my reason for writing this time is to say a huge thank you to the man who collects litter and tends the verges, practically on a daily basis and in all weathers, between Oban and the Halfway House filling station.

He has made such a difference to that part of the approach into Oban. In expressing appreciation for his efforts, I know I speak on behalf of others.

It's just a shame some irresponsible people continue to throw litter out of their vehicles on this stretch and elsewhere.

Shirley M Scott,
Saligo, North Connel.

Ailean Caimbeul

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.

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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.

First Scottish cycling time trial comes to Lochaber as tribute

THE first Cycling Time Trial (CTT) event to come to Scotland will be held in South Lochaber next weekend in memory of a Fort William champion.

Tragically killed in a collision at Carrs Corner in 2008, Jason MacIntyre was a rising star in British cycling.

The 34-year-old was a triple British and Scottish champion time trial cyclist and heading for the Olympic Games before his sudden death.

Every year since his passing, the cycling community has pulled together to hold a memorial for him.

And this year Britain's biggest time trails organisation, CTT, allowed the Scottish district to



hold part of the fourth event, in a series of six across the UK, in memory of Jason.

Event organiser and friend of Jason Stephen Blom told the *Lochaber Times*: 'This event is part of six series across the UK which will attract some of the finest ath-

letes in the country. We had several cycling memorial events over the years for Jason, but because I am part of the Scottish CTT, I suggested we hold number four around the Glencoe area.

'I want to get more high-profile racers to come to Lochaber, and

CTT have never held a competition north of the border before.'

Almost 70 riders are set to take part in the event on May 14, with some travelling from as far away as the Channel Islands to take part.

Stephen said: 'The riders will be of mixed ability, with various levels from club rider to elite level, and some of the best British triallists.'

'Riders will take off in one-minute intervals. They will start south of Ballachulish and then proceed towards Glencoe, before turning off and doing a lap of Kinlochleven.'

Cyclists will complete the 17.8-mile route before heading to Ballachulish Village Hall for

a presentation of the fastest lady, local rider and vet. The Jason MacIntyre Trophy will be presented to the fastest overall rider.

'The Jason MacIntyre trophy we have is beautiful, and his wife Caroline and their twin daughters will have a stall with some of his memorabilia in the hall after the event,' said Stephen.

Taking part in the trial will be Scotland's most promising talent John Archibald, the brother of Olympic and world champion Katie Archibald.

This year John has broken long-standing records over various distances including some held by Fort William retired rider Mark Atkinson. And guest of honour will be cycling legend

Graeme Obree, also known for the Old Faithful bicycle he built which included parts from a washing machine.

Stephen, who recently gave up his cycling career after a kidney transplant, said: 'I wanted to do something to give back to the sport and to Jason.'

'Next year will be Jason's 10-year anniversary. We are hoping to build on the event and get 200 people signed up for next year. We want this to be an ongoing event for years to come.'

'Not many people have the talent to go down south and compete and to get someone at that level from Fort William is just incredible. He was the very best of the best.'

Angling season kicks off as Malloch trophy is presented to John

THE 2016 winner of the FishPal Malloch Trophy, John MacIsaac, has received his trophy.

The successful angler is a gillie from the River Lochy in Lochaber, who caught the fish of a lifetime in the River Spean last September. The salmon was estimated as weighing between 38lb and 41lb and it was just under 47 inches long.

John was presented with his trophy last Friday from the previous year's winner, Tom Buchanan.

John said: 'I was on the point of going home at the end of the day when I decided to try a cast on the Spean as I had not fished there this year.'

'My first cast splashed into the tail of the Long pool. The heavy fly I was using brought the fish to the surface where he hit the fly, turned and rolled.'

'Now attached, the fish took a couple of runs during which I had the chance to see its belly - I then knew at once that it was very big fish. However, it was only when it came closer to me that I realised I was going to need some help.'

'Fortunately, the fish then dived and stayed deep, hardly moving, until assistance came.'

John's name will be engraved on the Tay Foundation's trophy,

joining an illustrious list of previous winners which stretches back four decades.

And last weekend the Inverlochy Angling Club blessed the river with a quai of whisky for the start of the 2017 season.

Secretary of the club Andy Donaldson handed over the reins to new secretary and chairman Chris Cairns. Andy, who has been in the role for the past 20 years, was given a bottle of whisky and thanked for his service to the club.

Chris told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I have been involved with the club since I was a boy really, the past 20 to 30 years. I have been on the committee and the secretary before, but becoming chairman is a whole new job for me.'

'The club will fish salmon, mainly on a catch-release basis, from now until mid October.'

Top: Inverlochy Angling Club members met at the weekend. Right: Fishing trophy winner John MacIsaac receives the award from last year's winner Tom Buchanan.

Far right: Chris Cairns gives a bottle of whisky to Andy Donaldson former secretary for his service to the club.

Pictures: Abrightside Photography.



Football

FORT William FC have reached the North of Scotland Cup final and are now gearing up for what has been billed as a 'momentous' match.

The match will be played against Brora Rangers in Rothies on Saturday May 20.

Kick-off is 3pm with more than 1,000 supporters estimated to be at the match.

A spokesperson for Fort William said: 'We hope that the Fort supporters will attend this momentous match.'

Allan is president at bowling club

THE Fort William Railway Bowling Club has started the season off with a new president.

Allan MacDonald, who has been involved with the club for the past five years, took on the role last weekend.

He told the *Lochaber Times*: 'I was vice-president for the past two years. My main duties will be welcoming people at the start of each weekend competition, announcing which competitions are being played and doing the

presentations afterwards.'

During the week Allan has his own taxi company, which he balances with his responsibilities at the club. He said: 'I have to take weekends off, which is obviously the busiest time for taxis, but I need to be at the club.'

Allan said he hopes to be president for the next two to three years, before passing it on to someone else.

On Saturday the club held its first competition of the season.

Bowling

The Stewart Cup balloted pairs competition was held in brilliant sunshine with Kevin Douglas, left, and Wilson Thain receiving the winning trophy from the president Allan MacDonald, centre. Also in the picture are Alan Lawrie, second right, and Colin MacDonald.

Competitions will be held every weekend until October.



The Stewart Cup balloted pairs competition trophy was presented by new presidents Allan MacDonald, Centre. Picture Anthony Macmillan

Annual Rotary golf competition in aid of charity

Golf

THE Rotary Club of Lochaber is gearing up to host its 17th annual Am-Am golf tournament later this month.

The event, which has so far raised £60,000 for Lochaber charities, will be held on Sunday May 28 at Fort William Golf Club.

The 18-hole course, nestled in the shadow of Ben Nevis, offers challenging golf and breathtaking views for visitors playing in the competition.

Rotary president Paula Ross said: 'We are extremely grateful to our sponsors and to the golf club for allowing us to use their course for this annual competition.'

'It is a major fundraiser for our charity programme and enables us to support numerous good causes in Lochaber.'

'Once again we are particularly indebted to Lochaber salmon producer Marine Harvest for its substantial financial support.'

Teams of four play for the annual Rotary Trophy, with prizes on offer for both teams and individuals.

As well as prizes for the first three places, visitors, ladies and gents, prizes are also awarded for yellow ball, nearest the pin at four holes, and longest drive for males.

Entry costs £40 per team, and forms can be collected from James Duncan at the golf club on 01397 704464 or by email fortwilliam01@btconnect.com.

Rotarian Alan Kirk can also be contacted about entry on 01397 705607, email kirkalan48@gmail.com.

All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to local charities and good causes.

Golf

ON SATURDAY April 29, the 1912 Cup was played at Fort William Golf Club with the following result.

Winner: Nicholas Hough net 69 (78-9); runner-up: Scott Lawrie net 70 (77-7); third: Neil Feggans net 71 (81-10).

On Sunday April 30, a four-ball better ball competition was played with the following result.

Winners: Ian Robertson and Duncan Rodger 61; runners-up: Willie Duncan and Rusty Duncan 62 (BH); third: Graeme Worsdall and Lewis Corbett 62.

Lottery numbers

THIS week's Ballachulish shinty lotto numbers are 5, 11 and 19. There were no winners so it is a £400 draw this week.

Winning numbers for Kilmallie Shinty lottery draw on Sunday May 7 were 6, 18 and 19. There were no winners so the draw is up to £700.

There is £200 available in the Fort William lotto draw. Winning numbers for the draw on Thursday May 4 were 1, 13 and 17.

Winning numbers for the Caol Regeneration Lotto were 1, 5 and 12. There were no winners so the draw is up to £300.



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WEATHER

Thursday Sunny intervals
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 9°C to 16°C.

Friday Light cloud
Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

Weekend Light rain forecast
Moderate southerly winds
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

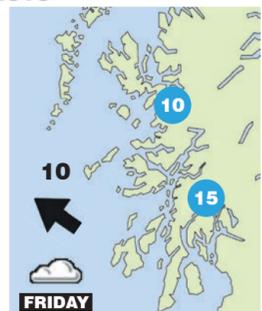
Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 11, 2017 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	05.46	3.8	12.20	1.0	18.09	3.9	**	**
Fri	00.28	0.9	06.18	3.8	12.53	1.0	18.40	3.9
Sat	01.03	1.0	06.51	3.7	13.25	1.1	19.12	3.6
Sun	01.37	1.2	07.23	3.6	13.58	1.2	19.45	3.7
Mon	02.12	1.4	07.54	3.5	14.29	1.4	20.20	3.5
Tues	02.48	1.5	08.27	3.3	15.03	1.6	20.58	3.4
Wed	03.29	1.7	09.06	3.1	15.45	1.7	21.44	3.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)



Port	Difference	Port	Difference
Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate