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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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THE FRINGE your guide to what's going on in and around Oban Live

OBANLIVE

Mull group votes no confidence in ambulance cover

SANDY NEIL
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

ROSS of Mull residents have no confidence in the island's ambulance cover, according to a vote held at a public meeting with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and NHS Highland.

Seventy residents crowded into Bunessan Hall on Monday to voice their frustrations and fears about Mull's medical emergency response times, before further question and answer sessions in Craignure, Tobermory and Dervaig.

'Take it back to [health minister] Shona Robison that the community has no confidence in the ambulance service,' declared Argyll and Bute Councillor Mary-Jean Devon from Tobermory.

Beforehand, Ross of Mull and Iona Patient Participation Group campaigners had decked the hall with banners saying 'we do not feel safe', 'listen to us', together with a nine-point 'we need...' list, with 'resident GP', 'integrated emergency transport' and a 'resident practice nurse' topping the list.

On the tables lay Mull and Iona Medical Group leaflets describing an integrated 'hub and spoke' model for primary care services, with 'spoke' GP practices in Salen, Tobermory, Iona and the Ross of Mull, and an out-of-hours GP based at the community hospital 'hub' in Craignure.

The SAS, meanwhile, is based wherever duty paramedics live.

Resident Janet Schofield began: 'Our problem is fitting this model with the geography of Mull.'

'I don't think it's going to work in real life.'

Another added: 'People here don't feel safe because they will not get out-of-hours emergency care within an hour.'

Anne Baxter asked: 'There will be one doctor on call for Mull and Iona at night and out of hours? Is this correct?'

'Yes,' replied Dr Richard Wilson, Primary Care Clinical Lead for the Oban, Lorn and Isles Locality, to gasps.

Dr Wilson and SAS managers Andy Brady and Kenny McFadzean presented examples of how the model would best respond to medical emergencies.

Dr Wilson told the meeting: 'We're trying to make sure there is a clinically proper answer to each scenario.'

But a resident asked: 'If someone has a stroke in Bunessan, what's your time estimate before someone who is medically qualified turns up at your door?'

'Thirty-five minutes,' Mr Brady replied, to laughter.

During the meeting Councillor Devon said there had been five 999 calls within a couple of hours of each other.

The latest incident was three weeks ago when an ambulance took an hour to get to a 5am call from Bunessan and then took two hours to get to a second call in Tobermory at 7am.

'According to SAS stats it never, ever happens,' Councillor

Devon said. 'Your statistics do not reflect what is happening here.'

Anne Baxter asked the hall: 'Who doesn't feel safe with the ambulance cover that's being proposed?' Almost everyone raised their hands.

Councillor Devon explained that a year ago residents had voted 81 per cent in favour of a 'community option' for health-care, proposed in a two-day 'options appraisal' with the SAS and NHS Highland.

'At the end of day one the community option was way ahead,' she said.

'Then on day two an SAS accountant said it would cost £200,000 more. We discovered afterwards these were flawed figures.'

'[Health minister] Shona Robison asked how we had an option there that we hadn't asked for.'

'It was there as a baseline, because it had the highest risk and the lowest benefit. And what have we got? [The option we didn't ask for.] The decision was made on a flawed procedure. The community has no comfort, no trust.'

The health secretary's press office told *The Oban Times* 'a fresh mechanism for discussions' was being finalised.

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Samaritan makes Adam's day



Adam was 'chuffed' and excited to be presented with the signed basketball.

STAFF and pupils at Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch have gone global in their search for the good Samaritan who donated a basketball signed by the Harlem Globetrotters to a young pupil watching the game in Glasgow last week.

Eleven-year-old Adam Hutchison, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, was among 30 P5-7 pupils, all members of Lochnell Primary's After School Sports Club, who travelled with their teachers to the SSE Hydro in Glasgow to watch the exhibition basketball team perform.

Susan Simpson, one of the kitchen staff at Lochnell, picked up the story, saying: 'At the end of the event, before getting back in the bus, the pupils were gathered outside the Hydro for a sports club photo

when a young gentleman, perhaps in his 20s, ran out from the centre and handed a signed basketball to one of our pupils, Adam Hutchison, who was sitting in his wheelchair for the photo and said: 'There you go, bud, then disappeared.'

'This amazingly kind young Glasgow lad had obviously been standing for ages in line to have his ball signed yet in a wonderful act of kindness passed it on to Adam.'

In the hope of being able to say thank you in person to the young man, Susan made an appeal on her Facebook page, which has now gone viral.

Like all the children, Adam was buzzing when he got home. His mum Angela told *The Oban Times*: 'Adam was really chuffed. It was such a lovely gesture from the young

guy and especially because it was given to my wee boy. He was hyper when he came home.'

The pupils' PE teacher Thomas McCulloch said: 'A group of boys came out and one gave the ball to Adam in his wheelchair, and just wandered off.'

'There were hundreds in the queue for autographs, so they must have been waiting for ages.'

Shirley Matheson, Lochnell head teacher, added: 'It was really heart-warming. Adam had had a great day already but this just put a tin hat on it.'

Susan added: 'Can you help us by sharing this and seeing if we find the young man?'

'From all the pupils and staff at Lochnell, a great big, from the heart, thank you.'

MILAG calls it a day over library cuts

AN ACTION group set up to reverse the changes Argyll and Bute Council is making to library services on Mull - the removal of the mobile library and the school librarian at Tobermory High School - is calling it a day.

A group spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'As a result of taking legal advice and to avoid a possible waste of public money, Mull and Iona Libraries Action Group (MILAG) has taken the difficult decision not to pursue a judicial review.'

'MILAG is grateful for all the support it has received from those on and off the island but, with a heavy heart, it does not feel it is qualified to negotiate with the council following a budget cut decision it so profoundly disagrees with.'

Premier Inn given green light in Oban

A PLAN to build an 81-bedroom Premier Inn in Oban, by demolishing the disused bowling alley in Shore Street, has been approved by Argyll and Bute Council.

The planning application, submitted by the hotel brand's owner Whitbread PLC in November, is for a four-storey building of contemporary design with a restaurant and bar and 90 car parking spaces on the 0.88 acre site.

Work begins on new high school

INITIAL preparatory work for the new Oban High School building is under way.

Argyll and Bute Council plans to hold a sod cutting event towards the end of June.



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Tourists' trauma over timber trucks

'TRAUMATISED' tourists say they have cut short a holiday near Kilchrenan because of the 'pain' of timber trucks flying past their cottage.

The logging lorries have been condemned for using the B845 along Loch Awe instead of a £5million haulage route.

Visitors Helen Godbold-Eade and her husband cut short their stay at Oakbank Cottage, run by Jo Hanlon near Kilchrenan, because the timber lorries were 'risking their lives'.

In a letter to Jo, Helen wrote: 'The log trucks are an absolute pain - driving out to Taynuilt is hair-raising and

the noise when the trucks fly past the cottage is immense. They start in the early hours and go on until after dark.'

'I feel so bad for the residents here, having to put up with that. These roads are absolutely not suitable for vehicles that size. Hence we decided to reduce the holiday by one day - that's two less trips we'll have to make on that road, risking our lives.'

Villagers along the route have already voiced their anger at the situation. Three years ago a specially-commissioned road was built with £1million of taxpayers' money for a wind farm on the

summit of Carraig Gheal, 8km west of Kilchrenan, and timber extraction. However, the timber lorries hardly use the route.

The West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR) was to 'divert the majority of timber lorries from the B840 and C30 single-track roads and associated villages', namely Kilchrenan, Annat, Invernann, Dalavich and Ford, and 'minimise impact on rural roads and communities'.

The Scottish Government's Strategic Timber Transport Fund contributed £1million, 20 per cent of the total cost, for the new 35.75km route

and Forestry Commission Scotland's website says: '[I]t will greatly improve haulage from the forests and take 4,000 lorry loads...from the public road each year.'

But residents say these commitments are being ignored. One Kilchrenan resident who has been logging the number, time and registrations of lorries through Kilchrenan, recorded 498 trucks in March.

Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council meets on Tuesday May 17 in Kilchrenan village hall at 7pm, to discuss the problem. FCS and GreenPower are expected to attend.

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Club signs up to push the boat out

MORE than 300 venues around the UK have signed up for this year's Push the Boat Out event and Oban Sailing Club wants people to get involved.

Push The Boat Out (PTBO) is an Royal Yachting Association initiative launched in March 2011.

The 2016 event commences this Saturday May 14 for nine days and will see clubs and centres across the UK holding open days and inviting those who live locally to have a go, free of charge or at low cost, at sailing and windsurfing. A total of 28 Scottish venues are included in the event.

Oban Sailing Club (OSC) has its chance to host on Saturday May 21 and the RYA Scotland Club of the Year will be offering dinghy and keelboat sailing as part of the event.

Finlo Cotter, OSC commo-



Get a life on the ocean waves.

dore, said: 'We want to raise the profile of the club and sailing within the community. It's a fun, accessible, family-oriented sport.'

'We've got a stunning location in the town, great equipment for members to use and a dedicated team of instructors.'

North Glencoe Boat Club hosts an open day, also on May 21, offering taster sessions on club dinghies and owners' keelboats. There will also be motor boats and RIBs touring Loch Leven.

Liza Linton, development manager for RYA Scotland, said: 'I'm delighted that we've doubled the numbers of clubs and centres involved in this initiative for 2016.'

'It is a great opportunity for them to harness national and local publicity for their facilities and for them to be able to give others the chance to try our sports.'

'Hopefully, we will be able to turn some first timers, who will gain a great experience, into lifelong participants of our sport.'

Get details of a club from www.rya.org.uk/go/ptbo.

Volunteers wanted for marine research project

DAVID MCPHEE
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk

CLUES regarding the impact of marine traffic on whale, dolphin and porpoise species off western Scotland may soon be revealed in a new season of research expeditions.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) will be using electronic navigation technology to monitor traffic pressures in this latest study.

On board the specialised research yacht Silurian, which belongs to the Tobermory-based charity, scientists and volunteers will use an automatic

identification system (AIS) transponder to collect detailed data on other vessels' movements for the first time.

Conor Ryan, science officer for the HWDT, said: 'This innovative approach provides us with an opportunity to enhance our long-term research, which is providing unprecedented insights into the distribution and range of cetaceans in Scotland's seas, as well as the challenges they face - including the unintentional consequences of human activities.'

Equipping Silurian with AIS technology has been made possible by a grant of £94,000 from the UK

government's Coastal Communities Fund. This grant has also funded a major refurbishment of the yacht, including an environmentally friendly and long-lasting copper coating for the hull that will ensure the vessel remains seaworthy for the next decade.

Dr Ryan added: 'The Hebrides may seem like a wilderness but human impacts on the marine environment are significant - and likely to increase with expansions in marine industries, such as aquaculture and renewable installations.'

'Strengthening scientific understanding is crucial if we are to help

industries ensure that their impacts on Scotland's remarkable whales, dolphins and porpoise populations are minimal.'

The trust is recruiting volunteers for its surveys. Between this month and October, there will be 12 separate expeditions, each lasting between one and two weeks. This includes two 'teen teams' reserved for 16- and 17-year-olds. Participation costs cover boat expenses, accommodation, training, food and insurance, and support the charity's research.

For details, email volunteercoordinator@hwdt.org, call 01688 302620 or visit www.hwdt.org.

Last train leaves Mull ... and a tourism void



Graham MacQueen, inset left, and others waved a fond farewell to the Mull miniature railway.

THE iconic Isle of Mull Railway, which transported passengers for 27 years, made its final journey in Oban last week, but this time it was the train that was being transported... on the back of a lorry.

The last of the miniature railway was packed up and driven from Oban to Staffordshire on Friday morning, where it will become part of the

Rudyard Lake Steam Railway.

Speaking about its departure, Oban businessman Graham MacQueen, who tried to help owner Simon Clarke find a local location for the train, said: 'I think it's quite sad for the area. It was a missed opportunity to have a tourist attraction, which was so valued, located in the town. It's quite emotional for people in

the area who enjoyed visiting and travelling on the railway and have fond memories from their childhood.'

Mr MacQueen added that Mr Clarke, who bought Mull's trains and tracks in October 2012, tried to find a place in and around Oban to position the railway but was unable to find a suitable location.

Mr MacQueen said: 'He [Mr Clarke] was also prepared to invest a lot of money to establish the train on a site near Oban.'

'Oban needs to have an attraction for tourists; having the railway would have been a great opportunity. It was well used on Mull and having it in Oban would have made it much more accessible.'

Oban lifeboat launches to aid stricken yacht

OBAN RNLI lifeboat launched on Saturday afternoon in response to a mayday call from a yacht close to Lismore lighthouse.

The *Mora Edith MacDonald* was requested to launch by Stornoway Coastguard at 3.30pm to help the boat, which was experiencing steering problems close to the lighthouse.

Shortly after the lifeboat arrived, the yacht managed to engage its emergency steering and was making its way towards Dunstaffnage Marina, near Dunbeg.

The CalMac ferry *Hebridean Isles* also diverted to assist but was not required.

With the yacht under way, the volunteer crew escorted it with regular radio communication checks. En route, it became apparent that one of the yacht's crew had become unwell and the decision was made to transfer the person to the lifeboat.

The lifeboat then went ahead to Dunstaffnage to transfer the crew member to a waiting ambulance. During this time the yacht was able to berth safely at the marina without assistance.



The crew were training with a helicopter.

Earlier that morning the *Mora Edith MacDonald* had taken part in a training exercise with Stornoway's Coastguard rescue helicopter 948. The lifeboat had returned to her berth before the afternoon call out.

Following the rescue the lifeboat returned to station where she was refuelled and made ready for service again by 5.45pm.

Meanwhile, on Sunday morning, shortly after 10.30am, Stornoway Coastguard received a request for assistance from the skipper of a yacht which had gone aground on rocks to the north of Insh Island in the Firth of Lorn.

When the crew arrived, it was clear that the yacht was not going to refloat before the next high tide. A local RIB had taken the two crew off to Croabh Haven prior to the arrival of the lifeboat, which then returned to Oban. Around 4.45pm, the yacht's skipper joined the lifeboat crew and by the time the lifeboat arrived back at Insh, at 5.15pm, the yacht was beginning to rise on the tide.

A tow line was attached to the yacht, which was successfully helped from the rocks and the skipper was happy to proceed back to Croabh unassisted. Oban lifeboat arrived back in Oban at 7pm.

Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

Fèis Ile

THE ISLAND'S population will almost treble when supporters come from near and far for Fèis Ile 2016, the annual festival of music and malt, which runs from Friday May 20 to 29.

All the island's distilleries, as well as the one on the neighbouring isle of Jura, will play an integral part in the festival, which is now in its 36th year.

On the opening Friday, the cloutie dumpling ceilidh, an annual favourite, will take place in the Rhinns Hall at Portnahaven where fiddler Simon Moran and local artistes will provide the music.

On the same day, Islay House will host an event sponsored by the Scotch Whisky Society, guaranteed to keep the spirits up.

On the following day, Lagavulin Distillery holds its open day and tight lines will be evident at the fly fishing competition on Loch Gorm.

Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall hosts the first big fling featuring the Rowan Brothers and the Gillfinnan ceilidh band.

Sunday May 22 sees the almost legendary open day at Bruichladdich



Fèis performers the Rowan Brothers will be entertaining the crowds.

Distillery and a bowling competition at Bridgend.

Caolila Distillery opens its doors on the following day and, after line dancing tuition, tatties and neeps will be on the menu at Port Ellen's Columba Hall.

The whisky nosing ceilidh will attract large numbers to the Ramsay Hall and a rare malt whisky tasting is on offer at

the Portnahaven Old School.

Laphroaig Distillery welcomes fèis visitors on May 24 and whisky specialist Douglas Laing will discuss festival favourites at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile before going on for a taste and tippie at Bridgend Hotel.

To finish off the day, folk singing enthusiasts will have themselves a ball at Ardbeg Distillery.

Wednesday May 25 sees open days at Bowmore and Jura distilleries and at Islay Ales. Gaelic singing will be heard at the St Columba Gaelic Centre, Douglas Laing will preside at a Bridgend Brunch at the local hotel, and whisky writer and singer Robin Laing will be in concert in the Bruichladdich Hall. In Portnahaven there will be more rare malts at the old school.

Next day sees an open day at Kilchoman Distillery and a further one at Jura and more rare malt tasting at Portnahaven. The traditional concert in Bowmore Hall will feature Calthness accordionist Brandon MacPhee and piper Fred Morrison.

On May 27 Bunnahabhain Distillery will welcome the crowds and the Finlaggan Trust holds an open day supported by the Vintage Malt Whisky Company.

For the more energetic, Brandon MacPhee/Manson Grant and the Dynamos will whoop it up at a barn dance in the Ramsay Hall.

On the penultimate day, Ardbeg Distillery has much to offer, fly fishermen will be on Loch Finlaggan and the final fling in the Ramsay Hall will feature

the Irish rock band Goats Don't Shave. And bringing the curtain down on the Sunday afternoon will be sedate bowling and putting competitions at the Port Ellen playing fields.

Bridgend tower

Another point of interest to festival goers is the Bridgend East Tower, situated on a small hillock in Bridgend woodlands and behind an estate lodge house which borders the main road to the Rhinns of Islay.

The tower was built in the 1760s and is one of three such forms of defence built during the reign of George III to protect the nearby Islay House, the laird's residence.

The defence of the mansion house became of great importance to the residents after the American privateer John Paul Jones sailed into Lochindaal in 1812 and, with far from friendly fire, managed to badly damage and destroy a number of ships lying at anchorage at Bowmore harbour.

The other two defence posts were at the battery hill on the outskirts of Bowmore and the west tower situated



The East Tower at Bridgend.

further along the Port Charlotte road.

No trace of the Bowmore armaments remain and the west tower has not weathered time and the elements as well as its east counterpart.

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Oban museum honoured with war exhibition

OBAN War and Peace Museum has had the honour this week of being one of a select number of venues around the UK to stage a visiting art installation from the In Flanders' Fields Museum.

It is simple and elegant but shows so poignantly, and graphically, how many people from the British Isles died in Belgium alone during the First World War. As detailed in a feature in this month's edition of *The Oban Times*'s sister publication *West Coast Review*, there is a massive book, and on each page is the name and regiment of every man and woman who died.

There are also five elegant and simple church chairs, from St Audomarus' Church in Passchendaele. Just as so many homes would have had empty chairs at the table where loved ones used to sit, each chair represents a year of the war - and the number embedded in the top of each chair shows the number of dead for that year.

The award-winning museum on the Esplanade stayed open late into the evening this week to enable more people to come and visit.



Watch-keepers Sandy Dunlop, left, and Colin Paterson with the book of those who died and, left, some of the empty chairs on show at Oban War and Peace Museum.

Drink-driver is banned

AN ISLAY man's afternoon drinking led to him losing his driving licence after he was stopped on his way to work.

Piotr Pabisiak, 31, of 4 Islay House Square, Bridgend, made an early guilty plea to a charge of drink driving on February 25. On Thursday last week, at Campbeltown Sheriff Court, he was banned from driving for a year and fined £400, to be paid at £50 per month.

Earlier, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that police officers stopped Pabisiak in Shore Street, Bowmore, at 9.23pm.

Pabisiak, a Co-op shelf stacker, had thought when he was called to work at 6pm that he would be able to drive but when he failed the breath test he was three times over the limit.

Pabisiak's defence solicitor said that losing his licence would make life difficult for his client.

Help needed for Mòd

THE local organising committee for Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2016 is appealing for volunteer stewards.

The Gaelic cultural festival is being held between October 14 and 22 on the Western Isles but volunteers need not commit for the full week.

Norman MacDonald, local committee chairman, said: 'A great deal of management and co-ordinating work is required to ensure that competitions and events run safely and smoothly.'

'We would ask anyone who feels they can give of their time during the week of the Mòd to get in touch with us.'

Contact Sgioba na Gàidhlig at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on 01851 822615 or email dnicleoid@cne_siar.gov.uk or colin.morrison@cne_siar.gov.uk.

Town tidy

SUNDAY saw the first town tidy of the year around Oban.

Volunteers gathered and split into three teams, while a fourth group tidied between Pennyfuir and Halfway Filling Station, Dunbeg. Other areas cleaned were Glencruitten Road, the shortcut from High Street to Tesco's car park, Lochavullin/Black Lynn and Lochavullin Road from the mini roundabout to Crannog Lane. BID4Oban's Derek Connery said: 'The results were great and a big thank you to all the volunteers. Almost 30 bags of mixed rubbish were filled, with a shopping trolley and the engine cover from a car collected.'

'Treasure hunters' damage masonry on ancient landmark

DAVID MCPHEE

dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk

GEOCACHING may be starting to catch on in Oban - but the activity has had a negative impact on a Colonsay landmark.

One concerned resident wrote to *The Oban Times* because of what he claimed was the damage done by 'treasure hunters' to masonry on the north side of Dunan nan Nighean, an ancient dun on the north-east of the island.

Geocaching is the pursuit of one or more items that are hidden in a given location for enthusiasts

to find with the help of GPS and coordinates which are posted on the internet. Kevin Byrne, from Colonsay, said: 'Over the following years great damage was done to the masonry.'

'A falling stone or the entire lintel could badly injure an adult and could kill a child. This is entirely the fault of the thoughtless individual who first created the geocache, but every mindless individual who has taken up the "challenge" has added to the damage.'

Mr Byrne believes that the geocache was placed at the location around 20 years ago, 'when such

things were a novelty'.

He continued: 'Eventually some well-intentioned but misguided individual disposed of the wretched "treasure", but this has only made matters worse.'

'The masonry in question has been reduced to a mound of random rubble by frustrated geocachers and the adjoining lintel stones are now poised in a precarious condition, severely undermined and with the potential to cause death or injury.'

'The community was never consulted and, of course, neither the landowner nor the ancient

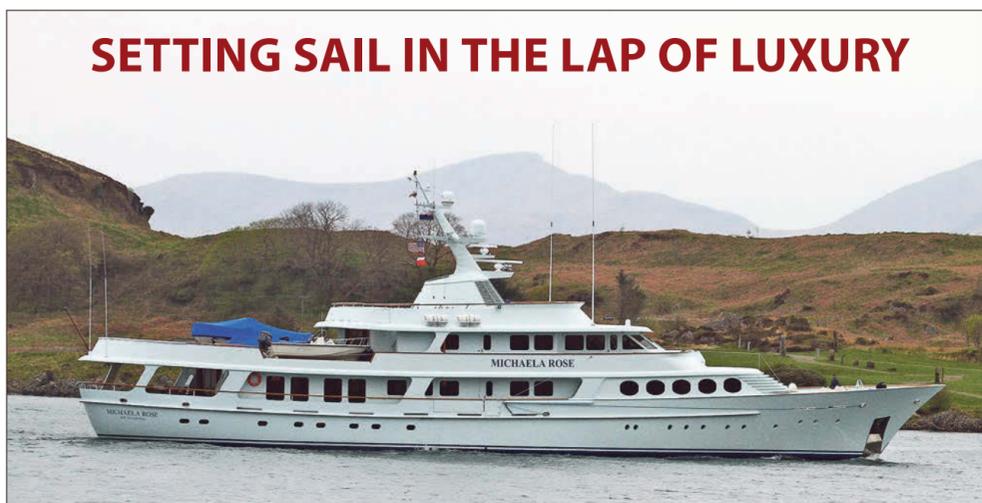
monument bodies would ever have consented to such an inappropriate intrusion upon a part of the national heritage. It must have been the work of an unthinking but enthusiastic early-adopter of geocaching.'

The gradual damage has been contributed to over a period of 20 years but Mr Byrne said that, as Dunan nan Nighean was a listed monument, there was no-one on the island qualified or permitted to restore the structure.

He said: 'As far as I know there is no system whereby anyone monitors such sites, and nobody to whom it should be reported.'



Geocachers have left the structure unsafe.



SETTING SAIL IN THE LAP OF LUXURY

The luxury yacht Michaela Rose sailed out of Oban Bay heading for Mull and then on to Uist and Barra. She is owned by Texas-based developer Trammell Crow and has circumnavigated the world twice. She was once used by US first couple George and Barbara Bush during a Mediterranean vacation. The yacht was carrying a party of German businessmen who visited Oban Distillery and then took in a game of shinty at Mossfield, where they watched Oban Camanachd beat Camanachd Cup holders Lovat 2-1 in a premiership match. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn

Samphire project nears completion

A THREE-YEAR, £100,000 project has uncovered 30 underwater shipwrecks and 10 more along the shore on Scotland's west coast from Cape Wrath to the Solway Firth, writes Sandy Neil.

Project SAMPHIRE, funded by The Crown Estate, worked by 'crowd-sourcing' information about possible archaeological sites in the marine environment through face-to-face meetings with harbour masters, scallop divers, recreational divers, fishermen and other residents in the towns and villages of the west coast.

The locations identified were recorded before the most promising were visited by volunteer and professional archaeological divers to verify the information.

The project led to the discovery and recording of more than 100 maritime archaeological sites, including metal and

wooden shipwrecks, flying boats and other aircraft, cannons, cannonballs, ancient anchors, prehistoric coastal sites as well as more recent finds such as 20th-century fishing vessels.

Highlights included the recording of a group of previously unreported Second World War flying boats in the Firth of Lorn, the discovery of more than a dozen unidentified 18th, 19th and 20th-century wrecks, as well as the final resting places of numerous wrecks with confirmed or likely identifications.

The project also gathered a wealth of descriptive information including photographs, videos and sketches of wreck sites, including those of the *Sheila* (an early MacBrayne ferry built in 1904 and sunk in 1927), the *Mafeking* (a salvage vessel lost in attempts to recover the *Shei-*

la), and the *Cathcartpark* (a steamship lost in 1912 near Iona).

Samphire project leader John McCarthy of WA Coastal & Marine said: 'This project reveals the wealth of knowledge of maritime archaeological sites held within local communities. We could not have done this without the enthusiastic response from local people; everyone from divers to beach combers.'

'We've also benefitted from partnership working with many organisations including dive clubs and scientific partners such as the Scottish Association of Marine Science at Dunstaffnage, Oban.'

'Although the project is now coming to an end we are already looking for ways to apply the lessons we have learned through this project on a more permanent and national scale.'

Food charity strives to bring hope

A CHARITY trying to give more hope to vulnerable people and reduce social isolation in Oban and its surrounding areas has been granted planning permission for the former Swap Shop premises at 2 Soroba Road in Oban.

HELP.OUR.PEOPLE.EAT (Hope) was founded by three friends living in Oban in 2009. It provides free meals, support groups and one-to-one interventions for those in need.

Founders Jess McPhee and Lorraine King plan to transform the shop into a community kitchen and meeting place for the most marginalised groups in the community, but the duo have extended an invitation to anyone who might like to visit.

Ms King, service manager for Hope Kitchen, said: 'This is a really exciting stage in the development of Hope Kitchen.'

'A move to bigger premises means that more people can access our services and we can expand and develop the services we already offer.'

'We currently see more than 100 people per week through our doors and we look forward to welcoming more of the Oban community in our attempts to give people who are living in isolation or poverty a hand up.'

The organisation would also greatly appreciate any offer to assist with materials and labour involved in the refurbishment process as well as the future development of the project.

For further information, call 01631 565730 or email obanhopekitchen@gmail.com.

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ELECTION SPECIAL

SNP sweeps to third poll victory

BEN RAMAGE and MARK DAVEY
 editor@obantimes.co.uk

SNP CANDIDATE Michael Russell will serve a second term as Argyll and Bute MSP, the third time the SNP has won the seat.

The result came at 6.10am last Friday, about an hour later than the predicted finish.

He beat Liberal Democrat Alan Reid by nearly 6,000 votes, despite the former MP polling 7,583 votes, a 13.6 per cent increase on his party's efforts in 2011.

Scottish Conservative Donald Cameron was third with 5,840 votes but was confirmed as an additional member through the Highlands and Islands regional list after the constituency seats were decided.

At the time Mr Cameron made a speech as a defeated candidate as the regional voting had not been declared.

The turnout for the Highlands and Islands regional list was 59.1 per cent, with the Tories coming second with 44,693 votes and gaining three seats.

SNP polled 81,600 but, due to the voting mechanism, the party only gained one list seat as the figure is divided by the number of Highland and Island constituency SNP MSPs, which was three.

Scottish Green Party candidate John Finnie was also elected through the list system.

Mick Rice came in fourth for Labour in Argyll and Bute with 2,492 votes.

The ballot boxes came by car, boat and helicopter to Lochgilphead's joint campus where the individual ballots were counted by an army of staff who seemed to survive on Haribo sweets and bottled water.

During his victory speech, Mr Russell said: 'I am very grateful to everybody in Argyll and Bute who has turned out today. I am particularly, of course, grateful to those who

have put their trust in me to represent this large, diverse very beautiful constituency in the Scottish Parliament.

'I make the same pledges I made when I was first elected: I will work as hard as I can for people across Argyll and Bute no matter who they voted for and I look forward to being of service as a member of a party who will form the next government of Scotland, and will continue to do my very best for the people of Argyll and Bute.'

Speaking moments later, Mr Cameron said: 'I would like to thank my agent Bill Hanbury and all the party activists who helped across the constituency.'

Mr Reid, who came second, said: 'I am disappointed not to have won. I thought we had a chance but we got a good clear second and ran a good campaign.'

'With that kind of majority there is not really anything you could have done differently.'

Speaking later to *The Oban Times*, Mr Reid said he would take a long rest but might consider standing for Argyll and Bute Council in the future.

On Monday, Mr Cameron said he was working flat out as he came to terms with his new role in life as a list MSP.

Mr Rice said: 'During the course of the contest you get a certain notion about the way the election might turn out. I have to say I have been hugely impressed by the number of bodies the SNP seems to have. All I had was some good policies and a bit of occasional charm. We did not expect to win but, hopefully, we can push our ideas forward and concentrate on the council elections next year.'

'It was hard to muster up any great enthusiasm for a campaign you are not expected to win but we will struggle on and we will succeed.'

The poll turnout was 60.98 per cent, up 7.28 per cent from 2011, with 29,592 votes cast from a total electorate of 48,526.



Re-elected MSP Michael Russell addresses those at the count after his comfortable win in Argyll and Bute.

The outcome in numbers

■ SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, FIRST PAST THE POST:
 Michael Russell, SNP 13,561;
 Alan Reid, Scottish LibDems, 7,583;
 Donald Cameron, Scottish Conservatives, 5,840;
 Mick Rice, Labour, 2,492.
 SNP majority 5,978.

■ PERCENTAGE SHARE OF VOTE:
 SNP 46;
 LibDem 25.7;
 Conservative 19.8;
 Labour 8.5.

■ PERCENTAGE GAIN OR LOSS OF VOTES SINCE 2011:
 +13.6 LibDem;
 +1.5 Conservative;
 -4.6 SNP;
 -6.8 Labour.

■ TURNOUT 29,592.

■ SCOTTISH REGIONAL LIST VOTES:
 Independent, 153;
 Conservative, 7,151;
 Green, 2,213;
 Labour, 2,739;
 Liberal Democrat, 3,856;
 RISE, 86;
 SCHP 193;
 SNP 12,327;
 Solidarity 162;
 UKIP 679.



Catherine Rennie and Alasdair McLean were the caterers.



Counting ballot papers at Lochgilphead joint campus.

Lochaber gives Kate its vote

THE SNP were on a roll last Thursday with voters in Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch putting their confidence in Kate Forbes as their MSP. She gained 17,362 votes, giving her a majority of 9,043.

The SNP's share of the vote rose by 1.4 per cent.

Scottish Liberal Democrat candidate Angela MacLean came second, receiving 8,319 votes.

Third place was secured by Robbie Munro for the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, with 5,887 votes.

Linda Stewart for the Scottish Labour Party received 3,821 votes, whilst independent candidate Ronnie Campbell received 1,160 votes.

The overall turnout for the election was just over 61 per cent. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch saw a 4.56 per cent swing from Lib Dems to SNP in this year's election.



Depute returning officer Charles Reppke helps unload boxes at the helipad.



Activists from the various parties scrutinise the counting.



SNP MP Brendan O'Hara and Tory Donald Cameron exchange views.



Candidates on stage as Sally Loudon announces the results of the Argyll and Bute constituency for 2016 Scottish Parliament elections.

MSP Russell promises 'more hard work'

MSP MICHAEL Russell – who was re-elected to the Scottish Parliament last Thursday for a second five-year term – has thanked local voters and promised them 'more hard work'.

Speaking after the election count, in what is one of the largest and most diverse electoral areas in Scotland, Mr Russell said: 'This has been an intense campaign which featured 10 hustings – a record for any constituency in Scotland.'

'And, for me at least, a great deal of travel including more than 3,000 miles in various cars and no fewer than 34 ferry journeys.'

'First, I want to pay tribute to my

opponents and especially to Alan Reid. The former Lib Dem MP made a small dent in my previous majority but a much bigger one in the Tory prospects in the seat, with the regional ballot showing he attracted a great deal of his support from those whose second vote went not to the Lib Dems but to the Conservatives.'

'Alan talked himself up as the main challenger and succeeded in persuading many Tories that he was, to the electoral detriment of the official Conservative Donald Cameron.'

'However, Donald was elected to the Scottish Parliament on the Highland regional list and I congratulate him

and look forward to working with him, when it is possible, on local issues.'

'Mick Rice for Labour was, as last time, a colourful choice and I admire his unflinching loyalty to his cause as well as his determination to do things his own way rather than be a bland party apparatchik. He made the hustings much more lively than they would otherwise have been.'

'None the less, it was clear on election night that it was only the SNP which had solid majority backing in every part of the area with a particularly strong affirmation of that coming from Dunoon, Oban and the many islands in the constituency.'

'Throughout the campaign and across the area I have promised to continue with the hard work that I have been undertaking for the past five years, standing up for local people, representing communities and ensuring that the voice of Argyll and Bute is heard at Holyrood.'

'I am happy to commit myself to even more hard work on those tasks. This area has put its trust in the SNP for a record third time and in me for a second. It is a great privilege to serve everyone who lives here, no matter their politics, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to do so for another five years.'

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Gie's a Job plan to boost work chances

NHS Highland is to host a conference next month aimed at encouraging businesses in the north of Scotland to provide training and employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

The Gie's a Job conference will aim to address some of the barriers making it difficult for people with learning difficulties and encourage organisations to remove such obstacles.

NHS Highland self-directed support team manager Jennifer Campbell said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for us to showcase the wonderful talent we have in the north of Scotland and to encourage business leaders to support people with learning disabilities into training and employment.'

'We will have a presentation from ENABLE Scotland's performance manager, Jamie Rutherford, who plays a key role in influencing national policy on supported business opportunities.'

'It's crucial that businesses understand that, with the right support in place, people with learning disabilities can make as valuable a contribution to their workplace as any other employee.'

'And it's vitally important that NHS Highland and our partner organisations make every effort to support people to enter and remain in employment where their skills are valued and developed.'

The conference will be held on Thursday June 16 at Smithton Free Church in Inverness.

Present will be representatives of NHS Highland, Highland Council, High Life Highland and many other public, private and third-sector organisations.

Mòd deadline

WITH preparations for the Western Isles Royal National Mòd 2016 under way, An Comunn Gàidhealach is reminding senior and junior piping competitors that the entry deadline is Friday, July 8. The junior and senior competitions are at Sgoil Lionacleit in Benbecula on October 15. Entries can be submitted at www.ancomunn.co.uk/nationalmod/entryform. A form can also be downloaded from the website and entered by post. Or call 01463 709705 or email: info@ancomunn.co.uk.



Actor Warwick Davis takes time out from his own family to inspire Lewis and Graham West. Below, Lewis with mum Catriona Currie.

Boosted by a 'wee superstar'

MONICA GIBSON
mjgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A 'SUPERSTAR' son is giving his dad the boost he needs to tackle a looming cycle challenge.

Graham West from Dunbeg will be biking 900 miles in 10 days to raise awareness of his son Lewis's condition and in support of Dwarf Sport Association UK (DSA UK) as reported in *The Oban Times* on April 7.

Mr West and his family are approaching the half-way mark towards their £5,000 fundraising target and, despite some minor setbacks, attending a recent DSA UK event has given the cyclist even more determination.

Mr West said: 'The bike has been stuck in the garage so I've not done as much training as I'd like but seeing Lewis enjoy the sports event is really all the encouragement I need.'

A total of 192 athletes took part in the DSA UK event in Birmingham, participating in 12 sports over three days.



Lewis, who was born with Achondroplasia, participated in the 10-meter dash and received a medal in the balance bikes event but, according to mum Catriona Currie, the sense of belonging was the real success.

Ms Currie said: 'It is easy to feel

isolated as a family dealing with this condition. Lewis is the only person we really know in the Oban area with it but at the event he was in his element. It was so nice to see him around like-minded people.'

just going to be a no-go for Lewis but at the DSA everyone is on a level playing field and that's so important for him to feel part of something.'

Individuals from all over the UK visited the event during the May weekend at, which was also attended by famous actor Warwick Davis.

Ms Currie added: 'We managed to grab Warwick for a photograph but we didn't want to disturb him as he was there to support his son Harry (Harrison). It was great to hang out with all the other Scottish families and actually Scottish athletes did really well overall.'

'Hopefully, Graham's cycle will help us to return next year - and for Lewis to meet all his girlfriends. He was really popular, our wee superstar.'

Mr West is planning on doing the ride from John O'Groats to Land's End from May 31 to June 9. To donate, visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/grahamwest1#vrip00vwsn0.facebook>.

POLICE FILES

with Sergeant Alan Moore

Held over heroin

ON SATURDAY, around 10.35pm, a 52-year-old woman was arrested in Sinclair Drive, Oban after she was suspected of possessing heroin with intent to supply the class-A drug. She was remanded in custody pending a court appearance on Monday.

Cocaine discovered

FRIDAY night saw two men, aged 52 and 27, stopped and searched for drugs. The men were suspected of being in possession of cocaine in the Soroba area of Oban. Some £1,400 in cash was also seized.

Caught after crash

A ROAD traffic collision in Craighard Road, Oban on Saturday resulted in a 22-year-old man being detained. He was arrested for drink driving, having no insurance, no licence, no MoT and theft of a motor vehicle. He was released on an undertaking to appear in court.

Drink driving

A 48-YEAR-old woman was stopped on Saturday while driving a large goods vehicle on the A828 at Barcaldine. She failed a roadside breath test and was taken to Oban police station. She was later released.

Assault charge

A WOMAN aged 23 was arrested during the early hours of Sunday following an assault in the Lorn Hotel, Stevenson Street, Oban. She was also charged with disorderly conduct in a licensed premises and was reported to the procurator fiscal.

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Customer service comes first for the A4 Audi team

Since A For Audi's inception 10 years ago this month, we have been committed to offering the highest level of customer service and technical knowhow and we have built our reputation on it. As a result of this we now have more than 12,000 returning customers.

Over the years we have expanded by adding P For Porsche and B For BMW using the same successful business model. We are committed to offering all of our customers the highest level of service and the best possible value. During this time our business has grown geographically, not just covering the Central Belts and Glasgow area but now regularly collecting cars from the Borders, Mull and Western Isles.

A major factor in the geographical expansion of our business was the realisation that people living outwith Glasgow find it very difficult to find a dedicated specialist who is able to work through complex problems associated with these brands. As a business we are committed to not

only solving the issue with the car but also making it easier for you to access our services. We have now expanded our fleet of courtesy cars and are more than happy to supply people in your area with a pick-up and delivery service and/or a courtesy car for the full duration of time that your car is with us. This is an addition to a service which we have now been providing for five years, which we call 'west coast customer'. This enables customers when booking to speak to a technician, allowing us to preorder parts therefore improving efficiency and increasing the likelihood of receiving your car back on the same day. This saves many customers costly hotels bills and further disruption.

If you like what you have read and have not used us already why don't you visit our website, send us an email quoting 'west coast customer' or simply give us a call and we would be more than happy to cater for any of your needs.

Crianlarich

CRIANLARICH Footpath Network was officially opened last week at a ceremony in Crianlarich.

The path network has been developed by volunteers from Strathfillan Community Development Trust (SCDT), in association with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Scottish Youth Hostel Association (SYHA) and funded by an Investing in Communities Grant from the BIG Lottery Fund.

The path network comprises a series of low level trails in and around Crianlarich, with associated signposting, maps and interpretation features. The paths are designed to make the most of the stunning views in and around Crianlarich, yet all within easy reach of the village centre. Much of the new path network is located within Crianlarich Community Woodland, which is co-managed by SCDT and FCS.

David Robertson, Argyll Forest Park Recreation manager for FCS, worked closely with SCDT during the path development work, and cut the ribbon to declare the paths open.

Mr Robertson said: 'I am very pleased to open an excellent community facility on the National Forest Estate. This is a great example of how, by working in partnership, local people with drive and enthusiasm can improve and enhance their local environment. FCS is pleased to be part of this successful partnership.'

The opening ceremony was supported by pupils from Crianlarich Primary school and Crianlarich Nursery.

The school pupils performed a song for visitors, before the school running club ran a demonstration lap of the new path network.

Visitors were then given the opportunity to explore the paths and views within Crianlarich Community Woodland, followed by an informal reception hosted by the Crianlarich Hotel.

Isla Craig, SCDT chairperson, said: 'Development of this path network has been a long-term aim of our Crianlarich into Action working group. There have been quite a few challenges along the way, but we are delighted to see the project finished and to see the paths already being so well used by the local community, visitors to the area and, of course, the school and nursery pupils.'



The opening of Crianlarich Footpath Network. Back: David Robertson, FCS; Kelda Platt, Munro Landscape; Isla Craig, SCDT; Fiona Tickner, SYHA; Councillor Alycia Hayes, Billy Ronald, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park; Kelly Clapperton-Bates, SCDT. Front: Olivia Geddes; Caitlin MacLennan, both Crianlarich Primary School and Eilidh Bates of Crianlarich Nursery.

Tiree

TREE High School pupils recently enjoyed an interesting archaeology week project.

Led by Dr Heather James, the youngsters from S1 to S3 took part in an indoor activity and watched a survey demonstration in the school grounds before spending the afternoon at Kirkapol doing field work.

The school is grateful to Dr James for sharing her time and expertise with pupils and giving them a flavour of what is planned for the Kirkapol project. Dr James was also thanked for helping fund a mini-bus for the field-work visit.

ON TUESDAY May 3, the school got together to celebrate the leavers who are moving on to the next chapter in their lives.

A presentation highlighting all the leavers' achievements through their school years was shown and the pupils were presented with gifts. Parents were invited to attend the special assembly. To round off the event, everyone enjoyed tea, coffee and home-baking.

MORVERN lines

Tragic loss of historic buildings

IN 1838, three years after he bought Drimnin Estate from the Macleans, Banffshire landowner Sir Charles Gordon committed an act of unforgivable vandalism when he demolished the medieval castle of Drimnin to make way for a private chapel.

Beating swords into ploughshares is all very well but when you are 'the new kid on the block' and from a different culture too, it just isn't on to mock the local clan by razing its ancient power house to the ground - especially the Macleans who were, and still are, a pretty proud and feisty lot in these parts.

When Gordon's sledgehammers and crowbars had finished their shameful work, it would be no exaggeration to say the outcome attracted no less criticism than the damage done by Islamic State militants last year in the ancient city of Hatra in Iraq.

Of course, in those days landowners were free to do what they wanted. Historic Scotland was not around which meant important buildings and historic sites had no protection and were left to the mercy of a few individuals.

Today, thanks to planning legislation and the Scottish Government, which is actively encouraging the public to take an interest and pride in their cultural heritage, the situation is slightly different. Or is it? Last year an application to demolish one of Lochaber's historic gems was granted without a finger being lifted against it by any official.

A few weeks ago this centuries old, single-story 'L'-shaped building of traditional lime mortared walls and roofed with Ballachulish slate, was completely demolished and its handsome dressed stone unceremoniously dumped in the sea a little way below where it once stood.

The former manse, school and school house at Camusnacraoie, Kingairloch, was a very rare, little-altered survivor of a simple community building and of major significance to Scotland's past.

It was once a female school run by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge and the Edinburgh Society for the Support of Gaelic Schools. It was also the manse for the minister and a place of worship predating the adjoining 1857 church.



Inner Wheel members Mary Mackay and Hazel Robertson present the cheque to Sue Pagan, third right.

Inner Wheel ladies dish up charity cash

CHARITY begins at home for Oban Inner Wheel Club which held an afternoon tea to raise funds for Alzheimer Scotland's Oban centre.

Hosted by member Ha-

zel Robertson, the ladies worked together to organise the event and raised £345. The money was presented to Sue Pagan, the society's dementia advisor for Oban and Lorn.

Liz Mudie said: 'More than 30 Inner Wheel members and friends enjoyed afternoon tea. This included delicious baking and a lively raffle.' Club members are stepping

up for many good causes over the coming months with president Ursula Parry participating in a 10k sponsored run and a 'walk and soup' lunch, both in early June.



Card game a winner with pupils

BRIDGE is not often played by children, but the card game has become popular with St Columba's Primary School pupils in Oban.

Principal teacher Siobhan MacLellan explained: 'I read an article about the benefits of mini-bridge so I contacted Oban Bridge Club and member Sue Pollard and I set up mini-bridge lessons at the school in class-time and then the kids continued it as a lunch club.'

Now a dozen primary 5-7 pupils regularly compete. Sue, who is helped by fellow members Sheena Ambrose and Catherine MacGregor, said: 'The children play a simplified version of bridge, where there's no complicated bidding. It's much easier and they can start playing straight away. It teaches them maths, teamwork, concentration, lateral thinking and social skills as they learn how to behave when they win and

how to be gracious in defeat.'

St Columba's mini-bridge players Charlie, Anna and Seonaid said: 'Playing mini-bridge has helped us work co-operatively with a partner. We enjoy playing against our classmates.'

Evie, Emma and Charles said: 'It is fun and makes you more competitive. It also helps us with our maths.'

'It also helps us get to know each other better,' said Michael, Lara and John. 'We really enjoy playing with our friends and adults,' added Justin and Aaliyah. 'We know we are lucky because not many schools in Scotland get to learn this.'

Mrs MacLellan, who is helped by classroom assistant Marilyn Petherbridge, said: 'From sitting at home reading the article I've seen it come to fruition and it's great seeing the children's enthusiasm. We are so grateful for the work Oban Bridge Club have done.'



Aideen O' Malley.

New university board chief

A HIGHLAND university has appointed a new chairwoman to its board of directors.

Aideen O' Malley will take over the position at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, Skye, which was formerly held by Roddy John Macleod, who retired in 2015 after seven years in the post.

Aideen, who spent 18 years working as a teacher in Scotland, Ireland, Belgium and

Italy, returned to Scotland in 2006, before becoming a trustee and board member the following year. Aideen, who has served as the vice-chairwoman since 2010, said: 'To be appointed chairwoman of the board of directors of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is an honour of which I am very conscious but also proud. It is a challenge as well as a privilege. It is now my task to ensure that the

board supports and guides the work of the Sabhal Mòr staff, devising a strategy that will enable the college to contribute fully to the development of the language, culture and way of life of the Gael and enhance Gaelic scholarly activity in, and beyond, Scotland.'

Replacing Aideen as vice-chairman will be Inverness-based lawyer and Mòd gold medalist Angus Macleod.

Skye

THE ISLE of Skye celebrated the first anniversary of it becoming a Fairtrade island. A ceilidh was held at the island's Bradford Hall, where the band Breakish played a great set.

Many local businesses and residents donated prizes to the raffle, which raised £188.

Food for the event was donated by many Fairtrade supporters, who work tirelessly to raise the profile of Fairtrade on Skye.



Now you see it - the centuries old Kingairloch Manse and school - one of Lochaber's historic gems.



Now you don't - demolished and thrown into the sea.

It was made all the greater because of *Kidnapped*, one of Scotland's best-known historical adventure novels by Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson. It is clear from the description in *Kidnapped* that this is the same building which was the manse of the catechist called Mr Henderland in the book. He invited David Balfour to spend a night and it's pretty certain Stevenson stayed there himself.

Millions of copies of *Kidnapped* have been sold since

it was first published in 1886 and no fewer than seven film and television versions of it have appeared between 1938 and 2005. It is so popular that a unique walk, called 'The Stevenson Way', has been established by a group working towards a European Cultural Route.

The 'problem' with this attractive little building was not so much its size but its isolation and plainness.

Too far for Historic Scotland's staff to stray from their gracious Edinburgh offices to consider listing, and not known to be the work of any fashionable Scottish architect of the period, it stood no chance.

It may not have had any notable architectural features but, like Drimnin Castle, it too was a kind of 'power house'. It belonged to a group of buildings that for generations were the alma maters of the Highlands from which its indomitable dominies sent out a race of students more generously endowed both mentally and physically than many of today's.

Perhaps there is a case here for relocating Historic Environment Scotland's main office to Lochgilphead, Oban or Skye in order that its senior staff might better understand the value of West Highland vernacular architecture before it disappears altogether.

It does not say much for Historic Scotland that it failed to recognise the importance of this building.

Had it realised what a treasure it was and listed it years ago, it might have been saved; it says even less for Highland Council's planning staff and elected members for paying no attention to the unprecedented number of objections they received against its demolition. More importantly, it says nothing at all for the applicants.

Not only did they leave it to deteriorate after the last tenants moved out, but ignored completely the heartfelt entreaties of many concerned locals, former pupils and professional architects who volunteered sound practical advice on how best to preserve and restore it.

Now it seems the site is to be occupied by a letting unit looking more akin to something straight out of a glossy magazine, doubtless bereft of any atmosphere and character and more appropriate to a suburb of Bath or south west London, than a unique little settlement on the shores of Loch Linnhe overlooking Appin and the island of Lismore.

Perhaps we may take some consolation in knowing that in the Highlands it is as true today as it was in Israel 21 centuries ago: 'Cursed is he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen'. (Deuteronomy, 27:17)

Iain Thornber

iain.thornber@btinternet.com

Colonsay

COLONSAY residents are racing against time to raise £3,000 to restore the church's belfry.

In just six months the island's renovation committee has raised £57,000 of the £60,000 repair bill, but the remaining £3,000 must be secured before the end of June.

The small congregation discovered the bell tower, which was built in 1802, was in danger of collapse and without funding, hired contractors Rowan Stoneworks, to get work under way late last year.

Kevin Byrne, the church's session clerk, said: 'We have worked very hard to secure funding and we are overwhelmed and immensely thankful by the support we have had from islanders and donors from across the world, as well as generous grants from a number of bodies. But we now need £3,000 to complete our work. It doesn't sound like much, but when you haven't got it, it can seem like a mountain to climb.'

A total of £22,000 was secured through grants from the National Churches Trust, the J Murray Napier Fund of St Columba's Church in London, the Allchurches Trust, the Baird Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation.

The rest of the money has been raised through online fundraising, selling rare books, selling artwork and the generosity of the public. To help, or find out more, visit www.colonsaychurches.org.



Public to decide 'small change' top three order

THE FUNDS of three Oban charities are to be boosted by a building society's donation but which receives the most money is up to the public.

As part of The Charity Choices initiative, Yorkshire Building Society's (YBS) Oban branch on George Street has £1,000 to give out.

The charities in line for a donation are: Crossroads (North Argyll) Care Attendant Scheme, Oban Dementia Resource Centre and Argyll and Bute Beats Cardiovascular Disease.

The campaign was launched on Monday May 9 and will run for two weeks. The number of votes received for each charity by Friday May 20 will determine the amount of money allocated to each; the one with the most will receive £500, second place

Public to decide 'small change' top three order

will get £300 and £200 will go to the charity in third place.

Sally Jackson, YBS Oban branch manager, said: 'We know how important our three chosen charities are to our local community so we're delighted to be making a donation to help them continue their important work. Just how much they receive though will be up to our customers and members of the public.'

The campaign is supported by YBS's Charitable Foundation, which is funded by the Small Change, Big Difference@ scheme where members donate the pennies from the interest they receive on their accounts, just once a year. The Oban branch manager added: 'We hope as many people as possible will pop in and make their vote count.'



From left, Yorkshire Building Society colleagues Gordon Woods, Kat Croan and Jamie Brophy invite the public to decide how £1,000 is split between Oban charities.

Dismay as cuts sees inn pull plug on public toilet scheme

Drivers face A82 roadworks

TWO SECTIONS of the A82 in Glencoe are to be upgraded in the coming weeks.

All approaches to the roundabout at Ballachulish are to be resurfaced.

While work to remove the existing surface took place this week, the start date for laying the new surface has still to be confirmed by BEAR or Transport Scotland, but it is hoped to be completed by Friday May 20. Meanwhile, carriageway resurfacing is to take place 1km south of Bridge of Orchy and 1km south of Ba Bridge between Tuesday May 31 and Friday June 3.

The road will remain open while work takes place, with a 10mph convoy system in place between 7am and 7pm. Outwith these hours, there will be no convoy but a 30mph speed limit will be in place.

Upgrade work on the right path

THE FIRST phase of an ambitious project to repair and upgrade the lower half of the Ben Nevis mountain path has been completed.

Managed by Nevis Landscape Partnership, the whole project aims to upgrade the path from Achintee to John's Wall and this year will focus on a difficult middle section in need of attention before the busy summer season. The last few years have seen the whole path fall into a severe state of disrepair. Without intervention, this would worsen over time and cause serious problems for people as well as being detrimental to sensitive habitats.



Lord Faulkner flags off the train with James Shuttleworth of West Coast Railways.

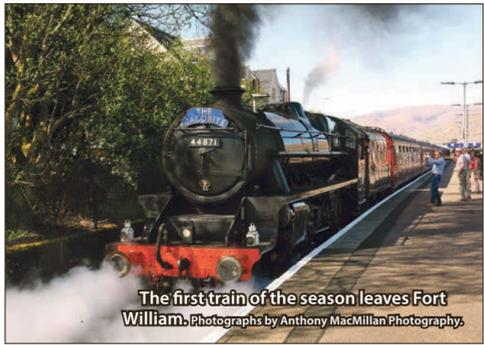
Steam train back on track

THE JACOBITE Steam train pulled out of Fort William railway station for its first trip this season on Monday.

The journey, widely regarded as one of the best in the world, brings in tens of thousands of visitors each year.

Lord Faulkner of Worcester, former advisor to the British Railways board and former deputy speaker of the House of Commons, flagged off the train.

Fern Britton, who was visiting the area for a book signing and charity cycle, was on this first train.



The first train of the season leaves Fort William. Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

ELLIE FORBES
fort@obantimes.co.uk

A ROW has broken out over the closure of public toilets serving people using the Corran ferry.

Public toilets in the area are open under the Highland Council Comfort Scheme, whereby the council pays private establishments to open their toilets to the public. The scheme has been running since 1996.

But recent changes to the terms of the scheme have left participating businesses frustrated and has resulted in the closure of the public toilets on the Ardgour side of the Corran ferry.

To date the scheme has paid varying rates to proprietors opening toilets to the public, however, in a bid for equality, the council decided to offer a flat rate to businesses in the comfort scheme once existing leases have ended, meaning businesses have seen a reduction in the money they receive.

The Inn at Ardgour, which is part of the comfort scheme, has been in a lease agreement with the council for 15 years. But its lease ran out in April.

Under the previous lease the Inn had received £800 a month from the comfort scheme.

But partner and general manager of the Inn, Luke Alexander, told *The Oban Times* that he received a letter from the council notifying him that his lease was up for renewal and that the new terms of the contract - £250 a

“I know they are vital but I can't be out of pocket £600 a month”

Luke Alexander
Inn at Ardgour

month for seven months of the year - were non negotiable. Mr Alexander claims there was no prior warning that the rate he previously received would change.

He said: 'I tried to contact the council to discuss the new contract, but I got no response.'

'I sent emails and left messages. I called five times over a 10-day period, but no-one got back to me.'

'I didn't want to close the toilets. I don't want to close the toilets, because I know they are vital for people, but I can't be out of pocket £600 a month.'

A Highland Council spokesperson, said: 'Mr Alexander did not have to enter into his new contract but the council could not continue to pay the rate he was receiving.'

The spokesperson added: 'The council does not have a statutory obligation to have public toilets.'

'The council is now looking to provide a flat rate for businesses in the comfort scheme

Advertorial

Building a Strong Foundation

Foundation Apprenticeships will soon be available to High School pupils in Argyll in subjects including Engineering, Health and Social Care, IT Software and Business Skills, in partnership with Argyll College UHI.

Colin Buchanan, Foundation Apprenticeships Regional Manager for North Region said:

"SDS is delighted to be working with Argyll College UHI to deliver Foundation Apprenticeships. The knowledge, skills and experience the young people will gain will give them a head start in their career and equip them with the skills that employers are looking for.

BOOSTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

"As they develop, Foundation Apprenticeships will play an increasingly important role in keeping talented young people in the region, tackling skill shortages and boosting the local economy."

Foundation Apprenticeships, which take two years to complete, are work-based learning opportunities for secondary school pupils in S4 and S5. Young people spend time out of school at college or with a local employer, and complete the Foundation Apprenticeship alongside their other subjects like National 5s and Highers.

Each Foundation Apprenticeship has been designed in partnership with industry to make sure that young



people get the skills and knowledge they need. In the classroom they cover the theory behind each role - then they'll get the opportunity to put it into practice in the workplace.

The hands-on experience will lead to an industry-recognised qualification, set at SCQF Level 6 (the same level of learning as a Higher) and based on existing industry-recognised qualifications including Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) and

National Certificates.

Foundation Apprenticeships have the added benefit of providing the foundation elements of a Modern Apprenticeship so you won't have to repeat the parts already completed at school, reducing the time it takes to complete the training and providing an accelerated start to your chosen career.

Fiona MacAlpine, Schools Co-ordinator at Argyll College UHI said: "We

are delighted to be working closely with schools in Argyll to introduce these new qualifications.

For young people it's the chance to get a head start on their careers by gaining an industry-recognised qualification, work on real projects and broaden their career options when they leave school.

WILLING TO LEARN

And for employers, it's the chance to attract highly motivated and committed young people who are willing to learn, identify young people who are right for their business and ensure their organisation has people with the skills needed to prosper."

From an Education perspective Argyll and Bute Council noted "Sometimes, getting started in a career can seem like an impossible task. Young people need experience to find a job, but they need a job to gain experience. That's where a Foundation Apprenticeship can help.

We are delighted to be offering our students innovative ways of learning which will enhance their skills and improve their employment options."

Skills Development Scotland, with the support of the European Social Fund, has developed Foundation Apprenticeships which enable pupils in S4 to S6 to complete elements of a Modern Apprenticeship while still at school. For further information visit our www.argyllcollege.ac.uk or follow @apprentice_sco

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Viewpoint

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

This week more than 70 residents on the Ross of Mull overwhelmingly gave a vote no confidence in the island's ambulance cover following a question and answer session with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and NHS Highland in Bunessan on Monday.

Residents on the island say they don't feel safe because they do not think the out-of-hours emergency service – to reach patients within an hour – is working considering the geography of the island.

This is a long-running concern. While there are two ambulances on the island, only one crew is on call at any given time. According to Mull councillor Mary-Jean

Devon there have been five 999 calls within a couple of hours of each other, the most recent three weeks ago, when an ambulance took an hour to get to a 5am call from Bunessan, and then took two hours to get to a second call in Tobermory at 7am.

While everyone recognises that the health service is under pressure, not least due to the difficulties in recruiting GPs to rural and island communities, and values the service our emergency professionals provide, it's time the Scottish health minister stepped in to resolve the issue on Mull once and for all before someone loses their life unnecessarily.



Days gone by – Braes piper's success

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of *The Oban Times*. In January 1976, *Oban Times* readers were getting used to – and enjoying – the new bridge that opened at Ballachullish, ending centuries of ferry service. Walking across the bridge and admiring the views was a novelty. Mrs Margaret Murphie, Fort William, met Mr ETF Spence, Ledaig, on Ballachullish Bridge a week after it opened. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent to the editor, *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

Oban can be centre of Gaelic excellence

Sir,
Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain, the local branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach (the Gaelic Society), will be holding a special general meeting followed by its annual general meeting on June 7 in Furan at the Corran Halls at 7pm.

The local organising committee (LOC) for the 2015 Oban National Mòd has concluded its successful stint, fundraising for and hosting the 2015 Oban National Mòd.

The local branch now needs to pick up the cudgels once again to promote language, music and culture in the town. The current office bearers and those who served the branch before it went into abeyance intend to stand down to make way for new blood.

Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain is a membership organisation. Unfortunately we have no up-to-date membership subscription list. This gives us the opportunity to declare a membership subscription amnesty. We can recruit new members and re-instate former members at the special meeting to pave the way for them participating fully in the AGM to follow and in branch affairs thereafter.

One of reasons why the national Mòd was a success was the help we received from local kindred organisations. These organisations should be represented on the new governance body along with 'younger natives'. It is best to seek new recruits when the organisation is healthy rather than hang

on and by hanging on, deliberately or unwittingly, prevent new faces and ideas from joining the cause. We can all point to examples of branches and other bodies where this has happened.

We have healthy finances and our current successes include the Mòd Academy and the local mòd. We have to take these successes further.

It is time for a fresh look at our policies and activities.

We hear a lot about cities of culture. This is another opportunity to cement Oban's role as a centre of excellence for Highland music and culture. Please come along and offer practical support.

The branch has a distinctive role to play in promoting the Gaelic cause and funds raised in the past to go towards the costs of future Oban national Mòds will be protected by coming under the trusteeship of An Comunn Gàidhealach.

Duncan N Macdonald, vice chairman/acting secretary, Clachacharra, Taynuilt.

No fuel in Mallaig late afternoon

Sir,
My family and I have visited the beautiful Morar/Arisaig area many times over the years and Sunday May 8 found us back there enjoying the stunning scenery and wonderful sunshine.

Being keen to get to the coast we did not stop to fuel up in Fort William in the morning but decided instead to refuel in Mallaig at the end of the day.

What a shock we received in Mallaig in the late afternoon to be told that the nearest open fuel station was back in Fort William 42 miles away because the local fuel station closes about lunch time at weekends.

Our fuel light was on. How were we to get home? I felt genuine panic.

Thankfully rescue came in the form of a number of extremely kind and helpful local people who put their heads together, made a few phone calls and within 15 minutes our little car was being topped up with the necessary petrol to take us back to Fort William. Very many thanks to them. Without their kindness my invalid husband and I would have been stranded.

It is outrageous and indeed wrong that a busy little tourist hub like Mallaig, a town literally at the end of the road, is not served with a seven-day-a-week fuel station open during reasonable hours.

Local people will, through necessity, have adapted to this unsatisfactory situation but there must be numerous visitors who find themselves in the same situation as us.

Surely it is a basic civic duty in such a place that such an essential public service be available? The fuel company/owners of the petrol station should be morally compelled to provide such an essential service as part of their permission to trade.

Once again, thanks to our rescuers whose kindness enhanced a beautiful day which could otherwise have ended in tears.

Name and address supplied.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



'The lassies are falling for Fergie'

WHILE looking through a box of old newspaper cut-outs from his early career, ceilidh king Fergie MacDonald's family found an absolute gem of an article from 1964, headlined 'The lassies are falling for Fergie', and they shared it for Fergie's friends on Facebook.

I've often wished I was around in the generation of the Highlanders' Institute and, if the article's assertion that Highland musicians were 'mobbed by the lassies' is correct, I wish it even more now.

The beginning of the article reads: 'Fergie MacDonald, a 27-year-old bachelor who lives in Edinburgh and leads his own Highland dance band, is being mobbed by the lassies.'

'He's getting dozens of proposals of marriage among his fan letters.'

'No-one is more surprised by this fan-mania than Fergie, who plays regularly with his five musicians at the Highlanders' Institute in Glasgow and all over Scotland.'

'A dark-haired, twinkling eyed, kilted young Highlander, Fergie speaks fluent Gaelic and has been recording on Thistle of Scotland records another LP of catchy Highland tunes to meet the demand his last 'Come Dancing at the Highlanders Institute' created.'

Guitar pedals in the Park

I WAS playing in the Park Bar on Sunday night with my friend Ali Turner from Alness.

Ali plays electric guitar and this was his first gig in the Park.

As he began setting up all his foot pedals for his guitar, there were a few quizzical looks from regulars more used to a midi bass and a snare drum – my usual line-up and, indeed, the usual line-up of many bands who play in the pub.

At this point, a friend of mine from Barra approached us and offered us both a drink. Ali, who was down on his knees plugging in the pedals, declined because he was driving.

My friend from Barra looked down at the pedals confusedly, then back at Ali, and said: 'Driving? Well, looking at those things, all I can say is thank goodness I'm not sitting my test these days!'

What's on

Thursday May 12: Glasgow Sutherland Association AGM, 7.30pm, Buffs Club, 937 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, G11.

Tuesday May 17: Comann Gàidhlig Ghlaschu AGM, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, Glasgow Gaelic School.

Saturday May 14: Gaelic Choir Competition for the Renfrewshire Provost's Cuach, Renfrew Town Hall. Doors open 7.15pm, begins at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.

Saturday May 21: Gaels Le Chèile:

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

ailean@obantimes.co.uk



B' E SEACHDAIN CHUD-ROMACH a bh' agam bhon a sgrìobh mi mu dheireadh, oir bha mi ri cur!

Chaidh am buntàta dhan talamh mu dheireadh thall, agus ged a bha sin air deireadh seach an-uiridh, b' fhiach feitheamh oir an dèidh dà latha de thiomachd agus beagan gaoithe bha cuisean glè dheiseil is an talamh pronn fuasgailte.

Mar a chur 's ann a bhuainear, a rèir seanfhacail, agus mar a h-uile neach eile a tha ri cur le faiceall is foighidinn, tha mise an dòchas gun dearbh toradh an fhoghair firinn nam briathran sin dhuinn!

Feumaidh mi a ràdh gun do chòrd e fìor mhath rium fhìn 's ri Iain Uisdean a bhith air an achadh air deagh latha earraich, is an crann-drilidh air an t-seann Fhergie a' sgoltadh is a' togail na h-ùrach cho dòigheil.

Tha inneal-cura bhuntàta aig Iain, tè de na h-iomadh innealchadan feumail a dhealbha Harry Fearghasdan, a tha a' caomhnadh air an seòrsa cromadh air an robh sinn eòlach nuair a bhithte a' cur a' bhuntàta!



A young Fergie MacDonald.

Cois Tine/Taigh-Cèilidh/ House Cèilidh in Sutherland's Bar, Argyll Hotel.

Thursday May 26: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association AGM, Lourdes Secondary School.

Wednesday June 1: Glasgow Skye Association AGM in Partick Burgh Hall.

Wednesday June 1: Mull and Iona Association AGM, An Leanaig, Mansfield Street, 7.30pm.

Friday June 3: Glasgow Skye Associ-

ation end-of-session social, Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Friday May 13: Heron Valley. Saturday May 14: Dodgy Ground. Sunday May 15: Trail West.

Islay Inn: Friday May 13: Black Velvet. Saturday May 14: Twist of Fate. Wednesday May 18: Quiz Night.

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Ailean Caimbeul

bainteach às na roghainnean a rinn sinn le bhòtadh anns an taghadh seo. Mar-thà, tha dealradh beag dòchais gum faicear nas lugha den ghlanhadh eadar-phàrtaidh, a th' air a bhith a' gràineachadh uimhir bho phoilitians, agus barrachd co-obrachaidh a dh'ionnsaigh adhartais.

Gun teagamh tha mòran chuspairean air am bheil e an ìre mhath do-sheachanta dha na pàrtaidhean uile gun a bhith aonaichte, agus nam bonntaichte obair na Pàrlamaid an sin theagamh gun leanadh an tuilleadh aonta agus soirbheachadh!

EVENTUALLY the ground dried sufficiently to enable John MacLeod and I to get potatoes planted and naturally we are looking forward to a good harvest.

On the same day we 'planted' votes in the Scottish Parliamentary election and we also hope for healthy progression from that process, with parties focusing and building on consensus.

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

Press policy

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

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

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

Forum calls for CalMac bosses to resign as ferry row erupts

ELLIE FORBES
reporter@obantimes.co.uk

SLEAT Transport Forum is calling for the resignation of two of Caledonian MacBrayne's senior managers after a meeting was held to discuss on-going disruption to the Mallaig-Armadale ferry service.

Chaired by Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, the meeting was sparked by an outcry from ferry users about the inadequacy and unreliability of the three vessels currently being used in place of the *MV Coruisk*.

Around 80 people attended the public gathering last Wednesday (May 4), which was held at the Clan Donald Centre.

The meeting called for the resignation of managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne Martin Dorchester and Drew Collier, director of operations, after claims that they



The *MV Coruisk* which has been withdrawn from the Mallaig-Armadale route.

had failed to provide fit-for-purpose vessels and because of their refusal to meet with community representatives.

The forum also requested the immediate return of the *MV Coruisk* to the route.

Talking to *The Oban Times* after the meeting, Mr Blackford said: 'People are speaking

with a clear voice. I join with those at the meeting in calling for the immediate reinstatement of the *Coruisk* and for Mr Dorchester and Mr Collier to accept their responsibilities for the shambles that has become the Mallaig-Armadale service and resign.'

Since October of last year, the forum has been petitioning CalMac, Transport Scotland and the Minister for Transport and Islands to reverse the decision to use three separate ferries and redeploy the *MV Coruisk*.

The forum claimed that the revised timetable imposed by the company was flawed and would not provide the level of service and reliability that had been provided on the route for the past 12 years.

The group said it warned CalMac that the use of two vessels that are unable to operate at low tides would cause significant disruption during the summer schedule.

However, it claims the company carried on without sharing operational information with Transport Scotland officials. A spokesperson for Caledonian MacBrayne said: 'We believe that the tidal restrictions are manageable and, in response to Sleat Transport

Forum's concerns, are currently developing an amended timetable which will improve reliability on the Mallaig to Armadale, Isle of Skye route.'

'Even with the cancellations which have occurred, increased capacity means that record levels of traffic are being carried on the route.'

'During the first six weeks of operation, passenger numbers are up by 17 per cent, cars up 26 per cent - more than 1,250 extra vehicles transported to the island - and the important coach travel tourism trade is up by six per cent on the same period last year.'

Mr Blackford said: 'I have been in recent discussions with the chief executive officer of Caledonian MacBrayne to voice my strong dissatisfaction with the level of service on the Mallaig-Armadale route, and the shambles that has arisen due to the company's decision to remove the tried and tested *MV Coruisk*, whilst it has been

replaced with vessels that are simply not fit for purpose on this route.'

'According to the Sleat transport forum, out of 428 planned sailings in April 2015, the vessel completed 426 of these sailings with only two cancellations.'

'In the period from March 25 to April 23 there were 56 cancellations out of 516 planned sailings,' he said.

'The contrast from the service level of the *MV Coruisk* and the replacement vessels is stark to say the least.'

Mr Blackford said that the ferry disruption was having a damaging impact on local businesses: 'Having been contacted by many businesses and individuals from Skye and the mainland, it is clear to me that the impact of the disruption has been affecting business.'

'For example, coach visits to Clan Donald in Sleat are down by 25 per cent over the prior year.'

Alasdair Allan returned as MSP

THE SNP's Alasdair Allan was returned as MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar having received 6,874 votes, more than all of the other parties combined.

The results came in early on Friday morning (May 6), just as the picture nationally was beginning to show a very strong result for the SNP, and for another Scottish Government led by Nicola Sturgeon.

Mr Allan commented: 'The greatest privilege I have ever had is to be elected MSP for the islands, and my awareness of that does not diminish with time. I would like to thank not only the 52 per cent of islanders who voted for me, but everyone who turned out - my job is to work for everyone in the islands, which is what I intend to do.'

'I would like to pay particular thanks to my team of hard working SNP activists who, over many months, have worked tirelessly to ensure this historic victory.'

'Nationally, the SNP has managed to win the highest share of the constituency vote and the largest number of constituency seats ever achieved by any party in a Scottish Parliament election. The SNP is winning for a reason. That is because the SNP fights Scotland's corner, at a time when the UK Government clearly doesn't care.'

'There is plenty to be done both locally, after MSPs are sworn in, and by the incoming Scottish Government, when that is formed and I am greatly looking forward to the work ahead.'



Alasdair Allan MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar shortly after the declaration.

Councillor urges action on Skye health care future

A HIGHLAND councillor is urging the Scottish Government and NHS Highland to do more to meet health and policy needs for the Isle of Skye.

Angela MacLean, who came second for Lib Dems in last week's election, is calling for the two bodies to work together and set up an independent panel. Councillor MacLean's intention is to increase interaction with communities on Skye whom she believes have been 'utterly failed' up until now.

She said: 'Having carefully considered the issue and spoken with many local people, I have come to the conclusion that NHS Highland and the Scottish Government have failed to listen and engage with communities on Skye.'

Councillor MacLean's main grievance relates to the decision to close Portree Hospital.

She said: 'Before taking the decision to close an essential local service - especially the only major hospital in the north of Skye - a full public consultation should take place, a detailed assessment

should be made available to communities and the views of local people should carry meaningful weight.'

'It's not good enough to just make savings, or provide convenience for the NHS. The review should assess the impact on people's lives, the future for communities and the local economy.'

The reduction of amenities on Skye has been an ongoing bone of contention and has resulted in the creation of Save Our Services (SOS) campaign but the councillor believes the fight for Portree does not have to be over just yet.

She said: 'There is still time for the health minister, the SNP and NHS Highland to show they care about the views of people on Skye and commit to an independent review. Local people have made it very clear their concerns have not been listened to. It's easy to close a hospital but much, much harder to rebuild it once it's gone. Everyone on Skye deserves to have reliable and safe access to emergency health care.'

Lochside pupils' Fairtrade cheer



THE CHILDREN of Lochside Primary School have held on to their Fairtrade Fair Achiever award for another year.

The primary was the first school in the Highlands to achieve Fairtrade status six years ago.

The Fairtrade Committee was delighted to receive the award, which is the top award from the Fairtrade Foundation UK.

The school continues to support and promote Fairtrade issues through its global citizenship projects, holding Fairtrade activities throughout the year.

And the school has shared its good practise with others in the area.

Its next event is a Fairtrade Football Match with Bunscoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar on Tuesday May 17.

Lochside Primary School's Fairtrade committee which has secured the Fairtrade Fair Achiever award for another year. 21_F20 Fair Achiever Award!

New premises for Lochaber Hope

A LOCHABER support group hopes to be in its new premises, Dalnahaine, the old Nevis Bank Nursery Building, in June.

A Lochaber Hope spokesperson said: 'We are very excited about our move and keen to grow the counselling and employability support and start the new projects we have planned including a women's space, mums and babies and social and well-being. Too many people have invisible conditions and illnesses and we want to make provisions for people with patience, understanding and opportunities to share and develop skills and learning.'

Lochaber Hope has raised £15,000 of its £20,000 target and would be delighted to receive 'in kind' support for alterations to the new building, such as flooring, lighting, sanitary ware or paint.

Anyone wishing to make such a donation should call Lochaber Hope on 01397 705077.

Ceilidh boosts care home funds

A FORT William group has been raising money for a residents' home on Skye.

The group held a ceilidh in the West End Hotel and raised £500 for the Acarasaid home in Broadford.

Glengarry girls' shinty team

LAST week's Oban Times ran a photograph of Glengarry girls' shinty team.

The piece was inadvertently captioned 'hockey' team. We apologise for this error.



Diezel MacLean, 7, takes to the roped climbing wall.

Scaling new heights at Three Wise Monkeys

FORT William's first indoor climbing centre, Three Wise Monkeys Climbing, opened last week in the former MacIntosh Memorial Church.

There were several events on throughout the opening week, starting with the ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday May 4, performed by mountain guide and ambassador for mountain culture Mick Tighe.

There were also bouldering competitions, including a youth competition which saw youngsters from all over Scotland make the journey to compete as well as a good turnout of Lochaber residents. Managing director Oliver Millington was 'really pleased' at how the opening had gone. He said: 'It's been fantastic so far. We've had more than 1,000 people through the door already and I think it's been really well received.'

Community group seeks new homes funding

A COMMUNITY group is seeking major investment to deliver vital new affordable and sheltered homes and a village centre hub to boost business.

Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) has already bought land and now hopes to find the final cash backing for the £2m scheme. There has been widespread public support for the plans since their inception and offers of land for sale from Forestry Commission Scotland, Ardtornish Estate and a private individual.

MCDC development officer Lilia Dobrokhodova said: 'MCDC would like to thank every person and organisation who have helped in one

way or another so far and would like to take this opportunity to invite the community to approach MCDC for any housing needs they might have.'

The current plans, which have been submitted to Highland Council for planning permission, include three three-bedroom houses, three two-bedroom houses and two self-build plots which would be rented to Morvern people at an affordable rate.

There are also plans for a village centre site with three one-bedroom houses for elderly residents and a community building for a heritage centre, gift shop, tea rooms and offices for businesses. Help with the land purchase came from various sources.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) approached MCDC about acquiring land owned by the Forestry Commission adjacent to Dailrainich, opposite Lochaline Primary School.

A private individual offered to sell part of his garden and Ardtornish estate also agreed to sell some of its adjacent land. MCDC successfully applied to FCS's National Forest Land Scheme to buy land.

Following this it secured £127,000 from Big Lottery's Scottish Land Fund, which together with a donation of £5,850 from Morvern Community Trust, covered the costs of this land as well as a site adjacent to the old Scout Hut.

Scottish Field
MAY ISSUE OUT NOW
Lee McKenzie TALKS AYRSHIRE

10 OF THE BEST SPOOKIEST SCOTS UFO SIGHTINGS

TOM McCLEAN: SAILING IN A WHALE SHAPED BOAT

A shaggy bull story
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016 SHOWS

- ROAD TO THE ISLES SHOW**
Camusdarach, Arisaig
Saturday, June 11
- TREE SHOW**
Rural Centre, Crossapol
Friday, July 22
- WEST ARDNAMURCHAN SHOW**
Kilchoan
Friday, July 22
- KINTYRE SHOW**
Anderston Park, Campbeltown
Friday, August 5
- BUNESSAN SHOW**
Bunessan School Ground, Mull
Friday, August 5
- LORN SHOW**
Tralee Beach, Benderloch
Saturday, August 6
- ISLAY, JURA & COLONSAY SHOW**
Bridgend, Islay
Thursday, August 11

- SUNART SHOW**
Strontian Showfield
Saturday, August 13
- MID-ARGYLL SHOW**
Kilmory, Lochgilphead
Saturday, August 13
- SALEN SHOW**
Glenaros Showfield, Mull
Thursday, August 18
- APPIN SHOW**
Stalker Croft, Appin
Saturday, August 20
- KILLIN SHOW**
Breadalbane Park
Saturday, August 20
- LOCHABER SHOW**
Inverloch Castle Farm, Torlundy
Saturday, August 27
- DALMALLY SHOW**
Mart Park, Dalmally
Saturday, September 3

IT'S SHOW TIME



Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out

Saturday 13th August 2016
Strontian Showfield
Judging Commences 9.30am

Sheep, Cattle, Poultry and Dog Show
Local Crafts, Highland Dancing, Forging
Display, return of the Horse show and so much more
Pipe band commencing at 12.30pm
Adults: £5, Child: £2
Family: £12, Concession: £3

Islay, Jura & Colonsay Agricultural Show

Thursday 11th August 2016
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

Lochaber Agricultural Show & Family Fun Day Out

Saturday 27th August, 2016
INVERLOCHY CASTLE FARM,
TORLUNDY, FORT WILLIAM
Showfield Opens 9.30am
Entry Adult £7, Senior Citizens £5, Under 16s Free
www.lochaberagriculturalshow.co.uk

SALEN SHOW

THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 2016
SHOWFIELD AT GLENAROS
GATES OPEN 10AM
ENTRY ADULT £5, CONC £3,
FAMILY £14
DANCE TO FOLLOW

Kintyre Agricultural Show

Friday 5th August 2016
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

ROAD TO THE ISLES SHOW

Saturday 11th June 2016
(by kind permission of the Stuart & Orchard Family)
Livestock, inc Highlanders, Horses, Ponies, Poultry, Handicrafts, Baking & Floral Art Classes
Further information Tel 01687 450659
Afternoon entertainment commences at 12.30pm
"The Clan Scotland Cycle Stunt Team" are the Main Event this year
Falconry Display Open Dog Show
Horticultural and Craft stands and much much more.
Refreshment tent, Roast Hog & Barbecue.
The Road to the Isles committee would like to thank our sponsor's for their generous very donation

MID-ARGYLL SHOW 2016

Saturday 13th August at Kilmory, Lochgilphead
Showfield Opens at 9am
All the usual competitions plus a few new ones!
Entry Fee: Adults £7, Conc. £3
Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £16.00
www.mid-argyllshow.co.uk

West Ardnarmurchan Show & Sports

Friday 22nd July 2016

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 13:00.

Attractions include: All Day BBQ & Bar, Senior & Junior Heavy Events, Junior Sports, Children's amusements start 11:30 am, Pet Parade & Races, Tug-a-War, Stalls, Baking & Horticulture Competitions, Senior & Junior Road Race, Show Dance starting at 8pm till 1am (Cool An Air) Dance Band
More information online at <http://westardnamurchannews.blogspot.com>

Tiree Show

FRIDAY 22nd JULY 2016
The Rural Centre, Crossapol
Judging starts 10.30am

CATTLE, SHEEP, HORSES & PONIES, POULTRY, PET SHOW, HOME INDUSTRIES
CLYDESDALE HORSES, PIPE BAND, VINTAGE TRACTORS
Show Dance - Argyll Ceilidh Trail Band
Full details at www.tireeshow.co.uk

KILLIN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Breadalbane Park, 20th August 2016

Annual agricultural show with sheep and cattle judging, fancy dress parade, races, competitions and demonstrations.
Dance in the evening.
Visit the Killin Show Facebook page for more information.

59th Annual Appin Agricultural Show

Saturday 20th August 2016
Stalker Croft, Appin
Judging Starts 10am

Sheep, Cattle, Highland Cattle, Dog show, Clydesdale Horse Display, Children's Games/Races, Handicrafts, Floral Art, Flowers and Veg, Highland Dancing, Vintage Engines and Lots More
Entry: Adults £ 5.00, Children & Conc £3
Free Parking

BUNESSAN SHOW

Friday 5th August 2016
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
Admission £8.00

Lorn Agricultural Show

Saturday 6th August 2016

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

Dalmally Agricultural Show

Saturday 3rd September 2016
The Mart Park, Dalmally
Gates open 9am
Main ring attractions, Kintail Birds of Prey, Pipe Band, Dog Show Plus Junior Shinty
Entry fee: £7 Adult, £4 Sen. Citz., £3 Child
www.dalmally-show.co.uk

The agricultural industry is worth millions of pounds to the West Highland economy. Not just farmers but their service industries: transport, feed, markets, agricultural engineering, right down to the accountancy and legal professions.

It is also an industry responsible for helping shape the look, and social structure, of our landscape and its communities. So a day celebrating the finest achievements of this industry is a day to support, to go along, and join in - either watching or entering the home-produce sections, where everyone can have a go - you don't need to own a pedigree bull or a prize ram to come away from a show with first-prize red card.

You'll find out more about the shows listed here on their websites and facebook pages. Farming is a round-the-clock, all-day-every-day business so a show has always given farmers and their families a day to catch up with old friends and family. It also gives everyone a chance to eye-up the opposition - just watch all the farmers round the stock pens before and after judging. Those rows of brand new farm machinery aren't just there for decoration; manufacturers know how hard farmers work and so they bring their showrooms to the show ground. Tens of thousands of pounds of sales can be agreed on at a show.

What other major industry invites everyone along to enjoy themselves and celebrate all that hard work?

Road to the Isles Agricultural Show
Saturday June 11

How many shows can boast they take place in a movie location? Road to the Isles can, at Camusdarach, between Arisaig and Morar. By kind permission of the Stuart and Orchard family the show takes place at the venue made famous as the beach in the *Local Hero* movie. The agricultural show ring focuses on animals reared in and around Knoydart, the Small Isles, Mallaig Morar, Arisaig, Lochailort and Glenfinnan; all the way to Drumasallie Bridge and back through Ardnarmurchan to Loch Linnhe and Loch Eil. The show celebrates crofting, farming, and fishing and has a wonderful traditional handicraft section. Get your schedule from Harbro, Fort William, Spar, Arisaig or the Harbour Shop Mallaig.

Bunessan Show
Friday August 5

Down on the Ross of Mull Bunessan Show is an agricultural - and cultural - show held at the Bunessan Primary School show ground. As well as stock-judging enjoy the produce tent, beer tent refreshments and stalls. Lots of community groups turn out and support the show with stalls making it a real community affair.

Tiree Agricultural Show
Friday July 22

Traditionally one of the big events of the Argyll and islands agricultural calendar; expect to see top-class cattle, sheep, horses and poultry all groomed to perfection in the show rings along with a pet show, tractor display and some serious home produce. The showground is at the Rural Centre in Crossapol. This year Argyll Ceilidh Trail will be playing at the show dance. The committee also arranges a special spectator event. There's always a great atmosphere on the island on show day and on the ferry there and back.

West Ardnarmurchan Show and sports day
Friday July 22

A small community's big day out with stock-judging in the morning, the races begin at 11am and then there is a barbecue afterwards. The whole day is geared for the farming community its families and holiday makers alike to get together for a great day out. There is sheep showing, junior and senior heavy events kids' races, a hill race and baking and craft competitions, all held at Kilchoan.

Kintyre Show
Friday August 5

Kintyre is famous for its dairy herds all supplying the Campbeltown Creamery, home of the famous Mull of Kintyre cheddar. So expect to see some of the most expensive pedigree dairy cows in Scotland in the show ring. Famous local herds regularly bring home top trophies from The Royal Highland Show, the nation's show-of-shows. Kintyre's sheep have an equally famous reputation; look out too for excellent heavy horse classes and a horse show. Kintyre Young Farmers is a thriving organisation and help to make a friendly, fun day out as well as an important date in the local farming calendar.

Bunessan Show
Friday August 5

Down on the Ross of Mull Bunessan Show is an agricultural - and cultural - show held at the Bunessan Primary School show ground. As well as stock-judging enjoy the produce tent, beer tent refreshments and stalls. Lots of community groups turn out and support the show with stalls making it a real community affair.

Lorn Show
Saturday August 6

Lorn Show has moved home a few times over the course of its history and before its new venue, now held at Tralee Beach, with United Auctions as its main sponsors for the next three years. This kind of involvement shows the level of importance the agricultural industry places on shows like these. The show committee holds events throughout the year to support the show and puts in a great deal of hard work. Like most of the shows it has its own facebook page and if you go on line you'll find copies of the schedules including the recipes for baking classes. If you've never had the thrill of walking into a show tent to see if your home-baking or jam, photograph or pictures has earned a first-prize red card - have a go.

Islay Jura and Colonsay Show
Thursday August 11

The Islay show is one of the original and best in the West Highlands, just take a look at the trophy table - groaning with silverware donated over the decades. Show day is one of the biggest events in the Argyll agricultural calendar; not just a social event but a day when plenty of business is done. Alongside the livestock pens and show rings expect to see produce and craft competitions, stalls selling local food and top-class farm implements on show. The Islay Young Farmers Club reformed this year - wonder what fun they've got planned for show day?

Mid Argyll Show
Saturday August 13

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. This year the terrier racing will be joined by a new dog event - a gun dog scurry which looks like it is going to become a firm favourite. Mid Argyll Pipe Band will play and the trade stands will feature everything from gifts to heavy farming equipment. Parking will once again be at the school with shuttle buses to the show ground.

Sunart and District Agricultural Show
Saturday August 13

Another showfield in a stunning location, the Sunart showground is on the shores of Loch Sunart at the Strontian Showfield. It is the highlight of the year for the Sunart farmers and crofters with cattle, sheep and bird stock-judging. Check out the children's games, pipers and Highland dancing; cheer on the tug-o-war teams and the hill race competitors. The emphasis is on family and fun and holiday makers are always welcome; fresh local food is served. There will be a horse show again this year.

Salen and District Agricultural Show
Thursday August 18

Make sure you have your ferry ticket booked well in advance if travelling over to Mull for Salen Show. The showground at Aros, by the side of the road from Craignure to Tobermory is always packed with people; show day is a big social event and the perfect time to meet old friends. The cattle and sheep show is always fiercely contested and the horse show is the Isle of Mull Pony Club's top show of the year. There can also be some fierce competition in the dog show and then there's the rough and tumble of terrier racing.

Appin Show
Saturday August 20

The Appin Show was founded in 1957 and is held annually at Stalker Croft. It is an integral part of Appin and Lorn community life. The setting is pure magic, with Castle Stalker in the background. One of the high spots for visitors - wee kids and big kids alike - is the fantastic collection of old tractors and engines on display.

Lochaber Agricultural Show
Saturday August 27

Ben Nevis provides the stunning backdrop for Lochaber Show at Inverloch Castle Farm, Happy Valley; just follow the signs from the A82. The show committee members are a hard-working crew dedicated to making show day a great one for the farming community and visitors alike. Alongside the agricultural and horse shows there are foods and crafts shows and a great array of entertainment, from terrier racing, sheepshearing, to piping and dancing; for children there is not only a fairground but rides on Argocats as well -



always a big hit. Come and celebrate the best of rural life in Lochaber.

Dalmally Show
Saturday September 3

Highland and commercial beef cattle take centre stage at Dalmally Show an annual celebration of rural life and local produce; expect to see black face sheep, poultry and dogs a plenty. The show has a thriving craft and produce section with horticulture, photography and paintings, and trade stands. It also has a junior shinty match. The committee puts in a lot of hard work all through the year and the show continues to go from strength to strength.

Perthshire events

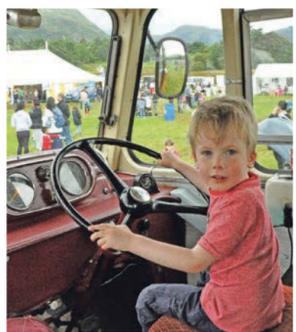
Lochernhead Shears International Sheep-shearing competition

Saturday July 2
Games Park, Lochearnhead
Atholl and Breadalbane Agricultural Show and Highland Gathering
Saturday August 13,
Wade's Park Aberfeldy

Killin Show
Saturday August 20

Breadalbane Park is the home of Killin Agricultural Show which prides itself on its sheep and cattle sections. Throughout the day there are demonstrations on aspects of rural life and farming skills. Fancy dress and races mean everyone can join in the

fun and to round it all off there is the show dance in the evening. Follow the signs from the A827 into the village and onto the show ground. Visit the show's facebook page to find out the latest news as the big day draws near.



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Tough Mudder Scotland Saturday 25 June 2016

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 10-12 mile obstacle course, testing your strength, stamina and mental grit.

Date: Saturday 25 June 2016

Event fee: £10

Minimum sponsorship: £300

Distance: 10-12 miles

Registration fee is just £10 for a limited time only!

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.breastcancernow.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, 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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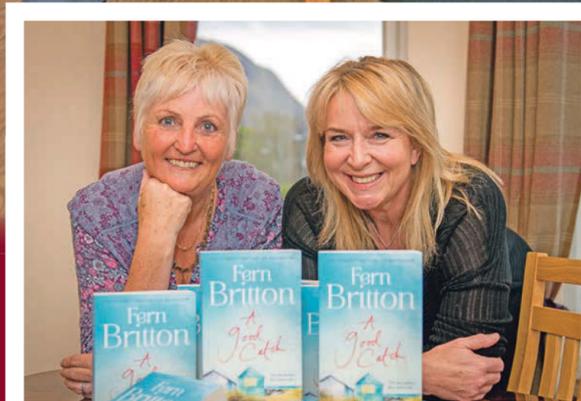
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Arena

TV star Fern gets on her bike with Fort folk to back charity research

Fern and a band of cyclists are in the area to raise money for the Genesis Research Trust.



Fern Britton signs books with Alyson Stewart in Lochside.
F20FernBritton2no

TELEVISION favourite Fern Britton held a book signing in Fort William last weekend before she began her Highland charity cycle this week.

The broadcaster and author was signing copies of her novel, *A Good Catch*, for Lochaber locals who attended the event on Saturday night, May 7.

The trip marked the start of a six-day cycle across the Highlands to raise money for the Genesis Research Trust (GRT).

A total of 23 women and one

man set out on Tuesday May 10 from Fort William, riding 375 miles and will arrive in Inverness on Monday May 16.

The GRT raises money to fund research into the causes and cures for health conditions which affect women and babies.

Joining Fern on her #Challenge58 cycle are Lochside resident and paramedic Alyson Stewart, a keen cyclist and charity enthusiast.

Alyson also hosted Fern's book signing at the weekend.

Talking to *The Oban Times* on Saturday night, Fern said: 'I have been a patron of the Genesis Trust for eight years now and this is my 11th year riding with the group.'

'The big training began back then but now I just try to top up my training for this ride.'

Fern added that the cycle was a really a win-win situation. She said: 'We get to raise money for charity, get fit and ride with friends.'

'It's really win, win, win.'

Director of marketing and communications at Genesis Trust Yvonne Konieczna added: 'Last year we raised £150,000 that provided seed money for a miscarriage centre that looked into the reasons why some women miscarry and to predict who is at risk of a miscarriage.'

The cycle group hopes to raise more than £50,000 for the charity. Text DONNATE FERN08 and the donation to 70070 to help Fern and her friends raise money for the charity.

Two-day music conference and book launch are right on song

SINGERS in Uist were on top form at the Ceòlas song conference and book launch.

Taking part in Taigh Sgìre Sholais, the two-day event focused on Dileab EOST (the legacy of Ceòlas), an international project that was completed in 2014.

Naomi Harvey, Jo MacDonald and Gillebrìde MacMillan were the original researchers and, as a result of their work, the Ceòlas EOST project produced CDs and books. Further, 'Guthan an Iar', a local Gaelic singing group, was established.

Mary Schmöller, development and business manager at Ceòlas, said: 'The song conference highlighting the legacy of the EOST project within our communities and was well supported by the singing groups from both islands. 'On Friday evening the North

Uist singing circle shared their songs and on the Saturday evening Guthan an Iar shared their songs in the hall before moving on to Westford Inn, where they were all well received.'

Established in 1996 as a piping and fiddle class, South Uist-based

community body Ceòlas is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Mary added: 'The book launch was the culmination of the weekend and it was marvellous to see so many of the families from this generation of the Campbells

attending the event.'

The book will now be distributed for sale in local outlets or through the Ceòlas website www.ceolas.co.uk.

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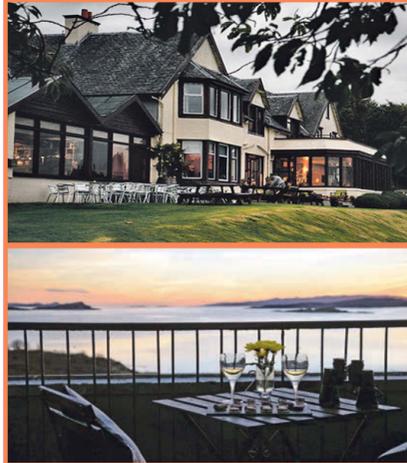
Liam Crouse with some of the audience in Lochboisdale.



Guthan an Iar singing at Taigh Sgìre Sholais on Saturday afternoon.

Food & Drink

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Loch Melfort Hotel



Loch Melfort Hotel is family owned and run by Calum and Rachel Ross. Stunningly situated 18 miles south of Oban, with views stretching towards Jura, Islay and beyond, the hotel is the perfect place to stop for lunch or dinner at Chartroom Bistro, next door to the world famous National Trust for Scotland Arduaine Gardens. With a play park, hens and Highland cows, not to mention good rock pools by the beach, there is plenty to keep the kids happy too.

In 2015 Calum won the Highlands and Islands Tourism Ambassador Award, reflecting great hospitality and customer service. The kitchen team is led by local Michael Knowles, who is passionate about supporting local producers and foraging for the wild ingredients Argyll is famous for. Book a special dinner in the two AA Rosette Asknish Bay Restaurant or a chef's tasting menu.

More details can be found on the hotel website www.lochmelfort.co.uk.



Summer Berry Steamed Pudding
Makes 4

Ingredients:

- 4 free range Loch Melfort eggs
- 110g caster sugar
- 60g ground almonds
- 110g plain flour (sifted)
- 1 lemon zest
- 50g clarified butter
- 100g fresh summer berries
- 50g caster sugar
- 4 suitable moulds such as a deep china cup

Method:

In a mixing bowl, whip the eggs until frothy. Warm sugar a little, then add to eggs, continue to whip until very frothy.

Remove from mixer and gently fold in sieved flour, almonds, lemon zest and clarified butter.

Put cake mix into a piping bag. Meanwhile, grease the cups with baking spray or butter and fill one third with berry mixture. Sprinkle the berries with a spoonful or 10g of sugar.

Pipe cake mix almost to the top, leaving a half centimetre gap. Cover the cups with tin foil and bake in bain-marie for approximately 40 minutes at 160C.

To serve:

Turn warm moulds upside down and give a tap to release the cake. Finish with a ball of vanilla ice cream and some fresh mint.

If you would like to advertise in The Oban Times Food and Drink section, please call

01631 568000

Arena

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

Musical feast is lined up as Inveraray Castle plans its best west fest yet

INVERARAY Castle's Best of the West festival has announced its headline acts in September will be the Scottish bands Manran, Skipinnish and The League of Highland Gentlemen.

The two-day family festival from September 10-11 celebrates Scotland's traditional music and takes revellers on a culinary tour of Argyll.

There will be live cooking from local, Scottish and international chefs using the very best of west coast ingredients, while Loch Fyne Oyster Bar, Churchill Venison, Bumble Puddings and many more will offer fresh fare throughout the weekend.

The whisky tent will return in 2016, blending live music and drams from more than 20 west coast distilleries. For those looking for a different tippie, cocktails and specially brewed ales will also flow, with Fyne Ales on hand throughout the festival.

Children under eight get into the festival free of charge, and organisers promise plenty of

free entertainment for any kids looking for a break from the adults.

Eleanor, Duchess of Argyll and festival organiser, said: 'We're so excited to be bringing Best of the West back to Inveraray and with a bigger bill than ever.

'Once again, we're welcoming some of the most popular bands, chefs and distilleries to the castle grounds. We have festival favourites Skipinnish, on the bill once again but have brought in some fresh blood with Manran and Scots Trad Music Award winners The League of Highland Gentlemen.

'With more details still to be announced, this will be the best festival yet.'

Limited early bird tickets went on sale from May 1, and are available from www.bowfest.co.uk.

Best of the West festival organiser Eleanor Campbell, Duchess of Argyll.



Gardens blossom in open days for charities

FIVE Argyll gardens are throwing open their gates over the next few weeks as part of the Scotland's Gardens scheme.

Among them is one at Dalmally that will be open this weekend in order to raise money for school food charity Mary's Meals.

Visitors to Philip and Sarah Bowden-Smith's Braevallich Farm will enjoy more than eight acres of stunning scenery, including a kitchen garden, waterfalls and beds of rhododendron, azaleas and camellias.

Braevallich will open this Saturday and Sunday May 14 and 15 and

again on Saturday and Sunday June 4 and 5.

Admission to Braevallich Farm costs £5, 40 per cent of which will be donated to Mary's Meals, a charity feeding more than 1.1 million impoverished children in schools.

Headquartered in a shed in Dalmally, Mary's Meals began feeding 200 children in one primary school in Malawi in 2002. Today, the charity reaches 1,101,206 children in 12 countries.

The Scotland's Gardens scheme benefits charitable causes with 60 per cent of what's raised donated to Scot-

land's Gardens' chosen beneficiaries while 40 per cent goes to a charity of the owners' choosing.

Philip Bowden-Smith said: 'We live close by to Dalmally - where Mary's Meals is headquartered - so I have known about the charity for a long time. I've always admired the concept - it's so clever.'

Braevallich Farm will be open from 11am until 5.30pm. It is on the south-east side of Loch Awe on the B840.

The other gardens welcoming visitors are as follows:

Strachur House Flower and Woodland

Gardens will open next Saturday and Sunday May 21 and 22 from 1pm to 5pm, with teas at the post office for which the post code is PA27 8BX. It will also be open on Wednesday May 25, from 3pm to 5pm, with plant sales and teas. Turn off the A815 at Strachur House Farm. Entry is £4.

Knock Cottage, Lochgair, opens the following Saturday and Sunday May 28 and 29, from 1.30pm to 5pm, when teas will be available. It is on the A83 Lochgiphead to Inveraray road, half a mile from Lochgair Hotel. Entry is £4.

Maolachy's Garden at Lochavich is open the same weekend, May 28 and 29, from 2pm to 5pm, with plant sales and teas, and entry is £4. To find it, at Kilmelford turn east

on Lochavich Road, and it is four miles to Maolachy. From Lochaweside, take the Kilmelford Road, Maolachy is one mile beyond Loch Avich. And, finally, Torosay

Castle Gardens at Craignure on Mull are open on Sunday June 5, from 10am to 5pm. The gardens are on the A849 to Fionnphort, 1.5 miles from the ferry terminal. Entry is £3.



Braevallich has eight acres of attractions near Dalmally.

LOCH FYNE FOOD FAIR
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Sat 14th and Sun 15th May, 2016, from 11am
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PLUS...
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Parking £3 per vehicle - all parking charges to local charities.

Saturday 14th May GIN FLING in the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar
For further information and to book for the Gin Fling contact info@lochfyne.com or call 01499 600264.
www.lochfyne.com

Our Oyster Bar and Deli are open all weekend - call 01499 600482 for bookings.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

OBAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Coffee Morning
Saturday 14th May
10.30am - 1.00pm
Tea or Coffee & Cakes £3.00
All proceeds to church funds

St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe
Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and friends
Saturday 21st May
7.30pm
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Refreshments

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Across

- You'll find it where you find brass, money to be made here (4)
- Dark beer (5,3)
- Hungarian mathematician who coined the term 'cybernetics' (7)
- Fabricating (5)
- Boxing class (12)
- Not much (6)
- Slight (6)
- Pertaining to land (12)
- Company rule (5)
- Engraving with acid (7)
- Using air pressure, it coats with liquid (5,3)
- Land amid sea (4)

Down

- Smallest amounts (8)
- Possible (5)
- Fame (6)
- Cane (7,5)
- Sneeze heard (7)
- Move sideways (4)
- Transport with overhead lines (5,7)
- Fimsy night garment (8)
- With corners (7)
- Office desk (6)
- Holding these puts you in charge (5)
- Wading bird (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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Rallying to the call of the accordion, fiddle and flute even after 72 years

OBAN and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society 'went down a bomb' at its annual Fiddlers Rally Concert on Saturday April 23 in Oban's Corran Halls.

From August, the 40 musicians meet every Thursday in Oban's Guide Hall to play and practise traditional Scottish tunes, up to the annual rally held on the fourth Saturday in April. The society also runs the Lorne Junior Fiddlers for ages 10 and above, who take part in the April gathering too.

The society's conductor Helen Jordan told *The Oban Times*: 'Societies in Scotland are struggling to invite people to concerts, but we were very successful this year. We went down a bomb. We are a friendly bunch, and we welcome everybody.'

It also organises summer concerts on the islands, raising money for local

causes, and carry on the ceilidh into the night. 'From Colonsay to Islay and Tiree, the Oban orchestra travels widely to entertain,' Helen explained, 'but the musicians always loved their annual visit to Lochgilhead, where their music is so appreciated, and the hospitality of the community is always superb.'

The Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society was founded 72 years ago by Charlie Hunter from Oban, a radio officer on MacBrayne's steamers.

Helen reflected: 'Charlie would be justly proud and astonished if he knew that the orchestra he created in 1944 is still lively and busy playing traditional Scottish music.'

The inaugural National Mòd Fiddlers Rally was held in Oban in 1970, and has become an eagerly-awaited highlight of

Mòd week. The society's 60th anniversary was celebrated in 2004, when a CD was recorded, which has proved popular among aficionados of traditional Scottish fiddle music.

Helen is the latest in the society's eight conductors, having been introduced to Strathspey and reel societies in her youth by Yla Steven, a soloist in the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. Helen moved from Edinburgh to Oban in 1992 and joined the society in 2006, following Daphne Campbell as conductor three years later.

Helen concluded: 'Another Mòd has just passed and a visit to Lochgilhead is just what is needed to exercise the fiddling elbows, accordionists' fingers, and flautists' lips, and relish another feast of favourite tunes, starting off as ever with Charlie Hunter's very own Hills of Lorne.'



OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

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Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

Friday 13 - Thursday 19 May

ANGRY BIRDS | 115 MIN

Daily except Sat & Sun: 16:00, 18:15, Sat: 12:30, 15:00, Sun: 12:00, 14:30

The movie takes us to an island populated entirely by happy, flightless birds — or almost entirely. In this paradise, Red, a bird with a temper problem and the volatile Bomb have always been outsiders. But when the island is visited by mysterious green piggies, it's up to these unlikely outcasts to figure out what the pigs are up to.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR | 12A | 167 MIN

Daily except Sat & Sun: 18:30, Sat: 16:00, 17:15, Sun: 16:40

CIVIL WAR finds Steve Rogers leading the newly formed team of Avengers in their continued efforts to safeguard humanity. But after another incident involving the Avengers results in collateral damage, political pressure mounts to install a system of accountability, headed by a governing body to oversee and direct the team.

COLOURS OF THE ALPHABET | PG | 110 MIN

Sun: 19:30

In a world where nearly 40 per cent of the population lack access to education in their own language, COLOURS OF THE ALPHABET asks: Does the future have to be in English? Following three primary school children in their first year of state education, Alastair Cole's feature film debut is an inspiring, bittersweet story about how communication, national identity and language are critical to the development of our children - with multi-coloured subtitles to reflect the multilingual reality of the classroom. Plus Q&A.

KIDS CLUB: MARY POPPINS | U | 143 MIN

Sat: 11:00

Children's classic. MARY POPPINS is a 1964 musical adventure, based on the series of books by PL Travers.

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL | 12A | 132 MIN

Fri: 31:30, Sat: 19:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 21:30

MIDNIGHT SPECIAL is a supernatural sci-fi thriller from acclaimed writer/director Jeff Nichols. It stars Oscar nominee Michael Shannon as Roy, a father desperate to protect his uniquely gifted, eight-year-old son Alton, played by newcomer Jaeden Lieberher.

MILES AHEAD | 15 | 120 MIN

Fri: 20:30, Sat: 20:15, Sun: 17:00, Mon, Tue 20:30

MILES AHEAD is a wildly entertaining and moving exploration of one of 20th century music's creative geniuses, Miles Davis, featuring a career-defining performance by Oscar nominee Don Cheadle in the title role.

PARENT & BABY - THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR | 12A | 137 MIN

Tue: 11:30

As two evil sisters prepare to conquer the land; two renegades - Eric the Huntsman - who previously aided Snow White in defeating Ravenna, and his forbidden lover, Sara set out to stop them.

SILVER SCREEN - EYE IN THE SKY | 15 | 122 MIN

Sun: 14:30

EYE IN THE SKY stars Helen Mirren as Colonel Katherine Powell, a UK-based military officer in command of a top secret drone operation to capture terrorists in Kenya. Through remote surveillance and on-the-ground intel, Powell discovers the targets are planning a suicide bombing and the mission escalates from 'capture' to 'kill'.

THE JUNGLE BOOK | PG | 126 MIN

Fri: 16:15, Sun: 12:00, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu: 16:15

THE JUNGLE BOOK is an all-new, live-action epic adventure about Mowgli (newcomer Neel Sethi), a man-cub raised in the jungle by a family of wolves, who embarks on a captivating journey of self-discovery when he's forced to abandon the only home he's ever known.

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE | 12A | 170 MIN

Wed, Thu: 20:30

Since the dawn of civilization, he was worshipped as a god. Apocalypse, the first and most powerful mutant from Marvel's X-Men universe, amassed the powers of many other mutants, becoming immortal and invincible. Upon awakening after thousands of years, he is disillusioned with the world as he finds it and recruits a team of powerful mutants, including a disheartened Magneto to cleanse mankind and create a new world order, over which he will reign.

Artist leareate Will Maclean's work makes a westerly appearance at Mull's An Tobar

HIGHLANDS and Islands 'artist laureate' Will Maclean will be giving a talk and doing a book signing at An Tobar, Tobermory on Mull on May 12.

The artist's work is the subject of an exhibition - *Fiaradh Gun Iar: Veering Westerly* - which runs until May 28.

Comprising drawings, constructions, assemblages and free standing sculptures, Maclean's

metaphorical art is based on the histories and mythologies of those who live and work by the sea; his deep interest in Highland culture reaches out to universal themes of navigation, emigration, whaling and fishing,

and global exploration.

Mr Maclean was born in Inverness in 1941 and was a lecturer at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee, for 15 years, becoming Professor of Fine Art.

The gallery is open Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm. Entry is free. This exhibition was originally commissioned by An Lanntair.



Well Maclean's exhibition takes its inspiration from those who live and work by the sea.

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Wilder Ways Horse Riding Adventures go to Islay, May 14 to 20

Our new venture, Wilder Ways offers inspiring riding experiences. This Friday, we head to Islay for one week of unique rides: the long beach, coastal and cultural trails. Join us for an adventure any day from Saturday May 14 to Friday May 20 from £90 per day, meeting 10am at Ballivacar

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For other 2016 adventures see our website www.wilderways.scot or we can organise bespoke adventures for groups of four or more.



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Sailing from OBAN North Pier

Isle of Skye Inverie	SATURDAY June 4 Leave 10am back 9pm Fares: Isle of Skye £41 SC £39 Visit Inverie £43 SC £41
4 Lochs & Whirlpool	SUNDAY June 5 Leave 12.30pm back 6.30pm Fare: 4 Lochs & Whirlpool £31 SC £29
Castles & Ceilidh	SUNDAY June 5 Leave 7.30pm back 10pm Fare: Evening Showboat £19 Groups of 10+ only £17
Tobermory Isle of Tiree	MONDAY June 6 Leave 10am back 7.30pm Fares: Visit Tobermory £25 SC £23 Tiree £41 SC £39 Cruise Gunna Sound £43 SC £41
Mull of Kintyre	TUESDAY June 7 Leave 9.30am back 6.30pm Fare: Mull of Kintyre £35 SC £33 Return by coach from Campbeltown

Sailing from TOBERMORY

Tiree	MONDAY June 6 Leave 12pm back 5.45pm
Cruise Gunna Sound	Fares: Visit Tiree £29 SC £27 Cruise Gunna Sound £31 SC £29

CONCERT

SATURDAY MAY 14th
2016 at 7.30 pm
ST. JOHN'S
CATHEDRAL, OBAN
OBAN BACH CHOIR
AND
ORCHESTRA

Handel: The ways of Zion do mourn
Johann Ludwig Bach: Suite in G
Pergolesi: Magnificat

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- > cinema, radio and what's on listings
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Bodach

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



Get in touch with your stories at bodach@obantimes.co.uk

Uisge Beatha

THE SCOTCH whisky industry is a global success. The product is enjoyed by people everywhere and every bottle purchased or dram consumed tells a story of the people and places that make it.

Hundreds of years of tradition, craftsmanship and chemistry confront us on a daily basis: working distilleries all over the place carefully turning water, cereal and yeast into a favourite luxury product, ageing it in wooden casks and shipping bottles to every corner of the earth. Take a look around – Oban (1794), Tobermory (1823), Jura (1963), Ardbeg (1815), Bowmore (1779), Bruichladdich (1881), Bunnahabhain (1881), Caol Ila (1846), Kilchoman (2005), Lagavulin (1816), Laphroaig (1815), Glen Scotia (1832), Springbank (1828), Glengyle (1872), Ardnamurchan (2014) – each of these establishments is entirely devoted to quality, sustains a local workforce and supply chain, and imprints its brand – and a favourable image of Scotland – on the senses of billions.

Distillers and their fine products are to be respected and celebrated, and the tradition of whisky making is a unique Scottish feature that engenders intense pride. The Argyll and the islands region continues to make

a major contribution to the industry, which has a rich and colourful history.

For every operational distillery on Islay there are two examples of those lost: Port Charlotte/Lochindaal (1829-1929), Malt Mill (1907-62), Mulindry (1826-31), Newton (1819-37), Octomore (1816-40), Port Ellen (1825-1983), Scarrabus (1817-18), Tallant (1821-52), Ardenistiel (1836-6), Ardmore (1817-36), Lossit (1826-62), Dail (1814-27). There are records of distilleries at Bridgend and Killarow, Ballygrant, Freeport, Glenavullin, Octovullin, Upper Cragabus and Torrylin, some of which were producing spirit in the early 1700s. Some of these names have been resurrected as modern whiskies, nodding affectionately at a noble island history. A ninth distillery at Gartbreck is planned to start production next year, continuing the cycle of production synonymous with Islay.

In the mid-1900s Campbeltown was home to 30 distilleries, and production was geared to major markets in London, Glasgow and North America.

Over-production stalled the market at the start of the 20th century, and the great depression and prohibition of alcohol in the USA forced the majority of these distilleries to close in the 1920s. Names like Campbeltown,



Ledaig Distillery, known now as Tobermory, was established in 1798.

Ardlussa, Glenside, Dalintober, Ballegreggan, Burnside, Benmore, Argyll, Albyn, Dalaruan, Hazelburn, Kinloch, Glen Nevis, Longrow, Lochhead, Kintyre and Lochruan were gone by 1930. The Caledonian and Meadowburn distilleries closed at the end of the 19th century, and the Rieclachlan endured until 1934. A handful of these names are once again on the market, produced by the three remaining distilleries in the town.

Glengyle Distillery in Ardrishaig was established in 1831 and operated as Glendarroch from 1870-87. Production ceased in 1937, the buildings were demolished in the 1980s and replaced with housing. Lochgilphead Distillery closed in 1860.

It doesn't matter if the whisky is single malt, single grain, blended malt, blended grain or simply blended, it all has to be aged in oak barrels for a minimum of three years. Before that,



Bowmore Distillery with Loch Indaal in the foreground.



Many whiskies were 'lost' following the closure of distilleries.



Laphroaig Distillery is set in a bay near to Port Ellen.



The staff whose skills helped produce the famous Laphroaig malt whisky.

of course, barley is soaked and spread out to germinate or malt, and after about a week the malt is kiln-dried to stop the germination process. Peat may be burned in the fire at this stage to add flavour.

The dried malt is milled to flour and hot water is added to create mash. Active enzymes turn the starch into sugar during this process and the liquid is now called wort. It is cooled, and yeast

is added to start the fermentation process. After a couple of days the yeast turns the sugars into alcohol and the wash is transferred to a still. The still is heated and the alcohol is vapourised, passed into a copper coil called the worm and condensed back into a liquid. Now called low wines, the liquid is distilled a second time. The product is a clear spirit that acquires its colour and some flavour characteristics from the barrels in which it matures, as they

may previously have contained whisky, bourbon or sherry.

It sounds simple, but each distillery and each whisky has a distinct character, and every measure is a reminder of a great craft tradition, created from the elements with ingenuity and passion. There is no other product that captures the essence of places and people in quite the same way, or has such universal appeal.

Slainte!

WIN

Dinner, bed and breakfast

at the Taynuilt Hotel

The Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant is inviting Oban Times' readers to celebrate with it after picking up two major awards for its food and chefs' team.

We're giving away a night's dinner, bed and breakfast for two, plus a glass of house wine each, at Chef-Patron John McNulty's 10-bedroom coaching inn, which recently won its second AA Rosette for culinary excellence.

This was followed up by 21-year-old Ross Harris being voted the best sous-chef in Scotland. Born and raised in Taynuilt, Ross is the latest evidence of McNulty's passion for training and developing young local staff.

McNulty is an enthusiastic advocate of using the best local produce. The hotel recently installed a polytunnel to grow its own vegetables and herbs, and smokes its own fish and meat.

The Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant also has a great reputation for craft beers, wines and spirits. Its bar stocks more than 80 whiskies and around 50 gins.

It's open from Wednesday to Sunday for lunches and dinners. To reserve a table call 01866-822437.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post it to The Oban Times, Taynuilt Hotel Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday May 24, 2016.

Q. How many AA Rosettes does the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant have?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

Email

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information, including special offers, from the Taynuilt Hotel and Restaurant

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday May 24, 2016. Prize must be taken by October 30, 2016. Accommodation is subject to availability.

WIN

A family trip* on Paddle Steamer Waverley

The world famous Paddle Steamer Waverley will sail from Oban for just four days! 2016 is a special year for Waverley - it marks 70 years since her launch in 1946. You can help ensure she continues to sail another year by booking a trip on Waverley this year.

On Saturday June 4 you can sail over the sea to Skye and cruise Loch Nevis to Inverie, on Sunday June 5 you can see a whirlpool or enjoy a great night out amidst spectacular scenery on an evening cruise. On Monday June 6 you can visit Tobermory or cruise to Tiree and don't miss the chance to sail round the Mull of Kintyre on Tuesday June 7!

On Monday June 6, the population of Mull will also be able to enjoy a sail to Tiree when Waverley calls at Tobermory Pier. Fares start from £19. Visit www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk or call 0845 130 4647.

The Oban Times has teamed up with Waverley to offer two lucky readers a family trip (*for two adults and two children) aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley. The prize may be used on any sailing between Sunday and Friday, before July 31.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post it to The Oban Times, Waverley Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday May 24, 2016.

Q. In what year was the Paddle Steamer Waverley first launched?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

Email

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information, including special offers, from Waverley Excursions.

Terms and conditions: Over 18s only. Winners with the correct answer will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by post by sending us a letter with your answer, contact details and email address, along with a note to explain that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday May 24, 2016. Prize must be taken by July 31, 2016. Sailings are subject to availability.

Business

editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

Mother and daughter ecology business on right path to grow

A YOUNG ecologist has teamed up with her scientist mother to launch a business offering ecological advice and surveys throughout Scotland.

Kerry MacKay, 25, and her mum Jessie Wormell set up Clearwing Ecology with support from Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, specialising in butterflies, moths and freshwater invertebrates.

Based in Oban, Clearwing Ecology offers habitat surveys, identification and interpretation services and cataloguing of historical collections. It also hosts public events. The company also monitors protected species and promotes practices that support rare and endangered groups.

After completing her Masters in Ecology, Ms MacKay worked for an environmental consultancy in the south of England and her experience there gave her the confidence to set up her own ecology business when she returned to Scotland.

She said: 'I was brought up studying moths and butterflies by my mother and during university I also studied terrestrial invertebrates and riverflies. Invertebrates are a very important but under-studied group so I decided my business would



Jessie Wormell ready for sampling.

specialise in studying, surveying and recording them.

'My mother is also a trained ecologist with a Masters in Environmental Recording so it made sense to launch the company together.

'Whilst working for the consultancy in England, I was involved in the quality control for samples and when a batch came back from a sub-contracted agency with extremely poor work carried out on them I realised I could do better.

'We've already had some exciting successes at Clearwing including my speech at a prestigious conference for experts from all over the world, with a review of the event published in the Royal Entomological Society's publication.'

Clearwing Ecology recently worked on the Isle of Muck to record species on the island. Prior to the pair's stay, only four species had ever been recorded but after trapping for six nights and covering eight

1km recording squares, they added 51 new macro-moth species to the island's list.

Ms MacKay added: 'We are now focusing on securing further contracts with possible sub-contracting jobs on larger projects. This year we want to increase the number of events we hold as we both enjoy sharing the wonders of invertebrates and teaching others to appreciate 'creepy crawlies'.

'Moth trapping events are particularly popular, so we would like to extend the amount we do each year. We are also keen to expand our interpretation service. We are both artistic so can offer illustration services as well as compiling fun information for nature trails, signs and leaflets.

'To top off a busy year we would like to complete *The Entomology of Rum*, a book my grandfather Peter Wormell started but was unable to complete because of illness.

'Business Gateway has provided information and support to help me develop my business ideas and provided many excellent courses that have helped me improve my business management skills such as keeping my financial records and developing a website.'

Angela Vernel, business ad-



Kerry MacKay at work.

viser with Business Gateway, said: 'It's fantastic that Kerry, a young entrepreneur, has chosen to set up her business in Oban.

'Argyll and Bute can offer

many opportunities and with our support Kerry has acquired new skills and knowledge that will help her grow and develop Clearwing Ecology in the future.'

Exporter of the Year

THE SCOTTISH Salmon Company (SSC) has been named Exporter of the Year at the Business Insider Made in Scotland Awards.

The company, which operates 60 aquaculture sites across the west coast and Outer Hebrides and produces approximately 20 per cent of Scotland's total salmon output, was recognised for its international success which has seen exports double in five years.

SSC now exports premium quality Scottish salmon to 24 countries across the world, with exports representing almost 50 per cent of revenue.

Craig Anderson, managing director at The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'We are extremely proud to have been recognised for our international success.

'Our commitment to provenance and innovative products including our recently launched fresh Label Rouge fillets, have helped us to enter into key emerging markets and expand our presence throughout the world. Exports now account for almost 50 per cent of revenue and our growing customer base now spans 24 countries.'

The inaugural awards have been created in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and took place at the RBS Conference Centre near Edinburgh.

Search on for best pub

EVERYONE has a favourite whisky bar or loves visiting a dog-friendly pub with great beer in the West Highlands.

Now, the Scottish Bar and Pub Awards wants people's vote. The awards are backed by the biggest names in the drinks industry in collaboration with DRAM magazine and, following a competition revamp, the public can have its say.

Organiser Susan Young said: 'For 21 years we have been rewarding excellence in the Scottish licensed trade and, as of last year, we have opened up the voting so that it's not just people in the industry who can vote, but pub customers who can also vote for their favourite pubs.'

The closing date for nominations is May 31 and votes can be registered at www.scottishbarandpubawards.com.

The winners will be announced during an awards ceremony at Glasgow's Hilton Hotel on August 16.

Challenging digital times

THE DIGITAL industry is central to the future growth of Scotland's economy, according to the Scottish Government.

The challenge for businesses though is finding skilled staff to fill these roles, particularly in digital marketing. This is particularly so for remote businesses in the Highlands and islands of Scotland.

Rene Looper, founder and managing director of Tuminds, an Inverness-based digital and social media company, said: 'Recruiting for digital roles has always been difficult, despite the fact businesses are continuing to increase their investment in it. Universities continue to offer courses that teach traditional marketing. They often have a module that focuses on 'internet marketing' or 'e-business' but there has been little prospect of really equipping students with solid skills in digital as a whole.'

Despite the lack of relevant courses, some Scottish universities and colleges are bucking the trend. Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen recently launched an MSc in Digital Marketing and the University of Edinburgh Business School has joined forces with internet marketing agency Attacat, to offer a course in digital marketing.

Market research vital step on road to business success

REGARDLESS of which sector a business is in, it is important to test the viability of an idea before investing valuable time and money in developing a product or service.

Ann Scott, a Business Gateway Argyll and Bute adviser, has highlighted some of the key areas to consider when it comes to carrying out market research.

'The question you need answered is, 'Is there enough market demand to build a viable business?'

'Carrying out market research doesn't have to be too time consuming as long as you are clear from the outset what you want it to achieve. You should also figure out how you want to collect the data; via a questionnaire, by forming a focus group or through a survey.

'The main focus of the research is to have solid evidence that there is demand for your product or service. It's true you won't ever gain conclusive proof, but you do need to know the likely levels of demand and understand market trends.

'It's crucial that you know who your customer is, whether you are launching a new business or new products within an existing business. Not only will this shape your plans going forward, it will allow you to adapt your sales methods to fit their needs. The main points to consider in this are gender, age, occupation and income.

'When you know who your customers are, their buying habits and what they think of your product or service, you

can target them successfully. As well as customers, it's advantageous to find out who in the market place might be considered your competitor.

'At Business Gateway we can help you identify and be aware of the differences and make sure you make the most of them in your marketing, your customer communication and in any PR opportunities.

'Your research could also help you understand and discover market trends - positive and negative. Perhaps you'll find out your competitors are too expensive which puts potential customers off, or results may show people are using your kind of product less and are moving on to something newer and more technologically advanced. The results may be disappointing or unexpected but you can still use them to your advantage.

'Some key points to keep in mind:

□ Always make sure you contact enough people to make your results robust

□ Never ignore negative results

□ In many situations you can do your own research but there are plenty of companies with the experience and skills to do it for you

'You can access free formal reports which detail specific industry market trends via Business Gateway.

'Having a clear view of who your target customer is will help all of your marketing from choosing the right products, to setting the right price and running the right promotional activity.'



Ferguson Transport and Shipping group has bought the K1 BSW sawmill site at Corpach for its logistics hub. The company hopes the new acquisition will centralise most of Ferguson Transport and Shipping's local activities on to the one site. Alasdair Ferguson, group managing director of Ferguson Transport and Shipping said: 'This further investment and commitment by the company is an exciting new development.' Howard Jones, group finance director of BSW, added: 'I am delighted our Kilmallie site has been sold to a local company that is expanding its operations and hence employment in the West Highlands.'

Members of the BSW group and Ferguson Transport and Shipping are pictured at the newly-acquired site.

Thinking outside the box to provide best of both worlds

A FAMILY-RUN business is thinking outside the box to provide the best of both worlds for its customers.

D&R Alexander & Son is the north Highlands' main distributor for Ifor Williams Trailers.

Established in 1982, the company is experienced in dealing with Ifor Williams trailers and has premises in Caithness and Inverness.

As well as selling traditional trailers, the owners have noticed a trend towards modern, customisable models picking up steam - particularly with the Business

ADVERTORIAL

Inabox Mobile Workshops and the Q range of trailers.

Fiona Donn said: 'We've been offering the Business Inabox for a few months and they are becoming more and more popular. These things can be slow at first but they are fairly taking off now. They are ideal for motorsports or sporting teams, but we've actually had a few mobile hairdressers buying them as well. If you're a business owner and you

need to be mobile, these are for you.' The Q range trailer is a compact, convenient but robust trailer designed with both agricultural and domestic users in mind. On road, they can be pulled by the family car, while off road they can be pulled by a quad bike or gator.

Ms Donn added: 'A lot of people used to stick to what they know but we are seeing some realise there may be a trailer more suitable to their needs.

'The great thing about these is they're so flexible. There really is something for everyone.'

Build your network and your skills at Business Gateway's workshops.

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute

business gateway
slighe gnothachais



We're at the threshold of summer and amongst all the great things that happen in the West Highlands, it means that it will soon be time for the Highland games to begin.

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.

Historically there are two aspects of Highland games, one of these goes way back for centuries; the other is more recent.

The Highland games began as a gathering of the clans with perhaps a wee bit of an employment agency on the side. The chieftain wanted to keep an eye on his clansfolk and more importantly check out who were the best and strongest warriors for the fighting and the most talented musicians and dancers to entertain his guests. What better way than to get them all to compete; who could swing a hammer, was so strong that he could lift up a big tree trunk or throw a huge stone. Which piper could play so loudly they could be heard across the glen to signal, or so sweetly they could become famous. Prowess at the games could mean advancement.

As for recent history: 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.

Today a Highland games is a great day out but the echoes are still there. The competition to be the fastest or strongest is just as fierce and so is the rivalry between all the dancers and pipers. The home coming is still there; so many people and families who have moved away still make a point of coming home for 'games day'.

It all makes for a unique atmosphere on a very special day, especially when you add in the mix of holiday makers coming along to

sample a true taste of the Highlands. So go along and join in the fun. See you on games day.

Taynuilt
Saturday July 23

Who is going to make it to the top of the greasy pole, who is going to break the record for throwing the Nant stone?

Taynuilt has a reputation for being a really friendly games; year-after-year they attract 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.

Inveraray Highland Games
Tuesday July 19

This is one of the big ones, held in the shadow of Inveraray Castle at Winterton Park.

It features the world caber 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 that the events begin at 9am.

Bute Highland Games
Saturday August 20

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.

The chieftain for this year's games is Ian Embelton, the chief executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association; Bute always has a reputation for a good turn out of bands and drum majors.

Mull Highland Games
Thursday July 21

Erray Park, Tobermory, has the Sound of Mull and the hills of Ardnamurchan as its backdrop making it a perfect place to hold a Highland games.

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, the boats are always packed on games day.

Argyllshire Gathering Oban Games
Thursday August 25

One of the grandest events on the Highland games calendar. 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 amongst 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.

Southend Highland Games
Saturday July 23

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 it's 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.



TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES
Saturday 23rd July 2016
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

OBAN GAMES
The Argyllshire Gathering

Mossfield Park, Oban. THURSDAY 25th AUGUST 2016

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 24TH AUGUST 2016

PIOBAIREACHD Gold Medal
MacGregor Memorial Competition Senior Piobaireachd
LIGHT MUSIC: March, Strathspey & Reel (Former Winners)

Admission £10
Concessions £8
Child (under 14) £5
Family Ticket £25
Tickets available at park & Oban Tourist Centre
Car Park £5

Inveraray Highland Games
Winterton Park, Castle Grounds
Tuesday 19th July 2016
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: OAP's £5.00
Children £3.00: Family Ticket £18.00

FREE PARKING
For further info - tel: 01499 302458
www.inveraray-games.co.uk

2016 Bute HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 20th August 2016
Public Stadium • Rothesay • Isle of Bute

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Highland Dancing • Heavy Events
Athletic Events • Wrestling
10k Road Race • Junior Shinty

A Great Day Out

www.butehighlandgames.org
info@butehighlandgames.org

Mull Highland Games
Thursday 21st July 10.30am
Erray Park, Tobermory

- Solo Piping - Highland Dancing
- Heavy and Light Track and Field Events

A great day out for all the family
Refreshments available on the field.

Contact: Florence Kirsop
Tel: 01688 302001

SOUTHEND HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 23rd July 2016
5.30pm for 6.00pm
Southend Playing Field

Under 16 half mile race.
Voucher Prizes!

Come and enjoy - Highland Junior Dancing demonstrations, Piping, Junior and Senior sports with all the traditional heavyweight games. Full Kintyre Schools Pipe Band. Beat the goalie. Kite Making and Balloon Tying. Other Novelty Events and Stewart's funfair.
Licensed bar for over 18's with separate soft drinks bar.
Burgers, ice-cream etc available on field.
Funky Chicken will be in attendance for Children's entertainment

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 pollwilline@btconnect.com
Hot food also available at Muneroy Tearooms and Argyll Arms Hotel, Southend RING FRANCES OR LYNN WITH YOUR BOOKINGS TO SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT.
ALL COMPETITORS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE OWN INSURANCE.
Admission adults £2.00, children £1.00 Free car parking

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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Federation chief calls on SNP to honour pre-election pledge to tackle lack of housing



FOLLOWING the election of the Scottish National Party for a third consecutive term in government, housing organisations in Scotland have called upon the Scottish Government to make good its pre-election promises on housing.

High on the list of pledges was tackling the severe lack of housing in Scotland and among those calling for real commitment on the issue is the chief executive of the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, Mary Taylor.

Given the SNP failed to retain an over-all majority, she urged all parties to work together 'constructively to build the affordable housing to which they are all committed'.

'Commitments to increasing the amount of affordable housing, introducing extra energy efficiency measures to fight fuel poverty and using the new welfare powers to, amongst other measures, abolish the 'bedroom tax' are supported across the Scottish Parliament.

'It is vital that these pledges are realised over the lifetime of the next parliament in order for everyone in

Scotland to have a warm, energy efficient, affordable home and to improve the life chances, health and wellbeing of some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Scotland,' she said.

RICS Scotland, a professional body that accredits professionals in land, property and construction, works closely with the Scottish Government on such matters.

Director of RICS in Scotland Sarah Spiers said the key to property investment and development, as well as a vibrant economy, was stability.

'We would encourage the new government to be clear on how it will work to deliver that stability, given that it has no overall majority,' she added.

'We look forward to working together on the implementation of the SNP pledge to develop a Rural Infrastructure Plan, which has been long called for by RICS,' she said.

'This should have a considered and coherent remit, with sufficient provisions for transport, energy and broadband connectivity at the fore.'

She called on the newly elected government to bring back into use Scotland's 27,000 long-term empty properties and address the poor condition of the country's existing housing stock.

'Through a planned maintenance scheme, which would involve mandatory building condition surveys for tenement properties, more homes will be available to house future generations in Scotland,' she said.

As well as increasing the supply of viable houses to those looking to buy homes or private rented properties, it would help to maintain jobs in the construction industry, especially small to medium enterprises.

The Commission on Housing and Wellbeing last year recommended that the Scottish building industry needed to increase its homes construction by almost a third, compared to the 17,360 new homes built in 2015.

But the industry faces a skills shortage and there have been calls for a national graduate and apprentice programme to promote opportunities in the construction industry.

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Rental growth subdued in March

RENTAL growth was relatively subdued in March as the start of year rush for Private rented Sector (PRS) homes slowed somewhat, according to the latest rental index from Your Move and Reeds Rains. However, year-on-year, prices continue to climb, representing real positivity in the market for landlords.

Data from the companies shows that in March, the average rental price across the nation climbed to some £791 per calendar month.

However, despite a slight stalling in prices, the data for annual growth shows that the market is still heading in the right direction.

Adrian Gill, director of lettings agents Your Move and Reeds Rains, said that moving forward, prices are only likely to increase as well, as new tax changes make the cost of investing in rental property ever higher for landlords.

'Ultimately this will only punish tenants and aspiring first time buyers, driving out buy-to-let landlords will reduce supply leading to lower choice and higher rents for those that can least afford them,' he said.

'In particular, this month's new Stamp Duty surplus has driven an extra wedge between those aspiring landlords planning to invest in additional homes to let, and those existing landlords who have already built up their portfolios. That difference will not last for long but makes it more expensive to invest in property,' he added.

Nicola MacPhail MIRPM, managing partner at West Property Sales & Lettings, said: 'At West we have certainly seen a continued increase in rents year on year.

'We can attribute this to constant high tenant demand, shortage of supply and scarcity of mortgages.

'Many people are looking at renting as a long-term option and many believe they will never be able to get a mortgage or deposit to buy.

'Oban also has a strong student population which increases demand for our rental flats. The Oban rental market looks set to remain strong for years to come. We always need more rental properties, so if you are thinking of renting your property why not contact us for a FREE rental appraisal.'

w: www.west-property.co.uk e: info@west-property.co.uk t: 01631 569 466

Properties for sale and let

<p>Cuan Ferry, Isle Of Seil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached Cottage 2 Bedrooms/ 2 Bathrooms Sea Views Large garden Beautiful island location EPC Rating G (01) <p>UNDER OFFER OIEO £175,000</p> <p>**NEW REDUCED PRICE** Cuan Cottage - A charming 2 bedroom cottage on the Isle of Seil set within a large private garden and enviable sea views across the Cuan Sound. To the rear is a workshop which is accessed via an external door.</p>	<p>Barran, By Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached Bungalow 4 Bedrooms/ 2 Bathrooms Quiet Residential Area Double Garage Manageable Garden Close to Oban amenities EPC Rating - D66 <p>OIEO £235,000</p> <p>Corraur is a spacious 4 bedroom bungalow situated within the small residential area of Barran close to the town of Oban. The lounge is well proportioned and light due to a large window from which you can enjoy views over the garden and to the hills beyond.</p>	<p>Albert Street, Tobermory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Terraced House 5 Bedrooms/ 2 Bathrooms Detached Workshop Central location Walking distance to amenities EPC Rating - F(35) <p>OIRO £240,000</p> <p>Glennel - A deceptively spacious 5 bedroom mid-terrace house in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. This property benefits from having a sizeable detached workshop at the rear of the garden which could be used as a studio or large home office.</p>	<p>Klondyke, Craignure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached House 5 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms Renovated 3 years ago Stunning panoramic views Close to Craignure Ferry Terminal EPC Rating - D(67) <p>UNDER OFFER OIRO £285,000</p> <p>Klondyke - A bright and spacious detached one and half storey house in an elevated position, enjoying panoramic views of Loch Linnhe and the mountains beyond. Beautiful views can be enjoyed from every room through plentiful large windows.</p>
<p>25 Stevenson Street, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One bedroom flat Located Centrally in Oban Unfurnished First Floor Council Tax Band A EPC - B(84) Landlord Reg: 342259/130/31461 Deposit and Ref required AVAILABLE NOW <p>LET AGREED</p> <p>"2 FLATS LET IN 2 WEEKS: 1 REMAINING!"</p> <p>£460 Per Calendar Month</p> <p>One bedroom flat located centrally in Oban. Open plan living room and modern kitchen with spacious double bedroom and shower bathroom.</p>	<p>Gallanach Road, Oban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Bedroom Flat Partly Furnished Private on-street parking Garden with shed Oban Town Centre Landlord Registration No:424701/130/01131. EPC Rating D-61. AVAILABLE NOW <p>LET AGREED</p> <p>"SET LIVE IN A DAY AND LET IN 3 WEEKS"</p> <p>£475 Per Calendar Month</p> <p>Well presented 1 bedroom ground floor flat located close to Oban town centre. The property has been recently renovated with new heating systems installed.</p>	<p>Ceum Dhun Righ, Benderloch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedroom unfurnished detached bungalow Located in Benderloch Council Tax - D EPC - D (56) Landlord Reg. No.439102/130/24071/439103/130/ <p>LET AGREED</p> <p>"LET AFTER FIRST VIEWING"</p> <p>£650 Per Calendar Month</p> <p>Spacious 3 bedroom detached bungalow, in Benderloch. This property has been recently renovated including a new kitchen and bathroom.</p>	<p>GREAT DEMAND FOR RENTAL FLATS AND HOMES LOCALLY - LANDLORDS GET IN TOUCH TODAY!</p>

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For more details and how to apply, see: <http://www.goodmoves.org.uk/jobs/27522>

Lorn Medical Centre, Oban

We are looking for someone with excellent communication and organisational skills to join our Practice Team.

You will be expected to communicate and liaise with patients, clinical staff and other members of the wider health care team.

The post will be full time to cover the opening hours of the Practice. Please apply with a CV and covering letter to:

Mairi Dunnings
 Practice Manager
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 Soroba Road, Oban PA34 4HE
 by 16 May 2016.

For further information, please phone 01631 563175.

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Please apply in writing to – Fay Harris, Mellex Group Ltd, Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8EU. Or email to – fay@westcoastplanthire.co.uk. Applications can also be handed in to our Oban Depot at Lochavullin Drive, Oban, PA34 4BW. All applications should provide information on previous experience. Closing date Friday 3rd June 2016

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Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

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Starting Salary £18,021 per annum
Lochgilphead (Ref: 045-360)

SNH manages three National Nature Reserves (NNRs) in Argyll – Glasdrum, Tainish and Moine Mhor NNRs. Between them, they hold a range of native woodland and raised bog habitats, as well as providing key ground for rare species of plants, butterflies, birds and mammals. All are set amid stunning west coast landscapes and are of exceptional natural and cultural heritage value.

This post involves undertaking practical habitat and estate management tasks to optimise the ecological interests of the NNRs, as well as to engaging with local communities and visitors to our reserves. A positive, team-focused, friendly attitude combined with sound practical conservation, countryside management or forestry skills will make you a strong candidate for this role. The post involves working outdoors in all weathers, although some office-based work is also involved.

The work programme to manage and maintain habitat and visitor infrastructure on the reserves is delivered by a small Argyll NNR team of two, consisting of a Reserve Manager and an Operations Support Officer, both based in Lochgilphead.

You must have a driving licence or other means of transport available to you due to the remote location of the Reserves and not on a public transport route. As this role will involve working in rough terrain and inclement weather conditions therefore the post holder must have an element of physical fitness. Team working and good interpersonal skills with a competency in information technology are essential along with the ability to plan and prioritise their workload. You must also be competent with your knowledge of the natural heritage and it is desirable that you are competent with livestock management.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date: 22 May 2016.
 Interview date: 8 June 2016.

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PROJECT MANAGER CATALOGUER

Average of 8 hours per week over project period @ £25 per hour
580 hours over project period @ £11 per hour

The Iona Cathedral Trustees are looking to engage on a consultant basis for their Iona Abbey Library Project:

- Project Manager** - part time and for a fixed term: June 2016 - Oct 2018, partly based on Iona
 - Previous experience as a Project Manager, handling budgets, computer literacy, meeting deadlines, responsibility for a team of consultants and a knowledge and interest in antiquarian books are required. The project includes working with local schools; local communities; the media and relevant areas of public interest.
- Digital Cataloguer** – part time for 580 hours from June 2016, based on Iona.
 - Computer literacy essential and previous experience of cataloguing would be desirable but not essential. Training will be given.

The trustees are open to the possibility of one person undertaking both roles.

For further details please email lawdepr@churchofscotland.org.uk
 References will be required.

Closing date for submission of a CV by applicants: May 2016

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Please send CV and a covering letter by 27 May 2016 to:
 The Staff Partner at
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 or by e mail to mail@simmers.co.uk
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A Basic Food / Hygiene certificate, good verbal and written communication skills and previous experience of working as part of a team, as well as on your own, in a fast paced environment are essential. Satisfactory Police and PVG checks apply to this role.

Previous supervisory experience would be a benefit as well as experience in food preparation for the elderly.

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public notices

Cruach Brenfield Wind Farm



Upcoming community consultation days

Lochgilphead Community Education Centre: Monday 23rd May, 14:00 - 20:00
Ardrishaig Public Hall: Tuesday 24th May, 13:00 - 18:30

Project update
 EDF Energy Renewables (EDF ER) recently submitted a revised scoping report to Argyll and Bute Council for the Cruach Brenfield wind farm, near Ardrishaig in Mid-Argyll. The latest proposal consists of a maximum of 13 turbines, with total capacity of up to 45MW, a reduction from the 18 turbine proposal originally submitted to the Scottish Government. Having taken on board the feedback from the local community and statutory consultees, EDF ER has decided to reduce the size of the proposal and therefore reduce the potential for in particular landscape and visual impact.

Community consultation event
 We are always keen to get feedback so please do visit us at one of the upcoming consultation days – we would like to invite anyone who might have an interest in the plans to come along. If these dates are not suitable for you, please feel free to get in touch via the website or Freephone number below and we would be happy to discuss the project with you. We would welcome comments on the proposal any time before 21st June 2016.

Please note that that comments made to EDF-ER are not representations to the Planning Authority. There will be an opportunity to make representations directly to Argyll and Bute Council when a formal planning application is submitted.



For further information on the proposal, please do not hesitate to get in touch on 0800 056 6650 or visit the project website at www.edf-er.com

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected at Oban Lorn and Isles area office Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, between 09:00-12:30 and 13:30- 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 10:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs on Wednesday or at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and Isles area office 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 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

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/01110/PP	Change of use of land to form mixed use residential and firewood business site	Land East Of Lorn Sawmills Ltd Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HY	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
16/01099/PP	Change of use of ground floor former police station to form 2 residential flats, installation of heat source pumps and conservation style roof lights	Police Station Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
16/01132/PP	Demolish existing manager's office (formerly outbuilding ancillary to main building) and erection of single storey extension to existing courtyard area, part demolition of existing walls (former school playground) to form further vehicular access and extend car parking and installation of gabion basket retaining wall to form extension to existing car park	St Johns School 61 Croft Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5JL	Oban Area Office
16/01131/LIB	Demolish existing manager's office (formerly outbuilding ancillary to main building) and erection of single storey extension, part demolition of existing walls (former school playground) to form further vehicular access and extend car parking and installation of gabion basket retaining wall to form extension to existing car park	St Johns School 61 Croft Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5JL	Oban Area Office
16/01191/PP	Installation of insulated render system to front and right gable (rear elevation omitted)	Tiree Jamieson Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7HL	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
16/00779/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Loch Nell Lodge Kilmore Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
16/01222/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 12/02612/PPP (Site for the erection of 7 dwellinghouses)	Land West Of Craig Lora Edendonich Dalmailly Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmailly
16/01190/PP	Installation of insulated render system to both gables and rear (front elevation and extension to rear are omitted)	Jura Cottage Jamieson Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7HL	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
16/01144/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of static caravan for a temporary period of 3 years	Duart Castle Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure
16/00946/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Garden Ground Of Askival Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SA	Sub Post Office Connel
16/01193/PP	Erection of two storey rear extension	90 And 90A Main Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JH	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

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.

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
16/01867/FUL	Land 150M West of Burnside Glenachuilish, Ballachulish	Erection of 2 no. houses, demolition of existing office building

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: epanning@highland.gov.uk

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
 3663 Transport Ltd trading as Fleet Support Centre of Roxburgh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1PB, is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Glengallan Road, Oban, PA34 4HG. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hilcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Port Ramsay Grazings Committee
A meeting of shareholders for the above common grazings will be held on
 Saturday 28th May at 12.30pm
 at 12 Port Ramsay for the purpose of electing a new grazings committee

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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Mr Charles L P Self of Spiney, Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8PN is applying to create a new croft. Case No. 65132

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

First Registration of a Croft
 Graeme MacColl has registered their croft Craigan Breck, Lismore & Appin 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 09 Feb 2017

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2677

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COMUNN GAIDHEALACH AN OBAIN
A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING followed by **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held in "Furan", Corran Halls, Oban on Tuesday 7 June 2016 at 7pm
 charity number SC001282

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Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled A.G.M.
Monday 23rd May 2016
 12 noon
 Glencruitten Golf Clubhouse

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First Registration of a Croft
 Craig Antoni Rozga has registered their croft, Knockrome, Jura, 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 25th January 2017.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2610

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WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION ALLT NATHRACH HYDRO SCHEME KINLOCHLEVEN

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Green Highland Renewables Limited for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with the Allt Nathrach Hydro Scheme, namely:

Description of Controlled Activity	Waters Affected	National Grid Reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 4m in height	Allt Nathrach	NN 1581 6329
Abstraction of 125,798.4m3per day of water	Allt Nathrach	NN 1581 6329
Return of abstracted water approximately 1.47km away from abstraction point	Allt Nathrach	NN 1657 6207
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2m in height	Unnamed	NN 1623 6327
Abstraction of 38,534.4m3per day of water	Unnamed	NN 1623 6327
Return of abstracted water approximately 0.451km away from abstraction point	Allt Nathrach	NN 1581 6329
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 2m in height	Allt Coire na hEirghe	NN 1688 6336
Abstraction of 32,140.8m3per day of water	Allt Coire na hEirghe	NN 1688 6336
Return of abstracted water approximately 0.647km away from abstraction point	Unnamed	NN 1623 6327

SEPA considers the above controlled activities may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1144514:
Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of the impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse the application."

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Union
calls for
clear croft
grazing
guidelines

NATIONAL Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) has asked the Crofting Commission to bring forward a simple guide to best practice for grazing committees.

NFUS, which has around 800 crofting members, has made the request following discussions with the commission on how committees operate.

Sutherland crofter Sandy Murray, who chairs the union's Crofting, Highlands and Islands Working Group, said: 'It is in the best interests of all, that any common grazings committee operates with up-to-date regulations and within the law.'

'The Crofting Commission is best placed to deliver guidance and clarification to any committee. If changes are needed, then a grazings committee meeting can be held as soon as possible, all stakeholders notified and steps taken to ensure that their grazing regulations are fit-for-purpose and up-to-date.'

'NFUS has called on the commission to draw up simple and accessible best practice guidance on how grazings committees should be operating, clearly mapping out what they must do, should do and could do.'

'The commission should then send this to all grazings committees and clerks along with the new common grazings regulations template and guidance - as available on the commission website.'

'The union supports active crofters and the active use of common grazings. In order to help achieve this we believe that there are real benefits in common grazings being regulated and having grazing committees in office, for the benefit of the common grazing and the shareholders.'

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Numbers up, but prices back on year at Dalmally May sale

UNITED Auctions had a catalogued entry of 370 cattle and 158 sheep at its annual May sale at Dalmally Auction Mart last Saturday.

The cattle entry was almost 100 head up on the corresponding sale last year. All classes sold to a packed ringside of buyers.

Bullocks sold to an average £802.27 per head or 250.93 pence per kilo (£861.96 or 265.78 pence per kilo last year).

Heifers sold to an average £689.08 or 229.31 pence per kilo (£736.25 or 248.85 pence per kilo last year). The top priced bullock per head came from Messrs Christie, Auchlyne for Charolais crosses, realising £1,040. The best price per kilo for a bullock was for Limousin crosses from Tiraghoil, Mull at 297.80 pence.

Limousin heifers from Croftintygan sold to £990 per

head, whilst Barnakill Farm, Cairnbaan led this section per kilo at 282.40 pence for Charolais crosses.

Texel cross hogs from Tombuie led the sheep trade at £100 per head.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:

Bullocks:
AAx: £840 (2), £830 and £810 - Ardnacross, Mull.

BRBx: £750 - Lephinchapel.

CHARx: £1,040 - Auchlyne:

£970 - Tiraghoil, Mull: £940 (4) and £920 - Auchlyne: £910 - Ardmaleish (3), Barnakill and Auchlyne (3): £900 - Tiraghoil and Dunans (3).

LIMx: £960 - Lephinchapel: £950 (2) and £930 (8) - Tiraghoil, Mull: £930 - Croftintygan.

SIMx: £1,000 - Brackley: £980 - Tiraghoil, Mull: £960 (3) - Brackley: £950 - Tiraghoil: £940 - Brough: £910 - Blarghour:

£900 (4) - Tiraghoil.

Heifers:
AAx: £690 (4) - Ardnacross, Mull.

BSHx: £650 - Stonmagachan.

BRBx: £640 (2) - Lephinchapel.

CHARx: £860 - Tiraghoil, Mull: £850 - Barnakill.

LIMx: £990 (2), £910 & £840 - Tiraghoil, Mull: £820 (7) - Tiraghoil, Mull.

SHOx: £820 - Ichrachan.

SIMx: £840 (3) - Blarghour: £810 (2) - Keilator: £810 (3) - Blarghour.

Top prices per kilo:

Bullocks:
AAx: 273p and 265p (7) - Ardnacross: 247p - Achnacremore.

BSHx: 257p - Stronmagachan.

CHARx: 289p (4) - Ardmaleish: 282p - Barnakill: 280p (2) - Ardmaleish: 272p - Dunans: 262p (3) - Auchlyne: 254p - Barnakill: 248p (5) - Ardmaleish:

244p (3) - Dunans: 239p and 233p - Tiraghoil, Mull.

LIMx: 298p (3) - Tiraghoil: 296p - Cuiluaire: 288p - Ledcharrie: 285p (3) - Kilmalieu, Fort William: 283p - Barbreck, Lochgilphead: 280p (3) - Ardmaleish: 276p - Craignafeoch: 265p (5) - Ellary Farms: 264p (6) - Barbreck, Lochgilphead: 261p (4) - Craignafeoch: 261p - High Balantyre: 260p (4) - Tiraghoil, Mull: 255p - Keill, Ardgour: 254p (10) - Tiraghoil: 253p - Keill, Ardgour: 248p - Ellary Farms and Ardmaleish (3): 247p - Lephinchapel: 243p (3) - Croftintygan: 238p (2) - Ardenraive: 236p (2) - Ardmaleish: 235p - Croftintygan: 233p - Achnacremore.

SHOx: 264p (6) - Ellary Farms: 257p (7) - Barnakill: 235p - Ellary Farms: 232p (2) - Barnakill.

SIMx: 298p - Tiraghoil: 287p

(2) - Keilator: 282p (3) - Blairmore: 282p - Barnakill: 272p (6) - Keilator: 265p (6) - Ellary Farms: 263p - Dunans and Tiraghoil (2): 260p - Brackley: 254p (2) - Barnakill: 250p (5) - Ellary Farms: 248p (2) - Keilator: 244p - Brough: 243p - Tiraghoil: 242p (2) - Dunans: 241p - Achnacremore: 240p (2) - Tiraghoil: 236p - Ardmaleish: 234p - Brackley: 233p (2) - Tiraghoil: 231p (2) - Brackley.

Heifers
AAx: 254p (4) - Ardnacross, Mull.

BSHx: 227p - Stronmagachan.

CHARx: 282p and 281p (5) - Barnakill: 244p (3) - Ardmaleish: 242p (2) - Tiraghoil: 241p (4) - Ardmaleish: 239p - Ardmaleish (5) and Auchlyne: 238p and 232p - Tiraghoil.

LIMx: 260p (5) - Craignafeoch: 259p (2) - Ardmaleish: 255p (2) - Cuiluaire: 254p - Keill, Ardgour: 245p (7) and 240p (2) - Tiraghoil: 239p - Kentra and Craignafeoch (4): 238p (2) - Ellary Farms: 237p (2) - Croftintygan: 236p (6) - Ellary Farms: 235p (3) and 234p (4) - Tiraghoil: 233p (4) - Croftintygan: 230p (2) - High Balantyre.

SIMx: 259p (3), 244p (2), 243p (2) and 236p (3) - Keilator: 236p - Ellary Farms: 234p and 233p (2) - Blarghour: 231p (3) - Keilator: 228p (4) - Blarghour.

Cows and calves
£880 - Brencaille: £860 - High Balantyre.

Sheep:
Hoggs:
TEXx: £100 - Tombuie: £60.00 - Kilmalieu, Fort William
BF: £60.00 - Meallagie.

Ewes:
Rouge: £72.00 - 2 Bonawe Croft.

Stirling cattle sale for Caledonian Marts

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd sold 174 cattle on Thursday May 5, comprising 89 prime bullocks and heifers, 22 young bulls, two OTM cattle and 61 cast cows and bulls.

Bullocks sold to 242p/kg for a Limousin from the firm of WM Pettigrew, Faskine, Airidrie, purchased by J Hastie, 36 Commercial Street, Markinch and to £1,554 for a British Blue from J T Wainwright and Sons, Todhall, Cupar, purchased by H A Black and Sons, West Lothian.

Heifers sold to 255p/kg for a Limousin from A S Hay, Mains of Cultmalundie, Tibbermore, purchased by D Campbell and Sons Butchers, Callander and to £1,440 for a British Blue

from J T Wainwright and Sons, Todhall, Cupar, purchased by J Hastie, 36 Commercial Street, Markinch.

Young bulls averaged 154p/kg and sold to 195p/kg for a Limousin from I W Brisbane and Son, Southwoodlane, Blairdrummond and to £1,331 for a Limousin from the same home.

Beef cows sold to 136p/kg for a Limousin from C Malone, Pitcairn, Cardenden and to £1,020 for a Limousin from A and A Black, North Woodend, Bonnybridge, as well as a Belgian Blue from M A Blyth, Lochfield, Doune.

Dairy cows sold to 111p/kg from J Pollock and Sons, Bonnyhill, Bonnybridge and to £990 from the same home.

Cast bulls made an average of £106p/kg and sold to 125p/kg from R J Kerr, Balegreggan, Campbeltown and to £1,310 for the same beast.

Other leading prices:
Bullocks p/kg (average 185p): 235p Kinneil Mill; 232p Greencraig; 228p Mains of Cultmalundie; 225p and 220p Moorfield; 210p Todhall; 208p Moorfield.

Bullocks/head: £1,466 Moorfield; £1,460 Highholm; £1,416 Greencraig; £1,396 Kinneil Mill; £1,386 Todhall; £1,381 Gillandersland.

Heifers p/kg (average 196p): 240p Kinneil Mill, Mains of Cultmalundie and Todhall; 235p Faskine; 232p Dullouir; 225p Moorfield and Faskine; 218p and 215p Dullouir; 205p Kaemuir and Lochfield.

Heifers/head: £1,392 Kinneil Mill; £1,306 and £1,286 Mains of Cultmalundie; £1,284 Lochfield; £1,268 Kaemuir; £1,260 Moorfield.

Young bulls: £1,296 Mains of Throsk; £1,187, £1,170 and £1,168 Southwoodlane; £1,125, £1,089 and £1,060 Mains of Throsk; £998 Harvieston.

Beef cow p/kg (average 114p): 134p Lochfield; 132p Blairhall; 131p Lochfield; 129p Gartfairn; 128p Kinneil Mill.

Beef cow/head: £980 Lochfield; £960 Blairhall; £950 Lochfield; £920 Pitcairn.

Dairy cow p/kg (average 93p): 110p Balegreggan; 109p Bonnyhill; 103p Plean; 102p Crossflat.

Dairy cow/head: £870 Bonnyhill and Plean; £810 Crossflat; £730 Bonnyhill; £660 Barbeath.

Cast bulls: £1,230 Dalgleish; £740 Crossflat and North Mains.

Loch Fyne Food Fair serves up Argyll's best farming produce

THE HEAD of Loch Fyne is the venue this weekend for an event showcasing some great Argyll farming produce.

Over two days on Saturday May 14 and Sunday May 15, the Loch Fyne Food Fair will feature displays from Winston Churchill Venison from Glen Lean, near Dunoon, along with another Cowal producer in the form of Shellfield Farm. The 3,000-acre farm on the shores of Loch Riddon has been in the MacKellar family for four generations and produces lamb and mutton with a distinctive local flavour.

Across Loch Fyne, Rhona Crawford from Brencaille Farm, near Furnace, specialises in delicious cakes for all sorts of special occasions, trading as the Little Cake Farm.

One highly successful farm diversification in recent years has been Fyne Ales, founded by Tuggy and Jonny Delap and based at Achadunan Farm, Cairndow. Fyne Ales will offer some of its own tempting brews to wash down the delicious food, while there will be plenty more at the festival to entertain all the family.

Producers and retailers of all sorts of food and drink, both local and from further afield, will be there to tickle the tastebuds. The event will be held at Clachan, Cairndow, starting at 11am on both Saturday and Sunday.



Rhona Crawford of the Little Cake Farm with Heather MacNicol at last year's food fair.

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Pesticide PA1 Safe use of Pesticides - 13th June - £250.00 (assessment dates to be confirmed)

Pesticide PA2 Tractor Mounted Sprayer - 14th June - £380.00 (assessment dates to be confirmed)

Pesticide PA6 Hand-held Sprayer - 15th June - £330.00 (assessment dates to be confirmed)

Pesticide Application for Grandfathers (PA2) - 16th June - £430.00 (assessment dates to be confirmed)

Rodent Control - 17th June - £375.00

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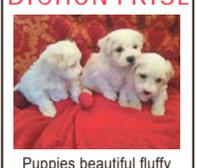
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 The Festival Committee would like to thank the many people involved with this year's Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival, for their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work.
 We are grateful to local businesses in and around Oban who support the festival and to the many venues who took part in this year's festival fringe.
 We look forward to many more years working together to ensure the festival's continued success, and developing its scope and appeal for the towns people and visitors alike.

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MARRIAGES

CUMMING - CACACE - On Sunday April 10, 2016 at St. Andrews Church, Bearsden by Monsignor Ryan, Veronica, eldest daughter of Ian Cumming, Oban and Marion and Paul Shaw, Renfrew to Dario, elder son of Antonio and Catherine Cacace, Milngavie. A wonderful day shared by family and friends.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully, in her 90th year at home, surrounded by her family, on Wednesday May 4, 2016, Mary Cameron. Beloved wife of the late John, a loving sister of Dougie, Johnnie and the late Willie and Rena, also a much loved aunt and great-aunt. Funeral service was held yesterday (Wednesday) in Ardgour Parish Church; thereafter Mary was laid to rest within the Churchyard beside her beloved husband. Grateful thanks to Craig Nevis Surgery and Ardnamurchan Community Nurses for the loving care they all gave to Mary and also to her family. Sincere thanks to Rev. Donald MacCorkindale for his friendship and pastoral care throughout. Arrangements by John McLellan Funeral Directors, Fort William.

GOLDER - On Sunday May 8, 2016 at Belford hospital, Fort William, Tom aged 86, passed away very peacefully with his family at his side. Beloved husband of the late Nan (née Johnston, Elgin). Dearly loved father of Anne and Andrew, a loving grandpa to Thomas, Rebekah, Hannah, Jonathan and Matthew and a special GG to Noah. A much loved father-in-law of Cathy and the late Kenny. Funeral service from Kilmallie Free Church of Scotland, Caol, Fort William on Monday May 16, 2016 at 1pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. At Home With The Lord. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors Tel. 01397 702128.

HARRIS - Moira (formerly Mckean from Dunbarton). Peacefully at home with her family by her side on Thursday April 28, 2016. Funeral service to be held at Kirkcaldy Crematorium on Monday May 16, 2016 11.45am, family and friends invited and later, in celebration of Moira's wonderful and giving life to the Gilvenbank Hotel in Glenrothes.

MACDONALD - Peacefully, on Friday May 6, 2016, at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, Ewen Grieve Macdonald, formerly of Flat 3, John Anderson House, Shore Street, Oban, beloved partner of the late Christine Macpherson. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glenruitten Road, Oban, on Thursday (today), May 12 at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for the Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group.

SHEARLAW - Peacefully, at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on May 4, 2016, Sarah Leishman (Sally) aged 90 years, beloved wife of the late Alec, dear mother to John and Lesley, much loved grandmother to Maeve, Arthur, Rory, Lucy and Tracy, loving great grandmother (G.G. Sally) to Amy, Katie, Adelina and Fritani. Sadly missed by all her family, neighbours and many friends. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glenruitten Road, Oban on Thursday May 19, at 1.00pm. All friends are respectfully

invited to attend. Cremation Private. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired to R.V.S.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CLARK - Liz and family would like to say a big thank you to everyone for the support and love bestowed on them after the sad loss of Alex. Heartfelt thanks to neighbours Frankie Tolman and Ralph McLeary, along with paramedics and all the hospital staff who fought for Alex. Also to Hamish Hoey for such efficiency and professionalism. Dugald Cameron for the wonderful funny yet poignant service. God bless.

HUMPHREY - The dear friends of the late Eileen Humphrey would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their care and love in recent times, also staff in the community and Glenaray Ward at Mid Argyll Hospital, not only for the kind care and attention received, but also for complying with her dearest wish to return home. Special thanks also to Rev Roderick Campbell for his visits and comforting service, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for their care, support and professional services, to Stuart Liddell for excellent piping, to the Scotch Heather Shop for beautiful floral arrangements, to the George Hotel for catering and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection for the church raised £228.

MEMORIAMS

BOWMAN - In loving memory of my beloved husband Ian and our dearest dad, father-in-law and papa, who died May 13, 2015. His benevolent presence is a constant miss in our lives but we cherish our happy memories. - Mary and family, Tobermory and Biggar.

CLARK - Loving memories of my dear brother Tommy who left me on May 4, 2009. Sadly missed along life's way. - his Sister Mary at Kilninnian

GIBSON - In loving memory of John (Gibby), who passed away May 16, 2015, aged 50. A loving son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard but always near Still loved, still missed and very dear Loved and remembered always. - Your loving mum and family.

GROUNDWATER - In loving memory of Marie, who died May 12, 2014. Sadly missed Forever in our thoughts. - John and family.

MACCOLL - In loving memory of dear Neilie, who passed away on May 13, 2003. Loved and remembered always. - Margaret

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. You never said I am leaving You never said goodbye You were gone before we knew it and only you knew why. - 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. As the days go by and the years get longer Although you are gone Our love grows stronger So until the time we meet again In our hearts and thoughts the days you will spend. - Billy, Morven, William and Andrea.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Donald Archibald (D.A.), a dear father and seair, who passed away on May 16, 2005. Deep in our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day - Neil, Jennifer, Charles and families

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and granny Morag, who died May 14, 2012. The years may pass but still you stay as near and dear as yesterday. - Donald and family, (Tiree and Somerset).

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.

MARSHALL - In memory of my wife Betty, who passed away May 11, 2008. I hold you close within my heart And there you shall remain To walk with me my whole life through Until we meet again. - Steve.

MAY - In loving memory of Angus May, who passed away May 12, 2014. A much loved dad and devoted and loving grandad. Remembered and missed by us all. xx

McPHILLIPS - Iain. Since that awful event on May 12, 1991, I have loved and remembered you every day. - Mum, Fort William.

MILLER - Peter died 13/05/08, Betty died 30/04/13 Love & miss you mum and dad. GBNF Always in our thoughts - Isobel, Cammy & Jacqui xx

WALKER - In loving memory of a devoted husband and dad Alan, who suddenly passed away May 13, 2015. Memories pressed between the pages of my mind Memories sweetened through the pages just like wine Quiet thoughts come floating down and settle softly to the ground Like golden autumn leaves beneath my feet I touch them and they burst apart Like sweet memories of holding hands, Laughing eyes, simple ways, quiet nights and gentle days with you All our love always. - Caroline, Amy, Leah and Cal.

WATT - In loving memory of our dear mother Mary Watt (Maimie) who died May 12, 1984. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - Catherine and family, Tobermory and Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.



Henry Maclean gets to work at the Salvation Army hub in Oban.

Oban Salvation Army projects to feature in special screening

THE SALVATION Army in Oban will have a starring role in a film this weekend, showcasing the work the organisation carries out. This is part of an event in Inverness that will see the charity's leader, General Andre Cox, visit the north of Scotland. The two-day affair will take place on May 14-15 and it's believed it will be attended by hundreds of 'Salvationists' as well as friends and family. As part of the congress, a film has been produced showcasing the organisation's best work. One of the Salvation Army projects set to feature on screen is its community church in Oban, which has a range of programmes to help vulnerable people. Among the activities at the hub on Stevenson Street is a community workshop called The Shed, which is a

space for men and women to come together to make new friends and learn new skills. There is also art therapy, a craft class and a drop-in lunch for people with a range of issues such as mental health problems, drug and alcohol addictions and learning disabilities. Henry Maclean, who was helped by the organisation, suffered from depression after the death of his father and turned to alcohol to cope with the grief. He ended up going along to the Salvation Army hub in Oban with his gran, who was part of a knitting club. After speaking to one of the senior volunteers in The Shed, he slowly began to immerse himself in the church and charity. And a year-and-a-half later, Henry is set to become a uniformed member of the Salvation Army - a term

known as a soldier. The 29-year-old former chef from Dunbeg, said: 'Being part of the Salvation Army in Oban has had such a positive influence in my life. I was in a dark place, which stemmed from my dad dying, and struggled to cope. 'My family are really supportive and tried to reach out and help me but I was depressed and confused, and didn't know where to turn. 'Andy Finlayson is one of the volunteers and he helps run The Shed. 'We had a chat and I soon discovered that Andy had been through so much hardship in his life as well. 'He made me realise that I could overcome my problems. 'I started to help out around the workshop and the main hall, doing general things like cleaning up and

other general tasks. 'Along the way I've made a lot of new friends and learned new skills. 'I love music and I've been able to teach guitar to one of the older guys who has autism. He really enjoys it and I get a lot of satisfaction from giving something back. 'I now volunteer three days a week and attend worship on a Sunday morning. I'm hoping to be made a Salvation Army soldier in the next couple of weeks - just in time to attend the congress and the visit of General Cox, which is so exciting.' The film featuring the work of the Salvation Army in Oban will be available on the organisation's official YouTube channel and on DVD. To stay updated, visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk.

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Thought for the week Pentecost - bewildering, exciting, challenging

'And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"' (Acts 2.6-8)

FRIGHTENED disciples empowered to speak in such a way that people from all over the world would understand the exciting message they had to share. Thousands of Jews in Jerusalem amazed to hear and understand the message of these men

from Galilee. Peter, just a few weeks on from denial and devastation, spoke to the crowd and 3,000 were baptised. No force was involved, no new religion intended, although it's now seen as the birth of the Christian church. This was a message of good news which was to

go out to the world, to everyone whatever their beliefs or status. Not about an easy life but about one which could mean life in all its fullness for everyone. A week on from the Scottish elections and a few weeks before the referendum on Europe, how do we, whoever we are, whatever

we believe, share good news with people far and wide? Will those who celebrate Pentecost this Sunday trust the Holy Spirit to empower those of this generation who are hungry for good news not for the few but for the whole world? Rev Liz Gibson, Isle of Mull

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Editorial
Chief reporter Louise Glen
Senior reporter Sandy Neil
Trainee reporter David McPhee
Trainee reporter Ellie Forbes
Newsdesk
Oban 01631 568060
Fort William 01397 703003
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising
Advertising supervisor Nadine Ross
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'Sugar' saves the day in Marshall Cup penalty shoot-out victory

Kings Park Rangers 2
Oban Saints 2
Marshall Cup - Quater Final

Saints won 4-3 on penalties

JUST as in round three against FC Clydebank, Saints had to endure a nerve-wracking penalty shoot-out against old rivals Kings Park Rangers at Toryglen last Wednesday night before booking their place in the semi-finals of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

Remarkably of the seven who participated in the shoot-out with the Bankies, only Willie Gemmell featured in Wednesday night's win with the big midfielder netting the decisive penalty to send Saints through to face Motherwell Thistle at



Graham 'Sugar' Douglas saved two penalties.

Millburn Park, Alexandria which was due to be played last night (Wednesday).

Saints were without skipper Marc MacCallum, Keith Millar, Thomas McCulloch, Allan Mackay, Paul Kerr and Martin Bonar but welcomed back Dene Cassells and Brian Mackay and gave a second time around debut to recently re-signed keeper Graham Douglas.

Saints' recent proclivity for playing well in phases but shooting themselves in the foot when seemingly in control continued under the Toryglen floodlights when, after a good opening 10 minutes, Myles McAuley was caught in possession 25 yards from his own goal by Kings striker Grant Fountain.

The little number 9 easily dispossessed McAuley and ran in unchallenged to slot past the hopelessly exposed Douglas to give the home side the lead.

Saints huffed and puffed their way through the remainder of the first half dominating possession without posing a serious threat to Jordan Brand in the Kings goal.

A stern half time talking-to from manager Alex Craik produced the desired effect with Saints markedly increasing the tempo in the opening 20 minutes of the second half.

Gemmell brought Saints level in the 49th minute with a dipping 25-yard half volley from a Donald Campbell lay off.

Skipper for the night Donald



Rangers' goalkeeper Jordan Bland makes an unorthodox save to deny Dean Smith and Craig MacEwan. Reports and photos Derek Black

Campbell put Saints in front from the penalty spot after he had been tripped in the box.

Manager Craik made a raft of changes in the 67th minute which served in part to reduce the head of steam Saints had built up in the early stages.

Kings gradually came more into the match and snatched the equaliser after good work on the left by Stephen McAuley set up Grant Fountain who beat Cassells to the ball to score his second goal of the night.

Both sides had chances to win the tie in the closing 15 minutes with Saints coming closest in the 88th minute from a Craig Campbell header. Gemmell delivered a perfectly-flighted free

kick into the box where Craig Campbell powered a downward header which looked set to nestle in the bottom corner only for Brand to produce a miraculous save low down to his right.

The keeper collided with himself in the process giving himself a nasty cut on the head.

Referee Gordon Hay stopped play for several minutes to allow the keeper to receive some treatment after which he was deemed fit enough to continue.

When the match was restarted the Kings goal led a charmed existence as MacEwan twice narrowly failed to connect with dangerous Gemmell deliveries into the box.

However, time eventually ran

out and Mr Hay blew for full time with the teams tied at 2 - 2.

And so to penalties where the stage seemed set for Kings keeper Brand to be the bloodied but unbowed hero of the hour.

However, the man at the opposite end had other ideas. Step forward Graham 'Sugar' Douglas who crowned a solid performance on his second Saints debut by saving Kings' first two spot kicks from McAuley and Robert Smith.

Fountain finally got the home side off the mark but successfully converted penalties from Donald Campbell, Cassells and Craig Campbell put Saints 3 - 1 ahead.

Paul Whitmore brought the

score back to 3 - 2 before Brand stood up well to parry away MacEwan's straight down the middle effort and give Kings renewed hope.

Gordon Reid levelled things up with Kings' last kick of the initial five leaving Gemmell to take the last kick before sudden death.

He made absolutely no mistake sending Brand the wrong way and Saints through to their fourth consecutive Jimmy Marshall Trophy semi-final.

Commiserations to Kings Park Rangers who contributed much to an entertaining spectacle and were unlucky to lose out in such unfortunate circumstances.

Rolls Royce EK 1
Oban Saints 3
SAFL Premier Division

SAINTS finally ended their win-less streak, penalty shoot-outs aside, and got back on track with a 3-1 victory over relegation threatened Rolls Royce EK at Ballerup last Saturday.

The result sadly consigns the Rolly to a second relegation in four years leaving Alba Thistle, Campbeltown Pupils, Finnart and Shawlands FP to battle it out to avoid joining them in falling through the trap door into Premier Division One.

Saints welcomed back Thomas McCulloch and Paul Kerr to the squad that squeezed past Kings Park Rangers in the Jimmy Marshall Trophy quarter final in midweek but were once again without Keith Millar and

skipper Marc MacCallum. Also missing were Donald Campbell, Craig MacEwan, Brian Mackay and penalty shoot-out hero Graham Douglas.

Captain for the day Paul Kerr won the toss of referee Thomas D'Allesandro's coin and opted to play into the stiff breeze in the first half.

The aerial prowess of recent signing Craig Campbell has proved a valuable addition to the Saints armoury and the visitors took the lead after Ross Maitland had been sent sprawling by Rolly full back Mark Johnston.

Ross Maitland took the kick himself and flighted in a terrific ball from 10 yards inside the Rolly half. This took out the entire defence and was met perfectly on the volley by Craig Campbell, who had peeled off at the back post to lash an unstoppable shot

into the postage stamp corner.

There was a let-off for Saints on the half hour mark when Myles McAuley headed a clearance straight into the path of Gavin Miller, who squandered a great chance shooting well wide of keeper MacCulloch's left hand post.

The visitors doubled their lead in the 36th minute after good work on the right from David McArthur and Ross Maitland.

McArthur chipped deftly over the heads of Paul Byrne and Mark Johnston with Ross Maitland spinning off the Rolly full back and tearing up the right wing. He hit the bye-line and fizzed a tempting ball low across the face of goal. McAuley was inches away from connecting with the cross but Scott Maitland was on hand at the back post to bundle the ball over the line despite the best efforts of Dean Trainor to keep it out to make the half time score 2-0.

The home side made the better start to the second half but Saints defended well and kept the Rolly attack comfortably at arms length with Dene Cassells showing up well in his first start since returning from suspension.

Saints increased their lead in the 56th minute with a well-taken goal. McAuley made a rampaging run at the heart of the Rolly defence and slipped a perfectly weighted ball for Dean Smith to beat the off-side trap and pass the ball into the bottom corner of the net past Trainor's left hand to give Saints



Craig Campbell is congratulated by his team mates after opening the scoring for Saints against Rolls Royce.

a three-goal lead. Manager Alex Craik made his first two changes of the day replacing Smith and Scott Maitland with Allan Mackay and Paul Carmichael.

The Rolly issued a reminder of their attacking threat in the 71st minute with Miller making a good run to get in between Cassells and Dougal Graham to fire a powerful shot across McCulloch and just wide of his right-hand post.

With 15 minutes remaining manager Craik made his final change replacing David McArthur at right back with Jamie Graham.

Barely a minute after the change Saints lost their clean sheet. Mark Johnston launched another of his long throws which caused panic in the Saints defence with substitute Andrew Woods reacting quickest to tuck away the loose ball past McCulloch for a deserved con-

solation goal. With five minutes remaining, a miserable day for the Rolly was completed when Ross Moore received his marching orders for pulling back Ross Maitland just outside the box after the wee man had robbed him of possession.

A frustrated Miller was lucky not to see red for a bad challenge on Paul Kerr in the centre circle, however Mr D'Allesandro considered the challenge worthy of only a yellow card which he also flashed at Gemmell and second half substitute Mark McFadden for a spot of pushing and shoving after the free kick had been awarded.

It was not lost on manager Craik that the three Saints goals had come from former Oban Athletic players and recent signings from their sadly folded neighbours. Paul Carmichael almost completed the set in stoppage time. Graham skipped

past Andrew Woods on the left wing and sent over a terrific cross from the bye-line which somehow Carmichael missed at the back post with the ball drifting harmlessly behind for a goal kick.

Referee D'Allesandro, who had a good game, blew for full time immediately after Trainor's bye kick confirming a morale-boosting victory for Saints ahead of last night's Jimmy Marshall Trophy semi-final against Motherwell Thistle.

Saints are back in East Kilbride again on Saturday, this time against league leaders East Kilbride FC.

The game is at K-Parks and kicks-off at 1pm.

Lochaber High School retain MacBean Cup Youth shinty

THE MacBean Cup for North of Scotland secondary schools took place last Thursday at An Aird in Fort William. Four schools were in attendance; Lochaber, Portree, Glenurquhart and Kingussie.

Each team played each other in the group stages with some very close results throughout.

At the close of the league Lochaber came out on top with Glenurquhart and Portree on the same points in second place, a play-off took place to decide who would join Lochaber in the final with Portree securing their place with a 2-0 victory.

The final was an extremely close affair with Lochaber going 1-0 up then Portree coming back to equalise and make it 2-1. Some nice touches from the Lochaber forward line saw them equalise in the final stages of the game.

Extra time saw some excellent shinty being played by both sides, great one-touch passing and fantastic stick work made it exciting to watch.

Lochaber managed to find the net from a long ball forward taken out of the air and magnificently passed into the path of one of their forwards, who beat the Portree keeper, who had been excellent all day, with a powerful strike.

The final score after extra time was 3-2 Lochaber.

End of season mini and S1/2 festival Youth rugby

ISLE of Mull RFC hosted their Annual Mini Rugby and S1/2 Festival at Garmony on Saturday.

Players from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Mull, Mid Argyll, Crieff, Lenzie and Helensburgh took part in the mini festival with Helensburgh C winning the P4/5 age group and Etive Vikings winning the P6/7 festival.

Helensburgh ran out on top of the S1/2 festival with all of the above teams also taking part.

The rugby on show throughout the day was fantastic with all teams helping out with refereeing to make sure the event ran as smoothly as possible.

The last festival of the season for mini rugby teams will be held this Sunday in Tainuill.



The proud winners of Oban Bowling Club's first competition of the season. The Dalriada Shield was won by Alex Carmichael and Anne Campbell. The shield was presented by Jimmy MacGregor.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2650

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

D MacArthur
Longdale Cres.
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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

MacTavish and Celtic Cup ties this weekend

Camanachd Cup – first round

Beaulieu 7 Bute 0

Beaulieu overcame an under-strength Bute side 7-0 in their 1pm meeting at Braeview Park.

Bute started well but it was Beaulieu who took the lead in this all-Marine Harvest National Division tie when Jack MacDonald blasted the ball home from the left of the 'D' on 12 minutes.

Bute suffered a blow when they lost the influential Iain McDonald through injury mid-way through the first half.

Jack MacDonald scored his 16th goal of the season in eight outings on 29 minutes. There seemed little danger when he picked up possession on the Beaulieu right, but he smashed the ball past Bute keeper Kevin Queen to make it 2-0.

Ross Forbes made it 3-0 from inside the 'D' on 39 minutes and he added a fourth, again from close-range, seconds before referee Graham Cameron's half-time whistle.

Conor Ross made it 5-0 from 12 yards out on 49 minutes and Beaulieu were in control.

A couple of late home goals put gloss on the win.

Beaulieu substitute Robbie Brindle, who had scored for the seconds earlier in the day, made it 6-0 with a deft finish, directing the ball out of keeper Queen's reach. Then Ryan MacKay strode forward from the middle of the park before steering the ball high into the net to make it 7-0 to send Beaulieu into the second round draw.

Inveraray 7 Ballachulish 0

There was another all-Marine Harvest National Division tie at the Winterton where Inveraray followed up the previous weekend's impressive Artemis Macaulay Cup win over Oban Camanachd with a 7-0 victory over Ballachulish.

Inveraray effectively won the tie in the first half-hour. Alan MacDonald netted twice on 10 and 14 minutes to put them 2-0 ahead.

Then Lewis MacNicol on 20 minutes and Garry MacPherson on 29 minutes had them 4-0 to the good.

Inveraray player/manager Ruairaidh Graham made it 5-0

on 40 minutes to give the Winterton side a comfortable lead at the break.

Second half goals from Allan Cameron on 68 minutes and a second from Gary MacPherson a couple of minutes from time rounded off the 7-0 victory.

Inveraray will now go into this coming weekend's Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-final tie against Glasgow Mid Argyll at Peterson Park, Yoker, with confidence.

Oban Celtic 3 Strathglass 2

Oban Celtic had to fight all the way to beat Strathglass 3-2 at Ganavan.

Both sides had made unbeaten starts to their respective league campaigns; Oban Celtic were third in Marine Harvest South Division 1 with games in hand on the teams above them whilst Strathglass led Marine Harvest North Division 1.

And it was Oban Celtic who demonstrated the progression they have made under new manager Kenny Wotherspoon to progress into the second round of the Camanachd Cup for the first time in nearly a decade.

Oban Celtic took the lead after just two minutes when Fraser MacMillan, who has regained the form shown in his early games, netted to put his side in front.

The Oban side had started so well no-one would have been surprised to see them go further ahead but a strong Strathglass goal-keeping display kept the home side at bay.

Celtic did extend their lead on the half-hour mark when Neil Carmichael, playing while still recovering from a gash to his foot, bulleted the ball into the back of the net on the turn. It was a superb finish which gave the keeper no chance.

The 2-0 lead did not last long though as striker Barry Phimister pulled 'Glass back into the tie only two minutes afterwards.

Just before the break Celtic suffered a blow when they lost defender Andy MacDonald through injury but stalwart John Hill proved to be a more than capable replacement.

The second half was pretty even with both teams having chances. Oban Celtic thought they had put the tie to bed when Fraser MacMillan, determined

to regain the confidence of his manager, picked up a loose ball from a corner and fired a shot high into the keeper's top right-hand corner of the net to make it 3-1 with 80 minutes played.

Strathglass were far from finished though and Barry Phimister got his second goal on 82 minutes to set up a frantic final few minutes.

Oban Celtic finished the tie as they started, on the front-foot, and when referee Deek Cameron blew for full-time, not many would argue the home team didn't deserve their win.

Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon was satisfied with his team's performance. Speaking after the tie, he said: 'I'm not surprised we got the win and that is no disrespect at all to a very good Strathglass side. I just know my players and whilst we haven't got the right results in recent weeks, we have competed in every game.

'This is a reward for the guys' efforts and if we land one of the big boys in the next round, we will enjoy it and take what we can from the game.

'The league is our bread and butter though and we hope to go close in that, but the squad we have can handle extra cup games.

A special mention is due to the boys on the bench today. 'They were behind the lads to a man and they know they have a huge part to play this season.

'On the pitch, Ally McKerracher was outstanding again. Wherever I play him, he is superb and he epitomises the work ethic I'm trying to introduce.

'Lewis MacPhee, at 16 years old, has a huge future if he keeps producing what he did today and Alan Mackie, who was also out of his comfort zone, performed well at full centre.'

Caberfeidh W/O v Glenorchy

Caberfeidh are through to the Camanachd Cup last-16 after they were given a walk-over when Glenorchy were unable to raise a team for their noon throw up at Castle Leod.

This is the second successive season Glenorchy have been unable to travel to Castle Leod to play Cabers in the Camanachd Cup.

They also forfeited last year when the sides were drawn together at the preliminary round stage.

Artemis Macaulay Cup – first round

Glenurquhart 0 Skye Camanachd 1

Skye Camanachd made it through to the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter-finals after they beat Glenurquhart 1-0 at Blairbeg.

Skye boss John MacLeod made five changes to the squad which lost 2-0 to Kyles Athletic at Tighnabraich a fortnight earlier. Jamie Gannon had recovered from a jarred knee and he replaced Iain MacLeod in goal. Will Cowie, Allan MacKinnon, Shockie MacLennan and Iain Nicolson all returned, taking over from Ally 'Cleodh' MacLeod, James Pringle, Iain MacLellan and Aonghas MacDonal.

Glen keeper Stuart MacKintosh twice saved from Danny Morrison and then with his hand from Jordan Murchison as Skye looked for an opener.

It came with just two first half minutes remaining when Shock-



Ross County's Roy MacGregor, with the Utilita League Cup, John MacRitchie, president of Lovat Shinty Club, current holders of the Camanachd Cup and Inverness Caley Thistle's Kenny Cameron with the William Hill Scottish Cup. Photo: Neil Paterson

Camanachd Cup - second round draw

THE DRAW for the second round of the 2016 Camanachd Cup competition was made on Monday at the Palace Hotel, Inverness. Making the draw were Kenny Cameron, chairman of Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Club, and Roy MacGregor, chairman of Ross County Football Club.

Three top trophies

Displayed at the draw alongside shinty's greatest prize, the Camanachd Cup, were Scottish football's Utilita League Cup, currently held by Ross County and The William Hill Scottish Cup, currently held by Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

This was the first time all three trophies had been shown together and held by teams in the Highlands.

Details of the draw are as follows: Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel
Fort William v Kilmallie/Aberdour
Lovat v Newtonmore
Kyles Athletic v Oban Celtic
Kingussie v Lochaber
Taynuilt/Glasgow Mid Argyll v Skye
Beaulieu v Inveraray
Oban Camanachd v Glenurquhart
Matches are scheduled to be played on Saturday May 28, with the exception of Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel - to be confirmed. The Camanachd Cup Final will take place at An Aird, Fort William, on Saturday September 17.

ie MacLennan found space and sent a waist-high rocket-shot past Glen keeper Stuart MacKintosh to make it 1-0.

Skye had keeper Jamie Gannon to thank for a good save with his feet just before the break.

Glenurquhart had a slight breeze in their favour in the second half and Neale Reid went close on 47 minutes with a shot that went just past the post.

Skye introduced Steven Morrison in place of Neil John Campbell on 50 minutes.

Jamie Gannon made the save of the game on 55 minutes when he stretched to keep out a Neale Reid pile-driver which was heading for the roof of the net.

The Glen kept in search of an equaliser with Skye making two more changes as first Will Cowie and then Allan MacKinnon came off the bench.

Skye almost doubled their lead when Jordan Murchison slipped his marker and headed for goal. But he was brought down on the edge of the 'D' and Glenurquhart saw off the threat from the resultant free-hit.

Skye Camanachd can now look forward to a derby meeting with Kinlochshiel at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, in the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter-finals on Saturday June 11.

Marine Harvest Premiership

Newtonmore 2 Kingussie 1

Newtonmore notched a second 2-1 Badenoch derby triumph in successive Saturdays, beating Kingussie at the Eilan.

'More edged last weekend's Artemis Macaulay Cup tie 2-1 at the Dell when they had Fraser MacKintosh back in their starting line-up in place of the injured Chris Sellar. There was also a starting place at full centre for Jamie Robinson who replaced Kenny Ross who played in the reserve team meeting between the sides the previous evening.

Norman Campbell was still sidelined as he recovers from a knee operation. Kingussie had Ryan Borthwick

back and he started at buckshee back in place of Louis Munro who was unavailable. Fraser Munro also returned after missing the previous week's game and he started at wing centre.

Kingussie had to make a change after just five minutes when Ryan Borthwick went over his problematic ankle. Jake MacPherson came on at wing back with Robert Mabon switching to wing back.

The opening stages were fairly even but it was 'More who made the break-through on 15 minutes when Iain Robinson fired a low shot from wide on the wing, past his marker James Falconer, with the ball taking a wicked bounce in front of Kingussie keeper Craig Dawson before it ended up in the back of the net.

Newtonmore pressed hard for a second and forced three good saves out of Craig Dawson and also hit the post.

Kingussie weathered the storm and created some chances of their own without being able to pull the trigger. Savio Genini went closest as the wing centre found space before sending a long-range effort over the bar.

Newtonmore doubled their lead on 34 minutes. The home side attacked, playing the ball down their right side. Too many Kingussie defenders were drawn to the ball and when it was crossed, Paul MacArthur was left unmarked to score from the edge of the 'D'.

There were few shots on target in the second half, with neither keeper having much to do.

Kingussie pulled a goal back on 87 minutes when Savio Genini, who played well in midfield, found space on the Kingussie left and fired the ball high into the net to make it 2-1.

Kingussie made a late push without getting shots on target, but it was Newtonmore who again got the job done with their defence once more proving to be very difficult to break down.

Both teams are in RBS MacTavish Cup semi-final action this coming weekend when Newtonmore host Glenurquhart at the Eilan whilst Kingussie

travel to Spean Bridge to play Lochaber.

Oban Camanachd 2 Lovat 1

Oban Camanachd are only behind leaders Newtonmore on goal difference after they came from behind to beat Lovat 2-1 at Mossfield.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up to mark the passing earlier in the week of Margarita MacPherson. Mrs MacPherson's son Alan MacPherson is a former Lovat player and committee member and his sons Alan MacPherson - who owns Tanera camans - and James MacPherson have both represented Lovat with the latter currently with Glenurquhart.

Greg Matheson put Lovat ahead on 10 minutes. Lorne MacKay picked the ball up on the wing and crossed to Greg Matheson who controlled the ball before shooting into the far corner of the net from 20 yards.

Andrew MacCuish levelled on 37 minutes when the visiting defence failed to clear an Aidan MacCuish cross.

The winning goal came on the stroke of half-time when Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald attempted to clear the ball. Connor Howe got himself between the ball and the keeper and referee Robert Baxter adjudged MacDonald to have played the ball whilst on the ground and pointed to the penalty spot. Lovat disputed the award, but Scott MacMillan kept his cool as he smashed the penalty to the keeper's left, giving him no chance.

Lorne Dickie was excellent for Oban Camanachd both on the wing and later in the centre line. Young Ross MacMillan played his first game of the season at half-back for the home side and turned in an excellent performance.

Lovat's injury woes increased as they lost defender Drew Howie during the first half with a shoulder injury which was later confirmed to be a broken collar-bone. Graeme MacMillan also picked up a knock. Oban

Camanachd confirmed after the match that they were donating the gate takings to the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund.

Kinlochshiel 2 Kyles Athletic 2

Kinlochshiel and Kyles Athletic shared the points in a 2-2 draw following an entertaining encounter at Kirkton.

Kyles, playing down the hill in the first half, took early control of the match and went in front on 10 minutes. Grant Irvine played a free-hit to Scott MacDonald on the Kyles left. He found Innes MacDonald who played the ball into the 'D'. 'Shiel failed to clear the danger and Dunkie Kerr picked out Kyles wing centre Robbie MacLeod darting in at the back post on the right and he slammed the ball low into the net to make it 1-0.

It took a flying Scott Kennedy save with his foot to keep out a low Scott MacDonald shot at his left post at the expense of a corner.

'Shiel had a chance to level on 40 minutes when a nice turn of pace from substitute Oliver MacRae set up a chance for Keith MacRae who shot goalwards from the edge of the 'D' but John Whyte saved with his legs.

The home side made a positional change at the break with John MacRae going to full forward and Duncan 'DA' Macrae moving to wing forward. This caused the Kyles defence problems and it was John MacRae who levelled on 61 minutes. MacRae was allowed too much space when he collected a Keith MacRae ball forward from midfield around 30 yards from goal and he sent a glorious drive high into the net to make it 1-1.

John MacRae then put Kinlochshiel in front on 69 minutes. John Whyte saved a Keith MacRae shot from the left but John MacRae was quickly onto the rebound to flick the ball into the net and it was the home side who now had their tails up.

Kyles absorbed some pressure before they conjured up an equaliser on 76 minutes. An-



Oban Camanachd's Garry Lord and Lovat's Euan Ferguson battle for the ball during last Saturday's Premiership match at Mossfield Stadium. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



drew King played the ball forward to Sandy MacKenzie who cut the ball back to the excellent Grant Irvine on the right. Irvine needed no second invitation as he crashed the ball into the top corner of the net, giving Scott Kennedy no chance on his left side.

There was a late melee for referee Evan MacRae to deal with and he showed yellow cards to John MacRae and Roddy MacDonald.

After the match, both camps recognised the result could have gone either way as whilst the first half belonged to Kyles Athletic, Kinlochshiel dominated the second period.

Third place Kyles are now a point off the top of the table, ahead of fourth place Kinlochshiel on goal difference.

Fort William 2 Lochaber 2

Fort William came from two goals down to draw their derby meeting with Lochaber in their 3pm throw up at An Aird.

Fort William played with a strong wind at their backs in the first half and enjoyed a lot of pressure, but the Lochaber defence stayed firm.

The Spean Bridge side had the elements in their favour after the break and took the lead just three minutes after the re-start. Ben Delaney latched onto a through-ball from Shaun Nicolson and rounded keeper Paul MacKay before knocking the ball into the net to make it 1-0.

Lochaber introduced substitute Danny Delaney mid-way through the second half and he made an immediate impact, scoring with his second touch of the game. Delaney controlled the ball with his first touch and struck the ball into the roof of the net from around 25 yards out on the right to make it 2-0.

Bryan Simpson got Fort William back in the match on 74 minutes. Lochaber missed chances to intercept the ball before it fell for Simpson and his shot deceived Callum MacDonald in the Lochaber goal to make it 2-1.

The goal lifted Fort William and they went on to have most of the pressure until they drew level through Dean Williamson just 10 minutes from time. Williamson, who had played for the Fort seconds against Skye Camanachd earlier in the day, came on as a second half substitute for Graham Campbell and scored shortly after taking the field.

Lochaber finished strongly as they went in search of a winner but Fort William held out and a draw was probably a fair result.

The draw gives Lochaber another valuable point and they remain seventh in the table. It gives Fort William their first point of the season which will raise spirits at An Aird.

Marine Harvest National Division

**Inverness 2
Glasgow Mid Argyll 5**
Glasgow Mid Argyll returned home from the Bught Park with both points after they beat

Inverness 5-2. GMA had 18 first team squad members available and travelled north with a pool of 15 players. It's the first time for some time that they have been able to call on such a rich resource.

GMA went ahead after 10 minutes when Somhairle MacDonald made a save and the ball kicked up into the air allowing Euan Forsyth to volley it into the net.

Charlie MacDonald equalised on 21 minutes with his third goal in four games.

The sides only remained level for 60 seconds though as GMA got themselves back in front when Calum McLay put the ball into the bottom left corner of the net.

Craig Anderson made it 3-1 on 55 minutes when he held off a couple of challenges before slipping the ball into the net from inside the 'D'.

Again it was only a minute before the next goal as James Cameron made it 3-2.

GMA were given the chance to restore their two-goal cushion on 58 minutes when referee Archie Ritchie penalised Somhairle MacDonald for a "kick" inside the 'D'. Craig Anderson stepped up to take the spot-hit and although MacDonald got a stick to the ball, the power of the strike forced the ball into the net to make it 4-2.

Garry Luke scored what was probably the goal of the game on 63 minutes. He gathered the ball into the net to make it 4-2. Garry Luke scored what was probably the goal of the game on 63 minutes. He gathered the ball into the net to make it 4-2.

The win means GMA go top of the table at Beaulys expense. Both teams have played five matches, but the Glasgow side have eight points - two more than the Braeview Park side.

Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Kingussie 1
Newtonmore 5**
The reserve team derby between Kingussie and Newtonmore took place at the Dell on Friday May 6 with a 7pm throw up.

A healthy crowd gathered for this clash and John MacKenzie shot More into a six minute lead. Darrin Fowler made it 2-0 on 25 minutes and John MacKenzie got his second on 33 minutes to make it 3-0 at half time.

Ruaridh Anderson found the back of the net for the third successive match on 52 minutes to give Kingussie hope, but there was to be no comeback.

Neil Stewart made it 4-1 on 72 minutes and there was still time for John MacKenzie to complete his hat-trick as he netted a minute from time to make it 5-1.

Newtonmore are now just a point behind league leaders Strathglass with both teams having one match to play to reach the mid-way mark in their respective league campaigns.

**Beaulys 3
Kinlochshiel 2**
The Beaulys colts continued on their good recent run, beating the Kinlochshiel colts 3-2

in their 3.30pm throw up at Braeview Park.

Marc MacLachlan scored his fourth goal in three matches to make it 1-0 on 18 minutes.

Martin Davidson made it 2-0 on 40 minutes but 'Shiel's Allan MacDiarmid reduced the deficit when he made it 2-1 on 56 minutes.

Robbie Brindle restored Beaulys' two-goal cushion on 71 minutes.

With 10 minutes remaining, there was a flash point for referee John Angus Gillies to deal with. A number of players from both teams were involved with the upshot being yellow cards for Beaulys' Marc MacLachlan and Douglas Campbell from Kinlochshiel. MacLachlan was immediately substituted.

Kinlochshiel came back again and Neil Fraser made it 3-2 on 86 minutes to set up a tense finish, but fourth place Beaulys saw out the closing stages to take the points.

**Lovat 2
Glenurquhart 0**
The reserve derby clash between the Lovat and Glenurquhart second teams had a noon throw up at Balgate.

Lovat took the lead on 10 minutes with Cameron MacMillan getting the goal.

And it was MacMillan again who made it 2-0 with just three first half minutes remaining.

Glenurquhart had chances but they found Ronan MacMillan in the Lovat goal to be a formidable barrier.

Referee Andy MacLean red-carded Lovat's Bailey MacKay and Glenurquhart's Bradley Sneddon.

The win lifts Lovat to sixth place in the table.

**Col Glen 1
Aberdour 1**

Col Glen and Aberdour shared the points in a 1-1 draw at Gledaruel.

Aberdour boss Lisa MacColl travelled with just 12 players as she was without John Martin Phillips, Craig Girvan, Alex Mitchell and the injured Tom Abbott as well as youngsters Jack Mitchell and Craig Grant who were studying for exams.

This was a scrappy encounter on a soft pitch and Aberdour striker Roddy MacColl hit the post as the teams battled it out for the opening goal.

The visitors went in front when another Roddy MacColl strike was saved but Chris Bowerman followed up to score from the rebound to make it 1-0 at the break.

Col Glen were on top for most of the second half and they levelled when Connor Kennedy collected the ball in space to score.

Despite Col Glen's possession, they struggled to trouble Tom Bowerman in the Aberdour goal.

Aberdour were probably content with the point given their absentees and the fact they travelled with just 12 players. They remain second in the league, two points ahead of third placed Oban Celtic but they have played two games more.

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**

**Aberdeen University 11
Strathspey Camanachd 0**
League leaders Aberdeen University were too strong for Strathspey Camanachd, winning 11-0 at Balgowrie.

Ewan Fraser on three minutes and an Alex Duncan double on six and eight minutes gave Aberdeen an early 3-0 lead.

Ewan Fraser got his second on 17 minutes and Stuart Cameron added a fifth a couple of minutes later.

Ewan Fraser completed his hat-trick on 21 minutes whilst Alex Duncan did likewise on 28 minutes to make it 7-0.

Kenny Cushnie added his name to the scoresheet on 39 minutes whilst Ewan Fraser got his fourth on 42 minutes to give the students an unassailable 9-0 lead at the break.

Strathspey Camanachd would have been relieved to have only conceded twice more in the sec-

low 20-yard shot into net. Pringle went on another mazy run a couple of minutes later; this time from the centre-line down the middle of the pitch, passing three Fort William players. Pringle was tackled and the ball broke to Iain MacLellan on the edge of the 'D' to send a low, hard shot into the net to make it 4-0.

Skye keeper Iain MacLeod made a fantastic save above head-height from a shot on the right to protect Skye's clean sheet.

Skye substitute Ross Nicolson rounded off the scoring five minutes from time. Nicolson found himself on the left corner of the pitch with three Fort players and James Pringle for company. He played a tight one-two with Pringle before dribbling the ball parallel with the by-line and, from 10 yards out, struck an unstoppable shot into top right corner of the net for what was a great goal.

The win gives Skye their first league points of the season although they have only had one home match in their opening six league fixtures.

Marine Harvest South Division 1

**Kyles Athletic 0
Lochside Rovers 1**
Table toppers Lochside Rovers beat the Kyles Athletic second team 1-0 in a tight encounter at Tighnabruach.

Lochside's Scott Dempster got the goal that mattered on 47 minutes.

Lochside now move two points clear of second placed Aberdour, although they have played two matches more.

**Col Glen 1
Aberdour 1**

Col Glen and Aberdour shared the points in a 1-1 draw at Gledaruel.

Aberdour boss Lisa MacColl travelled with just 12 players as she was without John Martin Phillips, Craig Girvan, Alex Mitchell and the injured Tom Abbott as well as youngsters Jack Mitchell and Craig Grant who were studying for exams.

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Bute's Arran Dunn, left, and Beaulys' Jack MacDonald in action during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup first round tie which the green and whites won 7-0. Photo: Donald Cameron

ond half as Alex Duncan got his fourth on 56 minutes to give the home side double figures whilst Cameron Thomson completed the scoring when he made it 11-0 on 77 minutes.

Aberdeen University stay ahead of the Lochaber seconds and Lochcarron on goal difference whilst also having played a game fewer.

Lochaber 2 Inverness 0

The Lochaber second team beat the Inverness second team 2-0 at Spean Bridge.

Keith Neville gave Lochaber the lead after half an hour when he played a one-two with Kirsty Delaney before striking the ball home.

The home side had keeper Bryn Whittaker to thank for a penalty save before the interval and they took their single goal advantage into the break.

Lochaber pushed Ryan Toal to buckshee forward in the second half and the switch paid off as he netted to make it 2-0.

Lochaber trail league leaders Aberdeen University on goal difference, although they have played a game more.

Glenangary 1 Lochcarron 2

Lochcarron stay third in the league after they beat Glenangary 2-1 at Craigard.

Liam Arnot gave the visitors a 22-minute lead but a Kenneth Henderson goal on 42 minutes tied the teams at the break.

The winning goal came on 67 minutes when Lochcarron's Alan MacKay found the back of the net.

Lewis Camanachd 0 Kilmallie 5

Lewis Camanachd played their first home match of the season when they welcomed the Kilmallie second team to Shawbost. There was to be no victory parade though as Kilmallie, who had the wind in their favour in the first half, led 4-0 at the break before eventually running out 5-0 victors.

Donald MacRae scored twice for the visitors as did Aaron Sandison who travelled as there was no Kilmallie first team fixture. Iain Beagrie was also on target.

Kilmallie had the ball in the

net for a sixth time but the effort was ruled out for offside by referee John Matheson after consultation with the goal judge.

Caberfeidh 4 Boleskine 2

The Caberfeidh second team beat Boleskine 4-2 in their noon throw up at Castle Leod.

Cabers quickly settled into the match and Colin MacLennan gave them a four minute lead.

James Rolfe made it 2-0 on 25 minutes and added a third seven minutes later.

James Rolfe completed his hat-trick on 51 minutes to make it 4-0.

Craig Pirrie pulled a goal back for Boleskine a minute later and although the visitors benefited from a Neil Rose own goal on 82 minutes, Cabers ran out 4-2 winners.

Cabers stay fourth in the table, five points ahead of fifth placed Boleskine who have played two matches fewer.

Marine Harvest South Division 2

**Kilmory 12
Dunoon Camanachd 0**

Third placed Kilmory were too strong for new-boys Dunoon Camanachd as they recorded the biggest win of the day, triumphing 12-0 at MacRae Park.

Alex Cunningham and Hal Jones were Kilmory's top scorers, netting four times each.

Ally Cunningham and Craig Taylor bagged doubles to seal the win.

Aberdour 0 Oban Lorn 2

Oban Lorn climb to fourth place in the table after they beat a young Aberdour second team 2-0 at Silver Sands.

A David Martin goal on 32 minutes gave Oban Lorn a 1-0 half-time lead.

When referee Ross Brown pointed to the penalty spot on 56 minutes, David Martin took responsibility to score to make it 2-0 and grab the points.

Bute P Tayforth P

The match between league leaders Tayforth and the Bute second team at the Meadows will be rescheduled for a later date.

Fixtures

Saturday May 14

RBS MacTavish Cup Semi Final

Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
Graham Cameron - 1pm
Lochaber v Kingussie
Evan MacRae

Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Cup Semi Final

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Inveraray
Robert Baxter - 3pm

Camanachd Cup 1st Round

Kilmallie v Aberdour
Ronnie Campbell - 3pm

Balliemore Cup 1st Round

Oban Celtic v Glenorchy
Lachie Wood

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

Newtonmore v Skye
Calum Girvan - 3.30pm

Strathdearn Cup 1st Round

Inverness v Kingussie
Brian MacKay

Glenangary v Glenurquhart
Ross Brown

Bullough Cup 1st Round

Tayforth v Lochside Rovers
David Mitchell

Dunoon v Aberdour
Jim Innes

Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
Jon Gallagher

Glasgow MA v SCOTS Caman
Ewan MacDonald - noon

Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William v Kyles Athletic
John Angus Gillies

Kinlochshiel v Oban Caman
Archie Ritchie - 3pm

Skye v Lovat
Deck Cameron

Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish v Inverness
Martin MacLean

Bute v Caberfeidh
Innes Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kinlochshiel v Strathglass
Willie MacDonald - noon

Lovat v Fort William
Callum Duff

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Taynuilt v Col Glen
John Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Aberdeen Uni Andy
MacLean

Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Iain Kennedy - noon

Strathspey v Lochaber
John Matheson - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Kilmory v Bute
Scot McNeil - 2pm

Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

Results

Friday May 6

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Kingussie 1-5 Newtonmore

Saturday May 7

Camanachd Cup 1st Round

Caberfeidh P-P Glenorchy
Glenorchy unable to field a team,
walkover to Caberfeidh

Beaulys 7-0 Bute
Inveraray 7-0 Ballachulish
Oban Celtic 3-2 Strathglass

Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round

Glenurquhart 0-1 Skye

Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William 2-2 Lochaber
Kinlochshiel 2-2 Kyles Athletic
Newtonmore 2-1 Kingussie
Oban Camanachd 2-1 Lovat

Marine Harvest National Division

Inverness 2-5 Glasgow MA

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulys 3-2 Kinlochshiel
Lovat 2-0 Glenurquhart
Fort William 0-5 Skye

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Col Glen 1-1 Aberdour
Kyles Athletic 0-1 Lochside

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni 11-0 Strathspey
Caberfeidh 4-2 Boleskine
Glenangary 1-2 Lochcarron

Lewis 0-5 Kilmallie
Lochaber 2-0 Inverness

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 0-2 Oban Lorn
Bute P v P Tayforth

To be rescheduled
Kilmory 12-0 Dunoon



Ballachulish goalkeeper Cameron Sutherland can only look on as the ball whistles past him and into the net during the Camanachd Cup first round tie against Inveraray at the Winterton which the home side won 7-0. Photo: Stephen Lawson



Oban Lorne Clubman of the Year Willie Malone, centre, with club captain Cameron Smith, left, and guest speaker Jason White.



Players Player of the Year - Craig Wright.



First XV Player of the Year and top scorer with 13 tries - Tommy Sutherland.

Argyll and Bute football clubs reach quality marks Youth Football

TWO football clubs from Argyll and Bute have been awarded the Scottish Football Association's (SFA) Standard Quality Mark award.

Lochnell FC from Benderloch and Port Ellen Juniors FC from Islay have been working through the SFA Quality Mark Scheme criteria over the last few months with help and assistance from Argyll and Bute Council's football development officer, Martin Rae.

The scheme supports and recognises the work of clubs that have the desire to be the very best they can be.

Increasing participation in football, driving high standards and increasing the development of the players, coaches and volunteers are the main aims the clubs have been working towards.

Scottish AFL results and fixtures Football

LAST Wednesday's result: Jimmy Marshall Cup, quarter final - Kings Park Rangers 2, Oban Saints 2. Saints won 4-3 on penalties

Saturday's results: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils no game; East Kilbride Rolls Royce 1, Oban Saints 3; Premier Division One - Dunoon 4, Easthall Star 3; Lochgilphead Red Star v Kilbowie Union, unfulfilled fixture; Premier Division Two - Tarbert 3, Rutherglen 3.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - East Kilbride v Oban Saints; Finnart v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division One - Motherwell Thistle v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Duncraig FP v Tarbert; Division One - Dunoon Athletic v Carlton YM.

Oban Saints' youth results and fixtures Youth Football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 2, Drumchapel 0. Both were own goals. Under 14s 4, Drumchapel Utd. 2. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacPhee (3) and Craig Millar. Under 14s 3, PFD United 2. Saints' scorers were Euan Finlay, Aaron McKay and Aidan MacPhee. Helensburgh 2, Under 15s 2. Sains scorers were Sol Smith and Keir MacLean. Under 16s no game; Milngavie 1, Under 19s 2. On target for Saints were Connor Howe and Liam Higgins.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Ardencaple; Milngavie BC v Under 14s; Under 15s v Dumbarton United; Under 16s no game; Under 19s no game.

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Heavy defeat for Oban Lorne

Garnock	50
Oban Lorne	10
BT West Division 1	

OBAN Lorne's poor finish to the 2015/16 season continued on Saturday with a heavy defeat away to relegation candidates Garnock RFC.

The Green Machine were hoping for a positive result to halt a run of three consecutive defeats after a positive season where the team have already secured fourth place in the league.

Coach Corrie Louw was again missing a few key players to the squad including captain Cameron Smith and his brother Struan, Dave McCabe and Andrew

MacDougall also missed out while a few players were forced to start the game carrying on-going injuries.

Oban started the game very well and went 3-0 up with a well-taken penalty from Finlay Carmichael. The hosts, however, who had to win to survive relegation, came back immediately, aided by some very poor missed tackling in the Oban defence to take a 5-3 lead.

This proved to be the pattern of play for the rest of the game as Oban were second best in all aspects of play against a hungry and more match fit Garnock team.

The home side ran in a further

four scores before half time for a 29-3 lead. The try count continued to rise for the hosts in the second half, scoring a further three to take a very comfortable 50-3 lead. Oban did hit back in the last 10 minutes with a try from Callum MacLachlan to give a final score of 50-10.

The Green Machine were left extremely disappointed after the game by what was probably the poorest performance of the season. Credit must go, however, to Garnock who have put in a huge effort over the past few weeks to raise a much stronger team than previously this season and put together a strong run of results to break free from the

relegation places. Oban Lorne's season has now come to an end with this Saturday's scheduled home match to Cambuslang unlikely to go ahead. If the match does get played it will be held at North Connel with a 3pm KO.

Cambuslang have failed to raise a team for this fixture over the past month and it is highly likely the same will happen again.

Club dinner and awards night

OBAN Lorne RFC hosted a very successful annual dinner and awards night in the clubhouse last Saturday. Players, coaches, volunteers, members,

Oban cricketers bowled over at Carradale

Carradale 75 for 6 Oban 74

CARRADALE cricketers hit out to beat Oban in what was often a 'ponderous' game in their season opening friendly.

During last Saturday's heavy rain it was hard to imagine willow thwacking leather but Sunday dawned fine and warmed up to shirtsleeves weather, albeit for a game on a slow, almost mossy wicket. Carradale lost the toss and elected to field leaving Oban to bat conservatively towards their total.

A Carradale Cricket Club spokesman said: 'It was all fairly ponderous; Oban's openers were very cautious, playing straight strokes conserving wickets.'

'For the majority of their innings their run rate was one or so per over. Their best batsman was Andrew Leach, striking lots of shots down the leg side on a wicket which was damp with Saturday's rain.'

'Our captain, Alistair 'Stan' McMillan, organised Carradale in his usual laid back manner. 'The wicket gave a bit of vari-

able bounce and some spin but the ball tended to go low. It was not coming through which tended to hinder attacking strokes.'

'Most of the wickets fell to catches because batsmen became frustrated.'

As Oban came on to field, in true Argyll cricketing fashion, the home side lent them two fielders as a pair of players had to leave early.

Carradale's James Cairns, declared man of the match, was the team's longest lived batsman scoring 33 until he was bowled

Cricket

by Belshaw. Cairns was lucky with his classic batting as he was twice dropped off what should have been straight forward catches. Khan was the visitor's most effective bowler and in eight overs hardly gave a run away due to his accuracy.

Jacob Barnsley was also very effective for Oban, taking three wickets and making the Carradale batsmen work extremely hard to grind out the runs.



Lochnell Football Club are hoping that the generosity of a local business will provide a 'magic carpet' for future success on and off the field. Oban Floorshop stepped in to sponsor the Benderloch club's 04 team, who play in the Oban Primary Football League, part of the deal being a brand new playing kit. Some of the players are pictured with Lorraine MacPherson of the Floorshop.

Gearbox woes return for McPhee

CONNEL'S John McPhee was forced to contend with a reoccurrence of gearbox problems which once again prevented significant progress at Le Mans.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider, starting from 25th on the grid, was soon embroiled in a tussle with Peugeot MC Saxoprint team mate Alexis Masbou and MH6 Team/KTM rider Maria Herrera, soon after the start of the race.

With McPhee reporting that the handling of his bike was better than during the practise and qualifying sessions earlier in the weekend, his concerns switched to the return of a malfunctioning gearbox.

As at previous events this season, the Scottish rider was forced to contend with a stiff gearbox which missed gears.

With McPhee, Masbou and Herrera repeatedly switching places via a suitable slipstream, there were no opportunities to progress with the time margin to Bo Bendsneyder (Red Bull/KTM) and Jorge Martin (Aspar/

Mahindra) ahead, increasing each lap to more than 14 seconds by the chequered flag.

McPhee lost out on his 19th place to Masbou on the sprint to

Motorcycling

the line, to end the race in 20th position.



John McPhee, No 17, leads his team mate Alexis Masbou at Le Mans last Sunday. Photograph: Bonnie Lane

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WEATHER

Thursday	Sunny Winds light north north easterly Temperatures 9°C to 19°C.
Friday	Sunny Winds light north north easterly Temperatures 5°C to 13°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds moderate north north westerly Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday May 12, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	03.51	1.1	09.34	3.1	15.57	1.1	21.43	3.2	Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	04.51	1.4	10.43	2.8	16.53	1.3	22.47	3.0	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	06.04	1.6	12.37	2.7	17.55	1.5	** ** *	**	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	00.21	2.9	07.35	1.7	13.53	2.8	19.05	1.5	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	01.50	2.9	08.48	1.6	14.44	2.9	20.16	1.5	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	02.44	3.1	09.37	1.5	15.22	3.1	21.15	1.4	Ferry Crossings/Sea States			
Wed	03.25	3.2	10.15	1.4	15.56	3.3	22.01	1.3	Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
									Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
									Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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THE FRINGE

your guide to what's going on in and around Oban Live



Dismay as cuts sees inn pull plug on public toilet scheme

Drivers face A82 roadworks

TWO SECTIONS of the A82 in Glencoe are to be upgraded in the coming weeks.

All approaches to the roundabout at Ballachulish are to be resurfaced.

While work to remove the existing surface took place this week, the start date for laying the new surface has still to be confirmed by BEAR or Transport Scotland, but it is hoped to be completed by Friday May 20. Meanwhile, carriageway resurfacing is to take place 1km south of Bridge of Orchy and 1km south of Ba Bridge between Tuesday May 31 and Friday June 3.

The road will remain open while work takes place, with a 10mph convoy system in place between 7am and 7pm. Out-with these hours, there will be no convoy but a 30mph speed limit will be in place.

Upgrade work on the right path

THE FIRST phase of an ambitious project to repair and upgrade the lower half of the Ben Nevis mountain path has been completed.

Managed by Nevis Landscape Partnership, the whole project aims to upgrade the path from Achintee to John's Wall and this year will focus on a difficult middle section in need of attention before the busy summer season. The last few years have seen the whole path fall into a severe state of disrepair. Without intervention, this would worsen over time and cause serious problems for people as well as being detrimental to sensitive habitats.



Lord Faulkner flags off the train with James Shuttleworth of West Coast Railways.

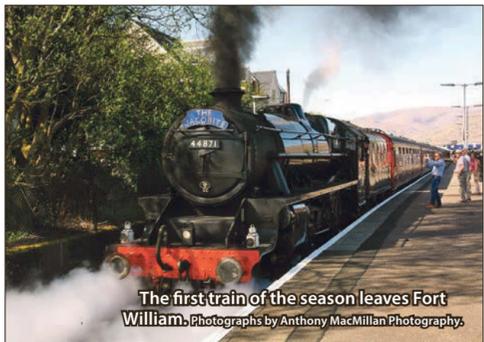
Steam train back on track

THE JACOBITE Steam train pulled out of Fort William railway station for its first trip this season on Monday.

The journey, widely regarded as one of the best in the world, brings in tens of thousands of visitors each year.

Lord Faulkner of Worcester, former advisor to the British Railways board and former deputy speaker of the House of Commons, flagged off the train.

Fern Britton, who was visiting the area for a book signing and charity cycle, was on this first train.



The first train of the season leaves Fort William. Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

ELLIE FORBES

fort@obantimes.co.uk

A ROW has broken out over the closure of public toilets serving people using the Corran ferry.

Public toilets in the area are open under the Highland Council Comfort Scheme, whereby the council pays private establishments to open their toilets to the public. The scheme has been running since 1996.

But recent changes to the terms of the scheme have left participating businesses frustrated and has resulted in the closure of the public toilets on the Ardgour side of the Corran ferry.

To date the scheme has paid varying rates to proprietors opening toilets to the public, however, in a bid for equality, the council decided to offer a flat rate to businesses in the comfort scheme once existing leases have ended, meaning businesses have seen a reduction in the money they receive.

The Inn at Ardgour, which is part of the comfort scheme, has been in a lease agreement with the council for 15 years. But its lease ran out in April.

Under the previous lease the Inn had received £800 a month from the comfort scheme.

But partner and general manager of the Inn, Luke Alexander, told *The Oban Times* that he received a letter from the council notifying him that his lease was up for renewal and that the new terms of the contract - £250 a

“I know they are vital but I can't be out of pocket £600 a month”

Luke Alexander
Inn at Ardgour

month for seven months of the year - were non negotiable. Mr Alexander claims there was no prior warning that the rate he previously received would change.

He said: 'I tried to contact the council to discuss the new contract, but I got no response.'

'I sent emails and left messages. I called five times over a 10-day period, but no-one got back to me.'

'I didn't want to close the toilets. I don't want to close the toilets, because I know they are vital for people, but I can't be out of pocket £600 a month.'

A Highland Council spokesperson, said: 'Mr Alexander did not have to enter into his new contract but the council could not continue to pay the rate he was receiving.'

The spokesperson added: 'The council does not have a statutory obligation to have public toilets.'

'The council is now looking to provide a flat rate for businesses in the comfort scheme



LOCHABER FOOD ON LOCHABER PLATES!

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Window tribute to Charles Kennedy

A YEAR on from his death, a stained glass window is to be unveiled in memory of the late Charles Kennedy.

The window will be in St John's Church in Caol, where Mr Kennedy was a worshipper.

The former leader of the Liberal Democrat Party was MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber from when the constituency was created in 2005 until the 2015 general election when he lost his seat to SNP'S Ian Blackford, just weeks before his death.

The window will not only be in Mr Kennedy's memory, but also a tribute to his late parents, Ian and Mary, who played music for the church for more than 40 years.

Father Roddy MacAuley, St John's parish priest, said: 'The window will bring glory to God and is a very fitting and long-lasting tribute to Charles and his parents. It is very beautiful and there's a lot of rich symbolism. It was made by Artisan Stained Glass in Perth.'

The window cost approximately £7,500 with much of this coming from donations. Father Roddy added: 'People have been very generous and donations are still coming in.'

The window is already in place but will not be unveiled until Wednesday June 1, the date of the anniversary of Mr Kennedy's death, during a special service. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome, with the service starting at 7pm.



Father Roddy MacAuley in front of the window that will be replaced with the one in memory of the Kennedys.

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Forum calls for CalMac bosses to resign as ferry row erupts

ELLIE FORBES
reporter@obantimes.co.uk

SLEAT Transport Forum is calling for the resignation of two of Caledonian MacBrayne's senior managers after a meeting was held to discuss on-going disruption to the Mallaig-Armadale ferry service.

Chaired by Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, the meeting was sparked by an outcry from ferry users about the inadequacy and unreliability of the three vessels currently being used in place of the *MV Coruisk*.

Around 80 people attended the public gathering last Wednesday (May 4), which was held at the Clan Donald Centre.

The meeting called for the resignation of managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne Martin Dorchester and Drew Collier, director of operations, after claims that they



The *MV Coruisk* which has been withdrawn from the Mallaig-Armadale route.

had failed to provide fit-for-purpose vessels and because of their refusal to meet with community representatives.

The forum also requested the immediate return of the *MV Coruisk* to the route.

Talking to *The Oban Times* after the meeting, Mr Blackford said: 'People are speaking

with a clear voice. I join with those at the meeting in calling for the immediate reinstatement of the *Coruisk* and for Mr Dorchester and Mr Collier to accept their responsibilities for the shambles that has become the Mallaig-Armadale service and resign.'

Since October of last year,

the forum has been petitioning CalMac, Transport Scotland and the Minister for Transport and Islands to reverse the decision to use three separate ferries and redeploy the *MV Coruisk*.

The forum claimed that the revised timetable imposed by the company was flawed and would not provide the level of service and reliability that had been provided on the route for the past 12 years.

The group said it warned CalMac that the use of two vessels that are unable to operate at low tides would cause significant disruption during the summer schedule.

However, it claims the company carried on without sharing operational information with Transport Scotland officials.

A spokesperson for Caledonian MacBrayne said: 'We believe that the tidal restrictions are manageable and, in response to Sleat Transport

Forum's concerns, are currently developing an amended timetable which will improve reliability on the Mallaig to Armadale, Isle of Skye route.'

'Even with the cancellations which have occurred, increased capacity means that record levels of traffic are being carried on the route.'

'During the first six weeks of operation, passenger numbers are up by 17 per cent, cars up 26 per cent - more than 1,250 extra vehicles transported to the island - and the important coach travel tourism trade is up by six per cent on the same period last year.'

Mr Blackford said: 'I have been in recent discussions with the chief executive officer of Caledonian MacBrayne to voice my strong dissatisfaction with the level of service on the Mallaig-Armadale route, and the shambles that has arisen due to the company's decision to remove the tried and tested *MV Coruisk*, whilst it has been

replaced with vessels that are simply not fit for purpose on this route.'

'According to the Sleat transport forum, out of 428 planned sailings in April 2015, the vessel completed 426 of these sailings with only two cancellations.'

'In the period from March 25 to April 23 there were 56 cancellations out of 516 planned sailings,' he said.

'The contrast from the service level of the *MV Coruisk* and the replacement vessels is stark to say the least.'

Mr Blackford said that the ferry disruption was having a damaging impact on local businesses: 'Having been contacted by many businesses and individuals from Skye and the mainland, it is clear to me that the impact of the disruption has been affecting business.'

'For example, coach visits to Clan Donald in Sleat are down by 25 per cent over the prior year.'

Alasdair Allan returned as MSP

THE SNP's Alasdair Allan was returned as MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar having received 6,874 votes, more than all of the other parties combined.

The results came in early on Friday morning (May 6), just as the picture nationally was beginning to show a very strong result for the SNP, and for another Scottish Government led by Nicola Sturgeon.

Mr Allan commented: 'The greatest privilege I have ever had is to be elected MSP for the islands, and my awareness of that does not diminish with time. I would like to thank not only the 52 per cent of islanders who voted for me, but everyone who turned out - my job is to work for everyone in the islands, which is what I intend to do.'

'I would like to pay particular thanks to my team of hard working SNP activists who, over many months, have worked tirelessly to ensure this historic victory.'

'Nationally, the SNP has managed to win the highest share of the constituency vote and the largest number of constituency seats ever achieved by any party in a Scottish Parliament election. The SNP is winning for a reason. That is because the SNP fights Scotland's corner, at a time when the UK Government clearly doesn't care.'

'There is plenty to be done both locally, after MSPs are sworn in, and by the incoming Scottish Government, when that is formed and I am greatly looking forward to the work ahead.'



Alasdair Allan MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar shortly after the declaration.

Councillor urges action on Skye health care future

A HIGHLAND councillor is urging the Scottish Government and NHS Highland to do more to meet health and policy needs for the Isle of Skye.

Angela MacLean, who came second for Lib Dems in last week's election, is calling for the two bodies to work together and set up an independent panel. Councillor MacLean's intention is to increase interaction with communities on Skye whom she believes have been 'utterly failed' up until now.

She said: 'Having carefully considered the issue and spoken with many local people, I have come to the conclusion that NHS Highland and the Scottish Government have failed to listen and engage with communities on Skye.'

Councillor MacLean's main grievance relates to the decision to close Portree Hospital.

She said: 'Before taking the decision to close an essential local service - especially the only major hospital in the north of Skye - a full public consultation should take place, a detailed assessment

should be made available to communities and the views of local people should carry meaningful weight.'

'It's not good enough to just make savings, or provide convenience for the NHS. The review should assess the impact on people's lives, the future for communities and the local economy.'

The reduction of amenities on Skye has been an ongoing bone of contention and has resulted in the creation of Save Our Services (SOS) campaign but the councillor believes the fight for Portree does not have to be over just yet.

She said: 'There is still time for the health minister, the SNP and NHS Highland to show they care about the views of people on Skye and commit to an independent review. Local people have made it very clear their concerns have not been listened to. It's easy to close a hospital but much, much harder to rebuild it once it's gone. Everyone on Skye deserves to have reliable and safe access to emergency health care.'

Lochside pupils' Fairtrade cheer



THE CHILDREN of Lochside Primary School have held on to their Fairtrade Fair Achiever award for another year.

The primary was the first school in the Highlands to achieve Fairtrade status six years ago.

The Fairtrade Committee was delighted to receive the award, which is the top award from the Fairtrade Foundation UK.

The school continues to support and promote Fairtrade issues through its global citizenship projects, holding Fairtrade activities throughout the year.

And the school has shared its good practise with others in the area.

Its next event is a Fairtrade Football Match with Bunscoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar on Tuesday May 17.

Lochside Primary School's Fairtrade committee which has secured the Fairtrade Fair Achiever award for another year. 21_F20 Fair Achiever Award!

New premises for Lochaber Hope

A LOCHABER support group hopes to be in its new premises, Dalnahaine, the old Nevis Bank Nursery Building, in June.

A Lochaber Hope spokesperson said: 'We are very excited about our move and keen to grow the counselling and employability support and start the new projects we have planned including a women's space, mums and babies and social and well-being. Too many people have invisible conditions and illnesses and we want to make provisions for people with patience, understanding and opportunities to share and develop skills and learning.'

Lochaber Hope has raised £15,000 of its £20,000 target and would be delighted to receive 'in kind' support for alterations to the new building, such as flooring, lighting, sanitary ware or paint.

Anyone wishing to make such a donation should call Lochaber Hope on 01397 705077.

Ceilidh boosts care home funds

A FORT William group has been raising money for a residents' home on Skye.

The group held a ceilidh in the West End Hotel and raised £500 for the Acarasaid home in Broadford.

Glengarry girls' shinty team

LAST week's Oban Times ran a photograph of Glengarry girls' shinty team.

The piece was inadvertently captioned 'hockey' team. We apologise for this error.



Diezel MacLean, 7, takes to the roped climbing wall.

Scaling new heights at Three Wise Monkeys

FORT William's first indoor climbing centre, Three Wise Monkeys Climbing, opened last week in the former MacIntosh Memorial Church.

There were several events on throughout the opening week, starting with the ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday May 4, performed by mountain guide and ambassador for mountain culture Mick Tighe.

There were also bouldering competitions, including a youth competition which saw youngsters from all over Scotland make the journey to compete as well as a good turnout of Lochaber residents. Managing director Oliver Millington was 'really pleased' at how the opening had gone. He said: 'It's been fantastic so far. We've had more than 1,000 people through the door already and I think it's been really well received.'

Community group seeks new homes funding

A COMMUNITY group is seeking major investment to deliver vital new affordable and sheltered homes and a village centre hub to boost business.

Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) has already bought land and now hopes to find the final cash backing for the £2m scheme. There has been widespread public support for the plans since their inception and offers of land for sale from Forestry Commission Scotland, Ardtornish Estate and a private individual.

MCDC development officer Lilia Dobrokhodova said: 'MCDC would like to thank every person and organisation who have helped in one

way or another so far and would like to take this opportunity to invite the community to approach MCDC for any housing needs they might have.'

The current plans, which have been submitted to Highland Council for planning permission, include three three-bedroom houses, three two-bedroom houses and two self-build plots which would be rented to Morvern people at an affordable rate.

There are also plans for a village centre site with three one-bedroom houses for elderly residents and a community building for a heritage centre, gift shop, tea rooms and offices for businesses. Help with the land purchase came from various sources.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) approached MCDC about acquiring land owned by the Forestry Commission adjacent to Dailrainich, opposite Lochaline Primary School.

A private individual offered to sell part of his garden and Ardtornish estate also agreed to sell some of its adjacent land. MCDC successfully applied to FCS's National Forest Land Scheme to buy land.

Following this it secured £127,000 from Big Lottery's Scottish Land Fund, which together with a donation of £5,850 from Morvern Community Trust, covered the costs of this land as well as a site adjacent to the old Scout Hut.

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Mull group votes no confidence in ambulance cover

SANDY NEIL
snell@obantimes.co.uk

ROSS of Mull residents have no confidence in the island's ambulance cover, according to a vote held at a public meeting with the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and NHS Highland.

Seventy residents crowded into Bunessan Hall on Monday to voice their frustrations and fears about Mull's medical emergency response times, before further question and answer sessions in Craignure, Tobermory and Dervaig.

"Take it back to [health minister] Shona Robison that the community has no confidence in the ambulance service," declared Argyll and Bute Councillor Mary-Jean Devon from Tobermory.

Beforehand, Ross of Mull and Iona Patient Participation Group campaigners had decked the hall with banners saying 'we do not feel safe', 'listen to us, together with a nine-point 'we need...' list, with 'resident GP', 'integrated emergency transport' and a 'resident practice nurse' topping the list.

On the tables lay Mull and Iona Medical Group leaflets describing an integrated 'hub and spoke' model for primary care services, with 'spoke' GP practices in Salen, Tobermory, Iona and the Ross of Mull, and an out-of-hours GP based at the community hospital 'hub' in Craignure.

The SAS, meanwhile, is based wherever duty paramedics live.

Resident Janet Schofield began: 'Our problem is fitting this model with the geography of Mull.'

'I don't think it's going to work in real life.'

Another added: 'People here don't feel safe because they will not get out-of-hours emergency care within an hour.'

Anne Baxter asked: 'There will be one doctor on call for Mull and Iona at night and out of hours? Is this correct?'

'Yes,' replied Dr Richard Wilson, Primary Care Clinical Lead for the Oban, Lorn and Isles Locality, to gasps.

Dr Wilson and SAS managers Andy Brady and Kenny McFadzean presented examples of how the model would best respond to medical emergencies.

Dr Wilson told the meeting: 'We're trying to make sure there is a clinically proper answer to each scenario.'

But a resident asked: 'If someone has a stroke in Bunessan, what's your time estimate before someone who is medically qualified turns up at your door?'

'Thirty-five minutes,' Mr Brady replied, to laughter.

During the meeting Councillor Devon said there had been five 999 calls within a couple of hours of each other.

The latest incident was three weeks ago when an ambulance took an hour to get to a 5am call from Bunessan and then took two hours to get to a second call in Tobermory at 7am.

'According to SAS stats it never, ever happens,' Councillor

Devon said. 'Your statistics do not reflect what is happening here.'

Anne Baxter asked the hall: 'Who doesn't feel safe with the ambulance cover that's being proposed?' Almost everyone raised their hands.

Councillor Devon explained that a year ago residents had voted 81 per cent in favour of a 'community option' for health-care, proposed in a two-day 'options appraisal' with the SAS and NHS Highland.

'At the end of day one the community option was way ahead,' she said.

'Then on day two an SAS accountant said it would cost £200,000 more. We discovered afterwards these were flawed figures.'

[Health minister] Shona Robison asked how we had an option there that we hadn't asked for.

'It was there as a baseline, because it had the highest risk and the lowest benefit. And what have we got? [The option we didn't ask for.] The decision was made on a flawed procedure. The community has no comfort, no trust.'

The health secretary's press office told *The Oban Times* 'a fresh mechanism for discussions' was being finalised.

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568000

Samaritan makes Adam's day



Adam was 'chuffed' and excited to be presented with the signed basketball.

STAFF and pupils at Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch have gone global in their search for the good Samaritan who donated a basketball signed by the Harlem Globetrotters to a young pupil watching the game in Glasgow last week.

Eleven-year-old Adam Hutchison, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, was among 30 P5-7 pupils, all members of Lochnell Primary's After School Sports Club, who travelled with their teachers to the SSE Hydro in Glasgow to watch the exhibition basketball team perform.

Susan Simpson, one of the kitchen staff at Lochnell, picked up the story, saying: 'At the end of the event, before getting back in the bus, the pupils were gathered outside the Hydro for a sports' club photo

when a young gentleman, perhaps in his 20s, ran out from the centre and handed a signed basketball to one of our pupils, Adam Hutchison, who was sitting in his wheelchair for the photo and said: 'There you go, bud, then disappeared.'

'This amazingly kind young Glasgow lad had obviously been standing for ages in line to have his ball signed yet in a wonderful act of kindness passed it on to Adam.'

In the hope of being able to say thank you in person to the young man, Susan made an appeal on her Facebook page, which has now gone viral.

Like all the children, Adam was buzzing when he got home. His mum Angela told *The Oban Times*: 'Adam was really chuffed. It was such a lovely gesture from the young

guy and especially because it was given to my wee boy. He was hyper when he came home.'

The pupils' PE teacher Thomas McCulloch said: 'A group of boys came out and one gave the ball to Adam in his wheelchair, and just wandered off.'

'There were hundreds in the queue for autographs, so they must have been waiting for ages.'

Shirley Matheson, Lochnell head teacher, added: 'It was really heart-warming. Adam had had a great day already but this just put a tin hat on it.'

Susan added: 'Can you help us by sharing this and seeing if we find the young man?'

'From all the pupils and staff at Lochnell, a great big, from the heart, thank you.'

MILAG calls it a day over library cuts

AN ACTION group set up to reverse the changes Argyll and Bute Council is making to library services on Mull - the removal of the mobile library and the school librarian at Tobermory High School - is calling it a day.

A group spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'As a result of taking legal advice and to avoid a possible waste of public money, Mull and Iona Libraries Action Group (MILAG) has taken the difficult decision not to pursue a judicial review.'

'MILAG is grateful for all the support it has received from those on and off the island but, with a heavy heart, it does not feel it is qualified to negotiate with the council following a budget cut decision it so profoundly disagrees with.'

Premier Inn given green light in Oban

A PLAN to build an 81-bedroom Premier Inn in Oban, by demolishing the disused bowling alley in Shore Street, has been approved by Argyll and Bute Council.

The planning application, submitted by the hotel brand's owner Whitbread PLC in November, is for a four-storey building of contemporary design with a restaurant and bar and 90 car parking spaces on the 0.88 acre site.

Work begins on new high school

INITIAL preparatory work for the new Oban High School building is under way.

Argyll and Bute Council plans to hold a sod cutting event towards the end of June.



Advertorial

Building a Strong Foundation

Foundation Apprenticeships will soon be available to High School pupils in Argyll in subjects including Engineering, Health and Social Care, IT Software and Business Skills, in partnership with Argyll College UHI.

Colin Buchanan, Foundation Apprenticeships Regional Manager for North Region said:

"SDS is delighted to be working with Argyll College UHI to deliver Foundation Apprenticeships. The knowledge, skills and experience the young people will gain will give them a head start in their career and equip them with the skills that employers are looking for.

BOOSTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

"As they develop, Foundation Apprenticeships will play an increasingly important role in keeping talented young people in the region, tackling skill shortages and boosting the local economy."

Foundation Apprenticeships, which take two years to complete, are work-based learning opportunities for secondary school pupils in S4 and S5. Young people spend time out of school at college or with a local employer, and complete the Foundation Apprenticeship alongside their other subjects like National 5s and Highers.

Each Foundation Apprenticeship has been designed in partnership with industry to make sure that young



people get the skills and knowledge they need. In the classroom they cover the theory behind each role - then they'll get the opportunity to put it into practice in the workplace.

The hands-on experience will lead to an industry-recognised qualification, set at SCQF Level 6 (the same level of learning as a Higher) and based on existing industry-recognised qualifications including Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) and

National Certificates.

Foundation Apprenticeships have the added benefit of providing the foundation elements of a Modern Apprenticeship so you won't have to repeat the parts already completed at school, reducing the time it takes to complete the training and providing an accelerated start to your chosen career.

Fiona MacAlpine, Schools Co-ordinator at Argyll College UHI said: "We

are delighted to be working closely with schools in Argyll to introduce these new qualifications.

For young people it's the chance to get a head start on their careers by gaining an industry-recognised qualification, work on real projects and broaden their career options when they leave school.

WILLING TO LEARN

And for employers, it's the chance to attract highly motivated and committed young people who are willing to learn, identify young people who are right for their business and ensure their organisation has people with the skills needed to prosper."

From an Education perspective Argyll and Bute Council noted "Sometimes, getting started in a career can seem like an impossible task. Young people need experience to find a job, but they need a job to gain experience. That's where a Foundation Apprenticeship can help.

We are delighted to be offering our students innovative ways of learning which will enhance their skills and improve their employment options."

Skills Development Scotland, with the support of the European Social Fund, has developed Foundation Apprenticeships which enable pupils in S4 to S6 to complete elements of a Modern Apprenticeship while still at school. For further information visit our www.argyllcollege.ac.uk or follow @apprentice_sco

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Oban museum honoured with war exhibition

OBAN War and Peace Museum has had the honour this week of being one of a select number of venues around the UK to stage a visiting art installation from the In Flanders' Fields Museum.

It is simple and elegant but shows so poignantly, and graphically, how many people from the British Isles died in Belgium alone during the First World War. As detailed in a feature in this month's edition of *The Oban Times'* sister publication *West Coast Review*, there is a massive book, and on each page is the name and regiment of every man and woman who died.

There are also five elegant and simple church chairs, from St Audomarus' Church in Passchendaele. Just as so many homes would have had empty chairs at the table where loved ones used to sit, each chair represents a year of the war - and the number embedded in the top of each chair shows the number of dead for that year.

The award-winning museum on the Esplanade stayed open late into the evening this week to enable more people to come and visit.



Watch-keepers Sandy Dunlop, left, and Colin Paterson with the book of those who died and, left, some of the empty chairs on show at Oban War and Peace Museum.

Drink-driver is banned

AN ISLAY man's afternoon drinking led to him losing his driving licence after he was stopped on his way to work.

Piotr Pabisiak, 31, of 4 Islay House Square, Bridgend, made an early guilty plea to a charge of drink driving on February 25. On Thursday last week, at Campbeltown Sheriff Court, he was banned from driving for a year and fined £400, to be paid at £50 per month.

Earlier, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that police officers stopped Pabisiak in Shore Street, Bowmore, at 9.23pm.

Pabisiak, a Co-op shelf stacker, had thought when he was called to work at 6pm that he would be able to drive but when he failed the breath test he was three times over the limit.

Pabisiak's defence solicitor said that losing his licence would make life difficult for his client.

Help needed for Mòd

THE local organising committee for Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2016 is appealing for volunteer stewards. The Gaelic cultural festival is being held between October 14 and 22 on the Western Isles but volunteers need not commit for the full week.

Norman MacDonald, local committee chairman, said: 'A great deal of management and co-ordinating work is required to ensure that competitions and events run safely and smoothly.'

'We would ask anyone who feels they can give of their time during the week of the Mòd to get in touch with us.'

Contact Sgioba na Gàidhlig at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on 01851 822615 or email dnicleoid@cne_siar.gov.uk or colin.morrison@cne_siar.gov.uk.

Town tidy

SUNDAY saw the first town tidy of the year around Oban.

Volunteers gathered and split into three teams, while a fourth group tidied between Pennyfuir and Halfway Filling Station, Dunbeg. Other areas cleaned were Glencruitten Road, the shortcut from High Street to Tesco's car park, Lochavullin/Black Lynn and Lochavullin Road from the mini roundabout to Crannog Lane. BID4Oban's Derek Connery said: 'The results were great and a big thank you to all the volunteers. Almost 30 bags of mixed rubbish were filled, with a shopping trolley and the engine cover from a car collected.'

'Treasure hunters' damage masonry on ancient landmark

DAVID MCPHEE

GEOCACHING may be starting to catch on in Oban - but the activity has had a negative impact on a Colonsay landmark.

One concerned resident wrote to *The Oban Times* because of what he claimed was the damage done by 'treasure hunters' to masonry on the north side of Dunan nan Nighean, an ancient dun on the north-east of the island.

Geocaching is the pursuit of one or more items that are hidden in a given location for enthusiasts

to find with the help of GPS and coordinates which are posted on the internet. Kevin Byrne, from Colonsay, said: 'Over the following years great damage was done to the masonry.'

'A falling stone or the entire lintel could badly injure an adult and could kill a child. This is entirely the fault of the thoughtless individual who first created the geocache, but every mindless individual who has taken up the "challenge" has added to the damage.'

Mr Byrne believes that the geocache was placed at the location around 20 years ago, 'when such

things were a novelty'.

He continued: 'Eventually some well-intentioned but misguided individual disposed of the wretched "treasure", but this has only made matters worse.'

'The masonry in question has been reduced to a mound of random rubble by frustrated geocachers and the adjoining lintel stones are now poised in a precarious condition, severely undermined and with the potential to cause death or injury.'

'The community was never consulted and, of course, neither the landowner nor the ancient

monument bodies would ever have consented to such an inappropriate intrusion upon a part of the national heritage. It must have been the work of an unthinking but enthusiastic early-adopter of geocaching.'

The gradual damage has been contributed to over a period of 20 years but Mr Byrne said that, as Dunan nan Nighean was a listed monument, there was no-one on the island qualified or permitted to restore the structure.

He said: 'As far as I know there is no system whereby anyone monitors such sites, and nobody to whom it should be reported.'



Geocachers have left the structure unsafe.



SETTING SAIL IN THE LAP OF LUXURY

The luxury yacht Michaela Rose sailed out of Oban Bay heading for Mull and then on to Uist and Barra. She is owned by Texas-based developer Trammell Crow and has circumnavigated the world twice. She was once used by US first couple George and Barbara Bush during a Mediterranean vacation. The yacht was carrying a party of German businessmen who visited Oban Distillery and then took in a game of shinty at Mossfield, where they watched Oban Camanachd beat Camanachd Cup holders Lovat 2-1 in a premiership match. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn

Samphire project nears completion

A THREE-YEAR, £100,000 project has uncovered 30 underwater shipwrecks and 10 more along the shore on Scotland's west coast from Cape Wrath to the Solway Firth, writes Sandy Neil.

Project SAMPHIRE, funded by The Crown Estate, worked by 'crowd-sourcing' information about possible archaeological sites in the marine environment through face-to-face meetings with harbour masters, scallop divers, recreational divers, fishermen and other residents in the towns and villages of the west coast.

The locations identified were recorded before the most promising were visited by volunteer and professional archaeological divers to verify the information.

The project led to the discovery and recording of more than 100 maritime archaeological sites, including metal and

wooden shipwrecks, flying boats and other aircraft, cannons, cannonballs, ancient anchors, prehistoric coastal sites as well as more recent finds such as 20th-century fishing vessels.

Highlights included the recording of a group of previously unreported Second World War flying boats in the Firth of Lorn, the discovery of more than a dozen unidentified 18th, 19th and 20th-century wrecks, as well as the final resting places of numerous wrecks with confirmed or likely identifications.

The project also gathered a wealth of descriptive information including photographs, videos and sketches of wreck sites, including those of the *Sheila* (an early MacBrayne ferry built in 1904 and sunk in 1927), the *Mafeking* (a salvage vessel lost in attempts to recover the *Shei-*

la), and the *Cathcartpark* (a steamship lost in 1912 near Iona).

Samphire project leader John McCarthy of WA Coastal & Marine said: 'This project reveals the wealth of knowledge of maritime archaeological sites held within local communities. We could not have done this without the enthusiastic response from local people; everyone from divers to beach combers.'

'We've also benefitted from partnership working with many organisations including dive clubs and scientific partners such as the Scottish Association of Marine Science at Dunstaffnage, Oban.'

'Although the project is now coming to an end we are already looking for ways to apply the lessons we have learned through this project on a more permanent and national scale.'

Food charity strives to bring hope

A CHARITY trying to give more hope to vulnerable people and reduce social isolation in Oban and its surrounding areas has been granted planning permission for the former Swap Shop premises at 2 Soroba Road in Oban.

HELP.OUR.PEOPLE.EAT (Hope) was founded by three friends living in Oban in 2009. It provides free meals, support groups and one-to-one interventions for those in need.

Founders Jess McPhee and Lorraine King plan to transform the shop into a community kitchen and meeting place for the most marginalised groups in the community, but the duo have extended an invitation to anyone who might like to visit.

Ms King, service manager for Hope Kitchen, said: 'This is a really exciting stage in the development of Hope Kitchen.'

'A move to bigger premises means that more people can access our services and we can expand and develop the services we already offer.'

'We currently see more than 100 people per week through our doors and we look forward to welcoming more of the Oban community in our attempts to give people who are living in isolation or poverty a hand up.'

The organisation would also greatly appreciate any offer to assist with materials and labour involved in the refurbishment process as well as the future development of the project.

For further information, call 01631 565730 or email obanhopekitchen@gmail.com.

Scottish Field MAY ISSUE OUT NOW

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Veteran goalkeeper turns on the style

'Special praise must go to Jimmy Paterson, he was absolutely brilliant'

Fort William	0
Turriff United	4
Highland League	

THE FORT went down 1-0 to their Aberdeenshire visitors at Claggan Park on Saturday as they brought the curtain down on the 2015/16 Highland League Season.

It was an afternoon of high drama at the Fort-Turriff United game and the match had the fans on the edge of their seats throughout.

Fort goalkeeping coach, 51-year-old Jimmy Paterson, made his debut for the home side and turned in a man-of-the-match performance.

Paterson, playing due to injury to Fort's regular Dougie MacLennan, produced several excellent saves early on.

But he could do nothing to stop Paul Young's seventh-minute deflected effort giving the visitors the lead.

Play was stopped in the 31st minute after a clash of heads involving Fort's Richard Tawse



Fort William's veteran goalkeeper Jimmy Paterson turned in a first class display against Turriff United last Saturday, including saving a penalty. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

and United's Aaron McKenna, who came off worst, suffering a serious facial injury. The game was stopped for more than 20 minutes as an ambulance was called and McK-

Football

enna taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William with a broken cheekbone and fractured eye socket.

When play resumed, the visitors were awarded a penalty but United's Artjoms Kuznecous spot kick was brilliantly saved by the Fort's veteran stopper.

The Fort stepped up the pace in the second half, and Iain MacLellan struck the bar from a distance, and Scottie Davidson headed wide, when it seemed easier to score. But United managed to weather the storm and held on to claim the points.

Fort manager Ally Ewen said after the game: 'Once again we started slowly and conceded a poor goal early on but we came more into the game as the first half went on and in the second half, I thought we were excellent. We were unlucky not to get an equaliser at the very least.'

'Special praise must go to Jimmy Paterson, he was absolutely brilliant throughout.'

Guy Martin guest of honour at Pre-65 trials

Motorbike trials



Guy Martin leads the parade for the start of the Pre-65 trial. Photograph by Iain Ferguson

THE ANNUAL Pre-65 trial recently took place in Fort William.

This year motor cycle racer and television personality Guy Martin led the parade as the guest of honour at the trials and also as a competitor.

At the end of the first day of the trial competition James Harland was in the lead, but he then finished in fourth place after the second day.

The over-all winner of the best performance was Dan Clark with Ben Butterworth, who had the best day two performance, coming second and Murray Whittaker in third place. This was decided in a three-way tie break as all the podium-placed winners finished on three marks.

They received their trophies at an official prizegiving ceremony in the Nevis Centre.

Other trophy recipients were Janice Proctor, for best female performance; Calum Murphy for best Scottish rider and Mark Harris for best foreign rider.

Mallaig leaders by two points

Welfare football

Results: Nevis Range 0, Tekkerslovakia 7; Mallaig 7, FW U-17s 1; Ballachulish 4, Caol Utd 6.

League Table:

	P	Pts
Mallaig	3	9
Caol Utd	3	7
Tekkerslovakia	3	6
Nevis Range	3	3
FW U-17s	3	1
Ballachulish	3	0

Fixtures: Wednesday May 11 - Tekkerslovakia v Mallaig, Canal Park; Friday May 13 - Caol Utd v Nevis Range, Canal Park; Monday May 16 - Nevis Range v Ballachulish, high school; Wednesday May 18 - Tekkerslovakia v FW U-17s, Canal Park; Friday May 20 Mallaig v Caol Utd, Mallaig

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Good news for Lochaber as they are saved from the drop

LOCHABER RFC hosted Ross Sutherland in their final game of the season last weekend.

Lochaber had to win on Saturday (May 7) to make sure they weren't relegated.

Ross Sutherland started bright and soon got a try for their efforts.

Lochaber had to soak up a lot of attacks from Ross Sutherland in the early part of the match.

But the game started to even out and it wasn't long till Lochaber got their first try, with Conor Taylor crashing over from a shortened line out move for his first try of the afternoon.

The first half ended 7-5 to Ross.

In the second half Lochaber started to dominate, which saw a penalty, two tries, one from Chris Simpson, from a quick tap penalty, and another try for

Rugby

Taylor in the corner which was converted by Rory MacKay.

Lochaber were now 20-7 up. But it was not enough. Ross Sutherland scored with five minutes to go and again with the last play of the game.

The conversion sealing defeat for Lochaber, leaving the Lochaber players devastated that they were being relegated.

The final score was Lochaber 20-21 Ross Sutherland.

However, the Lochaber club received a phone call from the SRU to say they wouldn't be relegated as Kinloss had pulled out of the league mid-season, and Deeside had won promotion to division one.

The Highland Reds have been promoted from division three and Mackie have been relegated from division one.



Golfers at play during the Texas scramble for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Photos: JohnPaul Peebles
Abrightside Photography

Over £3,000 raised for Macmillan Cancer Support

Golf

A FOUR-person Texas scramble golf competition was held at Fort William Golf Club on Saturday May 7.

Thirty-two teams participated in the charity match, raising a total of £3,085.93 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The winning men's team consisted of: Ali Shearer, Neil Young, Donnie MacInnes and David Matheson.

On the winning ladies' team were: Ann Lovatt, Iona Cameron, Kim Topping and Kathleen Leitch.

On Sunday May 8 the Senior May Medal was played with David MacGillivray coming out on top, Robert McCover coming in second and Kevin Hickman finishing third.



Ladies' winners, left to right, Ann Lovatt, Iona Cameron and Kim Topping with sponsor Mike McFall.



Men's winners, left to right, Ali Shearer, Neil Young, Donnie MacInnes and David Matheson with sponsor Mike McFall.



Lochaber's Calum Sandison captures the ball from the scrum during last weekend's game against Ross Sutherland.

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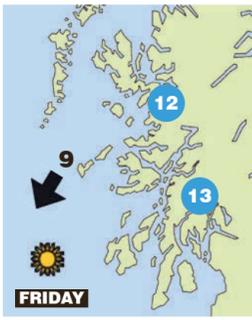
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Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday	Sunny Winds light north north easterly Temperatures 9°C to 19°C.
Friday	Sunny Winds light north north easterly Temperatures 5°C to 13°C.
Weekend Outlook	Cloudy on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds moderate north north westerly Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 12, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm				
Thur	03.51	1.1	09.34	3.1	15.57	1.1	21.43	3.2
Fri	04.51	1.4	10.43	2.8	16.53	1.3	22.47	3.0
Sat	06.04	1.6	12.37	2.7	17.55	1.5	** ** *	**
Sun	00.21	2.9	07.35	1.7	13.53	2.8	19.05	1.5
Mon	01.50	2.9	08.48	1.6	14.44	2.9	20.16	1.5
Tues	02.44	3.1	09.37	1.5	15.22	3.1	21.15	1.4
Wed	03.25	3.2	10.15	1.4	15.56	3.3	22.01	1.3

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